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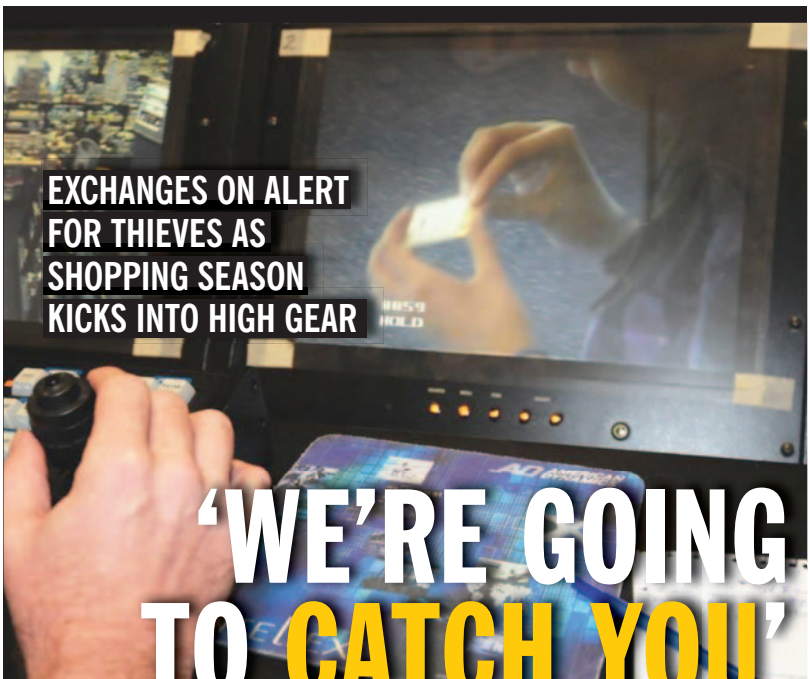

EXCHANGES ON ALERT FOR THIEVES AS SHOPPING SEASON KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

'WE'RE GOING TO CATCH YOU'

Loss-prevention specialist John Keith zooms in on a shopper who has picked up an item at Kadena Air Base's exchange.

ROBERT DEDEAUX
Courtesy of the U.S. Army

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — It's just another sleepy morning at Kadena Air Base's sprawling exchange, and retired Marine John Keith sits behind a humming console of 10 screens with access to 112 cameras that cover the department store inside and out.

Keith — who works in Army and Air Force Exchange Service loss prevention at the Kadena store — watches intently as a pair of uniformed airmen pop in to grab an item before heading back to work. A young woman shops for cosmetics, leisurely looking in the mirror as she tests samples. An older woman strolls the aisles pushing a young child in a stroller.

Little do they know Keith is watching their every move.

He zooms in on the woman testing the cosmetics, looking for "selection" of an item and "concealment." As she picks up an item, he moves in even closer with the camera.

He's able to relax as she puts the item back on the shelf and walks away. Then he turns to watch the woman pushing the carriage.

"This lady right here, she's walking through the cosmetics, she has a baby carriage," Keith said. "There's so many places to stick things."

Keith and his colleagues have good reason to be so distrusting as they prepare for the surge of holiday shoppers that starts on Black Friday and continues through Christmas.

Last year, AAFES recorded more than 3,700 shoplifting incidents worldwide, involving about $417,750 worth of merchandise, according to an Exchange service spokesman, Judd Anstey.

SEE EXCHANGES ON PAGE 4

Attacks in Kabul target diplomat convoy, aid agency

BY CARLO MUNOZ
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban attackers struck twice in the heart of Kabul on Thursday, killing six people including a British citizen and driving home their message that security in the Afghan capital cannot be guaranteed as the U.S. and its allies draw down their combat forces.

In the first attack, a massive car bomb targeted a British Embassy convoy in the east of the city, killing a British Embassy security guard and an embassy interpreter, as well as four other Afghan civilians, according to a statement from the International Security Assistance Force. Police said 35 other people were wounded.

In the evening, a suicide attack on a foreign guest house near the International Relief & Development organization compound was followed by gunmen storming in, according to the chief of Kabul police, Gen. Mohammad Zahir. The Virginia-based relief agency, which works closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development, is located in an area where there is a concentration of embassies, nongovernmental organizations and restaurants frequented by foreigners.

SEE KABUL ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We shouldn't be debating between readiness and the pay and benefits for those in uniform."

— Retired Air Force Col. Michael F. Hayden, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, whose members had sent almost 45,000 "messages" to Capitol Hill in recent weeks to urge rejection of a proposed pay cap and compensation curbs

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Lifestyle

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WAR/MILITARY

Kabul: Taliban claim responsibility for attacks that killed 6

FROM FRONT PAGE

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammed Ayub Salangi later said that in addition to the suicide bomber, there were two gunmen, both of whom were killed. A Nepalese guard at the compound was wounded, but no other foreigners were injured or killed.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for both attacks, the latest in a string of attacks in the capital against foreign military and civilian targets.

In the morning attack, a Toyota Corolla packed with explosives pulled alongside a British convoy in the Qalai Wazir neighborhood, according to an Afghan police official.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed that a British national member of the civilian security team at the embassy and an Afghan national working for the embassy were killed. He said in a statement that a second British member of the security team was injured.

"I condemn this appalling attack on innocent civilians supporting our diplomatic activity," Hammond said. "This outrage brings home to us once again the courage and perseverance of the people of Afghanistan and members of the international community who support them, who have lived together through decades of conflict."

ISAF commander Gen. John F. Campbell also condemned the "despicable attack" by the Taliban.

"Those who commit such murderous acts have no place in the future of this country," he said in a statement.

Witnesses said the explosion was large enough to send the British armored vehicle airborne, tossing the wreckage nearly 40 yards from the initial blast site, while sending shrapnel and broken glass into shops and businesses along the Kabul-Jalalabad Road.

At the scene of the evening attack, Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi speculated that the Taliban were sending a message that parliament's approval of key agreements with the United States and NATO regarding the terms of continued international troop presence is "not tolerable."

"The message they want to send is clear — security is not easy to come by," Sediqqi said.

On Monday, two U.S. soldiers were killed when a bomb attached to a bicycle struck their convoy as it moved through the same Kabul neighborhood where Thursday's attack took place.

Earlier this month, Taliban fighters attacked the Green Village foreign contractor compound and the offices of Supreme Group logistics company, both in the same eastern Kabul neighborhood. In both of those strikes, truck bombs were used to breach the compound's gates before insurgents attempted to overrun the facilities.

The deadliest attack this year took place Sunday, when a suicide bomber struck a volleyball tournament in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan. The blast, which killed 61 people, mostly civilians, was reportedly aimed at high-ranking Afghan Local Police officials who were attending the tournament.

CARLO MUNOZ/Stars and Stripes

Bystanders look at the remnants Thursday of a British Embassy vehicle destroyed by a massive car bomb in eastern Kabul.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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Pentagon identifies 2 US troops killed in Afghan attack

From wire reports

The Pentagon has identified two American soldiers who were killed in a bomb attack Monday in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner and Spc. Joseph W. Riley died "of wounds suffered when the enemy attacked their vehicle with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device," the Pentagon reported.

Police officials said an explosive attached to a bicycle went off near their convoy.

Turner, 48, of Nanticoke, Md., was the senior enlisted adviser to a NATO mission training Afghan troops. He was assigned to Fort Drum, N.Y., and previously had deployed to Bosnia in 1995 and to Iraq in 2003, The Baltimore Sun reported. He had been awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and three Meritorious Service Medals, among others.

Turner attended James M. Bennett Sr. High School in Salisbury, Md., and played football. He studied management at Towson University, where he graduated in 1989. He joined the Army in 1993 and served in several military police units.

He was married and had five children.

Riley, 27, of Grove City, Ohio, was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Riley's family said in a statement that he "loved the Army and felt strongly that freedom is worth the fight."

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Riley was a 2005 graduate of and former football standout at Grove City High School. The city's police chief said Riley had spent summers on a Grove City work crew.

They were the 51st and 52nd Americans killed in Afghanistan this year, according to icasualties.org.

MILITARY

Visar Kryeziu/AP

U.S. soldiers serving in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Kosovo pray before sharing a traditional Thanksgiving meal on base at Camp Bondsteel, near the village of Sojevo in Kosovo, on Thursday. It is the 15th Thanksgiving for hundreds of U.S. solders serving in the Kosovo mission.

Rahmat Gul/AP

NATO soldiers look for a seat before they enjoy their Thanksgiving dinner at the ISAF headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.

Thanksgiving in the military

Rahmat Gul/AP

NATO soldiers are served Thanksgiving dinner at ISAF headquarters in Kabul on Thursday. This is the last Thanksgiving celebration before the U.S. and NATO combat mission ends on Dec. 31.

Hendrick Simoes/Stars and Stripes

A sailor shows off his Thanksgiving Day spirit on the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, underway in the Persian Gulf conducting missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

Adam L. Mathis/Stars and Stripes

Col. Kenneth T. Bibb Jr., 100th Air Refueling Wing commander, cuts off part of a steamship roast for a Thanksgiving lunch at RAF Mildenhall, England, on Thursday. Base officials estimated up to 700 people could visit the dining facility for the meal.

Hendrick Simoes/Stars and Stripes

Seaman Jose Ortiz puts the final touches on the hams for a Thanksgiving Day meal aboard the USS Carl Vinson.

MILITARY

Exchanges: Official says desperation during holidays drives rise in theft

FROM FRONT PAGE

Of those 3,700 incidents, 274 occurred at stores in the Pacific, which includes the second-largest exchange worldwide in terms of volume — Kadena. Ramstein, Germany, is number one, with Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., as number three.

That represents a sharp drop in shoplifting cases from a few years ago. In 2007, about 7,000 shoppers were detained worldwide, Anstey said. Last year, the number dropped to fewer than 4,000.

With sales in the holiday season expected to soar, Keith and the rest of his team will be manning the floor and watching the screens for the rest of the year to try to bring down those numbers even lower.

"Our main charge is to get out there and serve the servicemen and their dependents," said Allen Wykle, the Pacific region's loss prevention manager. "If you're out there and you're wanting to shoplift, we're going to catch you, and we don't want that to happen.

"Around the holiday season, people really get desperate," Wykle said. "Families want to make sure their families have the best Christmas and sometimes cheat to get those kids those presents, so it's very unfortunate."

The thieves come in all shapes, sizes, ages and nationalities, and have different methods for stealing and even the reasons behind it.

ROBERT DEDEAUX/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Loss-prevention specialist John Keith, center foreground, monitors shoppers in Kadena Air Base's Exchange. Keith expects shoplifting to increase threefold during the holiday season, starting with Black Friday. He said the team will be working to prevent theft this holiday season.

All shapes, sizes

Keith has loss prevention down to a science.

Upon his arrival at work each morning, he sets up several cameras on the items that inventory tells him are stolen the most, such as cosmetics, electronics and luxury goods. If someone enters that department, he watches them intently, able to zoom in virtually close enough to see skin blemishes.

"This season, there's more people stealing for themselves because they're saving their money to buy for their loved ones for the holidays," he said. "I don't catch [a shoplifter] every day. It's actually pretty hard, but they say, statistically, one out of every 11 people who walk up the stairs attempts to steal something" — an industry yardstick that Antsey said is higher than among AAFES shoppers.

In one week earlier this month, loss prevention caught a woman at the Camp Foster exchange store trying to swipe $2,000 worth of items when the electronic tagging system that alerts staff when someone walks out with a pricier item was temporarily down.

Other notable larceny attempts in recent years include:

- A woman who stole a $4 bracelet after spending a couple of hundred dollars at the store.
- A high school student from Yokota who stole shoes while visiting Okinawa only to be caught upon his return home.
- Kids who have tried to steal cold medicine or dust-off spray to get high.
- A servicewoman who walked around the Camp Foster exchange for six hours, dressing her baby in stolen goods, stuffing items into the stroller, even feeding her baby with a stolen bottle. Total price tag: $1,600.

Rank and station don't enter into it. During his career in loss prevention, Wykle has seen diplomatic personnel and even an undersecretary of the Army caught shoplifting.

Employees have to be watched, too. Keith said they sometimes steal, show up late, fraudulently fill out time cards or undercharge their friends.

Who steals depends on the time of day, he said. In the morning, it's mostly spouses who have just dropped off their children at school. It switches to servicemembers and high school students about lunchtime and back to spouses after lunch. After 4 p.m., it is everybody.

Keith has seen so much theft in the 14 months he has been poring over screens at Okinawa's exchanges that he has lost some faith in people.

"Not all bandits wear a ski mask," Keith said.

"I've seen 6-year-old kids to 86-year-old old ladies and everyone in between; everyone steals. And if you don't catch them today, they'll be back, and you'll get them tomorrow."

After someone is caught stealing, Keith or a manager will approach the person and inform them that there is a discrepancy that needs to be addressed. They then bring the person into the security office and contact military police, who file larceny charges.

Keith said they do not use physical force to restrain someone who has been caught. The video means there's no need; it can then be turned over to a school, a command or law enforcement.

Careers at risk

The consequences for a servicemember can be devastating — even if it's a dependent who steals, Keith said. The servicemember also can be charged with the theft.

Dependents have been barred from base for 10 years, which in some cases led to the destruction of their families through divorce or separation.

Servicemembers who steal can be prosecuted and discharged, Wykle said. In addition, if the merchandise is opened or broken, the thief or the thief's family has to purchase it and pay a restocking fee of $200.

The pain caused by shoplifting doesn't end there, Wykle said. A stolen item might remain out of stock for long periods of time.

Merchandise is automatically reordered when it gets down to a certain level because sales are registered in a computer. But it might be a while before an exchange realizes stock of a stolen item is running low, so the general population of servicemembers might be forced to go without.

The community also suffers because exchange earnings support morale, welfare and recreation installation programs. The exchanges have contributed more than $2.4 billion to military quality-of-life programs in the past 10 years.

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Accident involving military vehicle near NAF Atsugi kills Japanese nurse

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Japanese motorist is dead following an accident involving a U.S. military vehicle near Naval Air Facility Atsugi.

The accident, involving a 7-ton Marine Corps Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement and a Japanese civilian vehicle, happened shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday, according to a Marine Corps news release.

The military vehicle was traveling on the Tomei Expressway in Kanagawa Prefecture from U.S. Army Depot Sagamihara to Camp Fuji at the time of the crash, the news release said.

The car struck the center median and then careened to the shoulder when it was struck by the truck driven by a 20-year-old Camp Fuji servicemember, according to Japanese police.

Motoko Arai, 34, a nurse from Yokohama, was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 3:50 p.m., according to a Kanagawa Prefecture police spokesman.

The car's driver, identified as Ryohei Yamada, 25, a nurse from Tokyo, was seriously injured, police said. The servicemember did not sustain serious injuries, according to police.

"The circumstances and cause of the traffic accident are under investigation by Japanese traffic and law enforcement personnel and a military investigative team on scene from U.S. Army Camp Zama," the news release said.

Japanese and U.S. investigators will be permitted to question the driver, who was to return to Camp Fuji, the news release said.

"The commanders and Marines of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and … Camp Fuji are deeply saddened by the death and injury to the members of our valued and respected community and host-nation," the news release said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erik Slavin and Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report.
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Rhineland-Pfalz police warn of pickpockets

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The twinkling lights, Christmas music, enticing smells of fire-roasted sausage and hot mulled wine all put visitors to Christmas markets in the mood for giving.

But the distractions of all those sights, sounds and smells could find them giving more than they intend.

Christmas markets attract pickpockets, who take advantage of the crush of people and the generous holiday mood.

Rhineland-Pfalz police are warning visitors to Christmas markets, crowded stores and train stations to keep a close hold on their wallets, offering the following tips:

- Carry only as much cash as you need.
- Carry cash and credit cards in various closed pockets as close to your body as possible.
- Keep your purse or bag closed across the front of your body or firmly clamped under your arm.
- Never leave your bag or jacket unattended.
- Pay particular attention to your valuables in a crowd.
- If you are the victim of a theft or see suspicious activity, call the police at 110.

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MILITARY

Late benefits fight has defense bill on ropes

By Tom Philpott

Military Update

A dispute between House and Senate armed services committees over whether to slow growth in military housing allowances and to raise off-base pharmacy copayments has put at risk passage of a defense authorization bill.

"This is as bad as I've ever seen it," one armed services committee staffer said in describing the impasse between House and Senate negotiators striving to reach a defense policy bill compromise two months into the new fiscal year.

If no deal can be struck, this Congress would be the first in 52 years not to enact a bill to shape defense policy and would reset budget priorities. It would mean no new programs, thousands of hours of wasted effort on Capitol Hill, and a budget mess for the 114th Congress in late January as Republicans will take charge of both chambers.

The lame-duck Congress also needs to pass a new continuing resolution by Dec. 11 for the Department of Defense to be able to spend at 2014 levels, absent a separate deal on a 2015 defense appropriations bill.

Knocking heads over the policy bill are the chairmen of the armed services committees, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and Rep. Harold "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif. Both men are retiring. Both also have colleagues ready to honor them by including their names in the title of the final defense authorization bill. That, alone, should be incentive for compromise.

For now, however, Levin and colleagues, including prominent Republicans, support the Joint Chiefs' call to take at least a few steps to slow compensation growth. They accept President Barack Obama's plan to cap the Jan. 1 military pay raise at 1 percent instead of 1.8 percent to match private-sector wage growth. They also would cap Basic Allowance for Housing increases for several years, and would phase in hefty increases in beneficiary copayments for drug prescriptions filled off base.

House negotiators don't support the last two provisions. Capping BAH raises until recipients pay 5 percent of rental costs out of pocket would save the DOD $3.9 billion through 2019. Planned increases to drug copayments would save $1.5 billion in direct health costs by 2019 and $3 billion more in accrual payments to cover drug costs for elderly retirees and dependents.

That's money the Joint Chiefs want to divert to readiness accounts as Congress refuses to repeal defense spending cuts for 2016 and beyond, as set under the 2011 Budget Control Act and enforced through a spending cut formula called sequestration.

McKeon told the online magazine Politico that to accept the Senate position of smaller BAH adjustments and larger pharmacy copayments would mean breaking promises to people, which he "can't do."

A committee spokesman confirmed the accuracy of those remarks but added McKeon believes there is still time to get a bill done. "Beyond that," he said, "the chairman does not wish to negotiate … through the press."

In opposing compensation curbs, McKeon and colleagues argue for delaying any such action until Congress receives the recommendations of the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission. That nine-member panel is to deliver its final report in February.

One of the commissioners suggested Tuesday that pressure on defense budgets likely won't be relieved by commission recommendations.

In a phone interview, former congressman Steve Buyer, an architect of the Tricare for Life benefit for Medicare-eligible military beneficiaries while he was chairman the House military personnel subcommittee, said he doesn't accept the "theme" of Pentagon leaders that substantial gains to military compensation since 2000 are unsustainable.

He also called the proposed compensation curbs that now delay agreement on a defense bill a "Pentagon cut exercise to find funds to deal with the sequester." Yet those who look for commissioners to back a fresh set of cuts to compensation might be waiting in vain, he hinted.

"We're going to work on what's important to properly recruit and retain and resource the force necessary for the war after next," Buyer said. "I have told leadership at the Pentagon that their present budget issue is not my problem. Don't look to me [as a commissioner] to solve your present budget problem. If you've got issues with sequester, then you deal with that with the Congress. That's not my job."

Buyer cautioned that he wasn't speaking for the commission. But as a former lawmaker with years of experience on armed services, as a career reserve officer and as someone who has studied compensation issues for the past 18 months, Buyer said he believes the "baseline argument" that current pays and benefits are unsustainable "is false."

"I learned immediately as a freshman congressman on the House Armed Services Committee (in 1993) about the power of the defense industrial base in Washington D.C." Its "appetite on programmatic" defense spending "is so strong" that personnel budgets feel "tremendous pressure" and those backing other programs "will do everything they can to either cut personnel numbers or benefits to gain access to money to pay for programs."

Military associations using social media have helped to even the fight for resources, Buyer acknowledged. Military Officers Association of America said its members had sent almost 45,000 "messages" to Capitol Hill in the past few weeks to urge rejection of the pay cap and compensation curbs.

"We shouldn't be debating between readiness and the pay and benefits for those in uniform," said retired Air Force Col. Michael F. Hayden, MOAA's director of government relations. "The Pentagon should have a budget that provides training, equipment and the pay and benefits needed to sustain the volunteer force."

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

Army Europe to alter emergency number

Stars and Stripes

The Army is changing to a single emergency phone number to help streamline emergency services in Europe.

The service plans to change its emergency number to 112 — the European version of 911 — at Army installations across the Continent starting Jan. 1, according to Installation Management Command-Europe.

The switch will align the Army with the European Union and U.S. Air Force installations in Europe, Carol Fontanese, IMCOM-Europe's safety officer, said in an Army news release.

"Whether you are on post or off post using a commercial telephone, or the Defense Switched Network, dialing 112 will connect you with emergency services personnel," Fontanese said.

Dialing 112 from DSN phones will reach on-post emergency services. Dialing 112 from commercial lines will continue to connect with host nation emergency services.

The single emergency number will replace the separate fire, medical and law enforcement numbers used at Army installations in Europe. Some garrisons might continue to use two numbers if their dispatch operations cannot be integrated, according to IMCOM.

The old emergency numbers will remain operational after the transition.

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MILITARY

2ID effort aims to curb troops' misconduct

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The 2nd Infantry Division is asking bar owners for help in reducing misbehavior by troops after several incidents sparked negative publicity and calls from local officials for the U.S. military to rein in soldier conduct.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Vandal, 2ID commander, said Army officials met with about 20 owners of bars in The Ville outside Camps Casey and Hovey several weeks ago. Citing excessive alcohol use as the main contributor to misconduct, the division wants bartenders to call military police when they believe a soldier's drinking is getting out of hand.

"We asked them to help us with this campaign for responsible drinking that really gets at causing our soldiers to stop, pause and reflect before they have that extra drink, before we see it affects their judgment," Vandal told Stars and Stripes. "They understand the intent. They were very positive, quite frankly," he said, adding that having soldiers get in trouble is bad for a bar's business and can lead to being put off-limits to troops.

Park Young Ho, owner of the Mustang Club and head of the Korea Foreigner Tourist Facility Association's Dongducheon branch, said most bar owners are happy to comply with 2ID's request. Many have felt there is little they can do when troops get drunk and worry that kicking them out could lead to further problems and could endanger other customers.

"This is great," he said. "We can call them (military police) and ask them to take the drunken soldiers to the bases."

The effort is part of 2ID's new Think Twice campaign to encourage responsible behavior among its more than 10,000 soldiers, who make up more than a third of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed on the peninsula.

Announced this week, the campaign emphasizes the dangers of excess drinking and encompasses a number of measures already in place, from cultural awareness classes for newly arrived soldiers to promotion of off-duty activities that don't involve drinking, like sports and college classes.

It also includes more partnership with civic leaders in Dongducheon and Uijeongbu, where major 2ID bases are located, as well as bar owners, Vandal said.

"Ninety-nine percent of our soldiers do what's right. They're serving abroad, they're doing a very challenging, tough mission and they're putting themselves in harm's way," Vandal said. But the few soldiers who cause trouble take "away from all the great things our soldiers are doing."

He said several recent acts of misconduct around the Labor Day weekend prompted the division to enact Think Twice, which he described as a holistic approach to improving troop behavior. Those incidents included curfew violations and several acts of drunken and disorderly behavior, both on and off post.

Even minor crimes involving U.S. troops can receive national scrutiny in South Korea, where servicemembers are often perceived as being allowed to run afoul of the law with impunity. But 2ID officials say the number of crimes involving its soldiers is ticking downward.

Command spokesman Lt. Col. Scott Rawlinson said in an emailed statement that the command is beginning to track whether any establishments have contacted military police for assistance since the meeting with bar owners.

According to figures provided by 2ID from its provost marshal's office, alcohol was involved in more than 70 percent of reported sexual assaults and more than 50 percent of aggravated assaults involving 2ID soldiers in the 12 months ending Sept. 30. It did not provide specifics on how many incidents there were.

Rawlinson said that because alcohol-related incidents are tracked quarterly, it is too soon to know the impact of Think Twice, but no incidents of soldiers violating South Korean law were reported off post during the Veteran's Day holiday weekend. Typically, misbehavior tends to spike during long holiday weekends, he said.

An official with the Gyeonggi Provincial Police Agency in Uijeongbu said he believes the number of felonies being committed by 2ID soldiers is decreasing and the command is doing a good job of curbing troop misconduct.

But South Koreans tend to focus on misbehavior as a general issue, not where a soldier is stationed.

"Where the person is attached to doesn't seem to be so important in crimes committed by USFK soldiers," he said.

Earlier this fall, Uijeongbu city hall expressed skepticism that 2ID could do anything to stop troop misconduct after a 2ID soldier's suspected assault of a taxi driver led Mayor Ahn Byung Yong to boycott a friendship concert at Camp Red Cloud in September. Less than a week after that incident, another soldier was accused of flirting with a 26-year-old South Korean woman at a subway station and shoving her toward a wall.

"I wouldn't go so far as to say people can't step out onto the street at night. But they are nervous, and they are scared (of U.S. soldiers)," a spokesman for the mayor said at the time.

Also in September, three 2ID soldiers were given suspended sentences for a drunken disturbance at a water park in which two female employees were touched inappropriately and a male park employee and a police officer were attacked.

The youth and lack of professional experience among 2ID soldiers — this is the first military assignment for 54 percent of them — as well as South Korea's reputation as an assignment where lax behavior is tolerated may contribute to conduct problems.

"They might have heard from other people that have been stationed in Korea in the past — there's some stories out there that you can get away with anything in Korea because what happens in Korea stays in Korea," said 2ID Command Sgt. Major Andrew Spano, adding that the division is trying to change that perception. "But what happened 25 years ago is nothing like it is now."

Vandal said elements of the Korean media remain unfairly "fixated" on misbehavior within 2ID and often ignore similar misconduct within the South Korean army ranks.

But he said he believes efforts to curb misconduct have had an effect.

"We think it is working, but we also acknowledge, with the turnover we have on the peninsula, this is something we have to encourage consistently, every month," he said.

Stars and Stripes' Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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JON RABIROFF/Stars and Stripes

Filipino women stand in the doorway of one of the juicy bars in The Ville, just outside Camp Casey, in South Korea as a group of soldiers walks by in June 2009.

Port congestion could further delay change-of-station vehicle deliveries

By Adam L. Mathis
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Congestion at civilian ports around the world means a Defense Department contractor with an already patchy delivery record will be late delivering Defense Department employees' vehicles into the New Year.

International Auto Logistics said on its website Monday that the port congestion already had caused delays. Despite a decrease in shipping volume during the holiday season, the Brunswick, Ga.-based company "expects these delays to become continually longer into" 2015.

The delays would continue a trend of late deliveries that have marred International's running of the Defense Department contract to ship the vehicles of personnel on permanent change-of-station moves. Neither the International nor the Defense Department has released hard data on the company's shipping record, but many complaints by servicemembers and DOD employees have surfaced on Facebook, ranging from vehicles delivered well past the required delivery dates to failure to provide accurate tracking information.

Entry ports in the U.S. and Europe have recently suffered from "persistent congestion," according to a report on website of the JOC Group, a company that follows cargo shipment news.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif., have both reported problems with congestion on their websites. Los Angeles described the month of September as its busiest for cargo since 2006.

Delays at the Rotterdam, Netherlands, port were so severe earlier this year that one shipping company reportedly diverted some of its traffic to a different port.

A spokeswoman for International could not immediately provide any officials to comment, but International said on its website it had made changes to some operations to help mitigate the situation.

The potential for more delays comes at a time when the government has been hoping to rebuild trust in International. U.S. Transportation Command said in September that the company had doubled the number of vehicles delivered per week compared with August and that deliveries were being made at a greater rate than vehicles were entering the system.

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NATION

Jeff Roberson/AP

Snow falls as Missouri National Guard members stand outside the Ferguson Police Department on Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo.

Protesters dwindle to small groups in Ferguson

By Tom Foreman Jr. and Alan Scher Zagier
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — The throngs of protesters who overran Ferguson after the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case dwindled to just a few small groups as people began cleaning up this battered community and seeking something closer to a normal routine.

Scattered demonstrations continued Wednesday, including protesters who rushed into St. Louis City Hall, screaming, "Shame, shame." But the tension that preceded arson and looting earlier in the week seemed all but gone, two days after the announcement that a white police officer would not face charges in the fatal shooting of the black 18-year-old.

There were no reports of major confrontations or damage to property, and St. Louis County police said there were only two arrests overnight.

In Ferguson, business owners and residents covered up broken windows, cleared away debris and hoped the relative calm would last into the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the St. Louis suburb's historic downtown, about a dozen people painted over boarded-up windows on businesses.

"This is my Ferguson, you know?" said Kari Hobbs, 28, as she watched Molly Rogers, 17, paint "Love Will Win" in bright pink on a board that covered a smashed window at Cathy's Kitchen, a restaurant not far from the Ferguson Police Department.

The footage people see on the news "is such a small bit of what's happening here," Hobbs said. "There's so much donation and charity going on with the businesses that have been affected and the people that have been affected."

There were no seats inside Cathy's Kitchen, and a line had formed at the back of the building. A diverse mix of residents, businesspeople with the day off and journalists covering the protests enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving lunch.

Jerome Jenkins, who runs the restaurant with his wife, Cathy, said he never considered closing his doors.

"It really wasn't about wondering if the building would get torched or not," Jenkins said. "Me and my wife, we expected it to get damaged … we decided to go home, and we would live with whatever fate would give us."

He said it was protesters who helped protect his business during Monday night's chaos, when a dozen commercial buildings were burned to the ground.

"The criminals, the looters, whatever you want to call them: They're not protesters. They wanted to vandalize the place," Jenkins said. "And the protesters locked arms together, and they surrounded our place and … told them, 'No, you're not going to touch this place.'"

After the City Hall outburst, police locked down the building and called in more than a hundred extra officers. Three people were arrested.

In downtown St. Louis, about 200 demonstrators held a mock trial of officer Darren Wilson.

An influx of National Guard troops on Tuesday helped contain the protests, although there were still nearly 60 arrests, and demonstrators set fire to a squad car.

On Wednesday night, a crowd of protesters lingered outside the Ferguson Police Department, shouting at Guard troops as light snow fell. About 100 people marched through a major intersection and blocked traffic, but the disruption lasted only a few minutes.

Troops with rifles were posted at intersections and parking lots in an area where stores were looted and burned Monday into Tuesday.

Since the grand jury's decision was announced, demonstrators have been active in other cities throughout the U.S.

In Minneapolis, a car struck one protester and drove into a crowd of others. In Portland, Ore., police used pepper spray and made arrests after about 300 people interrupted bus and light rail traffic.

Also on Wednesday, authorities said a 20-year-old man whose body was found inside a car in Ferguson after Monday night's riots had been intentionally set on fire.

The death of Deandre Joshua, of University City, is being investigated as a homicide, but police have not said whether it's connected to the violence that broke out after the grand jury announcement.

Joshua's body was found Tuesday morning at the wheel of a car parked near the apartment complex where Brown was killed. An autopsy determined that he was shot once in the head.

Dozens arrested in California unrest

By Tami Abdollah
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police in Los Angeles and Oakland arrested scores of demonstrators during a third night of unrest linked to the shooting protest in Ferguson, Mo.

At least 130 demonstrators who refused to disperse during a Los Angeles protest were arrested Wednesday night, while 35 people were detained in Oakland following a march that deteriorated into unrest and vandalism, according to police officials.

About 200 or 300 largely peaceful demonstrators crisscrossed the streets of downtown Los Angeles for several hours in the afternoon and evening over a decision not to bring criminal charges against a Ferguson policeman for killing a black man.

Later some of the protesters were stopped by a phalanx of riot-clad police near the Central Library.

Lt. Andy Neiman said an unlawful assembly was declared after some marchers began walking in the street and disrupting traffic. They were ordered to disperse but instead re-formed, with police trying to corral them.

Neiman said 130 protesters were arrested.

Meanwhile, Oakland police spokeswoman Johnna Watson said the 33 arrests there came after a march by about 100 people through Oakland streets.

She said that later small groups began moving through the streets with some vandalizing property, mainly breaking windows.

Most of the protesters had dispersed but shortly before midnight Watson said there was still a very small group that police were monitoring.

On Monday and Tuesday, some demonstrators in Oakland vandalized businesses and blocked freeways to protest the decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of Michael Brown, 18.

During the demonstration Wednesday in Los Angeles, demonstrators had marched to a federal building and police headquarters but they were turned away by lines of police after heading toward the county jail and then the Staples Center arena, where the Los Angeles Lakers were playing.

"The system is wrong," demonstrator Jovan Brown told KCAL-TV. "We're trying to let everybody know if we come together as a people and unite, we can change it."

There was a brief, tense confrontation where a handful of demonstrators screamed at officers, who held raised batons. One officer struck a woman who had moved forward, and another shoved a protester.

Finally, squads of police boxed in and began arresting about 60 remaining protesters for failure to disperse, Neiman said.

Most of those arrested were expected to be released after posting $500 bail for the misdemeanor. Those unable to pay the bail could remain jailed through the Thanksgiving weekend pending scheduled Monday court hearings, authorities said.

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Vaccine for Ebola seems to be safe in initial tests

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An experimental Ebola vaccine appears safe and triggered signs of immune protection in the first 20 volunteers to test it, U.S. researchers reported Wednesday.

The vaccine is designed to spur the immune system's production of anti-Ebola antibodies, and people developed them within four weeks of getting the shots at the National Institutes of Health. Half of the test group received a higher-dose shot, and those people produced more antibodies, said the study published in the New England Journal of Medicine.

Some people also developed a different set of virus-fighting immune cells, named T cells, the study found. That may be important in fending off Ebola, as prior research found that monkeys protected by the vaccine also had that combination response.

Stimulating both types of immune response is "a promising factor," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, whose employees led the work.

> **'The road is still long and there are many challenges but we are nevertheless one step closer to a solution.'**
>
> **Dr. Daniel Bausch**
> Tulane University Ebola specialist

The researchers reported no serious side effects. But two people who received the higher-dose vaccine briefly spiked fevers, one above 103 degrees Fahrenheit, which disappeared within a day.

Earlier this month, Fauci told Congress this first-stage testing was promising enough that the U.S. planned much larger studies in West Africa, starting in Liberia in early January, to try to prove whether the vaccine really works.

Wednesday's publication offered scientific details about the initial testing of the vaccine candidate furthest along, one being developed by NIH and GlaxoSmithKline. Additional safety studies are underway here and abroad. A different Canadian-made vaccine also has begun small safety studies.

Many questions remain as larger studies are being designed, including the best dose and how soon protection may begin, cautioned Dr. Daniel Bausch, a Tulane University Ebola specialist who wasn't involved in the study. Plus, monkey research suggests a booster shot will be needed for long-term protection.

"The road is still long and there are many challenges but we are nevertheless one step closer to a solution," he wrote in an accompanying editorial.

Ahn Young-joon/AP

People watch a news program showing Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister, at Seoul Railway Station in South Korea on Thursday.

N. Korean leader's sister named as senior official

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has revealed that leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister is a senior official in the ruling Workers' Party, strengthening analysts' views that she is an increasingly important part of the family dynasty that runs the country.

State media on Thursday referred to Kim Yo Jong as a departmental vice director within the party's Central Committee.

Analysts say the mention could signal her growing role in supporting her brother's authoritarian rule. The siblings' late father, former leader Kim Jong Il, was seen as relying on his own sister during his 17-year rule.

Outsiders closely study North Korea's opaque ruling power dynamics for clues about a secretive country that pursues nuclear weapons and threatens its neighbors with war.

The Korean Central News Agency first referred to Kim Yo Jong as a senior official in the Central Committee in March, but this is the first time state media have specified her role.

Yang Moo-jin, a North Korea expert at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said a departmental vice director is roughly equivalent to a vice Cabinet minister. The announcement of Kim Yo Jong's role shows that the government is now confident enough to introduce her as an important part of its leadership, Yang said.

Cheong Seong-chang, an analyst at South Korea's private Sejong Institute, said Kim Yo Jong is likely to have greater influence than other departmental vice directors because she is a member of the Kim family. In establishing his sister in a senior role in the ruling party, Kim Jong Un is further strengthening his control of North Korea's power elite, Cheong said.

Since taking over North Korea's leadership following the death of his father in 2011, Kim Jong Un has removed key members of the old guard. The process was highlighted by the 2013 execution of his uncle, Jang Song Thaek, the husband of Kim Jong Il's influential sister. Jang, who was once considered the second-most powerful man in North Korea, was accused of treason.

Putin's tiger ravages goat farm in China

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Ustin, a rare Siberian tiger released into the wild by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is behaving badly in his new home in northeastern China.

The tiger, one of two to enter China from Russia's Amur border region, bit and killed 15 goats and left another three missing on Sunday and Monday on a farm in Heilongjiang province's Fuyuan county, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"When I opened the goat house in the morning, dead goats were everywhere," farm owner Guo Yulin told the agency Wednesday.

He said he was alerted by dog barks Sunday night, but that his check turned up nothing unusual. He said he woke up the next morning to find two goats dead and three others missing.

The goats' skulls were crushed by the tiger and a hole the size of a human finger was visible on each goat's head.

Guo said the tiger returned Monday night without making any noise, and the following morning he found 13 dead goats.

Local experts found the tiger's footprints around the goat house and on its roof, Xinhua reported.

Guo said he was stressed by the raids, but he would be compensated by the local forestry department for the loss of the 18 goats. Xinhua said the farmer was also asked to either relocate his goats or reinforce his farm.

Russian experts rescued five tiger cubs two years ago. Ustin was one of three released by Putin in May.

Two of them have entered China. They are fitted with tracking devices and are monitored by Chinese wildlife protection workers.

The other tiger, Kuzya, was believed to have raided a farm and eaten five chickens last month in another Heilongjiang county.

Presidents pick up the check for their meals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's no free lunch — or breakfast or dinner — for President Barack Obama on Thanksgiving Day. Or any other day for that matter.

He has to dig into his pocket to pay for his holiday feast of turkey, ham, two kinds of stuffing, sweet and regular potatoes and six different kinds of pie. It's a longstanding practice that a president pays for meals for himself, his family and personal guests.

Obama also pays for other basics — everything from toothpaste to dry cleaning.

Why is that?

Gary Walters, who was chief White House usher for many years, said the payment rule dates to 1800 when the White House was first occupied by President John Adams and there was no staff. Presidents brought staff with them and paid for everything.

Congress gradually began spending money to maintain an official White House staff to oversee operations and maintenance, but presidents continued to pay for personal expenses.

What it boils down to, Walters said, is that the White House is first and foremost the president's home.

What is excluded?

White House chefs who prepare the president's meals are paid by the government.

For the budget year that ended Sept. 30, Congress gave the White House $19,000 to pay for official receptions and $12.7 million to cover operating expenses for the residence, which may include entertainment.

The cost of meals for some White House events, including state dinners and receptions, is picked up by the State Department or political parties.

What other costs?

Since presidents and first ladies can't easily pop into the neighborhood drug store, a White House residence staff member will pick up things like toothpaste and deodorant during shopping runs and keep the bill for Obama.

Another cost is private parties, such as the 50th birthday bash Obama threw earlier this year for first lady Michelle Obama. For private events, presidents pay for food and beverages, use of waiters and servers, and setup and cleanup crews.

How does it work?

The White House usher's office prepares a detailed bill and sends a copy to the president and another to the first lady by midmonth. It is itemized to account for all the food and beverages consumed by the first family and personal guests and includes invoices and receipts for those costs and other services. Obama then reimburses the government.

Any complaints?

The practice appeared to catch Nancy Reagan by surprise.

"Nobody had told us that the president and his wife are charged for every meal, as well as for such incidentals as dry cleaning, toothpaste and other toiletries," she said shortly after she and President Ronald Reagan moved into the White House in January 1981.

Laura Bush knew about it but was still unprepared for some of the costs of first lady.

"I was amazed by the sheer number of designer clothes that I was expected to buy, like the women before me, to meet the fashion expectations for a first lady," Mrs. Bush wrote in her memoir. "After our first year in the White House, our accountant said to George (W. Bush), 'It costs a lot to be president,' and he was referring mainly to my clothes."

WORLD

Amsterdam warns of drugs after 3 deaths

AMSTERDAM — Health authorities in Amsterdam are warning of dangerous drugs being sold to tourists after three British men died in the past month after snorting heroin they may have believed was cocaine.

A large sign outside the Dutch capital's Central Station warned Thursday, "Extremely dangerous cocaine is sold to tourists" in the area.

The warning campaign was started after two British men, ages 20 and 21, were found dead in a hotel room in the city Tuesday. Police said they likely died after snorting "white heroin" they bought believing it was cocaine.

Amsterdam police spokesman Rob van der Veen said the same drug is suspected in another British tourist's death last month.

Venezuela says 13 dead in prison disturbances

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela's government says 13 prisoners have died of drug overdoses and a further 145 are being treated for intoxication after inmates stormed an infirmary amid disturbances at a major corrections facility.

The disturbances at the David Voloria penitentiary began Monday when a group of inmates declared a hunger strike to demand better living conditions and force out the jail's new warden.

National Guardsmen were called in to restore calm and dozens of prisoners were transferred.

While the situation remains tense, the government said in a statement late Wednesday night that the situation remains under control and all prisoners' rights are being respected.

Strike shuts down services across Greece

ATHENS, Greece — A 24-hour general strike in Greece shut down services across the country, forcing flight cancellations and school closures and leaving state hospitals functioning with emergency staff, while thousands of protesters marched in central Athens.

Labor unions called the strike to protest continued austerity measures as Greece struggles to emerge from a financial crisis that wiped out a quarter of the country's economy and sent unemployment soaring to 26 percent. Youth unemployment reached nearly 60 percent during the crisis, which began in late 2009 after years of profligate government spending and lax fiscal management.

From The Associated Press

ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

Pope Francis kisses a child Thursday as he leaves after an audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican.

Pope visits Turkey amid Christian-Muslim tensions

BY NICOLE WINFIELD AND SUZAN FRASER
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — When a pope last visited Turkey — Benedict XVI in 2006 — Muslim-Catholic tensions were so high that the Vatican added a stop at Istanbul's famed Blue Mosque at the last minute in hopes of showing Benedict's respect for Islam.

Pope Francis travels to Turkey this weekend amid new Muslim-Christian tensions and war next door, with Islamic State militants seizing chunks of Iraq and Syria and sending 1.6 million refugees across the border into Turkey.

Francis is expected to tread lightly during his three-day visit, sensitive to the delicate diplomatic tensions at play between Turkey and the international coalition fighting the Islamic State.

But Vatican officials say he will not shy from denouncing violence in God's name and voicing concern for Christians being targeted by the extremists. Remarkably, though, Francis will not meet with any groups of refugees as he has done on previous trips to the region, a clear sign of the Vatican's unwillingness to wade too deeply into the conflict.

Francis' visit begins Friday.

When Pope Paul VI made the first-ever papal visit to Turkey in 1967, he fell to his knees in prayer inside Haghia Sophia, the 1,500-year-old site in Istanbul that originally was a Byzantine church and was turned into a mosque after the Muslim conquest of Istanbul — then known as Constantinople — in 1453. The Turks were not pleased. They staged protests, claiming Paul had violated the secular nature of the domed complex, which is now a museum.

Asked whether Francis would pray when he visits the massive complex on Saturday, the Vatican was noncommittal. "We'll see what he does," spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said. "If while there the pope personally experiences a moment of spiritual meditation, we'll have to see."

Some Islamic groups in Turkey want Haghia Sophia to be converted back into a mosque, and they have prayed outside the complex on the anniversary of the conquest of Istanbul to push their demand. The government says it has no plans to change Haghia Sophia's status.

Benedict became only the second pope to step foot in a Muslim house of worship when in November 2006 he visited the 17th-century Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey's most important.

There, he took off his shoes, bowed his head and closed his eyes for nearly a minute in prayer alongside an Islamic cleric in a dramatic gesture of outreach to Muslims.

The mosque visit was added late to Benedict's schedule in a bid to soothe Muslim anger over his now-infamous speech in Regensburg, Germany, linking violence to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

Asked whether Francis would pray in the mosque as Benedict did, Lombardi took pains to stress the difference between a formal, ritualistic prayer that a Catholic might recite in church and a respectful "spiritual meditation" in a place of worship of another faith.

Turkey's ambassador to the Holy See, Mehmet Pacaci, said the tensions that overshadowed Benedict's visit are "mostly a forgotten issue."

OPEC unity tested by low prices, oil surfeit

BY GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA — OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna on Thursday are in a bind. Prices are plunging — and in the short term, the cartel may not be able to do much about it.

Expectations that the group would not cut output to support the market saw the global price of oil slump another $1.93 on Thursday to $75.82 per barrel, extending losses since June, when it was as high as $115.

The drop has been driven by a boom in shale production in the United States as well as weakness in some major world economies, causing supply to outpace demand.

OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia can weather such lower prices because its coffers are well-padded and its production costs are relatively low. But poorer OPEC members like Venezuela and Nigeria need levels close to $100 or above to fund national budgets. Saudi rival Iran is suffering, too, with the price drop adding to huge revenue losses due to sanctions on its crude sales imposed over its nuclear program.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries still accounts for a third of the world's oil sales, but the 32 percent fall in prices is straining the tenuous image of unity it strives to project.

Comments from OPEC Secretary General Abdullah Al-Badry suggested the group was lacking a clear plan going into the meeting.

"Of course there is an oversupply in the market," he told reporters. Asked what the oil ministers planned to do about it, he said, "I have no idea."

With its hands tied, the organization may opt to do as little as possible. That means rolling over its present production ceiling of 30 million barrels per day and urging members not to overproduce.

The cartel was able to stem a sharp drop in prices in 2008 by announcing its largest production cut in its history. But crude prices moving into the comfort zone then allowed members to overproduce past laxly observed output targets.

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WORLD

Photos by Rodrigo Abd/AP

A soldier signals to his commander while standing inside a crater created by explosives planted by Peruvian counternarcotics forces on part of a clandestine grassy airstrip in the Valley of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro River Valleys, or VRAEM, the world's No. 1 coca-growing region in Ayacucho, Peru

Dynamite doesn't halt Peru's narcotics

Explosives are detonated by Peruvian counternarcotics forces.

By Franklin Briceno
The Associated Press

PICHARI, Peru — The dynamiting of clandestine airstrips by Peruvian security forces in the world's No. 1 coca-growing valley cuts into profits but hardly discourages cocaine traffickers who net tens of thousands of dollars with each Bolivia-bound flight.

As authorities wound up a 54-airstrip "cratering" mission, Peru's counternarcotics police chief Gen. Vicente Romero told reporters that traffickers pay local villagers up to $100 each to fill the holes blasted into the landing strips that dot the flood plain of the vast and verdant Apurimac and Ene river valley.

Two of the landing strips targeted in the latest operation have each been repaired four times this year, Romero said Friday. Sometimes, the 500-meter airstrips are fixed overnight.

An average of four or five small planes fly daily into Peru from Bolivia, picking up about 300 kilograms each of coca paste worth about a third of a million dollars in Bolivia, where it is further refined, authorities say. Romero said pilots earn from $10,000 to $25,000 per flight.

The border has no radar coverage and the neighboring nations' air forces are limited so drug flights can be intercepted only on the ground. Romero said 14 planes have been seized this year.

Last week, Peruvian and Bolivian officials agreed to share information in real time on cross-border drug flights. They did not, however, divulge details.

Peru's anti-drug police, known as Dirandro, say the country produces 450 tons of cocaine a year, half of which leaves the country on small Bolivia-bound narco planes.

Most Peruvian cocaine ends up in Brazil and Europe.

The so-called air bridge between Peru and Bolivia has been especially active since 2011, the year before the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the United Nations said Peru surpassed Colombia as the world's top cocaine producer.

Peru halted shoot-downs of suspected drug flights in 2001 after a Peruvian air force jet mistakenly fired on a plane carrying U.S. missionaries, killing a woman and her infant daughter.

The Mazamari counternarcotics military base.

Soldiers carry a TV after descending from a helicopter at the base.

Counternarcotics officers walk in a clandestine airstrip strewn with boulders. The boulders are used as a way to camouflage the airstrips from air observation.

Soldiers sit against a backdrop of an image of Jesus embracing a praying soldier inside a building at the base.

WORLD

Left: Tourists drive a classic American car on the Malecon in Havana earlier this fall.

Below: American cars are reflected in a mirror.

Photos by Franklin Reyes/AP

Right: A man cleans his American classic car before going to work in Havana.

Below: People drive along The Malecon in Havana.

OLD CARS, NEW GLOSS

American classics enjoy second life as icons of tourism

The Associated Press

HAVANA

When Martin Viera's Chevrolet rolled out of the dealer's lot, Harry Truman was president of the United States, gasoline cost 27 cents a gallon and a 24-year-old lefty named Tommy Lasorda was pitching for Almendares in the Cuban winter baseball league.

That world is long gone, but the Chevy's still running on the streets of Havana — part of a fleet of classic cars that have become an icon of tourism in the socialist nation.

For decades, the cars slowly decayed. But officials in recent years have eased state control over the economy by allowing limited self-employment. Those lucky enough to have a pre-revolutionary car can earn money legally by ferrying tourists along Havana's waterfront Malecon boulevard.

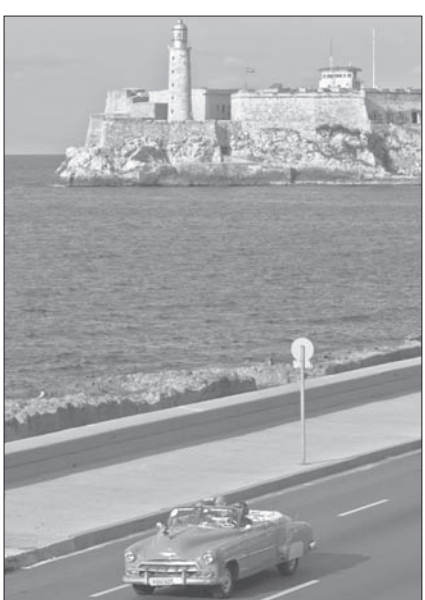
That's allowed many to paint and polish their aging vehicles.

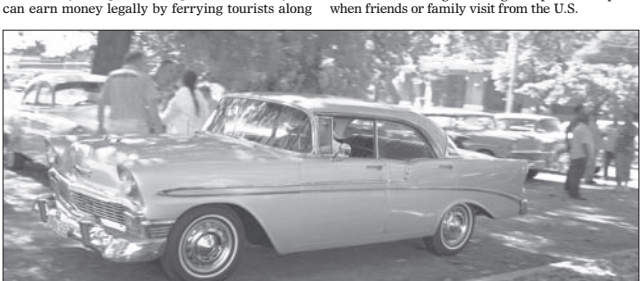
Viera's 1951 Chevrolet and Osmani Rodriguez's 1954 Ford are now part of Havana's tourist draw.

Rodriguez, who has three daughters, said the opening to self-employment "was a great benefit for me. I bought an apartment to live in and really it improved my standard of living a lot."

The cars may gleam on the outside, but they're often battered, rolling monuments to ingenuity within. People like Yoandri Failu fabricate parts in crude workshops. Many scavenge parts, particularly engines, from Soviet-era cars and trucks.

While the U.S. embargo that took effect in 1961 stopped the flow of new cars, and most parts, a few Cubans now manage to bring in replacement parts when friends or family visit from the U.S.





Cubans gather for an exhibition of classic American cars in Havana.

VIETNAM AT 50

Joseph Scholle on the USS Iwo Jima.

Courtesy of Joseph Scholle

The Vietnam experience

More photos and video of "Crazy Joe" are at

stripes.com/vietnam50

'That's one crazy Joe'

By Carlos Bongioanni
Stars and Stripes

SEVERNA PARK, Md. — Joe Scholle flew hundreds of sorties in Vietnam as a UH-34D helicopter pilot ferrying troops, logistics and medevac patients from base to base and in and out of "hot LZs" — landing zones under fire. While there for a year starting in October 1967, the Marine acquired the nickname "Crazy Joe" for the actions he took at his base at the start of the Tet Offensive.

> "God only knows what stories people are telling about me. ... I hope some of them are true."
> **Joe Scholle**
> Marine nicknamed "Crazy Joe"

The nickname has stuck all these years, and so have the memories of many close encounters.

Scholle, 71, shared a few recently at his home.

A chopper through the trees

What was supposed to be a "milk run" ended up becoming Capt. Joe Scholle's first medical evacuation in Vietnam. As the new guy with roughly a week under his belt, Scholle was flying co-pilot. The lead pilot, Jerry Norton, was to log in his very last flight before leaving Vietnam. They were to transport a passenger to another base and return to Marble Mountain Air Facility, where they were attached to Helicopter Marine Medium Squadron 363.

"It was a nothing kind of thing to do… a milk run," Scholle said. "You know, you don't want to get the guy killed on his last day."

While heading back, they received a distress call from infantry troops who spotted their chopper overhead. They had a badly wounded man on the ground. The last medevac helicopter just left, and another wouldn't arrive for at least 30 minutes. "This guy really needs to get out of here," they pleaded.

"Poor Jerry … talk about agony … on his face. … It's his last day," Scholle recalled. "There's active shooting going on down there, and you could see that he wanted to say, 'Well, wait for the medevac, we don't have a corpsman,' or something. But he couldn't."

So down they went.

They flew low and fast keeping the trees between them and enemy forces. At the designated spot, they popped over the trees and, because the wind was at their back, did a quick "buttonhook" maneuver thrusting the nose up and kicking the rudder hard left to turn the helicopter 180 degrees around, essentially heading backward as they landed in a paddy field.

The "bad guys" were over the next row of trees in an adjacent field. That made getting out much more risky. Their helicopters didn't accelerate very well at takeoff, Scholle said.

Wanting to reduce the chance of having their aircraft raked with enemy gunfire, Norton headed straight for the trees away from the enemy. He got about three-quarters of the way up and "no kidding, he chopped the tops off with his rotor blades and went right through the trees," Scholle laughed as he recalled the episode.

They made it out safely, although the damaged rotor blades "talked" to the pilots about their mistreatment, making a loud "whishing" sound all the way back to the base. Mechanics had to reshape and rebalance the blades before the chopper could be used again.

Good friends killed

Attending college in the early 1960s, Scholle, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was well aware that he would likely be drafted. At some point in his youth, he fancied himself becoming a Marine pilot after watching "Flying Leathernecks" starring John Wayne.

The question Scholle asked himself: "How do you get out of the draft, and do what you want to do?" The answer: He entered the Marine Corps platoon leader class program that placed him as a lance corporal and automatically took him out of the draft.

SEE PAGE 13

VIETNAM AT 50

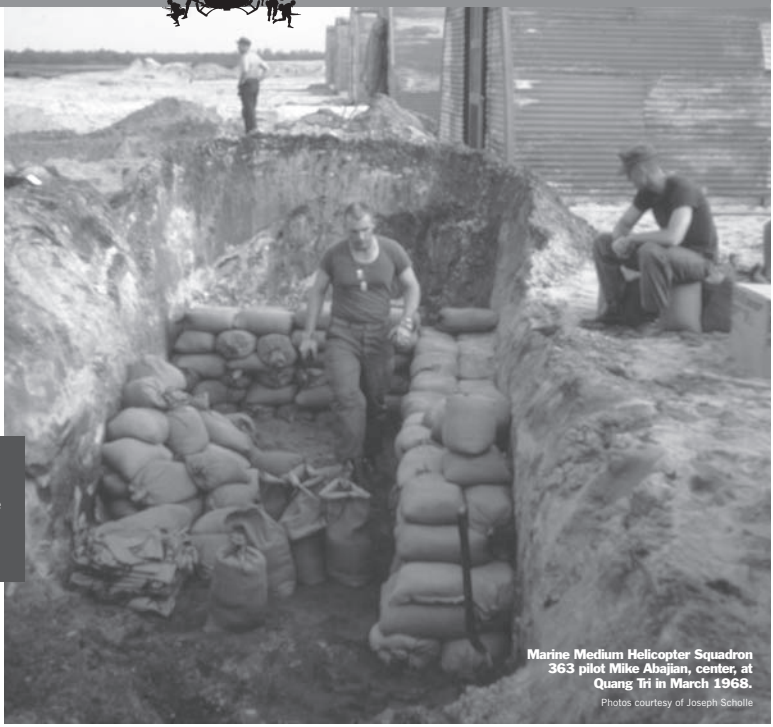
FROM PAGE 12

During each of his last two years in college, he spent six summer weeks at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., attending Officer Candidate School. After graduating in 1965, Scholle, then 22, received his commission as a second lieutenant.

By the time he made it to Vietnam two years later, Scholle had developed a strong sense of camaraderie with his fellow pilots. Some had gone through flight school together. Those serving with him in Vietnam faced the same hardships and uncertainties of war, forging close bonds cemented with their shared experiences.

The pilots in Scholle's squadron typically flew six days a week at all hours of the day and night. Crews on medevac duty never knew when a call to pick up casualties might come in. Aside from that stress, there was always the very real possibility of being shot down.

> "That was the end of a good friend of mine. I wasn't very happy about it. ... But that's the kind of thing that happened."
> **Joe Scholle**
> Marine nicknamed "Crazy Joe"



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363 pilot Mike Abajian, center, at Quang Tri in March 1968.

Photos courtesy of Joseph Scholle

There were other dangers, too. Scholle said he lost as many friends from accidents as he did from enemy fire. One friend, Robert "Ike" Isaac Terry III, was copilot on a helicopter out in bad weather. They were flying very low to keep under the clouds when their helicopter slammed into the side of Charlie Ridge, a hill just outside the main base at Da Nang.

"That was the end of a good friend of mine," Scholle said. "I wasn't very happy about it. ... But that's the kind of thing that happened."

"Stupidity" was another factor that got pilots killed, Scholle said. He recounted how a close buddy, Joe Cestare, was flying copilot on a gunship that was part of a formation escorting an H-46 troop carriers. When an enemy anti-aircraft gun fired at the formation, most of the aircraft scattered to avoid getting hit. However, a major who was the lead pilot in charge of Cestare's aircraft decided to engage.

"God only knows what was running through his mind," Scholle said of the major. "Everybody's screaming, 'Don't do it, don't do it, don't do it.' And he rolled in. He's coming down for a strafing run … Then the 50-caliber opened up."

Scholle wasn't flying on that mission, but said other pilots who witnessed it told him how pieces of the Huey just flew off, and after the rotor blades stopped spinning, the aircraft plunged several hundred feet to the ground, killing all four aboard.

"So, Joe Cestare … St. John's University… a New York City kid, like myself…" The thoughts came out in fragments as Scholle just shook his head at the senseless loss of another close friend. "Nobody takes on a 50-caliber with a helicopter gunship. Not that. No, no, no."

The making of 'Crazy Joe'

It was late January 1968, just before the start of the Tet Offensive.

Everybody knew the North Vietnamese were about to launch a major offensive, Scholle said. "We just didn't know the full extent of it."

Scholle planned to capture the battle sounds on a reel-to-reel tape recorder. Ahead of the big event, he hooked up two microphones and hung them outside the windows of his hut. When the attack finally came, he and his roommates jumped out of their hooches and ran to the relative safety of sandbag bunkers.

Once there, Scholle realized he forgot to turn on his recording device. So as rockets and mortars rained down on the base, he ran back to his hut to hit the play/record button.

"Then I ran back to the bunkers," Scholle recounted. "One of the senior captains, Joe Clark, says, 'That's one crazy Joe.' And it stuck."

On several occasions after leaving Vietnam, Scholle said he'd make a new acquaintance who, after hearing Scholle's name, would ask in an awestruck voice, "Are you the Crazy Joe?"

"God only knows what stories people are telling about me. … I hope some of them are true."

Distinguished Flying Cross

On May 22, 1968, Scholle directed the helicopter he was piloting to a field near the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam to resupply troops engaged in heavy combat. Tall grass hid the troops so well that, not seeing anybody, he began to add power to his aircraft to abort the landing. As he did, voices shouted, "No, no, we're here."

Scholle hovered in the area and decided to do a "quick hard left rudder and come around again." That's when "all hell broke loose," he said.

With bullet holes peppering the windshield and shrapnel spraying the side of his face and neck, Scholle was eager to leave. "I'm looking out the window. The crew chief is shoveling out ammunition. I'm like, 'Hurry up, hurry up.'"

SEE PAGE 14

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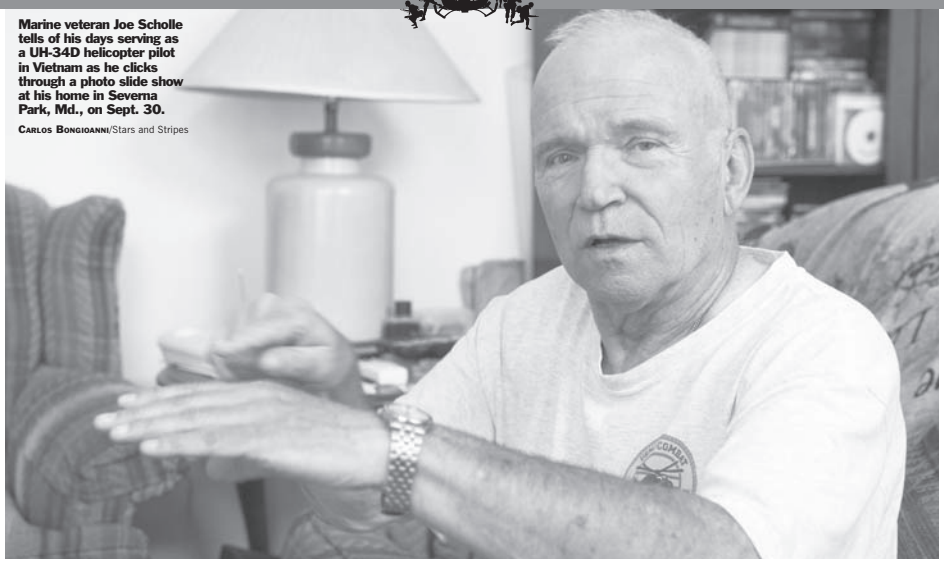

Marine veteran Joe Scholle tells of his days serving as a UH-34D helicopter pilot in Vietnam as he clicks through a photo slide show at his home in Severna Park, Md., on Sept. 30.

CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

FROM PAGE 13

A slap on the leg from the crew chief below the pilot's seat was the signal that the cargo had been offloaded, and Scholle got away as quickly as possible.

> "It felt like someone took a hot poker out of the fireplace and slapped you across the back of the neck."
>
> **Joe Scholle**
> Marine nicknamed 'Crazy Joe'

Courtesy of Joe Scholle

A scar shows where an AK-47 round burned across the back of Scholle's neck on July 4, 1968, while he was on a medevac mission in Vietnam.

Knowing his aircraft had taken many rounds, he looked at his instrument gauges to make sure the hydraulic systems were working. The gauges indicated everything was fine. What he didn't realize was that an important electrical component had been damaged, leaving the gauges frozen in place.

Once airborne, Scholle learned that his copilot was seriously wounded. One bullet came up through the floorboard and lodged in his big toe. Another came through the side of the aircraft, hitting his thigh and giving him a "big flesh wound."

A bullet or piece of shrapnel had also severed a cord to Scholle's helmet that provided communications in the aircraft. While the aircraft was heading to a medical facility at Dong Ha, the crew chief — unable to tell Scholle that at least one hydraulic system was shot out and that the second one was also likely damaged — tried to inform Scholle of the situation.

"We're flying back… and all of the sudden, up from between my legs comes this big red hand. … First thing you're going to think is 'blood …' I'm thinking, 'Casualties down in the belly.'"

Scholle learned afterward that the hand was covered in red hydraulic fluid leaking from damaged lines as the chopper was flying. "It was a good thing we landed when we did. Otherwise, it would have been totally out of control." Scholle said flying a helicopter leaking hydraulic fluid is like driving a car without power steering. Once the hydraulic fluid is gone, it's like driving a car with the steering wheel completely detached.

He figured the strength he needed to fly the aircraft came from all the adrenaline pumping through his system.

For the courage he showed staying in the landing zone until all their cargo was off-loaded and for the skill he showed maneuvering the heavily damaged aircraft to safety, Scholle received a Distinguished Flying Cross.

But the experience unnerved him. Scholle said he shook the next three days every time he entered an aircraft. One way to overcome the fear of getting into the pilot's seat again was to let the copilot fly, he said. He also smoked many cigars to calm his nerves.

On July 4, 1968, Scholle landed at a base that was supposed to be secure. "Everybody was standing up, waving, 'Hi, how are you,' recalled Scholle. They were carrying to the aircraft a patient who had stepped in a gopher hole and broken his leg.

Suddenly, Scholle could hear the rat-a-tat-tat of an AK-47. One bullet struck the corpsman in the leg. Another round tore through the back of the copilot's flight suit before it burned across the back of Scholle's neck. "It felt like someone took a hot poker out of the fireplace and slapped you across the back of the neck."

When he felt that, a frantic Scholle told himself, "Time to leave." Again he flew a damaged helicopter with two wounded crew members to the same medical facility he had gone to six weeks earlier.

After that second close encounter, Scholle said he had a very difficult time flying again. On the first mission he was assigned after recuperating from his wound, Scholle said he started hyperventilating and nearly passed out. Passing the controls to a bewildered copilot who had just recently reported for duty in Vietnam, Scholle said he tucked his head between his legs and just rocked back and forth until he regained the courage to take the controls again.

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FAITH

Church members each get $500 to do good for world

By Sharon Cohen
The Associated Press

On a very memorable Sunday, Pastor Laura Truax surprised her congregation with a bold announcement: She was about to hand out money to everyone.

Not a huge sum, but the pastor said the LaSalle Street Church in Chicago had received a tidy $1.6 million from a real estate deal, and $160,000 — a typical 10 percent tithe — would be divided among some 320 regular attendees. Each would get a $500 check to do something positive for anything or anyone, including themselves.

It was an unorthodox gesture but Truax notes, LaSalle is "a gutsy little church" with a history of making waves around socially progressive causes it embraces. In 1972, when it stood in the shadow of the now-demolished Cabrini Green housing project, the church established a criminal defense legal aid clinic for the poor.

Martha Irvine/AP

Pastor Laura Truax preaches at a morning service at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago.

Decades later, LaSalle remains an activist church, doing everything from feeding homeless families on Wednesday nights to buying an ambulance for a medical clinic in Niger. The nondenominational congregation is racially and economically diverse. More than 60 percent of members have advanced degrees; about a third live paycheck-to-paycheck.

Not surprisingly, many donations from the congregation will reach far-flung places, including a school in the Himalayas, a health clinic in Uganda and an irrigation project in Tanzania. Closer to home, some checks are going to families and friends in financial trouble.

Church members, Truax said, are doing just what she'd envisioned when she distributed the checks that first Sunday in September. "I hoped that they would recognize the power they had to bless others and change somebody's life," she said. "I hoped that they would see their connection between their little piece and the bigger thing the church was called to do, that they would feel like they actually had some skin in the game, some prayers in the game. And that has largely happened."

RANDY DILL

Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

Randy Dill was almost in a panic to find the right place for his donation — and do it quickly. "I wanted a 100 percent return on my investment," he said.

But then he slowed down to conduct a careful search for a place to help the unemployed and those trying to boost their skills to earn more money.

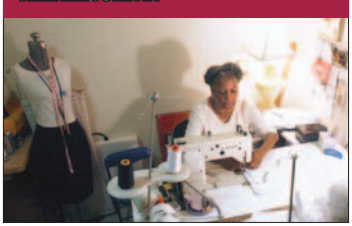
Dill, 36, a supervisor at a suburban Chicago assembly plant, eventually settled on the Jane Addams Resource Corporation. The nonprofit helps low-income people with worker training, financial coaching and other services so they can be self-sufficient.

Dill's wife, Erika, a human resources manager, had recommended the nonprofit after she'd recruited machinists from there. He visited the program and liked its all-encompassing approach to keeping people out of poverty. His wife had another idea for using her $500: to help needy families at their daughters' public school buy winter clothes for their kids.

"What the money did for us was help open our eyes to some things that we take granted," Dill said. "This was a not-so-subtle reminder how fortunate we are and those things that we have, such as good health, are blessings that are so easy to ignore."

Randy Dill was almost in a panic to find the right place for his donation — and do it quickly. "I wanted a 100 percent return on my investment."

JELINER JORDAN



Martha Irvine/AP

Jeliner Jordan remembers being young and in debt.

Aware that her granddaughter, Deitra Holloway, was saddled with college loans, Jordan knew what she'd do with part of her church money. She gave Holloway $300, figuring it might cover a month's payment. She was shocked when her granddaughter revealed her school debt was in the many thousands.

Though her gift to her granddaughter was small, Jordan still felt mighty good. "That's more money than she had in her pockets before," she said. "Anything I would give would help her."

A grateful Holloway used the money instead to help pay a loan on her 2003 Nissan Sentra. It was just another example of her grandmother's generosity, including taking her on a trip to Paris when she was in college.

"I always thought she was rich because she would do these things for me and it never seemed like money was an obstacle," the 26-year-old said.

Far from it. Jordan, now 71 — her grandkids call her Grandma Jelly — is a meticulous planner who watches every dollar. "She's a great role model," Holloway said. "She has order and structure and discipline. ... She always makes sure there's adventure. There's never a dull moment with her."

Jordan, who had a long career in the insurance industry but still enjoys sewing, divided her remaining money: $100 to Art on Sedgwick, a neighborhood art center, and $100 to a nearby elementary school, which the church had supported when it faced possible closure.

Jordan is happy to do her part.

"I honestly felt it was God's money for me to pass on to other people," Jordan said. "It's not possible to give without receiving. And what I received immediately is joy."

"I honestly felt it was God's money for me to pass on to other people. It's not possible to give without receiving. And what I received immediately is joy."

KRISTIN HU

Charles Rex Arbogast/AP

Teacher Kristin Hu, right, stands with student Lucy.

Kristin Hu was inspired by her grandmother, Irene, who died in June.

When Hu received her $500, she remembered how her grandmother worked until she was 80, giving private piano lessons, using her savings to help her eight grandchildren pay for college.

As a political science teacher at Lakeview High School, a melting pot of ethnicities, Hu decided she wanted to help some kids who don't have a guardian angel: the Dreamers, those young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children without legal permission, raised here and now going public, fighting to stay. Hu, 29, was moved after hearing an impassioned speech by Lucy, a young accomplished Mexican-born Dreamer in her class, who spoke of how she and others like her want to attend college but don't qualify for financial aid because of their status.

"They have amazing potential but our country isn't investing in them the way they should," Hu said. "Many of them are so motivated and such leaders in the school. They've really touched me."

Hu plans to give $500 to a Dreamer organization or start a scholarship foundation for the kids.

LaSalle's program, she said, also made her think beyond this one donation.

"Why can't I contribute more to the causes I care about?" she said. "What's holding me back from being a more generous person? What about next year? There will be the same need then. There's always going to be a need. ... It's important to remember the responsibility of paying it forward and giving back."

"... It's important to remember the responsibility of paying it forward and giving back."

SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Lab-coated Muggles using Harry Potter to study the brain

By Lauran Neergaard
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Harry Potter swoops around on his broom, faces the bully Malfoy and later runs into a three-headed dog. For scientists studying brain activity while reading, it's the perfect excerpt from the young wizard's many adventures to give their subjects.

Reading that section of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" activates some of the same regions in the brain that people use to perceive real people's actions and intentions. Scientists then map what a healthy brain does as it reads.

The research reported Wednesday has implications for studying reading disorders or recovery from a stroke. The team from Carnegie Mellon University was pleasantly surprised that the experiment actually worked.

Most neuroscientists painstakingly have tracked how the brain processes a single word or sentence, looking for clues to language development or dyslexia by focusing on one aspect of reading at a time. But reading a story requires multiple systems working at once: recognizing how letters form a word, knowing the definitions and grammar, keeping up with the characters' relationships and the plot twists.

Measuring all that activity is remarkable, said Georgetown University neuroscientist Guinevere Eden, who helped pioneer brain-scanning studies of dyslexia but wasn't involved in the new work.

"It offers a much richer way of thinking about the reading brain," Eden said, calling the project "very clever and very exciting."

No turning pages inside a brain-scanning MRI machine; you have to lie still. So at Carnegie Mellon, eight adult volunteers watched for nearly 45 minutes as each word of Chapter 9 of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside the scanner.

Why that chapter? It has plenty of action and emotion, but there's not too much going on for scientists to track, said lead researcher Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student.

The research team analyzed the scans, second by second, and created a computerized model of brain activity involved with different reading processes. The research was published Wednesday by the journal PLoS One.

> **'For the first time in history, we can do things like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening.'**
>
> **Tom Mitchell**
> director of Carnegie Mellon's Machine Learning Department

"For the first time in history, we can do things like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening," said senior author Tom Mitchell, director of Carnegie Mellon's Machine Learning Department. "Not just where are the neurons firing, but what information is being coded by those different neurons."

Wehbe had the idea to study reading a story rather than just words or phrases.

But parsing the brain activity took extraordinary effort. For every word the researchers identified features — the number of letters, the part of speech, whether it was associated with a character or action or emotion or conversation. Then they used computer programming to analyze brain patterns associated with those features in every four-word stretch.

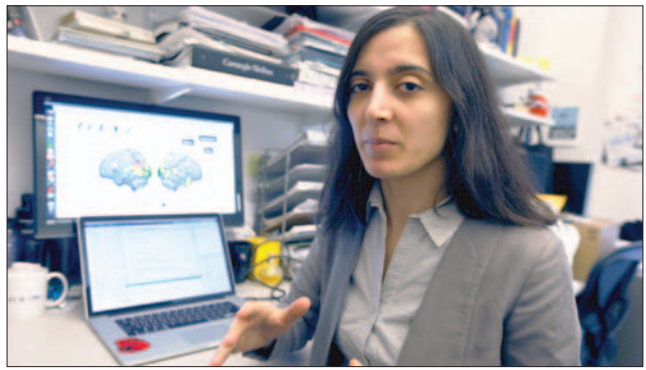
They spotted some complex interactions.

For example, the brain region that processes the characters' point of view is the one we use to perceive intentions behind real people's actions, Wehbe said. A region that we use to visually interpret other people's emotions helps decipher characters' emotions.

That suggests we're using pretty high-level brain functions, not just the semantic concepts but our previous experiences, as we get lost in the story, she said.

A related study using faster brain-scanning techniques shows that much of the neural activity is about the history of the story up to that point, rather than deciphering the current word, Mitchell added.

The team's computer model can distinguish with 74 percent accuracy which of two text passages matches a pattern of neural activity, he said, calling it a first step as researchers tease apart what the brain does when someone reads.



Photos by Keith Srakocic/AP

Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, talks about the experiment as an image that used brain scans made from volunteers is displayed in her office on Wednesday. Images show a combination of data and graphics compiled as each word of a chapter of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside a brain-scanning MRI machine.

The MRI machine that was used at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh for an experiment on tracking brain data is seen on campus Wednesday.

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FACES

SMALL SCREEN SIRENS

Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon among the latest film stars to try TV gigs

STEPHANIE MERRY
The Washington Post

Suddenly, Hollywood's biggest names all want to be a part of television's new golden age. The latest to follow the trend are Oscar winners Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman, who will star in the adaptation of the novel "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty, an Australian author who specializes in witty, incisive examinations of modern life. This particular story follows a trio of women with preschool-aged children.

The series, which will have a limited run, doesn't have a broadcast home yet, but is expected to go out to buyers soon. The project is a comeback for David E. Kelley ("Ally McBeal," "The Practice"), who is set to write it. And Witherspoon's production company, Pacific Standard — currently on a roll with "Gone Girl" and "Wild" — is involved.

The announcement comes as "True Detective" has finalized its next cast list, which includes big screen vets Rachel McAdams, Vince Vaughn, Colin Farrell and Taylor Kitsch, the former "Friday Night Lights" star.

This bug must be contagious. Either that, or the Who's Who of Hollywood have found the same merits in the small screen that Matthew McConaughey recognized before taking the role of Rustin Cohle on the first season of HBO's "True Detective," alongside Woody Harrelson: "Quality. Not only quality that specifically came out of 'True Detective' which was quality of the highest, but I'm talking about quality of television today," McConaughey told Business Insider. "Television is raising the bar on the character-driven drama series. It just is."

The time commitment probably helps. "True Detective" is an anthology series where each season has a distinct story and a different cast. For an actor, that's the same gamble as taking on a limited series format or a miniseries.

COMMENTARY

The format has flourished to the point that even the Hollywood Foreign Press, which puts on the Golden Globes, addressed the trend. The category formerly known as miniseries will now be called "limited series," and includes anthology series with shifting storylines and changing characters. That means, come Jan. 11, "True Detective" could be up against other one-off shows with similarly impressive A-list cast members, including miniseries "Olive Kitteridge"; anthology series "American Horror Story"; anthology series "Fargo"; and miniseries "The Honourable Woman."

Joining Witherspoon and Kidman on the slate of upcoming limited series is Scarlett Johansson, who will star in an eight-episode period drama adapted from Edith Wharton's "Custom of the Country." Marvel big-screen villain Tom Hiddleston will join "House" star Hugh Laurie in a John le Carre-based limited series, "Night Manager," on AMC.

Television movies, meanwhile, have also been gaining prestige and attracting big names. HBO seems to be leading the charge with its A-list appeal. The auteurs have hopped aboard the TV train, too, including Steven Soderbergh, Martin Scorsese and David Fincher, the "Gone Girl" director, who recently said: "Right now people are discovering television because it's where all the most interesting characters have gone."

Maybe that's why some actors don't mind betting big on television and joining regular series. Oscar nominees Viola Davis and Clive Owen now headline their own shows ("How to Get Away with Murder" and "The Knick"), while Oscar nominees Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson will star in the crime drama "Empire," premiering in 2015.

Nicole Kidman, left, and Reese Witherspoon will star in the limited-run TV series "Big Little Lies," based on a book by Liane Moriarty.

Photos by AP

Best-selling author Sylvia Day an advocate for fans on upcoming 'Crossfire' TV series

BY LAURI NEFF
The Associated Press

Sylvia Day vows to protect her fans' favorite moments when her "Crossfire" erotic romance novels are adapted for television.

The best-selling author of the books following the romance of billionaire Gideon Cross and Eva Trammell is an executive consultant on the TV series optioned by Lionsgate Television. She says she's in frequent contact with producers and will be on the set for filming, adding, "It's like I'm the readers' voice" as the books are transformed for television.

"I'll review scripts and remind them of things that I know as the writer, being very well connected to the fandom of this series, of iconic things: clothing, lines of dialogue, locations, things that they couldn't change because readers would immediately revolt," she says.

Day says Lionsgate has a director and a showrunner for "Crossfire," which she anticipates will premiere next year. "The producers feel that it will take an entire season to explore one of the 'Crossfire' novels," she says.

Producers want to air the series on a premium cable network or a subscriber service like Netflix or Amazon Instant Video, which Day says would be perfect for the sexually explicit romance. "Of course it's going to be an erotic story," says Day.

"Does that mean it's going to be super graphic? I doubt it's going to be any more graphic than what you see on 'Game of Thrones.'"

Other news

■ Singer John Mayer, filmmaker Judd Apatow and comics Drew Carey, Wayne Brady and Jim Gaffigan are among the guest hosts that will fill in on CBS's **"The Late Late Show"** before new host James Corden takes over in March. The network on Wednesday announced its plans for the 12:37 a.m. time slot for the winter months after current host Craig Ferguson leaves. Ferguson's last show will be Dec. 19.

■ Publisher Faber and Faber says mystery writer **P.D. James,** who brought realistic modern characters to the classical British detective story, has died. She was 94. James' books sold millions in many countries and most were just as popular when made into television films. The publisher says James died Thursday at her home in Oxford, England.

■ Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee says it has canceled **Bill Cosby's** scheduled appearance Dec. 5 at a benefit dinner.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

AP

Hiker photographed bear before it killed him

NJ WEST MILFORD — A New Jersey hiker killed by a bear in September took a series of photos of the animal with his cellphone before it mauled him to death.

Police in West Milford released five photos taken by Darsh Patel, 22, before he was killed by the 300-pound black bear while hiking with four friends in the Apshawa Preserve, 45 miles northwest of New York.

Investigators said the phone was found with puncture marks from the bear.

Veterans can win a 7-Eleven franchise

VA NEWPORT NEWS — Veterans interested in running their own business may want to take advantage of 7-Eleven Inc.'s first franchise giveaway.

The award is not a full convenience store but rather a credit of as much as $190,000 for the franchise fee, according to a news release. Veterans have until Jan. 25 to apply for "Operation: Take Command," with the winner to be announced April 23.

Contestants must be at least 21 years old, have been honorably discharged from the military and have three years of retail, leadership or restaurant experience and must still qualify through the 7-Eleven franchise process, which requires "excellent credit." The winner will need to pay other fees and permits, a $20,000 down payment on inventory and training expenses.

Town hopes former toll booth boosts tourism

NE DECATUR — Decatur residents are hoping a former toll booth will help attract visitors to the eastern Nebraska community.

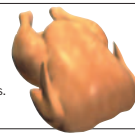
The Burt County Bridge Commission used to collect $1 tolls from motorists traveling on Highway 51 to cross a bridge over the Missouri River between Iowa and Nebraska but the commission sold the bridge last fall to the two states. The vacant toll booth was set for demolition, the Sioux City Journal reported.

Residents participating last summer in a program with the Center for Rural Affairs were searching for a landmark that would attract visitors to Decatur. They settled on the toll booth.

THE CENSUS

140

The number of frozen turkeys that were stolen from a locked refrigerated trailer outside a meat market the week before Thanksgiving. Mark Lengacher, owner of Schneider's Quality Meats and Catering in Waterloo, Ill., said, "I guess even thieves have Thanksgiving." Lengacher said the thefts won't ruin the holiday because he has plenty of other turkeys. The turkeys weighs about 12 pounds each. Police said the haul was valued at more than $2,000.



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

Puckering up to piglet

Principal Lori Kuntz reacts after kissing a piglet, held by Travis Becht, at Stewart Elementary School in Stevensville, Mich., on Tuesday. Kuntz promised to kiss a pig if the school's fundraising goal of $10,000 was met by Halloween.

Alleged impersonator wore wrong uniform

PA UNIONTOWN — An alleged military impersonator who was wearing the wrong uniform when he tried to enter a southwestern Pennsylvania school for a speech about Veterans' Day will likely receive probation and mental health treatment under a plea bargain.

A Fayette County prosecutor discussed the deal after Jonathan Campbell, 23, of Uniontown, waived his right to a preliminary hearing Monday.

State police said Campbell showed up unannounced on Nov. 17 — six days after Veterans' Day — at Laurel Highlands Middle School near Uniontown.

Police said Campbell claimed to be an Army veteran but was wearing an Air Force uniform and claimed to be there to speak with students about Veterans' Day.

School officials denied Campbell entry and called police.

Town dig yields artifacts dating back to 500 A.D.

VT SWANTON — A University of Vermont team of archeologists excavating a cornfield in Swanton in preparation for a water main has found pottery, buttons and other items going back thousands of years.

The St. Albans Messenger reported the team, which dug about 4 feet deep, has found evidence of three long-term occupations of the land between 500 A.D. and 1600 A.D. The site is on the Missiquoi River flood plain.

They believe that in the 1800s, the site was the home of a Revolutionary War soldier. Kate Kenney, a program historian, said a piece of metal found might have been part of a bridle.

Lost kitten ends up across the country

ME WESTBROOK — A New Mexico woman's missing kitten has been found in Maine, although exactly how the feline made the 2,300-mile trip remains a mystery.

The female kitten, named Spice, was turned in to the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook earlier this month by a man who found her inside a duffel bag outside a Portland thrift store.

Spice's owner was tracked though an implanted microchip to Albuquerque, N.M.

Jennifer Brown, of the Animal Refuge League, told the Portland Press Herald she talked to the owner, who said Spice bolted on Halloween when she opened her door for trick-or-treaters.

The owner, who didn't want to be identified, said she's never been to Maine and doesn't know anyone from Maine.

Spice, meanwhile, remains in Westbrook because the owner can't afford to fly her home.

Men crawl from wreckage in canyon

CA MALIBU — Sheriff's deputies said three men were able to crawl from the wreckage of a car that plunged 200 feet into a Malibu canyon.

The crash left one of the survivors in critical condition, City News Service reported.

Sgt. Diane Hecht said the car was "virtually destroyed" after veering off Kanan-Dume Road.

The three men were hoisted to safety by a helicopter and taken to a hospital for treatment.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

FTC deems Sony's PS Vita ads misleading

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission had some harsh words for Sony on Tuesday, announcing a settlement over charges that the gaming giant was not truthful in marketing its PS Vita. The FTC's claim? Sony promised that "game-changing" features would be available on the Vita, and they weren't.

It marks the first time the FTC has taken action against a company regarding how it advertises using Twitter. The FTC also has filed a complaint against Deutsch LA, Sony's advertising agency, for asking employees to generate buzz on their personal Twitter accounts without disclosing their connection to Deutsch LA.

In March, the FTC updated its online advertising disclosure guidelines to say that sponsored social media messages such as tweets should be disclosed to keep campaigns from being deceptive.

Neither Sony nor Deustch LA immediately responded to a request for comment.

The complaint against Sony specifically refers to Vita's "cross-platform" gaming features, which let players link games on PlayStation 3 or 4 with the same titles on the handheld Vita. For example, on some Vita games, users can play on one machine, pause, then resume on the other — if they have bought the title for both the Vita and the PlayStation.

Those features were front-and-center in early ads for the Vita but, as the FTC said, it was "only available for a few PS3 games, and the pause-and-save capability described in the ads varied significantly from game to game." The agency also said Sony and Deutsch LA did not make it clear that players would have to buy the same game for each device to get the full benefits of play.

As part of the settlement, Sony will have to refund some PS Vita buyers. Those who bought the handheld console before June 1, 2012, are entitled to either a $25 cash or credit refund or a $50 voucher for certain games or services. The FTC did not say how many customers will be eligible for refund. It may not be too many considering that Vita sales started in February 2012, with a relatively quiet launch. Those who got the Vita for Christmas that year, or who bought it when the PlayStation 4 came out in 2013, for example, will not be eligible for the refund.

If you are one of the Vita owners who are eligible, Sony says it will let you know via email.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	$3.124	$3.322	$3.508	$3.931
Change in price	-7.3 cents	-6.9 cents	-6.5 cents	-3.3 cents
Netherlands	--	$4.158	$4.427	$4.433
Change in price	--	-1.5 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.6 cents
U.K.	--	$3.292	$4.052	$3.901
Change in price	--	-6.9 cents	-0.4 cents	-3.3 cents
Azores	--	--	$3.686	--
Change in price	--	--	No change	--
Belgium	--	$3.372	$3.575	$3.827
Change in price	--	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	--	--	$3.948	$4.445*
Change in price	--	--	No change	No change
Italy	$4.428	--	--	$4.466
Change in price	No change	--	--	No change

Pacific gas prices were not available at press time.

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 5

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 26, 2014

Dow Jones industrials	+12.81	17,827.75
Nasdaq composite	+29.07	4,787.32
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.80	2,072.83
Russell 2000	+4.29	1,190.62

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates

Euro costs (Nov. 28)	$1.2816
Dollar buys (Nov. 28)	€0.7803
British pound (Nov. 28)	$1.61
Japanese yen (Nov. 28)	115.00
South Korean won (Nov. 28)	1,079.00

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	$1.5751
Canada (Dollar)	1.1279
China (Yuan)	6.1390
Denmark (Krone)	5.9561
Egypt (Pound)	7.1425
Euro	$1.2490/0.8006
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7528
Hungary (Forint)	245.88
Israel (Shekel)	3.8947
Japan (Yen)	117.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2910
Norway (Krone)	6.8872
Philippines (Peso)	44.97
Poland (Zloty)	3.35
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7526
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2987
South Korea (Won)	1,101.50
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9624
Thailand (Baht)	30.94
Turkey (Lira)	2.2163

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	0.75
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	2.96

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

FRIDAY IN EUROPE

SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC

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

Friday's US temperatures

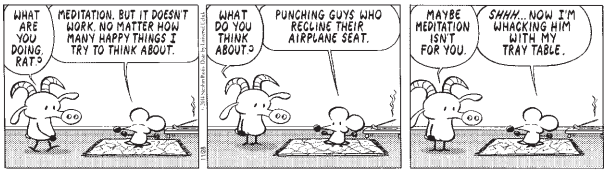
City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chattanooga	47	34	Clr	Fort Wayne	33	30	Cldy	Louisville	44	35	PCldy	Pocatello	54	35	Cldy	Shreveport	64	52	Clr
Abilene, Texas	70	48	Clr	Cheyenne	62	37	PCldy	Fresno	69	45	Clr	Lubbock	73	39	Clr	Portland, Maine	34	13	Cldy	Sioux City	45	30	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	30	27	Cldy	Chicago	35	33	Cldy	Goodland	75	33	PCldy	Macon	55	28	Clr	Portland, Ore.	53	33	Rain	Sioux Falls	40	29	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	33	19	Cldy	Cincinnati	38	30	Cldy	Grand Junction	55	25	Clr	Madison	29	26	Cldy	Providence	37	22	Cldy	South Bend	32	30	Cldy
Albuquerque	64	36	Clr	Cleveland	30	28	Cldy	Grand Rapids	29	28	Cldy	Medford	54	44	Rain	Pueblo	75	30	Clr	Spokane	50	27	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	37	22	Clr	Colorado Springs	69	35	Clr	Great Falls	51	0	Clr	Memphis	54	44	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	44	27	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	41	35	PCldy
Amarillo	76	39	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	50	29	Clr	Green Bay	27	24	Snow	Miami Beach	69	60	Clr	Rapid City	58	31	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	56	42	PCldy
Anchorage	27	22	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	54	35	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	42	27	Clr	Midland-Odessa	71	38	Clr	Reno	65	36	Clr	Syracuse	32	21	Snow
Asheville	43	27	Clr	Columbus, Ohio	35	29	Cldy	Harrisburg	36	22	PCldy	Milwaukee	31	29	Cldy	Richmond	43	27	Clr	Tallahassee	57	30	Clr
Atlanta	48	35	Clr	Concord, N.H.	34	7	Snow	Hartford Spgfld	36	19	PCldy	Mpls-St. Paul	29	22	Snow	Roanoke	40	28	PCldy	Tampa	63	47	Clr
Atlantic City	40	25	Clr	Corpus Christi	76	60	PCldy	Helena	49	20	Cldy	Missoula	41	32	Rain	Rochester	32	25	Snow	Toledo	30	28	Cldy
Austin	71	54	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	66	53	Clr	Honolulu	84	69	Clr	Mobile	58	43	Clr	Rockford	32	29	Cldy	Topeka	57	41	Clr
Baltimore	40	30	Clr	Dayton	34	29	Cldy	Houston	70	57	Clr	Montgomery	55	32	Clr	Sacramento	62	49	PCldy	Tucson	82	46	Clr
Baton Rouge	62	48	Clr	Daytona Beach	61	44	Clr	Huntsville	50	36	Clr	Nashville	49	36	Clr	St. Louis	50	39	Clr	Tulsa	64	50	Clr
Billings	54	27	Cldy	Denver	72	36	Clr	Indianapolis	36	31	Cldy	New Orleans	61	51	Clr	St. Petersburg	63	53	Clr	Tupelo	53	38	Clr
Birmingham	52	36	Clr	Des Moines	42	33	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	59	41	Clr	New York City	38	26	PCldy	St. Thomas	86	78	Clr	Waco	68	53	Clr
Bismarck	33	21	Cldy	Detroit	30	28	Cldy	Jacksonville	57	36	Clr	Newark	39	26	PCldy	Salem, Ore.	55	39	Rain	Washington	40	32	Clr
Boise	52	40	Cldy	Duluth	17	16	Snow	Juneau	27	14	Clr	Norfolk, Va.	42	30	Clr	Salt Lake City	61	39	PCldy	W. Palm Beach	68	60	PCldy
Boston	36	22	Snow	El Paso	68	39	Clr	Kansas City	54	41	Clr	North Platte	67	28	Clr	San Angelo	72	46	Clr	Wichita	62	39	Clr
Bridgeport	38	21	PCldy	Elkins	31	23	Cldy	Key West	69	64	Clr	Oklahoma City	64	46	Clr	San Antonio	71	53	PCldy	Wichita Falls	69	47	Clr
Brownsville	76	61	PCldy	Erie	29	28	Cldy	Knoxville	43	30	Clr	Omaha	47	30	PCldy	San Diego	74	57	Clr	Wilkes-Barre	33	19	PCldy
Buffalo	30	26	Cldy	Eugene	53	41	Rain	Lake Charles	63	55	Clr	Orlando	63	45	Clr	San Francisco	62	53	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	39	27	Clr
Burlington, Vt.	30	18	Cldy	Evansville	43	35	PCldy	Lansing	29	28	Cldy	Paducah	48	39	Clr	San Jose	66	47	Clr	Yakima	53	27	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	21	6	Cldy	Fairbanks	-2	-8	Clr	Las Vegas	71	48	Clr	Pendleton	59	34	Rain	San Juan, P.R.	83	76	Clr	Youngstown	29	25	Cldy
Casper	54	33	Clr	Fargo	24	18	Cldy	Lexington	40	31	PCldy	Peoria	39	32	Cldy	Santa Fe	63	28	Clr				
Charleston, S.C.	51	29	Clr	Flagstaff	63	29	Clr	Lincoln	52	29	Clr	Philadelphia	39	27	Clr	St. Ste Marie	23	22	Snow				
Charleston, W.Va.	39	29	Cldy	Flint	28	27	Cldy	Little Rock	58	46	Clr	Phoenix	79	53	Clr	Savannah	54	31	Clr				
Charlotte, N.C.	46	29	Clr	Fort Smith	63	47	Clr	Los Angeles	78	57	Clr	Pittsburgh	30	27	Cldy	Seattle	47	32	Rain				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 95, Riverside, Calif.
Lo: Wed., -11, Stambaugh, Mich.

Frazz

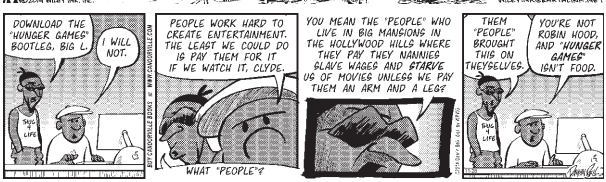
Dilbert

Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur

Candorville

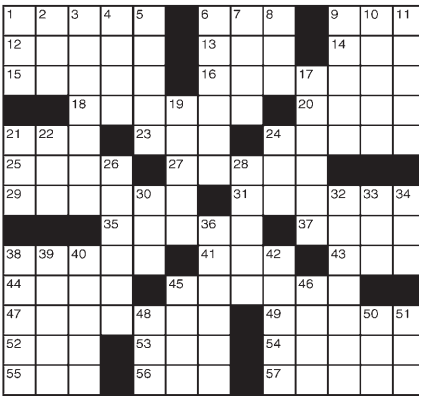


Get Fuzzy

Beetle Bailey

Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

1 Harness race horse
6 Dracula, sometimes
9 Poetic homage
12 Cognizant
13 Id counterpart
14 Renee's refusal
15 Earth tone
16 Overturn
18 Parish pastor
20 9-Across, e.g.
21 Clay, since 1964
23 Male turkey
24 Thin in tone
25 Prepare to travel
27 When pigs fly
29 Score
31 Gum arabic
35 Art supporter
37 Dundee damsel
38 My brothel's keeper?
41 Through
43 Burst
44 On in years
45 Wiggle nervously
47 Rotating shaft
49 Mistreatment
52 Carnival city
53 Joan of —
54 Paddock parents
55 Neighbor of Que.
56 Spelling contest
57 Concerning

DOWN

1 — de deux
2 Bowl over
3 Whim
4 Pennsylvania port
5 Do a double-take
6 Turn into
7 Culture medium
8 Surpass
9 Satirical newspaper, with "The"
10 Flower shop quantity
11 Foe
17 Helix
19 Prizes for "The Producers"
21 Suitable
22 Legislation
24 Sleuth
26 Massages
28 Legitimate
30 Headgear for 37-Across
32 Take a knight off
33 Equi-
34 Cleo's slayer
36 Reveal
38 PC shortcut
39 Once more
40 Station
42 Tropical lizard
45 Passenger's payment
46 Abba of Israel's history
48 Folder feature
50 D.C. personage
51 Superlative ending

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

11-28 CRYPTOQUIP

GSHBDMS OS'M IOS LQUN XB

ROL ZSADMSM IL G

FQIFXFKBISK, OS ZSBUU

MIBQKM LDI AZLX IOS HLRSK

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THI KIELBASA IS UNCOMMONLY LIGHT IN COLOR SO I'M PROBABLY EATING PALISH SAUSAGE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals E

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Time for Obama to listen on defense

By Jay Ambrose
Tribune News Service

It's a bit astonishing to think about, but President Barack Obama has now been criticized by three secretaries of defense and one secretary of state who served under him. And, while the message may sometimes have been more implicit than explicit, or more subtle from some lips than others, a seemingly shared concern is that he may be riskily mismanaging our national security.

The most recent words came from Chuck Hagel, who resigned (or maybe was in effect fired) as defense secretary. Some say he was too unsure of himself from the start to do the job right, and other analysts chime in that no one with that job is really allowed to perform it under Obama. They say his national security advisers in the White House run things, Pentagon expertise be damned.

Hagel thought those advisers had devised a half-baked Syria policy, said so in a letter, and then, prior to the announcement of his coming departure, showed up on the Charlie Rose TV show with deeper concerns. This former Republican senator who had grave doubts about U.S. involvement in Iraq and was named in part to help reduce our military, suddenly found the Islamic State on his plate. There was also Russia's reborn imperialism, China's wish to rule more of Asia, the issue of Iran maybe getting WMD, and a realization the military needed to grow, not decline.

The budget cuts he was supposed to be guiding would make the military the smallest it had been since before World War II, and, he told Rose, this nation will not then be ready or capable of doing what we need to do. The job of a leader, he said, is to do what we are not yet doing — getting ready for the future.

He did not specify Obama as the leader he had in mind, and the cuts are due to budgetary combat between Obama and Congress. Republicans clearly share fault here. But it has been reported that Hagel has been upset that Obama wasn't pushing harder to upgrade the budget, and Leon Panetta, who also served as secretary of defense under Obama, went after him in saying he did not have the passion to bring Congress around, as he thinks could have been done.

Panetta also thinks Obama could and should have kept occupying troops in Iraq after the war and, along with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, thinks we could have done more to help the good-guy rebels in Syria. Hagel's letter on fighting the Islamic State in Syria is said to have raised questions about whether we were helping or hurting the country's despotic president, Bashar Assad. Another former defense secretary, Robert Gates, has said we will not defeat the Islamic State with "no boots on the ground," as Obama pledged, although we will soon have 3,000 troops in Iraq.

Among other concerns, Gates agrees that cutting the military the way we are right now is a huge, huge mistake, and that's perhaps the most important defense issue. As big and mighty as we are, we have to stay that way and grow our defense at a reasonable, waste-wary rate if we are going to be able to deal successfully with all kinds of situations that are more than plausible, as Hagel said. Those saying we cannot afford it should know defense spending right now is put at 16.3 percent of the budget and is not the crucial deficit threat. The major budgetary issue is entitlements and must be refashioned anyway if we are not to be sunk by debt.

All of which brings us back to Obama.

He won't listen to voters in the midterm elections. He certainly refuses to listen to the political opposition in Congress. But can't he at least listen to people he once chose to serve him as Cabinet officers?

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

When due process gets lost in the clamor

By Kathleen Parker
WASHINGTON

By now, most Americans probably have formed an opinion about what comedian Bill Cosby did or didn't do sexually to or with at least 16 women beginning in the 1960s.

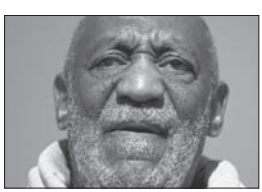
According to several women who have accused him of sexual predations, Cosby's usual modus operandi was to drug women who were with him voluntarily and then force sexual acts upon them.

We know these things based mostly on the women's media interviews. Even so, these are accusations rather than confirmable facts as required in a true court of law. Otherwise, there's no real evidence — no tapes or letters. No rape kits or photographs. One woman once did file charges against Cosby but that case was settled.

Whatever consolation this settlement might have brought to the alleged victim, a settled case doesn't confirm guilt. Sometimes, especially concerning public figures, cases are settled just to end a nuisance.

In other words, we have formed our opinions based on no established facts and no evidence and *only* on the memories of the women, most of whom say they were drugged at the time. Some of them have conceded that their recollections are foggy, which of course they would be after decades and under pharmaceutically induced circumstances, allegedly.

Use of the word "allegedly" intends no disrespect but is a requirement for journalists as opposed to people who chat online. Any charge is alleged until proved or determined true beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury of one's peers. This is how it's supposed to work, though it surely hasn't in Cosby's case — and probably won't, because of the statute of limitations.



Matt Rourke/AP

Comedian Bill Cosby has denied or declined to comment on accusations against him by numerous women.

This column is not a defense of Cosby but a reminder of our rule of law. We see in Ferguson, Mo., what happens when respect for our legal process is lost. Arsonists and looters expressed their outrage that a grand jury didn't act as they thought it should. Yet we hear people trying to defend these actions as somehow acceptable, or at least noncriminal, because of historical injustice.

Nonsense. Ferguson is what you get when mob rule overwhelms the rule of law, which was created as the defense of civilized people against the mob.

Not to conflate the two, the facts and circumstances are vastly different, but Cosby's online torching is nonetheless of similar gravity. He may as well walk out of town and tie himself to an anthill.

Did he do these things as alleged? With so many women speaking out, it seems *likely* that he did. His pattern of behavior toward women as related by others, not just his accusers, was not that of the guy we thought we knew. Indeed, we struggle to reconcile the disparity between the persona of Dr. Cliff Huxtable and the allegations against Cosby.

Nevertheless, what you or I think in the absence of a trial to present and defend against charges with evidence and testimony under oath is irrelevant. It is at least a mockery of justice that bodes not so well for a present-future when lives are destroyed on the basis of, dare I say, gossip.

Anyone can say anything about another on social media — even charge rape — and it's extremely hard to recover from the effects. It isn't just Cosby's hide here; it's everyone's.

Many have lauded the power of social media in liberating people from the bonds of shamed silence. This technological development makes it possible for people who have felt too timid, afraid or disenfranchised to step forward. While this is certainly true and valuable to an extent, social media have enormous destructive power.

This intersection of freedom and responsibility has rarely been so vivid and presents new challenges to the personal moral code that undergirds our legal system.

For his part, Cosby has denied some claims and declined to comment on others, fueling skepticism about his innocence. He and his lawyers know that absent evidence, there's no profit in dignifying the charges. Hope hinges on the public's short attention span and bigger fires to put out.

Buried deep in our craws, meanwhile, lurking like a slimy Gollum, bug-eyed and deformed by envy and self-loathing, lies a second thought or three: Someday it could be thee or me.

Whatever the truth about Cosby, due process has been the victim of what Clarence Thomas once called a high-tech lynching.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Black victims, white officers
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Tweets and Facebook posts, 30-second TV clips and lengthy newspaper articles have flooded the country since a white police officer shot and killed a young black man, Michael Brown, on Aug. 9, but observers, reporters and pundits could not do what a panel of citizens did in Ferguson, Mo.

The 12 members of the grand jury, for 70 hours spread over 25 days, listened to the testimony of 60 witnesses.

Some were experts who recounted facts, such as how many times Mr. Brown, 18, was hit (at least six) and where (his right hand and arm, the front of his body and his head). Other witnesses were friends, passersby and shop owners who explained what they had seen, or thought they'd seen, honest in their recollections even as they disagreed or contradicted one another. One witness was Officer Darren Wilson, even though it is unusual for grand jury testimony to come directly from the perpetrator of the event under scrutiny.

The panel concluded on Monday that no criminal charges should be brought against the officer. Its decision must be accepted and, while disagreement is understandable, frustrated Americans must speak out within the confines of the law.

Was the grand jury steered toward its conclusion by a prosecutor with a reputation for defending the police? The answer may never be known but, also unusual in such a case, the same prosecutor released hundreds of pages of transcripts from the closed-door proceedings so citizens can read the exchanges and decide for themselves.

At this stage, there is just one incontrovertible conclusion, one that cannot heal Mr. Brown's family and friends or quell the anger expressed in streets across America: Michael Brown, who was unarmed and had just completed high school, should not be dead. He should not be dead any more than Trayvon Martin should have died at the hands of a Florida vigilante or 12-year-old Tamir Rice should have died Saturday with a pellet gun in his hand, shot by a Cleveland police officer who feared it was a more dangerous weapon.

Yet they all are gone, and America is left wrestling again with a problem it has encountered over and over, each case with slightly different circumstances and each troubling because these tragedies at their core have something in common. Black victims, white officers and a nation awash in guns that can pose a lethal threat to both police and the public.

Too often race can be a factor in the fundamental divide, a reality that is not easy to accept in America, a land that was founded and that survives on the principle that all people are equal despite their differences.

How can this chasm be bridged? Michael Brown's is only the latest case that must force Americans to examine their approach to race, police and violence. The question is nagging and comes with no ready answer. But Americans who want to live in a land of fairness and lawfulness must be willing to work, as fellow citizens, toward change. The legacy of the victims demands it.

US oil industry is thriving
Kansas City Star

The debate over the future of the Keystone XL pipeline has dominated discussions about energy over the last few years in Washington.

Despite all the attention, however, the project remains stuck in the legislative process. The U.S. Senate this week could not muster enough votes to approve and send it to President Barack Obama, where it likely would be vetoed.

But even as supporters' tantalizing promises of using the pipeline to create more jobs in America collide with detractors' claims that it would be an environmental nightmare, an unexpected reality has emerged.

America's oil industry is thriving again.

Remember the bad old days, when the United States was said to be a pawn in the game played by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and Americans were just a civil war in a Middle Eastern country away from $5 a gallon gasoline?

The facts are different today.

- U.S. oil prices recently fell below $75 a barrel. That's the lowest price in four years, adjusted for inflation, and well under the $90 and $100-plus costs during most of that span.
- U.S. petroleum production topped 9 million barrels a day for a full week this month. For the year, the country is pumping more than 8 million barrels a day. That would be the highest level of domestic production in almost 30 years. Federal government predictions for 2015 show the daily output could exceed any other year since 1972.
- Gasoline prices are below $3 a gallon nationally, and closer to $2.60 in the Kansas City area, at their lowest in five years when adjusted for inflation.

The sudden emergence of the United States as the third-largest producer of petroleum in the world, behind Russia and Saudi Arabia, has surprised even longtime experts in the industry.

As usual, the costs of dealing with environmental problems caused by tar sands oil are not included in the equation that supporters are using to try to pass the Keystone XL pipeline.

Still, the project eventually could move ahead in Washington, despite this week's defeat. With a larger number of Republicans in 2015, the Senate might have the votes needed to send a revived bill to Obama's desk. If he vetoes the pipeline, it might stop it once again — unless GOP leaders can muster enough allies to get to a two-thirds vote needed to override the president.

When that debate occurs, pipeline opponents will be able to point to the already much higher petroleum production in this country and wonder if the environmental risks inherent with the pipeline are truly worth taking.

David Goldman/AP

Margaret Morrow stands with others in front of the Ferguson Police Department on Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo. A grand jury's decision not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown has sparked protests nationwide, triggering debates over the relations between black communities and law enforcement.

Immigration enforcement
Los Angeles Times

The federal government's Secure Communities program has been as controversial as it has been counterproductive, so we're glad the Obama administration's new approach to immigration enforcement will mean the program's demise. Yet we also harbor some skepticism about its successor, the Priority Enforcement Program — and wonder whether there will be much difference.

Under Secure Communities, local police forwarded fingerprints of detained criminal suspects to the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. Those agencies checked the prints against federal databases to find people with serious criminal records who were in the country illegally (thus targeted for removal). Database hits led to requests that the police hold the detainees past scheduled release dates pending further federal action.

Yet more than half of those eventually deported under the program had minor or no criminal records. Families were torn apart, and several thousand legal citizens were detained. In the worst cases, detainees languished in jails awaiting federal action without criminal charges or court orders, violations of the 4th Amendment for which federal courts have held the local agencies liable. The program generated so much mistrust that immigrant communities stopped cooperating with police in routine criminal matters. As local agencies began dropping out, the Department of Homeland Security tried in 2011 to fix the worst of the problems, with little effect.

Under the new Priority Enforcement Program, immigration agents will still receive fingerprints from local agencies, then make their priority those detainees who have been convicted of a felony, are gang members or pose "a demonstrable risk to national security." Lower-priority targets include those convicted of three misdemeanors or one significant misdemeanor (such as domestic or sexual abuse); new illegal arrivals; and those who "have significantly abused the visa or visa waiver programs."

To avoid the legal problems of unconstitutional detentions, the federal government will now just ask local agencies to notify them when a potentially deportable detainee is scheduled for release. If Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents determine that someone should be detained longer, they "must specify that the person is subject to a final order of removal or there is other sufficient probable cause to find that the person is a removable alien."

Those are sound and reasonable parameters. But we can't help but note that Secure Communities was supposed to target the dangerous and the threatening too, not the otherwise law-abiding but undocumented. Given the history of Washington wanting one thing and immigration agents on the ground doing another, the proof will be in the execution.

New frontier of Ebola
New York Times

The huge, impoverished country of Mali looks like the new frontier in the fight to control the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. The virus has killed thousands in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three countries where the virus first emerged, but it has not gained much of a foothold elsewhere. Small outbreaks of 20 cases in Nigeria and a single case in Senegal were found in October. Now the potential for many more cases in neighboring Mali has health authorities scrambling to contain a small outbreak before it can get very far.

That will be challenging. At least six people have died from Ebola in Mali already, and the country's health officials, aided by American and international advisers, are racing to find, test and isolate, if necessary, hundreds of people exposed to an infected cleric who died in Mali last month after traveling there from Guinea. Many of the people had engaged in ritual washing of the dead imam's body, a particularly dangerous practice since the corpse is apt to be highly infectious and the mourners rarely wear protective clothing.

The dangers in Mali caused leaders in the United Nations and the World Health Organization last week to temper their earlier optimism that worst-case outcomes might be avoided if 70 percent of the dead could be buried safely and 70 percent of the sick treated by Dec. 1. Now they express doubts that the targets can be met and talk about containing the epidemic by the middle of next year.

Dr. Margaret Chan, the director general of the WHO, traveled to Mali on Nov. 21 to encourage health workers in the anti-Ebola effort. The United Nations said it will open an emergency response office in Mali this week, signifying its importance as the latest battleground. The next 15 days are deemed critical for ending Ebola transmission in Mali, the United Nations says.

Thus far the virus has sickened more than 15,000 people in the region and killed more than 5,400 of them, almost all within the three hardest-hit West African nations. Progress in containing the outbreaks has been spotty.

Liberia, which has suffered the largest number of infections and deaths, has succeeded in slowing the rate of increase in new cases in recent months.

Sierra Leone's epidemic continues to spread rapidly while medical teams and supplies from Britain and other donors scramble to catch up. Guinea, where the outbreak first emerged, has suppressed it in some areas but not in remote jungle regions.

This is clearly no time for international agencies and national donors to let their guards down. The United States has led the international response so far by contributing the most money, equipment and manpower and prodding other nations to increase their aid. The Obama administration has requested some $6 billion to make further progress in West Africa and prepare American hospitals to cope with cases brought into this country. Congress ought to provide every penny.

SCOREBOARD

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

College football

Schedule

Friday, Nov. 28

EAST

Buffalo (4-6) at UMass (3-8)

SOUTH

W. Kentucky (6-5) at Marshall (11-0)
UCF (7-3) at South Florida (4-7)
Navy (5-5) at South Alabama (6-5)
Virginia (5-6) at Virginia Tech (5-6)

MIDWEST

N. Illinois (9-2) at W. Michigan (8-3)
Nebraska (8-3) at Iowa (7-4)
Ball St. (4-7) at Bowling Green (7-4)
Toledo (7-4) at E. Michigan (2-9)
Akron (5-6) at Kent St. (1-9)
Arkansas (6-5) at Missouri (9-2)

SOUTHWEST

Houston (6-4) at SMU (0-10)
East Carolina (7-3) at Tulsa (2-9)

FAR WEST

Colorado St. (10-1) at Air Force (8-3)
Arizona St. (9-2) at Arizona (9-2)
Stanford (6-5) at UCLA (9-2)

Saturday, Nov. 29

EAST

Cincinnati (7-3) at Temple (5-5)
Syracuse (3-8) at Boston College (6-5)
Michigan St. (9-2) at Penn St. (6-5)

SOUTH

South Carolina (6-5) at Clemson (8-3)
Old Dominion (5-6) at FAU (3-8)
Georgia Tech (9-2) at Georgia (9-2)
Rice (7-4) at Louisiana Tech (7-4)
Kentucky (5-6) at Louisville (8-3)
NC State (6-5) at North Carolina (6-5)
Louisiana-Lafayette (7-4) at Troy (3-8)
Idaho (1-9) at Appalachian St. (6-5)
Texas St. (6-5) at Georgia St. (1-10)
Grambling St. (7-4) vs. Southern U. (8-3) at New Orleans
Florida (6-4) at Florida St. (11-0)
Rutgers (6-5) at Maryland (7-4)
Mississippi St. (10-1) at Mississippi (8-3)
UAB (5-6) at Southern Miss. (3-8)
UConn (2-8) at Memphis (8-3)
Tennessee (5-6) at Vanderbilt (3-8)
Louisiana-Monroe (4-7) at Georgia Southern (8-3)
Wake Forest (3-8) at Duke (8-3)
Pittsburgh (5-6) at Miami (6-5)
Auburn (8-3) at Alabama (10-1)

MIDWEST

Purdue (3-8) at Indiana (3-8)
West Virginia (6-5) at Iowa St. (2-8)
Illinois (5-6) at Northwestern (5-6)
Michigan (5-6) at Ohio St. (10-1)
Minnesota (8-3) at Wisconsin (9-2)
Kansas (3-8) at Kansas St. (8-2)

SOUTHWEST

North Texas (4-7) at UTSA (3-8)
New Mexico St. (2-9) at Arkansas St. (6-5)
Baylor (9-1) vs. Texas Tech (4-7) at Arlington, Texas
Middle Tennessee (6-5) at UTEP (6-5)

FAR WEST

Utah (7-4) at Colorado (2-9)
Wyoming (4-7) at New Mexico (3-8)
San Jose St. (3-8) at San Diego St. (6-5)
Notre Dame (7-4) at Southern Cal (7-4)
BYU (7-4) at California (5-6)
Hawaii (4-8) at Fresno St. (5-6)
Oregon (10-1) at Oregon St. (5-6)
Utah St. (9-3) at Boise St. (9-2)
Nevada (6-5) at UNLV (2-10)
Washington (7-5) at Washington St. (3-8)

Pro soccer

MLS playoffs

KNOCKOUT ROUND

Eastern Conference

New York 2, Sporting Kansas City 1

Western Conference

FC Dallas 2, Vancouver 1

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

Eastern Conference

New England 7, Columbus 3

Leg 1 — New England 4, Columbus 2
Leg 2 — New England 3, Columbus 1

New York 3, D.C. United 2

Leg 1 — New York 2, D.C. United 0
Leg 2 — D.C. United 2, New York 1

Western Conference

LA Galaxy 5, Real Salt Lake 0

Leg 1 — LA Galaxy 0, Real Salt Lake 0
Leg 2 — LA Galaxy 5, Real Salt Lake 0

Seattle 1, FC Dallas 1

Leg 1 — Seattle 1, FC Dallas 1
Leg 2 — FC Dallas 0, Seattle 0, Seattle advances on away goals

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP

Eastern Conference

New England 2, New York 1

Leg 1 — New England 2, New York 1
Leg 2 — Saturday, Nov. 29: New York at New England

Western Conference

LA Galaxy 1, Seattle 0

Leg 1 — LA Galaxy 1, Seattle 0
Leg 2 — Sunday, Nov. 30: LA Galaxy at Seattle

MLS CUP

Sunday, Dec. 7: Conference champions

Pro football

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	2	0	.818	357	227
Miami	6	5	0	.545	285	219
Buffalo	6	5	0	.545	238	207
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	.182	177	303
South						
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	333	256
Houston	5	6	0	.455	242	226
Tennessee	2	9	0	.182	192	293
Jacksonville	1	10	0	.091	161	305
North						
Cincinnati	7	3	1	.682	246	234
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	295	208
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	288	263
Cleveland	7	4	0	.636	242	219
West						
Denver	8	3	0	.727	332	260
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	261	195
San Diego	7	4	0	.636	245	216
Oakland	1	10	0	.091	176	285

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	3	0	.727	342	275
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	292	240
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	233	294
Washington	3	8	0	.273	217	273
South						
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	262	281
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	288	286
Carolina	3	7	1	.318	215	300
Tampa Bay	2	9	0	.182	207	300
North						
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	354	246
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	197	190
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	236	303
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	202	244
West						
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	240	195
Seattle	7	4	0	.636	279	218
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	228	225
St. Louis	4	7	0	.364	209	285

Thursday, Nov. 20

Oakland 24, Kansas City 20

Sunday, Nov. 23

Green Bay 24, Minnesota 21
Cincinnati 22, Houston 13
Chicago 21, Tampa Bay 13
Cleveland 26, Atlanta 24
Philadelphia 43, Tennessee 24
New England 34, Detroit 9
Indianapolis 23, Jacksonville 3
N.Y. Jets at Buffalo, ppd., snow
Seattle 19, Arizona 3
San Diego 27, St. Louis 24
San Francisco 17, Washington 13
Denver 39, Miami 36
Dallas 31, N.Y. Giants 28
Open: Carolina, Pittsburgh

Monday, Nov. 24

Buffalo 38, N.Y. Jets 3
Baltimore 34, New Orleans 27

Thursday's games

Chicago at Detroit
Philadelphia at Dallas
Seattle at San Francisco

Sunday's games

Tennessee at Houston
Oakland at St. Louis
Carolina at Minnesota
Washington at Indianapolis
Cleveland at Buffalo
San Diego at Baltimore
N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay
New Orleans at Pittsburgh
Arizona at Atlanta
New England at Green Bay
Denver at Kansas City

Monday's game

Miami at N.Y. Jets

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the league (OUT - Definitely will not play; DNP - Did not practice; LIMITED - Limited participation in practice; FULL - Full participation in practice):

WASHINGTON REDSKINS at INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — REDSKINS: DNP: CB E.J. Biggers (concussion), DE Jason Hatcher (knee). LIMITED: NT Chris Baker (chest), S Ryan Clark (shoulder, stinger), RB Silas Redd Jr. (rib), TE Jordan Reed (hamstring), T Trent Williams (knee). FULL: CB Bashaud Breeland (back). **COLTS:** DNP: TE Dwayne Allen (ankle), S Colt Anderson (knee), CB Vontae Davis (foot), CB Josh Gordy (back), LB D'Qwell Jackson (not injury related), LB Andy Studebaker (hamstring), G Hugh Thornton (knee), WR Reggie Wayne (not injury related). LIMITED: T Xavier Nixon (foot), CB Loucheiz Purifoy (concussion), CB Greg Toler (concussion). FULL: T Gosder Cherilus (shoulder).

TENNESSEE TITANS at HOUSTON TEXANS — TITANS: DNP: S Michael Griffin (shoulder), T Taylor Lewan (ankle), T Michael Oher (toe), LB Kamerion Wimbley (hamstring). LIMITED: CB Marqueston Huff (hamstring), RB Dexter McCluster (concussion), RB Leon Washington (hamstring), CB Blidi Wreh-Wilson (back). **TEXANS:** DNP: LB Jadeveon Clowney (knee), LB Akeem Dent (neck), CB Kareem Jackson (knee), WR Andre Johnson (not injury related), CB Johnathan Joseph (knee). LIMITED: LB Brian Cushing (knee), RB Arian Foster (knee). FULL: LB Max Bullough (hamstring), T Tyson Clabo (foot), LB Mike Mohamed (hip), CB Darryl Morris (thigh), LB Jeff Tarpinian (knee).

CLEVELAND BROWNS at BUFFALO BILLS — BROWNS: DNP: LB Karlos Dansby (knee), S Tashaun Gipson (knee), WR Marlon Moore (hamstring), NT Ahtyba Rubin (back), LB Jabaal Sheard (foot), T Joe Thomas (not injury related). LIMITED: TE Jordan Cameron (concussion). FULL: LB Barkevious Mingo (shoulder). **BILLS:** DNP: TE Chris Gragg (knee), TE Lee Smith (illness), DE Jarius Wynn (knee). LIMITED: K Dan Carpenter (right groin), S Bacarri Rambo (hamstring), WR Robert Woods (ankle).

SAN DIEGO CHARGERS at BALTIMORE RAVENS — CHARGERS: DNP: NT Ryan Carrethers (elbow), LB Dwight Freeney (not injury related), LB Andrew Gachkar (knee). FULL: S Jahleel Addae (concussion), RB Ryan Mathews (shoulder), WR Eddie Royal (toe). **RAVENS:** DNP: LB Terrell Suggs (foot). LIMITED: WR Michael Campanaro (thigh), LB Pernell McPhee (shoulder). FULL: G Jah Reid (hand).

NEW YORK GIANTS at JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS — GIANTS: DNP: DE Mathias Kiwanuka (knee), LB Jameel McClain (knee), S Antrel Rolle (not injury related), G Adam Snyder (knee). LIMITED: DT Cullen Jenkins (calf), T Justin Pugh (quadriceps), G Geoff Schwartz (toe), LB Jacquian Williams (concussion, shoulder). FULL: WR Odell Beckham Jr. (back), CB Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (back, hamstring). **JAGUARS:** DNP: LB LaRoy Reynolds (neck), WR Cecil Shorts III (illness). LIMITED: DE Andre Branch (groin), LB Jeremiah George (ankle). FULL: QB Blake Bortles (left wrist), DE Chris Clemons (knee).

CINCINNATI BENGALS at TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — BENGALS: DNP: LB Vontaze Burfict (knee), DE Robert Geathers (toe), TE Clark Harris (illness), DE Margus Hunt (ankle), CB Adam Jones (not injury related, tooth), G Mike Pollak (knee), WR Mohamed Sanu (illness). LIMITED: S George Iloka (groin). **BUCCANEERS:** DNP: LB Lavonte David (hamstring), C Evan Dietrich-Smith (illness), DT Clinton McDonald (hamstring), TE Brandon Myers (calf), TE Luke Stocker (concussion). LIMITED: DE Da'Quan Bowers (knee), TE Austin Seferian-Jenkins (back), RB Charles Sims (ankle), S Major Wright (shoulder).

OAKLAND RAIDERS at ST. LOUIS RAMS — RAIDERS: DNP: S Jonathan Dowling (back), CB Carlos Rogers (knee), CB Neiko Thorpe (hand). LIMITED: S Larry Asante (shoulder), CB TJ Carrie (ankle), G Gabe Jackson (knee), RB Latavius Murray (concussion). FULL: TE Brian Leonhardt (concussion). **RAMS:** DNP: WR Kenny Britt (back), CB E.J. Gaines (knee), LB Will Herring (foot), LB James Laurinaitis (ankle), DE Robert Quinn (not injury related), CB Marcus Roberson (ankle), DE Eugene Sims (not injury related), C Scott Wells (not injury related). LIMITED: DT Alex Carrington (thigh), TE Jared Cook (back), TE Cory Harkey (thigh). FULL: S Lamarcus Joyner (groin).

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS at PITTSBURGH STEELERS — SAINTS: DNP: NT Brodrick Bunkley (quadriceps), LB Kyle Knox (hand), RB Khiry Robinson (forearm). LIMITED: C Jonathan Goodwin (toe), G Ben Grubbs (neck), CB Keenan Lewis (knee), LB Curtis Lofton (ankle). FULL: RB Travaris Cadet (hamstring), RB Mark Ingram (shoulder), WR Robert Meachem (ankle), RB Pierre Thomas (ribs, shoulder). **STEELERS:** DNP: WR Martavis Bryant (illness), DE Brett Keisel (not injury related), TE Heath Miller (not injury related), S Troy Polamalu (not injury related). LIMITED: T Marcus Gilbert (ankle), NT Steve McLendon (shoulder). FULL: CB Cortez Allen (thumb), LB Ryan Shazier (ankle), CB Ike Taylor (forearm), S Shamarko Thomas (hamstring).

CAROLINA PANTHERS at MINNESOTA VIKINGS — PANTHERS: DNP: WR Philly Brown (illness), DT Star Lotulelei (ankle). FULL: CB Bene Benwikere (ankle), G Andrew Norwell (thigh), G Amini Silatolu (knee), RB Mike Tolbert (knee). **VIKINGS:** DNP: DT Sharrif Floyd (knee), TE Chase Ford (hamstring, foot), RB Jerick McKinnon (low back), WR Cordarrelle Patterson (knee), S Harrison Smith (shoulder, ankle). LIMITED: RB Matt Asiata (concussion), LB Anthony Barr (knee), T Matt Kalil (knee). FULL: T Mike Harris (ankle), WR Greg Jennings (rib), TE Kyle Rudolph (abdomen, groin), WR Jarius Wright (hamstring).

ARIZONA CARDINALS at ATLANTA FALCONS — CARDINALS: DNP: LB Kenny Demens (hamstring), WR Larry Fitzgerald (knee). LIMITED: LB Lorenzo Alexander (knee), LB Marcus Benard (shoulder), WR John Brown (teeth), RB Andre Ellington (foot, hip), DT Ed Stinson (toe). FULL: QB Drew Stanton (ankle). **FALCONS:** DNP: CB Robert Alford (wrist), WR Harry Douglas (foot), DT Paul Soliai (not injury related), WR Roddy White (ankle). LIMITED: T Jonathan Scott (hamstring).

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS at GREEN BAY PACKERS — PATRIOTS: LIMITED: C Danny Aiken (concussion), T Marcus Cannon (hip), G Dan Connolly (ankle), DT Dominique Easley (knee), S Nate Ebner (finger), T Cameron Fleming (ankle, finger), DE Chandler Jones (hip), WR Brandon LaFell (shoulder), RB Shane Vereen (ankle). FULL: QB Tom Brady (ankle), WR Julian Edelman (thigh). **PACKERS:** DNP: CB Jarrett Bush (groin), G T.J. Lang (ankle), LB Nick Perry (shoulder). LIMITED: TE Brandon Bostick (hip), G Josh Sitton (toe).

DENVER BRONCOS at KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — BRONCOS: DNP: RB C.J. Anderson (groin), RB Ronnie Hillman (foot), LB Brandon Marshall (concussion), CB Aqib Talib (hamstring), TE Julius Thomas (ankle), CB Kayvon Webster (shoulder). LIMITED: S Quinton Carter (knee), DE Quanterus Smith (ankle). FULL: S David Bruton Jr. (finger), TE Virgil Green (calf), RB Juwan Thompson (knee). **CHIEFS:** DNP: TE Anthony Fasano (knee), WR Junior Hemingway (concussion), DT Kevin Vickerson (calf). LIMITED: P Dustin Colquitt (right calf), LB Tamba Hali (knee), CB Chris Owens (knee, abdomen). FULL: S Husain Abdullah (groin), CB Jamell Fleming (hamstring), CB Sean Smith (groin), T Donald Stephenson (shoulder).

MIAMI DOLPHINS at NEW YORK JETS — No Data Reported.

College basketball

Wednesday's men's scores

EAST

Albany (NY) 75, Colgate 71
Cornell 67, Canisius 60
George Washington 91, Longwood 66
Iona 126, Delaware St. 76
Towson 97, Goucher 43
UMass 79, Northeastern 54
Vermont 73, Bryant 47
West Virginia 103, VMI 72
Yale 82, Lafayette 60
Yeshiva 78, St. Joseph's (LI) 59

SOUTH

American U. 64, Hampton 60
Belmont 78, Denver 57
Birmingham-Southern 78, Spalding 59
Bluefield 71, St. Andrews 60
Chattanooga 61, Robert Morris 46
Coastal Carolina 61, Louisiana-Monroe 48
Davidson 95, UCF 69
Duke 93, Furman 54
Fayetteville St. 100, Barton 81
GRU Augusta 92, Valdosta St. 61
Jacksonville 69, Trinity Baptist 57
James Madison 79, Sacred Heart 72
Kennesaw St. 84, Samford 71
Louisville 45, Cleveland St. 33
Morehead St. 77, Marshall 68
NC State 84, Richmond 72
SE Louisiana 86, Tennessee Tech 65
South Carolina 89, UNC Asheville 75
Wake Forest 83, Mount St. Mary's 49

MIDWEST

Augustana (SD) 86, Valley City St. 61
E. Michigan 68, Rochester (Mich.) 35
Georgia St. 83, Oakland 78
Iowa 70, N. Illinois 49
Lehigh 86, DePaul 74
Notre Dame 81, Grambling St. 54
Ohio St. 91, Campbell 64
South Dakota 86, Wayne (Neb.) 69
Upper Iowa 116, Iowa Wesleyan 66
W. Carolina 66, Chicago St. 61
Wartburg 85, Wis.-Eau Claire 74
Wis.-Whitewater 84, Alma 71
Youngstown St. 66, UMKC 63

SOUTHWEST

North Texas 67, MVSU 52
SMU 72, Texas Southern 59
TCU 74, Radford 50
Texas-Permian Basin 104, Sul Ross St. 82

FAR WEST

California 72, Cal Poly 52
E. Kentucky 73, S. Utah 64
E. Washington 81, N. Kentucky 60
Lewis-Clark St. 111, Evergreen St. 93
Loyola Marymount 66, UC Riverside 62
Montana 75, Carroll (Mont.) 52
New Mexico St. 78, Florida A&M 33
North Dakota 75, Alabama St. 68
Oral Roberts 69, Milwaukee 66
Portland St. 63, CS Northridge 55
UC Davis 77, Utah St. 70, OT
Utah 85, Texas-Pan American 48
Utah Valley 60, Idaho St. 57
Wyoming 65, Stetson 41

TOURNAMENTS

Battle 4 Atlantis

First Round

Butler 74, North Carolina 66
Georgetown 66, Florida 65, OT
Oklahoma 75, UCLA 65
Wisconsin 72, UAB 43

Cancun Challenge-Mayan Championship

North Florida 72, Elon 65

Third Place

Morgan St. 51, Liberty 50

Cancun Challenge-Riviera Championship

N. Iowa 61, Northwestern 42

Third Place

Virginia Tech 78, Miami (Ohio) 63

EA Sports Maui Invitational Championship

Arizona 61, San Diego St. 59

Third Place

Pittsburgh 70, Kansas St. 47

Fifth Place

Purdue 87, BYU 85, OT

Seventh Place

Missouri 74, Chaminade 60

GCI Great Alaska Shootout First Round

Pacific 71, Alaska Anchorage 62

Gulf Coast Showcase Championship

Green Bay 59, Florida Gulf Coast 45

Third Place

Evansville 79, San Francisco 72

Fifth Place

Hawaii 75, East Carolina 73

Seventh Place

Marist 68, Fresno St. 64

MGM Grand Main Event Championship

Oklahoma St. 73, Tulsa 58

Third Place

Auburn 71, Oregon St. 69

NIT Season Tipoff First Round

Gonzaga 88, Georgia 76
St. John's 70, Minnesota 61

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST

Albany (NY) 64, Canisius 59
Cornell 58, Marshall 49
Niagara 63, Binghamton 52
Pittsburgh 72, Radford 47
Seton Hall 77, Kennesaw St. 74
West Virginia 83, Evansville 39

SOUTH

Alabama 75, Alabama A&M 44
Chattanooga 67, Tennessee 63
Cumberlands 79, Midway 64
Georgia 66, Colgate 35
Indiana St. 74, South Alabama 53
Kentucky Wesleyan 81, Berea 65
Mount St. Mary's 73, Delaware St. 64
Randoph 51, Gallaudet 41
Samford 79, UT-Martin 75
William & Mary 56, VCU 48

MIDWEST

Dayton 72, Providence 56
E. Illinois 55, N. Illinois 46
Indiana 97, ETSU 69
Kansas 90, Iona 49
Marquette 85, Milwaukee 80
Michigan St. 79, Oakland 64
North Dakota 72, Nebraska-Omaha 52
Northwestern 61, Ill.-Chicago 40
S. Illinois 82, Memphis 75
Xavier 45, Presbyterian 43

SOUTHWEST

Kansas St. at Santa Clara, ppd.
LSU at UTEP, ccd.
Texas 72, Texas-Pan American 45
Texas A&M 93, McNeese St. 27
Texas-Arlington 80, N. Arizona 62

FAR WEST

BYU 81, Butler 62

TOURNAMENT

GCI Great Alaska Shootout Championship

Long Beach St. 69, Alaska-Anchorage 60

Third Place

Boise St. 59, Yale 53, OT

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Agreed to terms with INF Rey Navarro on a one-year contract.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Traded LHP Scott Barnes to Baltimore for cash considerations.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Assigned LHP Michael Roth, C Jackson Williams and OF Alfredo Marte outright to Salt Lake (PCL).

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Designated INF Sean Rodriguez for assignment. Agreed to terms with RHP Ernesto Frieri on a one-year contract. Released C Jose Molina and 2B Cole Figueroa.

National League

LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Traded INF Ryan Jackson to Kansas City for cash considerations.

MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Assigned RHP Ariel Pena outright to Colorado Springs (PCL).

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Assigned OF Yeison Asencio outright to El Paso (PCL). Announced RHP Blaine Boyer declined outright assignment and elected free agency.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Fined Detroit C Dominic Raiola $10,000 for his actions in last week's game.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Released OT Kelvin Palmer from the practice squad.

ATLANTA FALCONS — Released WR Ryan Spadola from the practice squad. Signed WR Freddie Martino to the practice squad.

BUFFALO BILLS — Claimed WR/KR Marcus Thigpen off waivers from Tampa Bay. Released DE Bryan Johnson.

CHICAGO BEARS — Placed OL Brian de la Puente on injured reserve. Signed DT Brandon Dunn from the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS — Placed DE Jack Crawford on injured reserve. Signed LB Keith Smith from the practice squad and DT Davon Coleman to the practice squad.

HOUSTON TEXANS — Released OT Chris Martin from the practice squad.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Released LB Victor Butler. Released LB Trevardo Williams and RB Michael Hill from the practice squad. Claimed LB Shaun Phillips off waivers from Tennessee.

MIAMI DOLPHINS — Released DB Jalil Brown. Released DE Emmanuel Dieke from the practice squad. Signed DB R.J. Stanford. Signed DB Ahmad Dixon to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed WR Matthew Slater to a two-year contract extension. Released LB Deontae Skinner and DB Daxton Swanson from the practice squad. Signed TE Xavier Grimble and LS Charley Hughlett to the practice squad.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed OT Michael Bamiro to the practice squad.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Placed OT Phil Loadholt on injured reserve. Signed OT J'Marcus Webb.

OAKLAND RAIDERS — Placed TE David Ausberry on injured reserve. Signed DT Ricky Lumpkin from the practice squad.

ST. LOUIS RAMS — Released WR Damian Williams. Signed TE Justice Cunningham from the practice squad.

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS — Signed TE D.J. Williams. Signed LB Denicos Allen and TE Cameron Brate from the practice squad. Released RB Marcus Thigpen. Released DB Quinton Pointer and TE Ted Bolser from the practice squad.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Released TE Richard Gordon. Signed LB Kaelin Burnett from Arizona's practice squad and LB Chaz Sutton to the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS — Assigned G Mac Carruth from Rockford (AHL) to Indy (ECHL).

DALLAS STARS — Assigned F Taylor Peters from Texas (AHL) to Idaho (ECHL) and G Maxime Lagace from Texas to Missouri (ECHL).

NEW YORK RANGERS — Assigned F Chris McCarthy from Hartford (AHL) to Greenville (ECHL).

MOTORSPORTS

SPORTS CAR CLUB OF AMERICA — Named Mitchell Root manager of accounting and human resources.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

EUGENE TANNER/AP

Arizona players rush the court after beating San Diego State to win the Maui Invitational on Wednesday.

Top 25 roundup

Arizona captures Maui title

The Associated Press

LAHAINA, Hawaii — Stanley Johnson had shown glimpses of his precocious talent during Arizona's first five games, occasionally showing up on the highlight reels with a soaring dunk or blocked shot.

Under the bright lights of a premiere tournament and a national television audience, the talented freshman stole the show.

Johnson played his best on one of college basketball's biggest early-season stages, scoring 18 points and grabbing nine rebounds to help No. 3 Arizona gut out a 61-59 victory over No. 15 San Diego State for its second Maui Invitational title Wednesday night.

"We have a lot of guys who don't like losing here and I'm the same way," said Johnson, who added three steals.

Arizona (6-0) withstood a stiff semifinal challenge against Kansas State and faced a bigger one against the athletic Aztecs (5-1).

The Wildcats traded blows in this heavyweight bout in paradise, coming up with the big plays down the stretch to win their 33rd straight regular-season non-conference game.

Johnson was seemingly everywhere, grabbing steals, swatting shots into the stands, pogo-sticking for offensive rebounds. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson gave Arizona his usual exuberant boost, with 14 points, six rebounds and relentless hustle.

And when it came down to the end, the Wildcats closed in around San Diego State defensively to add to the Maui title they won in 2000.

"We leave here feeling very good about what we accomplished," Arizona coach Sean Miller said. "We have a long way to go, but I feel like our team took the next step, grew up, improved, and that's what happens when you challenge yourself against this type of competition."

No. 2 Wisconsin 72, UAB 43: Frank Kaminsky had 16 points and eight rebounds, Duje Dukan scored 11 points and Wisconsin had no trouble in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Josh Gasser added 10 points to help the Badgers (5-0) win their 21st straight regular-season nonconference game. Wisconsin will play Georgetown in the semifinals.

No. 4 Duke 93, Furman 54: Freshman Jahlil Okafor had a season-high 24 points and host Duke routed Furman.

Okafor finished 12-for-14 and has missed only five shots in three games at Cameron Indoor Stadium.

No. 6 Louisville 45, Cleveland State 33: Montrezl Harrell had 15 points and 13 rebounds and host Louisville beat Cleveland State for coach Rick Pitino's 700th college victory.

No. 10 Gonzaga 88, Georgia 76: Kyle Wiltjer scored a career-high 32 points and Gonzaga beat Georgia in the NIT Season Tip-Off semifinals.

Kevin Pangos added 22 points, six assists and three steals for Gonzaga (5-0).

No. 16 Ohio St. 91, Campbell 64: Marc Loving scored a career-high 18 points and Ohio State again shot well from the field in beating Campbell in Buckeye Classic.

Georgetown 66, No. 18 Florida 65 (OT): D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera made a jumper with 3.4 seconds left in overtime to give Georgetown a victory over Florida in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

It was the 21st and final lead change of the night, and sent the Hoyas (4-0) into the semifinals.

No. 21 West Virginia 103, Vmi 72: Freshman reserve Jevon Carter scored 28 points and West Virginia forced a school-record 36 turnovers in a win over VMI.

West Virginia (6-0) also tied a school record with 26 steals.

Oklahoma 75, No. 22 UCLA 65: Bahamas native Buddy Hield scored 24 points, Frank Booker added 11 and Oklahoma beat UCLA in the Battle 4 Atlantis.

Butler surprises No. 5 N. Carolina

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

PARADISE ISLAND, Bahamas — After yet another second-half possession ended with a miscue, all Roy Williams could do on the North Carolina sideline was cross his arms and shake his head.

It was that sort of day for the Tar Heels.

Alex Barlow and Kelan Martin each scored 17 points, and cold-shooting Butler grabbed 29 offensive rebounds on the way to upsetting No. 5 North Carolina 74-66 on Wednesday in the opening game of the Battle 4 Atlantis.

"The game of basketball is pretty simple," Williams said. "Just put the ball in the hole."

And Carolina simply didn't do enough of that until it was too late.

Marcus Paige shook off a slow start and scored 18 points for North Carolina (3-1). Brice Johnson added 11 for the Tar Heels, who missed 12 of 13 shots from the floor in one second-half stretch and misfired on 14 of their 32 tries from the foul line.

"They outplayed us and definitely outcoached us," Williams said. "And we had some chances at the end ... but again, you have to congratulate their defense for doing such a good job."

Butler's shooting numbers were even worse, and it didn't matter. The Bulldogs shot 31 percent, including a staggering 7 percent in the final 8 minutes, missing open shots from near and far all afternoon.

"I know our guys would have loved to make shots," Butler coach Chris Holtmann said.

Kameron Woods had 13 rebounds and Roosevelt Jones scored 12 points for the Bulldogs (4-0), who topped the Tar Heels for the second straight time. Butler beat North Carolina at the Maui Invitational in 2012.

A 16-4 run over a 5½-minute second-half stretch was key for Butler, turning a 43-41 lead into a 59-45 cushion.

When opponents shot 22 for 72 or worse in the Williams era, the Tar Heels were 21-0 — until Wednesday.

"They got 15 more shots than us and we both turned the ball over 19 times," Paige said. "A coach Williams team, if you look at the backboards they usually tell the story, and we got dominated."

Paige was ice-cold early on a steamy day on the island, missing nine of his first 10 shots. But a pair of three-pointers followed by a three-point play in a late 3-minute span pulled North Carolina within 69-66.

The Heels got no closer.

Barlow made two quick three-pointers after halftime, putting North Carolina in a second-half hole for the first time this season.

"We knew we needed to come out in the second half and try to get on them early," Barlow said.

TIM AYLEN/AP

Butler's Kellen Dunham, back, and UNC's J.P. Tokoto (13) hustle for the ball during the Battle 4 Atlantis in Paradise Island, Bahamas.

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NBA SCOREBOARD

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	13	2	.867	—
Brooklyn	6	8	.429	6½
Boston	4	8	.333	7½
New York	4	12	.250	9½
Philadelphia	0	15	.000	13
Southeast Division				
Washington	9	5	.643	—
Atlanta	7	6	.538	1½
Miami	8	7	.533	1½
Orlando	6	11	.353	4½
Charlotte	4	12	.250	6
Central Division				
Chicago	9	6	.600	—
Milwaukee	9	7	.563	½
Cleveland	7	7	.500	1½
Indiana	6	9	.400	3
Detroit	3	12	.200	6

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	13	2	.867	—
Houston	12	3	.800	1
San Antonio	10	4	.714	2½
Dallas	11	5	.688	2½
New Orleans	7	6	.538	5
Northwest Division				
Portland	12	3	.800	—
Denver	7	8	.467	5
Utah	5	11	.313	7½
Oklahoma City	4	12	.250	8½
Minnesota	3	10	.231	8
Pacific Division				
Golden State	12	2	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	9	5	.643	3
Phoenix	10	6	.625	3
Sacramento	9	6	.600	3½
L.A. Lakers	3	12	.200	9½

Wednesday's games

Brooklyn 99, Philadelphia 91
Golden State 111, Orlando 96
Portland 105, Charlotte 97
Cleveland 113, Washington 87
Dallas 109, New York 102, OT
Toronto 126, Atlanta 115
L.A. Clippers 104, Detroit 98
Oklahoma City 97, Utah 82
Houston 102, Sacramento 89
Milwaukee 103, Minnesota 86
San Antonio 106, Indiana 100
Phoenix 120, Denver 112
Memphis 99, L.A. Lakers 93

Thursday's games

No games scheduled

Friday's games

Chicago at Boston
Golden State at Charlotte
New Orleans at Atlanta
Dallas at Toronto
Milwaukee at Detroit
New York at Oklahoma City
L.A. Clippers at Houston
Orlando at Indiana
Sacramento at San Antonio
Phoenix at Denver
Memphis at Portland
Minnesota at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games

New Orleans at Washington
Dallas at Philadelphia
Indiana at Cleveland
Charlotte at Atlanta
L.A. Clippers at Utah
Houston at Milwaukee

Wednesday
Nets 99, 76ers 91

BROOKLYN — Johnson 8-12 2-2 21, Garnett 3-5 3-4 9, Lopez 9-12 1-4 19, Williams 4-10 7-7 17, Bogdanovic 2-5 1-2 6, Teletovic 2-11 4-6 9, Anderson 4-7 3-3 12, Jack 2-7 0-0 4, Plumlee 1-1 0-0 2, Jordan 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 35-71 21-28 99.

PHILADELPHIA — Mbah a Moute 4-7 0-0 10, Noel 2-4 2-2 6, Sims 6-13 0-0 12, Carter-Williams 1-9 1-2 4, Wroten 6-18 6-8 18, Davies 3-8 3-3 9, McDaniels 7-15 2-2 18, Thompson 5-7 0-0 14, Gordon 0-1 0-0 0, Covington 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 34-85 14-17 91.

Brooklyn	32	17	23	27—99
Philadelphia	19	22	26	24—91

Three-point Goals—Brooklyn 8-24 (Johnson 3-4, Williams 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Bogdanovic 1-3, Teletovic 1-7, Jack 0-3), Philadelphia 9-24 (Thompson 4-6, Mbah a Moute 2-4, McDaniels 2-5, Carter-Williams 1-1, Gordon 0-1, Covington 0-1, Davies 0-2, Wroten 0-4). Fouled Out—Carter-Williams. Rebounds—Brooklyn 53 (Garnett 9), Philadelphia 44 (Sims 9). Assists—Brooklyn 25 (Williams 10), Philadelphia 23 (Wroten 10). Total Fouls—Brooklyn 19, Philadelphia 24. A—11,223 (20,318).

Bucks 103, Timberwolves 86

MILWAUKEE — Antetokounmpo 6-12 1-2 13, Parker 5-12 1-1 11, Sanders 7-10 1-1 15, Knight 3-11 8-8 15, Mayo 3-11 2-2 10, Dudley 3-3 1-1 8, Bayless 1-2 0-0 2, Pachulia 2-3 2-2 6, Middleton 4-8 2-2 11, Ilyasova 6-13 0-0 12, Marshall 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-85 18-19 103.

MINNESOTA — Wiggins 4-14 4-8 14, Young 1-10 1-4 3, Dieng 1-3 2-2 4, LaVine 5-12 2-3 12, Brewer 7-17 5-9 19, Budinger 2-5 2-2 7, Bennett 6-11 0-0 12, Muhammad 5-9 3-4 13, Hummel 0-0 2-2 2, Robinson III 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-81 21-34 86.

Milwaukee	26	25	21	31—103
Minnesota	24	23	23	16— 86

Three-point Goals—Milwaukee 5-16 (Mayo 2-7, Dudley 1-1, Middleton 1-2, Knight 1-3, Antetokounmpo 0-1, Ilyasova 0-2), Minnesota 3-14 (Wiggins 2-4, Budinger 1-3, LaVine 0-2, Brewer 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Milwaukee 52 (Antetokounmpo 8), Minnesota 57 (Dieng, Wiggins 8). Assists—Milwaukee 22 (Antetokounmpo, Bayless 4), Minnesota 19 (Young, LaVine, Wiggins 4). Total Fouls—Milwaukee 22, Minnesota 22. Technicals—Mayo. Flagrant Fouls—Knight. A—14,710 (19,356).

Darren Abate/AP

Spurs guard Tony Parker passes around the Pacers' A.J. Price on Wednesday in San Antonio. Parker had 21 points as the Spurs won without coach Gregg Popovich, who was resting after a medical procedure.

Cavaliers 113, Wizards 87

WASHINGTON — Pierce 4-5 7-10 15, Humphries 1-7 1-2 3, Gortat 5-10 2-2 12, Wall 2-6 0-0 6, Beal 4-10 2-2 10, Porter 1-4 0-0 2, Butler 9-15 2-2 23, Gooden 1-2 0-0 2, Seraphin 3-8 1-2 7, A.Miller 3-4 1-2 7, Blair 0-0 0-0 0, Temple 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 33-71 16-22 87.

CLEVELAND — James 7-14 14-17 29, Love 7-10 6-7 21, Varejao 5-5 0-0 10, Irving 7-15 1-4 18, Marion 1-4 4-4 6, Waiters 6-17 2-2 15, Thompson 4-4 2-2 10, Cherry 0-2 2-2 2, Amundson 0-1 0-0 0, Harris 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 38-74 31-38 113.

Washington	18	28	21	20— 87
Cleveland	31	27	23	32—113

Three-point Goals—Washington 5-13 (Butler 3-5, Wall 2-3, Gooden 0-1, Porter 0-1, Pierce 0-1, Beal 0-2), Cleveland 6-20 (Irving 3-5, Love 1-2, James 1-5, Waiters 1-5, Harris 0-1, Marion 0-1, Cherry 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 40 (Wall 4), Cleveland 47 (James 10). Assists—Washington 24 (Wall 7), Cleveland 23 (James 8). Total Fouls—Washington 28, Cleveland 18. Technicals—Beal, Thompson. A—20,562 (20,562).

Trail Blazers 105, Hornets 97

PORTLAND — Batum 4-11 2-2 10, Aldridge 3-18 3-6 9, Lopez 6-10 3-3 15, Lillard 8-17 2-3 22, Matthews 10-15 2-2 28, Blake 1-3 1-2 4, Kaman 5-12 2-2 12, Crabbe 1-3 0-0 3, Freeland 1-3 0-0 2. Totals 39-92 15-20 105.

CHARLOTTE — Henderson 6-8 3-4 15, Williams 0-1 0-0 0, Jefferson 9-19 3-3 21, Walker 6-19 2-2 15, Stephenson 4-11 0-1 8, Zeller 4-10 1-1 9, Biyombo 1-3 0-0 2, Roberts 10-17 1-4 24, Hairston 1-5 0-0 3, Maxiell 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 41-94 10-15 97.

Portland	28	17	34	26—105
Charlotte	26	30	20	21— 97

Three-point Goals—Portland 12-27 (Matthews 6-9, Lillard 4-8, Blake 1-3, Crabbe 1-3, Batum 0-4), Charlotte 5-15 (Roberts 3-4, Hairston 1-3, Walker 1-5, Stephenson 0-1, Williams 0-1, Henderson 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Portland 60 (Aldridge 14), Charlotte 56 (Jefferson 14). Assists—Portland 21 (Lillard 7), Charlotte 29 (Walker 9). Total Fouls—Portland 18, Charlotte 20. Technicals—Kaman, Portland defensive three second, Hairston. A—16,972 (19,077).

Mavericks 109, Knicks 102

NEW YORK — Acy 3-8 2-4 8, J. Smith 7-20 0-2 15, Dalembert 5-10 3-4 13, Calderon 7-13 0-0 21, Shumpert 4-11 1-1 10, Stoudemire 3-8 4-5 10, Ja.Smith 2-5 0-0 4, Larkin 1-5 0-0 3, Prigioni 4-8 0-0 12, Hardaway Jr. 2-3 0-0 4, Wear 1-1 0-0 2, Aldrich 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-92 10-16 102.

DALLAS — Parsons 4-14 4-7 13, Nowitzki 11-24 7-7 30, Chandler 7-12 3-5 17, Harris 2-10 4-6 9, Ellis 3-13 2-2 8, Wright 3-7 0-0 6, Barea 3-7 3-4 10, Aminu 3-4 0-0 6, Crowder 2-4 3-3 7, Jefferson 0-0 3-4 3. Totals 38-95 29-38 109.

New York	24	18	31	22	7—102
Dallas	19	27	25	24	14—109

Three-point Goals—New York 14-28 (Calderon 7-9, Prigioni 4-5, Larkin 1-2, Shumpert 1-3, J. Smith 1-8, Stoudemire 0-1), Dallas 4-31 (Barea 1-4, Harris 1-5, Nowitzki 1-8, Parsons 1-8, Aminu 0-1, Crowder 0-2, Ellis 0-3). Fouled Out—Stoudemire. Rebounds—New York 61 (Dalembert 13), Dallas 64 (Chandler 25). Assists—New York 21 (Prigioni 6), Dallas 20 (Harris 8). Total Fouls—New York 32, Dallas 16. A—20,352 (19,200).

Rockets 102, Kings 89

SACRAMENTO — Casspi 5-9 4-4 14, Thompson 3-9 0-0 6, Cousins 9-18 11-13 29, Sessions 3-8 1-2 8, McLemore 6-17 0-0 14, Williams 2-2 2-5 7, McCallum 0-1 0-0 0, Landry 2-3 0-0 4, Stauskas 1-4 4-4 7, Moreland 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 31-71 22-28 89.

HOUSTON — Ariza 5-12 1-2 13, Motiejunas 10-15 0-0 21, Black 1-1 0-0 2, Canaan 9-16 0-0 24, Harden 10-31 4-6 26, Dorsey 0-1 0-4 0, Terry 2-5 0-0 5, Papanikolaou 2-5 1-2 5, Garcia 2-7 0-1 4, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, Daniels 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 42-94 6-15 102.

Sacramento	19	31	23	16— 89
Houston	37	20	20	25—102

Three-point Goals—Sacramento 5-16 (McLemore 2-9, Williams 1-1, Sessions 1-2, Stauskas 1-3, Casspi 0-1), Houston 12-35 (Canaan 6-10, Ariza 2-7, Harden 2-9, Motiejunas 1-2, Terry 1-4, Garcia 0-1, Papanikolaou 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Sacramento 59 (Cousins 17), Houston 48 (Harden 7). Assists—Sacramento 16 (Cousins 6), Houston 26 (Harden 8). Total Fouls—Sacramento 19, Houston 25. Technicals—Casspi, Ariza. A—18,058 (18,023).

Spurs 106, Pacers 100

INDIANA — S.Hill 4-8 0-0 10, Scola 5-12 3-6 13, Mahinmi 4-5 0-0 8, Sloan 1-6 1-2 3, Stuckey 9-20 4-5 22, Copeland 4-10 2-2 12, Miles 2-6 0-2 5, Allen 4-7 0-1 8, Price 4-7 0-0 11, Rudez 3-6 0-0 8. Totals 40-87 10-18 100.

SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 8-12 3-6 21, Duncan 7-10 3-6 17, Diaw 1-3 0-0 2, Parker 8-16 4-6 21, Green 1-4 0-0 2, Ginobili 10-18 6-7 28, Belinelli 2-5 2-2 6, Bonner 0-2 0-0 0, Baynes 4-4 1-2 9. Totals 41-74 19-29 106.

Indiana	27	28	21	24—100
San Antonio	25	25	27	29—106

Three-point Goals—Indiana 10-21 (Price 3-4, S.Hill 2-2, Rudez 2-4, Copeland 2-4, Miles 1-4, Sloan 0-1, Stuckey 0-2), San Antonio 5-15 (Leonard 2-2, Ginobili 2-6, Parker 1-1, Diaw 0-1, Belinelli 0-1, Green 0-2, Bonner 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Indiana 45 (Allen 9), San Antonio 53 (Leonard 13). Assists—Indiana 23 (Sloan 6), San Antonio 21 (Parker 6). Total Fouls—Indiana 23, San Antonio 20. A—18,581 (18,797).

Raptors 126, Hawks 115

TORONTO — Ross 4-7 2-2 12, A.Johnson 5-8 0-0 10, Valanciunas 4-8 3-4 11, Lowry 3-12 6-8 14, DeRozan 8-16 9-9 27, Williams 6-11 6-6 22, Patterson 1-1 0-0 3, Hayes 1-3 0-2 2, J.Johnson 2-4 0-0 4, Vasquez 8-12 2-2 21. Totals 42-82 28-33 126.

ATLANTA — Carroll 5-11 2-2 14, Millsap 3-9 2-4 8, Horford 11-16 1-2 23, Teague 7-14 8-8 24, Korver 6-9 3-3 19, Antic 1-3 2-2 5, Scott 2-5 0-0 4, Mack 1-7 1-1 3, Schroder 5-6 2-2 13, Bazemore 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 42-82 21-24 115.

Toronto	34	30	27	35—126
Atlanta	24	37	27	27—115

Three-point Goals—Toronto 14-29 (Williams 4-6, Vasquez 3-6, DeRozan 2-3, Ross 2-4, Lowry 2-6, Patterson 1-1, J.Johnson 0-1, A.Johnson 0-2), Atlanta 10-24 (Korver 4-6, Teague 2-3, Carroll 2-4, Schroder 1-1, Antic 1-2, Horford 0-1, Scott 0-1, Millsap 0-3, Mack 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Toronto 43 (Valanciunas, Patterson 7), Atlanta 45 (Horford 9). Assists—Toronto 24 (Lowry 13), Atlanta 31 (Teague 12). Total Fouls—Toronto 24, Atlanta 24. Technicals—Lowry, Carroll, Mack. Flagrant Fouls—Teague. A—16,253 (18,729).

Clippers 104, Pistons 98

L.A. CLIPPERS — Bullock 2-6 2-2 7, Griffin 6-17 3-3 15, Jordan 2-4 0-0 4, Paul 9-12 2-2 23, Redick 3-6 3-4 10, Turkoglu 3-8 0-0 9, Crawford 8-16 6-6 25, Hawes 1-5 2-2 4, Farmar 1-2 0-0 3, Davis 2-2 0-0 4. Totals 37-78 18-19 104.

DETROIT — Smith 7-17 2-2 17, Monroe 1-6 4-6 6, Drummond 6-11 5-9 17, Augustin 7-14 3-3 19, Caldwell-Pope 5-11 4-4 17, Butler 1-3 0-0 3, Singler 3-3 0-0 7, Jerebko 1-3 0-0 2, Dinwiddie 4-7 0-0 10, Martin 0-3 0-0 0. Totals 35-78 18-24 98.

L.A. Clippers	25	23	24	32—104
Detroit	27	24	22	25— 98

Three-point Goals—L.A. Clippers 12-28 (Paul 3-4, Turkoglu 3-7, Crawford 3-8, Farmar 1-1, Redick 1-3, Bullock 1-5), Detroit 10-27 (Caldwell-Pope 3-7, Dinwiddie 2-4, Augustin 2-8, Singler 1-1, Smith 1-1, Butler 1-2, Jerebko 0-1, Martin 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—L.A. Clippers 45 (Jordan 11), Detroit 46 (Drummond 13). Assists—L.A. Clippers 21 (Paul, Griffin 7), Detroit 18 (Augustin, Smith 6). Total Fouls—L.A. Clippers 19, Detroit 17. Technicals—Jordan, Singler, Smith, Detroit defensive three second. A—13,461 (22,076).

Warriors 111, Magic 96

GOLDEN STATE — Barnes 7-9 1-2 16, D.Green 4-8 0-0 10, Bogut 3-7 0-2 6, Curry 9-13 4-5 28, Thompson 6-14 0-0 12, Iguodala 4-8 2-4 13, Rush 0-2 0-0 0, Speights 4-12 3-4 11, Livingston 7-10 1-2 15, Holiday 0-2 0-0 0, Ezeli 0-0 0-0 0, Kuzmic 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 44-85 11-19 111.

ORLANDO — Harris 6-10 4-6 16, Frye 1-4 0-0 2, Vucevic 4-15 3-4 11, Oladipo 4-17 2-2 12, Fournier 4-9 1-2 10, W.Green 2-8 3-3 7, Payton 5-7 2-3 13, Harkless 3-3 0-0 6, Ridnour 0-1 0-0 0, B.Gordon 4-9 3-4 13, O'Quinn 3-4 0-0 6. Totals 36-87 18-24 96.

Golden State	31	34	27	19—111
Orlando	27	25	13	31— 96

Three-point Goals—Golden State 12-26 (Curry 6-8, Iguodala 3-4, D.Green 2-6, Barnes 1-2, Speights 0-1, Holiday 0-1, Rush 0-2, Thompson 0-2), Orlando 6-20 (Oladipo 2-3, B.Gordon 2-5, Payton 1-2, Fournier 1-3, Harris 0-1, Frye 0-2, W.Green 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Golden State 52 (Bogut 12), Orlando 54 (Vucevic 13). Assists—Golden State 30 (Curry 8), Orlando 21 (Payton 5). Total Fouls—Golden State 19, Orlando 18. Technicals—Orlando defensive three second. A—17,702 (18,500).

Thunder 97, Jazz 82

UTAH — Hayward 8-15 7-14 24, Favors 5-9 1-1 11, Kanter 6-13 4-5 16, Burke 5-10 0-0 12, Burks 6-14 4-4 16, Ingles 0-2 0-0 0, Booker 0-3 0-2 0, Gobert 0-0 0-0 0, Exum 1-4 1-2 3. Totals 31-70 17-28 82.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Thomas 0-1 0-0 0, Ibaka 9-19 0-1 20, Adams 3-9 0-0 6, Jackson 10-18 0-0 22, Roberson 2-4 1-2 5, Lamb 7-8 4-5 21, Perkins 2-5 0-2 4, Collison 1-4 0-0 2, Morrow 4-11 0-0 12, Telfair 2-4 0-0 5, Smith 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 40-83 5-10 97.

Utah	29	19	14	20—82
Oklahoma City	31	25	18	23—97

Three-point Goals—Utah 3-16 (Burke 2-5, Hayward 1-4, Kanter 0-1, Exum 0-2, Burks 0-2, Ingles 0-2), Oklahoma City 12-26 (Morrow 4-9, Lamb 3-3, Ibaka 2-4, Jackson 2-4, Telfair 1-3, Collison 0-1, Roberson 0-2). Fouled Out—Lamb. Rebounds—Utah 47 (Hayward 8), Oklahoma City 51 (Adams 11). Assists—Utah 11 (Burks, Burke 4), Oklahoma City 21 (Jackson 8). Total Fouls—Utah 16, Oklahoma City 26. Technicals—Collison. A—18,203 (18,203).

Suns 120, Nuggets 112

DENVER — Chandler 7-12 3-4 19, Faried 3-8 2-4 8, Mozgov 8-13 1-2 18, Lawson 4-16 8-8 17, Afflalo 6-11 4-5 18, Gallinari 0-3 0-0 0, Arthur 2-4 1-2 6, Gee 5-9 1-1 11, Hickson 2-5 3-4 7, Robinson 2-9 3-4 8. Totals 39-90 26-34 112.

PHOENIX — Marc.Morris 5-9 2-4 14, Mark.Morris 6-17 3-3 15, Plumlee 3-8 0-0 6, Bledsoe 6-10 7-8 21, G.Dragic 8-13 3-4 20, G.Green 9-17 0-0 24, Len 4-5 2-2 10, Tucker 4-8 0-0 10, Tolliver 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 45-88 17-21 120.

Denver	30	34	22	26—112
Phoenix	34	30	29	27—120

Three-point Goals—Denver 8-25 (Afflalo 2-2, Chandler 2-4, Mozgov 1-1, Arthur 1-2, Robinson 1-7, Lawson 1-7, Gallinari 0-2), Phoenix 13-25 (G.Green 6-11, Bledsoe 2-3, Marc.Morris 2-3, Tucker 2-4, G.Dragic 1-2, Mark.Morris 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Denver 58 (Mozgov 13), Phoenix 48 (Mark.Morris 10). Assists—Denver 19 (Lawson 12), Phoenix 27 (Bledsoe 10). Total Fouls—Denver 22, Phoenix 22. Technicals—Mark.Morris. A—16,099 (18,055).

Grizzlies 99, Lakers 93

MEMPHIS — Allen 2-8 0-0 4, Randolph 7-10 2-4 16, Gasol 5-10 9-10 19, Conley 6-11 6-6 19, Lee 4-10 1-1 10, Prince 0-3 2-2 2, Udrih 2-6 0-0 4, Pondexter 2-7 2-2 8, Koufos 3-5 0-0 6, Carter 2-5 0-0 5, Leuer 3-5 0-0 6. Totals 36-80 22-25 99.

L.A. LAKERS — Johnson 2-5 0-0 5, Boozer 2-6 0-2 4, Hill 5-12 1-2 11, Lin 4-9 4-6 14, Bryant 5-15 10-10 22, Davis 1-3 0-0 2, Young 4-14 3-3 13, Price 5-8 1-1 11, Ellington 2-4 0-0 5, Sacre 3-5 0-0 6. Totals 33-81 19-24 93.

Memphis	21	25	34	19—99
L.A. Lakers	26	25	23	19—93

Three-point Goals—Memphis 5-22 (Pondexter 2-6, Carter 1-3, Conley 1-4, Lee 1-5, Prince 0-1, Leuer 0-1, Udrih 0-2), L.A. Lakers 8-19 (Lin 2-4, Bryant 2-5, Young 2-5, Johnson 1-2, Ellington 1-2, Price 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 51 (Gasol 11), L.A. Lakers 49 (Davis 8). Assists—Memphis 25 (Conley 7), L.A. Lakers 16 (Lin, Price 5). Total Fouls—Memphis 20, L.A. Lakers 18. Technicals—Bryant. A—18,997 (18,997).

NBA

Jim Mone/AP

The Timberwolves' Andrew Wiggins, left, didn't meet up with the Bucks' Jabari Parker that often in the first game between the heralded rookies' teams on Wednesday in Minneapolis.

Wiggins-Parker I mostly forgettable

By Jon Krawczynski
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins and Jabari Parker didn't exactly deliver the instant-classic game that fellow rookie Zach LaVine predicted for the first regular-season matchup between the top two picks from the June draft.

Instead, it was Milwaukee's defense that stood out, grinding down the undermanned Minnesota Timberwolves and putting yet another mark in the win column for the surprising Bucks.

Larry Sanders had 15 points, seven rebounds and five blocks to help the Bucks to a 103-86 victory over the Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Brandon Knight scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the Bucks (9-7), who have won five of their last seven games in a spirited start under new coach Jason Kidd. Giannis Antetokounmpo had 13 points, eight rebounds and four assists, and Parker added 11 points and seven boards for Milwaukee, which held the Wolves to 38 percent shooting and turned 19 turnovers into 20 points.

"I thought defensively, Larry, everyone that was one the floor was at a very high level," Kidd said.

Wiggins had 14 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two blocks for the Wolves, who had just 10 healthy players and third-stringer LaVine was their only available point guard. Corey Brewer added 19 points.

"We've got a lot of guys playing roles their not accustomed to playing," Wolves coach Flip Saunders said.

The future of the league was on display on Wednesday night with each team starting two 19-year-olds — Wiggins and LaVine for Minnesota and Parker and Antetokounmpo for Milwaukee. It's the first time in NBA history that four teenagers have played in the same game, let alone started.

All eyes were on Wiggins and Parker, the top two picks in the draft. Wiggins was drafted by Cleveland ahead of Parker, but was traded to Minnesota in the package that brought All-Star Kevin Love to the Cavaliers. Both players have impressed early with their willingness to assimilate to the team concept as opposed trying to dominate the ball and take the bulk of the shots.

They rarely met eye-to-eye on Wednesday but Wiggins did swat Parker's layup attempt in the third quarter, bringing the crowd to its feet.

Thaddeus Young made his return to the lineup for the Wolves after missing the past five games to mourn the death of his mother. Young missed his first eight shots and finished with three points on 1-for-10 shooting. Mo Williams, who has been starting for injured point guard Ricky Rubio, missed the game with an illness.

There was considerable debate as to who belonged in that first spot in the draft, Wiggins or Parker. Both downplayed the individual portion of the game, but LaVine, who was the 13th pick, knew better.

"How highly touted they were in high school, even in grade school coming up. They were both No. 1, No. 2 and just switching on and off their whole careers," LaVine said earlier this week. "I feel like it might be like that even [in the NBA] because they're just going to be going at each other."

Roundup

Blazers win 9th straight

Matthews breaks out of slump for season-high 28

The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Wesley Matthews said he had a funny feeling on the way to the arena that his shooting slump might be coming to end.

Call it a shooter's instinct.

Matthews scored a season-high 28 points, and the Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Charlotte Hornets 105-97 on Wednesday night for their ninth consecutive victory. The fifth-year NBA veteran was 10 of 15 from the field and 6-for-9 from three-point range as Portland (12-3) improved to 7-0 against Eastern Conference teams.

"I knew it was just a matter of time before that drought ended and I'm back to being myself," Matthews said. "Hopefully tonight was a step in that direction."

Over the previous five games, Matthews was 25 of 57 from the field and just 8 of 25 from three-point range.

Matthews said he never put pressure on himself during that stretch.

"It helps when you're winning games," he said.

The Trail Blazers have been getting production from up and down the lineup and that continued against Charlotte.

Even with LaMarcus Aldridge struggling through a 3-for-18 shooting night, the Trail Blazers prevailed, getting 22 points from Damian Lillard and 15 points and 10 rebounds from Robin Lopez.

"To be able to have a game like this with (Aldridge) struggling, Wes and Damian in particular really stepped up," coach Terry Stotts said.

Brian Roberts had a career-high 24 points for the Hornets, who have lost seven straight and nine of 10. Al Jefferson had 21 points and 14 rebounds for his fifth double-double.

Portland outscored Charlotte 34-20 in the third quarter and took the lead for good with 4:07 left in the period when Lopez scored on a layup.

The Trail Blazers put the game away with 1:10 left when Lopez blocked Kemba Walker's driving layup and Matthews knocked down his sixth three-pointer to push the lead back to a dozen.

Spurs 106, Pacers 100: Manu Ginobili had 28 points and host San Antonio rallied to win without coach Gregg Popovich.

Popovich missed the game after undergoing what the team is calling a minor medical procedure. Assistant Ettore Messina took over, becoming the first European-born coach to run an NBA team in the regular season.

Ginobili resembled the high-flying, energetic star that played for Bologna in 2001 under Messina before joining the Spurs, helping San Antonio's Big Three direct the team to victory without their fiery coach.

Tony Parker scored 21 points for San Antonio (10-4), and Kawhi Leonard had 21 points and 13 rebounds.

Cavaliers 113, Wizards 87: LeBron James scored 29 points, Kevin Love added 21 and host Cleveland exacted a little revenge on Washington.

Five days after they were embarrassed in a 91-78 loss to the Wizards, the Cavs controlled this one from the start and got back to .500.

James led the way, also collecting 10 rebounds and eight assists in 36 minutes. Kyrie Irving added 18 points for the Cavs.

Nets 99, 76ers 91: Alan Anderson scored 10 of his 12 points in the fourth quarter, and Brooklyn extended host Philadelphia's season-opening skid to 15 games — matching a franchise record.

The Sixers rallied from a 20-point deficit in the first half to the lead early in the fourth quarter, but Anderson and Mirza Teletovic led the way for Brooklyn in the final period.

Warriors 111, Magic 96: At Orlando, Stephen Curry had 28 points, including six three-pointers, and Golden State rolled to its seventh straight win.

The Warriors, with seven players in double figures, led by as many as 27 in the second half.

Chuck Burton/AP

Portland's Wesley Matthews shoots over Charlotte's Brian Roberts on Wednesday. Matthews scored a season-high 28 points to help the Trail Blazers to their ninth straight win.

Mavericks 109, Knicks 102 (OT): Tyson Chandler set season highs with 17 points and 25 rebounds against his former team, helping host Dallas to an overtime victory against New York, which was missing Carmelo Anthony.

J.R. Smith, starting with Anthony sidelined by back spasms, was 1-for-10 from the field entering the fourth quarter. But he made a tying jumper with 0.9 seconds left in regulation.

Chandler put Dallas ahead for good at 101-99 with a dunk in his first game against New York since an offseason trade that brought him back to Dallas after three seasons with the Knicks.

Raptors 126, Hawks 115: At Atlanta, DeMar DeRozan scored 27 points, Lou Williams added 22 and Toronto earned its sixth consecutive victory.

The Eastern Conference-leading Raptors had their highest point total of the season. They have won 11 of 12 to match the best stretch in the franchise's 20-year history, also accomplished from March 22-April 14, 2002.

Grizzlies 99, Lakers 93: At Los Angeles, Marc Gasol had 19 points and 11 rebounds, Mike Conley added 19 points and Memphis earned its seventh victory in eight games.

Zach Randolph scored 16 points for the Grizzlies, who improved to 13-2 and kept pace with Toronto atop the overall NBA standings.

Rockets 102, Kings 89: James Harden scored 26 points to power host Houston to its third straight win. Harden was 10-for-31 in one of his worst shooting performances of the season, but also had eight assists and seven rebounds.

Thunder 97, Jazz 82: Reggie Jackson scored 22 points, and host Oklahoma City snapped a six-game skid.

Kevin Durant (broken right foot) and Russell Westbrook (broken right hand) have been practicing and taking contact, and both will be re-evaluated in the next few days to see if they are ready to return for the Thunder.

Suns 120, Nuggets 112: Gerald Green scored 24 points for host Phoenix, and Eric Bledsoe had 21 points and 10 assists.

Green made six of 11 three-pointers, and the Suns won for the fifth time in six games.

Clippers 104, Pistons 98: Jamal Crawford scored 25 points and Chris Paul had 23, leading Los Angeles to the road win.

Blake Griffin added 15 points, seven rebounds and seven assists for the Clippers, who outscored Detroit 32-25 in the final period.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

David Quinn/AP

Mississippi coach Hugh Freeze, center, will try to get his team to bounce back from a 30-0 loss to Arkansas last week and snap a three-game losing skid when the 18th-ranked Rebels host No. 4 Mississippi State on Saturday in the Egg Bowl.

No. 19 Ole Miss looking to end three-game skid

No. 4 Mississippi State poses tough challenge in Egg Bowl

By David Brandt
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — A difficult month of November has sent Mississippi tumbling down the Southeastern Conference standings and out of the national playoff picture.

Now the 18th-ranked Rebels (8-3, 4-3 SEC), who have lost three straight conference games, return to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on Saturday where they'll host No. 4 Mississippi State (10-1, 6-1) in the Egg Bowl.

Ole Miss would like nothing more than to wreck Mississippi State's dream season and reclaim the Egg Bowl trophy. The Bulldogs have won four of the last five in the series, including last year's 17-10 overtime victory.

But Ole Miss will have to play much better than it has over the past month. Linebacker Deterrian Shackelford said the Rebels will be ready.

"I like the way this team is feeling," Shackelford said. "This is a game that doesn't take a lot of motivation to get up for."

The Rebels' most recent loss was arguably the worst of coach Hugh Freeze's three-year tenure — a 30-0 setback against Arkansas that was marred by six turnovers. Ole Miss struggled to hold onto the ball during a cold and rainy game, falling behind early and never recovering.

Freeze said film analysis after the game didn't reveal any huge surprises.

"I tried to find fault in effort and I didn't see it," Freeze said. "You can't turn the ball over like that and put your backs against the wall in this league."

Generating offense against Mississippi State won't be easy, especially considering several key pieces are either out with injuries or trying to play through them.

The Rebels' most productive receiver, sophomore Laquon Treadwell, is out for the season after breaking his leg and dislocating his ankle against Auburn. Quarterback Bo Wallace — who fumbled twice and threw two interceptions against Arkansas — is struggling with a high ankle sprain. Left tackle Laremy Tunsil has been in and out of the lineup with a partially torn bicep.

Maybe more so than the physical problems, the Rebels are trying to bounce back emotionally after falling so quickly from the nation's elite.

Freeze believes playing in the Egg Bowl will provide enough motivation.

"They have a clear understanding of how much this game means to so many," Freeze said. "I expect us to have a great week of preparation in getting ready to play this in the Vaught come Saturday."

The Ole Miss defense still ranks among the nation's elite, even after the three-game SEC slide. The Rebels are giving up just 13.5 points per game, which leads the country.

Rogelio V. Solis/AP

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott has thrown for 2,714 yards, rushed for 891 more, and accounted for 35 touchdowns this season. A win over No. 19 Mississippi on Saturday could secure the Bulldogs a spot in the college football playoffs.

Now they'll try to stop Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott, who led the Bulldogs to their come-from-behind win over the Rebels last season.

Freeze had nothing but praise for Prescott, who has thrown for 2,714 yards, run for 891 more and accounted for 35 total touchdowns this season.

"Everyone, even outside of their family, would say that he's a great leader," Freeze said. "It's easy to see that the players that play with him believe in him and want to follow him. Then you put his performance with those leadership qualities and it makes him a pretty special player."

SEC: No. 2 Alabama needs Iron Bowl win

FROM BACK PAGE

In most cases, more than bragging rights is at stake. Every coach has the same message: Seize the moment and don't lose your head.

A win by No. 2 Alabama (10-1, 6-1 SEC) in the Iron Bowl keeps the Crimson Tide in the national title picture. That's what Nick Saban is stressing.

"It'll be a great atmosphere," Saban said. "But I also think this is a game where you have to stay focused on the game, and not on all the things that go on around it."

Auburn defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson held the same job at Alabama under Mike DuBose. He recalls telling DuBose that it seemed like fans were more excited about playing Tennessee than Auburn.

"And he looked at me and said, 'You ain't lost to Auburn yet,'" Johnson said with a laugh. "So, I got the message real quick there. It's obviously huge on both sides."

No. 15 Auburn (8-3, 4-3) was national runner-up after shocking previously unbeaten and top-ranked Alabama last year.

"It's really unlike anything I've ever experienced," Auburn linebacker Kris Frost said. "People that don't know anything about Alabama or Auburn, they know the Iron Bowl and they know how important this game is to football."

No. 8 Georgia (9-2, 6-2) needs a win over 16th-ranked Georgia Tech combined with a third straight upset by Arkansas (6-5, 2-5) , which has knocked off Ole Miss and LSU, to take the Eastern Division. Missouri needs to hold serve at home Friday to take the East for the second straight year, both years after being lightly regarded in the preseason.

No. 17 Missouri (9-2, 6-1) will be shooting for its fifth conference division title in eight seasons, and a 10th win for the fifth time in Gary Pinkel's 14 seasons. The schools have met just five times and not in the regular season since 1963.

The Tigers had lacked a border conflict since leaving Kansas and the Big 12.

"I grew up watching the KU-MU game. And that was awesome, just the hatred toward KU on that one day, being a Missouri kid," center Evan Boehm said. "It's two great teams going at it. It's going to be an exciting rivalry."

Arkansas has two St. Louis recruits on the roster.

"I think it's a neat thing," Arkansas coach Bret Bielema said. "I know our guys are very excited to see a team that last year played in the SEC Championship Game and now this year will get a chance to go back to it, or we can stop it."

No. 18 Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3) will be trying to snap a three-game losing streak, facing No. 4 Mississippi State (10-1, 6-1) in the Egg Bowl. It's the first time both teams have been ranked for the game since 1999, and just the third time since 1957.

Mississippi State can win the Western Division with a win and an Alabama loss, and reach 11 wins for the first time in school history.

"It doesn't matter who has the better record," Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott said. "It wouldn't matter if we were ranked one and two."

LSU at Texas A&M kicks off this week's schedule Thursday, a matchup of 7-4 teams.

On the lower end of the spectrum, Kentucky (5-6, 2-6) and Tennessee (5-6, 2-5) will be playing to become bowl eligible. A win over downtrodden Vanderbilt (3-8, 0-7) would put the Volunteers in line for a bowl for the first time since 2010, while a Vanderbilt has already won two straight in the series for the first time since 1925-26.

Finally, Florida (6-4, 4-4) has a chance to give coach Will Muschamp a big send-off, playing spoiler as 10-point underdogs at top-ranked Florida State. The Gators pulled off a similar upset a decade ago, carrying Ron Zook off the field after knocking off the 10th-ranked Seminoles 20-13.

"All that stuff goes out the window when it's an in-state rivalry, you know what I'm saying?" tackle D.J. Humphries said.

Brynn Anderson/AP

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims is getting his first start in the Iron Bowl on Saturday during his final game at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

NHL/SPORTS BRIEFS

Paul Sancya/AP

Detroit center Pavel Datsyuk celebrates one of the two goals he scored Wednesday against Philadelphia in Detroit.

NHL roundup

Datsyuk, Wings roll past Flyers

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Pavel Datsyuk scored twice in his return from an injury to lead the Detroit Red Wings to a 5-2 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Wednesday night.

Datsyuk, who had missed Detroit's last four games with a sore groin, sent a slap shot over Steve Mason's shoulder in the second period to give the Red Wings their third goal. Mason was then pulled after making 11 saves.

Datsyuk knocked a rebound past Ray Emery late in the period to put the Red Wings up 4-1.

Jimmy Howard made 22 saves as Detroit won its second straight. Emery finished with nine saves.

Islanders 3, Capitals 2 (OT): John Tavares scored a power-play goal late in overtime to lift host New York over Washington.

The goal, the ninth of the season for Tavares, came at 4:36 and was assisted by Ryan Strome and Johnny Boychuk.

Blackhawks 3, Avalanche 2: Bryan Bickell scored late in the third period as visiting Chicago overcame strong goaltending from Calvin Pickard to beat Colorado.

Corey Crawford made 27 saves, and Jonathan Toews and Andrew Shaw also scored for the Blackhawks. Patrick Kane had three assists.

Jets 2, Sabres 1: Bryan Little and Michael Frolik scored to lead visiting Winnipeg to its second road win in two nights.

Chris Stewart had the goal for Buffalo, which had won a season-best three straight.

Kings 4, Wild 0: Dustin Brown's goal and assist helped spark a four-goal first period, and Martin Jones earned his fifth career shutout to propel Los Angeles past Minnesota.

Mike Richards, Tyler Toffoli and Justin Williams also scored for the Kings, who won on the road for just the second time this season.

Lightning 4, Rangers 3: Ryan Callahan scored twice against his former team for the second time in 10 days to lead host Tampa Bay over New York.

Former Lightning captain Martin St. Louis played in Tampa for the first time since requesting a trade and being dealt to the Rangers for Callahan last March in a rare swap of captains.

Penguins 4, Maple Leafs 3: Blake Comeau completed his second career hat trick with a slap shot past Jonathan Bernier 2:07 into overtime to lift host Pittsburgh.

Comeau settled a pass from Kris Letang and fired a shot from the point for his third goal of the night and eighth of the season.

Panthers 1, Hurricanes 0: Nick Bjugstad scored 21 seconds into the game as host Florida edged Carolina despite an injury to Roberto Luongo.

The veteran goalie made 11 saves before leaving with 9:38 left in the second period with an upper-body injury. Luongo was replaced by Al Montoya, who stopped 22 shots in his sixth appearance of the season.

Flames 2, Sharks 0: Karri Ramo made 32 saves for his third career shutout and Jiri Hudler scored both goals to lead visiting Calgary over San Jose.

Hudler broke a scoreless tie with a goal in the second and sealed the game with an empty-net goal on the power play late in the third as the Flames bounced back a night after losing 3-2 in Anaheim to win for just the second time in their past nine trips to San Jose.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	23	16	6	1	33	61	57
Tampa Bay	23	15	6	2	32	81	63
Detroit	22	12	5	5	29	64	54
Boston	23	13	9	1	27	59	57
Toronto	22	11	8	3	25	70	67
Ottawa	21	10	7	4	24	58	56
Florida	20	8	6	6	22	42	51
Buffalo	22	6	14	2	14	37	72
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	21	15	4	2	32	76	49
N.Y. Islanders	22	16	6	0	32	72	59
Washington	21	9	8	4	22	58	57
N.Y. Rangers	21	9	8	4	22	60	62
New Jersey	22	9	10	3	21	53	63
Philadelphia	21	8	10	3	19	59	66
Carolina	21	6	12	3	15	48	63
Columbus	21	6	13	2	14	51	76

Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	21	14	5	2	30	61	45
St. Louis	22	14	6	2	30	59	46
Chicago	22	13	8	1	27	66	46
Winnipeg	24	12	9	3	27	51	54
Minnesota	21	12	9	0	24	58	48
Dallas	22	9	9	4	22	64	74
Colorado	23	8	10	5	21	59	73
Pacific Division							
Anaheim	23	14	4	5	33	63	56
Vancouver	22	15	6	1	31	67	61
Calgary	24	14	8	2	30	75	64
Los Angeles	23	12	6	5	29	64	53
San Jose	24	10	10	4	24	62	66
Arizona	23	9	11	3	21	57	71
Edmonton	22	6	14	2	14	51	77

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

Tuesday's games
Ottawa 3, St. Louis 2, SO
Nashville 4, Los Angeles 3, SO
Winnipeg 4, Columbus 2
Dallas 3, Edmonton 2
Colorado 4, Arizona 3, OT
Vancouver 2, New Jersey 0
Anaheim 3, Calgary 2

Wednesday's games
Winnipeg 2, Buffalo 1
N.Y. Islanders 3, Washington 2, OT
Detroit 5, Philadelphia 2
Tampa Bay 4, N.Y. Rangers 3
Florida 1, Carolina 0
Pittsburgh 4, Toronto 3, OT
Los Angeles 4, Minnesota 0
Chicago 3, Colorado 2
Calgary 2, San Jose 0

Thursday's games
Edmonton at Nashville

Friday's games
N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia
Chicago at Anaheim
N.Y. Islanders at Washington
Winnipeg at Boston
Montreal at Buffalo
Detroit at New Jersey
Carolina at Pittsburgh
Vancouver at Columbus
Ottawa at Florida
Edmonton at St. Louis
Minnesota at Dallas

Wednesday
Jets 2, Sabres 1

Winnipeg	1	1	0	—2
Buffalo	0	0	1	—1

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Little 8 (Trouba, Ladd), 3:41 (pp).
Second Period—2, Winnipeg, Frolik 5, 14:20 (sh).
Third Period—3, Buffalo, Stewart 2 (Foligno), 5:30.
Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 10-9-7—26. Buffalo 6-4-10—20.
Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg 1 of 3; Buffalo 0 of 4.
Goalies—Winnipeg, Pavelec 8-8-2 (20 shots-19 saves). Buffalo, Enroth 3-9-1 (26-24).
A—18,442 (19,070). **T**—2:13.

Islanders 3, Capitals 2 (OT)

Washington	1	1	0	0	—2
N.Y. Islanders	2	0	0	1	—3

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Lee 4 (Strome, Nelson), 5:11. 2, Washington, Ovechkin 10 (Niskanen, Backstrom), 13:46 (pp). 3, N.Y. Islanders, Okhromnic 3 (Clutterbuck, Cizikas), 17:38 (pp).
Second Period—4, Washington, Ovechkin 11 (Backstrom, Johansson), 18:47 (pp).
Overtime—5, N.Y. Islanders, Tavares 9 (Strome, Boychuk), 4:36 (pp).
Shots on Goal—Washington 9-10-8-0—27. N.Y. Islanders 12-11-7-5—35.
Power-play opportunities—Washington 2 of 2; N.Y. Islanders 2 of 3.
Goalies—Washington, Holtby 7-5-3 (35 shots-32 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Halak 11-4-0 (27-25).
A—16,170 (16,170). **T**—2:36.

Kings 4, Wild 0

Los Angeles	4	0	0	—4
Minnesota	0	0	0	—0

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Richards 4 (King, McBain), 4:21. 2, Los Angeles, Brown 4 (McNabb), 13:13. 3, Los Angeles, Toffoli 9, 18:18. 4, Los Angeles, Williams 5 (Brown, Stoll), 19:50.
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 10-5-7—22. Minnesota 10-10-8—28.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 2; Minnesota 0 of 2.
Goalies—Los Angeles, Jones 2-2-1 (28 shots-28 saves). Minnesota, Kuemper 9-7-0 (10-6), Backstrom (0:00 second, 12-12).
A—19,038 (17,954). **T**—2:19.

Red Wings 5, Flyers 2

Philadelphia	0	1	1	—2
Detroit	1	3	1	—5

First Period—1, Detroit, Weiss 3 (Helm, Kindl), 10:12.
Second Period—2, Philadelphia, Giroux 7, 2:31. 3, Detroit, Jurco 2 (DeKeyser, Quincey), 10:18. 4, Detroit, Datsyuk 6 (Kindl), 11:47 (pp). 5, Detroit, Datsyuk 7 (Helm, Weiss), 18:39.
Third Period—6, Philadelphia, Voracek 8 (Simmonds, Giroux), 12:25 (pp). 7, Detroit, Zetterberg 5 (Nyquist, Ericsson), 18:38 (en).
Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 7-6-11—24. Detroit 7-13-5—25.
Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 1 of 4; Detroit 1 of 3.
Goalies—Philadelphia, Mason 4-7-2 (14 shots-11 saves), Emery (11:47 second, 10-9). Detroit, Howard 10-4-4 (24-22).
A—20,027 (20,027). **T**—2:30.

Lightning 4, Rangers 3

N.Y. Rangers	2	0	1	—3
Tampa Bay	2	1	1	—4

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, Stamkos 15 (Filppula, Callahan), 5:25 (pp). 2, N.Y. Rangers, Zuccarello 4 (Nash), 9:00. 3, N.Y. Rangers, D.Boyle 1 (Stepan, Brassard), 11:04 (pp). 4, Tampa Bay, Callahan 9 (Garrison, Stamkos), 17:34 (pp).
Second Period—5, Tampa Bay, Callahan 10 (Stamkos, Killorn), 10:17.
Third Period—6, Tampa Bay, Kucherov 8 (Johnson, Carle), 9:38. 7, N.Y. Rangers, Nash 15, 12:49.
Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 5-6-8—19. Tampa Bay 11-9-9—29.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 1 of 3; Tampa Bay 2 of 4.
Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 8-6-3 (29 shots-25 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 13-3-2 (19-16).
A—19,204 (19,204). **T**—2:30.

Panthers 1, Hurricanes 0

Carolina	0	0	0	—0
Florida	1	0	0	—1

First Period—1, Florida, Bjugstad 8 (Pirri, Huberdeau), :21.
Shots on Goal—Carolina 6-10-17—33. Florida 15-8-5—28.
Power-play opportunities—Carolina 0 of 3; Florida 0 of 1.
Goalies—Carolina, Ward 6-8-1 (28 shots-27 saves). Florida, Luongo 7-5-5 (11-11), Montoya (10:22 second, 22-22).
A—8,119 (17,040). **T**—2:22.

Penguins 4, Maple Leafs 3 (OT)

Toronto	0	3	0	0	—3
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	1	—4

First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Comeau 6 (Malkin, Ehrhoff), :26. 2, Pittsburgh, Malkin 11 (Letang, Crosby), 12:39 (pp).
Second Period—3, Toronto, Komarov 3 (Santorelli, Kadri), 8:11. 4, Toronto, Komarov 4 (Phaneuf, Santorelli), 10:48. 5, Pittsburgh, Comeau 7 (Kunitz, Malkin), 13:19. 6, Toronto, Bozak 9, 16:21 (sh).
Overtime—7, Pittsburgh, Comeau 8 (Letang, Crosby), 2:53.
Shots on Goal—Toronto 14-10-3-0—27. Pittsburgh 7-12-5-2—26.
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 3; Pittsburgh 1 of 3.
Goalies—Toronto, Bernier 7-5-3 (26 shots-22 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 13-3-1 (27-24).
A—18,645 (18,387). **T**—2:39.

Blackhawks 3, Avalanche 2

Chicago	0	2	1	—3
Colorado	0	1	1	—2

Second Period—1, Colorado, Talbot 2 (Cliche, McLeod), 7:35. 2, Chicago, Toews 10 (Seabrook, Kane), 11:50 (pp). 3, Chicago, Shaw 4 (Kane, Hossa), 14:21 (pp).
Third Period—4, Colorado, O'Reilly 3 (Holden, Tanguay), 3:36. 5, Chicago, Bickell 3 (Kane, Keith), 14:43.
Shots on Goal—Chicago 13-19-13—45. Colorado 9-10-10—29.
Power-play opportunities—Chicago 2 of 6; Colorado 0 of 3.
Goalies—Chicago, Crawford 10-5-1 (29 shots-27 saves). Colorado, Pickard 2-3-0 (45-42).
A—18,007 (18,007). **T**—2:28.

Flames 2, Sharks 0

Calgary	0	1	1	—2
San Jose	0	0	0	—0

Second Period—1, Calgary, Hudler 9 (Brodie), 17:16.
Third Period—2, Calgary, Hudler 10 (Monahan, Brodie), 19:10 (en-pp).
Shots on Goal—Calgary 9-6-4—19. San Jose 11-11-10—32.
Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of 2; San Jose 0 of 2.
Goalies—Calgary, Ramo 5-2-1 (32 shots-32 saves). San Jose, Niemi 7-7-3 (18-17).
A—17,353 (17,562). **T**—2:25.

Scoring leaders

Through Nov. 26

	GP	G	A	PTS
Sidney Crosby, Pit	21	9	22	31
Jakub Voracek, Phi	21	8	22	30
Tyler Seguin, Dal	22	17	11	28
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	21	11	17	28
Steven Stamkos, TB	23	15	12	27
Claude Giroux, Phi	21	7	19	26
Patric Hornqvist, Pit	21	10	14	24
Ryan Johansen, Cls	21	8	16	24
Mark Giordano, Cgy	24	6	18	24
Rick Nash, NYR	21	15	8	23
Vladimir Tarasenko, StL	22	12	11	23
Phil Kessel, Tor	22	11	12	23

Briefly

Clowney suffers setback

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — No. 1 overall pick Jadeveon Clowney has had a setback with his surgically repaired right knee and says his chances of playing for Houston at Tennessee on Sunday are slim.

Clowney has played just four games this season after being injured in Week 1. The outside linebacker had arthroscopic surgery on Sept. 8 and was in for about 60 plays last Sunday in his most significant action since his injury.

He experienced swelling in his knee after the game and hasn't practiced all week. The former South Carolina star acknowledged for the first time Thursday that he's in "a lot of pain."

In other NFL news:

■ Former Buffalo Bills star linebacker Darryl Talley tells The Buffalo News he is suffering from depression and has contemplated suicide in what he considers to be side-effects from his hard-hitting playing days.

The 54-year-old Talley says in an interview published Thursday that it would be "easy to call it a day." Talley reverses those thoughts by saying his parents didn't raise a coward and he wants to be around for his grandchildren.

Talley says he has memory loss and trouble sleeping.

Talley says he is unable to estimate the number of concussions he sustained during his 14-year NFL career.

"Too many to count," he said, noting there were at least 75 times he saw flashes of lights after being hit.

He also lives in constant pain as a result of 14 operations he had during his playing days to repair various injuries.

Talley spent 12 of his 14 NFL seasons in Buffalo, where was part of an defense that helped the Bills win four straight AFC championships from 1991-94.

Hospital: Pele taken to 'special care' unit

SAO PAULO — A Brazilian hospital says soccer great Pele has been transferred to a "special care" unit to be monitored while being treated for a urinary infection.

The Albert Einstein hospital said in a statement Thursday that the 74-year-old Pele was transferred after his condition became unstable.

The hospital's press office said the three-time World Cup champion was not in an intensive care unit.

Pele was admitted to the hospital on Monday for a medical evaluation and was diagnosed with the urinary infection. He was being treated with antibiotics.

NFL

Cardinals trying to revive offense

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Over the past seven quarters, the Arizona Cardinals have managed a whopping three points.

Not exactly the kind of offensive output the team will need if it expects to stay in command of the NFC West.

After facing two of the league's tougher defenses in Detroit and Seattle, the Cardinals hope a visit to Atlanta on Sunday will get things rolling.

The Falcons are last in the NFL in total defense, allowing 409.9 yards per game. Arizona is an unimpressive 25th in the NFL in total offense, and the Cardinals have been at their worst the past two games.

> **'That's always one of our mantras, to never lose two in a row.'**
> **Bruce Arians**
> Cardinals coach

Coach Bruce Arians insists this Falcons defense, particularly up front, is a lot better than the statistics indicate.

"I just watch the tape of the last four games, and they look pretty damn good and pretty damn stout," he said before the team practiced on Wednesday.

There's a good chance Arizona will be without eight-time Pro Bowl receiver Larry Fitzgerald for the second week in a row because of a sprained left knee. Fitzgerald didn't practice on Wednesday.

"He's making some progress," Arians said, "so we've got our fingers crossed there."

The Cardinals scored touchdowns in their first two possessions against Detroit two weeks ago, and haven't scored one since. They would have had one in Sunday's 19-3 loss at Seattle, but Jaron Brown dropped a pass right between his numbers in the end zone.

The loss to the Seahawks snapped a six-game winning streak for Arizona.

At 9-2, the Cardinals still have a two-game lead over the Seahawks and San Francisco in the NFC West, but a loss at Atlanta would cut that advantage to a game, since the Seahawks played the 49ers on Thursday night.

The Cardinals have not lost consecutive games since Oct. 13 and 17 of last season, when they were beaten first by San Francisco, then by Seattle.

"I think that speaks volumes for the leadership in your locker room to never lose two in a row," Arians said. "That's always one of our mantras, to never lose two in a row."

He said the veterans "come to work and keep it a daily process."

"The Seattle game is over with. To me, it was a month ago," Arians said. "It's that far in the rearview mirror already, and you're always ahead coming to work getting ready for what you control. You don't control that game anymore. You control today."

Arians has defended quarterback Drew Stanton, the backup who took over when Carson Palmer went down with a season-ending knee injury.

Asked what responsibility Stanton bears for the team's offensive struggles, Arians said "none."

The statistics would indicate otherwise.

Against Seattle, Stanton completed 14 of 26 passes for 149 yards and was intercepted once. He's thrown three interceptions in the past seven quarters.

The lack of a running game hasn't helped Stanton's cause.

In the past three games combined, Arizona has rushed for 138 yards on 68 attempts, an average of a little more than 2 yards per carry.

Stephen Brashear/AP

Arizona quarterback Drew Stanton, center, is sacked by Seattle outside linebacker Bruce Irvin, top, and free safety Earl Thomas during the second half of Sunday's game in Seattle.

Jack Dempsey/AP

The Dolphins' Ryan Tannehill is enjoying the best stretch of his career, completing more than 70 percent of his passes in four straight games. He's also had a QB rating of higher than 100 the past two games.

Tannehill on upswing going into Jets game

By Steven Wine
The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Judging by the stat that matters most to Ryan Tannehill, he's doing only so-so.

The Miami Dolphins quarterback is always quick to say wins are his priority, and his team is 6-5 heading into Monday night's game at the New York Jets. Tannehill has a 21-22 record in three NFL seasons, and the Dolphins will need a late-season surge to avoid a sixth consecutive year out of the playoffs.

But the past two months have been the best stretch of Tannehill's brief career, and he has been especially good lately, completing over 70 percent of his passes in four consecutive games. No previous Dolphins quarterback ever had such a streak, not even Pro Football Hall of Famers Dan Marino or Bob Griese.

"He has been playing better," coach Joe Philbin said Wednesday. "Certainly he has been throwing the ball accurately and doing a good job running the offense."

In the past two games, Tannehill has posted back-to-back passer ratings above 100, a first for him. Those performances pushed his rating for the season to 93.4, which ranks ninth among quarterbacks with eight or more starts.

Tannehill ranks eighth in the league with a completion percentage of 66.1, and his touchdown-interception ratio of 20 to six is tied for ninth-best, which puts him ahead of Russell Wilson, Joe Flacco and Colin Kaepernick, among others. The athletic Tannehill also has 276 yards rushing, 45 shy of the franchise record for a quarterback.

> **Did you know**
>
> Dolphins quarterback Ryan Tannehill was the eighth pick of the 2012 NFL Draft, taken in the first round out of Texas A&M.
>
> SOURCE: sports.yahoo.com

"I feel more comfortable the more games we play," Tannehill said. "I feel like I'm improving, and I just want to keep improving. There is still a lot of room for growth, and I just want to take those strides."

For starters, Tannehill and the Dolphins need to improve in close games. He said it feels as though the Dolphins are better than 6-5, but they're 0-3 in games decided by four points or less.

"You've got to be able to win those tough games," he said. "If we make one more play on offense or defense, we're going to win those games."

But it's hard to find too much fault with an offense on pace for the Dolphins' highest-scoring season since 1986.

Tannehill's accuracy on long passes remains problematic, so the Dolphins have stopped throwing deep much. He ranks only 29th in the NFL in yards per attempt, but has become adept at spreading the ball around and keeping defenses off balance with short throws.

He has also clicked with rookie Jarvis Landry, whose 49 catches lead the Dolphins.

"Each week you have seen Ryan progress," Landry said. "He is still on a constant rise, and we're excited about what the future holds."

Along with deep passes, consistency was another issue during Tannehill's first two-plus seasons, which makes his recent performances encouraging. He has had a passer rating above 100 in five of the past eight games, squelching early-season speculation that his status as a starter might be in jeopardy.

"I want to be here for a long time," Tannehill said. "Obviously I understand that in order to do that, you have to play well. At the end of the day I just want to win and take us into the playoffs."

NFL

Pats out to slow fast-starting Packers

New England seeks to keep pace with Green Bay in first quarters

By Howard Ulman
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots are one of the NFL's best teams in the first half.

Just not as good as the fast-starting Green Bay Packers when they're at home.

That's where the Patriots (9-2) will be putting their seven-game winning streak on the line Sunday in their fourth straight game against a division leader.

"We're playing Green Bay in Green Bay," New England coach Bill Belichick said Tuesday. "That's where they've been very dominant, really, in terms of getting ahead and playing from ahead, first quarter. The numbers are staggering."

In their last four games at Lambeau Field, the Packers have outscored opponents 66-0 in the first quarter and 128-9 in the first half.

"It's got to be of historical proportions," Belichick said.

The Packers (8-3) are 5-0 at home and have won seven of their last eight games overall.

"They've been so far ahead of some of these teams that they've played early in the game it's like they're almost running out the clock in the middle of the second quarter," Belichick said.

"We've got to try to find some way to stay competitive in the game to at least turn it into a game and not be trying to play from 28, 31 points behind in the first half."

In their last two home games, Green Bay led Chicago 42-0 at halftime and won 55-14, then led Philadelphia 30-6 at halftime and won 53-20.

The Patriots also are unbeaten at home with six wins but are just 3-2 on the road.

In the first halves, they've outscored opponents 136-38 at home. But when they play on the road, as they will Sunday, their advantage is just 71-51.

That game will be the next test for the Patriots against a top team — and they've passed the first three with blowout wins — 43-21 against Denver, 42-20 at Indianapolis and 34-9 against Detroit.

Denver and Indianapolis were the highest scoring teams in the league entering those games. Now New England is on top, but Green Bay is a mere three points behind.

So it doesn't get easier for a Patriots defense that controlled quarterbacks Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Matthew Stafford in its past three games.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers leads the NFL in passer rating and average gain per attempt. He's second with 30 touchdown passes and tied for second with only three interceptions.

"I don't think it takes too long to turn on the film and figure out that Aaron Rodgers is playing at an extremely high level right now, and, obviously, even higher at home," Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia said. "Every week teams are trying to figure out how to get him out of that rhythm and how to take him out of his game."

It's much tougher to do that when he's playing at Lambeau Field.

In five home games, he has 18 touchdown passes, no interceptions and a passer rating of 138.1

In six games on the road, the numbers are 12 touchdown passes, three interceptions and a 104.0 passer rating.

The Packers won the first two Super Bowls and play in a stadium where Vince Lombardi coached and Bart Starr and Brett Favre played quarterback.

Lambeau, opened in 1957, is the NFL's second oldest stadium. Only Soldier Field (1926) has been around longer.

"There's a great tradition there and their record is great there," Belichick said. "The thing that we have to focus on is just really our matchup this week.

"That's really more important to use at this point than Paul Hornung and Jerry Kramer and Don Hutson and all the other guys that have played there. Not to minimize what they've done, but (there's) nothing we can really do about any of that."

The Patriots have simply dominated most opponents during their winning streak. Starting with a 43-17 win over Cincinnati, four of those seven wins have been by at least 22 points against teams that were in first place entering the games.

Now they'll try to keep the Packers from rolling to an insurmountable lead in the first half.

"We have to try to find a way to try to be competitive in their home stadium where they've played exceptionally well in recent weeks, just extraordinary," Belichick said. "It's going to be a huge, huge challenge."

By the numbers

66-0

Number Packers have outscored their opponents by during the first quarter of their last four games at Lambeau Field.

0

Number of interceptions thrown by Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers in five home games this season.

3

Number of wins the Patriots (9-2) have on the road this season. Both of their losses were away from home.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

Steven Senne/AP

Patriots running back LeGarrette Blount, center, runs over Lions free safety Glover Quin last week in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots are 6-0 at home, but just 3-2 on the road, and this week they travel to formiddable Lambeau Field, where the Packers are 5-0 and Aaron Rodgers has thrown 18 TD passes.

New England (9-2) at Green Bay (8-3)
AFN-Sports
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
6:25 a.m. Sunday JKT

SPORTS

Flyin' Ryan
Dolphins QB Tannehill enjoying best stretch of career | **Page 30**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rivalry week

More than bragging rights at stake for SEC schools

By R.B. Fallstrom
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Here comes SEC rivalry week, with an exclamation point.

A conference that's again arguably the best in the nation, with six ranked teams, has saved plenty of drama for the final weekend of the regular season.

Fandom has no trouble reaching fever pitch for Auburn-Alabama, Georgia-Georgia Tech, Arkansas-Missouri and Ole Miss-Mississippi State. Geography and tradition says it all.

"Everybody says hate, but I think there's another level," Georgia wide receiver Chris Conley said. "Everything about this game is you're trying to demean and dominate your opponent."

SEE SEC ON PAGE 28

Missouri defensive back Kenya Dennis celebrates with teammate John Gibson, left, after an interception last week. The No. 17 Tigers can lock up their second straight SEC East division title with a win over visiting Arkansas on Saturday.

Wade Payne/AP

Matthews gets hot as Blazers win ninth straight | **NBA roundup, Page 27**

Detroit's Datsyuk doubles up in return from injury | **NHL roundup, Page 29**

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