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stripes.com

Free to Deployed Areas

PAVED WITH DANGER

'Death Road' blocks Afghan minority from homeland

By GREG KELLER
The Associated Press

M AIDAN SHAHR, Afghanistan
aps refer to it as part
of the Kabul-Behsud
Highway. Motorists
call it Death Road.

An 18-mile stretch of two paved
lanes heading west from the town of
Maidan Shahr in central Afghanistan
has seen many beheadings, kidnappings
and other Taliban attacks in recent years
against members of the minority ethnic Hazara
community. Nowadays, nearly all drivers avoid it.

The highway is the main route between the
Afghan capital and Hazarajat, the informal name
of the 45,000-square-mile region of highlands
and rich pastures where Hazaras have traditionally
settled. An alternate route out of Hazarajat involves
a long detour to the north, and passes through
areas where they have been targets of violence.

SEE DEATH ROAD ON PAGE 4



Hekmatullah, an Afghan policeman, searches the trunk of a car at a check post on Kabul-Behsud Highway in Wardak province, Afghanistan, on Jan. 9. MASSOUD HOSSAIN/AP

Congress quietly makes deep cuts to aid for Afghanistan

By ERNESTO LONDONO
AND KAREN DEYOUNG

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — With no per-
ceptible opposition from the Obama
administration, Congress has quietly
downscaled Washington's ambitions
for the final year of the Afghan War,
substantially curtailing development

aid and military assistance plans
ahead of the U.S. troop pullout.

As congressional appropriators
put the final touches on a huge
spending bill in recent weeks, they
slashed Afghanistan development
aid by half and barred U.S. defense
officials from embarking on major
new infrastructure projects. After
making a bid last year for \$2.6 bil-

lion worth of "critical" capabilities
such as mobile strike vehicles for
Afghan security forces, the Penta-
gon agreed it could do with just 40
percent of what it had sought.

The Obama administration had
long hoped to bring the Afghan War
to a dignified conclusion this year
and viewed the president's State
of the Union speech Tuesday as an

opportunity to describe the end of
America's longest war as a foreign
policy success. But Washington's
appetite to remain engaged in Af-
ghanistan appears to be eroding pre-
cipitously, in large part because of
how poisonous its relationship with
the country's president has become.

SEE CUTS ON PAGE 3

Karzai
rejects
pressure
over US
security deal
Page 3

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"I'm not shooting for an Afghanistan that's another Switzerland. I'm hoping for an Afghanistan that's a Bangladesh. It's struggling, but it's improving."

— Larry Sampler, who heads the U.S. Agency for International Development's Afghanistan projects, on shifting the agency's focus from big infrastructure projects to smaller, more tailored initiatives

See story on Page 3

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MILITARY

Access to new Gitmo hearings limited

By **BEN FOX**
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Some prisoners at Guantanamo are getting an opportunity to plead for their release, but journalists and observers from human rights groups won't get to hear them in what critics say is a break from past practice at the U.S. base in Cuba.

The Department of Defense is restricting access to a series of hearings that start Tuesday, requiring reporters and observers from nongovernmental organizations to view the proceedings only by video link from Washington. They also will not be able to listen when prisoners held for more than a decade without charges address a committee known as the Periodic Review Board that will decide whether they can be sent back to their homelands or other countries.

The Pentagon, which says it must impose restrictions for security reasons, says it will release a transcript of what the prisoners tell the board after the hearings. But in a recently released memo, it notes that the transcript may be redacted or altered.

Neither observers nor prisoners will be permitted to hear the classified portion of the session. Lawyers for human rights groups and media organizations, including The Associated Press, have been pressing for complete access to the nonclassified portion, arguing that barring outside observers undermines the credibility of the proceedings.

"The detainee explaining why he doesn't pose a risk, why he should go home, that seems to be the whole point of the proceeding, and we won't get to see it," said Andrea Prasow, an attorney with Human Rights Watch. "I think that's pretty outrageous."

A Pentagon spokesman, Army Lt. Col. Todd Brassacale, said the government decided not to allow the media and NGOs to view the proceedings from Guantanamo because of the cost and logistical complexities of bringing outsiders to the base in southeast Cuba. The restriction on listening to prisoners seeks to maintain "reasonable security," and to prevent sensitive information from getting out.

Critics note that outside observers have been allowed to hear



CHARLES DHARAPAN/AP

Dawn arrives in November at the now-closed Camp X-Ray at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, Cuba, which was the first detention facility for al-Qaida and Taliban militants captured after the 9/11 attacks.

what prisoners have to say during previous military review boards convened in both Afghanistan and Guantanamo. At the base in Cuba, men appearing at hearings and before the war crimes tribunals over the years have proclaimed their innocence, have denounced their detention and have alleged abuse by their captors.

"It's a significant, new restriction on the level of transparency that has been allowed until now," said David A. Schulz, a lawyer for a coalition of 14 media organizations. "You could argue that because of the extraordinary nature of the situation that it's even more important that there be maximum transparency."

Another issue raised by critics is how much the six-member Periodic Review Board will rely on information that will never be disclosed to the public. "If the bulk of the evidence against the detainee is classified, then there won't be much to see and we're all in a position, once again, of being

"You could argue that because of the extraordinary nature of the situation that it's even more important that there be maximum transparency."

David A. Schulz

lawyer for a coalition of 14 media organizations

asked to trust the government that it's doing the right thing," said Daphne Eviatar, an attorney with Human Rights First.

The board, whose members include representatives of six U.S. government agencies — including the State Department and Homeland Security — also will be in Washington, though in a separate location from journalists and NGO observers. They will determine whether prisoners designated for indefinite detention at Guantanamo now can join the list of about 80 prisoners awaiting transfer to their homelands or other countries. Congress has barred sending any of the men to the United States.

The review board is a component of President Barack Obama's effort to close Guantanamo, which opened in January 2002 to hold detainees suspected of terrorism or links to al-Qaida and the Taliban and now holds 155 prisoners.

A task force set up to review the status of all prisoners concluded in January 2010 that 48 of the 240 prisoners held at the time were too dangerous to release but could not be prosecuted either because of a lack of evidence or for some other reason.

These men were to be held indefinitely but were to receive periodic review to determine whether circumstances had changed.

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MIDEAST

Karzai: Pressure, threats will not produce US deal

By RAHIM FAIEZ
The Associated Press

KABUL — Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Saturday that no pressure, no threats and no psychological war will force him to sign a U.S. deal allowing foreign forces to remain in the country past a planned withdrawal at the end of this year.

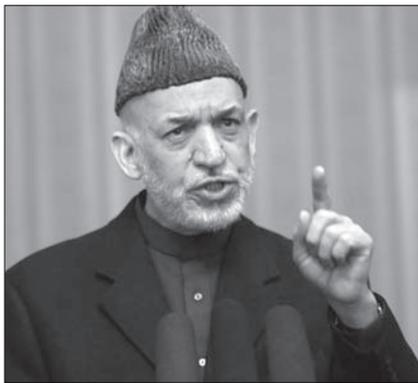
The Bilateral Security Agreement would allow about 10,000 U.S. troops and about 6,000 from allied nations to remain in Afghanistan past 2014, largely to help train Afghanistan security forces. But Karzai repeatedly has declined to sign the document, instead saying he wants to wait to sign it after the country elects his successor in the upcoming April 5 presidential election.

The U.S. had wanted the deal to be signed by Dec. 31 because it needs time to prepare to keep thousands of U.S. troops in the country for up to a decade. NATO allies also have said they won't stay if the Americans pull out.

Karzai's refusal comes as he's increasingly ramped up his anti-American rhetoric in speeches.

"Afghanistan will never be ready to sign anything under pressure, never Afghanistan will be ready to sign anything under pressure," Karzai told journalists Saturday at a news conference. "No pressure, no threats and no psychological war against our people will force us to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement."

Karzai also repeated his demand for the U.S. to jump-start peace talks with the Taliban as



MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Afghan President Hamid Karzai on Saturday reiterated his stance against signing the Bilateral Security Agreement before elections.

a condition for him signing the agreement. An American effort to get them going through intermediaries in Qatar collapsed last summer. The Taliban have refused to talk directly with Karzai, his government or its representatives.

Separately, Karzai criticized

a detention facility on the U.S.-run Bagram Air Field north of Kabul. Karzai referred to Bagram as a "Taliban-producing factory" where he said innocent Afghans are tortured into hating their country. He also said he'd been trying to close it for some six years.

Top general to discuss troop levels with Obama

By DAVID S. CLOUD
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. commander in Afghanistan is planning to go to the White House on Monday to argue for keeping about 10,000 troops in the country after this year, a subject that has exposed a fissure between some of President Barack Obama's top advisers and the Pentagon.

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., who commands all international forces in Afghanistan, is recommending that U.S. troops stay to help train Afghan forces and conduct counterterrorism operations against Taliban insurgents and al-Qaida-linked militants. All other U.S. troops will be withdrawn this year.

To make the deployment more attractive to a skeptical White House, Dunford says the 10,000 should pull out by 2017, when Obama leaves office, according to two officials, who confirmed a Wall Street Journal report. The Pentagon previously had favored deploying the troops for a decade.

But Vice President Joe Biden and other key White House aides favor leaving only 1,000 to 2,000 troops, said the officials, who spoke anonymously to discuss internal deliberations. Pentagon officials say a force that size is too small to protect itself while also conducting operations.

Biden argues that the insurgency has been contained after 13 years of war and that Afghan security forces are strong enough to preserve security in urban and other key areas. He also says a stable Afghanistan is no longer critical to halting terrorist attacks against the United States, the one official said.

The Dunford plan has won support from Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, Secretary of State John F. Kerry, CIA Director John Brennan and Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the officials said.

Biden's proposal is backed by Antony Blinken, the deputy national security adviser, and Douglas Lute, a retired Army ambassador who now is U.S. ambassador to NATO. Obama's national security adviser, Susan Rice, is a "wild card" who has not made clear which option she favors, one official said.

It's not clear the dispute will be resolved Monday, the day before Obama delivers his annual State of the Union address.

White House officials had hoped Obama could use the speech to announce his decision, but that's all but impossible because Afghan President Hamid Karzai has yet to sign a bilateral security agreement that has been negotiated.

White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said Friday that they had had no decision on future troop levels.

Cuts: Spending bill may reflect congressional attitude toward Karzai

FROM FRONT PAGE

The prevailing sentiment in Washington toward President Hamid Karzai, who has thus far refused to sign a security agreement that would keep U.S. troops and funding in Afghanistan beyond 2014, was even codified in the Afghan portion of the spending bill, which was drawn up without significant public debate.

The bill prohibits the obligation or expenditure by the United States government, of funds appropriated in this or any other act, for the direct personal benefit of the President of Afghanistan," appropriators wrote, an unprecedented move that President Barack Obama signed into law last week.

U.S. officials said the cuts and restrictions might appear starker than they actually are because agency heads will retain significant flexibility to use unspent funds from previous years or draw from other sources. But many see the reductions as the unmistakable end of an era of wartime largesse.

"I think this reflects a congressional mood and will have an impact on the ultimate levels of support," James Dobbins, the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, said in an interview.

Referring to Karzai's position on a security agreement, Dobbins said, "This is an example of the price Afghanistan is paying for delay."

Overall, the cost of the Afghan War will not decline substantially this year. Congress set aside \$85.2 billion for military operations, roughly the same amount as last year. Although the number of U.S. troops has dropped considerably over the past year, the cost of the war remains high because shutting down bases and moving equipment back to the United States is expensive.

Lawmakers allocated \$1.1 billion for assistance to Afghanistan, 50 percent of the \$2.1 billion the Obama administration sought, which would have kept spending at the same level as last year.

White House spokeswoman Laura Lucas Magnuson said that even with the reductions in funding, Washington will "continue to provide Afghanistan with significant levels of

assistance."

"We believe that sustained, significant support for Afghanistan's government and its people is critical to maintaining the gains of the past decade and ensuring that terrorists are never again able to use Afghan soil to attack the homeland," she said in an emailed statement.

America's multibillion-dollar effort to reconstruct Afghanistan has become increasingly controversial in recent years due to slipping support for the war, rampant corruption in Afghanistan and myriad examples of poorly conceived and shoddily built projects.

On Friday, the special inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction issued a critical audit of the State Department's \$223 million initiative to bolster the rule of law in Afghanistan.

The report said that after contractors were unable to deliver on their promise to implement a nationwide case management system for the courts, they altered the contract to say it would be operational in only seven provinces.

"Unfortunately, waste, fraud and abuse has too often been the result when it comes to the billions we've spent in Afghanistan," Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight, said in a statement.

That sentiment, which several members of both parties have come to share, led appropriators to insist that the Defense Department launch no new infrastructure projects this year. In a memo justifying the decision, appropriators said House members demanded the language, citing the Pentagon's "lack of a detailed strategy" for such projects.

The Pentagon will "re-evaluate" its plans for the Afghanistan Infrastructure Fund in light of the new restrictions, said Cmdr. Elissa Smith, a Defense Department spokeswoman. She said officials remain hopeful they will still manage to leave behind two hydropower plants to supply electricity to residents of the southern city of Kandahar.

Last year, Pentagon officials submitted to Congress a list of weapons, aircraft and tools that they wanted for Afghan forces, including mobile strike vehicles, night-vision technology, artillery launchers and technology to detect explosives. As the budget was being drawn up, defense officials winnowed the list of items they initially described as "critical" by 60 percent.

Smith said aircraft were among the items removed, but the Pentagon did not provide a detailed list. The reassessment was done after Afghan forces had completed their first year in the lead of combat operations, taking into account estimates of how much U.S. hardware the Afghans would be able to maintain after U.S. troops withdraw, Smith said.

Officials at the U.S. Agency for International Development said the level of funding appropriate this year is unlikely to have an immediate impact on its core efforts: providing disaster relief and building the country's education and health care sectors.

Larry Sampler, who heads the agency's Afghanistan projects, said USAID could cope with the cuts because of generous funding in earlier years. Money for major projects already underway is being held in escrow accounts from previous appropriations, including \$400 million for an electrical project and \$70 million to \$80 million for the Kajaki dam in Kandahar province.

In the future, however, USAID will get out of the business of big infrastructure projects such as building roads and focus on smaller, more tailored initiatives to build up fledgling institutions.

"I'm not shooting for an Afghanistan that's another Switzerland," said Sampler. "I'm hoping for an Afghanistan that's a Bangladesh. It's struggling, but it's improving."

“This is an example of the price Afghanistan is paying for delay (on the security agreement).”

James Dobbins
U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

MIDEAST

Death Road: Hazaras' struggle highlights fragile balance in Afghanistan

FROM FRONT PAGE

The threat of attack on Death Road is so great that Hazaras who've moved by the tens of thousands east to the capital in search of work are afraid to travel back to their home villages.

"If it were safe, I would go back," said Sultan, 50, who fled to Kabul nine years ago after his village was torched by nomads allied with the Taliban. "Life is good in my village. There is fresh water, and the weather is good."

The situation is a reminder of how fragile Afghanistan's ethnic and sectarian balance remains less than a year before all foreign forces are to leave the country. The area has become a flashpoint for conflict between the Hazaras and Afghanistan's majority ethnic group, the Pashtuns. The Taliban are predominantly Pashtun. The majority of Hazaras are also Shiite Muslims, reviled as heretics by Sunni Muslim extremists such as the Taliban.

For many years, Hazaras had taken the lowest-status jobs in Afghan cities, working unskilled, backbreaking jobs on construction sites. They have done far better, however, since the U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime in 2001. Hazaras have enrolled in universities, taken jobs with international agencies and even won the Afghan version of "American Idol," "Afghan Star," the last two seasons.

Needless to say, Hazaras strongly support a continued presence of international forces after 2014, seeing it as a guarantee of the security, educational and economic gains they have made since Taliban times.

But even now, Hazaras cannot rely on international forces to protect them on Death Road.

Earlier this month, Hazara elders brought their complaints about security to the new chief of police in Maidan Shahr, the capital of Wardak province. They noted that because Hazarajat is so rural, they require construction crews from Kabul for any building projects.

"Construction of schools and clinics has



PHOTOS BY MASSOUD HOSSAINI/AP

Haji Ramazan Hussainzada, a Hazara community leader, talks during an interview in Kabul on Jan. 9. In Kabul, Hazaras are treated like "third-class citizens," he says.

stopped because it's impossible to travel on this road," said Mohammad Fahimi, the highest-ranking Hazara on the local provincial council. "The army has Humvees, weapons, bunkers. They can see the Taliban with their eyes but they're afraid to come out of the bunker. They're useless."

Since a 2011 suicide bombing that killed more than 70 Hazaras in Kabul, Afghanistan has not seen the sort of large-scale massacres that have claimed the lives of hundreds of Hazaras in neighboring Pakistan each year. But smaller-scale killings such as those on the road remain a source of fear.

Last August, three Hazaras were kidnapped and killed in separate Taliban attacks along the road.

Seated in his office here in the provincial capital, Fahimi flips through a worn, handwritten diary to find details of the most recent killings.

"Mohamad Hadhi, 30 years old from Bamiyan, killed because he was Hazara.

Baqar Fahimi, a university student from Ghor province, killed because he was Hazara. A driver named Ziauddin from Ghazni, killed because he was Hazara," Fahimi reads aloud.

"The road is blocked, I can't travel to talk to my constituents. The people elected me but I can't talk to them and find out what they need," Fahimi said.

At the province's brand new police headquarters, new Humvees are parked outside and about 50 recruits stand at attention in the dusty parade ground.

The police chief, Gen. Mohammad Fahim Qhiem, has promised to improve security on the road. Qhiem said the August killings remain unsolved, but he's talked with village elders among the largely Pashtun population living along the road.

"Now it is OK, the road is safe," Qhiem said.

Fahimi disagreed. He called his district, Behsud, "the worst place for Hazara safety in all of Afghanistan." He estimates that

during the past 10 years some 40 percent of the district's population has fled.

The flight is fueled by the search for jobs and better education as much or more than for security. They've flooded into Kabul, 100 miles east of the Hazara's biggest city, Bamiyan. Hazaras make up only perhaps 9 percent of Afghanistan's population of 31 million, but some estimates say they now comprise half the population of the capital.

Hundreds of thousands of Hazaras have found their way to Dasht-e-Barchi, a sprawling Hazara district in western Kabul. It sprang virtually out of the desert 10 years ago, and now is home to an estimated 1.5 million Hazara.

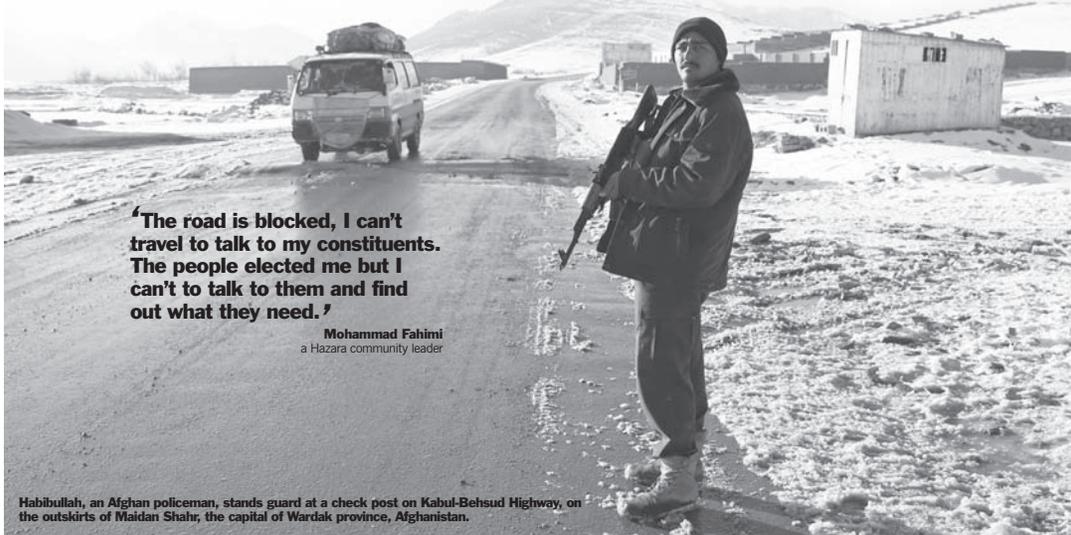
One of them is Sultan, who like many here uses only one name. He says he hasn't been able to return to his home for years because of attacks along the road. "Twenty-four people have been kidnapped and most killed by Taliban on this road, all Hazaras."

Haji Ramazan Hussainzada, a Hazara community leader in Dasht-e-Barchi, says Hazaras are treated like "third-class citizens" in Kabul. He complains that parts of Kabul populated by other ethnic groups have more paved roads and access to schools, clinics and services.

The Hazaras say they value education very highly. "A Hazara father can go to bed with an empty stomach with no problem, as long as he can afford school for his children," Sultan said, expressing a widely held view among Hazaras. He sends two of his sons to private school at nearly double the cost of a state school.

Seated in his sunlit shopfront along Dasht-e-Barchi's traffic-choked main road, Sultan said he hopes his sons will one day become government ministers — but he's worried that anti-Hazara discrimination could work against them.

The current government has no Hazara ministers. None of the 10 candidates in April's presidential election is Hazara, though the leading two candidates have each chosen a Hazara running mate.



"The road is blocked, I can't travel to talk to my constituents. The people elected me but I can't talk to them and find out what they need."

Mohammad Fahimi
a Hazara community leader

Habibullah, an Afghan policeman, stands guard at a check post on Kabul-Behsud Highway, on the outskirts of Maidan Shahr, the capital of Wardak province, Afghanistan.

MILITARY



U.S. Naval Academy Superintendent Vice Adm. Michael Miller testified Friday as part of a hearing for Midshipman Joshua Tate, who is charged in a sexual assault case.

Head of US Naval Academy testifies in sex assault case

By JESSICA GRESKO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The head of the U.S. Naval Academy rejected suggestions Friday that political pressure influenced him in pursuing sexual assault charges against a football player at the school.

Vice Adm. Michael Miller, the school's superintendent, dismissed the suggestions of a lawyer for the student while testifying for more than three hours in a military courtroom in Washington. His appearance was part of a hearing ahead of a scheduled trial for the student, Joshua Tate, of Nashville, Tenn.

It was Miller's decision to move forward with charges against Tate, and the midshipman's lawyers contend the officer was influenced by a heightened focus on preventing and responding to sexual assault in the military. Tate's lawyers want a military judge to dismiss the case based on "unlawful command influence." The judge did not rule on that Friday.

Miller, a 39-year veteran of the Navy who has headed the school since 2010, said his decision to move forward with the charges against Tate was made after a careful review and in consultation with others in the military justice system. Responding directly to the question of whether he was pressured by superiors, he answered: "I was not." He later said he believed he had complete freedom in making his decisions.

Miller acknowledged being aware of a focus by the military on sexual assault prevention and response and said he followed

statements made by his superiors on the topic. But he rejected the idea that he pushed forward with the case to set a tone or send a message.

A military judge overseeing the case, Col. Daniel Daugherty, used a Navy analogy to ask Miller whether going forward with the case was a warning to other students about the seriousness of sexual assault charges, asking whether it was a shot across the bow. "There was no requirement for a shot across the bow," Miller said.

Prosecutors initially accused Tate and two other Naval Academy students of sexually assaulting a female student in 2012 at an off-campus house in Annapolis, Md., where the school is located.

On Friday, under questioning by Tate's lawyer Jason Ehrenberg, Miller acknowledged being aware of a number of high-profile comments about sexual assault in 2013 as the case was ongoing, but he said they didn't affect his decisions.

Miller said he was also aware that in June, Maryland Sen. Barbara Mikulski, a member of his academy's oversight board, sent a letter to the Secretary of the Navy saying she was troubled by inconsistent policies at the service academies for preventing and responding to sexual assaults. She also asked about the criteria used to select and retain a superintendent.

Later that month, Miller decided to move ahead with the military equivalent of a preliminary hearing or grand jury investigation in the case.

Hagel questions difficulty of nuclear proficiency tests

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Proficiency tests for nuclear launch officers might be too difficult, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Friday.

"There's a testing issue here," Hagel told reporters at the Pentagon. "We have a pretty stringent and tight and unforgiving test curriculum and regimen that I'm not sure doesn't need to be explored and examined in some detail."

Earlier this month, 34 nuclear missile launch officers were implicated in a cheating scandal at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. At least one of the officers texted answers to a proficiency exam to other officers last year in August and September, officials said.

Hagel suggested the difficult nature of the tests and the career implications of failure might have encouraged the cheating.

"When you connect that with the high standards [and] expectation that every test you take, if you don't make a 100 percent on every test then you're eventually in a position where you probably minimize your chance for advancement," Hagel said. "We're going to take a look at how we train [and] continue to train and test all these young people who have who have this great respon-

'Standards must not be eroded, of course not, but is there a better way to do this [and] can we ... be more attuned to their interests?'

Chuck Hagel
Secretary of Defense

sibility. Standards must not be eroded, of course not, but is there a better way to do this [and] can we — can we be more attuned to their interests?"

Former nuclear launch officers told *The New York Times* that cheating was widespread among missileers when they were in the Air Force because the test standards were so high.

The intercontinental ballistic missile community has been plagued by other personnel problems and scandals recently.

Seventeen launch officers at Minot Air Force Base, N.D., were sidelined in April 2013 for unsatisfactory performance and unprofessional attitudes. The cheating scandal was first discovered during an Air Force investigation of an illegal narcotics scandal in which ICBM launch officers were implicated. The drug revelations coincidentally came to light during Hagel's visit to F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., on Jan. 9.

All three of the nation's ICBM

bases are located in remote and relatively unpopulated areas — Great Falls, Mont., Cheyenne, Wyo., and Ward County, N.D. — and the launch control centers where officers spend 24 hours at a time are far removed from cities and towns. During Friday's press conference, Hagel suggested that boredom might be contributing to the problem.

"When you put these people in these locations where there is — where there is almost a certain amount of isolation, I think that's a dynamic of an environment that you have to factor in too," Hagel said. "Do they get bored? Are we doing enough?"

Hagel said the Defense Department would explore possible incentives that could be offered to launch officers to boost their morale and improve performance during an upcoming review of the Air Force's nuclear enterprise, which was announced Thursday.

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“I had to prove myself almost every cycle. Every class that I trained, I had to run faster, work harder and get better performance out of my soldiers.”

Valetta Stewart

Army veteran who is now a certified fitness trainer



PHOTOS BY ASTRID REICKEN/The Washington Post

U.S. Army Master Sgt. Reserve Valetta Stewart coaches Glorious Allen during a boot camp workout session at Atlas Fitness in Washington.

Making it work out

Army veteran puts her skills to good use in a new career as a fitness trainer

By Lenny Bernstein
The Washington Post

After a 23-year career in the U.S. Army, Valetta Stewart was concerned that the primary skills she could bring to the private sector were “breaking things and killing people.” Neither promised the kind of career Stewart, 51, wanted for the rest of her life. And upon reflection, she realized that her fears weren’t really true.

As a young drill sergeant at Fort Dix, N.J., she had stripped 60 pounds off recruits who joined the Army woefully out of shape. Later, she helped train other soldiers who needed help maintaining their fitness to meet the Army’s standards. Along the way, she learned the art of helping people attain goals they believed were impossibly out of reach.

Now, at an age when many people are beginning to glimpse retirement on the horizon, the Maryland resident is studying to become a personal trainer, one of hundreds of thousands of military personnel making the sometimes difficult transition to civilian employment. In her case, however, there is a market hungry for new workers and a critical need for anyone who wants to help address the U.S. obesity problem.

“When I was a drill sergeant, I had to be more fit than my soldiers,” she said. “I had to prove myself almost every cycle. Every class that I trained, I had to run faster, work harder and get better performance out of my soldiers.”

Salute You

Stewart enrolled in programs sponsored by two major organizations that prepare people to become physical trainers, in gyms or on their own. Through the American Council on Exercise’s month-old Salute You program for veterans, she received



Stewart, who is studying to be a physical trainer with the help of a scholarship from the Salute You program, talks with Tim Bruffy, owner of Atlas Fitness.

a \$700 scholarship and was certified as a trainer in November. Using G.I. Bill benefits, she studied at the National Personal Training Institute and is serving as an unpaid apprentice at Atlas Fitness in Southeast Washington, part of becoming certified by the National Academy of Sports Medicine.

The Salute You program, which in six months has handed out 226 scholarships and certified nine trainers, guarantees course graduates interviews at major fitness chains such as Anytime Fitness and 24-Hour Fitness, according to Scott Goudeuse, the ACE’s president and chief execu-

tive. Gym trainers can earn about \$50,000 a year, Goudeuse said, and more entrepreneurial trainers who strike out on their own can bring in six-figure salaries.

With so many programs, government and private, trying to help about 800,000 veterans move into new jobs and careers, no one really knows how effective they are, said James Schmeling, who studies the issue for the Institute for Veterans and Military Families at Syracuse University.

The best of them, he said, are careful to match training programs with employers’ needs in particular geographic areas because vets tend to settle down near their last duty stations or go back home, he said. But those are not necessarily where the jobs are, and employers in those locations might not need their skills, he said.

What’s clear from unemployment data is that younger, post-Sept. 11 veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are having more trouble finding work than their older counterparts, Schmeling said.

That makes sense, because older vets have been in the labor market longer, while younger ones have been leaving the military only in recent years and are looking for work or new skills. But even among post-Sept. 11 vets of all ages, the youngest, ages 20 to 29, have the highest unemployment rates, according to a monthly report from Schmeling’s institute.

According to the institute, 20- to 24-year-old vets faced a 14.5 percent unemployment rate in December and 10.4 percent of 25- to 29-year-old vets were unemployed. The overall rate for veterans was 5.5 percent, below the level for all U.S. workers (6.7 percent).

Stewart, a divorced mother of two grown sons, is confident she will be able to provide a service that few other trainers can offer: She plans to become a one-stop wellness adviser for her clients. She has studied mas-

sage therapy and raw cooking, she said, and estimates that 90 percent of her own diet is made up of raw food, much of it juiced. She currently supports herself by offering classes and demonstrations on raw food diet and preparation. Her 10- and 13-year stints in the military were separated by years when she worked cutting hair and held other jobs that gave her an earful about people’s physical condition.

A constellation of bad habits

“You learn very, very intimate things about people,” she said. “And everybody was broken. This one had heart disease; this one’s mother had just died from cancer; this one had high blood pressure. ... That’s what sent me to nutrition.”

Now, Stewart said, she hopes to address the constellation of bad habits that contribute to poor health.

“I want to be able to feed them. I want to make meal plans for them. I want to be able to train them. And I want to be able to teach them how to feed themselves,” she said.

Stewart has one private client, a young woman from Washington who is studying at the Berklee School of Music in Boston and performing “liveironica” drumming and singing in local clubs. Glorious Allen hired Stewart while she was home on break this month because she needed more stamina to perform her physically demanding sets and because she wanted to tone her body.

Stewart worked with Allen six days a week for an hour at a time. In three weeks, Allen lost 15 pounds and switched to a mostly raw diet, she said.

If it all works out, Stewart wants to make that kind of effort her life’s work. Her past and her future, she said, are “very similar. You have to motivate them. You have to give them little successes.

NATION

Health care enrollment rise continues in Jan.

By NOAM N. LEVEY

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — About 3 million people have now enrolled in health insurance plans sold through marketplaces created by President Barack Obama's health law, the administration announced Friday.

The milestone indicates nearly a million additional people have signed up since the end of De-

ember. It also suggests that the marketplaces are continuing to recover from a disastrous launch on Oct. 1.

Administration officials expressed optimism Friday that enrollment would increase through the end of March, when the open enrollment period for 2014 coverage closes.

"As our outreach efforts kick into even higher gear, we anticipate these numbers will continue

to grow, particularly as we reach even more uninsured young adults," Medicare and Medicaid chief Marilyn Tavenner, whose agency is overseeing the rollout, said in a blog post.

The state-based marketplaces — a centerpiece of the Affordable Care Act, commonly called Obamacare — were created so that Americans who do not get coverage at work could select among plans that offer at least a

basic set of benefits and cannot turn away sick people.

Americans who make less than four times the federal poverty level — or about \$94,000 for a family of four — qualify for government subsidies to offset the cost of their premiums.

Even with the rising enrollment, it is unclear if the administration will hit its target of 7 million enrollees this year.

But most experts believe there

will be another surge in March, as people rush to get insurance so they will not be hit with a penalty for not having coverage.

It also remains unclear how many of the new enrollees were previously uninsured and how many are healthy, key metrics that will determine the effectiveness of the new marketplaces. The Obama administration has not released this information.



BERETO MATTHEWS/AP

Construction continues at the World Trade Center site on Friday in New York.

NYC 9/11 museum to open in May

By DAVID B. CARUSO

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A museum dedicated to victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks will open to the public in mid-May in a giant cavern beneath the World Trade Center site — with a world-class admissions price of \$24.

The opening has been delayed for years due to funding disputes, engineering challenges and a nearly disastrous flood. National 9/11 Memorial and Museum President Joe Daniels said Friday that tickets would go on sale for the museum in March for the spring opening.

The \$24 price is in line with other major tourist attractions in New York City. It costs \$18 to take a ferry to the Statue of Liberty, \$25 to see the Museum of Modern Art and \$27 to visit the observation deck of the Empire State Building.

But the free drew protests from critics, including some relatives of 9/11 victims, who said the high price would keep average Americans out. Unlike many other big museums in the city, there won't be the option of paying less than

the "suggested donation."

New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was among those who expressed displeasure.

"I'd like to see them do better," he told reporters Friday. But he also said the best way to lower the admissions charge would be for the federal government to cover a portion of the museum's operating expenses.

"I think we deserve substantial federal funding at this museum," de Blasio said. "What could be a more nationally important site than this? It's a national tragedy and people come from all over the country, all over the world, to see it."

Under the pricing plan approved by the foundation's board, there will be no admission charge for relatives of 9/11 victims nor for many thousands of construction workers, police officers, firefighters, and others who assisted in the rescue and cleanup operation at ground zero. Children younger than 5 also will get in free. Admission also will be free for everyone between the hours of 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

There will continue to be no

charge to enter the World Trade Center memorial plaza, which is already open. About 5.3 million people visited the plaza this year to see the two huge fountains that sit in the original footprints of the twin towers.

The foundation set an annual budget Thursday of \$63 million to operate the museum and plaza. As of now, all of that money will have to come from admissions fees and private donations.

Some 9/11 families have been critical of the foundation, saying the steep ticket charge is a disgrace. Retired Deputy Fire Chief Jim Riches and Sally Regenhard, who each lost firefighter sons in the attacks, have lobbied for the entire site to be turned over to the National Parks Service.

"It was never intended to be a revenue-generating tourist attraction with a prohibitive budget and entrance fee," they said in a statement.

But Charles Wolf, who lost his wife in the attacks, said he supported the admissions charge "100 percent," because he wanted assurances that the museum will still be operating in 100 years.

Some pioneers of digital spying have misgivings

By MARTHA MENDOZA

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Former U.S. prosecutor Eric Friedberg conducted the first court-approved email wiretap nearly 20 years ago while investigating an international conspiracy to sell fraudulent cellphones. "It was entirely novel. Even email was new," he said. "CompuServe, the provider, had no way to comply. They had to build a new port."

But today, Friedberg, an Internet intelligence pioneer who describes himself as "extremely pro-law enforcement," is among a growing number of former national security and law enforcement officials who are questioning the current scope of the National Security Agency's data-gathering programs.

"There's a legitimate public-policy debate about whether it's worth a societal cost of having a permanent record of every person's telephone calls for a long time in a single place," said Friedberg, who grapples with this. Sometimes, he said, people's freedom "is protected by the difficulty that law enforcement has in obtaining records. If they can look at anything at the push of a button, abuses are more possible."

Last June, a series of news reports based on classified documents provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden began documenting government surveillance programs that included spying on friendly foreign leaders, analyzing Obama and Internet use, and gathering phone records of millions of Americans.

The disclosures triggered protests, congressional hearings and dozens of recommendations to limit broad sweeps of data. President Barack Obama adopted some of those, calling for an end to government control over vast amounts of phone data. Instead, Obama said, the telephone service providers or a third party should keep the bulk records, "with government accessing information as needed."

Federal courts hit by cyberattack

WASHINGTON — Unknown cyberattackers have hit the federal court system, making it difficult for the public to access cases and making it impossible in some instances for lawyers to file documents.

Karen Redmond, a spokeswoman for the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts, said the denial-of-service attack affected an unknown number of courts around the country.

The courts posted an online advisory saying the system was experiencing network connectivity issues and adding that users may have trouble connecting to various court sites.

The advisory said that engineers are investigating the problem and are working to restore full functionality as soon as possible.

Redmond said court employees noticed the problem late Friday afternoon.

From The Associated Press

But he didn't go nearly as far as a consortium of former NSA staffers and intelligence agents had recommended in their own January letter to Obama asking him to dramatically limit government surveillance.

One of those former staffers, Thomas Drake, said it is a "heavy burden" to have broken new ground with digital-surveillance software and techniques decades ago only to see those tools now being used to collect email, Internet use, credit card and cellphone data from innocent Americans as part of a system he considers unconstitutional.

"I wake up at night in a cold sweat just thinking about what's been unleashed," he says.

NATION

Official: Firm knew of 2nd chemical in spill

By JONATHAN MATTISE
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — The company at the center of the West Virginia water crisis immediately knew a second chemical leaked from its plant into the Elk River, and told its workers in an email, according to a state environmental official.

However, Freedom Industries did not let state government officials know about the second chemical until days after the spill.

And state environmental department official Mike Dorsey said most company employees did not skim far enough into the email to see that information.

It's unclear who sent the email or how many of the company's 51 employees it reached.

"The explanation I was given was that they had the information on the very first day," said Dorsey, chief of the state environmental agency's homeland security and emergency response division. "It was in an email that was being

shared among company employees, but no one read far enough down the page to see that."

Freedom Industries President Gary Southern showed Dorsey the email Wednesday.

"(Southern) remarked that it should've been brought to his attention but wasn't," Dorsey wrote in an email Friday.

A chemical used to clean coal spilled from the tank into the river Jan. 9. About 300,000 people couldn't drink or bathe in the water for almost a week. Southern told

environmental officials last week that a second, less toxic chemical also was mixed in the tank.

A call to Freedom Industries was not immediately returned Friday.

Those are the only chemicals that spilled, the company wrote to state regulators Thursday. The state tested for the second chemical, striped PPH, at the water plant and scoured older tests for the substance, but found no traces. Testing will continue.

A top investigator with the

Chemical Safety Board also weighed in on the spill in front of a state legislative water policy committee Friday. The federal board is one of many government entities investigating the Charleston spill.

Investigator Johnnie A. Banks said it will likely take a year until the board produces a report with findings. The panel can, however, set up public meetings to share periodic updates. The meetings would take place in Charleston, he said.



TOM FOX, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

Escorted through the throng of journalists by his attorneys, Eric Munoz leaves the courtroom Friday in Fort Worth, Texas, after a judge ordered a hospital withdraw life support from Munoz's wife.

Judge: Texas hospital must take pregnant woman off life support

The Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas — For two months, Erick Munoz has sat inside a North Texas hospital room next to his pregnant, brain-dead wife, with what would be their second child together growing inside her.

Now a judge has ruled that the hospital must follow Munoz's wishes and disconnect Marliese Munoz from life support that it's refused to remove in hopes of saving the fetus inside her.

The judge's ruling Friday could give Erick Munoz a long-awaited chance to bury his wife and move forward to care for their son. It also would mean the fetus would never be born.

Judge R. H. Wallace Jr. gave John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth until 5 p.m. CST Monday to remove life support. The hospital did not immediately say Friday whether it would appeal.

Both the hospital and the fam-

ily agree that Marliese Munoz meets the criteria to be considered brain-dead — which means she is dead both medically and under Texas law — and that the fetus could not be born alive this early in pregnancy.

But while the hospital says it has a legal duty to protect the fetus, Munoz contends his wife would not have wanted to be kept in this condition. And his attorneys have said medical records show the fetus is "distinctly abnormal."

The case has raised questions about end-of-life care and whether a pregnant woman who is considered legally and medically dead should be kept on life support for the sake of a fetus. It also has gripped attention on both sides of the abortion debate, with anti-abortion groups arguing Munoz's fetus deserves a chance to be born. Several anti-abortion advocates attended Friday's hearing.

Hospital officials have said they were bound by the Texas

Advance Directives Act, which prohibits withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment from a pregnant patient. But in his brief ruling, Wallace said that "Mrs. Munoz is dead," meaning that the hospital was misapplying the law. The ruling did not mention the fetus.

Marliese Munoz was 14 weeks pregnant when Erick found her unconscious Nov. 26, possibly due to a blood clot. The hospital has not pronounced her dead and has continued to treat her over the objections of both Erick Munoz and her parents, who sat together in court Friday.

Larry Thompson, a state's attorney representing the public hospital, told the judge Friday that the hospital recognized the Munoz family's pain and rights, but said it had a greater legal responsibility to protect the fetus.

"There is a life involved, and the life is the unborn child," Thompson said.

TSA confiscated 1,813 guns in 2013

By ASHLEY HALSEY III
The Washington Post

Does anybody really say, "I've got to remember to pack my handgun and a couple of stout knives" before boarding a flight?

You might think so from the number of guns and knives that people try to carry onto airplanes each year. That number would be 1,813 guns that were snared by Transportation Security Administration at airport checkpoints last year. Only 1,477 of them were loaded.

That's a jump from 2012, when 1,556 guns were confiscated.

The parts of the country where totting a sidearm is more common were where a lot of the guns

turned up. The airports in Atlanta (111 guns), Dallas (96), Houston (68), Phoenix (66) and Denver (51) lead the list.

Other parts of the country still turned up a number of guns last year. TSA said 15 were confiscated at Baltimore-Washington Thurgood Marshall Airport, eight were found at Dulles International and six were taken from passengers at National Airport.

People tend to say "Oops, I forgot I had my weapon with me," when they get caught. After the TSA takes note and confiscates the gun or knife, it's up to local authorities to decide where prosecution is in order. In most cases, the passenger is allowed to board the flight.

Court exempts nuns from contraception rule for now

By ROBERT BARNES
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court said Friday that a group of Colorado nuns does not have to comply with the Affordable Care Act's requirement that employers offer insurance plans that cover contraceptives while the nuns pursue a legal challenge of that portion of the law.

In a short and unsigned order, the court said the Little Sisters of the Poor must simply inform the Obama administration that they are a religious organization that should be exempt from the requirement.

The court order says the nuns do not have to sign a government form to which they objected because they said it authorizes a third party to provide the contraceptive coverage.

"This order should not be construed as an expression of the court's views on the merits" of the legal challenge, the order said.

Groups across the country have filed suits against the law, and they are working their way through the federal courts. Al-

most all the groups that objected have received injunctions while the suits proceed, but the nuns did not.

The court's one-paragraph order came after three weeks of what likely was a vigorous, behind-the-scenes debate among the justices. It essentially delays a consideration of the merits of the challenges, and provides no legal reasoning for the compromise. It came without noted dissent.

"We're very happy," said Mark Rienzi, a Catholic University law professor who is representing the nuns on behalf of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty.

The nuns employ about 75 people in their ministry to serve the elderly.

Rienzi said the nuns have never objected to stating their religious affiliation. But they said the required "self-certification" letters to the Department of Health and Human Services would make them complicit in the government's plan to provide contraceptive services, because the law provides that third-party insurers still provide the coverage.

NATION

Jury rules against banker in LAPD suit

By LINDA DEUTSCH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A former banker and movie executive who said police beat him with batons in a bizarre street confrontation lost his \$20 million excessive force claim on Friday against the Los Angeles Police Department.

During the three-day trial, Brian Mulligan acknowledged that he had used a drug mixture known as bath salts in the weeks leading up to the May 2012 incident. Police officers said he appeared delusional, wandering the streets with crumpled \$100 bills falling out of his pockets and made animal sounds when they confronted him.

"This guy had gone crazy," Officer John Miller told jurors. "He'd lost his marbles. I was a bit scared. I'd never seen anybody frothing at the mouth and growling as an adult human being."

Mulligan, once a globe-trotting executive who logged a million air miles a year, said he was driven to the drug to deal with sleeping problems but denied the substance made him paranoid during the confrontation.

Jurors in federal court deliberated less than three hours before finding that two officers didn't violate Brian Mulligan's federal or state civil rights and didn't batter him.

Michelle, his lawyers and his wife, Victoria, rushed out of the courtroom and declined to comment to reporters. Jurors also declined to comment.

Peter Ferguson, who represented Officer James Nichols, said he was satisfied for the plaintiff couldn't persuade the jury because the officers did nothing wrong.

"These officers have had to live with these allegations for the last year or so," the lawyer said. "They're glad they are getting back to work."

However, Nichols is on leave pending disciplinary hearings in other cases.

The Los Angeles City Council agreed earlier this month to pay \$575,000 to settle a lawsuit from a former police informant who alleged Nichols and another officer forced her to have sex. Nichols and the other officer face LAPD disciplinary hearings for this and three similar cases. Nichols has denied wrongdoing.

Miller has no other charges pending against him and has been working throughout the trial.

U.S. District Judge Gary Klausner ruled that Nichols' history could not be admitted in court unless he was convicted of the excessive force count and it became an issue in assessing damages.

Mulligan claimed that he suffered a broken nose and shoulder and other injuries along with mental torture from the unprovoked beating, and that the officers budged him with their batons.



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Police move in from a parking lot to the Mall in Columbia after reports of a multiple shooting, which left three people, including the presumed gunman, dead Saturday in suburban Baltimore.

Police report 3 dead after shooting at Maryland mall

By ERIC TUCKER
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Md. — Police in Maryland say three people died Saturday in a shooting at a mall in suburban Baltimore, including the presumed gunman.

Howard County police said via Twitter that a shooting took place at the Mall in Columbia, a suburb of both Baltimore and Washington.

Authorities received a call to the police emergency dispatcher at around 11:15 a.m. from someone reporting that shots had been fired. Police responded to the scene and found three people dead, including one person who was found near a gun and ammunition.

Police said they believed that one of the people found dead was the shooter. There was no other information available about the two other people. Later, police said that two people with minor injuries were transported to a hospital for treatment.

The scene was "believed to be secure" police said in a tweet released at about 12:36 p.m.

The mall, which is at the center of the town, typically opens at 10 a.m. on Saturdays, and it was not known how many shoppers or workers might have been present at the time of the shooting.

Joan Harding of Elkridge, Md., was shopping with her husband, David, for a tiara for their granddaughter's 18th birthday. She said she heard something heavy

falling, followed by gunshots and people running.

"My husband said, 'Get down!' and the girl that worked in the store said, 'Get in the back,'" Harding said. That is where they hid until police gave the all-clear.

At a news conference, Howard County Police Chief William J. McMahon said police are relatively confident that there was only one shooter.

The mall was closed to the public as police went store to store looking for people who might still be hiding, McMahon said.

He said the shooting occurred at a store on the upper floor. He said it wasn't clear whether the shooting was random or whether the shooter and victims knew each other.

Man sentenced to nearly 2½ years in ferry theft

SEATTLE — A man who told police he took the Victoria Clipper ferry from its Seattle waterfront berth as a birthday present to himself has been sentenced to nearly 2½ years in prison.

Samuel McDonough, 33, of Preston was able to break the ferry away from the dock on Dec. 1 but didn't know how to operate the vessel, which was spotted drifting in Elliott Bay. He was eventually arrested.

KOMO-TV reported that McDonough was sentenced Friday. He earlier pleaded guilty to burglary and theft charges.

In charging papers, prosecutors say McDonough took the \$8 million, 480-ton boat after climbing through a hole in a fence and using keys he found in the boat's pilot house.

Clogged pipe brings arrest in poker tourney

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — A clogged pipe at an Atlantic City casino hotel room led to the discovery of counterfeit poker chips with a tournament value of \$2.7 million that had been flushed down a toilet.

That, in turn, led authorities to a man they say sneaked fake chips into a poker tournament at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, prompting the cancellation of one of its events last week.

Christian Lusardi, of Fayetteville, N.C., was arrested Friday at a motel in Atlantic City on charges including theft and rigging a public contest.

Obama reassures sex assault victims

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said sexual assault affects not only individual victims but the entire country.

In his weekly radio and Internet address, Obama said sexual assault is an affront to basic decency and humanity. He's promoting a White House task force he's created to address the problem on college campuses.

Obama told victims that they're not alone. He said, "I've got your back."

Ex-Va. gov., wife plead not guilty to charges

RICHMOND, Va. — Judges have told everyone from former Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, to prosecutors and defense lawyers that the McDonnells' trial on federal corruption charges will not be played out in the news media.

The warnings were issued Friday after the McDonnells pleaded not guilty to the charges that they accepted lavish gifts from the CEO of a dietary supplement maker in exchange for promoting his company. A trial is scheduled to begin July 28.

Almost all of the relevant details of the government's case against the McDonnells were first made public through months of news stories based on anonymous sources.

Teacher charged in potluck poisoning

By IRMA WIDJOJO
Vallejo (Calif.) Times-Herald

BENICIA, Calif. — A Benicia elementary school teacher was arrested Friday afternoon for allegedly poisoning several people with cannabis-laced food, police said.

Teresa Gimlete Badger, 47, of Benicia, a first-grade teacher at Matthew Turner Elementary School, attended an "after-hours employee pot luck dinner" on Nov. 21, police said.

She brought food to the party, which allegedly caused several guests to report feeling sick and describe symptoms of possibly

being under the influence later that evening, Lt. Frank Hartig said.

A female victim was also taken to a local hospital and admitted for treatment for the symptoms. Another female victim also went to a hospital the next day, and her blood work revealed the presence of THC, the "principal psychoactive constituent of the cannabis plant," Hartig said.

A juvenile also ate the food, which was brought home by a party-goer, and experienced similar symptoms, he added.

The Benicia Unified School District notified the police on

Dec. 4, about the incident.

The investigation determined that Badger brought "cannabis laced food to the party," and police were told she had "allegedly confessed her involvement to individuals" at the party, Hartig said.

Badger was booked into Solano County jail, and her bail was set at \$15,000. She was still in custody as of Friday night.

Superintendent Janice Adams said Badger has been a teacher at the district for 18 years, and was placed on administrative leave early in the week because of the investigation.

NATION



“It was the first time I was in the paper and nobody got shot.”

Rahsaan Thomas
convicted murderer featured on the front page of the San Quentin News

Two things you don't criticize: the food and the package room. We get all our goodies through packages, and we have to eat in the cafeteria every day.

Juan Haines
managing editor

When you write about a crime and someone goes to prison, you say that's the end of the story. But when working at San Quentin, you realize that's the beginning of the story.

William Drummond
an adviser to the staff

We have a vision. Our dreams are big.

Arnulfo Garcia
editor-in-chief

Putting out the 'pulse'

From behind prison walls, inmates produce newspaper for community of felons, guards

BY CHRIS MEGERIAN
Los Angeles Times

The scene was almost indistinguishable from that in any other newsroom. Editors sat around chatting about the next issue and tinkering with stories. Front pages were tacked up on the walls, and family photos were taped to computer terminals.

But in fact this newspaper office was unlike almost any other, obvious from the dress code: Staff members wore the standard blue uniform of California prison inmates.

When the phone rang, the answer was a crisp, "Hello, San Quentin News."

The newspaper — motto: "The Pulse of San Quentin" — is one of the country's only inmate-produced publications. Convicts write the articles and design the pages from behind the walls of the all-male lockup outside San Francisco that houses California's death row.

It's a community newspaper for a community of felons and the guards who keep them there. Articles mark officers' retirements, inmates' releases and the latest developments in the federal court battle over reducing California's swollen prison population.

A regular column highlights "an OG's perspective" — OG for "old guard" rather than the more common "original gangster." There are Sudoku puzzles, book reviews and recaps of prison yard sports.

The paper typically has an aspirational tone, emphasizing uplifting stories about inmates improving their lives and taking



Top: San Quentin News is one of the country's only inmate-produced publications.

Left: Inmate Charles David Henry edits stories in the newsroom of the paper.

Above: Two inmates who help produce the newspaper stand outside the office.

advantage of education programs. Headlines refer to prisoners who "promise to work for peace" or go from "criminal life to positive futures."

Staffers say their work can induce soul-searching, that telling their own people's stories helps them explore their own lives. And it can be a source of pride.

Rahsaan Thomas, a convicted killer, mailed his mother a copy of the October issue, where he appeared in a front page photo of a basketball game.

"It was the first time I was in the paper and nobody got shot," said Thomas, 43, the sports editor.

Before they reached San Quentin, many of the editors' only brush with journalism was as subjects of articles about the crimes that put them behind bars. Each

issue of the monthly San Quentin News is a reminder that their lives did not end when they were locked up.

The paper is distributed inside San Quentin and mailed to libraries at 16 other California prisons. The editors have larger plans.

They're working with graduate students at Berkeley to expand the publication, hoping to increase circulation tenfold to at least 120,000 copies and distribute them in all of the state's 34 prisons.

"We have a vision," said Arnulfo Garcia, 61, the editor-in-chief. "Our dreams are big."

Their plan hinges on funding from foundations, individual donors and even some subscriptions. It could take more than a decade to reach fruition. But slow progress

isn't an obstacle. "We've got a lot of time," joked Managing Editor Juan Haines.

Haines, 56, is serving 55 years to life for bank robbery; Garcia's sentence is 65 years to life for burglary and skipping bail.

It's not just the criminal records that make the San Quentin News unconventional.

Staff members have an obvious stake in the topics they cover, although they strive for objectivity. And they lack true editorial freedom because of oversight and occasional censorship by prison officials.

They also have a captive audience. But roughly a third of California's inmates can't read above a sixth-grade level, according to state statistics.

A team of outside advisers — former reporters and editors from around the Bay Area — donate their time to help put out each issue.

"When you write about a crime and someone goes to prison, you say that's the end of the story," said Berkeley professor William Drummond, who is an adviser to the paper. "But when working at San Quentin, you realize that's the beginning of the story."

Every issue of the San Quentin News is reviewed by prison administrators before going to press. Although the editors say it's rare for officials to block something, it has happened. However, the newspaper does carry articles critical of budget cuts and prison conditions.

But there are "two things you don't criticize — the food and the package room," Haines said. "We get all our goodies through packages, and we have to eat in the cafeteria every day."

WORLD

Two sides in Syria have brief meeting

By ZEINA KARAM
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The first face-to-face meeting between Syria's government and the opposition hoping to overthrow President Bashar Assad ended after barely a half-hour Saturday, with the two sides facing each other silently as a U.N. mediator laid groundwork for talks intended to lead Syria out of civil war.

After tense days spent avoiding each other and meeting separately with the mediator, Assad's hand-picked delegation and representatives of the Syrian National Coalition gathered briefly at a single U-shaped table, then emerged and went separate ways, using different doors to avert contact.

The only speaker was the mediator, Lakhdar Brahimi.

"It was not easy for us to sit with the delegation that represents the killers in Damascus, but we did it for the sake of the Syrian people and for the sake of the Syrian children," said Anas al-Abdoh, who was among the coalition's representatives. He said everyone remained calm.

The two sides were distant going into the meeting, with the Damascus delegation denying it had accepted the premise of a transitional leadership and the opposition saying it would accept nothing less than Assad's departure. Diplomats have said even getting them to the same table can be considered an accomplishment three years into the uprising that has killed 130,000 people.

Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi said right before talks started that there was still an "enormous gap" in how the two sides interpreted a transitional government.

"Those who talk about President Bashar Assad are talking about removing the man who is leading the war against terrorism," he said.

Al-Abdoh said the antagonists would face each other again later Saturday but would address only Brahimi, not each other.

First on the agenda was a cease-fire in the city of Homs, Syria's third-largest city. Neighborhoods in the old city have been ravaged following repeated government assaults to reclaim control from rebels. The city had a pre-war population of 1 million, but most residents have since fled.

By Saturday afternoon, there was no sign of violence halting in Homs, nor had humanitarian aid entered rebel-held areas blockaded by Assad-loyal forces, said a Homs-based activist and Rami Abdurrahman, of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The activist identified himself by pseudonym, Firas Homsî, as is typical for those who fear reprisal.

Homsî said there were about 800 Syrian families still in the old city, under blockade for the past 20 months. "Our situation here is very bad. There's no food and we are using outdated medicine," said Homsî, who had heard rumors of a truce but saw no evidence of it.



SEBASTIEN GERRIS/AP

A protester throws a Molotov cocktail onto a fire during clashes with police in central Kiev, Ukraine, early Saturday.

Ukraine president offers top spots to opposition leaders

By JIM HEINTZ
AND MARIA DANILOVA
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Ukraine's embattled president on Saturday offered to make a top opposition leader the prime minister, but it was unclear if the overture would mollify the radical faction of protesters who have clashed with police for much of the last week.

A statement on President Viktor Yanukovich's website Saturday evening said he had offered the country's No. 2 job to Arseniy Yatsenyuk, an ex-foreign minister who had led efforts to integrate Ukraine with the European Union.

The offer, which also includes a deputy-premier post for Vital Klitschko, another top opposition leader, appeared to be a substantial concession by Yanukovich to protester anger, which began in November when he ditched a long-awaited trade pact with the EU in favor of closer ties with Russia.

Protests grew after police violently dispersed two rallies, then anger boiled over into violence a week ago over harsh new anti-protest laws that Yanukovich pushed through parliament. Protesters have seized government buildings in scores of other cities in the European-leaning western part of the country.

The opposition has demanded that Yanukovich himself step down and call early elections, and there was no immediate comment from Yatsenyuk on whether he would accept Yanukovich's offer.

It came hours after the head of the country's police, widely despised by the opposition, claimed protesters had seized and tortured two policemen before releasing them. The opposition denied any such seizure and claimed Interior Minister Vitaly Zakharchenko was making a bogus claim in order to justify a police sweep against

protesters.

Three protesters have died in the past week's clashes, two of them from gunshot wounds and a third of unspecified injuries. The Interior Ministry said a policeman was found shot in the head overnight.

No arrests have been made or suspects named.

Protesters have rained stones and fire-bombs on police, while officers retaliate with stun grenades and tear gas.

On Saturday evening, flames leapt high from a barricade of burning tires, but there was no obvious violence in Kiev's central Independence Square, known as the Maidan. Demonstrators milled about, many of them bearing clubs, metal rods and large sticks.

Yanukovich also agreed to discuss ways of changing Ukraine's constitution toward a parliamentary-presidential republic, which was one of the demands of the opposition.

If that change went through, the prime minister would have more powers and would be elected by parliament, not appointed by the president. Yanukovich backers currently have a majority in the parliament and the next election for the legislature is to be in 2017.

Earlier, Zakharchenko said the two police officers were released with the help of negotiations by foreign embassies. He said they had been hospitalized, but did not give details of how they allegedly were abused.

But the commandant of the corps, Mykhailo Blavatsky, told The Associated Press that no police had been seized.

In Lviv, where support for Yanukovich is minuscule, regional lawmakers on Saturday voted to establish a parallel government.

Although the move was largely symbolic, it demonstrated the strong animosity toward the government in Ukraine's west.

Philippines, Muslim rebels clinch deal to end fighting

By SEAN YOONG
The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — The Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group completed talks Saturday on a deal to end four decades of fighting that has killed tens of thousands of people and helped foster Islamic extremism in Southeast Asia.

The accord between Filipino negotiators and the rebel Moro Islamic Liberation Front calls for Muslim self-rule in parts of the southern Philippines in exchange for the deactivation of the rebel force. Military presence in the proposed autonomous region would be restricted.

Much now will depend on how the accord is enforced — in particular, whether the 11,000-strong rebel forces are able to maintain security in areas that would come under their control. At least four other smaller Muslim rebel groups are still fighting Manila's rule in the southern Mindanao region and could act as spoilers.

Officials from both sides announced the conclusion of talks in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia, which has brokered the years-long negotiations. The accord and three other pacts signed last year make up a final peace agreement that is to be signed in the Philippine capital, Manila, possibly next month, presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said.

"This will give the just and lasting peace that our brothers in Mindanao are seeking," said Lacierda, referring to the volatile southern region and homeland of minority Muslims in the predominantly Roman Catholic nation.

Chief government negotiator Miriam Ferrer said that concluding the talks "marks the beginning of the bigger challenge ahead, which is the ... implementation."

Saturday's accord has been the most significant progress made over 15 years of negotiations to tame a tenacious insurgency that has left more than 120,000 people dead and derailed development in Muslim-populated southern regions that are among the most destitute in the Philippines.

The United States and other governments have supported the talks, worried that rebel strongholds could become breeding grounds for al-Qaida-linked extremists who have sought sanctuary in the region in the past.

Under the peace deal, the Moro insurgents agreed to end violence in exchange for broader autonomy. An existing five-province Muslim autonomous region is to be replaced by a more powerful, better funded and potentially larger region to be called Bangsamoro.

Despite the milestone, both the government and the rebels acknowledged that violence would not end overnight in a region that has long grappled with a volatile mix of crushing poverty, huge numbers of illegal firearms, clan wars and weak law enforcement.

One rebel group vowed to keep fighting. "We will continue the struggle," said Abu Misri, spokesman of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Movement, which broke off from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front three years ago. "What we want is an Islamic state, an Islamic people, an Islamic constitution," he told The Associated Press by telephone Saturday.

WORLD

Pakistan: Thousands flee border after strikes

By RIAZ KHAN
The Associated Press

PESHAWAR, Pakistan — Thousands have fled Pakistan's troubled northwest region bordering Afghanistan after airstrikes last week targeting suspected Taliban militant hideouts killed dozens of people, elders and officials said Saturday.

Pakistan's air force launched the airstrikes in North Waziristan after the Taliban claimed responsibility for deadly attacks against security forces there and elsewhere.

There were conflicting claims about who was killed in the airstrikes, which began late Monday and continued into early Tuesday. A military official said the strikes killed 40 insurgents, while residents said civilians were among the dead.

Latifur Rehman, a provincial disaster management spokesman, said Saturday the strikes displaced 6,000 families, but half of them had gone back to their homes. Rehman said authorities were making arrangements to provide shelter and food to those affected.

A tribal prominent elder, Gul Saleh Khan, said more than 70,000 people had left their homes. He said people were still fleeing to nearby towns, villages and cities.

"We were sleeping at our home when the army suddenly started the airstrikes just before midnight on Monday," Khan said. "We quickly moved to a farm field with women and children, and other people also spent that night under the sky."

Khan said he arrived in the northwestern city of Peshawar with his family on Tuesday.

Local resident Raham Nawaz said many had to leave their homes due to fears of a full-fledged military operation.

"The government should have issued a warning before dropping bombs in our villages," Nawaz said. He said his family and other relatives were living at a school, miles away from their town of Mir Ali.

Resident Salim Khan said people continued to flee Saturday. He urged the government to make public warnings ahead of such airstrikes.



A protester wounded in clashes with security forces is evacuated Saturday in the Mohandiseen district of Cairo.

EMAN HELWA/AP

Divided Egypt marks 3rd anniversary of uprising

By MAGGIE MICHAEL
AND SARAH EL DEEB
The Associated Press

CAIRO — In large, state-backed rallies complete with dancing horses and traditional music, military supporters celebrated the anniversary of Egypt's 2011 uprising Saturday, calling for the army chief to run for president. At the same time, security forces cracked down on rival demonstrations by Islamist supporters of the ousted president — and by secular activists critical of both camps.

The starkly contrasting scenes reflected the three years of turmoil that have split Egyptians into polarized camps since the revolt that began on Jan. 25, 2011, ousting autocratic leader Hosni Mubarak — followed by last summer's millions-strong demonstrations against Mubarak's elected successor, Islamist Mohammed Morsi, that led to the coup removing him.

Morsi's supporters were using Saturday's anniversary for building up a new momentum in de-

fiance to the military and its political transition plan, despite months of a fierce crackdown that has crippled their ranks and rising public resentment against the group. At least four protesters were killed Saturday as security forces cracked down on the marches in Cairo and other cities.

In a defiant statement amid the clashes, the Brotherhood vowed not to leave the streets "until it fully regains its rights and breaks the coup and puts the killers on trial."

Thousands of pro-military demonstrators, meanwhile, turned out in Cairo's Tahrir Square and other sites in rallies to show their support for army chief Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the man who ousted Morsi and whom many of those in the rallies want to now run for president.

Their rallies showed a ferociously anti-Islamist tone — with chants for "the execution of the Brotherhood" — translating into fury at anyone believed to be critical of the post-coup leadership. In

Tahrir, a crowd was seen beating and shoving a woman in a conservative headscarf, believing she was a Brotherhood sympathizer, as she screamed that she was just trying to get to her home nearby.

They also turned on journalists. More than a dozen journalists were beaten by the demonstrators, or detained by police for protection from angry crowds. Demonstrators chased one Egyptian female journalist, mistakenly believing her to work for Al-Jazeera TV — seen as pro-Brotherhood. They pulled her hair and tried to strangle her with a scarf until police took her into a building for protection.

Security forces also moved to shut down rallies marking the anniversary by secular youth activists who led the 2011 anti-Mubarak uprising and who are critical of both the Islamists and the military. A number of their most prominent figures have been in prison for months amid a campaign to silence even secular voices of dissent.

New premier for Central African Republic

BANGUI, Central African Republic — The interim government in Central African Republic has chosen a regional banking official to serve as prime minister.

The presidency announced Saturday the selection of Andre Nzapayeke, who has held several positions with the Central African States' Development Bank, called BDEAC by its French acronym.

An interim government is being formed since coup leader Michel Djotodia stepped aside nearly 10 months after he and thousands of armed fighters overthrew the president in March 2013.

US, India start talks on diplomatic immunity

WASHINGTON — India and the U.S. are holding preliminary discussions to resolve their differing interpretations of diplomatic immunity as they look to mend ties damaged by the row over American treatment of an Indian diplomat who was arrested and strip-searched in New York, India's ambassador said.

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, India's new envoy in Washington, said Friday his priority is to raise the "morale" of a relationship that remains fundamentally good despite the spat over Devyani Khobragade, who was expelled from the U.S. this month after she was indicted on accusations of exploiting her housekeeper.

UAE president suffers stroke, has surgery

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The president of the United Arab Emirates has undergone emergency surgery after having a stroke and is in stable condition, the Ministry of Presidential Affairs said Saturday.

Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, 68, suffered the stroke Friday morning, according to a ministry statement released to the official WAM news agency. It gave no indication of the severity of his illness.

"He immediately underwent a surgical operation. His health is now stable. May God safeguard him and grant him a quick recovery," the statement read.

Fighting reported in S. Sudan despite deal

JUBA, South Sudan — In a sign a new peace deal may not hold, South Sudan's government and rebels accused each other of attacks Saturday that come after the cease-fire was supposed to take hold.

If the attacks continue, government troops will defend themselves, said Information Minister Michel Makuur Luth. The peace deal was signed Thursday night but did not go into effect for 24 hours, said Luth.

Rebel spokesman Lul Rui Koang countered, "It is government forces who are breaking the cease-fire, not us. They attacked our positions and immediately accused us of breaching the cease-fire."

From The Associated Press

At least 15 dead in multiple bombings across Iraq

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of bombings across Iraq killed 15 people Saturday, including a soldier and his entire family, authorities said.

Police said that the day's deadliest attack struck Muqadadiyah, where two explosions targeting the home of a soldier killed him, his wife, his two daughters and

two sons as they slept. The blasts leveled the home.

Muqadadiyah is about 60 miles north of Baghdad.

In Baghdad, a car bomb exploded in a commercial street in the capital's western neighborhood of Amariyah, killing four people and wounding 12, police said.

Another bomb blast near an outdoor market in the Sadiyah

neighborhood killed two shoppers and wounded six, officials said.

Saturday night, a car bomb exploded near homes in a Turkmen neighborhood in the town of Tuz Khormato, 130 miles north of Baghdad, killing three people and wounding five, Mayor Shalal Aboul said.

Hospital officials confirmed the casualties for all attacks. The

officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to journalists.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for Saturday's attacks.

But multiple bombings against civilians and security forces are frequently the work of the al-Qaida affiliate in Iraq.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



A counterfeit \$100 bill that was confiscated at a drug store in Greensboro.

Student fakes \$100 bill signed 'Moe Money'

NC RALEIGH — A North Carolina university student faces charges of possessing almost \$13,000 in fake money in her room after she tried to use a counterfeit \$100 bill signed "Moe Money," investigators said.

Symone Vanessa Brown, 19, faces felony charges that include obtaining property under false pretense, uttering a forged security and possession of counterfeiting tools. Those are the state equivalent of counterfeiting charges, University of North Carolina Greensboro police Chief James Herring said.

Campus police responded to a call from a drugstore where someone tried to use a counterfeit \$100 bill to buy a gift card, Herring said. The signature on the bottom corner of the bill read "Moe Money" instead of the name of the secretary of the treasury. Underneath the signature, the bill read "Proprietor of the Counterfeiting."

Businessman aims to combine bullets, beer

SD SIOUX FALLS — Bullets and beer long have been part of the lore in Deadwood, the western South Dakota gambling town where Wild Bill Hickok met his demise during an 1876 poker game.

Now, an FBI agent nearing retirement hopes to tap that history by opening a combined indoor shooting range and saloon a block off Deadwood's historic Main Street.

The Deadwood Guns complex proposed by Greg Vecchi would host several businesses, including a gun shop, a pawn shop, the shooting range and a bar called the Bullets and Beer Saloon.

"It's all the things I like: alcohol, tobacco and firearms," he said.

University to review sperm bank mix-up

UT SALT LAKE CITY — The University of Utah has put together a panel of doctors and medical ethicists to review how a convicted felon working at a now-defunct university fertility clinic two decades ago switched his sperm and fathered a woman who is now 21.

University of Utah official Sean Mulvihill said the school has received about 15 calls to the hotline it set up earlier this month. A couple of families are considering doing paternity tests.

He estimates 1,000 people came to the clinic during Thomas Lippert's employment from about 1988 to 1993.



JOHN RAWLSTON, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

A steep job

From left, American Track Generations worker Kash Wilkins waits while Robert Mills, Raymond Ramirez and Epifanio Puga handle a cross tie guided to them from Jose Livevano as they work Thursday on the tracks near the top of the Incline Railway on Lookout Mountain, Tenn. The Incline Railway, which opened in 1895, is billed as one of the world's steepest passenger railways.

Parts recalled that can cause toilets to burst

DC WASHINGTON — Watch out for exploding toilets.

Flushmate, the maker of a high-pressure flushing system sold at Home Depot and Lowe's, is expanding its recall of some parts, because they can burst near a seam with force enough to shatter the toilet tank.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission said the company is recalling 351,000 units in the U.S. and about 9,400 units in Canada of the Series 503 Flushmate 111 Pressure Assist flushing systems installed inside toilet tanks that

were made from March 2008 through June 2009.

There were no reports of injuries, but Flushmate has received three reports of the units included in the recall bursting, resulting in property damage.

Bill would allow guns on duty for firefighters

GA ATLANTA — Legislation proposed in the Georgia House would allow firefighters in the state to carry guns while on duty as long as they gain permission from their fire department.

The bill comes nearly a year after a group of firefighters in

Gwinnett County were held captive by an armed gunman who was later killed by police. The firefighters, who had been responding to an emergency medical call at a house, were not harmed.

Sheep, owner reunited after going on the lam

CT ENFIELD — The adolescent sheep missing from a local farm since November ended recently when he was corralled by an animal control officer on a resident's porch off Elm Street, then returned to its owner.

The black sheep — an 8-year-old

THE CENSUS

\$750K

The amount Babe Ruth's 1923 World Series championship pocket watch is expected to fetch at auction. The 14-karat gold timepiece, for decades thought to be lost to history, goes for sale Feb. 22. Ruth batted .368 and hit three homers in the 1923 World Series as the Yankees won the championship by beating the New York Giants in six games. It was the franchise's first of 27 World Series championships.



3 The number of identical sons born to April and Brad Dooley earlier this month. With infertility treatments and other assisted reproductive technologies, the number of multiple births has grown greatly since the 1980s, according to the Orange County Register in California. However, the occurrence of naturally conceived identical triplets, as in the Dooley's case, is extremely rare.

male — was captured outside a resident's home at an elderly housing development on Jan. 15. Animal Control Officer David Yoho said.

It had been on the lam with another sheep — a 2-year-old female — since Nov. 1 after they escaped from farmer Leland Pinney's Elm Knoll Farm on Moody Road.

Sadly, the female sheep was hit and killed by a car near the senior center.

"I don't know whether to name him Lucky or Trouble," Pinney said. "I think Trouble is certainly more appropriate."

Plans for direct rail line to airport are shelved

CA LOS ANGELES — A decadeslong effort to bring rail service directly to Los Angeles International Airport suffered a low Thursday when transportation officials placed on the back burner a proposal for a light-rail tunnel under the terminal area, citing high costs and other risks.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority will now primarily focus on routes that would leave the north-south Crenshaw/LAX Line as much as 1.5 miles east of the airport and rely on a circulator train to take passengers to their terminals.

Barring a significant change, Los Angeles would soon have two light-rail routes that come near LAX but do not deliver passengers to their terminals, a problem that has puzzled and frustrated many civic leaders and transit users.

From wire reports

MUSIC

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings

take old soul and give it new life

Courtesy of Daptone Records

Sharon Jones, center, and the Dap-Kings. The Brooklyn funk/soul band will hit the road next month to promote its new album, the band's sixth, "Give the People What They Want."

The frustrations of retro R&B

By CHRIS RICHARDS
The Washington Post

Are tomorrow's R&B singers doomed to chase after yesterday?

Nowadays, it sure feels like it. Every genre endures spasms of revivalism, but ever since the rise and fall of Amy Winehouse, R&B has proven a particularly nifty field to re-stage the past. Adele ponders a Dusty Springfield biopic. R. Kelly teleports to 1960-whatever. Robin Thicke pantomimes Marvin Gaye. On and on, we keep going back.

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings have made a career of it, excavating the sounds of classic American R&B for more than a decade, and with the group's new album, "Give the People What They Want," they've arrived at their strongest composite.

This is pop time travel at its most articulate and dynamic, channeling Motown, Muscle Shoals, Stax and James Brown all in one easy stroke. Jones — a 57-year-old who recently beat cancer — sings about stung hearts and fiery farewells, and on "Stranger to My Happiness" sounds like she was born in the groove.

It's all rather unsurprising, yet hard to dislike

— the kind of music that presents itself confidently, affirms your good taste, then finds shelter under the umbrella of timelessness.

But there are still strange external forces at work here. The magnetism of these songs originates from the same mystery space that gives Renaissance fairs and Civil War re-enactments their weirdo gravity — they all give us the opportunity to feel an approximation of feelings we were born too late to feel.

Is that what the people want?

Funny how throwback R&B can spark nostalgia for the future. More than a decade ago, uber-producers Timbaland and the Neptunes were using alien digital timbres to build love songs that resembled science fiction. They cemented futurism onto the list of American R&B's defining traits, making the genre feel inherently optimistic. As scary as our new century might have seemed, we'd still have Valentine's Day.

The same idea floats through the California haze in Spike Jonze's recent triumph, "Her," a film that isn't warning us about the unstoppable march of technology so much as hypothesizing how love might feel tomorrow. Is it unfair to crave R&B tunes that do the same thing? And who wants to sing 'em?

Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings

Give the People What They Want (Daptone)

It's about the music first and foremost, of course, but it's also about the context. And the circumstances behind the release of Sharon Jones and the Dap-Kings' fifth studio album make you appreciate



ate all the more the verve and vivacity with which the soul revivalist band put over the rawboned sound.

"Give the People What They Want" was originally scheduled to be released last summer, but it was pushed back after the 57-year-old singer was diagnosed with bile duct

cancer. After she finishes up her chemotherapy treatments, Jones and her snappy Brooklyn band will return to the road next month, and although they were recorded before she became ill, songs like the lead single, "Retreat," ("Retreat! What a fool you are to be taking me on") and "People Don't Get What They Deserve" take on added gravitas considering the troubles of the pint-sized powerhouse singer.

Not that "Give the People What They Want" is at all a self-serious difficult pill to swallow. What the people want from Jones and the Dap-Kings are hard-driving, old-school R&B jams in which the spirits of cherished singers like Otis Redding and Joe Tex are re-animated, and these 10 tunes take care of that business as effectively as ever.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

MUSIC

POP SOLO PERFORMANCE

Nominees

"Brave," Sara Bareilles; "Royals," Lorde; "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars; "Roar," Katy Perry; "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake

Fekadu: Oh wait, Justin is nominated for something? It's crushing how he didn't earn any top nominations this year — it almost makes you wonder who he irritated? Anyway, it will be a cat fight full of roars: While Bareilles deserves to win here, her copycat — Katy Perry — will take home her first Grammy Award.

Talbot: Ah, the positive pop song. Even in today's raunch-obsessed music scene, there's nothing quite as powerful as an empowering song like "Roar." The problem for Perry, though, is Lorde stole her growl.

R&B SONG

Nominees

"Best of Me," Anthony Hamilton; "Love and War," Tamar Braxton; "Only One," PJ Morton featuring Stevie Wonder; "Pusher Love Girl," Justin Timberlake; "Without Me," Fantasia featuring Missy Elliott and Kelly Rowland

Fekadu: If Stevie Wonder had a writing credit for "Only One," PJ Morton — the keyboardist for Maroon 5 — would win this. And while Tamar Braxton had an impressive year thanks to her reality show, we all know this will go to the former N'Sync frontman.

Talbot: The Recording Academy sent Timberlake mixed messages with his large nomination total but lack of a major nod. Here's where voters make nice.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Nominees

"The Blessed Unrest," Sara Bareilles; "Random Access Memories," Daft Punk; "good kid, m.A.A.d city," Kendrick Lamar; "The Heist," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; "Red," Taylor Swift

Fekadu: Justin Timberlake's "The 20/20 Experience" doesn't even have a 20 percent chance to win this — though it should. And why isn't Bruno Mars' "Unorthodox Jukebox" on the list? I can't deal. Putting my personal feelings aside, this is how it will work: While Taylor Swift had earth-shattering numbers, Sara Bareilles created a top-notch, memorable album, and Macklemore & Ryan Lewis owned 2013, they won't win here. That leaves Daft Punk and Kendrick Lamar — who is like a second coming to hip-hop. If "Random Access Memories" was a little stronger, it would win, but I think the Recording Academy — after failing to properly award amazing rap records in the top categories — will get it right with a win for Lamar.

Talbot: Don't be daft, punk! Looking back over the history of the Grammys, the usual winner in this category is that year's "event" album. Those records get attention beyond the quality of the music for some reason or another. With all due deference to Taylor Swift's popularity, the album that felt like an event in this category is "Random Access Memories." It didn't yield as many hits as "Red" — one of three albums on this list that came out way back in 2012, a limiting factor for all. But few albums had as much critical acclaim over them this year. So credit to the robots.



Clockwise from top left: 2014 Grammy nominees Justin Timberlake, Macklemore and Ryan Lewis, Robin Thicke, Kendrick Lamar, Lorde and Daft Punk.

AP photos

MCT illustration

Quest for Grammy

Who will take home music's biggest prize?

BY MESSIN FEKADU AND CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

There are so many tough choices this year at the Grammy Awards, where Jay-Z is the top nominee with nine, but might not be the favorite to take the most trophies when the show airs live Sunday on CBS at 8 p.m. EST from The Staples Center in Los Angeles. Kendrick Lamar, Macklemore and Lewis, Justin Timberlake and Pharrell Williams are next with seven, but none is guaranteed a trophy in what must have been a tough year for voters — and has been for us as The Associated Press tries to sort out the mess.

ROCK ALBUM

Nominees

"13," Black Sabbath; "The Next Day," David Bowie; "Mechanical Bull," Kings of Leon; "Celebration Day," Led Zeppelin; "... Like Clockwork," Queens of the Stone Age; "Psychedelic Pill," Neil Young & Crazy Horse

Fekadu: Do we go with the four beloved legacy acts who didn't put out the best albums of their careers but sure get credit for trying? Or do we go with the more current acts who are certainly deserving of their own moments? I'm thinking Zeppelin, Sabbath, Bowie and Young cancel each other out and voters already feel like they're rewarded the Kings. I'm picking the true long shot here: Queens of the Stone Age.

Fekadu: I just hope that David Bowie shows up when he wins.

COUNTRY SONG

Nominees

"Begin Again," Taylor Swift; "I Drive Your Truck," Lee Brice; "Mama's Broken Heart," Miranda Lambert; "Merry Go 'Round," Kacey Musgraves; "Mine Would Be You," Blake Shelton

Fekadu: Musgraves is a bright newcomer nominated twice in this category since she co-wrote Miranda Lambert's hit. However, she'll win the gold for her own song.

Talbot: A blonde has won this award every time since 2005 (we count Lady Antebellum's Charles Kelley and Rascal Flatts' Gary LeVox). That narrows it down to Swift and Lambert. Add in the fact that Lambert and Musgraves have been splitting votes in the country song categories of other award shows — I see no reason that trend will change — and that leaves Swift an easy winner.

NEW ARTIST

Nominees

James Blake; Kendrick Lamar; Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; Kacey Musgraves; Ed Sheeran

Talbot: This category is and always has been baffling. This is a strong group, but how could Lorde not be nominated? Historically, best new artist has been impossible to predict, and this year's nominees are all over the board. While I personally feel Kendrick Lamar has the best long-term prospects among these entries, I think voters are focused on Macklemore and Lewis and their dazzling year and will give the nod to the Seattle rap duo.

Fekadu: If Ed Sheeran released a sophomore album this year as gratifying as his 2011 debut, this would be his trophy. But you're right about Macklemore and Lewis winning this.

RAP ALBUM

Nominees

"Nothing Was the Same," Drake; "Magna Carta Holy Grail," Jay Z; "good kid, m.A.A.d city," Kendrick Lamar; "The Heist," Macklemore & Ryan Lewis; "Yezzus," Kanye West

Talbot: On the surface this is a cutthroat category, but it's really a two-rapper race. Drake, winner of last year's Grammy in this category, Jay-Z and West have all been saluted before. And Macklemore and Lewis will figure in the overall categories, leaving the bedrock hip-hop voters free to go with their hearts. Lamar spent a good portion of the year proclaiming himself the greatest, and we agree.

Fekadu: Kendrick's verse on "Control" foreshadowed his win here. Maybe next year, Kanye?

SONG OF THE YEAR (songwriters)

Nominees

"Just Give Me a Reason," Pink, Nate Ruess and Jeff Bhasker; "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars, Philip Lawrence and Ari Levine; "Roar," Katy Perry, Lukasz Gottwald, Max Martin, Bonnie McKee and Henry Little; "Same Love," Macklemore, Ryan Lewis and Mary Lambert

Fekadu: The real competition is between "Just Give Me a Reason" and "Same Love." Pink's duet with Fun's frontman Nate Ruess is a rousing number and a win like this for Pink is deserving after she's impressed us year after year. "Same Love," though, was a social anthem and more than a year after it was released, it still provides the chills when Macklemore begins his verse. Who am I kidding? "Same Love" wins this.

Talbot: History tells us sometimes the hits win. Sometimes the winner has become an anthem in some way. And sometimes it's a right-field entry you might not have expected. I think this is where The Recording Academy shows its love for progressive, open-hearted messages and rewards Macklemore & Ryan Lewis for a song that was a lot of all three.

RECORD OF THE YEAR

Nominees

"Get Lucky," Daft Punk featuring Pharrell Williams and Nile Rodgers; "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons; "Royals," Lorde; "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars; "Blurred Lines," Robin Thicke featuring T.I. and Pharrell

Talbot: "Get Lucky" and "Blurred Lines" had their runs, but Lorde finished the year in the strongest position as Grammy's Nile Rodgers; "Radioactive," Imagine Dragons; "Royals," Lorde; "Locked Out of Heaven," Bruno Mars; "Blurred Lines," Robin Thicke featuring T.I. and Pharrell

Fekadu: You have a strong argument, Talbot, but I also think Lorde might be too new to win this — shoot, she was too new for a best new artist nomination. That's the same deal for Imagine Dragons. Mars' hit, while epic, might seem too old, which leaves us with two Pharrell-faced bangers. "Get Lucky" wins this because it features a legend, a super-respected musical act and was not sued by Marvin Gaye's children.

LIFESTYLE



PHOTOS BY JILL TOYOSHIBA, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

The East Hill Singers and volunteers from the local community rehearse Nov. 17 before their concert for the public at the Open Door Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kan. The East Hill Singers are comprised of inmates from the minimum security East Unit of the Lansing Correctional Facility in Missouri.

Beautiful music behind bars

Prison choir in Missouri inspires discipline, joy among inmates

By CINDY HOEDEL
The Kansas City Star

On a summer-like day in November, native wildflowers are still blooming on a slope below the outdoor track and weight area of the oddly picturesque minimum security East Unit of Lansing Correctional Facility in Missouri.

Cedric Johnson, 29, is doing pull-ups when a group of fellow inmates spot him and walk over.

"Hey, Lion King! What's up?"

Johnson flashes a full-on smile and says, "That's right. That's me. I get paid the big bucks."

The native of Louisiana is built like a running back. He played arena football for the Wichita Stealth, a now-defunct arena football team, but the wild lifestyle he adopted off the field landed him in jail on a sex charge.

At Lansing, Johnson passed on prison sports teams to sing lead tenor in the prison's classical choir, the East Hill Singers. He also sings frequently at worship services at the prison chapel for the many denominations. His voice is clear and sure, its timbre burnished by singing in church and school choirs since he was 6.

Somebody filmed an East Hill Singers concert and put a clip of Johnson singing

a solo in "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" on YouTube.

He's been Lion King ever since.

Today, East Hill Singers is part of the nonprofit Arts in Prison, which sponsors many arts-related activities for inmates at Kansas prisons in Lansing, Leavenworth and Topeka. In addition to choirs, there are programs for writing, yoga and visual arts.

But East Hill Singers came first, founded in 1995 by a choir director from Newton, Kan., named Elvera Voth; the other arts programs were added later.

For the inmate singers, the choir is a dress rehearsal for life on the outside.

Learning musical roles, attending regular practices and performing in front of an audience require discipline, teamwork and commitment — the same qualities the men will need to hold down a job and avoid returning to crime when they are released.

It's working.

Recidivism rates for men who participate in the East Hill Singers from its inception in 1995 through 2013 is 18 percent, compared with 32 percent statewide in Kansas.

East Hill administrator Shannon Meyer says the choir is very popular with inmates because it allows them to leave prison four times a year to perform in an area church and afterward, enjoy a home-cooked meal

provided by the congregation.

For inmates from the area, the performances offer an added bonus — a chance to hang out briefly with friends and family in a post-concert reception line.

Meyer says the choir is a powerful motivator for inmates at Lansing even before they join. "A lot of guys want to participate, and to get in they have to be Level III."

To get to Level III, prisoners have to be "DR free" (no disciplinary reports) for 12 months. It is the highest classification, the same required to have a TV and be able to buy the best stuff in the canteen.

Then, after inmates are accepted into the choir, they have to have near-perfect attendance at twice-weekly practices to be able to board the unmarked white shuttle vans on performance days.

Outside the closed door of the second-floor chapel at the East Unit, Leigh Lynch, executive director of Arts in Prison, smiled at an inmate rushing up the stairs, 10 minutes late.

As the prisoner mumbled an excuse, Lynch guided him by the elbow back down the stairs and said, "This is the last practice before the winter concert, and we have missed you at the other ones. Let's go talk about what needs to happen for you to sing in the spring concert."

SEE CHOIR ON PAGE 17



Ted King, bottom, and other Lansing Correctional Facility inmates in light blue sing alongside volunteers from the community. The choir option is popular among inmates because it allows them to leave prison four times a year to perform.

LIFESTYLE

Choir: Prison inmates find freedom through singing

FROM PAGE 16

Inside the chapel, 31 men in dark blue jeans, gray sweatshirts with their names printed in black letters on the back and red knit stocking caps sang the opening verse of "Ave Maria."

Then conductor and artistic director Kirk Carson stopped them, saying, "Big, fat vowels!" Carson opened his mouth wide, like a clown. Some of the men shook their heads and laughed, then mimicked the sounds he was making.

"Yes! Yes, yes!" Carson said. Carson took over as artistic director and conductor in 2006, when founder Voth retired. Carson has a performing arts degree from Oklahoma City University and sang opera professionally in Europe and the United States. His work with the prison choir fits around a full-time information technology job.

Meyer says Carson gives more than music to the inmates. "His humor, his expectations, the way he pushes them — he has become part of the their lives. For many of the men, he is the role model they never had."

During practice, Johnson's voice floats above the rest, easy to hear without being forced.

Other men in the choir have varying levels of talent.

Theodore King, 54, originally from Iola, Kan., has learned to sing baritone but does not consider himself a real singer. "I've learned a lot. I sure wouldn't say I've gotten better. I don't do solos when I'm not supposed to anymore," he said with a shy smile.

Avrin Chapman, 22, of Kansas City said he tried to sing too high before he joined the choir.

"I used to butcher Adele. Now I sing bass and it's much more natural."

Chapman said he looks forward to getting out in the coming months and plans to follow the lead of other inmates who have joined the nonprison part of the choir after release. The community part of the choir practices on Mondays.

"I've already put the word out with my family and friends: Don't look for me on Mondays when I get out. I won't be available."

Back in his cell, which looks more like a big camp cabin with rows of bunk beds and freestanding wardrobes marching down an airy hall with no partitions, Cedric Johnson showed off photos of his 5-year-old daughter, Trinity.

She's got his same easy grin and smiling eyes.

Trinity was born after Johnson was incarcerated. Her mother lives in Boston now, so Johnson's only contact with Trinity is by phone.

"I remember when she was real little, her mom said, 'She takes after you — she sings!'"

Her mama can't carry a tune in a bucket. I used to sing to Trinity when she was in her mom's stomach and now we sing together on the phone."

The inside of Johnson's wardrobe also has photos of his large family in Monroe, La. He is hoping to get work release soon, so he can work in Wichita for a year to earn enough money to fly his daughter and her mom to Monroe to meet his mother, grandmother and Johnson's eight siblings.

Johnson plans to continue singing when he gets out. "I've always had a passion for gospel. It's in my blood. I've already got a place in a church choir back in Louisiana when I get out."

About 160 people made their way on a bright but bitterly cold Sunday afternoon in November to Open Door Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kan., for the East Hill Singers' fall concert. The faces in the pews are white, black and Latino.

In the fourth row, a woman in a gray suit takes a seat near the aisle. Jeannine Hunter is here to see her son, Avrin Chapman. The concert starts in 15 minutes, and she wants to make sure she doesn't miss a thing.

"I'm very proud of Avrin. Not just his singing but the way he has changed his life," she says.

Meanwhile, in the minutes before their entrance, in a classroom filled with round tables, a couple dozen men in pastel or white shirts mingle with fellow singers in open-necked blue prison shirts.

Prison employees sip coffee around the perimeter of the room; they volunteer on their days off so the men from Lansing can perform.

When the concert begins, each of the 14 songs is introduced by an inmate who has volunteered to share a personal story as well as the history of the musical piece.

Jeffrey Campbell, 44, of Kansas City, Kan., introduces "A Place in the Choir" with a tribute to how choir director Carson found a skill in Campbell.

"I didn't think I could sing. Being in the choir has given me a sense of belonging and pride. It made me see we can have a place in society." When Campbell said he was going to be released in two weeks, and this would be his last concert wearing a blue shirt, the crowd broke into warm applause.

After the last song, the inmates lined up in front of the stage and nearly everyone in the audience, not just family members, surged forward to shake the inmates' hands, pat them on the back, some offering hugs as well.

For inmate singer Michael Mims, 38, from Wyandotte County, Kan., that is his favorite part of the concerts. "It feels like freedom, because real freedom is acceptance."



PHOTOS BY JILL TOYOSHIBA, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

Cedric Johnson, member of the East Hill Singers, looks at family photos in the storage closet of his living area in the minimum security east unit of the Lansing Correctional Facility. Johnson's daughter, Trinity, inherited Johnson's love of singing, according to her mother.



Above: Johnson is a first tenor and soloist. Left: After rehearsal Nov. 17 and before the concert, choir member Ted King, facing camera, gives Curtis Hauser, a former inmate and friend, a hug at the Open Door Baptist Church in Kansas City, Kan.



Jeannine Hunter, right, reunites with her son Avrin Chapman, after the East Hill Singers performed for the public Nov. 17 in Kansas City, Kan.

Learning musical roles, attending regular practices and performing in front of an audience require discipline, teamwork and commitment — the same qualities the men will need to hold down a job and avoid returning to crime when they are released.

CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

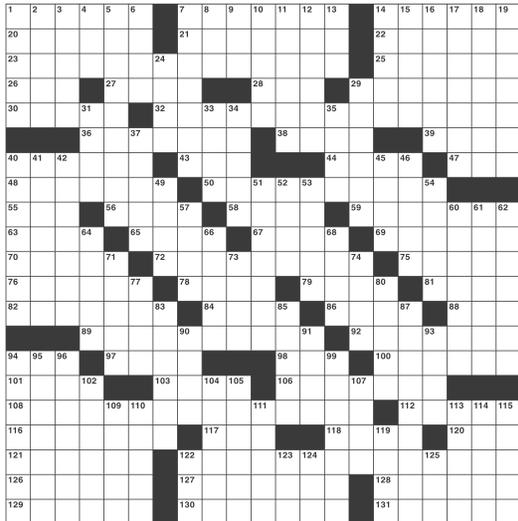
OLDEN GOLDIES By DAN SCHOENHOLZ / Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

- 1 Egyptian resurrection symbol
- 7 Ought to have, informally
- 14 "Come on, help me out"
- 20 Topical juice type
- 21 Weapon for 27-Across
- 22 Total
- 23 Traffic cop's answer upon being asked "Describe your job?" [1975]
- 25 Certify
- 26 Fraternally letter
- 27 Fictitious user of a 21-Across
- 28 Follower of A, B or AB, informally
- 29 Positions in old monasteries
- 30 Like some rollers after use
- 32 Post-tornado highway detritus, perhaps? [1974]
- 36 Scarlett's sister-in-law and best friend in "Gone With the Wind"
- 38 Brand
- 39 Inter ___
- 40 Chilling
- 43 Big imts. in health products
- 44 Hub
- 47 Speck
- 48 Chemical compounds in tea
- 50 Remark about a female stoner? [1980]
- 55 Epitome of simplicity
- 56 Cracker brand
- 58 Lose it
- 59 DNA structure
- 63 British heads
- 65 Jour's opposite
- 67 Family members
- 69 Get closer
- 70 Repeated cry accompanying a gavel hit
- 72 Roast pig after a pig roast? [1956]
- 75 Stressed
- 76 Fume
- 78 Close
- 79 Base figs.
- 81 ___ Pea
- 82 Attempts
- 84 "If I ___ ..."
- 86 Moolah
- 88 See 9-Down
- 89 Napa Valley excursion, maybe? [1963]
- 92 Sundry
- 94 R&B's ___ Hill
- 97 Pulitzer-winning novelist Jennifer
- 98 Java
- 100 Displayed for scoring, as in gin rummy
- 101 Santa ___ Calif.
- 103 Ghana neighbor
- 106 Tes-men
- 108 Data request from a good ol' furnace repairman? [1953]
- 112 Regatta racer
- 116 Believer in a strong centralized government

DOWN

- 117 Roulette, e.g.
- 118 On the job
- 120 "Yes, ___"
- 121 Not bankrupt
- 122 Frontiersman awakening in a foul mood? [1969]
- 126 About whom Nabokov said "She was like the composition of a beautiful puzzle — its composition and its solution at the same time"
- 127 Teed off
- 128 Marcos who collected shoes
- 129 Rendezvous
- 130 Lawn care tools
- 131 Some Civil War shots
- 1 Long pitch
- 2 Dragon fruit plants
- 3 Generating some buzz?
- 4 Templeton, e.g., in "Charlotte's Web"
- 5 Words stated with a salute
- 6 Setting for David's "The Death of Marat"
- 7 Everything being considered
- 8 Bray part
- 9 Hockey great whose name is a homophone of 88-Across and 123-Down
- 10 Barely ahead
- 11 Recluses
- 12 Pup
- 13 True or false: Abbr.
- 14 Sun spot
- 15 ___ nous
- 16 Supposed ancestor of Dracula
- 17 Spotted horse
- 18 Big name in TV talk
- 19 "Dig in!"
- 24 ___kiri
- 29 Old "From one beer lover to another" sloganer
- 31 Fed
- 33 Dive shop rentals
- 34 FC whizzes
- 35 Pod model
- 37 Name that starts a well-known "ism"
- 40 Speechless
- 41 Backless seat for one
- 42 Secret language device
- 45 Space cadet
- 46 Marsh hunter
- 49 Bit of jewelry
- 51 Inupit
- 52 Stated
- 53 Warren ___ baseball's winningest lefty
- 54 Flock : sheep :: drove : ___
- 57 Jerusalem's egypt
- 60 "Truthiness," e.g., before Stephen Colbert
- 61 Etiologist's study
- 62 Had a haughty reaction
- 63 Line in writing
- 66 Shopper in the juniors section, maybe
- 68 What may not come out in the wash?
- 71 "Side by Side by Sundheim," e.g.
- 73 Mass gathering site
- 74 Push
- 77 Leader after Mao
- 80 Guck
- 83 Try to hit, as a fly
- 85 Indian head
- 87 Like clockwork
- 90 Trying to break a tie, say
- 91 Spa class
- 93 "Lohengrin" lass
- 94 Cure, in a way
- 95 Support
- 96 As a rule
- 99 To-dos
- 102 Stella ___ (beer)
- 104 1997 Demi Moore title role
- 105 Jittery
- 107 Cigar butt?
- 109 Singer John with the 1988-title track "Slow Turning"
- 110 "C6mo ___"
- 111 Like beef for fondue
- 113 Dish in a bowl
- 114 Odyssey maker
- 115 Features of much Roman statuary
- 119 Georgia O'Keeffe subject
- 122 Gullet
- 123 See 9-Down
- 124 See 9-Down
- 125 Pennant race mo.



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MOVIES

America's new 'funniest guy'

Kevin Hart opens up about comedy, career expectations

By BARRY KOLTNOV ■ *The Orange County Register*

America has always had a "funniest guy."

At different times, it's been Chris Rock or Jim Carrey or Albert Brooks or Chris Tucker.

Right now, it's Kevin Hart.

If you're not familiar with his comedy, you will be soon with the release of "Ride Along," his first starring role in a major Hollywood studio movie.

The 34-year-old former shoe salesman from Philadelphia has parlayed a few amateur night appearances in East Coast comedy clubs into a burgeoning movie career that hit a new high in 2013

when his concert film "Let Me Explain," which he financed himself, amassed almost \$33 million at the box office.

In a Beverly Hills hotel suite, the 5-foot-2 comic explained why he financed that concert film, what he wants from his career and why he's always the first person in the room to make a short joke. This interview was moved to an earlier time so that he could get to a restaurant in time to watch his beloved Philadelphia Eagles in a playoff game. It didn't turn out well for the Eagles, but Hart didn't know that at the time, so he was still in a pretty good mood when we spoke.

Orange County Register: Describe Kevin Hart in the eighth grade?

Center of attention. Class clown. Didn't have an enemy in the world. People loved to be around me because I was a natural good time. Great energy. A good person. Of course, being that kind of a person, you can get in a lot of trouble for not doing what you're supposed to be doing in class.

So you had already discovered the secret by eighth grade?

Yes.

When did you actually discover it?

When I realized why I didn't get into fights. Everybody wanted to take up for me. People felt an obligation to protect me for some reason.



QUANTRELL D. COLBERT, UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Kevin Hart (right) shows he can be a leading man in his latest movie, "Ride Along," in which he plays a man who joins his soon-to-be brother-in-law, police officer James (Ice Cube, left), on a 24-hour patrol of Atlanta.

What do you suppose was the reason?

Because I was a nice guy. Because I was a funny guy. I have always had that kind of protection. I'm the funny guy. Everybody loves the funny guy. Nobody wants to hurt the funny guy. You want to be around the funny guy and laugh. Once I realized that I didn't have to change and act differently, I could just be funny all the time. I didn't have to be like other kids, who try to fit in and act like everyone else. I never went through that phase.

When did you understand that what you were doing in class could translate into a career?

When I started wondering what I was going to do with my life. Am I going to college? If I do, what am I going to do after college? What am I going to major in? I went to community college for two weeks and it wasn't me. I'm not a student. There was no win in it for me. I wasn't progressing. So I went and got a job at a shoe store.

Was that job a natural fit? And I apologize for the pun.

It was perfect. My energy was great. I made my co-workers smile all the time. And I was a good salesman. I was always in the top two (percent) of the salesmen—it was always me and this guy Dwight. It was my co-workers who pushed me to go on stage on amateur night at the Laugh House comedy club. I was shocked at first, but then I said I'd do it.

What happened at the club?

I won. And I literally fell in love with comedy.

I'm only going to ask you this because you have made your height the butt of thousands of jokes, but how long has your height been a punch line?

I'm a big fan of self-deprecation. I need to be an example if I expect people to laugh at what I'm saying. I need to talk about my issues. When you do, people instantly relate. They're not afraid to laugh anymore. It's a no-brainer. Height is just one of the things I joke about.

When the cast of "Grudge Match" appeared on "The View," Robert De Niro didn't stop laughing once you came out on stage. He rarely laughs at anyone. Is there anyone you can't make laugh?

Let me tell you something about Bobby.

He's one of the nicest guys around, but he's very reserved. But to answer your question, Cube does not break on the set. He'll laugh between shots, but never once the camera's rolling. I could make a joke and you'll see the entire crew laughing, but not Cube. He prides himself on keeping it together.

Why did you finance "Let Me Explain" yourself?

Other people were willing to finance it, but I had a feeling. I'm not a book-smart guy, but my friends call me a dumb genius. I literally stole a business-school education by hanging around with guys like Jay-Z and Puffy and Russell Simmons. I was a sponge. I slowly learned things. The blueprint is there. Tyler Perry wrote the blueprint. He knows his audience. I know my audience. He took his capital and financed his own projects. That's what I did. I spent about \$2.7 million, and the movie's brought in almost \$33 million.

What is the master plan?

The plan is to build the brand of Kevin Hart. I want to be respected. I want to be a mogul. Right now, I'm successful, but I don't want to rest on that. It's about continuing that success, making it bigger. Like what Jay-Z did.



AP

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OPINION

No taxpayer bailouts for insurers

By RAMESH PONNURU
 Bloomberg News

In my Bloomberg View column recently, I argued that Republicans should work to pass a law to prevent the abuse of Obamacare's "risk corridors." Designed properly, risk corridors can be a useful way to spread risk among the insurers who participate in an exchange: The ones who have relatively healthy customers, and thus profits, can subsidize the ones with relatively sick customers, and losses. If almost all the participants are losing money, though, the exchange as a whole isn't working, and taxpayers generally shouldn't have to cover the insurers' losses.

My solution: Congress should pass a law that would block the loss-making insurers from getting any risk-corridor payments beyond those raised from the profit-making insurers. I argued further that in this case, stopping a bad policy would make for good politics: Republicans would be fighting against a bailout of the insurers.

Even among people who share my views that Obamacare is structurally flawed and that we should go in a very different direction on health policy, however, there is disagreement about whether it makes sense to cap the risk corridors.

Start with the Wall Street Journal. It has editorialized that capping the subsidies to insurers would raise premiums for exchange policies and, therefore, also raise the cost of taxpayer subsidies for the people buying them: "The 'insurer bailout' is a good political line but the problem is the law itself."

Maybe the way to think about this issue is by asking a hypothetical question: If

Obamacare as written did not allow taxpayer subsidies to cover participating insurers' losses, would the Journal now favor creating them in order to keep premiums lower? Or would it regard such subsidies as a bailout designed to prop up a bad law and resist it accordingly? I think we know the answer to that question.

If conservatives wanted to make the premiums on the exchanges as low as possible, they would be for toughening the individual mandate to get more healthy people to join the pool. They're against that idea, because they don't think shoring up Obamacare is worth the conscription of more social resources. They should follow that logic in this case, too. The Journal is right that "the problem is the law itself." But stopping taxpayer subsidies to insurers is both right on its own merits and part of the struggle against the overall law.

Perhaps, though, the Journal is elliptical alluding to a political worry that if the insurers don't get their subsidies, the Obama administration will blame Republicans for the resulting problems of Obamacare. If so, it's a mistaken fear. The anti-bailout law can't pass without a lot of Democratic support. And even in its absence, supporters of Obamacare will blame its problems

on its opponents. They have been trying to do it for months without much success.

In Forbes, Yevgeniy Feyman argues that conservative health care reforms require the use of risk corridors, too, and Republicans should not try to discredit the idea. He's ignoring the distinction between insurer cross-subsidies and taxpayer exposure for insurers' losses. There's no reason conservative health reforms have to include the latter (and for that matter, even cross-subsidies would be needed only in Medicare, where taxpayer liabilities are already huge).

David Weigel, in Slate, writes that Republicans no longer have the leverage to stop the subsidies. An omnibus funding bill has passed Congress, so a government shutdown over the issue can't be forced. But who said anything about a shutdown? (And why would we assume that a shutdown gives Republicans leverage anyway? Didn't we just see that's an erroneous assumption a few months ago?) The House should pass the bill. If Harry Reid won't let it come to a vote, Republican Senate candidates will have a new campaign issue neatly gift-wrapped.

Weirdly, the first sentence of Weigel's post says the campaign against insurer bailouts "has gained traction" while the last sentence says it has "failed to gain traction." The House has failed to act on the idea, Weigel says, even though I'm backing it. It's true that the idea has not gotten much further since my column appeared. But that was only on Monday. Give me a little more time!

Ramesh Ponnuru is a Bloomberg View columnist, a visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and a senior editor at National Review.

Safeguards built into health care act

Washington Post editorial

So can we finally say that the Affordable Care Act is failing? Have Democrats engineered an Obamacare bailout that must be stopped?

No and no. Last week, the federal government released the most recent and most detailed figures to date for health insurance enrollment under the health care law. All told, 2.2 million Americans signed up for insurance in the new marketplaces by the end of last year. That's lower than projected, but not catastrophic. The big deadline to sign up millions more isn't until March 31, and enrollment probably will accelerate as that date approaches, particularly now that HealthCare.gov is significantly more functional.

What's critical, though, is that the marketplaces develop sustainably, with enough healthy people paying in to offset the health care costs of the sick. The government reported that a quarter of new enrollees are ages 18 to 34. The Obama administration aims for 40 percent. Failing to reach that goal could — but is not guaranteed to — encourage insurance companies to raise premiums next year, deterring even more healthy people from signing up. Higher premiums would cost many insurance customers — and the federal government, which subsidizes low- and middle-income Americans' policies — real money.

It was unrealistic to expect the system to work flawlessly immediately upon implementation. In fact, the law's authors anticipated that and put safeguards in place. One spreads risk among insurance companies by transferring money from those that see relatively low claims costs to those that see



relatively high costs. Another helps pay very high medical bills from individual patients.

Both measures are temporary and they help guarantee that companies make money by efficiently delivering coverage, not by dissuading ill applicants from signing up. But the federal government might have to kick in some money.

The Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that a risk pool such as the one reflected in the latest enrollment report would cut into insurance companies' bottom line by only a few percentage points, and the stabilizers would suppress a move to hike premiums in tandem. After a few years and, presumably, many more enrollments, the stabilizers

would be phased out.

Critics, though, are describing the possibility that these stabilizers will have to kick in as a bailout. Some have even called to repeal them. The argument has some least-common-denominator political appeal, but it amounts to little more than name-calling.

Spreading risk is insurance, not a bailout. Smart contingency planning is not a bailout. Giving the most ambitious reform of the health-care system in decades more than several months to take root is not a bailout. If the critics want to help, they should encourage more people to enroll — for their health and for the health of the health care system.

OPINION

Inequality, climate change must top US priorities

By MARK WEISBROT
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON
The U.S. economy is still weak, with 7 percent unemployment, many millions more underemployed and fewer people employed in November than there were six years ago.

At the same time — and not unrelated — we are still devolving along a path toward increasingly ugly inequality, with 95 percent of the income gains since the Great Recession going to the top 1 percent of the income distribution.

Meanwhile, the crisis of global climate change is moving toward more irreversible catastrophic damage each year that the United States, which is responsible for more of the cumulative carbon emissions than any other country and procrastinates in making the necessary changes to reduce fossil fuel consumption.

There are feasible policy changes that can address all of these problems and we don't have to sacrifice employment or a more just and decent society in order to make progress on climate change. Here are five of them:

■ **Carbon tax:** This one is so simple that it even gets overwhelming majority support among economists. If we tax the use of fossil fuels, less will be used and production and investment will shift to lower carbon dioxide and more renewable forms of energy like solar. We can even use the revenue to fund alternative energy sources — as in France — or if that is not politically feasible, simply refund the money to the public or cut other taxes as in the Canadian province of British Columbia.

■ **Pursue full employment:** We had full employment in 2000, when unemployment was 4 percent, and it didn't lead to inflation or anything bad. In addition to reducing the suffering of millions of unemployed and their families, full employment is what creates the momentum for the sharp increase in productivity gains that have, over the past 35 years, been withheld from the majority of the labor force. This means we have to keep the Fed's quantitative easing and near-zero interest rates as long as necessary. But that has not been enough; the economy is still short more than 8 million



Jim Suhr/AP

A coal truck is loaded at an underground coal mine near Farmersville, Ill., in December. Taxing the use of fossil fuels could lead to less being used and a shift of production and investment to lower-carbon-dioxide sources and more renewable forms of energy.

jobs. So we also need expansionary fiscal policy, which means federal spending that creates employment.

■ **Labor law reform:** Another main reason for the Latin Americanization of the United States, in terms of income distribution, is the decline of collective bargaining. Only 11.3 percent of workers are in unions today, compared with 35 percent in the 1950s. President Obama pledged in his first campaign to support The Employee Free Choice Act, which would have restored some of workers' rights to collective bargaining that have been lost over the past three decades. This will have to be restored if we are to reverse the country's

widening inequality.

■ **Public Investment in Energy:** The federal government can retrofit its own buildings for energy savings of about 30 percent, and subsidize others. A "smart" electricity grid can yield a lot of energy savings, and so can investment and subsidies to mass transit. These can be part of the expansionary fiscal policy needed to create jobs.

■ **A Financial Speculation Tax:** A tiny tax along the lines of 3 cents per \$100 — as currently proposed in Congress — on financial transactions such as stocks, bonds, futures and options — would raise tens of billions of dollars annually while reducing

speculative, destabilizing trading. It has popular support and it wouldn't hurt ordinary investors who are, for example, saving for their retirement.

Some of these proposals may seem far from the political agenda, but remember that the Federal Reserve's quantitative easing to stimulate the economy was uncharted territory until they actually did it in 2008. It was accepted by all but the far right; and it has helped. The public is more than ready for new economic policies to civilize this country and save the planet from climate disaster.

Mark Weisbrot is a co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research.

Challenges loom in major areas of economy in '14

By THE AMERICAN POLICY INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY RESEARCH

WASHINGTON
As the U.S. economy continues to sputter, American Enterprise Institute economists identify five areas that are likely to have a heavy effect on an American recovery in 2014: trade, the Federal Reserve, housing, taxes and the Internet.

■ **Trade:** The most important priority for the U.S. trade agenda in 2014 will be the successful conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, with 11 trading nations in the Asia Pacific.

The imperatives are both economic and diplomatic: The TPP is a central element of President Barack Obama's "pivot" to Asia and it forms the central core of a broader Asia regional economic architecture. Failure to conclude this agreement would have large-scale negative consequences for U.S. leadership in the Asia Pacific region, and risk ceding the game to Beijing.

■ **Federal Reserve:** The Fed faces extraordinary challenges in 2014. Under the new leadership of Janet Yellen, the Fed's successful management of its pro-stimu-

lus policy is an essential element of economic expansion in 2014. Its aggressive stance aimed at lowering the unemployment rate does not conflict with its two percent inflation target.

If inflation rises, however, the Fed will need to tighten — even if its lower unemployment rate target has not been reached — and the stock market will fall.

If, however, inflation keeps falling, the Fed will need either to buy even more securities and/or commit to a more extended period of zero short term interest rates. Otherwise, persistent disinflation or deflation will boost real interest rates and weaken growth. Either way, the Fed will have a tough 2014.

■ **Housing:** A strong economy relies on a stable housing market, which depends on the preponderance of home loans being low risk. However, the government's control of housing finance promotes risky lending: nearly one-half of home loans guaranteed recently by government agencies — FHA, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac — had down payments of 5 percent or less. Consequently, even a small drop in home prices would leave these borrowers underwater. The Fed's policy of keeping

interest rates at historically low levels is driving up house prices faster than rents and incomes.

This makes it difficult for first-time home buyers to purchase a home and creates the risk of another housing bubble. The solutions: Increase the market's reliance on private capital, return the FHA to traditional, sustainable lending practices, and allow interest rates to return to market levels.

■ **Tax Reform:** Over the last 25 years, many countries have lowered their corporate tax rates, leaving the United States with the highest rate in the developed world.

This discourages investment here, which holds down productivity and reduces wages. Congress and the president have failed to address this problem. Furthermore, the reforms being considered would barely reduce the tax burden on investment in the United States.

One solution would eliminate the corporate tax and instead tax corporate income fully at the stockholder level. Another approach would allow all investment costs to be immediately deducted rather than written off over years. Either of these re-

forms would simplify the tax system, encourage investment, and boost wages.

■ **The Internet:** Since being privatized in the mid-1990s, the Internet has operated with minimal government intrusion.

This free-market digital environment is fertile ground for American entrepreneurial spirit. Eight of the top 10 Internet properties — including Facebook, Google, and Microsoft — are "Made in the USA," and U.S. firms dominate markets from smartphones to mainframes.

Yet less-market-oriented governments would have the United Nations as an international Internet regulator. They have gotten a big boost from the NSA spying revelations, which they say demonstrate the need for international oversight. These forces will try again in April at a U.N. meeting in Buenos Aires. Nothing could be worse for the United States.

Contributors Claude Barfield, John H. Makin, Edward Pinto, Stephen Oliner, Alan Viard, Aparna Mathur, Matt Jensen and Jeffrey Eisenach specialize in various areas of the economy at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. This article was distributed by MCT Information Services.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Fears of economic slowdown dominate

By PAUL WISEMAN
AND JOSHUA FRIED
The Associated Press

Fear is back in the market.

Investors are worried about slower economic growth in China, a gloomier outlook for U.S. corporate profits and an end to easy-money policies in the United States and Europe. They're also fretting over country-specific troubles around the world — from economic mismanagement in Argentina to political instability in Turkey. Those fears converged last week to start a two-day rout in global markets that was capped by a 318-point drop in the Dow Jones industrial average Friday. It was the blue-chip index's worst day since last June. The Dow plunged almost 500 points over the last two days.

The Dow finished down 2 percent at 15,879 Friday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 38 points, or 2.1 percent, to 1,790. The Nasdaq composite fell 90 points, or 2.2 percent, to 4,128.

As investors shunned risk, small-company stocks fell even more than the rest of the market, and bond prices rose.

Despite the sell-off, U.S. stocks remain near all-time highs after surging 30 percent last year. The S&P 500 is 3 percent below its record high of 1,848 on Jan. 15.

U.S. stocks have not endured a correction — a drop of 10 percent or more over time — since October 2011.

The turbulence coincides with a global economic shift: China and other emerging-market economies appear to be running into trouble just as the developed economies of the United States and Europe finally show signs of renewed strength nearly five years after the end of the Great Recession.

The trouble began Thursday after a January survey showed a drop in Chinese manufacturing activity. Days earlier, China reported that its economic growth last year matched 2012 for the slowest pace since 1999.

"It is interesting how even a mild tremor in China's growth

causes such anxiety around the world," said Eswar Prasad, professor of Trade Policy at Cornell University.

In Asia, Japan's Nikkei 225 slipped 1.9 percent Friday to close at 15,391.56; Hong Kong's Hang Seng shed 1.2 percent to 22,450.06; and Seoul's Kospi dropped 0.4 percent to 1,940.56.

Slower growth in China is bad news for countries that supply oil, iron ore and other raw materials to the world's second-biggest economy. Some of those countries, such as Indonesia and South Africa, were already struggling with an outflow of capital as rising U.S. interest rates drew investors to the United States.

In the U.S., the outlook for corporate profits has already been weakening, and the turmoil in emerging-market currencies could make matters worse.

About two-thirds of the 123 S&P 500 companies that have reported fourth-quarter earnings so far have beaten analysts' estimates, according to S&P Capital IQ, in line with the historical aver-

age. But the forecasts for income growth have been falling and could decline further.

As recently as this summer, analysts predicted earnings growth of more than 11 percent for the fourth quarter, but now they expect just half that — 5.9 percent. Some companies are becoming more pessimistic, too. For the January-March quarter, seven out of every 10 that have talked about their prospects have cut projections, more than average, according to FactSet.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro (costs (Jan. 27))	\$1,407.1
Dollar buys (Jan. 27)	€0.1071
British pound (Jan. 27)	\$1.69
Japanese yen (Jan. 27)	¥102.00
South Korean won (Jan. 27)	₩1,048.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6491
Canada (Dollar)	1.1076
China (Yuan)	6.4940
Denmark (Krone)	6.4531
Egypt (Pound)	6.9656
Euro	\$1.3684/1.7308
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.6731
Hungary (Forint)	223.54
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4922
Japan (Yen)	102.29
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2825
Norway (Krone)	6.1415
Philippines (Peso)	45.31
Poland (Zloty)	4.07
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2795
South Korea (Won)	1,080.55
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8949
Thailand (Baht)	32.86
Turkey (Lira)	2.3298

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

MARKET WATCH

Jan. 24, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-318.24
	15,879.11
Nasdaq composite	-90.70
	4,128.17
Standard & Poor's 500	-38.17
	1,790.29
Russell 2000	-28.27
	1,144.13

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	8.25
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.04
30-year bond	3.64

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SUNDAY IN EUROPE



MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	48	20	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	28	-1	Snow	Louisville	44	11	Cldy	Pocatello	39	17	Pcldy	Sioux City	35	28	Cir
Ablene, Texas	73	43	Pcldy	Cheyenne	41	29	Snow	Fresno	69	37	Cir	Lubbock	61	31	Cir	Portland, Maine	18	17	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	30	21	Snow
Akron, Ohio	21	-4	Snow	Chicago	24	0	Snow	Goodland	52	29	Pcldy	Macon	50	27	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	49	35	Cir	South Bend	27	-1	Snow
Albany, N.Y.	15	7	Pcldy	Cincinnati	37	3	Snow	Grand Junction	39	12	Cir	Madison	52	23	Snow	Providence	50	14	Pcldy	Spokane	31	27	Rain
Albuquerque	56	29	Cir	Cleveland	22	2	Snow	Grand Rapids	19	-2	Snow	Medford	54	29	Pcldy	Pueblo	58	22	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	40	9	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	18	10	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	54	29	Pcldy	Great Falls	32	38	Snow	Memphis	55	30	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	44	20	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	54	29	Pcldy
Amarillo	57	28	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	50	23	Cir	Green Bay	10	-9	Snow	Miami Beach	77	58	Cir	Rapid City	36	35	Snow	St. Louis	68	35	Pcldy
Anchorage	45	37	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	50	28	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	43	18	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	73	36	Cir	Reino	57	24	Cir	Tallahassee	60	37	Pcldy
Asheville	43	13	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	32	2	Snow	Harrisburg	22	12	Cldy	Milwaukee	22	0	Snow	Richmond	35	18	Cir	Tampa	72	54	Cldy
Atlanta	48	25	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	19	2	Snow	Hartford	18	11	Pcldy	Minneapolis	18	7	Snow	Roanoke	38	15	Pcldy	Toledo	51	21	Snow
Atlantic City	25	15	Cir	Corpus Christi	71	44	Cir	Helena	36	25	Snow	Missoula	37	20	Cir	Rochester	38	16	Cir	Topeka	72	51	Cir
Austin	64	35	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	71	44	Cir	Idaho Falls	43	31	Cir	Mobile	34	24	Cir	Rockford	23	-1	Snow	Tucson	61	37	Cir
Baltimore	28	14	Cldy	Dayton	34	1	Snow	Houston	66	42	Pcldy	Montgomery	54	28	Pcldy	Sacramento	68	37	Cir	Tulsa	66	33	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	63	37	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	68	48	Cir	Huntsville	50	21	Pcldy	Nashville	51	19	Pcldy	St. Louis	50	21	Pcldy	Tupelo	53	25	Cir
Bilings	57	28	Snow	Denver	50	30	Pcldy	Indianapolis	33	1	Snow	New Orleans	60	41	Cir	St. Petersburg	71	56	Cir	Waco	68	35	Pcldy
Birmingham	51	25	Pcldy	Des Moines	36	19	Snow	Jackson, Miss.	57	27	Cir	New York City	22	14	Cldy	St. Thomas	77	77	Cir	Washington	30	16	Cldy
Bismarck	22	22	Snow	Detroit	19	-9	Snow	Jacksonville	59	36	Pcldy	Newark	22	15	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	47	37	Cir	W. Palm Beach	75	54	Pcldy
Boston	32	24	Cldy	Duluth	9	-9	Snow	Janeau	43	31	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	37	24	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	39	19	Cir	Wichita	57	32	Cir
Bridgeport	20	14	Pcldy	El Paso	66	40	Cir	Kansas City	51	29	Pcldy	North Platte	46	29	Cir	San Angelo	75	36	Cir	Wichita Falls	72	35	Cir
Brownsville	73	47	Cir	Elkins	32	3	Snow	Key West	61	37	Cir	Okahoma City	46	34	Cir	San Antonio	73	43	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	16	3	Cir
Buffalo	19	4	Snow	Eugene	45	35	Cldy	Lake Charles	63	39	Pcldy	Omaha	44	28	Cir	San Diego	68	54	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	23	15	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	11	11	Snow	Fairbanks	32	8	Pcldy	Lake Charles	63	39	Pcldy	Orlando	72	50	Cir	San Francisco	64	46	Cir	Yakima	33	21	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	24	21	Cldy	Fargo	11	5	Snow	Lexington	37	9	Cldy	Peoria	31	23	Cir	San Jose	51	22	Cir	Youngstown	20	-2	Snow
Charleston, S.C.	52	29	Cir	Flagstaff	53	20	Cir	Lincoln	46	30	Snow	Philadelphia	23	15	Pcldy	Savannah	54	30	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	36	9	Cldy	Flint	14	-4	Snow	Little Rock	61	30	Pcldy	Phoenix	76	48	Cir	Seattle	50	40	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	43	20	Cir	Fort Smith	64	30	Cir	Los Angeles	72	52	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	24	-1	Snow	Shreveport	62	36	Pcldy				

National temperature extremes Hi: Fri., 81, Lemore, Nias, Calif. Lo: Fri., 30, Watertown, N.Y.



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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AF101

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

Pro football

- NFL playoffs**
Wild-card playoffs
 Saturday, Jan. 4
 Indianapolis 45, Kansas City 14
 New Orleans 26, Philadelphia 24
Sunday, Jan. 5
 San Diego 27, Cincinnati 10
 San Francisco 23, Green Bay 20
Divisional playoffs
 Saturday, Jan. 5
 Seattle 23, New Orleans 15
 New England 43, Indianapolis 22
Sunday, Jan. 12
 San Francisco 23, Carolina 10
 Denver 24, San Diego 17
Conference Championships
 Sunday, Jan. 19
 Denver 26, New England 16
 Seattle 23, San Francisco 17
Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
 At Honolulu
 Team Rice vs. Team Sanders
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
 At East Rutherford, N.J.
 Denver vs. Seattle

NFL injury report
 NEW YORK — The updated National Football League injury report, as provided by the league:
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS at DENVER BRONCOS — SEAHAWKS: PROBABLE: WR Doug Baldwin (hip), WR Percy Harvin (concussion), RB Marshawn Lynch (knee), CB Byron Breaux (neck), DT Brandon Mebane (ankle), LB K.J. Wright (foot). QUONOS: DOUTFUL: DT Stone Va (calf). BRONCOS: PROBABLE: RB Knowshon Moreno (ribs), K Matt Prater (illness), DT Mitch Unrein (ankle), RB Jacob Tamura (ankle), QB Peyton Manning (ankle), CB Kayvon Webster (thumb).

Tennis

- Australian Open**
Saturday
 At Melbourne Park
Melbourne, Australia
 Pursue 22.7 million (Grand Slam)
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Women
Championship
 Li Na (4), China, def. Victoria Cibulkova (20), Slovakia, 7-6 (3), 6-0.
Men
 Lukasz Kubot, Poland, and Robert Lindstedt (14), Sweden, def. Eric Butorac, Croatia, and Andrej Kasjanov, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

Golf

- Farmers Insurance Open**
PGA Tour
 5-Stroke Pines, South Course
 72,698 yards, par 72
n-Tour's Pines, 8th Course
 70,852 yards, par 72
San Diego
Purse: \$6.1 million
Second Round
 Jordan Spieth 71-63-134 - 10
 Stewart Cink 70-65-131 - 9
 Nicklas Ekstrand 70-65-136 - 8
 Billy Horschel 69-71-137 - 8
 Matt Kuchar 70-65-136 - 8
 Morgan Hoffmann 72-66-138 - 6
 Gary Woodland 75-73-138 - 6
 Russell Knox 71-67-138 - 6
 Pat Perez 67-71-138 - 6
 Erik Compton 69-69-138 - 6
 Brad Fritsch 69-70-139 - 5
 Victor Dubuisson 72-67-139 - 5
 Kevin Turney 69-70-139 - 5
 117 Hanks 71-68-141 - 4
 Charley Hoffman 69-70-139 - 5
 Scott Stallings 72-67-139 - 5
 Jason Day 69-73-139 - 5
 Kevin Chappell 72-67-139 - 5
 Martin Laird 69-71-140 - 4
 Matt Jones 75-65-140 - 4
 Victor Dubuisson 72-69-141 - 3
 D.A. Points 67-74-141 - 3
 Will Maczyski 70-75-141 - 3
 Seung-Yul Noh 68-75-141 - 3
 Jim Herman 70-75-141 - 3
 David Lynn 68-75-141 - 3
 Singu 69-75-141 - 3
 Keegan Bradley 69-75-141 - 3
 Bobby Gates 69-75-141 - 3
 Justin Thomas 69-75-141 - 3
 Charlie Wi 72-70-142 - 2
 Trevor Immelman 68-74-142 - 2

College basketball

Friday's men's scores

- EAST**
 Castleton St. 93, Maine-Farmington 83
 Stony Brook 86, NYU 51
 Hartwick 93, UConn 82
 Hobart 88, Skidmore 82
 Iowa 95, Quinnipiac 73
 John Jay 73, Baruch 66
 Madison St. 83, Merchant Marine 63
 Manhattan 67, Rider 52
 Quinnipiac 87, Colby 71
 Niagara 80, Marist 74
 Stony Fisher 60, Elmira 63
 Stony Brook 67, Vermont 64
 NYU (NY) 86, St. Joseph's (NY) 67
SOUTH
 Berry 66, Sewanee 58
 Bryn Mawr 76, Berea 73
 Lipscomb 75, N. Kentucky 74
MIDWEST
 Augustana (SD) 34, Sioux Falls 53
 Bemidji 52, Concordia 56
 Northland 43, Concordia (S.P.) 81
 Upper Iowa 69
 Concordia (Wis.) 85, Concordia (Ill.) 75
 Conn. (Minn.) 96, North Central (Minn.) 76
 Detroit 73, Milwaukee 54
 Michigan St. 78, Morehead 76
 Minn. Duluth 71
 Minn.-Morris 59, Northwestern (Minn.) 56
 Minot St. 78, Minn.-Crookston 59
 SW Minnesota St. 58, Wayne (Neb.) 56
 Scholastica 84, Martin Luther 69
 Wisconsin 73, Minn. St. Markato 82
FAR WEST
 Coll. of Idaho 109, S. Oregon 100
 N.W. Christian 78, Evergreen St. 73
 Oregon Tech 81, E. Oregon 60

Saturday's men's scores

- EAST**
 Siena at Fairfield
 Fordham at Canisius
 Quinnipiac at Manhattan
 St. Joseph's at Mass-Lowell
 Kent at Princeton
 Maine at Stony Brook
 Quinnipiac at Monmouth (N.J.)
 Cincinnati at Temple
 Georgetown at Vermont
SOUTH
 Georgia Tech at NC State
 South Florida at Memphis
 Cincinnati at Wake Forest
MIDWEST
 Bradley at Evansville
 North Carolina at Green Bay
 Ball St. at W. Michigan
 Minnesota at Indiana
 Minnesota at Nebraska
 Kent St. at Toledo
SOUTHWEST
 SMU at Houston
FAR WEST
 Stanford at Southern Cal
 Oregon at Washington St.
 Utah at Arizona
 Utah State at UCLA

Men's schedule

- Sunday**
 Siena at Fairfield
 Fordham at Canisius
 Quinnipiac at Manhattan
 St. Joseph's at Mass-Lowell
 Kent at Princeton
 Maine at Stony Brook
 Quinnipiac at Monmouth (N.J.)
 Cincinnati at Temple
 Georgetown at Vermont
SOUTH
 Georgia Tech at NC State
 South Florida at Memphis
 Cincinnati at Wake Forest
MIDWEST
 Bradley at Evansville
 North Carolina at Green Bay
 Ball St. at W. Michigan
 Minnesota at Indiana
 Minnesota at Nebraska
 Kent St. at Toledo
SOUTHWEST
 SMU at Houston
FAR WEST
 Stanford at Southern Cal
 Oregon at Washington St.
 Utah at Arizona
 Utah State at UCLA

Friday's women's scores

- EAST**
 Barnby 66, John Jay 57
 Canisius 61, Medgar Evers 37
 Colby 74, Maine-Farmington 38
 Fairfield 63, Canisius 57
 Iowa 78, Quinnipiac 54
 John Jay 63, St. Joseph's (NY) 77
 Rider 52, Manhattan 67
 Quinnipiac 87, Colby 71
 Siena 72, Siena 70
SOUTH
 Berry 66, Sewanee 58
 Bryn Mawr 76, Berea 73
 Lipscomb 75, N. Kentucky 74
MIDWEST
 Augustana (SD) 34, Sioux Falls 53
 Bemidji 52, Concordia 56
 Northland 43, Concordia (S.P.) 81
 Upper Iowa 69
 Concordia (Wis.) 85, Concordia (Ill.) 75
 Conn. (Minn.) 96, North Central (Minn.) 76
 Detroit 73, Milwaukee 54
 Michigan St. 78, Morehead 76
 Minn. Duluth 71
 Minn.-Morris 59, Northwestern (Minn.) 56
 Minot St. 78, Minn.-Crookston 59
 SW Minnesota St. 58, Wayne (Neb.) 56
 Scholastica 84, Martin Luther 69
 Wisconsin 73, Minn. St. Markato 82
FAR WEST
 Coll. of Idaho 109, S. Oregon 100
 N.W. Christian 78, Evergreen St. 73
 Oregon Tech 81, E. Oregon 60

Bahamas Classic

- PGA Tour**
 At Ocean Club Golf Course
 Paragolf, Bahamas
Purse: \$1.3 million
Yardage: 6,444; Par: 73
Second Round
 Jessica Korda 69-66-135 - 11
 Paul Casey 72-65-137 - 9
 Michelle Wie 72-65-137 - 9
 Jimmy Shuler 71-66-137 - 9
 N. Ireland 70-68-138 - 8
 P. Anirban 69-68-138 - 8
 Na Yeon Cho 68-70-138 - 8
 P.A. Sangman 69-68-138 - 8
 Lydia Ko 68-70-138 - 8
 A. Nishikida 72-67-139 - 5
 Sandra Gal 71-69-140 - 5
 Pornanong Phathum 71-69-140 - 5
 Hee Young Park 72-67-141 - 7
 Stacy Lewis 69-71-140 - 6
 Danielle Kang 70-71-140 - 6
 Pernilla Lindberg 70-71-141 - 5
 Azahara Munoz 71-69-141 - 5
 Thidapa Suwanwattana 70-71-141 - 5
 Candie Kung 69-72-141 - 5
 Hee Young Park 72-67-141 - 7
 Chella Choi 73-69-142 - 4
 Victoria Sulzberger 70-71-141 - 5
 Katherine Kirk 73-69-142 - 4
 Sun Young Yoo 70-69-142 - 4
 Amelia Lewis 69-73-142 - 4
 Simon Dunyo 69-74-143 - 3
 Jodi Ewart Shadoff 75-68-143 - 3
 Frida 74-69-143 - 3
 Laura Diaz 74-69-143 - 3
 Ha Young Lee 74-69-143 - 3
 Natalie Gulbis 70-73-143 - 3
 Sandra Gal 71-69-143 - 3
 Pae Echeverria 70-73-143 - 3
 Morgan Pressel 70-73-143 - 3
 Dawn Storer 69-74-143 - 3
 Austin Ernst 69-74-143 - 3
 Kathleen Eick 75-69-144 - 2

Friday's men's scores

- St. John Fisher 67, Elmira 40
 William Smith 65, Skidmore 64
 Yale 73, Brown 52
MIDWEST
 Bethany Lutheran 60, Northland 52
 Concordia (Nebr.) 73, Concordia (Wis.) 69
 Concordia (S.P.) 71, Upper Iowa 65
 Loyola of Chicago 75, Drake 69
 Madison St. 83, Bemidji 53
 Minn. Duluth 75, Minn. St. (Moorehead) 70
 Minot St. 78, Minn.-Crookston 64
 Iowa 78, Bradley 67
 North Central (Minn.) 75, Crown (Minn.) 52
 Northwestern (Minn.) 61, Minn.-Morris 74
 Sioux Falls 84, Augustana (SD) 72
 St. Cloud St. 64, Northern St. (SD) 61
 St. Scholastica 83, Luther 59
 Wayne (Neb.) 67, SW Minnesota St. 58
FAR WEST
 Arizona St. 50, Utah 62
 Colorado 68, Arizona 47
 Evergreen St. 75, Washington 68
 Oregon 82, Washington St. 66
 Oregon St. 75, Washington 68
 Oregon Tech 58, E. Oregon 50
 S. Oregon 75, Coll. of Idaho 73
 Southern Cal 77, California 70
EXHIBITION
 Minn. St. (Mankato) 77, Winona St. 53
 Northwest U. 63, Corban 52

Women's schedule

- Sunday, Jan. 26**
 Stony Brook at Maine
 Connecticut at UConn at the XL Center, Hartford, Conn.
 Wake Forest at Boston College
 Princeton at Penn St.
 Fairfield at Quinnipiac
 Vermont at Binghamton
 Northeastern at Drexel
 Snyder Peters at Iowa
 Manhattan at Monmouth (N.J.)
 Canisius at Siena
 Virginia at Syracuse
 New Hampshire at UMass-Lowell
 Georgetown at St. Joseph's
 Dayton at Saint Joseph's
SOUTH
 Arkansas at Kentucky
 Memphis at Louisiana-Lafayette
 Miami at Clemson
 Delaware at Coll. of Charleston
 Virginia Tech at Florida St.
 Virginia Tech at Florida St.
 Virginia Tech at Florida St.
 LSU at Mississippi
 Charleston Southern at UNC Asheville
 James Madison at UNC Wilmington
 South Carolina at Vanderbilt
 Towson at William & Mary
 Georgia at Alabama
 Missouri at Missouri St.
 Missouri at Mississippi St.
MIDWEST
 Michigan St. at Ohio St.
 Buffalo at Ball St.
 Illinois at Wisconsin
 N. Illinois at Bowling Green
 Akron at Ohio State
 Toledo at Ohio
 Ohio State at Michigan at N. Iowa
 Bradley at Drake
 Evansville at Indiana
 Indiana at Northwestern
SOUTHWEST
 Baylor at Oklahoma St.
 Tennessee at Texas A&M
 Missouri at Texas Tech
 Arizona St. at Colorado
 Wichita State at Oklahoma St.
 Washington at Oregon
 Washington St. at Oregon St.
 Utah at Utah State
 UCLA at California

Qatar Masters

- PGA European Tour**
At Doha Golf Club
Doha, Qatar
Purse: \$2.5 million
Yardage: 7,400; Par: 72
Final
 Sergio Garcia, Spain 71-67-69-65=272
 Mikko Iltonen, Finland 68-67-71-66=272
 Tim Clark, Scotland 69-68-68-68=272
 Rafa Cabrera-Bello, Spain 66-65-73-69=273
 Adam Long, England 70-69-68=273
 G. Coetzee, South Africa 66-67-68=274
 Thomas Alback, South Africa 67-68-70-69=274
 Matt Fitzpatrick, England 67-69-70=274
 M.A. Carlsson, Sweden 69-70-72=275
 Adam Scott, Australia 72-70-68=275
 Romain Wattel, France 67-68-67=275
 Carlos Garcia, Spain 67-68-68=276
 Victor Dubuisson, France 67-68-68=276
 Seve Borenor, England 68-71-69-69=277
 Henrik Stenson, Sweden 67-69-71-70=277
 a-Dominic Fois, Germany 70-70-70=278
 Peter Uihlein, United States 70-69-69=278
 Simon Dunyo, England 68-69-71=278
 F. du Jonckheere, Belgium 69-69-69=278
 John Carlsson, Sweden 69-65-72=278
 Anders Sandler, France 70-71-64=273
 Henrik Stenson, Sweden 68-71-74=280
 Adam Scott, Australia 67-75-71=282
 B. Koepka, United States 70-70-72=282
 S. Hult, Sweden 69-74=282
 Martin Kaymer, Germany 70-70-73=282
 John Daly, United States 67-69-73=282
 F. du Jonckheere, Belgium 69-74=282
 Jose Maria Olazabal, Spain 69-74-74=282
 Jason Dufur, United States 70-71-76=290

Qatar Masters

- Alena Sharp 75-69-144 - 2
 Robert Lee-Bentham 74-70-144 - 2
 Lisa McDonkey 74-70-144 - 2

Qatar Masters

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 M.A. Carlsson, Sweden 69-70-72=275
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 Jason Dufur, United States 70-71-76=290

Friday's transactions

- BASEBALL**
American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Agreed to terms with manager Rino Ventura on a multiyear contract extension.
CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with C Luke Carlino on a minor league contract.
NEW YORK YANKEES — Traded LHP Brandon Lidge to the San Francisco Giants for cash considerations.
SEATTLE MARINERS — Named Kevin Murray, brother of former MLB pitcher, and Bob Ayward chairman of the board of New York Jets LLC. Agreed to terms with LHP Joe Beimel and RHP Mark Rogers on minor league contracts.
National League
ATLANTA BRAVES — Agreed to terms with RHP Freddy Garcia on a minor league contract.
CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with LHP Travis Wood on a one-year contract and with RHP Carlos Pimentel, LHP Tommy Hoffa, LHP Jonathan Sanchez, LHP Toshiyuki Wada, INF Randy Valdez, OF Chris Coghlan, OF Aaron Cunningham, OF Ryan Soffel, OF Mitch Mauer, OF Darnell McDonald, OF Casper Wells, C John Baker and C Eli Whiteside on minor league contracts.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Signed INF Chase Utley to a minor league contract.
MIAMI MARLINS — Signed 3B Ty Wigington to a minor-league contract.
NEW YORK METS — Agreed to terms with RHP Ryo Matsui on a minor league contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Agreed to terms with RHP Gabriel Arias, INF James Loney, OF Marco Luciano, RHP Mike Tompkins, RHP Clay Hensley, RHP Daniel Stearns, INF Brock Peterson, and C Chris Snyder on minor league contracts.

Baseball

- BASKETBALL**
National Basketball Association
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Signed C DeWayne Deedman to a second 10-day contract.
NATIONAL SPURS — Signed G Othye Jeffers to a 10-day contract.
FOOTBALL
National Union League
NFL — Fined Seattle CB Richard Sherman for fine \$7,875 for unsportsmanlike conduct during the final minute of the NFC championship game against San Francisco.
BUFFALO BILLS — Named Jim Schwartz defensive coordinator and Todd Downing quarterbacks coach.
NEW YORK GIANTS — Announced the retirement of DT Akiem Hicks.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS — Named Pete Carroll assistant defensive line coach and Carlos Polk assistant special teams coach.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
BUFFALO SABRES — Signed a defenseman Mark Pysyk to Rochester (AHL).
CHICAGO BLACK HAWKS — Signed a defenseman David Gustafson from Rochester.
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS — Sent D. Prout to Springfield (AHL).
SAN JOE SHARKS — Signed C Joe Stacey to Rochester (AHL).
TAMPA BAY BUCCANERS — Named Mike Weber assistant offensive line coach and Carlos Polk assistant special teams coach.

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Men's World Cup downhill

- Saturday**
 At Kitzbuehel, Austria
 1. Hans Reichel, Austria 2:03.38
 2. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 2:03.59
 3. Bode Miller, United States, 2:03.72
 4. Aron Thaxum, Norway, 2:04.04
 5. Christof Innerhofer, Italy, 2:04.15
 6. Carlo Janka, Switzerland, 2:04.35
 7. Travis Janney, United States, 2:04.41
 8. Max Franz, Austria, 2:04.41
 9. Kjetil Jansrud, Norway, 2:04.46
 10. Didier Defago, Switzerland, 2:04.52
 11. Matthias Mayer, Austria, 2:04.66
 12. Benjamin Thomsen, Canada, 2:04.80
 13. Johan Clarey, France, 2:04.82
 14. Patrick Kueng, Switzerland, 2:04.97
 15. Stephan Keppler, Germany, 2:05.04
Also
 16. Marco Sullivan, United States, 2:05.22
 17. Steven Nyman, United States, 2:05.32
 18. Jared Goldberg, United States, 2:06.07
 19. Erik Fisher, United States, 2:06.44
 20. Andrew Weibrecht, United States, 2:07.23

World Cup downhill

- (After six of nine races)**
 1. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 440 points
 2. Johannes Reichel, Austria, 360
 3. Patrick Kueng, Switzerland, 239
 4. Erik Guay, Canada, 204
 5. Didier Defago, Switzerland, 203
Also
 6. Bode Miller, United States, 185
 18. Travis Janney, United States, 100
 19. Marco Sullivan, United States, 84
 33. Erik Fisher, United States, 27
 34. Steven Nyman, United States, 26
 35. Christof Innerhofer, Austria, 22

World Cup Downhill

- (After seven of 10 races)**
 1. Aksel Lund Svindal, Norway, 837
 2. Marcel Hirsiger, Switzerland, 616
 3. Alexis Pinturault, France, 556
 4. Johannes Reichel, Austria, 503
 5. Hannes Reichel, Austria, 476
Also
 6. Ted Ligety, United States, 449
 8. Bode Miller, United States, 369
 12. Marc Gungor, Switzerland, 124
 53. David Chodounsky, United States, 68
 60. Tim Jitloff, United States, 63
 71. Jarro Slavin, United States, 54
 72. Marko Matjaz Mladic, Slovenia, 53
 85. Erik Fisher, United States, 30
 81. Steven Nyman, United

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference Atlantic Division
Toronto 120
Brooklyn 120
Houston 120
Boston 120
Philadelphia 120
Southeast Division
Miami 120
Orlando 120
Indiana 120
Chicago 120
Detroit 120
Washington 120
Milwaukee 120

Western Conference Northwest Division
Oklahoma City 120
Portland 120
Minnesota 120
Denver 120
Utah 120
Pacific Division
L.A. Clippers 120
Golden State 120
Phoenix 120
Sacramento 120

Spurs 105, Hawks 79

SAN ANTONIO — Belinelli (0-2-1-1), Duncan 7-14-3-6-17, Ayres 2-3-2-2-6, Parker 5-10-1-2-11, Joseph 4-10-0-8, Ginobili 1-3-1-2-2, Mills 6-10-0-18, Diaw 6-10-2-2-21, Baynes 2-10-2-2-6, De Colo 4-8-0-9, Bonner 3-0-3-3, Jeffers 1-1-0-0, Totals 41-84-12-17-105. ATLANTA — Millsap 6-13-15, Ayo 4-7-0-28, Teague 4-7-1-19, Williams 4-11-3-12, Brand 3-6-3-4-9, Nunnally 2-8-1-2-5, Scott 2-7-6-10, Schroder 3-1-2-2-4, Mack 2-6-0-4, Totals 29-76-19-27-7-14.

Pelicans 103, Pistons 101

NEW ORLEANS — Aminu 5-8-0-10, Davis 4-12-6-16, Alycia 3-5-0-6, Rivers 6-4-5-1-13, Gordon 10-2-4-15, Siemms 2-0-0-4, Miller 0-1-3-3-3, Roberts 6-5-3-15, Whitney 1-3-0-0-2, Morrow 1-1-1-3-21, Totals 37-22-24-103. DETROIT — JoSmith 6-12-0-13, Monroe 4-8-0-8, Drummond 9-17-2-6-21, Jennings 7-20-12-14-28, Caldwell-Pope 6-12-1-14, Stuckey 3-9-3-4-9, Singler 1-5-0-3-3, Bynum 1-2-2-5, Totals 47-89-21-28-101.

Wizards 101, Suns 95

WASHINGTON — Ariza 6-14-8-8-23, Nene 8-15-2-4-18, Gortao 6-10-2-4-14, Wall 6-12-4-5-18, Seal 8-15-0-0-17, Temple 1-5-1-2-3, Booker 3-7-0-6, Seraphin 0-1-0-0-0, Porter Jr. 1-0-0-2, Totals 39-96-17-23-101. PHOENIX — Udrih 10-20-14, Dragic 8-19-2-15, Green 4-8-2-2, Barnes 4-8-2-2, Mark 10-3-6-9-13, Len 1-1-2-2-4, Golic 0-0-0-0, Garcia-Morris 1-1-3-3-3, Totals 34-70-20-25-95.

Knicks 125, Bobcats 96

CHARLOTTE — Kidd-Gilchrist 2-4-0-1-4, McRoberts 2-4-0-6, Jefferson 11-19-3-12-25, Sessions 3-6-6-12, Henderson 4-9-0-6, Zeller 2-5-1-1-5, Douglas-Boyd 5-7-0-14, Taylor 1-5-0-0-3, Pargo 4-11-0-0-1, Tomba 3-4-2-3, Totals 37-76-12-14-96. NEW YORK — Anthony 23-28-35-10-10, Chandler 2-0-0-8, 28-19-31-0-0-2, Prigioni 1-2-0-0-3, Felton 5-9-0-10, Smith 5-9-1-1-8, Aldrich 1-4-0-0-2, Haraway 4-8-0-10, Tyler 4-8-0-8, Murray 3-4-0-6, Udrih 1-3-0-0-3, Totals 50-11-11-125.

Friday's games

Orlando 114, L.A. Lakers 105
Toronto 104, Philadelphia 95
New York 127, Charlotte 96
L.A. Clippers 112, Chicago 95
Memphis 88, Houston 106
Washington 101, Phoenix 95
New Orleans 121, Golden State 120
Saturday's games
Chicago 104, Detroit 100
L.A. Clippers at Toronto
Cleveland at Philadelphia
Houston at Memphis
New York 126, Charlotte 96
Indiana at Denver
Brooklyn at Utah
Minnesota at Portland
Sunday's games
San Antonio at Miami
L.A. Lakers at New York
Phoenix at Cleveland
Detroit at Dallas
Portland at Golden State
Phoenix at Sacramento
Monday's games
Miami at Philadelphia
Toronto at Brooklyn
Chicago at Chicago
Atlanta at Oklahoma City
L.A. Clippers at Milwaukee
Sacramento at Utah

Friday, Warriors 120

MINNESOTA — Brewer 6-10-0-15, Lee 7-18-11-14-26, Pekovic 11-18-2-26, Rubio 4-7-1-23, Martin 10-13-5-26, Barea 2-4-0-5-12, Crawford 2-5-0-12, Cunningham 1-3-0-0-2, Burdick 2-5-0-5-12, Totals 47-94-18-28-120. GOLDEN STATE — Iguodala 6-9-3-16, Lee 10-15-3-23, Bogut 4-5-0-0-8, Curry 12-21-3-33, Thompson 4-10-0-18, Barnes 1-2-0-0-4, L. J. Smith 4-4-2-4, Crawford 2-6-2-6, Speights 5-8-0-10, Totals 49-89-13-15-120.

Pacers 116, Kings 111 (OT)

INDIANA — George 12-22-8-36, West 9-12-1-15, Hill 4-10-10, Hill 3-5-3-10, Stephenson 9-19-8-24, Scola 3-10-0-0-0, Turner 2-5-2-7, Crawford 2-5-0-12, Mahmini 0-0-1-2, Totals 41-95-26-33-116. KINGS — Thompson 0-8-1-21, Gray 1-3-1-3-3, Thomas 13-1-10-18, Thornton 16-27-3-42, O'Leary 10-12-1-15, Crawford 0-2-2-6, 2-5-0-5-12, Landry 2-8-1-5, McLemore 1-5-0-0-0, Totals 38-39-12-11-111.

Clippers 112, Bulls 95

L.A. CLIPPERS — Barnes 5-6-0-0-13, Griffin 14-24-2-26, Noah 9-4-3-13, Gortao 6-14-4-5-19, Reddick 5-11-4-4-18, Crawford 6-14-4-5-19, Dudley 3-0-0-0-0, Hollins 0-0-0-0-0, Morris 0-0-0-0, Turley 2-5-0-0-2, Green 2-0-0-4, Bullock 0-0-0-0-0, Totals 40-93-19-95. CHICAGO — Dunleavy 6-14-3-17, Boozer 10-20-2-22, Noah 9-4-3-13, Gibson 8-18-2-28, Snell 2-5-0-5, Mohammed 2-0-0-0-0, Morris 0-0-0-0, Martin 0-0-0-0, Murphy 0-0-0-0-0, Totals 40-93-19-95.

Grizzlies 88, Rockets 87

MEMPHIS — Prince 13-0-0-7, Randolph 11-10-1-14, Lee 6-9-6-19, Calathes 13-8-2-15, Ellis 11-11-16, Carter 8-10-0-0, Miller 1-2-0-0-2, Koussous 0-0-0-0, Totals 36-87-14-16-87. HOUSTON — Parsons 11-17-2-2-34, Johnson 4-10-0-9, Howard 5-10-1-12, Bevelev 1-1-1-0-0, Harden 2-11-5-10, McLemore 2-5-0-5, Lin 4-4-1-2-9, Casspi 2-7-0-0-0, Totals 32-79-14-14-87.

Nets 107, Mavericks 106

DALLAS — Marion 2-5-4-4-9, Nowitzki 5-15-8-16, Dalembert 0-1-2-2-2, Caldwell-Pope 1-1-0-15, Ellis 11-16-16, Carter 8-15-1-19, Blair 2-7-0-4, Harris 4-6-4-4-14, Johnson 3-10-1-15, Nowitzki 1-2-1-1, Wright 3-3-2-8, Totals 34-78-28-36-106. NETS — Garnett 5-8-0-10, Livingston 1-2-2-4, Anderson 0-5-0-2, Blatche 4-8-0-8, Williams 8-8-10-18, Kirilenko 2-4-2-6, Foy 3-6-0-8, Tegetic 12-18-3-3-3, Totals 37-73-23-36-107.

Cavaliers 93, Bucks 78

MILWAUKEE — Iyadoss 2-10-0-5, Henson 4-7-0-8, Udoh 2-1-0-0-2, Knight 4-0-1-8, Antkowiak 2-0-2-5-2-0, Sanders 3-5-1-2, Butler 1-6-0-2, Midgton 1-0-0-0-0, Johnson 2-0-0-0-0, 6-2-2-9, Raduljica 1-3-2-4, Walkers 2-4-2-6, Totals 30-74-17-14-78. CLEVELAND — Irving 1-1-1-9, Thompson 6-12-2-16, Varejo 8-11-0-16, Irving 4-10-1-10, Miles 1-6-2-2-4, Walters 5-13-2-12, Sims 0-0-0-0, Jack 3-3-3-10, Clark 3-0-0-7, Delleavova 0-3-0-0-0, Totals 37-88-15-23-93.

Thunder 101, Celtics 83

OKLAHOMA CITY — Jones 4-6-2-10, Ibaka 3-12-2-1, Perkins 4-4-6-6, Jackson 5-14-3-14, Seferloshia 6-6-0-13, Lamb 2-0-0-0, Collison 0-0-0-6, Fisher 0-0-0-7, Adams 1-4-1-2-3, Robertson 0-0-2, Ivey 0-1-0-0, Thabert 0-0-0-0, Totals 48-10-13-101. BOSTON — Green 1-7-1-2-16, Sullinger 3-10-0-6, Humphries 5-5-2-8, Rondó 2-7-0-0-6, Wallace 6-4-6-18, 6-11-11, 6-3-4-9, Bass 5-1-1-11, Olynyk 2-5-0-4, Johnson 3-7-2-8, Faverani 3-0-0-0, Anthony 0-2-2-0-0, Blue 0-1-2-1, Totals 32-75-14-93.

Thunder 101, Celtics 83

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The Knicks' Carmelo Anthony poured in 62 points on Friday in New York as the Knicks defeated the Bobcats 125-96.

Anthony scores 62, Knicks roll

By BRIAN MAHONEY The Associated Press
NEW YORK — Carmelo Anthony shot his way past Kobe Bryant, Bernard King and Kevin Durant, and he pulled off one more impressive achievement. He brought smiles to the New York Knicks in a miserable season. Anthony scored a career-high 62 points to break the franchise and current Madison Square Garden records, and the Knicks beat the Charlotte Bobcats 125-96 to stop a five-game losing streak. "Just to see everybody smiling once again, that's what I was more excited to see," Anthony said. "Guys on the bench smiling, high-fiving, having fun once again, that's the only thing I care about." The records were great, too. Anthony had 23 of 35 shots

SHRED, CUT AND BUILD MASS & MUSCLE WITH OUR SIGNATURE STACKS!
MASS STACK #1 SELLER
www.STEROIDALTERNATIVES.com

NHL

Roundup

Flames outlast Predators in SO

The Associated Press

CALGARY, Alberta — A career night for Eric Nystrom was supposed to feel a lot better.

Sean Monahan scored the shootout winner for Calgary, spoiling Eric Nystrom's four-goal game in the Flames' 5-4 victory over the Nashville Predators on Friday night.

"We had it in our hands and we let it slip away," Nystrom said quietly, as he sat dejectedly in his locker.

Drafted 10th overall by the Flames in the 2002 NHL Draft, Nystrom had never scored more than twice in 457 career games.

"I've had some really bad luck this season so it's nice to be rewarded but at the same time, it really means nothing when it comes to a win and a loss," he said. "I'll take the win every day of the week."

Nystrom entered with one goal in his previous 19 games.

Monahan, the Flames 19-year-old rookie and leading scorer, beat Devin Dubnyk on a deke after Jiri Hudler scored in the shootout for Calgary and Roman Josi replied for the Predators to even it after three shooters.

"Huds came down and brought it to his backhand and something opened up so I tried to do the same thing and fortunately enough, I found a spot through his five hole," said Monahan, who says he enjoys playing the game on his stick.

It's pretty crazy. The crowd's pretty loud here. It's a little bit of pressure on you but as a hockey player, you've got to like being in those situations and that's something I like to do," Monahan said.

Reto Berra improved to 4-0 in shootouts this season as he spruced to get a pad on a shot from Ryan Ellis.

Nashville moved within seven points of one of the two wild-card spots in the Western Conference.

David Jones scored twice, and Mark Giordano and Mikael Backlund also scored for Calgary. The Flames have now won two straight for the first time in over a month.

The Flames trailed 3-1 entering the third period but got back to within one on Jones' first goal in 18 games at 1:24.

After Nystrom restored the two-goal cushion, redirecting Matt Cullen's shot through the pads of Berra at 0:47, the Flames answered less than two minutes later with Backlund deflecting in Kris Russell's point shot for Calgary's third power-play goal.

Jones tied it at 13:36, deflecting Brodie's shot over Dubnyk's shoulder.

"Feels great. We've been on the other end of this so many times so to come back twice from

two goals down, that means a lot for our team," Jones said.

"I try to hide in that situation," said Jones with a chuckle. "I like the guys we have in it. They know what they're doing and this Monahan kid is something else."

"Once I knew he was going. I was ready to just get off the bench because I knew we were going to get the two points."

Nystrom gave Nashville the early lead as he fired a shot past Karri Ramo from the slot just 1:51 into the game.

Devis 2, Capitals 1: Jaromir Jagr set up two goals and tied former teammate Mario Lemieux for 10th on the NHL's career assists list with 1,033 to help host New Jersey hand Washington its seventh straight loss.

The 41-year-old Jagr is seven behind Marcel Dionne for ninth place.

Stephen Gionta and Adam Henrique scored and Cory Schneider stopped 30 shots for New Jersey. The Devils have won two straight and have earned points in eight of nine games.

Jason Chimera scored for Washington. The Capitals have lost 13 of 16 and the seven-game slide is their longest since late 2010. All-Star Alex Ovechkin missed his second straight game because of a lower-body injury.

Coyotes 4, Oilers 3: Mike Ribeiro had a goal and an assist, Mike Smith made 36 saves and visiting Phoenix held off Edmonton.

Mikkel Boedker, Radim Vrbata and Derek Morris also scored as Phoenix raced to a 4-0 lead. The Coyotes improved to 24-18, ending a two-game losing streak and a five-game road skid.

Matt Hendricks, David Perron and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins scored for Edmonton. The Oilers have lost six in a row for the second time this season to drop to 15-32-6.

Red Wings 4, Canadiens 1: Henrik Zetterberg, Nicklas Kronwall and Gustav Nyquist each had a goal and an assist and host Detroit beat Montreal to win two straight at home for the first time since October.

Riley Sheahan also scored for Detroit, and Jonas Gustavsson made 30 saves.

Brendan Gallagher scored for Montreal, and Carey Price stopped 22 shots.

Avalanche 3, Panthers 2: Ryan O'Reilly had a goal and an assist in visiting Colorado's victory over Florida.

Jamie McGinn and Paul Stastny also scored for Colorado and Semjon Varlamov made 34 saves. The Avalanche won for the fifth time in six games.

Scottie Upshall scored twice for Florida, and Tim Thomas stopped 22 shots.



JEFF MCINTOSH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Calgary goalie Karri Ramo deflects a puck during the second period of Friday's game in Calgary, Alberta.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Team	Atlantic Division					Metropolitan Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	51	36	13	2	74	168	125	Buffalo	51	36	13	2	74	168	125
Tampa Bay	41	30	10	5	65	150	126	Montreal	51	27	19	5	59	128	129
Montreal	51	27	19	5	59	128	129	Toronto	51	27	19	5	59	131	153
Toronto	51	27	19	5	59	128	129	Detroit	51	23	18	10	56	131	139
Detroit	51	23	18	10	56	131	139	Ottawa	51	21	19	10	54	144	159
Ottawa	51	21	19	10	54	144	159	Florida	51	20	24	7	47	122	154
Florida	51	20	24	7	47	122	154	Pittsburgh	49	33	23	7	33	92	142
Pittsburgh	49	33	23	7	33	92	142								

Western Conference

Team	Central Division					Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Chicago	53	32	9	12	76	189	146	Anaheim	51	33	10	5	71	130	132
St. Louis	50	24	11	5	53	173	116	San Jose	51	32	12	6	72	162	123
Colorado	50	32	13	5	69	147	129	Los Angeles	52	29	17	6	64	132	110
Minnesota	53	28	20	5	61	127	147	Vancouver	52	26	17	9	61	130	130
Minnesota	53	28	20	5	61	127	147	Dallas	51	23	20	8	54	148	150
Dallas	51	23	20	8	54	148	150	Nashville	53	22	22	8	51	131	158
Nashville	53	22	22	8	51	131	158	Phoenix	51	24	18	9	57	147	155
Phoenix	51	24	18	9	57	147	155	Calgary	52	18	27	7	43	119	165
Calgary	52	18	27	7	43	119	165	Edmonton	53	15	32	6	38	125	157
Edmonton	53	15	32	6	38	125	157								

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

Thursday's games

Tampa Bay 4, Ottawa 3, SO	Carolina 5, Buffalo 3	St. Louis 2, N.Y. Rangers 3	Columbus 5, Philadelphia 2	Pittsburgh 6, N.Y. Islanders 4	Minnesota 2, Chicago 1	Dallas 7, Toronto 1	Nashville 2, Vancouver 1	Anaheim 2, Los Angeles 1	San Jose 1, Winnipeg 0
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Friday's games

Calgary 5, Nashville 4, SO	New Jersey 2, Washington 1	Detroit 4, Montreal 1	Colorado 3, Florida 2	Phoenix 4, Edmonton 3	Ottawa at Carolina, ppd., schedule conflict
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Saturday's games

Ottawa at Carolina	St. Louis at N.Y. Islanders
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Boston at Philadelphia

Washington at Montreal
Colorado at Tampa Bay
Buffalo at Columbus
Toronto at Winnipeg
Pittsburgh at Dallas
Anaheim vs. Los Angeles at Los Angeles
Minnesota at San Jose
N.Y. Rangers vs. New Jersey at Bronx, N.Y.
Florida at Detroit
Winnipeg at Chicago
Nashville at Edmonton
Phoenix at Vancouver

Friday

Avalanche 3, Panthers 2

Colorado 2 1 0-3
Florida 0 0 2-2
First Period—1, Colorado, McGinn (Duchene), 1:34. 2, Colorado, Stastny 14 (Landeskog, Tanquary), 18:13.
Second Period—3, Colorado, McGinn 11 (O'Reilly, Duchene), 13:00.
Third Period—5, Florida, Upshall 8 (Fleischmann, Gilbert), 5:18. 5, Florida, Upshall 3 (Gergensheim, Gilbert), 18:17.
Shots on Goal—Colorado 10-9-6-25.
Florida 7-9-20-36.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 2; Florida 0 of 2.
Goals—Colorado, Varlamov 25-9.5 (36 shots-34 saves), Florida, Thomas 13-14-3 (25-22).
A-17,274 (17,040), T-2:19.

Flames 5, Predators 4 (SO)

Nashville 1 2 1 0-4
Calgary 1 2 1 0-3
Calgary won shootout 2-3
First Period—1, Nashville, Nystrom 8 (Bourque, Cullen), 1:51. 2, Calgary, Giordano 8 (Russell, Backlund), 3:23 (pp).
Second Period—3, Nashville, Nystrom 9 (Josi, Weber), 1:50. 4, Nashville, Nystrom 10 (Gaustad, Bartley), 6:00.
Third Period—5, Calgary, D.Jones 5 (Stapan), 1:24 (pp), 6, Nashville, Nystrom 11 (Cullen, Josi), 10:47. 7, Calgary, Backlund 9 (Russell, Stempniak), 12:27 (pp), 8, Calgary, D.Jones 8 (Brodie), 12:36.
Shootout—Nashville, 1 (Cullen, Ng, Legwand, Ng, Josi, G, Ellis, Ng), Calgary 2 (Stapan, Ng, Hudler, G, Stempniak, Ng, Monahan G).
Shots on Goal—Nashville 8-10-7-25. Calgary 6-15-11-31.
Power-play opportunities—Nashville 0 of 2; Calgary 1 of 2.
Goals—Nashville, Dubnyk 11-18 (31 shots-27 saves), Calgary, Ramo (12-9), Berra 6-14-2 (6:00 second, 13-12).
A-19,289 (19,289), T-2:39.

Red Wings 4, Canadiens 1

Montreal 0 1 0-1
Detroit 1 2 1-4
First Period—1, Detroit, Zetterberg 16 (Afredsson, Kronwall), 12:27 (pp).
Second Period—2, Detroit, Sheahan 2, 11:48. 3, Montreal, Gallagher 13 (Deshaun, Subban), 12:56 (pp), 4, Detroit, Kronwall 6 (Nyquist, Ericsson), 16:29.
Third Period—5, Detroit, Nyquist 8 (Zetterberg, Abdelkader), 18:41.
Shots on Goal—Montreal 13-9-9-31. Detroit 8-13-25-26.
Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 4; Detroit 1 of 6.
Goals—Montreal, Price 22-15-4 (26 shots-22 saves). Detroit, Gustavson 13-9-21 (31-30).
A-20,666 (20,066), T-2:35.

Coyotes 4, Oilers 3

Phoenix 3 1 0-4
Edmonton 0 1 2-3
First Period—1, Phoenix, Boedker 15 (Vermette, Korpiokko), 14:17. 2, Phoenix, Vrbata 12 (Hanzal, Ribeiro), 17:10 (pp), 3, Phoenix, Morris 5 (Halpern, Klinkhamer), 18:13.
Second Period—4, Phoenix, Ribeiro 13 (Mass, Smith), 3:00. 5, Edmonton, Hendricks 3 (Jones, Gordon), 13:17.
Third Period—6, Edmonton, Perron 19 (Potter, Martinic), 1:50. 7, Edmonton, Nugent-Hopkins 14 (Eberle, Hall), 7:50.
Shots on Goal—Phoenix 15-9-29. Edmonton 15-10-14-39.
Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 1 of 2; Edmonton 0 of 5.
Goals—Phoenix, Smith 18-15-8 (39 shots-36 saves), Edmonton, Bryzgalov 3-8-3 (29-25).
A-16,839 (16,839), T-2:32.

Devis 2, Capitals 1

Washington 0 0 1-1
New Jersey 1 1 0-2
First Period—1, New Jersey, Gionta 3 (Jagr), 4:57.
Second Period—2, New Jersey, Henrique 14 (Zajac), 1:45 (pp).
Third Period—3, Washington, Chimera 10 (Ersike, Wilson), 10:10.
Shots on Goal—Washington 7-14-10-31. New Jersey 11-12-7-30.
First Period—1, Washington, Henrique 0 of 3; New Jersey 1 of 5.
Goals—Washington, Newirth 3-5-1 (30 shots-28 saves), New Jersey, Schneider 9-9-7 (31-30).
A-15,742 (17,625), T-2:25.

OLYMPICS

Embracing a new challenge

Four years after leading Canada to a gold medal, Crosby aims for repeat

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH

The gold medal, the one that electrified a country and cemented Sidney Crosby as part of Canadian hockey royalty forever, is “tucked away” somewhere out of sight and — Crosby insists — out of mind.

No need to have it displayed on the mantle or wall. No wearing it around the house on a rainy day.

While he's brought it out once or twice upon request, Crosby doesn't sit around holding it in his hand.

Sure, it was a “nice moment” — Crosby's go-to phrase when asked to describe his golden goal 7:40 into overtime in the 2010 Vancouver Olympics final against the United States — but it was just that, a moment.

“I've kind of moved on,” Crosby said.

Fate didn't give him much of a choice.

Crosby's glove-flinging celebration in the corner of Rogers Arena as Maple Leaf flags draped the stands in a sea of red and white capped his ascendant rise from Sid the Kid to Sid the Savior. His goal provided a fitting bookend to Crosby's triumphant hoisting of the Stanley Cup eight months earlier, when the youngest captain in NHL history led the formerly moribund Pittsburgh Penguins to their first title in 17 years.

‘I've kind of moved on.’

Sidney Crosby
Team Canada captain

Four years later, on the surface not much has changed.

On the ice, the 26-year-old remains one of the top players in the world. He's the NHL's leading scorer for one of the league's premier franchises and is the unquestioned face of the Canada team as it looks to defend its gold medal in Sochi next month.

Off it he remains the ever-polite, ever-humble son of Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia, the one who refuses to get caught up in his own hype.

It all looks so normal these days, it's easy to forget just how close Crosby came to nearly losing it all. The launching pad Vancouver was supposed to provide for Crosby's evolution from superstar to icon instead turned into a cautionary tale.

Less than a year removed from his golden goal, Crosby's career was at a crossroads.

Concussion-like symptoms sustained in a loss to Washington in the NHL's Winter Classic on Jan. 1, 2011, turned him into a reluctant touchstone for head injuries. As weeks turned into months and 2011 turned



ROBERT GAUTHER, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Canada's Sidney Crosby, top, celebrates after scoring the winning goal in overtime against the United States on Feb. 28, 2010 at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.



CHRIS O'NEARA/AP

The gold medal-winning shot from Canada's Sidney Crosby, left, goes between the pads of United States goalie Ryan Miller.

into 2012 and the symptoms persisted, he was forced to watch the game go on without him.

He missed two years in his prime, playing just 28 games during a 744-day span from Jan. 5, 2011-Jan. 19 2013, a bystander of sorts as teammate Evgeni Malkin, Chicago's Patrick Kane and Washington's Alex Ovechkin tried to wrest away Crosby's unofficial title of the game's best player.

It seems like a long time ago now. The questions that lingered when Crosby declared himself symptom free at the end of the NHL lockout last January have vanished.

The Crosby who will wear No. 87 in Russia looks an awful lot like the one who dashed to glory in Vancouver, only wiser and perhaps more comfortable in his own skin. More consistent, too.

The player who struggled with faceoffs earlier in his career is now winning nearly 52 percent of his draws. After being chastised by coach Dan Bylsma for perhaps being too unselfish at times, Crosby is one hot streak away from threatening the career-high 51 NHL goals he put up in 2009-10 while averaging a career-high 22 minutes of ice time a night.

“One of Sid's best abilities is to challenge himself and get better,” Bylsma said. “He's gotten better with his demeanor and the maturity with which he plays the game.”

It's a maturity that's hard won. Crosby

has spent most of his life dealing with overwhelming expectations while trying to be deferential to his more experienced teammates. He never let it get to him in Vancouver, even though it was Crosby — and not players like Jarome Iginla or Scott Niedermayer or Martin Brodeur — who faced the most scrutiny.

“He's gone through a lot,” said Steve Yzerman, general manager of the Canada team. “Playing in the Olympics in Vancouver was a tremendous experience for him. (There was) so much pressure — more so than anybody in the entire Canadian Olympic program — on Sid there and he scored the winning goal. Four years later, he's going to be more comfortable.”

Press Crosby on what could be possibly do to top what happened in Vancouver and the hockey nerd in him emerges. He points to the long rivalry between Canada and Russia — dating all the way to the Summit Series in 1972 — and the unique challenge of trying to win Olympic gold in Russia.

“If you have a record time in the Olympics prior to this one, you're not setting for that time this time around,” he said. “You want to do better.”

And last he checked, two golds were better than one. Ask Crosby if there's room in his house for a medal beside the one he grabbed in Vancouver and he nods.

“Yeah, 100 percent,” he said with a laugh, “100 percent.”

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Third time the charm for China's Li

No. 4 seed finally wins it after losses in 2 previous finals

By JOHN PYE
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — One again Li Na had the Rod Laver Arena crowd on its feet, roaring — this time with laughter.

Her encore to a 7-6 (3), 6-0 win over Dominika Cibulkova in the Australian Open title match Saturday night made her even more popular at Melbourne Park, where she'd lost two finals in the previous three years.

So she paid her supporters back with one of the best of her improv stand-up routines.

First she thanked her agent "for making me rich," then her coach Carlos Rodriguez and then her husband, Shan Jiang — her former coach and constant traveling companion.

"Thanks for him give up everything just traveling with me to be my hitting partner, fix the drinks, fix the racket — so thanks a lot, you are a nice guy," she told Shan in a rare public compliment, pausing for the laughter. "Also you are so lucky (to) find me."

Li, who will turn 32 next month, is the oldest women's champion in Australia in the Open era. She didn't see age as a barrier, obviously, replying to a question on the topic with a smile and an opinion: "I'm not old!"

"Yeah, a start of tournament everybody talking about the age. I would like to say age is nothing," she said. "Still can win the Grand Slam. So pretty happy about my age. I got more experience on the court."

Li lost Australian Open finals to Kim Clijsters in 2011 and to Victoria Azarenka last year, when she twisted her ankle twice in the second and third sets and needed a medical timeout after hitting her head on the court. In between, she won the 2011 French Open in one of the many firsts she's established for Chinese tennis.

Yet it was a defeat that almost had the



AARON FAVILA/AP

China's Li Na celebrates Saturday after beating Slovakia's Dominika Cibulkova in the women's singles final at the Australian Open.

biggest impact on her career, with heavy criticism in the domestic media following a second-round loss at last year's French Open sending her to the verge of retiring.

Rodriguez, who previously worked with Justine Henin, had to talk Li into playing Wimbledon, encouraging her to just see how she progressed at the All England club

before making such a big career decision. She responded by reaching the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, the semifinals at the U.S. Open and now breaking her drought in Australia.

On Saturday, she paid tribute to Rodriguez's calm, composed approach and support.

"Before the match he was telling me to relax, just think it's a match, don't think it's a final," she recounted, admitting that she'd even taken time out for a short afternoon sleep. "He always say 'believe in yourself.' He always believed in me, I never believed in myself. That was my problem."

In both her previous finals at Melbourne Park, Li won the first set but went down in three.

She had no such trouble against No. 20-seeded Cibulkova, who was playing in her first major final.

Li opened the final by breaking Cibulkova, holding, and then getting a break-point chance in the third game. But Cibulkova held, and then broke back in the sixth game thanks to a pair of double faults from Li. Another service break followed, and Li had a set point before losing three straight points to ensure it went to the tiebreaker.

As the second set began, a fan in Rod Laver yelled "C'mon Li Na, bagel her!" She did.

A half hour later she was holding up both thumbs to the crowd, and holding back tears as she hugged her Slovakian rival. She went to the side of the court to see Rodriguez, but the stands were too high and they could only shake hands.

The diminutive Cibulkova, one of the shortest players ever to reach a Grand Slam final at 5-foot-3, had four wins over Top 20 players on her way to the final, including a fourth-round upset of third-seeded Maria Sharapova and a straight-sets semifinal trouncing of No. 5 Agnieszka Radwanska.

She had to pull the microphone down closer to her before her post-match speech.

"These were just fantastic two weeks of my life," she said, adding: "Hello to everybody in Slovakia. This means a lot for our country and I'm happy I can be the one here for Slovakia."

No. 4-seeded Li, who reportedly has four-times more followers on her Chinese social networking site than there are people in Slovakia, had a good run through the tournament as other star players like Serena Williams, Sharapova and Azarenka tumbled out by the quarterfinals.

She didn't have to face a player ranked in the Top 20 en route to the final, opening with wins over the two youngest players in the tournament, then saving a match point in her third-round win over Lucie Safarova, who was a fraction away from causing a major upset.

"I think I should send email to Safarova," Li said. "Sorry ... and send smile to her as well."

Now she's already promising to come back and defend her Australian title.

"Finally I got her," Li said as she put a hand on the Daphne Akhurst Memorial Cup for the first time. "Last two times was very close."



AARON FAVILA/AP

Poland's Lukasz Kubot, right, and Sweden's Robert Lindstedt celebrate winning the men's doubles title over Eric Butorac of the U.S. and Raven Klaasen of South Africa.

NFL



ED ANDRESKI/AP

Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning has been on both sides of the Super Bowl fence, winning the big game in 2007 over the Bears, and losing to the Saints in 2010. Denver is scheduled to play the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XLVIII on Feb. 2.

Manning: Seize the day

QB warns teammates not to let chance slip by

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. — Peyton Manning is the only player in this Super Bowl who has won the big game.

He's also lost one. So, he knows both the elation of putting his fingerprints on the Lombardi Trophy and the anguish of watching it slip through his grasp, and he admonished his Denver Broncos teammates not to cut corners as they prepare to face the Seattle Seahawks on Feb. 2.

"I think the biggest thing he's said is eliminate distractions, making sure you're taking care of the little details, doing extra, watching film, working out, getting your body right," receiver Eric Decker said.

"And then I think the biggest thing is he says he's won one, he's lost one. And it's a complete high; it's a complete low. So, really understand to give everything you've got because this is the last game of the year."

Tight end Jacob Tamme was also Manning's teammate in Indianapolis when the Colts lost to the Saints in the Super Bowl in 2010.

"It's an empty feeling," Tamme said. "I mean, you're certainly proud of what you did to get that far. But it's an empty feeling to get to this game and not win it. So, we're going to prepare hard and do everything we can to let it loose on Sunday and just play our best ball. That's all we can do, just

Did you know

None of the Seattle Seahawks have ever played in the Super Bowl. They are the first team with zero previous Super Bowl experience since the Bills lost to the Giants in 1991.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

play our best ball. We know we've got a stiff challenge."

Wes Welker caught 11 passes for 103 yards for New England in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season, but the Patriots' shot at perfection ended when Manning's brother, Eli, threw a 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress with 35 seconds left to give the Giants a 17-14 win.

Welker said Friday that's the lowest point of his career and the driving force in his life.

"I think it's the reason I get up in the morning in the offseason and even now," he said. "We're close again and I'm just trying to make the most of it."

Broncos cornerback Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie nearly

won a ring with the 2008 Arizona Cardinals, when he had five solo tackles and broke up two passes against Pittsburgh in the Super Bowl only to watch Ben Roethlisberger's 6-yard touchdown pass to Antonio Holmes with 35 seconds left give Pittsburgh a 27-23 victory.

DRC said he "excited, anxious, nervous, ready to get there" for his second chance at the ultimate prize.

None of the Seattle Seahawks have ever played in a Super Bowl, the first team with zero previous Super Bowl experience since the Bills lost to the Giants in 1991.

Besides the four Broncos who have played in the Super Bowl, three of their coaches have won rings: defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio (linebackers coach for Baltimore in 2000), offensive consultant Alex Gibbs (O-line coach in Denver 1997-98) and secondary coach Cory Udlin (defensive assistant with Patriots in 2004).

Of course, Executive Vice President John Elway has two rings from the back-to-back titles he won in the late 1990s following three trips to the Super Bowl that ended in losses.

"We've got some guys who know the drill and are trying to pass down whatever little bits of wisdom they've been able to and hopefully we'll take advantage of that," Tamme said. "It's all about this one. It's about the preparation for this game and how we go out and play come next Sunday. That's the bottom line."

Seattle GM Schneider enjoying fruits of his labor

BY TIM BOOTH
The Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — Seattle Seahawks general manager John Schneider knows there are tough financial decisions coming in the future with the contract situations of All-Pro's Richard Sherman and Earl Thomas, not to mention guys like Russell Wilson and Russell Okung who will need to be addressed.

That's why in the midst of planning ahead for the upcoming off-season and NFL Draft, Schneider is taking time to enjoy what Seattle has accomplished in reaching a Super Bowl just four seasons after he arrived.

"There's times where I'm like, 'you know what, just be in the moment, just have fun and let's enjoy this right now,'" Schneider said Friday. "You definitely have to take that time and enjoy it, and I want everybody to be so excited about what's going on, whether it's you guys, the fans, everybody in the building. The people upstairs are giddy, it's great. It's cool to see." It's appropriate that Schneider take time to appreciate this be-

cause he did a lot of the work that went into creating the Seahawks' deep, talented roster. It's been a collaborative relationship with coach Pete Carroll and one that some wondered if it could be successful when the two were hired before the start of the 2010 season.

Four years later, Seattle has compiled a roster that in many regards is the envy of the league. It's young, it's talented and so far inexpensive. And it's about to play in the second Super Bowl in franchise history.

Yet there remains that thought in the back of Schneider's mind that he must continue to look forward to make sure Seattle has success beyond this year.

"I think we just have a ton of respect for the league and how hard it is to get to where we are right now," Schneider said. "More importantly, where we're at peace is that we know we're trying to get better every single day beyond this game because we want this to be a consistent championship-caliber team and not a team where the fans don't feel like we cruise in, cruise out for one year. Where



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Seattle Seahawks general manager John Schneider has been the quiet mastermind of all the roster changes that have paid off with the Seahawks in the Super Bowl. Though he doesn't like the attention, he deserves the recognition for what's been done in Seattle.

there is a solid base and we have to make tough decisions every year." Schneider rarely talks during the season, usually leaving it to

Carroll to explain the state of the football operations. It's another aspect of the relationship they have developed which has worked so

well.

When Carroll came to Seattle he wanted more control of the personnel than he had at his previous two NFL stops. And to do that, Carroll needed a general manager who was willing to give up some of the traditional control that position has held.

"I thought that this relationship would be the one that could be the issue that pushes us over the top if we did it right," Carroll said recently. "So we set out with the expectations that we would communicate impeccably and we would enhance each other's strengths impeccably and see how that would factor in where we're going."

While it seems like Schneider has been grateful with his moves — from drafting Wilson and Sherman in later rounds, to signing Cliff Avril and Michael Bennett on affordable deals last off-season — not every move Seattle has made was perfect. There have been mistakes along the way.

But the successes, especially Seattle's achievements in the draft, have so far outweighed the mistakes.

SPORTS

OLYMPICS

All grown up

No longer a kid, Crosby still a leader

Page 30



Canada's Sidney Crosby wears his gold medal following the 3-2 overtime victory over the United States in the gold medal game during the 2010 Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

RIC ENNST, CANWEST NEWS SERVICE/MCT

Li makes quick work of Cibulkova in women's final
Australian Open, Page 30

Carmelo scores 62 in Knicks' rout of Bobcats
NBA, Page 26