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UKRAINE UNREST

Crisis will test West's threshold for pain

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

THE SEIZURE of Crimea could become the first in a series of power plays by an emboldened Vladimir Putin to redraw post-Cold War lines unless the United States and its allies impose severe economic penalties against Russia and bolster their defenses in the east.

ANALYSIS That's the view of some analysts, who say Europe is unlikely to stomach the costs of necessary sanctions and military options that would deter Russia from future land grabs.

"The U.S. has made a reasonable start here, but just how far is this going to go and do we have the appetite to inflict a higher level of pain?" said John Lough, a Russia expert at the Chatham House in London. "Damaging the Russian economy is going to hurt us as well. The Russian appetite for pain could be higher than ours."

The U.S. and the European Union will phase in sanctions, which include immediate suspension of talks on closer economic cooperation between Europe and Russia, and a freeze on assets and travel for a small number of Russian figures. Those measures will expand if Putin signs a treaty to annex Crimea, EU leaders said.

But expanding economic sanctions to include Russia's vast petrochemical industry could threaten an energy-dependent Europe, which is only beginning to emerge from years of economic stagnation.

Germany, Europe's economic powerhouse, would be especially affected because of its close business ties to Russia, which involve the auto industry and energy interests.

SEE PAIN ON PAGE 10



OLIVER HOSSET/AP

From left, President Barack Obama and Belgium's King Philippe and Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo walk among graves Wednesday at Flanders Field American Cemetery in Waregem, Belgium. Obama used his one-day trip to shore up commitments he received from allies in The Hague, Netherlands. During this trip to Europe, Obama and European Union members have shown a united front against Russia's actions in Crimea.

DOD: Some base stores in US may shut down

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Despite earlier promises that no commissaries would be closed as a result of proposed pay and benefits cuts, a Pentagon official told lawmakers Wednesday that some closures might happen.

To slow the growth in personnel costs, which have increased 83 percent since 2001, the Defense Department proposed cutting

Industry officials and military associations have warned that the subsidy cuts might force commissaries to close because of the loss of business from patrons being turned off by the lack of savings.

commissary subsidies when it submitted its fiscal 2015 budget request earlier this month. Over a three-year period, the subsidies would decrease from \$1.4 billion annually to \$400 million, although overseas commissaries and those in remote locations will continue receiving direct subsidies to ease the burden on servicemembers and their families. The commissary cut will be accomplished not by closing any commissaries, but by reducing the savings relative to civilian markets that patrons enjoy. Under the DOD's plan, those savings will go from about 30 percent to 10 percent.

"We are not shutting down any commissaries. We recommend gradually phasing out some subsidies but only for domestic commissaries that are not in remote locations," Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel told senators after the budget proposal was unveiled.

SEE STORES ON PAGE 2

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"It wasn't like a big, crazy party."

—What wasn't a big party, according to an anonymous source, was a big public relations issue for the Secret Service. Three agents who were part of President Barack Obama's team were recalled after one of them was found drunk at their hotel in the Netherlands.

See story on Page 8

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MILITARY

Report: Al-Qaida recruiting in Syria

New information shows effort to plan strikes in the US and Europe

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Al-Qaida's senior leadership in Pakistan, including Ayman al-Zawahri, is developing a systematic, long-term plan to create cells in Syria that would identify, recruit and train Westerners on how to attack targets in the West, The New York Times reported Wednesday.

Dozens of seasoned militant fighters, including some midlevel planners, have traveled to Syria from Pakistan in recent months in what American intelligence and counterterrorism officials fear is an effort to lay the foundation for strikes against Europe and the United States, the Times reported, citing new classified intelligence assessments based on electronic intercepts, informers and social media.

Syria appeals to these operatives because it offers the relative sanctuary of extremist-held havens — away from drone strikes in Afghanistan and Pakistan — as well as ready access to about 1,200 American and European

Muslims who have gone there to fight and could be potential recruits to carry out attacks when they return home.

Senior counterterrorism officials have voiced fears in recent months that these Western fighters could be radicalized by the country's civil war, the Times noted.

"We are concerned about the use of Syrian territory by the al-Qaida organization to recruit individuals and develop the capability to be able not just to carry out attacks inside of Syria, but also to use Syria as a launching pad," John Brennan, the CIA director, told a House panel recently.

The extremists who concern Brennan are part of a group of al-Qaida operatives in Pakistan that has been severely depleted in recent years by a decade of American drone strikes. They bring a wide range of skills to the battlefield, such as bomb-building, small-arms tactics, logistics, religious indoctrination and planning, though they are not believed

to have experience in launching attacks in the West, according to the report.

Al-Qaida has blessed the creation of local branches in places such as Yemen. But the effort in Syria would signify the first time that senior al-Qaida leaders had set up a wing of their own outside Pakistan dedicated to conducting attacks against the West, counterterrorism officials said. It also has the potential to rejuvenate al-Qaida's central command, which President Barack Obama has described as being greatly diminished.

Some allies disagree, the Times reported. They also see an increase in Pakistan-based veterans of al-Qaida among Syrian rebel groups, but do not see a coordinated plan to attack the West.

"At this stage, it's a lot less organized than a directed plan," one Western security official told the Times. "Some fighters are going to Syria, but they're going on an ad hoc basis, not at an organized level."

NYC jury convicts bin Laden son-in-law

NEW YORK — Osama bin Laden's son-in-law, the voice of fiery al-Qaida propaganda videotapes after the Sept. 11 attacks, was convicted Wednesday of conspiring to kill Americans for his role as the terrorist group's spokesman.

The verdict came after about six hours of deliberation over two days in the case against Kuwaiti imam Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, the highest-ranking al-Qaida figure to face trial on U.S. soil since the attacks.

Abu Ghaith had testified during a three-week trial that he answered bin Laden's request in the hours after the 9/11 attacks to speak on the widely circulated videos used to recruit new followers.

Sentencing was set for Sept. 8. The charges — conspiracy to kill Americans, conspiring to provide support to al-Qaida and providing support to al-Qaida — carry a potential penalty of life in prison.

From The Associated Press



MICHAEL MOLINARO/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Ready for World Cup

Staff Sgt. Joe Hein, U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit, trains at Pool International Range Complex on Friday with members of the USA National Shooting Team. Hein and six of his USAMU teammates will join the rest of Team USA at the International Shooting Sports Federation's Rifle and Pistol World Cup at Fort Benning, Ga., starting Friday, the first match of the 2014 World Cup season.

Stores: DOD budget trims US subsidies

FROM FRONT PAGE

Because stateside stores will continue to operate tax-and-rent free, they will still be able to provide people with a very good deal, Hagel said.

But during congressional testimony Wednesday, a top DOD official said that some stateside commissaries might in fact have to shut down due to a loss of business that would likely result from the price increases.

"It's a possibility. I don't know what the probability is," Frederick Vollrath, assistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management, told members of the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Personnel.

Industry officials and military associations have warned that the subsidy cuts might ultimately force commissaries to close because of the loss of business stemming from customers being turned off by the reduced savings that accrue from shopping at commissaries instead of public retail outlets. Vollrath acknowledged that commissary sales will likely decline as a result of the proposed changes.

"In working with some of the other retail organizations [we know that] when your price goes up the patronage tends to go down. So we would expect a reduction in patronage," he said.

He predicted that retirees would be most likely to change their shopping habits.

"We know that some of the patrons, particularly retirees, will drive a long distance because of the current savings, and then they may not in the savings drop," he told the subcommittee. "They may not drive two hours from wherever they are retired to come in to get those savings. So there is a probability that the patronage will go down."

Vollrath hopes the commissaries will maintain enough sales to stay in business.

"Our hope in working this, which is an art, [is] that we will still offer enough benefit that the servicemembers and their families will value that," he said.

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MILITARY

Philippines takes island claims to court

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

The Philippines is taking China to international court — and inviting U.S. troops into the country — in a bid to maintain its claims to islands in the South China Sea.

The court case, filed last year and soon to approach the tribunal's version of opening arguments, comes after repeated standoffs between Chinese ships and those of the Philippines — a nation allied to the United States through a mutual defense treaty.

In nearly all of those cases, the islands, reefs and rocks in question are uninhabited and worth little themselves. However, they confer varying rights to the countries that own them to exploit the nearby natural resources, including fisheries, natural gas and under-sea petroleum.

The court ruling could have great consequences beyond the Philippines' borders.

China has disputes over territorial ownership with Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia and autonomous Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own. It also claims the Japanese-administered Senkaku islands in the East China Sea, which Chinese call the Diaoyutai.

The Philippines will submit a written argument to the International Tribunal for the Law of Sea by Sunday, said Paul Reichler, the U.S.-based lead attorney handling the case. The extensive brief will argue that a Chinese map commonly known as the "9-dash line" is invalid and that the Philippines' control over about 90 percent of the South China Sea, violates international law.

China has said it will not participate in the tribunal, located in The Hague, and Reichler said Tuesday that he hasn't seen any last-minute change of intentions. However, since both countries are signatories to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the case can proceed without China's presence.

It's difficult to tell how much time it will take the five-member panel of international judges to rule on the case, Reichler said. Based on previous court rulings, China's lack of involvement could speed things up.

"I believe [a ruling] will come before the end of 2015," Reichler said.

Making the case

The tribunal can't rule on the sovereignty of all hundreds of islands, reefs and rocks that compose the Spratly Islands and other groups in the South China Sea.

But it could rule on whether five of the eight are land features, which carry no rights to resources.

It could also rule that Scarborough Shoal, a site of showdowns between Chinese and Philippine ships, is defined as a rock under international law, which would limit China's claims to any resources beyond 12 nautical miles of the shoal.

Security analysts recognize that even if China loses in court, it has



KELLY SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors man the rails as the U.S. 7th Fleet flagship USS Blue Ridge arrives in Manila, the Philippines, for a port visit last week.

the military might to do whatever it wants.

The Philippines is instead counting on any potential victory to represent a psychological blow, said Renato Cruz De Castro, professor of international studies at La Salle University in the Philippines.

"China will lose face," De Castro said. "This is something the Chinese are very much afraid of. It would be an action deemed illegitimate by the international community."

In more than 95 percent of cases, nations comply with international rulings because of the loss of reputation involved when they fail to do so, Reichler said.

The court will be able to review China's declared positions on the 9-dash line map and its claim to historical discovery of the Spratly Islands, Prataol Islands and other disputed territories. Beijing's position states that China discovered some of the islands in question up to 2,000 years ago and inhabited others more than 1,000 years ago.

The 9-dash map that includes the disputed islands has been used since 1947, before the communist regime's victory in China's civil war. However, China has long remained ambiguous about what the map means, or where it came from.

In a 2008 U.S. diplomatic cable published by WikiLeaks, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing reported that a senior Chinese government maritime law expert, Yin Wenqiang, "admitted" he was unaware of the historical basis for the nine dashes, according to Reuters.

In another 2008 cable, senior Chinese diplomat Zheng Zhenhua gave U.S. diplomats a written statement explaining China's position.

"The dotted line of the South China Sea indicates the sovereignty of China over the islands in the South China Sea since ancient times and demonstrates the long-

standing claims and jurisdiction practice over the waters of the South China Sea," the statement said, according to Reuters.

China's attempts to defend the area have grown increasingly aggressive since those diplomatic talks.

Earlier this month, Chinese ships blocked Philippine ships from resupplying marines stationed on a rusting WWII-era ship run around near Second Thomas Shoal, an uninhabited island claimed by both countries that lies about 120 miles west of the Philippine island of Palawan.

A Philippine aircraft dropped food and water to the marines, a move that drew the consternation of Chinese officials.

"The Chinese government has firm determination and will in safeguarding national sovereignty, and we will never allow any form of occupation of the Ren'ai Reef," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told reporters March 17, using the Chinese name for the shoal. "China watches closely and is highly vigilant on further possible provocations in the South China Sea by the Philippines, and it must bear all the consequences arising therefrom."

The US response

United States officials have supported the Philippines in recent months, both on a legal and a military level.

Many of China's claims, including its attempts to regulate fisheries in waters most countries consider international, clash with the U.S. vow to guarantee freedom of navigation in the sea.

In February, Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel told Congress that China's aggressive behavior "reflects an incremental effort by China to assert control over the area contained in the so-called '9-dash line,' despite the objections of its neighbors and

despite the lack of any explanation or apparent basis under international law regarding the scope of the claim itself."

Russel added that "we fully support the right of claimants to exercise rights they may have to avail themselves of peaceful dispute settlement mechanisms" — going on to note the Philippines' court claim as an example.

On March 14, the United States support for the Philippines went a step further. Plo Lorenzo Batino, Philippine defense undersecretary, told reporters in Washington the deal to allow shared use of Philippine military bases with U.S. forces was about 80 percent done, according to Reuters.

"The proposed agreement will allow the sharing of defined areas within certain AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] facilities with elements of the U.S. military," Batino said.

Officials declined to go into further details on the future military arrangements.

"The U.S. has also increased military engagements and supplies in recent years. The country's flag-ship, along with its second-most capable vessel, are decommissioned U.S. Coast Guard cutters."

Even those ships can't compete with China's rapidly modernizing military, which now ranks distinctly second in spending to the United States. However, the country's recent shift from internal security to external defense spending, coupled with a stronger agreement with the U.S., sends Beijing a message, De Castro said.

"It would make the Chinese think twice, that at least we could put up a fight," De Castro said. "But I think it's a signal also directly to Washington, D.C. We will not appease China, so this is where the value of the alliance comes in."

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Smoke 'em if ya got 'em — but not here

The Navy is considering a ban on all tobacco sales on ships and bases due to health concerns over the high rate of tobacco use among sailors, officials say.

Readers respond:

End tobacco sales along with alcohol. Then lets get rid of soda and sugary drinks. Snack foods should go as well. Candy...gone! Fast food...gone! ... Oh and those loud and dangerous guns we use in the military....they need to be.

— **Stuck in Kuni**

In time of war we recruit people that smokethen we tell them they can't smoke !!!!!?

— **Drive28**

Funny how the chain-smoking, liquor-guzzling WW2 and Korean War generations were able to defeat both Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan while also verging on going into Communist China to nip that problem in the bud.

— **de_daj**

i personally don't smoke but this is unfair, its legal everywhere. These are adults right? Treat them as such.

— **None**

Sounds like a great opportunity for any sailor/entrepreneur. Bring an extra duffel bag of smokes on board and charge what the market will bear. You shouldn't get in trouble for competing with MWR.

— **Yougottabekiddin**

The sooner we die the sooner you get to quit paying our medical bills and our retirement checks. I don't smoke, have no desire to, and intend to draw my retirement check as long as I can. Everyone I see a smoker — military or non military — I want to thank them not only for the contribution they are making to MWR/State tax base but also the shorter duration of full retirement, Social Security, and Medicare they'll receive.

— **phil_arn**

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/tobaccoban

PACIFIC

Kim Jong Un called more dangerous than father

USFK commander notes North Korea's missile capability and unpredictability of its leader

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The top U.S. military commander in South Korea told U.S. lawmakers Tuesday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is more dangerous and unpredictable than his father.

In testimony that came within hours of North Korea's latest missile launches, Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, who assumed leadership of U.S. Forces Korea six months ago, said that of the dozens of missiles fired by the North since late February, many were fired in a demonstration to members of his regime, as well as the U.S. and South Korea. It shows that the North has the capability to launch missiles "on short notice, with very little warning," he told the Senate Armed Services Committee in Washington.

The North launched two mid-range ballistic missiles early Wednesday on the Korean Peninsula. Both missiles fell into the ocean between the peninsula and Japan without incident.

The series of missile launches, which began on Feb. 21, have coincided with annual U.S.-South Korean spring training drills, among

the largest exercises the two allies hold each year. The exercises typically prompt angry criticism from the North. Last spring Pyongyang launched an intense period of threats of war that raised tensions on the peninsula to their highest level in years.

But despite the ongoing missile launches, Pyongyang has remained relatively quiet during this year's exercises, possibly due to pressure from neighboring China. When asked about Beijing's willingness to push the North to return to denuclearization talks, Scaparrotti said, "I believe we've seen some results of China's pressure on North Korea ... in the muted rhetoric of Kim Jong Un in the past several months, particularly after the assassination of his uncle."

Kim ordered the execution of his uncle and close adviser, Jang Song Thaek, in December, in a move that surprised analysts and led to speculation that Kim might be trying to control internal challenges to his power. A Department of Defense report released this month said the purge was "the most significant step to date in Kim's establishment of his authority, eliminating arguably the

most influential senior Party official remaining from his father's era."

"The sudden and brutal purge sends a strong message to regime elites that the formation of factions or political challenges to Kim Jong Un will not be tolerated," the annual report to Congress said.

While China does exert influence over Kim, Scaparrotti told lawmakers that the Korean dictator is "clearly" in charge. "From what I've seen, he also is an independent actor and will tend to go his own way, which [I] believe has frustrated China as well," he said.

The U.S. Pacific commander, Adm. Samuel Locklear, who also testified, said his top priority in the Asia-Pacific region is maintaining stability on the Korean Peninsula and containing the Kim regime.

On that front, Scaparrotti said that replacing U-2 manned surveillance aircraft with Global Hawk drones — a cost-saving measure contained in the 2015 defense budget — could hurt the command's ability to gather intelligence quickly.

"In my particular case as the operational commander in Korea,

the U-2 provides some unique capability that at least presently the Global Hawk ... won't provide, and it will be a loss in intelligence that's very important to our indicators and warnings," he said. "As they look at the retirement of the U-2, we have to look at the capabilities of the Global Hawk, and perhaps building those capabilities so that I don't have that intelligence loss."

Scaparrotti also discussed the consolidation of most U.S. troops in the country to a location south of Seoul.

Initial troop movements to Camp Humphreys — the Pyeongtaek base that is the centerpiece of a massive relocation plan for USFK — have yet to begin, but should take place this year, he said.

Most forces will move in 2016, though the project faces slight delays.

"We're on track, fundamentally," he said. "We're not exactly on the timeline, primarily because of construction, about a three months' lag on that. But I think — I think we'll be OK," he said.

The relocation will see most troops stationed in and north of Seoul moved to hubs in Pyeong-

taek and Daegu. After the relocation, the number of U.S. forces stationed in the Humphreys area will increase from 9,000 to about 24,000. About 2,700 command-sponsored families would be stationed in the area, Scaparrotti said.

U.S. forces were initially supposed to move to Humphreys in 2008, but the project was delayed to 2012 and again to 2016.

Scaparrotti's testimony came as the U.S. and South Korea prepare to kick off the annual Ssang Yong drill, which he described as "one of the most comprehensive amphibious exercises in the world."

The drill is part of the ongoing Foal Eagle field exercise, which ends next month. Officials have said this year's Ssang Yong, which runs Thursday through April 7, will be larger than in previous years. Nearly 10,000 U.S. troops will participate in Ssang Yong, along with about 4,500 South Korean troops.

Locklear told lawmakers the U.S. military does not have the ability to carry out a contested amphibious operation in the region during a crisis.

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Layers of fresh Pasta layered with Lobster and Scallop Mousse, topped with Grilled Shrimp, served with a Roasted Garlic Lemon Zest Butter Sauce, garnished with Fresh Spring Peas and Baby Carrots

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Grapefruit Sorbet

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THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

Rear admiral picked to advise on values

BY JENNIFER HLAG
Stars and Stripes

Rear Adm. Margaret Klein will be the first senior adviser for military professionalism, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced Tuesday.

Klein will report directly to Hagel on issues related to military ethics, character and leadership.

A flight officer, Klein was commissioned after she graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1981, according to her official biography.

She is the chief of staff for the strategy, plans and policy directorate of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Klein "brings to the position a wealth of operational and leadership experience," Hagel said, including experience as the commandant of midshipmen at the Naval Academy.

"She knows that ethics and character are absolute values that must be constantly reinforced," he said.

In February, Hagel said some members

of the military have been falling short of the high standards they are expected to meet, and he announced he would appoint a general officer to his staff to report to him on ethics and character issues.

"This will be an absolute top priority for the service secretaries, the service chiefs, [chairman of the Joint Chiefs] General Dempsey and me," Hagel told reporters.

That was a day after CNN reported that Brig. Gen. Martin Schweitzer was no longer allowed to brief Hagel because Schweitzer made inappropriate sexual comments about a congresswoman in an email he sent to Army colleagues.

A colonel with the 82nd Airborne Division at the time, Schweitzer emailed a colleague that the lawmaker was not only knowledgeable but also "smoking hot," according to the Dallas Morning News.

Klein will work with the joint staff and the services to coordinate efforts and report back to Hagel weekly on the progress, he said.

"Competence and character are not mutually exclusive," Hagel said. "They are woven together, and they must be. And an uncompromising culture of accountability must exist at every level of command."

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Klein

Norfolk shooter reported to have had worker card

BY BROCK VERGAKIS
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A civilian who disarmed a guard and fatally shot a sailor on a docked destroyer before being killed himself entered the base on a tractor-trailer with a transportation worker's credential, according to the Navy and a military official.

Navy officials were still searching for answers Wednesday about what might have motivated the civilian, who has not been identified. The civilian was shot and killed late Monday night by Navy security forces — a sailor assigned to the USS Mahan, said the military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the person was not authorized to publicly release the information about the civilian or the victim.

The civilian was authorized to be on Naval Station Norfolk, the Navy's largest base, but it wasn't immediately clear for what reason or why he would want to approach the guided-missile destroyer, which shares a pier with a hospital ship, the USNS Comfort.

The Navy said the civilian was coming toward the ship's quarterdeck, which is traditionally the ceremonial entry point of a ship, when he got into a struggle with the Petty Officer of the Watch, whom he was able to disarm.

The sailor who was killed was the chief of the guard, a security role, the military official said. The Navy has not released his name, but DeCondi Mayo told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the victim was his son, sailor Mark Mayo, of Maryland.

Mayo, 24, had been a military policeman since completing training in 2008, and he patrolled the Norfolk base, his mother, Sharon Blair, told The Herald-Mail newspaper. He spent his adolescence in Hagerstown, Md., she said.

No other injuries were reported from Monday's encounter on the ship.

To get onto the base, civilians must be escorted or have identification that allows them to be there. Authorized civilians include Department of Defense employees, contractors and military family members.

Capt. Robert Clark, Naval Station Norfolk's commanding officer, said Tuesday that identification found with the civilian indicates it is unlikely he was a military dependent authorized to be on base for that reason.

Clark said the civilian was found with a TWIC card, a transportation worker's credential issued by the Transportation Security Administration to personnel such as truck drivers who require unescorted access to secure areas.

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MILITARY

American Legion leader looks ahead

Commander says budget woes are real, but so are needs of veterans

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Amid all the talk of a shrinking military and declining levels of readiness, veterans groups are increasingly sounding an alarm of their own — that federal budget woes could translate into a shortage of services for veterans just as the need is growing.

The American Legion, which bills itself as the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, is meeting for its annual conference in Washington this week, with leaders testifying before Congress and members descending on Capitol Hill to make their concerns known.

American Legion National Commander Dan Dellinger sat down Tuesday with Stars and Stripes for the Legion's work with legislators, its partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs and its plans for the future. The interview has been condensed for space reasons.

With the Afghanistan War ending and the defense spending on a downward trajectory, could veterans fall between the cracks?

Most definitely. As we've seen after previous wars, once a war is over, the veteran is forgotten about. We just want to make sure they continue to get the best health care possible. With an estimated 1.2 million of them off active duty in the next four years, we need to make sure that they have education and jobs, and that they and their families are being taken care of — medically, and mentally and psychologically, too.

A big part of the conference this week is pushing the American Legion's agenda. How well are you getting along with Congress at the moment?

We get good reception in Congress for

the things we back. We all know there's a fiscal strain right now, and the Budget Control Act has had an effect. But the only sector of America to have its paycheck cut because of that was veterans, with the 1 percent reduction in COLA [in the recent two-year bipartisan budget deal]. But Congress rethought it and with our advocacy, they reversed their decision. But what got me was that portion was done behind closed doors.

Speaking of retirement, what's the Legion's take on recent Pentagon ideas about changing the retirement system for future troops?

They put together [the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission] to study this, and I'd rather see it left alone until the commission comes out with its findings, which are due next February. Then we'll take a hard look at each proposal. I mean, they have so much stuff flying in the air right now that I'm not really sure what we could say that would be accurate at this point.

What do you think about proposals such as introducing a 401(k)-type system, or reduced benefits for working-age retirees, or becoming eligible for some retirement payments before 20 years?

We're going to fight that.

Does the Legion worry about whether the VA will lack funds to care for a new wave of veterans?

That is a big concern. It just isn't that generation, but it's also the older generation. More veterans are coming into the system — the older veterans now — because of the limitations in the health care that they are getting or have access to. With the new Obamacare, a lot of them are losing or are going to have to pay a greater

amount of money for private health care, so they're coming to the VA. The VA has to be ready for that plus the 1.2 million who are now coming back.

How do you grade the ongoing effort to reduce the VA disability claims backlog and reduce wait times for veterans?

They've spent a billion dollars trying to get the seamless electronic medical records up and running. They've failed miserably. They need to get it done now, because the claims process takes so long. It's an average now of 282 days — that's what I saw two weeks ago from the VA numbers — to process a claim. And the majority of that time is waiting for paper records to come.

What's the big holdup?

Right now they just aren't staffed. They've been getting the disability backlog down by 22 percent in the last three years, and the way they've done it is through overtime. If you had more staff you wouldn't have to pay overtime, and get it down the way that's needed.

What's the Legion doing to help?

We have almost 3,000 volunteer service officers assisting every day to help veterans through the process. We concentrate on what we call "fully developed claims," where all the paperwork's there once it goes in. We're actually seeing less than 100 days from the time that they process that until they get a check in hand. I had a discussion with a gentleman in a town I visited about a month ago who told me: "You just can't imagine. I spent six months trying to get through this bureaucracy." It was only when our service officer assisted him that he actually got everything filed. He had his money in less than 100 days.

How is the American Legion doing as an organization these days?



Courtesy photo

Dan Dellinger is the national commander of The American Legion.

We're strong. We've got 2.4 million members and I'm looking to grow this year and continue to grow. We've put in place a five-year-and-beyond membership plan to get more members to help run this. What we do in our communities, too, is just phenomenal.

What's your plan to attract veterans from recent wars?

I say this: "Build it and they will come." And we've built it. We're getting younger veterans in; they're coming slowly. It was 10 years after I got off active duty that I came to the American Legion. I was raising a family, starting a business, trying to get my master's. But when I saw the good things it was doing in our community, that's why I joined. And that's why they'll join — because of what we do for America. We continue to serve after taking that uniform off.

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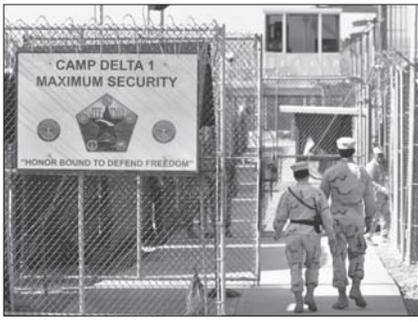
Guantanamo prison hit by TB scare over the summer

By CAROL ROSENBERG
The Miami Herald

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVY BASE, Cuba — As the U.S. military was grappling with the long-running prisoner hunger strike last year, U.S. Army guards and other detention center staff were simultaneously shaken by a tuberculosis scare, the prison camps commander revealed last week.

No active case was found among the 2,100-strong Pentagon prison staff or the 154 captives in their custody. But the Navy mobilized a public health team to the remote base in southeast Cuba over the summer and into fall to methodically test both troops and detainees, Rear Adm. Richard Butler said in an interview Wednesday with the Miami Herald and EFE news service.

Most of Guantanamo's prisoners were brought to the prison camps in Cuba in 2002, where they've been held without charge or trial ever since. Now, more than a dozen years later, Butler said, "well over half of them have latent TB" — an increase over the original baseline — and a particular cause for concern among extra Navy medical staff sent to



Military guards enter the Camp Delta 1 military-run prison at Guantanamo Bay Navy Base, Cuba, in a photo from several years ago.

the base a year ago to cope with the food protest.

Tuberculosis, caused by a bacterium that typically attacks the lungs, can be fatal. It is spread through the air from one person to another through coughs and sneezes. Prison populations can be particularly vulnerable,

according to the World Health Organization.

Butler said the suspicions were fueled by a population of prisoners already losing weight in the food strike. On June 28, when the U.S. military was still disclosing hunger strike figures, the prison reported a record 106

of the then-166 captives were on hunger strike. Less than a month later, on July 16, a record 66 of the hunger strikers were designated for forced feedings, strapped to a restraint chair with a tube snaked up each captive's nose if they refused to drink a can of nutritional supplement on their own.

The crisis in the camp put guards and the majority of captives in constant contact for the first time in years. Before the strike erupted in early 2013, the military had systematically given the captives greater privileges and independence inside communal lockups with guards watching on the outside.

To crush the protest, the military put most prisoners under lockdown, each man alone inside his cell. Captives were suddenly dependent on U.S. troops to deliver meals and other supplies through a slot in a steel door.

Troops at the prison had more close contact with captives: The Army guard force systematically searched the genitals of captives as they came and went from legal and other meetings, to check for contraband.

In addition, the guard force increasingly used a technique

called a "forced-cell-extraction" on hunger strikers who refused to leave their cells for tube-feedings — sending a unit of troops charging inside a cramped cell to tackle and shackle a defiant captive for a tube feeding.

In the aftermath of the TB scare, Butler said, Navy health officials have decided to check each prisoner annually. Some would get questionnaires asking if they've been coughing a lot, he said. Other might get blood tests or chest X-rays.

For that reason, the military was maintaining a nearly 1-to-1 ratio of Navy health provider to prisoners even as the hunger strike has dipped below 40 participants.

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NATION

Court weighs religious objections to ACA

By ROBERT BARNES
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A divided Supreme Court seemed inclined to agree Tuesday that the religious objections of business owners may protect them from a requirement in the Affordable Care Act that health insurance plans cover all types of contraceptives.

With both spring snow and demonstrators gathering on the sidewalk outside, the justices spent a spirited 90 minutes debating religious conviction, equal treatment for female workers and whether the court would be opening the door for religious challenges to all sorts of government regulation.

It is difficult to predict a precise outcome based on the justices' ranging questions and statements.

But a majority did seem to come together on the threshold question of whether a corporation can even hold religious views.

The conservative wing of the court seemed to agree that the challengers in the two cases — closely held corporations owned by families whose religious beliefs the government does not question — could be covered by a federal law that provides great protection for the exercise of religion.



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

Margot Riphagen, of New Orleans, wears a birth control pills costume as she protests in front of the Supreme Court in Washington on Tuesday as the court heard a challenge to a birth control provision in the Affordable Care Act.

For the contraceptive requirement to apply to the companies, the government would have to show that it has a compelling interest in enforcing the requirement, that it does not impose a substantial burden on religious exercise, and that there was no less intrusive way to provide coverage to female workers.

As is often the case, Justice An-

thony Kennedy — who voted two years ago to find the health care law unconstitutional — seemed to hold the deciding vote.

Some of his remarks and questions favored the government. He was concerned, for instance, about workers being denied coverage to which they were entitled by law because of their employers' objections.

But Kennedy may have signaled a deeper concern when he raised the worry that the government's reasoning would mean there was little that employers could object to funding, Kennedy told Solicitor General Donald Verrilli Jr. that under Verrilli's view, a corporation "could be forced in principle to pay for abortions."

Verrilli said there are laws against that.

"But your reasoning would permit that," Kennedy responded.

Verrilli wanted to talk more about Kennedy's other point and tried to get the justices to focus on the rights of the employees, who would be denied the best type of contraceptive coverage for them.

The three liberal and female justices were skeptical and aggressive questioners of Paul Clement, the Washington lawyer representing two companies that object to providing coverage for emergency contraception and in-traiterine devices.

Justices Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan continually pressed Clement on whether his argument could be extended to employers that decline to pay for blood transfusions or vaccines because of religious objections.

"The entire U.S. code" as it applies to corporations would have

to be held to the highest constitutional scrutiny, Kagan said.

"So another employer comes in, and that employer says, 'I have a religious objection to sex discrimination laws.' And then another employer comes in, 'I have a religious objection to minimum wage laws.' And then another, family leave. And then another, child labor laws," Kagan said.

Clement said that there is no reason to believe that would happen, and that courts could decide whether such claims had merit.

Also on Tuesday, less than a mile away, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit heard a challenge to another part of the law.

The consolidated cases before the Supreme Court ask a question the court has never confronted: whether the Constitution or the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, which protects an individual's exercise of religion, extends to secular, for-profit corporations and their owners.

The 1993 religious-freedom law prohibits the federal government from imposing a "substantial burden" on a person's exercise of religion unless there is a "compelling governmental interest" and the measure is the least-restrictive means of achieving the interest.

Insurance sign-up time extended

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — People who've started applying for health insurance but aren't able to finish before the March 31 enrollment deadline will get extra time, the Obama administration has announced.

"We are experiencing a surge in demand and are making sure that we will be ready to help consumers who may be in line by the deadline to complete enrollment, either online or over the phone," Health and Human Services spokesman Aaron Albright said Tuesday.

The White House is scrambling to meet a goal of 6 million signed up through new online markets that offer subsidized private health insurance to people without access to coverage on the job. The HealthCare.gov website got more than 1 million visitors Monday, and the administration wants to prevent a repeat of website problems that soured consumers last fall.

Officials said the grace period will be available to people on the honor system, meaning applicants will have to attest that special circumstances or complex cases

prevented them from finishing by March 31.

It's unclear how long the extension will last. Some have urged the administration to allow until April 15, the tax filing deadline. People who are due refunds may be willing to put some of that money toward health care premiums.

The latest tweak to the health care rollout is certain to infuriate Republican critics of the law. It follows delays of the law's requirements that medium-sized to large employers provide coverage or face fines.

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NATION

Mudslide effort presses on with dogs, hands

By PHUONG LE
AND MANUEL VALDES
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Wash. — Rescuers using small bulldozers and their bare hands pushed through sludge strewn with splintered homes and twisted cars to find 10 more bodies in the debris of a Washington state mudslide, authorities said.

Despite the grim discoveries as the search entered its fifth day Wednesday — and the likelihood that more bodies will be found — officials were still hoping to find survivors.

“We haven’t lost hope that there’s a possibility that we can find somebody alive in some pocket area,” said Travis Hots, a county fire chief.

Two bodies were recovered Tuesday, while eight were located in the debris field from Saturday’s slide, 55 miles northeast of Seattle, Hots said.

That brings the likely death toll to 24, though authorities are keeping the official toll at 16 until the eight other bodies are recovered.

The National Weather Service said rain and showers forecast through Saturday in Western Washington will make the search-and-recovery effort messy and also increase soil instability in the area.

Forecasters say 1 to 3 inches of rain could fall by the weekend, adding moisture to hillsides, including the one that gave way Saturday.

Part of that mudslide blocked the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River at Oso. The river is flowing through the blockage, but forecasters say there is some



MARCUS YAM, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

Rescue workers carry an inflatable boat to the flooded area in the debris field caused by the massive mudslide above the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River as recovery efforts continue near Oso, Wash., on Tuesday.

flooding upstream and the threat of a flash flood downstream if the debris dam suddenly gave way.

With scores still missing, authorities are working off a list of 176 people unaccounted for, though some names were believed to be duplicates.

Hundreds of rescuers and heavy equipment operators slogged through the muck and rain, following the search dogs over the unstable surface.

“Going on the last three days the most effective tool has been dogs and just our bare hands and shovels uncovering people,” Hots said.

As the increasingly desperate search progressed, reports surfaced that warned of the potential for dangerous landslides in the community.

A 2010 report commissioned by Snohomish County to comply with a federal law warned that

neighborhoods along the Stillaguamish were among the highest-risk areas, The Seattle Times reported.

The hillside that collapsed Saturday outside Oso was one highlighted as particularly dangerous, said the report by California-based engineering and architecture firm Tetra Tech.

A 1999 report by geomorphologist Daniel Miller, although not about housing, raises questions



TED S. WARREN/AP

People gather Tuesday at a candlelight vigil in Arlington, Wash., for mudslide victims.

about why residents were allowed to build homes in the area and whether officials had taken proper precautions.

“I knew it would fail catastrophically in a large-magnitude event,” though not when it would happen, said Miller, who was hired by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to do the study.

A year later, the Army Corps of Engineers warned in another study that lives would be at risk if the hillside collapsed. The Daily Herald, of Everett, reported.

Snohomish County Emergency Department director John Pennington said local authorities were vigilant about warning the public of landslide dangers, and homeowners “were very aware of the slide potential.”

3 Secret Service agents sent home from Obama detail

By JOSH LEDERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Secret Service agent found drunk by staff at a Dutch hotel was recalled to the U.S. along with two of his colleagues, the day before President Barack Obama was set to arrive in the Netherlands.

Word of another embarrassing incident to hit the elite agency came as the president was midway through a weeklong, four-country trip to Europe and Saudi Arabia. The Secret Service said the three agents were benched on Sunday for “disciplinary reasons” but declined to elaborate.

The Secret Service was alerted

to the situation by U.S. Embassy officials in the Netherlands after hotel staff reported finding the highly intoxicated agent in the hotel, said a person familiar with the situation who wasn’t authorized to discuss the alleged behavior on the record and demanded anonymity. The other two agents were deemed complicit because they didn’t intervene despite being in a position to assist the drunken agent or tamp down his behavior, the person said.

“It wasn’t like a big, crazy party,” the person said.

The three agents were part of the president’s Counter Assault Team, but have been placed on

administrative leave, according to The Washington Post, which first reported the disciplinary action. The newspaper said one of the agents was a “team leader.” Secret Service spokesman Ed Donovan said the incident did not compromise the president’s security in any way. Obama left the Netherlands late Tuesday for Brussels, and there were no known security issues during his stay.

Still, the incident represents a fresh blemish for an agency struggling to rehabilitate its tarnished reputation following a high-profile prostitution scandal and other allegations of misconduct.

An inspector general’s report in December concluded there was no evidence of widespread misconduct, in line with the service’s longstanding assertion that it has no tolerance for inappropriate behavior.

Before Obama travels anywhere abroad, a slew of Secret Service and other government officials are dispatched in advance to prepare the intense security operation needed to protect the president in unfamiliar territory. Typically, counter assault teams travel with the president in his motorcade and if he came under fire, the team would be called upon to engage any attackers

while the president was hustled to safety.

Stricter rules implemented in the wake of the prostitution scandal in Columbia bar agents from drinking alcohol within 10 hours of starting a shift.

Obama last year named veteran Secret Service agent Julia Pierson as the agency’s first female director and signaled his desire to change the culture at the male-dominated service. Less than a year later, two additional officers were removed from Obama’s detail following allegations of sexually related misconduct that came to light after an incident at a hotel next to the White House.

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NATION

Officials: Senate considered phone company option

BY EILEEN SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate Intelligence Committee three years ago secretly considered — but ultimately rejected — alternate ways for the National Security Agency to collect and store massive amounts of Americans' phone records, The Associated Press has learned.

One of those options, outlined in a classified 2011 NSA analysis and reviewed in detail during closed committee meetings, was similar to what President Barack Obama is now advocating: that the government stop the bulk collection of Americans' phone records and instead ask phone companies to search their own business records for terrorism connections.

After reviewing the 2011 NSA analysis, the Senate overseers decided not to move forward with any alternate arrangement, according to two government officials familiar with the review. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the classified report.

The 2011 report is significant because not much has changed — operationally — with the NSA's phone records program in the past three years. What has changed is that Americans now know the extent of the once-classified, massive surveillance oper-

ation, and they're not happy with what they consider to be invasions of privacy.

Obama's decision to call for changes in the program is not because he believes the program is flawed. It's because he needs to regain the trust of the American public.

"I want to emphasize once again that some of the dangers that people hypothesize when it came to bulk data, there were clear safeguards against," Obama said Tuesday in the Netherlands at the close of a summit on nuclear security. "But I recognize that people were concerned about what might happen in the future with that bulk data."

The bulk collection of Americans' phone records is authorized under Section 215 of the USA Patriot Act. When the program was up for reauthorization in 2011, it was hotly debated behind closed doors among members of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller, a member of the committee.

Most members of that committee decided that the current system in which the NSA holds the phone records was better than the alternatives, Rockefeller said. "It's the only way," Rockefeller said, shifting the sole custody of the records to the phone companies, he said, would be "disastrous."



MYATRA BELTRAN, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Firefighters battle five-alarm Houston blaze

A man views a five-alarm fire that ignited inside an apartment construction site in Houston on Tuesday. The fire gutted the 396-unit, 4½-acre Axis Apartments project in the city's hip Montrose district. No injuries have been reported. Fire officials said more than 200 emergency personnel battled the fire for 2½ hours before bringing it under control. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Honolulu cops may lose hooker exemption

BY OSKAR GARCIA
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A key Hawaii lawmaker considering an anti-prostitution bill says he and Honolulu police have agreed to get rid of a longtime exemption that allowed police officers to have sex with prostitutes.

State Sen. Clayton Hee, head of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said he and police agreed at a meeting Tuesday that the exemption

ran contrary to popular opinion. Honolulu police said during the meeting that they're OK with making it expressly illegal for officers to have sex with prostitutes, as long as undercover officers can still say they'll have sex so they can make arrests.

Honolulu police spokeswoman Teresa Bell told The Associated Press that officers have never been allowed to have sex with prostitutes under departmental rules, so making it illegal won't

change how officers operate. A bill passed the House without a clause that would have made sex with prostitutes illegal for officers after police lobbied to have the language removed, arguing it would inhibit undercover investigations by giving criminals knowledge of what police can and cannot do.

Hee said the version of the bill that moves through his committee Friday will remove sexual penetration from the police exemption from prostitution laws.

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UKRAINE UNREST

Pain: No signs that limited sanctions have deterred Russia from intervention

FROM FRONT PAGE

As a result, business leaders have been lobbying against tough measures.

“Germany will be harder hit than almost all other countries” by sanctions, especially if Putin retaliates by halting gas shipments, Holger Schmieding, chief economist at Berenberg Bank in London, told Bloomberg News. “A stop of Russian energy imports throughout next winter — that would stall the European and the German economic recovery.”

In response to more extensive economic sanctions, Russia could look east to China as an alternative market, leaving Europe in the lurch.

A week after Russia’s annexation of Crimea, there is no sign that limited Western sanctions, and threats of more to come, have caused Moscow to reconsider its intervention in Ukraine. But there are signs that Putin could already be looking beyond the peninsula.

Russia has been building up forces along its eastern border with Ukraine, prompting worries that its troops could soon march across the heart of that country to seize Trans-Dniester, a breakaway enclave in neighboring Moldova that is home to a Russian-speaking population.

“There is a danger that if Russia’s leaders continue to think that Western countries are less-than-committed to supporting Ukraine, they will think they can get away with doing more,” Lough said.

Even if Russia moved to claim Trans-Dniester, a Western military intervention against any Russian offensive would be virtually inconceivable given the fact that Moldova is not a NATO member.

Still, the crisis in Ukraine has galvanized NATO in recent weeks as the alliance ratcheted up operations near Russia’s border. Those include an air policing mission in the Baltics and the deployment of surveillance aircraft along Ukraine’s western border. NATO also is examining the need to reposition forces in other parts of eastern Europe.

Since the mid-1990s, NATO has been expanding eastward, taking in the former Soviet Baltic republics, the Warsaw Pact nations, and Croatia and Albania. Putin is unlikely to venture into any of those states.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, speaking in Brussels on Friday, described Russia’s actions in Ukraine as a game-changing event and a “wake-up call” for Europe as a whole.

“Our vision of a Europe whole, free and at peace has been put into question because this is not an isolated incident,” Rasmussen said.

The redeployment of forces is an important step in trying to deter more Russian aggression and will reassure wary NATO members, such as Poland, experts say. What isn’t clear is how such NATO posturing could dissuade Russia from conducting interventions in other regions that don’t enjoy the NATO security guarantee, known as Article 5, which ensures that an attack on one member would trigger a collective response.

“Article 5 is iron-clad, but when

it goes beyond that, it gets much more complicated politically. There will be differences in the alliance about how forward-leaning it wants to be,” said Ian Lesser, an expert with the German Marshall Fund of the United States.

Beyond the debate over sanctions, if the crisis in Ukraine persists, it will force a re-examination of how U.S. military forces in Europe are positioned as well as spark a debate over nuclear and arms control strategies, Lesser said.

If economic sanctions must be the primary tool to deter Russia, experts say, NATO’s efforts to reassure alliance members in the east are also a key aspect in countering Russia.

“I think there are things NATO can and will do to deter Russia,” Lesser said. “This is opening up a whole set of conversations that go from crisis management to grand strategy. None of this will be settled anytime soon.”

NATO’s Article 5 security pact all but rules out a Russian incursion into the former Warsaw Pact members and Baltic republics. Russian military intervention in those countries would be tantamount to launching a large-scale war. However, other non-NATO states such as Georgia, which fought a brief war with Russia in 2008, and Moldova could be viewed as fair game by Putin if he decides to “reassert” his claims in areas that once fell under the Soviet Union.

Those ambitions could only grow if the West failed to take concrete measures such as harsh economic sanctions, analysts say. In addition, the U.S. should bolster military aid to countries at risk of Russian intimidation, according to the global security firm STRATFOR.

“A failure to engage at this point would cause countries around Russia’s periphery, from Estonia to Azerbaijan, to conclude that with the United States withdrawn and Europe fragmented, they must reach an accommodation with Russia,” wrote George Friedman, chairman of STRATFOR, in a Tuesday analysis. “This will expand Russian power and open the door to Russian influence spreading on the European Peninsula itself.”

Attack helicopters, communications systems and an missile technology should be sent to countries to counter a growing Russian threat, Friedman said.

“The United States has an interest in acting early because early action is cheaper than acting in the last extremity,” he said.

Lough said Russia’s commodity-based economy would be vulnerable to sustained economic pressure from the West, but that Europe must be willing to pay the short-term costs of such action. So far, there are few signs Europe has the appetite for such a confrontation.

“We’re still in the early stages of this crisis,” Lough said. “What’s at stake is the independence of a country (Ukraine) that is pivotal to European security. It’s a mistake to think we can ignore what the Russians are doing.”

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PAVEL GOLOVNIK/AP

Ukrainian soldiers transport tanks from their base in Perevalnoe, outside Simferopol, Crimea, on Wednesday. Ukraine has started withdrawing troops and weapons from Crimea, now controlled by Russia.

Russia: Ukraine bars plane crews from leaving aircraft

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia accused Ukrainian officials on Wednesday of barring Russian commercial airline crews from going outside their planes in Ukrainian airports. Ukraine denied the allegation.

Tensions between Moscow and Kiev have been rising since Russian forces occupied the Crimean Peninsula and stayed there throughout

the referendum earlier this month when voters overwhelmingly supported Russia’s annexation.

Russian authorities previously complained that Ukrainian border guards have singled out Russian men at the frontier and blocked their crossing, fearing that they may be activists coming to stir up unrest.

Russia’s foreign ministry said in a statement that Ukrainian border guards have been forcing cabin

crews of Aeroflot, the state-controlled Russian airline, to stay inside their planes. The ministry said the decision violates international law and ultimately “poses a threat to the safety of civil aviation” because the crews cannot rest properly.

Ukrainian soldiers on Tuesday began their westward journey from Crimea after Ukraine’s fledgling government ordered the withdrawal of its troops from the Black Sea peninsula.

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WORLD



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIEVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama speaks during a joint news conference at the EU-U.S. summit meeting on Wednesday in Brussels.

Obama extols US-Europe bond amid Russia tension

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — President Barack Obama and European Union leaders presented a unified front Wednesday against Russia's annexation of Crimea and promoted adoption of trans-Atlantic trade as an antidote to Russia's influence in the region that would help Europe become less dependent on Moscow for its energy needs.

Obama said if anyone in Russian leadership thought they could drive a wedge between Europe and the United States through its aggression, "they clearly miscalculated."

Obama spoke during a news conference at the Council of the European Union, after a working lunch with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso that participants said was dominated by discussion of Ukraine. Van Rompuy called Russia's action in Crimea "a disgrace in the 21st century, and we will not recognize it."

Obama said coordination between the U.S. and Europe on economic sanctions against Russia has been excellent and warned that if Russia continues on its current course, "the isolation will deepen."

The leaders also expressed confidence they would reach an ambitious trans-Atlantic trade partnership, which Obama noted has a Ukraine connection because it could provide a counterweight to Russian energy leverage in Europe.

Obama's stewardship of U.S.-European relations has been hurt by revelations of communications prying by the U.S. National Security Agency. Van Rompuy said EU leaders conveyed their concerns directly to Obama in their meeting, and Obama agreed to take aggressive steps to address the issue. Van Rompuy called for "equal treatment of EU and U.S. citizens," who have more privacy protections.

With tensions running high on the continent, Obama earlier called for a commitment to peace during a solemn pilgrimage

to Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial in northwest Belgium.

"This visit, this hallowed ground, reminds us that we must never ever take our progress for granted," Obama said. "We must commit perennially to peace, which binds us across oceans."

Followed by the stirring sound of a bugler playing taps, Obama joined Belgian Prime Minister Elio Di Rupo and King Philippe in laying a trio of wreaths at the white stone monument at the center of the cemetery, the site of a significant World War I battle. The three

leaders then walked among some of the white crosses marking the burial site of 368 American troops, most of whom gave their lives in liberating Belgium from German occupation.

The Belgian leaders did not mention Russian President Vladimir Putin by name in remarks afterward, but clearly were referencing his audacious annexation of Crimea as they recalled the lessons of world war.

"Our countries have learned the hard way that national sovereignty quickly reaches its limits" when confronted with armed adversaries, who don't respect that sovereignty, said King Philippe.

Obama came to Brussels to shore up commitments he received from allies in The Hague, Netherlands, to reassure Eastern European members of NATO that the alliance would remain strong and to make a larger point about European security a quarter-century after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

He held a working lunch with European Union officials and later was to meet with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, embracing the alliance born as a bulwark against the Soviet Union.

Satellite spots 122 objects in search for Malaysian jet

By TODD PITMAN
AND ROB GRIFFITH
The Associated Press

KUALALUMPUR, Malaysia—A French satellite scanning the Indian Ocean for remnants of a missing jetliner found a possible plane debris field containing 122 objects, a top Malaysian official said Wednesday, calling it "the most credible lead that we have."

Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein also expressed exasperation with the anger rising among missing passengers' relatives in China, who berated Malaysian government and airline officials earlier in the day in Beijing. About two-thirds of the missing are Chinese, but Hishammuddin pointedly said that Chinese families "must also understand that we in Malaysia also lost our loved ones" as did "so many other nations."

Eighteen days into the search for Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, the latest satellite images are the first to suggest that a debris field from the plane — rather than just a few objects — may be floating in the southern Indian Ocean, though no wreckage has been confirmed. Previously, an Australian satellite detected two large objects and a Chinese satellite detected one.

All three finds were made in roughly the same area, far southwest of Australia, where a desperate, multinational hunt has been going on for days.

Clouds obscured the latest satellite images, but dozens of objects could be seen in the gaps, ranging in length from one yard to 25 yards.

At a news conference in Kuala Lumpur, Hishammuddin said some of them "appeared to

LOCATION OF UNKNOWN OBJECTS ON SATELLITE IMAGES DATED 23 MARCH 2014 PROCESSED BY MALAYSIAN REMOTE SENSING AGENCY (MERSA)



MALAYSIAN REMOTE SENSING AGENCY/AP

This graphic shows satellite imagery taken March 23 with the approximate positions of objects seen floating in the southern Indian Ocean.

be bright, possibly indicating solid materials."

The images were taken Sunday and relayed by French-based Airbus Defence and Space, a division of Europe's Airbus Group; its businesses include the operation of satellites and satellite communications. The company said in a statement that it has mobilized five observation satellites, including two that can produce very high resolution images, to help locate the plane.

Various floating objects have been spotted in the area by planes over the last week, including on Wednesday, when the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said three more objects were seen. The authority said two objects seen

from a civil aircraft appeared to be rope, and that a New Zealand military plane spotted a blue object.

None of the objects was seen on a second pass, a frustration that has been repeated several times in the hunt for Flight 370, missing since March 8 with 239 people aboard.

Australian officials did not say whether they received the French imagery in time for search planes out at sea to look for the possible debris field, and did not return repeated phone messages seeking further comment.

It remains uncertain whether any of the objects seen came from the plane; they could have come from a cargo ship or something else.

Turkish court orders halt to Twitter ban

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey—A Turkish court ordered the telecommunications authority to restore access to Twitter on Wednesday, issuing a temporary injunction five days after the government blocked the social network in Turkey.

Deputy Prime Minister Bulent Arinc told reporters the telecom-

munications authority would obey the court decision when it received official notice, but reserved the right to appeal.

The ban came shortly after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan threatened to "rip out the roots" of the social network that has been a conduit for links to recordings suggesting government corruption.

The telecommunications authority had closed off access to Twitter, accusing it of disobeying Turkish court orders to remove content. The move drew international criticism and many Turkish users floated the ban, finding immediate ways to circumvent it.

Even Turkish President Abdullah Gul tweeted his opposition to the blockage.

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STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Geography puts Ukraine in tough position

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
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WASHINGTON
Igor Stravinsky, the Russian composer, said easily positioned between Russia and Germany: "If you pitch your tent in the middle of Fifth Avenue, it is quite likely you will be run over by a bus." It Poland has been run over hard and often; indeed, between 1795 and 1918 it disappeared from the map of Europe.

Geography need not be destiny, but it matters, as Ukraine is being reminded. During its hazardous path to the present, all or bits of it have been parts of Poland, the Austro-Hungarian empire, the Ottoman empire, the Russian empire, the Soviet Union and now another Russian empire. Czarist Russia, which Lenin called "the prison of the peoples," is re-emerging and has in Vladimir Putin an ambitious warder.

In last week's Kremlin address, he said, "Do not believe those who want you to fear Russia, shouting that other regions will follow Crimea. We do not want to divide Ukraine; we do not need that." The word "need" is not reassuring. It suggests that Russia's needs are self-legitimizing, and recalls the definition of a barbarian as someone who thinks his appetites are their own justification.

Speaking of which: Six months after Germany's absorption of Austria, which was quickly ratified by a plebiscite, Adolf Hitler, on Sept. 26, 1938, spoke about the Sudeten region of Czechoslovakia, home of many ethnic and linguistic Germans. Speaking three days before the Munich Conference began, he said, "This is the last territorial demand I have to make in Eu-

rope." On March 15, 1939, six months after Germany's annexation of the Sudetenland agreed to at Munich, Hitler swallowed the rest of Czechoslovakia.

Then his attention turned to "protecting" the German-speaking population in Poland. On Sept. 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland on the pretext of responding to a Polish provocation. Ten days before, he had told senior military officers: "I shall give a propagandistic cause for starting the war, whether it be plausible or not. The victor shall not be asked, later on, whether we told the truth or not." On the night of Aug. 31, a German prisoner was dressed in a Polish uniform, killed and displayed as a casualty of a Polish attack on a German radio station.

Putin, whose lamented Soviet Union was then Hitler's ally, knows Hitler's tactic: If Putin had a sense of humor he would justify as "R2P" his policy of bringing home to the safety of mother Russia many of the Russians residing in contiguous countries. R2P — "responsibility to protect" — was the moral principle the Obama administration invoked to justify involvement in the seven-month assault on Moammar Gadhafi, who posed no threat to us but supposedly did to Libyans.

On Sept. 26, 1938, Hitler said "10 million Germans" lived "in two large contiguous regions" outside the Reich, and that "if I would then have no moral right to be fuhrer of the German people." Putin, whose Russia had about 142 million people before he added the 2 million in Crimea, must envelop many more if he is to match the 200 million the last czar, Nicholas II, ruled 100 years ago.

Can NATO help restrain Putin? After NATO was created in 1949, its first secretary general, Lord Ismay, said its purpose was to protect Europe by keeping "the Russians out, the Americans in and the Germans down." The task of keeping Russia out of its neighbors is being complicated by something that would have improved the last century — German passivity. Angela Merkel may think that bringing Barack Obama to a confrontation with Putin is like bringing a knife — a butter knife — to a gun fight.

In a recent New Yorker interview, Obama praised himself for being "comfortable with complexity" and unraveled the Middle East's complications: "It would be profoundly in the interest of citizens throughout the region if Sunnis and Shias weren't intent on killing each other." This is the president as poseur — detached, laconic, arch, almost cold: If only — apologies to Kipling — the lesser breeds without the law would behave.

Obama evidently harbors the surreal hope that Putin will continue to help regarding Syria and Iran. Continue? Putin's client in Damascus, Bashar Assad, is winning his civil war. And regarding attempts to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program, Putin's helpfulness, if not fictitious, has been ineffective.

Obama, always a slayer of straw men, has eschewed something *no one* has contemplated, "a military excursion in Ukraine." The American Heritage Dictionary defines "excursion" as "a usually short journey made for pleasure."

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Legal heavyweights see Hobby Lobby's dilemma

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON
When it comes to tackling complicated legal issues, one would be hard-pressed to conjure a less likely partnership than Harvard law professor Alan Dershowitz and Baylor University President Ken Starr.

Well, OK, there was the David Boies and Ted Olson confederacy fighting for gay marriage rights after they took opposite sides during the 2008 Bush-Gore election dispute. Still, witnessing Dershowitz and Starr discuss and largely agree on religious liberty issues raised by the popularly known Hobby Lobby case was pleasantly jarring.

The two convened at the Willard Hotel on Monday, the day before Hobby Lobby oral arguments were presented to the U.S. Supreme Court. In a delightful back-and-forth punctuated by yarns and anecdotes, the two legal luminaries affirmed at least two points of agreement: (1) separation of church and state is good for religion; (2) corporations are people and people are corporations (echo Mitt Romney?) and, therefore, Hobby Lobby should be permitted an exemption from the contraceptive mandate imposed by the Affordable Care Act.

To back and fill a bit: Hobby Lobby Stores Inc., a family-owned arts and crafts chain of 500 stores and 13,000 employees, is the lead plaintiff in a lawsuit against the federal government. Hobby Lobby President Steve Green, who told a dinner crowd Monday night that he had distributed Bibles to a billion people worldwide through his personal ministry, claims that he should not be forced to participate in what he views as

life-terminating contraception, including IUDs and the so-called morning-after pill. The core of the argument is that Green's business is protected by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, passed by Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton in 1993. The RFRA basically requires that the government prove "compelling interest" when someone's religious rights are "substantially burdened" by what the state wishes to do. Although individuals and religious groups are clearly covered by the RFRA, it isn't clear whether the RFRA's protections also extend to companies.

Dershowitz and Starr kicked off an afternoon of discussions as part of a symposium co-sponsored by Baylor University and Georgetown University's Berkley Center for Religion, Peace & World Affairs. Starr, who pointed out that 84 amicus briefs have been filed in the case, described the lawsuit as a "conflict of vision" — big government versus a family that has devoted itself to Christian mission work. While Starr's stewardship of a Baptist university made his views unsurprising, Dershowitz's were pleasantly jarring.

Proclaiming his love both for religion and the separation of church and state, he called the government's brief "silly and trivial." And though he thinks birth control is good for society — and he approves of the ACA — neither of those considerations matter.

It's the principle. Contrary to protestations from certain entities that subvert all issues for political gain, the case is not about birth control or women's rights or even universal health care. It is, in Dershowitz's summation, about "whether or not the states are in the penumbra of the Constitution require a re-

ligious exemption."

Period. As a final note of clarification, the Green family did not pick this battle. The federal government did when it imposed what could be considered a secular belief system on people who happen to be business owners with strong religious convictions about abortion and abortifacients.

In a brief sidebar: Don't you find it curious that the biological fact of life at conception is characterized as an article of faith (religious), while denial of that life vis-a-vis its involuntary termination is viewed as ultimately sacred? One of life's little mysteries.

Whatever one's views on these matters, they are of no consequence. The fact that I personally favor birth control doesn't alter the logic of what I've just written. It merely suits me to believe as I do in order to get through life as I find most convenient. It doesn't make me right, except under secular law, which a great many people find less compelling than the higher laws of nature — or of God. Your choice.

In any case, the first principle of religious freedom should be treated as paramount, as often and at every stage possible, both Starr and Dershowitz agreed. And both hope that the Supreme Court will find a way to accommodate Hobby Lobby.

The court's ruling is expected sometime in June. In the meantime, one wishes only to bottle the gracious, erudite and humorous civility of Dershowitz and Starr and infuse the water supply of the nation's capital. Perhaps a dash or two of the significant brain power might also filter through.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

OPINION

Not voting shouldn't be a choice in the US

By THOMAS GEOGHEGAN
Bloomberg News

When this November we elect the people to lead our country, maybe 40 percent or even fewer will go to vote. Is it too late to stop this disgrace?

To take a page from "Nudge," by Richard Thaler and Cass Sunstein, we might try "nudging" people to vote. Here's one way: a personal, guilt-inducing letter of invitation to everyone to vote, mailed by every secretary of state to every citizen, registered or not, for whom there is a driver's license or state identification of any kind.

Some may groan: If increasing turnout is the goal, why not change the election date to Sunday? Why not mail a ballot to everyone? Indeed, why not have compulsory voting?

But apart from starting brawls, all those things require a change in the law. Nothing, not one thing, stops the secretary of state of Illinois, or Massachusetts, or California, from just sending out an innocent little letter inviting citizens to vote, and reminding them of their civic obligation to do so.

At the moment, polarization is driving our politics, and our divided government leads to gridlock, which frustrates voters and makes it all seem pointless. Naming and shaming people who don't vote has the potential to change that.

You might say: "Bah, humbug. No letter of invitation will have any effect on me." You probably don't even care what your neighbors are doing.

But we don't care about you. By your very making of this op-ed column, you have already demonstrated a higher-than-average propensity to vote. The purpose here is to prey on people who don't know what they ought to do.

This little epiphany came to me of late while traveling in a foreign country, where they always do things differently — and in particular, it happened on a trip in September to Berlin, just before the national elections. A friend there handed me such



LIONEL CRONNEAU/AP

A child casts his mother's ballot in a polling station in Frejus, France, in the first round of the municipal elections on Sunday. Unlike the U.S., some nations, such as Australia and Belgium, have compulsory voting. Germans get an invitation/reminder to vote.

a letter of invitation — to be sure, more stiffly Teutonic than feel-good American in style. Yet reading it, I felt, well, nudged, and even envious that I had no chance to be a good German.

Suppose with a nudge the U.S. voting rate in 2014 went up from the typical 40 percent to 50 percent and maybe from 60 percent to 70 percent in a presidential year — which is only a modest turnout by the standard of other democracies on this planet. Are we so sure that our system of government would still be so dysfunctional? Even a nudge of just two points would still justify a letter.

Of course, we liberals especially should be much more than nudge-niks; and if it

were possible legislatively, we should be swinging a stick. If we require people to serve on juries, we can require them to vote — yes, compulsory voting, just like in Australia and Belgium. "Oh, it's in the Constitution that we don't have to vote." Where? In the text, there is neither an absolute right to vote nor a right not to vote. It simply requires the eligibility be the same as eligibility for voting for the state Legislature. "Oh, it violates our right to conscience, or the First Amendment." How? It's fine to cast a blank ballot, as they do in Australia, which has compulsory voting — and where you're fined if you don't. Once they go to the polling place, they can do whatever they like.

Besides, not every abridgment of speech or conduct violates the First Amendment, and there is nothing "content based" about an obligation to cast a vote of some kind, blank or not, which is neutral as to for whom or how the citizen votes at all. Spare me the First Amendment — tell it to the tea party.

It is true the Constitution is broken. But let's not blame the Founders too much. It was our own era that came up with the "silent" filibuster. It was our digital age that perfected the gerrymander.

Is it possible that the Constitution might work better if we had voting rates of 80 percent, or perhaps even just 70 percent? It's possible. And not because at 70 percent the Democrats would triumph: They might not. But both parties would be different. A bigger percentage of the "99 percent" or just the "bottom 90 percent" would be there to ballast against the "1 percent" or the "10 percent" at the top. The "have-not" faction, to take a concept from Federalist No. 10, would be much larger relative to the "haves," and all the false consciousness and cognitive dissonance in the world could not cancel out the good effect. Good things would start to happen. The problem of economic inequality at least on the scale we have would sooner or later solve itself.

Maybe the red states would never do it — but think what would happen if the blue states had compulsory voting and the red states did not. It would pile up popular majorities so lopsided for the blue-state presidential choice that red states would have to relearn to keep the Electoral College from becoming a total joke, they would have to resort to compulsory voting, too.

Can't one blue state, just one of them, try compulsory voting by initiative and see if it sets off a constitutional chain reaction? After all, the states are supposed to be "laboratories for experiment." That's why we have 50.

Thomas Geoghegan is a labor lawyer in Chicago. He is the author, most recently, of "Were You Born on the Wrong Continent?"

Female GIs have worked hard to be treated as equals

By KATIE MILLER

In 2010, at age 20, I made the decision to leave the U.S. Military Academy. I was ranked at the top of my class and looking forward to a long career in the military, but I was also a lesbian and found it impossible to reconcile my desire to serve as a U.S. Army officer with the daily half-truths required of me under the "don't ask, don't tell" gay ban. Over time, I've watched proudly as the U.S. military has undergone once-unthinkable changes: the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell," the lifting of the ground combat exclusion policy and, just earlier this month, Senate passage of a record number of reforms to the way the military handles sexual assault.

I know that DADT repeal, the lifting of the combat exclusion policy and the push for military criminal justice reform are not decisions that have just happened to women. It is not true, as one might think from media coverage, that the ultimate old boys club — the Joint Chiefs of Staff — one day woke up to the necessity of treating the other 20 percent of the force, women, as full equals. These are victories that military women have actively shaped and influenced for themselves, often working under the radar, fully part of and loyal to the institution they've helped bring into the 21st century.

Take the ground combat exclusion policy. Women have already been in combat positions for years. In the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the Marine Corps and the Army realized that women were necessary in certain combat units because men could not conduct pat-downs for weapons at security checkpoints or engage with Muslim women according to cultural standards. The military responded by creating Female Engagement Teams, or FETs, which were attached to Army and Marine combat units. FET members lived in the same forward operating bases, and even conducted routine patrols with the men, but were not formally assigned to these units.

In other words, throughout the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, the military was tripping over itself to put women with combat units while still abiding by its very own combat exclusion policy.

Not to mention, more than 150 women laid down their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan and another 800 were wounded. They didn't die by accident or collateral fire. These women were killed in action, defending their freedom and mine.

The centrality of women was similarly obscured during the controversy before, during and after "don't ask, don't tell." Much of the conversation during the lifespan of that policy involved high-ranking military officials throwing around words

like "unit cohesion" and "privacy" with shower anxiety and, in particular, sausage-gazing, as the ever-present subtext. The truth of the matter, however, was that DADT was, to a large extent, a women's issue. Lesbians serve at a much higher rate than gay men in the U.S. military, and were disproportionately targeted for "don't ask, don't tell" offenses. Although, from 1997 to 2009, they comprised between 14 percent and 15 percent of gay military personnel, they were more than twice that proportion — 30 percent — among those discharged under DADT.

Since the end of the ban, the most prominent torch-bearers for LGBT equality in the military have also been women. In fact, the first openly gay general, and the second — Brig. Gen. Tammy Smith and Maj. Gen. Tricia Rose, respectively — are women. The U.S. armed forces have yet to see an openly gay male general or flag officer active in the ranks, despite the fact that men make up an overwhelming proportion of the highest ranking officers. Smith and Rose, just by doing their jobs and being who they are, have led a quiet revolution.

The shameful, once-secret epidemic of sexual abuse in the military has become public knowledge thanks to the bravery of women: female veterans such as Kori Cloca (Coast Guard) and Sarah Plummer (Marine Corps), who came forward to tell

their heartbreaking and brutal stories, and female veterans in Congress such as Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, D-Hawaii, who played a large role in passing much-needed reforms that bring the military criminal justice system into the modern day. This despite the fact that, in truth, the majority of victims of sexual assault in the ranks — 53 percent — are men.

It's easy to see why the distinct contributions of military women are often overlooked. Our female leaders in the fight for gender-neutral qualification standards, the ability to talk about a spouse openly, or to have a fair shot in the military court system have greatly downplayed the historical nature of their contributions even as they made an indelible mark on traditional military culture. When the ultimate goal is to fit in and be seen as equal, to be labeled a feminist or an activist — to stand out as a woman — can seem antithetical to the mission. Even if these brave warriors — and their commanders — don't understand or acknowledge that the concept of gender equality is still quite revolutionary, particularly within the military, there's no reason we civilians can't honor their quiet efforts.

Katie Miller is a research associate at the Center for American Progress.

FACES

Eminem, Outkast top 2014 Lollapalooza lineup

Eminem and Outkast will headline a diverse lineup of more than 130 acts at this year's three-day Lollapalooza music festival in Chicago. Jane's Addiction lead singer and Lollapalooza founder Perry Farrell announced Wednesday.

The lineup also includes recent Grammy darling Lorde, rockers Kings of Leon and Arctic Monkeys and electronic dance music stars Calvin Harris and Skrillex. "Every year you're shooting to have just an incredible bill that people will look at and say, 'I'm there,'" Farrell said in an interview. "The music is going to entertain them and do wonders for their heart and so is the city."

This year marks the festival's 10-year anniversary in Chicago's lakefront Grant Park. This year, acts will perform on eight stages, 1-3. The full lineup is available on Lollapalooza's website, lollapalooza.com.

Eminem last played Lollapalooza in 2011. "He's on top of his game and he's doing a great show," Farrell said. "His live show is incorporating really well-made video and guest appearances."

High speed cause of actor's deadly crash

"Fast & Furious" star Paul Walker and friend Roger Rodas were going up to 94 mph in a 45 mph zone in a Porsche with two 9-year-old tires when they lost control, hit a light pole and died immediately when the car burst into flames, according to a new investigation of the November accident.

Investigators with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and California Highway Patrol concluded that unsafe speed, not mechanical problems, caused the Nov. 30 crash, the sheriff's department said Tuesday.

Based on post-crash calculations, accident reconstruction specialists with the Highway Patrol believe Rodas was driving his 2005 Porsche Carrera GT between 81 mph and 94 mph, according to their investigative report. The CHP declined to comment.

The Associated Press reported in December that investigators had found no evidence that the car had mechanical problems and had ruled out debris or other roadway conditions. Subsequently, Porsche sent engineers to California to review the rare car's wreckage. The engineers found no problems with the car's electrical systems, brakes, throttle, fuel system, steering, suspension or other systems.

Other news

History has found that the key to the audience's heart lies with looting and pillaging. And so the channel has given a green light to a third season of its dramatic series "Vikings." The series has averaged 3.4 million total viewers in its second season.

Robin Roberts is taking on some night work as a guest judge on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars." The "Good Morning America" anchor will appear on the show March 31 in the U.S. alongside the regular panelists. She's the first of several guest judges scheduled this season, including Ricky Martin and Redfoo from the band LMFAO.

The organizers of New York Comic Con, ReedPOP, announced Wednesday they will launch BookCon during BookExpo America, a weekend gathering in New York in late May. The "massive pop culture" event will feature author John Grisham, actress-author Amy Poehler and other well-known guests. BookExpo is primarily a trade show held for booksellers, librarians and others in the industry. BookCon will be open to the general public.

From wire services



Dark role takes toll on 'Walking Dead' star

By LAURI NEFF
The Associated Press

Spending your days killing zombies apparently takes its toll. Actress Lauren Cohan said being on AMC's "The Walking Dead" for three seasons has had an effect on her. "My temperament has changed since I've been on the show because of being immersed in this dark material all the time," Cohan said in a recent interview.

Cohan plays Maggie Greene on the post-apocalyptic zombie drama. So far this season [Spoilers ahead!] Maggie has seen her father beheaded, was separated from her husband and doesn't know whether her sister Beth is alive, dead or undead.

Cohan said that while she loves the show, it's sometimes difficult to separate herself from her character and that

she's become more "subdued."

"You come out of doing the show when you're like, 'OK, remember how to relax and remember picking up hobbies or whatever,' but remembering how to have frivolity as well has been difficult," the 32-year-old actress said.

Cohan said that in some ways, she feels that she's changed for the better because she doesn't have as many highs and lows as she used to, but adds that she now has a "serious feeling in my heart" that she sometimes wishes wasn't there.

Maggie and her husband were reunited in the show's penultimate episode. Now the couple and a host of other characters are headed for Terminus, which promises "sanctuary for all. Those who arrive survive."

Is that a good thing? Cohan isn't giving away any spoilers for the season finale, which airs Sunday in the U.S. "It sounds too good to be true," Cohan said, adding that like everything else on the show, "It probably is."

Lauren Cohan says it's tough working on the series "The Walking Dead."

AMC/AP

Paltrow, Martin separate

The Associated Press

Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, one of Hollywood's highest-profile couples, are separating after more than a decade of marriage, according to a message posted Tuesday on the "Iron Man" star's blog.

Paltrow, 41, and Martin, 37, were married in 2003. The actress and the musician have two children: daughter Apple, 9, and son Moses, 7.

"We have been working hard for well over a year, some of it together, some of it separated, to see what might have been possible between us, and we have come to the conclusion

that while we love each other very much, we will remain separate," read the message titled "Conscious Uncoupling" on Goop.com.

It was signed by both Paltrow and Martin, and a spokeswoman for Martin confirmed the separation.

"We are parents first and foremost, to two incredibly wonderful children, and we ask for their and our space and privacy to be respected at this difficult time," the message also said. "We have always conducted our relationship privately, and we hope that as we consciously uncouple and co-



COLIN YOUNG-WOLFF, INVISION/AP

Gwyneth Paltrow, left, and Chris Martin — in Beverly Hills, Calif., in January — are separating after 11 years of marriage.

parent, we will be able to continue in the same manner."

Martin, the Grammy-winning lead vocalist of Coldplay, and Paltrow, who won

an Oscar for her performance in "Shakespeare in Love," shared an extraordinary level of fame in different entertainment mediums.

Angelina Jolie surprises CinemaCon to tout 'Unbroken'

By JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

Angelina Jolie took to the stage at CinemaCon, the annual convention of theater exhibitors, on Tuesday to reveal footage from the upcoming survival saga "Unbroken," which she directed and produced.

"I wanted to make this film because its message is one that we all need now more than ever," said Jolie in front of the crowd of theater owners at the Caesars Palace in Las Vegas.

Shot in Sydney last year, the film tells the true story of Lou Zamperini, a World War II hero and track star who ran in the 1936 Berlin Olympics.

Zamperini, who is played by Jack O'Connell, spent a harrowing 47 days afloat in the Pacific Ocean following the



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Angelina Jolie, director of "Unbroken," introduced a trailer for the film during a presentation at CinemaCon 2014 on Tuesday in Las Vegas.

1943 crash of his U.S. military plane. He spent the following two years as a prisoner of war after washing up behind Japanese

enemy lines.

Developed originally by Universal Pictures in 1957, the biopic was supposed to star Tony Curtis, said Universal chairwoman Donna Langley before introducing Jolie. But after many false starts, the project never took shape.

It wasn't until Zamperini's story caught the attention of Jolie, that the film really began to evolve.

"Unbroken," to be released in December, is based on Laura Hillenbrand's book "Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption," which chronicles Zamperini's life.

The footage teased revealed affecting scenes of Zamperini's struggles, from his efforts to escape from his military plane after it crashed into the ocean, to the beatings her underwent as a prisoner.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

'Thunder' case suspect says he's mentally ill

NV LAS VEGAS — A man accused of firing a gun as he tried to make off with costumes and props used by Thunder From Down Under male performers in Las Vegas denies the allegations against him.

In jailhouse interviews Friday with KLAS-TV and the Las Vegas Sun, Joey Kadmiri, 24, said he suffers from mental health and drug problems and needs outpatient therapy.

He said he also convinced all police are out to get him, and he believes everyone is an officer when his hallucinations intensify.

Kadmiri said that's why he refused to go to court Friday for his arraignment on felony attempted murder, armed robbery, burglary and weapons charges.

Suspected robber with part of till arrested

UT MAGNA — Police said a robbery suspect was arrested in a Salt Lake City suburb after they found him running down the street with a ski mask covering his face, a gun in one hand and part of a cash register in the other hand.

Unified Police Lt. Justin Hoyal said two officers caught the suspect even before the robbery, which occurred Friday afternoon at a Magna convenience store, was reported by an employee in a 911 call. Hoyal said the suspect ran away when they tried to stop him but was apprehended outside a nearby home.

Scott Trumble, 33, is accused of demanding money from a store clerk at gunpoint. The suspect asked for more money but became frustrated after being told there was no more money. He then left.

Horses run into parade spectators; 3 injured

CA SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO — Two horses ran into a crowd at a Southern California parade, injuring three spectators, including a double amputee who was knocked out of his wheelchair.

Orange County Fire Authority spokesman Steve Concialdi said the horses were pulling a carriage filled with people when they bolted at the start of the Swallows Day Parade route in San Juan Capistrano.

He said the double amputee was taken to the hospital with moderate injuries after a horse fell on him. Two women who stood nearby suffered minor injuries.

School district bans lanyards after incident

SD RAPID CITY — A western South Dakota school district has banned lanyards from elementary school students after a pupil wearing one began to choke on it when he got stuck in a swing.

KOTA-TV reported that the 8-year-old boy was wearing a lanyard backward around his neck when he jumped off the swing and



MELINDA MARTINEZ, THE (ALEXANDRIA, LA.) DAILY TOWN TALK/AP

Celebrating troops' return

Marine Corps veterans John Charles, left, and Glen MacDonald wear gas masks as they are pelted with colored powder by members of the Alexandria Senior High School softball team during the Freedom Run at Freedom Fest on Saturday in Pineville, La. The event was held to celebrate the return of troops from combat deployment. Proceeds benefit the veterans organization Team Red, White and Blue.



Race to the finish

Bill Lawrence competes during the Locust Fork Classic white-water slalom race on the Locust Fork River near Cleveland, Ala., on Saturday. The event is the finale for the Alabama Cup racing series.

MARK ALMOND, AL.COM/AP

the clip got caught in the chain.

The boy's mother told the station her son is going to be OK and will probably have nothing more than a scar.

It was a policy at the Rapid City elementary school to give students a lanyard at recess before lunch hour.

Man drives van into backyard pool, dies

NJ MANALAPAN — Police said a New Jersey man who drove his minivan off a road, through a fence and into a swimming pool may have suffered a medical episode before the dead-

ly accident occurred.

Manalapan police told the Asbury Park Press that Robert Koenig, 49, of Marlboro, was west-bound when his minivan struck a parked car about 2:20 p.m. Saturday and left the roadway.

The van then entered the backyard of a residence on a nearby lane, crashed through a vinyl fence and sank in the pool.

Police and emergency responders soon arrived on scene and went into the pool to try to free Koenig, who was trapped. He was pulled unconscious from the pool and later died at a hospital.

The cause of death hasn't been determined.

Pedestrian injured during wild car chase

NY NEW YORK — A pedestrian was injured after being struck by a vehicle fleeing the New York Police Department.

Authorities said the driver led police on a wild chase through the Upper West Side, Central Park and the Upper East Side on Sunday night. The New York Post said the pedestrian was taken to a hospital with bruising and scrapes to his leg and right arm.

At one point, the police car ran into the driver's fender and

THE CENSUS

\$2K The amount lost by a Shawano County, Wis., couple in a scam.

Gordon and Agnes Schlenker got a phone call recently telling them their grandson was in jail and that they needed to wire \$2,000 to Florida. Agnes Schlenker said they thought they were helping their grandson, but that wasn't the case. After talking with their grandson, they realized it was a scam, but it was too late. They had wired the money. Gordon Schlenker said they'll be more aware when "things don't sound just right."



ERIC CHAPMAN, BRADENTON (FLA.) HERALD/MICT

pushed it onto the curb, sending pedestrians scrambling out of the way.

The chase began after police tried to pull the car over. The reason wasn't immediately known.

Car crashes into child's bedroom; driver hurt

OH COLUMBUS — A 6-year-old central Ohio girl escaped serious injury when a car came crashing into her bedroom as she slept.

It happened just after midnight Monday in north Columbus when the car lost control and hit the house, shoving in the wall and knocking the girl out of her bed.

Columbus police said the crash happened after the driver of the car fled officers. The driver, who likely will be charged with drunk-driving, was taken to a hospital with a broken leg.

No names have been released.

Cops: Man trespassed at Taylor Swift's home

RI WESTERLY — A Massachusetts man has been ordered to stay away from Taylor Swift's vacation home on the Rhode Island shore.

The Westerly Sun reported that Daniel Cole, 38, of Brewster, was summoned before a state judge Friday after police say he ignored previous warnings to not trespass at Swift's mansion in the Watch Hill section of Westerly.

Cole pleaded not guilty to trespassing and disorderly conduct charges. A Wakefield District Court judge issued a no-contact order and released Cole on personal recognizance.

Westerly police said Cole blocked the driveway to Swift's home with his pickup truck Dec. 9 and was escorted off the property. Police said he returned Dec. 21 and struggled with police while refusing to leave.



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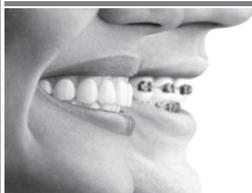
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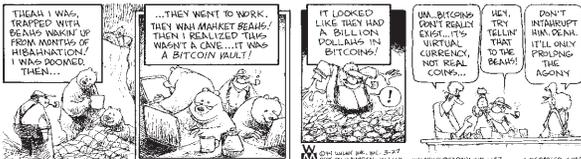
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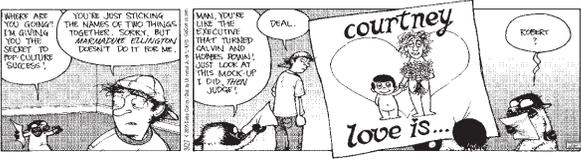
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Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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41	42									
47							43			44
45										46
48	49	50								
51									53	
54										56

ACROSS

- 1 Story teller
- 5 Intimidates
- 9 Cushion
- 12 Malaria symptom
- 13 Theater award
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Bristly rodent
- 17 Wade opponent
- 18 Launderer's challenges
- 19 Dissuade
- 21 Italian river
- 22 Tier
- 24 Use a paper towel
- 27 Cover
- 28 Designer Spade
- 31 Green, in a sense
- 32 Eggs
- 33 Suffix with "president"
- 36 "Perry Mason" star
- 36 Energy
- 37 Computer key
- 38 Macadamized
- 40 "Little Women" woman
- 41 Island greeting
- 43 Auditory stimulants
- 47 Luau bowlful
- 48 Vase material
- 51 "Help!"
- 52 Notion
- 53 Advantage
- 54 — out a living

DOWN

- 23 Leading man?
- 24 Charlotte's creation
- 25 Hosp. section
- 26 Dolphin's cousin
- 27 2/14 topic
- 29 Pitch
- 30 Blueprint addition
- 35 "Go, team!"
- 37 Grand — Dam
- 39 Hardly visible
- 40 Coffee
- 41 Church area
- 42 Take a gander (at)
- 43 "Scram!"
- 44 Zero, in Xochimilco
- 45 Uses a trowel
- 46 Giants lineman Chris
- 49 Praise in verse
- 50 CSA soldier

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	A	C	E	G	E	M	A	D	I	N
A	V	O	N	L	E	A	M	I	N	E
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3-27

CRYPTOQUIP

Q ZHCCDZN FNIBYNUQ
 RNIQMNIZ SJQEJ EUBSP BFDHA
 EPDZN AD AJN YUDHIR TQYJA
 FN EBPPNR MDD EUNNCNZ.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THAT TOWEL CLOTH IS IN PATHETICALLY POOR SHAPE, AND IT'S ORDINARY. WHAT A SAD COMMON TERRY.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals Z

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Audi, A4 Avant S-Line 17
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Chevrolet, Camaro, 2011
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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Autos for Sale - Italy 140

Suzuki, Hayabusa, 2011
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Autos for Sale - Italy 140

Yamaha, Fazer, 600, 2007
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Motorcycles 164

Suzuki, Hayabusa, 2011
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Motorcycles 164

Yamaha, Fazer, 600, 2007
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Yamaha, Fazer, 600, 2007
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SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Pro soccer

EASTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
Houston	2	0	0	0
Columbus	2	0	0	0
Portland	2	0	0	0
Philadelphia	1	0	4	3
Spokane	1	0	2	3
Chicago	0	1	2	4
New York	0	1	2	4
New England	0	2	0	1
Montreal	0	2	0	1
D.C.	0	2	0	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE		Pts	GF	GA
FC Dallas	2	0	1	0
San Jose	2	0	0	0
Vancouver	1	0	2	2
Seattle	1	0	2	3
Real Salt Lake	1	0	2	3
Portland	1	0	1	4
Colorado	1	0	1	4
San Jose	0	1	1	1
Los Angeles	0	1	1	1
D.C.	0	2	0	0

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

Saturday, March 22
 New England 0, Vancouver 0, tie
 Seattle 1, San Jose 1, tie
 Real Salt Lake 1, Los Angeles 1, tie
 D.C. United 0, Chicago 0, tie
 Colorado 2, Portland 0
 Columbus 2, Philadelphia 1
 Sporting Kansas City 1, San Jose 0
 FC Dallas 3, Chivas USA 1
Sunday, March 23
 Chicago 1, New York 1, tie
 Montreal 2, Toronto 1
Saturday's games
 Chicago 0, D.C. United 0
 Montreal at Philadelphia
 Sporting Kansas City at Colorado
 San Francisco 5, Vancouver 1
 Portland at FC Dallas
 Philadelphia at Real Salt Lake
 Columbus at Seattle FC
 New England at San Jose
Sunday's game
 Chivas USA at New York

Pro baseball

Spring training
Boston's games
 Boston 4, Tampa Bay 2
 Atlanta 12, Detroit 3
 Tampa Bay 10, Los Angeles 7
 Pittsburgh 22, Toronto 5
 Detroit 7, N.Y. Mets 3
 Minnesota 4, Baltimore 1
 Texas 5, Cleveland 0
 San Francisco 5, Milwaukee 4
 Oakland, Cincinnati 4
 Cincinnati 5, Chicago White Sox 4
 Philadelphia 5, N.Y. Yankees 3
 Seattle 9, Kansas City 6
 San Diego 5, Chicago Cubs (ss) 5, tie
Wednesday's games
 Miami vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Cincinnati vs. Chicago White Sox at Myers, Fla.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.
 Detroit vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
 Baltimore (ss) vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
 Washington vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.
 Kansas City vs. San Diego at Peoria, Ariz.
 L.A. Angels vs. Oakland at Phoenix
 Seattle vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.
 Cincinnati vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz.
 Milwaukee vs. Cleveland at Goodyear, Ariz.
 Colorado vs. San Francisco at Scottsdale, Ariz.
 N.Y. Mets vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.
 Chicago vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.
 Baltimore (ss) vs. Tampa Bay at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Thursday's games
 Washington vs. N.Y. Mets at Port St. Lucie, Fla.
 Atlanta vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.
 Toronto vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.
 N.Y. Yankees vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.
 Arizona (ss) vs. Cincinnati (ss) at Goodyear, Ariz.
 Cleveland (ss) vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix, Ariz.
 Chicago White Sox vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.
 Cincinnati vs. Arizona (ss) at Scottsdale, Fla.
 Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.
 Tampa Bay vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.
 L.A. Angels at L.A. Dodgers
 Oakland at San Francisco

College basketball

NCAA Men's tournament
EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Madison Key Arena
New York, March 28
 UConn (28-8) vs. Iowa State (28-7) 6
 Michigan State (28-8) vs. Virginia (30-0) 6
Regional Championship
South Regional
Regional Semifinals
 At FedExForum
Memphis, March 30
Thursday, March 27
 Dayton (25-10) vs. Stanford (23-12) 1
 Florida (34-2) vs. UCLA (28-8) 1
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 29
 Semifinal winners
MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Lucas Oil Stadium
Indianapolis, March 29
 Michigan (27-8) vs. Tennessee (24-12) 2
 Kentucky (26-10) vs. Louisville (31-5) 2
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 30
 Semifinal winners
WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At The Honda Center
Anaheim, Calif., March 29
Thursday, March 27
 Wisconsin (28-7) vs. Baylor (26-11) 1
 San Diego State (31-4) vs. Gonzaga (32-1) 4
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 29
 Semifinal winners

Men's NIT
Quarterfinals
Tuesday, March 25
 Clemson 73, Belmont 66
 Wake Forest 70, Southern Miss 73
Wednesday, March 26
 Louisiana Tech (29-7) at Florida State (21-13)
 California (21-13) at SMU (25-9)

CBI Semifinals
Wednesday, March 26
 Illinois State (18-15) at Siena (17-17)
 Old Dominion (18-17) at Fresno State (19-18)

CIT Semifinals
Wednesday, March 26
 VMI (21-12) at Ohio Pacific (17-11)
 VMI (17-13) at Columbus (21-12)
 St. John's (18-10) at Pacific (17-15)

NCAA Men's Division II tournament
Quarterfinals
 At Evansville, Ind.
Wednesday, March 26
 S. Connecticut vs. Missouri
 Drury vs. Metro State
 Utah Tech State vs. Carolina Aiken

NAIA Men's tournament
Championship
Tuesday, March 25
 Vanguard 70, Emmanuel 65

NCAA Women's tournament
LINCOLN REGIONAL
Quarterfinals
 At Durham, N.C.
Monday, March 24
 Duke 87, Winthrop 67
 DePaul 104, Oklahoma 100
 Nebraska 74, Fresno State 55
 BYU 72, N.C. State 57
Wednesday, March 26
At Storrs, Conn.
 Saint Joseph's 67, Georgia 57
 UConn 87, Prairie View 72
At College Station, Texas
 Oklahoma State 72, Arizona 63
 Texas A&M 70, North Dakota 55
Monday, March 24
 BYU 80, Nebraska 64
 DePaul 74, Duke 55
Tuesday, March 25
At Storrs, Conn.
 UConn 91, Saint Joseph's 59
At College Station, Texas
 Texas A&M 85, James Madison 69

At State College, Pa.
 Penn State 62, Wichita State 56
 Florida 83, Dayton 67
Second Round
At Key Arena
At Ames, Iowa
 Stanford 63, Florida State 44
Tuesday, March 25
At Seattle
 North Carolina 78, Oregon State 69
At Chapel Hill, N.C.
 North Carolina 78, Oregon State 69
At State College, Pa.
 Penn State 62, Wichita State 56
Regional Semifinals
At Stanford, Calif.
Sunday, March 30
 Stanford (30-3) vs. Penn State (24-7) 7
 North Carolina (28-8) vs. North Carolina (26-9) 7
Regional Championship
Sunday, April 1
 Semifinal winners
NOTRE DAME REGIONAL
First Round
Saturday, March 22
At Toledo, Ohio
 Arizona State 59, Vanderbilt 61
 Notre Dame 93, Robert Morris 42
At West Lafayette, Ind.
 Oklahoma State 70, Florida Gulf Coast 60, UT
Purdue 84, Akron 55
At Lexington, Ky.
 Kentucky 106, Wake Forest 50
 Syracuse 59, Chattanooga 53
At Baton Rouge, La.
 California 64, Fordham 63
 Baylor 87, Western Kentucky 74
Monday, March 24
At Toledo, Ohio
 Notre Dame 84, Arizona State 67
At West Lafayette, Ind.
 Oklahoma State 73, Purdue 66
At Lexington, Ky.
 Kentucky 83, Syracuse 64
At Waco, Texas
 Baylor 75, California 70
Regional Semifinals
Notre Dame, Ind., March 25
Saturday, March 26
 Kentucky 65, Wake Forest (31-4)
 Notre Dame (34-0) vs. Oklahoma State (25-8)

Regional Championship
Monday, March 31
First Round
LOUISVILLE REGIONAL
Saturday, March 22
At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Tennessee 73, North Carolina State 46
 St. John's 71, Southern Cal 68
Sunday, March 23
At College Park, Md.
 Maryland 80, Arizona 64
 Texas 79, Pennsylvania 61
At Iowa City, Iowa
 Iowa 85, Idaho 66
 Iowa 87, Marist 65
At Baton Rouge, La.
 LSU 98, Georgia Tech 78
 West Virginia 67, (N.Y.) 61
Second Round
Monday, March 24
At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Tennessee 67, St. John's 51
Tuesday, March 25
At College Park, Md.
 Maryland 89, Iowa 64
At Iowa City, Iowa
 Iowa 89, Iowa State 66
At Baton Rouge, La.
 LSU 76, West Virginia 67
Regional Semifinals
At Louisville, Ky.
Sunday, March 30
 Tennessee (28-5) vs. Maryland (26-6)
 Louisville (22-4) vs. LSU (21-12)
Regional Championship
Sunday, April 1
 Semifinal winner

Women's NIT
First Round
Wednesday, March 26
 San Diego (24-8) vs. Washington (19-13)
Thursday, March 27
 George Washington (17-15) at South Florida (21-12)
 Michigan (20-13) at Bowling Green (20-14)
 Seton Hall (20-13) at Rutgers (24-9)
 Auburn (19-14) at Mississippi State (21-14)
 Minnesota (22-12) at South Dakota State (24-9)
Friday, March 28
 Colorado 19, UT 26-7

NCAA Women's Division II tournament
Quarterfinals
At Erie, Pa.
Tuesday, March 25
 West Texas A&M 61, Eastern 40
 Nova Southeastern 72, Concordia-St. Paul 64
At Erie, Pa.
Wednesday, March 26
 Bentley vs. Cal Poly Pomona
At Erie, Pa.
Thursday, March 27
 Bentley vs. Cal Poly Pomona
Friday, March 28
At Erie, Pa.
 Semifinal winners

NAIA Women's tournament
Championship
Wednesday, March 26
 Oklahoma City 80, Freed-Hardeman 76

Tennis

Sony Open
Tuesday
At The Tennis Center at Crandon Park
BALTIMORE, Md., March 25
Purse: Men, \$5.66 million (Masters 1000); Women, \$5.43 million (Premier)
Surface: Hard-outdoor
Singles
Men
Fourth Round
 Novak Djokovic (2, Serbia), def. Tommy Robredo (83, Spain) 7-5, 7-5
 Kei Nishikori (20, Japan), def. David Ferrer (4, Spain) 7-6(4), 6-4
 Alexander Dolgoplov (22, Ukraine), def. Stanislav Wavrinick (3, Switzerland), 6-4, 6-2
 Andy Murray (6, Britain), def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (11, France), 6-4, 6-1
 Milos Raonic (12), Canada, def. Benjamin Becker, Germany, 6-3, 6-4
 Roger Federer (5, Switzerland), def. Richard Gasquet (9), France, 6-1, 6-2
 Tomas Berdych (7), Czech Republic, def. John Isner (10), United States, 6-3, 7-5
Rafael Nadal (1, Spain), def. Fabio Fognini (14), Italy, 6-2, 6-2
Women
Fourth Round
 Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Petra Kvitová (8, Czech Republic), 7-5, 6-1
 Serena Williams (1), United States, def. Angelique Kerber, Germany, 6-2, 6-2
Doubles
Men
Quarterfinals
 Michael Llodra and Nicolas Pietrangeli (8, France), def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, and Max Mirnyi, Belarus, 6-4, 6-4
 Bob and Mike Bryan (1), United States, def. David Marrero and Fernando Verdasola (5), Spain, 6-3, 7-6 (5)
Women
Second Round
 Martina Hingis, Switzerland, and Sabine Lisicki, Germany, def. Sorana Cristea, Romania, and Anastasia Pavlyuchenko, Russia, 6-2, 6-1
 Raquel Kops-Jones and Abigail Spears (8), United States, def. Darlene Marguza and Carla Suarez Navarro, Spain, 1-6, 6-2, 6-2
 Ekaterina Makarova, Russia, and Elena Vesnina (2), Russia, def. Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, and Anastasia Rodionova, Australia, 3-6, 6-3, 10-8

College baseball
Tuesday's scores
EAST
 Baruch 2, Morehead State 1
 CUNY S, Merchant Marine 5, tie, darkness
 Northeastern 7, Boston College 0
 St. John's 12, Hofstra 4
 West Virginia at Wake Forest, ppd., wet grounds
SOUTH
 Appalachian State at High Point, ppd.
 Astbury at Lindsey University, ccd.
 Bethel (Tenn.) 7, Christian Brothers 2
 Brescia 4, Abilene Christian 1
 Bryan 8-13, Emmanuel (Ga.) 3-1
 Charlotte 11, Winthrop 2
 Chowan at Mount Carmel, ccd.
 Cincinnati at N. Kentucky, ccd.
 Clemson 16, Virginia Tech 10
 Cumberland (Tenn.) 14, Tenn. Wesleyan 8
 Cumberland 13, Alice Lloyd 7
 Davidson 3, Duke 2
 Erskine at Wake Forest, ccd.
 Erskine 8, Newberry 3
 Florida 4, Florida State 2
 Francis Marion 24, Barton 8
 Louisville at W. Kentucky, ppd.
 New York 10-13, at Wake Forest 14
 Maryland at George Mason, ppd.
 Mercer 4, Georgia Tech 1
 Middle Tennessee 2, Lipscomb 5
 NC State at Campbell, ppd.
 North Florida 6, Orangeburg Southern 7
 Ohio E. Kentucky, ccd.
 Oklahoma State at South Carolina
 Radford at James Madison, ppd.
 S. Illinois at Murray St., ppd.
 Tennessee Tech 4, Middle Tennessee 3
 Spring Hill 7-4, Thomas 0-6
 Tennessee Tech 4, West Virginia (Ohio) 1
 Texas More at Transylvania, ppd.
 Tusculum at Middle Tennessee, ppd.
 Underhill (Vt.) at St. Catherine, ccd.
 Vanderbilt 2, Belmont 1
 Virginia Tech 1, Liberty 0
 Winston-Salem St. at Lenoir-Rhyne, ppd.
 Xavier at Kentucky, ppd.

MIDWEST
 Evan 5-11, Franklin 14
 Ill.-Chicago at Notre Dame, ppd.
SOUTHWEST
 Concordia-Austin 5, Trinity (Texas) 1
 Houston 8, Rice 5
 Houston Baptist 3, Texas Southern 1
 LeTourneau 1, Wiley 6
 Oklahoma Christian 13-14, Wayland Baptist 10-2
 North Hardin-Baylor 12, Southwestern (Texas) 5
 McMurry 3-4, Arlington Baptist 2-0
 New Mexico 14, New Mexico St. 14
 Sam Houston State 8, Texas A&M 11
 Texas 5, Texas St. 5
 Texas A&M-C 6, UTSA 1
 Texas A&M-Kingsville 3, Texas A&M-International 1
 Texas-Arlington 14, Baylor 3
 TCU 11, Texas-Pan American 0

Deals

Tuesday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE ORIOLES - Optioned RHP Brad Brantley to Norfolk, (L.)
CLEVELAND INDIANS - Selected the contract of DJ Jason Giambi from Columbus (L.)
DETROIT TIGERS - Optioned RHP Heran Perez to Toledo (L.)
FLORIDA MASNERS - Claimed LHP Patrick Schuster off waivers from San Diego. Designated Of Carlos Peguero for assignment. Optioned 2B Johnny Giacomelli to Omaha (PCL)
LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Selected the contract of INF John McDonald from Salt Lake City (PCL)
NEW YORK YANKEES - Optioned C John Ryan Murphy to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (L.)
MINNESOTA TWINS - Selected the contract of Of Jason Kubel from Rochester (L.)
SEATTLE MARINERS - Released RHP Scott Taylor. LHP Randy Wolf. Of Andy Chavez and C Humberto Quintero from their minor league contracts.
TAMPA BAY RAYS - Released LHP Erik Bedard from their minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS - Optioned RHP Neal Pineda to Round Rock (PCL). Assigned LHP Rafael Perez to Round Rock. Promoted to Round Rock. Agreed to terms with C Chris Snyder on a minor league contract.
ADDED RHP Daniel McCutchen from the minor league contract.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS - Released LHP Tsuyoshi Wada from their minor league contract.
CINCINNATI REDS - Selected the contract of C Brandon Phillips from Louisville (L.)
LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Reinstated Of Carl Crawford from the paternity list. Optioned infielder Alex Guerrero to Albuquerque (L.)
MIAMI MARLINS - Selected the contract of RHP Daniel Robertson from New Orleans (PCL). Optioned RHP Arquimedes E. Ayala from New Orleans (PCL). Orleans. Reassigned RHP Zach Ro to minor league camp. Released INF Ty Segura.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS - W. Selected the contract of RHP Kyle Lohse from the Overby and 1B-3B Mark Reynolds from Nashville (PCL).
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES - Released SS Ronny Cedeno from a minor league contract.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES - Acquired RHP Vance Worley from Minnesota for cash. Optioned Of Jaff Decker, RHP Jared Hughes and 1B/OF Matt Lamy to Indianapolis (IL). Reassigned RHPs Jay Jackson and Zach Thornton, INFs Robert Andino and Michael Cuddyer, LHPs Daniel Schlereth and Adam Winkler. Of Chris Johnston and C Vance Smith to minor league camp.
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Released LHP Michael Gonzalez, RHP Chris Young and INF Tyler Moore, Optioned RHP Vito Marcuzzi to the Cardinals, ppd., wet grounds and 1B/OF James Crouse to Syracuse (IL).
National Football League
BRAD JACKE - Announced that FB Brad Jackie went off waivers from Atlanta.
OAKLAND RAIDERS - Signed FB tight end Oluajide Williams.
HOCKEY
National Hockey League
COLUMBUS BLUE JACKETS - Re-assigned D Iliar Melart to Springfield (AHL).
DETROIT RED WINGS - Assigned C Of Emmerton to Grand Rapids (AHL).
NASHVILLE PREDATORS - Reassigned FB Matt Johnson to Nashville (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES - Recalled G Mark Visentin on emergency recall from Portland (AHL).
SOCCER
Major League Soccer
PORTLAND TIMBERS - Announced the addition of Dan Ripstein to the roster.
SPORTING KANSAS CITY - Waived D Josh Gardner.
COLLEGE
FLORIDA - Signed men's basketball coach Tom O'Connor. Dan Ripstein took a sabbatical period extension.
GEORGETOWN - Announced the retirement of athletic director Tom O'Connor effective June 30.
MARQUETTE - Announced the resignation of men's basketball assistant coach Steve Anderson.
MICHIGAN - Named Justin Dickens director of football operations.
ST. JOHN'S (N.Y.) - Announced sophomore F Jakar Sampson will enter the NBA Draft.

AP spotlight
March 27
 1995 - Oregon beats Ohio State 46-33 to win its first national football championship.
 1942 - The Louis Knocks out Abe Simron in the sixth round at Madison Square Garden to retain his world heavy weight title.
 1945 - Oklahoma A&M beats West Virginia 14-0 to win the 1945 NCAA football championship.
 1951 - Bill Spivey scores 22 points to lead Kentucky to a 98-91 victory over Duke for the NCAA basketball title.

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-PACIFIC

Skilled seniors undaunted by expectations

Kadena's Callahan, Perry's Lange share talent, burden to lead teams back to Far East titles

By **DAVE ORNAUER**
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — They're separated by some 800 miles, they play soccer for different DODDS schools and club teams. But Yuji Callahan and Gaku Lange are similar in so many respects, they might as well be twin sons of different mothers.

They're seniors. They've played soccer virtually all their lives, matriculating in some of the finer Japanese club programs. They're coached by their fathers. They will play Division I soccer next year, Callahan at Holy Cross, Lange at Pacific.

They're returning Far East Most Valuable Players who led their teams to tournament titles last season, Lange for the second straight year. As such, they bear responsibility as both returning MVPs and team captains.

"Because I've been through high-level programs, lots of people are expecting me to deliver all the time," said Lange, the face of Matthew C. Perry soccer, with 123 goals and 47 assists in parts of four seasons.

"So when I step on the pitch, they expect goals and assists, so I have to shoulder that kind of burden."

"Not many people get the opportunity to carry that weight," said Callahan, who had 27 goals and 12 assists for Division I champion Kadena a year ago. "It's pretty awesome. Even though people say it's a lot of weight, I feel special and unique to carry that kind of weight."

Coaches and teammates say they hold the two in high regard, with Callahan's father, Mike, noting that Yuji has taken on a role in helping schedule games for the Panthers.

"Yuji has a lot of experience on the field, he's an extra coach on the field, he's well rounded as a player and leader," Callahan the elder said. "To him, it's not any kind of burden at all."

Likewise, Samurai players view Lange as the "core" of the team.

"Without him, we wouldn't really be a team," senior Calvin



BAILY ROY/Special to Stars and Stripes (Lange), **DAVE ORNAUER**/Stars and Stripes (Callahan)

Kadena senior Yuji Callahan, left, is one of two returning Most Valuable Players who led their respective teams to Far East titles a season ago. Callahan has a lot in common with Perry senior Gaku Lange, right, the other returning MVP. Both carry the weight of their teams each time they take the pitch.

Barker said. "He keeps us together, makes sure we play together and he always has comments or criticism about [our play] and I like that part about him."

Where Callahan and Lange may differ is their approach to the sport. While Callahan seemingly relishes the challenge of wearing the MVP bull's-eye on his jersey, Lange has taken a more serious, more critical approach at times in the past. It may be because of their soccer backgrounds, which differ as well.

Callahan first hit the pitch when he was 10.

"I always had a thing for kicking things. I like kicking balls, round things, play with toys with my feet, so I realized soccer is for me. Everything I have is soccer-related," he said.

Shortly after, Callahan began training with the Okinawa Diplomats, the youth development program run on U.S. bases. As a freshman, he played club ball for Japan's third-tier FC Ryukyu U-15 ODP-equivalent program and was also selected to the Okinawa U-15 All-Star team.

That team traveled to various locations in Japan's main islands,

where he was scouted by several top high-school programs, much like colleges recruit in the States. That led him to Nagasaki Institute of Applied Science, where he played and trained his sophomore year. It was a competitive program of 100 pulled from schools around Japan.

Thus, the team looks to Callahan for leadership and skills development.

"He leads by example," Mike Callahan said. "He's very good with newer team members, pulling them aside and giving them extra instruction on certain

things."

Lange began playing from about the time he began walking and in his middle-school years, took 2-hour train rides back and forth from Iwakuni to Hiroshima to train with the J-League Hiroshima San Frecece ODP-equivalent program.

"Very challenging days, sometimes dark days," Lange's coach-father Mark said, adding the challenge came from the fact that the Japanese system differs sharply from the American system.

"Because of the technical work that's expected. If you're injured or aren't playing well, you drop to the bottom of the charts and you have to work your way back."

Lange was injured for a year and endured exactly that, having to still take the train trips and rehab with the trainers.

"But it's all been very good for me," Lange said. "It's helped me grow and mature and I've realized what the positives are playing for a DODDS high school team. It makes me more appreciative of what I have."

A conversation Mark Lange had with his son helped transform Gaku from a player at times critical of his teammates into a more positive force.

"This is your senior year, enjoy the moments, enjoy the matches and smile when you play," Mark Lange said he told Gaku. Since that time, things have been pretty good."

Lange and Callahan played each other last April when Kadena traveled to Iwakuni to play Perry. It's led to a lasting friendship, players and coaches said. "It was a treat for us, seeing them on the field together," Mike Callahan said.

The two very nearly ended up committing to Holy Cross together before Lange chose Pacific. Both spoke excitedly about playing college ball.

"That was my goal since I started playing soccer," Lange said. "Anything after that would be a positive."

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Top performances

Baseball

Cody Prince's no-out, two-run walk-off home run gave Kadena its first win over Kubasaki in more than a year, 9-7 in the second game of Saturday's Okinawa twin bill.

Tommy Warren went 6-for-10 last week and drove in nine runs, including a grand slam in Saturday's opener, an 18-2 Kubasaki win.

Soccer

Emily Cox, Selene Castro and Katie Crosby combined for 12 RBIs Saturday as Humphreys

recorded the first win in the first-year program's history, 18-9 over Osan at Camp Walker.

Macalain Danielsen went a combined 7-for-10 with five doubles and three RBIs as Kadena won twice against Kubasaki, 15-2 and 14-5.

Right-hander Kelly Osterbrink gave up one hit and struck out 13 in five innings to spark Kinnick to a doubleheader sweep of Perry.

Boys soccer

Takeo Elliot scored the match's lone goal, giving Humphreys its first win in program history, 1-0 over Osan on Saturday.

Gaku Lange scored a hat trick and M.C. Perry won its sixth straight match after starting the season 1-2-1, beating Iwakuni Tech 3-1 on Saturday. In those six matches, Lange has 14 goals, giving him 20 for the season.

Girls soccer

Freshman Ally Strauss had a hat trick as Kadena rallied from an early 2-0 deficit for a 3-2 win Wednesday at Okinawa Christian International.

Evie Garrido scored twice and Sara Mason assisted on two goals as Osan outlasted Humphreys 3-2 for the Cougars' first win of the season.

Track and field

The meet was hand-timed and the wind was not legal, but Kubasaki sprinter Rahman Farnell ran the fastest 100m time in Pacific history, recording 10.14 on the watch Saturday at Kadena. Adjusted upward for hand reaction and the official meet time was 10.44. If the wind had been legal, that would be .10 under the Pacific record.

Edgren sophomore Shawn Robinson won the long jump with a leap of 18 feet, ¼ inches, as the Eagles made their first appearance at a DODDS-Japan track meet since 2011.



NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference			
Atlantic Division			
	W	L	Pct
Toronto	29	32	.477
Brooklyn	37	32	.538 1/2
New York	42	28	.600
Boston	23	47	.329 1/2
Philadelphia	25	45	.357 1/2
Southeast Division			
x-Miami	48	21	.696
Washington	35	34	.510 1/2
Charlotte	34	37	.479 1/2
Atlanta	38	44	.462 1/2
Orlando	20	52	.278 2/3
Central Division			
x-Indiana	41	20	.718
Chicago	40	31	.563 1/2
Cleveland	38	44	.462 1/2
Detroit	26	44	.371 2/3
Milwaukee	13	58	.183 3/8

Western Conference			
Southwest Division			
	W	L	Pct
x-San Antonio	54	16	.771
Houston	42	28	.600
Memphis	39	33	.542 1/2
Dallas	43	29	.597 1/2
New Orleans	40	42	.488
Northwest Division			
Oklahoma City	53	19	.732
Portland	46	27	.625 2/3
Minnesota	34	38	.493 1/2
Denver	27	45	.375
Utah	23	48	.324 2/3

Pacific Division			
	W	L	Pct
L.A. Clippers	50	21	.704
Golden State	47	24	.662
Phoenix	42	29	.592
Sacramento	25	46	.357 2/3
L.A. Lakers	14	44	.243

Monday's games			
Houston 100, Charlotte 89			
Miami 95, Portland 91			
Phoenix 102, Atlanta 95			
Chicago 89, Indiana 77			
Memphis 109, Minnesota 92			
New Orleans 109, Brooklyn 104, OT			
San Antonio 113, Philadelphia 91			
Detroit 114, Utah 94			
L.A. Clippers 106, Milwaukee 98			
Tuesday's games			
Orlando 95, Portland 89			
Dallas 128, Oklahoma City 119, OT			
L.A. Lakers 127, New York 96			

Wednesday's games			
Phoenix at Washington			
Brooklyn at Charlotte			
Toronto at Boston			
Cleveland at Detroit			
Atlanta at Minnesota			
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans			
Miami at Indiana			
Denver at San Antonio			
New York at Sacramento			
Memphis at Utah			
Thursday's games			
Portland at Atlanta			
Philadelphia at Houston			
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee			
L.A. Clippers at Dallas			

Tuesday			
Lakers 127, Knicks 96			
LA Lakers	Anthony 10-21, 8-8, 29, Stoudemire 7-14, 2-2, 16, Chandler 5-7, 2-12, Felton 3-7, 0-2, 6, Smith 4-6, 3-4, 12, Shumpert 0-6, 0-0, 0, Prigioni 0-1, 0-0, 0, Hardaway Jr. 5-7, 7-17, Aldrich 1-2, 0-0, 2, Tyler 0-0, 0-0, Brown 1-1, 0-2, Murray 0-2, 0-0, 0, Totals 36-74, 20-27, 36.		
NY Knicks	Anthony 10-21, 8-8, 29, Hill 4-11, 5, Kaman 5-10, 3-13, Marshall 3-10, 7-2, 7, Meeks 1-1, 0-0, 14, Young 0-0, 3-3, 0, Bazemore 7-14, 2-2, 18, Kelly 3-6, 0-9, Henry 8-11, 3-22, Sacre 4-4, 0-0, 8, Brooks 2-2, 0-0, 1, Totals 48-83, 21-31, 177.		
New York			
L.A. Lakers			
LA Lakers	22-20, 31-23-16 (Hardaway Jr. 2-3, Smith 1-2, Anthony 6-7, Henry 8-11, Shuecks 0-2, Felton 0-3), L.A. Lakers 18-28, Young 5-6, Meeks 4-7, Henry 8-11, Bazemore 2-4, Marshall 1-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—New York 39 (Anthony 9), L.A. Lakers 43 (Kaman 9), Assists—New York 23 (Felton 6), L.A. Lakers 32 (Marshall 9), Fouled Out—None, L.A. Lakers 23, A—18,997 (18,997).		

Calendar			
April 16	— Last day of regular season.		
April 19	— Playoffs begin.		
April 20	— Draft lottery.		
June 5	— NBA Finals begin.		
June 16	— Draft early entry withdrawal deadline.		

Mavericks 128, Thunder 118 (OT)

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 15-27, 8-8, 43, Ibaka 5-9, 0-2, 10, Adams 1-1, 0-0, 2, Westbrook 5-8, 5-6, 23, Robinson 0-1, 0-0, 0, Jackson 5-11, 1-1, 11, Butler 4-10, 0-10, 10, Wright 1-3, 2-3, Crowder 4-6, 0-10, 46-93 15-119.

DALLAS — Marion 5-11, 0-10, Nowitzki 11-23, 8-32, Dalembert 5-6, 0-10, Calderon 7-10, 2-2, 22, Ellis 6-15, 5-17, Carter 4-11, 4-6, 15, Harris 2-4, 1-5, Blair 0-1, 2-2, Wright 1-3, 2-3, Crowder 4-6, 0-10, 46-93 15-119.

OKLAHOMA CITY 24, 26, 23, 26, 39, 128
DALLAS 28, 31, 25, 27, 11-128
 Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 12-33 (Durant 5-11, Fisher 3-6, Butler 2-6, Westbrook 2-6, Jackson 0-4), Dallas 15-38 (Calderon 6-9, Carter 4-9, Crowder 2-6, Nowitzki 2-8, Marion 1-4, Harris 0-1, Ellis 0-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Oklahoma City 42 (Collison, Westbrook 7), Dallas 49 (Nowitzki 10), Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 40, Dallas 22, A—19,607 (19,200).

Cavaliers 102, Raptors 100

TORONTO — Ross 5-12, 2-2, 16, Johnson 6-9, 0-12, Valanciunas 2-6, 0-4, Lowry 8-18, 3-7, 22, DeRozan 2-6, 3-13, Vasquez 4-13, 4-16, Salmons 1-4, 2-2, 5, Hansbrough 0-0, 0-2, 0, De Colo 1-0, 0-3, Hawes 2-4, 2-2, 6, Novak 1-5, 0-3, Totals 35-88, 16-26, 100.

CLEVELAND — Deng 7-13, 4-19, Thompson 3-4, 9-10, 15, Hawes 4-10, 2-2, 11, Jackson 6-9, 1-13, Walters 10-19, 3-4, 24, Deldredova 0-2, 0-0, Varejao 4-8, 3-11, Gee 1-4, 2-4, Zeller 1-1, 3-4, 5, Totals 36-70, 25-33, 102.

Toronto 17, 28, 36, 19-100
Cleveland 26, 33, 29, 14-102
 Three-Point Goals—Toronto 14-32 (Vasquez 4-7, Ross 4-10, Lowry 3-7, De Colo 1-1, Salmons 1-1, Novak 1-5, Johnson 0-1), Cleveland 4-13 (Deng 2-4, Walters 1-2, Hawes 1-3, Jack 0-1, Varejao 0-1, Gee 0-2), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Toronto 48 (Johnson 9), Cleveland 56 (Thompson 13), Assists—Toronto (Lowry) 10, Cleveland 27 (Deng, Walters 7), Total Fouls—Toronto 24, Cleveland 22, Technicals—Lowry, A—15,497 (20,562).

Magic 95, Trail Blazers 85

PORTLAND — Batum 3-9, 0-6, Wright 3-11, 0-6, Lopez 9-13, 2-3, 20, Lillard 5-17, 7-5, 17, Matthews 5-13, 4-18, Williams 0-0, 0-3, Barton 3-8, 1-2, Robinson 1-4, 0-0, 2, Clark going in."

ORLANDO — Harkless 2-5, 0-5, O'Quinn 3-8, 0-6, Vučević 10-22, 22, Oladipo 5-16, 3-13, Afflalo 3-9, 4-10, Harris 10-15, 3-25, Lamb 2-4, 2-5, Moore 0-3, 1-2, Nicholson 1-3, 0-2, Price 0-4, 0-0, 0, Totals 37-85, 22-85.

Portland 26, 15, 23, 20-85
Orlando 27, 27, 29, 16-95
 Three-Point Goals—Portland 7-25 (Matthews 4-8, Wright 2-6, Williams 1-4, Clark 0-3), Assists—Portland 17 (Barton 4), Orlando 19 (Oladipo 6), Total Fouls—Portland 14, Orlando 16, A—17,896 (18,500).

"It feels good, but it only lasts one night," said Henry, who played exceptionally well with a torn ligament in his shooting wrist. "We've just got to be encouraged for the rest of the season from it."

Kent Bazemore scored 18 points as the Lakers won consecutive games for the first time in more than three weeks with a season-high 82 points from their reserves, including Henry and Young.

Ryan Kelly, who had four three-pointers as Los Angeles finished one three-pointer shy of the single-game club record during the Lakers' highest-scoring game of the season. Five players hit multiple three-pointers, including three apiece for Henry and rookie Ryan Kelly.

Carmelo Anthony scored 29 points for the Knicks, who have lost two straight after an eight-

LM OTEHO/AP
The Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki leads the pack over the Thunder's Kevin Durant on Tuesday.

Roundup

Lakers drop 51 in third

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—With Knicks President Phil Jackson watching from a luxury suite high above the court, his new team's teetering playoff hopes got a big shove from his old team's incredible offensive show.

Xavier Henry scored 22 points, Nick Young hit five three-pointers while scoring 20 points, and the Los Angeles Lakers set a franchise record with 51 points in the third quarter of their 127-96 victory over New York on Tuesday night.

Although the Lakers have 16 NBA championships and a luminous list of former superstars, those teams never had a quarter to compare to the 12 magical minutes played after halftime by Los Angeles' current patchwork roster.

And no Knicks defense had ever given up 51 points in a quarter until this team did it in a key game for its postseason chase. New York dropped three games behind Atlanta for the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

"We hit shots all over the place," Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It's infectious. When you start taking good shots, they start going in, and even the hard shots start going in."

Indeed, the Lakers hit 19 of their 26 shots with six three-pointers, stretching an eight-point halftime lead to 30. Nine players contributed a field goal to the spree, led by nine points from Chris Kaman in his first game since in March.

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MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Lakers forward Xavier Henry dunks for two of his team-high 22 points against the Knicks on Tuesday. The Lakers won 127-96.

game winning streak. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 17 points and Amare Stoudemire had 16 in the Knicks' seventh straight road loss to the Lakers since 2007.

"At the end of the day, it's just individual pride," said J.R. Smith, who had 12 points. "You have to have pride in guarding your man, guarding the ball, and we just didn't have that the last three quarters."

Mavericks 128, Thunder 119 (OT): Dirk Nowitzki scored seven of his 32 points in overtime, leading his Dallas to the win.

Nowitzki also had 10 rebounds and six assists. In Dallas' loss to Brooklyn on Sunday, he was 2 for 12 from the field in his worst shooting performance of the season.

Kevin Durant led Oklahoma City with 43 points. He has scored

at least 25 in 36 consecutive games in the longest such streak since Michael Jordan's 40-game run during the 1986-87 season.

Cavaliers 102, Raptors 100: Dion Waiters scored 24 points and Luol Deng added 19 as host Cleveland prevented Toronto from getting closer to a playoff spot.

The Cavs blew a 21-point lead, but made just enough plays down the stretch to snap a five-game losing streak at home.

Magic 95, Trail Blazers 85: Tobias Harris had 25 points and 11 rebounds, and Orlando stopped a nine-game losing streak.

Nik Vučević added 22 points and 10 boards for the Magic, who were hit by eight at the half but used scoring spurts in the third and fourth quarters to put the game away.

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NHL



PAUL VERRINO/AP

Columbus' Cam Atkinson scores the controversial game-winning goal against Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard in the third period of the Blue Jackets' 4-2 win on Tuesday in Columbus, Ohio. The goal was lifted off its moorings when Atkinson scored, but it was allowed to stand after the play was viewed by video replay officials.

Roundup

Blue Jackets pull even in East wild-card race

Columbus rallies in third to beat Detroit

The Associated Press
COLUMBUS, Ohio — Detroit goalie Jimmy Howard felt the deciding goal shouldn't have counted in the Red Wings' 4-2 loss to the Columbus Blue Jackets on Tuesday.

"I guess it's something to remember here and keep in the back of our minds — if you knock the net off, just throw (the puck) in there," he said. "It should count." Cam Atkinson scored a goal confirmed by video replay in the third period, and Ryan Johansen added an empty-netter for his second of the game to lead the Blue Jackets to a win that further tightens the already close Eastern Conference playoff race.

On an odd-man rush, Matt Calvert's shot from the left wing was stopped by Howard, although the puck popped loose behind the goalie. Atkinson, racing down the right wing, was hit by Detroit defenseman Brendan Smith. Atkinson's leg knocked the net off its moorings as he backhanded the loose puck into the cage as it was sliding away from the goal line.

The goal, at 6:58 of the third, was ruled good because Smith's hit on Atkinson had knocked the net loose — bringing a loud cheer from the crowd of 15,103.

Kris Versteeg and Marian Hossa also scored for Chicago, which needs just one more point to clinch a playoff berth.

Avalanche 5, Predators 4: Gabriel Landeskog scored two goals in regulation and then netted the winner in the shootout to lead visiting Colorado over Nashville.

Blues 5, Maple Leafs 3: David Backes completed a hat trick in an empty-net goal to lead visiting

St. Louis to a victory that sent Toronto to its sixth straight loss.
Coyotes 3, Penguins 2: Thomas Greiss stopped 23 shots as visiting Phoenix edged sloppy Pittsburgh.

Kings 5, Capitals 4 (SO): Anze Kopitar and Jeff Carter scored in the shootout as visiting Los Angeles came back after allowing Alex Ovechkin's two early power-play goals to beat Washington.

Islanders 5, Hurricanes 4: Colin McDonald had two goals and an assist and Matt Martin also scored twice for visiting New York, which beat Carolina.

Canadians 2, Sabres 0: Carey Price made 24 saves and Max Pacioretty and Daniel Briere scored third-period goals as host Montreal earned a win over Buffalo.

Panthers 3, Senators 2 (SO): Vincent Trocheck and Brandon Pirri scored in a shootout to lift host Florida past Ottawa.

Trocheck also scored in regulation and Sean Bergenheim scored a goal for the Panthers. Roberto Luongo made 37 saves.

Blackhawks 4, Stars 2: Andrew Shaw and Duncan Keith each had a goal and an assist as host Chicago held on for a win over Dallas.

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Sharks 5, Oilers 2: Joe Pavelski scored three goals and set up another as visiting San Jose snapped a two-game losing streak with a win over Edmonton.

Patrick Marleau and Marty Hovatta also scored for the Sharks.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Boston	72	49	17	6	104	235	153	
Montreal	74	41	26	7	89	190	184	
Tampa Bay	72	37	27	8	82	214	193	
Metropolitan Division								
Pittsburgh	72	41	5	9	84	184	180	
N.Y. Rangers	73	40	29	4	82	194	178	
Philadelphia	71	38	26	7	83	205	201	
Western Division								
Columbus	72	37	26	9	80	204	196	
Detroit	72	33	25	14	81	191	204	
Washington	70	31	27	12	80	212	216	
Toronto	74	36	30	8	80	216	231	
New Jersey	72	31	28	13	75	175	187	
Ottawa	72	29	34	9	72	185	203	
Carolina	72	31	32	9	71	181	205	
Florida	72	28	38	6	62	173	217	
N.Y. Islanders	72	28	35	9	65	202	243	
Buffalo	72	20	44	8	58	138	212	

Western Conference

Central Division		GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-St. Louis	72	49	16	15	203	163	163	
Chicago	72	42	16	15	99	244	238	
Colorado	72	45	21	6	96	223	198	
Pacific Division								
x-San Jose	72	45	18	9	103	227	177	
x-Anaheim	71	46	18	9	99	228	180	
Los Angeles	72	45	21	6	96	182	175	
Wild Card								
Minnesota	72	37	24	11	85	180	188	
San Jose	72	35	26	12	82	202	207	
Dallas	72	34	27	11	79	203	207	
Vancouver	73	33	30	10	76	176	196	
Edmonton	72	32	31	9	72	185	203	
Nashville	73	31	31	11	73	178	218	
Calgary	72	30	35	7	67	183	211	
Winnipeg	72	29	39	9	59	180	241	

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss, zero for a tie. In each division and two wild-card spots in each conference qualify for playoffs. **x**—clinched playoff spot.

Monday's games
Montreal 2, Boston 1
Ottawa 4, Tampa Bay 3, SO
Colorado 5, Washington 1, SO
N.Y. Rangers 4, Phoenix 3, OT
Los Angeles 3, Philadelphia 2
Dallas 2, Winnipeg 1

Tuesday's games
St. Louis 5, Washington 4, SO
Florida 2, Ottawa 2, SO
Colorado 5, Nashville 2, SO
St. Louis 5, Toronto 3
Phoenix 3, Pittsburgh 2
N.Y. Islanders 5, Carolina 4
Montreal 2, Buffalo 0
Columbus 4, Detroit 2
Chicago 4, Dallas 2
San Jose 5, Edmonton 2

Wednesday's games
Anaheim at Minnesota
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders
Vancouver at Calgary
Thursday's games
Chicago at Boston
Dallas at Hershey
Los Angeles at Pittsburgh
Montreal at Detroit
N.Y. Islanders at Tampa Bay
Carolina at Florida
Minnesota at St. Louis
Buffalo at Nashville
Philadelphia at Colorado
Winnipeg at San Jose

Tuesday

Avalanche 5, Predators 4 (SO)
Colorado 1 1 2 0 5
Nashville 2 1 1 0 4

Colorado won shootout 2-1
First Period— Nashville, Josie 10 (Durocher, Cr-Smith), 3:33, 2, Nashville, Cody McLeod and Nick Holden (deskg 22 (Stastny, MacKinnon), 19:06, 2, Colorado, Verlanov 27 (Stastny, 23 (Stastny), 8:41, 5, Nashville, Cullen 8 (Elliis, Fisher), 14:42.
Second Period— Colorado, McLeod 4 (Duchene, Benoit), 12:25, 7, Nashville, Cullen 8 (Hornqvist), 12:27, 4, N.Y. Islanders, Holden 9 (Landeskog, Barrie), 16:01.
Third Period— Colorado, Verlanov 3 (O'Reilly, G. Landeskog), 0:41, Nashville 1 (Jankovic, 6, Ellis, Josie, 9:56).
Shots on Goal— Colorado 3-9-13-3-28, Nashville 13-9-7-4-33.

Power-play opportunities— Colorado 0 of 0; Nashville 0 of 2.
Power-play goals— Verlanov 35-14-5 (33 shots-29 saves), Nashville, Rinne 7, 9-2 (28-24).
A—16:58 (17.113), T—2:42.

Islanders 5, Hurricanes 4

N.Y. Islanders 5 4 1 0 5
Carolina 2 2 2 16 4
First Period— N.Y. Islanders, McDonald 7 (Hart, Hamonic), 6:12, 4, N.Y. Islanders, Clutterbuck 11 (Bailey, Hamonic), 5:26, 3, N.Y. Islanders, McDonald 8 (de Haan, Hamonic), 6:12, 4, N.Y. Islanders, Martin 6 (Czuczman, Hickey), 10:54, 4, Hurricanes, Verlanov 27 (Stastny, 3, Carolina, 12:38 (pp), 6, Carolina, Loktionov 6 (Hornqvist, 16:01).
Second Period— Carolina, Semin 22 (JoStall, Siles), 2:42 (pp), 8, N.Y. Islanders, Martin 7 (Strome, McDonald), 10:54, 3, Carolina, Gerbe 16 (JoStall, Hainsey), 17:19.
Shots on Goal— N.Y. Islanders 19-9-32, Carolina 9-13-6-28.
Power-play opportunities— N.Y. Islanders 0 of 3; Carolina 2 of 4.
Goals— N.Y. Islanders, Nilsson 4-5-2 (pp), 11:29 (pp), 16:01 (pp), Ward 6-9, Khudobin 15-12-0 (6:12 first, 2:31).
A—15:76 (18.680), T—2:33.

Kings 5, Capitals 4 (SO)

Los Angeles 5 1 3 0 5
Washington 2 1 1 0 4
First Period— Washington, Ovechkin 4 (Carlson, Brouwer), 2:24 (pp), 2, Washington, Ovechkin 4 (Brouwer, Backstrom), 7:04 (pp).
Second Period— Los Angeles, Richards 11 (Martinez, Muzzillo), 2:53 (pp), 4, Washington, Pinner 14 (Kawato), 17:18.
Third Period— Los Angeles, King 14 (D.Brown, W.Mitchell), 4:45, 6, Los Angeles, Gaborik 3 (Trotter, Muzzillo), 8:45, Los Angeles, D.Brown 14 (King, Stoll), 12:55, 8, Washington, Kuznetsov 1 (Ovechkin, Fetter), 19:18 (sh).
Shots on Goal— Los Angeles 2 (Kopitar G, Carter G), Washington 0 (Kuznetsov NG, Fetter NG).
Shots on Goal— Los Angeles 7-11-15-3-36, Washington 8-5-10-4-27.
Power-play opportunities— Los Angeles 1 of 3; Washington 2 of 4.
Goals— Los Angeles, Quick 25-15-2 (27 shots-23 saves), Washington, Hatak 28-11-6 (36-32).
A—15:56 (18.506), T—2:49.

Blackhawks 4, Stars 2

Dallas 1 0 2 1 1
Chicago 1 0 1 2 1
First Period— Chicago, Shaw 19 (Sharp, Teewes), 19:42 (pp).
Second Period— Chicago, Versteeg 12 (Keith, Seabrook), 4:12, 3, Dallas, Garbutt 13 (Sequin, In), 8:33, 2, Chicago, Keith 5 (Sharp, Skille), 14:15.
Third Period— Dallas, Garbutt 14 (Fiddler, Rousse), 14:20, 6, Chicago, Hossa 26, 19:26 (en).
Shots on Goal— Dallas 8-12-7-27, Chicago 16-14-12-4-22.
Power-play opportunities— Dallas 0 of 2; Chicago 1 of 1.
Goals— Dallas, Lehmann 27-19-10 (41 shots-38 saves), Chicago, Crawford 29-13 (27-25).
A—21:43 (31.717), T—2:31.

Panthers 3, Senators 2 (SO)

Ottawa 0 2 0 0 2
Florida 2 0 0 0 3
Florida won shootout 2-1
Second Period— Ottawa, Stone 2 (E.Karlsson, Burris), 11:54, 2, Ottawa, MacArthur 27 (Wierchoch, Turris), 16:11 (pp), 3, Florida, Bergenheim 15 (Campbell, Bjuggstad), 17:32, 4, Florida, Trocheck 3 (Uspal, Fleischmann), 17:55.
Shootout—Ottawa 1 (Turris G, Spezza NG, Michalek NG), Florida 2 (Trocheck G, Pirri G).
Shots on Goal—Ottawa 20-12-5-2-39, Florida 10-9-8-4-31.
Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 1 of 2; Florida 0 of 1.
Goals—Ottawa, Lehner 8-15-6 (41 shots-39 saves), Florida, Luongo 20-27-0 (39-37).
A—13:45 (17.040), T—2:43.

Blue Jackets 4, Red Wings 2

Detroit 1 1 1 0 2
Columbus 2 0 2 0 4
First Period— Columbus, Dubinsky 1 (Jankovic), 1:46 (pp), Detroit, Nyquist 24 (Sheahan, Tatar), 14:55.
Second Period— Detroit, Nyquist 25 (Tatar), 10:58.
Third Period— Columbus, Atkinson 19 (Calvert, Dubinsky), 6:58, 6, Columbus, Johnson 29 (Wisniewski), 19:54 (en).
Shots on Goal—Detroit 10-10-13-33-33, Columbus 6-10-12-26-26.
Power-play opportunities—Detroit 0 of 2; Columbus 2 of 4.
Goals—Detroit, Howard 17-17-11 (27 shots-23 saves), Columbus, Broberg 10 (9), (McMillan) 9-9-1 (0:00 second, 23:27).
A—15:103 (18.114), T—2:30.

Sharks 5, Oilers 2

San Jose 3 0 3 2 5
Edmonton 1 0 1 0 2
First Period— Edmonton, Perro 26 (Hall, Petry), 6:11.
Second Period— San Jose, Pavelski 35 (Marleau, Thornton), 6:28 (pp), 3, San Jose, Marleau 31 (Pavelski, Burns), 8:27 (pp), 3, San Jose, Havlic 3 (Dorosz), 19:29.
Third Period— San Jose, Pavelski 36 (Boyle, Burns), 1:17 (pp), 6, San Jose, Pavelski 37 (Thornton, Stuart), 13:00, 7, Edmonton, Perro 13 (Gourde), 16:54 (pp).
Shots on Goal—San Jose 11-17-3-34, Edmonton 10-11-7-30.
Power-play opportunities— San Jose 14 of 3; Edmonton 1 of 2.
Goals— San Jose, Niemi 36-34-37 (30 shots-28 saves), Edmonton, Scrivens 13-13-4 (24-29).
A—16:39 (16.639), T—2:25.

Canadians 2, Sabres 0

Buffalo 0 0 0 0 0
Montreal 0 0 0 2 2
Third Period— Montreal, Pacioretty 32 (Vanek, Desharnais), 10:53, 2, Montreal, Briere 13 (Gourde), 16:54 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 11-5-8-24, Montreal 10-12-13-35.
Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 0 of 3; Montreal 1 of 6.
Goals—Buffalo, Hackett 1-1-0 (35 shots-33 saves), Montreal, Price 30-18-5 (24-24).
A—11:73 (21.273), T—2:25.

Blues 5, Maple Leafs 3

St. Louis 2 1 2 1 5
Toronto 1 0 2 3 1
First Period— Toronto, Lupul 21 (Kadrak, Gardiner), 11:38 (pp), 3, St. Louis, Oshie 18 (Polak, Jackman), 15:55, 3, St. Louis, Steen 3 (Gardiner, Berglund), 17:35.
Second Period— St. Louis, Backes 26 (Pietrangola, Steen), 7:52, 5, St. Louis, Steen 3 (Gardiner, Berglund), 17:35.
Third Period— Toronto, Gunnarsson 41 (Kadrak, Gardiner), 15:54, 8, St. Louis, Backes 27 (Oshie, Steen), 18:53 (en).
Shots on Goal— Toronto 23-13-13-49, Toronto 7-11-25.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 3; Toronto 1 of 3.
Goals— St. Louis, Miller 23-24-4 (25 shots-22 saves), Toronto, Bernier 25-17 (43-37).
A—19:05 (18.819), T—2:43.

Coyotes 3, Penguins 2

Phoenix 2 1 0 3
Pittsburgh 2 0 0 2
First Period— Phoenix, Moss 7 (Hanzl, McMillan), 9:25, 2, Pittsburgh, Jokinen 18 (Neal, Crosby), 11:51 (pp), 3, Phoenix, Vermette 24 (Doan, Goepfert), 14:47 (pp), 4, Pittsburgh, Pyatt 3 (Scuderi, Depress), 19:25.
Second Period— Phoenix, Boedker 18 (Doan, Stone), 13:18.
Shots on Goal—Phoenix 11-8-10-29, Pittsburgh 10-7-8-25.
Power-play opportunities—Phoenix 1 of 5; Pittsburgh 1 of 1.
Goals— Phoenix, Greiss 8-6-2 (25 shots-23 saves), Pittsburgh, Fleury 34-17 (29-26).
A—16:332 (18.387), T—2:36.

Leaders

Scoring Through March 25		GP	G	A	Pts
Sidney Crosby, Pit	67	30	41	35	
Ryan Getzlaf, Van	67	30	49	35	
Patrick Marleau, Tor	74	36	41	77	
Tyler Seguin, Dal	70	32	43	75	
Clayton Kopp, Phi	68	36	48	84	
Alex Ovechkin, Was	69	48	72	120	
Cory Perry, Ana	71	37	72	74	
Evgeny Malkin, Pit	60	23	72	46	
Joe Pavelski, SJ	74	37	74	71	



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Toronto goalie Jonathan Bernier hugs the goal post as St. Louis forward Brendan Morrow, second from right, tries for the wraparound Patrick Marleau's Nazem Kadri's Ward 6-9, Khudobin 15-12-0 (6:12 first, 2:31). Tuesday's game at Air Canada Centre in Toronto. St. Louis won 5-3.

NFL

Bills owner, AFL founder Wilson dies at 95

By JOHN WAWRO
The Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson never forgot how he was made to feel like an outsider for having the audacity to challenge the NFL.

It was 1959, and Wilson had just invested \$25,000 to join Lamar Hunt and Bud Adams in helping establish the upstart American Football League. Wilson and the seven other owners were immediately dubbed "The Foolish Club."

"You'd go to cocktail parties back in those days," Wilson recalled in an interview with The Associated Press in 2009, a month before being inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. "And they'd look at me like, 'What kind of dope are you, going into a new league?'"

Some 54 years later, Wilson was being remembered as a "visionary" for playing a key role in helping establish the modern-

day game.

The Bills lost their sole owner, and the NFL lost its last surviving AFL founder and a person regarded as the league's "conscience" on Tuesday, when Wilson died at his home in Grosse Pointe Shores, Mich. Wilson was 95.

Bills president Russ Brandon announced Wilson's death at the NFL owners meetings in Orlando, Fla.

"Ralph Wilson was a driving force in developing pro football into America's most popular sport," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said. "He brought his beloved Bills to western New York, and his commitment to the team's role in the community set the standard for the NFL."

New York Jets owner Woody Johnson called Wilson's death "the end of a real important era."

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones referred to Wilson as "one of the cornerstones of the AFL."

And in Buffalo, where Wilson's influence resonated as the region's patriarch of professional football, he was being sorely missed.

"He wasn't my boss, he was my friend," Bills Hall of Fame coach Marv Levy said. "He meant so much to the game that both of us revered, and to the community of Buffalo and beyond. It's quite a loss."

Wilson had been receiving home hospice care, and had been in failing health since having hip surgery in 2011.

Wilson gave up daily oversight of the club on Jan. 1, 2013, when he relinquished the president's title to Brandon.

"No one loves this game more than Ralph Wilson," Brandon said. "It's very tough. What he's meant to the entire organization. He's our leader, our mentor our friend. How he loves his players and loved our community. Special guy. They just don't make them like Ralph Wilson."

Wilson earned a well-established repu-

tation for loyalty to fans and the stands he took against franchise relocation.

Though he butted heads several times with late Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis, it did not affect their friendship.

As Davis said in 2009: "There were a lot of guys saying (Steelers owner Dan) Rooney was the conscience. But certainly, Mr. Wilson was more of a conscience of the league."

Wilson also earned the respect of his players.

Bills Hall of Fame running back Thurman Thomas struggled with his emotions when discussing Wilson.

"With Mr. Wilson's passing today, it hurts," Thomas said. "So I'm going to miss him, without a doubt. He used to call me his favorite son."

The franchise's future is now in the hands of Brandon and Wilson's second-in-command, Bills treasurer Jeffrey Littmann.

Emphasis to be placed on conduct

By BARRY WILNER
The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — The NFL will place a heavy emphasis on enforcing its player conduct rules, something Rams coach Jeff Fisher calls "a front-of-the-book issue."

As the league's spring meetings wrapped up Wednesday with Commissioner Roger Goodell saying expansion of the playoffs next season is possible, sportsmanship — and lack thereof — was the prime topic.

"We're going to clean the game up on the field," said Fisher, co-chairman of the influential competition committee. "The in-your-face taunting, those types of things, the language. It's all in the (rule) book. It's all under unsportsmanlike conduct. There's no change in our rule. We're going to enforce the current rule."

That includes abusive and racist language.

"It includes everything, yes," Fisher said with emphasis.

He noted that everyone is fed up when a lack of sportsmanship occurs: owners, coaches, fans, players.

"The NCAA is hoping for us to do something about it and we've got to take the lead," Fisher said, "and we're going to do that."

Also on Wednesday, the owners:

- Approved experimentation with extra-point kicks from the 20-yard line for two weeks in the preseason, but implementing longer PATs for the regular season has been tabled.

- Adopted proposals to extend the length of the goalposts 5 feet to 35 feet to better determine if kicks are good; to no longer step the clock on sacks; and to allow video reviews on plays with a recovery of a loose ball on the field even though the play had been whistled dead.

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WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT



JESSICA HILL/AP

Connecticut's Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis is guarded by Saint Joseph's Kelsey Berger, left, during the first half of their NCAA tournament second-round game in the Lincoln Regional on Tuesday. Top-seeded Connecticut won 91-52 and will play 12th-seeded Brigham Young in the regional semifinals on Saturday.

Roundup

Unbeaten Connecticut rolls into 21st straight Sweet 16

The Associated Press

STORRS, Conn. — Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis has struggled this season with injury and illness. But everything felt fine on Tuesday night.

UConn's 6-foot junior scored 20 points, pulled down 10 rebounds and had 10 assists to lead the Huskies (36-0) to a 91-52 rout of Saint Joseph's in the second round of the NCAA tournament.

It was the second triple double for UConn this year, the third in program history, and just the 14th in the history of the women's NCAA tournament.

"I'm fine now," said Mosqueda-Lewis, who missed 12 games this season with an elbow injury and later a bout with mononucleosis. "I struggled so much with my confidence. Now, I'm confident and I'm out there playing relaxed."

She led five players in double figures for the top-ranked Huskies (36-0), who won their 42nd straight game.

Breanna Stewart added 21 points and 11 rebounds, and Bria Hartley also chipped in 20 points for the defending national champions, who are trying to win a record ninth NCAA tournament.

Erin Shields and Sarah Fairbanks each had 12 points to lead Saint Joseph's which finished the year at 23-10. Natasha Cloud had 10 and six assists for the Hawks.

UConn will face 12th-seeded BYU in Lincoln, Neb., on Saturday. The Cougars upset Nebraska in the second round, sparing the

Huskies a date with the Cornhuskers on their home court.

Mosqueda-Lewis connected on eight of her 14 shots, and was 3-for-5 from three-point range.

Stefanie Dolson added 17 points and six rebounds. She had UConn's other triple-double this season, scoring 26 points, grabbing 13 rebounds and dishing out 11 assists in a win over Oregon.

Dolson scored off the opening tip and UConn never trailed. A pair of three-pointers from Jefferson and Mosqueda-Lewis made it 8-0 and forced coach Cindy Griffin to use her first timeout less than two minutes into the game.

Texas A&M 85, James Madison 69: Courtney Williams scored 23 points and Karla Gilbert added 20 points with 15 rebounds to help the Aggies to a win over the Dukes in College Station, Texas.

The victory sends the third-seeded Aggies to the round of 16 for the sixth time and their first since 2012.

Louisville Regional

Maryland 69, Texas 64: Alyssa Thomas scored all 16 of her points in the second half as the fourth-seeded Lady Terrapins (26-6) squeezed past the cold-shooting Lady Longhorns in College Park, Md., to reach the Sweet 16.

Maryland will face top-seeded Tennessee in the regional semifinals.

Louisville 83, Iowa 53: Shoni Schimmel had 26 points, seven assists and five steals to help the Cardinals (32-4) thump the Lady Hawkeyes (27-9) in Iowa City, Iowa, to earn their fifth trip to the Sweet 16 under coach Jeff Walz.

LSU 76, West Virginia 67: Danielle Ballard had 22 points and 15 rebounds, and the seventh-seeded Lady Tigers (21-12) overcame a late seven-point deficit, as well as foul trouble, to upset the No. 2 seed Lady Mountaineers (30-5).

Stanford Regional

South Carolina 78, Oregon St. 69: Aleighsa Welch had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Tiffany Mitchell added 20 points and 10 boards as the top-seeded Lady Gamecocks (29-4) used their size and athleticism to overwhelm the No. 9 seed Lady Beavers (24-11) in Seattle.

North Carolina 62, Michigan St. 53: Freshman Diamond DeShields had 24 points and a season-high 12 rebounds to help the Tar Heels (26-9) beat the Lady Spartans (23-10) in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Penn State 83, Florida 61: Maggie Lucas and Dara Taylor each scored 22 points to send the third-seeded Lady Lions (24-7) into the Sweet 16 with a win over the Gators (20-13).

Penn State will play at No. 2 Stanford (30-3) on Sunday in the regional semifinals.

Underdogs surprise in Nebraska Region

By Doug Feinberg
The Associated Press

Two rounds in the books of the NCAA women's tournament and everything is almost going according to seed, well except for the Nebraska Regional.

Coming into the tournament it seemed that UConn may have the easiest road to the Final Four. That path got potentially easier with the upset of fourth-seeded Nebraska and No. 2 seed Duke.

Don't count UConn coach Geno Auriemma among those looking at it that way.

"I'm sure all the talk will be for the next three days how, 'If it wasn't going to be easy enough for Connecticut to go to the Final Four, now it's going to be real easy, because No. 2 and No. 4 are out,'" Geno Auriemma said. "That would be kind of disrespectful to the teams that are already there."

While the Nebraska Regional has 12 seed BYU and No. 7 seed DePaul still standing, the other three regions didn't have too many surprises.

The top four seeds advanced to Stanford. Fifth-seeded Oklahoma State joined the top three seeds in South Bend, Ind. Seventh-seeded LSU crashed the Louisville region by beating No. 2 seed West Virginia. Then again, the Lady Tigers did win at home.

It marked the first time since 2010 that two No. 2 seeds got knocked out in the second round.

Home-court advantage could be huge for Notre Dame, Stanford and Louisville. The trio, which are hosting regionals, have lost one game combined on their own courts this season.

Five things to watch for in the regional semifinals.

1 Party crashers: BYU is the biggest party crasher to the Sweet 16. The Cougars earned their first trip to the regional semifinals to a victory over Nebraska. The Cougars' reward — top seeded UConn. Thrown in seven seeds DePaul and LSU and there is some intrigue. It's not the same as the men's bracket which has three double-digit seeds still standing.

"You start to understand that the game is changing a little bit," Auriemma said. "It's not automa-

tic anymore that if you're seeded higher you're going to win. It's been rewarding to see teams play great basketball and get rewarded with wins and having new teams in the regionals."

2 Dominant one seeds: All four one-seeds advanced to the regional semifinals with relative ease. Only three times since the field expanded to 64 teams in 1994 have the top seeds not all advanced to the Sweet 16. The last was in 2009 when ninth-seed Michigan State upended Duke.

3 Star power: Some of the best seniors in the women's game are still playing. Chiney Ogwumike (Stanford), Kayla McBride (Notre Dame), Odyssey Sims (aylor), Alyssa Thomas (Maryland), and Maggie Lucas (Penn State) were all instrumental in getting their teams to the Sweet 16.

4 Go west, young women: North Carolina and Penn State will have to make cross-country journeys to play in the Stanford regional after opening up at home in the first two rounds. It will be the first time the Lady Lions have been in the Pacific time zone this season. The Tar Heels played out West twice this season, competing in a "Thanksgiving tournament in Mexico and taking on UCLA." Top-seed South Carolina played its first two games in Seattle and will stay out West in between rounds.

"We're staying out on the West Coast," South Carolina coach Dawn Staley said. "It doesn't really make sense for us to fly 3,000 miles to Columbia to turn around and have to leave the next day. We have study hall and exams being proctored and skying into classes. We want to make sure our student-athletes get the full balance of basketball and making sure they stay on top of their school work."

5 Top conference: The SEC and Big Ten are the Sweet 16 with the ACC being the next closest conference with three advancing. It probably didn't hurt the SEC that four of the five teams played the first two rounds on their home courts.



JAЕ C. HONG/AP

Brigham Young's Kylie Maeda (15) and Lexi Eaton (21) celebrate the team's 80-76 upset win over Nebraska in a second-round game on Monday in Los Angeles. The 12th-seeded Cougars now face No. 1 seed Connecticut in the regional semifinals on Saturday.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Games on AFN



No. 1 Arizona vs. No. 4 San Diego State
AFN-Xtra
3 a.m. Friday CET
11 a.m. Friday JKT



No. 1 Florida vs. No. 4 UCLA
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Friday CET
10:30 a.m. Friday JKT



No. 2 Wisconsin vs. No. 6 Baylor
AFN-Xtra
12:30 a.m. Friday CET
8:30 a.m. Friday JKT



No. Stanford vs. No. 11 Dayton
AFN-Sports
Midnight Thursday CET
8 a.m. Friday JKT

Vols say they're no Cinderella story

By STEVE MEGAREE
The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The do-or-die nature of the NCAA tournament is nothing new to Tennessee.

The Volunteers (24-12) have been playing with virtually no margin for error since late February, after they split their first 14 Southeastern Conference games. That made them primed for the postseason by the time they were awarded an NCAA bid.

The 11th-seeded Vols are streaking into Friday's Midwest Regional semifinal against No. 2 seed Michigan (27-8) with eight wins in their last nine games. After beating Iowa in the First Four, Tennessee ousted No. 14 seed Massachusetts and No. 14 seed Mercer.

"I think it did a good job of just putting us on edge every day," Tennessee guard Josh Richardson said. "I think we kind of had an advantage going into the Iowa game because we'd been playing the do-or-die games for a couple of weeks at that point."

The Vols dismiss the notion that their rise from the First Four to the regional semifinals is a Cinderella story, but they've enjoyed responding to the skepticism that surrounded them much of the season.

"I wouldn't call us a Cinderella because we have guys who were highly recruited out of high school, and we have veterans," Tennessee forward Jarnell Stokes said. "I wouldn't call us a Cinderella, but it's definitely motivation that people have doubted us. We've been in so many close games this year, and we just haven't found a way to win up until now. This is the right time to be winning."

One month ago, Tennessee was 16-11 and in danger of missing



CHUCK BURTON/AP

Tennessee guard Josh Richardson, right, celebrates Sunday after the Volunteers beat Mercer 83-63 to advance to the round of 16. The 11th-seeded Vols play No. 2 Michigan on Friday.

the NCAA tournament. Critics of Tennessee coach Cuozzo Martin had even started an online petition to bring back former coach Bruce Pearl, who has since been hired at Auburn. The Vols used that talk as motivation.

"We're just fighting for each other, fighting for our coach through all this," Tennessee guard Jordan McRae said. "We just make sure we stay together as a family throughout this."

Tennessee now looks like a completely different team. The Vols' last eight wins have been decided by an average margin of 20.9 points.

In their tournament opener, the Vols trailed Iowa most of the way before rallying for a 78-65 overtime victory that ended their season-long habit of losing close games. Tennessee followed that up with an 86-67 trouncing of Massachusetts and an 83-63

blowout of Mercer.

Stokes has averaged 20.3 points and 15 rebounds in three tournament games. Richardson has scored 19.3 points per game in the tournament after averaging 9.2 points per game beforehand. Senior point guard Antonio Barton hasn't committed a turnover in the tournament. Tennessee has outrebounded tournament foes by an average of 11 boards per game.

"I do think it was nerves the first 10 minutes of that [Iowa] game, just (thinking), 'Man, we are in the NCAA tournament,'" Martin said. "We didn't flow right defensively. We lost assignments, and then once we settled down and especially got that thing in overtime, we started to play well, and we've been playing well ever since."

The change in Tennessee's fortunes has introduced a different

side of Martin. For much of the season, fans grumbled on talk radio and message boards that Martin didn't show enough emotion, particularly in comparison to the gregarious Pearl. But he's let a little more of his personality show lately.

Late in the regular season, Martin sang a few bars of "One Shining Moment" while talking to reporters about how he played that song for his team to remind them the NCAA tournament remained within reach. And as Tennessee celebrated its victory over Mercer, Martin captured the moment by taking a selfie of the team and putting it on his Twitter account.

Martin claimed he had never taken a selfie before someone brought up the idea Sunday night. "My daughter has taken 1,000 of them," Martin said, "but not me."

Proud: Beilein leads team back to second straight round of 16

FROM BACK PAGE

as a teacher and a coach and part of his job is to prepare his players for life."

One of the ways Beilein tries to accomplish that is by inviting military personnel to speak to his team.

Navy pilot Natesh Rao met Beilein in 2010 when he took his team to Europe, and they've kept in touch with occasional emails.

"He always writes back, which is one of the ways you know he's genuinely appreciative," Rao said. "It's not just lip service."

And when Rao went to a Michigan practice last year, Beilein put him to work, asking him to teach his players how to stand at attention so that they would be ready to do it before each game.

"Before every season, we talk about how we're going to conduct ourselves during the national anthem," Beilein said. "To me, that's not a little thing. That's a big thing."

"I always remind the guys that when the national anthem is playing, just remember there's people freezing their tail off on a hill in Afghanistan while you're getting ready to play a game."

After choosing to play basketball in college instead of serving his country, the na-



MORRY GASH/AP

Michigan head coach John Beilein, center, smiles as he directs his team during a practice session last week in Milwaukee.

tive of Burt, N.Y., graduated from Wheeling Jesuit in 1975.

Beilein's first coaching job was at Erie (N.Y.) Community College in 1978 and he went on to lead Nazareth, LeMoyne, Canisius, Richmond and West Virginia with-

“He always writes back, which is one of the ways you know he’s genuinely appreciative. It’s not just lip service.”

Natesh Rao

Navy pilot who kept in touch with Coach John Beilein after being invited to practice

ever serving as an assistant coach.

Michigan fired Tommy Amaker and hired Beilein in 2007 and he has stayed in one place longer than any stop since being at LeMoyne College from 1983 to 1992.

"I just thought of that," Beilein said. "We really like it here, but I don't think I'm ever comfortable because we're always searching for ways to be better coaches and mentors."

Beilein might have done his best job of leading any team this season.

After losing Burke and Tim Hardaway Jr. to the NBA as underclassmen, stand-

out forward Mitch McGary needed back surgery in December that likely ended his season.

The Wolverines won the Big Ten title outright — by three games — for the first time since 1986, two years after sharing the conference championship. He helped them earn a spot in the NCAA tournament in 2009 for the first time since 1998.

Michigan has won two NCAA tournament games this year, advancing to the round of 16 in consecutive seasons for the first time in two decades, to make Beilein the sixth active coach with at least 700 victories.

After reaching the Final Four for the first time in his career, Beilein is motivated to get back to college basketball's showcase.

"People have told me you get hungrier if you've been there, and I would agree with that," he said. "We're not resting on anything, but we're very focused on Tennessee. They're an experienced version of Texas and I'm not sure we've seen anyone quite like them in our league."

Freelance writer Matthew Coles in Salt Lake City contributed to this report.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Aztecs' X factor emerges

Thames' clutch play has San Diego State in Sweet 16 round

By **BERNIE WILSON**
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO

San Diego State's journey to just its second Sweet 16 appearance began the day point guard Xavier Thames traded the wheat fields of eastern Washington for the beaches of Southern California.

"I think everybody would take the beach," said Thames, who will lead the fourth-seeded Aztecs against top-seeded Arizona in the West regional semifinals Thursday night in Anaheim.

Thames started his college career at Washington State, having signed his letter of intent before coach Tony Bennett left Pullman for Virginia. He played his freshman season and then transferred to San Diego State, which had been on his top-five list while he was recruited out of Pleasant Grove High in Sacramento.

Funny, then, that San Diego State's road to the Sweet 16 went through Spokane, which is 90 miles north of Pullman. The senior Thames scored 30 points and had five assists in leading the Aztecs to a 63-44, third-round victory against North Dakota State. Two days earlier, he had 23 points and five assists in an overtime victory against New Mexico State.

"I'm just glad I'm here at San Diego State," Thames said. "It's been a blessing, no doubt about that, coming here and having the success we've had the past few years. It's been great."

The quiet Thames doesn't call attention to himself. His coach and teammates are more than happy to do that.

"He's playing right now, in games like he had in Spokane, at an elite level," coach Steve Fisher said. "You hope you can get someone to do that. But he's played defensively and with his brain all season. It's well-documented when he wasn't shooting it really well, he went 170-some-odd minutes without a turnover, guarded the best player on the perimeter on the other team, great help defender, all of that."

"But now when he's scoring the ball the way he has in some of these games, he's as good as any guard in the country."

Thames leads the Aztecs with 17.4 points and 3.3 assists per game. In the last five games, he has 26 assists and only seven turnovers.

Aside from a three-game slump midway through the Mountain West Conference season, Thames has had a great season.

He was voted the conference player of the year and to a spot on the all-defensive team. He's stepped up in big moments, including in wins at Kansas and against Creighton and Marquette as the Aztecs won the Wooden Legacy tournament in Anaheim.

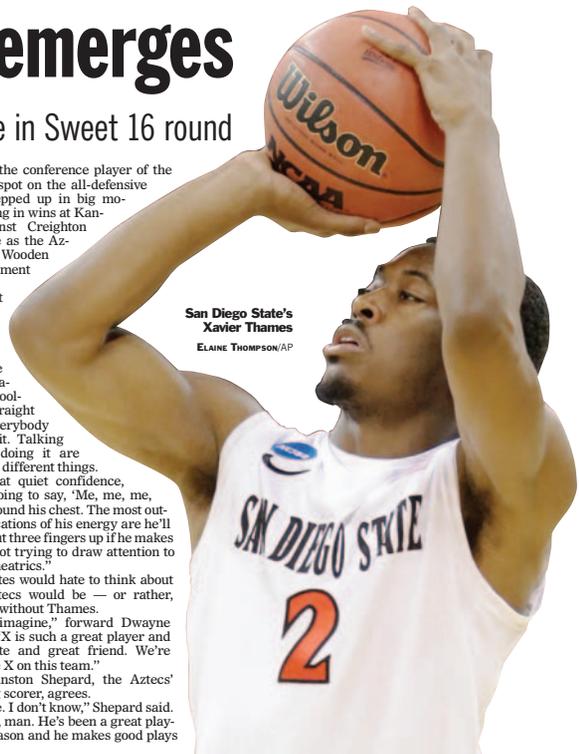
"That's what you're supposed to do," said Fisher, who has the Aztecs in the NCAA tournament for a school-record fifth straight season. "Everybody aspires to do it. Talking about it and doing it are sometimes two different things. Xavier has that quiet confidence, and he's not going to say, 'Me, me, me, me, me,' and pound his chest. The most outside exemplifications of his energy are he'll occasionally put three fingers up if he makes one. But he's not trying to draw attention to himself with theatrics."

His teammates would hate to think about where the Aztecs would be — or rather, wouldn't be — without Thames.

"I couldn't imagine," forward Dwayne Palse II said. "X is such a great player and great teammate and great friend. We're blessed to have X on this team."

Forward Winston Shepard, the Aztecs' second-leading scorer, agrees.

"I'm not sure. I don't know," Shepard said. "He's the big-time, man. He's been a great player for us all season and he makes good plays in the clutch."



San Diego State's Xavier Thames
ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Pass deflections becoming a big key on D

By **JOHN MARSHALL**
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Defense-minded college basketball coaches love to praise players for deflections, a statistic that many swear by even though it isn't officially tracked.

"Deflections tells you how much energy you're playing with and how active your hands are," Arizona State associate head coach Eric Musselman said. "If you lack deflections, then you're probably not being a very aggressive team and you probably don't have very active hands."

Blocked shots, steals and the opponent's field-goal percentage can be misleading, the coaches say. But deflections measure whether players stay close to their man or the ball and that they are active in passing lanes. And getting deflections can not only lead to turnovers, it takes the offense out of its rhythm.

"You would hope that it led to a turnover, but at the end game, you're at least disrupting the opponent," Cincinnati coach Mick Cronin said. "But you don't necessarily have to get the turnover."

Though deflections don't show

up in the box score, many coaches have a team manager or someone on the staff keep tabs during games and in breaking down film to see if their defense is active enough.

And coaches say they are the best defensive stat.

Getting a lot of steals can be great, but sometimes that means taking chances and being out of position. Fail to come up with the ball and the other team could be racing off the other direction for a layup.

Same thing with blocked shots. Get a lot of 'em, it's great, but go after every shot and miss a lot, the team is vulnerable to offensive rebounding.

Shooting percentages and turnovers are usually solid stats for defensive prowess. Still, those numbers can be skewed, too: the opposing team could just be missing open shots or being careless with the ball.

Get 40 deflections in a game — the benchmark for most teams — and you're going to win the game almost every time.

"There are so many things that the casual fan doesn't understand, things like deflections that



ERIC GAVAP

North Carolina Central forward Jay Copeland, right, tries to deflect a pass from Iowa State forward Georges Niang during their NCAA tournament second-round game on Friday in San Antonio.

don't show up in the box score but are important because they lead to something," longtime coach and television analyst Bill Frierder said. "Not only do you stop a

possible basket, you might get a basket."

Though not every team tracks deflections, many of the best teams in the country play an ag-

gressive style of defense, getting their hands on lots of balls to disrupt the opponent's offense and create opportunities for themselves.

Louisville won a national championship last year thanks, in part, to its in-the-jersey defense. Virginia Commonwealth has become a mid-major power with its relentlessness on defense, leading the nation in steals and forcing turnovers with quick hands.

Michigan State is in the Sweet 16 for the 12th time in 17 seasons because of its active defense. Arizona has been arguably the nation's best defensive team this season and heads to the Sweet 16 this week as a popular pick to win it all after overwhelming Gonzaga with its arm-waving pressure in Sunday's third-round game.

"When you think of teams like San Diego State, VCU, Louisville, those teams create offense through their defense and it starts with being active, playing with a great deal of energy, guarding the ball tightly and having active hands," Musselman said.

Tracking deflections, at least to many coaches, is the best way to figure out if that's happening.

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Yeguete isn't just statistics

French forward does dirty work for Gators

By MARK LONG
The Associated Press

WILL YEGUETE is one valuable player for top-seeded Florida. You just have to dig a little deeper than statistics and box scores to see how much he means to the Gators.

The 6-foot-8 senior forward from Bordeaux, France, is what coach Billy Donovan calls a "dirty work guy," doing things in the press and the paint that rarely make headlines or highlight clips.

But his tenacity and toughness were on display in the third round of the NCAA tournament Saturday. Yeguete had eight points, four rebounds, an assist, a steal and a blocked shot in the 61-45 win against ninth-seeded Pittsburgh.

"He just does so many different things in the press. He's such a great cover guy with our defense. He's a great help defender," Donovan said. "He's the epitome of a guy that when you look down at the stat sheet it's hard to have a level of appreciation for him. ... He really impacts winning."

"He impacts the game in a very, very positive way for us, and what he does is really, really rare."

Yeguete and Florida (34-2) return to the court Thursday night against fourth-seeded UCLA (28-8) in the South Region semifinals in Memphis, Tenn. It's another chance for Yeguete to go mostly unnoticed — at least to outsiders.

Yeguete has the size and athleticism to play the front of the press, trap all over the court and defend anyone from a guard to a center. And he's regularly diving on the ground for loose balls, taking charges and willing to sacrifice offensive fame for defensive fortitude.

On Monday, he was fittingly wearing a white Gators T-shirt with "Intensity Courts" printed on the front.

His numbers — Yeguete is averaging 4.9 points and 5.1 rebounds — are far less telling.

But considering how things went for Yeguete the last two years, just being on the court and contributing on a regular basis are accomplishments.

"It's exciting for me just being able to play, just being able to be out there for the postseason," Yeguete said. "That's what I fight for, that's why I've been working every single day."

Yeguete missed the final nine games in 2012 because of a broken right foot, and Florida went 4-5 without him. He was hoping to play had the Gators advanced to the Final Four, but they blew a double-digit lead against Louisville in the regional final.

Yeguete faced more adversity last year while dealing with tendinitis in his right



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Florida forward Will Yeguete yells after scoring against Pittsburgh during Saturday's third-round game of the NCAA tournament in Orlando, Fla.

knee most of the season. The pain got so intense in early February that he opted to have arthroscopic surgery to remove floating chips and cartilage. He missed six games, wasn't the same when he returned and ended up needing another surgery after the season.

While he seemingly has lost some leaping ability, he's still been a consistent rebounder and a dependable defender.

"It's hard to find," Donovan said. "It's hard to find guys that really kind of hang their hat on being kind of a dirty work guy, and it's hard sometimes because certainly it doesn't really give them a lot of headlines. He's not a headline guy. But he really does a lot for our team."

Yeguete has never gotten a lot of attention in Gainesville. He was born in France, but grew up playing soccer in Ivory Coast. He picked up basketball late and really fell in love with Florida while watching Joakim

Noah lead Florida to back-to-back national titles in 2006 and 2007. He moved to Florida Air Academy in Melbourne, Fla., before his junior year of high school and met teammate Scottie Wilbekin while playing Amateur Athletic Union ball.

Wilbekin quickly realized that Yeguete's game was far from flashy.

"He's been that way since I met him," Wilbekin said. "He has a knack for it. He gets tough rebounds, gets his hands on tips and has a nose for the ball. He seems to get it when other players wouldn't. It's just an attitude. When you have it, you don't really realize it because it just comes natural. He has it."

Yeguete has no plans to change his style, either — preferring to alter games without necessarily scoring points.

"Those plays impact the game and winning," he said. "I'm not the only one doing those things. ... It's a whole team effort."

Bears used to stepping up during postseason

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Cory Jefferson figures not too many people really know just how good Baylor has been in postseason play.

Not even the senior forward had put into perspective what the Bears have done until asked this week about their 17-3 postseason record over the past six seasons, which now includes a third NCAA Sweet 16 appearance.

"I'd say it's a very low percentage, considering I didn't even know about the 17-3 until just now," Jefferson said. "It's not really something that I kept up with, but that sounds like a pretty good record to me."

That is an .850 postseason winning percentage, better than any other Division I team with multiple NCAA appearances in that six-season span. Before those three NCAA tournaments in five years, the Bears made it to an NIT championship game at

Madison Square Garden in 2009 — then won that title last season.

"I think it says that we can compete at a high level, and against the best, and we're one of the best," said Scott Drew, Baylor's winningest coach with 204 wins in his 11 seasons.

Baylor (26-11), the No. 6 seed in the West Regional, plays No. 2 seed Wisconsin (28-7) on Thursday in Anaheim, Calif.

The Bears also made it to NCAA regional semifinal games in 2010 and 2012, winning both before losing in the regional final each time to the eventual national champ.

"This year, we had a lot of ups and downs, but we peaked at the right time, and we're still going," senior guard Brady Heslip said Tuesday. "Not a lot of people thought we were going to make the tournament, let alone the Sweet 16. The Sweet 16 wasn't our goal, so we're still playing for our goal."

Kentucky is 17-4 (.847) in postseason games since 2009 with a national title two years ago. Baylor beat the Wildcats 67-62 in December at the Dallas Cowboys' massive NFL stadium, and the two could have a rematch there in the Final Four if both teams win two more games.

Stanford is 10-2 in postseason games since 2009, but its two wins to get to this season's Sweet 16 are the only ones in the NCAAAs. The Cardinal were the 2012 NIT champions, and won another game in that event last year. There was also a CBI tourney appearance in that stretch.

"The Bears have won 12 of 14 games since early February, when they were 2-8 in the Big 12. The latest was that surprisingly easy 85-55 victory over Creighton on Sunday night."

"It was obviously tough times, going through 2-8, but the great thing about our team is nobody lost hope," Jefferson said. "Everybody still believed that even while we were 2-8, that we could make it to the NCAA tournament."

I think it says that we can compete at a high level, and against the best, and we're one of the best.

Scott Drew
Baylor coach

SPORTS



Bills' owner, AFL founder
Wilson dies at 95

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NCAA TOURNAMENT



Courtesy of Michigan Photography

Michigan coach John Beilein has tried to instill in his players the importance of respecting the sacrifices of U.S. military serving around the globe, including standing at attention during the national anthem. Beilein has invited military personnel to speak to the team, including teaching them how to stand at attention properly.

Standing proud

Michigan's Beilein instills importance of respecting military

By LARRY LAGE
The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — Michigan coach John Beilein has had a successful career and family life, raising four children with his wife of 30-plus years and winning 700 games.

Beilein does, though, wish he went into the military as many members of his relatives did — and do — including extended family members who helped to inspire the Oscar-winning Steven Spielberg film "Saving Private Ryan."

"That's one of my regrets," Beilein said in a telephone interview. "It wasn't cool in 1971 to go into the service."

Beilein tries to make up for his regret by teaching his players to respect the sacrifices made by men and women across the globe.

Before the second-seeded Wolverines face 11th seed Tennessee on Friday night in Indianapolis, they will be expected to stand at attention during the national anthem because Beilein makes them work on it.

"He had some men from the armed

forces come early to practice last year and teach us," Utah Jazz rookie Trey Burke recalled this week. "From then on, he expected us to stand tall and have our hand on our heart to show respect."

"He always taught us that it's the little things that matter."

That's one of many reasons Michigan athletic director Dave Brandon is glad Beilein is leading the proud-again program.

"He's way more than a basketball coach-coach," Brandon said. "He sees himself

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"I always remind the guys that when the national anthem is playing, just remember there's people freezing their tail off on a hill in Afghanistan while you're getting ready to play a game."

John Beilein
Michigan coach

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