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STARS AND STRIPES.®

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A break in the battle

Ukraine protesters, government sign deal to end bloody crisis

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SERGEI L. LOIKO, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

A protester takes a cigarette break at the barricades in central Kiev, Ukraine, on Thursday. The monthslong crisis moved toward a resolution on Friday.

Study: Afghan security plans risking failure

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The authors of an independent, Pentagon-commissioned assessment of the Afghan National Security Forces concluded that current U.S. and NATO plans for the post-2014 ANSF are woefully inadequate to prevent a major deterioration in the Afghanistan security environment.

The study, which was published Thurs-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan security forces arrive at the site of a suicide bombing in Surobi district of Kabul on Friday.

day, was conducted by CNA, a think tank based in Alexandria, Va. The Defense Department requested the review under Congressional mandate.

SEE SECURITY ON PAGE 3

Hagel orders DOD to merge all MIA accounting agencies

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In the wake of numerous reports of misconduct and poor management practices by personnel charged with recovering and identifying the remains of missing servicemembers from past conflicts, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel has ordered the Pentagon to come up with a plan to consolidate all Defense Department assets into a single, more accountable entity that will manage all personnel accounting resources, re-

search and operations.

On Thursday, Hagel directed Michael Lumpkin, the under secretary of defense for policy, to deliver the plan to him within 30 days, Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters.

In a memo obtained by Stars and Stripes, Hagel said Lumpkin's action plan should propose ways to:

- Maximize the number of identifications.
- Improve transparency for families.
- Reduce duplicative functions.

SEE MIA ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We live in the kind of place that could use a little humor.”

— Thayer Munir, 23, member of the skit comedy team Tashwash Productions, one of several troupes of young cutups operating — very carefully — in Gaza

See story on Page 13

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COMING SOON

Science & Medicine



Fossils of Neanderthal DNA clump in human genome

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MILITARY

MIA: Pentagon chief calls consolidation plan 'a top priority'

FROM FRONT PAGE

■ Establish a system for centralized, completely accessible case files for missing personnel.

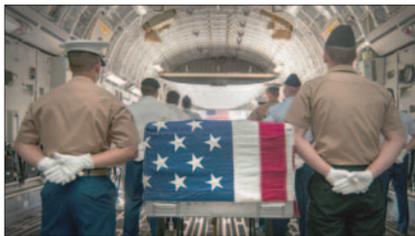
In the memo, Hagel suggested he is considering making wide-ranging changes in areas such as:

- Civilian and military personnel policies.
- Contracting and acquisition policies.
- Statutory and regulatory authorities.
- Facilities.
- Budgets.
- Procedures.
- Oversight of laboratory operations.

“This is a top priority for the Department,” Hagel said.

The initiative follows embarrassing revelations and unflattering reports about Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office, the two agencies with primary responsibility for recovery and identification efforts.

In July, The Associated Press reported that a JPAC internal study of its operations concluded that DOD's effort to account for the tens of thousands of Ameri-



SEAN FUREY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

An honor detail comprising joint military members prepares to escort the remains of fallen servicemen who died during World War II and the Vietnam War during a ceremony in April 2013.

cans missing in action were so incompetent and mismanaged that it risks descending from “dysfunction to total failure.”

In October, the Pentagon acknowledged that JPAC had been holding phony remains arrival ceremonies for seven years.

In December, Stars and Stripes reported charges that JPAC and DPMO officials ignored leads, prematurely declared MIAs deceased and unrecoverable, and argued against identifying un-

known remains in government custody when evidence suggested they could be identified.

In January, Stars and Stripes obtained internal communications from JPAC documenting allegations that JPAC's Central Identification Laboratory personnel were involved in the desecra-

tion and mishandling of remains, the failure to keep critical records, the excavation of incorrect sites, and the waste of taxpayer funds on duplicate efforts.

For more coverage of Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command go to stripes.com/jpoac



A Government Accountability Office audit released in July cited leadership failures and bureaucratic infighting as problems plaguing Pentagon recovery and identification efforts.

Kirby said the JPAC report and other reviews led Hagel to issue his directive.

“The reviews that we've seen of this mission tell us lots of things. One of them is, it's not being done as efficiently as possible from an organizational perspective,” he told reporters.

Hagel served in combat as an Army infantry squad leader during the Vietnam War. More than 1,600 Americans involved in that conflict remain unaccounted for, according to DPMO.

“As a veteran, himself,” Kirby said, “the secretary has an especially personal commitment to ensuring we account for and bring home as many of our missing and fallen service personnel as possible.”

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Sinclair sex assault case prosecutor resigns

RALEIGH, N.C. — The lead military prosecutor in the case against a U.S. Army general facing sexual assault charges has resigned shortly before a court martial is set to begin.

Fort Bragg spokesman Benjamin Abel said Lt. Col. William Helixon left the case last week for “personal reasons.” Base officials would provide no further explanation nor would they comment on how that might impact the trial scheduled to start March 3.

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair, 51, has pleaded not guilty to eight counts, including forcible sodomy, indecent acts and conduct with raping three women in situations dating to the early 1990s, commanders revealed Thursday.

Master Sgt. Michael Silva was charged with raping a woman in 1992 or 1993, and raping a recruit in basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in 1995. He's also accused of raping a third woman in 2007.

Silva faces life in prison on the charges. His first appearance in the rare case begins Monday, when an evidentiary hearing opens at Lackland, where Silva is assigned to a base support unit.

“I think it's fair to say it's unusual to try a case that old,” said Roger Canaff, a former civilian

From The Associated Press

Ex-AF trainer accused of three rapes

By SIG CHRISTENSON
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — In the oldest case yet in the worst sex scandal in Air Force history, a San Antonio sergeant has been charged with raping three women in situations dating to the early 1990s, commanders revealed Thursday.

Master Sgt. Michael Silva was charged with raping a woman in 1992 or 1993, and raping a recruit in basic training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in 1995. He's also accused of raping a third woman in 2007.

Silva faces life in prison on the charges. His first appearance in the rare case begins Monday, when an evidentiary hearing opens at Lackland, where Silva is assigned to a base support unit.

“I think it's fair to say it's unusual to try a case that old,” said Roger Canaff, a former civilian

special victims' prosecutor who helped the Army with sexual-assault cases.

“And generally, it's probably the kind of case that you want to try if the investigation revealed some very strong evidence, usually some sort of confession or statement, possibly DNA evidence that wasn't available then,” he added.

The case is unlike any other to emerge from the scandal, which triggered congressional investigations and a makeover of basic training at Lackland.

Until now, no sexual assault or rape charge here had been lodged before 2008.

Congress eliminated a five-year statute of limitations for sexual assault in reforms passed late last year.

Canaff and other legal experts said there was no statute of limitations in rape cases.

Military law still includes the

death penalty for rape, even though executions for the crime were ruled unconstitutional in a 1972 Supreme Court decision, said Geoffrey Corn, a professor at South Texas College of Law in Houston.

The Air Force provided few details about the allegations or the incidents that led to the legal proceedings.

It isn't clear whether Silva, whose support squadron oversees morale, welfare and recreation programs, has been jailed, confined to base or given a special job.

Until now, 34 instructors had been accused of misconduct with 68 victims, all but four of them women, since 2008. Twenty-six instructors have been convicted.

None of the victims in the previous cases had come forward on their own.

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MIDEAST

NATO head believes Karzai won't ink security deal

By ELENA BECATOROS
The Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — NATO's secretary general said Thursday he believes Afghan President Hamid Karzai will not sign a long-stalled security pact with the United States allowing American troops to remain in Afghanistan after the end of 2014, leaving the task to whomever emerges as his successor after April elections.

The U.S. is the largest contributor of troops to the NATO military coalition in Afghanistan. The international forces' mandate expires at the end of the

year, and the U.S. and NATO have been negotiating agreements on maintaining some troops in Afghanistan to train and support local security forces.

"We haven't so far seen any progress as regards a signature on the Bilateral Security Agreement, and actually I believe that President Karzai will not sign the security agreement, so it will be for his successor to make that decision," Anders Fogh Rasmussen told The Associated Press in an interview. "Our position is very clear. Our preferred option is to deploy a training mission to Afghanistan after 2014."

Rasmussen said that although NATO envisaged signing a separate pact with Kabul on alliance military presence in the country, it would not be finalized unless Afghanistan also signed the bilateral security agreement with Washington.

"There will be a separate NATO Status of Forces agreement, but we will not finalize that Status of Forces agreement unless the Afghans sign the Bilateral Security Agreement between the United States and Afghanistan," Rasmussen said in Athens, where he was attending a European Union defense ministers' meeting. "So

the two legal frameworks will follow hand in hand."

Rasmussen appeared hopeful, however, that Karzai's successor would sign the deal, noting it was approved in November by a meeting of tribal elders known as the Loya Jirga and that all presidential candidates had said they were in favor of an agreement.

He also stressed that international funding for Afghan security forces could be affected without a deal.

"At the end of the day, the Afghans realize that a lot is at stake because this is not only about our military presence with trainers

after 2014, but it's also about financial support for Afghanistan. I'm concerned that if there's no international presence with troops and trainers after 2014, then it will also be difficult to generate financial support to sustain the Afghan security forces," the NATO chief said.

A inability to pay the salaries of soldiers and police would "have a devastating effect on security in Afghanistan," he warned. "And I think the Afghans know that, and this is the reason why I'm confident that at the end of the day we will get that signature on the security agreement."

Security: Too few troops puts Afghan strategy at risk, report says

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said the Pentagon has received the report and DOD officials are in the process of reviewing it.

"There's no doubt that the work that CNA has done here will help inform decision-makers as we get close to the end of the year," Kirby told reporters at the Pentagon.

The CNA analysts issued a dire warning about what will happen in Afghanistan after 2014 if current plans remain in place.

"In the likely 2015-2018 security environment, the ANSF will require a total security force of about 373,300 personnel (including 29,100 Afghan Local Police) in order to provide basic security for the country, and cope with the Taliban insurgency and low-level al-Qaida threat," according to the report's authors.

That force level is 44 percent higher than the one agreed upon by political leaders at the 2012 NATO Summit in Chicago. Alliance plans call for 258,500, including 30,000 Afghan Local Police, in that time frame. There are currently 382,000 ANSF.

"Proceeding with the drawdown of the ANSF as announced at the Chicago Summit will put the current U.S. policy goal for Afghanistan at risk," the report said.

The CNA analysts noted that their conclusion is based on the assumption that the insurgent threat would increase post-2014, which differs from the alliance assumption in 2012 that the insurgency would be diminished by that point.

CNA estimated that the annual cost of sustaining a 373,400-strong force would be \$5 billion to 6 billion per year at a time of budget constraints for the Pentagon. U.S. involvement as a whole. The projected annual cost of maintaining a base force of 228,500 ANSF (not including the 30,000 Afghan Local Police), as envisioned by NATO, is \$4.1 billion per year.

An insufficiently sized ANSF would severely undermine the



A U.S. soldier stands at the site where suicide bombers attacked a police compound in the Surobi district of Kabul on Friday. Police said one officer was killed and four were wounded.

Attack targets Afghan police compound

The Associated Press

KABUL — Militants attacked a police compound near Kabul with explosives and guns on Friday, setting off an hour-long fire that left one officer dead and four wounded, according to Afghan officials.

Interior Ministry spokesman Seddiq Seddiqi said a suicide car bomber first blew through the gates of the district police headquarters in Surobi early Monday morning.

Two other male attackers clad in the all-envel-

oping burqa traditionally worn by Afghan women then opened fire and a gunbattle ensued, he said.

Inside the compound, the bloody body of one attacker lay sprawled on the ground between blackened police vehicles as security forces roamed around.

Kabul police said in a statement that the three attackers were killed, along with one police officer. Four officers were wounded, the force said in a statement.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in an emailed statement.

U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, the report contends. Current strategy calls for nearly all U.S. and NATO forces to be withdrawn by the end of this year, with a residual force left behind to train, advise and assist Afghan forces and conduct joint counterterrorism operations. Afghan forces are to be responsible for direct combat operations against Taliban insurgents. But if the ANSF is too small to keep the Taliban at bay, the U.S. goal of achieving a relatively stable Afghanistan

while remaining in a support role will be difficult to reach.

CNA convened a review board composed mostly of former high-ranking military officers and defense officials, and the board endorsed the general thrust and judgments of the report.

But the Pentagon indicated that there is no intention of changing the ANSF force-level plans, despite the analysts' assessment.

The secretary's committed to the findings of the Chicago Summit, which had ... a lower [ANSF

personnel] goal," Kirby said.

The post-2014 plan will be most if the Afghan government doesn't sign the Bilateral Security Agreement, which would allow a U.S. force to remain in the country past the end of the year. Afghan President Hamid Karzai has yet to approve it. If neither he nor his successor inks the deal, all American troops will be withdrawn by the end of December.

The CNA analysts also looked at other aspects of the situation in Afghanistan, and reached the fol-

lowing conclusions:

- The security environment in Afghanistan will become more challenging after the drawdown of most international forces in 2014, and the Taliban insurgency will become a greater threat to Afghanistan's stability in the 2015-2018 time frame than it is now.

- In the 2015-2016 time frame, the Taliban are likely to try to keep pressure on the ANSF in rural areas, expand their control and influence in areas vacated by coalition forces, encircle key cities, conduct high-profile attacks in Kabul and other urban areas, and gain leverage for reconciliation negotiations.

- In 2016-2018, once the insurgency has had time to recover from the last several years of U.S. and NATO operations, a larger and more intense Taliban insurgency effort will become increasingly likely.

- There is a low probability of the Taliban politically reconciling with the Afghan government by 2018.

- Al-Qaida remnants in Afghanistan are unlikely to regain the capability to become a substantial threat to the U.S. and other Western nations in the 2015-2018 time frame as long as adequate pressure is maintained by U.S. and Afghan counterterrorism forces.

- The ANSF will continue to have significant gaps in capability that will limit their effectiveness after 2014. Capability gaps exist in the following key areas: mobility; air support; logistics; intelligence gathering and analysis; communication and coordination among ANSF components; and recruiting and training of people with specialized skills.

- International enabler support — including advisers — will be essential to ANSF success through at least 2018.

- Absence of international advisors in 2015 is likely to result in a downward spiral of ANSF capabilities, along with security in Afghanistan.

- If the United States and NATO significantly decrease their commitment to Afghanistan and Pakistan, tensions between the two nations are likely to be exacerbated.

- The loss of financial support from the international community, or even a quick decline in such support, is likely to result in another civil war in Afghanistan.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY EVELYN HOCKSTEIN/The Washington Post

Peter Pezzimenti, drummer for Spirit Family Reunion, walks outside the VFW Post 350 building in Takoma Park, Md., before the band played there recently.

By STEVE HENDRIX
The Washington Post

NOT YOUR DAD'S VFW

A fading post gets a boost from its tie-dyed neighbors

For more than 15 years, Bob Patten passed the little block building near his house — the one with the antiaircraft gun in the parking lot — without going inside. A self-described typical liberal (“retired peace activist turned bicycle transportation planner”) in Takoma Park, Md. — a Washington suburb long renowned for its counterculture ways — he’d never had much reason to pay a call on the town’s tiny VFW post.

Now he’s become something of a regular. In the past year, he’s been to two concerts, a birthday party and a fundraiser for a nonprofit group in the one-room bar, downing \$1.75 drafts alongside the former Marines, soldiers and other veterans who have been coming for years.

“The vibe I get is that they are very welcoming of the community coming in,” Patten, 56, said. “I biked past that place a thousand times and wondered if there were enough veterans in Takoma Park to sustain it.”

Turns out, there were not. Which is why non-vets in town have seen the doors suddenly swing wide for them. Takoma Park’s 92-year-old Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 350 is hoping its tie-dyed neighborhood — which residents once referred to as the People’s Republic of Takoma Park — can help keep the lights on in a room hung with POW flags and Bud Lite neon.

“If we had to rely on members, we wouldn’t exist anymore,” said Mike Casey, the post’s commander, its bartender and a Vietnam vet and retired union electrician. “These events are keeping us going.”

The old-timers say they welcome the boost. But some worry that the influx of outsiders who never wore the uniform will water down the post’s longtime identity as a military hangout.

“We’ve got to remember what the VFW is for,” said Rich Fales, a former head of Post 350 and a soon-to-be district commander. “It’s for veterans to come in and associate with veterans. I’m happy to see all the interest, but we have to be careful how we do this.”

Membership has been plummeting at halls around the country for decades. The aging of the World War II and Korean War generations and the rise of social media as a tool for fellowship among younger warriors have shrunk the VFW’s rolls from 2.1

million to 1.4 million since 1990. More than 3,000 posts have closed.

“We’ve dropped under 7,000 posts,” said Randi Law, spokeswoman for VFW national headquarters in Kansas City. “Commanders need to adapt and evolve to keep the doors open.”

At Post 350, vets wounded in Iraq or Afghanistan seeking a respite from the therapy at nearby Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington provided a trickle of new members in recent years. But most moved back home, and the hospital itself decamped to Bethesda, Md., in 2011.

“On paper, we’ve got more than 100 members, but we have a hard time getting eight guys in here for a meeting,” Casey said. “When these young guys get out of the Army, they want to go where they’ll meet young girls, and that’s not the VFW.”

Many VFWs have event halls they rent for weddings and dances. But Post 350 consists almost entirely of a 30-seat bar, with a stage at one end and a Keno screen at the other. Except for the annual crab feast and pig roast in the backyard, not many visitors made it onto the premises.

But in 2012, a group of neighbors asked Casey if they could hold a little rock concert at the post. The group, Treehouse Concerts, had been hosting musical acts in Takoma Park living rooms. Now it wanted a bigger venue. Casey charged them no rent and counted on the hundred or so guests to spend freely at the bar.

It worked. The place was packed, and Casey and two bartenders raced to fill orders until the late hours. The contrast to a typical Saturday, when Casey sometimes locks up by 8 p.m., was stark.

“A couple of those a month and we can fill the bank account up,” Casey said.

On a recent Saturday, the act was Spirit Family Reunion, a New York-based roots band. A Prius with an “I Bark for Obama” sticker pulled in beside a Dodge pickup with a Marine decal on the window. Inside, where there is now a Sierra Nevada tap next to the Budweiser, Casey hoped to sell enough booze to pay for the \$2,800 cooler repair he’d put on his personal credit card that afternoon.

With more visitors have come more requests to use the place. Cole Turner, who has been a regular at Post 350 for more than 20 years, said, “I love seeing these people. I love the ka-ching of the cash register.”



Takoma Park resident Kevin Perest, center, talks to Army veteran Thomas Sykes and Debbie Thomas at VFW Post 350.

MILITARY

Retired general: Jesus to return with AR-15

By **PATRICK DICKSON**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A former Army general believes that when Jesus returns, he's gonna be packin' heat.

Retired Lt. Gen. William "Jerry" Boykin, now the Family Research Council's executive vice president, said the Son of God will be armed with an AR-15 assault rifle when he returns, in a speech at the Pro-Family Legislators Conference in Dallas.

"[Jesus is] coming back as a warrior, carrying a sword," Boykin said. "And I believe now, I've checked this out — I believe

that sword he'll be carryin' when he comes back is an AR-15."

Many in the audience laughed and some, applauded, according to audio of the speech released Tuesday.

"Now I want you to think about this: Where did the 2nd Amendment come from? Where did the Second Amendment come from? I ask my students this; I ask men's



Boykin

groups. I ask, 'Where did the Second Amendment come from?'"

Boykin, in a somewhat comic voice, replied: "From the Founding Fathers! It's in the Constitution!"

"Well, yeah, I know that. But where did the whole concept come from? It came from Jesus."

The speech, made in November, was broadcast courtesy of Wallbuilders Live, whose mission, according to its site, is to "educate people of faith with an understanding of the role of faith in our Nation's history."

As an officer in the Army's elite Delta Force, Boykin participated in many of the United States'

high-profile missions throughout that 1980s and '90s, including the failed rescue attempt of U.S. hostages in Iran and the apprehension of Manuel Noriega in Panama. He helped advise Attorney General Janet Reno regarding the standoff at Waco, Texas, with the Branch Davidians.

His fundamentalist Christian views created some controversy when he cast the War on Terror in religious terms. He once remarked about a Somali warlord who said he would be protected by Allah: "I knew that my God was bigger than his. I knew that my God was a real God and his was an idol."

The remarks were widely denounced; senior members of the Senate urged then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld to investigate, and the Bush White House distanced itself from the remarks.

According to the audio, Boykin continued: "When he said to his disciples, 'Now, if you don't have a sword, sell your cloak and buy one.' I know, everybody says, well, that was a metaphor. It was not a metaphor!"

"[T]he sword today is the AR-15. If you don't have one, go get one. You're supposed to have one; it's biblical."

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Agency says vets' disability benefits to be expedited

By **JON HARPER**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Veterans with Department of Veterans Affairs disability compensation ratings of 100 percent permanent and total will soon have their applications for Social Security disability benefits processed faster, the Social Security Administration announced Wednesday.

"Social Security will treat these veterans' applications as high priority and issue expedited decisions, similar to the way the agency currently handles disability claims from Wounded Warriors," the organization said in a news release.

Plans call for the expedited process to begin mid-March.

"Our veterans have sacrificed so much for our country and it is only right that we ensure they have timely access to the disability

benefits they may be eligible for and deserve," Acting Commissioner of Social Security Carolyn Colvin said in the news release.

Veterans must inform Social Security that they have 100 percent permanent and total disability compensation ratings and must show proof of their disability ratings with their VA notification letters to receive the expedited service.

Having the rating does not guarantee that a veteran's application for Social Security benefits will be approved; it only ensures that the processing of their claim will be expedited.

And veterans also must meet strict Social Security eligibility requirements to receive disability allowances, according to Social Security.

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VA announces new health cards

Stars and Stripes

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced the phased rollout of a more secure Veteran Health Identification Card.

The cards, first introduced in 2004, are getting improved security features and will be personalized to display the emblem of the veteran's service branch. They will include VA phone numbers, emergency care instructions and the "VA" in Braille to help visually impaired veterans, according to a VA statement Thursday.

The rollout begins this month, starting with newly enrolled veterans and those without VIC cards, the statement said. In early

April, the VA will begin a three-month effort to get replacements to current VIC cardholders, who will be asked to cut up or shred their old cards to safeguard their personal information.

"VA is committed to providing high-quality health care while ensuring the personal security of Veterans," Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinewski said in the statement. "These new identification cards are an important step forward in protecting our nation's heroes from identity theft and other personal crimes."

The new cards will function like typical health insurance cards, the statement said. They will in-

clude the veteran's member ID, a new, unique identifier, as well as a plan ID, reflecting the veteran's enrollment in VA health care, the statement said. The cards are not required to receive VA health care but are recommended.

For more information, enrolled veterans can visit their VA medical facility enrollment coordinator, call 877-222-VETS (8387) or visit www.va.gov/healthbenefits/vhic. Those who are not enrolled in the VA health care system can apply by calling 877-222-VETS (8387), visiting their local VA health care facility or clicking on www.va.gov/healthbenefits/enroll.

news@stripes.com

KBR accused of muzzling whistleblowers

One of the nation's largest government contractors requires employees seeking to report fraud to sign internal confidentiality statements barring them from speaking to anyone about their allegations, including government investigators and prosecutors, according to a complaint filed Wednesday and corporate documents obtained by The Washington Post.

Attorneys for a whistleblower suing Halliburton Co. and its former subsidiary, Kellogg Brown & Root, said the statements vio-

late the federal False Claims Act and other laws designed to shield whistleblowers.

They filed a complaint with the Justice Department and the Securities and Exchange Commission, requesting an investigation and demanding that the confidentiality statements be turned over to federal authorities so allegations of fraud can be identified.

Mark Lowes, KBR's vice president of litigation, said the confidentiality statements are designed to protect the integrity of the internal review process, not to conceal information.

From The Washington Post



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NATION



CHRISTINE ARMARIO/AP

Embracing Cuban art

Dancers painted by Cuban artist Manuel Mendive perform at the Studios of Key West in Key West, Fla. Mendive's work is on display as part of an exhibit that organizers say is the first exchange between Cuban and U.S. art museums in more than 50 years.

Debt, deficits recede from national view

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Just four years ago, deficits and debt were an explosive political combination, propelling Republicans to control of the House and fueling the budget fights that would ensue over the next three years.

Today, they are an afterthought — a dying ember in Washington's political and policy landscape.

The nation's annual deficit, the amount the government spends beyond what it receives in revenue, has been cut by nearly two-thirds from its 2009 high, thanks to a combination of tax increases, an improving economy and mandatory across-the-board cuts in programs from defense to transportation to education.

And lawmakers, fatigued by their budget battles, have called a truce and abandoned the brinkmanship that led to unnerving default threats and a partial government shutdown.

As a result, the impulse to cut will be decidedly weaker when President Barack Obama's submits his latest budget plan to Congress early next month. The White House drove home the point Thursday when it said Obama's budget would drop his

‘Deficits and debt remain salient with the Republican base, but the middle has moved on.’

Wes Anderson
Republican pollster

past offer to cut spending on federal benefits with lower cost-of-living increases for beneficiaries.

“It’s hard to deny that there is less political momentum at this moment, in the year 2014, for the type of extensive budget negotiations we saw in 2011 and 2012,” said Gene Sperling, the director of the White House’s National Economic Council and a close Obama adviser.

That doesn’t mean the problem has been solved. Far from it. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office projects deficits will rise again in a couple of years, pushed up by an aging population, rising health care costs and anticipated increases in interest on the nation’s debt, the amount accumulated over the years by deficit spending. But the public has shifted its anger.

The 2008-2009 bank bailouts and the stimulus spending that Obama set in motion in 2009 sparked the revolt in 2010 as swing

voters demanded more fiscal accountability. With another midterm election this year, swing voters appear more concerned about their own personal economic circumstances, and Republicans are focused on making the election a referendum on Obama’s health care law.

A Gallup poll last week showed public preoccupation with debt and deficits falling as concerns over jobs took over as the top worry for Americans. Health care continued to rank among the top problems cited by those surveyed, though it has dropped slightly from its high in November during the botched enrollment rollout of the law.

“Deficits and debt remain salient with the Republican base, but the middle has moved on,” Republican pollster Wes Anderson said. “They were there in 2010, but now they are pretty strongly focused on Obamacare, with the economy as an issue picking up steam.”

Democrats see a chance to undercut GOP governors

By KEN THOMAS AND STEVE PEOPLES
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a campaign season with broad presidential implications, Democrats are working to undercut prominent Republican governors who expect to strengthen their political appeal in November’s midterm elections.

Democrats have few opportunities to improve their numbers in the Senate and House, but leaders in both parties acknowledge that Democrats have a natural advantage in races for governor. Republicans have to defend 22 of the 36 seats up

for election, including six in states that President Barack Obama carried twice: Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Florida, Wisconsin and Maine.

As a bonus for Democrats, there’s even the potential of scoring an early knockout against a potential 2016 Republican presidential contender or two.

Democrats have sought to tarnish New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, who was re-elected last year, as he deals with home-state scandals and hope to extend the scrutiny to Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and Ohio Gov. John Kasich. All three are

potential contenders for the GOP presidential nomination.

At the same time, Republican governors — they control 29 seats — are casting themselves as can-do reformers spending over improving economies.

The political jockeying will be on display Friday as most of the nation’s governors gather in Washington for the annual meeting of the National Governors Association.

“The myth of Republican governors as reformers is dead,” said Vermont Gov. Peter Shumlin, who leads the Democratic Governors Association.

Obama’s budget to drop trims to benefits

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will propose an election-year budget that would drop reductions he had previously embraced in federal benefits, officials disclosed Thursday. He also will ask Congress to approve about \$56 billion in new or expanded programs, stepping back from aggressive efforts to tackle long-term government deficits and debt.

Obama is scrapping his previous offer to trim cost-of-living increases in Social Security and other benefit programs. That idea had been a central component of his long-term debt-reduction strategy, even though it was considered odious by many Democrats.

The decision amounts to a White House acknowledgment that Obama has been unable to conclude a “grand budget bargain” with GOP leaders, even by proposing a benefit reduction embraced by Republicans and opposed by many in his own party. But it is also a testament to the recently diminished importance of government red ink as a driving political issue amid falling deficits and public exhaustion over threats of federal shutdowns and defaults.

Officials said that some potential spending reductions included in last year’s Obama budget had been designed to initiate negotiations with Republicans over how to reduce future deficits and the nation’s debt. But Republicans never accepted Obama’s calls for higher tax revenue to go along with the cuts. The new budget for fiscal 2015 is to be released March 4.

“The president was willing to step forward and put on the table a concrete proposal,” White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. “Unfortunately, Republicans refused to even consider the possibility of raising some revenue by closing some loopholes that benefit only the wealthy and the well-connected.”

Republicans promptly portrayed the White House move as abandoning any commitment to fiscal discipline.

“The one and only idea the president has to offer is even more job-destroying tax hikes, and that non-starter won’t do anything to save the entitlement programs that are critical to so many Americans,” said Brendan Buck, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner.

Obama’s proposal embraces the new, more modest approach to fiscal policy reflected in a recent bipartisan congressional budget agreement. It retains the spending levels agreed to in that budget, but it shifts some specifics. It also proposes closing so-far-unspecified tax loopholes to pay for \$56 billion in what the White House calls an “Opportunity, Growth, and Security Initiative.” That additional spending would be split evenly between military and domestic programs.

Among those programs would be a proposal he offered last year to help achieve universal pre-school education, new proposals to expand job training programs, an expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit, a tax benefit for lower-income workers. The budget also proposes passage of an overhaul of immigration laws.

NATION

After short break, winter returns to central states

By DON BABWIN
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — After a brief respite of sunshine, winter returned to much of the nation's midsection on Thursday, bringing a chilly mix of rain, sleet and snow, and at least one tornado.

The weather accelerated long-awaited melting and added to considerable runoff, raising concerns about flooding. Strong winds in central Illinois produced at least one tornado and 60 mph wind gusts that destroyed several farm buildings and knocked out power to thousands of people, according to the National Weather Service and local officials. There were no reports of injuries.

To the north, in Michigan's upper Peninsula, forecasters predicted as much as 13 inches of fresh snow could fall through Friday. Minnesota expected to get 8 to 10 inches.

The governor of Wisconsin declared a state of emergency ahead of a storm expected to dump more than a foot of snow in places, and some schools closed early.

On the East Coast, Vermont officials expressed the same worry that Michigan authorities voiced the day

before: that wet, heavy snow could cause dangerous road closures.

The snow that piled up in Illinois during weeks of subzero temperatures started to melt in earnest as temperatures rose above freezing on Wednesday and Thursday. As work crews scrambled to clear catch basins of water to prevent flooding, some people took steps to make sure protect their belongings from any floodwaters. Emergency workers evacuated dozens of residents from a nursing home in Illinois' Kankakee County as a precaution.

Meanwhile, river gauges along some of the nation's biggest inland waterways — the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio rivers — showed no immediate cause for alarm.

In the South, the storm threat came from a line of thunderstorms expected to begin forming from St. Louis to Texarkana, Ark., and then moving east, perhaps bringing damaging winds and tornadoes.

The tantalizing spell of mild temperatures will soon be gone. The National Weather Service predicted that temperatures in Illinois could fall as low as 12 degrees on Saturday night and as low as 6 degrees Sunday night.



LLOYD BISHOP, NBC/AP

From left, host Jimmy Fallon, actor Will Ferrell and first lady Michelle Obama perform a skit during Thursday's "Tonight Show."

First lady pays a visit to new 'Tonight Show' host

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Michelle Obama stopped by Jimmy Fallon's revamped "Tonight Show" to chat about family life in the White House and promote two of her causes, healthy eating and fighting fat.

The first lady also put in a plug for her husband's health care law.

Obama appeared in a silly skit with Fallon and comedian Will Ferrell. Then, in a sit-down interview Thursday, told Fallon, who's wrapping up his first week as host of the long-running NBC show, that President Barack Obama and Vice President Joe Biden are getting ready to show America "how they move."

With her signature charm and humor, the first lady also talked about the challenge of raising two young daughters, ages 12 and 15, in the rarified world of the White House.

"They want nothing to do with us," she laughed.

"They really want normalcy and the White House isn't normal," Obama said. "I'll say 'Don't you want to invite your friends over to watch a movie?' They say 'No one

wants to come here.'"

She then cautioned that her older daughter turns 16 this summer and is ready to learn to drive.

"Ladies and gentlemen in D.C. — watch out," she warned with a laugh. "Malia Obama on the road. Frightening."

The first lady also took advantage of her national TV audience to talk about her Let's Move exercise and diet initiative.

"What we're asking people to do is show us how you're moving. We want people to Facebook it, Tweet it, Instagram it." She wants to see "how people around the country are moving."

The hashtag is #LetsMove. If there's enough response, "we'll have a little surprise. The president, and maybe the vice president, will show us how they move," she Obama said.

She also pitched the Affordable Care Act, encouraging young people to sign up for health insurance before the end of March deadline.

Young adults, she said, can now be covered for as little as \$50 a month, "less than the cost of gym shoes."



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL SCHEINMANN, THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC/AP

House Minority Leader Chad Campbell, left, argues that House Bill 2153 would discriminate against gays while Rep. Justin Pierce, right, argues that the bill protects religious rights, in Phoenix on Thursday.

Religious freedom bill riles gay advocates

By BOB CHRISTIE
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — The Arizona Legislature gave final approval to legislation that allows business owners asserting their religious beliefs to refuse service to gays, drawing backlash from Democrats who called the proposal "state-sanctioned discrimination" and an embarrassment.

The 33-27 vote by the House Thursday evening sends the legislation to Republican Gov. Jan Brewer and puts Arizona back at the forefront of a polarizing piece of legislation four years after the state enacted an immigration crackdown that caused a national furor.

Similar religious protection legislation has been introduced in Ohio, Mississippi, Iowa, South Dakota, Tennessee and Oklahoma, but Arizona's plan is the only one that has passed. The efforts are stalled in Idaho, Ohio and Kansas.

Republicans stressed that the bill is about protecting religious freedom and not discrimination. They frequently cited the case of a New Mexico photographer who

was sued after refusing to take wedding pictures of a gay couple and said Arizona needs a law to protect people in the state from heavy-handed actions by courts and law enforcement.

The bill allows any business, church or person to cite the law as a defense in any action brought by the government or individual claiming discrimination. It also allows the business or person to seek an injunction once they show their actions are based on a sincere religious belief and the claim places a burden on the exercise of this religion.

The legislation prompted a heated debate on the floor of the House, touching on issues such as the religious freedom, constitutional protections and civil rights.

Opponents raised scenarios in which gay people in Arizona could be denied service at a restaurant or refused medical treatment if a business owner thought homosex-

uality was not in accordance with his religion. One lawmaker held up a sign that read "No gays allowed" in arguing what could happen if the law took effect, drawing a rebuke for violating rules that bar signs on the House floor.

Democrats also said there were a host of other scenarios not involving sexual orientations where someone could raise their religious beliefs as a discrimination defense.

The bill is backed by the Center for Arizona Policy, a social conservative group that opposes abortion and gay marriage. The group says the proposal is needed to protect against increasingly activist federal courts and simply clarifies existing state law.

"We see a growing hostility toward religion," said Josh Kretzdorf, legal counsel for the group.

All but three Republicans in the House backed Senate Bill 1062 Thursday evening.

The bill allows any business, church or person to cite the law as a defense in any action brought by the government or individual claiming discrimination.

University of Maryland reports data breach

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — The president of the University of Maryland says there has been a breach of a database that contains personal information about more than 300,000 faculty, staff, students, and others.

Wallace Loh said in a statement posted Wednesday on the university's website that the database contained records of those who have been issued a university ID since 1998.

Loh said the database has information from the College Park and Shady Grove campuses. The records include names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and university identification numbers.

The university is working to determine how the breach occurred. Loh said state and fed-

eral law enforcement officials are investigating.

University of Maryland University College, which has long provided courses to troops and DOD civilians overseas, was investigating whether the data breach affected its records.

UMUC, however, "is a completely separately run institution from the University of Maryland College Park," wrote Bob Ludwig, an official with UMUC, in an email. "Both institutions are part of the University System of Maryland."

Officials at UMUC are "currently looking into any impact" the breach may have on their faculty, staff and students.

The University of Maryland is offering one year of free credit monitoring to anyone affected by the breach.

From The Associated Press

NATION

States consider raising age limit to buy tobacco

By KRISTEN WYATT
AND MICHELLE PRICE
The Associated Press

DENVER — Two Western states with some of the nation's lowest smoking rates are considering cracking down even more by raising the tobacco age to 21.

Utah and Colorado lawmakers both voted favorably on proposals Thursday to treat tobacco like alcohol and take it away from 18- to 20-year-olds, a move inspired by new research on how many smokers start the habit as teenagers.

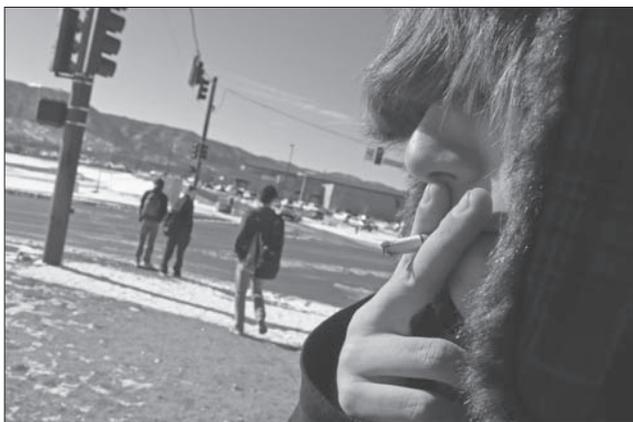
"By raising the age limit, it puts them in a situation where they're not going to pick it up until a much later age," said Marla Brannum of Lehi, Utah, who testified in favor of the idea there.

In Colorado, the testimony was similar — that pushing the tobacco age could make it harder for

teens to access tobacco, and possibly reduce usage rates among adults.

Both proposals face several more votes. But they're the furthest any states have gone to curb access to cigarettes by teens. The director of tobacco studies at University College London didn't know of any other countries considering a tobacco age threshold of 21, but he said raising the tobacco age from 16 to 18 in the United Kingdom proved to be "a public health winner."

A paper published last year in the journal *Annals of Internal Medicine* said that 9 out of 10 daily smokers in the U.S. have their first cigarette by 18 years of age, and that about 90 percent of cigarettes purchased for minors are obtained by people between 18 and 20 years old.



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

A high school student, who preferred not to be identified, smokes a cigarette in a de facto smoking area just off the property of Lewis-Palmer High School, in Monument, Colo. A proposal to raise the tobacco age to 21 in Colorado is up for its first review in the state Legislature.

The Washington-based Campaign For Tobacco-Free Kids advocates the higher smoking age and argues that it could make a serious dent in tobacco deaths down the road.

"We see this as sort of an added step to reducing smoking rates,"

in addition to higher tobacco taxes and other curbs, said Campaign vice president Peter Fisher.

Four states, including Utah, already require tobacco purchasers to be 19. The others are Alabama, Alaska and New Jersey.

Fisher said the 21-for-tobacco

bill is also pending in state legislatures in Hawaii, Massachusetts and New Jersey. Maryland lawmakers considered and rejected the idea this year. New York City last year raised the tobacco age to 21, as did Hawaii County, Hawaii.

Kidnapping suspect was discharged from Reserve

The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — The woman charged with kidnapping her half-sister's newborn this month had been discharged from the U.S. Army Reserve after a year of service, military officials say.

Kristen Smith served in a Wisconsin-based unit from December 2011 until her removal in December 2012, the Army's Human Resources Command in Fort Knox, Ky., said this week following an inquiry from *The Associated Press*.

An involuntary discharge that early into an 8-year commitment signals major problems either with one's service or personal life, but the reason for Smith's cannot be divulged under Army policy, said Army Reserve spokesman Lt. Col. Matthew Lawrence. Such discharges are rare and typically done when soldiers fail to complete training, face legal issues or are seriously injured, he said.

Army spokesman Ray Gall said her departure is considered an "entry-level discharge" since she had slightly less than one year of service. He said it was not the result of a crime or a court-martial, but that he could not elaborate under Army policy.

Smith was federally indicted Wednesday in the Feb. 6 kidnapping of her newborn nephew. Investigators say Smith took him from a southern Wisconsin home where she was visiting her half-sister, and then left him in freezing temperatures in Iowa. Police say the newborn was found 29 hours later.

Smith enrolled in the Army Reserve in Milwaukee and was assigned to the 102nd Military Police Company in Fond du Lac, Wis. Her contract was supposed to run through 2019.

After her unsuccessful military career, public records in Colorado and Texas showed that Smith nonetheless continued to falsely claim she was employed by the Army.



RYAN J. FOLEY/AP

Kristen Smith, right, arrives for a hearing in Iowa last week. A federal grand jury indicted Smith in the kidnapping of her half-sister's newborn.

Judge says NYPD spying on Muslims was legal

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal judge has ruled that the New York Police Department's surveillance of Muslims in New Jersey was a lawful effort to prevent terrorism, not a civil rights violation.

In a decision filed Thursday in federal court in Newark, U.S. District Judge William Martini dismissed a lawsuit brought in 2012 by eight Muslims who alleged that the NYPD's surveillance programs were unconstitutional because they focused on religion, national origin and race. The suit accused the department of spying on ordinary people at mosques, restaurants and schools in New Jersey since 2002.

Martini said he was not convinced that the plaintiffs were targeted solely because of their religion. "The more likely explanation for the surveillance was to locate budding terrorist conspiracies," he wrote.

The judge added: "The police could not have monitored New Jersey for Muslim terrorist activities without monitoring the Muslim community itself."

Farhaq Hassan, a plaintiff and a U.S. soldier who served in Iraq, said he was disappointed by the ruling. "I have dedicated my career to serving my country, and this just feels like a slap in the face — all because of the way I pray."

Farmers expect little water help from Calif.

The Associated Press

FRESNO, Calif. — Federal officials planned to announce Friday how much water they can release this year through a vast system of rivers, canals and reservoirs, but Central Valley farmers on the front lines of California's historic drought expect to get little, if anything.

This time of year the U.S. Bu-

reau of Reclamation carefully measures the mountain snow pack, rainfall and reservoir levels all over California to determine the water available for farmers, fish migrations and communities.

Gayle Holman of the Fresno-based Westlands Water District, the nation's largest supplier of water for agricultural use, said the district has been preparing farmers for grim news that they'll re-

ceive no water this year from the federal government.

"They're all on pins and needles trying to figure out how they're going to get through this," Holman said, adding that Westland's 700 farmers will choose to leave fields unplanted, draw water from wells or pay top dollar for water that's on the market.

Last year, Westland farmers received just 20 percent of what

is considered normal from the federal government's Central Valley Project, while federal water releases for endangered fish remained at 100 percent, causing frustration among farmers.

California officials who manage the State Water Project, the state's other vast water system, have already said they won't be releasing any water for farmers, marking a first in its 54-year history.

NATION

Wealth gap widest in some affluent cities

By JOSH BOAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The gap between the wealthy and the poor is most extreme in several of the United States' most prosperous and largest cities.

The economic divides in Atlanta, San Francisco, Washington, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles are significantly greater than the national average, according to a study released Thursday by the Brookings Institution, the Washington-based think tank. It suggests that many sources of both economic growth and income inequality have coexisted near each other for the past 35 years.

"These cities may struggle in the future to provide adequate public schooling and basic municipal services because of a narrow tax base, and may fail to produce housing and neighborhoods accessible to middle-class workers and families," the study said.

"There's something of a relationship between economic success and inequality," said Alan Berube, a senior fellow at Brookings. "These cities are home to some of the highest paying industries and jobs in the country."

At the same time, Berube noted, many of these cities may be inadvertently widening the gap between rich and poor because they have public housing and basic services that make them attractive to low-wage workers.

The findings come at a delicate moment for the country, still sloggling through a weak recovery from the Great Recession. Much of the nation's job growth has been concentrated in lower-wage careers. Few Americans have enjoyed pay raises. President Barack Obama is pushing for a higher minimum wage. Protesters in San Francisco have tried to block a private bus that shuttles Google employees from gentrifying neighborhoods to their offices in Silicon Valley.

Many wealthy Americans, from venture capitalist Tom Perkins to real estate billionaire Sam Zell, argue that the nation has tipped toward class warfare.

Incomes for the top 5 percent of earners in Atlanta averaged \$20,827 in 2012, the study's almost 19 times more than what the bottom 20 percent of that city's population earned. This ratio is more than double the nationwide average for this measure of income inequality. The top 5 percent of earners across the country have

incomes 9.1 times greater than the bottom quintile.

Major chasms also appeared in the tech hub of San Francisco, the financial center of New York, the seat of the federal government in Washington and the home of the entertainment industry in Los Angeles.

"In San Francisco, skyrocketing housing costs may increasingly preclude low-income residents from living in the city altogether," the study said.

‘Both the tech boom and energy boom are inequality-reducing. Tech introduces a path to good jobs.’

Michael Mandel

Chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute in Washington

10,000 homes for low and moderate-income families by 2020.

Not all tech hubs have witnessed rising inequality.

Seattle, where Amazon and Microsoft are based, saw its income disparity decline since 2007. So did Denver, Austin, Texas, experienced a mild uptick.

"Both the tech boom and energy boom are inequality-reducing," said Michael Mandel, chief economic strategist at the Progressive Policy Institute in Washington. "Tech introduces a path to good jobs."

The Brookings study also found that inequality increased across cities even though incomes often fell for wealthy households between the start of the recession in 2007 and 2012.

During that five-year period, average incomes for the top 5 percent in Jacksonville, Fla., tumbled \$18,999 to \$152,329. But the bottom 20 percent living in Jacksonville lost a greater share of their incomes over that period, so the level of inequality increased.

ments for some of what's owed. James Canty of Detroit's parking division said the city is putting holds on driver's licenses when they come up for renewal, taking motorists who owe money to court and reporting them to credit agencies.

Detroit is trying to get its finances and city services in order as it goes through the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

From The Associated Press



PAUL SAKUMA/AP

A shopper leaves a Gap store in Palo Alto, Calif., in 2009. The nation's largest clothing chain, said it would raise its minimum hourly wage to \$10 by 2015.

Gap's wage-increase plan puts pressure on retailers

By ANNE D'INNOGENIO
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Gap's decision this week to raise the hourly wages of workers at its stores nationwide puts pressure on other major U.S. retailers to do the same.

Following Gap's announcement that it will set the minimum wage for workers at \$9 per hour this year and \$10 per hour in 2015, big store chains from Wal-Mart to Sears said Thursday that they will continue to evaluate their wages.

But ultimately, industry watchers say whether they follow Gap's move will depend greatly on whether or not they decide that they need to in order to remain competitive.

"I think more people will wait on the sidelines and not take on additional expenses," said Ken Perkins, president of RetailMet-

rics, a retail research firm. "It's a gamble on Gap's part."

Gap's move comes at a time when the plight of hourly workers has made headlines. Protests by fast food workers asking for higher pay last year in cities across the country made headlines. Several states are considering raising their minimum wages. And President Barack Obama is endorsing a bill in Congress that includes a proposed increase in the federal minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour by 2016.

There's no question that whatever the major players in the U.S. retail industry decide to do will have a big impact on the job market. In fact, the industry supports one in every four U.S. jobs, representing about 42 million workers.

Still, the industry has mostly shunned the idea of higher wages. The National Retail Federation,

which represents some of the nation's largest retailers, is fighting President Obama's proposal, saying the financial burden could force them to raise prices or reduce workforce.

Indeed, the decision to raise wages is a complex one for stores. Retailers have little wiggle room. To stay competitive, experts say retailers have to offer U.S. shoppers the low prices they demand. But to make a profit, they say they must also keep labor costs low.

The issue is highlighted at a time when the industry's profits are disappointing. Earnings for the fourth quarter, which covered the holiday shopping season, are expected to be down 5 percent compared with a year ago — the worst since the second quarter of 2009 when that figure was down 6.7 percent, according to RetailMetrics' tally of 122 stores.

Police: 4 shot to death at Calif. tribal HQ

The Associated Press

ALTURAS, Calif. — An eviction hearing at a Native American headquarters in Northern California turned deadly as a woman who once served as a tribal leader opened fire, killing four people and critically wounding two others in a gun and knife attack, authorities said.

Cherie Lash Rhoades, a former chairwoman of Cedarville Rancheria, was taken into custody after the bloody attack at the tribal office Thursday afternoon, Alturas police chief Ken Barnes said in media reports.

Barnes said in a story car-

ried by KRCR-TV that the four dead are a 19-year-old woman, a 30-year-old man, a 45-year-old woman and a 50-year-old man. The police chief said one victim is the tribe's leader.

Police said tribal members were meeting about evicting Rhoades and her son from her home at the Rancheria which, according to its website, is a federally recognized tribe with 35 members.

The station's report said that Rhoades is suspected of pulling out a gun and shooting four people in the Cedarville Rancheria Tribal Office and a fifth person who tried to flee. After running

out of bullets, authorities said, Rhoades grabbed a butcher knife and stabbed a person.

One person escaped the building, covered in victims' blood, and ran to the Alturas police station to alert the authorities, the station reported.

When officers arrived, Barnes said, the suspect was outside the building, running and clutching a knife in her hands, but a Rancheria employee helped tackle her and she was quickly subdued and brought into custody.

Authorities said she faces murder and attempted murder charges.

WORLD

Ukrainian defense chief reaches out to Pentagon

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Ukrainian defense minister, who was not answering Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel's phone calls, is now interested in talking to the secretary, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said Friday.

Hagel had been trying unsuccessfully to reach his Ukrainian counterpart, Defense Minister Pavlo Lebedev, for several days as the political crisis in the Ukraine escalated. Nobody at the defense ministry was answering their phones when Hagel called, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters Thursday.

On Friday, Adm. Yuriy Ilyin, Ukraine's new chief of the general staff, called Gen.

Philip Breedlove, the head of U.S. European Command, and said Lebedev was interested in talking to Hagel, according to Warren.

"[The conversation between Ilyin and Breedlove] was a positive call. They discussed the value of our bilateral relationship, and agreed to continue maintaining an open dialogue," Warren said.

Officials at EUCOM had been making efforts to get in touch with their Ukrainian counterparts, Kirby said Thursday.

"The secretary, like all Americans, is deeply troubled by the violence there and shares the outrage of so many over images of the Ukrainian Ministry of Interior forces firing automatic weapons at their own people. He urges the Ukrainian armed forces to continue to refrain from participating in the conflict, a conflict that can and should be resolved politically," he said.

"The reports we are receiving right now from our embassy personnel in Kiev indicate that the armed forces are being used at this time to protect military facilities, including weapons and ammunition storage facilities, and are not involved in the violence against protesters. We certainly hope that remains the case. We are continuing our efforts to arrange for the secretary to communicate directly with Minister Lebedev, but so far the Ministry of Defense has been unresponsive to our requests," Kirby said Thursday.

Kirby described the situation as "pretty unusual," and said nothing like this has ever happened to Hagel since he took office.

Hagel hasn't spoken to Lebedev since December, when he expressed similar concerns about not using force against protesters, according to Kirby.

The Pentagon expected that Hagel would speak to Lebedev sometime Friday, although the exact timing was being worked out Friday morning, Warren said.

Despite the unrest, the Pentagon is not actively planning to evacuate American citizens from the Ukraine, and the State Department has not requested any military assistance. But EUCOM remains ready for that contingency, according to Kirby.

"The European Command commander, Gen. Breedlove, has, as he has had, military resources and assets available to him should there be a need for that. But there's no need for that right now," he said.

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EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

People raise their fists during a rally in Independence Square in Kiev, Ukraine, on Friday.

Changes come fast, furious in Ukraine

Opposition leaders sign agreement to end crisis

By MARIA DANILOVA
AND YURAS KARMANAU
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — In a fast-moving day that could significantly shift Ukraine's political direction, opposition leaders signed a deal Friday with the country's beleaguered president that calls for an early election, a new constitution and a new unity government.

Ukraine's newly empowered parliament also fired the country's despised interior minister and voted to free Yulia Tymoshenko, the former prime minister who has spent more than two years in jail for what supporters say are politically tainted charges.

It was not clear, however, how well the deal would go down with all the sides involved in Ukraine's protracted political crisis. A senior Russian lawmaker immediately criticized it as being crafted for the West, and Ukrainian protesters angry over police violence showed no signs of abandoning their sprawling encampment in central Kiev.

Still, if it holds, the ambitious agreement could be a major breakthrough in a months-long crisis over Ukraine's future, a standoff that worsened sharply this week and left scores dead and hundreds wounded in the worst violence the country has seen since it became independent in 1991.

Within hours of the signing, Ukraine's parliament voted to restore the 2004 constitution that limits presidential authority, clawing back some of the powers that President Viktor Yanukovich had pushed through for himself after being elected in 2010.

Although Yanukovich retains an apparent majority in parliament, he loses the power to nominate the prime minister and to fire the Cabinet. Lawmakers also approved an amnesty for protesters involved in violence.

The Verhovna Rada parliament then



Ukrainian lawmakers celebrate in parliament in Kiev on Friday.

voted to fire the interior minister, Vitali Zakharchenko, who is widely despised and blamed for ordering police violence, including the snipers who killed scores of protesters Thursday in central Kiev.

The next order of business was Tymoshenko. Legislators voted 310-54 to decriminalize the count under which she was imprisoned, meaning that she is no longer guilty of a criminal offense.

It's not immediately clear when she might be released from the jail in the eastern city of Kharkiv.

Three European foreign ministers spent two days and all night trying to negotiate an end to the standoff, which began when Yanukovich decided not to sign a pact with the European Union in November in favor of having closer ties with Russia.

The U.S., Russia and the 28-nation EU are deeply concerned about the future of Ukraine, a nation of 46 million that has divided loyalties between Russia and the West. The country's western regions want very much to be closer to the EU and have rejected Yanukovich's authority in many cities, while eastern Ukraine favors closer ties with Russia.

The agreement signed Friday says presidential elections will be held no later than December, instead of March 2015 as scheduled. Many protesters say December is too late — they want Yanukovich out immediately.

Ukrainian authorities also will now name a new unity government that includes top opposition figures within 10 days.

But neither side won all the points it sought, and some vague conditions could ignite strong disputes down the road.

The deal says the government will not impose a state of emergency and both sides will refrain from violence. It says opposition protesters should hand over any weapons and withdraw from buildings they have occupied and protest camps around the country.

It is far from clear that the thousands of protesters camped out in Kiev on Friday will pack up and go home. No deadline for leaving the camp in central Kiev has been set and many protesters are likely to move out slowly, both because of the emotional closeness the camp fostered and because of distrust that the deal will actually be implemented.

WORLD

265 Anne Frank books vandalized in Tokyo

TOKYO — Anne Frank's "The Diary of a Young Girl" and scores of books about the young Holocaust victim have been vandalized in Tokyo public libraries since earlier this year.

The damage was mostly in the form of dozens of ripped pages in the books. Librarians have counted at least 265 damaged books at 31 municipal libraries since the end of January.

Japan and Nazi Germany were allies in World War II, and though Holocaust denial has occurred in Japan at times, the motive for damaging the Anne Frank books is unclear. Police are investigating.

Massive jade boulder found in Myanmar

YANGON, Myanmar — Soldiers have been sent to northern Myanmar to protect an enormous jade boulder that could weigh up to 10 tons.

The top minister in Kachin state, Lajun Ngan Seng, said the raw jade was discovered in the mining region known as Hpakant just over a week ago.

Still half buried, it's difficult to know its exact size.

But says authorities believe it may be 18 feet high, weighing up to 50 tons.

Myanmar is one of the world's biggest producers of jade, most found in the conflict-torn mountains of Kachin, where ethnic rebels have been fighting the government for more than half a century.

Australian police X-ray suspected diamond thief

CANBERRA, Australia — Australian police searching for a stolen \$180,000 rare pink diamond have X-rayed a British tourist suspected to have swallowed it.

The diamond was snatched from a jewelry store in the northern Australian city of Cairns last weekend by a man who escaped on a bicycle. Police were able to identify the suspect from closed-circuit TV and fingerprints left near the crime scene, and arrested a 29-year-old Briton on Thursday as he attempted to board a flight to New Zealand from an airport in the southern city of Melbourne. Queensland state police said in a statement Friday.

Nicaragua to try 3 men for stealing 2 bananas

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — A court's decision to hold three men for trial for the attempted theft of two bananas is drawing surprise and ridicule from lawyers in Nicaragua.

The bananas stolen are valued at 20 cents. The trial is expected to cost at least \$600.

Prosecutors said in preliminary proceedings Thursday the three men tried to steal the bananas from a fruit vendor in December. They ran with the fruit but were caught. Two are being held at a local jail, and a third is under a form of house arrest. The trial is set for April 23.

From The Associated Press



TSVANGIRAYI MUKWAZA/AP

Former U.S. Congressman Mel Reynolds, foreground, prepares to enter a prison truck while handcuffed following his court appearance Thursday in Harare, Zimbabwe.

Ex-US lawmaker pleads guilty in Zimbabwe

BY GILLIAN GOTORA
The Associated Press

HARARE, Zimbabwe — A Zimbabwe magistrate on Friday ordered former U.S. Rep. Mel Reynolds to pay a fine or face jail time after he pleaded guilty to charges of violating the country's immigration laws.

Reynolds is meant to pay \$100 or to spend five days in prison for failing to renew his visa after it expired on Dec. 10, 2013, said Harare magistrate Tendai Malwe.

"Once the accused has paid his fine or spent time in prison, he must be handed over to the immigration officials for immediate deportation," the magistrate said.

Reynolds, 62, who lost his congressional seat in 1995 after being convicted of statutory rape, was arrested at a hotel in the Zimbabwean capital on Monday.

During proceedings earlier Friday, lawyer Arthur Gurira said Reynolds hadn't renewed his visa because he suffered a mild stroke in early January and "wasn't in the best of health."

Gurira described Reynolds as a "business consultant" who is in Zimbabwe for business purposes.

"He has been a frequent visitor since 2009, and in and out of the country for 17 times and on all those occasions, he didn't overstay and was in strict compliance of the immigration laws in this country," Gurira told the court.

He also appealed to the court to treat Reynolds as a first offender who has never committed any crime in Zimbabwe.

U.S. Embassy officials attended the proceedings Friday and even brought Reynolds some food. However, they declined to speak to the media, citing privacy issues.

Reynolds will appear in court again Friday afternoon on charges of possessing pornography, to which he has pleaded not guilty.

The state alleges that Reynolds had images of naked men and women on his iPhone 4S. He could face up to two years' imprisonment or a hefty fine if found guilty of possessing pornographic material.

Quiet diplomacy faulted for Africa anti-gay laws

BY ROBBIE COREY-BOULET
AND RODNEY MUHUMUZA
The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — Last month, Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni met in his office with a team of U.S.-based rights activists concerned about legislation that would impose life sentences for some homosexual acts. South African retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu joined them by phone, pointing out similarities between Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill and racist laws enforced under South Africa's former apartheid government.

Museveni made clear he has no plans to sign the bill, said Santigie Canton of the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights, who attended the Jan. 18 meeting. "He specifically said this bill is a fascist bill," Canton recalled. "Those were the first words that came out of his mouth."

One month later, however, Museveni appears to have changed his mind, saying through a spokesman last week that he would sign the bill "to protect Ugandans from social deviants." Coming one month after Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan signed into law his country's harsh anti-gay bill, which criminalizes same-sex marriage and activism, Museveni's new position highlights Western governments' apparent inability to temper government discrimination against gays in Africa.

The anti-gay bills are overwhelmingly supported by the general public in both Uganda and Nigeria, providing opportunities to win political points for two presidents eyeing re-election.

But international gay rights activists also blame donor countries, including the United States, which favor behind-the-scenes diplomacy intended to avoid a backlash that might come from more forceful engagement.

"Quiet diplomacy up to the final moment clearly has failed," said Maria Burnett, senior Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch.

"We need a better strategy," said Julie Dorf, senior adviser at the Council for Global Equality. "We do believe that our government here in the U.S. needs to ramp up the potential consequences that countries might face for these regressive anti-human-rights measures. I have no doubt that President Museveni watched very carefully what happened after President Jonathan signed the Nigeria bill. And the truth is, there wasn't much of a reaction."

Several human rights groups are urging U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry to recall his ambassadors to Uganda and Nigeria. The Human Rights Campaign, America's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) civil rights organization, said Wednesday that Kerry should recall the ambassadors because "urgent consultation is required before regular diplomacy can resume."

"The Ugandan and Nigerian governments' decisions to treat their LGBT citizens like criminals cannot be accepted as business as usual by the U.S. government. We urge Secretary Kerry to recall both ambassadors for consultations in Washington to make clear the seriousness of the situation in both countries," said Chad Griffin, president of the group.

China, US establish dialogue between armies

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
The Associated Press

BEIJING — China and the United States moved Friday to establish regular dialogue between their armies as part of efforts to build trust and understanding amid rising regional tensions.

Relations between the two militaries, which have progressed by fits and starts, are now "headed in the right direction," visiting U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Raymond Odierno said.

"I have a very positive opinion on our future relationship as we develop the army dialogue," Odierno told the People's Liberation Army's Chief of the General Staff Gen. Fang Fenghui at a meeting at the Defense Ministry in western Beijing.

"I believe these discussions are important to continue our dialogue. We have many common objectives," Odierno said.

Fang and other Chinese generals with whom Odierno met said a consensus had been reached on holding regular meetings and boosting cooperation between the U.S. and Chinese land forces on topics such as peacekeeping and educational exchanges.

Fang said China agreed with Odierno's suggestion that relations between the two armies should advance on the principles of engagement, sharing and balance.

"I think that is quite a constructive idea," Fang said.

If successful, the army-to-army engagement could prove a boon to American officers who have long attempted to draw the People's

Liberation Army out of its traditional culture of secrecy and mistrust of the U.S. military.

Though no details were given, the sides had also said they planned to discuss regional security matters, a nod to border disputes between China and two U.S. allies — Japan and the Philippines — over territorial claims in the East and South China seas that have raised alarms over the possibility of armed conflict.

The director of intelligence for the U.S. Pacific Fleet, Capt. James Fanell, said last week that Chinese war games held last year were engineered to ready forces to snatch away uninhabited islands from Japan, a move that almost certainly would trigger an American military response.

China also sparked U.S. concerns late last year when it unexpectedly announced an air defense zone encompassing a large swath of the East China Sea, including islands controlled by Japan but claimed by Beijing.

Beijing has refused to recognize the zone or to follow China's demands that its aircraft file flight plans with Beijing's Defense Ministry and heed Chinese instructions. China has warned of unspecified retaliatory measures against aircraft that do not comply, but so far has taken no action.

Odierno's visit began hours before a scheduled meeting later Friday in Washington between President Barack Obama and the Dalai Lama, that drew a strong protest from China.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fishing rope cut from endangered whale

GA SAVANNAH — Wildlife experts cut away more than 280 feet of commercial fishing line being dragged by an endangered right whale off the Georgia coast, though some of the heavy rope had to be left tangled in the whale's mouth, officials said Thursday.

Entanglement in commercial fishing gear and collisions with ships off the East Coast are considered the greatest threats to the right whale's survival. Experts estimate only about 450 of the large whales remain. Each winter they migrate to the warmer waters off Georgia and Florida to give birth to their calves.

It was the first time since 2011 that a right whale snared in fishing gear has been spotted offshore in the Southeast, said Clay Georgia, a marine mammal biologist for the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. He was part of the team that got close enough to the 30-foot whale to sever the three-quarter-inch fishing line using a grappling hook equipped with cutting blades.

Man sues restaurant over mashed potatoes

OR PORTLAND — A man who says he broke two teeth when he bit into some mashed potatoes is suing at Outback Steakhouse restaurant in Portland, Ore.

Roger Branstetter said there were bits of broken porcelain in the food in February 2012 when he cracked two molars, and he said a manager admitted that bits of a broken plate had fallen into the potatoes.

Branstetter is suing the restaurant for \$48,000 in Multnomah County Circuit Court.

Jason Bender, a managing partner of the Evergreen Restaurant Group, which owns the franchise, said he couldn't speak in detail about the case, but hadn't heard of any other customers with a similar complaint. He sa safety is very important to the restaurant.

Quidditch players sweeping into tournament

OK TULSA — College students from across the Southwest are in Tulsa this weekend to compete in a Quidditch competition.

Students from schools in six states, including the University of Arkansas and Wichita State University, will be in Tulsa to compete in the International Quidditch Association's Southwestern Regional Championship.

The full-contact sport has team members mounted on brooms and attempting to score goals by putting the quaffle — similar to a volleyball — through one of three hoops. The sport is inspired by the "Harry Potter" books.

Coach seeks restraining order against parent

WA BENTON CITY — The girls wrestling coach at Kiona-Benton City High

THE CENSUS

\$180K

The amount of fines levied by the District of Columbia during the city's first snow emergency in four years. The city towed 214 vehicles at a cost of \$250 for illegal parking and \$100 in tow fees, totaling \$74,900. Officials say another 436 weren't towed, but owners were fined \$250, for a total of \$109,000.



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

Showing their stuff

Steve Springer, 67, of Hagerstown, Md., and his wife, Pam Springer, 59, perform their swing dance during the Apple Blossom's Got Talent contest preliminary round Thursday in Winchester, Va. The contest finals will be held May 3 during the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival.

School is seeking a restraining order against the school board president.

The request follows an incident at a recent wrestling match in Richland.

School board president Tim Cook is accused of being abusive after he heard coach Holly Graham talking to district officials about his improperly being on the wrestling floor. Cook has a daughter who wrestles for the high school.

Graham said Cook kept trying to get closer to her and kept raising his voice.

Flaws found in new vehicle safety stickers

HI WAIPAHU — Flaws have been found in Hawaii's new vehicle safety stickers.

Kalihi mechanic George Nitta worries that if he can easily wipe numbers off the sticker decals, so can criminals.

Nitta has found he can wipe off the VIN number from a sticker in seconds using nail polish remover. He also said that including the VIN numbers could attract car thieves, who could use the numbers to have locksmiths make sets of keys.

The state began using the new safety inspection program last fall, with mechanics and gas stations using technology to replace the old, paper-based system.

State Department of Transportation spokeswoman Caroline Sluyter said the stickers are designed to hold up under normal washing.

She said the VIN numbers could help deter theft.

Driver arrested after slow interstate chase

NE LINCOLN — A 25-year-old woman has been arrested after a slow-speed chase on Interstate 80 in Lincoln.

The Nebraska State Patrol said Leahlia Beatty, of Beaver Crossing, was taken into custody early Wednesday morning after the vehicle struck a road sign and stopped in a ditch along the interstate. Lancaster County Jail records say Beatty remained in custody later Wednesday. Online court records don't list the name of her attorney.

The patrol said a trooper spotted a vehicle heading east in the westbound lanes at 1:20 a.m. The vehicle did a U-turn and began heading west in the eastbound

lanes. Spiked stop strips flattened the vehicle's tires and it soon went out of control, ending up in the ditch.

The patrol said the 10-minute chase reached speeds of 40 mph.

Man steals military Humvee, goes for ride

FL DELTONA — A 19-year-old man is in custody after deputies say he stole a military Humvee and went on a joyride from Sanford to Deltona.

The Volusia County Sheriff's Office said Jose Quinones was stopped after swerving, running red lights and dragging a construction barrel under the vehicle Wednesday night.

Quinones told deputies he was bored.

He was charged with grand theft, driving under the influence, driving an unregistered motor vehicle and possession of marijuana.

Deltona drivers began calling the sheriff's office about 7:50 p.m. reporting a Humvee swerving with no headlights on. The barrel was released at one point and nearly struck another driver: The Humvee was stolen from a U.S. National Guard facility despite

the steering wheel being locked with a cable and padlock that limited its ability to turn.

Panel OKs daily pledge in public schools

SD PIERRE — Students in all South Dakota public schools should recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily, a state legislative panel decided Wednesday.

The State Affairs Committee voted unanimously to approve a measure that would require each public school district to give students the chance to recite the pledge each day. A student could choose not to take part, but would be required to maintain a respectful silence while others recite the pledge.

The issue became a hot topic in the state after the Sioux Falls School Board decided last year not to extend the lower grades' daily pledge recitation to high schools. That led to a barrage of criticism from around the U.S. — including death threats against some board members. The board later reversed course and asked high school students to recite the pledge daily.

From wire reports

WORLD



THE ORIGINAL KINGS OF GAZA COMEDY

Troupes look for laughs without offending Hamas government

By WILLIAM BOOTH
The Washington Post

GAZA CITY — Two words that rarely appear in the same sentence are “funny” and “Gaza.”

But several troupes of young cutups in the coastal enclave are changing this — very, very carefully.

In the United States, those who run TV shows have to deal with network suits and in-house censors. Say a dirty word on the “Daily Show,” you get a bleep.

Try sneaking something past the militant Islamist movement Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip. They hang traitors here.

“We live in the kind of place that could use a little humor,” said Thaer Munir, 23, of the skit comedy team “Tashwesh Productions,” whose members have managed to stay out of trouble.

Tashwesh, which means static in Arabic, puts its bits up on YouTube and recently began to air a weekly show on the Palestinian Authority’s state TV channel. A video of the group made spoofing Jean-Claude Van Damme’s epic split for a Volvo Trucks ad went viral and got more than 550,000 views. (The visual punch line is

that the cars in Gaza are being pushed, not driven, because of fuel shortages.)

They’re not the only ones trying out a joke. There’s a dance group here that posted a YouTube video with a Gaza version of “Gangnam Style,” in which the guys ride donkeys, wear black-checkered kaffiyeh scarfs and dance in a shawarma joint. In the routine, they visit an ATM (busted), go to the Rafah border crossing to Egypt (closed) and take their soccer balls to Palestine Stadium (bombed).

The five-man troupe responsible for the Van Damme spoof operates out of a fifth-floor apartment in Gaza City. On a recent morning, guests staggered out the five flights because one of Gaza’s daily blackouts had paralyzed the elevator.

Inside the apartment, there was a small table covered with laptops, a bedroom piled with pillows and mats, and a studio with lights, a white canvas background

sheet and a small video camera. Sometimes the Tashwesh team crashes here for days, working round-the-clock.

The members produce a mix of stand-up comedy, skits and man-on-the-street interviews, a Gaza version of Jay Leno walking around Burbank, Calif., and asking the locals about current events.

“We try to touch some dangerous ideas,” said Mahmoud Zaiter, 28, the on-camera ringleader. “But they’re social topics, not political ones.”

Why not?

“It’s a little different here,” he said.

How so?

“You can be arrested.”

Zaiter said the group might someday wade into political humor, but not yet.

Over the years, Hamas has expatriated Gaza youth with government-sponsored campaigns against hair gel, skinny jeans and long hair on men. The movement also

has sought to ban women from riding motorcycles, smoking water pipes in public and running in a now-defunct United Nations-sponsored annual marathon.

“Doing politics is like rubbing salt in the wounds,” Zaiter said.

The Palestinian people have only two real choices when it comes to political representatives — the Fatah party, which dominates in the West Bank and controls the Palestinian Authority, and the Hamas movement, which runs Gaza. The political entities have promised to mend their broken ties but have failed.

“We want to gain the people’s trust, so then if we do have some fun with the politics, they know us, they know where we are coming from,” Zaiter said.

Right now, they make jokes about electricity outages, high unemployment, and the difficulty of traveling — anywhere.

Most of the five have never left Gaza, whose neighbors, Israel and Egypt, tightly restrict entries from the strip.

“We seek to find the beautiful side of Gaza. We tell the people tomorrow is going to be better, that there is a happy future,” Zaiter said.

“Of course, sometimes we lie about this,” said Munir.

Above: Members of a comedy troupe called “Static” goof around on the streets of Gaza City. From left, Mahmoud Zaiter, Ibrahim Khalil, Thaer Munir and Hesham Khattab. Comedy troupes are starting to add some laughter to the Gaza Strip, but very, very carefully, they say.

WILLIAM BOOTH/The Washington Post

NATION

'Pit bull grandma'



PHOTOS BY PAUL ZOELLER, THE (CHARLESTON, S.C.) POST AND COURIER/AP

Janet Frisco walks her dogs in January near a poster alerting others about dogs being used for fighting in Summerville, S.C.

SC Woman working to stop dogfighting

By DAVE MUNDAY
The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

CHARLESTON, S.C. — She calls herself “the pit bull grandma,” and she’s on a one-woman campaign to ferret out dogfighters in the Charleston area.

Janet Frisco, who lives near Summerville, has been putting up posters asking people to report dogfighting. She got them from the Humane Society of the United States, which says dogfighting remains a problem around the country and is offering a \$5,000 reward for the arrest and conviction of anyone involved.

Frisco put one of the posters near some railroad tracks off Lincolnville Road, where she found a dead dog about Thanksgiving 2012. She’s convinced that somebody was disposing of a pit bull used to train fighting dogs.

“I’ve seen them all over the place,” said Frisco, who owns two pit bulls, herself. “If I hadn’t found the previous five, I might have thought it was just a random thing. This is a hidden crime that goes on all the time. All the stolen pets and numerous dead dogs I

have found are the tell-tale signs that it exists.”

She said one of the dogs had its mouth taped shut, indicating it was used as a bait dog. But that was several years ago and is no help to law enforcement officials now. Concerning the dog on the tracks, Charleston County Animal Control officers said they saw no evidence that it wasn’t simply a dead dog.

Aldwin Roman is manager of anti-cruelty efforts and outreach for the Charleston Animal Society. He said Frisco is probably right to be concerned about dogfighting, but officers would need some specific leads to do anything about it.

“It’s definitely still a problem,” Roman said, “but it’s very hard to find and prosecute, because dogfighting has been pushed underground.”

The shelter staff sometimes sees wounded animals that appear as if they may have been used as bait dogs, but it’s hard to say they weren’t hurt in scraps with other dogs, he said.

“That’s where it gets difficult to prosecute,” he said. “I think she should keep putting up the

posters.”

The most notorious dogfighting case in the Charleston area occurred when David Ray Tant of Ravenel was arrested in 2004. Nearly 50 dogs that investigators said he was breeding for fights were seized from his property after a land surveyor stumbled onto one of his booby traps and was wounded. Tant spent six years in prison and was released on parole in 2010.

When Tant was paroled, the state had a dogfighting task force under the attorney general’s office. The task force was disbanded due to lack of funding, a spokeswoman for the attorney general’s office said last week.

Frisco said that’s why she’s been putting up posters, to reignite some concern over the problem.

“It appears there is a tolerance for animal cruelty of this sort,” she said. “It’s just basically that nothing is being done.”

Frisco lives in Dorchester County, and she’s been trying to convince the county’s animal-control officers to do more about people who breed and sell pit bulls for fighting. She said sev-



Janet Frisco takes her dogs, Missy and Buster, for a walk near railroad tracks in Summerville, S.C. Frisco has been putting up posters asking people to report dogfighting.

eral pit bulls that escaped in her neighborhood and were rounded up not long ago were being raised for fights.

Dorchester County officials said they would need more evidence to do anything.

“We’ve not seen any evidence of it,” Supervisor Melissa Hopkins said. “We do keep our eyes

open. If we saw any evidence of dogfighting, we would call in the sheriff’s office.”

Frisco also has been talking with the Dorchester County Sheriff’s Office, and she said they should be more aggressive.

Chief Deputy Sam Richardson said he would investigate if he had some evidence of a crime.

LIFESTYLE

Pellet stove sales HEAT UP



Larry Dejno shows the fuel source — made out of compressed sawdust and wood shavings — used in pellet stoves and furnaces.

Fuels made from compressed biomass help some stave off high energy costs

By RICK BARRETT
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE

Steve Schutz of New Berlin, Wis., knows how frustrated people can get when their heating bills soar and they have only one choice of heating fuel, such as propane, which has tripled in price in recent weeks.

Schutz, owner of Sunnystope Gardens Inc., lowered his heating bill between \$2,000 and \$3,000 a year by installing wood pellet stoves in his greenhouses and home nine years ago.

Now the stoves are his primary heating source, supplemented by natural gas.

Every morning, Schutz checks his stoves and empties the ash pots. It takes him about an hour to make the rounds for six stoves before he leaves them unattended.

"There is a learning curve. You're dealing with fire, so you have check things," he said.

A lot of people appear to be lining up for that learning curve, especially in rural areas, where they've faced propane shortages as well as rising prices.

National trade groups say sales of pellets and pellet stoves are climbing this year, the result of a winter people are likely to remember for decades.

Dejno's Inc., a pellet manufacturer in Kenosha, Wis., has seen its business heat up as more people turn to pellet stoves and dial back their propane use.

The Kenosha mill takes sawdust and shavings from companies in the home construction industry and presses those waste materials into pellets.

It keeps the waste out of landfills and is a renewable source of homegrown energy, said Larry Dejno, company vice president.

The stoves burn compacted pellets, usually made of wood, but some models can burn nutshells, corn kernels and small wood chips. They're more convenient to operate than ordinary wood stoves or fireplaces, and some have much higher heating efficiencies, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

A stove rated at 60,000 Btu can heat a 2,000-square-foot home, while a stove rated at 42,000 Btu can heat a 1,300-square-foot space, the agency says.

What most homeowners want to know is how much money they could save from heating with a pellet stove compared with using propane, fuel oil or natural gas.

With propane priced at more than \$4 a gallon, an equivalent amount of heat from wood pellets would be about five times cheaper, according to Mark Knaebe, forest products technologist with the USDA Forest Products Laboratory.

"It's a no-brainer for propane and fuel oil users. You would want to switch over to a good wood system," Knaebe said.

For someone heating with natural gas, the savings wouldn't amount to much, Knaebe said. That could change, though, if natural gas prices were to increase considerably, as they have in the past.

As propane and fuel oil prices rise, so do pellet stove sales.

The best time to buy a stove and pellets is in the summer, when people have forgotten about heating costs and stove dealerships want to clear out inventory from the previous winter. Stove prices vary widely, from about \$1,200 to \$4,000, plus installation and other costs that could include a higher home insurance premium for having a wood burner. The cost of pellets is about \$4 per 40-pound bag, with many homeowners using a bag a day to heat their homes or supplement another source of heat.

Most of the stoves don't need an expensive chimney. Free-standing units resemble a conventional wood stove and generally heat a single room well. But they won't heat adjacent areas unless there's a fan to move the warm air between rooms.

The stoves have a fuel hopper to store the pellets until they're needed for burning. Most hoppers hold 35 to 130 pounds of fuel.

A feeder device, like a large screw, drops a few pellets at a time into a combustion chamber for burning. How quickly the pellets are fed into the burner determines the heat output.

The stoves have to be cleaned by the homeowner, including emptying a pot that holds the ashes. They also require electricity to run fans, controls and pellet feeders. Under normal usage, a stove would use about \$9 worth of electricity a month, according to the Department of Energy.

The stoves produce very little air pollution, according to the Department of Energy.



PHOTOS BY RICK WOOD, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

Top: Larry Dejno stands in front of a machine that grinds sawdust and wood shavings into pellets to be used in pellet stoves and furnaces. **Above:** Dejno has seen an increase in the sales of pellets as more homeowners turn to pellet stoves for home heating.

VIDEO GAMES



"World of Tanks" is a massive team-based multiplayer online game dedicated to armored warfare in the mid-20th century.

Photos courtesy of wargaming.net

Clash of the TITANS

'World of Tanks': Free-to-play game done right

Overall grade: **B+**

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

“World of Tanks: Xbox 360 Edition” is the follow-up to the 2011 cult favorite that has a fairly

sizable community active on the PC. As you might have surmised, this version is for the Xbox 360, with all that Xbox Live has to offer to boost the experience — voice chat, quick matchmaking and a solid infrastructure that allowed me flawless, lag-free play, even on my woefully slow internet connection.

It is a free-to-play game, but while that moniker might bring to mind recent missteps like EA's "Dungeon Keeper," "WoT" holds world records for number of players on a single server. You don't get that popular by cheating customers. This game is firmly in the "does free-to-play right" camp.

As players engage in matches, they earn "silver," as well as experience, which can be used to unlock other tanks, tank upgrades and paint jobs that last seven to 30 days. That silver can't be turned into gold, though. Real-world money can buy gold, which will get you unlocks that you can't earn through gameplay, but they're mostly tanks that are on par with versions that are unlockable through gameplay. So folks who believe they can buy their way to victory here will be sadly mistaken.

When reviewing this game, I played half the time seeing how far I could go without spending a dime. The other half I used gold that we were provided for review purposes. By the time I hit a grind wall, I had a tank that was doing pretty well in combat. The more I played, the better the tanks I unlocked. It does take time to get to the best tier, and yes, you



Throw yourself into epic tank battles and go shoulder-to-shoulder with other steel cowboys to dominate the world with tank supremacy in "World of Tanks."

can buy your way there, if you choose to. However, my win ratio didn't magically go up because I bought a tank, and I was teamed with players with equal tanks that I could eventually unlock through play alone. The system isn't perfect, as some of the unlocks would take a ton of play to see, but, hey, the game is free and offers a full-fledged experience for zero dollars.

The game's philosophy is easy to discern from the first half of its name. "World of Tanks," in this case, means players can progress through a tiered set of 100 different World War II-era tanks, each with its own handling, speed, firepower and aiming mechanics. There are heavy, medium and light tanks, as well as artillery and tank-destroyer classes. Each vehicle has a different role. Some are made for assault, some are long-range fire and some are made to zip around the battlefield spotting enemies for the rest of the team, which nets them experience points. Each of them feels suitably tank-like, with ponderous turning speed and a heavy feel to the controls.

Tank combat here is fairly basic;

swinging your turret around and fire on the enemy before they do the same. There is some depth to battles, though. Firing at the front of a heavily armored opponent will do some damage, but hitting the broadside usually deals armor-piercing damage that takes off a larger chunk of health. In addition, hitting a tank's tread can immobilize an enemy, and taking out their gunner can decrease accuracy. It's not the most complex combat you'll find in a multiplayer shooter, but it's easy to pick-up and learn.

History buffs will get a kick out of playing with the selection of American, British or German tanks, some of which never saw battle, like the T92 or the British Tortoise.

I was partial to the faster-moving tanks — mostly because I am a terrible shot and gained more points by spotting enemies for my teammates than I ever did engaging in direct combat.

What's best about driving the tanks is the fact that you make your own lanes in combat. A tree is in your way? Drive over it. An enemy ducks behind a building to escape your righteous wrath? Blow up the

wall. Not all objects on the maps are destructible, which is sort of a shame, but there is enough carnage to be wrought to appease most.

The matches themselves aren't complicated. You choose your tank and roll into a battle that combines aspects of traditional deathmatch and capture-the-flag matches with up to 14 other players. The object is to either destroy the other team, or to capture the other team's flag by forging over their defenses and holding position on their base for a count of 100 (the count ticks down faster the more tanks there are holding the base).

The maps are spacious enough that what ends up being the most successful tactic is to charge the enemy's base and try to fend off their counterattacks.

Sadly, you can't choose the map you play on or the number of players in each match. Those are selected for you automatically. This makes a negligible difference in gameplay, and players might get a little sick of playing on the same couple of maps that seem to be in rotation more than the others. The best map is an expansive desert area that features rolling hills and a mostly destructible town that allow for mini ambushes, quick engagements and awesome cat-and-mouse games.

In the wake of free-to-play disasters like "Dungeon Keeper," it's refreshing to find an experience that doesn't feel cheap, either in gameplay or implementation of paywalls. "World of Tanks: 360 Edition" does a lot right, and very little wrong.

It's not the most complex game out there, but it is the very definition of "a great little game." It does exactly what the title suggests by giving players a world of tanks to play with, and engaging gameplay to keep them entertained.

Bottom line: B+ If you're looking for a great pick-up-and-go game that won't dig into your bank account, you're really not going to find much better than "World of Tanks."

Platform: Xbox 360

Online: worldoftanks.com



LIFESTYLE

Dogs have their day

Chiropractors' technique treats pooches by adjusting their nervous systems

By DON WORTHINGTON
The Rock Hill Herald

WITH HIS protective goggles and golden locks, Ruff — he goes by just one name — has the swagger of a rock or sports star.

But Ruff's swagger came to a halt this fall. He was diagnosed with a torn ACL — an anterior cruciate ligament — and the prognosis was a costly surgery. As many star athletes know, at worst a torn ACL is a career-ending injury. At best, it means lots of rehab after the surgery and the nagging voice in your head that repeats over and over, "Don't do that, you might get hurt again."

Ruff underwent a treatment some consider controversial. Dr. Mark Kimble of Rock Hill, S.C., gently studied and adjusted Ruff's back with a tool that looked like a big syringe but has no needle. A laser focused deep heat into the tissue of his inflamed knee.

Now, just two months after his injury, Ruff is back on his game, running just as fast as ever while nudging and wagging his tail.

Yes, Ruff is a dog. A lovable cocker spaniel with floppy ears, inquisitive eyes and a cold nose.

But he wasn't like that last fall when his owners, Bert and Sally Baire of Rock Hill, noticed him limping. They thought the problem was caused by a stone breeze in a paw, and they applied ointment. Or maybe it happened after he chased another dog out of their yard.

Regardless, the Baires took 10-year-old Ruff to the vet. One vet said it was a torn ligament in the knee area. A second vet said it was a torn ACL and recommended surgery at a cost of about \$2,500.

Sally Baire told Kimble about Ruff's pain when she was at Kimble Chiropractic for a back adjustment.

His response was, "Bring Ruff in," explaining that he and his father, Donald, have cared for about 60 dogs, cats, even a squirrel, since starting Kimble Veterinary Orthopedic Manipulation several years ago.

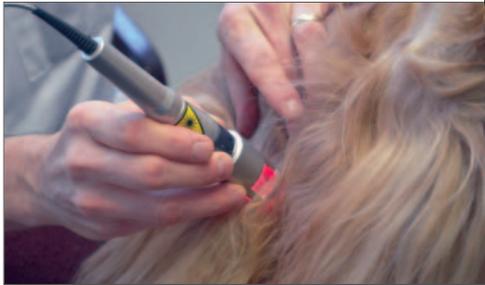
It wasn't the first time patients have asked about their pets' pain. Kimble remembers the first time. A patient told him about her dachshund who had a bad case of road rash and was dragging its leg. The owner brought the dog to the chiropractic office, and Kimble treated it. Within a few minutes, the dog "was walking and barking," Kimble said.

Dr. Roger DeHaan, who describes himself as a "holistic" veterinarian, reports similar success. DeHaan, who lives in Kings Mountain, N.C., has a degree in veterinary medicine, is certified as an animal chiropractor and in the veterinary orthopedic ma-



PHOTOS BY DON WORTHINGTON/Rock Hill (South Carolina) Herald

Above: Rock Hill, S.C., chiropractor Dr. Mark Kimble treats cocker spaniel Ruff while Ruff's owner, Sally Baire, steadies her pet. **Right:** Ruff sports a pair of protective goggles. **Below:** Kimble uses a laser to treat Ruff's knee.



Dr. Donald Kimble cautioned that it

doesn't always work, but estimated their success rate between 90 and 95 percent. He said they can usually tell whether the treatments are working after just a couple of visits. Animals that don't respond are referred back to their vets, he said.

Last week's treatment for Ruff was his eighth. Cost so far for the Baires is less than \$500, one-fifth the cost of surgery.

But more importantly, "there's no limping at all and that tickles us pink," Sally Baire said. The Kimbles revel in the successes of Ruff and other dogs they've treated. Mark Kimble says part of their success story is their love of animals. He has two dogs, a German Shepherd-Lab mix and a mutt, who have received VOM treatments.

"It's just fun," Donald Kimble said. "Dogs can't talk, but there's their wagging tails, jumping on and off the table and into pickup trucks or cars when they leave. That's rewarding."

nipulation, or "VOM," techniques used by the Kimbles.

His first case was a Rottweiler in pain. The owner wanted to put him down, but DeHaan convinced him to come to his house for treatment. In just five minutes the Rottweiler was "running around like a puppy," DeHaan said.

Since then, "I've seen miracle after miracle," DeHaan said. Advocates of VOM say it can treat a variety of ailments from lameness to incontinence, esophageal problems and digestive disorders. The Kimbles and DeHaan took many hours of training to become VOM-certified.

Not everyone endorses VOM, however. A 2007 study of pain by the American Animal Hospital

Association cautioned that "chiropractic methods potentially can cause injury through the use of inappropriate technique or force."

Practitioners of VOM locate the areas of an animal's nervous system that have "fallen out of communications."

These areas — subluxations, in medical jargon, dislocations of joints, bones or organs, in simple terms — can be found through a simple and gentle probing of an animal's spine. While dogs can't talk, VOM practitioners such as Kimble or DeHaan are looking for responses, much like the proverbial knee-jerk reaction you get at your doctor's physical. But the responses are more obvious in an-

imals. Even if they can't talk, they communicate with their doctors, said the Kimbles and DeHaan.

Once the problem areas are located, Kimble makes more passes with the adjustment tools. The reason these tools are preferred over using hands is that the adjusting tool fires at a rate of 2 to 4 milliseconds, five to 10 times faster than an animal's ability to resist adjustment, according to VOM literature.

In Ruff's case, laser treatment followed the adjustments, sending heat deep into his tissues to reduce inflammation and promote healing.

If the passes hurt, it isn't obvious. To the contrary, Ruff appeared to enjoy Mark Kimble's tender touch, the adjustment tool and the laser massage. He looked as if he would fall asleep while his owner held him. Dogs, Kimble said, can sense a compassionate touch and look forward to it.

Practitioners of veterinary orthopedic manipulation locate the area of an animal's nervous system that have 'fallen out of communication.'

HEALTH & FITNESS

Fuel with fruit

Homemade energy bars give long-distance runners a boost

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Tempting as it might be to cozy up on the couch and hibernate during winter, slacking off is not an option for marathon runners.

Some 30,000 runners from across the U.S. and beyond are expected to participate in the 2014 Dick's Sporting Goods Pittsburgh Marathon and UPW's Health Plan Pittsburgh Half Marathon on May 4. And despite the snow and cold, the vast majority has already logged several of many planned training runs.

My daughter, Catherine, and I are already a month deep into our 16-week schedule, which includes grueling speed workouts and torturous hill repeats on top of early-morning long runs every Saturday, in any and all kinds of weather. (Single digit temps? That's what face masks and hand warmers are for.) It's fun, but it also means that until Mothers Day, I'm going to be sore, grumpy and not much fun during Friday night happy hours.

Not to mention hungry. Running, of course, burns calories — roughly 100 a mile at a moderate pace. Only problem is, you don't always feel like eating before you hit the track or trail, especially when you have to drag your body out of bed before dawn. Many runners, in fact, barely can choke down a handful of Cheerios with their coffee before a morning workout, let alone a bowl of oatmeal, one of the most recommended pre-workout foods for a run of an hour or more.

Still, dashing out the door on an empty stomach is a mistake.

Eating before training has been shown to improve performance. And isn't that every marathoner's goal — to be able to perform?

Unless you're the type who eats before going to bed, you're going to wake up with a completely empty tank. (Remember, your body has been fasting for eight or more hours.) That could lead to fatigue or dizziness during your workout or worse, running out of energy completely before the big finish. Do your

body good, and you'll run strong.

The best pre-run breakfast consists mainly of carbohydrates, since they're quickly digested and are your body's preferred fuel source, says Heather Mangieri, a registered dietitian and spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics who works with endurance athletes. Aim for about 30 grams for runs longer than an hour or intense workouts. You also need a little protein to help reduce post-exercise muscle soreness.

One easy solution is a homemade energy bar. They're easy to make the night before, good for the body and require no thinking the morning of. Just grab and go.

The main benefit of a homemade bar as opposed to, say, a CLIF bar, notes Mangieri, is that you can adjust the ingredients based on individual taste and needs. Looking to cut a few calories? Simply omit the nuts or cut them into smaller portions. Not crazy about raisins? Substitute dried cranberries or blueberries or chop up a handful of dried apricots. Or add all three.

How big a bar you'll want to eat depends on how much time until takeoff, the number of miles planned and how fast you're going to log them; the fuel required to run five or six miles is completely different from the amount needed to crank out 10 or 12 miles. If you plan on starting your run within an hour, opt for a smaller portion that weighs in at about 200 calories, if you have more time to digest, go for a larger-sized bar that will provide closer to 300 calories, Mangieri says.

My personal favorite was probably the blackberry breakfast bar, which combines the perfect amount of crunch with gooey sweetness. But you can't go wrong with the simple cereal-and-fruit bar made with puffed rice and cashew butter that Mangieri suggests. It's crunchy, buttery, sweet and satisfying all at the same time, and only 220 calories. The DIY banana-oat energy bar I found in the new "Runner's World Cookbook" also is a winner, especially since it's a great way to use up those bananas you let ripen on the counter a day or two too long.



PHOTOS BY GRECHEN MCKAY, PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE/MCT

How can something made with blackberries not be good? Crunchy with a gooey center, these breakfast bars are packed with immune-boosting vitamin C and antioxidants, which help fight inflammation.

SUPER-SIMPLE CEREAL-AND-FRUIT BAR

1 cup rice cereal (such as Rice Krispies)
 1 cup uncooked quick-cooking oats, whole or ground in a food processor
 3 tablespoons ground flaxseed
 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/4 cup chopped dried fruit
 1/2 cup chopped walnuts or almonds (or whatever nut you prefer)
 1/4 cup brown rice syrup, honey or molasses
 2 tablespoons dark brown sugar
 1/2 cup nut butter (almond, cashew, peanut, etc.)
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 tablespoon honey, for drizzling
 In a large bowl, combine rice cereal, oats, flax seed, cinnamon, dried fruits and nuts. Mix well. (A large bowl is recommended because you will need extra room for when the other ingredients are added.)

In a small saucepan over medium-high heat, bring syrup and brown sugar to a boil, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Stir in nut butter and vanilla.

Pour hot nut butter mixture into the bowl of dry ingredients, stirring well (mixture will be very stiff). Use a piece of wax paper to press the mixture into an 8-by-8-inch pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Let cool.

Drizzle 1 tablespoon honey over the top of the pressed, cooled mixture. Cut into 8 bars. Wrap each bar individually in plastic wrap and store in the refrigerator.

Makes 8 bars.
 Nutrition per bar: 220 calories, 30 grams carbs, 6 grams protein, 9 grams fat

Heather Mangieri, Nutrition Checkup (nutritioncheckup.com)

BANANA-OAT ENERGY BARS

These high-carb bars are extremely filling, so you may want to portion them a bit smaller. I substituted pecans and raisins.

3/4 cup chopped walnuts
 2 very overripe bananas
 1/2 cup vegetable oil
 1 cup unbleached cane sugar or granulated sugar
 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 1/2 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
 1/4 cup unbleached all-purpose flour (or replace up to 1/2 cup with whole-wheat flour)
 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
 1/2 teaspoon salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
 3/4 cup dried cranberries
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Coat an 8-by-8-inch baking pan with cooking spray.

Spread nuts on an ungreased baking sheet and toast in oven for 5 to 8 minutes, or until fragrant.

Meanwhile, mash bananas in a medium mixing bowl. Add oil, sugar and vanilla extract. Mix until smooth.

In large mixing bowl, combine oats, flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg and baking soda. Add banana mixture and stir until just combined. Fold in the nuts and cranberries, being careful not to overmix.

Pour mixture into prepared pan and spread evenly. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes, or until top is browned and a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out nearly clean. Allow to cool completely before cutting.

Makes 12 bars.
 Nutrition per bar: 303 calories, 41 grams carbs, 3 grams fiber, 4 grams protein, 15 grams total fat/2 grams saturated fat

"The Runner's World Cookbook: 150 Ultimate Recipes for Fueling Up and Slimming Down" (Rodale)

BLACKBERRY BREAKFAST BARS

Crunchy on top and fruity in the middle, these easy breakfast bars are loaded with slow-release carbs and fiber. Blackberries also are high in immune-boosting vitamin C and antioxidants, which help fight inflammation. So go ahead, have another after your run!

For filling:
 2 cups blackberries, defrosted if frozen
 2 tablespoons sugar
 2 tablespoons water
 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
 Finely grated zest and juice of 1/2 lemon
 1 teaspoon cinnamon

For bar:
 1 cup whole-wheat flour
 1 cup rolled oats
 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
 1 teaspoon cinnamon, plus more for dusting
 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
 1 stick (8 tablespoons) butter, melted

Put all filling ingredients in a large saucepan over medium heat and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for about 10 minutes, stirring regularly, until blackberries are breaking down and taking on a sauce-like appearance (it will be thin). Remove from heat and set aside.

Put flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon and baking soda into a medium bowl. Add butter and stir until well combined.

Press half the oat mixture into an even layer in a greased 8-inch square baking pan and place in a preheated oven, at 350 degrees, for 20 minutes.

Let cool slightly, then spread blackberry filling evenly over the crust. Sprinkle over remaining oat mixture; use your hands to gently press it into the filling.

Return to oven for another 20 minutes, until topping is golden. Let cool, then cut into 16 bars to serve.

Makes 16 bars.

"Eat Yourself to Energy: Ingredients & Recipes to Power You Through the Day" by Gill Paul (Hachette)

These delicious, easy-to-make cereal-and-fruit energy bars are made with puffed rice, oatmeal, dried fruit and cashew butter.



ENTERTAINMENT

60 years an actor, Oscar nominee June Squibb takes a bow

BY JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

June Squibb recently ducked into a Times Square office above the theaters she spent decades knocking about, taking any decent part she could get.

"We ran around," she recalls. "We ate matinee days."

After a lifetime of Broadway, regional theater, cabaret, musicals, summer stock and bit movie roles, Squibb is, at 84, an Oscar nominee. Her supporting actress nod came not for playing — as you might expect — a dignified elderly woman or regal historical figure, but for a prickly, foul-mouthed Midwestern matriarch who, in her most memorable scene, lifts her skirt up at a gravestone. In Alexander Payne's "Nebraska," her Kate Grant epitomizes heartland tenacity.

The accolades (she was most recently given the Virtuoso Award at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival) have brought Squibb more attention than she's ever received in a career spanning 60 years, from playing the stripper Electra in "Gypsy" on Broadway in 1960 to a tough-talking secretary in "Scent of a Woman."

If Squibb were to win the Academy Award, she'd be the oldest ever to win for acting. It's a very welcome victory lap for a veteran used to working in near-anonymity. The actress Margo Martindale, Squibb's friend and former Upper West Side neighbor of 30-plus years, says: "I tried to call her for three days, but, you know, she's too busy!"

Squibb, who has Kate's matter-of-factness but not her coarse frankness, has enjoyed the attention with a sincere but bemused gratitude.

"It's not like I just all at once burst out acting," she says. "I've been doing this for years. I've enjoyed the film work tremendously. So the fact that it comes in film, rather than in stage, I feel like I belong."



Get the latest on the
Academy Awards at
stripes.com/oscars2014

Squibb grew up the daughter of an insurance salesman and a piano-playing mother in the small town of Vandalia, Ill. "It was never, 'I want to be' or 'This is what I'll do,'" she says. "It was 'I am.' That's all I knew I was: 'I'm an actress.' I have no idea where it came from. None."

She worked primarily in musicals before making an abrupt shift to drama. She later made a similar move into movies. At 60, she landed the first three parts she auditioned for: Woody Allen's "Alice," "Scent of a Woman" and Martin Scorsese's "The Age of Innocence."

She credits her evolution as an actress entirely to her late second husband, Charles Kakatsakis, a well-known acting instructor who demanded realism.

"He used to scream in class: 'Don't act! Don't act!'" says Squibb. "I would say, 'Well, what do you do then?' And he said, 'Listen to what the other actors are saying and if any of them talk to you, answer them back.'"

Squibb first heard about the "Nebraska" role from Martindale, who starred in Payne's "Paris je t'aime" short film, and recommended the script to Squibb. Squibb had worked with Payne before, playing Jack Nicholson's wife in "About Schmidt," but the director didn't initially think of her for "Nebraska." He changed his mind after Squibb sent in an audition tape with two versions of Kate, one

volatile and the other more controlled.

In the film, Kate

starts as what seems a typically combative (albeit especially voluble) spouse to Bruce Dern's Woody Grant, an aging alcoholic with senility setting in. Though much of the film revolves around Woody's relationship with one of his two sons (Will Forte), Squibb provides, as she says, some "spice" to the melancholy tale, often recalling a youth when all the boys were trying to "get in my bloomers."

They make for a portrait of marriage defined not by the high ideals of love but simply hanging together. One of the movie's most tender moments comes when Kate calls Woody "you big idiot."

"There are parts of her that I relate to," says Squibb. "Her strength."

Dern, also nominated for an Oscar, says all his costar ever needed was "someone to manually turn on the faucet that is June Squibb."

"Her cause is similar to mine, if you want to call them causes," says the 77-year-old Dern. "Her journey. She's had to work a long, long time with what comes down the road. Finally, a guy wrote a part for her."

Squibb has soaked up the parade of awards dinners and events this Oscar season, taking the time to become friendly with her fellow nominee (and perceived front-runner) Lupita Nyong'o of "12 Years a Slave." She greeted her: "We're in this together. I think I should introduce myself." Since filming "Nebraska," Squibb has appeared on Martindale's CBS sitcom "The Millers" and has an upcoming role as Lena Dunham's grandmother in "Girls." Retirement, never a thought before, is out of the question for both her and Dern. "This is wonderful," she says. "We're thrilled and proud of the film. But, really, both of us want to go on to another job."

She plans to attend the Academy Awards with her son, Harry Kakatsakis, a filmmaker. Squibb shared the morning of Oscar nominations with him.

"I said, 'Harry, did they really call my name?'" says Squibb. "I wasn't sure. I truly wasn't. And he said, 'Yes, mom. They did. You did it.'"

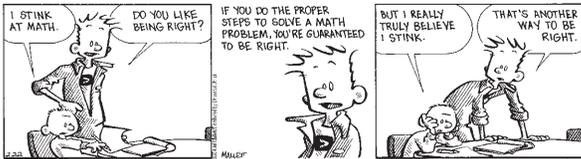
“It's not like I just all at once burst out acting. I've been doing this for years.”

June Squibb

DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP



Frazz



Dilbert



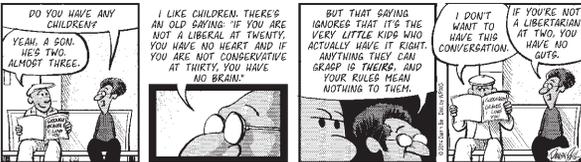
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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ACROSS

- 1 Vends
- 6 Plant swelling
- 11 Decide not to participate
- 12 Ado
- 14 Twosome
- 15 State section
- 16 Cow's chaw
- 17 Wooden strips
- 19 Upper limit
- 20 Handled
- 22 Mainlander's memento
- 23 Conflagration
- 24 Put back to zero
- 26 Everlasting
- 28 — de mer
- 30 Sticky stuff
- 31 Lowered in rank
- 35 Ice —
- 39 Historic periods
- 40 Came together
- 42 "Portnoy's Complaint" writer
- 43 Grecian vessel
- 44 Clean software
- 46 Pi follower
- 47 Family member
- 49 One with a younger BF
- 51 To-do list entry
- 52 Take umbrage at
- 53 Denominations
- 54 Obliterate

DOWN

- 1 Mate
- 2 Chopin pieces
- 3 Prune
- 4 Calm before the storm
- 5 Pirate
- 6 Art done with acid
- 7 Twosomes
- 8 Ostrich's kin
- 9 Indiana city
- 10 Sacrifice sites
- 11 Happen
- 13 Works at the keyboard
- 18 Ball prop
- 21 Showroom samples
- 23 Bread ingredient
- 25 Tit for —
- 27 Elmer, to Bugs
- 29 Hall of Famers
- 31 Low card
- 32 End of a Shakespeare title
- 33 Basic fertilizer
- 34 Society newcomer
- 36 Author Jorge Luis —
- 37 Refrigerant gas
- 38 Brief
- 41 "Filthy" dough
- 44 Power
- 45 Active one
- 48 Pouch
- 50 "Born in the —"

Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	L	V	E	B	O	P	W	A	G
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2-22

CRYPTOQUIP

JRUJ MUZO DUC CTCLWFJWZ
HY CDALAXP U YUXFO
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TXUNMW JH LAX AJHX RWE.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOLK SONG FROM WAY BACK ABOUT A SPRUCE GUY WHO WANTED A PERSONAL TAILOR. "IF I HAD A HEMMER."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals T

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OPINION

High time to refine legalization debate

By CHARLES LANE
 The Washington Post

A new conventional wisdom is on the rise: Drug prohibition, or "the war on drugs," is a costly flop. It not only failed to cut drug use and associated social ills significantly but has also imposed additional social costs — or "catastrophic harm," as my colleague Radley Balko put it — far exceeding the benefits. Those costs include violent crime linked to the black-market drug trade as well as the mass arrest and incarceration of small-time users, a disproportionate number of whom are African-American.

It follows that the only solution is legalization, at least of marijuana and maybe other substances. Apropos of Philip Seymour Hoffman's death, for example, former congressman Barney Frank suggested legalizing heroin. Then he could abandon the futility of drug prohibition and concentrate on "harm reduction" strategies such as treatment.

There's one problem: The tendency of legalization advocates to counter anti-drug hyperbole with hyperbole of their own. The data don't actually show that drug prohibition is futile, that its negative side effects are worsening or that legalization would eliminate the social-policy dilemmas and trade-offs posed by drug abuse.

Does drug prohibition achieve its main goal, which is to discourage drug use and abuse? We can't know what would have happened if drug prohibition had been legal for nearly a century, for that matter, if the United States had waged a war on drugs half as harshly as Singapore, where a 15-gram heroin stash can merit the death penalty.

But the data do make one thing clear: If the goal of the war on drugs is to limit demand for drugs, then you can't say the authorities are losing. According to federally sponsored surveys that track drug usage, the rate of current-month powder and crack cocaine use dropped by half in the past 10 years. Meth use fell by a third; heroin use has remained flat.

The marijuana use rose slightly overall — but it fell among 12- to 17-year-olds, a result that even legalizers should applaud since they generally don't favor allowing minors to smoke.

Meanwhile, even as drug prohibition continued, violent crime and property crime fell, dramatically. Not only did the number of murders in the United States decline from 24,703 in 1991 to 14,612 in 2011 but drug-related murders declined from 1,607 to 505, according to Justice Department statistics. Some 6.5 percent of murders were related to drugs in 1991, but only 3.4 percent were in 2011.

The drug arrest rate fell from 142.1 per 100,000 in 1991 to 97.8 per 100,000 in 2011. Yes, blacks were still 3.9 times more likely to be busted for drugs than whites in 2011 — but that ratio was down nearly 50 percent from the one recorded 20 years earlier.

Marijuana arrests account for a bigger share of drug arrests these days, 44.3 percent in 2011 vs. 22.4 percent in 1991. But when you compare marijuana arrests to actual days of marijuana usage — busts per toke, so to speak — the story's different. By this measure, "enforcement intensity" fell 42 percent between 2007 and 2012, according to drug-policy expert Keith Humphreys of Stanford University.

Some "war." It's a myth that prisons are

full of low-level pot smokers. Less than 1 percent of the state and federal prison population is doing time for pot possession alone; most of these prisoners are dealers who pleaded guilty to possession in return for a lesser sentence, according to the 2012 study "Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know," published by Oxford University Press.

America's worst new drug-abuse problem involves a legal substance, opioid painkillers, that's supposedly available only by prescription. OxyContin and other government-approved pills were linked to 15,500 overdose deaths in 2009.

Legalizers might say the opioid epidemic proves, once again, the futility — and hypocrisy — of drug control. But then what's the point of banning underage use of marijuana, as most pot-legalization statutes do? Washington state's law threatens a 10-year sentence for selling pot to a minor. Talk about filling prisons with nonviolent drug offenders.

And if drug abusers so widely misuse scientifically manufactured opioids, how realistic is it to say, as some legalizers do, that legalization would protect heroin addicts from impurities and overdoses?

There are no good arguments for legalizing any currently illicit substance. The case for decriminalizing pot is strong, as long as accompanying limitations on use by minors and other regulations have real teeth.

But let's discuss the issue on its actual merits, and not on the attraction that there is a panacea for drug abuse, and its related social ills, any more than prohibition was, or is.

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post's editorial board.

Gridlock, not hookers, kills careers today

By MARGARET CARLSON
 Bloomberg News

Traffic is the new sex. Stick with my sen. David Vitter, who recently announced that he is running for governor of Louisiana in 2015, is ahead in a recent poll. You may recall Vitter's apology in 2007 after his phone number surfaced during an investigation of the prostitution ring run by the notorious "D.C. Madam," Deborah Jeanne Pauley, who later committed suicide. The details of his dalliances involved internet web. He said he committed "a very serious sin in my past for which I am, of course, completely responsible."

His lead in the polls is in keeping with other comebacks by officials caught in sexual scandals. After his own prostitution scandal, former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer got a television show and ran a creditable race for New York City comptroller.

Former South Carolina Gov. Mark Sanford survived trying to cover up his infidelity with a tall tale about hiking the Appalachian Trail and returned to Congress. Bill Clinton, who was accused of his transgressions, left office with a 68 percent approval rating, and his wife is the leading candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Compare that with the fate of politicians involved in traffic scandals. New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie was subjected to multiple investigations for the epic gridlock on the George Washington Bridge. His non-best friend from high school, David Wildstein, whom he appointed to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, is singing like a bird. Kentucky Sen. Paul Ryan is pursuing questions about how federal funds for Superstorm Sandy were



Just 35 percent of Americans see New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie favorably, down from 52 percent in a Gallup poll in June.

spent, and several mayors are anxious to tell him. Even Christie's idol, Bruce Springsteen, mocked him on late-night television. Just 35 percent of Americans see the governor favorably, down from 52 percent in a Gallup poll in June. He's gone from a 32 point net positive rating last summer to a point net negative now. Before Bridgegate, he topped many of the polls about potential Republican presidential candidates. A Washington Post/ABC poll puts him in third place now, with the support of just 13 percent of Republicans, behind Rep. Paul Ryan, of Wisconsin, and former Florida

Gov. Jeb Bush.

Republican Gov. Nathan Deal, of Georgia, also has seen voters tap the brakes over his traffic record. Deal was a shoo-in for re-election in his Republican-leaning state until "Snowjam '14" (his never good for a catastrophe to get a name) created a crushing traffic jam on the interstate. Deal was missing in action as the snow began to pile up, and he initially blamed poor weather or forecasting for the failure to clear roads or stagger closings so that everyone wasn't hitting the freeway at the same time.

The overnight crisis — a baby was born on the interstate, people were trapped overnight in their cars while their children slept at school — attracted national attention. On NBC, Al Roker scolded Deal for calling the storm a surprise when all he needed to do was turn on the TV to find out it was headed his way. Late-night host Jay Leno joked, "Drivers were stranded, traffic was at a standstill for 12 hours, and everyone was asking the same question: 'What did we do to piss off Chris Christie?'"

Now it's the people of Georgia who are ticked off at Deal, who was lurching with the mayor of Atlanta when both should have been glued to the Weather Channel. A survey showed 1 out of 3 people blamed Deal, not Mother Nature, for the traffic nightmare. Deal's approval rating, 57 percent of Republicans rated Deal poor to fair.

According to Public Policy Polling, while Deal still holds a lead over his likely opponents who haven't yet begun to advertise, including State Sen. Jason Carter (yes, grandson of), only 36 percent of voters approved of Deal and 36 percent disapproved, a terrible place — an incumbent's worst.

He would have been better off having lunch with a hooker. Just ask Sen. Vitter.

Margaret Carlson is a Bloomberg View columnist.

OPINION

Is idea religious liberty or discrimination?

By JOEL MATHIS AND BEN BOYCHUK
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The Kansas Legislature last week found itself on the verge of passing a bill that would protect any worker — in a private business or in government — who refused service to individuals because of the worker's religious opposition to gay marriage.

The bill's backers said it protected religious freedom, while opponents said it enshrined discrimination in state law. After an outcry, legislative leaders halted the bill and promised to retool it in more palatable fashion.

Where is the line between religious liberty and discrimination? Joel Mathis and Ben Boychuk, the RedBlueAmerica.com columnists, debate the issue.

JOEL MATHIS

The first thing you should know is that most Kansans hate Fred Phelps, the notorious anti-gay preacher whose church has spent the last few decades obnoxious by protesting at the funerals of soldiers, politicians and other innocents in order to spread his homophobic views as widely as possible.

The second thing you should know is this: If a "religious freedom" bill passes the Kansas Legislature, it forms part of the one that nearly won approval last week — well, Kansas will be tied more tightly, and perhaps permanently, to the Phelps legacy than ever before. You don't have to shout "God hates fags" at the top of your lungs or put signs' philosophy into action.

The third thing you should know is this: The only reason the bill exists is hysteria.

Yes, in Colorado, a gay couple sued a cake maker who refused his services for their wedding. But unlike Colorado, Kansas has no legal protections for gays and lesbians. They have no legal standing to sue anybody for an action connected to their sexuality. So a bill protecting Christians from gay lawsuits accomplishes almost nothing but whip up emotions on all

sides of the issue.

Except this: It sends a signal, loud and clear, to Kansans and the rest of the world, that there is one group — and one group only — that the state gives explicit permission to discriminate against: gay and lesbian Kansans.

That's a breathtaking achievement. And it's wrong.

The original bill even exempted government workers from serving, if they objected on religious principles. Can you imagine a police officer refusing to help a gay crime victim? A firefighter refusing to fight a fire at a gay-owned business or house?

There's a reason Kansas' conservative legislators are attempting to push a bill that makes second-class citizens out of the state's gays and lesbians: They know they are losing the cultural battle. More than ever, they're demonstrating why they should lose. But at least they're making Fred Phelps proud.

BEN BOYCHUK

The question in Kansas and anywhere else good people are trying to make sense of a rapidly changing social landscape boils down to one thing and one thing only: choice.

Will the state force a florist, a caterer, a photographer, or a baker — to name only a handful — to provide goods and services to anyone, contrary to their own consciences and religious beliefs? Kansas legislators are attempting to answer that question in the negative, and they're right to do so.

Maybe the better question is how so many people have simply forgotten the old-fashioned idea of mutual consent.

Some ill-informed commentators have compared what's happening in Kansas to the old Jim Crow laws that marred the South for much of the 20th century before the Civil Rights Act of 1964. They forget that Jim Crow forced businesses to discriminate and segregate by race.

The Kansas bill, by contrast, would do nothing more than free private citizens



Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, said a bill that would protect workers who refuse, for religious reasons, to provide services to gays and lesbians from lawsuits goes beyond protecting religious freedom and shouldn't become law.

from legal consequences if they choose not to do business associated with same-sex marriage.

Compulsion versus choice: see the difference?

It would be a different story if you could only choose from one baker or one photographer in your state, rather than simply take your business elsewhere.

And if the government only provided the bakers or photographers, we wouldn't be having this argument. As it happens, one version of the Kansas bill unwisely included government employees under protection. Government should never discriminate.

In all likelihood, however, the Kansas bill will come to nothing. When the U.S.

Supreme Court last year ruled on the gay marriage cases, I wrote in this space: "If the law says there can be no 'rational basis' for treating the union between a man and a woman as something unique ... then it really doesn't matter what your conscience tells you."

Kansas lawmakers are fighting a valiant but doomed effort to preserve a shred of liberty rightly understood — liberty of conscience, liberty of contract, liberty of property, liberty of association. The courts and the culture have shifted. We have very few of those old liberties left. But, oh goodness, do we have coercion galore.

Ben Boychuk is associate editor of the Manhattan Institute's City Journal. Joel Mathis is associate editor for Philadelphia Magazine.

Structure Homeland Security so it can keep us safe

By GARY HART
AND NORMAN AUGUSTINE

In February 2001, a bipartisan federal commission on which we served warned that terrorists would attack the weapons and energy sectors and mass disruption. "Attacks against American citizens on American soil, possibly causing heavy casualties, are likely over the next quarter-century," the Hart-Rudman Commission said. "In the face of this threat, our nation has no coherent or integrated governmental structures." We added: "Congress should rationalize its current committee structure so that it best serves U.S. national security objectives."

We identified 50 ways to improve national security, none of which was implemented before 9/11. One commendation — to create a single agency to deal with homeland security — was not acted on until a year and a half after those tragic attacks.

One particularly consequential recommendation has been altogether ignored. Congress has failed to "review its structure systematically" in light of likely 21st-century security challenges. "A critical step needed 'to ensure both that important issues receive sufficient attention and oversight and the unnecessary duplication of effort by multiple committees is minimized.'"

Put bluntly, congressional oversight of homeland security remains an organizational maze. Instead of doing what

our group and the 9/11 Commission recommended, Congress has made matters worse. After the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, oversight was claimed by 79 committees and subcommittees, but that number has expanded to at least 108. No major company could function with that kind of structure, and neither can the third-largest federal department. As former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge said in a 2006 interview, "any voices speak, it's like no voice speaks."

Virtually everyone who has examined the matter agrees about the need to streamline congressional supervision of homeland security. Since the 9/11 Commission made it a central recommendation, reports, such as those from The Heritage Foundation and The Brookings Institution have concurred, as did the Sunnyslads-Aspen Institute task force, a group of national security experts that met last year and included 9/11 Commission Chairmen Thomas Kean and Lee Hamilton.

Because Congress has spurred the creation of Homeland Security, the country remains unprepared to thwart some of the same kinds of terrorist attacks that we warned about in the pre-9/11 days. Amid concerns about a cyberattack on the power grid, air-traffic control system or financial sector, the seven congressional committees that claim jurisdiction over cyber security can't even agree on whether responsibility

for the issue should reside in the Department of Homeland Security or elsewhere.

There are other areas of vulnerability. When you fly on a major airline from a major airport, you, your shoes, laptop and luggage are screened by the Transportation Security Administration. But there isn't necessarily such screening if you board a private jet at Teterboro Airport in New Jersey, just 12 miles from Manhattan, or any number of small airports across the U.S. A potential hijacker could walk through the terminal straight to the plane. And as Adm. Thad Allen, a former commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard, notes, when a small boat enters one of the harbors adjoining our nation's cities, whether it be Los Angeles, New York, Seattle or Galveston, Texas, those responsible for national security can't readily determine to whom it is registered or what is in its hold.

Nor are these means of carrying danger on our shores the full extent of the problem. As former Sen. Bob Graham, who headed a commission on weapons of mass destruction from 2008 to 2010, noted in the Sunnyslads-Aspen report, the list of biohazards, including substances that could kill before we become aware that they are in our air or water, hasn't been prioritized.

Unlike most stories about Congress not working well, this isn't a saga of Republican vs. Democrat. Reports from across the political spectrum have described the

status quo as "byzantine," "wasteful" and "dysfunctional." Republican-appointed Homeland Security Secretaries Tom Ridge and Michael Chertoff and Democrat-appointed Janet Napolitano have all indicated that fragmented oversight makes it more difficult for DHS to do its job.

The reason for congressional inaction is as simple as it is sad. As noted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies/Business Executives for National Security task force, Congress has "protected prerogative and privilege at the expense of a rational, streamlined committee structure. The result is a Department of Homeland Security that is hamstrung by a system of congressional oversight that drains departmental energy and invites managerial circumvention."

A refrain emerged after 9/11: Why hadn't the media, Congress and the president paid more attention to the warnings and recommendations of the Hart-Rudman report? To that question we would now add: Must the country suffer another devastating, potentially preventable attack before more of its turf-protecting elected representatives forgo "prerogative and privilege" for the sake of our nation's security?

Gary Hart is a lawyer and former senator from Colorado; Norman Augustine, a retired aerospace executive, was undersecretary of the Army from 1975 to 1977. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASEBALL
COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE - Suspended Boston LHP Francisco Tena 50 games following a positive drug test under the 2013-14 steroid program.
American League
SEATTLE MARINERS - Agreed to terms with RHP Logan Hawcom, LHPs Anthony Fernandez and James Paxton, G Mike Zunino, INFs Nick Franklin and Kyle Seager and OFs Julio Morban, Stefan Kero on one-year contracts.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES - Agreed to terms with SS Andruw Simmons on a seven-year contract.

National Basketball Association

ATLANTA HAWKS - Acquired F Antawn Jamison from the Los Angeles Clippers for a 2013-14 second-round pick.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS - Traded F Eric Clark, Hersh Song and two second-round draft picks to Philadelphia for C Spencer Hawes.
MIAMI HEAT - Traded G Royce Mason Jr. to Sacramento for a conditional 2013-14 second-round pick.
MILWAUKEE BUCKS - Traded G Gary Neal to Detroit for Charlotte F Gordon, Ramon Sessions and F Jeff Adrien.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS - Traded F Evan Turner to Cleveland for G Kevin McHale, F Danny Granger and a 2015 second-round pick. Philadelphia also traded Jahlil Olin and a 2018 second-round draft pick to Chicago for a 2014 second-round draft pick.
SAN ANTONIO SPURS - Traded G Nando De Colo to Toronto for G Gustin Austin.

Professional Football

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
ATLANTA FALCONS - Released OT Garrett Reynolds.
INDIANAPOLIS PATRIOTS - Named Michael Lombardi assistant to the coaching staff.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BUFFALO SABRES - Assigned D Jerome Gauthier-Leduc from Rochester to Toronto for AHL's CJ Egan.
DETROIT RED WINGS - Assigned G David Wells from Hershey (AHL) to Teemu Pulkkinen and D Adam Almqvist to the AHL's Grand Rapids (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS - Recalled D Dylan Olson from San Antonio (ECHL) to Detroit for AHL's Ryan O'Regan.
PHOENIX COYOTES - Recalled D Chris Serrano from Portland (AHL).
WASHINGTON CAPITALS - Recalled CS Michael Latta, Lyle Ryan and Scott Clemmings from Hershey (AHL).

Major League Soccer

MLS - Purchased Chicago Fire FC from US Soccer. Will be owned by Bradford Jamieson IV and F Rafi Mendillo.

College

ARKANSAS - Lay Jennings defensive backfield coach.
UTAH STATE - Signed football coach Russ Huesman to a contract extension through 2015.
COASTAL CAROLINA - Announced the resignation of athletic director Hunter Young and will become associate vice president and chief operating officer of the University of Houston athletic department.
UTAH STATE - Named Redegard Plummer linemen's coach.

LOYOLA (N.O.)

Named Angela Frank women's volleyball coach.
NORTH DAKOTA STATE - Announced the resignation of women's basketball coach Carolyn DeHoff, effective at the end of the season.

UW WESTBURY

Named Elizabeth Gualdo assistant softball coach.
UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA - Promoted assistant softball coach Joe Litterio to head coach.

College basketball

Thursday's men's scores

EAST												
Fairfield	72	Niagara	66	Duquesne	68	Bryant	52	Mount St. Mary's	84	Rutgers	59	
Merrill	87	CSU	76	Penn. State	39	Dominican (NY)	84	Cornell	88	Cornell	81	
Florida	73	Louisville	64	Seton Hall	82	Georgetown	67	Francis (Ind.)	75	St. Francis (Pa.)	44	
St. Peter's	58	Marist	57	Towson	79	Northeastern	70	UCM	68	Temple	51	
Wagner	74	Sacred Heart	62	SOUTH								
BYU	79	Allyce Loyd	75	Belmont	62	Illinois	63	Blue Mountain	76	Bethel (Tenn.)	71	
Christian Brothers	70	Union (Tenn.)	58	Cumberlands	61	Cumberland (Tenn.)	58	East Carolina	75	Louisiana Tech	68	
Georgia Southern	77	Chattanooga	60	Georgia St.	75	Louisiana-Monroe	60	Jacksonville	91	ETSU	80	
Lee	71	West Alabama	60	Louisville	88	Troy	63	Middle Tennessee	71	Charlotte	49	
Georgia Southern	77	Chattanooga	60	North Carolina	74	Duke	66	NC State	85	Flu	63	
FSU	83	Kennesaw St.	51	SC	34	North Florida	70	UNC Asheville	85	UNC	55	
Spring Hill	69	Loyola	58	Catharine	98	Campbellsville	92	30T	Tennessee St.	66	SIU-Edwardsville	67
Tulsa	51	FAU	52	UTM	68	Marshall	62	UTEP	72	Tulane	54	
UTEP	72	Tulane	54	Virginia Tech	91	Marshall	62	30T	Tennessee St.	66	SIU-Edwardsville	67
Tulsa	51	FAU	52	UTM	68	Marshall	62	UTEP	72	Tulane	54	
UTEP	72	Tulane	54	Virginia Tech	91	Marshall	62	30T	Tennessee St.	66	SIU-Edwardsville	67

Metropolitan Division

Pittsburgh	58	138	38
N.Y. Rangers	59	124	37
Washington	59	123	37
Philadelphia	58	122	37
Colorado	58	29	4
Washington	59	23	9
New Jersey	59	24	13
N.Y. Islanders	60	22	8

Thursday's women's scores

SOUTH											
Pikeville	42	Asbury	06	St. Augustine's	5	Peace	6	Santa Clara	2	Notre Dame	1
W. International	5	King (Tenn.)	4	SOUTHWEST							
BYU	10-1	Texas A&M	CC-2	3-3							

Men's schedule

Friday	Harvard at Columbia
Saturday	Brigham Young at Penn
Dartmouth	at Princeton

Western Conference

CENTRAL DIVISION									
St. Louis	57	29	12	64	196	134			
Chicago	60	35	11	14	84	205			
San Jose	78	17	12	1	101	133			
Minnesota	59	31	21	7	69	145			
San Jose	78	17	12	1	101	133			
Winnipeg	60	28	26	6	62	187			
Nashville	56	24	26	6	64	138			
Pacific Division									
Anaheim	60	41	14	5	87	194			
Los Angeles	59	41	12	6	89	138			
San Jose	78	17	12	1	101	133			
Vancouver	60	27	24	9	63	146			
Edmonton	60	33	7	4	153	159			

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Olympic recap

Feb. 9-25

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MLB/NFL/SPORTS BRIEFS



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Atlanta shortstop Andrelton Simmons fields a ball during spring training on Thursday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The 24-year-old Simmons, who won his first Gold Glove last season, agreed to a seven-year, \$58 million contract with the Braves, who have spent lavishly to lock up key players this month.

Simmons agrees to huge deal

By CHARLES ODUM
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The Atlanta Braves and shortstop Andrelton Simmons agreed on a \$58 million, seven-year contract on Thursday, a record deal for the latest young star locked up by the NL East champions.

The deal, which runs through the 2020 season, is the largest ever awarded to a player subject to American draft rules with less than two years of service time.

Cubs first baseman Anthony Rizzo signed a \$41 million, seven-year contract last May.

Simmons, 24, showed power potential in 2013, when he hit 17 home runs, but he earned the big contract with his defense. He won his first Gold Glove award in 2013, when he led the major leagues with 49 assists.

"We feel that Andrelton is one of the premier shortstops in the game today, and we are happy that we were able to agree on this multiyear contract," general

manager Frank Wren said in a statement released by the team.

The Braves this month also reached multiyear agreements with first baseman Freddie Freeman, outfielder Jason Heyward, closer Craig Kimbrel and right-hander Julio Teheran, committing \$280.7 million to the rising stars, including Simmons.

Simmons hit .248 and drove in 59 runs last season. He earned the new contract after playing in only 206 career games.

Locker room culture a hot topic at combine

By DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — This could be as good a time as there has ever been for an openly gay player in the NFL. The league will be watching.

In the wake of the Miami Dolphins bullying scandal, executives from teams around the league who gathered for the annual scouting combine spoke Thursday about being on guard to ensure their locker rooms are respectful and tolerant — especially with Michael Sam, expected to soon become the first publicly revealed homosexual in the NFL.

Predictably, general managers and coaches said a culture of respect was already in place with their clubs before Richie Incognito, the Dolphins offensive lineman who led the extreme hazing detailed last week in an NFL-ordered report, became an infamous name. But while there haven't been many major signs of response to the scandal, some tangible signs of change have at least emerged.

Teams have begun to include language in coaches' contracts that forces assistants to act with more tolerance than some of the Dolphins staff did. The move is designed to limit a team's liability if another Miami-like situation were to emerge with another club.

Vikings general manager Rick Spielman confirmed that change, first reported by ESPN.

"I think because it's so much in light right now, that you have to monitor the locker room," Spielman said. "It'll be interesting to see once we get down to the own-

ers meetings in March. I'm sure that'll be a subject that'll be talked about."

Dolphins coach Joe Philbin, drawing an overflow crowd of reporters in his first appearance since the report came out, forcefully reiterated his responsibility for all that happens to his team and promised a "better workplace."

"I have to do a better job. I'm going to look at every way — the way we educate, the way we communicate, the way we talk to one another," Philbin said. "I'm going to look at every avenue."

Everyone must deal with the questions about Sam, the Missouri defensive end projected to be drafted in the middle rounds.

The NFL recently reminded teams of laws against asking draft prospects about their sexuality and the guidelines for interviewing players this week in Indianapolis, a year ago, the players complained they were asked inappropriate questions they believed were intended to seek details about their sexual orientation.

Talking about harmony is easy in the offseason, but maintaining an atmosphere of respect and tolerance is another story once dozens of players are thrown together. With a 53-man roster, no coach can come close to hearing every word.

"I'd say you try to set a good culture and a good environment in your building and hope for the best," Denver Broncos coach John Fox said.

Clearly, this issue will be scrutinized this year, with Sam entering the league, and the Dolphins trying to repair their image.



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS/AP

Bucs tweak logo, helmet

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers have revealed a redesigned helmet and logo for next season. The Bucs will continue to wear pewter-colored helmets. In addition to an enlarged logo, still featuring a red battle flag with a skull sitting over crossed swords and a football, the helmet will sport the first chrome facemasks used by an NFL team.

Briefly

Freeman, Kimbrel, Stanton get biggest raises

The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — The average raise for a player in salary arbitration was 117 percent this year, according to a study by The Associated Press, led by steep hikes for Freddie Freeman, Craig Kimbrel, Giancarlo Stanton and Michael Brantley.

The 146 players who filed for arbitration averaged \$3,859,912 under their new contracts, up from \$1,778,081 under their previous deals. The average increase was just below the 119 percent last year.

Atlanta gave Freeman a 30-fold rise from \$560,000 to an average of \$16,875,000 as part of a \$135 million, eight-year contract. The agreement with the first baseman is the largest in team history.

Kimbrel, the Braves' closer, received a 16-fold hike from \$560,000 to an average of \$10.5 million in a \$42 million, four-year deal.

Stanton, a slugging outfielder with the Miami Marlins, got a 12-fold increase from \$537,000 to \$6.5 million.

Brantley, who led Cleveland in batting average while going errorless in the outfield, saw his salary rise 11-fold, from \$526,900 to an average of \$6.25 million in a \$25 million, four-year agreement.

Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw, a two-time NL Cy Young Award winner, got a three-fold raise, but the numbers were far higher because

he has five years of major league service and was one season from free agency. After averaging \$9.75 million under a two-year deal, the left-hander agreed to a \$215 million, seven-year contract, the largest deal for a pitcher in baseball history.

Redskins TE Davis charged with DWI

VIENNA, Va. — Washington Redskins tight end Fred Davis was charged Thursday with driving while intoxicated, a day after he was suspended for an NFL substance-abuse policy violation.

Davis, 28, was stopped in Tyson's Corner, Va., about 4 p.m. Thursday and arrested, Fairfax County Police said. Court records show nearly three dozen traffic-related charges against Davis in recent years.

Police spokeswoman Shelley Broderick declined to discuss why Davis was stopped. A court date has not been set.

The NFL announced Wednesday that Davis was suspended indefinitely without pay. Davis, who will become a free agent next month, said in a statement Thursday that the suspension resulted from taking a supplement that contained a banned substance, not recreational drug use, which prompted his 2011 suspension.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Paige, Tar Heels rally past No. 5 Blue Devils

UNC point guard nets all 13 of his points in impressive 2nd half

BY AARON BEARD
The Associated Press

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. — Marcus Paige and his North Carolina teammates have endured so many wild swings — big wins, surprising losses, NCAA drama — that no one can blame their Hall of Fame coach for wondering what's next.

And yet, a month after sitting at 0-3 in the Atlantic Coast Conference, the Tar Heels are surging after a rousing comeback against their fiercest rival that had their fans rushing to midcourt to celebrate when it was over.

Paige scored all 13 of his points in the second half, including two big baskets in the final 2½ minutes, to help UNC beat No. 5 Duke 74-66 on Thursday night for their eighth straight win.

Senior Leslie McDonald added a season-high 21 points for the Tar Heels (19-7, 9-4 ACC), who rallied from 11 points down in the second half to beat the Blue Devils (21-6, 10-4) in a rivalry game postponed more than a week by a winter storm.

It was by far North Carolina's most impressive win during its run. Before Thursday, most had come against teams standing sixth or lower in the ACC standings.

"I'm not going to say we're a finished product because we've got games left," Paige said, "but



GERRY BROOME/AP

Tar Heels fans rush the playing court following North Carolina's 74-66 win over Duke on Thursday in Chapel Hill, N.C.

man, we're playing really well right now and we're winning games in a lot of different ways."

It marked UNC's third win against a top-five team this season, along with then-No. 1 Michigan State and then-No. 3 Louisville. Throw in then-No. 11 Kentucky in December, and the

Tar Heels have beaten the top four teams from The Associated Press' preseason Top 25.

Not bad for a team that never had top player P.J. Hairston due to NCAA violations for improper benefits.

"It was a bunch of guys that fought really hard," coach Roy

Williams said, "and I couldn't be prouder of my team than I am right now."

Jabari Parker and Quinn Cook both scored 17 points for Duke, which led 51-40 with about 15 minutes left before going ice cold from the field. The Blue Devils missed 13 straight shots and

went scoreless for 6 minutes at one point, helping the Tar Heels climb back in it by mixing a 1-3-1 zone with man defense.

"They would just keep switching," Cook said. "We'd come down, and we wouldn't know what they'd be in. They kept us on our toes with their defense."

Top 25 capsules

BYU upsets No. 25 Gonzaga behind Winder's 17

The Associated Press

PROVO, Utah — Anson Winder scored 17 points and Matt Carlino added 15 to lead BYU to a 73-65 upset of No. 25 Gonzaga.

Eric Mika added 13 points and eight rebounds for the Cougars (19-10, 11-5 West Coast Conference) who snapped a five-game losing streak to the Bulldogs (23-5, 13-2).

Sam Dower had 14 points and Kevin Pangos added 13 for the Bulldogs, who shot 40.7 percent (22-for-54) from the field and could not overcome 16 turnovers. BYU scored 18 points off those miscues.

The Cougars scored six straight points to open the second half, taking a 45-39 lead on a jumper from Kyle Collinsworth. It was part of a 9-0 spurt for BYU that started with a buzzer-beating three-pointer from Haws to close the first half.

The Bulldogs closed within four points three times, the last getting within 69-65 on a three-pointer by Pangos with 1:01 left. Carlino made two baskets and



RIK BOWMER/AP

Brigham Young's Tyler Haws, right, passes the ball as Gonzaga's Przemek Karnowski, left, and teammate Drew Barham defend during the second half Thursday in Provo, Utah. BYU won 73-65.

hit three free throws in the final minute to help the Cougars close it out.

No. 13 Michigan St. 94, Pur-

due 79: Gary Harris scored 25 points, Adreian Payne added 23 and the visiting Spartans hit a school-record 17 three-pointers.

Harris and Payne combined to make 10 three-pointers for Michigan State (22-5, 11-3 Big Ten), which made 13 threes in the first half.

Kendall Stephens had 19 points and Ronnie Johnson added 17 for Purdue (15-11, 5-8), which has lost two of three.

Payne scored eight points to open the second half, including a three-pointer, to give the Spartans a 57-43 lead.

Denzel Valentine converted a three-point play and made two free throws before connecting with Harris on an alley-oop pass to give Michigan State a 66-47 lead with 14:07 remaining.

No. 21 Connecticut 68, Temple 55: Shabazz Napier had 17 points, 11 rebounds and seven assists for the visiting Huskies.

Ryan Boatright added 14 points and DeAndre Daniels had 13 for Connecticut (21-5, 9-4 American Athletic Conference), which won its fourth straight despite shooting 2-for-13 from three-point range.

Quenton DeCosey scored 14 of

his 16 points in the second half for Temple (7-18, 2-11), at one point scoring all of his team's points for more than a 13-minute stretch. He grabbed a career-high eight rebounds.

The Owls shot just 33 percent from the field.

The Owls went nearly 10 minutes without a field goal before DeCosey made a runner with 5:49 left to bring Temple within 52-40.

No. 22 Memphis 64, Rutgers 59: Michael Dixon Jr. scored 13 of his 15 points in the second half for the visiting Tigers, which led from start to finish.

Memphis (20-6, 9-4 American Athletic), coming off an overtime loss at No. 21 Connecticut on Saturday, got 11 points from Joe Jackson and 10 each from Shaq Goodwin and Austin Nichols.

Kadeem Jack had 18 of his 23 points in the second half and grabbed 10 rebounds for Rutgers (10-17, 4-10), while Myles Mack and Malik Kone had 10 points apiece.

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	20	37	0.6
Brooklyn	25	27	48.1
New York	31	23	38.9
Boston	39	34	55.9
Philadelphia	15	40	27.3

Southeast Division			
	W	L	Pct
Miami	39	14	73.6
Washington	26	28	48.1
Atlanta	28	47	14
Charlotte	20	35	45.5
Orlando	16	40	28.6

Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Indiana	41	13	75.9
Portland	25	28	52.8
Detroit	22	32	40.7
Cleveland	22	33	40.0
Milwaukee	14	40	18.5

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
San Antonio	40	15	72.7
Houston	37	18	67.3
Dallas	22	35	58.2
Memphis	30	33	56.6
New Orleans	23	30	43.4

Northwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
Oklahoma City	43	13	76.8
Portland	36	19	65.7
Minnesota	28	28	48.1
Denver	25	27	47.6
Utah	19	34	35.8

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
L.A. Clippers	37	19	66.1
Phoenix	22	34	60.4
Golden State	33	20	60.0
L.A. Lakers	36	23	18
Sacramento	18	36	33.3

Wednesday's games			
Cleveland 101, Orlando 92	Charlotte 116, Detroit 98	Chicago 94, Toronto 97	Washington 114, Atlanta 97
Minnesota 104, Indiana 91	New York 88, New Orleans 91	Phoenix 100, Boston 94	Brooklyn 105, Utah 99
Pan Antonio 111, Portland 109	Golden State 101, Sacramento 92	Oklahoma City 134, Lakers 108	Miami 103, Oklahoma City 81

Thursday's games			
Golden State 102, Houston 99, OT	Denver 101, Milwaukee 90	New York 81, Dallas 74	Philadelphia 101, Charlotte 92
New Orleans at Toronto	Atlanta at Detroit	Chicago at Chicago	L.A. Clippers at Memphis
San Antonio at Phoenix	Utah at Portland	Boston at L.A. Lakers	New Orleans at Washington

Saturday's games			
Memphis at Charlotte	Dallas at Detroit	New York at Atlanta	Indiana at Milwaukee
Golden State at Utah	Boston at Sacramento	Sacramento at Golden State	

Thursday Warriors 102, Rockets 99 (OT)

HOUSTON — Parsons 8-24-2-3 21, Jones 1-7-1-3, Howard 4-13-8-11, Beverley 1-6-0-2, Harden 14-27-8-19, Asik 3-6-0-0-6, Lin 3-8-2-2-9, Motiejunas 2-5-0-0-5, Casspi 1-5-0-0-3. Totals 37-101-16-25-99.

GOLDEN STATE — Igoudala 4-8-2-2-11, Lin 13-6-7-23, O'Neal 11-9-0-2, Curry 8-15-4-2-5, Thompson 6-18-0-10-12, Crawford 4-8-2-3-12, Barnes 1-5-3-5-5, Speights 0-2-0-0-0, Blake 1-5-0-0-3, Green 1-4-2-2-4. Totals 37-99-19-24-102.

Houston 20 27 24 22 10-99
Golden State 20 27 24 22 10-99
 Three-Point Goals—Houston 9-30 (Harden 3, Parsons 3, Motiejunas 1, 2, Lin 1-2, Casspi 1-4, Beverley 0-2, Jones 0-2), Golden State 9-27 (Curry 5-8, Crawford 2-4, Igoudala 1-3, Blake 1-4, Green 0-1, Barnes 0-2, Thompson 0-5), Fouled Out—Houston 7 (Harden 2), Golden State 6 (Lee 14), Assists—Houston 24 (Harden, Parsons 5), Golden State 18 (Igoudala 7), Total Fouls—Houston 25, Golden State 24. Technicals—Houston Coach McHale, A-19-996 (19,596).

Heat 103, Thunder 81

MIAMI — James 15-22-2-5-33, Battler 1-8-0-2, Bosh 6-9-11-12-24, Chalmers 4-7-0-1-9, Wade 11-17-3-2-24, Allen 2-6-1-1-6, Anderson 0-0-0-0-0, Cole 2-6-0-0-5. Totals 41-75-16-21-103.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 10-22-7-10, Westbrook 4-12-8-10-16, Selofoshia 3-0-2-2, Jackson 3-8-3-0-3, Lamb 0-0-2, Fisher 1-3-0-0-2, Collison 0-1-0-0-6, P.Jones 0-5-1-1-8, Adams 0-0-0-0-0, Roberson 0-0-0-0-0. Totals 28-74-23-30-81.

Miami 34 20 22 27-103
Oklahoma City 17 30 15-81
 Three-Point Goals—Miami 5-21 (Bosh 1-2, Cole 1-2, Chalmers 1-3, Allen 1-3, James 1-5, Battler 0-6), Oklahoma City 2-20 (P.Jones 1-1, Durant 1-6, Ibaka 0-1, Jackson 0-2, Fisher 0-2, Westbrook 0-2, Lamb 0-6). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Miami 48 (Anderson, Bosh 8), Oklahoma City 44 (Durant, Ibaka 8), Assists—Miami 24 (Wade 10), Oklahoma City 15 (Jackson 5), Total Fouls—Westbrook 4, A-18,203 (18,203).

Nuggets 101, Bucks 90

DENVER — Randolph 3-11-4-1-8, Fariel 11-15-4-26, Hickson 6-9-2-7-14, Foye 5-12-0-1-2, Chandler 6-8-0-0-15, Fournier 3-9-0-7-7, Mozgov 3-6-0-0-14, Arthur 2-6-0-0-5. Totals 39-76-15-26-101.

MILWAUKEE — Butler 7-17-3-17, Iyavova 5-14-2-4-14, Pachulia 1-5-3-4-5, Wolters 6-14-0-1-2, Middleton 2-9-2-2-6, Henson 6-8-0-0-17, Antetokounmpo 3-7-4-5-11, Mayo 5-8-0-0-11, Raduljica 0-2-2-2-2. Totals 35-82-16-20-90.

Denver 31 29 28 23-101
Milwaukee 31 29 28 23-90
 Three-Point Goals—Denver 8-18 (Chandler 3-3, Foye 2-6, Arthur 1-1, Randolph 1-4, Fournier 0-4), Milwaukee 21 (Antetokounmpo 3-3, Iyavova 5-11, Butler 1-4, Mayo 1-4, Wolters 0-2, Middleton 0-5), Fouled Out—Mozgov, Rebounds—Denver 51 (Hickson 10), Milwaukee 48 (Iyavova 15), Assists—Denver 22 (Foye 5), Milwaukee 15 (Wolters 5), Total Fouls—Denver 20, Milwaukee 20, A-11,186 (18,177).

Roundup

James, Heat rout Thunder

OKC PG Westbrook scores 16 in return

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — LeBron James scored 33 points before leaving in the fourth quarter with a bloody nose and the Miami Heat beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 103-81 on Thursday.

James went down with 5:50 remaining after he was struck by Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka on a drive to the basket. James finished the dunk, but was bloodied and left the court with a towel over his face.

Dwyane Wade had 24 points and 10 assists and Chris Bosh added 24 points for Miami, which won its fourth straight and avenged an earlier loss to Oklahoma City. Kevin Durant scored 28 points for Oklahoma City. Russell Westbrook, who has missed the previous 27 games after having surgery on his right knee, started and scored 16 points.

Oklahoma City lost at home for the first time since Jan. 5.

Nuggets 101, Bucks 90: Kenneth Faried continued his recent hot streak, scoring 26 points to carry Denver past host Milwaukee.

Fariel, the No. 22 overall pick in the 2011 draft, has been impressive this February. Coming off a 21-point, 10-rebound performance against Phoenix, the forward also scored a career-high 28 against the Los Angeles Clippers earlier this month.

Caron Butler scored 17 for the Bucks, who have not won two straight games all season.

Warriors 102, Rockets 99 (OT): Stephen Curry made a



SUE OROCK/AP

Heat forward LeBron James dunks over Turner forward Serge Ibaka (9) during the fourth quarter of Thursday's game in Oklahoma City. James fell to the floor with a bloody nose after the play.

tying layup with 3.2 seconds left in regulation and finished with 25 points, and the host Golden State outlasted Houston in overtime to halt its eight-game winning streak.

Curry followed with two free throws to give Golden State a 98-95 lead with 15.9 seconds left. The teams traded free throws as the Rockets ran out of time.

Harden scored 34 of his 39 points in the second half and OT.

was filling in for injured center Andrew Bogut, blocked Chandler Parsons' baseline dunk attempt at the rim.

Curry followed with two free throws to give Golden State a 98-95 lead with 15.9 seconds left. The teams traded free throws as the Rockets ran out of time.

Harden scored 34 of his 39 points in the second half and OT.

Trades roundup

Pacers swap Granger for Turner at deadline

By BRIAN MAHONEY

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Indiana Pacers decided Evan Turner gave them a better shot against Miami than Danny Granger.

Many other teams decided there wasn't much worth doing.

Big names and big deals were mostly absent Thursday from the NBA's trade deadline, with the Pacers' late-day swap with Philadelphia the one that could have had the biggest impact on the playoff race.

Indiana sent Granger and a second-round draft pick to Philadelphia in exchange for Turner and Lavoy Allen.

It gives the Pacers a potential upgrade in Turner, the former No. 2 overall pick whose average of 17.4 points is about twice that of Granger, who is still coming back from a series of injuries.



HECTOR AMEZCUA, SACRAMENTO KINGS/MCT

The Philadelphia 76ers traded former No. 2 overall pick Evan Turner to the Indiana Pacers for one-time All-Star Danny Granger on Thursday.

“We felt we needed to make this trade to strengthen the core unit and our bench,” Pacers President of Basketball Operations Larry Bird said in a statement released Thursday night after the trade became official. “In Evan and Lavoy, we think we got two really good players that can help us and we look forward to what they can bring.”

Kevin Love, Pau Gasol and Rajon Rondo spent weeks in trade rumors, but the only mention of Love on Thursday was when he denied that he had already told Minnesota Timberwolves president Flip Saunders that he wouldn't stay once he became a free agent after next season.

“At the end of the day I just want to play basketball,” Love said. “I don't want to think about, you know, whether or not I'm going to be here or somewhere else in 2015-2016, whenever it is.”

Gasol stayed with the Lakers and Rondo with the Celtics, two of the many teams around the NBA focused much more on the future.

With the potential for a loaded draft in June, a 2015 free agent class that could include Love and Rondo, and stricter penalties in the collective bargaining agreement, many teams weren't eager to add salary, especially with so few of them having a realistic chance to win the NBA championship.

The Pacers do, so they traded away their former leading scorer to add Turner after recently signing Andrew Bynum. They entered Thursday two games up on Miami but haven't been sharply late and hope Turner can provide a spark.

Andre Miller finally got out of Denver and landed as John Wall's backup in Washington, while Gary Neal can help Charlotte

chase a playoff spot after getting traded from Milwaukee.

The 76ers also dealt Spencer Hawes to Cleveland, which needs a big man while Anderson Varejao remains out with a bad back. Atlanta has even bigger woes in the frontcourt and will try to address them by convincing Antawn Jamison to accept a trade from the Clippers.

The Clippers freed up room to sign a player, as did the Heat when they dealt Roger Mason to Sacramento. The Brooklyn Nets did the same when they traded Reggie Evans and Jason Terry to the Kings on Wednesday for Marcus Thornton, and Jason Collins is one of the players being considered for it.

Collins worked out for the Nets in California during the All-Star break, and would become the first openly gay active NBA player if signed.

NASCAR

Scoreboard

Daytona 500 lineup

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
After Thursday qualifying race Sunday
At Daytona International Speedway

Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Car number in parentheses)

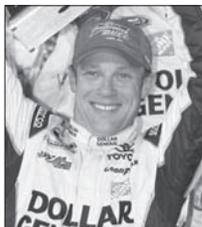
1. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 196,019.
2. (78) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 126,652.
3. (20) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 194,574.
4. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 194,477.
5. (5) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 194,544.
6. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 192,429.
7. (9) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 194,894.
8. (1) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 194,078.
9. (88) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 195,211.
10. (27) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 194,919.
11. (98) Josh Wise, Ford, 192,061.
12. (32) Ryan Scott, Chevrolet, 194,736.
13. (43) Aric Almirola, Ford, 194,658.
14. (21) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 194,334.
15. (47) J. Almirola, Chevrolet, 194,108.
16. (42) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 194,411.
17. (8) David Gilliland, Ford, 193,736.
18. (40) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 193,732.
19. (31) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 195,707.
20. (15) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 194,523.
21. (14) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 192,965.
22. (1) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 192,696.
23. (26) Cole Whitt, Toyota, 192,538.
24. (32) Terry Labonte, Ford, 192,135.
25. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 195,818.
26. (52) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 191,493.
27. (10) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 194,388.
28. (13) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 194,582.
29. (23) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 189,685.
30. (99) Carl Edwards, Ford, 195,712.
31. (53) Brian Vickers, Toyota, 192,798.
32. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 194,637.
33. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 195,296.
34. (17) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 195,004.
35. (22) Joey Logano, Ford, 194,582.
36. (7) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 194,574.
37. (18) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 194,502.
38. (4) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 194,221.
39. (36) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, 194,066.
40. (51) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 193,815.
41. (30) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, 193,594.
42. (66) Michael Waltrip, Toyota, 193,428.
43. (34) David Ragan, Ford, 192,328.

Duel 1 results

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
Thursday
At Daytona International Speedway

Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (9) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 60 laps, 120.7 rating, 0 points, \$56,725.
2. (10) Casey Kahne, Chevrolet, 60, 102.1, 0.
3. (6) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 60, 95.2, 0, \$56,110.
4. (4) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 60, 114, \$31,713.
5. (22) Josh Wise, Ford, 60, 68.8, 0, \$29,713.
6. (7) Aric Almirola, Ford, 60, 93.9, 0, \$27,313.
7. (47) J. Almirola, Chevrolet, 60, 90.7, 0, \$25,213.
8. (20) David Gilliland, Ford, 60, 88.6, 0, \$25,213.
9. (31) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, 60, 75, 0, \$25,188.
10. (18) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 60, 68, 0, \$25,188.
11. (20) Cole Whitt, Toyota, 60, 77.4, 0, \$25,138.



Matt Kenseth, left, and Denny Hamlin, right, celebrate their respective victories at Thursday's two qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

12. (2) Greg Biffle, Ford, 60, 81.3, 0, \$25,113.

13. (13) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 60, 59.3, 0, \$25,088.

14. (24) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 60, 45.6, 0, \$25,063.

15. (19) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, 60, 49.7, 0, \$25,038.

16. (8) Joey Logano, Ford, 60, 62.4, 0, \$25,013.

17. (17) Parker Kligerman, Toyota, 60, 54.1, 0, \$24,888.

18. (1) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 60, 67.2, 0, \$24,838.

19. (5) Ricky Stenhouse Jr., Ford, 60, 47.8, 0, \$24,813.

20. (11) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 60, 36.3, 0, \$24,888.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 192.691 mph.

Time of Race: 0 hours, 46 minutes, 49 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 0.022 seconds.

Cautions: 5 among 4 drivers.

Lead Changes: 5 among 4 drivers.

Lap Leaders: A. Dillon, 1-4; D. Earnhardt Jr. 15-27; M. Kenseth 28-36; D. Earnhardt Jr. 37; K. Kahne 38; M. Kenseth 39-60.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): M. Kenseth, 2 times for 31 laps; D. Earnhardt Jr., 2 times for 14 laps; A. Dillon, 1 time for 14 laps; K. Kahne, 1 time for 1 lap.

Duel 2 results

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
Thursday
At Daytona International Speedway

Daytona Beach, Fla.
Lap length: 2.5 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (11) Denny Hamlin, Toyota, 60 laps, 107.9 rating, 0 points, \$56,725.
2. (4) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 60, 107.7, 0.
3. (14) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 60, 102.9, 0, \$36,713.
4. (2) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 60, 79.4, 0, \$31,713.
5. (7) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 60, 98, 0, \$29,713.
6. (13) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 60, 81.2, 0, \$27,213.
7. (12) Kyle Larson, Chevrolet, 60, 80.2, 0, \$26,213.
8. (11) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 60, 70.4, 0, \$25,213.
9. (16) Landon Cassill, Chevrolet, 60, 72.2, 0, \$25,188.
10. (10) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 60, 73.8, 0, \$25,163.
11. (59) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 60, 77.2, 0, \$25,138.
12. (21) Terry Labonte, Ford, 60, 50.7, 0, \$25,113.
13. (22) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 60, 50.9, 0, \$25,088.
14. (8) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 60, 71.1, 0, \$25,063.
15. (2) Carl Edwards, Ford, 60, 85, 0, \$25,038.
16. (7) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, accident, 59, 67.7, 0, \$25,013.
17. (20) David Ragan, Ford, accident, 59, 69.5, 0, \$24,988.
18. (17) Michael Waltrip, Toyota, accident, 59, 67.8, 0, \$24,938.
19. (23) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 59, 30.6, 0, \$24,313.
20. (15) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 59, 33, 0, \$24,888.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 192.691 mph.

Time of Race: 0 hours, 46 minutes, 43 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 0.022 seconds.

Cautions: 1 for 1 lap.

Lead Changes: 3 among 4 drivers.

Lap Leaders: M. Truex Jr. 1-5; Keselowski 2-35; C. Mears 36-37; D. Hamlin 38-60.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Laps Led): M. Truex Jr., 1 time for 34 laps; D. Hamlin, 1 time for 23 laps; C. Mears, 1 time for 2 laps; M. Truex Jr., 1 time for 1 lap.

NASCAR Driver Rating Formula: A maximum of 150 points can be attained in a race.

The formula combines the following categories: Wins, Finishes, Top-15 Finishes, Average Running Position While on Lead Lap, Average Speed Under Green, Fastest Lap, Led Most Laps, Lead-Lap Finish.

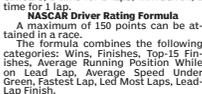


PHOTO BY TERRY RENNA/AP



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Clint Bowyer (15) flips upside down as he is involved in a multi-car crash with David Ragan (34), Carl Edwards (99) and others on the final lap of the second of two NASCAR Sprint Cup qualifying races Thursday at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Some surprises among Daytona 500 qualifiers

Hamlin, Kenseth capture checkered flags in Duels

By DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Parker Kligerman burst into the Daytona media room, arms outstretched and unleashed a “Woo hoo!”

One day after flipping his car for the first time in his career, the 23-year-old Kligerman had reason to flip out — he was racing in the Daytona 500.

Kligerman had to sweat out his spot Thursday night after failing to earn a berth on speed in the first qualifying race, and watched the second race in his motorhome. He compared the stress on Twitter to preparing for fatherhood, then said it was more like watching election results come in on TV.

“No one has the right info,” Kligerman said. “Everyone’s saying the info they think they have, but they just don’t know.”

Finally, NASCAR could call it: Kligerman was in and so was fellow Swan Racing rookie teammate Cole Whitt.

The pair of Daytona 500 first-timers were joined by rookie Alex Bowman. Bowman and Whitt raced their way into the 43-driver field via the available transfer spots. Other surprises for Sunday’s race include drivers from underfunded teams: Landon Cassill made it in the No. 40 Chevrolet for Hillman Racing and Josh Wise was a spot driving the No. 98 Ford for Phil Parsons Racing.

Kligerman was in the same 150-mile Budweiser Duel 150 race as Whitt, but finished 18th



DAVID GRAMM/AP

Flames come from Jimmie Johnson's car, left, during the second race.

and didn’t transfer into the Daytona 500. He had to wait for the second qualifying to see if he made the field.

It was a wild turn of events for Kligerman, who was turned upside down for the first time in his career in Wednesday’s wreck, then landed a sponsor for the Daytona 500 in Lending Tree on Thursday morning, then had to sweat out his spot in the “Great American Race.”

Kligerman’s backup car wasn’t as good as his primary, and he struggled on the final lap, when

he dropped from ninth to 18th. He found out after the second race he made it into the 500.

“We had a fast car and that’s what we can focus on,” he said. “Barring the engine problem, we would have finished in the top 10 and been in the 500 easy.”

Joe Gibbs Racing teammates Matt Kenseth and Denny Hamlin won the twin qualifying races, the first under the lights at Daytona International Speedway.

Kenseth, a two-time Daytona 500 winner, edged Kevin Harvick and Casey Kahne in the first 150-mile feature. Hamlin took the checkered flag in a wider second one.

His victory was overshadowed by a huge wreck that included Clint Bowyer’s car getting airborne and doing a complete flip before landing on its tires. Six-time and defending Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson triggered the melee when he ran out of gas a few hundred feet from the finish line. It caused Jamie McMurray to run into the back of Johnson, turning Johnson sideways and both cars into the wall.

The entire pack began to spin around them, and Michael Waltrip Racing driver Bowyer flipped upside down.

Two-time Daytona 500 winner Michael Waltrip slid through the grass and hit hard into the inside retaining wall.

“While I’m spinning through the infield, I see, oh, there’s my 15 car flipping through the air,” Waltrip said of Bowyer.

All drivers escaped uninjured. Johnson was apologetic.

OLYMPICS

Scoreboard

Medals table

At Sochi, Russia Through Friday, Feb. 21		Of 36 events		Total	
Nation	G	S	B	Tot	DF
United States	9	10	7	26	2
Russia	9	10	7	26	2
Canada	4	8	2	14	2
Norway	4	4	2	10	2
Netherlands	4	4	7	15	2
Germany	4	4	7	15	2
France	4	4	7	15	2
China	4	4	7	15	2
Austria	2	6	3	11	2
Switzerland	2	6	3	11	2
Spain	2	3	2	7	1
Czech Republic	2	4	2	8	1
Japan	2	4	2	8	1
Italy	2	4	2	8	1
South Korea	2	4	2	8	1
Slovenia	2	1	4	7	1
Belarus	2	5	0	7	1
Finland	2	5	0	7	1
UK	1	3	0	4	1
Australia	1	3	0	4	1
Latvia	1	3	0	4	1
Ukraine	1	3	0	4	1
Slovakia	1	0	0	1	1
Croatia	1	0	0	1	1
Kazakhstan	0	0	1	1	1

Friday's scores

CURLING	
Men	Women
Canada 9, Britain 3	Sweden 6, China 4
BRIQUE MEDAL	
ICE HOCKEY	
Men	
Semi-finals	
Canada 1, United States 0	

Alpine skiing

Women's slalom results	
Friday	
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia (Start positions in parentheses)	
Final Ranking	
(First and second runs in parentheses)	
1. Marielle Thiébaud, France, (5, 53.96), 1:11.17	
2. Kathrin Zettel, Austria, (7, 54.00), 2:05.52	
3. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, (2, 53.11), 3:05.52	
4. Frida Hansdotter, Sweden, (8, 54.05), 4:51.85	
5. Emily Wikstrom, Sweden, (11, 54.55), 3:15.50	
6. Nastasia Knežević, France, (5, 53.81), 8:52.31	
7. Tina Maze, Slovenia, (3, 53.29), 14:52.96	
Other U.S. Finishers	
24. Julia Lee, Piedmont, N.H., (30, 58.86), 24, 53.99)	1:52.87
NR. Reti Steigler, Jackson Hole, Wyo., DNF	
NR. Megan McJames, Park City, Utah, DNF	

Biatlon

At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's 4x6km Relay (Penalties in parentheses)	
1. Ukraine (Vita Semerenko, Julija Dzhynyeva, Vali Semerenko, Olena Pidhrusna), 1:10:02.5 (0+0)	
2. Russia (Yana Romanova, Olga Zaitseva, Ekaterina Shumilova, Olga Vilukhina), 1:10:29.9 (0+0)	
3. Switzerland (Fanny Welle-Strand Horn, Tiri Eickhoff, Ann Kristin Aulin, Heidi Flattland, Therese Johaug), 1:12:40.1 (0+0)	
4. Czech Republic (Eva Puskarčíková, Gabriela Soukalová, Jitka Landová, Zdeňka Vejnarová), 1:12:52.9 (0+0)	
5. Belarus (Ludmila Kalinich, Nadezhda Skochina, Nadezhda Pisarcova, Dorota Domraczeva), 1:11:33.4 (0+1)	
6. Italy (Dorothea Wierer, Nicole Gander, Michela Ponza, Karin Oberhofer), 1:11:43.3 (0+2)	
7. United States (Susan Dunklee, Hannah Dreissigacker, Sarah Stuedebek, Annekatrin Linnemann), 1:12:42.0 (0+0)	
8. Canada (Rosanna Crawford, Zina Kocher, Imriyeh Megan Hince, Zina Kocher), 1:12:21.1 (0+2)	
9. Switzerland (Selina Gasparin, Elisa Gasparin, Alta Gasparin, Irene Cadarini), 1:12:34.3 (0+0)	
10. Italy (Kryzshana Palka, Magdalena Gwizdon, Weronika Nowakowska-Ziemniak, Monika Hojnacki), 1:12:34.4 (4+0)	

Freestyle skiing

Friday	
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia Women's Cross Quarterfinals	
1. Kelsey Serwa, Canada (Q)	
2. Katelyn Ohashi, Australia (Q)	
NR. Anna Woerner, Germany, DNF	
NR. Georgia Simmerling, Canada, DNF	
1. Kathrin Oberer, Austria (Q)	
2. Anna Holmlund, Sweden (Q)	
3. Katrin Muehle, Switzerland	
NR. Stephanie Joroff, Chile, DNF	
Heat 3	
1. Marielle Thompson, Canada (Q)	
2. Katelyn Ohashi, Australia (Q)	
3. Yulia Livinskaya, Russia	
NR. Sanna Luedfi, Switzerland, DNF	

Heat 4	
1. Ophelie David, France (Q)	
2. Sandra Naeslund, Sweden (Q)	
3. Jenny Owens, Australia	
NR. Karolina Rismen-Zerebecka, Poland, DNF	
Semi-finals	
Heat 1	
1. Anna Holmlund, Sweden (A)	
2. Kelsey Serwa, Canada (A)	
3. Kathrin Oberer, Austria (B)	
4. Katelyn Ohashi, Switzerland (B)	
Heat 2	
1. Marielle Thompson, Canada (A)	
2. Ophelie David, France (A)	
3. Katelyn Ohashi, Australia (B)	
NR. Sandra Naeslund, Sweden (B), DNF	
Small Final	
1. Sandra Naeslund, Sweden	
2. Kathrin Oberer, Austria	
3. Katelyn Ohashi, Switzerland	
4. Katelyn Ohashi, Switzerland	
Big Final (Medals)	
1. Marielle Thompson, Canada	
2. Kelsey Serwa, Canada	
3. Anna Holmlund, Sweden	
4. Ophelie David, France	

Short Track

Friday	
At Sochi, Russia	
Men	
500	
Final B	
1. Han Tianyu, China, 41.534	
2. J.R. Calski, Federal Way, Wash., 41.786	
3. Eloy Britan, 41.870	
4. Sjinke Kragt, Netherlands, 42.608	
Final A	
1. Victor An, Russia, 41.312	
2. Wu Dajing, China, 41.516	
3. Charles Courtillot, 41.617	
4. Liang Wenhao, China, 1:13.900	
1000	
Final B	
1. Canada (Charlie Cournoyer, Michael Gilday, Charles Hansen, Olivier Jean), 64:37.47	
2. South Korea (Kim Yun-Jae, Lee Han-bin, Park Se Yeong, Sin Da Woon), 64:59.21	
3. Italy (Vito Confortola, Tommaso Dotoli, Anthony Lobello, Davide Vicari), 64:49.04	
Final A	
1. Russia (Viktor Romanov, Elvira Ilmuratova, Vladimir Grigorev, Ruslan Zakharov), 64:37.47	
2. United States (Eddy Alvarez, Miamir, J.R. Celski, Federal Way, Wash.; Chris Creveling, Kinterville, Pa.; Jordan Malone, Denton, Texas), 64:27.71	
4. Netherlands (Daan Breeuwater, Niels Kerckh, Sjoerd Meentemeyer, Freek Van Der Werf), 64:49.18	
5. China (Changsheng Han, Tianyu Sheng, Wu Dajing), 64:48.34	
6. Belarus (Abzal Azhgaliev, Nurber Bekchanov, Denis Nikitski, Aydarbek Zhumagaziyev), 65:59.39	
Final B	
1. Jorien ter Mors, Netherlands, 1:38.25	
2. Valerie Maitais, Canada, 1:36.863	
3. Park Seung-hi, South Korea, 1:36.671	
4. Fan Kexin, China, 1:30.811	
5. Shim Suk Lee, South Korea, 1:33.000	
6. Jessica Smith, Melvindale, Mich., 1:31.301	

Multi-medalists

At Sochi, Russia	
Men	
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Heat 4	
1. Magnus Krog, Norway, nordic combined, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
2. Danir Richardson, Sweden, cross-country, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
3. Jeroen Berden, Netherlands, speedskating, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
4. Scott Moir, Canada, figure skating, 2 silver	
5. Albert Demchenko, Russia, luge, 2 silver	
6. Patrick Chan, Canada, figure skating, 2 silver	
7. Maxim Vylegzhanin, Russia, cross-country, 2 silver	
8. Han Tianyu, China, short track, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
9. Teodor Peterson, Sweden, cross-country, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
10. Fabian Riesch, Germany, nordic combined, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
11. Andrejs Spruc, Slovenia, ski jumping, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
12. Jaroslav Soukup, Czech Republic, biathlon, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
13. Christof Innerhofer, Italy, alpine skiing, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
14. Denny Morrison, Canada, speedskating, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
15. Wu Dajing, China, short track, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
16. Noriaki Kasai, Japan, ski jumping, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
17. Emil Jonsson, Sweden, cross-country, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
18. Juris Ciskis, Latvia, luge, 2 bronze	
Four	
1. Ireen Wu, Netherlands, speedskating, 1 gold, 3 silver	
2. Darya Domracheva, Belarus, biathlon, 3 gold	
3. Jang Seung-hi, South Korea, short track, 2 gold, 1 bronze	
4. Charlotte Kallo, Sweden, cross-country, 1 gold, 2 silver	
5. Tori Bergeron, Norway, biathlon, 1 gold, 1 silver	
6. Shim Suk Hee, South Korea, short track, 1 gold, 1 silver	
7. Tiri Eickhoff, Norway, biathlon, 1 gold, 2 bronze	
8. Stefania Fontana, Italy, short track, 1 silver, 2 bronze	
Two	
1. Tatiana Volozhinar, Russia, figure skating, 2 gold, 1 silver	
2. Natalie Geisenberger, Germany, luge, 2 gold	
3. Tina Maze, Slovenia, alpine skiing, 2 gold	
4. Bjornero, Norway, cross-country, 2 gold	
5. Maria Hoefl-Riesch, Germany, alpine skiing, 1 gold, 1 silver	
6. Ingvild Flugstad Ostberg, Norway, cross-country, 1 gold, 1 silver	
7. Anna Fenninger, Austria, alpine skiing, 1 gold, 1 silver	
8. Martina Sablikova, Czech Republic, speedskating, 1 gold, 1 silver	
9. Senia Stobrova, Russia, figure skating, 1 gold, 1 silver	
10. Elena Ignatovska, Ukraine, biathlon, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
11. Zina Igornostrovsk, Sweden, cross-country, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
12. Elena Illich, Russia, figure skating, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
13. Meryl Davis, United States, figure skating, 1 gold, 1 bronze	
14. Aino-Kaisa Saarinen, Finland, cross-country, 1 silver	
15. Kersti Niskanen, Finland, cross-country, 1 silver	
16. Tessa Virtue, Canada, figure skating, 2 silver	
17. Olga Vilukhina, Russia, biathlon, 2 silver	
18. Gabriela Soukalova, Czech Republic, biathlon, 2 silver	
19. Nicole Hosp, Austria, alpine skiing, 1 silver, 1 bronze	
20. Margot Boer, Netherlands, speedskating, 2 bronze	

Short Track

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Records

At Sochi, Russia		
Through Feb. 21		
Men		
Speedskating		
5000—Sven Kramer, Netherlands, 6:01.97, Feb. 20 (Old Record: 6:14.60, Kramer, Vancouver, Feb. 13, 2010)		
10000—Tori Bergeron, Norway, 12:44.45, Feb. 18, 2014 (Old Record: Lee Seung-Hoon, South Korea, 12:58.55, Feb. 23, 2008)		
Short Track		
5000 Relay—Russia (Semen Elistratov, Victor An), 6:42.100, Feb. 21, 2014 (Old Record: South Korea, Lee Ho-Suk, An Victor, Seo Ho-Jin, Song Suk-Woo, 6:43.376, Feb. 25, 2008)		
Women		
Speedskating		
500—Lee Sang Hwa, South Korea, 37.28, Feb. 20, 2014 (Old Record: 37.39, Catriona Le May Dono, Canada, Feb. 13, 2002)		
1500—Jorien Ter Mors, Netherlands, 1:53.51, Feb. 16, 2014 (Old Record: Anni Friesinger, Germany, Feb. 20, 2002)		
3000—Lee Sang Hwa, South Korea, 1:14.70, Feb. 11, 2014 (Old Record: Catriona Le May Dono, Canada, 1:14.75, Feb. 13, 2002)		
Team Pursuit—Netherlands (Jorien Ter Mors, Lotte van Beeren, Ireen Wust), 2:58.61, Feb. 21, 2014 (Old Record: Canada; Kristina Grover, Cindy Klassen, Christine Nesbitt), 2:01.24, Feb. 15, 2006) <td></td>		
Short Track Speedskating		
1000—Brittanie Snaydon, Canada, 1:28.771, Feb. 18, 2014 (Old Record: Zhou Yang, China, 1:29.049, Feb. 26, 2010)		

At Sochi, Russia		
Through Feb. 21		
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Speedskating		
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Medals roundup

OLYMPICS

Dream: Slip almost ends it on second run

FROM BACK PAGE

It so nearly disappeared in a dramatic second of skiing under the night-time floodlights.

"I thought, 'It's over,'" said Shiffrin's slalom coach, Roland Pfeifer. "All of a sudden, she overdid it second run and that was brutal. I can't describe how I felt."

For the first time, Shiffrin sealed a big victory from the front instead of her usual aggressive second-run tactics to overhaul other racers.

Shiffrin had built a 0.49 advantage over Maria Hoefl-Riesch of Germany in late afternoon, using nimble footwork to deal with soft snow and a tight gate-setting on the steep course.

Schild had been only sixth-fastest, trailing Shiffrin by 1.34.

Hoefl-Riesch faded on her second time down to finish fourth in what is likely her Olympic farewell race, 1.19 behind Shiffrin and 0.38 outside the medals.

"It's really emotional. No matter what's going to happen, I had a great Olympic career," Hoefl-Riesch said after her first run.

The 29-year-old German, who had been trying to win a record-tying fourth career Olympic gold medal, has been the subject of speculation that she will retire when the season ends next month.

Shiffrin is the first American woman to get a slalom medal of any color since Barbara Cochran won gold at the 1972 Sapporo Olympics. She showed her patriotic colors wearing a stars-and-stripes design on her race helmet and a small painted flag with USA written into it on the right side of her neck.

With her gold, Shiffrin lifted the American Alpine team's tally at the Sochi Olympics to five medals, including one other gold from men's giant slalom champion Ted Ligety.



SERGI GUTTS/AP

Canada's Marielle Thompson, left, leads compatriot Kelsey Serwa in the women's ski cross final Friday at Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

Skicross

Canadian women go 1-2

Thompson, Serwa continue country's freestyle success

By **EDDIE PELLs**
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Marielle Thompson and Kelsey Serwa got great air even with their ski boots on, kicking back their heels and flailing their arms so wide, they almost dropped the flowers.

That, Canada, is what you call owning the podium.

The Canadian women won gold and silver in skicross Friday, giving their country bookend 1-2 performances in the freestyle skiing events at the Sochi Olympics.

Freestyle opened Feb. 8 with sisters Justine and Chloe Dufour-Lapointe of Montreal finishing first and second in moguls.

"Being on the podium at the Olympics in itself is pretty cool," Serwa said, still all smiles long after a jubilant celebration during the flower ceremony. "To be standing beside your teammate is the best feeling in the world."

In all, the Canadians have sent two people to the freestyle podium four times during these games: men's and women's moguls, women's slopestyle and women's skicross. They also had the men's silver medalist on the halfpipe.

In all, that's nine freestyle medals for the country that pumped upward of \$110 million into their "Own The Podium" program in advance of the Vancouver Games, hoping to boost the medal count and seed some potential in the raft of action sports added to the Olympics.



ANDY WONG/AP

Women's skicross gold medalist Marielle Thompson of Canada, right, celebrates on the podium with silver medalist and compatriot Kelsey Serwa.

"It's been a huge force all the way through," Serwa said. "Heading out there and being able to train around the world all year-round — without that, we wouldn't be here today."

The Canadians dedicated this final freestyle victory to Nik Zoricic, the skicross racer from Toronto who died in a race in Switzerland in 2012.

Zoricic wore blue jeans to training in the early days because he didn't have the right kind of snow pants. The Canadian team, normally always in red and white, went with blue bottoms to honor their fallen friend.

"I'm sure Nik is up there smiling and cracking open a couple of beers and we miss him," Canadian coach Eric Archer said.

Zoricic died only two months after Canada's most famous freestyle star, Sarah Burke, lost her life from injuries suffered in a training accident on the halfpipe.

If anyone needed reminding about the dangers of these extreme sports, women's skicross was Exhibit A.

The final on a foggy, drizzly day at Rosa Khutor served up its share of ugly accidents that could ignite discussion about whether the Olympic course is built too big for the women.

In back-to-back quarterfinals, Anna Woerner of Germany and Stephanie Jofroy of Chile were taken off the course on stretchers after wrecking despite not being bunched in a tight racing pack. Woerner broke her right shin and tore a knee ligament. No updates on Jofroy's condition were immediately provided.

The dangers of this sport were amplified last weekend when Russian skicross racer Maria Komissarova fractured her spine in training. She had emergency surgery at a hospital in the mountains and was later taken to Munich, Germany, for another operation.



ALESSANDRO TROVATI/AP

The United States' Mikaela Shiffrin waves to the crowd during a flower ceremony Friday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

OLYMPICS

US women lose gold medal in heartbreaker

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — A two-goal lead blown in the final four minutes. A long shot that clanged off the post of an empty net. Two perplexing penalties in overtime, setting up a golden goal for Canada.

The U.S. women's hockey team has lost late in the past four Olympics, but never in such preposterously heartbreaking fashion as this 3-2 defeat on Thursday night.

While the Canadians received their fourth straight gold medals, the Americans were left blank-faced or crying at Bolshoy Ice Dome. Sixteen years after the first generation of U.S. players won the inaugural Olympic tournament, these Americans

‘To let them come back in the gold-medal game at the Olympics is the worst feeling in the world.’

Kelli Stack
Team USA center

thought Canada's Olympic mastery over them had finally waned.

Instead, they've got four more years to think about how the Canadians manage to seize their sport's biggest moment while the U.S. gets left holding silver.

“To let them come back in the gold-medal game at the Olympics is the worst feeling in the world,” said Kelli Stack, who

nearly became an improbable hero with a long clearing attempt that hit the right post of an empty net late in regulation.

Stack actually knew she hadn't scored when she flipped the puck down the ice in the waning seconds. From her vantage point, she could tell it was going to hit the post even before that clunk of rubber against metal.

“If it would have been an inch to the right, it would have went in, and we would have won the gold medal,” said Stack, shaking her head. “When pucks don't bounce your way, you've just got to know that it wasn't meant to be.”

The pain was palpable on the faces of the Americans, Canada's only rival in this young sport. The U.S. women really had seemed destined to triumph in Sochi, repeatedly playing better than the Canadians in exhibitions and tournaments. What's more, Canada coach Dan Church abruptly quit in mid-December.



Above: American Megan Bozek (9) wipes a tear as she stands with Monique Lamoureux and Meghan Duggan (10) during the medal ceremony for the women's ice hockey tournament at the Winter Olympics on Friday in Sochi, Russia. Team USA took silver after losing 3-2 to Team Canada in overtime.

Right: The puck hits the post with Canada's goalie pulled in the last minutes of the third period Thursday.

MATT SLOCUM, TOP, AND NATHAN DENETTE, RIGHT/AP



Everything was in place for a U.S. break-through until Canada broke away again.

“You can't take the sting away,” coach Katey Stone said. “You just have to tell them how proud you are of them and how much they mean to you and what a tremendous privilege and honor it was to be a part of it.”

Canada shuts out US, will face Sweden in final

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Jamie Benn scored in the second period, Carey Price made 31 saves, and Canada beat the United States 1-0 Friday night in the semifinals of the Olympic men's hockey tournament.

Canada advanced to the gold-medal match Sunday against Sweden, which beat Finland 2-1 in the earlier semifinal at Bolshoy Ice Dome. The Canadians are on the brink of their third gold medal in four Olympics, and they're guaranteed their first medals outside North America in 20 years.

After its first loss in Sochi, the U.S. will face Finland for bronze on Saturday.

The defending Olympic cham-



American forward Patrick Kane leaves the ice after Team USA's 1-0 loss to Canada on Friday in Sochi, Russia.

ions left no doubt about their North American hockey supremacy in a semifinal rematch of the final game of the Vancouver Games, won on Sidney Crosby's golden goal.

The Canadians haven't even trailed in the Sochi Olympics, and they didn't need overtime to maintain border supremacy on the U.S. Their stifling defense has allowed just three goals in five games, and they clamped down on the high-scoring American offense for every minute of a slightly anti-climactic evening.

Canada beat the Americans for the fourth time in five Olympic meetings since the NHL players joined the party in 1998. Both teams rolled unbeset through the Sochi tournament to this showdown, but the expected of-

fensive theatrics in this meeting never occurred, buried along with the friendships and NHL bonds that must be discarded when these teams meet.

Defenseman Jay Bouwmeester created the only goal with a clever pass to Benn, the Dallas Stars captain in the midst of an outstanding tournament. That was all the offense needed by Price, the Montreal goalie who easily handled the Americans' few good chances, including their clunky power plays.

Jonathan Quick stopped 36 shots for the Americans, who had trailed for just 7:19 in Sochi before Benn's goal put them in a hole they never escaped.

Also: ■ Sweden beat up and defeated its biggest rival, and the reward

is a shot at a second gold medal in the past three Olympics.

Erik Karlsson scored the go-ahead goal late in the second period and Henrik Lundqvist finished with 25 saves, lifting the Swedes over Finland 2-1 on Friday and into the Olympic hockey final.

“It's an amazing feeling,” Lundqvist said.

The Finns' last Olympic win against Sweden, their European neighbor, was in 1998, the first games with NHL players. Finland went on to win bronze in Nagano, and it has earned three medals in the NHL era, more than any other nation.

The Swedes can join Canada as the only country to win two gold medals since NHL players began participating in the Olympics.

SPORTS



Calling down the Thunder

James scores 33 points as Miami whips Oklahoma City | **NBA, Page 27**

WINTER OLYMPICS

Teenage dream

American prodigy Shiffrin golden in women's slalom

By **GRAHAM DUNBAR**
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Invoking the sort of recovery skills that Bode Miller made famous, American teenager Mikaela Shiffrin made Alpine skiing history Friday as the youngest ever winner of an Olympic slalom gold medal.

The 18-year-old Shiffrin showed impressive balance and agility on the Rosa Khutor course, somehow correcting herself in mid-air and landing her skis back between the gates midway through her second run.

Her speed — and lead from a near-flawless first run — then carried her down the steep hill to win in a two-leg combined time of 1 minute, 44.54 seconds. She finished 0.53 seconds faster than Marlies Schild, the Austrian veteran who is one of Shiffrin's childhood favorites.

"There I was, I'm like, 'Grrreat. I'm just going to go win my first medal.' And then in the middle of the run, I'm like, 'Guess not.'" Shiffrin said. "So like, 'No. Don't do that. Do not give up. You see this through.' My whole goal was to just keep my skis moving."

After she crossed the finish line, Shiffrin hesitated to celebrate. She only seemed sure she had won when Schild and bronze medalist Kathrin Zettel of Austria came across the finish area to raise her arms in triumph.

At 32, Schild has now taken a slalom medal at three straight Olympics without winning gold.

Zettel trailed 0.81 behind Shiffrin and cried after securing her first Olympic medal following a series of near-misses at the past two Winter Games.

"Mikaela was absolute fantastic skiing, so she was the favorite and she nailed all

sochi 2014

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of us," Zettel said. "She is the real Olympic champion."

Shiffrin claimed the record for youngest Olympic slalom champion, male or female, from Paoletta Magoni of Italy, who won gold at the 1984 Sarajevo Games when she was 19.

The Vail, Colo. native completed a full set of slalom honors — Olympic and world championship gold medals and a season-long World Cup discipline title — before her 19th birthday next month.

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Gold medal winner Mikaela Shiffrin of the United States celebrates as she finishes the second run of the women's slalom in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

CHRISTOPHE ENA/AP

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