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STARS AND STRIPES®

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Free to Deployed Areas

HATS OFF

Midshipmen have cause to celebrate
at US Naval Academy graduation



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

U.S. Naval Academy midshipmen throw their hats in the air during graduation and commissioning ceremonies at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, Md., on Friday.

Device could help avoid 'Lone Survivor' debacle

BY GREGG ZOROYA
USA Today

The vote was at 10,000 feet in the Hindu Kush mountains of eastern Afghanistan.

Four Navy SEALs had to decide whether to execute or spare three Afghan goat herders — one of them a teenage boy — who stumbled into their covert mission in the summer of 2005.

The moral dilemma ended with the herders freed, the mission compromised and three of the SEALs killed, along with 16 other U.S. rescuers in the ensuing battle. The raw debate about the right thing to do when

lives are at stake lies at the heart of the recent film "Lone Survivor."

"No night passes when I don't wake up in a cold sweat thinking of those moments on that mountain," writes former Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, whose book about what happened inspired the movie starring Mark Wahlberg. "The deciding vote was mine, and it will haunt me till they rest me in an East Texas grave."

But what if the Navy SEALs, or any U.S. commandos wrestling with the same ethical choice, never have to make it — all because of a simple, mechanical



Courtesy of Time Cuffs LLC

A former Navy captain and SEAL designed this timer-activated restraint device with the goal of aiding special operations teams.

device just a shade smaller than an old cellphone at a cost of a few hundred dollars?

SEE DEVICE ON PAGE 5

Sexual assault verdict dropped over remarks

BY MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Marine Corps commandant's uncompromising talk against sexual assault looked like unlawful command influence, a military appeals court said Thursday, as it overturned a Parris Island, S.C., enlisted man's conviction on sexual assault charges.

The high-profile ruling by the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals frees former Staff Sgt. Steve Howell. The rul-

ing also casts stark light on the unforeseen consequences that have ensued from Pentagon and congressional attention to the problem of sexual assault in the military.

"We're ecstatic," Howell's attorney, C. Edward Massey, said in an interview Thursday. "I think this was the right thing to do."

The decision by the three-judge appellate panel is the latest, and in some ways most dramatic, fallout from a series of remarks given in 2012 by the commandant, Gen. James Amos.

SEE VERDICT ON PAGE 2

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"If we leave any ambiguity at that would end the National Intelligence Community will drive a truck through that ambiguity."

— Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif., on a bill that would end the National Security Agency's mass collection of Americans' phone call records

See story on Page 9

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SOON



Shifting gears

Ferrari's 458 Spidee zips past excess

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MILITARY

Marines say raid did not taint cases

By Julie Watson
The Associated Press

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — A Marine Corps review into a raid by military investigators on defense lawyers' offices at Camp Pendleton found the unusual search did not compromise cases, though at least one defendant is asking a judge to weigh in, saying he feels he can't get a fair trial now.

The findings of the May 2 search were revealed Thursday during a motions hearing for Lance Cpl. Eric Salinas, a defendant in a hazing case who wants to sever his relationship with his Camp Pendleton lawyers because of the search. He told the judge he wants to be represented by attorney

neys outside the base.

His defense lawyers went one step further and asked the judge to throw out the charges against him if he cannot get a fair trial because of the raid.

Military investigators said they were looking for a cellphone in a separate case involving drug use and gang activity. Investigators testified Thursday that they continued to search all of the defense attorneys' offices even after locating the cellphone in a desk drawer because the lawyers would not verify that it was in fact the correct phone.

Defense lawyers say the 2½-hour search overstepped bounds, may have tainted scores of cases and compromised their client-attorney relationships. They com-

pared it to a raid by the FBI on public defenders' offices.

Salinas' defense lawyers told the judge he cannot get a fair trial because he has no guarantee investigators did not see privileged material between him and his attorneys. They said the raid's impact is far-reaching, and Salinas is the first of a long line of defendants they expect to step forward.

"I can't give assurances to my clients that my offices won't be searched in light of what happened here," Capt. Gregg Curley said. "I can't take my case file home to safeguard them because I live on base."

And he added, "It's not just limited to my office."

If Judge Lt. Col. Elizabeth

Harvey rules the search compromised Salinas' case in any way, it could set a precedent for other cases. The Camp Pendleton offices have about 70 cases, including an Iraq war crimes case.

The Marine Corps appointed what it said was a neutral, independent judge advocate to review the seized evidence to identify whether any potential privileged material was improperly disclosed. The review also looked at how the search was conducted.

Military investigator Sgt. Lisa Brandt testified Thursday that the review found no attorney-client-privileged information was compromised. However, an investigation by a higher-ranking officer has not concluded.

Verdict: Appearance of unlawful command influence found

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pressed by Congress, Amos delivered a round of talks in which he urged tough action against sexual assault in the ranks.

Amos declared, among other things, that "the fact of the matter is, 80 percent of (allegations) are legitimate sexual assault" rather than "buyer's remorse." Amos further pronounced himself "very, very disappointed" in court-martial panels that have become "so soft" and were unwilling to "get rid" of bad apples.

"A disinterested observer, knowing that potential court-martial members heard this very personal appeal in April from the (commandant) to 'fix' the sexual assault problem, would harbor significant doubts about the fairness of a sexual assault trial held shortly thereafter in June," Chief Judge Moira Modzelewski, a Navy captain, wrote for the court.

A concurring judge, Lt. Col. R. Quincy Ward, noted, however, that the court was only finding the appearance of unlawful command influence, rather than actual command influence.

Howell had been charged with rape, forcible sodomy, assault and adultery. He maintained that any sexual contact, with the mother of a potential recruit, was consensual. This was effectively the buyer's remorse defense that Amos had explicitly dismissed as invalid; or, as the Marine general put it, "bull—."

Howell's 2012 court-martial trial at Parris Island, S.C., became further complicated when the original trial judge, Lt. Col. Robert G. Palmer, delivered his own denunciations of suspects while speaking in June 2012 to younger lawyers.



GERRY BROOME/AP

Then-Lt. Gen. James Amos speaks at Camp Lejeune, N.C., in August 2006.

"Palmer made the following comments: 'The defendant is guilty. We wouldn't be at this stage if he wasn't guilty. It is your job to prove he is guilty. You need to take him down,'" Modzelewski recounted.

Palmer's exhortations came after he had rejected defense requests to find the commandant's remarks amounted to the appearance of unlawful command influence.

Defense attorneys subsequently complained, and Palmer stepped down from the bench for another assignment. Most recently, the Marine Corps has assigned him to serve

as the regional defense counsel for the East Coast, covering bases in North Carolina and South Carolina.

Palmer is slated to start this new job by the end of May. A Marine Corps spokesman said he is unavailable to comment.

Other judges completed Howell's trial, at which he eventually was found guilty of all charges and sentenced to 18 years in prison. Although those judges took steps to address defense complaints about unlawful command influence, the appellate court reasoned they weren't sufficient.

"An objective member of the public would be left with the appearance and the impression that Lt. Col. Palmer's flawed rulings, both on the (unlawful command influence) motion and on defense challenges, infected the verdict and sentence," Modzelewski concluded.

Massey, who is based in Erlanger, Ky., said Howell will be released from the U.S. Disciplinary Barracks at Leavenworth. Howell has been incarcerated at the military prison in Kansas for the past 1½ years. He also will be restored to his rank of staff sergeant, Massey said.

Potentially, the Marine Corps could decide to put Howell on trial again, as the appellate court reasoned that "allowing a retrial does not unfairly advantage the government." A decision to seek another trial, or perhaps to negotiate severance from the service, was not immediately forthcoming.

"The Marine Corps respects all decisions of the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals and retains full confidence in its military justice system," Marine Capt. Ty Balzer said late Thursday afternoon.

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MILITARY

VA woes become campaign issue

By MATTHEW DALY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The growing furor over veterans' health care moved to the political campaigns Thursday as congressional candidates from both parties called for Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki to be fired.

Democrat Al Lundgren Grimes, who is challenging Republican Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell in Kentucky, was among those calling for Shinseki's removal amid investigations of VA patients dying while awaiting treatment and falsified

appoint records.

Democrat Rick Welland, who is running for South Dakota's open Senate seat, also called for Shinseki's ouster, as did a Democrat running for an open House seat in New Jersey and two Republicans challenging vulnerable Democrats in northern Minnesota House districts.

House Majority Whip Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., added to the calls for Shinseki's resignation, saying the VA crisis was "a national embarrassment" that requires new leadership.

Shinseki, 71, said Thursday that he intends to remain on the

job. "I serve at the pleasure of the president," he told reporters at the Capitol. The former Army general and chief of staff added that "this is not the first time" he has faced controversy in his career.

Grimes, the Kentucky Senate candidate, said the government had defaulted on a "solemn obligation to our veterans. I don't see how that breach of trust with our veterans can be repaired if the current leadership stays in place," she said.

Grimes has tried to distance herself at times from President Barack Obama, who is largely

unpopular in her state, and she demonstrated her independence by calling for a cabinet member's removal.

McConnell said earlier this week that the predicament at the VA was "a management problem, not a money problem," adding, "it's obvious that the management team needs to be changed."

The inspector general at the Veterans Affairs Department says 26 VA facilities nationwide are under investigation, including the Phoenix hospital at the center of allegations about treatment delays and secret waiting lists intended to hide delays in care.

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from
stripes.com



The VA is a mess, and no one's happy

President Obama spoke to the nation Wednesday on the problems the Department of Veterans Affairs is having. He had hoped to quell a rising tide of criticism and resentment from veterans and their advocates, who were not pleased with what they saw as a late and ineffective response.

Readers respond:

General Shinseki needs to go NOW. One or two VA facilities with these issues is bad enough. 26? Time to clean house, starting with the good general. Most importantly, shut down the VA health system and give vouchers for civilian health care to qualifying veterans.

— otisneedleman

Hire many more Doctors and Staff.

— sailndayz

Problem being is a lot of PHD's do not want to work the peanuts offered by the government compared to what they can make in the private sector. ... Our local clinic ran without a doctor for over a year until they finally managed to find a replacement ... finding qualified RN's is a huge problem as well.

— Wally

One of the problems is that the VA IG will not investigate complaints about health care. These complaints are deferred to the patient advocate assigned to the hospital where the problem arose. These patient advocates work with the people at the hospital on a daily basis. It is in their best interest not to ruffle anyone feathers to insure a peaceful work environment for themselves.

— John Amez

The boss could fire the whole lot of them and still there would be insufficient funds in the nations depleted operations accounts to fund the medical bill from the military free-for-all of the past 13 years. Veterans lose ... again.

— themilitarysuicidereport

Join the fray at
stripes.com/news/veterans

New device offers 'heads up' on battlefield threats

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The confusion of battle gets amplified in tight urban environments, where one street or building blends into another and the group firing just around the corner could be friend or foe.

But a helmet-worn device on display Wednesday at the Pentagon could help cut through the fog. Known as the Urban Leader Tactical Response, Awareness & Visualization, or ULTRA-VIS, it's designed to give troops a heads-up, holographic display showing the locations of friendly troops, aircraft and other assets, as well as potentially identifying locations of enemy fighters.

The system is under development by the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Pentagon's high-tech research arm. It was one of dozens of programs on display at DARPA's Demo Day — a vast, military science fair of sorts that encircled the entire courtyard of the Pentagon. Most of the booths featured DARPA staff and contractors showing off data-crunching programs and esoteric cyberdefense projects.

But a few, like ULTRA-VIS, were aimed at troops in the field. The system is designed to let dismounted infantry troops operate heads up and immersed in their environments, said program manager Yiftach Eisenberg. Important battlefield features are highlighted by holographic icons



C.J. Lin/Stars and Stripes

The ULTRA-Vis heads-up helmet system sits on display Wednesday during a DARPA showcase at the Pentagon. The system overlays information and other icons in the display to show enemies, friendly forces, vehicles and aircraft in the environment even when they're not visible to the user.

superimposed on their normal field of vision.

For example, Eisenberg said: "There's an aircraft that's obscured by clouds or its too far away to naturally see. You'd see an icon in that direction telling you that's the aircraft, that's its call sign, that's where it's coming from and where it's going.

"If you can't see that you've got friendly forces behind those buildings over there, it can tell you by putting an icon over there and labeling it," he said.

DARPA and industry partners finished the prototype in recent months after five years of development, Eisenberg said. DARPA is ready to begin working with the

military services to work toward fielding it in the future, he said.

"It's going to be a function of working with the services to understand their needs, how to meet their needs, and work on things like ruggedization to get it out into the field," he said.

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Senators OK plan to consolidate POW/MIA operations

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

The Senate Armed Services Committee approved an amendment Thursday to consolidate the nation's POW/MIA accounting operations under a single agency with a single federal official in charge.

The amendment — introduced by Missouri Democrat Sen. Claire McCaskill — was included in the

annual National Defense Authorization Act during the committee's markup, according to a statement from McCaskill's office.

McCaskill said the move would strengthen recovery efforts after the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office and Joint Prisoners of War, Missing in Action Accounting Command have come under fire for systemic problems.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered an overhaul of the

agencies in February. No concrete plans have been released yet. Families and advocacy groups have criticized the efforts as not going far enough to fix the two agencies.

McCaskill said that the amendment addresses the key deficit identified by the Government Accountability Office — that no one agency or official was in charge to coordinate and be held accountable for POW/MIA

recovery.

"With a single agency responsible, and a single federal official in charge, we can stop the finger-pointing and know exactly who to hold accountable for fixing this troubled program and honor our POW/MIA personnel and their families with a transparent and responsible recovery effort," McCaskill said in the statement.

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MILITARY



Training area aids conservation

PHOTOS BY TED S. WARREN/AP

A Taylor's checkerspot butterfly rests May 7 on a leaf on a prairie area used for live-fire exercises at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

Wash. military base among last remaining habitats for butterfly species

By PHUONG LE
The Associated Press

JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD, Wash. — An undeveloped stretch of native prairie in south Puget Sound offers one of the few habitats in the world where a 2-inch, checkered butterfly thrives. It also happens to be the main artillery impact range for Joint Base Lewis-McChord.

The Army's Stryker combat brigade and other troops regularly practice military maneuvers and live-fire training on acres of scenic, open grassland where a small population of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly feeds on nectar of native blooms, mates and lays eggs.

The butterfly's listing as a federal endangered species last fall "has the potential to cause major restrictions on training," said Jeffrey Foster, an ecologist at the military installation.

That has the Army working to boost the numbers of butterflies, once found at more than 70 sites in Puget Sound, Oregon and British Columbia but are now reduced to 14 sites. The effort mirrors others by the Army at installations around the country.

From Maryland to Louisiana to Colorado, the Army has been conserving buffer areas around bases to limit urban development, while also preserving and restoring habitat for rare species such as the red-cockaded woodpecker and the golden-cheeked warbler.

So far, the program has preserved over 200,000 acres of lands.

At JBLM, 44 miles south of Seattle, the program is helping not only the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly, but also the streaked horned lark and Mazama pocket gopher.



Poles are marked to constrain vehicle traffic and human travel near a bullet-pocked bunker on a prairie area used for live-fire exercises at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., that also happens to be one of the few areas in the country where the federally listed endangered Taylor's checkerspot butterfly lives.

Last October, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service concluded the Taylor's checkerspot was in danger of becoming extinct and designated nearly 2,000 acres in Clallam County, Puget Sound and Oregon's Willamette Valley as critical habitat for the creature.

The agency said it considered "military training under present conditions a threat to the short-term and long-term conservation of the Taylor's checkerspot." The eight-wheeled, armored Stryker vehicle and soldier foot traffic can crush larvae and can damage plants the butterflies rely on.

The Army has been working with the

Center for Natural Lands Management and others to preserve and restore habitat, both on and off the military installation, so that the butterflies could be reintroduced.

The military and its partners have committed about \$35 million and have protected several thousand acres of land in and around JBLM for multiple species. It likely will take years to increase the butterfly's numbers, but those working on the effort are already seeing some success.

Taylor's checkerspot butterflies are establishing at two of three sites at JBLM and on two other sites near Olympia where they have been reintroduced.

"We're in a much better position now than were five years ago," said Mary Linders, a conservation biologist with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Army is working with the Center for Natural Lands Management, a nonprofit group that manages lands that are purchased, works with partners who raise the butterflies in captivity, propagates native prairie plants and prepares sites where the checkerspots can be reintroduced.

Hannah Anderson, rare species program manager at CNLM, said the military's program helped "protect lands off the base, restore them to high quality and bring the animals there so we could protect these animals but also the military's ability to train."

On a recent day, Linders and others walked a section of prairie at the artillery impact area to count adult butterflies and monitor the timing of the flight season.

It is prime season for the butterflies to mate, and their orange-and-white-checked wings flutter as they move from one plant to another. They fly in groups and dip into the center of Puget balsamroot — bright, sunflower-like plants that are in full bloom.

Nearly, pockmarked bunkers bear evidence of artillery fire. White stakes mark areas where vehicles must stay on the road and where soldiers and others are prohibited from digging or camping. Linders points out a cluster of eggs at the base of a red harsh paintbrush.

"You can see lots and lots of them as we're walking through here," she said. "It's the largest population left in the checkerspot's range."

MILITARY

Gunmen attack Indian Consulate in Afghanistan

By AMIR SHAH
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Gunmen armed with machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades attacked the Indian Consulate in a western Afghanistan city on Friday, though its diplomatic staff escaped unharmed, police said.

At least three gunmen opened fire on the consulate from a nearby building in Herat, provincial police chief Abdul Sami Qatra said. Qatra said police and soldiers killed three assailants in a gunbattle that saw the building catch fire as authorities evacuated neighbors.

Syed Akbaruddin, a spokesman for India's Ministry of External Affairs, said a deployment of the paramilitary Indo-Tibetan Border Police at the consulate held off the assault until Afghan forces

arrived. He said all the Indians at the consulate were safe.

"Our consulate and our diplomatic presence in Afghanistan has been under threat," Akbaruddin told TimesNow TV, without elaborating.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. However, a group called Ansar al-Tawhid that appears to be based in Afghanistan posted a video online May 17 that threatened India, according to the SITE Intelligence Group, which monitors extremist websites.

Herat lies near Afghanistan's border with Iran and is considered one of the safer cities in the country. In September 2013, Taliban gunmen launched a similar assault on the U.S. Consulate in the city, killing at least four Afghans but failing to enter the compound or to hurt any Americans.

Foreign embassies and consulates remain a favorite target of insurgents in Afghanistan, but many are protected by high walls and multiple gates, as well as security forces.

India has invested more than \$2 billion in Afghan projects, including roads and power projects. Afghan President Hamid Karzai spoke to India's Prime Minister-designate Narendra Modi after the assault and called it "an attack on Afghanistan, India and our shared interests," according to a statement.

But India remains a target. In August 2013, a botched bombing against the Indian Consulate in the Afghan city of Jalalabad near the border with Pakistan killed nine people, including six children. No Indian officials were hurt. Two attacks on the Indian Embassy in Kabul in 2008 and



HOSSHANG HASHIMI/AP

An Afghan National Army soldier fires his weapon Friday at the site of a clash between insurgents and security forces at the Indian Consulate in Herat, Afghanistan.

2009 killed 75 people.

Groups known for targeting Indian interests include Lashkar-e-Taiba, which was blamed for the 2008 attack on the Indian city of Mumbai that killed 166 people, and the Haqqani network, which is based in Pakistan's lawless tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan.

Lashkar-e-Taiba has been active in Afghanistan in recent years, often teaming up with insurgent groups operating in

the eastern part of the country near the frontier with Pakistan. In 2010, two Kabul guest houses popular among Indians were attacked, killing more than six Indians. India blamed that attack on the group.

Sameer Patil, a national security expert at the Mumbai-based think tank Indian Council on Global Relations, said it was likely that anti-India elements from Pakistan were behind the attack.

Device: Restraint designed to release detainee automatically after set time

FROM FRONT PAGE

That tool has since been invented by a former Navy captain and SEAL who was the command surgeon for U.S. Special Operations Command and was emotionally shaken by the battle dramatized in "The Lone Survivor."

The only problem now is getting the U.S. military to buy it. Frank Butler, the former Navy captain, and Bill Rusher, a friend and business partner, formed a small company that built 200 prototypes of the device in 2011.

U.S. special operations teams have given it good reviews and have asked for more. But the U.S. Special Operations Command has not ordered any additional devices.

"They never did the second part of our contract. They said they just didn't have the money at the time," said Rusher, of Charleston, S.C. "It's sort of like beating your head against the wall getting it deployed."

Ken McGraw, a U.S. Special Forces Command spokesman, said the device was never ordered in bulk because none of the elite units within the command from the Army, Navy, Marines or Air Force "submitted a written requirement" for it or anything like it.

The timer-activated gadget is designed to sever flexible, plastic cuffs used to restrain an accidental witness, but only hours after special operations forces like Navy SEALs have been able to get safely out of a dangerous area.

That's what went wrong in the "Lone Survivor" episode.

The four-man team was on a covert mission to locate and observe a militia leader involved

in attacks on U.S. troops. Nearly two hours after releasing the goat herders, the four SEALs were crouched in trees along the side of a mountain when they caught sight of the ridge line above.

"Lined up along the top were between 40 and a hundred heavily armed Taliban warriors, each one of them with an AK-47 pointing downward," Luttrell wrote. "I cursed those (expletive) goather(ers) to hell, and myself for not something them."

The Taliban closed in, killed three members of the team and shot down a rescue helicopter carrying 16 other Army and Navy special operations troops. At the time, it was the greatest loss for America's elite forces, superseded only by the shooting down of a U.S. Chinook helicopter in 2011 that left 30 Americans including 25 special operations troops and eight Afghans dead.

Luttrell survived and was harbored by rural Afghans who alerted U.S. forces. The slain members of his team were Lt. Michael Murphy, 29, who Luttrell said voted with him to spare the goat herders; Matthew Axelson, 29, who argued they should be killed to keep the Taliban from finding the team; and Danny Dietz, 25, who abstained.

Murphy was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for exposing himself to enemy fire during the battle in order to get a clear signal on his transmitter phone to call in their position. At one point, according to a Navy citation, he was shot in the back, dropped the transmitter, picked it up and continued providing coordinates.

Even before the battle in the mountains, Butler said, he had been thinking that simple technol-

ogy could save teams from having to face such a moral crisis.

"Rather than having to choose between killing the goat herders or letting them go, the SEALs could have restrained the goat herders with flex cuffs, set the timer (on the device later invented), and left," Butler said.

On the company website and in PowerPoint documents or white papers about his device, Butler says there have been at least four prior occasions when U.S. or British commando units had missions compromised by unwitting bystanders.

There is scant information about most of them — a Navy SEAL mission in Grenada in 1983 that failed because of an "unplanned encounter with a local person," a U.S. special operations action during the Persian Gulf War stopped by an "unplanned encounter with an Iraqi," and a compromised mission during the most recent Iraq War.

One that did garner attention involved an eight-man team of British special operations soldiers whose reconnaissance mission in Iraq was accidentally jeopardized during the 1991 Gulf War. One was killed in action, two died of hypothermia during efforts to flee, and four were captured by the Iraqi military and later were released.

They also initially were spotted by a goat herder, in this case an Iraqi boy.

"Do we top (shoot) him?" wrote the mission commander, Andy McNab, in his book about the event titled "Bravo Two Zero," which also later became a movie. "I wouldn't want that on my conscience for the rest of my life."

McGraw, the Special Operations Command spokesman, said

historians at the headquarters could not recall any other missions that had been compromised in a way similar to the "Lone Survivor" incident.

"That doesn't mean one or more didn't take place," McGraw said.

But it was the "Bravo Two Zero" story that got Butler thinking about a way to solve the problem. The "Lone Survivor" battle in 2005 that left so many dead convinced him something had to be done, he said.

These circumstances "don't happen very often, but can be disastrous when they do. ... Shouldn't we give them better options to deal with such scenarios in the future?" he said.

Shortly after his retirement from the Navy in 2006, he and Rusher formed a small company called Time Cuffs. They developed, patented and began producing 200 of the time-activated devices.

The three-inch-long device is threaded onto plastic, flexible cuffs used to bind a person's feet or hands. A timer that can be set for up to eight hours sets off a firing cap, driving a piston that cuts the plastic cuffs, Rusher said.

There is even a recorded voice that in the two dialects of Af-

ghanistan, Pashto and Dari, will assure the restrained person that his or her predicament is only temporary.

McGraw said initial development of what is officially known as STARRS, for Special Timer Activated Restraint and Release System, was a joint project funded in 2009 by Special Forces Command and the military's Combating Terrorism Technical Support Office. He said 200 prototypes were produced and distributed to commando groups.

Rusher said there was one option to build 1,000 to 2,000 more of the devices — a number high enough to keep the per-unit cost under \$200 each. But it never happened.

Documents that Rusher shared show good reviews for the product from commandos using the prototypes. Others have asked for them, but no more are available, he said.

"It is always a challenge to change cultures," Butler said. "But as the country mourns the loss of our finest warriors (in "Lone Survivor") and honors their sacrifices, it should also be asking how we can prevent another such tragedy."

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MILITARY

House calls for mental health screening

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — New mental health screening that supporters say could help stem the high rate of military suicides or even stop shooting rampages passed the House on Thursday as part of the massive 2015 defense budget.

The House bill, sponsored by Rep. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., orders the National Institutes of Health to create a universal mental health evaluation for potential recruits that would catch past suicide attempts and psychiatric disorders. The data could be used by the services to weed out candidates with potentially dangerous mental health issues.

Already, potential recruits are asked about past suicide attempts or mental disorders, and the military conducts security background checks. But recent studies have indicated such informal screening has not been entirely effective, and problems manifest or are detected after the recruit has entered service.

“Let’s take it right back to the point of induction,” Thompson said. “There is no mental health exam, and that was startling.”

Thompson said his bill would create a comprehensive mental exam to match the existing physical exams required for induction and could bar those prone to suicide or acts of violence from joining in the first place.

The military is struggling with an epidemic of suicides and a surge in mental health disability claims following the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. A tragic trend is also developing — mass shootings by servicemembers on military facilities, including two separate incidents at Fort Hood that left 16 people dead and an incident at the Washington Navy Yard that killed 12 people.

Many troops and veterans who commit suicide made attempts before enlisting, he said. The connection between mental disorders and military base shootings is more unclear but experts said Spc. Ivan Lopez, who killed three and wounded 16 at Fort Hood in April

“Let’s take it right back to the point of induction. There is no mental health exam, and that was startling.”

Rep. Glenn Thompson
R-Pa.

before turning the weapon on himself, fit the psychological profile of a rampage shooter. Aaron Alexis, the former sailor and defense contractor who shot and killed 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard in D.C. last year, was thought to have mental health problems not caught by the military.

A series of Army studies published in March by the Journal of the American Medical Association found one in five soldiers has a common mental disorder and more than one in 100 had a past suicide attempt. Those same studies also found suicides among servicemembers who have never deployed to war zones have risen, despite perceptions that combat trauma drives suicide rates.

The bill, which was approved as an amendment to the National

Defense Authorization Act, directs the mental health arm of the National Institutes of Health to develop a screening procedure for those who want to join the military and report back to the Department of Defense and Congress. The recommendation would also focus on creating a mental health baseline for new troops that would help track traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder.

The Department of Defense and military services would still be responsible for deciding exactly how to use the screening data and for developing a criteria for allowing recruits to join, Thompson said.

“There may be some people who cannot serve their country due to this screening,” he said. But the goal of the legislation is to keep servicemembers “healthy

and well.”

The proposal has also been introduced in the Senate by Senators Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Jay Rockefeller, D-W.Va., and to become law must be part of a final defense budget that is supposed to be passed by the Congress and the White House later this year.

Meanwhile, it has gained the support of servicemember and veteran groups including Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, the National Guard Association, and the Military Officers Association of America.

Nick McCormick, a legislative associate with IAVA, said the bill would give the military a new tool to examine potential recruits and ensure the health of the ranks.

“It allows the military to establish a baseline so upfront you know who you are dealing with,” McCormick said. “If you’re a believer that more numbers are better, then this is something that you could definitely get behind.”

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Blame for fatal helo accident placed on warship commander

By Steven Beardsley
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — After a wave swept a Navy helicopter and two pilots off the flight deck of a destroyer in the Red Sea last year, early reports described a freak accident caused by a “rogue wave.” But a recently released investigation points to the speed of the ship as it changed course, and the admiral overseeing the report has faulted the ship’s commander for the accident.

U.S. Pacific Fleet commanding officer Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. also recommended the Navy review protocols for flight operations on “low freeboard” ships, or those with flight decks that are especially close to the water.

Navy pilots Lt. Cmdr. Landon L. Jones and Lt. Cmdr. Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan S. Gibson, 32, died after their MH-60S helicopter broke its chains and slid off the flight deck of the USS William P. Lawrence on the afternoon of Sept. 22, 2013, the result of a large wave hitting the aircraft as the ship rolled violently. Both men were still inside the aircraft when it plunged overboard.

In a 10-page assessment of the investigation, which was released in April and recently made public on May 15, Harris made the decision by the Lawrence’s commanding officer, Cmdr. Jana A. Vasseur, to turn the ship immediately after the helicopter landed on the flight deck. Combined with the ship’s speed, the move put the men into the “churn of the seas,” he said, causing it to roll as

large waves hit the deck.

Although the maneuvers followed protocol, they increased the risk of an accident because of the destroyer’s low freeboard, he wrote.

“There was time to rectify the situation by simply reducing speed after taking (the helicopter) aboard,” Harris wrote. “[A] significant reduction in speed, thereby creating a more stable platform, could have been achieved in seconds.”

The admiral promised “appropriate administrative action” for Vasseur. The former ship was serving in Coronado, California.

The accident occurred as the Lawrence sped to rejoin the USS Nimitz Carrier Strike Group, with which it had deployed from Coronado. The helicopter, part of a low-altitude search mission, was hoisted and landed on the flight deck at 12:37 p.m. At the time, the ship was on a course that placed wave impacts to its rear.

Immediately after the helicopter was chained, Vasseur and Harris turned the ship 60 degrees to change course. Rolls became more pronounced, according to the report, including one at 12 degrees to starboard. The ship then turned five more degrees, and the rolls worsened.

At 12:44, the ship rolled 13.1 degrees to port and then 16.6 degrees to starboard. The chains attached to the helicopter tightened but held during the port roll, one officer told investigators. A wall of water then shot up on the deck and struck the helicopter, witnesses said. The fuse-



Above: The Arleigh-Burke class guided-missile destroyer USS William P. Lawrence transits the Pacific Ocean in 2013.



Left: Naval aviators pay their respects to Lt. Cmdr. Landon L. Jones and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jonathan S. Gibson following a memorial service aboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz.

Photos courtesy of the U.S. Navy

lage shook, the tail rotors struck the deck and the aircraft began to turn on the deck before falling off the port side.

The helicopter tail and rotor remained on the flight deck, as did both pilot doors. Rescue efforts over the next 26 hours combed an area of 100 square nautical miles with three destroyers, a replenishment ship, seven small boats and multiple aircraft. Searchers found debris, but they didn’t find the pilots.

Harris’ conclusions on the cause of the accident differ from those of investigating officers. They found that although the new course “likely put the ship in a position to experience the large rolls ... it was not reasonably foreseeable that such a large roll or rolls would occur.”

Protocol permits ship maneuvers to begin as soon as an aircraft

is chained to the deck, a rule followed in the case of the Lawrence. The investigation also notes that the sea state — or the level of swells — was not considered dangerous at the time.

All other officers who reviewed the report agreed with investigators’ assessment, save Harris and the commander of Naval Air Forces, Vice Adm. D.H. Buss.

“In this evolution, a series of seemingly minor, innocuous misjudgments had a cumulative catastrophic outcome when graded by the harshness and unforgiving nature of operations at sea,” Buss wrote in his response to the investigation.

The Navy made an interim change to its helicopter operations procedure in February, requiring maneuvers stop altogether during operations on deck on a low freeboard ship. Harris also ordered

a safety stand-down for all helicopter commands, frigates and destroyers before May 30, and he requested a Navy review of all past incidents involving waves striking flight decks.

He wrote that Vasseur was “ill-served” by the lack of training and discussion within the surface warfare community on the perils of low-freeboard ships. He anticipated criticism for his recommendations, noting that some “will contend that my conclusion is unreasonable, perhaps even harsh and uncompromising.” Yet, he said, the final responsibility for a ship rests with its commanding officer.

“While procedural compliance is essential, the full scope of responsibilities in our profession extends beyond simple compliance and blind obedience — we require more,” he wrote.

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NATION

Obama's strategy shift on terror stalls

BY KAREN DEYOUNG
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A year after President Barack Obama announced a major new counterterrorism strategy to take the country beyond the threats that flowed directly from the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, much of the agenda he outlined remains unfinished or not even begun.

In an ambitious address delivered a year ago Friday at the National Defense University, Obama said the core of al-Qaida was "on the path to defeat" and that the upcoming end of the war in Afghanistan had brought America to a "crossroads."

But many of the changes Obama outlined have proved easier said than done, including new rules governing the use of force abroad, increased public information on and congressional oversight of lethal attacks with drones, and efforts to move the CIA out of the killing business.

Some initiatives have become mired in internal debates, while others have taken a back seat to other pressing issues and perceived new terrorism dangers. Congress, while demanding faster change in some areas, has resisted movement on others.

In a Senate hearing Wednesday, Senate lawmakers criticized senior administration officials over the lack of followup with one of the strategy's principal goals: Obama had said he was looking forward to "engaging Congress and the American people in efforts to refine and ultimately repeal" the nearly 13-year-old congressional authorization to use force against those individuals, groups and nations responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

Since then, "he has been silent and done nothing," said Sen. Bob Corker, of Tennessee, the senior Republican on the Foreign Relations Committee.

Pentagon general counsel Stephen Preston testified that progress awaited an agreement with the Afghanistan government on future U.S. deployments to train and advise Afghan forces.

"A good deal of this is premised on finalization of what the circumstances, the mission and presence in Afghanistan will be," Preston said.

Committee Democrats, if less sharp-edged, appeared equally frustrated by a lack of a substantive response on what ongoing counterterrorism authorities the administration wants and needs.

"Just so you know, when you say you're looking forward to engaging ... it's like, that's why we're here," said Sen. Timothy Kaine, D-Va. "That's why we're doing the hearing. We're engaging."

In the House on Wednesday, members debated a proposal by Rep. Adam Schiff, D-Calif., a member of the House Intelligence Committee, to sunset the 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force a year from now. The nature of the AUMF, which the administration has applied



Frustrated by criticism of President Barack Obama's foreign policy, White House officials have been holding private meetings this week aimed at soothing lawmakers' concerns over the U.S. posture in Syria, the future of the American military presence in Afghanistan and defense spending.

Obama aides confront foreign policy concerns

BY JULIE PACE
AND DONNA CASSATA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — White House officials have been holding private meetings this week aimed at soothing lawmakers' concerns over the U.S. posture in Syria, the future of the American military presence in Afghanistan and defense spending. The meetings come as a frustrated White House seeks to push back at criticism of President Barack Obama's foreign policy.

But the White House outreach appeared to be having little effect on some lawmakers' concerns.

Tennessee Sen. Bob Corker, the top Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, described Tuesday night's White House meeting with chief of staff Denis McDonough and national security adviser Susan Rice as "one of the most bizarre I've attended."

Another senator who attended the meeting said Obama's advisers refused to provide lawmakers with answers about whether the president plans to keep U.S. troops in Afghanistan after the war formally concludes later this year or about the Pentagon's efforts to find nearly 300 kidnapped Nigerian

schoolgirls.

Unsatisfied, some of the lawmakers started to leave one by one before the meeting had finished. The senator and three congressional aides briefed on the meeting insisted on anonymity to discuss the private talks.

The meetings, which have been taking place both at the White House and on Capitol Hill, come as Obama prepares for a speech Wednesday at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., where he is expected to try to answer critics who say he has surrendered America's global leadership and faltered on problems in the Middle East, Russia, China and beyond.

McDonough and Rice met at the White House on Monday night with about a dozen House Democrats. On Tuesday, officials invited 14 senators — three of them were Republicans — to the White House for a discussion on foreign policy over wine, beer and a cheese-and-cracker platter on the patio outside of McDonough's office.

The chief of staff was also on Capitol Hill on Tuesday for a foreign policy-focused meeting with the full House. He met with the full Senate on Thursday, though national security took a backseat in that discussion to economic issues.

Among the Democrats who attended the Tuesday meeting were New Jersey Sen. Bob Menendez, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Michigan Sen. Carl Levin; and Rhode Island Sen. Jack Reed. The three Republicans who attended were Corker, Arizona Sen. Jeff Flake and Maine Sen. Susan Collins.

A White House official said six Republicans were invited to the meeting, but half did not attend.

The president did not drop by the White House meeting, surprising the senators. White House officials cast the meetings as part of their effort to step up engagement with lawmakers who long have complained about feeling out of the loop regarding the president's decision-making.

In another sign of the White House's uphill climb to sway lawmakers, the House voted overwhelmingly Thursday in favor of a \$601 billion defense authorization bill that Obama has threatened to veto. McDonough had used his discussions with Democrats to try to persuade them to reject the measure, which authorizes spending on weapons and personnel for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

administration declares the end of the Afghanistan War.

Last year's speech was the public expression of a policy guidance document signed by the president. While violent extremists remained a reality, Obama said, the threats to this country were more akin to those it faced before the 9/11 attacks, and there was no need for the United States to be on a "perpetual wartime footing."

"Asked to describe actions taken and progress made on the policy over the past 12 months, National Security Council spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said in a lengthy written response that the administration had "worked to implement the president's direction."

In June, Hayden said, Obama's chief counterterrorism adviser Lisa Monaco "will give a speech updating the American people on these efforts in greater detail."

Among the provisions of the policy guidance document were new restrictions on the use of drone-fired missiles to kill alleged terrorists. Obama said new guidance allowed targeting only those terrorists posing "a continuing and imminent threat to the American people," which administration officials said meant only individuals planning attacks on the U.S. homeland or against U.S. persons abroad. The president, officials said, overruled some national security officials who proposed continuing the broader standard of threats to "U.S. interests."

At the same time, Obama said that "there must be a near-certainty that no civilians will be killed or injured — the highest standard we can set."

Officials said at the time that they expected the number of future drone attacks to drop significantly from past totals. In some respects, that has been the case, according to tallies assembled by independent organizations.

According to the Long War Journal, drone strikes in Pakistan fell from 46 in 2012 to 29 in 2013, although the number of civilian casualties rose from four to 14. No U.S. drone strikes have been reported in Pakistan during 2014, although it is unclear to what extent this is a result of the new guidelines or of a separate agreement with the new Pakistani government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to stop attacks against all Pakistan groups except the highest-value al-Qaida targets — none of whom have been located.

Outside of the Afghanistan war theater, which includes Pakistan, drone strikes in Yemen decreased from 41 in 2012 to 26 in 2013. There have been 12 attacks in 2014.

Civilian deaths in Yemen, according to the Long War Journal, have fell from 35 in 2012 to 17 in 2013 and to six this year. The U.S. military has also launched sporadic air attacks against alleged al-Qaida-associated targets in Somalia, most recently in January.

to al-Qaida, the Taliban and "associated groups" in Yemen and Somalia, also has major implications for the legal authority to hold 154 detainees who remain at the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and 38 held by

U.S. forces at the Bagram base in Afghanistan.

Administration efforts to transfer all of them — to their homelands, third countries or U.S. civilian prisons — and to meet Obama's pledge to close Guanta-

namo remain hamstrung by congressional restrictions and are unlikely to be achieved by the end of the year. Senior administration officials said they anticipate a deluge of new lawsuits, particularly from Taliban detainees, once the

NATION



PHOTOS BY ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Smoke rises from the Slide Fire as it burns up Oak Creek Canyon on Thursday in Sedona, Ariz. The fire has burned approximately 7,500 acres and is five percent contained.

As the wildfires burn, Ariz. businesses worry

The Associated Press

KACHINA VILLAGE, Ariz. — Hundreds of firefighters are working to protect communities from a wildfire chewing up a scenic Arizona canyon, but some business owners worry that the blaze will keep customers away from the premier tourist area over the important holiday weekend.

The human-caused Slide Fire started Tuesday and by Thursday night had burned more than 11½ square miles in and around Oak Creek Canyon, a scenic recreation zone along a highway between Sedona and Flagstaff that normally would be teeming with tourists as Memorial Day approaches.

Firefighters established containment lines around 5 percent of the fire by late Thursday and were making good progress in keeping the fire from getting closer to communities south of Flagstaff, incident commander Tony Sciacca said Friday.

Weather conditions for the next several days look favorable, with

increased humidity and a chance of rain, though rain also could lead to rock falls off steep canyon slopes denuded of vegetation, he said.

The Sedona Chamber of Commerce has been fielding hundreds of inquiries from travelers wondering if they should still visit during the holiday weekend, officials said.

Many Sedona business owners have taken to social media to remind people the resort town is open for business, but it hasn't kept some from changing their plans.

Pink Jeep Tours, which offers tours of Sedona's famous red-rock landscape, has already had some cancellations and is seeing fewer bookings for a holiday weekend.

Chamber of Commerce President Jennifer Wesselhoff said smoke from the fire has been visible from about 3 a.m. to 9 a.m., but the skies clear up as soon as the sun emerges. She said visitors can still go hiking in most



Fire incident commander Tony Sciacca gives a news briefing on the firefighting progress on the Slide Fire as it burns up Oak Creek Canyon on Friday in Flagstaff, Ariz.

areas after 9 a.m. and not see any smoke.

The fire grew tenfold from Wednesday and from 7½ square miles earlier Thursday. There have been no reports so far of injuries or structures burned.

The fire still was 3 to 3½ miles away from the residential areas of Forest Highlands and Katina Village, where 3,200 residents remained under pre-evacuation warnings.

Sciacca said 900 firefighters were assigned to the fire Friday, including 35 hand and at least 35 engine crews.

The fire has closed the main road between Sedona and Flagstaff and forced the evacuations of 100 threatened businesses and homes in a 2-mile stretch north of Slide Rock State Park, a popular recreation area because of its natural rock water slides.

Gay rights no longer GOP tool for votes

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
The Associated Press

DENVER — It wasn't all that long ago that Republicans used gay marriage as a tool to drive Election Day turnout. But as public opinion on the issue has turned and courts strike down same-sex marriage bans, gay rights is evolving into a wedge issue for Democrats to wield.

Consider Pennsylvania, where Democrats have lambasted Republican Gov. Tom Corbett for comparing gay marriage to incest. Facing a tough re-election campaign, Corbett decided this week not to appeal a federal court ruling striking down the state's ban of gay marriage.

Or Colorado, where Democrat Sen. Mark Udall is hitting his Republican challenger for casting votes that denied gay people protection from discrimination. In Arizona, Democrats plan to hammer Republican legislators who passed a law allowing businesses to refuse to serve gays for religious reasons.

"We're just beginning to see this, and we will see a lot more in the midterms," said Richard Socarides, an activist who was President Bill Clinton's adviser on gay rights. "It will be an incredible shift by the time we get to the (presidential) election in 2016."

That election will arrive 20 years after Republicans in Congress passed the Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibited federal recognition of same-sex marriage. President Bill Clinton signed the bill defensively, worried the GOP would use it as a campaign issue, Socarides said.

Republican activists put anti-gay marriage initiatives on the ballot in 11 states in 2004, helping President George W. Bush win re-election with the support of conservative religious voters motivated to turn out to support the bans.

Connie Mackey, head of the conservative Family Research Council's Political Action Committee, said that's still a solid strategy. Voters still oppose gay marriage, she argued, and Republicans should not let themselves get faked out by overconfident Democrats.

"The people in the states think one way and the establishment and the courts are showing a different face," Mackey said.

But gay marriage, supported by less than one-third of Americans in 2004, is now supported by a solid majority in recent polls, with approval highest among younger voters.

Tenn. solution to lethal injection issues: the electric chair

The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — As the rest of the nation debates the feasibility and humanity of lethal injections against a backdrop of scarce drugs and botched executions, Tennessee has come up with an alternative: the electric chair.

Republican Gov. Bill Haslam signed a bill into law Thursday allowing the state to electrocute death row inmates in the event prisons are unable to obtain the drugs, which have become more and more scarce following a European boycott of drug sales for executions.

Tennessee lawmakers overwhelmingly passed the electric chair legislation in April, with the Senate voting 23-3 and the House 68-

13 in favor of the bill.

Tennessee is the first state to enact a law to reintroduce the electric chair without giving prisoners an option, said Richard Dieter, executive director of the Death Penalty Information Center, a Washington-based nonprofit organization that opposes executions and tracks the issue.

"There are states that allow inmates to choose, but it is a very different matter for a state to impose a method like electrocution," he said. "No other state has gone so far."

The decision comes as lethal injection is receiving more scrutiny as an execution method, especially after last month's botched execution in Oklahoma.

Previous Tennessee law gave inmates who committed crimes before 1999 the choice of whether they wanted to die by electric chair or lethal injection.

Thirty-two states have the death penalty, and all of them rely at least in part on lethal injection. Fewer than a dozen regularly carry out executions. The federal government also uses lethal injection but rarely carries out executions.

A Vanderbilt University poll released this week found that 56 percent of registered voters in Tennessee support its use, while 37 percent are against it.

Tennessee has 74 prisoners on death row.

NATION

House OKs bill to end NSA phone effort

By ELLEN NAKASHIMA
AND ANDREA PETERSON
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday approved by a wide margin a bill that would end the National Security Agency's mass collection of Americans' phone call records, a counterterrorism program that stoked privacy concerns after its existence was leaked last year.

The USA Freedom Act, which began as a broad package of surveillance reforms embraced by civil libertarians and tea party Republicans, was revised this week to meet the concerns of intelligence and law enforcement officials.

The amended bill lost the support of dozens of co-sponsors who were upset that the reforms were scaled back. But it picked up the votes of Intelligence Committee members and others who opposed the original measure and passed 303 to 121.

"Let me be clear, I wish this bill did more," said Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner Jr., R-Wis., the measure's primary sponsor. "To my colleagues who lament changes, I agree with you ... But this bill still delivers support."

Reform advocates are now turning their focus to the Senate, where the Judiciary Committee will take up the legislation in June.

The House vote appears to reflect a sense

by the administration and many members of Congress that, almost one year after the program was disclosed following a leak by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden, it is time to resolve the controversy and move on.

In January, President Barack Obama called for an end to the NSA's bulk gathering of phone records. A breakthrough occurred earlier this month when the leaders of the House judiciary and intelligence committees reached a deal on legislation, a compromise that satisfied privacy advocates.

But in recent days, following intense lobbying by senior intelligence officials, the committee leaders agreed to changes. On Wednesday, the White House endorsed the

bill, saying it "ensures our intelligence and law enforcement professionals have the authorities they need to protect the nation, while further ensuring that individuals' privacy is appropriately protected."

The revised measure would end the government's ability to collect from phone companies billions of call detail records of Americans with a single court order. But, privacy advocates say, it could still enable the collection of large amounts of data that, for instance, originate from a single ZIP code.

"If we leave any ambiguity at all, we have learned that the intelligence community will drive a truck through that ambiguity," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

More storms roll into Colorado, Northeast

The Associated Press

DENVER — More spring thunderstorms delivered hail and triggered tornado sirens in Colorado on Thursday as hail storms, small tornadoes and strong winds hit states in the West and Northeast.

In Colorado, heavy hail briefly pounded downtown Denver, and more hail was reported in Red Feather Lakes northwest of Fort Collins. Campers in the campground of Bellaire near Red Feather Lakes were evacuated after hundreds of trees were knocked down, blocking roads into the campground as the Memorial Day holiday weekend got underway. There were no reports of injuries.

The National Weather Service has not confirmed if a tornado touched down in the area. The area was under a tornado warning earlier in the day.

Fans watching the Colorado Rockies play the San Francisco Giants at Coors Field were told to seek safety in a lower concourse as tornado sirens wailed. The tornado warning soon expired. Several incoming flights to Denver International Airport were delayed to let the storm pass, airport spokesman Heath Montgomery said.

In New Mexico, severe weather and large hail caused multiple cancellations in the northern part of the state Thursday. Elsewhere in the West, a small tornado in a rural area of eastern Idaho on Wednesday caused no damage or injuries, authorities said.

In the eastern United States, hail and strong winds caused damage in Virginia, New York state, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

A jetliner that flew through a hailstorm on its descent into Philadelphia landed with a cracked windshield. US Airways said only one layer of the multilayered windshield was cracked and Flight 768 en route from Orlando, Fla., landed safely. No one was injured.



BRENNAN LINSLEY/AP

A man runs across the street carrying his dog Thursday as hail falls in downtown Denver.

In Delaware, two people were injured when high winds damaged about a dozen homes in the Kent County community of Maryland, emergency officials said Thursday.

No significant damage was reported from Colorado's twisters, and the latest round of storms wasn't expected to be as extreme or as widespread as that seen Wednesday.

Three of Wednesday's tornadoes touched down in and around Aurora. Others hit north and east of Denver.

Frontier Airlines canceled some flights after six of its planes were damaged by hail Wednesday. A microburst was blamed for ripping a section of metal sheeting off the roof of Castle Rock's town pool.

There weren't any tornadoes in Lafayette, north of Boulder, but some residents probably got a scare when tornado sirens mistakenly sounded around 3 a.m. Thursday. Engineers were investigating whether a software error was to blame.

Lower-level winds weren't forecast to be as strong Thursday, which meant any tornadoes would likely be short-lived, National Weather Service meteorologist Kari Bowen said.

The chance of afternoon thunderstorms along Colorado's Front Range will continue through Memorial Day weekend. Besides the risk of tornadoes, heavy rain could cause flooding if storm cells hit areas burned by recent wildfires.

Officials eye Yelp in food poisoning probes

By MIKE STOBBE
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City is using a novel way to uncover cases of food poisoning — reading Yelp restaurant reviews.

Health officials found three unreported outbreaks by sifting through nearly 300,000 reviews on the popular website. The outbreaks were small, together blamed for only 16 illnesses.

But one expert called it an innovative way to catch clusters of food poisoning.

"Great idea!" said Mike Doyle, head of the University of Georgia's food safety center. "Many people don't know how to contact the health department, but they're so familiar with social media."

It's the latest example of using the Internet to track illnesses. Others have tried Twitter, Facebook postings and Google searches in an attempt to monitor and predict ailments like the flu.

In New York, outbreaks were traced to three restaurants and

inspectors found food handling problems at all three. Officials also were able to figure out the tainted food involved, but couldn't say exactly what germs in the food made people sick.

Traditionally, health officials hear about potential food poisonings from doctor reports and phone calls from people who say they got sick. In New York each year, about 3,000 people complain to the city's 311 service hotline. Only about 1 percent of those calls pan out and lead to clusters of illnesses.

The health department got the idea for using Yelp after seeing chatter that helped with a month-long restaurant investigation in 2011.

Officials reached out to Yelp, and the website agreed to help with a pilot project, said the health department's Dr. Sharon Balter. Crucial to their investigations is finding the people who get sick, and Yelp members have email accounts that can make that easier, she said.

Up to 5,000 exposed to hepatitis at Mo. restaurant

The Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. — Health in Missouri officials are offering immunizations for up to 5,000 people who might have been exposed to the hepatitis A virus at a Springfield restaurant.

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department announced Wednesday that a Red Robin restaurant reported that a worker had the liver disease. People who visited the restaurant between May 8 and May 16 can receive the immunizations.

Officials told The Springfield News-Leader that customers must be vaccinated within 14 days of their possible exposure for the vaccination to work.

Kathryn Wall, a spokeswoman for the health department, said

people may have been exposed as early as May 4, although she could not estimate how many.

Wall said the sick worker was a server and that the health department has not confirmed any new hepatitis A cases. Health officials said the Red Robin is now safe to visit.

Hepatitis A infects the liver, and can result in a mild illness lasting a few weeks to a severe illness lasting several months, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It spreads through consuming fecal matter, which makes it different from hepatitis B and C, which spread through blood and body fluids. It's also generally milder than the other two — rarely fatal, and most people experience no lasting liver damage.

WORLD

Thailand junta detains ex-leaders

The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Ousted members of Thailand's former government turned themselves in to the country's new military junta Friday, as soldiers forcefully dispersed hundreds of anti-coup activists who defied a ban on large-scale gatherings to protest the army's seizure of power.

At least two activists were detained by troops during the protest in downtown Bangkok, which descended into scuffles but ended without injury and marked one of the first open challenges to the military since Thursday's coup.

The junta, though, remained firmly in charge, summoning more than 100 top political figures — the entire ousted government, their associates and a handful of their opponents. It also banned those it wanted list from leaving the country.

Among the officials who showed up at an army compound in Bangkok by midday were former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, sacked earlier this month for nepotism by the Constitutional Court, and her temporary replacement Niwattamong Boonsongpaisan,

according to Yingluck's aide Wim Rungwattanasachida.

After about 30 minutes, Yingluck left the facility and was taken to another army location by soldiers, said Wim, who later added that it appeared she would not be immediately released.

It was unclear what the military's intentions beyond the summons, which it said had been issued "to keep peace and order and solve the country's problems."

By nightfall, dozens of the VIPs who turned themselves in were still being held, although at least eight ex-Cabinet ministers had been released.

Most of the country was calm, and there was little military presence on Bangkok's streets. Although life had largely returned to normal during the day, an overnight curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. was still in effect.

There were no reports of any unrest, including the former government's political strongholds in the north. In the northeast city of Chiang Mai, about 100 anti-coup demonstrators also took to the streets, but no violence was reported and the protesters dispersed on their own.



ALEXANDER ERMOSHENKO/AP

Residents look at a car that was destroyed during a gunfight in Karlivka, Ukraine. At least three people died when a Ukrainian national guard unit and pro-Russian militiamen fought in Karlivka early Friday.

Putin: Russia to respect result of Ukraine vote

By LAURA MILLS
AND PETER LEONARD

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Russia — Russia will recognize the outcome of Ukraine's presidential vote this weekend, President Vladimir Putin promised Friday, but he also voiced hope that Ukraine's new leader would halt the military operation against separatists in the east.

But clashes between pro-Russia separatists and government forces appeared to be heating up, leaving 20 more rebels and one soldier dead, Ukraine's Defense Ministry reported Friday.

Up to 500 insurgents attacked a convoy of government troops in one clash Thursday outside the eastern village of Rubizhne that left 20 insurgents dead, the ministry said. It also said one soldier was killed early Friday in a separate clash near the same area.

In Kiev, Ukraine's caretaker president urged all voters to take part in Sunday's crucial ballot to "cement the foundation of our na-

tion." Yet pro-Russia insurgents were still battling government forces Friday in eastern Ukraine, where a vote boycott and threats against election workers were disrupting the prospects of the ballot taking place.

AP journalists in the east saw three dead from Friday's fighting a day after insurgents killed 16 Ukrainian soldiers at a checkpoint.

Speaking at an investment forum in St. Petersburg, Putin said Russia will "respect the choice of the Ukrainian people" and will work with the new leadership. He said Russia wants peace and order to be restored in its neighbor.

Twenty-one candidates are competing Sunday to become Ukraine's next leader. Polls show billionaire candy-maker Petro Poroshenko with a commanding lead but falling short of the absolute majority needed to win in the first round. His nearest challenger is Yulia Tymoshenko, the divisive former prime minister, who is trailing by a significant margin.

If no one wins in the first round, a runoff will be held June 15 — and most polls predict Poroshenko's victory in that contest.

The Russian leader also voiced hope Friday of mending ties with the United States and the 28-nation European Union, which have slapped asset freezes and travel bans on members of Putin's entourage and threatened to introduce more crippling sanctions if Russia tried to derail the vote.

Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula in March, grabbing a large section of Ukraine's Black Sea coastline and triggering the worst crisis in relations with the West since the Cold War.

Putin said the sanctions on his inner circle were unfair. He insisted Russia had nothing to do with what he described as the "chaos and a full-scale civil war" in Ukraine, saying that was triggered by the West's support of a "coup" that chased Ukraine's pro-Russian president from power in February.

Court reportedly orders ban on Instagram in Iran

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — An Iranian court ordered that the photo-sharing app Instagram be blocked over privacy concerns, a semi-official news agency reported Friday, the latest in a series of websites to be banned in the Islamic Republic.

The agency said a court order, stemming from a private lawsuit, had been given to Iran's Ministry of Telecommunications to ban the site. However, users in the capital, Tehran, still could access the application about noon Friday. Some previous reports in Iran of websites and Internet applications being blocked never materialized.

Officials with Instagram Inc. declined to comment Friday.

However, Instagram's owner Facebook is already banned in the country, along with other so-

cial websites like Twitter and YouTube. That's despite senior government leaders like Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif being active on Twitter. There are even Instagram accounts in the names of moderate President Hassan Rouhani and Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Social media has offered a new way for Rouhani and his administration to reach out to the West as it negotiates with world powers over the country's contested nuclear program. Rouhani, himself, has opposed blocking social network sites before authorities create local alternatives.

"We should see the cyberworld as an opportunity," Rouhani said last week, according to the official IRNA news agency. "Why are we so shaky? Why don't we trust our youth?"

US commander warns of conflict risks over China-Vietnam standoff

By JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The U.S. military commander in the Pacific warned Friday that the risk of a miscalculation that could trigger a wider conflict in a tense territorial standoff between China and Vietnam is high and urged both nations to exercise restraint.

Adm. Samuel Locklear also urged Southeast Asian nations and China to hasten the drafting of a legally binding "code of con-

duct" to prevent territorial rifts from turning into armed conflicts that could threaten the region's bustling economies.

Southeast Asian diplomats have accused China of delaying the start of negotiations for such a nonaggression pact while it tries to consolidate its control of disputed territories.

Locklear said a code was concerned about a three-week standoff between China and Vietnam near the disputed Paracel Islands and

urged them to resolve the territorial conflicts on the basis of international law.

"I have serious concerns," Locklear told reporters. "The risk of miscalculation, I think, is high and we encourage them both to exercise restraint."

China raised the stakes earlier this month when it deployed an oil rig off in waters also claimed by Vietnam, which sent ships to try to disrupt the drilling operation. Street protests morphed into

bloody, anti-Chinese riots that damaged hundreds of factories.

Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, who also attended an economic forum in Manila, told The Associated Press in written comments Thursday that "like all countries, Vietnam is considering various defense options, including legal actions in accordance with the international law." But he said Vietnam would defend itself if it comes under attack.

Analysts have said that coun-

tries confronted by China in disputed waters, like Vietnam, may seek a deeper security alliance with Washington.

When asked by reporters about that possibility, Locklear said Washington has been forging such relationships and would welcome strategic ties with Hanoi.

"We look forward to exploring opportunities to expand our partnership with the nations such as Vietnam as well, but Vietnam is among many," Locklear said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Neighbor's pet squirrel attacks woman

TX KATY — A Houston-area woman has been treated for hand and back injuries after being attacked by her neighbor's not-so-friendly pet squirrel that got loose.

KPRC-TV reported Tuesday that Elizabeth Orzechowska of Katy spent hours at a hospital getting stitches.

The victim said she was unloading groceries from her car in her driveway when she felt something pounce, crawl up her leg and run up her back. She was treated for bites and scratches.

No charges were immediately filed over the attack blamed on the year-old squirrel named B.B., which apparently fled from its owner and headed for the neighbor.

KPRC reports the owner, who could face fines for unlawfully keeping a pet squirrel, set the rodent free following the attack in light of the possibility that the animal could be euthanized.

Sleepwalker statue at campus vandalized

MA WELLESLEY — An outdoor, lifelike sculpture of a man sleepwalking in his underpants that provoked some concern on a Massachusetts college campus in February has been vandalized.

The fiberglass sculpture at Wellesley College, entitled "Sleepwalker," was defaced Tuesday night by vandals using a knife, left arm, left leg, and a foot. It was one of several properties on campus vandalized, and campus police are investigating.

Some students at the women's college had criticized the statue as threatening and demanded that it be removed.

But the statue is scheduled to stay up until July. It is part of a larger exhibit by sculptor Tony Mattelli at a campus museum.

Wellesley President H. Kim Bottomly said in a statement that the acts of vandalism are "criminal in nature and carry potentially serious consequences."

Marine accused of vandalizing two shops

CO DURANGO — A Marine is accused of breaking windows at two businesses and setting about a dozen dogs free after a night of drinking.

The Durango Herald reports that Lance Cpl. Kenneth Walter Jones, 22, of Escondido, Calif., was arrested after police found him breaking things inside a used car shop early Saturday. Police said he also started a small fire there. He's also accused of opening cages at a kennel next door, allowing dogs boarded by their owners to escape.

All were eventually found. Police spokesman Lt. Ray Shupe says Jones said he can't remember what happened.

Jones' fellow Marines told investigators that they are with the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 161 based in Miramar, Calif., which flies V-22 Ospreys.

THE CENSUS

\$8K

The approximate value of bread delivered by a man who police say stole a New York City bakery truck. Police said David Bastar hopped into Grimaldi's Home of Bread's truck early Monday while the real driver was making a delivery at a pizzeria. In only his underwear, Bastar then began dropping off all of the baguettes, whole-wheat rolls and sourdough bread — but not to the bakery's customers. Bastar, of Nanuet, has been taken to a hospital for evaluation.



ANDREW D. BROSIQ, THE (NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS) DAILY SENTINEL/AP

Eye spy

Jurnee Meeks, 12, center, gets a light shined in her eye by optometry student Mohamed Osman while Texas State Optical technician Marisol Tobar takes notes during an athletic physical Tuesday in Nacogdoches, Texas. Local physicians volunteered their time and Nacogdoches Medical Center volunteered its facility to offer the required exams free of charge to athletes from schools across the region.

Biologists towing dead whale out to sea

CA SAN DIEGO — A dead whale that washed up on shore in San Diego was set to get a sea burial.

KGTV in San Diego reported Tuesday that the 50-foot fin whale washed up onto the sand on Monday near the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration biologist Susan Chivers said her organization took samples of the whale's tissue to find out its gender and possible health problems.

KGTV reported that the Marine Conservation Institute planned to send a boat Wednesday to tow the dead whale more than 20 miles into the ocean so fish can feed on it.

Feds charge 3 men with disturbing falcon nest

PA PHILADELPHIA — Three men on a Philadelphia bridge repair crew are accused of disturbing a nest of peregrine falcons and lying to investigators.

The men, who worked for the Maryland-based Liberty-Alpha Joint Venture, face conspiracy,

witness tampering and other charges from their Girard Point Bridge project in 2011.

Prosecutors said Nikolaos Frangos and George Capuzello, both of Campbell, Ohio, told workers to ignore restrictions meant to protect the falcons.

Federal investigators said workers intentionally used heavy equipment to cause the birds to abandon their unhatched eggs.

Authorities said Frangos and Capuzello subsequently lied to investigators to conceal that several workers were living in the country illegally.

One of those workers — Mikhail Zubialevich of Princeton, N.J. — is also charged with lying to investigators.

Pet pigeon flies to young owner's school

MT HELENA — Everyone has heard of homing pigeons, but Montana fifth-grader Tara Atkins apparently has a "schooling pigeon."

The pet bird named Foresta had disappeared Tuesday from Tara's home in the Elkhorn Mountains near Montana City, but it was back in her arms Wednesday after it showed up at her school about 5 air miles away in Helena.

"This pigeon has never been

to town before," Atkins' mother, Krysta Holmes, said. "We got her as a baby, and she just hangs out at home."

The bird caused a ruckus when it arrived at Central-Linc Elementary, first sitting on teacher Rob Freistadt's head.

Staff members and a police officer tried for an hour to corral the bird that Principal Vanessa Nasset said was just "sky-bombing everyone."

Nasset asked Tara for help catching the bird after a parent remembered she had a pet pigeon.

Tara recognized Foresta by her distinct coloration and the blue band around her leg.

City warns residents of 'strange skunks'

NM CARLSBAD — Officials in a southeastern New Mexico city are warning residents to be on the lookout for strange-acting skunks.

The Carlsbad Animal Control said Thursday that police have received a number of calls about skunks exhibiting weird behavior, although officials aren't giving details.

Officials fear that the skunks that may carry rabies.

Carlsbad Lt. Jennifer Moyers

says officials are recommending residents not to leave food, water or garbage in areas that might attract the bizarre skunks.

Rabies, a viral disease, is fatal to humans. There were 30 confirmed cases of rabies in Eddy County in 2013, and the county remains a hotbed for the disease.

Mother who drove into ocean gives birth

FL DAYTONA BEACH — A South Carolina woman who drove her minivan into the Atlantic Ocean with her three children inside has given birth at a Florida hospital.

A spokesman for the Florida Department of Children and Families said that the newborn is with family members. There was no word about the baby's gender nor when the birth occurred.

In March, Ebony Wilkerson, 32, of North Charleston, drove her van into the surf off Daytona Beach. She was arrested a few days later and remains in custody on \$1.2 million bail. She faces three counts each of attempted second-degree murder and child abuse.

Wilkerson's attorneys have filed notice they may seek an insanity defense.

From wire reports

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OPINION

Will any heads roll in VA scandal?

By GORDON LUBOLD
Foreign Policy

President Barack Obama attempted to calm the storm quickly enveloping his handling of a growing Veterans Affairs scandal, laying out a logical approach to getting to the bottom of what has gone wrong — seeking reviews, promising to hold individual staffers accountable and ordering the department's head, the embattled Eric Shinseki, to give him an initial report next week. The one thing he didn't do was fire Shinseki or anyone else, and that no heads are rolling means he did little to quiet administration critics — and may have instead created new ones.

The president on Wednesday defended Shinseki, a retired four-star general who has led the VA since 2009, as a "great soldier," who would lead the review into the crisis pertaining to allegations of falsified records and "cooking the books," as Obama said, at a number of VA health care centers. Obama ordered Shinseki to return to him next week with preliminary results of the review of the problem and vowed punishment would come "once we know the facts."

But Obama dodged questions about whether Shinseki should resign or had offered to.

"Nobody cares about our veterans more than Ric Shinseki," Obama said in his first press conference devoted to the VA scandal — which centers around allegations that 40 veterans died at a hospital in Phoenix while waiting for care — since it first exploded late last month.

"I was asked how do I think Ric Shinseki has performed overall, he has put his heart and soul into this thing."

But Obama's dutiful respect for the investigatory process on the records scandal is seen by some critics as being overly focused on the issue at hand, and not the

broader one that has frustrated critics for several years. His remarks Wednesday did little to stop the calls for Shinseki to step down or for Obama himself to take ownership of a problem he made a feature of in his 2008 campaign.

Now the Democratic dam supporting Shinseki may be beginning to burst. Two Democratic representatives from Georgia, first John Barrow and then David Scott, called for Shinseki to resign after hearing

The president on Wednesday defended Shinseki ... as a "great soldier."

Obama speak.
"While I don't think a change in leadership will immediately solve the serious problems that plague the VA, I do think it's time to give someone else an opportunity to lead the agency and begin the rebuilding process to ensure these issues never happen again," Barrow said in a statement.

Obama seems to have lost the room on veterans issues, even among some groups that have applauded some of his recent accomplishments by the VA. And for a White House already focused on the real prospect of losing Democratic control of the Senate in the upcoming mid-term elections, the scandal risks handing the GOP another political cudgel to use against the administration and its allies this fall.

"He did nothing to quell the growing nationwide VA controversy," Paul Rieckhoff, the head of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said in a statement issued shortly after Obama spoke. Rieckhoff, a respected leadership figure among veterans who has worked closely with the administration in the past, called Obama's remarks a "tremendous disappointment," but stopped short of asking Shinseki to resign. "His long-overdue remarks gave outraged IVA members no reason to believe

anything will change at the VA anytime soon. The public trust with the VA and Secretary Shinseki is broken."

And there was more anger from more predictable quarters. Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, a frequent administration critic, said that Obama's remarks were "wholly insufficient" in addressing the broader problems at the VA, which he termed "fundamental and systemic."

McCain said in a statement, "We need answers, leadership and accountability, none of which we've seen from the Obama Administration to date."

No one ever thought that the problems at the VA — from reducing the backlog of veterans' disability claims to creating enough capacity there to handle the influx of millions of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, and a bad oversight that cost Shinseki the recipient of two Purple Hearts during tours in Vietnam, was seen at the time as the perfect man for the job. His profile appealed to the Obama White House in 2009 as someone who would speak truth to power. The general is best known for telling a Congressional panel in the run-up to the Iraq War in early 2003 that the U.S. would need far more troops than what then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld was planning to send.

Despite Shinseki's appealing narrative, his tenure at the VA has been spotty. While he's reduced the backlog of veteran claims as well as attempted to address veteran unemployment rates and homelessness, he has largely failed in the public terrain, passing on media appearances and generally working behind the scenes when most observers agree a higher public profile is called for.

He's led to a growing push for his resignation. Democrats on Capitol Hill have generally been mum on the issue and retired senior officers typically decline to get involved in what amounts to a politically charged issue for the Obama White House.

A visit to Ukraine to ask questions close up

By TRUDY RUBIN

In 1905, my grandparents fled a village near Rovno in the Russian Ukraine so my grandfather wouldn't be drafted into the tsar's army. Jews were being pressed into military service for 25 years, he told me, which was all the more reason to escape the hardship and anti-Semitism of rural Russia. It was often nostalgic, not for Ukraine or Russia, but for the smells of the forest where he had worked to cut down trees.

For many reasons I never felt drawn to seek out that village, despite several visits to the Soviet Union and Russia, and two to Ukraine in the 1990s. Probably the Nazis had destroyed it, and independent Ukraine was struggling. The country's 2005 Orange revolution, meant to liberate it from lingering Russian-style corruption, fizzled badly. The country was not on my radar screen.

But suddenly, Ukraine has become the most fascinating country on the European continent, the test case for whether the seven peaceful decades after World War II were an anomaly rather than a permanent norm. So this week I will finally be traveling around Ukraine, not to revisit my family's past, but to explore whether Europe faces a frightening future.

Have we really reentered an era where borders of major countries can be changed by their neighbors through invasion or subversion? Vladimir Putin's rush to re-create the Russian empire by seizing Crimea and destabilizing eastern Ukraine raises ques-

tions that were supposedly resolved by the Second World War.

I'll be looking at whether Ukraine can hold together under unrelenting Russian military and economic pressure, and what it will mean if that pressure fractures the country.

Yes, the Russian speakers of eastern Ukraine, who have close economic and family ties with nearby Russia, feel alienated from the Kiev government that they believe ignores them. Yet ... repeated polls show that the vast majority of Russian speakers who threaten the eastern regions. In reality, the Ukrainian far right at the moment, while sometimes unpleasant, is less anti-Semitic and xenophobic than the Russian far right.

So one key question is whether the Kiev government can do more to counteract Russian propaganda and convince Russian speakers in the east that Kiev is listening. But something I will be asking officials in Kiev as they draft a plan to decentralize Ukraine's regions and give more power to local governments. Of course, Putin will do everything in his power to undermine such outreach ...

In his new version of nationalism, the Russian leader has proclaimed himself a protector of Russian speakers everywhere,

whether in Latvia or oil-rich Kazakhstan or beyond. Perhaps he wants to protect the 20 percent of Israelis who speak Russian. There's no telling where this could lead.

Putin is also promoting cultural warfare, but ... the "byzantine civilizational" trope is nonsense, I believe. The real divide in Ukraine, I suspect, is between a younger generation that wants a transparent economy and connections to the world, and an older generation that yearns for the remembered "security" of a closed Soviet Union. The sad truth is that the corrupt, oil-based economy of Putin's Russia can't offer Orthodox civilization against the weak and disintegrated West led by the United States. Ukraine is split between its Catholic west, which looks toward Europe, and a Russia-leaning eastern Orthodox half, so many observers have accepted Putin's framework.

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I will be looking at whether, with more outreach from Kiev and tougher Western sanctions, Putin's Russia can't offer Orthodox civilization against its dangerous repercussions on Europe. And I will be talking to Jewish community leaders, in part to learn what my life would have been like if my grandparents had remained in Rovno, my family had survived Hitler, and I had grown up in Ukraine.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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LIFESTYLE

By LOLLY BOWEAN
Chicago Tribune

The catered spread of classic American comfort foods had been set up, the space was dotted with bluish pink and gray balloons, and the bright red carpet had been properly placed at the beginning of the walkway. The photographer was there, the chairs were carefully arranged, and the DJ was playing a mix of soul and hip-hop music.

Te'airah Gaylord was a bundle of nerves as she rushed to get dressed for the prom, staying hidden away, yet keeping a watchful eye on the arrangements.

But the extensive spread wasn't for the actual prom — it was Gaylord's extravagant "send-off" before the real event.

"It will be a fabulous celebration, and it's going to be fun and exciting," said Gaylord, 17, a senior at Notre Dame High School for Girls in Chicago. "I am going to the prom. I want to make sure everybody comes and sends me off."

In Chicago's African-American community, a burgeoning, unique ritual now accompanies the annual spring prom: a flamboyant pre-event gathering called "the send-off."



Te'airah Gaylord and Raymond Solomon make their red carpet entrance at her pre-prom send-off.

BRIAN CASSELLA, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Red-carpet ready

Chicago teens get royal treatment at pre-prom 'send-off'

Here, friends, family, community leaders and residents greet and celebrate teenagers just before they depart for their school-sponsored parties. Mounting in popularity — and extravagance — in recent years, in most cases the send-offs are bigger and more important than the prom.

Especially to the adults.

Hundreds of former prom-goers will crowd in their relatives' houses and yards and along their blocks to celebrate and party. There is live music, food and sometimes a dress code. The adults and friends stand together and take pictures and cheer as the students emerge in their formal wear.

Then they spend an hour or so mingling with the teenagers before the students depart for the formal event. Some of the guests will stay for hours after, reminiscing about the proms of their youth.

For many African-Americans in Chicago,

prom gives them an opportunity to create a cultural custom that didn't exist before, said Kay McCrimmon, assistant director of the African-American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"For such a long time, African-Americans didn't recognize or go to prom. But in the 1960s, we started getting excited about it," McCrimmon said. "There are not a lot of things we get to celebrate in a big and elaborate way. The prom ceremonies gave us a way to highlight family and fuss over our children."

While the send-offs acknowledge the students, they are actually designed for adults, she said.

"After the kids leave for prom, the party continues," McCrimmon said. "You play cards, eat and drink. People laugh and tell stories about their own proms."

On Te'airah Gaylord's big day May 2, family and friends were scrambling to pull everything together at their Chicago home. When they realized there weren't enough balloons, her mother

rushed to get more.

Family that helped coordinate the affair wore T-shirts that read: "Prom 2014."

When the DJ began playing old-school soul music, as requested by Gaylord's grandmother, her older brother intervened and demanded more modern sounds. "Te'airah's got a playlist, Grandma," the boy said with authority. "Today is her day."

Te'airah needed help getting dressed and touching up makeup that had been applied by a professional artist. Finally, the teen emerged from the house to Beyonce's "Flawless."

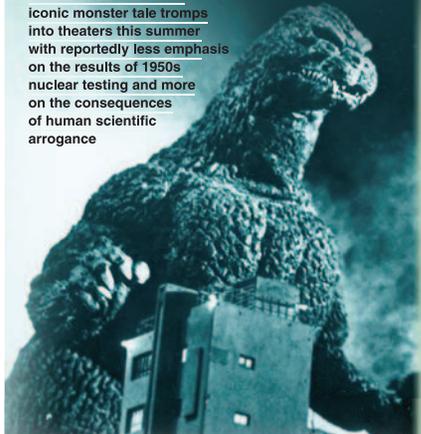
She paused to give everyone a chance to take a good look at her. Then she and her date walked hand in hand down her red carpet.

"To the world, this is just one day. But for me, it's everything," the teen said. "The prom is little. My party is so much bigger."

MOVIES

GODZILLA

A new treatment of the iconic monster tale tromps into theaters this summer with reportedly less emphasis on the results of 1950s nuclear testing and more on the consequences of human scientific arrogance



Origin story

Godzilla was reputedly awakened and mutated by nuclear testing, developing an atomic heart, breath and regenerative powers; "Gojira," the Japanese name for the monster, combines the words "gorilla" and "whale"

Godzilla's résumé

Has starred in 31 previous movies
Had its own Hanna-Barbera cartoon
Inspired a Blue Oyster Cult song
Received an MTV Lifetime achievement award in 1996

Bryan Cranston

Rebooting

1954

Monster played by actor wearing 220-pound suit of gray painted latex, stuffed with bamboo and foam with a zipper along the spine, air holes in the chest; it had internal controls for the jaw, external wires for the tail

Filmed in three-minute takes

Technicians rubbed bass violin with leather glove to create roar, hit kettle drum with knotted rope for footsteps

Film cost Toho studio \$166,700

TODAY

960 visual effects shots appear in the new film, 327 of them are of Godzilla, for which the 3-D computer model is comprised of 500,000 polygons; if the effects had been done on a single computer, it would have taken 450 years to render them

Screenplay went through four versions
Gareth Edwards, the director, describes Godzilla as an antihero; "Godzilla is a representation of the wrath of nature; the theme is man versus nature; Godzilla is the punishment we deserve"

Godzilla's growth

A composite of T-rex and Stegosaurus:



And in this corner

Who has tangled with the Big G:

KING KONG

150 feet tall

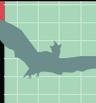
The most famous foe of Godzilla survived the giant reptile's attacks in 1963; he was enlarged from his 1939 size (Godzilla would have been five times taller) and shot electric rays



RODAN

400-foot wingspan

A winged reptile, this prehistoric Godzilla foe became an ally in 1965; the beast flies at Mach 1.5, fighting with a uranium heat beam; also, there were the male, female and larger Fire Rodan



KING GHIDORAH

300 feet tall

Alien planet-destroyer fights while flying at Mach 3, rousing hurricane winds, shooting gravity beams from his mouth; the meaty evil Godzilla foe; also, Mecha-King Ghidorah



MOTHRRA

800-foot wingspan

Mothra protects her people, the natives of Infant Island in the South Pacific; she is a monster of peace and principle, and entombs foes in cocoons; also, Fairy Mothra



MECHA-GODZILLA

160 feet tall

Mechilla's most powerful enemy is made of space titanium and packs an impressive arsenal—a nose-buster ray, super heat shield, laser beam eyes, plasma grenades, paralysis missiles



Highlights from monster mashes

U.S. productions in italics

1954 Godzilla

He destroys Tokyo

1956 *Godzilla, King of the Monsters*

An oxygen destroyer device kills Godzilla, ending his rampage (but of course he'll come back)

1959 *Godzilla Raids Again*

Godzilla defeats the spiny Anguirus

1963 *King Kong vs. Godzilla*

Godzilla bests Kong, who swims toward the horizon at the end; there's a giant octopus, too

1964 *Mothra vs. Godzilla*

He kills a giant moth, but is wrapped up in a cocoon

1965 *Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster*

Godzilla allies with winged Rodan against alien monster Ghidorah

1966 *Ebirah, Horror of the Deep*

Godzilla joins with Mothra against Ebirah, a huge shrimp

1967 *Son of Godzilla*

Godzilla battles a giant spider and praying mantis

1968 *Destroy All Monsters*

Godzilla is pitted against alien kidnapers; Monsterland is introduced

1969 *All Monsters Attack*

Godzilla vies with various monsters on Monster Island, but all in a child's dream

1971 *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*

Godzilla acts to humanity's aid, defeating Hedorah, a beast created by pollution

1972 *Godzilla vs. Gigan*

Godzilla again faces Ghidorah and the beaked Gigan, which has a buzz saw in its chest

1973 *Godzilla vs. Megalon*

The android Jet-Jaguar, monster Gigan, undersea god Megalon are thrown into the mix

1975 *Terror of Mechagodzilla*

Godzilla deals with sea monster Titanosauros, robotic Mechagodzilla

1984 *The Return of Godzilla*

Godzilla faces nuclear missiles, flying tanks

1985 *Godzilla 1985*

Essentially a U.S. remake of the 1984 film, using much of its footage

1989 *Godzilla vs. Biollante*

Lake creature Biollante, bacteria are Godzilla's enemies

1991 *Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah*

He beats two Ghidorahs, the real one and a cyborg version

1992 *Godzilla vs. Mothra*

He battles Mothra and Battra, a climate-created monster

1993 *Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II*

Rodan and Godzilla battle Mechagodzilla and a flying gunship called Garuda

1994 *Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla*

Godzilla faces robot weapons and SpaceGodzilla

1995 *Godzilla vs. Destroyah*

Godzilla and Godzilla Junior battle crab-like Destroyah

1998 *Godzilla*

This major U.S. release, directed by Roland Emmerich and starring Matthew Broderick, was a tremendous flop; two planned sequels were canceled

1999 *Godzilla 2000: Millennium*

Godzilla defeats DNA copying monster Orga; five more "Millennium" Godzilla films are released through 2004

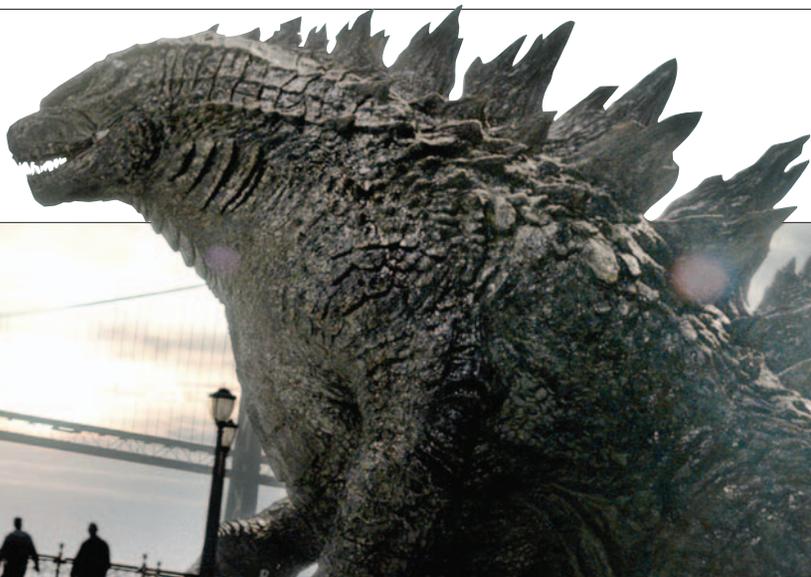
SOURCES: The Official Godzilla Compendium, Photofest, Toho Co., Ltd., Columbia TriStar, Warner Brothers, Internet Movie Database

NOTE: Sizes are of first movie versions

MOVIES

"Godzilla," the latest in the monster-film franchise, comes 60 years after the creature made its big-screen debut in Ishiro Honda's 1954 film "Gojira."

WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP



Watanabe the perfect actor to explain 'Godzilla'

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service



JEFF LEWIS/AP



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Japanese actor Ken Watanabe is most famous for his work in such global blockbusters as "Inception," "Batman Begins," "The Last Samurai" and "Memoirs of a Geisha."

At 54, he's of a stature that Hollywood knows if there's a movie to be made in Japan, Watanabe is the go-to Japanese star. Gus Van Sant called on him to co-star in his Japanese-set drama "Sea of Trees," and Martin Scorsese's film of Shusaku Endo's "Silence," about Jesuit missionaries in 17th century Japan, has Watanabe in a featured role.

And there's probably a law that says you cannot make a "Godzilla" movie without a major Japanese star in it. In the newest incarnation of the "King of the Monsters," Watanabe plays a Japanese scientist who seems to understand the monsters that have burst into the Pacific better than the American engineers, soldiers and sailors who are battling them.

MCT: What was your first exposure to "Godzilla," growing up in Japan?

Watanabe: I was 9, 10 years old when I watched four or five films on TV. Godzilla battles this creature or that one ("Godzilla vs. Monster Zero," etc.). It was great entertainment for a kid!

As the chief Japanese member of the cast, did you feel protective of Godzilla, how he'd be presented, what he'd represent in this movie?

I met (director) Gareth Edwards and told him, "To me, Godzilla is symbolic of human cultures. His roar is like something sent down from the ancient gods, a mythic warning. I wanted to know from him what kind of story he had in mind for Godzilla,

and how much fun those movies were. He seems to love Japanese comic books, Japanese culture. He knew all about Godzilla. ... very deep knowledge of his background, the meanings of those early films when we learn how Godzilla was born. I knew I wouldn't have to worry about what kind of Godzilla movie he would make. He gave me great confidence.

So, what does a "Godzilla" movie need to be about?

When I saw this movie, finished, I got the most excited whenever Godzilla let out his roar. That sound, 'Roooooooooooarrrrr,' filled me with pride. But also sadness. To me, it's like Godzilla is calling out a warning to humanity's foolishness. Radiation from bombs, from power plants. That's what brings him back.

"Godzilla" was born out of fear of nuclear weapons after World War II. But after we experienced the collapse of our nuclear power plant in Fukushima due to the earthquake and tsunami, it was like the fear was back—the same fear we had 60 years ago when "Godzilla" was born. It made me, as a Japanese actor, want to join this project, be in this film.

And my character's background made me want to play him. His father was a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. This guy ended up studying nuclear energy, nuclear power. What does that say about him? He hopes he is doing something meaningful for humanity with this very destructive energy. But he is still struggling with that issue. He sees this conflict as nature vs. science. He comes to believe that science does not have power over nature. We have a type of power we cannot control. That is what "Godzilla" is about.

Upper left: Ken Watanabe and his wife, Kaho Minami, attend a "Godzilla" premiere May 8 in Hollywood. Watanabe has become the go-to star for Japanese movies.

Lower left: Watanabe and Sally Hawkins star in "Godzilla."

LIFESTYLE

Canine lifeline

University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine helps dogs get blood with animal bloodmobile

Raina, a 6-year-old German Shepherd, waits in the back of a car after having blood drawn at the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school's animal bloodmobile in Harleysville, Pa., on May 8. The university operates the bloodmobile around the city to raise awareness and make it easier to garner canine blood donations.

PHOTOS BY MATT SLOCUM/AP

The Associated Press

If man's best friend is a dog, then who is a dog's best friend? That would be Rover. Or Glow. Or Ivan or Raina. The four canines recently donated precious pints of blood to their fellow pooches. And they did it without having to travel far from home: They visited an animal bloodmobile.

Similar to the Red Cross vehicles for humans, the University of Pennsylvania's traveling veterinary lab goes to where the donors are to make it easier to give.

"You don't really think about it until you actually need it," said Kym Marryott, manager of Penn's Animal Blood Bank. "Just like in people, dogs need blood too."

Officials at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine said they don't know of any other animal bloodmobiles operating in the U.S. Theirs makes weekly rounds through suburban Philadelphia and New Jersey.

Dogs must have the correct blood type, weigh at least 55 pounds and be younger than 8 years old. Owners volunteer their pet for the short procedure, which requires no sedation.

However, Marryott said it's the dog that ultimately chooses to lie still and give.

"If (the dog) wanted to get up and leave, he could," Marryott said. "But they're really good about it. They trust their owner."

About 150 dogs participate in the program. Each donates three or four pints a year, which can help animals suffering from illnesses like cancer or an accidental trauma

like being hit by a car. One pint can save up to three dogs.

Sandy Lucas brought her 7-year-old

black German Shepherd to the bloodmobile last week, when it was parked at a strip mall in Harleysville, Pa., about 14 miles from her home. The Pottstown, Pa., resident said she wouldn't have braved highway traffic and city parking problems to take the dog to Penn Vet's animal hospital in downtown Philadelphia, which is twice as far. But the bloodmobile made it convenient to find out if Raina could donate, she said.

"I was very, very thrilled that she had the right blood that was needed to help another dog out," said Lucas. "We'll definitely do it again."

Just like people, the furry donors get a snack and a heart-shaped "U of P Blood Donor" sticker immediately after giving. In addition, they receive free blood screenings and dog food to take home.

While the bloodmobile helps solve Penn's urban logistical challenges, not all donation centers have such issues.

Traffic and parking aren't big problems at North Carolina State University's pet blood bank in Raleigh, where owners can easily drop off their dogs for donations and pick them up later, spokesman Dave Green said.

And what about a catmobile? Perhaps not surprisingly, felines are less cooperative. They need to be sedated in order to give blood, so Penn does that only at its animal hospital.



Top: Ace, a 15-month-old golden retriever, is tempted into the University of Pennsylvania veterinary school's animal bloodmobile by his owners.

Above: Certified veterinary technician Kym Marryott draws Raina's blood.

HEALTH & FITNESS

‘Bodies of Adonis and a garbage mouth’

Poor dental health of Olympians attributed to sugary energy drinks, frequent meals

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

Faster, higher, stronger they may be, but Olympians wouldn't win many medals in a contest of dental health. Behind their buffed physiques lurks a dentist's nightmare.

"They have bodies of Adonis and a garbage mouth," says Paul Piccininni. As dental director for the International Olympic Committee, Piccininni is intimately familiar with the broken teeth, abscesses, decay and other dental issues that force hundreds of Olympians into dentists' chairs at every games.

Among them: Michael Jordan. At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where basketball's superstar in the making was top scorer on the gold medal-winning U.S. team, Jordan "had a significant dental problem that could have kept him out of a game," Piccininni told The Associated Press in an interview.

The AP sent Jordan a phone text message to ask about the tooth issue, but he didn't respond. Piccininni, bound by medical secrecy requirements, also wouldn't give details.

"I know, but I shouldn't say," Piccininni said. "We've seen the best of the best."

Honing their bodies through intense physical effort, athletes refuel with energy drinks, gels and bars and frequent meals, which teeth don't like. Dehydration from sweating can also cut the production of saliva needed to regenerate tooth enamel.

Some rowers, for example, have "huge amounts of decay" because they're training in boats for hours at a time, refueling with teeth-eroding acidic, sugary drinks, said Tony Clough, who set up the dental clinic for Olympians at the 2012 London Games. Located in the athletes' village, it had 30 dentists and 1,900 visits.

"We had patients coming in at 10:30 at night to have root canals and things like that," said Clough.

A study that looked at 278 of the clinic's visitors found 55 percent had cavities and three quarters diseased gums, mostly gingivitis but also 15 percent with more serious periodontitis. One-quarter said dental problems affected their quality of life. The British Journal of Sports Medicine published the study last September.

"The oral health of athletes is worse than the oral health of the general population," Piccininni said. "Considerably worse."

An abscessed lower-left wisdom tooth threatened to keep British rower Alan Campbell from the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The infection spread to his shoulder, back and eventually settled in his right knee, requiring surgery two months before the games and ruining his training. He placed fifth in the Olympic single-sculls final and feels "I certainly would have gone quicker" had the infected tooth not laid him so low, keeping him out of his boat for six weeks.

At the London Games four years later, Campbell won bronze. He's certain that taking better care of his teeth has helped him row faster. He says he now flosses more, tends to drink water rather than sugary drinks, is "more aware of how important dental hygiene is to me and my body" and "if I thought I had any problems I would just have a tooth removed."

"I'm not saying someone with perfect teeth is going to beat Usain Bolt," Campbell said in a phone interview with the AP. "But myself with good dental hygiene versus myself with bad dental hygiene: The



ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

According to Paul Piccininni, dental director for the International Olympic Committee, the oral health of athletes is considerably worse than the oral health of the general population.

version of me with good dental hygiene will be the one that comes out on top, I'm certain of it."

Generally, teeth are most at risk among people aged 16-25, when they fly the family nest, perhaps party more and brush less, Clough said. That's also the age group of many Olympians, which helps explain why so many have problem teeth.

But other suspected causes appear more athlete-specific. Frequent travel for competition or training can get in the way of regular dental check-ups. The wear of long flights might also be a factor, because Olympic dentists see "a huge big leap" in dental infections in the first week of the games, said Clough.

Clenching teeth during strenuous activity can also grind them down.

"You could land the Space Shuttle" on some athletes' teeth, said Piccininni. "Plat as a pancake. They have worn it down so much."

Rowers breathe up to 80 times a minute in competition, and burn through 6,000 calories and eat five times a day, Campbell noted.

"A lot of pressure is going through the mouth," he said. At the Athens Olympics in 2004, "I was grinding my teeth in my sleep and I was waking up with a very sore jaw and sore teeth as well and I had a special gum-shield to wear at night to sleep with."

"That was the stress. It was my first Olympics. I was quite young. I was 21. I think I was feeling the pressure," he said.

The 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic clinic will have eight dental chairs, X-ray ma-

chines, root canal specialists and surgical facilities. There will be full-time dentists at hockey, rugby and basketball games for any injuries. The clinic will also distribute mouth guards.

They handed out 350 in London and 150 at the Sochi Olympics in February, including to four Austrian ice hockey players after a teammate lost a tooth in their first game.

Treatment is free. Some Olympians "know they've had a dental problem for three weeks or a month or three months, but they know if they can hold off until they get to the games they get it treated for free," Piccininni said. "That's fine. That's one of the reasons that we're there, is because athletes don't have the financial resources."

VIDEO GAMES



MCT

In "Mercenary Kings," players — who are part of a highly skilled team of warriors-for-hire — fight against enemies and rescue hostages.

A throwback to gaming's past

Nostalgic gameplay meets modern sensibilities in 'Mercenary Kings'

By Matt Miller

Game Information Magazine

When certain games release, you find yourself wondering why more developers haven't done the same thing before. "Mercenary Kings" is one of those games. While few inherently new ideas are at play in Tribute's latest project, the combined whole is an impressive effort that mixes classic shooting (inspired by games like "Metal Slug" and "Mega Man") and injects some of the customization, storytelling and ancillary mechanics more prevalent in modern games. Whether playing alone or with friends, this massive adventure should keep most players busy for hours.

You are one of the Kings, a mercenary force brought back to life through a secret scientific formula to rid a tropical island of the terrorist threat named CLAW. Before each mission, you wander through camp purchasing first aid kits, equipping new bionic mods and customizing equipment. Once your soldier is up to snuff, you tackle missions that have you rescuing hostages, taking down giant robotic bosses, gathering supplies or infiltrating ancient temples. More than 100 missions are available, but many of these outings see you returning to the same maps again and again. While all of the game's maps are suitably large, it's a grind coming back to the same location the seventh or eighth time.

The level designs and enemy placements are top notch, exhibiting a strong eye for a gradual challenge curve that always keeps players on their toes, whether through tough platforming, challenging baddies or a severe time limit. More than 100 distinct enemy types await your attack, constantly demanding new tactics. The shooting mechanic feels

purposefully stiff, only allowing you to shoot in straight lines up and down or left and right — a direct homage to the games that inspired "Mercenary Kings." Little touches like an active reload system (à la "Gears of War") add a modern touch, forcing you to time your shots and movement to coincide with when bullets remain in your magazine.

While a number of boss models are repeated or show up in only minor variations, they are usually excellent fights. With time and patience, each telegraphs its movements, helping you to gain a sense of mastery. However, I'm not a fan of the odd approach to tracking down a boss. In any given stage, you might need to track your targets to

one of several possible locations on the map. If they aren't there, you must run across the stage again to the next location. If they are there, they're usually on a timer, and they flee to the next location before you can finish them off. It's a frustrating mechanic that I could have done without, even though the game provides a couple of ways to work around the issue.

One of the biggest features that sets "Mercenary Kings" apart is its rewarding customization. After acquiring money and materials on missions, you can upgrade your character's armor for more hit points, install new bionic mods that offer effects like faster speed or higher damage, or change your outfit colors. However, the weapon system far outstrips everything else, offering around

300 distinct weapon pieces that can all be mixed and matched to create an arsenal for any occasion. By the end, you might have a handgun that shoots electric bullets, or a shotgun with a sniper-rifle scope that looks like a trombone.

As I explored Mandragora Island, my admiration for the gorgeous art, animation and music grew. "Mercenary Kings" is a masterpiece of old-school 2-D presentation, filled with clever nods to older games, but with a distinct style to the characters and backgrounds all its own. The evocative chiptune soundtrack matches that look perfectly, and I looked forward to each new area and the character models, environments and music I might find there.

Tribute's shooter holds up well as a solo experience, but the flexibility to play two- to four-player local or online play (but not both at the same time) makes this a great fit for group get-togethers. Since many missions include multiple objectives, it can be fun to work together and decide how best to split up the tasks in order to speed up full completion. After having tried multiple variations of play, the two-player online team-up is my recommendation.

"Mercenary Kings" is a testament to the idea that you can get too much of a good thing. The slick art, old-school shooting and deep customization options are immensely fun, as are the stages that you play through — the first few times. As it is, this style of shooting action feels like it's stretched thin over such a lengthy campaign, and some of the missions might have been more fun if I hadn't already explored the maps so thoroughly. That tedium certainly isn't enough for me to warn people away from such a richly illustrated tribute to the roots of the shooter.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, PC
 Online: mercenarykings.com

'Halo' returns in 2015

By DERRICK J. LANG
 The Associated Press

Master Chief is returning to the battlefield next year.

Microsoft announced plans last week to release the video game sequel "Halo 5: Guardians" for the Xbox One and a "Halo" television series to be produced by Steven Spielberg in fall 2015. The next entry in the sci-fi shooter series starring super-soldier Master Chief will run at 60 frames per second on a new engine created by "Halo" developer 343 Studios.

"Halo 5" will mark the first time a "Halo" game has run at that frame rate, which provides a more realistic sense of motion on screen and increases accuracy for players.

"Halo 5: Guardians" is obviously a big deal for us," said Frank O'Connor, franchise development director at 343. "It's the next chapter in the Master Chief saga. It's also a big deal for us because of the transition to the Xbox One platform. All of the 'Halo' games — more or less — have added something to the Xbox ecosystem."

Bonnie Ross, general manager at 343 Studios, noted that additional plans this year for the "Halo" franchise would be announced June 9 at Microsoft's presentation at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the largest annual gathering of the gaming industry.

At last year's E3, Microsoft showed footage featuring a cloaked figure revealed to be Master Chief encountering a bird-like robot in a desert with the words "2014: Your Journey Begins on Xbox One."

"Halo: Combat Evolved" launched in 2001 on the original Xbox and became a cultural sensation, spawning several sequels, spinoffs, novels and comic books set within the game's universe.

"Halo 4" was released in 2012 for the Xbox 360, smashed entertainment industry records by making \$300 million in its opening week. A live-action digital series, "Forward Unto Dawn," was released alongside "Halo 4." Microsoft previously announced Ridley Scott was executive producing a similar multi-part "Halo" film.

The Xbox One could use a boost from Master Chief. Microsoft Corp. said last month that sales of its latest console had slowed to 1.2 million in the quarter through March, compared to the 3.9 million it sold during the holiday season. The total of 5.1 million was behind the 7 million in sales of the PlayStation 4 by rival Sony Corp.



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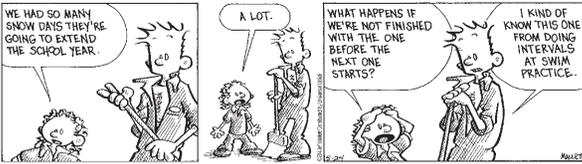
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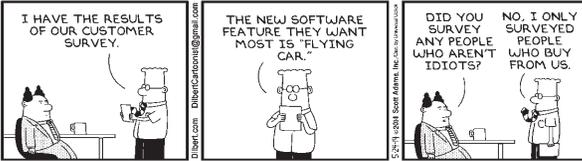
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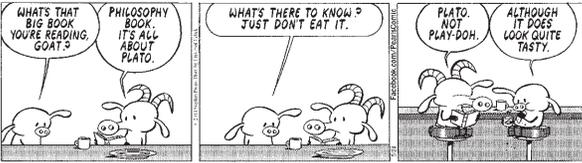
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



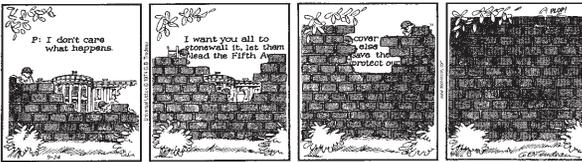
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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50			51					52	53			
54								55				
56								57				

ACROSS

- 1 Ersatz chocolate
- 6 Horrifics
- 12 "Cockles and mussels" seller
- 13 Cause to blunder
- 14 Acknowledged
- 15 Fall
- 16 Fountain on clarinet
- 17 Charon's river
- 19 Legislation
- 20 Information
- 22 Singer Sumac
- 24 Auction action
- 27 Lawless portrayal
- 29 Hurry
- 32 Toast
- 35 "As I Lay Dying" character

DOWN

- 1 Spelunkers' site
- 2 Greatly
- 3 Used oars
- 4 Inseparable
- 5 Four-poster framework
- 6 Lawyer (Abbr.)
- 7 Sub
- 8 Die spot
- 9 Clapping
- 10 "Be-Bop-a-Loo"
- 11 Jet forth
- 12 Navigation aid
- 18 Line bordering a circle
- 21 Chopper
- 23 Duffbire or Dalloway
- 24 Purchase from Fredrick's

- 25 Ziering of "Sharknado"
- 26 19th-century British prime minister
- 28 Reference
- 30 Pig's digs
- 31 Weeding need
- 33 Vast expanse
- 34 Pick a target
- 39 Preprandial prayer
- 41 Human, e.g.
- 42 Lip
- 43 Item on stage
- 45 Wields
- 47 Present
- 48 Small
- 49 See 30-Down
- 51 A Bobsey twin
- 53 CEO's deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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F	I	L	I		G	R	E		A	X	I	S
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A	F	A	R		O	R	E	M	A	G	O	
D	O	C	K		R	A	S	A		L	A	M

5-24

CRYPTOQUIP

B DVBCE YVKABQY Z OKSWNC
 KL MCVFP ZD DMC PWR
 ZYCQOR'P KLLBOC, FSD DMC R

ACVC LKSQE DK FC WNZQDP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY PEOPLE ON THIS BEACH ARE MUCH TOO PALE. SOMEBODY REALLY SHOULD CALL THE ASHEN POLICE.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

KNOWLEDGE

IS POWER.



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Pro basketball

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago	3	0	1,000	1/2	1/2
Atlanta	1	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
New York	1	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
Washington	0	1	1,000	2/2	2/2
San Antonio	0	1	1,000	2/2	2/2
Connecticut	0	3	1,000	3/3	3/3

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Minnesota	1	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
Phoenix	2	0	1,000	1/2	1/2
Los Angeles	1	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
San Antonio	0	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
Tulsa	0	1	1,000	1/2	1/2
Seattle	1	0	1,000	2/2	2/2

Tuesday's games
No games scheduled
Wednesday's games
Chicago 78, Connecticut 68
San Antonio 99, Phoenix 95
Friday's games
Seattle at Connecticut
Washington at Indiana
Dallas at Tulsa
San Antonio at Phoenix

College lacrosse

NCAA Division I tournament

Play-In Round
Wednesday, May 7
BYU 9, Siena 8
Aurora 19, Richmond 5
First Round
Saturday, May 10
Alabama (13), Cornell (Md.) 6
Notre Dame 13, Harvard 5
Duke 9, Miami 3
Denver 9, North Carolina 5
Johns Hopkins 14, Virginia 8
Drexel 16, Pennsylvania 11
Quarterfinals
Saturday, May 10
Phillies 21, Boston 15
Maryland 16, Bryant 8
Notre Dame 14, Albany (N.Y.) 13
Duke 19, Johns Hopkins 15
At Newark, Del.
Drexel 15, Penn State 10
Denver 15, Drexel 6
Seminis
Saturday, May 24
AT M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Duke vs. Denver
Cincinnati vs. Maryland
Championship
Sunday, May 25
AT M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Seminifinal winners

AP spotlight

May 24
1905 — Harry Payne Whitney's Tanya became the second filly to win the Belmont Stakes. Ruthless was the first filly to win the Belmont. In 1867, Whitney would also win the Kentucky Derby with a filly, Regret, in 1915.
1935 — In the first major league night game, the Reds beat the Philadelphia Phillies 2-1 before 25,000 fans in Cincinnati.
1956 — Tony Lazzeri of the New York Yankees drives in 11 runs with a triple and three home runs in the second game of a doubleheader. Lazzeri's two grand slams — in a 25-2 rout of the Philadelphia's A's — are the franchise to the Cincinnati Bengals.
1980 — Bobby Davstrom's overtime goal gives the New York Islanders a 5-4 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers in the second round of the first Stanley Cup Finals.
1981 — The Indianapolis 500 ends in controversy when A.J. Foyt, who finished second to Bobby Unser, is declared the winner because Unser broke a rule during a slowdown period near the end of the race. The decision is later reversed, giving Unser credit for the victory, but he is fined \$40,000.
1982 — The Montreal Canadiens win their 23rd Stanley Cup, beating the Calgary Flames 4-3 in five games.
1988 — The fourth game of the Stanley Cup finals between the Edmonton Oilers and Boston Bruins is postponed with the score tied 3 and 3-23 left in the second half as Bruins' power forward Steve Duchesne punches Bruins' defenseman Glen Sather.
1988 — Al Unser Jr. wins the closest finish at the Indianapolis 500, beating Scott Goodyear by 43-thousandths of a second. Bobby Unser, Jr. and Lyn St. James, the second woman to race at Indy, finishes 11th.

College baseball

Thursday's scores

FAR WEST
TOURNAMENTS
American East Conference
Stony Brook 6, Maine 1
Harford 6, Birmingham 1
American Athletic Conference
UCM 7, Houston 2
Louisville 13, Memphis 3, 7 Innings OTC
Atlantic Coast Conference
Maryland 7, Virginia 6
Duke 6, Georgia Tech 0
Clemson 3, Miami 2
Atlantic Sun Conference
ETSU 7, Mercer 1, Mercer eliminated
Jacksonville 7, North Florida 6, NFU eliminated
Kennesaw St. 7, Seton 5
Lipscomb 5, Florida Gulf Coast 4
Florida 10 Conference
VCU 9, St. Louis 4
Athanitic 4, Dayton 3, Dayton eliminated
George Mason 5, Saint Joseph's 4
St. Louis 12, Fordham 2
St. Joseph's 12, Richmond 2
Big East Conference
Creighton 9, Xavier 7
Seton Hall 1, St. John's 0
South Conference
Campbell 6, Charleston Southern 2
CSU eliminated
Regard 5, Gardner-Webb 4, GWU eliminated
Charlotte 3, Coastal Carolina 2
High Point 9, Liberty 0
Big Ten Conference
Illinois 6, Ohio State 0, Illinois eliminated
Illinois 6, Minnesota 1, Minnesota eliminated
Nebraska 3, Michigan State 2
Indiana 1, Michigan 1
Big 12 Conference
Baylor 3, Kansas 3, Kansas eliminated
Oklahoma 9, Texas Tech 8, TCU eliminated
UT 6, West Virginia 2
Texas 3, Oklahoma State 0
Big West Conference
UC Santa Barbara 9, UC Davis 1
Long Beach St. 4, UC Irvine 2
Cal St., Fullerton 4, CS Uterberg 2
Colony Athletic 1, William 2
William & Mary 11, Delaware 4
College of Charleston 7, UNC-Wilmington 2
Delaware 3, Northeastern 2
Conference USA
Old Dominion 3, FIU 0, FIU eliminated
Southern Miss. 4, UAB 3, UAB eliminated
Louisiana Tech 3, Louisiana 2
Rice 8, Middle Tenn. 2
UTSA 8, East Carolina 3
Horizon League
Valparaiso 2, Oakland 0, Oakland eliminated
Milwaukee 12, Ill.-Chicago 4
Youngstown St. 9, Cleveland 2
Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference
Fairleigh Dickinson 3, 12 Innings
Mouthmouth (NJ) 6, Manhattan 6, 10 Innings, susp.
Mid-American Conference
W. Michigan 7, Bowling Green 4, BGU eliminated
Miami (Ohio) 4, Cent. Michigan 3, CMU eliminated
Missouri Valley Conference
Kent St. 4, Ball State 1
Missouri Valley Conference
Kent St. 6, Wichita St. 1
Wichita St. 6, Bradley 5
Missouri St. 7, Bradley 2, Bradley eliminated
Wichita St. 3, Illinois 1, 12 Innings
Mountain West Conference
New Mexico 4, San Jose St. 2, SJU eliminated
San Diego St. 11, New Mexico 5
UNLV 5, Fresno St. 3
Northwest Conference
BYU 5, Wagner 2
CCSU 0, Sacred Heart 3
Ohio Valley Conference
Jacksonville St. 7, SIU-Edwardsville 5
SIU-Edwardsville 6, Bradley 5
Tennessee Tech 14, Morehead St. 2
SIU-Edwardsville 11, Eastern Ky. 2
Southeastern Conference
Mississippi 7, Vanderbilt 2, VU eliminated
Florida 7, South Carolina 2, SC eliminated
LSU 7, Arkansas 2
Louisiana 7, Mississippi 3, 12 Innings
Southern Conference
Georgia Southern 9, W. Carolina 4, WCU eliminated
The Citadel 2, Citadel eliminated
South Carolina 3, Appalachian St. 1
Samford 7, Davidson 3
Southland Conference
Northwestern St. 10, Lamar 8, Lamar eliminated
Delta St. 6, McMurry CC 3, Nicholls St. 3, Nicholls eliminated
Sam Houston St. 1, Sam Houston St. 1
Arkansas 11, McNeese 5, 21 Innings
Summit League| W. Illinois 8, IPFW 7, 10 Innings |
| N. Dakota St. 4, Dakota St. 3 |
| San Marcos 2, North Dakota 1 |
| La.-Monroe 8, W. Kentucky 6, WCU eliminated |
| Arkansas St. 4, South Alabama 3, WKA eliminated |
| Lafayette 11, Texas 4 |
| Texas-Arlington 7, Troy 3 |
| Pepperdine 5, Santa Clara 2 |
| San Diego 11, Gonzaga 1 |
| Utah Valley 9, Texas-Pan American 2 |
| Bakersfield 4, Sacramento St. 1 |

Auto racing

Indianapolis 500 lineup

Verizon IndyCar Series
After May 18 qualifying; race Sunday
At Indianapolis Motor Speedway
Indianapolis
Lap length: 2.5 miles
All cars Dallara
1. (20) Ed Carpenter, Chevy, 2:35.799, 231.067 mph.
2. (22) James Hinchcliffe, Honda, 2:35.928, 230.839
3. (2) Will Power, Chevy, 2:36.048, 230.697
4. (3) Helio Castroneves, Chevy, 2:36.049, 230.649
5. (77) Simon Pagenaud, Honda, 2:36.104, 230.614
6. (25) Marco Andretti, Honda, 2:36.152, 230.544
7. (2) Carlos Muzica, Andata, 2:36.422, 230.146
8. (67) Josef Newgarden, Honda, 2:36.549, 229.893
9. (21) J.R. Hildebrand, Chevy, 2:37.398, 228.726
10. (1) Juan Pablo Montoya, Chevy, 2:35.896, 231.007
11. (9) Scott Dixon, Chevy, 2:35.890, 230.928
12. (6) Kurt Busch, Honda, 2:35.913, 230.782
13. (198) Jack Hawksworth, Honda, 2:36.177, 230.506
14. (19) Justin Wilson, Andata, 2:36.348, 230.149
15. (7) Mikhail Aleshin, Honda, 2:36.489, 230.049
16. (10) Tony Kanaan, Chevy, 2:36.570, 229.922
17. (11) Sebastien Bourdais, Chevy, 2:36.629, 229.847
18. (2) Oriol Servia, Honda, 2:36.695, 229.752
19. (28) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Honda, 2:36.712, 229.718
20. (15) Graham Rahal, Honda, 2:36.629, 229.628
21. (18) Carlos Huertas, Honda, 2:37.028, 229.251
22. (63) Pippa Mann, Honda, 2:37.052, 229.223
23. (44) Takuma Sato, Honda, 2:37.067, 229.201
24. (68) Alex Tagliani, Honda, 2:37.103, 229.148
25. (6) Townsend Bell, Chevy, 2:37.199, 229.009
26. (83) Charlie Kimball, Chevy, 2:37.276, 228.953
27. (5) Jacques Villeneuve, Honda, 2:37.240, 228.945
28. (32) James Davison, Chevy, 2:37.297, 228.893
29. (41) Martin Plowman, Honda, 2:37.228, 228.865
30. (8) Ryan Briscoe, Chevy, 2:37.402, 228.716
31. (22) Sage Karam, Chevy, 2:37.593, 228.436
32. (17) Sebastien Saavedra, Chevy, 2:37.835, 228.088
33. (81) Buddy Lazier, Chevy, 2:37.950, 227.920

Tennis

Nice Open

Thursday
At The Nice Lawn Tennis Club
Nice, France
Surface: \$665,000 (W7250)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Ernesto Gunter (Ecuador), def. Dmitry Tursunov (U.S.), Russia, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 6-4
Albert Montanes (Spain), def. Federico Dellavedova (7), Argentina, def. Jhonattan Hernandez (Chile), 6-4, 5-7, 6-6
Gilles Simon (4), France, def. Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, 6-4, 6-1
Semifinals
Martin Klizan, Slovakia, and Philipp Oswald, Austria, def. Andre Begemann, Germany, and Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-2, 6-2
Semifinals
Rohan Bopanna, India, and Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi (1), Pakistan, def. Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (3), France, 4-6, 7-6 (2), 10-8

Duesseldorf Open

Thursday
At Rexel Germany
Duesseldorf, Germany
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Andreas Seppi (1), Italy, 6-5, 6-4
Ivo Karlovic (7), Croatia, def. Juan Monaco (1), Argentina, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4
Jiri Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Jurgen Melzer (1), Austria, 6-4, 6-4
Philipp Kohlschreiber (1), Germany, leads Mate Delic, Croatia, 7-5, 4-4, susp., darkness.
Doubles
Jamie Murray, Britain, and John Peers (2), Australia, def. Marcelo Busta Spain, and Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-2, 6-3
Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Scott Lipsky (1), U.S., def. Marin Draganja, Croatia, and Henri Kontinen, Finland, 7-6 (6), 6-2

Coca-Cola 600 lineup

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series
After Thursday qualifying; race Sunday
At Charlotte Motor Speedway
Concord, N.C.
Lap length: 1.5 miles
All cars Hendrick in parent's
1. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 19:41.188
2. (2) Brad Keselowski, Ford, 19:45.567
3. (5) Casey Mears, Ford, 19:46.114
4. (10) Danica Patrick, Chevrolet, 19:53.334
5. (15) Clint Bowyer, Toyota, 19:34.244
6. (11) Jeremy Hamilton, Toyota, 19:39.119
7. (8) Kyle Busch, Toyota, 19:40.000
8. (2) Joey Logano, Ford, 19:42.472
9. (9) Marcos Ambrose, Ford, 19:51.673
10. (8) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 19:17.272
11. (4) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 19:59.590
12. (20) Matt Kenseth, Toyota, 19:29.818
13. (43) Aric Almirola, Ford, 19:52.692
14. (21) Trevor Bayne, Ford, 19:52.486
15. (78) Martin Truex Jr., Chevrolet, 19:42.338
16. (52) Brian Vickers, Toyota, 19:20.277
17. (51) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 19:54.855
18. (14) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 19:54.855
19. (33) Brian Scott, Chevrolet, 19:58.880
20. (47) A J Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 19:18.203
21. (27) Paul Menard, Ford, 19:58.275
22. (7) Jamie McMurray, Chevrolet, 19:56.255
23. (42) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 18:57.673
24. (41) Kurt Busch, Chevrolet, 18:56.233
25. (23) Alex Bowman, Toyota, 18:54.514
26. (15) Michael McDowell, Ford, 18:54.188
27. (3) Cole Whitt, Toyota, 18:51.115
28. (3) Austin Dillon, Chevrolet, 18:52.006
29. (33) David Gilliland, Ford, 18:52.734
30. (13) Casey Mears, Chevrolet, 18:52.006
31. (34) David Ragum, Ford, 18:45.455
32. (82) Ryan Truex, Toyota, 18:42.222
33. (98) Josh Wise, Chevrolet, Owner Points
34. (7) Mike Meechey, Toyota, Owner Points
35. (7) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, Owner Points
36. (10) Brandon Cassill, Chevrolet, Owner Points
41. (26) Reed Sorenson, Chevrolet, Owner Points
42. (31) Ryan Newman, Chevrolet, Owner Points
43. (32) Blake Koch, Ford, Owner Points
Failed to Qualify
44. (44) Jay Yeley, Chevrolet, 18:06.052
45. (77) Dave Blaney, Ford, 18:143.

Nuremberg Cup

Thursday
At Tennis-Club 1 FC Nuremberg eV
Nuremberg, Germany
Surface: \$250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Red Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Karolina Pliskova (2), Czech Republic, def. Angelique Kerber (1), Germany, 7-6 (5), 6-4
Francesca Schiavone (3), Italy, def. Caroline Garcia (7), France, 6-9, 6-4, 6-4
Nicola Pietrangeli (1), United States, def. Mona Barthel, Germany, 6-4, 6-4
Eugenie Bouchard (2), Canada, def. Yulia Putintseva, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (6)
Semifinals
Raquel Atalaya, Romania, and Shahar Pe'er, Israel, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, and Caroline Garcia, France, 6-2, 6-2

Strasbourg International

Thursday
At Centre Sportif de Haute-pierre
Strasbourg, France
Surface: \$250,000 (Intl.)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles
Quarterfinals
Silvia Soler-Espinos, Spain, def. Camilla Giorgi (1), Italy, 6-5, 6-4, 7-5
Christina McHale (1), United States, def. Zarina Diyas, Kazakhstan, 6-2, 3-1, retired
Madison Keys, United States, def. Julia Goepfert (4), Germany, 6-2, 2-6, 6-2
Lucy Kramlic (1), Austria, def. Andrea Petkovic (4), Germany, 6-4, 6-4
Quarterfinals
Ashleigh Barty and Casey Lacabanne (2), Australia, def. Mirjana Lucic-Baroti, Croatia, and Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, 6-2, 6-4
Semifinals
Tatiana Bua, Argentina, and Daniela Seguel, Chile, def. Gortsov, Bulgaria, and Klaudia Jans-Ignacik, Poland, 6-3, 6-7 (5), 10-8

College softball

NCAA Division I super region

(Best-of-three; x-1 necessary)
Host school is home team for game 1; visiting team is home for game 2; coin flip determines home team for Game 3
At Tallahassee, Fla.
Thursday: Michigan 17, Florida State 3
Friday: Michigan (47-13) vs. Florida State (47-13)
At Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Thursday: Alabama 15, Nebraska 5, 12 Innings
Sunday: Nebraska (44-17) vs. Alabama (48-11)
Friday: Nebraska vs. Alabama
At Athens, Ga.
Friday: Baylor (45-14) vs. Georgia (49-13)
Saturday: Baylor vs. Georgia
At Lafayette, La.
Friday: Arizona (44-15) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (47-8-1)
Saturday: Arizona vs. Louisiana-Lafayette
At Norman, Okla.
Friday: Oklahoma (46-10) vs. Tennessee (45-10)
Saturday: Oklahoma vs. Tennessee
Sunday: Oklahoma vs. Tennessee
At Eugene, Ore.
Saturday: Oregon (49-15) vs. Minnesota (45-9)
Sunday: Oregon vs. Minnesota
At Gainesville, Fla.
Saturday: Florida (46-11) vs. Washington (36-13)
Sunday: Florida vs. Washington
Saturday: UCLA (51-6) vs. Kentucky (47-16)
Sunday: UCLA vs. Kentucky

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

NY Red Bulls	6	3	20	13	6	A
Washington	5	2	20	13	6	A
Portland	5	2	17	10	6	A
Sporting KC	5	4	17	10	6	A
Houston	5	6	17	16	21	B
New York City FC	4	14	14	13	9	A
Columbus	3	4	13	13	14	A
San Jose	3	11	14	14	9	A
Chicago	2	6	12	10	14	A
Philadelphia	2	6	5	11	20	B
D.C. United	1	1	11	20	19	B

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Seattle	8	3	25	19	20	A
Real Salt Lake	6	0	25	17	22	B
DC Dallas	6	0	25	17	22	B
Vancouver	4	2	16	16	12	C
San Diego	4	2	16	16	12	C
Los Angeles	3	3	12	8	0	C
San Jose	3	3	12	8	0	C
Chivas USA	2	4	10	20	13	B
Portland	2	4	10	20	13	B
Utah	1	3	10	19	20	B

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games

D.C. United 2, Houston 0
Los Angeles 2, FC Dallas 1
Friday's games
Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City
Saturday's games
Seattle FC at Vancouver
Portland at Seattle
D.C. United at New England
Chicago at Columbus
Montreal at Toronto
FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake
New York City FC at Houston
Philadelphia at Los Angeles
Philadelphia at San Jose
Wednesday 28
New York at Sporting Kansas City
Portland at Chivas USA

NWSL

W	L	T	Pts	G	A
Seattle	7	0	1	17	5
Portland	4	2	1	12	10
Chicago	4	2	1	13	5
FC Kansas City	3	4	1	16	16
Western New York	3	4	1	10	14
Washington	3	4	1	10	16
San Jose	3	4	1	10	12
Houston	1	5	1	4	13
Boston	1	5	1	4	13

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games
Washington 3, Sky Blue FC 3, tie
FC Kansas City 1, Seattle 1, tie
Portland 2, Western New York 1
Friday's game
Chicago at Houston
Sunday's game
Seattle vs. Boston
Saturday's game
Western New York at Seattle FC
Monday's game
Houston at Portland
Wednesday, May 28
Chicago at Sky Blue FC
Portland at Seattle
Saturday, May 31
Houston at New York

Scoreboard

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

SCOREBOARD/SPORTS BRIEFS

FROM PAGE 24

Golf

The Colonial
PGA Tour
Thursday
At Colonial Country Club
Fort Worth, Texas
Purse: \$6.4 million
Yardage: 7,204; Par: 72 (35-35)
(a-mature)
First Round

Dustin Johnson	31-34--55
Tim Wilkinson	32-34--66
Hunter Mahan	32-37--67
Harris English	33-33--66
Robert Strick	33-33--66
Jimmy Walker	34-33--67
Tim Clark	32-36--67
Brice Garnett	35-32--67
Fredrick Jacobson	34-34--67
Bo Van Fleet	34-33--67
Jason Dufner	32-35--67
Brian Stimp	33-35--68
Ken Duke	32-35--67
David Heath	32-35--68
Wes Roach	33-34--67
Kevin Chappell	34-34--68
George Meekel	33-35--68
Robert Alленby	35-33--68
Dan Dahl	33-35--68
Ricky Barnes	32-36--68
Josh Teater	33-35--68
Vijay Singh	33-35--68
Aaron Baddeley	34-34--68
Graham DeLaet	34-34--68
Chad Campbell	33-36--69
John Rollins	33-36--69
Trevor Immelman	34-35--69
Jim Furyk	34-35--69
Mark Wilson	34-35--69
Rory Sabbatini	33-36--69
Justin Leonard	34-36--69
Heath Slocum	36-33--69
Adam Sumner	34-36--69
Ryan Palmer	34-35--69
Brandt Snedeker	33-37--69
Geoff Ogilvy	33-36--69
Mark Lehman	33-36--69
Brian Harman	34-36--69
Nicholas Thompson	35-34--69
Ariya Jutanuyama	34-36--69
Sean O'Hair	34-36--69
James Hahn	35-35--70
Camron Tringale	36-34--70
Charley Hoffman	36-34--70
Rod Pambleton	34-36--69
Jeff Overton	37-33--70
Brandt Snedeker	37-32--69
Bill Haas	36-34--70
Zach Johnson	34-36--70
J.J. Henry	35-35--70
Martin Laird	35-35--70
Jonathan Byrd	35-35--70
Jerry Kelly	33-37--70
Ben Martin	33-37--70
Brendan Jonge	33-37--70
Paul Casey	36-34--70
Byron Minter	36-34--70
Chris Stroud	36-34--70
Richard Lee	35-36--70

Airbus Classic
LPGA Tour
Thursday
At Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail,
Magnolia Grove, The Crossings
Mobile, Ala.
Purse: \$1 million
Yardage: 6,584; Par: 72 (36-36)
First Round

Catrina Matthew	31-33--64
Charley Hull	32-33--66
Laura Hales	32-37--66
Stacy Lewis	35-31--66
Suzann Pettersen	33-35--66
Nicole Castrale	36-31--67
Maira Durr	33-34--67
Julietta Granada	33-36--67
Jessica Korda	32-36--67
Se Ri Pak	32-36--67
Jenny Shin	34-33--67
Perinne Delacour	35-34--67
Brittany Lang	35-33--68
Paula Morera	36-32--68
Anna Nordqvist	33-38--68
Hee Young Park	35-33--68
Jennifer Song	35-34--69
Ami Anderson	35-34--69
Chella Choi	35-34--69
Na Yeon Choi	35-34--69
Jodi Ewart Shadoff	35-34--69
Pati Hurst	36-33--69
Vicky Hurst	34-35--69
Felicity Johnson	35-34--69
Jennifer Kirby	35-34--69
Amelia Lewis	35-34--69
Xi Yu Lin	34-35--69
Briana Linclome	35-34--69
Azahara Munoz	35-34--69
Pornanong Pajung	33-36--69
Justin Renner	35-34--69
Sarah Jane Smith	35-34--69
Angela Stanford	35-34--69
Jenny Suh	35-34--69
Dani Cardenas	35-35--70
Sandra Changkija	34-36--70
Christina Concolino	35-36--70
Paz Escobedo	35-36--70
Victoria Elizabeth	40-30--70
Ariya Jutanuyama	35-36--70
Stacey Keating	32-38--70
Christina Kim	34-36--70
L.K. Kim	36-34--70
Katherine Kirk	35-35--70
Sydney Michaels	35-35--70
Belen Mozo	34-36--70
Jane Rah	35-35--70
So Yeon Ryu	36-34--70
Jaclyn Lindsey	35-35--70
Levi Thompson	36-34--70
Lindsay Wright	33-37--70
Christina Kim	35-36--71
Paula Creamer	36-35--71
Laura Diaz	35-37--71
Jaye Marie Green	36-35--71
Hee-Won Han	36-35--71
Karinne Icher	36-35--71
Tiffany Joh	36-35--71
Jennifer Johnston	36-35--71

Senior PGA Championship
PGA of America
Thursday
At HarborView Golf Course
Benton Harbor, Mich.
Purse: TBA (\$2 million in 2013)
Yardage: 6,832; Par: 71 (36-35)
First Round

Joe Durant	31-34--54
Dan Forsman	33-33--66
Brad Fox	34-33--67
Mark Brooks	34-34--67
P. H. Hogan, III	35-33--68
Lee Rinkov	35-34--69
Joe Sincelar	35-34--69
Lee Buxey	34-34--69
Steve Lowery	36-33--69
Nick Job	35-34--69
Anders Forsbrand	35-34--69
Bill Glasson	33-36--69
Greg Brinkner	34-35--69
Colin Montgomerie	33-34--69
Todd Mottikie	34-35--69
Frank ESPposito	35-34--69
Jeff Maggert	37-32--69
Mike Goodes	35-35--70
Duffy Waldorf	35-35--70
Mark McNulty	34-36--70
Kenny Perry	36-34--70
Gordon Brand, Jr.	33-37--70
Phillip Golding	33-37--70
Tom Watson	35-35--70
Richard Langer	33-37--70
Tommy Fleetwood	36-34--70
Ross Fisher	33-37--70
Peter Senior	34-36--70
John Cook	36-34--70
Gary Hallberg	33-37--70
Barry Bryant	36-35--71
Craig Stevens	33-37--70
Scott Simpson	34-37--71
Mark Mouland	36-35--71
Mark Calavecchia	36-35--71
John O'Leary	36-35--71
Bobby Wardin	37-34--71
Miguel Angel Martin	33-38--71
Craig Thompson	33-38--71
Roger Chapman	33-38--71
Tommy Leonard	37-35--71
Stuart Smith	36-35--71
Esteban Toledo	37-35--72
David J. Russell	37-35--72
Tom Pernick, Jr.	38-34--72
Steve Pate	37-35--72
Tracy Phillips	36-36--72
Chip Beck	35-37--72
Gary Wolstenholme	35-37--72
Steen Tinning	40-32--72
Jim Carter	38-34--72
Tim Parun	34-38--72
Marco Dawson	38-34--72
Bruce Fleisher	38-34--72
Tom Byrum	35-37--72
Satoshi Higashi	35-37--72
David Frost	37-35--72
Barry Lane	36-36--72
Angel Franco	37-35--72
John Buxey	36-36--72

Deals

Thursday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES = Placed RHP Tommy Hunter on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 21. Reinstated RHP Preston Clifton from North (L).
CHICAGO WHITE SOX = Reinstated LHP Chris Sale from the 15-day DL. Designated RHP Frank Francisco for assignment.
CLEVELAND INDIANS = Recalled LHP T.J. House from AAA Columbus (L). See below for contract of RHP Mark Lowe from Columbus. Placed RHP Zach McAllister on the 15-day DL. Optioned Kyle Crockett to Columbus. Transferred OF Nyjer Morgan from the 15- to the 60-day DL.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS = Optioned 3B Mike Moustakas to Omaha (PCL).
TAMPA BAY RAYS = Activated RHP Drew Cooper from the 15-day DL. Optioned OF Kevin Kiermaier to Durham (L).
National League
LOS ANGELES DODGERS = Released C Miguel Olivo.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES = Reinstated C Russell Martin from the 15-day DL.

Claimed RHP Josh Wail off waivers from the Los Angeles Angels and optioned him to Indianapolis (L). Designated RHP Phil Irwin and LHP Wandy Rodriguez for assignment.
SAN DIEGO PADRES = Placed LHP Robbie Erlin on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 21. Reinstated the contract of RHP Blaine Boyer from El Paso (PCL).
SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS = Placed RHP Santiago Casilla on the 15-day DL. Reinstated RHP George Kontos from Fresno (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS = Recalled RHP Blake Treinen from Syracuse (L).
FOOTBALL
ATLANTA FALCONS = Agreed to terms with undrafted free agent from Syracuse (L).
CINCINNATI BENGALS = Signed QB A.J. McCarron and CB Lavelle Workless.
DALLAS COWBOYS = Waived/injured G Darq Pughley. Signed G Darqarius Murray.
DETROIT TIGERS = Signed C Travis Swanson.
MIAMI DOLPHINS = Signed TE Arthur Lynch.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS = Signed DE Scott Critchton, S Antonio Exum and LB

Anthony Barr.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS = Signed DB Daxton Swanson and DL L.T. Taloututu. Released S Jeremy Deiring and WR DB Greg Odoms.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS = Signed OL Craig Watkins.
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS = Signed S Jimmie Lewis and LB Chris Borland to four-year contracts.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS = Signed T Justin Britt and T Garrett Scott.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
NEW YORK ISLANDERS = Agreed to terms with G Jaroslav Halak on a four-year contract.
OTTAWA SENATORS = Re-signed D Patrick Mullin to a one-year contract.
COLLEGE
AIR FORCE = Announced the retirement of athletic director Hans March, effective at the end of the upcoming academic year.
FLORIDA = Announced men's freshman basketball coach Kevin Ollie on a five-year contract through 2019.

Briefly

Rangers' Fielder facing season-ending surgery

The Associated Press
Chris Fielder is expected to have neck surgery next week and miss the rest of the season. Fielder has been out with a herniated disk in his neck, and surgery was recommended after a follow-up exam and another scan Thursday with Dr. Drew Dossett. General manager Jim Daniels said the team would get second opinion about surgery, but were "expecting that to be confirmed." Daniels said Dossett was tentatively scheduled to do a cervical fusion Tuesday. That operation has a typical recovery time of three to four months, and the GM said he anticipated Fielder being able to be fully recovered before spring training next year.

■ Chris Johnson says his surgically repaired right knee is feeling "good," but it will likely keep the New York Jets running back from participating in organized team activities and minicamp the next few weeks.
■ San Francisco 49ers linebacker Aldon Smith has pleaded no contest to three felony weapons charges and two misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence.

Alabama's Thomas voted into College HOF

Late Alabama linebacker Terrence Jackson has been elected to the College Football Hall of Fame, highlighting a class of 14 players that also includes LaDainian Tomlinson, Sterling Sharpe and Tony Boselli. Thomas played for the Tide from 1985-88, and won the Butkus Award as the nation's best linebacker as a senior when he had 27 sacks, a school record.

Thomas died in 2000 after an automobile accident left him paralyzed. He was 33. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 2009.
"We have been aware of this issue and will continue to review all of the facts," the Broncos said in a statement.
Court records show the disturbance happened at PT's All Nude. Denver police spokesman Sonny Jackson did not know details of the incident but described it as "some type of disturbance at a nightclub." He said Ward will be charged with a misdemeanor count of assault.
In other NFL news:

Police issue warrant for Broncos safety Ward

DENVER — Police have issued an arrest warrant for Broncos safety T.J. Ward on an assault charge stemming from a fight at a Denver strip club on May 17.

UConn, Ollie ink \$15 million, 5-year deal
STORRS, Conn. — Connecticut basketball coach Kevin Ollie has agreed to a \$15 million, five-year contract with the national champion Huskies, the university announced Thursday.
University President Susan Herbst said Ollie is the "right person" to lead the team.

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PHOTOS BY MIKE MCCANN/AP

Neither Jimmie Johnson, above, nor Kevin Harvick have earned a victory that would put them in the Chase for the championship.

Not time to panic yet

At halfway point, Johnson winless

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

CONCORD, N.C. — Jimmie Johnson knows the panic to make Sprint Cup's championship chase is coming.

The defending Sprint Cup champion is among those drivers yet to win a race this season, the first since NASCAR expanded its 10-race playoffs to 16 cars and put more of an emphasis on wins over point standings.

Nine drivers have won the first 11 races, with Kevin Harvick and Joey Logano the two-time winners. And each new winner has gleefully talked of locking up a spot to race for a title.

For Johnson, it's far too early to fret about lost opportunities. Not with the Coca-Cola 600, NASCAR's longest race, coming up Sunday night at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

"There are always different challenges in this sport and I know we'll get it," Johnson said Thursday.

Johnson got the week off to a strong start, taking the pole for the race with a fast lap of 194.911 mph. It was Johnson's fourth career pole here and he'll try for his record-breaking seventh Charlotte victory from up front.

"We had a strong race car all day and I'm obviously very pleased with my performance," he said.

Johnson's not worrying about his place this season. After all, he says the window

to make the championship has widened with the increase from 12 to 16 teams "and I really don't think there's going to be 16 different winners."

The Sprint Cup series opened with seven different winners this season. Harvick ended that streak with a second victory this year at Darlington and Logano followed that with win No. 2 at Richmond.

But then Denny Hamlin and Jeff Gordon added their names to the already lengthy NASCAR playoff list with victories at Talladega and Kansas.

With just 15 races left, regular Sprint Cup winners like Matt Kenseth, Greg Biffle and Tony Stewart join Johnson on the winless list.

It's no fun for Clint Bowyer to see his team outside looking in at the moment. Bowyer has made the chase in five of the past seven seasons, finishing a career-best second in points two years ago.

"The first half certainly isn't where we're accustomed to running and hasn't been as smooth as we need it to be," said Bowyer, who is 20th in points. "The flip side to that is we're only halfway and we've got a long ways to go with a lot of racing."

And those winners this season aren't slowing down, either.

Harvick, in his first season with Stewart-Haas Racing, has relished racing up front and challenging for the checkered flag most weeks. He's had an 11th place, a seventh and a runner-up to Gordon in his

Radar: Dixon comfortable in shadows

FROM BACK PAGE

Since joining Chip Ganassi Racing in 2002 while the team still raced in the now-defunct CHAMP Car Series, Dixon has won at least one race in every season except two. He has an Indianapolis 500 win on his résumé, and his three IndyCar championships — spread out in 2003, 2008 and 2013 — show a consistency and longevity that's hard to match.

At just 33 years old, the New Zealander conceivably has almost another decade of racing ahead of him.

But he's worked in the shadow of some huge personalities and some of America's open-wheel racing's biggest stars.

When Dario Franchitti joined the Ganassi organization in 2009, Dixon watched his famous teammate reel off three consecutive championships and two Indy 500 wins. In that same span, Dixon finished second in the championship once, third three times, and finished second to Franchitti in the 2012 Indy 500.

Living in Franchitti's shadow never bothered him.

"I preferred that, actually," said Dixon, who will start Sunday's Indy 500 in 11th, in the fourth row. "When I come out of the truck and everyone is standing around waiting, they all chased after Dario, and I could just get on the scooter and ride off and get to work. I've never had any problem not having the spotlight on me."

I've never had any problem not having the spotlight on me.

Scott Dixon
IndyCar driver

Franchitti is on the sidelines now, forced into retirement last November from injuries suffered in a crash at Houston a month earlier. The imposing 1-2 attack of the two red Target cars has been broken up.

It means Dixon finally has the team to himself, but he doesn't view it that way — he maintains it's always been owner Chip Ganassi's team — and the laid-back Kiwi isn't seeking any fame.

"He's achieved so much, he's one of the most successful of all time, but a lot of people don't know that," said defending Indianapolis 500 champion Tony Kanaan, a fan favorite and Franchitti's replacement this year in the Ganassi organization. "He just does his job. Is he more famous than me? Not really. But we're not talking about that. It's not what his goal is. He's doing exactly what he wants to do."

Dixon excels at striving for more and putting in the work toward continuing to improve his race craft.

He doesn't stop learning. He doesn't allow what he's just done to be the high point in his life, in his career. He only uses that as a springboard for the next day," said Mike Hull, Ganassi's managing director and the strategist atop Dixon's pit stand. "We just do not stop learning together, and he represents us. I wish we could clone him, to be honest about it, moving forward because he's the kind of person you need driving your race cars."

In his 13th season with Ganassi, Dixon is easily the longest tenured driver in the team's history. The team owner says the longevity is because Dixon "doesn't seem to carry much baggage with him." For an owner who dislikes drama or having to manage egos and manage personalities, Dixon is his easy child.



past three outings since taking the Southern 500 last month. Still, he's 10th in the points standings because of four finishes of 36th or worse this season.

"Sometimes I think our problems are sticking out a little bit more than they would in a normal situation just for the fact you are racing for a win, you are not racing for 10th," said Harvick, who won the Coca-Cola 600 in 2011 and 2013.

AUTO RACING



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Brazil's Tony Kanaan talks with his crew over the radio as he sits in his car in the pit area during practice for the Indianapolis 500. Kanaan won the race for the first time last year.

Celebrating 50 years

ABC set to mark Indy broadcasting milestone

By Dave Skretta
The Associated Press

Strolling casually through the storied grounds of Indianapolis Motor Speedway this week, Scott Goodyear kept getting stopped by fans clutching a photograph and hoping for an autograph.

It was the same photo every time: That iconic image of the finish line in 1992, when he finished second to Al Unser Jr. by a fraction of a second in the Indianapolis 500.

"I think it still resonates," he said, "because so many people remember seeing it on TV."

Indeed, the closest finish in race history remains one of the most memorable moments in a marriage between the Indianapolis 500 and ABC that will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sunday — right along with Danny Sullivan's infamous spin-and-win, A.J. Foyt's triumphs and the year that Danica Patrick became the first woman to lead a lap.

What began as a simple, black-and-white highlights package in 1965 on the seminal "Wide World of Sports" program has grown into one of the marquee events in ABC's sports portfolio, and a test ground for innovations such as in-car cameras that are now common in auto racing coverage.

Rich Feinberg, ESPN's vice president in charge of motorsports production, said the event is among those few "special opportunities."

"When we work the Indy 500," Feinberg said, "we're entrusted with it. We're entrusted with taking this monumental event and



REINHOLD MATAP/AP

Master of Ceremonies Allen Bestwick talks during the NASCAR Nationwide Series awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 22, 2008. Bestwick remembers watching tape-delayed coverage of the Indianapolis 500 as a child.

bringing it to viewers around the world. It's one that's been around 100-plus years, and you have a special sense of responsibility when you work on a project like this. You never have to tell people who work on it how important it is to do well."

"When I was 10 years old, ABC started showing the race with a Sunday night tape-delay," said Allen Bestwick, who will take over lap-by-lap duties from Marty Reid this year.

"That was appointment viewing for us," Bestwick said. "We watched it every year, and that was before CBS began showing the Daytona 500. It was before racing was shown on television. It

was a big, big deal. Jim McKay, Jackie Stewart, Chris Schenkel — you name it. And those people and that broadcast is what got me interested in being a broadcaster."

Innovation has become as much a part of the Indy 500 as the race itself.

Al Unser and Rick Mears carried the first onboard cameras used in Indy 500 coverage for the 1983 race, three years before it was televised live for the first time. In 2006, ABC introduced the "side-by-side" format, allowing viewers to continue watching during commercial breaks. And the following year, the race was broadcast in high definition for the first time.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Coca-Cola 600 at Concord, N.C.
TV: AFN-Xtra, midnight Sunday, Central European Time.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).
Race distance: 600 miles, 400 laps.

Last year: Kevin Harvick won the race for the second time in three seasons, beating Kasey Kahne on a restart with 11 laps left.

Last week: Jamie McMurray won the non-points Sprint All-Star race at the track, pulling away after a door-to-door battle with Carl Edwards in the 10-lap finale.

Fast facts: Jimmie Johnson, winless this season, has six Charlotte victories.

Next race: FedEx 400, June 1, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Delaware.

Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	394
2. Matt Kenseth	379
3. Kyle Busch	373
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	368
5. Carl Edwards	367
6. Joey Logano	346
7. Jimmie Johnson	340
8. Ryan Newman	332
9. Greg Biffle	328
10. Brian Vickers	327
11. Brad Keselowski	326
12. Denny Hamlin	318
13. Kyle Larson	318
14. Austin Dillon	306
15. Kevin Harvick	302
16. Kasey Kahne	294
17. AJ Allmendinger	293
18. Paul Menard	292
19. Marcos Ambrose	288
20. Clint Bowyer	282

Driver to watch



It doesn't happen often, but every once in a while a driver attempts the double: Driving in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. This year, **Kurt Busch** will give it a try. Busch will try to become only the fourth driver in history to compete in both races, joining John Andretti, Robby Gordon and Tony Stewart. Of the three who have done it, only Stewart has completed all 1,100 miles. He also had the best finishes in any of the races, finishing sixth in Indy and third at Charlotte in 2001.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: Lucas Oil 200, May 30, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Del.

Last week: Kyle Busch raced to his third victory this year, dominating at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Online: nascar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: History 300 at Concord, N.C.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).
Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the sixth of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Sam Hornish Jr. won at Iowa Speedway.

Next race: History 300, May 24, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Monaco Grand Prix at Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Track: Circuit de Monaco (street course, 2.075 miles).
Race distance: 161.9 miles, 78 laps.

Last year: Nico Rosberg won the crash-ruled race.

Last race: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix on May 11 for his fourth straight victory.

Next race: Canadian Grand Prix, June 8, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal.

Online: formula1.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis.

TV: AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time.

Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway (oval, 2.5 miles).
Race distance: 500 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Tony Kanaan raced to his first victory in the event, winning under caution.

Last race: France's Simon Pagenaud won the inaugural Grand Prix of Indianapolis on May 10.

Next race: Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, May 31 and June 1, Belle Isle, Detroit.

Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Kansas Nationals at Topeka, Kan.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 4:30 a.m. Monday, Central European Time.

Track: Heartland Park Topeka.

Last year: Johnny Gray won Funny Car, Shawn Langdon won in Top Fuel and Jeg Coughlin topped Pro Stock.

Last week: Robert Hight won Funny Car in the Southern Nationals in Commerce, Georgia. Other winners were Spencer Massey (Top Fuel), Coughlin (Pro Stock) and Eddie Krawiec (Pro Stock Motorcycle).

Next event: NHRA Summernationals, May 29-June 1, Old Bridge Township Raceway Park, Englishtown, N.J.

Online: nhra.com

Series capsules
by The Associated Press

MLB

AL roundup

Rangers roll past slumping Tigers

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Shin-Soo Choo homered and Chris Gimenez had four hits as the Texas Rangers rolled to a 9-2 victory over the slumping Detroit Tigers on Thursday.

Texas was without Prince Fielder, who stayed home when the Rangers left for Detroit to face the big first baseman's former team. Fielder has been out because of a herniated disk in his neck.

Yu Darvish (4-2) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings, striking out six and walking three. The Rangers broke through quickly against Detroit rookie Robbie Ray (1-1), who lasted only 3½ innings. Ray allowed seven runs, nine hits and four walks, and the AL Central-leading Tigers lost their fourth straight.

Ian Kinsler, who was traded to Detroit for Fielder in an offseason blockbuster, went 1-for-3 in his first game against the Rangers.

Blue Jays 7, Red Sox 2: Mark Buehrle won his major league-leading eighth game, and Melky Cabrera and Jose Bautista homered on consecutive pitches as Toronto completed a three-game sweep of host Boston.

Toronto improved to 8-2 in its past 10 games, while the Red Sox lost their seventh straight. Boston went 0-6 on its home stand, the first time since June 1994, when it also lost six in a row at Fen-



Buehrle

way Park, that it was witness on a homestand of at least six games.

Buehrle (8-1) allowed two runs in the first two innings and left after giving up seven hits and no walks with five strikeouts in seven innings. He retired 11 of his last 12 batters.

Rays 5, Athletics 2 (11): Sean Rodriguez hit a three-run home run with two out in the 11th inning to lift host Tampa Bay.

Rodriguez's team-leading fifth homer came off Luke Gregerson after Desmond Jennings' two-out single had tied it against Dan Otero (4-1).

Yeonis Cespedes' sacrifice fly had given the A's a 2-1 lead in the top of the 11th after tying the game with an RBI double in the ninth of Rays closer Grant Balfour.

Josh Lueke (1-2) got the win after one inning of relief for the Rays, who broke a four-game losing streak.

The Athletics lost for only the second time in 13 games.

Indians 8, Orioles 7 (13): Carlos Santana doubled in two runs with two outs in the 13th inning as visiting Cleveland won its second consecutive 13-inning game



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Texas' Shin-Soo Choo is greeted in the dugout after scoring on a double by Adrian Beltre during the third inning of Thursday's game against the Tigers in Detroit. Choo homered, Chris Gimenez had four hits and the Rangers cruised to a 9-2 victory over the Tigers.

and fourth straight overall.

Ryan Rayburn and Lonnie Chisenhall homered for the Indians, whose winning streak ties a season high. Three of Cleveland's past four games have gone extra innings, including a 13-inning victory over Detroit on Wednesday night.

After two hits and a walk loaded the bases in the 13th, Santana came to the plate against Troy Patton (0-1) with a .148 batting average. He pulled a sharp grounder inside the third-base line, only his third hit in 32 at-bats with two outs and runners on.

Josh Outman (4-0) pitched two scoreless innings and Scott Atchison got three outs for his first save.

White Sox 3, Yankees 2: Chris Sale retired 18 of 19 batters through six scoreless innings in his return from an arm injury for host Chicago.

The left-hander retired the first 17 hitters after missing more than a month because of a flexor strain in his pitching arm, and Chicago hung on after Mark Teixeira singled in two runs against Ronald Belisario in the ninth.

An All-Star the past two seasons, Sale (4-0) struck out 10 and didn't even come close to allowing a runner until Zoilo Almonte — a .167 hitter entering the game — lined a single to center with two out in the sixth.

David Phelps (1-1) was a tough-look loser for New York, allowing two runs over seven innings.

Mariners 3, Astros 1: Michael Saunders hit a two-run infield single in the seventh inning to lift Seattle over visiting Houston.

With the game tied at 1, the bases loaded, two outs and a full count, Saunders hit a chopper to first and narrowly outraced pitcher Tony Sipp, who was covering the bag. The batters were running on the pitch, allowing two runs to score. The play was upheld after a brief replay review.

Jose Altuve homered on the game's first pitch for the Astros, who have lost three in a row.

Dominic Leone (1-0) pitched 1½ innings for his first major league win in 16 appearances, and Fernando Rodney pitched a perfect ninth for his 12th save.

NL roundup

Marlins edge out Phillies

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Christian Yelich hit a two-out, bases-loaded RBI single in the ninth inning Thursday to give the Miami Marlins their fifth walkoff win of the year, 4-3 over the Philadelphia Phillies.

The Marlins won despite squandering a 3-0 eighth-inning lead. They took the series and improved to 19-6 at home, best in majors.

Philadelphia's Marlon Byrd tied the game in the eighth with a two-run homer, his sixth. Miami's Marcell Ozuna hit a two-run homer, giving him two homers and seven RBIs in the past two games.

Ozuna singled with one out in the ninth off Jake Diekmann (2-2), then took second on a two-out single by Jeff Mathis. Pinch hitter Reid Johnson reached on an infield single to load the bases, and Yelich grounded a single up the middle.

Marlins closer Steve Cishek (4-1) struck out two with a runner at second to end the ninth.

Cardinals 4, Diamondbacks 2: Allen Craig drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out double in the seventh inning as host St. Louis completed a three-game sweep.

The sweep was St. Louis' first of a three-game series this season. They have won seven of eight.

Mets 5, Dodgers 3: Jonathon Niese hit an RBI double to provide himself some much-needed run support as host New York took advantage of two Los Angeles miscues to end Zack Greinke's remarkable runs-allowed streak to beat the Dodgers.

Juan Lagares had a go-ahead RBI single in the seventh off Chris Perez (0-2) and Niese (3-3) pitched seven sharp innings for New York.

Greinke had allowed two or fewer runs in 21 straight starts.

Pirates 3, Nationals 1: Edinson Volquez allowed one run in six sharp innings as host Pittsburgh edged Washington.

Volquez (2-4) ended a three-game losing streak by limiting

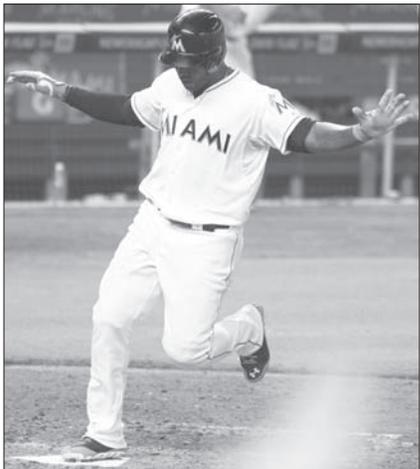
the Nationals to three hits, walking two and striking out four. Mark Melancon worked the ninth for his eighth save. Andrew McCutchen drove in two runs for the Pirates and made a sliding grab with two on in the ninth to end the game. Josh Harrison added two hits for Pittsburgh.

Cubs 5, Padres 1: Anthony Rizzo hit a two-run home run against his old team and Jake Arrieta pitched six strong innings to lead Chicago to a victory against host San Diego.

The Padres lost their fourth straight game. It was the 15th time in 48 games San Diego scored one or fewer runs.

Giants 2, Rockies 2, suspended: The game between host Colorado and San Francisco was suspended after the second rain delay, with the score tied 2-2 in the bottom of the sixth inning.

A makeup date was still being determined. The Giants next visit Coors Field on Sept. 1-3.



JOE SKIPPER/AP

The Marlins' Marcell Ozuna touches home plate for the winning run over the Philadelphia Phillies in the ninth inning Thursday in Miami.

WORLD CUP/NHL PLAYOFFS

Donovan left off American roster

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

STANFORD, Calif. — Leading scorer Landon Donovan was among seven players cut as the United States announced its 23-man World Cup squad on Thursday.

The 32-year-old attacker, bidding to make his fourth World Cup, was bypassed by U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann in favor of Aron Johannsson and Chris Wondolowski, who joined Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey as the forwards.

Also cut were defenders Brad Evans, Clarence Goodson and Michael Parkhurst, midfielders Joe Corona and Maurice Edu, and forward Terrence Boyd.

The U.S. Soccer Federation quoted Klinsmann as saying "the decision is one of the toughest decisions in my coaching career, to tell a player like him, with everything he has done and what he represents, to tell him that he's not part of that 23 right now."

"I just see some other players slightly ahead of him," Klinsmann said. "He took it the best way possible. His disappointment is huge, which I totally understand. He took it very professionally. He knows I have the highest respect for him, but I have to make the decisions as of today for this group going to Brazil."

Donovan has 57 goals in 156 international appearances and has been the face of the U.S. team for a decade, both with the national team and with Major League Soccer, where he has won five titles.

Donovan was a mainstay of the national team before he took a sabbatical of about four months after the 2012 season, spending part of the time in Cambodia. Klinsmann said Donovan would have to earn his spot back.

"I was looking forward to playing in Brazil and, as you can imagine, I am very disappointed with today's decision," Donovan said in a statement posted on Facebook. "Regardless, I will be cheering on my friends and teammates this summer, and I remain committed to helping grow soccer

Team USA

Goalkeepers: Brad Guzan (Aston Villa), Tim Howard (Everton), Nick Rimando (Salt Lake).

Defenders: DaMarcus Beasley (Puebla), Matt Besler (Kansas City), John Brooks (Hertha Berlin), Geoff Cameron (Stoke), Timmy Chandler (Nuremberg), Omar Gonzalez (Los Angeles), Fabian Johnson (Borussia Mönchengladbach), DeAndre Yedlin (Seattle).

Midfielders: Kyle Beckerman (Salt Lake), Alejandro Bedoya (Nantes), Michael Bradley (Toronto), Brad Davis (Houston), Mix Diskerud (Rosenborg), Julian Green (Bayern Munich), Jermaine Jones (Besiktas), Graham Zusi (Kansas City).

Forwards: Jozy Altidore (Sunderland), Clint Dempsey (Seattle), Aron Johannsson (AZ Alkmaar), Chris Wondolowski (San Jose).

in the U.S. in the years to come."

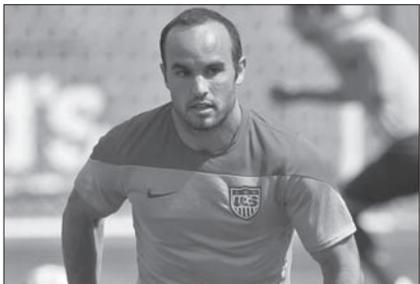
He recalled Donovan for last summer's Gold Cup, where Donovan excelled, and played Donovan for World Cup qualifiers. But Klinsmann kept him out of the starting lineup for last month's friendly against Mexico, saying Donovan practiced poorly because of a knee problem.

Donovan said this week his knee was OK.

"I'm very confident in my abilities and I'm deserving to be a part of the squad, but I have to prove that, and I have to earn it," he said on Monday.

Just six players return from the 2010 team: goalkeepers Tim Howard and Brad Guzan; midfielder Michael Bradley; forwards Jozy Altidore and Clint Dempsey; and defender DaMarcus Beasley, who is bidding to become the first American to play in his fourth World Cup.

Beasley and Donovan were teammates on the U.S. team that finished fourth in the 1999 FIFA Under-17 World Championship. "Landon is my brother. I've known Landon since I was 15. We've been through a lot together," Beasley said. "To not have him there is difficult."



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

Landon Donovan didn't make the cut for the U.S. World Cup roster despite being a mainstay on the national team for a decade.



SETH WENIG/AP

Montreal's Alex Galchenyuk, right, scores past the New York Rangers' Henrik Lundqvist, center, and Marc Staal during overtime of Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals Thursday in New York.

Habs get back in series on Galchenyuk's OT goal

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — If Henrik Lundqvist was lucky in Montreal, his good fortune ran out under the bright lights of Broadway.

Lundqvist was stellar in claiming the first two wins of the Eastern Conference finals for the Rangers over the Canadiens on the road. But Montreal exacted a bit of revenge in Game 3 at Madison Square Garden.

Canadiens defenseman P.K. Subban said Lundqvist was "getting a little bit lucky." Lundqvist had no problem using some luck to his advantage, but losing a 3-2 heartbreaker in overtime was pretty tough to stomach Thursday night.

"It's tough luck, that's for sure," Lundqvist said after Alex Galchenyuk's goal 1:12 into overtime cut the Canadiens' series deficit to 2-1. "It's extremely disappointing to lose this one.

"We played really well, but we just have to forget it. Move on, and get ready for the next one."

That will come Sunday in Game 4 at the Garden. The Rangers know they will have to go back to

Montreal at least once more, and they surely want to head there with a 3-1 series lead as opposed to a 2-2 tie.

"This is a good team. They just beat Boston." Rangers forward Martin St. Louis said. "We tried to get it done, but we are up 2-1 in the series and we play a home game on Sunday. We still have a great opportunity to do something great."

The Rangers were done in ultimately by Galchenyuk, but his heroics were set up by the fine goaltending of Montreal third-stringer Dustin Tokarski.

In his second career NHL playoff game, the 24-year-old Tokarski stopped 35 shots and bounced back from a potentially crushing goal in the final seconds of regulation to lift the Canadiens to the stirring win.

Chris Kreider netted the tying goal with 28.1 seconds left to offset Danny Briere's go-ahead tally for Montreal with 3:02 remaining in regulation.

Galchenyuk scored 13 goals in 65 regular-season games, and he had one previous playoff goal in six career games.

NHL scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-F indicates away)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

N.Y. Rangers 2, Montreal 1

N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 2

OT Thursday: Montreal 3, NY Rangers 2

OT Sunday: NY Rangers

Tuesday: at Montreal

x-Thursday, May 29: at NY Rangers

x-Saturday, May 31: at Montreal

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago 1, Los Angeles 1

Chicago 6, Chicago 2

Saturday: at Los Angeles

Monday: at Los Angeles

Wednesday: at Chicago

x-Friday, May 30: at Los Angeles

x-Sunday, June 1: at Chicago

Thursday

Canadiens 3, Rangers 2 (OT)

Montreal 0 1 1 1-3

N.Y. Rangers 0 0 0-2

1st Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Hagelin 5 (St. Louis) 15:18.

2nd Period—2, Montreal, Markov 1 (Pacioretty, Gallagher) 3:20.

3rd Period—3, Montreal, Briere 3 (Varek, Re-Bourque), 15:58, 4, N.Y. Rangers, Kreider 3 (Giardi, Stepan), 19:31.

Overtime—5, Montreal, Galchenyuk 1 (Plekanev, Gionta), 1:12.

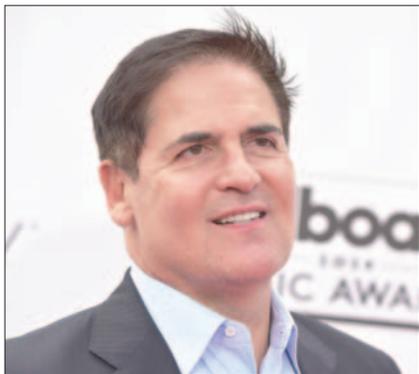
Shots on Goal—Montreal 4-9-9-25, N.Y. Rangers 14-13-9-1-37.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 0 of 21, N.Y. Rangers 0 of 2.

Goalsies—Montreal, Tokarski 1-1-0 (37 shots; 35 saves), N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 10-7-0 (25-22).

A—18,006 (18,006), T—3:00.

NBA PLAYOFFS



JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban caused a stir with comments made in an interview with Inc. magazine. Cuban said he believes everyone has "prejudices and bigotries" on some level.

Mavs' owner apologizes

Cuban says should have used 'different examples'

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban apologized to Trayvon Martin's family on Thursday over his choice of words in a videotaped interview in which he addressed bigotry and prejudice.

Cuban even revealed some of his own prejudices in the interview with Inc. magazine, and said he believes everyone has "prejudices and bigotries" on some level. But after his words — which came with the NBA still dealing with the fallout over racist remarks made by now-banned Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling — created a stir in

'I didn't consider the Trayvon Martin family, and I apologize to them for that.'

Mark Cuban
Dallas Mavericks icon

social media and other circles, Cuban took to Twitter to offer his apology.

"In hindsight I should have used different examples," Cuban wrote. "I didn't consider the Trayvon Martin family, and I apologize to them for that."

Cuban also said he stands by the substance of the interview. Martin was the black Florida

teen who was shot and killed by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in February 2012. Martin was wearing a hooded sweatshirt — commonly called a "hoodie" — that night, and that particular piece of clothing became a rallying cry for those who demanded justice.

Zimmerman was eventually acquitted.



Eastern Conference Game 3:
Indiana at Miami
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Sunday CET



Western Conference Game 3:
San Antonio at Oklahoma City
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Monday CET

Heat shining brightest in 4th quarter

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — LeBron James has perhaps a surprising take on the Miami Heat: To him, they're not the most talented bunch.

Yes, he was serious. In James' eyes, much of Miami's success hasn't been primarily about talent, but more about execution and know-how — especially so in the closing moments of games, the stretch that the Heat call "winning time." Fourth quarters have been a strength lately for the Heat, something they hope is the case again when their Eastern Conference title series against the Indiana Pacers resumes Saturday.

"We're talented, but we're not that talented," James said. "We have a really, really good team. We have some very talented guys. We're not the most talented team. I don't think, in the NBA. There's a lot of other talented teams. We have some very, very high-IQ basketball players. And I think IQ is more important than talent."

James wouldn't say which teams he thinks are more talented.

But there's no arguing which team has been the best in the last two seasons — and the way the Heat close games are a big reason why that's the case.

"They've called it 'winning time.' It's not a new thing for Miami, either."

There was the 28-15 fourth quarter that blew open a tied Game 7 against Boston in the 2012 East finals, the rally from eight down entering the fourth to out Chicago in last season's second round, the 30-19 run in the fourth to eliminate Brooklyn in this year's second round — and of course, the season-saving comeback that included Ray Allen's unforgettable three-pointer in the final seconds of regulation against San Antonio in Game 6 of last year's NBA Finals.

"I think everybody becomes more focused," Allen said.

Miami evened up these East finals at a game apiece with a strong finishing kick during Game 2 in Indianapolis, when the Heat were essentially carried by James and Dwyane Wade on the way to outscoring the Pacers 25-20 in what became a four-point win. Indiana had been 54-3 this season when leading after three quarters.

"When we follow and pay attention to what a team has been doing in the first three quarters, by the time we get to that fourth-quarter situation, when one of us creates a trigger somebody is going to have a good look at a shot and typically it's going to be a shot that's pretty much in



Miami Heat stars LeBron James, above, and Dwyane Wade, left, have been spectacular in the fourth quarter this postseason. The two combined for 22 points in the fourth quarter against the Indiana Pacers on Tuesday, including Miami's final 20 points.

PHOTOS BY J PAT CARTER, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL CONROY, LEFT/AF

Winning time, indeed. Some of the stats in fourth quarters of these playoffs are downright eyeopening.

James is averaging 7.3 points in the closing period, the best rate of anyone still in the playoffs. Wade is shooting 59 percent in the final 12 minutes, 8 percent better than his clip in the opening three quarters of playoff games. The Heat are shooting an NBA-best 47 percent from three-point range in those final quarters, and Miami is getting nearly two assists for every turnover committed in that crucial time.

"All of our habits that we've built over the years of playing together, year in and year out, I like to feel like those habits come into play when you get tired, when you've seen everything that everyone has to throw at you all game," Wade said. "Now it's about, 'How can you execute when you're tired? How is your will to win the ball game?' And I think more times than not we feel we have a good chance to win those games."

Scoreboard

Conference finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Indiana 1, Miami 1

Indiana 107, Miami 96

Miami 87, Indiana 83

Saturday, at Miami

Monday, at Miami

Tuesday, at Oklahoma City

x-Friday, May 28, at Indiana

x-Sunday, May 30, at Miami

WESTERN CONFERENCE

San Antonio 2, Oklahoma City 0

San Antonio 122, Oklahoma City 105

Wednesday, San Antonio 112, Oklahoma City 77

Sunday, at Oklahoma City

Tuesday, at Oklahoma City

x-Thursday, May 29, at San Antonio

x-Saturday, May 31, at Oklahoma City

x-Monday, June 2, at San Antonio

Finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)

Thursday, June 5: East champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City

Sunday, June 8: East champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City

Tuesday, June 10: West champion at Indiana or Miami

Thursday, June 12: West champion at Indiana or Miami

x-Sunday, June 15: East champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City

x-Tuesday, June 17: West champion at Indiana or Miami

x-Thursday, June 19: East champion at San Antonio or Oklahoma City

Celebrator

June 5 — NBA Finals begin.

June 16 — Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.

June 26 — NBA draft.

SPORTS



Overtime winner

Galchenyuk's goal helps Montreal get back in series | **NHL playoffs, Page 30**

INDY 500

Flying under the radar

Despite his success, Dixon doesn't attract much attention

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

WHILE his motorsports team struggles with setup and speed, Scott Dixon has flown under the radar during preparations for the Indianapolis 500.

It's exactly how he wants it. It's how he has tried to be his entire career.

"I like to live simply," Dixon said.

As such, one of the most decorated IndyCar drivers of the last decade goes grossly underappreciated for his accomplishments.

Dixon's 33 career victories rank seventh all-time, and three more wins would leapfrog him past Al Unser Jr. and Bobby Unser into fourth place. The only drivers who rank higher than Dixon in victories right now have the last name Andretti, Foyt and Unser.

SEE RADAR
ON PAGE 26

At 33, driver Scott Dixon has three IndyCar series titles spread out over a decade — a testament to his consistency.

DAK SUZUKI,
TAMPA BAY TIMES
MCT



Mavs owner apologizes to Trayvon Martin family
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Rangers extend Tigers' losing streak to four games
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