

MILITARY

Uncovering a WWII P-47 Thunderbolt – and a minor mystery
Page 3

**MILITARY**

Navy: US warships available for security backup at Olympics
Page 6

**SUPER BOWL**

Champ Bailey finally reaches NFL title game
Back page

Military: Air Force issues new policies on dress, appearance » Page 6

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‘But how does a mother lose two sons?
How does a father?’



Twice bereaved by war, Arkansas family tries to cope with sacrifices | Page 4

RICKY CARIOT/The Washington Post

The bodies of CIA contractor Jeremy Wise, a former Navy SEAL, and Army Sgt. 1st Class Ben Wise, a medic with the Green Berets, are buried next to each other in Suffolk, Va. The brothers both died in Afghanistan, Jeremy in 2009 and Ben in 2012, making their family one of at least six to have lost two sons in the Iraq and Afghan wars.

Are recent Air Force nuclear missteps part of a bigger problem?

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At what point do breakdowns in discipline put the country's nuclear security in jeopardy?

When does a string of embarrassing episodes in arguably the military's most sensitive mission become a pattern of failure?

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is now concerned “there could be something larger afoot here,” according to his chief spokesman, and “wants this taken very, very seriously.”

The disclosures of disturbing behavior by nuclear missile officers are mounting, and now include alleged drug use and exam cheating. Yet Air Force leaders insist the trouble is epis-

odic, correctable and not cause for public worry.

The military has a well-established set of inspections and other means of ensuring the safety of its nuclear weapons. But as in any human endeavor, military or civilian, the key to success is the people, not the hardware.

SEE NUCLEAR ON PAGE 2



A Minuteman 3 missile launch officer sits at the console of a launch simulator used for training at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., on Jan. 9.

ROBERT BURNS/AP

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Hello, I'm the guy you hit on the bicycle."

— Newspaper carrier Steven Gove, addressing the driver of the car that struck him Saturday. Even though Gove's body had gone most of the way through the windshield, the driver appeared to not notice Gove until stopping the car at his home.

See story on Page 8

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TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 16
- Business 18
- Classified 19, 21
- Comics 20
- Crossword 21
- Faces 17
- Opinion 12-13
- Sports 22-32
- Weather 18
- Wired World 15

MILITARY

Nuclear: Officials express confidence in face of missteps

FROM FRONT PAGE

Until recently, Hagel had said little in public about the setbacks and missteps in the nuclear missile force responded by The Associated Press beginning last May.

Hagel recently made the first visit to a nuclear missile launch control center by a Pentagon chief since 1982. He praised the force's professionalism, even though minutes before officials said informed him that a few missile launch officers at another base were suspected of illegal drug use.

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, just four weeks into her tenure as the service's top civilian official, told reporters Wednesday that the Air Force's chief investigative arm is investigating 11 officers at six bases who are suspected of illegal drug possession.

She said that probe led to a separate investigation of dozens of nuclear missile launch officers for cheating on routine tests of their knowledge of the tightly controlled procedures required to launch missiles under their control. At least 34 launch officers, all at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., have had their security clearance suspended and are not allowed to perform launch duties pending the outcome of the investigation.

They stand accused of cheating, or tolerating cheating by others, on a routine test of how to execute "emergency war orders." Those are the highly classified procedures the officers would use, upon orders from the president, to launch their nuclear-tipped missiles.

The alleged cheaters are said to have transmitted test answers by text message to colleagues. That is a violation not only of their own personal integrity but also of security classification rules.

The commander at Malmstrom, Col. Robert W. Stanley II, said in a telephone interview Friday it's not "off base" to think that the cheating points to a deeper problem in the intercontinental ballistic missile force.

"But I do think it's far more than just us. I think this is a sort of cultural thing our society is going through" in which too many people have grown accustomed to "putting blinders on and just walking past problems."

That is reflected in the cheating scandal, he said, where 17 of the 34 did not cheat but knew about the cheating and failed to report it. "In ICBMs, we can't tolerate that," Stanley said.

In response to the cheating, the Air Force retested every available ICBM launch control officer at Malmstrom as well as the two other bases operating Minuteman 3 missiles: F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

The Air Force said Friday that of 472 officers who took the "17" test, 21 failed and will receive new training before they can return to duty. Twenty-seven were not available to be tested last week, according to a Pentagon spokesman, Col. Steve Warren.

Thus 82 launch officers, including the 34 who have been suspended, are not available to perform launch control duties, and Warren



ROBERT BURNS/AP

This mockup of a Minuteman 3 nuclear missile is used for training by missile maintenance crews at F. E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo.

said that is "having an impact" on the ICBM force. He added that it has not interrupted the 24/7 combat readiness of all Minuteman 3 missiles or made them less secure.

Tony Carr, a recently retired Air Force officer, is calling for bold action in response to the cheating scandal.

"This is deeply concerning," he wrote Thursday in a public blog. "Not only for what it says about the readiness of the officers involved and perhaps the broader community to which they belong, but for the noticeable fraying of integrity it demonstrates."

He called integrity the Air Force's most cherished value. "Such a brazen and broad violation of it — not among trainees or cadets still earning their way through the door, but by commissioned officers responsible for nuclear readiness — is a gravely startling thing, indeed."

James said she was confident that the Minuteman 3 arsenal is being safely and reliably operated and controlled, but said she was "profoundly disappointed" in those involved in the drug and cheating investigations.

"This was a failure of some of our airmen," she said. "It was not a failure of the nuclear mission."

James said she is reassured by "checks and balances" in the system, including periodic inspections at the ICBM bases. She said she would travel to each of the three ICBM bases next week to see for herself.

"In any given organization there are issues," she said when asked at a Pentagon news conference about the implications of the latest investigations.

They follow a series of AP reports on nuclear missteps, including an internal Air Force com-

plaint that the Minot ICBM group was infested with "rats" and the firing in October of the two-star general overseeing the entire ICBM force. Maj. Gen. Michael Carey was relieved of duty after investigators found he had engaged in alcohol-fueled misbehavior during an official visit to Russia last summer.

"Just because there are issues with individuals it does not mean that the entirety of the mission is compromised," James said.

The men and women who are entrusted with the keys to the nation's 450 intercontinental ballistic missiles, each with at least one nuclear warhead capable of inflicting mass destruction halfway around the globe, are among the youngest officers in the Air Force. They are mostly 20-something lieutenants and captains, a generation removed from the Cold War years of a nuclear standoff with a Soviet Union that no longer exists.

Their competence is not in question, only their motivation in a job that some see as unrewarding and overly stressful. Also in question is the quality of leadership by the generals above them, some of whom never did ICBM launch duty.

Loren Thompson, head of the Lexington Institute, a defense-oriented public policy advocacy group, said he thinks part of the problem may be the "diminished status" of the nuclear mission in the post-Cold War era.

"Although missile forces remain crucial to deterring nuclear attack, they are no longer seen as a prestigious assignment in the Air Force," he said. He noted that in 2008, then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates expressed worry about stewardship of the mission.

"This suggests these latest problems are part of a broader pattern," Thompson said.

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MILITARY

Germans dig up US fighter plane lost in WWII

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

STOCKSTADT AM RHEIN, Germany — Three hours into the excavation of a crashed American World War II fighter, more than a dozen volunteers and World War II hobbyists were picking through the dirt at the bottom and edges of a growing hole in a farm field. They'd already pulled up hundreds of rounds of ammunition, parts of the downed P-47 Thunderbolt's engine and scores of pieces of mangled aluminum.

But they hadn't found the pilot. "Mysterious," said Uwe Benkel, the researcher who organized the excavation. But not, he said, entirely unusual.

The crash site is less than 10 miles southwest of Darmstadt, a city all but destroyed by Allied bombing during the war. Other cities in the area were targeted in the bombing campaign as well, and numerous Allied and German aircraft were shot down or crashed in the fighting.

Soon after the planes crashed, Benkel said, locals usually scavenged them for scrap. If the remains of aviators were found, they were typically buried. Often, there's not much left.

That was partly true of the Thunderbolt that Benkel and his team of volunteers dug up Saturday. The plane was large for its time — 8 tons when fully loaded. All that was left of the wreck — minus 400-some rounds of ammunition found with the debris and taken away by a German explosive ordnance disposal company — was piled into a wooden cart and pulled away by a small sport utility vehicle.

Still, "we were surprised today to find so many pieces that are still left of this aircraft," Benkel said.

Especially surprising, he said, was the discovery of a roughly 2-foot-by-3-foot section of the plane's skin on which part of a distinctive American star was still clearly visible.

The P-47 was initially the only long-range offensive fighter available to the Allies in Europe. It was popular with pilots due to its rugged airframe, which could take extreme punishment and still keep flying, its powerful turbocharged engine and massive firepower in the form of eight .50-caliber machine guns.

The plane dug up Jan. 18 was apparently forgotten by the people of Stockstadt am Rhein, a small town flanked by farm fields and the Rhine River.

Benkel said the farmer who owns the field where the plane was recently rediscovered did wonder when he occasionally found pieces of aluminum, but he just threw the scraps away and never alerted authorities.

Benkel, an amateur historian and metal detecting enthusiast, said he stumbled on the site by accident in summer 2009.

At the time, according to Sch-



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

German volunteers and researchers dig and sift through the soil Saturday for pieces of wreckage from an American Thunderbolt fighter that crashed in a field in Stockstadt am Rhein, Germany, during World War II.



All of what is left of the excavated P-47 Thunderbolt fits in a cart pulled by a small sport utility vehicle.

neider, most of the local fields were baked hard, but one had been recently worked. He chose that field to sweep with his metal detector simply because it was the easiest place to dig.

He found pieces of aluminum and plexiglass from the plane's canopy first, then bigger parts, including a piece of one of the plane's machine guns and a pair of metal propeller blades nearly as tall as he is.

Schneider said he was scared off the site after police came to his house to question him about his finds and tell him he'd been trespassing on private property.

About a month ago, though, he contacted Benkel, whose recent unearthing of a German World

For more photos and a video of the excavation and what was uncovered go to stripes.com/go/p47



War II fighter plane made local headlines.

With permission this time, Schneider was back at the site of his discovery, working alongside volunteers as they brought hundreds of twisted and broken pieces of the past back into the light of day.

Some pieces of the plane's aluminum skin had holes that Benkel said suggested it had been shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

There were, however, no bones and few signs of the doomed



Above: One of the biggest parts recovered Saturday from the Thunderbolt wreckage was part of the plane's engine.

Right: Uwe Benkel, the researcher who organized the excavation, inspects a parachute buckle uncovered in the wreckage.



plane's pilot. A parachute buckle and a scrap of leather that might have been part of his jacket were all that was left to suggest he might have gone down with his Thunderbolt.

Benkel said he should be able to identify who was at the controls from bits of recovered evidence. Paint on parts of the tail suggest the Thunderbolt belonged to the 83rd Fighter Squadron of the 78th

Fighter Group. Using serial numbers on various parts, he'll comb through war records to identify the exact plane and its pilot.

"Then we'll see what we find out about the pilot," Benkel said. "If he was killed, if he made it by parachute or if he's still MIA (missing in action)."

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MILITARY

3 sons went to war, but only 1 came back alive

Painful sacrifice scars family of brothers who gave their all for US

By IAN SHAPIRA
The Washington Post

One by one

One by one, the CIA operatives' remains were carried over the tarmac at Dover Air Force Base, their bodies in metal cases draped in pressed American flags. The families of the dead stood off to the side, shivering on a frigid January day and watching for the removal of their loved one.

Jean and Mary Wise waited behind a roped-off line, listening to a higher priest at the altar, but five years, the Arkansas couple had endured repeated deployments by their three sons to fight the nation's wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Wise brothers were among those who raised their hands, eager to serve in conflicts that left most Americans unscathed and eventually uninterested. In Afghanistan, the Wises would pay a higher price than other but few known American families.

At Dover, the couple's oldest son finally appeared — Jeremy Wise, 35, a former Navy SEAL and CIA security contractor. He'd been one of seven Americans killed by a suicide bomber at a CIA base in Khost, Afghanistan, on Dec. 30, 2009. The carnage at Khost could be measured not only by the number of bodies that had been flown to Dover, Del., but also by the powerful men awaiting them, including then-CIA director Leon Panetta, Gen. James "Hoss" Cartwright, then the Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman, and senior executives from Xe Services, one of the CIA's most secretive contractors and Jeremy's employer.

Jeremy's widow, Dana, 28, stood next to the other Wises as a white-gloved military team slowly carried her husband's remains to a transport truck. His younger brothers, Ben, a medic in the Green Berets about to leave for Afghanistan, and Beau, a Marine who had flown home from Afghanistan, clasped each other's arms.

Three days later, at Jeremy's memorial service at a Virginia Beach military chapel, Ben and Beau stood up to the dais in uniform, side by side. Ben wanted to speak, but asked his younger brother to take over if he fell apart. Ben spoke with firmness, in a gruff, almost rumbling whisper. He kept his eulogy short. "I can't imagine my life without my big brother," Ben said.

One by one, the brothers enlisted and went to war.

First, it was Ben, off to the Army at 23 in 2000. Next it was Jeremy, who entered the Navy at 27, shortly after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Finally, it was Beau, who joined the Marines just shy of his 25th birthday in 2003. Together, between 2003 and 2012, they would spend more than 1,600 days in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Wise boys had grown up in El Dorado, Ark., about 100 miles from Little Rock, in a family of deep religious faith and blond good looks. In a 1987 portrait, Jeremy 13, Ben, about 10, sister Heather, about 8, and Beau, 3, are lined up with their hands cupping their chins, looking like a brood of Sears catalogue models.

After high school, all three brothers struggled to settle on a direction. Jeremy won an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point but lasted only a semester before enrolling at Liberty University in Virginia, then transferring again to Hendrix College in Arkansas. Ben jumped from Hendrix to Southern Arkansas University before dropping out and becoming a waiter at a Little Rock steakhouse. Beau, a percussionist who earned a music scholarship to Southern Arkansas, parted too much and dropped out.

Over time, each brother came to see the military as the solution. It offered the action they craved. It promised a sense of purpose, especially after the Twin Towers fell and the Pentagon burned. Suddenly, a nation and a family — were going to war.

A second shot

They'd been running for miles in jungle boots and camouflage when Jeremy suffered heat stroke in a place where physical weakness isn't tolerated — the Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training program in Coronado, Calif. The grueling six-month course requires men to run with-out gear. Certain low-level swimmers several miles in the frigid Pacific and go days with almost no sleep. The vast majority of candidates fail.

Jeremy refused to accept his fate. He asked for a meeting with Ryan Zinke, then the Naval Special Warfare Center's No. 2 officer, and requested another chance. In



Courtesy of the Wise family

Above: From left, brothers Jeremy, Ben and Beau Wise attend Ben's graduation ceremony at Fort Bragg, N.C., in July 2008, the last time all three brothers were together. Below: Jean and Mary Wise, at their home in Camden, Ark., on April 28, hold ceremonial flags used for two of their sons' funerals.



Ricky CARROLL/The Washington Post

his eight years in that job, Zinke said, he gave that to about 10 people, out of about 2,500.

Jeremy convinced me he was worth a second shot. He wasn't intimidated by me," Zinke said.

Ben reached the war zone first, just as attacks on U.S. troops were escalating sharply at the end of 2003. He was in the infantry, being dispatched all over Iraq in an armored Stryker to hunt down insurgents, uncover weapons caches and transport money out of banks in Baghdad to safer depositories in Turkey.

Jeremy, who had been assigned to the Virginia Beach, Va.-based SEAL Team 4, arrived in Iraq more than a year later for high-risk special operations.

Back in Arkansas, Jean followed the war news closely, while his wife took the opposite approach. Whenever he started talking about what he'd read online or in the newspaper, Mary halted him. "No, Jean, I can't," Heather remembers her mother saying.

When Jeremy returned to Iraq in late 2006 for his second tour, he and his SEAL team arrived as a civil war was breaking out be-

tween Shiites and Sunnis. Executions, kidnappings and roadside bombings soared.

Just before leaving for Iraq, Jeremy had fallen in love with Dana Prusinski, a government contractor sales rep in Virginia Beach. By the time he returned in 2007, Jeremy wanted to marry Dana and be a father to her 4-year-old, Ethan. He proposed at El Tagatio, their favorite Mexican restaurant.

Another enlistment

By the end of 2008, Jeremy and Ben were serving in different parts of Iraq, and Beau had enlisted in the Marine Corps, angering his mother so much that she didn't talk to him for two weeks.

Jeremy found himself aching for his new family during his third deployment to Iraq. He celebrated Christmas at a SEAL party, where he was caught having a drink with teammates and punished with grunt work, Dana said. "He was livid," she said.

In September 2009, after five years as a SEAL, he let his Navy contract expire — a relief to his wife and parents.

Their reprieve from worry didn't last long. Dana submitted Jeremy's resume for a shooting instructor position, based not far from their Virginia Beach home, with Xe Services, the company formerly known as Blackwater and now known as Academi.

Jeremy knew vaguely about the company's history, but he was sold on a job more dangerous than teaching marksmanship: becoming a security guard for the CIA in Afghanistan. The pay was about \$700 a day, more than three times what he earned as a SEAL.

A deadly 'source'

The base in Khost was buzzing.

At the CIA outpost near the border with Pakistan, the agency believed it was on the verge of a breakthrough in its frustrating hunt for Osama bin Laden. A Jordanian doctor who had supposedly penetrated al-Qaida's leadership was coming to Forward Operating Base Chapman to be debriefed.

Jeremy was among those selected to greet the man the CIA called its "golden source." Some CIA officers complained about the meeting's security arrangements. Senior officials had approved a plan in which the informant would not be body searched before coming onto the base.

Jeremy called Beau, by then a Marine lance corporal in Helmand province. The brothers marveled that they were both in Afghanistan at the same time, and that Ben would soon be there, too.

Five days after Christmas, Dana was about to take Ethan to run errands when two men from Xe appeared at her house. Their announcement that Jeremy was dead shocked her so much that she kept pressing her visitors over and over: "What happened?"

SEE BROTHERS ON PAGE 5

MILITARY

Brothers: Family, relying on faith, believes siblings to be reunited in death

FROM PAGE 4

Her husband, she later learned, was among those waiting when a red Subaru pulled up bearing Humam al-Balawi, the jihadist whom the CIA thought it had turned and whom it decided not to search in advance. Beneath his tunic, the Jordanian pediatrician had strapped on a suicide vest filled with 30 pounds of homemade explosives and hundreds of nails.

Jeremy and a colleague drew their guns as soon as Balawi balked at getting out of the car on the side where they were standing. As he emerged from the other side, they shouted at him to show them his palms. Instead, he declared in Arabic, "There is no god but God" and lit the detonator. "It was Heatcher who had to call Ben. He was hosting their parents at his home in Washington state, where his wife, Traci, had just given birth to their first child, Luke.

"It's Jeremy's gone," she told Ben. "Mary and Jean went from celebrating Christmas with their first-born grandson to mourning the death of their first-born son. We just sat in the kitchen. I couldn't even cry," Mary said.

It took a little longer for the news to reach Beau, who was with his platoon mates in Afghanistan, poised to pounce on a Taliban safe haven. On New Year's Day, his convoy returned to base, where Beau was ordered off his truck and then summoned to the base's command center. A chaplain was waiting for him.

"Is your brother Jeremy Jason Wise?" the chaplain asked him. "Yes," Beau said.

Jeremy's remains were stored with the Wise family at a private home near Arlington National Cemetery. Jeremy didn't meet Arlington's eligibility requirements and would need an exception.

Arlington rejected the Wise's request. The cemetery lacks the space to bury private contractors, and Jeremy's service did not present extraordinary circumstances justifying an exception, the Army explained later in statements to The Washington Post.

The family settled on burying Jeremy at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans' cemetery, about an hour west of Virginia Beach. On a warm spring day, Ben and Beau gave their older brother one last gift: They served as his pallbearers.

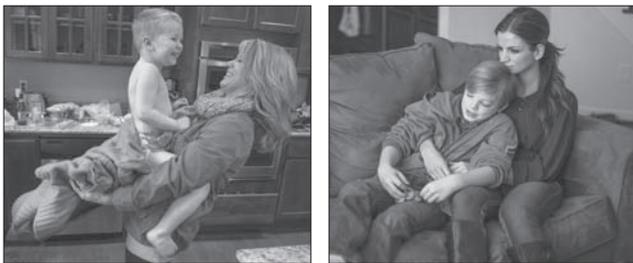
Trouble at home

More than six months passed after Jeremy's death. Ben, home from Afghanistan, seemed checked out, obsessed in his compartment and, absorbed with guitar amplifiers he liked to tinker with.

Plus, he drank. Traci said. He was finishing a bottle of rum every two days. He didn't resemble the caring man she'd fallen in love with.

In a therapist counseling session, the marital counseling seemed. Ben voiced fury at what he saw as the needless loss of his brother.

If Ben blamed the CIA for allowing a suicide bomber near Jeremy, Traci resented the Army for its hold on her marriage. Her bitterness dated from 2009, right



PHOTOS BY RICKY CARROLL/The Washington Post

Left: Traci Wise, widow of Ben Wise, plays with their son, Luke, 3, at her home on in Puyallup, Wash., on Feb. 3. **Right:** Dana Bernhardt, widow of Jeremy Wise and now remarried to Matt Bernhardt, sits with her son, Ethan Prusinski, in Virginia Beach, Va., on Jan. 9.

after Ben's return from his second stint in Iraq. That's when he found the courage to tell her what he'd done: He'd re-upped.

If Traci took any solace from Jeremy's death, it was her faith that his sacrifice somehow protected Ben from harm. In early 2011, as Ben geared up for his second deployment to Afghanistan, Traci tried to ignore her usual anxieties.

Once again, there were two Wise brothers in Afghanistan.

Ben was three weeks away from going home when he volunteered for an operation with about 50 Afghan commandos to capture a Taliban leader holed up in a village near Mazar-e Sharif in northern Balkh province.

On the morning of Jan. 9, 2012, at 7:30 a.m., AF47 gunfiring rang out from one of the caves. An Afghan commando was killed, then a second man took a round of fire in his face, said one of Ben's teammates, a Green Beret who agreed to describe the operation only if he wasn't identified.

Apache helicopters gouged the caves with laser-guided Hellfire missiles. After the caves had cooked for hours, Ben's fellow Green Beret didn't think anyone could still be alive, but he ordered the Afghan commandos to check anyway: they flatly refused.

Ben offered to go first. He tossed a fragmentation grenade inside the cave, then swept around the corner and sprayed gunfire. Gunfire rattled right back, smacking Ben in his body armor and slamming him onto his back. As he writhed on the ground, more bullets pierced his legs.

Air Force Capt. Blake Luttrell fired into the cave and tossed a smoke grenade for cover, then pulled Ben to safety. "My gut feeling was that he was going to pull through it," said Luttrell, who was awarded a Silver Star for his actions that day.

Down by the riverbed, Ben's comrades prepped him for the medevac. His fellow Green Beret applied tourniquets and taped a deflated footballer's padding to his finger, easing him into a haze.

Ben was flown to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany. By the time Traci and Beau reached him on Jan. 14, his legs had been amputated. His blood had turned dark red. His brain was damaged, his kidneys failing.

Traci gently stroked Ben's swollen left arm. She leaned over and whispered into his ear.

"I told him there was nothing on Earth that I could give him that was as amazing as what that was awaiting him, and the struggles he'd have here on Earth weren't worth it," she said. "I told him that it was OK for him to go."

By the following morning, he was being kept alive by shots of epinephrine every 60 seconds. His liver was failing. A decision had to be made: Beau held Ben's left hand. Traci hovered on her husband's right side. As a chaplain prayed next to the bed, they watched him die.

The men in charge

One by one, the men in charge of the war learned of Ben's fate.

At the Pentagon, the name inside the casualty folder marked with the big blue "X" looked familiar to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and his chief of staff, Jeremy Bash. A Green Beret named Wise from Arkansas? He had to be another Wise son — a realization that startled Panetta, who'd been CIA director when Jeremy was killed, and stunned others, too.

"Oh, God," Marine Commandant Gen. James Amos remembers thinking when he was told by an aide that Ben was the second Wise brother to die in Afghanistan. "It took my breath away."

The Wises are not the only family to lose two children in Iraq and Afghanistan, conflicts that have cost almost 6,800 U.S. military and civilian lives. At least five other families have endured the deaths of two sons, according to a Defense Department tally, though only three have been identified in media reports.

After Ben's death, Panetta called Mary and added a personal

note to the Pentagon's formal letter: "I am so very lost in the emotion of losing another son of yours to combat. As the father of 3 sons, I cannot imagine the pain you must be feeling. And yet, I know that like Jeremy, Ben was doing what he wanted — to fight for all of us. He is a true American hero and patriot. God bless him and you."

Before leaving for Afghanistan, Ben had gone over his final wishes with Traci. He wanted to be buried in a suit, not his Class A uniform. He wanted a Bible placed on top of his body. And he wanted to be laid to rest in Virginia, next to his older brother.

On Jan. 27, the Wise family journeyed back to the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery. The family climbed into their limousine to leave. Jean caught the attention of the cemetery director, Dan Kemano. He wanted to make sure his boys would be buried together, as Ben had wished.

But Kemano told the Wise that the cemetery had made no such plans. That would require exhuming Jeremy's casket, because the grave sites next to him had already been claimed by other veterans.

Mary felt wrong out and desperate. She pulled out her cellphone and called Arkansas Gov. Mike Beebe's office in Little Rock, reaching his military liaison, an Iraq War veteran named Jason Smedley.

"We are out at the cemetery in Virginia right now, and we just had Ben's burial services," she remembered telling him. "We were informed by the cemetery director that they will not bury our sons together."

"Jason, I have given this country the ultimate sacrifice. We have given this country two sons. Jason, I am throwing myself at your mercy. Will the governor call Governor McDonnell in Virginia?"

Kemano, meanwhile, was making calls of his own. Now he presented Jean and Mary with two options: The cemetery could bury Ben that day, or Ben could be returned to the funeral home for a few days, while he conferred with his bosses on what to do.

The family told Kemano they wanted their sons reunited.

Four days later, on Jan. 31, Ben was buried. Two days after that, on Feb. 2, it was Jeremy's turn.

Moving forward

One by one, the Wises struggled to move forward.

Dana Bernhardt and gave birth in November to a girl, Ethan, now 10, sometimes still longs for Jeremy.

Traci, now 41, has placed enormous photographs of Ben in uniform all over her house so that Luke can have a connection to his father. For a while, the preschooler brought her to work by asking: "Who is that? Who is Daddy? We never see him."

Beau and his wife, Amber, live about an hour from Traci at Naval Base Kitsap Bangor in Washington state, home to a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines and Trident missiles. The Wise family's sole survivor asked to be posted there for his sister-in-law's sake.

He still wishes he could return to Afghanistan to kick down doors and blow things up. He questions why his brothers are gone and he isn't.

"It should have been me," he told his wife after Ben's death.

Beau tries not to complain or dwell on what he's lost. To his parents, he says, have lost more.

"I still have my wife and parents," he said. "But how does a mother lose two sons? How does a father?"

Jean, 68, and Mary, 63, rely on their faith that Jeremy and Ben have been reunited.

"I can visualize it," said Jean, who suffers from Parkinson's disease. He imagines them in heaven, teasing each other and wrestling as they did when they were boys.

"I am sorry," the Wises gathered on a hilltop overlooking El Dorado, where two granite benches were being unveiled on Veterans Day, one engraved with Jeremy's name and the other with Ben's. Before the ceremony, Beau and his wife stood by the benches, still draped in black cloth, greeting old friends.

A woman who had served in the Navy and once belonged to the same church as the Wises approached Beau.

"I am sorry about your brothers," she said. "You'll see them again."

"Yes, ma'am," said the Marine.



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MILITARY

Navy: US ships available as security backup for Olympics

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTT GART, Germany — U.S. Navy ships will be stationed near the Black Sea resort town of Sochi and will be available for contingency operations if Russian authorities call upon them for support during next month's Olympic Games.

"Air and naval assets, to include two Navy ships in the Black Sea, will be available if requested for all manner of contingencies in support of — and in consultation with — the Russian government," Rear Adm. John Kirby said in a statement.

U.S. commanders in the region are conducting "prudent planning and preparations" if that support is required, Kirby said. Concerns about security threats during the Olympics have grown in the wake of the deadly Dec. 29 explosion by a suspected suicide bomber in the southern Russian city of Volgograd. The bombing was followed a day later by an alleged suicide attack in the same city on a trolleybus.

The two attacks, which Rus-

sian officials say were carried out by militants from Russia's North Caucasus region, killed 34 people and left dozens more wounded.

Russia's struggle with Islamic militants dates to the fall of the Soviet Union and the bloody wars of the 1990s against separatists in Chechnya.

In anticipation of the Olympics, Russian authorities have intensified security measures around Sochi. In recent days, numerous reports have raised concerns about a terrorism suspect — the widow of a militant from the Caucasus region — on the loose in Sochi.

In addition to ships forward-positioned in the Black Sea, the U.S. military maintains numerous military assets in the region that could assist in any evacuation of U.S. athletes, such as C-17s at Ramstein Air Base in Germany, special operations units based out of Stuttgart, Germany, and crisis-response U.S. Marines out of Spain.

The U.S. has offered its "full support to the Russian government as it conducts security preparations for the Winter Olympics,"

Kirby said.

Navy officials declined to name the two ships or give their types, citing a policy against discussing ship movements.

U.S. warships occasionally make port calls to countries in the region, such as Ukraine, Romania and Georgia. A ship has also participated in the annual Sea Breeze naval exercise, held each summer with co-host Ukraine.

Turkey limits the number and tonnage of foreign warships passing through the Turkish Straits and operating in the Black Sea through a 1936 convention that the U.S. has adhered to in the past. Aircraft carriers or large amphibious ships often used for humanitarian assistance would exceed the aggregate 30,000-ton weight restriction of the agreement, although smaller dock landing ships, destroyers and cruisers would all fall under the limit.

Foreign naval vessels are allowed to stay in the Black Sea for only 21 days under the convention.

Stars and Stripes reporter Steven Beardsley contributed to this report. vandiver.john@stripes.com

AF: Pilot error caused helo crash that killed airman on Okinawa

By TRAVIS J. TRITTON
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Pilot error led to a Pave Hawk helicopter crash last year on Okinawa that killed a crewmember and stoked Japanese concerns over military aircraft safety, according to investigative findings released Tuesday by the Air Force on two recent air mishaps.

A May F-15C fighter jet crash at sea that caused only minor injuries was attributed to mechanical failure.

The HH-60 crashed and burned Aug. 5 in a jungle training area after the pilot maneuvered at low altitude to avoid what he mistakenly perceived as a potential mid-air collision with another helicopter, an accident review board determined.

The 33rd Rescue Squadron Pave Hawk was training with pararescuemen for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

Air Force Staff Sgt. Mark Smith, a decorated flight engineer, died in the crash, and Japan's Ministry of Defense requested a temporary grounding of all Okinawa-based Pave Hawks, the Air Force variant of the Black Hawk. The spectacular crash came as Okinawans — already skittish from a U.S. military helicopter crash at an island university in 2004 — were protesting the arrival of MV-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

Col. Jeffrey Ullmann, commander of the 18th Mission Support Group at Kadena, said the HH-60 pilot misjudged the situation. There were no mechanical malfunctions.

"There actually wasn't any danger" of collision, Ullmann said during a presentation of the accident investigation board findings. "But the pilot perceived there was danger and took control of the aircraft."

The HH-60 and another squadron helicopter had dropped pararescuemen on a simulated crash scene in the U.S. military's Central Training Area, a swath of jungle near Camp Hansen, and were flying low in a circle-8 pattern, Ullmann said.

During the maneuver, the

two aircraft began to drift west, and the pilot of the downed Pave Hawk attempted to correct by turning the aircraft to the right.

The pilot and crew had lost awareness of the exact location of the trailing Pave Hawk while turning. When the pilot saw the other helicopter, he misjudged the distance, took over the flight controls and plunged the HH-60 down into the dense jungle.

The aircraft was destroyed, costing the Air Force \$38 million, the Kadena public affairs office said.

Ullmann said the Air Force moved to avoid similar crashes by performing triple inspections of its Pave Hawks at Kadena immediately after the incident and re-emphasizing situational awareness for flight crewmembers during training and pre-flight briefings.

The crew of the downed HH-60 did not fly again for months following the crash, he said.

Meanwhile, the Air Force also released investigative findings that blamed the crash on the ocean east of Okinawa on May 13 after the pilot ejected. The aircraft was part of a two-ship formation and was training aggressively with another F-15 in the Hotel-Hotel military training area when its flight controls stopped working, warning indicators lit up and the jet went into an uncontrollable spiral, Ullmann said.

The incident was caused by a malfunction of a high-intensity tactical training assistance mechanism called the pitch-roll channel assembly.

The pilot, who was cleared of causing the crash, had just 20 seconds to review the mechanical problem before the aircraft crashed. "That left little possible altitude for an ejection and he could not zero in on the failing mechanism, Ullmann said.

Kadena pilots are now being trained to turn the pitch-roll channel assembly off when faced with the same situation, which will allow the aircraft to continue flying and land properly, he said.

The aircraft, valued at about \$32 million, was a total loss.

tritten.travis@stripes.com

Air Force uniform changes include morale T-shirts, patches on Fridays

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — When it comes to Air Force physical fitness training, reflective belts are out and black socks are in. Hot-pink cellphones are now OK too, while in uniform, as are morale T-shirts and patches — but only on Fridays.

Changes in what airmen can wear in uniform while working out or while on the job are spelled out in a revised Air Force instruction governing dress and appearance.

The service on Monday announced the updated policy, which went into effect Friday. Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark A. Welsh III approved the changes, many of which were based on suggestions from airmen made directly to him during base visits or gleaned from comments from the service's uniform survey board. Air Force officials said in a news release.

Some of the changes are driven by a desire to recognize airmen's experiences, qualifications and job performance, allowing them "to wear what they have earned," said Patrick Doherty, director of Air Force Services.

Other changes were made with heritage, team building, esprit de corps and unit pride in mind; the rest were "common sense approach inputs" from airmen in the field. "The command insight we're getting were great ideas," Doherty was

quoted in an Air Force news release as saying.

The revised policy eases some previous restrictions on airmen while in their physical training uniform.

The requirement for reflective belts, for example, during physical training has been lifted, though commanders have discretion to order otherwise.

Socks are still required, but they can be black — before only white socks were allowed — and airmen may wear any color athletic shoe with their PT uniform.

Morale T-shirts and patches representing individual squadrons that were worn in the past to increase unit pride are now authorized for wear on Fridays, according to the new policy.

Earned Air Force qualifications badges, such as the Scuba Badge, Weapons Instructor Course Graduate Badge and Distinguished Pistol Shot Badge, along with other service qualifications badges, such as the Army's assault and diver badges, are now authorized to wear on the Airman Battle Uniform, while the command insignia pin is mandatory.

The ABU has become primarily an "in-garrison uniform," as airmen deployed to Afghanistan now wear the Army's camouflage uniform, Air Force officials said. That transition, coupled with airmen's "long-term desires to wear the qualification badges and the command insignia they have earned, makes authorized

wear on the ABU a logical step," Lt. Gen. Sam Cox, Air Force deputy chief of staff for manpower, personnel and services, said in a statement.

Other changes include the authorization to use handheld electronic devices of any color while in uniform, as long as they are not worn on an airman's belt or waistband or clipped to a purse. All others must be plain black, silver, dark blue or gray, according to the policy.

Airmen at Ramstein Air Base said Tuesday some of the changes, like easing of the reflective belt rule during PT training, are common sense.

"There's enough reflective material on the uniforms," said Staff Sgt. Parrish Moore, a fitness assessment cell personnel member with the 786th Force Support Squadron.

Moore said he likes the new black-sock rule because "I don't get worn white socks and it's weird to go buy one pair of white socks just to do the PT test," he said.

Staff Sgt. Lindsay Rhodes, a flight medic with the 86th Air Evacuation Squadron, thought the "black-sock change is silly," but she likes having the option of choosing bright-colored athletic shoes "because it's a morale thing," she said. "It adds color to the blue and grey uniforms."

Stars and Stripes reporter Josh DeMottis contributed to this story. svan.jennifer@stripes.com

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MILITARY

On line

Cryptologic Technician 2nd Class Phillip Glover leaves a line aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS McCampbell as the ship arrives in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, for a port visit.

CHRIS CAVAGNARO
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy



Can active-duty military spouses sell marijuana?

By TAD SOOTER

(Bremerton, Wash.), Kitsap Sun

SOUTH KITSAP — Kathy, a South Kitsap resident, saw once-in-a-lifetime potential in the newly legalized marijuana industry.

She spent months last fall combing through the state's Liquor Control Board rules, lining up investors and nailing down locations for three retail stores. After filing applications with the state, she had one more thing to do: tell her husband.

Kathy's spouse is an active-duty servicemember. He happened to be deployed and out of contact during the months she was making her plans. Kathy broke the news of her planned business venture when he returned this month. He was surprised but supportive.

"He said 'it sounds like a great opportunity; let's do it,'" said Kathy, 29, who asked her last name and details of her husband's service be withheld.

The question now is whether her husband's military employers will be so understanding.

Initiative 502 legalized limited possession and consumption of recreational marijuana in Washington. It also allows production, processing and sales of marijuana through licensed businesses — the kind Kathy applied for.

The state law is in direct con-

“The spouse is technically violating federal law, even if she’s following state law. If your husband gets into any sort of connection to this, they could get into trouble.”

Steven Krupa

command judge advocate at Joint Base Lewis-McChord

flikt with federal law and the Uniform Code of Military Justice, which criminalize possession and distribution of pot. A servicemember who is found carrying drugs, or tests positive for them, may face administrative separation or worse. Security clearances can also be jeopardized.

How the military will view a servicemember whose spouse is, by federal standards, a drug dealer, remains to be seen.

"The spouse is technically violating federal law, even if she's following state law," said Steven Krupa, a Pierce County defense lawyer who also serves as a Joint Base Lewis-McChord. "If your husband gets into any sort of connection to this, they could get into trouble."

A spokeswoman with Submarine Group 9 at Naval Base Kitsap — Bangor said the Navy has no specific policies addressing legalized marijuana in Washington.

A U.S. Department of Defense spokesman pointed to federal statutes already on the books and said his office could not comment on hypotheticals.

Kathy said her husband has inquired with his superiors to determine if her proposed enterprise could jeopardize his career.

Krupa has already seen a number of drug violations involving servicemembers whose spouses had medical marijuana cards. Some argued they'd had incidental contact with their spouse's legal pot. The success of the defense was varied, Krupa said. Much depends on how staunchly local commands enforce code.

Kathy said she has done everything she can to dissociate her husband from her proposed stores. He won't be part of the ownership, help with the operation or have contact with the inventory.

"He's going to have no involvement in the company whatsoever," she said.

Trucking company that moves soldiers accused of bilking government

By JOHN MONK

The Columbia, S.C.) State

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Since 2007, a major trucking company and an affiliate allegedly have bilked the U.S. government out of millions by making false claims about the weight of belongings of military personnel, according to a civil lawsuit filed by the U.S. attorney's office in Columbia, S.C.

Covan World-Wide Moving and its affiliate, Coleman-American Moving Services, are paid by the government based on the weight of items moved. Over the years, they "systematically falsified weight certificates, shipping records and invoices by increasing shipment weights," the lawsuit says.

The alleged "potentially vast and complex fraud" first was discovered at an Augusta, Ga., truck shipping depot that receives and ships items belonging to soldiers at Columbia's Port Jackson, according to the lawsuit and related government filings in the case.

Lawyers for the company said last week the government's claims can't be supported.

"We believe the allegations are without merit, and we plan on vigorously defending them," said Columbia attorney Greg Harris, who is local counsel, working with trucking company lawyer Jim Wyruch of Kansas City, Mo.

In initial pleadings before U.S. Judge Joe Anderson, company lawyers characterized the government's claims as "frankly outrageous." They said that while the government may have a few examples of overweight billings, there is not enough evidence to support a charge of deliberate and widespread fraud.

The lawsuit alleges the fraud is "company-wide" and says the alleged fraud was "a corporate policy designed to fraudulently increase corporate profits at the expense of the United States."

"Defendants' false claims scheme has resulted in a substantial loss to the U.S. and its taxpayers," the lawsuit said. "Since just 2009, defendants and their affiliates are believed to have billed the federal government for \$723 million worth of shipping and relocation services provided to the nation's uniformed service personnel."

The government's lawsuit did not estimate how much of that \$723 million might have been false billings.

The lawsuit asserts that of one group of shipments reweighed by the government, "nearly 80 percent" were billed in excess of their actual weight.

The government also has located a trucking company "corporate managers" who taught employees at the Augusta warehouse how to falsify weights, government filings allege.

Trucking management not only ordered employees to falsify weights, but trained them how to do it and how to cover up their actions, according to the lawsuit.

“Since just 2009, defendants and their affiliates are believed to have billed the federal government for \$723 million worth of shipping and relocation services provided to the nation’s uniformed service personnel.”

lawsuit meaning trucking

company employees first discovered the alleged fraud and brought evidence to the attention of the U.S. attorney's office.

Such suits are also called by a Latin phrase, *qui tam*, meaning basically that someone has filed a suit on behalf of the government. Such suits, as this one was, normally are filed under court seal while the government investigates.

In legal pleadings, the two whistleblowers were identified as Mario Humberto Figueroa and his son, Elmer Arnulfo Figueroa, who worked at the Augusta warehouse and allegedly were instructed by trucking company management to falsify weights, the lawsuit said.

Army restates anti-drug recruiting standards in Colo.

The (Colorado Springs, Colo.) Gazette

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — In more than two weeks of legal recreational marijuana in Colorado, Army recruiters aren't reporting an influx of stoned recruits.

The Army's top recruiter on Friday in Colorado Springs made a point of saying that experimental pot use, while illegal under federal laws, doesn't permanently prevent military service.

Keep smoking pot, or test positive on the Army's drug test for recruits, though, and what's legal in Colorado will stop you from getting a uniform.

Marijuana along with other drugs remains illegal

under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Troops around the world are regularly tested for drug use and can be charged with a crime for a positive result.

For recruits, the rules are different. Marijuana use prior to military service will be judged based on whether it was habitual or signified dependency.

Major Gen. Allen W. Batschelet said recruits are asked about drug use as part of a background check. "We'd prefer you to be forthcoming," he said.

One-time use accompanied by a pledge to never use marijuana will generally pose few problems for recruits. Frequent use could be deemed habitual and bar military service.

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NATION

Christie sworn in for his 2nd term

BY ANGELA DELLI SANTI
AND GEOFF MULVIHILL
The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. — Gov. Chris Christie was sworn into office Tuesday for a second term, saying he had a mandate to stay the course even as Democrats ramp up criticism of the Republican governor amid investigations of a bridge scandal that has led to other allegations of abuse of power. “It wasn’t just some of our people who affirmed this course,” Christie said. “It was not a vocal plurality like four years ago. No, this time, it was the largest and loudest voice of affirmation that the people of our state have given to any direction in three decades. We have no moral option but to heed the voice of the voters and that is ex-

actly what I intend to do.”

He also reiterated his call for tax cuts for the middle class.

Unlike in his State of the State speech last week, Christie made no mention of the multiple investigations of his administration.

His speech came less than an hour after Democratic state lawmakers announced they would merge investigative committees from the Assembly and Senate into one panel to look into lane closures on an approach to the George Washington Bridge.

Emails released this month showed a top Christie aide ordered the closure of approach lanes in the town of Fort Lee apparently as political retribution against the mayor there. Also, new questions have arisen about his use of post-Superstorm Sandy recovery aid.

“We have to be willing to play outside the red and blue boxes,” Christie said. “We have to be willing to reach out to others who look or speak differently than us.”

Christie also returned to a favorite theme: Washington gridlock.

“We cannot fall victim to the attitude of Washington, D.C.,” he said. “The attitude that puts political wins ahead of policy agreements.”

The 55th governor of New Jersey had to modify the schedule of inaugural events because a severe winter storm threatened to dump as much as a foot of snow on the region Tuesday.

Lt. Gov. Kim Guadagno, who was drawn into the Sandy aid controversy surrounding Christie last weekend, was also sworn in for her second term.



RICH SCHULTZ/AP

New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and his wife, Mary Pat, attend a prayer service for his inauguration Tuesday in Newark, N.J.



SUE FISCHKE, (MANITOWOC, WIS.) HERALD-TIMES REPORTER/AP

Steven Gove's tricycle and the car that hit him are shown at the Manitowoc, Wis., Police Station. Gove said he was struck Saturday night while riding his three-wheeled cycle.

Cyclist: Driver didn't see me stuck in windshield

The Associated Press

MANITOWOC, Wis. — A Wisconsin man who became lodged in the windshield of a car that struck him said he turned to the driver and said, “Hello, I’m the guy you hit on the bicycle.”

The driver did not respond, but continued on, running a stop sign and hitting another vehicle before he arrived home, the cyclist, Steven Gove, told HTR Media about the Saturday incident.

The man finally noticed Gove when he stopped the car outside his home.

“He looked at me and said ‘Who are you? What are you doing in

the car?’” Gove said. “He started freaking out: ‘I’m going to jail, I’m going to jail.’”

The man then locked the car doors and went into his home. Gove, whose body had gone most of the way through the windshield, then pulled his knees and feet into the car.

“I righted myself and got out,” he said. “I unlocked the passenger’s side door and started walking down the street.”

A witness had called police, who found Gove as he was walking and took him to a hospital. Doctors removed glass from Gove’s eyes and treated him for other cuts to the head and leg.

The driver, a 20-year-old Manitowoc man, was found at the home and treated at a hospital for a serious cut to the hand. He hadn’t been formally charged as of Tuesday morning, but he was facing several preliminary charges.

Gove, 56, a newspaper carrier, was shocked that the driver didn’t see him on his three-wheeled delivery bike.



Gove

Chicago archdiocese hid decades of sexual abuse

BY TAMMY WEBBER
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — After a 13-year-old boy reported in 1979 that a priest raped him and threatened him at gunpoint to keep quiet, the Archdiocese of Chicago assured the boy’s parents that although the cleric avoided prosecution, he would receive treatment and have no further contact with minors.

But the Rev. William Cloutier, who already had been accused of molesting other children, was returned to ministry a year later and was accused of more abuse before he resigned in 1993, two years after the boy’s parents filed a lawsuit. Officials took no action against Cloutier over his earliest transgressions because he “sounded repentant,” according to internal archdiocese documents released Tuesday that show how the archdiocese tried to contain a mounting scandal over child sexual abuse.

For decades, those at the highest levels of the archdiocese hid the largest archdiocese moved accused priests from parish to parish while hiding the clerics’ histories from the public. The documents, released through settlements between attorneys for the archdiocese and victims, describe how the late Cardinal John Cody and Joseph Bernardin often approved the reassignments. The archdiocese removed some priests from ministry, but often years or decades after the clergy were known to have molested children.

Wide-ranging stories of clergy sexual abuse have writhed the Roman Catholic Church across the globe, the newly released doc-

uments offer the broadest look yet into how one of its largest and most prominent American dioceses responded to the scandal.

The documents, posted online Tuesday, cover only 30 of the at least 65 clergy for whom the archdiocese says it has substantiated claims of child abuse. Vatican documents related to the 30 cases were not included, under the negotiated terms of the disclosure.

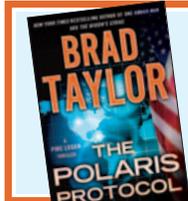
The more than 6,000 pages include internal communications between church officials, disturbing testimony about specific abuses, meeting schedules where allegations were discussed and letters from anguished parishioners. The names of victims, and details considered private under mental health laws were redacted.

In a letter distributed to parishes last week, Cardinal Francis George apologized to victims and Catholics, and said the archdiocese agreed to turn over the records in an attempt to help the victims heal.

The archdiocese released a statement Tuesday saying it knew it “made some decisions decades ago that are now difficult to justify” and that society has evolved in how it deals with abuse.

Officials in the archdiocese said most of the abuse detailed in the files occurred in 1977, and occurred before 1988, none after 1996, and that all those cases ultimately were reported to authorities.

Victims’ lawyers argue many of the allegations surfaced after George assumed control of the files release in 1997, and some of the documents relate to how the church handled the cases more recently.



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NATION

Study: 40 percent of all men arrested by age 23

By JAKE PEARSON
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Nearly 50 percent of black men and 40 percent of white men are arrested at least once on non-traffic-related crimes by the time they turn 23, according to a new study.

One of the authors of the study published this month in the journal "Crime & Delinquency" said the statistics could be useful in shaping policy so people aren't haunted by arrests when they apply for jobs, schools or public housing.

"Many" people are involved with the criminal justice system at this level," said Shawn Bushway, a University at Albu-

querque criminologist. "And treating them all as if they're hardened criminals is a serious mistake."

The peer-reviewed estimates didn't rely on arrest records but instead on an annual federal Bureau of Labor Statistics survey of about 7,000 young people who answered questions each year from 1997 to 2008 on a range of issues — including if they had ever been taken into custody for something other than a traffic offense. Self-reported crimes ranged from underage drinking to violent assaults.

The authors found that by age 18, 30 percent of black men, 26 percent of Hispanic men and 22 percent of white men have been

arrested. By 23, those numbers climb to 49 percent for black men, 44 percent for Hispanic men and 38 percent for white men.

Among women, 20 percent of blacks, 18 percent of whites and 16 percent of Hispanics were arrested at least once by age 23.

Further research on the arrests themselves, convictions and recidivism rates are in the works, said the study's co-author, University of South Carolina criminology professor Robert Brame.

"Among criminologists, I don't think they're that surprised or alarmed by the findings," Brame said. "The alarm and concern is among people not as familiar with the patterns."

The last time a similar estimate was

made was in 1967, when researchers using statistics reported to the FBI found that by age 23, 34 percent of all men would have been arrested at least once. Brame and Bushway's estimate for all men is 40 percent.

Overall, the 1967 estimate said 22 percent of all people were arrested at least once for a nontraffic offense by age 23; the new study's overall finding is 30 percent.

Jim Pasco, the executive director of the Washington-based National Fraternal Order of Police, wasn't familiar with the study but said officers are focused on stopping crime as it happens — regardless of race or age.

Sister echoes apology of US man held in N. Korea

By DOUG ESSER
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — The sister of an American missionary detained for more than a year in North Korea echoed her brother's apology to the nation for crimes he committed and his plea to the U.S. government to ramp up efforts to secure his release.

In a statement released Monday after Kenneth Bae gave a brief news conference in North Korea, Terri Chung, of Edmonds, Wash., said, "We understand that Kenneth has been convicted of crimes under DPRK laws. Our family sincerely apologizes on Kenneth's behalf."

She said to North Korea's leaders: "We humbly ask for your mercy to release my brother."

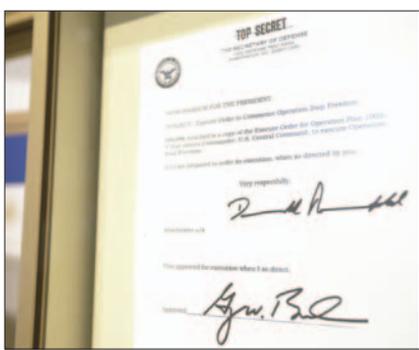
Earlier this month, Chung said Bae did nothing wrong. At the press conference that Bae said was held at his request, Bae pointed to a comment by Vice President Joe Biden last month as having made his situation more difficult.

The vice president of United States said that I was detained here without any reason," Bae said. "And even my younger sister recently told the press that I had not committed any crime, and I know that the media reported it."

"I think these comments infuriated the people here enormously. And for this reason, I am in a difficult situation now," he said. "As a result, although I was in medical treatment in the hospital for five months until now, it seems I should return to prison. And moreover there is greater difficulty in discussions about my amnesty."

Bae was arrested in November 2012 while leading a tour group and accused of crimes against the state before being sentenced to 15 years of hard labor. He was moved to a hospital last summer in poor health.

At the press conference Monday, Bae apologized and said he committed anti-government acts.



The Top Secret executive order commencing Operation Iraqi Freedom, signed by former President George W. Bush, hangs in the Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas.

George W. Bush library archives open to public

By JAMIE STENGLE
The Associated Press

DALLAS — The George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum on Monday began accepting Freedom of Information Act requests for records from Bush's presidency Monday.

The day marked five years from the end of Bush's presidency, on Jan. 20, 2009. Access to the records is governed by the Presidential Records Act, which says the records may be requested by the public five years after the presidential administration ends.

"We're really looking forward to this new chapter of the library," said Brooke Clement, supervisory archivist for the library, which opened last year on the Southern Methodist University campus.

The requests must come in written format — email, mail or fax — and must state that the request is being made under the Freedom of Information Act.

Some records remain closed until 12 years after a president leaves office. Also, some materials related to personal privacy and national security remain closed.

The archives include 70 million pages of text, 43,000 artifacts, 200 million emails and more than 4 million photographs.

A glimpse at some of the holdings can be seen in the museum, which has displays on topics including education reform, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and efforts to fight the spread of AIDS. Artifacts on display include the bullhorn Bush used after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks to address a crowd of rescue workers at ground zero.

Bruce Buchanan, a government professor at the University of Texas, said the opening of the archives at the five-year mark gives scholars the opportunity to dig into their particular area of interest, for example, someone studying the president's management style.

"Most of the stuff that's explosive enough to be really interesting, for example to reporters, is classified or the story is already out there," said Buchanan, noting that both Bush and former Vice President Dick Cheney have written books explaining certain decisions.

Snowden's defense could use a trial to showcase spy claims

By KIMBERLY DOZIER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Should Edward Snowden ever return to the U.S., he would face criminal charges for leaking information about National Security Agency surveillance programs. But legal experts say a trial could expose more classified information as his lawyers try to build a case in an open court that the operations he exposed were illegal.

A jury trial could be awkward for the Obama administration if the jurors believe Snowden is a whistle-blower who exposed government overreach. Snowden surely would try to turn the tables on the government, arguing that its right to keep information secret does not outweigh his constitutional right to speak out.

"He would no doubt bring First Amendment defenses to what he did, emphasizing the public interest in his disclosures and the democratic values that he served," said David Posen, a Columbia Law School professor and a former State Department legal adviser.

Administration officials say the possibility of a public spectacle wherein Snowden tries to reveal even more classified information to the Obama administration lessened the Justice Department's intent to prosecute him, and Attorney General Eric Holder has not warmed to calls for clemency for the former NSA systems analyst.

Department spokesman Andrew Ames last week indicated there was no change in the department's intent to prosecute, and that point was reinforced by National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden.

"There's been no change in our position. Mr. Snowden is accused of leaking classified information and faces felony charges here in the United States," Hayden said. "He should be returned to the U.S. as soon as possible, where he will be accorded full due process and protections."

A former NSA general counsel, Stewart Baker, drawing from

conversations with his former associates after *New York Times* and *Guardian* editorials called for clemency, said the issue "has been more of a media idea than something that is being seriously debated inside the government."

Both newspapers, along with *The Washington Post*, have received and reported some of the documents Snowden took.

"I haven't talked to anyone in government who considers this a possibility," Baker said.

Officials have called Snowden's leak the single largest theft of secrets in U.S. history.

The Justice Department breaks those alleged misdeeds into three charges filed in federal court in Virginia: theft of government property; and under the Espionage Act, the unauthorized communication of national defense information, and willful communication of classified communications — intelligence information — to an unauthorized person.

Each of the three charges carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison or a fine.

Escaping conviction would be difficult. Snowden has admitted taking and distributing the documents, said Jason Weinstein, a former deputy assistant attorney general. It would be tough, too, to argue that the prosecution against Snowden was acting as a whistle-blower, exposing criminal wrongdoing by the government.

"To the legal argument that the programs were illegal, the government's answer would be that the programs were legally authorized," Weinstein said.

Snowden's defense strategy could rest on "graymail," said national security lawyer Mark Zaid, in which the defense threatens to reveal classified information in the trial if the prosecution insists on pursuing the case.

Zaid said that could force government lawyers to argue to close much of the hearings, only feeding Snowden's argument that the government is trying to hide misdeeds from the public behind a cloak of secrecy.

WORLD

Russia, Iran irked over Tehran snub for Syria meeting

By ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

GENEVA — Russia and Iran criticized the U.N. chief's decision to withdraw Tehran's invitation to join this week's peace conference on Syria, as delegates began to arrive in Switzerland on Tuesday for the long-awaited talks that aim to end the Syrian civil war.

A last-minute U.N. invitation for Iran to participate in the so-called Geneva conference threw the entire meeting into doubt, forcing U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon to rescind his offer late Monday under intense U.S. pressure after Syria's main Western-backed opposition group threatened to boycott.

After Ban withdrew the invitation, the opposition Syrian National Coalition said it would attend the talks aimed at ending Syria's crippling three-year civil war, which has killed more than 130,000 and uprooted millions. The opposition said the conference should seek to establish a transitional government with full executive powers "in which killers and criminals do not participate."

That cleared the way for the negotiations to open Wednesday as planned in the Swiss resort city of Montreux, with high-ranking delegations from the United States, Russia and close to 40 other countries attending. Face-to-face negotiations between the Syrian government and its opponents — the first of the uprising — are to start Friday in Geneva.

Expectations for a break

through at the conference are low. Despite suffering enormous losses in the war, neither the government nor the opposition appear desperate enough for a deal to budge from its position.

It's also unclear how the opposition Coalition, a weak and fractured umbrella group with almost no sway over the most powerful rebel groups inside Syria, could enforce any agreement reached in Geneva.

Syria has been ruled by President Bashar Assad's family since 1970, and Iran is Assad's strongest regional ally. The Islamic Republic has supplied the Syrian government with advisers, money and materiel since the uprising began in March 2011. Iran's allies, most notably the Hezbollah Shiite militant group and Lebanese, have also gone to Syria to help bolster Assad's forces.

Iran's role has infuriated Syria's opposition forces, which accuse Tehran of in essence invading their country.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reaffirmed Russia's stance that the presence of Iran was essential for the success of the talks, saying Tehran's absence "isn't going to help strengthen the unity of the world's Muslims."

Iran's Foreign Ministry sharply criticized Ban's diplomatic about-face. "From our point of view, the withdrawal is deplorable," ministry spokeswoman Marziyeh Afkham said, adding that the U.N. chief only did so under immense pressure.



SEA SHEPHERD CONSERVATION SOCIETY/AP

Divers try to catch a bottlenose dolphin selected among the dolphins trapped by fishermen in Taiji, Japan, during the annual dolphin roundup Saturday.

Report: Japan's dolphin hunt biggest in 4 years

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese fishermen have finished killing some of the 250 dolphins trapped recently in what activists say was the biggest roundup they have witnessed in the last four years.

Sea Shepherd, best known for its anti-whaling activities, said the fishermen first selected 52 dolphins to keep alive for sale to aquariums and other customers. They included a rare albino calf and its mother.

Of the rest, about 40 were killed, one became stuck in a net and drowned, and the others were released, it said.

A video released Tuesday by Sea Shepherd shows dozens of fishermen on boats surveying the dolphins after they were confined to a cove with nets. Divers can be seen holding the dolphins se-

lected for sale and guiding them to nets hanging off the boats.

While other dolphins have been killed since the hunting season began in September, Sea Shepherd said the 250 herded into the cove last Friday was the largest group it has seen since it began monitoring the hunt.

The annual hunt in the village of Taiji received high-profile criticism when U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy tweeted last weekend that she was deeply concerned about the practice.

The fishermen say the hunt is part of their tradition and call foreign critics who eat other kinds of meat hypocritical.

A Japanese government spokesman defended the annual dolphin hunt on Monday, saying it is carried out in accordance with the law.

Police hangs 26 convicted on terrorism charges

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Justice Ministry said 26 prisoners convicted of terrorism-related charges were executed Sunday, all of them Iraqi nationals.

A statement posted on the ministry's website Tuesday said the suspects were found guilty of carrying out "ugly terrorist attacks" against the Iraqi people.

The statement quoted the justice minister as saying those executed included Adel-al-Mashhadani, a former anti-al-Qaida Sunni leader in Baghdad who was sentenced to death in late 2009 for murder and kidnapping.

Iran sends warships to Atlantic for 1st time

TEHRAN, Iran — Two Iranian warships set sail Tuesday for the Atlantic Ocean on the navy's first-ever mission there, state TV reported.

The voyage comes amid an on-going push by Iran to demonstrate the ability to project power across the Middle East and beyond.

"The warships will have the task of securing shipping routes as well as training new personnel," the report quoted Iranian Adm. Habibollah Sayyari as saying.

China executes man who kept 6 sex slaves

BEIJING — China executed a man on Tuesday who kept six women in a dungeon as sex slaves for periods of up to 21 months, during which he coerced three of them to kill two of their fellow captives, a court official said.

Li Hao, 36, had dug a dungeon underneath a basement he bought in August 2009 and tricked women who worked at hair salons, karaoke bars and a massage parlor into going there with him, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

Police said he wanted to make money by forcing the women into prostitution and to appear in obscene webcasts.

Monsignor charged in money-laundering case

VATICAN CITY — A Vatican monsignor already on trial for allegedly plotting to smuggle \$26 million from Switzerland to Italy was arrested Tuesday in a separate case for allegedly using his Vatican bank accounts to launder money.

Financial police in the southern Italian city of Salerno said Monsignor Nunzio Scarano had transferred millions of euros in fictitious donations from offshore companies through his accounts at the Vatican's Institute for Religious Works. Police said millions have been seized and that other arrest warrants were issued.

From The Associated Press

Japan's last WWII straggler who hid in jungle dies at 91

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Hiroo Onoda, the last Japanese imperial soldier to emerge from hiding in a jungle in the Philippines and surrender, 29 years after the end of World War II, has died. He was 91.

Onoda died Thursday at a Tokyo hospital after a brief stay there. Chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga on Friday expressed his condolences, praising Onoda for his strong will to live and indomitable spirit.

"After World War II, Mr. Onoda lived in the jungle for many years

and when he returned to Japan, I felt that finally, the war was finished. That's how I felt," Suga said.

Onoda was an intelligence officer who came out of hiding, erect but emaciated, in fatigues patched many times over, on Lubang island in the Philippines in March 1974, on his



Onoda

52nd birthday. He surrendered only when his former commander flew there to reverse his 1945 orders to stay behind and spy on American troops.

Onoda and another World War II holdout, Sgt. Shōichi Yokoi, who emerged from the jungle in 1972, received massive heroes' welcomes upon returning home.

Before and during the war, Japanese were taught absolute loyalty to the nation and the emperor. Soldiers in the Imperial Army observed a code that said death was preferable to surrender.

Onoda refused to give up, de-

spite at least four searches during which family members appealed to him over loudspeakers and flights dropped leaflets urging him to surrender.

After the initial sensation of his return home wore off, Onoda bought a ranch in Brazil. He later was head of a children's nature school in northern Japan.

Onoda showed a great zeal for making up for years lost. "I do everything twice as fast so I can make up for the 30 years," he said in a 1995 interview. "I wish someone could eat and sleep for me so I can work 24 hours a day."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

Can unification save S. Korea's economy?

By WILLIAM PESEK
Bloomberg News

TOKYO

As Park Geun-Hye searches for ways to compete with China and Japan, the South Korean president is eyeing a rather surprising ally: Kim Jong Un.

"Unification will allow the Korean economy to take a fresh leap forward and inject great vitality and energy," Park told Bloomberg News on Jan. 10. "People would even sing, 'We dream of unification even in our dreams.'"

The idea isn't as dippy as it sounds. Economists generally rate Park's first year in office as a dud. She arrived at the presidential Blue House with big talk of building a more "creative" economy. Yet her plans to empower small- and medium-size companies and to rein in the family-run conglomerates, or chaebol, that dominate the economy remain untested.

As her second year begins, Park must outdate and top-heavy growth model. Folding unification into the strategy is audacious. In theory, combining the South's capital and technology with the North's human and natural resources could create a powerful growth engine.

Of course, this entire discussion hinges on Kim's willingness to remove the soldiers, artillery and barbed wire that continue to line the demilitarized zone. Kim's recent purge of his No. 2, Jang Song Thaek, suggests the 30-something dictator has no interest in rapprochement. Convincing the Dear Leader to turn his back on Stalin and his face toward capitalism will be no easy sell.

Park could face an equally tough sales challenge with her own people, who have less and less interest in dealing with the Kim Dynasty. It's hard to see how, in April 2013, when Kim precipitated what many characterized as Park's Cuban missile crisis. His threats to carry out pre-emptive nuclear strikes against the United States and South Korea had governments around the globe on edge, markets gyrating and credit-rating companies ready to pounce. For young Koreans — those for whom war in the 1950s is the stuff of dry textbook passages and who feel little connection to those above the 38th parallel — it was the last straw.

The share of South Koreans who view unification as necessary fell to 54.8 percent in 2013 from 57 percent a year earlier, according to Seoul National University. The ratio is



ANN YOUNG/JOON/AP

South Korean army armored vehicles park during a military exercise in Paju, South Korea, near the demilitarized zone between the North and South.

falling more precipitously among Koreans ages 19 to 29 — to a scant 40.4 percent.

The under-30 crowd worries primarily about bearing the cost of reunification. Absorbing 24 million impoverished people who've never had a bank account, touched a decent computer or visited a modern dentist would be a breathtaking challenge. In February, Park's finance ministry vastly lowballed the price tag. Anyone who thinks this can be done for \$591 billion or less if the process occurred around 2020 is as delusional as a North Korean peasant convinced that Kim is God.

Take the long-standing \$2 trillion to \$5 trillion estimate by North Korea experts, including Peter Beck, of the Washington-based Atlantic Council. Even these guesstimates are likely to prove very conservative as reunification begins.

Pyeongyang is a complete black box. Really, Dennis Rodman knows more about the state of play there than World Bank President Jim Yong Kim. There also are no precedents. Germany's reunification, for example, was far less daunting, and even there costs vastly exceeded estimates, having reached at least \$2 trillion so far. East Germans in 1990 were infinitely more plugged in to the global economy than North Koreans are now. Nor did they suffer from crushing poverty.

West German officials didn't have to worry about a big store of nuclear weapons

just on the other side of the Wall, or more than a million brainwashed and agitated soldiers. Given how disastrously dissolving Iraq's military went, this must be handled wisely.

Reunification won't pay for itself. Sure, North Korea has coal, copper, gold, manganese, tungsten, uranium, zinc and other underground riches. But big checks will have to be written by South Korea, the U.S., Japan, Europe and, of course, China, Kim's main enabler. China will hate Park's push to join forces with Kim's people. It would put American boots right on China's north-east border and rob the Communist Party of a key means of keeping Washington and Tokyo off balance.

This could all just be spin. Park clearly wants to move the story away from parliamentary gridlock and a scandal over whether Korea's spy agency helped her win the December 2012 election. It's promising, though, to hear Park framing the issue not in terms of emotions, but economics.

Leaders of the past tried the Korean brotherhood gambit, to no avail. Now the South needs a big bang if it's going to match Japan and stay ahead of China. Pooling energy and resources across the peninsula could indeed be a transformative effect. Paying for it today would be much cheaper than dealing with an outright collapse in the North later.

William Pesek is a Bloomberg View columnist.

Target breach exposes dearth of US cybersecurity

Washington Post editorial

Tens of millions of Americans were recently exposed to a rude shock: theft of their credit card numbers, names and, in some cases, phone numbers and email addresses. They were simply shopping at Target stores and had no idea that when they swiped a credit card at the cash register, they turned over private information to thieves.

This ought not be viewed as just another bad shopping day in the digital age. The massive Target data breach and ones like it at other stores are warnings of a persistent and deepening cyberthreat problem that needs to be confronted. Computer networks are vital to American capitalism and society, but they remain surprisingly vulnerable to thieves and hijackers. Law enforcement does not have the resources to stop them; the private sector is growing more aware but remains exposed and complacent; and Congress has yet to find a consensus.

In the past several years, Congress debated cybersecurity bills that would have

made it easier for the government and private sector to cooperate. The legislation died, in part because of opposition by some in the business community who called the requirements too intrusive or burdensome. When Congress failed to act, President Barack Obama issued an executive order to improve the sharing of information between government and the private sector. This was a good first step, but it was not enough.

Not long ago, there was debate about whether the National Security Agency, which has developed cybertools to protect U.S. military networks, ought to partner with the private sector in fending off cyberthieves. Revelations about NSA surveillance have reduced the political viability of that option, at least for a time.

The Target breach appears to be one of the largest retail data thefts ever carried out. It is still under investigation, but apparently the thieves used malware written by a Russian teenager that scraped the data from card readers in the stores. Most of the time, such information is encrypted, but there is

a fraction of a second when the credit card data are in the clear. That's when the information was stolen.

Target has said the intruders may have taken credit and debit card data from 40 million holders and compromised the personal information of 70 million others. If thieves had come up to customers at Target and physically wrested this many credit cards out of their hands, there would have been an uproar. But the data breach unfolded silently between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15. Target says that customers have zero liability for fraudulent charges, but the loss of their personal data is likely to leave many people feeling ripped off and angry.

Credit cards with chips that encrypt data would help, but they are not yet in wide use in the United States. More broadly, Congress must now get serious about cybersecurity. The private sector has much at stake but may not be able to cope on its own. And it is not just businesses that are under threat. Already, millions of consumers are paying the price of inaction.

OPINION

Syrian peace talks must address humanity in war

By DAVID MILLIBAND

It is a rare peace conference that brings immediate peace. But few have sparked such little optimism as the one planned for Wednesday in Montreux, Switzerland, to discuss Syria. As Laurent Fabius, the French foreign minister, has said, there is “a great deal of doubt” about whether progress can be made.

If peace is beyond reach, then the conference must, at a bare minimum, restore basic humanity to the conduct of war. That means addressing the desperate situation of Syrian civilians trapped by the fighting without food, health care, education or hope.

The problem is often described as one of access for humanitarian agencies. But that is like saying that someone who is being strangled is suffering from lack of access to air. The issue is bigger. The Syrian people are facing a blockade. They are under siege.

More than 9 million people have been displaced from their homes. A third of the country’s housing has been damaged or destroyed. Public services have been shattered.

As of last month, nearly 40 percent of Syrian hospitals had been obliterated and 20 percent had been severely damaged. Almost 2 million children have been forced out of school in the past year.

The United Nations has the best estimates of acute need. A quarter of all Syrian civilians are completely cut off, it reports, in besieged areas in Homs, Aleppo and greater Damascus. By U.N. estimates, 2.5 million people are in “hard-to-reach” areas such as al-Hasakah.

It’s not hard to understand why people are hard to reach. Reports emerge daily about how government forces are using sieges as a weapon. In some areas, fighting is one another; civilians are caught in the middle. In fact, the very notion of a civilian — a noncombatant — has been lost, as



Syrian rescue workers dig through the rubble of a destroyed building to find victims after a Syrian forces warplanes attack in Aleppo, Syria, on Sunday.

ALLEGRO MEDIA CENTER, AMC/AP

snipers shoot women, doctors are targeted and suburbs are shelled.

The International Rescue Committee has helped close to a million Syrians gain access to medical care during the conflict. But people are burning clothes to stay warm. Clerics issue edicts about eating cats and dogs. And polio has broken out.

These issues must be addressed in Montreux — with practical plans for implementation and accountability. First, adherence to international human-

itarian law, which governs armed conflict, is a requirement, not an option, for both the Syrian government and rebels. The targeting of civilians, medical facilities and aid workers is illegal and needs to be challenged by supporters of both sides.

Second, the strong Oct. 2 presidential statement from the U.N. Security Council details the responsibility of all parties to allow the flow of aid and medical help. But that duty is not being honored — making a mockery of both the United Nations and its

member states.

All permanent members of the Security Council, including Russia and China, supported that U.N. statement. If it is being ignored, they should be challenged to support a binding U.N. resolution with the same wording.

Third, special provision is needed to reach besieged communities. Parties to the conflict should appoint delegates empowered to negotiate the passage of aid and civilians across lines of conflict.

From Afghanistan to Sudan, there is experience in negotiating and delivering humanitarian aid during civil wars. The United Nations has a high-level group, made up of member states, that works under the auspices of its Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; ensuring that hungry and frightened people receive relief should be its immediate focus.

Fourth, the fate of Aleppo needs to be the test of progress. Aleppo is Syria’s most populous city, with 2 million people crammed in. It is now a divided city and therefore home to precisely the conflict lines that test the humanity of both sides. Aleppo is to Syria what Sarajevo was to Bosnia. If Syria is ever to recover its tranquility and beauty, this city must be saved from descending into hell.

If all this does not happen, the price will be severe. It will be paid by the Syrian people in the form of rampant disease, death and destruction. It will be paid in the region by the further spread of refugees into countries decreasingly able to cope. It will be paid by the wider world in the growth of toxic radicalism.

It is easy to talk of “donor fatigue,” complex emergencies and no good options. But that is no excuse for a return to the Dark Ages in the heart of the Middle East.

David Milliband is president and chief executive of International Rescue Committee. He was Britain’s foreign secretary from 2007 to 2010. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

To understand Ebonics, we must ‘ax’ the right questions

By JOHN McWHORTER

Few things stick out more in black American speech than the pronunciation of “ask” as “ax.” And when I say that it “sticks out,” I’m being polite.

Attitudes about Ebonics have evolved somewhat as hip-hop has become America’s favorite music. Even the strictest grammarian would have to agree that Kanye West’s “Gold Digger” in standard English wouldn’t be worth hearing. And Americans from Jesse Pinkman in “Breaking Bad” to Key and Peele get that it’s OK to speak “hood” when you’re among friends.

But “ax” is a special case. It’s often the first thing even black people bring up as an example of bad grammar. Garrard McClendon, a black professor and talk show host, has titled a book “Aks or Ask: The African American Guide to Better English.”

As a black linguist, I have come to expect that during question sessions after any public talk — on language, someone will ask, “What’s with ‘ax’?”

One answer a linguist can give is to cite history, pointing out how, in Old English, the word for “ask” swung randomly between ascian and aescian, and nobody batted an eye. But that answer never satisfies the audience. That was then, this is now, they suggest, and today, “ax” sounds ignorant. So why can’t black people switch a couple of sounds around and stop saying it?

I want to try to answer that.

First, it’s important to understand that, as English goes, “ax” is a perfectly normal thing to have happened to a word like “ask.” Take the word “fish.” It started as “fisk,” with the same -sk ending that “ask” has. Over time, in some places people started saying “fisk” as “fiks,” while in others they started saying “fisk” as “fish.” After a while, “fish” won out over “fiks,” and here we are today. The same thing happened with “mash.” It started as “mask.” Later some people were saying “masks” and others were saying “mash.” “Mash” won.

With “ask,” some people started saying “aks,” and some started saying “ash.” But this time, it wasn’t “ask” that won out. Instead, for a while “ax” was doing pretty well. Even Chaucer used it in “The Canterbury Tales,” in lines such as this one: “Yow lovers axe I now this question?”

There is an element of chance in how words change over time, and we will never know why “aks” and “ash” lost out to “ask.” All we know is that the people whose English was designated the standard happened to be among those who said “ask” instead of “aks” — and the rest is history.

Going forward, “aks” was used primarily by uneducated people, including indentured servants, whom black slaves in America worked alongside and learned English from. So, “aks” is no more a “broken” form of “ask” than “fish” is a “broken” version of ye olde “fisk.” It’s just that

As a black linguist, I have come to expect that, during question sessions after any public talk I give on language, someone will ask, “What’s with ‘ax’?”

“fisk” isn’t around anymore to remind us of how things used to be.

But even knowing that, we can’t help thinking that standard English, even if arbitrary, should be standard. Shouldn’t it be as simple to pick up the modern pronunciation of “ask” as it is to acquire a new slang word?

Here, then, is where the linguist breaks out the word “identity.” The way people talk expresses their identity, we linguists say, tending to think such a statement should end the conversation.

But it doesn’t. A perfectly reasonable person might ask, Why not identify with proper language? Moreover, using the word “identity” makes the matter sound deliberate, while most black people’s embrace of “ax” is not a conscious decision.

We need to offer a better explanation. Here’s my try.

The first thing to understand is that, for black people, “ax” has a different meaning than “ask.” Words are more than sequences of letters, and “ax” is drunk in from childhood. “Ax” is a word indelibly associated not just with asking but with black people asking. That sentiment alone is powerful

enough to cut across conscious decisions about what is standard or proper.

“Ax,” then, is as integral a part of being a black American as are subtle aspects of carriage, demeanor, humor and religious practice. “Ax” is a gospel chord in the form of a word, a facet of black being — which is precisely why black people can both make fun of and also regularly use “ax,” even as college graduates.

Yet nothing can stop people from hearing “ax” as illiterate, which makes the word a small tragedy in its way. When a black speaker gets the most comfortable, the most articulate, the most herself — that is exactly when she is likely to slide in an “ax” for “ask.” Immediately she sounds ignorant to any nonblack person who hears her, not to mention to quite a few black ones.

Yet I hope that my small contribution to the pro-active literature might help some of us hear “ax” in a different way. The simple fact is that because “ax” is blackness, it has survived and will continue to.

John McWhorter teaches linguistics, American studies and Western civilization at Columbia University. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

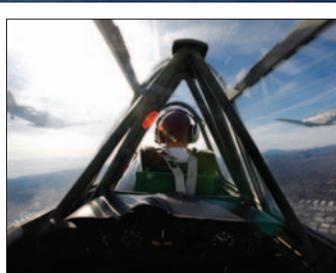
MILITARY



Staying aloft

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Above: Condor Squadron is a nonprofit organization in Van Nuys, Calif., dedicated to honoring America's veterans and the public display of the sturdy two-seater planes that helped train tens of thousands of military pilots during World War II and the Korean War. Right: Pilot Dustin Belbarb flies with the squadron.



California aviation buffs lovingly keep vintage military aircraft flying

By DAN WEIKEL
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES
On the west side of Van Nuys Airport in California, it's like World War II never ended.

Vintage propeller planes once flown by U.S. Navy, Army Air Corps and Royal Air Force pilots are parked wingtip to wingtip along the taxiway. Nearby buildings are painted in camouflage. The sound of swing music sometimes drifts across the tarmac, and olive drab flight jackets are de rigueur.

The planes and buildings belong to Condor Squadron, a nonprofit organization dedicated to honoring America's veterans and the public display of the North American AT-6/SNJ Texan — a sturdy two-seater that helped train tens of thousands of military pilots during World War II and the Korean War.

The group and its members own eight of the planes, making Van Nuys the site of one of the largest collections of such aircraft in the nation.

Bearing authentic U.S. and German markings, the squadron's AT-6s regularly appear in local parades, veterans events, memorial services and mock attacks on the Lane Victory, a refurbished military cargo ship that offers day cruises to the public from the Port of Los Angeles. In October, they flew in formation over a playoff game at Dodger Stadium during the close of the national anthem.

"If you are preserving and flying the AT-6, my hat is off to you," said Harold Cannon, president of Warbirds of America, a 5,000-member division of the Experimental Aircraft Association. "It's important to preserve that portion of our history. It's



Vitaly Pecherskyy turns the propeller of one of the squadron's planes.

It's important to preserve that portion of our history. It's a great plane that trained the pilots who helped win the war.

Harold Cannon
Warbirds of America president

a great plane that trained the pilots who helped win the war."

The Condor Squadron was founded at Van Nuys in 1965 by Walter Morrison, who flew P-40 Warhawks in North Africa, and attorney Richard T. Sykes, who completed 50 combat missions over Europe in a P-38 Lightning.

It started out as a flying club, air show act and member of the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary unit of the U.S. Air Force that

performed search and rescue missions.

Several of its pilots, including Sykes, also flew in the AT-6 category at the National Air Races, a competition that member Bob "Hollywood" Sandberg and Condor President Chris Rushing still enter.

Over the years, the squadron dropped out of the Civil Air Patrol and increasingly concentrated on air shows, charity events and other community activities, including an annual Easter egg hunt for the public

on the organization's grounds. More than 1,500 eggs are hidden, and the Easter bunny arrives via helicopter.

The present group has more than 50 members, including many experienced pilots, but time in the air is not always required. Some members were recruited for their mechanical skills to help keep the aging planes aloft.

They get together regularly at their headquarters, which is part clubhouse, briefing room and watering hole. The soft drink machine dispenses cans of beer.

In one corner is an old-fashioned barber chair that is often the place of repose for Raymond "Sparky" Sparks, 87, the group's oldest member.

Memorabilia from World War II and photos of famous pilots and aircraft are everywhere, including a floor-to-ceiling picture of a banking AT-6 going around a pylon of boards and oil drums set up in the Mojave Desert. The left wingtip is less than 6 feet off the ground.

Like any squadron, everyone here has a nickname. In addition to Hollywood and Sparky, there is Vitaly "v" Pecherskyy; Konstantin "K-man" Nossachev; Will "Jam" Tinsley; and Dustin "Smoker" Gelbard. Rushing, who is a chief master sergeant in the Air National Guard, is simply called Chief.

They are a diverse group that includes military veterans, mechanics, pilots of all types and a tattoo artist. However, they have one thing in common — an intense interest in the AT-6 and World War II.

"When I slide the canopy back and climb into the cockpit, it feels just like 1940," said Sandberg, an airline captain and the squadron's director of flight operations. "Sometimes I sit there and think of all the guys who have flown this plane."

WIRED WORLD

Gangs' use of Web informs friends, foes

Police follow social media activity to aid investigations

By SHARON COHEN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — The video is riddled with menace and swagger: Reputed gang members in Chicago point their guns directly at the camera. A bare-chested young man brandishes an assault weapon. They flash hand signals, dance and, led by a rapper, taunt their rivals as he chants:

“Toe tag DOA. That’s for being in my way ... Killing til my heart swell ... Guaranteed there’s going to be all hell.”

Thousands watch on YouTube. Among them is the Chicago police, who quickly identify two of those in the video as felons who are prohibited from being around guns. Both are later taken into custody.

As social media increasingly has become part of daily life, both gangs and law enforcement are trying to capitalize on the reach of this new digital world — and both, in their own ways, are succeeding.

Social media has exploded among street gangs who exploit it — often brazenly — to brag, to conspire and to incite violence. They’re turning to Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram to flaunt guns and wads of cash, to threaten rivals, to intimidate informants and in a small number of cases, to sell weapons and drugs — even to plot murder.

“What’s taking place online is what’s taking place in the streets,” said David Pirooz, an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University who has studied gangs and social media in five big cities. “The Internet does more for a gang’s brand or a gang member’s identity than word-of-mouth could ever do. It really gives the gang a wide platform to promote their reputations. They can brag about women, drugs, fighting ... and instead of boasting to five gang members on a street corner, they can go online and it essentially goes viral. It’s like this electronic graffiti wall that never gets deleted.”

On the crime-fighting side, “cyberbanging,” or “Internet banging,” as this activity is sometimes called, is transforming how police and prosecutors pursue gangs. Along with traditional investigative techniques, police monitor gangs online — sometimes communicating with them using aliases — and track their activities and rivalries, looking for ways to short-circuit potential flare-ups.

It’s a formidable task. There are millions of images and words, idea boards mixes, with real threats and an ever-changing so-



RICHARD DREW/AP

New York Police officials followed several social media trails in a recent crackdown on gangs, resulting in the indictments of 63 gang members.

cial media landscape. Myspace has given way to Facebook and Twitter, but gangs also are using Instagram, Snapchat, Kik and Chirp — different ways of sharing photos, video, audio and words, sometimes through smartphones or pagers.

“It’s kind of like clothing — this is the style today but in two months, it won’t be,” said Alex Del Toro, program director at

one of the branches of the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago’s Youth Safety and Violence Prevention program.

It’s not just changing styles, but the language, itself, that can pose obstacles. Police often have to decipher street talk, which varies according to gang and city. In Chicago, for instance, a gun may be a thumper or a cannon. In Houston, a burner, chopper,

ump or gat. In New York, a flamingo, drum set, clickety, biscuit, shotty, racket or ratty.

That slang played a significant role last year for New York police and prosecutors. They pursued a digital trail of messages on Facebook and Twitter, along with jail-house phone calls, to crack down on three notorious East Harlem gangs tied to gun trafficking, more than 30 shootings and at least three murders.

After 63 reputed gang members were indicted, authorities revealed they’d collected hundreds of social media postings to help build their cases. Some messages, according to the indictment, were vengeful: “God forgives, I don’t ... somebody gotta die,” one posted on his Facebook page. “I don’t wanna talk. I want action n real guns,” another said on Twitter. Others were boastful: “My team not top 2 most wanted youth gangs in Manhattan for nothin we got guns for days,” a third posted on Facebook.

“These Facebook and Instagram postings are sometimes our most reliable evidence and they become our most reliable informants in identifying who’s in the gang,” said Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr. “Gang members are Instagramming pictures of themselves with guns and cash. They are communicating about where to meet before they do something related to

gang activities. They brag about what they’ve done after the fact. We see that again and again and again in these cases.”

And yet, Vance also said social media should be viewed skeptically — some kids brag about things that aren’t true or just want to look tough — and a Facebook post would not be reason alone to file charges.

Online messages, though, were critical in the East Harlem investigation. By the start of 2014, 53 of the 63 charged had pleaded guilty. And in November, then-New York Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly offered an endorsement: Hailing a 50 percent drop in homicides among those 13 to 21 since 2012, Kelly said a new strategy “including attention to the new battleground of social media has resulted in lives being saved in New York City, mostly minority young men.”

In many cases, gangs do little to hide their identities, even though they know they’re leaving an electronic fingerprint for police.

“I guess the need for recognition and street cred must outweigh the potential for being arrested and charged,” said Nick Roti, chief of the Chicago police organized crime bureau. “They don’t seem to be that worried. They may feel they can hide in numbers. There are millions of pictures and posts. (Their attitude is) ‘I’ll take my chances.’”



AP

This image made from YouTube shows a still frame of the music video “Die Lz” by Bang Da Hitta posted Aug. 8. Chicago police used the video to identify two felons who are prohibited from being around guns.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Student aims to cut debt with grad cap

MI FLINT — A University of Michigan-Flint student hopes to use his graduation cap to take a bite out of his education debt.

Alex Benda, 22, of St. Clair, said he wants to cash in on the 10-inch-by-10-inch hat by selling ad space in 1-inch squares on top. He said if he's able to sell 100 squares, he will be able to wipe out about \$30,000 in student loans.

The international business major is scheduled to graduate in a few months. He said it's "scary" to think about trying to find a job while having so much debt.

As of Monday morning, he had raised more than \$1,200 online from 10 backers — but no square buyers had yet to make pledges.

Man pulled from ice after trying to get dog

MO MARYLAND HEIGHTS — A St. Louis County man is recovering after falling through the ice at Creve Coeur Lake while trying to retrieve his dog.

Firefighters arrived in time on Sunday to rescue the man from the Chesterfield area. His name was not released.

The man originally was suffering from hypothermia, but Maryland Heights Fire Capt. Robert Daus Jr. said his prognosis is good. The dog was able to crawl out of danger and got back to shore.

Rescuers responding to a 911 call used a rope to reach the man and pulled him from the icy water. The rescue was complicated by the fact that the man is hearing-impaired and could not hear the rescuers calling to him.

Bill would let monkeys assist paralyzed people

KY FRANKFORT — Kentucky legislators may soon debate whether to allow service monkeys to assist paralyzed adults with simple household tasks.

Sen. John Schickel said his bill comes at the request of a family in his northern Kentucky district. The family wants to use a service monkey to assist their daughter, who was paralyzed in an automobile accident.

The bill's critics include Sarah Baecker Davis, executive director of the North American Primate Sanctuary Alliance. She said monkeys are wild animals that don't belong in homes.

Since 1979, the group Helping Hands: Monkey Helpers has trained capuchin monkeys to help paralyzed adults with simple tasks, such as picking up dropped items or flipping on light switches.

The group's executive director, Megan Talbert, said the monkeys are "safe and wonderful" companions.

Town takes steps to curb feral cat numbers

IN MIDDLEBURY — Feral felines will be trapped,



ROD AYDELOTTE, WACO (TEXAS) TRIBUNE HERALD/AP

Colorful compliment

English street artist Binti Bint blends in with her work of art as she walks across a scaffold while working on her mural "You Look Nice today" on the side of a building Sunday in Waco, Texas. Bint is noted for her candy-colored chickens, sunny-side eggs, striking patterns and positive messages.

sterilized and returned to their original locations under a new program being unveiled in a northern Indiana community.

Middlebury has teamed with the Elkhart County Feral Cat Coalition for the TNR — trap, neuter, release — program to address concerns about the number of feral cats in town.

The move was prompted by Marshal Mike McCloughen after he learned about a local woman who was feeding 20 stray cats at her home, then heard of other similar situations.

"Those 20 cats within 12 to 18 months could turn into 200 cats," he said. "I couldn't imagine having 200 cats in a neighborhood."

Nut farmers band together to fight thefts

CA ESCALON — The soaring value of California's nut crops is attracting a new breed of thieves who have been making off with the pricey commodities by the truckload, recalling images of cattle rustlers of bygone days.

This harvest season in the Central Valley, thieves cut through a fence and hauled off \$400,000 in walnuts. Another \$100,000 in almonds was stolen by a driver with a fake license. And \$100,000 in pistachios was taken by a big rig driver who left a farm without filling out any paperwork.

Investigators suspect low-level organized crime may have a hand

THE CENSUS

\$105K

The amount of money philanthropists are paying to rescue the city of San Francisco from the tab of the "Batkid" fantasy that captured the nation's imagination. Miles Scott, 5, a Northern California boy with leukemia, fought villains and rescued a damsel in distress as a caped crusader on Nov. 15. City officials say most of the public funds went toward renting a sound system, video screens and other equipment to accommodate the surprisingly large crowds that turned out to see "Batkid," who became a social media darling. The elaborate fantasy was arranged by the Make-A-Wish Foundation.



JEFF CHIU/AP

Miles Scott, 5, dressed as Batkid raises his arm next to Batman on Nov. 15 outside City Hall in San Francisco.

in cases, while some pilfered nuts are ending up in Los Angeles for resale at farmers markets or disappear into the black market.

Domestic demand for specialty foods and an expanding Asian market for them have prompted a nut orchard boom in the state's agricultural heartland. Such heists have become so common that an industry task force recently formed to devise ways to thwart thieves.

"The Wild West is alive and well in certain aspects," said

Danielle Oliver of the California Farm Bureau. "There's always someone out there trying to make a quick dollar on somebody else's hard work."

Undeliverable mail put on display at post office

ND WATFORD CITY — Some residents in northwestern North Dakota had the chance to celebrate Christmas all over again.

The Watford City post office

held an open house Thursday night and invited people to stop by to see if any of more than 200 undeliverable parcels might belong to them.

Postal service spokeswoman Karen Fredrickson said the post office became overwhelmed in December by the volume of packages and had been holding undeliverable mail rather than immediately returning it.

The postal service held the belated Christmas party to try to locate as many recipients as possible before making the returns.

Hunters rescued from sinking boat on lake

GA GAINESVILLE — Authorities said two duck hunters were rescued from a sinking boat on Lake Lanier after they fired guns into the air to attract help.

The boat began taking on water Friday evening on the southern part of the lake. Hall County Fire Chief David Kimbrell said a nearby resident heard gunfire from the men and called 911 before rescuing them in his own boat.

Kimbrell said the hunters' boat was submerged and they were in the water by the time they were rescued. Both were taken to local hospitals for treatment of hypothermia.

The names of the two hunters were not released.

From wire reports

FACES

Sundance roundup Hall won't rule out revisiting 'Dexter'

The Associated Press

Possible bad news for Oregon loggers: Michael C. Hall won't rule out a return to playing Dexter. But he'd want to see the finish line.

Hall, promoting his movie "Cold in July" at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, said during an interview over the



Hall

weekend that he agreed with Showtime executives who recently declared that any potential spinoff series would have to include Hall.

"Masuka! I would watch that," he joked, referring to the show's humorous forensics specialist Vince Masuka, played by C.S. Lee.

More seriously, Hall said of a possible spinoff, "I can't even wrap my mind around that. And it's all just theoretical until there is some sort of script reflecting somebody's idea of where it could possibly go. But it's hard for me to imagine what that would be."

Hall, 42, also won't rule out returning to TV more generally.

"Yeah, as far as playing Dexter again for an undefined amount of time, that's a little daunting to consider. But doing another television series — there's a lot of amazing stuff on TV. I don't want to do that right away. But I wouldn't say never to that."

Hathaway dismisses report of near drowning

Don't worry, Anne Hathaway is OK.

Recently paparazzi photos circulated of the Oscar-winner on vacation in Hawaii with her husband and looking like she was having an emergency while in the ocean. Reports stated she had gotten caught in a rip tide, was injured and had to be rescued.

While attending the Sundance premiere of her movie "Song One," Hathaway said: "I'm fine... I really do appreciate everybody's concern but that was a picture that had a false story attached to it. The real story is not as interesting."

She also joked that someone told her to say she was playing Charades and "pulled Titanic."

Other news

■ **Lindsay Lohan** is attending her first Sundance. The 27-year-old announced Monday that she will produce and star in a film called "Unconquered" that is set to start shooting in March.



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Mary Lambert, left, Macklemore, center, and Ryan Lewis accept the award for best video with a social message for "Same Love" at the MTV Video Music Awards on Aug. 25 in New York. The same-sex anthem featuring Lambert is nominated for song of the year at the Grammy Awards.

'Match made in heaven'

Mary Lambert, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis break through with Grammy-nominated same-sex anthem "Same Love"

BY MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

In six hours, Mary Lambert's life changed drastically.

Macklemore & Ryan Lewis had written and produced a song called "Same Love," but they needed a special hook to finalize the emotional track. Like the rap duo, Lambert is from Seattle, although she had never met them before.

"I was sort of a last resort," Lambert said. "It was a match made in heaven."

Lambert was given "about two or three hours" to write the song's chorus and record it in front of the breakthrough newcomers, who were instantly impressed by the soft singer.

"They loved it. It was like this beautiful minute of silence after I sung the chorus," she recalled.

Others love it, too — including members of the Recording Academy. "Same Love" is nominated for the coveted song of the year at Sunday's Grammy Awards, pitting the rap song supporting gay love and acceptance against No. 1 smashes from Katy Perry, Bruno Mars, Lorde and Pink.

"Same Love" didn't top the charts — it peaked at No. 11 on the Billboard Hot 100 — but it sold 2 million copies and helped propel Macklemore & Ryan Lewis to even greater heights. The duo is nominated for seven awards, including best new artist and album of the year for "The Heist."

"We'd probably all agree that the nomination for song of the year for 'Same Love' in particular is quite meaningful for us, in what the song has turned out to be and (what it) means to people," said Zach Quillen, manager for Macklemore & Ryan Lewis.

"We regard it as our highest accomplishment."

"They loved it. It was like this beautiful minute of silence after I sung the chorus."

Mary Lambert describing Macklemore & Ryan Lewis' reaction to her hook on "Same Love"

Lambert signed to Capitol Records and will release a full-length album this year. She plans to sing about topics from female empowerment, fat shaming and domestic violence.

"I think people are figuring out there's no formula anymore. The things that used to work for record companies don't necessarily work," she said.

PBS: 'Downton' won't air closer to British run

The Associated Press

Despite some American fans eager to see it earlier, "Downton Abbey" will continue to begin its new seasons on the Public Broadcasting Service in January, the system's chief executive said Monday.

The return of "Downton Abbey," which began its fourth season on Jan. 5, is becoming a post-holiday tradition for the show's fans, said Paula Kerger, PBS president. The British series began presenting new episodes in late September back home, but PBS holds it back. The drama had more than 10 million viewers on PBS for its fourth-season debut, and the episode was streamed online 1 million times during the following week, she said.

Debuting PBS' most buzz-worthy show at the same time it starts in Britain will put it in direct competition with the new season offerings from the broadcast networks, Kerger said. It is also easier to get cast members to the U.S. to promote the new season if they don't have to worry about those duties in Britain at the same time.

"It would be very hard for me to imagine putting it anywhere else than where it has seemed to have found a very strong audience," she said.



PBS/MCT

Michelle Dockery stars as Lady Mary in "Downton Abbey."

Ken Burns making doc about country music

PBS documentary maker Ken Burns is examining the roots of country music and how it has changed through the present day for a multi-episode series on public broadcasting.

Country fans have a wait ahead of them, though. PBS said Monday that Burns' country music project isn't set to air until 2018.

The noted documentarian has several projects in the works for PBS, including one on the Gettysburg Address that will air this spring, and films on the Roosevelts, Jackie Robinson and Vietnam.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Wedding insurance a growing business

By MICHAEL MELIA

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — Worried about the groom getting cold feet? There's an insurance policy for that.

With the cost of the average American wedding reaching about \$26,000, insurers have been selling a growing number of policies to protect against losses from extreme weather, illness and, in one firm's case, even a sudden change of heart.

Cheryl Winter spent \$500 for Hartford-based Travelers Cos. Inc. to cover her daughter's \$50,000 destination wedding last October in New Orleans, where her biggest concern was a potential hurricane. The weather cooperated, but the limousine never showed up. Her daughter took a taxi cab to the church, and they used the insurance policy to claim the deposit money they couldn't get back from the limo driver. "No one wants to be walking in

the French Quarter in a long gown and high heels," said Winter, who lives in the Houston area.

The insurance is offered by a small number of U.S. companies.

Insurers declined to provide data on the number of customers beyond saying they are growing steadily. "Nobody likes to think about the bad side,"

Kyle Brown
Bridal
Association
of America
director

It can cover losses from issues ranging from bankrupt wedding halls to cancellations forced by unexpected military deployments.

Travelers says issues with vendors account for about a quarter of the claims, with most of those related to issues with photographers or videographers.

For Travelers, an insurance giant with annual revenue of \$26

billion, the policies will not make or break the bottom line.

But the wedding insurance is also being sold in 2007 is also a way to connect with a couple who might later think of the company for home insurance and other life milestones.

"It could be the beginning of a relationship with a young couple," said Ed Charlebois, a Travelers vice president for personal insurance.

WedSafe, backed by Aon, also offers wedding insurance, which differs little from the specialty insurance that firms may offer for other kinds of events and celebrations.

For parents concerned about a relationship souring before the exchange of vows, Fireman's Fund Insurance Co. offers change of heart insurance.

It's been available since 2007, but the program administrator said the fraud rate soared in the early years as policies were bought for couples who were

known to be fighting.

"That coverage now applies only if the bride or groom calls off the wedding more than nine months beforehand.

"Coverage does not exist once you hit the altar," said administrator Rob Nuccio of R.V. Nuccio & Associates. "The only ones who were buying it were the ones who knew they would have a claim."

Kyle Brown, director of the Bakersfield, Calif.-based Bridal Association of America, said he recommends wedding insurance, but he estimates policies are taken out for less than half of 1 percent of the more than 2 million weddings held annually in the U.S.

"Nobody likes to think about the bad side," he said.

Winter said some people told her insurance would be a waste of money for her daughter's wedding, but she read various reviews and decided it was worth protecting the investment. She's planning to buy a policy for another daughter's wedding in 2015.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (Jan. 22)	\$1.3885
Dollar buys (Jan. 22)	€0.7202
British pound (Jan. 22)	\$1.6168
Japanese yen (Jan. 22)	¥102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 22)	₩1,036.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6472
Canada (Dollar)	1.0977
China (Yuan)	0.6507
Denmark (Krone)	6.5128
Egypt (Pound)	6.9871
Euro	\$1.3550/3.788
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7558
Hungary (Forint)	232.65
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4956
Japan (Yen)	104.41
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2931
Norway (Krone)	6.1794
Philippines (Peso)	45.23
Poland (Zloty)	3.107
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7596
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2783
South Korea (Won)	1,067.74
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9123
Thailand (Baht)	32.90
Turkey (Lira)	2.2543

(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., Saudi Arabia, Bahrain), we recommend you 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	8.25
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.64
30-year bond	3.75

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Texas	66	32	Cir	Chatanooga	34	16	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	15	-8	Cldy	Louisville	23	8	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	12	-2	Cir	Cheneyne	43	28	Cldy	Fresno	68	36	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	61	25	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	11	1	Pcldy	Chicago	17	-2	Cldy	Goodland	45	22	Pcldy	Macon	43	23	Cir
Albuquerque	54	27	Pcldy	Cincinnati	20	1	Cldy	Grand Junction	37	15	Cir	Madison	51	7	Snow
Allentown, Pa.	16	3	Pcldy	Cleveland	14	0	Cldy	Grand Rapids	15	1	Snow	Medford	49	31	Cldy
Amarillo	53	24	Cir	Colorado Springs	48	27	Pcldy	Great Falls	35	27	Snow	Memphis	42	19	Pcldy
Anchorage	37	29	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	38	21	Cir	Green Bay	9	-7	Cir	Miami Beach	63	35	Cir
Ashville	50	29	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	44	23	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	28	13	Cir	Miland-Odesa	64	32	Pcldy
Atlanta	38	18	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	15	-5	Cldy	Harrisburg	15	-5	Cldy	Milwaukee	13	-6	Snow
Atlantic City	18	9	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	9	1	Snow	Hartford	37	15	Pcldy	Mpls-St. Paul	7	0	Cir
Austin	30	17	Pcldy	Concord, N.C.	66	37	Cir	Helena	39	24	Cir	Missoula	37	22	Cir
Baltimore	15	5	Cir	Corpus Christi	63	31	Cir	Honolulu	77	49	21	Mobile	49	21	Cir
Baton Rouge	55	27	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	16	-4	Cldy	Houston	63	32	Cir	Montgomery	45	23	Cir
Bilings	29	26	Snow	Dayton	16	-4	Cldy	Huntsville	36	16	Cir	Nashville	31	13	Pcldy
Birmingham	40	19	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	53	36	Cir	Indianapolis	46	27	Pcldy	New Orleans	51	33	Cir
Bismarck	5	5	Snow	Denver	46	27	Pcldy	Jacksonville	19	-2	Cldy	New York City	17	9	Pcldy
Boise	40	26	Pcldy	Des Moines	19	8	Cldy	Juneau	42	36	Rain	Newark	19	9	Cir
Boston	17	11	Snow	Duluth	2	-8	Cir	Jupiter	42	36	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	23	16	Cir
Bridgport	65	32	Cir	El Paso	63	34	Cldy	Kansas City	34	17	Pcldy	North Platte	38	20	Pcldy
Brownsville	69	42	Pcldy	Key West	11	0	Cldy	Key West	61	31	Cir	Oklahoma City	51	24	Cir
Buffalo	9	-1	Cir	Erie	12	0	Cldy	Knoxville	29	12	Pcldy	Omaha	25	14	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	4	-8	Cir	Eugene	42	33	Cldy	Lake Charles	56	31	Cir	Orlando	56	39	Cir
Caribou, Maine	2	-8	Cir	Evansville	29	9	Cldy	Lansing	13	-5	Snow	Paducah	54	13	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	33	17	Cir	Fairbanks	12	2	Pcldy	Las Vegas	68	43	Pcldy	Pendleton	35	27	Cir
Charleston, N.C.	41	25	Cir	Fargo	-4	-7	Snow	Lexington	20	6	Cldy	Phoenix	22	0	Cir
Chattanooga, W.Va.	21	6	Cldy	Flagstaff	54	18	Pcldy	Lincoln	29	17	Cir	Philadelphia	16	8	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	33	16	Cir	Flint	11	-8	Snow	Little Rock	49	23	Cir	Phoenix	77	49	Pcldy
				Fort Smith	50	21	Cir	Los Angeles	83	51	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	12	0	Cir

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

National temperature extremes
Hi: Monday, 86, Riverside, Calif.
Lo: Mon., -17, Grand Marais, Minn.

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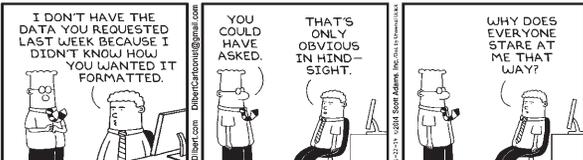
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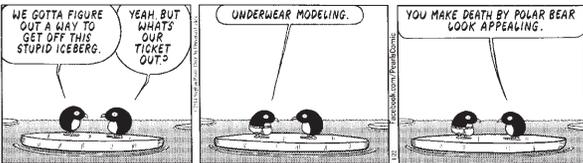
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



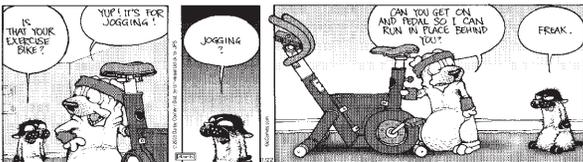
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18								19	20			
		21			22	23		24				
25	26	27			28	29			30	31	32	
33					34					35		
36					37				38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50						51	52	53				
54						55				56		
57						58				59		

ACROSS

- 1 Last write-up
- 5 Corral
- 8 On the briny
- 12 Approximately
- 13 Expert
- 14 Ginger cookie
- 15 "I've Been Everywhere" singer
- 17 Ripped
- 18 Ambushed
- 19 Threatening looks
- 21 Bigfoot's cousin
- 24 Sphere
- 25 Chicago team
- 28 City on the Irtysh
- 30 TV alien
- 33 Can.-Mex. connector
- 34 Marble type
- 35 Spike or Bruce
- 36 Slithery fish
- 37 Totally smitten
- 38 Huff and puff
- 39 Caustic solution
- 41 Dunkable treat
- 43 Permeate (with)
- 46 Ballroom dance
- 50 Leaway
- 51 Lucky type of clover
- 54 Egg
- 55 Male cat
- 56 Sicilian spouter
- 57 — a soul (nobody)
- 58 Masseur's workplace

- 59 Burn somewhat

DOWN

- 1 Aahs' mates
- 2 Highland hillside
- 3 "— It Romantic?"
- 4 Hungarian wines
- 5 Skillet
- 6 Environmentally friendly
- 7 11 o'clock teacast
- 8 "Maltese Falcon" actress Mary
- 9 Grow
- 10 Count counterpart
- 11 Tarzan's posse
- 16 Sault — Marie
- 20 Pepsi alternative
- 22 Frat party garb
- 23 Adult insect
- 25 Poolroom need
- 26 Exploit
- 27 Jim Bouton book
- 29 Celebrity
- 31 Zodiac feline
- 32 Not many
- 34 Census stats
- 38 Old Greek legislatures
- 40 Delicious
- 42 Blunder
- 43 Press
- 44 PBS science show
- 45 Small salamanders
- 47 Apportion (out)
- 48 Eric of "Hulk"
- 49 In the distance
- 52 "Alley —"
- 53 Ms. Thurman

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

I-22

CRYPTOQUIP

SFWNTSGUJOP EKJV EOLJGPKMQ

SLJJFOU KM YRKNR VGNR

SFLNT QGMT KU JRPWYM LJ

O M O V K O U : " J L P Y L P U . "

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: THE BOSS FIRED ME A FEW WEEKS AGO, BUT HAS SINCE HIRED ME BACK. I GUESS THAT'S DE-TERMINATION.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: K equals I

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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS
Classifieds scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements.
Be aware of the common red flags.
Some of the latest scam #40s:
Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using payment.
People paying Free Dog (often breeds) for adoption.

Events 041

FREE TOUR Capodimonte Italia
Porecino Studio Exhibit
FREE TOUR Capodimonte Italia
Porecino Studio Exhibit
FREE TOUR Capodimonte Italia
Porecino Studio Exhibit

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE
Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in how they describe the title of their property.
Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Automotive 140

BMW, X351, 2011 54500.00
Space-age metallic interior with Black and Black interior upgraded leather. Plus extra winter wheels with tires. Also winter accessories. Car and winter accessories are sold separately and are all available. Very nice car.
Ford, Escape, 2006 31000.00
Ford, Escape, 2006 31000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mini, Cooper S, 2011 17000.00
17000.00 17000.00 miles
Toyota, FJ Cruiser, 2006 22000.00
22000.00 22000.00 miles

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Mini, Cooper S, 2011 17000.00
17000.00 17000.00 miles
Toyota, FJ Cruiser, 2006 22000.00
22000.00 22000.00 miles

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volvo, XC90 R Design, 2012 22990.00
22990.00 22990.00 miles
Volvo, XC90 R Design, 2012 22990.00
22990.00 22990.00 miles

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Mini, Cooper JCW (John Cooper Works), 2011 20000.00
20000.00 20000.00 miles
Volvo, XC90 R Design, 2012 22990.00
22990.00 22990.00 miles

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson, Road King, 2011 11000.00
11000.00 11000.00 miles
Harley Davidson, Road King, 2011 11000.00
11000.00 11000.00 miles

Clothing 320

Leather Jacket \$100.00
Men's Wilson Leather Jacket. Worn only four times. Size XL. Black.
Leather Jacket \$100.00
Men's Wilson Leather Jacket. Worn only four times. Size XL. Black.

Automotive 140

Chevy Truck, S10, 1998
\$1500.00. Selling under extended warranty. Motor #272. 1500.00.
Chevy Truck, S10, 1998
\$1500.00. Selling under extended warranty. Motor #272. 1500.00.

Automotive 140

Jeep, Liberty Sport, 2006
19000.00. 19000.00 miles.
Jeep, Liberty Sport, 2006
19000.00. 19000.00 miles.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

AUDI A6 QUATTRO, 1998
\$15000.00. German Specs.
Audi A6 Quattro, 1998
\$15000.00. German Specs.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Jeep, Liberty Sport, 2006
19000.00. 19000.00 miles.
Jeep, Liberty Sport, 2006
19000.00. 19000.00 miles.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volvo, XC90 R Design, 2012
22990.00. 22990.00 miles.
Volvo, XC90 R Design, 2012
22990.00. 22990.00 miles.

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson, Electra Glide, 2007
11000.00. 11000.00 miles.
Harley Davidson, Electra Glide, 2007
11000.00. 11000.00 miles.

Trucks 174

Toyota, Tacoma, 2007
11000.00. 11000.00 miles.
Toyota, Tacoma, 2007
11000.00. 11000.00 miles.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

AP Top 25 roundup

Creighton sinks 21 threes in upset of No. 4 Villanova

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Ethan Wragge led the three fly and helped the records fall.

Wragge tied a school record with nine three-pointers for all 27 points, Doug McDermott hit five threes and scored 23 points, and Creighton set a team mark with 21 three-pointers in a 96-68 victory over No. 4 Villanova on Monday.

"I've seen him shoot better in practice," McDermott said. "I've seen him hit 11 or 12 threes in an open gym, that's normal. So not a lot of us are shocked. The outside world, everyone's kind of shocked. But that's just another day at the office for Ethan."

The Bluejays (16-3, 6-1 Big East) topped the school record of 20 threes set in 2005 against Chattanooga. Kyle Korver hit nine threes against Evansville on Jan. 15, 2003. The Bluejays, in their first year in the Big East, set a conference record for most threes in a game and beat a top-five team for the first time since 1970.

"Once I get one, they know I'm hunting for two and three," Wragge said. "It's a hard feeling to describe once you get one to go in. You just kind of let it fly and don't think about it."

The Bluejays hit their first nine threes and never looked back against Villanova (16-2, 5-1) which had romped its way toward its highest ranking in four years. They made 21 of 35 three-pointers and led by as many as four points.

No. 8 Kansas 78, No. 24 Baylor 68; Andrewiggins scored 17 points, most of them coming at

the free throw line, and the host Jayhawks pulled away in the second half.

Wiggins was 10-for-12 from the free-throw line, and Kansas (14-4, 5-0 Big 12) was 27-for-29 as a team, allowing it to put away Baylor for its fifth straight win — the last four over Top 25 opponents. It is the first team to accomplish that feat since North Carolina in 1997.

Perry Ellis added 19 points and Joel Embiid had 12 for Kansas, which led 37-35 at halftime but used a 14-2 surge fueled by defense and hustle in the second half to draw away.

Brady Heslip hit six three-pointers and scored 19 points for the Bears (13-5, 1-4), who have lost three straight and four of five. Cory Jefferson and Isaiah Austin added 16 points apiece.

Nebraska 68, No. 17 Ohio St. 62: Shayon Shields and Terran Petteway both scored 18 points as the host Cornhuskers handed the Buckeyes their fourth straight loss.

Nebraska (9-8, 1-5 Big Ten), which ended a five-game losing streak, survived after squandering a 14-1 first-half lead. It used a 16-5 run late in the second half to regain control and made 13 of its last 16 free throws to hold off Ohio State (15-4, 2-4).

It was Nebraska's first win in 16 games against ranked opponents, a run dating to January 2012.

The Buckeyes have lost four straight for the first time since 2007-08.

Aaron Craft scored 12 points for the Buckeyes, who beat Nebraska by 31 points on Jan. 4 and haven't won since.



LAURENCE KESTERSON/AP

Villanova's Jay Vaughn Pinkston, left, tries to get around Creighton's Ethan Wragge during the second half of Monday's game in Philadelphia. Creighton hit 21 three-pointers in the 96-68 upset.

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Remaining free agents

YORK (R) — The 72 remaining free agents

AMERICAN LEAGUE

BALTIMORE (2) — Jason Hammel, rhp; Francisco Rodriguez, lhp

BOSTON (2) — Stephen Drew, ss; Joel Hanrahan, rhp

CLEVELAND (3) — Rich Hill, lhp; Ubaldo Jimenez, rhp; Kelly Shoppach, c

DETROIT (3) — Jeremy Bonetempo, rhp; Octavio Dotel, rhp; Ramon Santiago, rhp

HOUSTON (1) — Erik Bedard, rhp

KANSAS CITY (4) — Bruce Chen, lhp; Carlos Pena, 1b; Ervin Santana, rhp; Mike Trout, cf

NEW YORK (3) — Travis Hafner, dh; Andy Pettitte, rhp; Mariano Rivera, rhp

OAKLAND (1) — Grant Balfanz, rhp

SEATTLE (4) — Endy Chavez, cf; Kendryck McKinley, cf; Dioner Navarro, 1b; Joe Saunders, lhp

Texas (1) — Fernando Rodriguez, rhp

TEXAS (3) — Lance Berkman, dh; Nelson Cruz, cf; Matt Garza, lhp

TORONTO (2) — Darren Oliver, lhp; Freddy Garcia, rhp

NATIONAL LEAGUE

ATLANTA (1) — Livan Hernandez, rhp; Reed Johnson, of; Paul Marzetti, of; Ryan O'Hanley, lhp

CHICAGO (3) — Scott Baker, rhp; Kevin Gregg, rhp; Matt Garret, rhp

CINCINNATI (2) — Bronson Arroyo, rhp; Nick Masset, rhp

CLEVELAND (4) — Rafael Betancourt, rhp; Todd Helton, 1b; Roy Oswalt, rhp; Yorvit Pichardo, rhp

LOS ANGELES (4) — Chris Capuano, rhp; Jerry Hairston Jr. 3b; Carlos Marfan, rhp; Matt Kemp, 1b

MIAMI (3) — Matt Diaz, of; Austin Jackson, of; Jose Pierre, of; Placido Polanco, 3b

MILWAUKEE (2) — Yuniesky Betancourt, 1b; Mike Gonzalez, lhp

NEW YORK (7) — David Aardsma, rhp; Ryan Sweeney, rhp; Adam Lind, rhp; Frank Francisco, rhp; John Stanton, lhp; Johan Santana, lhp

PHILADELPHIA (1) — Roy Halladay, rhp

PITTSBURGH (3) — A.J. Burnett, rhp; Kirk Fingersh, rhp; Chris Carpenter, rhp

ST. LOUIS (2) — Chris Caputo, rhp; Wade Miley, rhp

SAN DIEGO (2) — Mark Kotsch, of; Jason Kipnis, 1b

SAN FRANCISCO (3) — Chad Gaudin, rhp; Andres Torres, of; Barry Zito, 3b

WASHINGTON (1) — Ryan Tracy, 3b

AP spotlight

Jan. 22

1920 — The New York Yankees announce they will be the first team to use uniform numbers and to elect a player's position in batting order.

1960 — Paul Pender beats Sugar Ray Leonard by 15- to 11-point decision to capture the world middleweight boxing title.

1962 — Bob Feller and Jackie Robinson are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

1968 — The NBA awards expansion franchises to Milwaukee and Phoenix.

1973 — George Foreman knocks out Joe Frazier in the 8th round at Atlantic City, Jamaica, to win the world heavyweight title.

1982 — Robin Roberts and Bob Lemon are elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

1984 — The Atlanta Braves elect NBA team not to score a point in overtime as they defeat Trail Blazers 107-105 to secure the Rockets' 17-0 for a 113-65 victory.

1988 — Mike Tyson knocks out Larry Holmes in the fourth round at Atlantic City to retain his world heavyweight title.

1994 — The New York Islanders' Pierre Thibault is the first player to help the Eastern Conference beat the Western Conference 9-8 in the NHL All-Star game.

1996 — The NHL awards expansion franchises to New York Rangers and Phoenix Coyotes. Wayne Gretzky scores for performance of 19 saves on 21 shots.

1997 — The NFL awards expansion franchises to the Houston Oilers, who reaches the 1,000-point mark, scoring his 19th goal in the Rangers' 4-3 loss to Toronto.

2003 — Texas coach John Conrad beats the second-ranked Texas Tech team to win 800th game when the Longhorns beat Texas 31-28.

2006 — The Pittsburgh Steelers are the first team since the 1985 Patriots to win their first postseason game in a 27-17 victory over a 34-17 dismantling of the Denver Broncos in the AFC title game.

Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card playoffs

Saturday, Jan. 4
Indianapolis Colts vs. Kansas City 44
New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24

Sunday, Jan. 5

Divisional playoffs
San Francisco 23, Green Bay 21
Seattle 23, New Orleans 17
New England 43, Indianapolis 22

Sunday, Jan. 12

San Francisco 23, Carolina 17
Denver 24, San Diego 17
New England 16, Pittsburgh 10

Sunday, Jan. 19

Denver 26, New England 16
Seattle 23, San Francisco 17

Pro Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 26
At Honolulu

Super Bowl

Sunday, Jan. 26
At East Rutherford, N.J.

Denver vs. Seattle

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, are listed in parentheses, records through Jan. 19 and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Minnesota (50)	17-2-3	1000
2. Cornell (42)	14-4-4	241
3. Union (NY)	12-4-3	876
4. Quinnipiac (18)	11-1-1	461
5. St. Cloud State	12-4-4	767
6. Michigan State	12-4-3	717
7. Providence	14-5-7	731
8. Mass.-Lowell	15-6-2	626
9. Yale	12-4-4	514
10. Wisconsin	12-1-1	484
11. Wisconsin	9-4-4	439
12. Cornell	10-6-3	371
13. Michigan	10-6-2	371
14. Michigan	10-6-2	371
15. Notre Dame	14-8-3	367
16. Vermont	12-3-2	173
17. Vermont	12-3-2	173
18. Western Michigan	12-8-4	103 NR
19. Michigan	11-8-9	101 NR

Others receiving votes: Colgate 35, Minnesota State 29, Air Force 20, West Hampshire 17, Bowdoin 17, Nebraska-Omaha 4, Ohio State 4, Bentley 3, Miami 2, Mercyhurst 1, Carolina-Duluth 1.

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL

MILWAUKEE — Re-signed **Contract** **CHICAGO BULLS** — Re-signed **F Carter** **MILWAUKEE** — Re-signed **Contract** **HOUSTON ROCKETS** — Reassigned **G Isaiah Canaan** to Rio Grande Valley **WASHINGTON WIZARDS** — Assigned **G Glen Davis** to Oklahoma City

FOOTBALL

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed **OL Braxton Cave** and **R.J. Mattes**, **Jordan** **NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS** — Reassigned **R Sam McCuffie** and **LB Taylor Reid** to reserve lists

NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with **Wendell Goetz** on a one-year contract. Signed **HL John Lannan** and **INF Omar Quintanilla** to minor league contracts

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION **CHICAGO BULLS** — Re-signed **F Carter** **MILWAUKEE** — Re-signed **Contract** **HOUSTON ROCKETS** — Reassigned **G Isaiah Canaan** to Rio Grande Valley **WASHINGTON WIZARDS** — Assigned **G Glen Davis** to Oklahoma City

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College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes, are listed in parentheses through Jan. 19, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Arizona (61)	18-0	1,621
2. Duke (50)	17-1	1,487
3. Wichita State (46)	17-1	1,487
4. Wisconsin (46)	17-1	1,487
5. Michigan State (46)	17-1	1,487
6. Kansas (46)	17-1	1,487
7. San Diego State (46)	17-1	1,487
8. Florida (46)	17-1	1,487
9. Oklahoma State (46)	17-1	1,487
10. Iowa (46)	17-1	1,487
11. Michigan State (46)	17-1	1,487
12. Louisville (46)	17-1	1,487
13. UMass (46)	17-1	1,487
14. Kentucky (46)	17-1	1,487
15. Cincinnati (46)	17-1	1,487
16. Duke (46)	17-1	1,487
17. Ohio State (46)	17-1	1,487
18. Iowa (46)	17-1	1,487
19. San Louis (46)	17-1	1,487
20. Pittsburgh (46)	17-1	1,487
21. Michigan State (46)	17-1	1,487
22. Kansas State (46)	17-1	1,487
23. Michigan State (46)	17-1	1,487
24. Baylor (46)	17-1	1,487
25. Oklahoma (46)	17-1	1,487

Others receiving votes:

Creighton 25, Virginia Tech 24, Colorado 26, UCLA 23, Harvard 12, George Washington 6, Missouri 6, Texas 5, Xavier 4, St. Joseph's 1, Wake Forest 1, Villanova 1.

USA Today Men's Top 25

The top 25 men's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 19 and previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Arizona (30)	18-0	798
2. Syracuse (22)	18-0	798
3. Wisconsin (22)	18-0	798
4. Wichita State (22)	18-0	798
5. Michigan State (22)	18-0	798
6. Florida State (22)	18-0	798
7. Wisconsin (22)	18-0	798
8. Wisconsin (22)	18-0	798
9. Iowa (22)	18-0	798
10. Iowa (22)	18-0	798
11. Kansas State (22)	18-0	798
12. Oklahoma State (22)	18-0	798
13. Kansas State (22)	18-0	798
14. Ohio State (22)	18-0	798
15. Washington State (22)	18-0	798
16. Iowa State (22)	18-0	798
17. Iowa State (22)	18-0	798
18. Pittsburgh (22)	18-0	798
19. San Louis (22)	18-0	798
20. San Louis (22)	18-0	798
21. Washington State (22)	18-0	798
22. Creighton (22)	18-0	798
23. Wisconsin (22)	18-0	798
24. Creighton (22)	18-0	798
25. Oklahoma (22)	18-0	798

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Djokovic ousted in quarterfinals

Wawrinka ends Serb's bid for fourth straight title in Melbourne

By JOHN PYE
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Novak Djokovic's bid for a fourth consecutive Australian Open title ended in a dramatic five-set quarterfinal loss to Stanislas Wawrinka, potentially leaving the door ajar for a new major champion.

No. 8-seeded Wawrinka lost 14 head-to-heads to Djokovic until a 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 win on Tuesday night put him into a semifinal against No. 7 Tomas Berdych. That means there'll be at least one finalist in Australia who has never won a Grand Slam title.

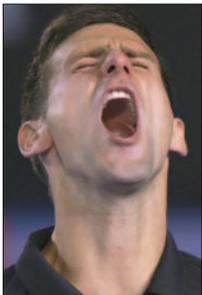
Djokovic held off Wawrinka 12-10 in the fifth set in a 5-hour, 2-minute fourth-rounder last year — the longest Grand Slam match of the season — en route to his third straight Australian title. He also edged Wawrinka in five sets in the U.S. Open semifinals.

This time, it was Wawrinka's turn.

"I don't want to lose every time in five sets against Novak. I had to find solution," Wawrinka said. "I had to fight within myself to fight against him and try to keep my line during the game. That's mean being really aggressive.

"Last year I took a lot of confidence with those match with Novak ... I came on the court with a lot of confidence in myself, knowing that if I play my best game, I always have a chance against him."

This one took exactly four hours and featured some stunning rallies, with both players openly showing amazement at some of the shots coming back from the other side of the net. And just to



AARON FAVILA/AP

Novak Djokovic celebrates a point won against No. 8 seed Stanislas Wawrinka on Tuesday. The match lasted four hours.

add to the drama, there was a five-minute rain delay with Wawrinka serving at 5-5 in the fifth.

Djokovic had to constantly serve to stay in the match after an early exchange of breaks in the fifth set, and the pressure finally showed.

After all the superb shot making, it was a mis-hit from Wawrinka that set up match point. Djokovic chased the floating service return to the net but skewed his cross-court drop shot wide. He then missed a volley on match point, ending a run of 28 consecutive wins dating back to his U.S. Open final defeat to Rafael Nadal.

"He took his opportunities. He deserved his big win today,"



AARON FAVILA/AP

Stanislas Wawrinka, right, is congratulated by Novak Djokovic at the net after Wawrinka's 2-6, 6-4, 6-2, 3-6, 9-7 win in their quarterfinal Tuesday at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia.

Djokovic said. "It was a tough battle mentally, physically, emotionally obviously. This is what happens when you play a top player on this stage, when you go the distance in the fifth.

"He showed his mental strength and he deserved to win — the only thing I can say is congratulations."

Djokovic hadn't lost at Melbourne Park since 2010, when he went down to Jo-Wilfried Tsonga in the quarterfinals, and has been unquestionably the best player at Rod Laver Arena since 2011.

With his winning streak and his new coach, Boris Becker, he was installed as the tournament favorite immediately after the draw, when he landed on the opposite side to top-ranked Nadal, Wimbledon champion Andy Murray and 17-time major winner Roger Federer. Nadal plays 22-year-old Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov in the quarterfinals on Wednesday, when Murray and Federer go head-to-head. That leaves all the major winners on one side of the draw.

Berdych, the 2010 Wimbledon

“He showed his mental strength and he deserved to win — the only thing I can say is congratulations.”

Novak Djokovic
Defending Australian Open champion

finalist, reached his first Australian Open semifinal — completing a full set at that level in the majors — when he beat David Ferrer 6-1, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4. No. 3-seeded Ferrer was clearly frustrated at times, yelling at himself after points and bumping into a line judge after breaking Berdych in the sixth game of the third set.

The 31-year-old Spaniard said it was an accident in a "nervous moment," as he went for his towel, saying "It was nothing ... I say to him excuse me after that."

He could face a sanction for coming into contact with a match official.

On the women's side, 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard reached the semifinals in her

first trip to the Australian Open, beating Ana Ivanovic 7-5, 5-7, 6-2 to set up a showdown with two-time finalist Li Na.

"It's something I've been doing since I was 5 years old and working my whole life for and sacrificing a lot of things for, so it's not exactly a surprise," Bouchard said of her win over Ivanovic, who upset top-ranked Serena Williams in the fourth round. "I always expect myself to do well."

Bouchard's run as the first Canadian into the Australian Open semifinals means two-time finalist Li, who beat Plavia Penetta 6-2, 6-2, will have to face a teenager for the third time in the tournament.



RICK RYCOFF/AP

Eugenie Bouchard celebrates after defeating Ana Ivanovic during their quarterfinal on Tuesday. Bouchard, 19, became the first Canadian to advance to the Australian Open semifinals.

SPORTS BRIEFS

No timetable set for Kobe's return to Lakers' lineup

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Kobe Bryant is riding a bike. That's about all he can do right now, so he's trying not to think about when he might be able to play again for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant broke a bone in his left knee Dec. 17 at Memphis while playing his fourth game in five nights, likely sidelining the superstar guard for six weeks. The injury against the Grizzlies occurred in his sixth game back after he missed the start of the season while recovering from a torn left Achilles tendon.

The pair of injuries for the 35-year-old Bryant raised questions about whether he would ever return to his previous form. But he said Monday night he had no doubt he would play at a similarly high level again.

"There was before I came back the first time because I didn't know how my Achilles was going to respond to playing and changing directions," Bryant said before the Lakers' 102-100 overtime loss at Chicago. "The game in Memphis I had a pretty good feel for it, getting back to being able to do what I normally could do. I feel confident about it. I did play that second half on a fractured leg and played pretty well. I feel pretty good about my chances."

But the rehab from the knee injury has been slow going so far. The 15-time All-Star said he is limited to mostly bike work right now and any talk of a return is up in the air until he returns to the court.

Playing without Bryant and Steve Nash, the Lakers have dropped 13 of 16 to fall to 16-26 on the season. But they have received some encouraging play from Kendall Marshall and reserve Nick Young, who had 31 points against the Bulls.

The Lakers face a long road

back to contention in the loaded Western Conference, especially with their injury issues. Nash is out with a back problem, and the team also is missing Jordan Farmar (torn left hamstring), Steve Blake (torn elbow ligament) and Xavier Henry (right knee bone bruise).

Henry could return soon. He is expected to step up his rehab work when the Lakers practice Wednesday in Miami.

Even with his limited action, Bryant remains one of the most popular players in the league. He had the most All-Star votes among the Western Conference guards when balloting was announced Jan. 9.

The fan voting closed Monday night and the starters for the Feb. 16 game in New Orleans will be announced on Thursday.

■ New Orleans general manager Dell Demps says a trade with Brooklyn sending guard Tyshawn Taylor and cash to the Pelicans in exchange for the draft rights to Edin Bacvic is complete.

The trade, first reported Saturday, sends Taylor to a Pelicans squad missing starting guard Jrue Holiday, who is sidelined indefinitely with a stress fracture in his right shin.

■ The Brooklyn Nets acquired guard Marquis Teague on Tuesday from Chicago for Toko Shengelia. The Bulls announced the move Tuesday after reports surfaced over the weekend.

Knee knocks Syracuse's Coleman out for season

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Sophomore center Dajuan Coleman of unbeaten No. 2 Syracuse will have surgery on his left knee and miss the rest of the season.

The decision was announced Tuesday by coach Jim Boeheim. Coleman started the first 12



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, fourth from left, sits on the bench as he watches teammates play against the Boston Celtics during the first quarter of Friday's game in Boston. Bryant has been sidelined after fracturing his left knee in December and there is no timetable for his return to the team.

games and averaged 4.3 points and 4.2 rebounds while playing 13 minutes a game in the Orange's three-man rotation at center.

The knee problem resurfaced three weeks ago when Coleman started, but played just six minutes against Villanova on Dec. 28. Coleman had surgery on the same knee last season because of cartilage damage. He returned for four games but played sparingly.

■ Milwaukee Brewers have signed Lyle Overbay to a minor league contract, making him the latest candidate for the team's first-base job. Milwaukee announced that Overbay has an invitation to big league camp in spring training next month.

■ New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter has resumed on-field work for the first time since his 2013 season was cut short.

The Yankees captain hit off a tee in a batting cage and fielded 108 grounders on the grass in front of the infield dirt Monday at the Yankees minor league complex.

Phillies sign P Gaudin to minor-league deal

PHILADELPHIA — Right-hander Chad Gaudin has signed a minor-league contract with the Philadelphia Phillies and will be invited to spring training.

Gaudin was 5-2 with a 3.06 ERA in 30 games last year for the San Francisco Giants. He made 12 starts and held hitters to a .227 batting average. The Phillies announced the move on Tuesday.

The 30-year-old Gaudin began last season with 18 relief appearances and posted a 2.05 ERA in those games before moving to the starting rotation in June. His season ended in mid-August when he was placed on the disabled list with carpal tunnel syndrome.

Gaudin is 45-44 with a 4.44 ERA in 344 games, including 87 starts, for Tampa, Toronto, Oakland, the Chicago Cubs, San Diego, the New York Yankees, Washington, Miami and the Giants.

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■ The school announced Monday the terms of the letter of intent of the deal that will pay DeRuyter a base salary of \$7.5 million for the next five years. DeRuyter can also earn bonuses that are expected to be worth between \$500,000 and \$700,000 a year.

DeRuyter has led the Bulldogs to a 20-6 record in two seasons. He won the Mountain West title game this past season and was in the running for a BCS berth before a late loss to San Jose State.

■ Indiana has hired Brian

Fresno State, DeRuyter agree on new contract

FRESNO, Calif. — Fresno State has reached an agreement with coach Tim DeRuyter to extend his contract through the 2018 season.

■ Henrik Sedin's NHL iron-man streak ended at 679 games. He last missed a game 10 seasons ago. Canucks assistant coach Mike Sullivan said the Vancouver captain did not play at Edmonton on Tuesday because of an undisclosed injury. He is listed as day to day.

Knorr as its new defensive coordinator. He replaces the recently fired Doug Mallory. Indiana set a Big Ten record in 2013 for yards allowed in league games and a school record for points allowed per game.

■ A person familiar with the situation says North Carolina is negotiating a deal with Indiana offensive coordinator Seth Littrell to run the Tar Heels' spread offense. Littrell would replace Blake Anderson, who left to become head coach at Arkansas State. Anderson also hired former Tar Heels tight ends coach Walt Bell for his staff.

Flames' Stajan gets 4-year extension

CALGARY, Alberta — The Calgary Flames have signed Matt Stajan to a four-year deal worth \$12.5 million.

Stajan has seven goals and 10 assists in 41 games this season.

The 30-year-old center made his debut in 2002 with the Toronto Maple Leafs before being traded to Calgary in 2010.

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OLYMPICS

Russians study video threatening Games

Online Islamic message being taken seriously by counter-terrorism experts ahead of Sochi

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia's counter-terrorism agency says it's studying a video posted by an Islamic militant group that asserted responsibility for suicide bombings that killed 34 people last month and is threatening to strike the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Security experts say the Russians are right in taking the threat seriously.

The video was posted online Sunday by a militant group in Dagestan, a predominantly Muslim republic in Russia's volatile North Caucasus. The Olympic host city of Sochi lies only 300 miles west of Dagestan.

Two Russian-speaking men featured in the video are identified as members of Ansar al-Sunnah, the name of a jihadist group operating in Iraq. It was unclear whether the men in the video had received funding or training from that group or only adopted its name.

There was no confirmation the two men were the suicide bombers who struck the southern Russian city of Volgograd last month as the video claims. Scores of people were also injured by the bombings of a train station and a bus.

Russia's National Anti-Terrorism Committee said Monday it was studying the video and would have no immediate con-

firmation. The video couldn't be viewed in Russia, where Internet providers cut access to it under a law that bans the "dissemination of extremist materials."

In Washington, a Pentagon spokesman Monday said the U.S. has offered support to the Russian government as it conducts security preparations for the Winter Olympics. Rear Adm. John Kirby said the U.S. will offer air and naval support, including two Navy ships in the Black Sea, to be available if requested "for all manner of contingencies," in consultation with the Russian government.

The video was released by the Vilayat Dagestan, one of the units that make up the so-called Caucasus Emirate, an umbrella group for the rebels seeking to establish an independent Islamic state in the North Caucasus.

Doku Umarov, a Chechen warlord who leads the Emirate, had ordered a halt to attacks on civilian targets in 2012. But he rescinded that order in July, urging his followers to strike the Sochi Olympics, which he denounced as "satanic dances on the bones of our ancestors." The games run from Feb. 7-23.

The Kremlin-backed leader of Chechnya claimed last week that Umarov was dead, but the claim couldn't be verified. The Vilayat Dagestan statement said the

Volgograd attacks were carried out in part because of Umarov's order, but it didn't specify how he had ordered them.

Dagestan has become the center of an Islamic insurgency that has engulfed Russia's North Caucasus after two separatist wars in Chechnya. Militants seeking to create an independent state governed by Islamic Shariah law in the Caucasus launch daily attacks on police and other authorities there. One of the two ethnic Chechen brothers accused of staging the Boston Marathon bombings spent six months in Dagestan in 2012.

Andrei Soldatov, an independent Moscow-based security analyst, said the video threat needed to be taken seriously.

"They have capabilities to strike beyond the North Caucasus, which they demonstrated in Volgograd," he said. "It's extremely difficult to stop a 'lone wolf' suicide bombing attack."

Georgy Mirsky, a respected Russian expert on the Middle East, said the video reflected the increasingly close ties between Jihadists in the Caucasus and elsewhere. Russia's war against Caucasus militants has made it an enemy on par with the United States and Israel for militant Islamic groups in the Middle East, he wrote on his blog.

Russia has responded to the Islamic

threat by introducing some of the most sweeping security measures ever seen at an international sports event. Some 100,000 police, army and other security forces have been deployed, according to analysts, and tight restrictions have been placed on access to the Sochi area.

Anyone attending the Winter Olympics has to buy a ticket online from the organizers and obtain a spectator pass that requires providing passport details.

Authorities have already barred access to all cars registered outside of Sochi and Russian police have gone house-to-house methodically screening all city residents.

Soldatov argued, however, that Russia's massive security presence at the Olympics could also have an adverse effect.

"When you put so many troops on the ground, you might get some problems with the coordination of all these people," he said.

Soldatov noted that the ominous threat of a "present" for the visitors to the Games contained in the video is loosely phrased and could herald an attack outside tightly guarded Olympic facilities.

"They never tried to specify the place where they might strike, that's why everybody should be concerned," he said.

Associated Press writer Lynn Berry contributed to this report.

Briefs

Sochi scrambling to sell more tickets

The Associated Press

LONDON — What if they held an Olympics and nobody came?

The situation isn't that bleak, of course, for the Sochi Games. Yet, with less than three weeks to go until the Opening Ceremony, hundreds of thousands of tickets remain unsold, raising the prospect of empty seats and a lack of atmosphere at Russia's first Winter Olympics.

There are signs that many foreign fans are staying away, turned off by terrorist threats, expensive flights and hotels, long travel distances, a shortage of tourist attractions in the area, and the hassle of obtaining visas and spectator passes.

"Some people are scared it costs too much and other people are scared because of security," senior International Olympic Committee member Gerhard Heiberg of Norway told The Associated Press. "From my country, I know that several people and companies are not going for these two reasons. Of course, there will be as many as we are used to."

Sochi organizers announced last week that 70 percent of tickets have been sold for the Games, which run from Feb. 7-23 and represent a symbol of pride and patriotism for Russia and President Vladimir Putin.

So what about the remaining 30 percent?

"We are keeping a special quota for those who come for the Games, so that they can indeed buy tickets for the competitions," organizing committee chief Dmitry Chernyshenko said.

Chernyshenko said about 213,000 spectators are expected at the Games, with about 75 percent likely to be Russians.

"Tickets are being snapped up fast with the most popular events being hockey, biathlon, figure skating, freestyle and snowboard," the organizing committee said in a statement to the AP. "With 70 percent of tickets already sold and another ticketing office opening shortly, we are expecting strong, last-minute ticket sales and do not envisage having empty seats."

Sochi officials have refused to divulge how many tickets in total were put up for sale, saying the figure would only be released after the Games.

However, according to IOC marketing documents seen by the AP, Sochi had a total of 1.1 million tickets on offer. That would mean about 300,000 tickets remained available.

By comparison, 1.54 million tickets were available for the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver and 97 percent (1.49 million)



CTK, Rene Volkm/AF

Internationally renowned violinist Vanessa-Mae will be swapping her violin for skis to compete at the Winter Olympics. The classical-pop violinist has qualified for the Thai team at the Sochi Games.

were sold. For the 2012 Summer Games in London, organizers sold 97 percent (8.2 million) of their 8.5 million tickets.

The cheapest tickets go for 500 rubles (\$15), the most expensive for 40,000 rubles (\$1,200).

Violinist to compete for Thai ski team

LONDON — The manager of Vanessa-Mae says the musician will be swapping her violin for skis to compete at the Winter Olympics.

Giles Howard says the classical-pop violinist has qualified for the Thai team at the Sochi Games.

The International Ski Federation published rankings on Monday confirming Vanessa-Mae has met the qualifying criteria to compete at Sochi.

Singapore-born, London-raised Vanessa-Mae Vanakorn Nicholson competes as Vanessa Vanakorn, using the surname of her Thai father.

A child prodigy who played violin from age 5, she shot to fame in 1995 with her debut album "Violin Player."

Plushenko hopes test skate enough for spot

MOSCOW — Evgeny Plushenko says the skating test that could

determine if he competes at the Sochi Olympics was a success.

Plushenko, whose three Olympic medals include the 2006 gold, is eager for a career-capping performance in his home country. But he had back surgery in the spring and since then competed only at a second-tier international event and the Russian nationals, where he finished behind Maxim Kovtun.

Plushenko looked to make his case in a closed-door test skate Tuesday. He told the R-Sport agency that it was "really great," including two quads and two triple axels.

The Russian federation is to announce its decision Thursday.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference							
Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	49	21	15	3	65	141	109
Tampa Bay	50	29	16	5	63	146	123
New York	47	17	20	5	51	129	123
Toronto	51	26	20	5	57	145	154
Detroit	49	21	19	5	52	122	142
Ottawa	49	18	20	5	51	139	155
Florida	49	19	23	7	46	116	148
Buffalo	47	17	27	7	31	86	133

Metropolitan Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Pittsburgh	49	23	17	5	70	157	120
N.Y. Rangers	51	27	13	3	57	128	128
Philadelphia	50	25	19	6	56	137	144
Columbus	54	20	29	5	52	138	135
Washington	49	22	19	8	52	142	150
New Jersey	50	19	21	11	51	125	123
Carolina	48	19	25	9	49	117	137
N.Y. Islanders	51	20	24	7	47	142	166

Blues 4, Red Wings 1						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	51	21	12	1	2	1-4
Detroit	51	11	1	0	0	1-1

First Period—1, St. Louis, Daniel A. (Stewart, Polak), 11:13. 2, Detroit, Nyquist 6 (Zetterberg, Sheahan), 19:33 (pp).

Second Period—3, St. Louis, Jackman 3 (Steen), 1:01. 4, St. Louis, Shattenkirch 7 (Steen), 10:11 (pp).

Third Period—5, St. Louis, Bouwmeester 4 (Pierangelo, Reeves), 2:14.

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 18-12-9-39. Detroit 7-6-10-23.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 5; Detroit 1 of 6.

Goalsies—St. Louis, Halak 20-7-3 (23 shots-29 saves). Detroit, Howard 12-12-8 (25-22), Mracek (10-44 second, 14-13).
A—20,066 (20,066). T—2:25.

Western Conference							
Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	51	32	8	11	75	184	139
St. Louis	48	31	12	5	67	142	122
Colorado	48	27	15	5	59	125	125
Minnesota	51	22	19	5	51	125	125
Nashville	49	22	19	8	50	137	152
Dallas	49	21	20	8	50	137	152
Winnipeg	50	23	23	5	49	141	150

Pacific Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Anaheim	51	27	16	7	79	175	126
San Jose	50	22	17	6	70	161	123
Los Angeles	50	29	15	6	64	128	103
Vancouver	49	25	15	5	59	127	127
Phoenix	49	23	17	9	55	141	149
Calgary	49	20	27	11	49	127	151
Edmonton	51	15	30	6	36	131	181

Panthers 5, Penguins 1						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Florida	51	1	1	3	3-5	
Pittsburgh	51	1	0	1	1-1	

First Period—1, Florida, Shore 2 (Clemmenssen, 15:46 (sh)).

Second Period—2, Florida, Shore 3 (Winchester, Huberdeau), 13:34.

Third Period—3, Florida, Kulkov 4 (Winchester, Huberdeau), 1:17. 4, Pittsburgh, Niskanen 7 (Letang, Malkin), 5:11. 5, Florida, Huberdeau 8 (Bugstad), 13:50. 6, Florida, Matthias 5 (Winchester, Weaver), 14:00.

Shots on Goal—Florida 7-12-9-28. Pittsburgh 10-12-12-36.

Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 2; Pittsburgh 0 of 3.

Goalsies—Florida, Clemmenssen 6-41 (36 shots-35 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 27-11 (28-23).
A—18,660 (18,387). T—2:36.

Sunday's games

Chicago 3, Boston 2
Tampa Bay 5, Carolina 3
N.Y. Rangers 4, Washington 1

Monday's games

N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3, 50
Boston 3, Los Angeles 2
Florida 5, Pittsburgh 1
St. Louis 4, Detroit 1
Nashville 4, Dallas 1
Toronto 4, Phoenix 2
San Jose 3, Calgary 2

Tuesday's games

Florida at Buffalo
St. Louis at New Jersey
N.Y. Islanders at N.Y. Rangers
Carolina at Philadelphia
Ottawa at Washington
Los Angeles at Columbus
Minnesota at Dallas
Toronto at Colorado
Vancouver at Edmonton
Winnipeg at Montreal

Wednesday's games

Montreal at Pittsburgh
Chicago at Detroit
Phoenix at Calgary

Bruins 3, Kings 2						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	50	1	1	2	1-2	
Boston	51	2	0	1	2-3	

First Period—1, Boston, Marchand 15 (Bergeron), 12:07 (sh). 2, Boston, Krug 11 (Krejci, Spooner), 17:51 (pp).

Second Period—1, Los Angeles, Mitchell 1 (Richards), 4:09.

Third Period—4, Los Angeles, Carter 19 (Doughty, Kopitar), 8:25 (pp). 5, Boston, Marchand 16 (Smith, Bergeron), 8:53.

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 8-4-11—23. Boston 9-5-23.

Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 4; Boston 1 of 4.

Goalsies—Los Angeles, Quick 14-7-2 (23 shots-20 saves). Boston, CJohnson 8-30 (23-21).
A—17,565 (17,565). T—2:26.

Monday

Sharks 3, Flames 2

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Calgary	2	0	0	2	0-2	
San Jose	2	1	0	3	1-2	

First Period—1, Calgary, Huddell 13 (Brodie, Giordano), 4:08. 2, San Jose, Gagnon 26 (Gardner, Burns), 12:22. 3, San Jose, Wings 10 (Mann, Sturjiv), 12:44. 4, Calgary, Westgarth 1 (McGrattan, Russett), 14:54 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Calgary 8-4-11—23. San Jose 10-11-6-27.

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 0 of 0; San Jose 1 of 1.

Goalsies—Calgary, Ramo 8-10-4 (27 shots-24 saves). San Jose, Niemi 26-10-6 (27-24).
A—17,562 (17,562). T—2:21.

Islanders 4, Flyers 3 (SO)						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Philadelphia	0	3	0	0	0-3	
N.Y. Islanders	0	2	1	0	1-4	

N.Y. Islanders won shootout 3-2

First Period—1, Philadelphia, Read 12 (Couturier, Timonen), 1:26 (sh). 2, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 23 (Okposo, Vanek), 9:26 (pp). 3, Philadelphia, Simmonds 17 (Hartnell, Coburn), 11:30. 4, Philadelphia, Read 13 (Smyth), 15:16.

Second Period—5, N.Y. Islanders, Nelson 30 (Vanell, Clutterbuck), 8:11. 6, N.Y. Islanders, Okposo 20 (Nielsen, MacDonell), 17:02 (pp).

Shootout—Philadelphia 2 (Leavell, NG, N.Y. Islanders 3 (Nielsen, G, Vanek, NG, Tavares, G, Okposo, G).

Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 14-9-3—26. N.Y. Islanders 9-16-14—43.

Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 51 of 51; N.Y. Islanders 29 of 29.

Goalsies—Philadelphia, Emery 6-81 (43 shots-40 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Nilsson 16-26 (26-26).
A—16,048 (16,170). T—2:51.

Maple Leafs 4, Coyotes 2

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	2	1	1	4	2-4	
Phoenix	0	0	2	2	0-2	

First Period—1, Toronto, Gardiner 4 (Kauri, Kessel), 16:17. 2, Toronto, Kessel 24 (Franson), 18:19 (pp).

Second Period—3, Toronto, Giberson 1 (Phaneuf, Ashton), 5:10.

Third Period—Phoenix, Ribeiro 12 (Yandle, Koproski), 5:25 (pp). 5, Toronto, Kadri 12 (Gardiner, Riley), 14:10 (pp). 6, Phoenix, Ferrante 14 (Koproski), 14:59 (sh).

Shots on Goal—Toronto 14-6-9—29. Phoenix 12-15-14-41.

Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 0; Phoenix 0 of 0.

Goalsies—Toronto, Bernier 17-14-13 (41 shots-29 saves). Phoenix, Smith 17-14-8 (25-25).
A—14,476 (17,125). T—2:36.

Predators 4, Stars 1						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	1	0	0	1	0-1	
Nashville	2	1	1	4	2-4	

First Period—1, Dallas, Eakin 11 (Petry, Whitney), 4:45 (pp). 2, Nashville, Eakin 10 (Lemieux), 11:35. 3, Nashville, Weber 13 (Nystrom, Bourque), 17:44.

Second Period—4, Nashville, Josi 6 (Gaustad, Nystrom), 19:28.

Third Period—2, Nashville, Fisher 13 (Wilson, Hornqvist), 3:46.

Shots on Goal—Nashville 11-6-19—36. Nashville 9-10-23.

Power-play opportunities—Dallas 1 of 2; Nashville 0 of 2.

Goalsies—Dallas, Lehtonen 17-14-8 (23 shots-20 saves). Nashville, Smith 17-14-8 (26-25).
A—15,190 (17,113). T—2:33.



Florida Panthers goalie Scott Clemmenssen, left, blocks a shot by Pittsburgh's Brandon Stuart, right, as Brian Campbell, center, watches the rebound during the second period of Monday's game at Consol Energy Center in Pittsburgh. The Panthers won 5-1, Pittsburgh's first loss at home since Nov. 13.

Roundup

Pantlerters snap Penguins' 13-game home win streak

The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Penguins acknowledge they've been getting by more on talent than discipline recently even as they've soared to the top of the Eastern Conference.

The perpetually rebuilding Florida Panthers have no such luxury. On Monday, the Panthers' hard work made up the difference.

Drew Shore scored twice for the first multi-goal game of his career and the Panthers ended Pittsburgh's 13-game home winning streak with a 5-1 win.

"It was a big game," Shore said. "We kind of treated it like a play-off game. We only had a couple more games until the (Olympic) break so we wanted to make a strong push."

Jonathan Huberdeau, Dmitry Kulikov and Shawn Matthias also scored for the Panthers, who won in Pittsburgh for the first time in five years. Scott Clemmenssen stopped 35 shots in his first start in three weeks as Florida ended a two-game losing streak.

"I asked them for 60 minutes and 200 feet," Florida coach Peter Horachek said.

Pittsburgh coach Dan Bylsma received neither.

Matt Niskanen scored the only goal for the Penguins as Pittsburgh lost at home for the first time since Nov. 13. Marc-Andre Fleury made 23 saves but fell for only the fourth time in his past 37 starts at Consol Energy Center.

"We were just awful," Niskanen said. "Bad execution. Bad work ethic. We just weren't hungry

enough to win the loose puck battle and they just beat the (stuffing) out of us."

Pittsburgh defenseman Paul Martin played 20 minutes in his return from a broken leg, clearing the way for him to play for Team USA in the Olympics.

Forwards James Neal, Chuck Kobasew and Jayson Megna also returned from injuries as the Panthers — already with a comfortable 13-point cushion in the Metropolitan Division — continue to get healthy with the Olympic break looming.

While it may take a game or two for the Penguins to adjust to the familiar faces, they don't necessarily view it as an excuse.

"We're assimilating players back into our lineup ... but that's not a new challenge for our team."

Neither is winning in Pittsburgh for the Panthers. Florida beat the Penguins for the second time in three meetings behind Clemmenssen, a resurgent penalty kill that has gone a franchise-record 10 games without allowing a goal, and some unlikely offensive contributions.

Shore entered with just four goals in 54 career games and has spent most of this season in the American Hockey League.

Still, he scored twice in less than 20 minutes to stake Florida to an early lead.

Maple Leafs 4, Coyotes 2: Jonathan Bernier stopped 39 shots as visiting Toronto had another big scoring night to beat Phoenix for its first five-game winning streak

in seven years.

Sharks 3, Flames 2: Joe Pavelski scored two goals to move into a tie for the second most in the NHL this season and lift host San Jose over Calgary.

Pavelski scored on a deflection in the first period and on the power play in the second to give him five goals in his past two games and 15 in the past 20 to tie Anaheim's Corey Perry with 27 on the season.

Blues 4, Red Wings 1: Magnus Paajarvi, Barret Jackman, Kevin Shattenkirch and Jay Bouwmeester scored as visiting St. Louis beat Detroit to snap a two-game skid.

Alex Steen added two assists and Jaroslav Halak made 22 saves for the Blues.

Islanders 4, Flyers 3 (SO): Kyle Okposo scored the game-winning goal from a power play late in regulation and then netted the winner in the shootout to lift host New York to a rare win over Philadelphia.

Predators 4, Stars 1: Roman Josi had a goal and an assist to lead host Nashville over Dallas.

Nick Spaling, Shea Weber, and Mike Fisher also scored for Nashville, which has won three of four.

Bruins 3, Kings 2: Brad Marchand continued his recent hot scoring stretch with a pair of goals, lifting host Boston over Los Angeles.

Marchand, who also had two in Boston's shootout loss in Chicago on Sunday, has scored six in his past four games. Torey Krug had the other goal for the Bruins.

GENE J. PUSKAR/AP

NFL

Injured Patriots finish 2 wins short of goal

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — With too many injuries and too few receivers, the New England Patriots' season is over two wins shy of a Super Bowl championship.

They may have overachieved with rookies and unproven free agents playing key roles, but they were overwhelmed when they ran into the best offense in the NFL.

So on Monday, LeGarrette Blount stuffed his belongings into a large trash bag, Joe Vellano left the locker room carrying his helmet with an autographed football inside and other Patriots talked of how players persevered just to get to the AFC championship game for the third straight season.

"I'm proud of this group of guys," safety Steve Gregory said. "We had so much adversity that we overcame. By no means was it a bad season."

The Patriots (13-5) saved their worst game for the most important one, losing 26-16 to the Denver Broncos on Sunday.

The defense allowed 507 yards, the most in Bill Belichick's 14 seasons as Patriots coach. Tom Brady overthrew open receivers. And they lost another star defender when cornerback Aqib Talib hurt his knees in a collision with wide receiver Wes Welker early in the second quarter and missed the rest of the game.

It was a "deliberate play by the receiver to take out Aqib," Belichick said Monday.

Not so, Denver coach John Fox said.

"Wes Welker's a great player; high integrity," he said. "It was not doing anything with intent."

Welker would still be with the Patriots if they hadn't let him leave in free agency before the season. Now they face the same decision with other valuable players — Talib, Blount, wide receiver Julian Edelman, center Ryan Wendell and linebacker Brandon Spikes.

"I'm not even thinking about that right now," Edelman said. "I'm thinking about the fellas in

Highs and lows

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — A look at some highlights and lowlights from the Patriots' 13-5 season:

■ **Best game:** The Patriots went to Baltimore, where the Ravens were 6-1 and surging toward the playoffs, but New England won 41-7 to stop the Ravens' four-game winning streak in the next-to-last regular-season game.

■ **Worst game:** New England was dominated by the Broncos 26-16 in the AFC championship game in Denver on Sunday. The 507 yards the Patriots allowed were the most in Bill Belichick's 14 years as their coach.

■ **Best play:** Rookie free agent Kenbrell Thompson was the training camp surprise at wide receiver. In his sixth game, his leaping catch of Tom Brady's 17-yard pass gave the Patriots a 27-7 victory over previously unbeaten New Orleans.

■ **Worst play:** The Patriots had a chance when Nick Folk missed a 56-yard field-goal attempt in overtime for the New York Jets. But defensive tackle Chris Jones was penalized for pushing a teammate "into the opponents' formation" and Folk connected from 42 yards for a 30-27 victory, one week after the Patriots beat the Saints.

■ **Biggest surprise:** Julian Edelman caught just 69 passes in his other four NFL seasons. And the Patriots didn't re-sign him until well into the free agency period. But he led them with 105 receptions after Wes Welker left in free agency.

■ **Biggest disappointment:** Tight end Rob Gronkowski suffered season-ending torn ligaments in his right knee in his seventh game back after missing the first six while recovering from surgeries. He had 39 catches for four touchdowns before the knee injury.

■ **What's next:** Deciding which of their potential free agents to keep among Edelman, cornerback Aqib Talib, running back LeGarrette Blount, linebackers Brandon Spikes and center Ryan Wendell.

— Howard Ulman

this locker room, the coaches, all the hard work we put in and this season."

Edelman led the Patriots with 105 catches after Welker left, Talib was chosen for the Pro Bowl, Blount rushed for 431 yards and eight touchdowns in the three games before managing just 6 yards on five carries against Denver. Wendell started all 36 games the past two seasons and Spikes was an outstanding run stopper.

The Patriots can ill afford to lose Edelman, their only receiver



STEPHAN SAVOLA/AP

New England free safety Devin McCourty listens to a reporter's question while standing in front of his locker during a media availability session Monday at the team's facility in Foxborough, Mass.

with more than 54 catches. And they certainly can use a deep threat.

The only player who clearly filled that role in Tom Brady's 14 seasons with the team was Randy Moss, a Patriot for just three full seasons before being traded four games into the 2010 season. Four of their top five receivers from 2012 weren't with the team this season.

The running back group is solid, although Stevan Ridley had fumbling problems and Shane Vereen is primarily a receiver.

The biggest dropoff came at tight end, where the Patriots lost the best duo in the NFL — Rob Gronkowski to injuries and Aaron

Hernandez to a charge of first-degree murder. He has pleaded not guilty.

In their places, Michael Hoomanawanui and Matthew Mulligan combined for 18 catches in 18 games.

Gronkowski might miss the start of the season for the second straight year after tearing ligaments in his right knee in the 13th game. He had missed the first six games this season while recovering from left forearm and back surgery.

Injuries hit the defense harder with tackles Vince Wilfork and Tommy Kelly and linebacker Jerod Mayo going on season-ending injured reserve in the

first half of the season. Spikes joined them there before the first playoff game, a 43-22 win over Indianapolis.

"We should be proud of what we did" on defense, safety Devin McCourty said. "We had guys go down at a bunch of key positions for us and guys were thrown into roles that I don't think they prepared for or knew was going to happen (or) expected it. But I felt they stepped up."

Free agent pickups Chris Jones, Seaver Siliga and Vellano were adequate replacements at tackle. But, in the end, they and their defensive teammates let the Broncos score on six consecutive possessions.

Blaine: Bailey might be down to his final chance to get a ring

FROM BACK PAGE

clearly on the downslope of his spectacular career that includes the most Pro Bowls by a defensive back in NFL history.

Bailey was greeted in the locker room by former teammate John Lynch, who was with him the previous time he'd come this close to the Super Bowl — 2,919 days earlier.

One week after sealing a playoff win with a 100-yard interception return to hand Tom Brady his first playoff loss back in 2006, Bailey had another interception in his grasp and the end zone in his sights, but Hines Ward somehow came down with the football instead and Pittsburgh went on to beat Denver 34-17 for the AFC title following the 2005 season.

"I said he'd play really big and I think quietly he really did," Lynch said. "It's been a tough year. Everyone thinks he's

old, over the hill, but he's been a great player throughout his whole career and great players, when it matters most, play great."

Bailey had no spectacular plays this time, no pick-sixes or takeaways or forced fumbles or sacks, just his usual steady play and calming leadership. He was hardly tested by Brady at all and finished with three tackles.

"I thought yesterday was his best performance of the season," coach John Fox said Monday.

Peyton Manning, who knows a little bit about overcoming injuries and long odds to reach the Super Bowl, said he was "certainly happy for Champ, I know a lot of people are."

"There's a guy — let's see, Champ's one year younger than me so he's in his 15th season. Like I said, it's hard to get to the Super Bowl. It's hard to win it, but I'm tell-

ing you it's hard to get there." Manning said. "... I'm glad that he's back out there on the field. He's battled through some injuries and has stayed at it and been committed to his rehab."

Bailey started just three games this season, and he finished just one of those, against Jacksonville on Oct. 13. After aggravating his foot injury in his two other starts, he was relegated to slot duty by the time he finally got healthy in mid-December.

That changed when Harris got hurt in the Broncos' playoff win over San Diego and Bailey started Sunday opposite Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, then moved into the slot on passing downs to thwart the heart of the Patriots' offense.

"I knew I'd be back at some point," Bailey said. "My coaches, teammates, they never gave up on me. They knew I'd be back to 100 percent at some point. Here I

am, I'm playing probably my best football of the year — because I haven't played much. I'm just looking forward to the next one, making sure my body is right for the next game."

Don't count on him getting caught up in the comparisons at the Super Bowl between him and Sherman, who represents this new breed of cornerback, the bigger, athletic DBs who trash talk as well as any of the receivers they cover.

About the only trash-talking that came out of Bailey's mouth Sunday was when he was asked about how the Broncos shut down the Patriots' ground game.

The Broncos held LeGarrette Blount to 6 yards on five carries a week after Blount rushed for 166 yards and scored four TDs against Indianapolis.

"Well," Bailey said matter-of-factly, "they didn't play the Broncos last week."

SUPER BOWL

Belichick: Welker intended to 'take out' Pats CB Talib

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, MASS. — The collision that knocked Aqib Talib out of the AFC Championship game reverberated on Monday when New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick said Wes Welker tried to “take out” the star cornerback.

Belichick took the shot at his former wide receiver after viewing video of the second-quarter play in the Denver Broncos’ 26-16 win on Sunday. Coming from opposite sides, the players ran into each other. No penalty was called.

It “was a deliberate play by the receiver to take out Aqib, no attempt to get open,” Belichick said during his opening statement at his season-ending news conference.

“It’s one of the worst plays I’ve

seen. That’s all I’m going to say about that.”

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said on Monday, “If there is any discipline for plays in [Sunday’s] games, it will be determined by Merton Hanks later in the week.”

Hanks is the league’s vice president of player operations.

Welker, who had a cool relationship with Belichick before leaving New England as a free agent last offseason, was not available for comment on Monday.

But after the game, he said, “it was one of those plays where it’s kind of a rub play and I was trying to get him to go over the top, and I think he was thinking the same thing and wanted to come underneath and we just kind of collided. ... It wasn’t a deal where I was trying to hit him or anything like that.”

After Talib left with a knee injury, Broncos quarterback Pey-

ton Manning took advantage of having the much shorter Alfonso Dennard covering receivers Talib normally would handle. The previous season, a thigh injury ended Talib’s day in the first quarter of the AFC championship game, a 28-13 loss to Baltimore.

Denver coach John Fox said he hadn’t seen Belichick’s comments but called Welker “a great player, high integrity. I can say that we were not doing anything with intent.”

Asked why he would send the 5-foot-9 Welker, 4 inches shorter, at Talib after sustaining two recent concussions, Fox said, “That’s a good question. I don’t have an answer to it.”

But he and several Patriots said pick plays in which one receiver brushes against or hits a defender to free another receiver are becoming more prevalent.

“Teams do a lot of that just to



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker, right, is upended by Patriots cornerback Kyle Arrington during the first half Sunday. Patriots coach Bill Belichick complained Monday that Welker, his former player, intentionally tried to “take out” Pats cornerback Aqib Talib.

give guys separation and to open up the passing game,” safety Devin McCourty said.

Steve Gregory, New England’s other starting safety, said he didn’t think Welker would deliberately try to hurt a player.

“I don’t think anybody plays that way,” he said, “especially

at this level of football with two great football teams in the Broncos and ourselves.”

Patriots defensive end Andre Carter called it a “nasty” play.

“Was, was he doing his job? I’m sure he was to a certain degree,” Carter said. “[Do] I think the hit could have been cleaner? Yes.”

Briefs

Seahawks expect Harvin back for Super Bowl

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Wide receiver Percy Harvin could be back to practice later this week for the Seattle Seahawks and is expected to be available for the Super Bowl.

Harvin missed Sunday’s NFC championship game win over San Francisco after suffering a concussion a week earlier in the divisional playoff win over New Orleans. Harvin was not cleared by doctors in time to play against the 49ers.

Seattle coach Pete Carroll said Monday that Harvin could be cleared in time to practice as early as Wednesday. Carroll said that was based on how Harvin was feeling over the weekend, but there were still “a couple of clearances” needed before he could practice.

Harvin had three recurrences against New Orleans before getting hurt late in the first half. It was the second game of the season for Harvin, who had hip surgery in August.

Bowman tears ACL, MCL

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — NaVorro Bowman tore the anterior cruciate and medial collateral ligaments in his left knee when he went down during Sunday’s NFC championship loss at Seattle, a person with direct knowledge of the injury said Monday.

The person said that Bowman would have surgery for the ACL tear but that the MCL is likely to heal with rest and he is expected to be ready for the 2014 season.

“It’s not as bad as feared,” the person said, speaking on condition of anonymity to The Associated Press because the team hasn’t made an announcement regarding the results of tests on Bowman’s knee.

Coach Jim Harbaugh said after Sunday’s 23-17 season-ending loss to the Seahawks that Bowman was believed to have torn his ACL, and Harbaugh wasn’t to address the media again until Tuesday. Kansas City’s Derrick Johnson was chosen Monday to replace Bowman in the Pro Bowl.

49ers linebackers coach Jim Leavitt



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

The 49ers’ NaVorro Bowman (53) injures his leg during the second half Sunday against the Seahawks. Bowman tore his ACL and MCL, according to a source.

remained optimistic earlier Monday that Bowman would be playing when the 49ers open New Levi’s Stadium next season.

“He’s a warrior. He’s going to push forward, there’s no question,” he said. “He’s a special guy, tremendously talented, but he’s got such a heart. He’s been so good with me it’s unbelievable. He’s a great young man. He’ll be fine. We’re going into a new stadium and he’ll be ready to go when we start.”

In addition, left guard Mike Iupati broke

his left ankle in the loss. He says he doesn’t know whether he will need surgery, but was scheduled to be further evaluated.

Safety Donte Whitner was irked at any Seattle fans involved with throwing popcorn and other debris on Bowman as he was carted off at CenturyLink Field.

“That’s pure ignorance,” said Whitner, who noted losing to the rival Seahawks “makes it a little worse ‘cuz I wanted to send those fans home crying.”

Goodell to sit outside for game

NEW YORK — He’ll be wearing a coat and no doubt gloves.

NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell will be like most other folks at the Super Bowl on Feb. 2 in East Rutherford, N.J. — he’ll be outside.

The league says the commissioner will be sitting in the elements as he regularly does at games — rain or shine, cold or warm.

Goodell often sits in the stands or is in a luxury box that has outdoor seats. He’s done that in the past, even in serious chill.

He sat in the stands in Minnesota at the outdoor game after the Metrodome roof collapsed in 2010. He also once sat at a game in Chicago where he said his beer froze.

Titans add defensive coaches

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee Titans coach Ken Whisenand’s defensive staff has a Cleveland Browns flavor.

Whisenand continued putting together his staff Monday by announcing the hiring of defensive coordinator Ray Horton and defensive backs coach Louie Cioffi, who each filled the same roles this season in Cleveland. The Browns fired head coach Rob Chudzinski after the season.

Source: Lombardi joins Lions

A person familiar with the situation says New Detroit head coach Jim Caldwell and Lions assistant Joe Lombardi have agreed on a deal for Lombardi to become the Lions’ offensive coordinator.

The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Lions have not announced the hiring.

Lombardi, the grandson of former Green Bay Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi, has been an assistant on Sean Payton’s New Orleans staff since 2007. He was named quarterbacks coach in 2009, the season the Saints won their only Super Bowl.

SUPER BOWL

Carroll: Sherman sorry rant cast shadow over win

The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Seattle coach Pete Carroll pulled Richard Sherman aside on Monday and made sure his fiery cornerback understood that his rant against San Francisco's Michael Crabtree was overshadowing the Seahawks reaching their second Super Bowl.

Sherman seemed to get Carroll's message.

"He was really clear that the last thing he wanted to do was take something away from our team, what we had accomplished," Carroll said.

Sherman became the focal point of attention — positive and negative — after Seattle beat San Francisco's 23-17 on Sunday to win the NFC championship.

Sherman was already going to be in the spotlight for what he did on San Francisco's final offensive play, twisting his body to deflect a pass intended for Crabtree into the air and allowing time for teammate Malcolm Smith to run over and make an interception in the end zone to clinch the Seahawks victory.

The athleticism on the play was worthy of praise. But Sherman's antics from that point drew praise from some for being honest and unfiltered, and criticism from others for being too harsh and combative.

"This is a very emotional kid and that's what drives him," Carroll said. "We did sit down and talk about it because I want him to present himself in his best light. He's an incredible kid."

"He has a great sense about things and understanding and sensitivity and awareness and he cares and he's a very thoughtful person so when he puts out those kind of thoughts he has to know what he's saying and understand it, and I think he's very understanding at this point that he caused a stir that took away from the team."

After Sherman's block on Crabtree, he didn't let the celebration end with his teammates. Sher-



Seattle Seahawks (15-3) vs. Denver Broncos (13-3)

AFN-Sports
Midnight Feb. 2 CET
8 a.m. Feb. 3 JKT

man ran over to Crabtree and gave him a pat on the backside, then appeared to extend his arm for a handshake. Instead, Sherman got shoved in the face before picking up his personal foul as his celebration continued. The taunt included a choking gesture in the direction of 49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick.

Asked about the incident afterward on TV, Sherman lit up Twitter with a rant that began: "I'm the best corner in the game. When you try me with a sorry receiver like Crabtree, that's the result you gonna get!"

Sherman didn't back down later, calling Crabtree "indecisive." He said his issues with Crabtree went back to an incident during the offseason.

Carroll said he viewed the situation as a father talking to his son and wanted Sherman to realize some more thought should have gone into what he was saying.

"There's some stuff in there I think you should think about and did you really want it to come out the way it did and talk our way through that," Carroll said. "And he didn't. He didn't feel right about that."

"There were a lot of great things that happened last night and we're talking about some other stuff."



DEAN RUTZ, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Seattle CB Richard Sherman told coach Pete Carroll that he is sorry that his NFC championship post-game rant took the focus from the Seahawks reaching the Super Bowl for the first time in seven years.



CRAIG RUTLE/AP

Large signs advertising the Super Bowl are seen on 42nd Street by Times Square on Monday in New York. Preparations for fan venues and activities for the upcoming Super Bowl are starting to appear along several blocks of Broadway, part of which has been dubbed "Super Bowl Boulevard."

NYC, NJ prep for Super Bowl

By RICK FREEMAN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Workers hung in harnesses, putting the finishing touches on a sponsor's billboard high above Broadway. A few blocks north, in Times Square, a three-story stage festooned with Fox Sports logos towered over the crossroads of the world.

Below, the pedestrian plazas stayed relatively calm and uncrowded — for now — beneath blinking ads, most of which referenced the Super Bowl as New York spent a mellow MLK Monday preparing to host the biggest event in sports.

The Feb. 2 championship game, between Seattle and Denver, is still almost two weeks away, and while there will be all sorts of events surrounding the game throughout the metropolitan area of nearly 20 million, the anticipation hasn't quite started to spike yet.

It takes more than a big ballgame to get New York City excited.

New Jersey, too, where everyone's still steamed up over allegations that top aides to Gov. Chris Christie orchestrated traffic jams in a northern New Jersey town, Fort Lee, by blocking off lanes to the George Washington Bridge.

Unintentional traffic jams are a concern every day in the region, let alone with an influx of visitors expected and a big game day crowd anticipated at the Meadowlands sports complex.

Crowding in Times Square is always a given, too. To the point that New Yorkers make a point of avoiding the area at all costs.

But on Monday — with most people off from work for the Martin Luther King holiday and the Broncos and Seahawks basking in their conference championships back at home — most of midtown



CRAIG RUTLE/AP

A worker on an extended boom works near a multi-level platform that is being constructed for the Fox Television network on Times Square on Monday.

was calm.

One pocket of energy could be found in Macy's, where a temporary NFL store is set up to sell tiny Statues of Liberty splashed with Super Bowl logos, NFL shield hats in various colors, helmets in every size from "big enough to protect a golf ball" to the real thing, and virtually anything else NFL-related.

Next week when Broadway turns into a fan fest, concerts happen in all five boroughs — as well as New Jersey, where the game will actually be played — and LeBron James and the Heat take a rare undercard role when they visit Madison Square Garden and the Knicks.

Monday afternoon, though, workers and security guards outnumbered customers.

Imani Williamson tossed a miniature football in the air to herself and beamed at visitors as they entered Macy's. When it gets busier later, her job will be to greet fans,

ask where they're from, and make them feel welcome.

Asked if she had seen any crowds yet, the 22-year-old ringer on temporary Super Bowl duty said "No, not yet."

Deeper in the store, Julie Maner commanded a well-trafficked corner where whimsical, cartoonish Super Bowl posters by pop artist Charles Fazzino were on sale. She has gone to every Super Bowl since the 2003 game in San Diego representing the artist.

Usually, she says, she has a booth at the NFL Experience, a fan expo that has been modified for the New York game. Most of that event's activities will be relocated to Broadway as part of the league's "Super Bowl Boulevard" sending retailers indoors to Macy's.

Maner wasn't sure if that would help or hurt sales, but she would have more days to sell the posters, 3D decorated helmets and other works by Fazzino — some of which cost almost as much as game tickets. On Monday, she had just sold a poster to a German couple who wanted a souvenir before returning home, but was expecting to do most of her business next week.

"The out-of-towners don't come until next week," Maner said. "I don't know if it's going to be busier than usual or lighter than usual."

A lot of that could hinge on the weather. A winter storm was in the forecast for Tuesday night, followed by high temperatures below freezing. If the weather is more pedestrian friendly next week, crowds could come out in force on Broadway. When the "Boulevard" opens, it'll feature a concert stage, a place for fans to try kicking field goals, a toboggan run, a ticket exchange for buying and selling game tickets and (of course) sponsor come-ons.

SPORTS



No four-peat

Three-time defending champ
Djokovic eliminated | Page 24

SUPER BOWL

Will the name
fit the player?Broncos CB Champ Bailey
finally gets a shot at a ringBy ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

CENGLEWOOD, Colo. Champ Bailey finally gets a chance to live up to his name.

The 12-time Pro Bowler is headed to his first Super Bowl in his 15th — and most trying — NFL season, one in which he missed 11 games and parts of two others because of a nagging foot injury.

"It hurt not being out there," Bailey said after Denver topped New England in the AFC championship game, "but here I am. I'm on the field and my team's still in the running. That's what it's all about."

Bailey's subdued celebration and measured reaction in delirious Denver stood in stark con-

trast to the scene in Seattle later Sunday night, where Seahawks cornerback Richard Sherman stole the spotlight with his game-saving deflection, his taunting of Michael Crabtree and his television rant on the field afterward.

The contrasting styles will draw much attention in the days leading up to the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

Sherman is the 25-year-old trash-talking leader of the league's best defense, Bailey the 35-year-old sage of a unit that's been through the ringer this season, but has come on strong over the past month despite injuries that cost it several starters, including Von Miller and Chris Harris Jr.

Bailey is one of the league's top cornerbacks, but he's

SEE NAME ON PAGE 29

By the numbers

215

Number of games Denver cornerback Champ Bailey has played in his career without playing in the Super Bowl.

699

Number of career tackles Bailey has made over five seasons with Washington and 10 with Denver.

52

Number of interceptions made by Bailey during his career, four of which he returned for touchdowns.

SOURCE: NFL.com

Denver cornerback Champ Bailey has waited 15 years for his first Super Bowl.

AARON ONTIVEROS, THE DENVER POST/AP

Panthers end Penguins' home streak
NHL, Page 27Creighton knocks off No. 4 Villanova
College basketball, Page 22