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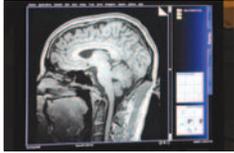
50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Inside

MILITARY

MRI machines for troops pulled from Afghan war zone

Page 5



WORLD

Photographs of alleged torture in Syria further threaten peace talks

Page 11

FACES

Schwarzenegger takes swings in Bud Light advertising campaign

Page 17



NBA

Kevin Durant lifts Thunder as Westbrook recovers from surgery

Back page



10,000 troops or nothing

Reports: US military sets terms for force level in post-2014 Afghanistan

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military has recommended that President Barack Obama maintain 10,000 American troops in Afghanistan to provide adequate force protection after the official end of combat operations this December — or bring home essentially all U.S. troops.

The recommendation came from Gen.

Joseph Dunford, the top U.S. and NATO coalition commander in Afghanistan, who discussed it during a recent meeting of the White House National Security Council, officials said.

“The intelligence community, the State Department and military leaders believe that that’s about the right number to do the sorts of things we believe need to be done after 2014,” a U.S. government official familiar with the discussions told Stars and Stripes,

speaking on the condition of anonymity.

Dunford said a troop presence smaller than 10,000 would not provide adequate protection for U.S. bases in Afghanistan, the official said. According to the Wall Street Journal, officials with intelligence agencies and the State Department reportedly told the White House an adequate number of U.S. troops is needed to protect their missions as well.

SEE AFGHANISTAN ON PAGE 2



NOT YOUR AVERAGE AIRLIFT

US air crews ferry peacekeepers, gear to troubled Central African Republic | Page 3

RYAN CRANE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Tech. Sgt. Matthew Reddick, 62nd Airlift Wing flying crew chief, glances over at a refugee camp while Rwandan soldiers are unloaded from a C-17 Globemaster III in the Central African Republic on Sunday.

Navy pushes for increase in sea duty pay

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Enlisted sailors heading out from port will soon receive their first sea pay increase in more than a decade, Navy officials say.

The announcement was made Tuesday by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran during an all-hands call aboard the USS Bataan. It

“It’s long overdue. We haven’t adjusted sea pay in over 10 years.”

Vice Adm. Bill Moran
chief of Naval Personnel

remains unclear just how much the monthly pay will increase, but Moran said sailors should expect a formal announcement “soon” from Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus.

“It’s long overdue,” Moran said in a Navy statement. “We haven’t adjusted sea pay in over 10 years and we are absolutely convinced that it is the right thing to do for Sailors who are

committed to sea duty or serving at sea.”

Seventh Fleet officials could not confirm the increase Wednesday as it was not yet official, but Moran’s announcement brought smiles to the faces of sailors at Sasebo Naval Base.

“Hell, I’m not going to complain about a pay raise,” said a grinning sailor off the USS Germantown who declined to provide his name.

SEE PAY ON PAGE 5

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We came with nothing, but nothing will take me back there. ... I wish to Prophet Muhammad that someone would drop a bomb on it.”

— Female Iraqi refugee from Fallujah commenting on the turbulent conditions in the city

See story on Page 11

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COMING TOMORROW



Movies

Kevin Hart in “Ride Along”

TODAY IN STRIPES

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

MILITARY

Afghanistan: Reported plan would eventually provide for troops only at US Embassy in Kabul

FROM FRONT PAGE

“The proposal is 10,000 or basically nothing, a pullout,” an official familiar with internal administration deliberations told The New York Times.

The 10,000-troop option also calls for the level to fall to near zero by the time Obama leaves office in early 2017, both newspapers reported, rather than perhaps 2024, as has been reported many times.

After the drawdown — whether it happens sooner or later — officials said only a few hundred troops would be stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Some officials in the White House National Security Council, including Vice President Joe Biden, question why the choice has to be 10,000 troops or zero, and nothing in between, the Times reported.

A White House official said the internal discussion hasn’t yielded anything to announce about future troop numbers.

“The President has not yet made decisions about final troop numbers and I’m not going to discuss the details of our ongoing deliberations,” NSC spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in an email. “We will be weighing inputs from our military commanders, as well as the intelligence community, our diplomats, and development experts as we make decisions

“If those missions (to support the Afghan government and military) are not desired ... there is no point in having troops there at all.”

U.S. government official

about our post-2014 presence in Afghanistan.”

There are currently about 37,500 U.S. troops in Afghanistan, according to the Pentagon. That is scheduled to fall to 32,000 next month, and is expected to continue to decline following the Afghan presidential election in April.

The administration said last year it was planning to keep between 8,000 and 12,000 U.S. and NATO troops in the country to train, advise and assist Afghan troops, as well as to conduct counterterrorism operations against al-Qaida.

The future presence of Western troops there was thrown into doubt in November when Afghan President Hamid Karzai refused to sign a bilateral security agreement with the United States.

The agreement, which was approved by a gathering of thousands of Afghan elders and local leaders, would grant U.S. troops immunity from the Afghan legal

system and set other parameters for the U.S. presence.

Karzai has thrown up a number of objections, including a demand that Western troops be barred from entering Afghan homes during counterterrorism raids.

Hayden said in the email that if the agreement is not signed soon, the United States would be forced to begin planning a complete withdrawal of troops — an eventuality she said the United States is not seeking.

“We are talking about weeks, not months, left on the clock to conclude the BSA,” she said.

The U.S. military is poised to continue assisting the Afghan government gain capability, a U.S. government official said.

“But if those missions are not desired — and certainly without a bilateral security agreement being signed — there is no point in having troops there at all,” the official said.

carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @chris Carroll

Soldier killed in Afghan attack ID'd

By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

The Defense Department has identified the soldier killed in Monday’s attack on an American military base in Afghanistan’s Kandahar province as Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Balli.

Balli, 42, of Monterey, Calif., was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, based in Vilseck, Germany. He was killed in a coordinated attack involving a car bomb and insurgents dressed in military uniforms, armed with explosive vests. All eight attackers were killed in the resulting battle with base security forces, according to

local and coalition officials.

The warrant officer’s death marks the eighth American casualty in Afghanistan this year and brings the number of U.S. casualties since 2011 to 2,168, according to an Associated Press report published Tuesday.

This was the fourth deployment for Balli, who had been in the Army for 15 years, according to a U.S. Army Europe news release.

Balli is survived by his wife, Kristy, his mother and three siblings and will be interred at the Presidio of Monterey cemetery, according to the Monterey County Herald.

darnell.michael@stripes.com



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Edward Balli

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



AF eases policy on dress, appearance

Recently, the Air Force announced changes to its dress and appearance policy, loosening some uniform and workout regulations.

Readers respond:

Really, hot pink cell phones ... grumble grumble grumble
— parkersd61

We all need to ease up on the, “Chair Force,” as they are still in their infancy compared to the other services, they are just having growing pains.
— RJ Sotog

Thank goodness common sense has finally begun to take hold in Air Force leadership. If you truly care to retain any of your best and brightest, you’ll continue down that path.
— CA

why oh why does the Air Force always have to be the laughing stock?? Nobody asked for Morale Shirts!!
— Scott

Meanwhile in the army, “Beating will continue [until] morale improves.”
— Kyle Soler

The common sense test was applied and adapted. This is a great example of the USAF brass listening to the Airmen. There are a lot of bright people wearing USAF blue. It is good their voices are heard and heeded in some policy matters.
— baronbob

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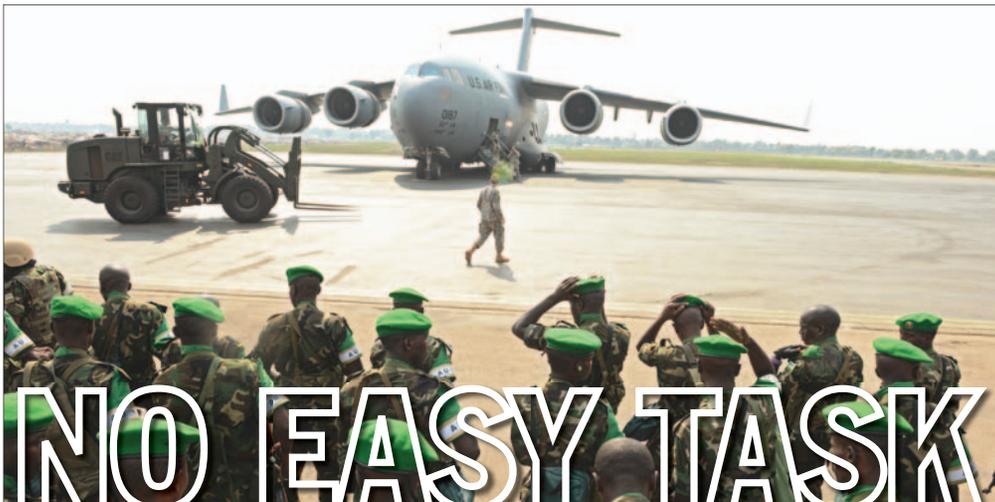
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MILITARY

Landing a C-17 cargo aircraft at the air field in Bangui, the capital of the Central African Republic, is like landing at any airport ... except for the fact that the air field is surrounded by smoke, the radar system on the ground is weak, control tower operators are difficult to communicate with, the tarmac is short, and refugees are milling about near the runway.



RYAN CRANE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Rwandan soldiers form up after a C-17 Globemaster III from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., dropped them off in the Central African Republic on Sunday. U.S. forces will transport 850 Rwandan soldiers and more than 1,000 tons of equipment into the Central African Republic to aid French and African Union operations against militants during a three-week operation.

For U.S. forces, delivering peacekeepers to Central African Republic comes with challenges

By JON HARPER/Stars and Stripes

Putting wheels down in Bangui is only one part of a complex joint U.S. and international mission to bring peace to the Central African Republic.

U.S. involvement started with a phone call from French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian. France has a long history of military intervention in the CAR dating back to colonial times, and when faced with escalating violence between Muslims and Christians in its former colony, Paris decided that MISCA — an African peacekeeping force in the CAR — needed to be beefed up significantly. But, to get additional African forces in place before the fighting spiraled out of control, France needed a little help from its friends; more specifically, the logistical capabilities of the U.S. Air Force. So last month, Le Drian called U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, who responded by ordering U.S. Africa Command to design and execute an airlift.

“Minister Le Drian requested ... airlift support to enable African forces to deploy promptly to prevent the further spread of sectarian violence in the Central African Republic,” Pentagon Assistant Press Secretary Carl Woog announced Dec. 9. “The United States is joining the international community in this effort because of our belief that immediate action is required to avert a humanitarian and human rights catastrophe in the Central African Republic, and because of our interest in peace and security in the region.”

The Air Force airlifted 850 Burundian troops, along with their vehicles and other equipment, from Burundi to the CAR in December. It turned out to be just the first round of airlifts.

Now the U.S. military is conducting a similar mission with Rwandan soldiers. Stars and

Stripes was able to talk to several American servicemembers involved in the new operation, which began Jan. 16.

The C-17 crewmembers conducting the airlift are working 14-hour days, according to Capt. Elizabeth Shaw, an aircraft commander and C-17 pilot. The 12-member crews start their day in Entebbe, Uganda, where Air Mobility Command’s Contingency Response Element for this mission is based. The crews

head to Kigali, Rwanda, where they load peacekeepers and their equipment. The C-17s then fly to Bangui where the Rwandans and their cargo are off-loaded. The crews then fly back to Entebbe to rest before their next sortie. Daily, two C-17s make the 1,900-mile trip from Uganda to the CAR and back. Four crews are taking part in the mission, and each crew works every other day on a staggered schedule.

About 85 U.S. servicemembers are working in Entebbe, including the air crews and the personnel on the ground performing command-and-control and support functions, said Maj. Micah Vander Veen, the element’s commander.

“The biggest challenge for the CRE is basically the initial set-up because we need to be operational within, you know, a matter of hours ... to start running the mission and getting the planes ready to go,” Vander Veen said in a phone interview from Entebbe.

Shaw said there are many difficulties.

“It is definitely different from anything we’ve ever experienced, that’s for sure. I mean no one can really be totally prepared (for this),” she said in an interview from Entebbe. “There’s not any good radar ... Sometimes we lose even radio frequencies, so we lose communication) ... It’s just very short resources I guess you could say out here.”

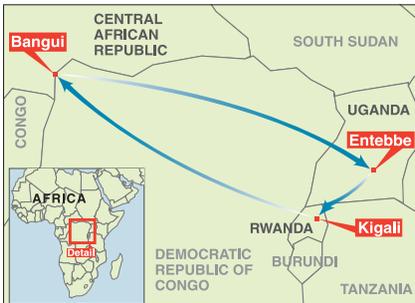
Even when communication systems are functioning properly, speaking with control tower operators throughout the region is difficult for the crew.

“There’s definitely a language barrier,” Shaw said. “They do speak some English. However, it’s not necessarily as good as we expect it to be, so we kind of have to interpret what they say.”

SEE DELIVERING ON PAGE 4

All in a day’s work

U.S. C-17s are conducting airlift operations in support of the peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic. The 12-member crews start in Entebbe, Uganda, head to Kigali, Rwanda, where they load Rwandan peacekeepers and equipment, then fly to Bangui, in the CAR, to off-load the Rwandans and their cargo. The crews then return to Entebbe.



SOURCES: Phone interviews with U.S. personnel in Africa

NOGA ARAH-RAW/Stars and Stripes

MILITARY

Delivering: US to transport 850 Rwandan soldiers over 3-week mission

FROM PAGE 3

The number of refugees from the conflict now living at the air field in Bangui complicates landing.

"There's thousands and thousands of people there," Shaw said. "Sometimes [the people in the control tower will] have you do maybe a little approach around the field just to clear it and show the people, like, hey, there's a large plane about to land. And then on the landing itself you can see hundreds of people all along the runway all excited, you know, cheering and basically waving at you. And then once you land and ... [you're] on the ground, then hundreds of people just start walking in front of the air-plane as you're taxiing."

Short runways are a challenge, and so is the smoke from the open fires that people in Bangui use for cooking and trash burning.

"We can't really see the field until we're just a couple miles out. There's this huge haze layer. And even on departure ... you can definitely see this fog, this haze start to engulf the air field," Shaw said.

During the airlift of Burundian troops a few weeks ago, one of the C-17s wasn't able to land because the smoke was so thick, Lt. Col. Allen Pepper, the officer in charge of the U.S. Army-Africa element in Bangui, said in an interview from the CAR.

Things aren't easy for the six U.S. sol-



RYAN CRANE/Courtesy of the US Air Force

A Rwandan soldier stands guard at an air field in the Central African Republic with a refugee camp full of displaced citizens behind him on Sunday.

diers deployed to Bangui either.

Pepper, who lives with five other U.S. soldiers at a military camp next to M'Poko, has to liaise with the French and MISCA forces in Bangui, the CRE, and USARAF headquarters in Italy. Most of the MISCA forces speak French, and Pepper speaks the language well.

He said many elements of the MISCA force have peacekeeping experience in Somalia, Darfur, and the CAR itself, so they're not new to this kind of mission.

Pepper said all the troops on the ground in Bangui get along well — they trade uniform patches and eat at each

other's dining facilities — but poor communications infrastructure in the CAR complicates their jobs.

"With cell phones here being one of the primary means of communication for the personnel on the ground here ... the infrastructure is sometimes lacking," Chief Warrant Officer Erik Kruger, an Army communications specialist, said in a phone interview from Bangui.

Temperatures in Bangui sometimes reach into the triple digits, with high humidity this time of year.

"You're very close to the equator, so

[the heat from the sun] really seems to have an extra force to it," Pepper said. Pepper said the Rwandans are highly motivated and feel a personal connection to their mission, given their country's history of domestic turmoil and genocide in the 1990s.

"You can tell the minute they get off the plane they're here to work and they're ready to get to their mission as quickly as they can," Pepper said. "I was talking with a Rwandan today, and he mentioned that it was just 20 years ago that they experienced some horrific things in their country, and so when they're in a position to support peace, they're ready to do that."

How long the larger effort will last and what the future U.S. role in the CAR will be is unknown at this point.

"It's somewhat of an open-ended mission," Pepper said. "The actual airlift of the Rwandans, though, will take another probably a couple of weeks, and after that we are going to continue to work with the French and with the MISCA forces. We're continuing to figure out what their requirements for support might be, requests for support, and seeing how the U.S. military might be able to provide appropriate support, whether it be future airlifts ... or perhaps advisers." "So it's somewhat open-ended right now as far as time line."

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @HarperStripes

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

US pulls MRI machines from Afghan war zone

By GREGG ZOROYA
USA Today

Advanced brain-imaging machines sent to Afghanistan in 2011 at the urging of then-Adm. Mike Mullen when he was the Pentagon's top military officer have since been quietly closed down and dismantled.

Mullen hoped the three magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, machines would help doctors see on scans the mild traumatic brain injuries that have affected thousands of troops exposed to roadside bombs.

The senior medical officer for the U.S. Central Command, which oversees military operations in Afghanistan, said it remains unclear whether using MRI machines in the war zone truly helps the process of treating those brain injuries.

Use of them ended last February and they were dismantled for spare parts in

October, said Air Force Col. Mark Mavity, Central Command surgeon.

"The device itself doesn't necessarily help you treat that patient," Mavity said. "It just helps you understand the nature of the injury in a little bit more meaningful way. (It) was deemed not worth the cost and investment to keep those devices in theater."

Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who retired in 2011, declined through a spokesperson to comment on the machines being dismantled. He told USA Today in a 2011 interview that getting the machines into Afghanistan was "a very high priority."

Mild TBI from blasts is described as an "invisible" wound, diagnosed only through symptoms such as loss of consciousness, dizziness and confusion.

It has left thousands of troops fighting in

Iraq and Afghanistan with temporary or, in a few cases, permanent problem-solving and concentration problems.

Mullen made a personal goal of improving the treatment of those wounds. He clashed with military medical officials he thought were moving too slowly to install the MRI machines in the war zone in early 2011.

"I've got kids, I've got young ones, getting blown up," Mullen said in an April 2011 interview. "Tomorrow's not soon enough [for MRIs in Afghanistan]."

The machines were finally in operation by November 2011.

In practice, the machines were viewed by military doctors primarily as tools for conducting a scientific study on their usefulness in the war zone, Mavity said. By November 2012, enough data had been collected from scanning the brains of troops with mild TBI to support that study, he said.

So the need for keeping the machines in operation was in question, Mavity said.

Chris Macedonia, a retired Army colonel who advised Mullen on medical issues, said the machines were intended not just for research but also for ongoing treatment.

"We were upping our game ... we were improving our capabilities in theater," said Macedonia, who said he was unhappy the machines were shut down.

Dave Hovda, director of the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center, who also advised Mullen on the issue, said published studies already have established that the MRI helps doctors who are diagnosing and treating mild brain injury.

Mavity said other factors were behind turning the machines off: the war winding down, the annual \$3 million operating cost and the dwindling number of U.S. casualties.

Pay: Planned increase in sailors' sea duty benefit would be first since 2001

FROM FRONT PAGE

Sailors polled in Sasebo said the move would benefit junior sailors below the rank of E-4 with one year or less at sea the most. Those sailors currently pull in \$50 per month in sea duty pay, which could easily be spent on one meal at a restaurant.

Other sailors said that while

they don't complain about long bouts at sea away from their families, they are often frustrated when they return home and find their money barely stretches to cover their visits.

"It's long overdue," said another Germantown sailor who also declined to give his name.

Sea pay levels have remained

stagnant since October 2001 even though \$1 spent in that year had the same buying power as \$1.32 today, thanks to inflation, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Under the current structure, enlisted sea pay ranges from \$50 to \$620 per month, depending on the sailor's rank and cumulative

years at sea, according to Navy sea pay charts.

While a seaman with less than a year at sea makes only \$50, a senior chief petty officer with more than 18 years can make \$620. A petty officer first class with more than four years at sea makes \$300.

The scale is different for officers. A chief warrant officer with

more than 18 years at sea can make \$700 per month. Ensigns through captains make anywhere from \$100 to \$535.

There are 17,000 sailors in the 7th Fleet area of responsibility who typically get sea pay, according to 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. William Marks.

burke.matt@stripes.com

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Sunday Brunch with made-to-order omelets, pancakes, waffles, and all your breakfast favorites plus a bountiful salad bar and a great selection of entrees including a carving station with an ever-changing variety of delectable roasts. Enjoy our build-your-own cupcake station and fine selection of desserts, complete with large beverage selection.

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Club Takemiya 246-8077

January: National Blood Donor Month

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Super Bowl XLVIII

Monday, February 3 Doors Open at 0630

Enjoy the Japanese Super Bowl tradition! Feast on wings, wings, and more wings or try our all-you-can-eat tailgate buffet of hot dogs, scrambled eggs, bacon, home fries and more! Try your luck to win awesome door prizes! Call 246-8077 for more details.

Negishi Club 242-4151

National Pie Day

Thursday, January 23

Still in the mood for some pie, even after the holidays? Savor a slice of pumpkin, apple or pecan pie for just \$2! The holiday season has come and gone, but pie is forever strong!

Super Bowl XLVIII

Monday, February 3 Doors Open at 0630

This year will feature door prizes, a tailgate breakfast platter of hot dogs, fries, scrambled eggs, bacon and more! Cheer for your favorite team and try your luck to win awesome prizes and of course... we have buffalo wings!

NATION

Health care law is expected to affect workers' benefits

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
AND TOM MURPHY
The Associated Press

The health care overhaul's reach stretches far beyond the millions of uninsured Americans it is expected to help. It also could touch everything from the drug choices to doctor bills of people who have insurance through work.

The law isn't expected to prompt sudden, radical changes for workers. So you probably won't lose your job due to the overhaul, despite claims by the law's opponents.

But benefits experts say there are several other ways the law can leave fingerprints on the benefits of the roughly 149 million people who are covered through their jobs.

Is my job safe?

Republicans have called the overhaul the "Job-Killing Health Law." This is in part because of the law's requirement that companies with 50 or more workers offer full-time workers — defined as those working 30 hours or more — health coverage.

Some companies have said they are cutting part-time workers' hours to keep them below that threshold. Texell Credit Union in Temple, Texas, is one.

CEO Tony Hale told a credit union trade publication last month, "We don't like doing this because that takes hours out of paychecks and we know people need the money."

But the anecdotes of companies cutting employees' hours aren't showing up in official U.S. employment numbers. In fact, recent government figures show job gains, not losses. Employers are giving workers about the same number of hours as a year ago. The number of part-time workers who would rather work full time is lower than a year ago.

And not every employer is looking to make cuts. Caterer David Borris, who has 25 full-time workers and up to 80 others during the holiday party season, said he's offered insurance for full-time workers since 1990. He believes the law has stabilized what he pays for insurance premiums.

Borris, whose suburban Chicago company is too small to fall under the law's mandate, argues that health benefits attract good workers. "Good employees ain't a dime a dozen," he said. "I need a cook who doesn't put too much pesto on the vegetable focaccia sandwich. I need drivers who don't get lost." Still, it's a long time yet before

larger employers would pay a penalty for not providing health insurance to full-time workers. That penalty, along with the coverage requirement, was delayed until 2015. The law's biggest hiring effects could be ahead.

Will I pay more?

Many companies already are starting to change benefits to avoid an overhaul-mandated tax on high-cost plans that takes effect in 2018. One way a company can lower the cost is to raise an employee's out-of-pocket expenses.

So, your plan may introduce a higher deductible, which is the amount you have to pay for care before most coverage starts. It also might require you to start paying more at the doctor's office in the form of a higher co-payment.

Employers think these moves also will help control rising health care costs, a problem that has been around longer than the overhaul. The idea is that patients who have to satisfy a \$1,000 deductible before insurance coverage starts will shop around for the best deal on the MRI their doctor ordered.

Overall, the federal law could raise the total cost of an employer-sponsored health plan from 1 percent to 5 percent, said Tracy Watts, a senior partner with the human resources consultant Mercer.

Employers pay a portion of that total through paycheck deductions, and whether those grow will depend on the employer and the coverage. For instance, costs could rise if your coverage has to be adjusted to meet a minimum value set by the law or if your employer winds up covering more people.

The overhaul also requires coverage of a list of benefits considered essential, including things like mental health treatments and pediatric dental and vision care. A company's costs could rise if they don't already cover everything on that list. That could then be passed on to employees.

Taxes and fees required by the law also could add to insurance bills.

Will coverage change?

The law may prompt some companies to drop coverage for their part-time workers and send them to public health insurance exchanges.

Some businesses also may start excluding spouses from their coverage, but most companies have avoided doing that, said Jim Winkler, director of the benefits consulting firm Aon Hewitt.



CHARLES REX AROGAST/AP

David Borris, owner of He'l's Kitchen Catering in Northbrook, Ill., said the new health law doesn't affect his hiring. He offers insurance for full-time workers and says the law has stabilized premiums.

Drug plans also may start offering fewer choices for prescriptions or a narrower network of pharmacies that people can visit. The 2018 tax that is motivating companies to adjust their health insurance plans also is prompting them to narrow the list of drugs they cover, said Dr. Steve Miller, chief medical officer for Express Scripts Holding Co., the nation's largest pharmacy benefits manager.

That means a plan may offer a choice of two options instead of three for a particular prescription. Being restrictive like that gives drug plans leverage to negotiate better prices and consequently, lower costs.

At the same time, more people can now get flu shots or fill birth control prescriptions with no out-of-pocket costs because of an overhaul provision that makes it easier for people to get preventive care.

What about wellness?

For years, employers have tried to control medical costs by offering voluntary wellness programs that reward workers for participation. T-shirts and gym memberships progressed to discounts on employees' share of insurance premiums if workers kept their

cholesterol levels low or their weight down.

The trend got a boost from the health law starting Jan. 1, when employers could begin offering bigger incentives than previously permitted by law. The rewards now can equal up to 30 percent of the cost of health coverage.

That means a worker who normally pays half of a \$5,000 annual premium for health coverage could get up to a \$1,500 discount for losing weight. Additional rewards are permitted for taking part in stop-smoking programs.

Employers are paying attention. The nonprofit International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans said two in five employers are ramping up their wellness initiatives because of the law.

But concerns about fairness and discrimination have been raised by unions and consumer advocates, which could dampen the trend.

Wellness rewards could end up punishing older workers and minorities who are more likely to have chronic conditions and could be forced to pay higher premiums. And some of the measurements are controversial: Body mass index, for example, can overestimate body fat in people who have a muscular build.

BlackBerry surges after protecting turf in DOD

By HUGO MILLER
Bloomberg News

TORONTO — BlackBerry shares surged as the U.S. Defense Department said its smartphones will be the primary device supported on a new network, showing that rivals are finding it difficult to unseat the longtime government supplier.

About 80,000 BlackBerrys will start being hooked up to the department's management system at the end of this month, the Defense Information Systems Agency said in a statement last week. The network will also include 1,800 phones and tablets based on Apple's iOS software and Google's Android operating system.

After tumbling 37 percent last year, BlackBerry's U.S. shares had gained 22 percent this year through Jan. 17.

The Waterloo, Ontario-based company is counting on loyalty from customers like the U.S. government after losing market share to Apple and Android devices for years. Its smartphones hadn't been able to match the same features and range of consumer-focused applications of the iPhone or Samsung Galaxy.

John Chen, who took over as chief executive officer in November, is reorienting the company back to its core of business and government users, pledging to predominantly make models fitted with BlackBerry's traditional physical keyboard in the future.

The Pentagon's statements show that Samsung, the biggest maker of Android devices, and Apple aren't making the inroads into military smartphone sales that many expected because they can't always meet the security specifications the Defense Department wants, said Doug Pollitt, a broker at Toronto-based Pollitt & Co.

"It's a challenging specification, and other vendors are having a tough time meeting it," said Pollitt, whose brokerage owns shares of BlackBerry.

The defense agency known as DISA, which implements the U.S. military's information-technology policies, will introduce the first phase of a new system on Jan. 31 to make it easier for personnel to work on unclassified documents from wireless devices. A military app will be included in the first phase, and the program currently supports 16 mobile apps, according to DISA's statement.

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NATION



PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Irma Myers-Santana, left, and her sister, Anna Williamson, visit in Williamson's hospital room in Houston on Jan. 14. The sisters each received a transplanted lung from the same donor.

Sisters get transplanted lungs from same donor

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — They quibble, joke and share knowing looks, finishing each other's thoughts and making snide comments — like many sisters. But a recent heated argument was unlike any other they've had, and it ended in a most surprising way.

For months, Irma Myers-Santana, 71, and her sister, Anna Williamson, 69, had been debating who more urgently needed a lung transplant, each wanting the other to go first. Earlier this month, though, the sisters ended up in the same operating room, each getting one lung from the same donor in what doctors at Houston Methodist Hospital say is a first for their facility.

"It's never happened," said Dr. Scott Scheinin, who did Myers-Santana's transplant. "We've transplanted siblings before, but years apart. It's a little bit of serendipity."

The sisters both became ill

about 10 years ago with idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a little-understood scarring of the lungs that often requires a transplant and kills more people than breast cancer every year, Scheinin said.

Doctors, assisted by a computer program, look at blood type, height and severity of illness to match a donor and a transplant patient. The likelihood that Myers-Santana and Williamson would meet all three criteria at the same time was small, Scheinin said.

The sisters' situation was further complicated because they insisted on a "bloodless transplant." They are Jehovah's Witnesses and do not believe in receiving blood transfusions. They live in California, but Houston Methodist Hospital is the only facility in the country that does such transplants.

"The irony of this whole thing is that we're sisters, we're both Jehovah's Witnesses, we have the same blood type and we got (the lungs) from the same donor," Williamson said, her eyes tearing up as she sat next to her sister, able for the first

time in years to complete a sentence without coughing.

"It's a miracle to have all those things lined up like that," Williamson said.

Until the transplant, Williamson coughed all day and had to be attached to an oxygen tank constantly. About a year ago, her doctor told her she needed a transplant.

Williamson and her husband headed to Houston 10 months ago. Within six months, Myers-Santana, who had a sudden, violent decline in her health and could barely breathe, joined Williamson, hoping she also would be a viable candidate for transplant.

Then the waiting began, with the sisters housed just 10 doors apart in a Houston RV park. On a few occasions, each woman was offered a lung, but they bickered over who should take it.

"If we hadn't had the transplant when we did, she would be dead right now, dead," Williamson said adamantly, her sister sitting beside her in the hospital room.

Priests' abuse victims press archdiocese

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Victims of childhood sexual abuse by priests vowed to keep pushing for more information on how allegations were handled by the Archdiocese of Chicago and other Catholic orders, and are encouraging other victims to come forward.

More than 6,000 pages of internal church documents posted online Tuesday by attorneys showed how officials at the highest level of the third-largest U.S. archdiocese

tried to contain the scandal, including by moving accused priests from parish to parish while hiding their histories from the public.

The documents, released through settlements between attorneys for the archdiocese and victims, cover only 30 of the at least 65 clergy members for whom the archdiocese says it has substantiated claims of child abuse.

St. Paul, Minnesota, attorney Jeff Anderson said he will push

for documents involving the other 35 archdiocese priests.

"This is a great step, but what is settled is far from what we're shooting for," Anderson said Tuesday at a news conference. Archdiocese officials have said they'll review and develop a process to release documents on those 35 other cases.

Chicago attorney Marc Pearlman said he and Anderson have "many cases" pending with the archdiocese, which "allows us to keep putting pressure on them."

Security is faulted in shooting at LA airport

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Minutes before a gunman opened fire in a Los Angeles International Airport terminal last fall, killing a security screener and wounding three other people, the two armed officers assigned to the area left for breaks without informing a dispatcher as required.

The Los Angeles Airport Police Department officers were outside Terminal 3 when authorities say Paul Ciancia opened fire with an assault rifle in an attack targeting Transportation Security Administration officers, two law enforcement officials told The Associated Press. The officials requested anonymity, saying they were briefed on the shooting but were not authorized to speak publicly about the ongoing investigation.

As terrified travelers dived for cover, TSA officers — who are unarmed — fled the screening area without hitting a panic button or using a landline to call for help. It took a call from an airline contractor to a police dispatcher, who then alerted officers over the radio — a lag of nearly a minute and a half, the officials said.

Before officers could get to the scene, Ciancia is alleged to have fatally wounded TSA Officer Gerardo Hernandez, and then headed to the screening area where he shot two more agents and a traveler, authorities said. Ciancia was subdued after being wounded by officers in the gate area of the terminal.

When the shooting started, the two officials say one of the armed officers assigned to the terminal was at or just outside an adjacent terminal. One of the officials said the officer was on a bathroom break and the other foot-beat officer was in a vehicle on the tarmac outside Terminal 3, headed for a meal break.

The new details about the whereabouts of the two officers come as authorities review the overall response, including whether emergency medical personnel were forced to wait longer than necessary to remove Hernandez so he could be taken to a hospital.

The AP earlier reported that Hernandez did not receive medical care until 33 minutes after he was shot. A coroner's release said he was likely dead within two to five minutes.

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NATION

W.Va. firm ordered to disclose spill content

By JONATHAN MATTISE
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — West Virginia regulators have ordered Freedom Industries to disclose everything that spilled when a storage tank leaked and contaminated the water supply for 300,000 people.

The Department of Environmental Protection said it had given the company until 4 p.m. Wednesday to provide the information.

The tank at Freedom's Charleston facility spilled a coal-cleaning chemical, Crude MCHM, on Jan. 9 in the Elk River. The DEP said the company disclosed Tuesday that the tank also contained about 400 gallons of polyglycol ethers, or PPH. The chemical is added to the Crude MCHM mixture.

DEP Secretary Randy Huffman says in a news release that the delay in disclosing the second chemical is unacceptable.

A spokeswoman for Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin said Wednesday that initial tests didn't detect PPH in the water.

Meanwhile, an attorney for Freedom Industries said the company is seeking a bankruptcy court deal for up to \$4 million in credit from a lender to help continue operations.

The arrangement reached Tuesday will allow the company to continue paying its employees and top vendors and also provide funds to cover environmental cleanup from the spill in the Elk River, said Freedom Industries attorney Mark Freeland.

In bankruptcy court testimony, Freedom Industries President Gary Southern called the 12 days

since the company's Jan. 9 chemical spill "completely chaotic."

The spill contaminated water supplies for 300,000 people in West Virginia.

Southern had said the company spent \$800,000 last week to remedy environmental damage from the spill.

Southern said money isn't the solution to lift the stigma on his company for its suppliers and customers. He said the spill was causing "perception problems" for the firm.

Freedom Industries filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy Friday, freezing dozens of lawsuits against the company. Many are by local businesses that remained closed for days during a water-use ban. State and federal investigations into the spill of a coal-cleaning chemical are continuing.

The deal Freedom Industries reached Tuesday lets the company continue paying its 51 employees in the short term, a biweekly payroll of about \$172,000, according to Freeland. The company can also continue paying costs for environmental remediation and will have money for critical day-to-day administrative expenses and to pay top vendors, according to the attorney.

Chief Judge Ronald G. Pearson, who called the case one of the most unusual he's seen, said Freedom Industries wouldn't obtain all the protections it sought, since the company so far has offered very little financial information.

Freedom Chief Finance Officer Terry Cline said the company owes hundreds of thousands of dollars in back taxes to the Internal Revenue Service.



JOE GROMELSK/Stars and Stripes

A National Park Service worker clears snow from the path at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington on Wednesday in the wake of Tuesday's winter storm.

Frozen East Coast digs out

By BOB SALSBERG
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Snowblowers whirred and shovels scraped across sidewalks Wednesday as the Northeast started cleaning up from a winter storm that swirled up the coast, creating blizzard conditions on Cape Cod, disrupting government work in Washington and leaving behind bitter cold that sapped fuel supplies.

The storm stretched from Kentucky to New England but hit hardest along the heavily populated Interstate 95 corridor between Philadelphia and Boston. Snow began falling at midmorning Tuesday in Philadelphia and dumped as much as 14 inches by Wednesday morning, with New York City seeing almost as much. Manalapan, N.J., had the highest snowfall reading, with nearly 16 inches.

The storm, which dropped more than a foot of snow in parts of Massachusetts, largely spared Boston, which got about 4 inches. But it was slow going on roads in New Jersey, where speed limits were reduced on the turnpike, and the New York metropolitan area, where authorities cautioned motorists about black ice. Commuters in Philadelphia and New York packed early trains or spent hours inching along roads in swirling darkness to get home the night before.



PAUL KUEHNEL, YORK (Pa.) DAILY RECORD/AP

Lionel Dowling pushes his cart through the snow on a street in York, Pa., on Tuesday.

For more photos of the storm, go to stripes.com/go/janus

system remained open. Schools also were closed in Rhode Island, Connecticut, upstate New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Northern Virginia and the District of Columbia. Federal workers in Washington who got a snow day Tuesday were getting a two-hour delay on Wednesday.

About 3,000 commercial flights were canceled Tuesday and out of some of the nation's busiest airports, including in Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York and Boston, where Logan Airport advised passengers to expect extremely limited domestic service at least through Wednesday morning. About 1,400 flights were canceled nationwide Wednesday, according to flight-tracking site flightaware.com.

The storm was a conventional one that developed off the coast and moved its way up the Eastern Seaboard, pulling in cold air from the Arctic. Unlike the epic freeze of two weeks ago, it was not caused by a kink in the polar vortex, the winds that circulate around the North Pole.

Nonetheless, bone-chilling temperatures settled in across the Northeast on Wednesday. Temperatures were in the single digits in many places and not expected to rise out of the teens.

Feds: San Diego campaigns fueled with illegal donations

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal campaign contributions from a wealthy Mexican businessman supported San Diego politicians, according to a federal complaint unsealed Tuesday.

The businessman has homes in California but is not a U.S. citizen or legal resident, making it illegal for him to donate to campaigns, the complaint says. He has not been charged and isn't named in the complaint, but two alleged associates and a company are charged with conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States.

Ravneet Singh, 41, and his Washington-based campaign services firm, ElectionMail Inc., and Ernesto Encinas, 57, a retired San Diego police detective, are accused of funneling the businessman's money to support San Diego mayoral candidates and an unnamed candidate for federal office in 2012 and 2013.

There is no suggestion that any of the campaign candidates knew the contributions were illegal and

none is named in the complaint.

A "representative" of one mayoral campaign eventually became a confidential informant after being granted immunity from prosecution.

Singh's attorney, Michael Lipman, told the U-T San Diego newspaper that his client denied wrongdoing and would vigorously defend himself against "unfounded charges."

The Mexican businessman donated \$100,000 to a political action committee for a mayoral candidate in 2012 after deciding the previous year that he wanted to influence San Diego electoral politics, according to the complaint.

The retired police detective, who served as the businessman's security detail, allegedly arranged for an unnamed "straw donor" to write a \$30,000 check to a committee that supported a candidate for federal office in 2012, the complaint says. The straw donor also allegedly wrote a \$120,000 check in October 2012 to a committee supporting another mayoral candidate.

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NATION



INSURANCE INSTITUTE FOR HIGHWAY SAFETY/AP

The Chevrolet Spark, shown during a crash test, is the only minicar tested to earn an acceptable rating in the small overlap front test.

Subcompact cars do poorly in crash tests

By DEE-ANN DURBIN
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Subcompact cars fared poorly in new crash tests performed by an insurance industry group.

None of the 12 minicars tested got the highest rating of "good" from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. The Chevrolet Spark was the only car that earned the second-highest rating of "acceptable." Six of the cars — including the segment's best-seller, the Nissan Versa — got the lowest rating of "poor."

All of the cars were from the 2013 or 2014 model years.

"Small, lightweight vehicles have an inherent safety disadvantage," said Joe Nolan, IIHS's senior vice president for vehicle research. "That's why it's even more important to choose one with the best occupant protection."

The institute's small overlap test, which was introduced in 2012, mimics what happens when a car's front corner collides with another vehicle or an object like a utility pole. In the test, 25 percent of a vehicle's front end on the driver's side strikes a rigid barrier at 40 mph.

The test differs from the U.S. government's frontal crash test, in which a car strikes a rigid barrier head-on at 35 mph.

IIHS says hitting only part of the front end makes it harder for cars to manage the energy from a crash. In several of the subcompacts, the structures collapsed, which can exacerbate injuries be-

cause the air bags, seats and other parts get knocked out of position.

In the test of the Honda Fit, for example, the steering column pushed so far into the vehicle that the dummy's head slid off the air bag and hit the instrument panel. IIHS said the Fit was one of the worst performers in terms of potential injuries to the driver.

Honda responded that the 2015 Fit, which goes on sale in a few months, should earn a top score on the small offset test. The recently redesigned Honda Civic, which is one size up from the Fit, is among five small cars with "good" ratings on the test. A four-door Civic is around 300 pounds heavier and 18 inches longer than the current four-door Fit.

The current Fit does get top scores in the institute's other four tests, including measurements of roof strength and side impact protection.

IIHS said the Fiat 500 was also one of the worst performers. The crash force ripped the door hinges off the 500, causing it to fall open during the test.

Spokesman Eric Maybe said the Fiat 500 meets all government safety requirements and, like the Fit, gets "good" ratings in all four of the institute's other crash tests.

Cars with "marginal" ratings were the Kia Rio, Mazda2, Toyota Yaris and Ford Fiesta. Cars with "poor" ratings — in addition to the Fit, the Fiat 500 and the Versa — were the Toyota Prius C, Mitsubishi Mirage and Hyundai Accent.

Traffic agency plans new child car seat standards

By JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Child car seats would for the first time have to protect children from death and injury in side-impact crashes under regulations the U.S. government is proposing. The Associated Press has learned.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration seeks to upgrade standards for child seats for children weighing up to 40 pounds to include a new test that simulates a side crash. The agency estimates the standards will prevent the deaths of about five children and injuries to 64 others each year.

NHTSA Acting Administrator David Friedman was scheduled to announce the proposal Wednesday.

Under the proposal, the new tests will simulate a "T-bone" crash, where the front of a vehicle traveling 30 mph strikes the side of a small passenger vehicle traveling at 15 mph. The tests will po-

sition the car seat on a sled, with another sled ramming the side of the sled with the seat, rather than using actual vehicles since the aim isn't to test the crash worthiness of specific vehicles, NHTSA officials said.

Research shows that many child deaths and injuries in side-impact crashes involve a car carrying children that is stopped at an intersection, usually at a light or stop sign, officials said. When the car begins to accelerate to go through the intersection, it is struck in the side by a vehicle traveling at a higher rate of speed on the cross street.

The side-impact test — the first of its kind — simulates both the acceleration of the struck vehicle and the vehicle's door crushing inward toward the car seat.

Besides using a 12-month-old child dummy already approved under NHTSA standards, the proposed test will also utilize a to-be-developed side-impact dummy representing a 3-year-old child.

"As a father of two, I know the peace of mind this proposed test will give parents," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in a statement. The test "will give parents and car seat makers important new data on how car seats perform in side crashes."

Friedman called car seats "an essential tool for keeping young children safe in vehicles and have a proven track record of saving lives."

Safety advocates have long sought tougher standards for car seats to protect against side-impact crashes.

"I think this is terrific," said Joan Claybrook, who was the NHTSA administrator during President Jimmy Carter's administration and later president of the advocacy group Public Citizen.

She noted that today's passenger vehicles have eight air bags, in part to protect adults from side-impact crashes. "We have an absolute moral obligation to protect children as well," she said.

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Dr. Jin Robertson at Harvard graduation with her daughter and son. After swearing her daughter Jasmine into the U.S. Army

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NATION

Obama tackles college sex assault epidemic

By NEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is launching an initiative to combat sexual assault, particularly on college campuses, turning the spotlight on a problem that has devastated millions of Americans as yet rarely receives such White House attention.

Obama planned to sign a presidential memorandum Wednesday creating a task force to protect students from sexual assault, with a new White House report declaring that no one in America is more at risk of being raped or assaulted than col-

lege women. The report, "Rape and Sexual Assault: A Renewed Call to Action," says that 1 in 5 women have been sexually assaulted at college but that only 12 percent of student victims report the assault.

The report was compiled by the White House Council on Women and Girls and was being released Wednesday, but the White House provided an advance copy to The Associated Press. It says nearly 22 million American women and 1.6 million men have been raped in their lifetimes, with victims more likely to suffer from depression, substance abuse and a wide range of physical ailments, including chronic pain and diabetes.

The report says rape's prevalence is highest at college, fueled by drinking and drug use that can incapacitate victims. Obama is giving the task force of administration officials 90 days to come up with recommendations for colleges to prevent and respond to sexual assault, increase public awareness of each school's track record and enhance coordination among federal agencies to hold schools accountable if they don't confront the problem.

Obama senior adviser Valerie Jarrett, chair of the Council on Women and Girls, said men must be involved to combat the problem and the president wants to lead a cultural shift of men speaking out. "The

president is committed to solving this problem, not just as president of the United States, but as a father of two girls" who will soon be heading to college, Jarrett said in an interview.

The report also declares that the criminal justice response to sexual assault is too often inadequate and lays out a goal of increasing arrest, prosecution and conviction rates without any specific targets.

The report blames police bias and a lack of training to investigate and prosecute sex crimes for low arrest rates and says the federal government should promote training and help police increase testing of DNA evidence collected from victims.



STEVE HELEN/AP

Former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell speaks as his wife, Maureen, looks on during a news conference in Richmond, Va., on Tuesday where he addressed the corruption charges the couple face after a monthslong federal investigation into gifts they received from a political donor.

Ex-Va. governor, wife indicted on corruption charges involving gifts

By LARRY O'DELL
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Bob McDonnell had just been elected governor of Virginia when a wealthy businessman who had donated the use of his private jet during the Republican's campaign requested a meeting at the Four Seasons Hotel in New York.

The governor-elect obliged and brought along his wife, Maureen, who during the meeting told Jonnie Williams she needed a dress for the inauguration the following month, according to a federal indictment of the McDonnells.

Williams agreed to buy her an Oscar de la Renta gown, but a Bob McDonnell aide said it would be inappropriate and nixed the idea, according to the indictment returned by a grand jury Tuesday.

Foiled, the former Washington Redskins cheerleader fired off an email to the staffer.

"I need to talk to you about Inaugural clothing budget," the email said. "I need answers and Bob is screaming about the thousands I'm charging up in credit card debt. We are broke and have

an unconscionable amount in credit card debt already and this Inaugural is killing us!! I need answers and I need help, and I need to get this done."

She ultimately told Williams, then the CEO of dietary supplement maker Star Scientific Inc., she could not accept the dress but would take a "rain check."

That scenario played out in December 2009, according to the indictment, and was allegedly the start of a four-year pattern of Virginia's first couple squeezing gifts and loans out of a benefactor who expected them to promote his company's products in return.

The indictment suggests the McDonnells cashed in that first rain check many times over: shopping sprees for designer clothes for Maureen McDonnell, a vacation stay at Williams' multimillion-dollar Smith Mountain Lake retreat, \$70,000 in loans for a family real estate venture, and \$15,000 in catering expenses for a daughter's wedding.

The day after the Smith Mountain Lake vacation, which allegedly included use of Williams' Ferrari, Williams was in a meet-

ing with the McDonnells and a senior state health official, pitching Star Scientific products and even suggesting that government employees could serve as a control group for research studies, according to the indictment.

Also that day, the indictment said, Maureen McDonnell persuaded Williams to buy a \$6,500 Rolex watch that she presented to her husband as a gift with "1st Governor of Virginia" engraved on the back.

McDonnell has apologized and said he returned more than \$120,000 in gifts and loans to Williams in exchange for what he believed was his personal friendship and his generosity," McDonnell said at a news conference Tuesday. He described the federal investigation as "indiscribably agonizing" and said that "the federal government's case rests entirely on a misguided legal theory."

"I repeat again emphatically that I did nothing illegal for Mr. Williams in exchange for what I believed was his personal friendship and his generosity," McDonnell said at a news conference Tuesday. He described the federal investigation as "indiscribably agonizing" and said that "the federal government's case rests entirely on a misguided legal theory."

Fraternity under fire for MLK Day party

By BRIAN SKOLOFF
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — An Arizona State University fraternity's operations have been suspended following accusations that the local Tau Kappa Epsilon chapter hosted a distasteful party in commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, replete with racist stereotypes and offensive costumes.

"We regard the behavior exhibited as completely outrageous, extraordinarily offensive and wholly unacceptable," said James Rund, ASU's senior vice president for Educational Outreach and Student Services. "This kind of behavior is not tolerated by the university, and we intend to take swift and immediate action."

"We just don't have room at the university to tolerate that kind of conduct."

Alex Baker, a spokesman for the national fraternity organization, said the group does not condone racist or discriminatory behavior.

"It is with embarrassment and regret when a few individuals within our organization make decisions that do not align with the values and principles of Tau Kappa Epsilon," Baker said in a statement.

University officials had planned to meet Tuesday with fraternity representatives regarding the off-campus party over the weekend.

Iraqi who helped US convicted of sex attack

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — An Army immigrant who came to the U.S. after helping American soldiers in his home country was convicted Tuesday of sexually assaulting an unconscious woman who was seriously injured in the attack.

Ramadan Mohammed Hasin Ramadan, 21, was convicted of sexual assault but acquitted of assault, The Colorado Springs Gazette reported. He faces up to life in prison at his April 18 sentencing. "A Soldier's Promise," a 2009 combat movie by Army 1st Sgt. Daniel Hendrex, depicted Rama-

Pictures from the party made their way onto social media websites, depicting guests dressed in basketball jerseys, flashing gang signs and holding watermelon-shaped cups.

"How can you not realize how stupid this is?" said Cuyler Meade, 25, an ASU junior. "It's embarrassing if people look at ASU and think we're all like that."

The Rev. Jarrett Maupin, an Arizona civil rights activist, said the party antics were outrageous and offensive. He is calling on the school to expel all students involved and permanently ban the fraternity from affiliation with ASU.

"It was just a raucous, racist rally, and they used Dr. King's holiday as a mask for racial villainy and harassment," Maupin said Tuesday.

Activists at an afternoon news conference also called on the university to require that all staff and students take diversity classes.

The Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity was already on probation for an off-campus fight in 2012, according to ASU. The university did not provide additional details of the incident or disciplinary action.

In 2012, the University of Arizona scrapped its local chapter of Tau Kappa Epsilon of recognition after an investigation showed multiple instances of dangerous hazing.

don as a teenage hero, risking his life to provide information to U.S. soldiers.

Authorities said the woman suffered internal bleeding from the July 2012 attack. She told authorities she went to a man's apartment, where she was given lemonade and then passed out.

Four other Iraqi immigrants were also charged in the attack. They also came to the U.S. after helping American soldiers. One was convicted of a sexual offense and sentenced to 16 years to life in prison. The others were convicted of misdemeanors after authorities said they lied to police.

From The Associated Press

WORLD



EVYENY FELDMAN/AP

A protester prepares to throw a Molotov cocktail Wednesday during clashes with police in central Kiev, Ukraine.

2 protesters die as Ukraine unrest intensifies

By YURAS KARMANAU AND MARIA DANLOVA
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Two people were shot to death early Wednesday in anti-government protests in Ukraine, the first fatalities in the increasingly heated clashes with police in the streets of the Ukrainian capital, raising concerns that the movement is spiraling into a more dangerous phase of violence.

Medics at the site said a third man died after he fell from a high point near a sports arena at the site of clashes, but Natalia Vishnevskaya, spokeswoman for the city health department, said that man survived the fall and was being treated in the hospital.

The protesters' deaths fueled fears that daily protests aimed at bringing down the

government over its decision to shun the European Union for closer ties to Moscow and over human rights violations could turn even more violent.

Prosecutors said the two men were shot with live ammunition, and have opened a criminal investigation to determine who was responsible.

Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said the police did not have live ammunition and charged that opposition leaders should be held responsible for the deaths.

The three main opposition parties, meanwhile, issued a statement blaming President Viktor Yanukovich and his staunch ally, Interior Minister Vitali Zakharchenko, for the deaths.

The mass protests erupted after Yanukovich spurned a pact with the European Union in favor of closer ties with Russia, which offered him a \$15 billion bailout.

They swelled to hundreds of thousands after a small peaceful rally was violently broken up by police. Seeing the government ignore their demands and opposition leaders unable to present a coherent plan or even select a single leader, radical protesters have clashed with riot police in Kiev since Sunday.

The deaths came on the fourth day of violent street battles between protesters hurling fire bombs and stones and police firing back with tear gas, stun grenades and rubber bullets. The bodies were found before police moved to tear down protesters' barricades near official buildings in central Kiev and chased demonstrators away.

Helmeted riot police moved in on hundreds of protesters, dismantling the barricades, beating many with truncheons and firing shots at some.

Photos cast pall on Syria peace talks

From staff and wire reports

A huge archive of photographs maintained by the Syrian government and smuggled out by a police photographer document the torture and execution of more than 11,000 Syrians, according to several media reports.

Numbers increasingly show the bodies in 55,000 photographs are said to have emerged from the secret jails of Syrian President Bashar Assad and suggest that torture, starvation and execution are widespread and even systematic, each case logged with bureaucratic detail. The New York Times reported late Tuesday.

So far, only a few photographs have been released by lawyers commissioned by the Qatari government, an avowed opponent of Assad, and the claims about their origins could not be independently verified, the Times noted.

If genuine, the trove is new visual corroboration that Assad's government is guilty of mass war crimes against its own citizens. The photographs were released as delegates from the Syrian government and the opposition began gathering in Switzerland for long-awaited talks to find a political solution to end almost three years of civil war.

While diplomats sparred against a pristine Alpine backdrop, Syrian forces and opposition fighters clashed across a wide area from Aleppo and Latakia in the north to Daraa in the south, activists and state media said.

Just hours into the talks in the Swiss city of Montreux, the two sides seemed impressively far apart. Complicating matters, both Assad's delegates and the Western-backed opposition Syrian National Coalition claimed to speak for the Syrian people.

The U.S. and the Syrian opposition opened the conference by saying that Assad lost his legitimacy when he crushed the once-peaceful protest movement against his regime.

"We really need to deal with reality," said U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry. "There is no way — no way possible in the imagination — that the man who has led the brutal response to his own people could regain the legitimacy to govern."

The Syrian response was firm and blunt. "There will be no transfer of power and President Bashar Assad is staying," Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi told reporters after the day's speeches were done. Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem sent terrorists and foreign meddling had ripped his country apart. He refused to give up the podium despite numerous requests from the U.N. chief.

"You live in New York. I live in Syria," he angrily told U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon. "I have the right to give the Syrian version here in this forum. After three years of suffering, this is my right."

At least 130,000 people have been killed in the fighting that began with a peaceful uprising against Assad's rule in March 2011, according to activists.

The question of Assad's future goes to the heart of the peace conference with the stated goal of a transitional government for Syria. Later this week in Geneva, Syria's warring sides will sit down for their first face-to-face meeting since the conflict erupted.

Anbar's displaced Sunnis find respite in Karbala

From wire reports

KARBALA, Iraq — The plush accommodation halls on the outskirts of this southern Iraqi city, normally reserved for visiting Shiite pilgrims, now teem with displaced Sunnis fleeing violence in the Western province of Anbar.

There and elsewhere, sectarian tensions are brewing as Iraq spirals into the worst cycle of violence it has experienced in years. But here, in one of the holiest cities for Shiite Muslims, Sunni children play on brightly painted swings as families gather in the waning winter light beside clipped magnolia-lined lawns.

Those incongruous scenes are taking place as al-Qaida's local franchise, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, or ISIS, builds strength in Anbar amid a Sunni-majority population that is growing

increasingly disillusioned with the Shiite federal government.

Along with a murky mix of allies, ISIS has become deeply embedded in Fallujah, which has slipped out of state control. Militants, including anti-government rebel tribesmen, also are tightening their grip, leaving many refugees to question whether they will be able to return.

Negotiations between local leaders and militants to secure their withdrawal from the city center broke down Monday when at least one negotiator was kidnapped, residents said.

"They will have to drag me screaming from this place," said a 57-year-old female refugee who did not want her name published to protect relatives in Fallujah. "We came with nothing, but nothing will take me back there. ... I wish to Prophet

Muhammad that someone would drop a bomb on it."

In Karbala, Mudafa Mohammed Shaban, manager of the pilgrims' complex, described the city's hosting of displaced Sunnis as a "real message" — proof that there is no sectarianism in Iraq. Few Iraqis would agree.

The 72 families in the compound, a fraction of the more than 14,000 families the United Nations says have been displaced from Anbar, undergo heavy vetting before they are allowed to stay.

There is an acute awareness nationwide that even a minor incident could spark sectarian bloodletting such as that seen in 2006 and 2007. So far, Iraq's notorious Shiite militias have largely refrained from seeking vengeance for frequent bombings in their neighborhoods.

<p>STARS AND STRIPES</p> <p>ADVERTISING</p> <p>CIRCULATION</p> <p>LETTERS TO THE EDITOR</p>	<p>EUROPE</p> <p>Kathryn Peterson peterson.kathryn@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9000 DSN: 314-583-9000</p>	<p>MIDDLE EAST</p> <p>Wayne Victor victor.wayne@stripes.com +49(0)981-466-17074</p>	<p>PACIFIC</p> <p>Yuko Saito saito.yuko@stripes.com +81(3)6385-3267</p>	
	<p>Van Rowell rowell.van@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9111 DSN: 314-583-9111</p>	<p>Robert Reismann reismann.robert@stripes.com +49(0)631-3615-9150 DSN: 314-583-9150</p>	<p>Mari Matsumoto SSPCirculation@stripes.com +81(3)6385-3171 DSN: 315-229-3171</p>	
	<p>letters@stripes.com</p>	<p>letters@stripes.com</p>	<p>letters@stripes.com</p>	

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
John Panasiewicz, General Manager, Pacific
Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
leonard.terry@stripes.com

Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
amrhein.sam@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
weyrteddie@stripes.com
+49(0)631.3615.1111
+49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
alexander.paul@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
DSN (315)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
dickson.patrick@stripes.com
(+1)703)693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
gromelski.joe@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor, Sports, Features and Graphics
moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
fax: (+1)202.761.0890
529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Why does number 5 reign supreme?

By ERIC J. SEGALL

Rarely in American history has the Supreme Court been called on to decide so much important social, legal and political issues in such a relatively brief period of time.

This term, the court will hand down decisions on affirmative action, campaign finance reform, free speech, and the separation of church and state. At the same time, the lower courts are struggling with new and aggressive abortion laws, same-sex marriage restrictions at the state level and yet more church-state issues that could have important consequences for President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, even as more constitutional challenges to that legislation are headed toward the high court. All of that comes after the hugely important last week of the 2013 term in which the court struck down the Defense of Marriage Act and a key section of the Voting Rights Act.

It is against this backdrop that the recent comments of Georgetown University law professor Randy Barnett, the architect of the litigation strategy that almost took down Obamacare, should be reviewed by all.

In an event publicizing a new book on that litigation, Barnett said that it is vital to view three questions as separate and distinct issues when discussing whether laws violate the Constitution: Does the law violate the text or original meaning of the Constitution? Does the law violate the Supreme Court's prior cases interpreting the Constitution? And are there five votes on the court to strike down the law?

He made it clear that he believes each issue is independent. In other words, having five votes to strike down a law does not necessarily mean the law violates the Constitution.

And, sadly, he is right. One need look no further than Barnett's case against the health care law to see that he is right. One of the central issues in the case was whether Congress had the power to require Americans to buy health insurance. As soon as the law was passed, Barnett and other conservative lawyers and organizations began strategizing on that question by holding meetings, writing blogs and appearing in the media as often as possible. They changed the debate, helping convince five justices of the high court that a law comprehensively regulating a trillion-

Having five votes to strike down a law does not necessarily mean the law violates the Constitution.

dollar industry (the buying and selling of health care and health insurance) that affects every single state was somehow not a law regulating "commerce among the states."

Ironically, Barnett lost because there were also five votes for the proposition that a mandate to buy health insurance that the president and Congress emphatically denied was a tax, was in fact a tax. With five votes, anything is possible, just as Barnett suggested.

If it is true, as Justice William Brennan used to tell his law clerks, that the most important thing to know about the court is the number five — that with five votes, anything is possible — then perhaps it is time to seriously reconsider a political system in which five life-tenured, politically unaccountable judges have the final say on so many of our most pressing problems.

For example, in 2011 and 2012, the five most conservative justices invalidated campaign finance laws in Arizona and Montana on the constitutionally dubious grounds that corporations have the same rights as people to spend money on state and local elections (despite the states' rhetoric these justices often espouse). And in 2013, they struck down a key aspect of a major civil rights law passed by a unanimous Senate (just a few years before) and signed by a Republican president.

So why do we place these grave issues in the hands of unelected, life-tenured judges if getting five votes is not the same thing (or roughly the same thing) as deciding whether a law actually violates the Constitution?

The idea behind judicial review was that judges would invalidate those laws that conflicted with our paramount law — the Constitution. But if getting five votes is what is all about, wouldn't it be better to just create a council of wise people composed of our best and brightest to make those decisions, many of whom would not be lawyers? If we are looking for the best answers, because the Constitution and prior law don't really count and it is all about getting five votes, why would we turn to five lawyers to solve our society's most difficult problems?

Alexander Hamilton, the Founding Father who thought the most about judicial review, had the right answer to that question, though his solution has been relegated to the dustbin of history.

He said judges should overturn a law only when there was an "irreconcilable variance" between the law and the Constitution. If five justices had to assert that principle before invalidating campaign finance laws, voting rights laws and abortion laws, we would have a system in which law really matters and the number five wouldn't be as sacred.

In Hamilton's world, it makes sense to have lawyers and judges who understand burdens of proof and issues of deference better than most people, to articulate principled limitations on governmental power based on prior text and law. Two prominent court of appeals judges, J. Harvie Wilkinson III and Richard A. Posner, have for years urged the high court to adopt this kind of deferential judicial review.

But, alas, the justices are not likely to give up their power anytime soon. Nevertheless, the more Americans learn about how the justices really decide cases, the more they may argue for greater court transparency.

For example, they could demand that the court's proceedings be televised for the world to see, and also insist that nominees to the court be pressed harder to answer tough questions during the confirmation process (no more uniprime analogies, please). After all, if getting to five votes is more about values than law, why shouldn't the justices be treated more like other governmental officials?

I'm not suggesting that putting a greater spotlight on the court would necessarily change how the justices decide cases, but it would be a start. Until something significant changes, the number five, not the law, will continue to reign supreme.

Eric J. Segall, a law professor at George State University, is the author of *Myths: Why the Supreme Court Is Not a Court and Its Justices Are Not Judges*. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

United States 'ownership' of Iraq ended years ago

Los Angeles Times editorial

Gains by al-Qaida-allied groups in Iraq — including in Fallujah, the site of a bloody U.S. offensive in 2004 — understandably anger Americans who loved ones in a war of choice that was supposed to secure democracy in that country. But the continued violence in Iraq doesn't discredit the decision of the United States to withdraw troops, nor does it justify any new deployment.

Even now, the United States has an interest in Iraq's future and seeks to influence events there. The Obama administration, with congressional support, has expedited the delivery of military equipment to the government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to be used against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, the al-Qaida-affiliated group that seized large portions of Fallujah. Meanwhile, the administration appropriately has been urging al-Maliki, a Shiite Muslim who has alienated Iraq's Sunni

Muslims and dealt harshly with dissidents, to engage in political dialogue and respect human rights.

But the administration wisely has rejected calls for more direct involvement. The American people understandably have no appetite for military intervention in Iraq.

Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was right when he said, in connection with the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, that "if you break it, you own it."

The invasion did "break" Iraq in the sense of toppling an authoritarian regime without ensuring that it would be followed by a stable new order. Having unleashed an unexpected insurgency, the U.S. felt obliged to deal with it, at a cost of thousands of American lives. But the statute of limitations on that obligation has run out, and when U.S. forces left in 2011, Iraqis were happy to see them go.

The experience of this country in Iraq remains deeply disillusioning and contin-

ues to provide fodder for political attacks. Republicans such as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., insist glibly that President Barack Obama is to blame for the current disorder because he didn't push al-Maliki harder to accept a small residual U.S. force after the withdrawal.

Democrats insist that the blame belongs to President George W. Bush, whose naive attempt to further a "freedom agenda" in Iraq unleashed ethnic and religious rivalries that had been suppressed by Saddam Hussein. Both arguments ignore the fact that U.S. "ownership" of events has ended.

In 2007, when he ordered a "surge" of U.S. forces, Bush said that victory in Iraq would take the form of "a functioning democracy that polices its territory, upholds the rule of law, respects fundamental human liberties and answers to its people."

Those remain noble goals, but if they remain elusive, it is not because of a lack of U.S. effort.

OPINION

Benefits of Olympic Games outweighed by costs

BY CHARLES LANE
The Washington Post

The 2014 Olympic Winter Games haven't started, but they've already produced their first scandal.

The host country's president, Vladimir Putin, runs a notoriously despotic regime whose victims include not only independent journalists and political opponents but also gay men and lesbians, who have recently been targeted by a law prohibiting "propaganda of nontraditional sexual practices" among minors.

Russia's patently oppressive statute presents no problem for gay visitors to the Games, Putin observed on Friday. "One can feel calm and at ease," he said. "Just leave kids alone, please." Human rights activists justifiably howled at the insult.

Of course, the Putin regime is not the first host dictatorship to taint the Olympics; previous examples include Nazi Germany in 1936, the Soviet Union in 1980 and the People's Republic of China in 2008.

I have just one question: How many more such embarrassments must we endure before ending this corrupt quadrennial exercise?

The modern Olympics were founded by a French aristocrat, Pierre de Coubertin, who believed in promoting international peace and understanding by reviving the ancient Greek custom of periodic truces for athletic competition.

Whatever might be said for that idea in theory, it hasn't panned out in practice.

The ostensibly apolitical Games have been marred by several boycotts — of Montreal in 1976 (by African nations protesting apartheid), of Moscow in 1980 (by the United States and other Western countries protesting the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) and of Los Angeles in 1984 (by communist countries retaliating for 1980).

The Games also have created a target for extremists, from the Palestinian terrorists who killed 11 Israeli athletes at Munich in 1972 to ultra-rightist Eric Rudolph, who planted a deadly bomb at the 1996 Summer Games in Atlanta. Consequently, these celebrations of international conviviality proceed under heavy military guard.

Rather than curbing nationalism, the Olympics have arguably exacerbated it. The pursuit of gold-medal glory has led various countries to bribe judges or countenance rampant doping by athletes — and, in the case of the former East Germany, to subject many athletes to systematic steroid



OLYMPICFORCH2014.COM/AP

Russian pop singer Varvara carries an Olympic torch during the torch relay in Kursk, Russia, on Thursday. Russia is hosting this year's Olympic Games which, despite being intended as apolitical, are frequently caught up in international politics.

injections without their knowledge.

"The important thing at the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part; for the essential thing in life is not to conquer but to struggle well," Coubertin said. Today's Games make a mockery of that fine sentiment. Millions in prizes or endorsements await those who make it to the medal stand; the pursuit of cash has driven athletes to enhance their performance with ever-more sophisticated drugs.

According to a superb ESPN documentary about the men's 100-meter dash at the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, South Korea, six of the eight finalists were eventually implicated in drug use — including Canadian Ben Johnson, who was initially declared the winner but was stripped of his gold medal after testing positive for steroids.

But it's hard to fault athletes for being greedy when members of the International Olympic Committee have lost their jobs for

allegedly accepting bribes or favors, such as for helping Salt Lake City win its bid to host the 2002 Winter Games.

The whole event long ago became a corporate spectacle that has more to do with selling TV ads than promoting international friendship.

Yet for all the private profit-making associated with the Olympics, the Games' positive economic impact on host nations is pretty ephemeral.

It famously took the city of Montreal 30 years to pay off the cost of the giant stadium built for the 1976 Summer Games. One of the many reasons Greece is in such economic misery is that it ran up about \$9 billion in public debt for the 2004 Summer Games, whose total cost — \$11 billion — was the highest of any Games in history up to that point.

To admit, the Olympics have provided some wonderful drama over the years, from the U.S. hockey team's defeat of the

favored Soviets in 1980 to 15-year-old Katie Ledecky's swimming triumph in 2012.

Even in politics, the Games have sometimes created a forum for important causes that might otherwise have failed to reach a global audience. Consider the silent protest of black U.S. track and field athletes at the Mexico City Summer Games in 1968.

And I like sports as much as the next guy — though not necessarily every event with which the Olympics pads out its TV schedule, such as short-track speed skating and BMX cycling.

But any benefits have to be weighed against the Olympics' costs, which are political, financial, moral and — for athletes ravaged by steroid abuse — human.

Supporters speak of the Olympics as a "movement," as if the Games were some sort of insurgent force for good, not the leviathan they are.

What we really need is a movement to get rid of them.

It's time for Congress to get serious about cybersecurity

Washington Post editorial

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

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

ing more aware but remains exposed and complacent, and Congress has yet to find a consensus.

In the past several years, Congress debated cybersecurity bills that would have made it easier for the government and private sector to cooperate. The legislation died, in part because of opposition by some in the business community who called the requirements too intrusive or burdensome.

When Congress failed to act, President Obama issued an executive order to improve the sharing of information between government and the private sector. This was a good first step, but it was not enough.

Not long ago, there was debate about whether the National Security Agency, which has developed cybertools to protect U.S. military networks, ought to part-

ner with the private sector in fending off cyberthefts and espionage. Revelations about NSA surveillance have reduced the political viability of that option, at least for a time.

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

Most of the time such information is encrypted, but there is a fraction of a second when the credit card data are in the clear and in the system's memory. That's when the information was stolen.

Target has said the intruders may have taken credit and debit card data from 40 million holders and compromised the personal information of 70 million others, including names, mailing addresses, email addresses and phone numbers.

If thieves had come up to customers at Target and physically wrested this many credit cards out of their hands, there would have been an uproar. But the data breach unfolded silently between Nov. 27 and Dec. 15. The victims did not know it was happening.

Target says that customers have zero liability for fraudulent charges, but the loss of their personal data is likely to leave many people feeling ripped off and angry.

Credit cards with chips that encrypt data would help, but they are not yet in wide use in the United States. More broadly, Congress must now get serious about cybersecurity. The private sector has much at stake but may not be able to cope on its own.

And it is not just businesses that are under threat. Already, millions of consumers are paying the price of inaction.

NATION



Ty Wright/The Washington Post

Adrian Baxter, left, considered by some the “greatest coach ever” in electronic football, shakes hands with semifinal opponent Big Jim Davis, of Detroit, during the Electronic Football National Championships in Cleveland.

The buzz on electric football

Coaches converge on Cleveland for a miniature Tournament of Champions

By ALEX PREWITT
The Washington Post

CLEVELAND — The Walter Payton of electric football entered the hotel ballroom alone because everyone else was still asleep and champions start early. He eyed the eight-team bracket taped to the wall, his path to victory outlined in permanent marker. Adrian Baxter had another national championship to win.

He approached the game board on Table 19, a metal surface decorated with orange Cleveland Browns logos and the yard markings of a football field. He grabbed an extension cord and flicked a power switch. The board buzzed, humming like an electric toothbrush. Baxter closed his eyes and rubbed his arms, muscular and exposed by a sleeveless T-shirt.

“I’ve got to get my men on the field,” said the accountant, 42, of Landover, Md.

The men are miniature plastic football players no taller than a blade of grass and attached to rectangular bases with rubber prongs jutting from beneath. The prongs absorb the board’s vibrations. That’s how the players move. Baxter grabbed one player and placed it in the middle. He thumbed the switch again. The player zipped straight for a second before swerving and face-planting.

“Doesn’t look like they gonna play today,” Baxter said. He’s a no-nonsense coach with decisions to make. Recently, the Miniature Football Coaches Association, the game’s governing body, named him the greatest coach ever. He’s a sho-in for the MFCA Hall of Fame and has won 25 tournaments, including two straight MFCA Tournament of Champions. On this day, he was gunning for a third.

“I wouldn’t give this up for anything,” he said, unloading the rest of his 60-man team from a plastic silverware tray onto the sidelines.

Soon the ballroom inside the Holiday Inn filled up, mostly with middle-aged men in NFL jerseys and cargo shorts. They converged on Cleveland wearing nicknames with pride, such as Smokestack and Hulk

and the Silver Surfer (that’s Baxter). They lugged their families and burned vacation time to feed an obsession, to play a game they never stopped loving and to hang out with the endangered few who still love it, too.

The scoreboard clocks were set to 35 minutes. The eight quarterfinalists reached across the fields and shook hands.

“Good game,” said Charles Lane, Baxter’s opponent and the bracket’s fifth seed.

“Have fun,” replied Baxter, the No. 4 seed with a bull’s-eye on his back.

“All right,” the tournament director said. “We ready?” He counted down. Three. Two. One. Bzzz.

The backstory

Essentially, the original goal was to miniaturize the product seen on television every Sunday so fans could take control, fundamentally no different from fantasy football or video games. In the late 1940s, a tinsmith named Norman Sas bought Tudor Metal Products, invented electric football and quickly monopolized the market.

Sas secured the NFL license in 1967 by introducing hand-painted players. As the toy industry boomed and department stores set sales records, electric football powered an assembly line from factories to mailing catalogs to Christmas tree skirts. This is where the game found Baxter.

“It was back in 1977,” he began. Baxter was 7, living in Washington with his mother. He first saw electric football on Christmas morning at his cousin Tony’s house, and soon after Baxter begged his mother for a board, too. So on his birthday that January, Baxter unwrapped his first electric football game.

Like most who grew frustrated with the shoddy game play, Tony lost interest. The old editions neither resembled real-life football nor functioned as an independently fun game. But Baxter kept coming back. He learned that adding weight — usually dabs of putty — increased the blocking ability of

offensive linemen, and that flattening the prongs with heated pliers gave wide receivers speed. Eventually, his play came to resemble professional football.

“I’m an addict,” he said, laughing. “I’m addicted.”

Baxter has never played chess, but he understands the comparisons. In electric football, illusion is everything. Think three plays ahead, then pounce.

The tournament

It was Sunday morning, and he was wallowing. Charles Lane. “Pass,” Baxter said, because coaches must declare run or pass before the play begins.

He hit the switch. The players buzzed around the field. Baxter spied an open receiver, then stopped the board. He reached toward the sideline, replacing his stand-still quarterback with a tall, monochrome figure in a throwing motion.

This is the TTQB, or triple-threat quarterback. Baxter pinched a felt pill inside the quarterback’s claw. Long nails improve accuracy, so Baxter’s pointer nail has grown long and thick. He aimed, reared the arm back and flicked the pill, no bigger than a grain of rice. The pill struck the receiver right in the base: a completion, with nothing but open board ahead.

“Yes,” Baxter said softly, pounding his chair.

On the board, Lane reacted to Baxter’s pass by pivoting his defenders toward the intended receiver. Each play unfolded in this start-and-stop manner. The board turned on again. Baxter’s receiver, the one who caught the pass, rattled forward with the ball before curling toward the sideline. No board operates the same way, so the smallest dead spot can send a player veering off course. If football is a game of inches, electric football is one of millimeters.

No matter. Baxter scored four plays later on another pass. He would survive easily and advance to the semifinals.

Across the room, Jim Davis won by a touchdown. A dream semifinals matchup

between perhaps electric football’s two greatest coaches, was up next.

“I’m sweating like a hog in a slaughterhouse,” said Davis, who’s known as Big Jim. He reached across the table to Baxter, extending his hand. “I love you, bro, for real,” he said. “You’re a champion, brother, in everyone’s eyes.”

“Nah,” Baxter replied. He removed his glasses and stroked his thin goatee, staring at the board.

Since Baxter began competing in 2003 at a tournament in Harrisburg, Pa., he and Davis have been pretty evenly matched. This time was no different. The lead seasawed until halftime. A touchdown pass from Baxter. A touchdown run from Davis’ star player, miniature O.J. Simpson. It turned into a shootout. Baxter returned a kickoff for another score, trimming the lead to seven points, but Lane kept answering. Two more Simpson touchdowns widened the gap.

Baxter never budged. Later, in a moment of privacy, he would diagnose the problem. He had defended passes poorly and had failed to safeguard against runs after the catch.

The score was 35-21. Fourth down. Bzzzz. Every receiver either jammed at the line of scrimmage or staggered out of bounds, so one of Davis’ powerful defenders sacked the quarterback. Davis clapped once. Baxter shook his head. They bumped fists. The game was over.

Later, the coaches gathered on the driveway for a group photo. They puffed cigars and stuck their long fingernails skyward, until someone had the idea to pose like their plastic players.

Chris Stringer crouched down and thrust his arms forward, ready to make a tackle. Others clenched their fists at their collarbones, like Big Jim Davis’ rugged offensive linemen. Behind them all, Baxter lined up as the triple-threat quarterback, one hand forward and another cocked back, grinning and laughing and frozen in time.

NATION



Blaring Big Apple

PHOTOS BY RICHARD DREW/AP

A man puts his fingers into his ears in New York's Times Square. Despite efforts to make the city quieter, many people are plagued by constant noise.

Noise is top quality-of-life complaint in NYC

By VERENA DOBNIK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — No wonder they call New York the city that never sleeps. Who can get any shuteye with all the noise?!

Screaming subway trains, honking cars, roaring planes, barking dogs and boisterous people make noise the Big Apple's No. 1 quality-of-life complaint. A city hotline got more than 260,000 noise complaints last year.

Silence, it seems, is the one thing in this city of more than 8 million that's almost impossible to find, despite a major crack-down on excessive noise.

One of the lesser-known legacies of the recently ended 12-year tenure of Mayor Michael Bloomberg was one of the nation's toughest noise codes. Under it, every construction site must post a noise mitigation plan, while excessive noise from restaurants, sidewalks, even garbage trucks is illegal.

Tickets range from \$70 for a barking dog to \$350 for honking your horn to as much as \$8,000 for a nightclub playing loud music.

Despite thousands of violation notices filed with the city last year, health officials warn there are still plenty of places where decibels top 85, a level that can cause hearing damage with prolonged exposure. Some parts of the city frequently exceed 100

decibels — especially where planes swoop a few hundred feet over rooftops.

While there is no comprehensive list, the city says these are frequent sources of complaints for life-altering noise.

Times Square traffic

"This is the noisiest place in New York City," said Jesse Davis, 57, who stands in the heart of Times Square handing out leaflets for psychic readings. "It's toot, toot, toot, toot all day."

For two decades, he has done this kind of work, handing out promotional materials for businesses, surrounded by a sea of cabs, cars and trucks, their drivers often leaning on the horn to get pedestrians to move.

Davis tries to drown out the noise with music from his ear buds.

"This is New York, and this whole city is noisy," he said. "But you get used to it — business is business."

On a concrete island in the middle of the square is a shipping container-turned-gourmet food cart called the SnackBox, where clerk Eduardo Zevallos spends his days amid the cacophony "trying to tune it out."

The worst noise? When an ambulance gets stuck in traffic just feet behind him on Broadway. "So for maybe five minutes, you have

to listen to a drowning ambulance sound."

Screaming subways

At P.S. 85 in Queens' Astoria neighborhood, children and their teachers have a signal system: touching a forefinger to the lips while lifting two fingers into the air.

That means stop everything because the overwhelming noise outside from the screeching elevated subway trains drowns out any kind of speech.

"It's really loud, and our teacher has to stop every two minutes, or three, when the train comes," said Nepheli Motamed, 8, whose third-grade classroom is at the mercy of the trains.

Parents recently held a news conference to protest the noise, and they were interrupted 16 times in a half-hour by train squeals.

Sound smorgasbord

On Manhattan's East Side, residents of the Rivergate apartment building on 34th Street are subjected to a smorgasbord of sound: relentless whirring from helicopters at the East 34th Street Heliport, traffic whizzing by day and night on the Franklin D. Roosevelt Drive and ambulances heading for New York University's Langone Medical Center.

After years of complaints about 90-decibel noise levels in their



Two subway trains arrive in the 5th Avenue-Bryant Park station in New York. Roaring electric motors, squealing breaks, whistles and bells can fill a subway tunnel as trains pull into the station.

apartments, Rivergate's management installed sound-dampening panels.

Sheldon and Gloria Moline said that when they first moved into their 32nd-floor apartment five years ago, they had to wear earplugs in their living room with the windows closed. Now, the only time they use them is when they venture out onto the balcony.

"You can't talk because there's nothing between you and the helicopters except six lanes of traffic," Sheldon Moline said. "There's nothing you can do about it — it's all legal. ... That's living in the city."

Takeoffs and landings

Barbara Brown puts up with massive jets from John F. Kennedy airport flying full thrust

as low as about 100 feet over her house in Queens' Springfield Gardens neighborhood, at decibel levels topping 110.

Every few minutes, the roof rattles, the ceilings shake and at night, aircraft lights shine through windows.

"Whenever a plane is taking off or landing, it wakes you up," said the retired elementary school principal. "If you're talking on the phone, you have to stop. And you can't hear the TV in your living room."

A few years ago, the Federal Aviation Administration redesigned New York routes around Kennedy and LaGuardia airports after changing navigation from radar to satellite. The greater accuracy allows planes to fly closer together but concentrates the noise.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Business criticized for MLK 'black' sale

MN DULUTH — The owner of a Duluth store that sells goods from around the world is getting some heat over a Martin Luther King Day sale that offered a discount for black-colored merchandise.

The Facebook page for Global Village has more than 200 comments largely critical of the sale that offered 25 percent off black-colored merchandise Monday.

The store's owner, Rachel Mock, said the sale was meant as a celebration of the civil rights leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Mock told WDIO-TV it wasn't her intent to insult, mock or offend anyone.

Mock said it's the fourth year they've had the sale, but the first time people have taken issue with it.

Motorcycle bandits sought in robbery

NJ WANAUKE — Police in Passaic County are searching for two men who robbed a convenience store at gunpoint and fled on a motorcycle.

Police said the men made two employees of the Quick Stop in Wanauke on Sunday to lie on the floor before the bandits fled with an undetermined amount of cash.

Police said the bandits shielded their faces with motorcycle helmets and bandanas.

The suspects sped away on a black Suzuki GSZR-1000 motorcycle.

Legislator wants to allow stronger beer

OH COLUMBUS — Legislation in the Ohio House would allow Ohio beers to increase their alcohol content.

The Columbus Dispatch reported that House Bill 391 would increase the maximum percentage from 12 percent to 21 percent for beers produced and sold in the state. Democratic Rep. Dan Ramos, of Lorain, has been promoting the measure, saying Ohio brewers need to be able to use the higher alcohol content to compete with beer in other states. The higher-alcohol beer couldn't have caffeine or other stimulants in it.

"It's about leveling the playing fields with other states," said Ramos, who has bipartisan support from 20 co-sponsors.

Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine said he hopes legislators will look at how raising the alcohol percentage could affect drunken driving.

Marcie Seidel, executive director of the Drug Free Action Alliance, thinks the proposed change is a bad idea.

Arrests tied to 7-state string of ATM thefts

ID BOISE — The FBI believes it has solved a string of at least 20 ATM thefts in seven states with the recent arrest of two men in Utah, one of whom has been indicted for stealing money from an ATM in Idaho

THE CENSUS

13

The number of new felonies a previously convicted arsonist faces for allegedly setting a series of fires in Silicon Valley's largest city. Patrick Brennan, 48, was charged recently with 10 counts of arson and three counts of attempted arson for the string of fires near downtown San Jose during his arraignment in Santa Clara County Superior Court. Prosecutors say the fires caused more than \$6 million in damage.



JULIO CORTES/AP

Wind 1, umbrella 0

Wind inverts the umbrella of a woman walking during Tuesday's winter storm in Jersey City, N.J. She is near the statue dedicated to the Polish officers massacred in Katyn, Russia, in 1940.

and shooting at pursuing police officers.

In an application for arrest warrants for Nathan Paul Davenport and Matthew Taber Annable, FBI Special Agent James Patrick lists a string of thefts in which the robbers cut the bolts on the ATM door, attached a chain to a pickup truck and pulled off the door to get to the money, the Idaho Statesman reported.

Patrick, who is based in Chey-

enne, Wyo., was investigating the Dec. 8 theft of just over \$74,000 from an ATM in Douglas, Wyo., when he heard about a similar robbery of more than \$16,000 from an ATM in Castle Rock, Colo., on Dec. 11.

At that point, Patrick said he contacted FBI offices throughout the United States to determine if similar thefts had occurred elsewhere.

An FBI agent in Montana re-

ported a Nov. 3 theft in Billings and thefts on Nov. 6 and 13 in Missouri that netted a total of just over \$41,000.

Special Agent Selena DeVantier noted that a series of ATM thefts around the country seemed to have been accomplished in the same manner.

Davenport, 34, and Annable, 39, were arrested on Jan. 12 in Orem, Utah, on suspicion of a Dec. 8 robbery in Douglas, Wyo.

Critics cut into mayor over pizza etiquette

NY NEW YORK — New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio got his pizza with smoked mozzarella, sausage and a dash of scandal.

The newly installed mayor unintentionally spiced up a political meeting at a Staten Island pizza joint this month by digging into his slice with a knife and fork.

That's a no-no for many New Yorkers, who believe pizza should be folded and eaten with their hands.

Photos of a utensil-wielding de Blasio spread across Twitter and prompted mock outrage, some even calling for his impeachment. It was reminiscent of a "Seinfeld" episode in which characters make a stir by eating a candy bar with flatware.

De Blasio, who prides himself on his Italian-American heritage, later explained that he eats pizza the way they do in Italy. He starts with a knife and fork, then uses his hands.

State probes crash at horse track

NJ FREEHOLD — State officials are investigating a crash at a New Jersey horse track that sent five drivers to a hospital and injured some horses.

Horses and drivers collided when the pace car skidded on a sloppy, icy field at the start of the fifth race at Freehold Raceway on Jan. 10.

New Jersey Racing Commission executive director Frank Zanzucchi told the Asbury Park Press the purpose of the investigation is to try to determine what caused the incident.

Two drivers required hospitalization for their injuries.

Tablets help Sitka Assembly go paperless

AK SITKA — In an effort to cut down on providing printed materials, the Sitka Assembly has gone paperless.

That information is now available on the city's website, but staffers have all been provided new iPads as part of the effort.

Previously, each member received a packet of paper that was between 60 and 100 pages. Packets that included the agenda, minutes of the last meeting, ordinances and resolutions on the agenda, supporting information and staff recommendations were also made available to the media, the Daily Sitka Sentinel reported.

That information is now available on the city's website, but members of the public can still choose to get paper copies.

The iPads cost \$644 apiece, and the city is paying for the tablets and associated software for legislative bodies out of the general fund. The city will also cover the \$40 monthly service charge.

From wire reports

FACES

‘Sherlock’ makers sticking to abbreviated seasons

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

The makers of TV’s “Sherlock” say even a lobbying effort by British Prime Minister David Cameron wouldn’t persuade them to produce more episodes each season.

But “Sherlock” co-creator Steven Moffat and producer Sue Vertue tweaked Cameron anyway for lack of effort. It’s been more than a month, they noted, since he visited China and was asked by fans there to press for more of the popular mystery series.

He praised the drama and told Chinese viewers who submitted the request to him online that he would try. But Cameron has yet to contact them, Vertue said this week.

A droll Moffat added: “David Cameron, calling you on that, mate... All of China, they’re waiting.”

The British-produced modern take on Arthur Conan Doyle’s fictional detective has been a worldwide hit. It made its

third-season U.S. debut last Sunday on PBS, with husband-and-wife team Moffat and Vertue and star Benedict Cumberbatch on hand to promote it.

Fans have to make do with just a handful of episodes — three this season — as the show’s in-demand makers and cast, including Martin Freeman and newcomer (and Freeman’s real-life partner) Amanda Abbington, see to other projects.

“No, it’s a waste of time, sorry, China,” Moffat replied when asked if “Sherlock” might be expanded to more episodes. The nine that have aired since 2010 are the equivalent of cranking out nine movies, he and Vertue said.

But why apologize to the Chinese and not devotees elsewhere? “Well, China were the ones who went to the top and asked,” Moffat said.

He and Cumberbatch, who said he appreciated the fervor of fans, agreed they are committed to keeping “Sherlock” going indefinitely.

Not even a request from British Prime Minister David Cameron would make seasons of the TV series “Sherlock” — starring Benedict Cumberbatch, left, and Martin Freeman — longer, the show’s makers have said.

BBC FOR MASTERPIECE/PBS



Arnold Schwarzenegger appearing in ‘teaser’ ads

By MEG JAMES
Los Angeles Times

Former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has a new and mystifying role. The 66-year-old former bodybuilder and “Terminator” actor is the star of two new attention-grabbing commercials designed to promote Anheuser-Busch InBev’s upcoming Super Bowl advertising campaign.

“Surprise,” Schwarzenegger says in one of two Bud Light “teaser” ads that debuted on national television last weekend.

In the spots, California’s 38th governor is wearing a shoulder-length blond wig, black-and-white athletic suit and a matching elastic headband — a la the 1970s Swedish tennis star Bjorn Borg.

In one of the 16-second ads, “Arnold Zipper,” Schwarzenegger zips up the athletic jacket. In the second spot, “Arnold Warmups,” the former governor does a few stretching moves, including appearing to touch his toes, before picking up a ping-pong paddle and taking a few combative practice swings in the air.

Anheuser-Busch is keeping under wraps the purpose of Schwarzenegger’s appearance in the beer company’s Super Bowl ad campaign.



Schwarzenegger

campaign at the Super Bowl called “The Perfect Beer for Whatever Happens,” there’s an expectation for the unpredictable,” Rob McCarthy, vice president of Bud Light at Anheuser-Busch, said in a statement. He hinted that the Schwarzenegger spots, as well as related ones featuring actor Don Cheadle (and a llama) and comedian Reggie Watts, would document “an unforgettable adventure.”

The company said it has no plans to release the full Bud Light advertisements until the NFL championship game on Feb. 2. “Our six Super Bowl ad teasers give viewers a peek behind the curtain, but fans will have to tune in during the game to see how these seemingly unrelated events form one cohesive story,” McCarthy said.



NBC/AP

Jimmie Walker appeared on the 1970s series “Good Times.”

Walker still cool with catchphrase

The Associated Press

Jimmie Walker uttered one of the signature catchphrases of the 1970s, but it took some persuading to get him to do it.

As J.J. Evans on the sitcom “Good Times,” Walker shouted “Dy-no-mite!” on every episode from 1974 to 1979. Walker played the teenage son in a working-class black family living in a Chicago inner-city housing project.

Director John Rich came up with the phrase, but both Walker and executive producer Norman Lear were skeptical about it.

At a Television Critics As-

sociation meeting Tuesday, Walker said he told Rich that without a storyline, viewers wouldn’t buy him saying the phrase because they weren’t that stupid. But Rich told him the phrase caught on and people waited for him to say it.

Walker says that expectation never bothered him when he was performing at comedy clubs.

The 66-year-old Walker continues to tour the country with his standup act. He appears in Season 4 of the “Pioneers of Television” series that debuts April 15 on PBS.

B.J. Novak’s ‘picture’ book has no pictures

B.J. Novak has his own ideas about how to tell a children’s story.

The actor and author known for his work on “The Office” has a deal with Penguin Young Readers Group for “The Book With No Pictures,” billed as a “picture book” with words only.

As Novak explained in a statement issued Tuesday by the publisher: Words are just as much fun as pictures. Plus, he can’t draw.

“The Book With No Pictures” is scheduled for the fall. Next month, Alfred A. Knopf will publish Novak’s debut fiction collection, “One More Thing: Stories and Other Stories.” He is also under contract with Penguin for a second “picture” book.

Show to profile author

PBS will commemorate Black History Month with shows including a profile of “The Color Purple” author Alice Walker. The public television service announced Tuesday that the program about Walker will air Feb. 7 as part of the “American Masters” series.

Other PBS shows marking Black History Month in February include “American Promise,” a coming-of-age documentary about two young men, and a documentary about a Mississippi state commission that investigated foes of segregation.

From The Associated Press

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Cold snap draining fuel supplies

Propane, natural gas prices soar to record highs as storm drives heating demands

By Jonathan Fahey
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A second fierce blast of winter weather is sapping fuel supplies in many regions and sending prices for propane and natural gas to record highs.

Higher natural gas prices are also leading to sharply higher wholesale electricity prices as power utilities snap up gas at almost any price to run power plants to meet higher-than-normal winter demand.

Propane users will get pinched the most. Those who find themselves suddenly needing to fill their tanks could be paying \$100 to \$200 more per fill-up than a month ago. Homeowners who use natural gas and electricity will see higher heating bills because they'll use more fuel. Prices won't rise dramatically because

utilities only buy a small portion of the fuel at the elevated prices. A swirling storm with the potential for more than a foot of snow obliterated the Mid-Atlantic and the urban Northeast on Tuesday. The snowstorm will be followed by bitter cold as arctic air from Canada streams in, causing homeowners to crank up the thermostat.

Michael McCafferty, a propane expert at Platts, an energy information provider, said the wholesale spot price of propane rose 70 percent between Friday and Tuesday to a record \$2.45 per gallon. He called both the size of the jump and the price itself "unprecedented."

Propane supplies were already low for a few reasons. Farmers harvested corn late in the year, and much of it was wet, forcing them to buy propane to dry

the grain before storage. Then the polar vortex that swept the country in early January pushed up heating demand. At the same time, less propane is arriving from Canada because of higher demand there and a reversal of a pipeline that had brought propane south.

The Energy Department said last week supplies of propane fell to the lowest level on record for the second week of January.

On Tuesday, prices for natural gas for immediate delivery averaged \$120 per thousand cubic feet in the Northeast, a record, according to Samantha Santa Maria, managing editor for North American natural gas at Platts. By comparison, the futures price — for delivery a month from now — finished the day at \$4.43 per thousand cubic feet.

"We've seen record high

prices from New York to the Carolinas," she said.

Santa Maria said the prices are being driven higher by power generators desperate to make sure they have enough gas to run power plants — and not because supplies in the U.S. are particularly tight. "We think a lot of this is fear factor," she said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Jan. 23)	\$1.39127
Dollar buys (Jan. 23)	0.70188
British pound (Jan. 23)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (Jan. 23)	102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 23)	1,041.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Britain (Pound)	1.6555
Canada (dollar)	1.0973
China (Yuan)	0.6513
Denmark (Krone)	5.5400
Egypt (Pound)	0.9670
Euro	1.3561/0.7374
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.7578
Hungary (Forint)	222.93
Israel (Shekel)	3.4893
Japan (Yen)	104.43
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2828
Norway (Krone)	6.1589
Philippines (Peso)	45.28
Poland (Zloty)	3.07
Saudi Arab (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2788
So. Korea (Won)	1,070.98
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9108
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.91
Turkey (Lira)	2.6000

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 21, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-44.12	16,414.44
Nasdaq composite	+28.18	4,225.76
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.10	1,843.80
Russell 2000	+7.29	1,175.72

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
90-day T-bill	0.10
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.74

WEATHER OUTLOOK

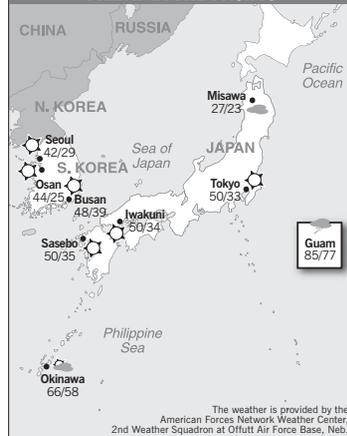
THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	28	11	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	13	-5	Cldy	Louisville	18	4	Cldy	Pocatello	37	12	Pcldy	Shrewport	41	22	Cldy
Ablene, Texas	31	17	Cir	Cheyenne	26	16	Cir	Fort Wayne	13	-5	Cldy	Lubbock	25	11	Cldy	Portland, Maine	14	3	Pcldy	Sioux City	11	6	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	14	-1	Snow	Chicago	9	-5	Cir	Goodland	22	13	Pcldy	Macon	48	19	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	48	33	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	8	6	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	13	-2	Cldy	Cincinnati	11	1	Cldy	Grand Junction	36	12	Pcldy	Madison	32	10	Cir	Providence	18	5	Pcldy	South Bend	13	-4	Snow
Albuquerque	39	20	Cir	Cleveland	15	1	Snow	Grand Rapids	14	3	Cldy	Medford	52	30	Cldy	Pueblo	21	3	Snow	Spokane	35	27	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	22	5	Cldy	Colorado Springs	21	8	Snow	Great Falls	44	32	Cir	Mempphis	23	12	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	37	13	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	9	-1	Cir
Anchorage	42	37	Cldy	Columbia, S.C.	46	18	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	34	11	Pcldy	Miami Beach	71	54	Cir	Reno	49	23	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	10	-1	Cir
Ashville	28	6	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	12	-2	Cldy	Harford Spg.	21	5	Cldy	Milwaukee	9	-5	Cir	Richmond	29	11	Pcldy	Tallahassee	55	23	Cir
Atlanta	39	15	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	13	-5	Pcldy	Hartford Spg.	15	0	Cldy	Mobile	0	-3	Cir	Roanoke	29	10	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	68	50	Cir
Atlantic City	25	9	Cldy	Corpus Christi	61	34	Rain	Helena	41	22	Pcldy	Missoula	40	17	Cldy	Rochester	11	3	Snow	Toledo	14	-5	Cldy
Austin	65	35	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	35	22	Cldy	Honolulu	76	61	Cir	Montgomery	43	14	Cir	Rockford	3	-8	Cir	Tucson	31	15	Cir
Baltimore	23	6	Cldy	Dayton	10	-5	Cir	Houston	48	29	Cldy	Nashville	20	6	Pcldy	St. Louis	13	3	Cir	Tulsa	22	8	Cldy
Baton Rouge	51	26	Cldy	Daytona Beach	61	33	Cir	Huntsville	27	8	Cldy	Nashville	20	6	Pcldy	St. Peterburg	59	44	Cir	Waco	40	23	Cldy
Bilings	39	28	Cir	Denver	25	12	Pcldy	Indianapolis	9	-4	Cir	New Orleans	52	30	Cir	St. Thomas	85	75	Cir	Wichita Falls	19	9	Pcldy
Birmingham	33	12	Pcldy	Des Moines	5	3	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	42	16	Cldy	New York City	18	8	Cir	St. Thomas	85	75	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	23	10	Cldy
Bismarck	18	16	Cir	Detroit	15	-2	Cldy	Jacksonville	56	35	Cir	Newark	23	8	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	50	27	Cir	Youngstown	14	-1	Snow
Boise	32	24	Cldy	El Paso	51	30	Cir	Janeau	46	40	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	32	16	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	38	15	Pcldy	W. Palm Beach	68	50	Cir
Boston	16	5	Cldy	El Paso	46	31	Cldy	Kansas City	13	5	Cir	North Platte	24	7	Cir	San Diego	34	19	Cir	Wichita	19	9	Pcldy
Bridgeport	16	5	Cldy	Elkins	10	1	Snow	Key West	69	59	Cir	Oklahoma City	16	14	Cir	San Antonio	49	39	Cir	Wichita Falls	31	15	Cir
Brownsville	75	42	Cldy	Erie	12	4	Snow	Knoxville	24	9	Pcldy	Omaha	14	7	Cir	San Angelo	65	51	Pcldy	Wilkes-Barre	15	4	Cldy
Buffalo	11	2	Snow	Eugene	45	26	Cldy	Lake Charles	49	27	Cldy	Orlando	62	36	Cir	San Francisco	64	45	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	23	10	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	2	-16	Cir	Evansville	12	2	Pcldy	Lansing	13	1	Cldy	Pasadena	16	4	Pcldy	San Jose	67	40	Cir	Yuba City	36	25	Snow
Caribou, Maine	5	-14	Cir	Fairbanks	29	13	Cldy	Las Vegas	64	41	Cir	Pendleton	36	27	Cir	San Juan, P.R.	84	70	Cir	Yuba City	36	25	Snow
Casper, Wyo.	29	16	Cir	Fargo	-1	-1	Cir	Lexington	18	2	Cldy	Peoria	18	2	Cldy	Santa Fe	35	11	Pcldy	Youngstown	14	-1	Snow
Charleston, S.C.	50	20	Pcldy	Flagstaff	46	19	Cir	Lincoln	17	7	Cir	Philadelphia	21	10	Cldy	St. Ste Marie	-3	-8	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	16	7	Cldy	Flint	12	-5	Cldy	Little Rock	30	13	Cldy	Phoenix	75	47	Cir	Savannah	53	21	Pcldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	39	13	Pcldy	Fort Smith	28	12	Pcldy	Los Angeles	72	49	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	15	0	Snow	Seattle	50	37	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 84, Camarillo, Calif.
Low: Tue., -37, Embarras, Minn.

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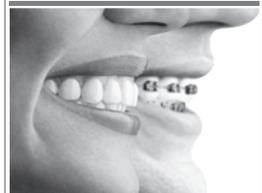
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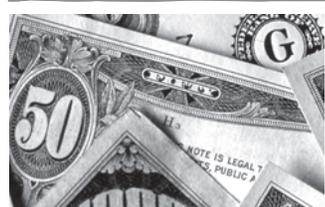
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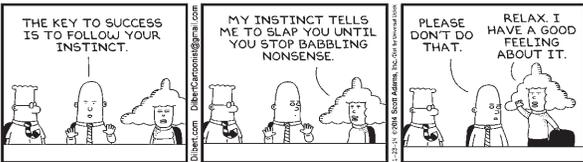
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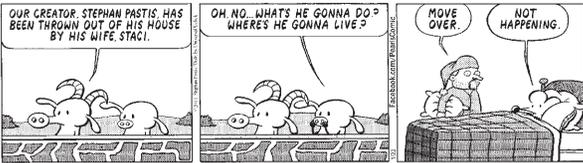
Frazz



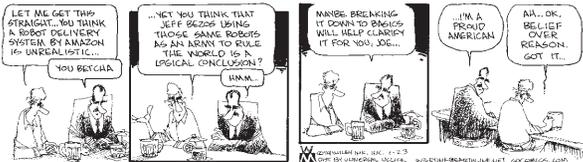
Dilbert



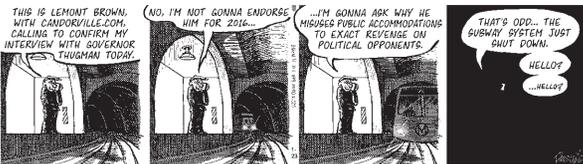
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 "Let's Make a Deal" option
- 5 You can't stand to have one
- 8 Detail, for short
- 12 Writer Quintden
- 13 Raw rock
- 14 "Arrivederci"
- 15 Dance move
- 16 Fresh
- 17 Church section
- 18 Car wash task
- 20 Use caller ID
- 22 Homer's interjection
- 23 See 42-Across
- 24 Fly-by-night types?
- 27 Pertaining to snakes
- 32 Luau bowlful
- 33 Carnival city
- 34 Access Vardalos
- 35 Laundry additive
- 38 Ice mass
- 39 Lamb's dam
- 40 Neither mate
- 42 With 23-Across, adsorbent colloid
- 45 Ancient lighthouse site
- 49 Privy to
- 50 Mainlander's memento
- 52 Bakery buy
- 53 Zits
- 54 Pump up the volume

DOWN

- 1 Morse "T"
- 2 Awareness
- 3 Change for a five
- 4 Canoeing challenge
- 5 Texas athlete
- 6 Exist
- 7 Church furniture
- 8 Frightened
- 9 Direct info source
- 10 Relaxation
- 11 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
- 12 "That explains it"
- 13 Lively folk dance
- 14 Melody
- 15 Kvetch constantly
- 16 Strings
- 17 Common Mkt.
- 18 Dental straighteners
- 19 "Sad to say ..."
- 20 Bygone Peruvian
- 21 Relaxation
- 22 "Sad to say ..."
- 23 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
- 24 "Forget it!"
- 25 Court
- 26 From the cradle to the grave
- 27 Seek damages
- 28 Chart format
- 29 Lively folk dance
- 30 Melody
- 31 Kvetch constantly
- 32 Strings
- 33 Common Mkt.
- 34 Dental straighteners
- 35 "That explains it"
- 36 Lively folk dance
- 37 Common Mkt.
- 38 Dental straighteners
- 39 "Sad to say ..."
- 40 Bygone Peruvian
- 41 "That explains it"
- 42 "Sad to say ..."
- 43 "Forget it!"
- 44 "Sad to say ..."
- 45 "Forget it!"
- 46 Bar
- 47 Gumbo need
- 48 Appear
- 49 "Forget it!"
- 50 "Forget it!"
- 51 Ostrich's cousin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

1-23

CRYPTOQUIP

KGD VOX VUBIDB KWWE
 QTIDBWTZ CJHKTBDZ WV GJZ
 HUKKOD UQX CJLZ. GD*Z

HUOJQL KGDI ZKWHE CGWKWZ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BLOCKBUSTER FILM FEATURING BATTLES IN WHICH MUCH BLACK GUNK IS THROWN AT ENEMIES: "TAR WARS."

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals H

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Michigan State remains unbeaten in Big Ten

The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Gary Harris scored 20 of his 24 points in the second half, helping No. 3 Michigan State beat Indiana 71-66 on Tuesday night to remain unbeaten in the Big Ten.

The Spartans (18-1, 7-0) have won 11 straight games, extending their best one-loss start in a season in school history.

The Hoosiers (12-7, 2-4) had lost two straight and four of six.

Michigan State went on a 10-2 run to take a 62-52 lead with 4:29 left, but led by just four points after Yogi Ferrell made a three-pointer with 36 seconds left. Keith Appling made one of two free throws on the ensuing possession and Stanford Robinson's runner pulled the Hoosiers within three points.

Travis Trice made two free throws with 13.7 seconds left to give the Spartans a five-point lead, essentially sealing their 18th win in 19 home games against Indiana.

The Spartans were missing center Adrian Payne for a fourth straight game with a sprained right foot. The Hoosiers didn't have senior forward Will Sheehey in the starting lineup for the first time this season after he injured an ankle in a home loss to Northwestern.

No. 14 Kentucky 68, Texas A&M 51: Alex Poythress scored a season-high 16 points for the host Wildcats.

Poythress and 7-foot freshman Dakari Johnson eagerly picked up the slack inside for Kentucky (4-4, 1-1) Southeast-

ern Conference) with struggling 7-foot pivot man Willie Cauley-Stein limited by foul trouble. Poythress worked inside for baskets and got to the free throw line, hitting five straight during his 7-0 run that put the Wildcats up 44-33 with 14 1/2 minutes remaining.

The sophomore forward was 4-for-7 from the field and had five rebounds and two blocks in 25 minutes.

Johnson added seven rebounds, six points and a career-high three blocks as the Wildcats outrebounded the Aggies 42-24.

James Young added 15 points and seven rebounds while Julius Randle had 13 points with 11 rebounds for Kentucky which shot 44 percent (22-for-50) from the field and was 18-for-27 at the free-throw line.

Alex Caruso and Davonte Fitzgerald had 12 points each for Texas A&M (12-6, 3-2), which shot 37 percent in losing its second straight game.

No. 20 Pittsburgh 76, Clemson 43: Talib Zanna scored 22 points on near flawless shooting for the host Panthers.

Zanna connected on nine of 10 shots, most of them dunks or layups, as Pittsburgh (17-2, 5-1 ACC) bounced back from a loss to No. 2 Syracuse.

Lamar Patterson added 13 points, six rebounds and four assists for Pitt, which ended Clemson's three-game winning streak.

K.J. McDaniels battled early foul trouble and finished with 11 points for

the Tigers but Clemson was never in a Pitt needed less than 10 minutes to build a double-digit lead and cruised while handing the Tigers their worst loss of the season.

Clemson came in ranked third in the country in three-point defense but could do little more than watch as the Panthers hit 4 of 7 three-pointers during a near flawless opening 20 minutes. Pitt made 12 baskets during the first half, and recorded assists on all 12 in taking a 37-20 lead.

Texas 67, No. 22 Kansas St. 64: Jonathan Holmes made a catch-and-shoot three-pointer at the buzzer to send the host Longhorns to their fourth straight victory in the Big 12 and second in a row over a ranked team.

Texas has almost blown its chance for the game-winner when it nearly botched an inbound pass with 3 seconds left. But after a quick timeout, Isaiah Taylor zipped the ball to the Holmes in the left corner and he put up the shot over two defenders. The ball swished through the basket at the buzzer and Holmes was mobbed by his teammates.

Javan Felix scored 23 points to lead Texas (15-4, 4-2) and Cam Ridley scored 18. Holmes finished with 10 points. Thomas Gipson scored 24 points for Kansas State (14-5, 4-2), which had tied the game at 64 on Shane Southwell's twisting, off-balance layup with 5 seconds to play after Felix had missed two free throws.



Michigan State's Gary Harris, center, puts up a shot and draws a foul from Indiana's Jeff Howard, left, and Evan Gordon during the second half of Tuesday's game in East Lansing, Mich. Harris led Michigan State with 24 points.

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SLASHBOARD

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College hockey

Tuesday's scores
EAST
 Boston College 4, Merrimack 1
 Fredonia State 5, Elmira 4
EXHIBITION
 Maine 4, New Brunswick 3, OT

Deals

Tuesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Agreed to terms with RHPs David Axelrod, Parker Dierker, Brian Odoms, Omar Poveda and Zach Putnam; LHPs David Purkey and Mauricio Robles; C Hector Gimenez; OFs Ryan Anderson, Denis Phillips on minor league contracts. Named Tommy Hanson as manager. **NEW YORK YANKEES** (Graham), Pete Rose Jr., manager of Carolina Panthers; Mike Gellinger manager of the AZL White Sox, and Gene Law assistant minor league hiting coordinator.
INDIANAPOLIS INDIANAS - Agreed to terms with OF Justin Maxwell on a one-year contract.
TORONTO BLUE JAYS - Agreed to terms with OF Ricardo Nantia on a minor league contract.
NATIONAL LEAGUE
LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Signed Cs Miguel Olivo and Griff Cingari to minor league contracts.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES - Agreed to terms with LHP Antonio Bastardo on a one-year contract. Agreed to terms with OF Bobby Abreu and RHP Chad Gaudin on minor league contracts.
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS - Agreed to terms with RHP Marco Gonzales and Moore on minor league contracts.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Agreed to terms with OF Francisco Contreras on a minor league contract.

BASKETBALL

National Basketball Association
IND - Fined Indiana 6 Lance Stephenson \$5,000 for violating the anti-flopping rule for the second time this season. During a Jan. 22 game against the Wizards.
CHICAGO BULLS - Traded G Marquis Teague to Phoenix for G Markel Starks.
Women's National Basketball Association
MINNESOTA BREWERS - Retired former Tula executive vice president and general manager.

FOOTBALL

National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS - Signed P Dave Zastudil to a two-year contract.
SINGAPORE SINGAPORE - Named Vance Joseph assistant defensive backs coach.
GREEN BAY PACKERS - Named Joe Lombardi defensive coordinator.
MIAMI DOLPHINS - Named Mark Duffner linebacker coach.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS - Signed D Marcus Foster to a one-year contract.
FRANCISCO 49ERS - Announced co-owner Gordon Yu resigned as president of the team. Assigned F Cam Jansen to Albany (AHL). Activated RB Matt Ryan to practice squad.

WASHNOKA RANGERS

WASHINGTON CAPITALS - Recalled D Nate Schmidt from Hershey (AHL).
WATKINS GLEN INTERNATIONAL - Named Neil Palmer as corporate sales executive.

SOCCER

Major League Soccer
COLORADO RAPIDS - Traded M Tony Cuccinelli to Houston for an international roster spot. Signed F Charles Edozie.
COLUMBIAN CREW - Signed international roster spot to Vancouver for a 2014 third-round pick.
COLLEGE
INDIANA - Named Kevin Johns offensive coordinator. Hired Dan McDaniel defensive line coach. Reassigned offensive coordinator to defensive ends and fullbacks coach.
DUQUISIANA TECH - Named Manny Diaz offensive coordinator.
NORTHWESTERN - Announced RB Wayne Davis was named a medical hardship waiver by the Big Ten and is eligible to return for a fifth season in 2014.

Pro football

NFL playoffs
Wild-card playoffs
 Saturday, Jan. 4
 Indianapolis Colts 68, Kansas City Chiefs 3
 New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24
Sunday, Jan. 5
 Cincinnati Bengals 20, San Diego 12
 San Francisco 23, Green Bay 20
Divisional Playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 11
 Seattle Seahawks 26, New England 43
 New England 43, Indianapolis 21
Sunday, Jan. 12
 San Francisco 23, Carolina 10
 Denver 24, San Diego 17
Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 19
 Denver 26, New England 21
 Seattle 23, San Francisco 17
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
 At **Honolulu**
 Team Rice vs. Team Sanders
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
 At **East Rutherford, N.J.**
 Denver vs. Seattle

Pro Bowl draft picks

Sunday, Jan. 26
At Aloha Stadium, Honolulu
Completion of Pro Bowl draft will take place Wednesday (THROUGH DAY) (THROUGH DAY)
Quarterbacks (1) - Drew Brees, New Orleans Saints
Defensive Ends (1) - Robert Quinn, St. Louis Rams
Guys (3) - Jahlil Evans, New Orleans; Ben Grubbs, New Orleans; Evan Mathis, St. Louis
Interior Linemen (3) - Marcelle Davis, Buffalo Bills; Hatcher, Dallas; Kyle Williams, Buffalo
Centers (2) - Ryan Kalil, Carolina Panthers; Matt Snyman, Tampa Bay
Specialists (3) - Justin Bethel, Arizona Cardinals; Mike Tolbert, Carolina Panthers; T.J. Graham, Tampa Bay
Running Backs (1) - Jamaal Charles, Kansas City Chiefs
Guards Ends (1) - J.J. Watt, Houston Texans
Defensive Ends (3) - Kyle Long, Chicago; Louis Delmas, New England; Marshal Yanda, Baltimore
Interior Linemen (3) - Gerald McCoy, Tampa Bay; Mike Mack, Cleveland; Mike Pouncey, Miami
Wide Receivers (3) - Brandon Fields, Miami; J.J. Jensen, Carolina; Matthew Slater, New England
Fullback (1) - Marcel Reece, Oakland Raiders

Boxing

Fight schedule

Jan. 24
 At Resorts International, Atlantic City, N.J.
 Steve Scalet vs. Patrick Maheski, 10, middleweights; Thabiso Mchunu vs. Olanrewaju Durodola, 10, cruiserweights.
 At Fantasy Springs Casino, Indio, Calif.
 Cornelius Bundrage vs. Joey Hernandez, 12, IBF junior middleweight eliminator; Antonio Orozco vs. Miguel Angel Huerta, 10, junior welterweights.
 At Little Creek, Casino Resort, Shelton, W.Va.
 Derwin Williams vs. James Lawrence, 10, welterweights; Rico Ramos vs. Jonathan Arce, 10, featherweights.
Jan. 25
 At Stuttgart, Germany.
 Marco Huck vs. Firat Arslan, 12, for Huck's WBO cruiserweight title.
 At New York, Mikee Garya vs. Juan Carlos Burgos, 12, for Garya's WBO junior flyweight title; Jennifer Wicks Artur Szpilka, 10, heavyweight; Seanie O'Sullivan vs. Fabio Garrido, 10, light heavyweight.
 At DC Armory, Washington, Lamont Peterson vs. Peter Dinkov, 12, for Peterson's IBF junior welterweight title; Jeremiah Rodriguez vs. Gabriel Rosado, 10, junior middleweights.
 At The Gardens Nugget, Atlantic City, N.J.
 Gerry Rossy vs. Joey Dawejko, 10, at the Gardens.
Jan. 30
 At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Victor Ortiz vs. Juan Manuel Lopez, 12, welterweights; Eddie Gomez vs. Daquan Arnett, 10, junior middleweights.
Feb. 1
 At Richard J. Cooney Arena, West Orange, N.J.
 Yuri Foreman vs. Luis Rosa, 10, super bantamweights.
Feb. 1
 At Monte Carlo, Genassio Golovkin vs. Oasmanu Adameo, 12, for Golovkin's WBA world, interim and IBF super middleweight title; Jared Fletcher, 12, for Murray's WBA interim middleweight title; Mike Makabu vs. Nathan Cleverly, 10, cruiserweight; Jermall Charlo vs. Brandon Taylor, 12, for the vacant IBF light flyweight title.
Feb. 5
 At Kaikou, China.
 Xiong Zhao Zhong vs. David Norman, 12, for Norman's WBA minimumweight title; Qiu Xiaojun vs. Jason Cooper, 10, super bantamweights.
Feb. 6
 At UC Pavilion, Chicago, Jonathan Gordon vs. Nestor Cerdeno, 10, middleweights; Kamil Laszczyk vs. Daniel Diaz, 10, featherweights.

College basketball

Tuesday's men's scores
EAST
 Castleton St. 100, New England 82
 Connecticut Tech 68, Middle College 60
 Pittsburg 76, Clanton 3
 Providence 65, Bemier 50
 Berry 36, Toccoa Falls 54
SOUTH
 Barton 83, Pfeiffer 50
 FAU 68, Harvard 59
 Florida Tech 76, Notre Dame 74
 Georgia 65, Texas A&M 51
 King (Tenn.) 75, Belmont Abbey 71
 Louisville 77, Missouri 7
 Michigan St. 87, McNeese St. 79, OT
MIDWEST
 Nichols St. 17, Indiana 66
 Wisconsin St. 64, Evansville 27
 Wright St. 63, Milwaukee 57
SOUTHWEST
 SMU 70, Rutgers 56
 Texas 67, Kansas St. 64
FAR WEST
 Concordia (Ore.) 82, Portland Bible 43
 New Mexico 84, Boise St. 75

Men's schedule

Thursday, Jan. 23
EAST
 Hartford at Binghamton
 IU Brooklyn at Bryan
 St. Francis (Ind.) at Fairleigh Dickinson Mass.-Lowell at Maine
 Fairfield at Northampton (N.J.)
 Albany (N.Y.) at New Hampshire
 Sacred Heart at Robert Morris
 St. Mary's at St. Francis (Pa.)
 N.C. Central at Ohio
 CCSU at Wagner
SOUTHWEST
 SMU 70, Rutgers 56
 Texas 67, Kansas St. 64
FAR WEST
 Concordia (Ore.) 82, Portland Bible 43
 New Mexico 84, Boise St. 75

Midwest

Northwestern at St. Louis
 Michigan at Kent St.
 Illinois at St. Louis
 Valparaiso at Youngstown St.
 Buffalo at Ball St.
 Sacramento St. at North Dakota
 SIU Edwardsville at Illinois
 South Dakota at W. Illinois
 Denver at Nebraska-Omaha
 Cincinnati at Louisiana-Lafayette
SOUTHWEST
 Arkansas at Texas Tech
 UAB at North Texas
 Marshall at Rice
 Texas St. at UAR
 Lamar at Abilene Christian
 Stephen F. Austin at Houston Baptist
 Sam Houston St. at Incarnate Word
 Stephen F. Austin at Oral Roberts
 SE Louisiana at Texas A&M-CC
 Lamar at Abilene Christian
 Northwestern St. at Incarnate Word
FAR WEST
 Colorado at Utah
 Utah at Arizona St.
 Idaho at Grand Canyon
 Montana at Idaho St.
 S. Utah at Washington
FAR EAST
 Oregon at Gonzaga
 N. Arizona at Colorado
 UMKC at Utah Valley
 Col. State at Ball State
 Bakerfield Col. Poly at Cal St.-Fullerton
 UC Riverside at Loyola Marymount
 Loyola Marymount at Pacific
 BU at Portland
 UC Santa Barbara at Saint Mary's (Cal)
 Hawaii at UC Davis
 Oregon at St. Joseph's (Ind.)
 UC Santa Barbara at UC Riverside
 Oregon at UCLA
 Oregon at Washington

Friday, Jan. 24

Quinnipiac at Iona
 Quinnipiac at Iona
 Marist at Niagara
 Vermont at St. John's
SOUL
 Lipscomb at N. Kentucky
MIDWEST
 Detroit at Milwaukee

Pro baseball

Feb. 6 - Voluntary reporting date for Arizona and Los Angeles Dodgers pitchers.
Feb. 11 - Voluntary reporting date for Arizona and Los Angeles Dodgers other players.
Feb. 13 - Voluntary reporting date for other team's pitchers, catchers and injured players.
Feb. 15 - Mandatory reporting date for other team's other players.
Feb. 25 - Mandatory reporting date.

Tuesday's women's scores

EAST
 Castleton St. 63, New England Coll. 49
 Quinnipiac 55, Rider 44
SOUTH
 Barton 95, Pfeiffer 80
 Berry 36, Toccoa Falls 54
 Charleston Southern 68, Presbyterian 49
 King (Tenn.) 52, Belmont Abbey 49
 Louisville 77, Missouri 7
 Randolph-Macon at Washington & Lee, pp.
 Florida Tech at Randolph, pp.
 South Florida 75, Cincinnati 48
MIDWEST
 Alverno 75, Concordia (Ill.) 33
 Concordia (Wis.) 86, Edgewood 64
 Ill.-Chicago 69, Valparaiso 51
 Marquette 87, Providence 79
 Milwaukee Engineering 75, Marian (Wis.) 63
SOUTHWEST
 Oklahoma 75, Iowa St. 54
 Seton Hall 72, Xavier 52
FAR WEST
 Lewis (Luther) St. Lakeland 43
HONOLULU
 Louisville 93, Houston 52

Women's schedule

Thursday, Jan. 23
EAST
 New Hampshire (Albany (N.Y.)
 Binghamton at Hartford
 Niagara at Fairleigh Dickinson
 Saint Peter's at Marist
 Holy Cross at Northampton (N.J.)
 Clermont at Syracuse
 Maine at UMass-Lowell
 St. Mary's at St. Francis (Pa.)
SOUTH
 Barton 95, Pfeiffer 80
 Berry 36, Toccoa Falls 54
 Mercer at St. C. -Uppstate
 North Carolina at Louisiana-Lafayette
 Florida at Tennessee
 Maryland at Virginia
 North Carolina at Wake Forest
 Gardner-Webb at Charleston Southern
MIDWEST
 UConn Asheville at Coastal Carolina
 North at Col. of Charleston
 Duke at Florida St.
 Radford at High Point
 Westwood at James Madison
 Alabama at Kentucky
 Mississippi State at Mississippi
 Mississippi State at Mississippi
 North Carolina at St. Norbert
 North Florida at Stetson
 William & Mary at UNC Wilmington
 Stephen F. Austin at Oral Roberts
 North Carolina at Wake Forest
 Jacksonville at Florida Gulf Coast
 Auburn at LSU
FAR WEST
 Ball St. at Toledo
 Ohio at Akron
 E. Michigan at Bowling Green
 Oakland at Cleveland St.
 Ohio St. at Michigan
 Illinois at Michigan St.
 Southern Western at Pullman
 CSU Bakersfield at Chicago St.
 Wright St. at Milwaukee
 Texas A&M at Missouri
 Buffalo at N. Illinois
 SIU Edwardsville at South Dakota
 Utah Valley at UMKC
 Detroit at Valparaiso
 Miami at Notre Dame
 Wisconsin at Minnesota

SOUTHWEST

Arkansas at Texas Tech
 UAB at North Texas
 Marshall at Rice
 Texas St. at UAR
 Lamar at Abilene Christian
 Stephen F. Austin at Houston Baptist
 Sam Houston St. at Incarnate Word
 Stephen F. Austin at Oral Roberts
 SE Louisiana at Texas A&M-CC
 Lamar at Abilene Christian
 Northwestern St. at Incarnate Word
FAR WEST
 N. Colorado at N. Arizona
 Colorado at BYU
 Nebraska Omaha at Denver
 and Cal State Fullerton
 Idaho St. at Montana
 Weber St. at Montana St.
 Santa Clara at Utah
 Portland St. at S. Utah
 St. F. Fullerton at Cal Poly
 UC Irvine at CS Northridge
 Gonzaga at Loyola Marymount
 Portland at Pepperdine
 North Dakota at Sacramento St.
 Sacramento St. at UC Santa Barbara
 UC Davis at Hawaii

Friday, Jan. 24

Canisius at St. Joseph's (Ind.)
 Iona at Monmouth (N.J.)
 Siena at Rider
EAST
 Bradley at N. York
 Loyola of Chicago at Drake
FAR WEST
 Southern Cal at California
 Arizona at Colorado
 Washington at Oregon
 St. Francis, Ariz. at Utah
 Washington State at Oregon
 UCLA at Stanford

Tennis

Australian Open
Wednesday
At Melbourne Park
Men
 Purses: \$32.75 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Men
Quarterfinals
 Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Grigor Dimitrov (2), Bulgaria, 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-2
 Roger Federer (6), Switzerland, def. Andy Murray (4), Great Britain, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 6-3
Women
Quarterfinals
 Dominika Cibulkova (20), Slovakia, def. Simona Halep (11), Romania, 6-3, 6-0
 Agnieszka Radwanska (5), Poland, def. Victoria Azarenka (2), Belarus, 6-1, 5-7, 6-0.

Defoules

Men
 Michael Lodra and Nicolas Mahut (13), France, def. Leander Paes, India, and Radek Stanek (2), Czech Republic, 6-2, 7-6 (4).
Women
 Lizzi Kubot, Poland, and Robert Lindstedt (14), Sweden, def. Max Mirnyi, Belarus, and Mikhail Youzhny, Russia, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2.

Women's schedule

Thursday, Jan. 23
EAST
 Binghamton at Hartford
 Niagara at Fairleigh Dickinson
 Saint Peter's at Marist
 Holy Cross at Northampton (N.J.)
 Clermont at Syracuse
 Maine at UMass-Lowell
 St. Mary's at St. Francis (Pa.)
SOUTH
 Barton 95, Pfeiffer 80
 Berry 36, Toccoa Falls 54
 Mercer at St. C. -Uppstate
 North Carolina at Louisiana-Lafayette
 Florida at Tennessee
 Maryland at Virginia
 North Carolina at Wake Forest
 Gardner-Webb at Charleston Southern

Mixed

Zheng Jie, China, and Scott Lipsky, U.S., def. Liang Pan, China, and Daniel Gimeno-Pagola, Spain, and Bruno Soares (5), Brazil, 3-6, 6-4, 10-8.
 Galina Gaidosova and Matthew Ebden, Australia, def. Katrina Srebnik, Belarus, and Rohan Sopanna (2), India, 7-5, 6-3.

AP spotlight

1944 - The Detroit Red Wings defeat the New York Rangers 15-0 to set an NHL record for most goals in a game.
1959 - In the NBA All-Star Game at Detroit, St. Louis' Bob Pettit and Elgin Baylor combine for 88 points to lead the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.
1975 - Ralph Kiner is inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in his 15th and final year of eligibility.
1979 - Willie Mays is named on four of 152 ballots and elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.
1980 - George Germov of San Antonio scores 55 points in a 144-130 victory over the New York Knicks.
1987 - Hans Mandlkipa upsets Mark Novratov 7-5 to win the Australian Open.

2001 - Sam Castles scores 22 points and the Bucks hit a franchise record 14 three-pointers to beat the Knicks 105-91 and snap New York's NBA record 33 game streak of holding opponents to fewer than 100 points.

2005 - Jennifer Rodriguez becomes the first American woman to qualify to win the World Sprint Speedskating Championship. Rodriguez sets a personal best in the 500-meter event on the straight day and had the fastest 1,000-meter time on the oval. She was named world sprint champion.
 She had also won 1,000 meters 39 years to get back into the Top 25, but she was more, enduring five overtimes to get a first win as a factory, later, the Jereles scores a career-high 36 points, just one 11 seconds behind the first runner, No. 25 Baylora to a 116-110 win over No. 18 Texas Tech.

2010 - Rachael Flatt wins her first title in the U.S. Figure Skating Championship, overcoming a 2-0 deficit to win. She scores 201.1 points, finishing more than 20 points ahead of runner-up. **2010** - Lindsey Vonn makes it five wins in five downhill this season. Her first World Cup victory was in the 2009-10 season. She won the Janica Kostelic for eighth place on the career list and the 2009-10 season. Austrian leader Annemarie Moser-Probst.

2011 - Francesca Schiavone wins the longest women's match in Grand Slam history, first a 4-1, 1-6, 16-4 victory over Svetlana Kuznetsova that takes 4 hours, 44 minutes and ends with a 3-2 tiebreaker as she saves six match points, then competes for a 10-9 victory, later, the Argentine women's match at a major in terms of 2012 in the Open era.

2011 - The Los Angeles Dodgers set a touchdown and makes a running tackle, 2011 World Cup victory for the 2011-12 season and Sam Shields has two interceptions without having to pass his full 2014 salary.
2010 - Lindsey Vonn makes it five wins in five downhill this season. Her first World Cup victory was in the 2009-10 season. She won the Janica Kostelic for eighth place on the career list and the 2009-10 season. Austrian leader Annemarie Moser-Probst.

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HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Mats are stacked against small schools

Individuals can compete, but second place is best team can hope for against D-I foes

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The organization of a wrestling meet is a straightforward task. Wrestlers are weighed and slotted into an appropriate bracket, where they face opponents of the same weight class. It is one of sports' fairest playing fields.

On a continent-wide level, however, no such easy and equitable arrangement exists.

The fortunes of DODDS-Europe Division II and III wrestling programs are profoundly affected by a muddled mix of circumstances well beyond their control. Schools from each region face their own unique collection of obstacles and specific challenges.

Although it's an oversimplification, the problem can be summarized like this: North of the Alps, a small-school wrestling team can't win; in Italy, a small-school team always does.

Germany is the home of all but one of DODDS-Europe's Division I athletics programs. Wrestling teams from Patch, Ramstein, Vilsleck, Wiesbaden and Kaiserslautern plod through the country with deep, formidable rosters, leaving little sunlight for smaller programs like Baumholder, Bitburg and Ansbach.

Individual standouts from those schools have the same chance as their Division I opponents to survive their brackets and win top places in their respective weight classes. But with the Division I schools fielding rosters that dwarf their own, Division II schools in Germany have virtually no mathematical chance of ever recording a team victory.

As a close neighbor to Baumholder, Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden, Ramstein is painfully familiar with this situation. Its teams are routinely trounced by the Royals, Raiders and Warriors in all sports but football, where a strict intra-divisional schedule prevents such mismatches. In all other sports, schedules are designed to minimize travel time and expense, leaving the tiny Bucs with an overwhelmingly difficult schedule.

According to Jan. 17 DODEA attendance figures, Wiesbaden has 654 students, Kaiserslautern has 833 and Ramstein is the most populous of DODDS-Europe schools with 1,000. Kaiserslautern is a Division I High School, meanwhile, has 219 students, of which only 134 are in ninth grade or above.

The Bucs have had significant internal strides this season. Head coach James Copley said his team's roster has grown from eight last year to 27 this season, including five returnees. That retooling "foundation" and fresh talent has elevated the program, Copley said.

"We've been able to alter what and how we teach," Copley said. "We've begun tran-



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Ian Rowell, top, defeated Alconbury's James Wood in a 126-pound match at Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Saturday.

sitioning our wrestlers from simply those with basic knowledge to wrestlers who are able to apply finesse" and "finish more complicated moves."

But that progress hasn't been rewarded with team victories. The Bucs have finished behind Division I teams in all three of their meets so far this season. On two occasions, they've finished second to the only Division I team in the field, including a second-place finish to defending Division I champion Ramstein last Saturday. On Dec. 7, the Bucs finished fourth behind Wiesbaden, Ramstein and Kaiserslautern, while ahead of Division II foes APNORTH and Bitburg.

Copley said his wrestlers welcome the rigorous competition, but admitted the inevitable losing has an impact on team morale.

"Second place is a big jump from the last place that Baumholder took in every tournament last year; but it's still not first place," Copley said. "And it most likely never will be the way the system is set up."

Division II teams from northern Germany and the United Kingdom, meanwhile, are in a similar predicament. Teams such as Alconbury, APNORTH, SHAPE and Brussels intermingle with the German Division I teams in at least a meet or two each season. And even their more regionally focused meets are invariably dominated

by Lakenheath, the only Division I team outside of Germany. The Lancers have a roster that dwarfs their smaller neighbors: On Dec. 7, Lakenheath's 238-point total doubled runner-up SHAPE's 112-point showing, while Alconbury and Brussels finished third and fourth.

While teams such as Baumholder, SHAPE and Alconbury spend their regular season facing guaranteed futility, teams in Italy face a completely different problem.

DODDS-Europe's five Italian programs — Aviano, Naples, Vicenza, Sigonella and American Overseas School of Rome — wrestle exclusively among themselves for the entirety of the five-week regular season. That means one lower-division Italian school will claim a team victory every week, and winning team meets is a reasonable goal for most teams to set.

But the attainability of that success can have negative consequences once the regular season ends. The sudden expansion of competition at the European tournament can be overwhelming for the Italian contingent, especially for those in weight classes where there's little competition in the regular season.

Aviano coach Rob Clement prefer that his wrestlers get a more comprehensive look at their European counterparts before meeting them in the postseason.

"It would be great if we could have at least one meet per season that would in-

clude teams from Germany," Clement said. "But with budget restrictions that may not happen again."

Wrestlers from Division I programs took 10 of 14 individual European championships last season. Patch had four champions, Ramstein had three, and Wiesbaden, Lakenheath and Vilseck had one apiece. Division I wrestlers also finished second in 10 weight classes.

Only one wrestler from Italy — Aviano 113-pounder Brandon Mowery — won a weight class, and only two others reached the championship match. Two northern Division II schools fielded champs in Bitburg's Bryce Randall (195 pounds) and APNORTH's Luke Narug (220 pounds). Kris Rios of Rota, DODDS-Europe's only school in Spain, won at 120 pounds.

In the absence of pure divisional competition, coaches are left to focus their wrestlers on what they can control. Details like country, division and school fall away when one wrestler locks up with another.

"Even a school with one wrestler has the potential for the wrestler to be a European champion," Copley said.

"I tell my wrestlers that they only have to take on one wrestler at a time on the mat," Clement said. "And the size of their school isn't necessarily a measure of ability."

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

Top performances in Europe

Boys basketball

■ **Gunnar Smith, Sigonella** — The Jaguars needed Smith's 40-10 effort from the free-throw line in the fourth quarter and overtime to finish off an upset of Naples on Saturday.

■ **Leon Roy, Schweinfurt/Bamberg** — Roy totaled 23 points and 22 rebounds in two games against Division I power Patch.

■ **Alex Sibabugh, Aviano** — The Saints star posted game-high totals of 15 and 12 points in wins over Marymount on Saturday.

Girls basketball

■ **Alyssa Solis, Ansbach** — The Cougars post produced a double-double with 20 points and 20 rebounds in a win over Bitburg on Friday.

■ **Jahkya Smith, Ansbach** — Solis' running mate joined the statistical party Saturday with a 19-point, 12-rebound, 10-steal triple-double as the Cougars finished the season of Bitburg.

■ **Jena Solorzano, APNORTH** — The Lions guard scored six fourth-quarter points to ice a 24-16 win over Alconbury on Saturday.

Marksmanship

■ **Katherine Gamble, Hohenfels** — The Tigers sharpshooter was on point last weekend, sweeping all three shooting positions and posting a score of 287 that was 10 points ahead her nearest competitor.

Wrestling

■ **Brandon Beambert, Bitburg** — The Barons junior outwrestled Division I opponents to score a top finish at 126 pounds Saturday at

Kaiserslautern.

■ **Jaden Fields, Patch** — The reigning European champ at 138 pounds continued to thrive at 145 with a first-place finish Saturday at Kaiserslautern.

■ **Drake Fichtorn, Vicenza** — The first-place finisher at 120 pounds, Fichtorn helped the Cougars to a convincing team-win in Saturday's five-school meet at Naples.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Family ties helping boost Panthers' girls

Vaughan sisters, who honed their games in Japanese schools, motivate Kadena basketball

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Entrusting your offense to a freshman or sophomore is sort of like a student-driver being handed the keys to a Formula One or NASCAR motorcar. It doesn't happen all that often.

But Willie Ware had absolutely no reservations, he said, about putting the Kadena Panthers girls offense in the hands of freshman Linda Vaughan, who comes from a basketball family and is Kadena's starting point guard.

"She doesn't play like a freshman," Ware said of Linda, who becomes the third Vaughan since 2009 to suit up in the black and gold, following Maria — now the starting point guard at Pine Manor College — and Alicia, a junior shooting guard for the Panthers.

"She's stepped in and is doing a great job of running the team for us," said Ware, whose Panthers are 3-1 against high-school opposition, all games against Kubasaki. "She's a coach's dream; all three of them are. Whatever we've asked her to do, she goes out and does it."

Ware says Linda possesses great court vision and sense, citing a pass she made through Kubasaki's defense in the season-opening 46-39 win on Dec. 6. "She threaded the needle to Montoya (Jones) and I didn't see the pass. She can see things that people don't see. She's very smart."

Defensively, Linda is the team's "stopper," Ware said. After Kadena lost to Kubasaki for the first time in the regular season on Dec. 20, 48-42, Ware said that Linda asked that the next time they play, that she guard Dragons senior point Sydney Johnson, Kubasaki's sparkplug.

"She wants the tough assignment," Ware said. "She's not afraid, she doesn't back down from anybody, she moves her feet; she's been in foul trouble once." Linda, averaging 10 assists per game, reminds Ware much of Maria toward the end of the latter's sophomore year. "She's bet-



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kadena coach Willie Ware, center, and the Panthers have gotten a boost from junior shooting guard Alicia Vaughan, left, and her sister, freshman point guard Linda, right.

ter at this stage than when Maria was a freshman," he said.

That would seem like heady talk for a freshman, but the Vaughans are well-educated in basketball.

Their father, Chris, a former Marine and 24-year veteran of the Exchange service who plays games for Japanese clubs off base, fueled his daughters' interest in the game and sent all three of his daughters to Japanese schools until the ninth grade.

There, they learned the game by playing year-round, as Japanese schools do. They could have gone to DODDS schools, but in an interview two years ago with

Stripes, the elder Vaughan said his family plans to keep its Okinawa roots well beyond their daughters' graduations.

"Chris has done a very good job with those girls," Ware said. "They're very competitive and they don't stop. They fight."

Thus, Ware didn't have to do much to develop their already developed games. While Linda handles playmaking, Alicia plays shooting guard and serves as one who spreads the floor with her three-point shooting.

"She gets down on herself after a couple of misses; as coaches, we have to pull her aside and tell her

to keep shooting and encourage her," Ware said of Alicia. "But once she start shooting, it's lights out."

The Vaughans' play has inspired their teammates as well, backup point guard Aki'ana Lopez said.

"Linda has amazing ball skills and Alicia can shoot like nobody's business," Lopez said. Watching the two play "makes me want to improve myself ... so I can be at [their] level."

Though Ware considers Kadena to be in rebuilding mode, adding Linda could help the Panthers take the last step to a Far East Di-

vision I tournament that's barely eluded them the last two years (second in 2012, third last year).

"We have three people from those teams," Ware said. "They have some unfinished business."

... It's going to be tough this year because we're rebuilding ... but once the ball goes up, it's anybody's game."

Focus may make the difference this season, Alicia Vaughan said. "We weren't focused enough in practice and games last year. This year, we're more focused," she said.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

Top performances in the Pacific

Boys basketball

■ Manasseh Nartey scored 24 points and Osie Cruz 17 against their old team as Humphreys won for the second time in the program's brief history, downing Olan American 76-68.

■ J.J. Henderson and Dennis Wilkins each scored 13 points and Yokota's defense held American School in Japan to 16 second-half points as the Panthers downed the reigning Far East Division I champion Mustangs 55-41.

■ Darien Briggs netted 12 points for Seoul American, which remained unbeaten at 9-0 as the Falcons struggled past Yongsan International-Seoul 47-40.

■ Lordan Agnon scored 36 points, including 8-for-12 from three-point range, as Guam downed Southern 68-57, the second of three wins to open the season.

Girls basketball

■ Janade Amos, a transfer from Kubasaki,

scored 23 points and grabbed five rebounds as Seoul American routed Yongsan International-Seoul 43-18.

■ Alyshia Allison averaged 14.3 points and 7.3 rebounds in three games, two of them Kinrick victories, 43-22 over St. Maur and 40-23 over Yokota. Kinrick also lost 52-40 to American School in Japan.

■ Tiara Carroll scored 11 points as Zama American beat Christian Academy Japan 43-29, improving to 8-2 on the season.

Wrestling

■ Andre Peterson (135) sparked yet another Kubasaki runaway, scoring a pin in 15 seconds over Michael Anderson as the Dragons won seven of the last eight bouts en route to a 42-16 win over the Panthers that improved Kubasaki to 3-0.

■ Jack Barnes (215) won one bout by pin and another by technical fall as Seoul American remained unbeaten in 13 dual meets this season.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Federer tops Murray, faces Nadal next



Rick Ryckroff/AP

Roger Federer celebrates after defeating Andy Murray in the quarterfinals at the Australian Open on Wednesday. Federer will meet Rafael Nadal in the semifinals.

Defending women's champ Azarenka loses

By DENNIS PASSA
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer rekindled his dominance over Andy Murray in Grand Slam matches and advanced to his 11th consecutive Australian Open semifinal with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-7 (6), 6-3 win Wednesday.

Federer clinched it on his third match point with an ace to set up a showdown with top-ranked Rafael Nadal, who beat Grigor Dimitrov 3-6, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (7), 6-2.

"We've had some epics over the years," Federer said of the semifinal. "I hope we can slug it out here in a couple of days."

Two of the leading contenders on the men's side survived on a day when two-time defending champion Victoria Azarenka was beaten 6-1, 5-7, 6-0 by Agnieszka Radwanska in the women's quarterfinals.

Still, Nadal and Federer certainly had nervous moments.

Murray, who saved two match points in the third-set tiebreaker, has an 11-10 edge over Federer in head-to-head matches and won their last match in five sets in the Australian Open semifinals last year, but Federer has won four of five matches in majors.

The Wimbledon champion got angry after a ruling while dropping serve late in the third set when he indicated that he thought the ball had bounced twice before Federer kept it in play.

Rightly or wrongly, it seemed to spark his resurgence, breaking Federer when the 17-time major winner was serving for the match, and then pushing it to a fourth when he won six of the last seven points in the tiebreaker. Federer thought the point was OK, saying it was the umpire's call.

After spending three months off the circuit following minor back surgery, Murray appeared to be in discomfort at times in the match, clutching at his lower back.

"I was proud of the way I fought," Murray said. "That's the highest level I've played at in a long time. My serve slowed down a bit in the fourth set, especially the first couple points when I was getting up after the change of ends."

After Federer won the opening game of the fourth set, the two played a 10-deuce game in which Murray saved six break

points before Murray leveled. But Federer finally broke Murray in the eighth game, then held serve to win the match in 3 hours, 20 minutes.

"I'm back," Federer said. "It was a great game on many levels, not just physically ... but mentally, also."

In the earlier match on Rod Laver Arena, Nadal received treatment several times for a nasty-looking blister on the palm of his left hand that he said caused him to serve slower than usual. He fended off three set points in the third, including two in the tiebreaker, and won on his first set point.

He went up 2-0 in the fourth when he hit a passing backhand down the line on break point with Dimitrov standing at the net. At the end, Dimitrov appeared to wipe tears from his eyes with a towel as he walked off Rod Laver Arena.

Nadal acknowledged that Dimitrov let him off the hook with a wide forehand on set point in the third-set tiebreaker.

"It's a tough moment mentally for an opponent," Nadal said. "If that forehand from him goes in and he wins the third, I'm going to be fighting."

Dimitrov said: "I'm a bit shattered. I came out expecting nothing less than to win."

Azarenka's loss meant both defending champions went out in the quarterfinals — Novak Djokovic lost to Stan Wawrinka on Tuesday, ending his bid for a fourth consecutive men's title. Azarenka had been aiming for three in a row and other women's title contenders Serena Williams and Maria Sharapova didn't even reach the quarterfinals.

Azarenka's defeat left 2011 French Open champion Li Na as the only major winner in contention. Li, a two-time Australian Open finalist, next plays 19-year-old Canadian Eugenie Bouchard. In the other semifinal, Radwanska takes on No. 20 Dominika Cibulkova, who routed No. 11-seeded Simona Halep 6-3, 6-0.

Radwanska mixed up her game cleverly to keep Azarenka off balance, and never let her settle into the match.

"She was aggressive. She was making everything. She was guessing right," Azarenka said. "I was just playing a little bit too predictably."

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NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division			
	W	Pct	GB
Toronto	20	20	0.0
Brooklyn	18	22	4.0
Houston	18	21	5.0
Boston	19	20	6.0
Philadelphia	18	20	7.0
Southeast Division			
Miami	20	12	7.14
Atlanta	17	11	8.25
Washington	20	10	5.00
Charlotte	18	10	6.00
Orlando	11	21	16.29

Western Conference

Southwest Division			
	Pct	GB	
San Antonio	32	9	7.80
Phoenix	23	17	5.75
Dallas	25	18	5.81
Memphe	20	20	5.00
New Orleans	15	25	11.93
Northwest Division			
Oklahoma City	10	7.62	
Portland	31	11	7.38
Denver	27	14	4.50
Minnesota	20	21	4.88
Utah	19	23	3.26

Pacific Division			
	Pct	GB	
L.A. Clippers	29	14	6.74
Golden State	23	17	5.75
Phoenix	23	17	5.75
Sacramento	15	25	3.75

Monday's games			
Dallas 102, Cleveland 97			
L.A. Clippers 112, Toronto 103			
San Antonio 107, Philadelphia 99			
Charlotte 100, Detroit 95			
New Orleans 95, Memphis 92			
Atlanta 121, Miami 111			
Orlando 102, L.A. Lakers 100, OT			
Houston 126, Portland 113			
Indiana 102, Golden State 94			

Tuesday's games			
Miami 93, Boston 86			
Oklahoma City 105, Portland 97			
Sacramento 114, New Orleans 97			
Minnesota 112, Utah 97			

Wednesday's games			
Atlanta at Orlando			
Chicago at Cleveland			
L.A. Clippers at Charlotte			
Los Angeles at Houston			
Philadelphia at New York			
San Antonio at Philadelphia			
Detroit at Milwaukee			
Indiana at Phoenix			

Thursday's games			
L.A. Lakers at Atlanta			
Denver at Portland			

Timberwolves 112, Jazz 97			
MINNESOTA	- Brewer 7-11 4-19, Love 7-15 4-15, Pekovic 7-11 4-18, Rubio 9-20 4-15		
JAZZ	- Gordon 10-16 7-11 1-0 1-2, Shved 0-10-0, Barea 6-11 0-15, Badinger 0-0-0, Cunningham 8-10 4-0-0, Mbatia 0-0-0-0-0, Muhammad 1-2 0-0-2, Dolezal 2-0-2, Totals 41-90 22-40 11-21		

Three-Point Goals—Minnesota 8-21 (Gordon 4, Martin 2, 2, 2, Brewer 1, Love 1, White 1), Utah 5-17 (Hayward 2, Burke 1, Lucas III 0-1), Williams 0-1, Jefferson 0-2, Rush 0-2, Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Minnesota 39 (Hayward 13), Utah 38 (Kanter 6), Assists—Minnesota 31 (Rebro 13), Utah 22 (Hayward 10), Total Foul—Minnesota 19, Utah 23, A.—(16,38) (19,511).			
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KATHY WILGEN/AP

Brooklyn forward Paul Pierce, right, blocks a shot by Orlando guard Glen Davis during the first half of Tuesday's game at the Barclays Center in New York. Brooklyn won the game 101-90.

Kings 114, Pelicans 97

SACRAMENTO — Jay 16-25 4-6 11, Thompson 5-8 1-11, Cousins 6-10 6-9 18, Thomas 6-17 5-20, Thornton 3-7 0-10, Williams 5-9 3-16, Acy 1-4 1-3, McLemore 0-1 0-0-0, Fredette 2-3 0-5, Gray 0-1 2-2, McCullum 0-1 0-0. Totals 42-82 21-114.
 NEW ORLEANS — Amnu 3-5 2-9, Davis 4-12 1-11 16, Siemensa 0-2 0-0, Roberts 6-10 3-15, Gordon 2-6 2-4, Evans 6-15 5-16, J. Williams 2-0 0-4, Miller 1-2 0-0 3, Rivers 4-8 2-12, Withey 5-6 4-14. Totals 33-69 26-38-97.

Thunder 105, Trail Blazers 97

PORTLAND — Batum 1-4 0-0 3, Aldridge 12-25 5-8 29, Lopez 5-10 0-9 10, Lillard 6-15 2-14, Matthews 7-15 3-21, Williams 6-10 0-0 13, Fredland 11-20 2-0, McCollum 2-3 0-0 5, Robinson 0-1 0-0. Totals 48-96 10-16-97.
 OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 17-25 4-7 46, Ibaka 4-15 2-10, Perkins 2-4 0-4, Jackson 7-18 0-15, Sefolosha 2-3 0-5, Collison 1-2 0-2, Lamb 4-10 1-9, Adams 2-3 0-0-4, Fisher 3-7 2-4 10. Totals 42-87 11-17 105.
 PORTLAND — 27 25 23 22-97
 OKLAHOMA CITY — 31 20 26-105
 Three-Point Goals—Portland 7-19 (Matthews 4-8, McCollum 1-2, Williams 1-2, Batum 1-2, Lillard 0-5), Oklahoma City 10-15 (Durant 6-7, Fisher 2-3, Sefolosha 1-1, Jackson 2-2, Lamb 0-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Portland 52 (Aldridge 16), Oklahoma City 53 (Perkins 10), Assists—Portland 23 (Williams 9), Oklahoma City 16 (Jackson 2), Total Foul—Portland 12, Oklahoma City 14, Technicals—Durant, Oklahoma City defensive three second. A.—(16,39) (15,20).

Nets 101, Magic 90

ORLANDO — Afflalo 4-9 2-11, Harris 3-8 0-9 7, Davis 5-11 0-0 10, Nelson 2-6 4-9, Oladipo 3-9 2-10, Moore 5-8 2-12, O'Quinn 6-10 3-6 15, Nicholson 1-6 0-2, Harkless 3-4 0-7, Lamb 1-1 3-3 6. Totals 33-72 13-90.
 BROOKLYN — Johnson 6-11 0-1 33, Pierce 9-2 2 13, Garnett 4-9 0-8, Livings 11-15 7-18, Williams 4-10 4-0 9, Kirlikno 2-6 0-0 4, Terry 1-2 2-2, Telecaste 5-10 0-14, Plumlee 1-2 0-0 2, Totals 48-111 13-120 90.
 BROOKLYN — 27 19 27 28-101
 Three-Point Goals—Orlando 7-19 (Lamb 1-1, Afflalo 1-2, Moore 1-2, Nelson 1-2, Harkless 1-2, Harris 1-2, O'Quinn 1-0, Davis 0-1, Nicholson 0-2), Brooklyn 10-28 (Telecaste 4-8, Terry 1-1, Blatche 1-2, Williams 1-4, Pierce 1-4, Anderson 1-4, Johnson 1-5), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Orlando 45 (O'Quinn 9), Brooklyn 43 (Pierce 6), Assists—Orlando 23 (Nelson 10), Brooklyn 29 (Williams 9), Total Foul—Orlando 14, Brooklyn 15 A.—(25,82) (17,732).

Heat 93, Celtics 86

BOSTON — Green 5-15 0-12, Sullinger 14-14 4-12, Humphries 7-10 0-0 14, Rondo 9-8 1-4 1, Bradley 9-3 3-3, Bass 5-7 5-15, Al Jefferson 3-9 1-1-8, Pressle 3-3 0-2, Olynyk 3-7 0-6, Johnson 4-7 1-11, Anthony 1-1 0-2, Totals 33-84 15-18-88.
 MIAMI — James 10-19 11-29, Battier 2-2 0-0 4, Bosh 7-10 0-0 16, Chalmers 4-8 0-1 8, Allen 3-7 0-7, Anderson 5-5 3-14 3, Oden 1-0 2, Beasley 4-6 0-9, Lewis 1-1 0-0 3, Oden 1-1 0-0 2, Totals 38-71 12-16 93.
 BOSTON — 15 25 27 19-86
 Three-Point Goals—Boston 5-27 (Johnson 2-5, Green 2-7, Wallace 1-4, Bradley 0-1, Pressley 0-2, Rondo 0-3, Sullinger 0-2), Miami 5-20 (Bosh 2-3, Beasley 1-1, Lewis 1-2, Allen 1-4, Chalmers 1-1, Battier 0-2, Cole 0-3, James 0-4), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Boston 55 (Humphries 13), Miami 39 (James 8), Assists—Boston 17 (Rondo 2), Miami 22 (Cole, Chalmers 6), Total Foul—Boston 15, Miami 16, Technicals—Miami delay of game. A.—(19,61) (19,600).

Roundup

Nets win for eighth time in nine games

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Part of Brooklyn's resurgence this month has been due, in large part, to the team trusting each other on both ends of the court and buying into first-year coach Jason Kidd's plan.

The Nets continued their winning ways Tuesday by sweeping a back-to-back set for the first time this season, beating the Orlando Magic 101-90 a night after routing the crossstown rival New York Knicks.

"It's a sign that we're showing consistency with what we're trying to do around here," said Nets forward Paul Pierce, who along with Joe Johnson, the other forward in Kidd's small lineup, chipped in 13 points apiece.

Andray Blatche had another great game off the bench, scoring a team-high 18 points, and reserve forward Mirza Teletovic added 14 points as the Nets won for the eighth time in nine games.

"We're not only winning, but we're pretty convincingly turning it on in the third quarter with the defense, the way we're moving the ball," Pierce said. "That's what we want. That's all he wants out of us, night in, night out, a consistent effort." That's what we're trying to do especially in back-to-backs."

The Nets' 8-1 start in January is an NBA best after a disappointing 11-21 start to their second season in Brooklyn. The Nets improved to 2-6 in the second game of a back-to-back.

Once again, Kidd stuck with the same starting unit since Deron Williams went down with an ankle injury. Kidd's starting five of Pierce, Johnson, Kevin Garnett, Alan Anderson and Shaun Livingston improved to 6-0. **Thunder 105, Trail Blazers 97:** Kevin Durant scored 11 of his 46 points in the final 3:23 to help host Oklahoma City beat Portland. Durant has scored at least

30 points for eight consecutive games, the longest such streak of his career. He made 17 of 25 field goals, including 6 of 7 three-pointers.

Reggie Jackson added 15 points for Oklahoma City (32-10), which took a one-game lead over Portland in the Northwest Division. Portland had won the previous two meetings this season.

Heat 93, Celtics 86: LeBron James scored 11 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter. Chris Bosh added 16 and host Miami blew an 18-point lead before rallying to beat Boston.

Chris Andersen scored 13 points and made all five of his shots for Miami, which ended the game on a 9-0 run.

Brandon Bass scored 15 points, Kris Humphries had 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Jeff Green had 12 points for the Celtics, who outrebounded Miami 46-33.

Kings 114, Pelicans 97: Rudy Gay tied a career high with 41 points, and visiting Sacramento cruised to a victory over New Orleans.

Isiah Thomas had 20 points and 11 assists, while DeMarcus Cousins had 18 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for the Kings, who won five of eight.

Tyreke Evans scored 17 in New Orleans, which trimmed a 23-point first-half deficit to six shortly before halftime, only to fall behind by 23 again in the third quarter.

Timberwolves 112, Jazz 97: Kevin Love had 19 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists as left visiting Minnesota run past Utah and sweep the home-and-home set.

Ricky Rubio has returned to his spontaneous, free-flowing style and had 11 points and 13 assists for the Wolves, who snapped a seven-game losing streak in Utah.

Corey Brewer scored 19 points and Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin each contributed 18.

Taking: Seventh-year player has turned it up a notch in teammate's absence

FROM BACK PAGE

win over Golden State last Friday, a performance that brought "MVP!" chants from the crowd and questions about the award afterward.

"It's premature," Durant said. "It's way too early in the season. I try not to think about that type of stuff. Of course, as a player, you'd love to win an MVP award, but I can't take my focus off the team."

The seventh-year player has done it all with startling efficiency. Without Westbrook, Durant has shot 51 percent from the field and 87 percent from the free-throw line while averaging 7.4 rebounds and 5.8 assists going into Tuesday's game against Portland.

"I'm being more comfortable trying to

do different things," he said. "Whether it's scoring, whether it's rebounding, being a facilitator — I'm just going out there and really just having fun, to be honest."

Westbrook is set to return after the All-Star break, and Durant's dynamic play has kept Durant in position to compete for the best record in the Western Conference.

As much as Durant wants to deflect praise, his numbers demand attention. Durant scored 23 of his 48 points in the fourth quarter against Minnesota on Jan. 4, a 115-111 win after the Thunder trailed by 10 heading into the final period. Two games later, he went for 48 again in a 112-101 win over Utah. He had the 54-point outburst against Golden State.

Warriors guard Stephen Curry said Durant can be slowed, but not stopped. "If you force him into tough jump shots, you've just got to live with the result," Curry said. "But early in the game, you've got to get a body into him, be a little bit more physical and not let him get so comfortable for him to just walk into the key."

Forward Serge Ibaka is benefiting most from the attention teams are giving Durant. Ibaka was averaging 18 points, 11 rebounds, 2.8 blocks in the previous five games heading into Tuesday's game while shooting 61 percent from the field.

"Kevin is a great player," Ibaka said. "I'm really happy to make a decision — are you going to help or are you going to stay off him? So I just read the game. He's doing

a great job this year finding the guy, passing the ball, so that's why we do it."

Overall, Durant is ahead of his career high for a season in points. He's averaging 5.0 assists per game, ahead of his previous best average of 4.6 last season, and he's shooting 48 percent from the field, better than all but one of his previous six seasons.

"He's one of the best players in the league, you know, up there with LeBron (James)," Warriors center Andrew Bogut said. "He shoots the ball very, very well and at his height, there's not much you can really do when he gets hot. There's a reason why he's a perennial All-Star and future Hall of Famer and possibly MVP this year."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Yankees reach \$155M deal with Tanaka

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees and prized Japanese pitcher Masahiro Tanaka agreed to a \$155 million, seven-year contract on Wednesday.

In addition to the deal with Tanaka, the Yankees must pay a \$20 million fee to the Japanese team of the 25-year-old right-hander, the Rakuten Golden Eagles.

Tanaka caps an offseason in which the Yankees added catcher Brian McCann and outfielders Jacoby Ellsbury and Carlos Beltran. The four big deals totaled \$438 million.

"We're going to do what we've got to do to win," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "We had to make sure we had enough pitching to go together with our new lineup."

Major League Baseball teams had until Friday to reach an agreement with Tanaka, who was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year as the Golden Eagles won the Japan Series.

His agreement calls for \$22 million in each of the first six seasons and \$23 million in 2020, and it allows him to terminate the deal after the 2017 season and become a free agent.

Tanaka receives the highest contract for an international free agent and the fifth largest deal for a pitcher, trailing only those of the Los Angeles Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw (\$215 million), Detroit's Justin Verlander (\$180 million), Seattle's Felix Hernandez (\$175 million) and the Yankees' CC Sabathia (\$161 million under his original agreement with New York).

Tanaka replaces the retired Andy Pettitte in the rotation, and joins Sabathia, Hiroki Kuroda and Ivan Nova.

His deal pushes the Yankees' payroll for purposes of the luxury tax over \$203 million. Barring trades, there is little chance New York will get under the \$189 million tax threshold.

Source: Peers wanted A-Rod out of union

NEW YORK — Several angry major league players wanted Alex Rodriguez kicked out of their



TORU TAKAHASHI/AP

Japan's Masahiro Tanaka agreed on Wednesday to a \$155 million, seven-year contract with the Yankees. In addition to the deal with the pitcher, the Yankees must pay a \$20 million fee to the Japanese team of the 25-year-old right-hander, the Rakuten Golden Eagles.

union after he sued it last week, but staff lawyers told them expulsion was not allowed.

The players spoke Jan. 13 during a Major League Baseball Players Association conference call after Rodriguez sued the union and Major League Baseball to overturn an arbitrator's decision suspending him for the 2014 season and postseason.

Details were first reported Tuesday by Yahoo Sports and later confirmed to The Associated Press by a person familiar with the call. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no statements were authorized.

The union and Rodriguez spokesman Ron Berkowitz declined comment. All players in the major leagues are members of the union and pay \$65 daily in dues, or \$11,895 if a player is in the big leagues for a full season. Baseball's labor contract specifies the union is "the sole and exclusive bargaining agent for all major league players."

Rodriguez agreed to a \$275 million, 10-year contract with the

Yankees after the 2007 season. Horowitz's decision cost Rodriguez \$22.13 million of his \$25 million salary this year; the three-time AL MVP is owed \$61 million by the Yankees from 2015-17.

MLB orders stadium security screening

NEW YORK — Entering a Major League Baseball ballpark will be a bit like going through an airport by 2015.

MLB has told its 30 teams they must implement security screening for fans by then, either with hand-held metal detection or walk-through magnetometers.

"This procedure, which results from MLB's continuing work with the Department of Homeland Security to standardize security practices across the game, will be in addition to bag checks that are now uniform throughout MLB," league spokesman Michael Tevian said on Tuesday.

The Seattle Mariners announced on Tuesday that fans entering Safeco Field will have

to walk through metal detectors starting with the opener in April.

Cook, Caldwell make Olympic team in aerials

Freestyle skier Emily Cook is going to her third Olympics after landing a spot on the U.S. team on Tuesday.

The 34-year-old aerialist finished 19th at the 2010 Games and 11th in 2006. She also was nominated to the 2002 team but missed because of an injury. She was given a spot on this year's freestyle team after the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Association went through dozens of calculations and possibilities.

Several spots are awarded based on how athletes finish in qualifying events. A few are held out for those who don't qualify based on their results but are still considered potential medalists based on their history and current performances. Cook got one of the discretionary picks, in part because she has finished in the top 10 and been the top Ameri-

can finisher in the last four World Cup events.

Also on the aerials team is Ashley Caldwell, who finished 10th at the 2010 Games. She's one of five women in the world, Schirman said, who try triple-flipping jumps.

Cook and Caldwell are the only two women among the world's top 12 who aren't from either Australia or China.

Browns interview Bills' Pettine for 2nd time

CLEVELAND — Mike Pettine got a second look from the Browns, who could be zeroing in on their next coach.

Buffalo's defensive coordinator had his second interview with Cleveland's owners Jimmy Haslam and CEO Joe Banner on Tuesday night, a person familiar with the Browns' plans told The Associated Press. The meeting took place in Mobile, Ala., site of the Senior Bowl, said the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the team is not commenting during its search.

Pettine is the first candidate to meet twice with the Browns. He spent four hours with Haslam, Banner and other members of Cleveland's front office but was not offered the job. Pettine had impressed the Browns during his first interview last week.

However, the person familiar with the team's plans said the Browns left Mobile and had another interview lined up for Wednesday.

The Browns are in the fourth week of their search for their seventh full-time coach since 1999.

Pettine just completed his first year with the Bills, and he improved the team's defense in every statistical category.

In other NFL news: ■ The Atlanta Falcons hired Scott Pioli as assistant general manager on Wednesday, reuniting him with GM Thomas Dimitroff. Pioli was director of player personnel for the New England Patriots from 2000-08, including six seasons with Dimitroff, who directed college scouting. He was the Kansas City Chiefs' general manager for four years before leaving in January 2013.

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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Boston	49	31	15	3	65	141/109
Tampa Bay	50	29	16	5	63	146/123
Montreal	49	27	17	3	59	136/127
Toronto	52	27	20	5	59	150/156
Ottawa	52	27	19	5	58	142/138
Detroit	49	21	18	10	52	122/134
Florida	50	20	23	4	47	120/151
Buffalo	48	13	27	3	33	89/137

Metropolitan Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Pittsburgh	50	27	22	3	70	157/120
N.Y. Rangers	52	27	22	3	57	131/133
Philadelphia	49	26	19	3	56	137/124
Columbus	49	25	20	4	54	143/138
New Jersey	51	25	19	7	58	122/129
Washington	50	22	20	8	52	142/152
Carolina	48	20	19	9	49	117/137
N.Y. Islanders	52	21	24	7	49	147/169

Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Chicago	51	32	8	11	75	184/139
Anaheim	49	33	11	5	71	171/115
Colorado	49	31	13	5	67	144/127
Minnesota	50	31	13	5	59	125/129
Dallas	50	32	20	8	52	141/152
Nashville	49	27	17	5	55	125/125
Winnipeg	51	23	23	5	51	144/152

Pacific Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Anaheim	52	27	10	5	79	177/129
San Jose	50	32	12	6	70	161/123
Vancouver	51	29	16	6	64	131/108
Vancouver	51	26	16	9	61	129/128
Phoenix	49	27	17	8	60	138/127
Calgary	50	16	27	7	39	111/159
Edmonton	50	15	27	9	36	132/183

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

Monday's games
 N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 3, 5:00
 Los Angeles 4, San Jose 1, 7:00
 Florida 5, Pittsburgh 1, 7:00
 St. Louis 4, Detroit 3, 7:00
 Nashville 4, Dallas 1, 7:00
 Toronto 4, Phoenix 2, 7:00
 San Jose 3, Calgary 2, 7:00

Tuesday's games
 Florida 4, Buffalo 3, 7:00
 New Jersey 7, St. Louis 1, 7:00
 N.Y. Islanders 5, N.Y. Rangers 3, 7:00
 Ottawa 2, Washington 0, 7:00
 Columbus 5, Los Angeles 3, 7:00
 Dallas 4, Minnesota 3, 7:00
 Toronto 5, Colorado 2, 7:00
 Chicago 4, Edmonton 1, 7:00
 Winnipeg 3, Anaheim 2, 7:00
 Carolina at Philadelphia, ppd., snow

Wednesday's games
 Carolina at Philadelphia
 Montreal at Pittsburgh
 Chicago at Detroit
 Phoenix at Nashville
Thursday's games
 Carolina at N.Y. Rangers
 St. Louis at N.Y. Rangers
 St. Louis at Columbus
 Ottawa at Tampa Bay
 Pittsburgh at N.Y. Islanders
 Dallas at Vancouver
 Toronto at Dallas
 N.Y. Islanders at Vancouver
 Los Angeles at Anaheim
 Winnipeg at San Jose

Saturday Jets 3, Ducks 2

Winnipeg 3, 1-0-3
 Los Angeles 2, 1-0-2
First Period—Anaheim, Fowler 6 (Getzoff, Beleskey), 3:59 (pp), 2; Winnipeg, Wheeler 18 (Cruz, Schiefel), 5:13; Winnipeg, Ladd 11 (Little, Trouba), 18:36.
Second Period—Winnipeg, Lane 15 (Little), 15:43 (sh).
Third Period—Anaheim, Bonino 16 (Silverberg), 10:18.
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 7-6-21, 8-21, 11-15-46-42.
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 0 of 2; Anaheim 1 of 1.
Goalies—Winnipeg, Pavelec 15-19-4 (29 shots-29 saves), Dallas, Lettonen 18-6-4 (11-18), Andersen (15-43 second, 10-10), A-15,040 (11,714), T-2:28.

Canucks 2, Oilers 1

Vancouver 2, 1-0-2
 Edmonton 0, 0-1-1
First Period—Vancouver, 0-1-1 (Weise, Sestito), 5:14.
Second Period—Vancouver, Kassin 10 (Kestler, D.Sediny), 7:59.
Third Period—Edmonton, Eberle 17 (Edmonton) 15:12-29.
Shots on Goal—Vancouver 9-13-25, 5-27, Edmonton 11-11-29.
Power-play opportunities—Vancouver 0 of 4; Edmonton 1 of 1.
Goalies—Vancouver, Luongo 18-10-6 (29 shots-29 saves), Edmonton, Skirvin 6-16-29 (16,839), T-2:29.

Stars 4, Wild 0

Minnesota 4, 0-0-0
 Dallas 2, 1-1-4
First Period—Dallas, Fiddler 18-24, Igoski, Rousseil, 13:18, 2; Dallas, Cole 14 (Gojszko, A.Benn), 15:46, 2; Dallas, Whitney 6 (Gonchar, Eakin), 13:18 (pp).
Second Period—Dallas, Jo.Benn 2 (penalty shot), 11:22.
Third Period—Dallas, Jo.Benn 2 (penalty shot), 11:22.
Shots on Goal—Minnesota 9-6-19, 10-11-29, Dallas 11-11-29.
Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of 4; Dallas 1 of 1.
Goalies—Minnesota, Kuemper 4-3-0 (34 shots-32 saves), Dallas, Lettonen 18-4-8 (18-18), A-11,191 (18,532), T-2:29.

Maple Leafs 5, Avalanche 2

Toronto 5, 2-1-5
 Colorado 2, 1-1-2
First Period—Toronto, Kessel 25 (Phaneuf, Raymond), 3:56, 2; Toronto, van Riemsdyk 20 (Franzon, Bozak), 17:41, 1.
Second Period—Toronto, Kadri 13 (Gardiner, Lupu), 2:55, 4; Toronto, Kessel 25 (van Riemsdyk, Bozak), 5:17, 1; Colorado, MacKinnon 16 (Parenteau, Holden), 18:26.
Third Period—6, Colorado, MacKinnon 17 (Talbot), 5:07, 7; Toronto, McClement 2 (Kullem, Lupu), 7:47 (en).
Shots on Goal—Toronto 9-15-7-31, Colorado 11-9-17-37.
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 1 of 4; Colorado 0 of 2.
Goalies—Toronto, Reimer 10-6-1 (37 shots-33 saves), Colorado, Varlamov 24-9-14 (67), Gause 1 (25 second, 26-19), A-14,877 (18,007), T-2:26.

Senators 2, Capitals 0

Ottawa 2, 0-1-2
 Washington 0, 0-0-0
Second Period—1, Ottawa, Turris 15 (MacArthur, Gryba), 12:59.
Shots on Goal—Ottawa, Spezza 13 (Wiercioch, E.Karlsson), 8:56 (pp), 1.
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 6-12-8-26, Washington 10-12-34-34.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 1 of 6; Washington 0 of 4.
Goalies—Ottawa, C.Anderson 16-10-6 (32 shots-34 saves), Washington, Holtby 13-12-2 (26-26), A-18,506 (18,506), T-2:29.

Devils 7, Blues 1

St. Louis 1, 0-1-1
 New Jersey 7, 2-2-7
First Period—1, New Jersey, Farber (Brunner, Elias), 2:27, 2; St. Louis, Carter 4 (Geddes, Gelinas), 2:22, 3; St. Louis, Steen 25 (Schwarz, Backes), 8:47, 4; New Jersey, Jagr 16 (Boucher, Tzajac), 10:27.
Second Period—5, New Jersey, Galloway 3 (Zidlicky, Brunner), 1:03 (pp), 6; New Jersey, Henrique 13 (Gelinas, Zidlicky), 15:42 (pp).
Third Period—7, New Jersey, Brunner 9 (Elias, Tzajac), 1:18 (pp), 8; New Jersey, Gelinas 6 (Volchenkov), 12:04.
Shots on Goal—Louis 6-7-14-27, New Jersey 13-6-4-23.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 3; New Jersey 3 of 4.
Goalies—St. Louis, Elliott 13-14-2 (9 shots-6 saves), Halak (12:17 first, 14:10), New Jersey, Schneider 8-9-7 (27-26), A-11,442 (17,620), T-2:19.

Islanders 5, Rangers 3

N.Y. Islanders 5, 2-2-5
 N.Y. Rangers 3, 2-1-3
First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 15 (Klapan, Buz, 2), 2:22, 2; N.Y. Islanders, Martin 3 (Vaver, Okposo), 17:22.
Second Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Kessler 13 (Stapan, Richards), 8:34 (pp), 5; N.Y. Islanders, Hickey 3 (Okposo, Van Riemsdyk), 13:22, 6; N.Y. Islanders, McDonald 4 (Tavares, Reppin), 16:28.
Third Period—7, N.Y. Islanders, Vanek 18 (Tavares, Nielsen), 15:22 (pp), 8; N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 17, 19:53 (en).
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 16-17-44-67, N.Y. Rangers 11-14-31-56.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 1 of 5; N.Y. Rangers 1 of 4.
Goalies—N.Y. Islanders, Poulin 11-14-0 (34-33 (36-32)), N.Y. Rangers, Talbot 10-10-3 (26-26), A-18,006 (18,006), T-2:31.

Panthers 4, Sabres 3

Florida 4, 3-1-0-4
 Buffalo 3, 1-0-3-1
First Period—1, Buffalo, Stafford 10 (Omark), 2:23 (pp), 2; Florida, Winchester 15 (Gardiner, Hultin), 10:27, 2; Buffalo, Stafford 7 (Ennis), 6:16, 4; Florida, Bergenheim 11 (Gilbert, Barkov), 18:04, 5; Florida, Avranovich 13, 18:04, 1.
Second Period—7, Florida, Bjugstad 11 (Candela, Gilbert), 12:44-44-62, Buffalo 3 (Candela, Gilbert), 12:44-44-62.
Third Period—7, Buffalo, Ott 6 (Stafford), 11:51, 2; Florida, Winchester 15 (Gardiner, Hultin), 10:27, 2; Buffalo, Stafford 7 (Ennis), 6:16, 4; Florida, Bergenheim 11 (Gilbert, Barkov), 18:04, 5; Florida, Avranovich 13, 18:04, 1.
Shots on Goal—Florida 12-6-4-22, Buffalo 11-11-31-54.
Power-play opportunities—Florida 0 of 1; Buffalo 0 of 2.
Goalies—Florida, Thomas 13-13-3 (35 shots-32 saves), Buffalo, Miller 12-19-3 (22-22), A-17,583 (19,070), T-2:26.

Blue Jackets 5, Kings 3

Los Angeles 1, 1-1-3
 Columbus 5, 2-1-5
First Period—1, Los Angeles, King (Lewis), 2:42, 2; Columbus, Umberger 12 (Wisniewski, Johnson), 12:47 (pp), 3; Columbus, Umberger 12 (Wisniewski, Johnson), 12:47 (pp), 3; Columbus, Umberger 12 (Wisniewski, Johnson), 12:47 (pp), 3.
Second Period—4, Los Angeles, Carter 20 (Richards), 8:38, 5; Columbus, Horton 3 (Auer, Jenner), 19:44.
Third Period—7, Columbus, Anisimov 19 (Richards), 15:6, 6; Columbus, Regehr 1 (Williams, Richards), 16:50.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 11-8-20-29, Columbus 12-12-30-34.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 4; Columbus 1 of 1.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Jones 8-4-0 (34 shots-29 saves), Columbus, Brossoy 16-11-2 (29-26), A-15,286 (18,144), T-2:24.



Jets goalie Ondrej Pavelec deflects a shot by the Ducks' Patrick Maroon during the second period Tuesday in Anaheim, Calif. The Jets beat the Ducks 3-2.

Roundup

Jets end Ducks' streak at 10

Winnipeg hands league leader first regulation loss at home

The Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — Although Paul Maurice declines the credit, the Winnipeg Jets still haven't lost since he stepped behind their bench. They're even good enough to beat a team that had been practically perfect on home ice all season long.

Ondrej Pavelec made 40 saves, Evander Kane had a short-handed goal and an assist in his return from injury, and the Jets ended the Anaheim Ducks' 10-game home winning streak with a 3-2 victory Tuesday night.

Blake Wheeler and captain Andrew Ladd also scored for the last-place Jets, who handed the overall NHL leaders their first regulation loss at home this season after a 20-0-2 start at Honda Center.

Bryan Little had two assists as Winnipeg hung on for its fourth consecutive win since Maurice replaced Claude Noel, culminating in this gritty win in the league's most daunting road arena.

"It's a tough building to play in, and it feels good to be the first team to beat them (here) this season," Pavelec said. "It's only two points, but it feels really good, especially in this building. ... The whole team is playing with confidence. The new coach let us know we're good players, and we can beat anybody."

With a fourth win for Maurice, Winnipeg even relinquished sole possession of last place in the Central Division, pulling even with Nashville at the bottom of the table. Yet when asked what he's done to this underachieving

group, the veteran coach is frank: "Nothing."

"Before I got here, I thought this was a good hockey team," Maurice added. "Now we're feeling good, and that changes everything."

Cam Fowler and Nick Bonino scored for the NHL-leading Ducks, who hadn't lost at home since Dec. 3. Anaheim has won 19 of 22 overall, but has lost two of its last three games despite putting 42 shots on net and having 36 more potential shots blocked by the Jets.

Blue Jackets 5, Kings 3: R.J. Umberger scored twice to lead host Columbus to its franchise-record seventh straight win.

Nathan Horton scored in his 600th NHL game, Artem Anisimov had a goal and an assist and Ryan Johansen also scored for Columbus, with James Wisniewski picking up two assists. Sergei Bobrovsky moved to 8-0 in his past eight starts with 26 saves.

Maple Leafs 5, Avalanche 2: Phil Kessel scored twice, James van Riemsdyk had a goal and an assist and visiting Toronto beat Colorado for its sixth straight win.

Islanders 5, Rangers 3: Thomas Vanek scored a power-play goal with 4:38 left, and the Islanders rallied from two goals down for a second straight day and beat the Boston Bruins.

Canucks 2, Oilers 1: Rookie Kellan Lain and Zack Kassian scored and visiting Vancouver won its first game without suspended head coach John Tortorella in a victory over Edmonton.

The Canucks have won just

three of their past 11 games. Roberto Luongo made 28 saves for the win.

The Canucks were also without leading scorer Henrik Sedin, who missed his first game in close to a decade with an injury.

The Canucks were also without Tortorella, who was suspended for 15 days by the NHL on Monday for an altercation during a game against the Calgary Flames on Saturday.

Jordan Eberle scored for the Oilers, who have lost five in a row and 10 of their past 12.

Devils 7, Blues 1: Mark Fayne and Ryan Carter scored 24 seconds apart early in the first period to spark host New Jersey over St. Louis.

Panthers 4, Sabres 3: Ed Jovanovski scored the go-ahead goal and added an assist in his 1,100th career game, sparking Florida over host Buffalo.

Senators 2, Capitals 0: Kyle Turris and Jason Spezza scored, Craig Anderson made 34 saves and visiting Ottawa handed Alex Ovechkin-less Washington its sixth straight loss.

With NHL scoring leader Ovechkin sidelined with an unspecified lower-body injury, Washington generated few good scoring chances, failing to convert on five power plays.

Stars 4, Wild 0: Erik Cole and Ray Whitney scored power-play goals, and host Dallas stopped a three-game losing streak with a victory over Minnesota.

JAC C. HONG/AP

NFL

Goodell suggests rule change to dump PAT

Commissioner looks to add excitement to extra point

By **BARRY WILNER**
The Associated Press

NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is suggesting potential changes to the touchdown conversion that might have some legs. Goodell says the extra point kick, which had a success rate of nearly 100 percent, is too automatic.

And with few teams attempting 2-point conversion plays until desperation hits late in games, the old 1-pointer from 20 yards is the way coaches go. All that does is draw yawns.

So Goodell wonders if the league can add excitement by making some major adjustments to the extra point, suggesting perhaps making a touchdown worth seven points instead of six, with teams having the option to run a play for another point.

But failing on that play would cost them a point.

Gimmicky, for sure. But if Goodell likes the idea ...

A look at how changes to the extra point would affect the NFL:

How and why?

Passing any changes to the playing rules in the NFL is, unlike the extra point kick, not easy.

The competition committee meets with the players' union at

the NFL combine in February, when any new proposals or ideas are discussed. It's not unusual for the players to have input in potential adjustments, as they did recently on defenseless player penalties.

The powerful committee, chaired by Atlanta Falcons President Rich McKay, meets in March. At the league meetings later that month, the committee presents potential changes for discussion by all 32 owners, who can either vote on them or table them.

McKay said on Tuesday: "We do anticipate the topic being discussed."

Kicking around?

The idea of toying with the extra point is not entirely new. John Mara, owner of the New York Giants and among the most influential members of the competition committee, says "it came up for brief discussion in past meetings, but no action was taken."

It took the NFL years to come around on the 2-point conversion, which can be a pass or run play from the 2-yard line — and under Goodell's apparent preference, could be worth one point if the kick is eliminated. The 2-pointer existed in the old AFL from 1960-69, and college football has had it

since 1958.

NFL owners didn't approve it until 1994 as part of a package of changes to help the offenses.

Yea and nay

Coaches will hate any changes, particularly ones that would mean more decisions for them to make. They so rarely go for the 2-pointers until the fourth quarter, and are reluctant to do so then because, well, there's nothing automatic about those attempts. Indeed, less than half (33-for-69) worked in 2013.

"I will say this: Since 2000, I believe, over 99 percent of the extra points are made," Falcons coach Mike Smith said. "It's almost a given that it is going to be made. I'm sure that the competition committee will address it. As a coach you have to play how the rules are."

Short-yardage backs such as fullback Mike Tolbert of Carolina shouldn't mind the elimination of conversions. Nor should running quarterbacks such as Russell Wilson, Colin Kaepernick and Cam Newton, whose improvisational skills would be a huge advantage.

Kickers? They probably will shrug and practice their field goals — which is what they normally do regarding extra points anyway.



JACK DEMSEY/AP

Broncos kicker Matt Prater kicks an extra point during the fourth quarter against the Chargers on Jan. 12. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell is suggesting potential changes in the extra point.

Who stays, and why

Rosters would be slightly revamped, with teams likely keeping at least one power back active every week and having two on the roster. Often, those guys also play on special teams, so your presence wouldn't throw a lineup out of whack.

Practice won't make perfect

Teams would work even more on their short-yardage packages, beginning in training camp. They would use their touchdown conversion offenses in other situations on the field in games, too.

While going for a fourth-and-

2 near midfield is less rare than it once was, it might become all the more common when coaches know the more times they attempt such plays, the more seasoned their players will be when trying for the extra points.

Will it happen?

It's impossible to gauge the owners' thinking, and a three-quarters majority is needed to pass any rules changes.

Goodell doesn't get a vote. Then again, it sounds like he already has cast his.

AP Sports Writer John Zener contributed.

Rice, Sanders begin new era with Pro Bowl draft

By **OSKAR GARCIA**
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — NFL great Jerry Rice is already bucking conventional fantasy football wisdom in a new Pro Bowl format inspired by the popular hobby.

Rice picked New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees and St. Louis defensive end Robert Quinn to anchor his Pro Bowl team on Tuesday, opting for a passer over a runner.

Rice made the selections in Hawaii after winning a coin toss against Hall of Fame cornerback Deion Sanders. Rice called tails.

The decision prompted Sanders to select Kansas City running back Jamaal Charles and Houston defensive end J.J. Watt for Sunday's game.

"Don't think we forget Jerry picked them first," Watt said when asked whether the new schoolyard-style format would leave players with bruised egos.

The toss and selections started a new process for the NFL in selecting this year's Pro Bowl teams. Rice and Sanders are serving as captains and general managers in charge of divvying up the NFL stars.

"I'm so pumped — I'm ready to run some routes," Rice said at a news conference after winning the toss, picking his players and embracing them as active player captains.

"That's exactly how I thought it was going to go," Sanders said.

The toss gave Sanders and Rice another chance for good-natured trash talk, a game that's become as much about showcasing their personalities as celebrating



MARCO GARCIA/AP

Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, right, reacts to comments made by fellow Hall of Famer Deion Sanders during a news conference Tuesday for the Pro Bowl Draft in Kapolei, Hawaii. Rice and Sanders are serving as captains and GMs for Sunday's game.

the accomplishments of the NFL's best.

Rice and Sanders split up interior lineman, punters, fullbacks and special teams during the first part of the draft, with the 22 picks announced on a tape-delayed show. Rice and Sanders went position by position, skipping the usual fantasy strat-

egy of prioritizing positions — an element that will be in play Wednesday when the rest of the 60 players are divvied up.

Sanders picked Ndamukong Suh with his first defensive tackle selection, and then Rice grabbed Jason Hatcher and Marcell

Dareus, and was assigned Kyle Williams.

Among guards, Rice picked two of Brees' New Orleans teammates, Jahri Evans and Ben Grubbs, along with Evan Mathis. Sanders picked Marshal Yanda and Logan Mankins and was assigned Kyle Long.

Centers Mike Pouncey and Alex Mack went to Sanders, while Ryan Kalil and Nick Mangold went to Rice. Rice picked Mike Tolbert at fullback while Sanders got Marcel Reece.

Sanders said Reece will not get the ball. "He's blocking for that man over there," Sanders said, pointing toward Charles.

Punter Johnny Hekker and special teamer Justin Bethel ended up on Brandon Rice, while Sanders picked punter Brandon Fields and special teamer Matthew Slater.

The Pro Bowl coaches, Chuck Pagano of Indianapolis for Team Sanders and Ron Rivera of Carolina for Team Rice, selected long snappers as a need position. Pagano went with Carolina's J.J. Jansen and Rivera responded in kind, going with Matt Overton of the Colts.

The second part of the draft will air live on the NFL Network.

NFL officials are hoping the new format is a recipe for a more competitive game on the field and higher ratings as the bulk of league fans look toward the Super Bowl on Feb. 2.

Brees said players know how to balance the demands of playing hard and avoiding injury.

"What it comes down to is just pride — pride in your effort and your performance," Brees said.

SUPER BOWL



MATT STOCUM/AP

Seahawks Doug Baldwin, right, and Golden Tate celebrate after Seattle won the NFC championship game over the 49ers. Seattle's receivers have been motivated by critics who call them the weak link.

'Pedestrian' comments drive Seahawks receivers

By TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Someone along the way, "pedestrian" became a favored word for the Seattle Seahawks' receivers.

Doug Baldwin, Jermaine Kearse and Golden Tate each used the word in some fashion after the Seahawks beat San Francisco to win the NFC championship Sunday. It was their way of responding to critics who have painted Seattle's receiving corps as one of the weak points on the Seahawks roster.

"It irritates the hell out of me when we've got guys who constantly want to talk about our receiving corps," Baldwin said after the 23-17 win over the 49ers.

"Talking about we're average. We're pedestrian. We're going to walk our ... to the Super Bowl, Pedestrians."

Seattle's receiving crew was supposed to have more experience and be considered a strength before the season began. "That's when the Seahawks were expected to have Percy Harvin and Sidney Rice as their starters, with Baldwin, Tate and Kearse filling secondary roles as extra receivers catching passes from Russell Wilson. But then Harvin missed 15 of 16 regular-season games after hip surgery in August and Rice was lost for the year with a knee injury in Week 8.

It's left an unheralded, underappreciated group as Seattle's pass catching options. And while they despise being cast as a weak link, they also are more than happy to use those slights as motivation.

Perhaps no player feeds off the negativity more than Baldwin. Before the NFC title game, the undrafted free agent out of Stanford talked about carrying a "boulder" around on his shoulder, not a chip. Then he made sure to note that pundits on Sunday morning were again pointing to



Seattle Seahawks (15-3)
vs. Denver Broncos (15-3)
Midnight Feb. 2 CET
8 a.m. Feb. 3 JKT

Seattle's receivers as the reason Wilson and the pass game had been struggling.

"They were talking about Russell Wilson was struggling and the reason he was struggling was his receiving corps was appetizers," Baldwin said. "I'll take that. I'll be an appetizer. But that's a good ... appetizer if you ask me."

Baldwin responded with one of the best games in his career on Sunday. He finished with six catches for 106 yards — the second-most in his three seasons — including a 51-yard reception in the first half that helped loosen the 49ers defense.

But he wasn't alone.

Tate had four receptions and Kearse made one of the biggest catches in his young career. On fourth-and-7 early in the fourth quarter, Wilson's hard count got the 49ers to jump into the neutral zone. Knowing it was a free play, Seattle's receivers broke off the original routes and headed vertical to the end zone. Kearse was able to get a step on Carlos Rogers and pulled in a 35-yard TD pass from Wilson with 13:44 left that gave Seattle a 20-17 lead that

the Seahawks did not relinquish.

"When you run a route you got to always expect that the ball could come to you. But when the ball is in the air it's all instinct, it's all play-making ability," Kearse said. "Russ threw a good ball at me, it just shows the trust he has in us and you know we'll just try to make the best of every opportunity."

Then later, prodded by Baldwin, Kearse followed the line in the wide receivers room.

"I'm just a pedestrian trying to walk my way to the Super Bowl," he said.

What makes Seattle's group of receivers unique is the lack of credentials. Take Harvin out of the equation, and of Seattle's top five receivers, four were undrafted: Baldwin, Kearse, Ricardo Lockette and Bryan Walters. Tate was the only draftee, taken in the second round in 2010. It's another example of general manager John Schneider's ability to unearth hidden talents, but the group also comes with a built-in motivation to prove wrong anyone who overlooked or undervalued their potential.

They also play in an offense where numbers will never be extraordinary. Only four times in 18 regular and postseason games this season did Seattle attempt 30 or more passes. Three times it didn't even attempt 20 throws. That leaves limited opportunities when the offense calls for the tight end and running backs to be involved in the pass game as well.

And all that is without Harvin, who is expected to have recovered from a concussion in time for the Super Bowl.

"At the end of the day, we want to be a team that makes the big play when we need to," Wilson said. "Always make the consistent ones, but make the big play when we need to, and the guys have done that all year."

Gaffe transformed Broncos' Trevathan

By ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — As promised, Danny Trevathan has snuffed the showboat in him after his humiliating gaffe in the NFL opener.

He morphed into a standout linebacker in his second season and led the Broncos in tackles after his inauspicious debut in Denver's rout of the Ravens in September.

Trevathan blamed excitement over his first career start for his premature celebration of a sure pick-6 of Joe Flacco when he flipped the football aside just before crossing the goal line.

Of course, if Trevathan doesn't pull a Leon Lett, maybe Peyton Manning takes the rest of the night off and doesn't get a chance to make history with his seventh touchdown throw later on in Denver's 49-27 win.

Trevathan's miscalculation was reminiscent of Lett's gaffe in the Super Bowl in 1993 when Dallas' defensive lineman was returning a fumble for a score in the Cowboys' rout of Buffalo. Don Beebe chased down a hotdogging Lett and knocked the ball loose just before he crossed the goal line.

This time, as Wesley Woodyard casually bent down in the end zone to pick up the souvenir for Trevathan, who was celebrating a few feet away, Brandon Stokley dived for the football and knocked it out of the back of the end zone.

Instead of a touchdown, it was a touchback.

Instead of hugs and high-fives, Trevathan got harangues from teammates and defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio.

"I promised myself I would never put my team in a place like that again," Trevathan said this week. "I'll make up for it. I'll do whatever I've got to do. I promised those who were laughing at me, I'm going to make them suffer. I'm going to be here and grind it out, I'm going to pick it off next time, do whatever I've got to do to go ahead and get that off my back."

Redemption came one month later in Dallas when Trevathan dazed Tony Romo into throwing

an interception at the Dallas 24 in the waning moments of a shootout, and it came just four days after he was carted off the practice field with a knee injury that at first had him fearing his playing days were over.

Trevathan briefly thought about jumping up and trying to score. Remembering the Ravens game, he decided to just stay down, allowing Manning to come on and run out the clock until Matt Prater's field goal won it 51-48 as time expired.

That was one of many big plays for Trevathan, a sixth-round pick from Kentucky in 2012 who led Denver this season with 124 tackles and has a dozen more in the playoffs, where he's helped hold the Chargers to 65 yards rushing the Patriots to 64.

He'll be a big part of Denver's designs to throttle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch in the Super Bowl.

And it all goes back to his big blunder in the opener.

"Sometimes setbacks are setups for bigger things to come," coach John Fox said. "I think in his case, it was a learning experience."

"Danny's got things that you can't coach. He's got speed. He's got instincts," linebackers coach Richard Smith said.

A shoulder stinger eventually rendered Woodyard, a fellow Kentucky alum, a backup.

"Even though he's not on the field, he's with me in my head all the time," Trevathan said. "That's how I'm going to carry him."

There's that maturity again, that growth that the Broncos believe will come in handy in the Super Bowl, where Trevathan can get the ultimate redemption.

"Life is a game. It's ups and downs, highs and lows. But, you know, I like my lows and I like my highs because without my lows, I never know what my highs are," Trevathan said. "It was a rough, roller-coaster year but we pulled it together. I've got a strong faith in God and I've got a strong faith within my team. We're here now and we've just got to get this one more win."



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Broncos linebacker Danny Trevathan tackles Cowboys tight end Jason Witten. Trevathan's season began in embarrassing fashion with a fumble at the goal line, but Trevathan learned from his mistake.

SPORTS



They meet again
 Federer ousts Murray, sets up
 match against Nadal | **Page 26**



By the numbers

30.9

Number of points
 Oklahoma City's Kevin
 Durant is averaging this
 season, tops in the league.

41.1

Percentage of three-point
 shots Durant has made
 this season.

88.1

Percentage of free throws
 Durant has made this
 season (377-for-428).

SOURCE: NBA.com

NBA

Taking over

Thunder's Durant lights it up
 while Westbrook recovers

BY CLIFF BRUNT
 The Associated Press

Kevin Durant is putting up points like never before, quite an accomplishment for a three-time NBA scoring champion.

The 6-foot-9 forward couldn't have picked a better time to raise his level of play for the Oklahoma City Thunder.

In 14 games since All-Star point guard Russell Westbrook was sidelined after surgery on his right knee, Durant has averaged more than 36 points, posted three of the five highest-scoring games of his career, scored at least 30 in eight straight and pushed his league-leading scoring average to 30.9 points per game.

Durant scored a career-high 54 points in a 127-121
SEE TAKING ON PAGE 27

Oklahoma City's Kevin Durant goes up for a reverse layup against Sacramento on Dec. 3 in Sacramento, Calif.

HECTOR AMEZCUA, SACRAMENTO BEE/MCT

Goodell suggests eliminating PAT kicks
NFL, Page 30

Jets end Ducks' home winning streak
NHL, Page 29

