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ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/AP

Afghan men in Kandahar pass graffiti encouraging people to go to the polls in Afghanistan's April 5 presidential elections.

Fraud fears grow

Foreign observers face hurdles in Afghanistan election

By KIM GAMEL ■ *The Associated Press*

When Afghans select their new president Saturday, it will largely be up to tens of thousands of Afghan poll watchers to catch signs of ballot box stuffing and other vote-rigging that tarnished Hamid Karzai's re-election five years ago. The international observer mission is far smaller this time, and relentless violence has driven away many foreigners who signed up.

It's an example of how Afghan civilian institutions and the military are adjusting to a shrinking international footprint. U.S. and allied combat troops are preparing to withdraw by the end of this year despite a resilient Taliban insurgency, and Syria and other conflicts are increasingly competing with Afghanistan for aid money and attention.

SEE ELECTION ON PAGE 2

2nd election headquarters in Kabul attacked in less than a week | Page 2

After conviction, VA helps veterans re-enter society

By MATTHEW HAY BROWN
The Baltimore Sun

WESTOVER, Md. — Christian Rojas has a plan.

The Iraq War veteran wants to get his paralegal certificate. Then, he figures, he'll go into business for himself, helping people write their wills and file motions in court. He dreams of earning a law degree

eventually and practicing law. First, though, he has to get out of prison.

Rojas, 33, is at Eastern Correctional Institution in Somerset County, Md., where he is serving seven years for holding up a couple of fast-food restaurants in 2011.

The good news for Rojas: Jim Haskell is ready to help.

SEE VETERANS ON PAGE 5



Christian Rojas, 33, who is nearing release from the Eastern Correctional Institution, is a veteran of the Iraq War. Rojas left the Army as a staff sergeant in 2010.

KIM HAINSTON
The Baltimore Sun

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“He knew there was great risk to himself. And ... knowing he was exposing himself to danger, he did it not once, not twice, but three times. That’s pretty extraordinary.”

—Ronald T. Rand, CEO of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation, describing the heroic acts of recipient Connor Stotts, 19

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MIDEAST

Another election HQ attacked in Kabul

By **HEATH DRUZIN**
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — Just before a media conference on voting security at Afghanistan’s election headquarters Saturday, the Taliban made its own statement on the matter by launching a five-hour siege of the building.

Two policemen were wounded in the attack, which came a week before the presidential poll. All of the attackers, who were carrying AK-47s and rocket-propelled grenade launchers, were killed in the clash, Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said.

Plumes of smoke could be seen rising from the building from miles away, and the thump of explosions and clatter of automatic-

weapons fire continued for hours as insurgents fired from a half-built building near the electoral headquarters on the east side of the city. The attack started around 12:30 p.m., and the fighting didn’t stop until 5:30 p.m., according to a Kabul police spokesman.

It was the second attack on an election office in the capital in less than a week. An assault Tuesday at another office left nine people dead.

The Taliban has vowed to disrupt the upcoming April 5 elections, which they see as illegitimate, and have put the capital on edge by launching four separate attacks in just more than a week.

Even before the latest attack, many aid groups had temporarily pulled their staffs from Afghani-

stan in anticipation of pre-election violence.

Some election materials were damaged, though nothing crucial, and no election commission employees were injured, Noor Mohammad Noor, spokesman for Afghanistan’s Independent Election Commission said. Noor added that the attackers did not get inside the commission’s compound.

A Taliban spokesman claimed attackers had entered the compound and destroyed many important election documents, as well as inflicting heavy casualties, though the insurgent group often exaggerates the effects of their attacks.

The attack even closed Kabul’s international airport for much of the afternoon as the national elec-

tion headquarters lies directly beneath the glide path for arriving flights, airport director Mohammad Yaqoub Rassouli said.

Afghans go to the polls Saturday to vote in an election that would mark the first democratic transfer of power in the country since the U.S. invasion in 2001. Hamid Karzai, who has been the country’s only president since the invasion, is barred by the constitution from running for re-election again.

A reasonably smooth election is seen as key not only to improving stability in Afghanistan but also to reassuring donor nations that Afghans rely on for the bulk of their government’s budget, including funding for the security forces.

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Election: Violence prompts withdrawal of observer teams

FROM FRONT PAGE

Afghans will be choosing a successor to Karzai in the April 5 election, since he is constitutionally barred from a third term. With three strong contenders out of nine candidates overall, nobody is expected to get the majority needed to avoid a runoff. If one candidate does win in the first round, others are more likely to cry foul.

Authorities are under tremendous pressure to prevent a repeat of the rampant fraud that discredited the last national elections in 2009, tarnishing Karzai’s second term as president and undermining public confidence in his government.

Allegations of large-scale ballot stuffing, phantom polling stations and turnouts in some areas above 100 percent prompted U.N. auditors to throw out nearly a third of Karzai’s votes, pushing him below the 50 percent mark needed to avoid a second round.

All that happened with more than 1,200 international and 10,000 Afghan observers fanned out across the nation. This year, the number of foreigners signed up as observers for the presidential and provincial council elections has dropped sharply to about 200. The number of Afghans, on the other hand, has soared to more than 100,000.

“One of the impacts of tougher security is that it increases the price of doing business,” said Nicholas Haysom, the deputy U.N. chief in Afghanistan. “One of the real opportunities Afghanistan has to project a positive image of itself is credible elections.”

“Having international observers in the electoral process is very important in terms of getting international legitimacy for the election.”

Jandad Spinghar
 Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan

Democrat-ic Institute and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe evacuated their observers after the March 20 attack on the Serena hotel in Kabul that killed a Paraguayan observer and eight other people, including two children.

“The 15 members of the elec-



RAHMAT GUL/AP

Afghan men line up to register for the upcoming presidential election in Jalalabad, east of Kabul, on Saturday.

tion support team we sent to Kabul were all in the Serena the night of the attack. No one from our team was harmed, but as I’m sure you can understand, this was a very traumatic experience,” said Thomas Rymer, a spokesman for the OSCE’s Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights. “We are also assessing the condition of the team members and will couple this with the security assessment in making a decision on whether the team will return for the 5 April elections. The option to return is still under consideration.”

“This Berman, the head of the EU’s election assessment team in Kabul, said security restrictions made the observers largely ineffective in 2009 so the mission has shifted to focus on analysis. “It was a huge investment and low output, so we decided it was better not to

delay them this time,” he said. Berman said six of 16 observers left the country to wait for more armored vehicles and guards to protect their movements even within the Afghan capital, but that they would be back for the election. “We decided to let them wait outside of the country instead of having them sit idle,” he said.

Afghan and international election officials said the psychological impact was huge.

Jandad Spinghar, director of one of the largest local monitoring organizations, the Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan, is worried that others will follow as the Taliban step up attacks ahead of election day.

“Having international observers in the electoral process is very important in terms of getting international legitimacy for the election,” he said.

DODDS SPORTS

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STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

3 receive Citizen Honors Awards for heroic acts

Teen saved 3 friends; Army vet started charity for families; teacher saved pupils

By C.J. LIN
Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Michael Landsberry wasn't in a war zone when he gave his life protecting others.

It was Oct. 21, 2013, when a 12-year-old boy armed with a semi-automatic handgun opened fire at a Nevada middle school where Landsberry was a math teacher. Two students had been wounded. Still, Landsberry approached the boy and tried to talk him into giving up the gun, giving students time to flee. He was fatally shot.

On Tuesday, the nation's Medal of Honor recipients honored ordinary Americans showing courage in extraordinary situations. Since 2008, the military heroes have given out the Citizen Honors Awards to three people each year on National Medal of Honor Day.

A panel of veterans looks for characteristics embodied in the Medal of Honor — selfless service, patriotism, courage and integrity — as they consider nominations submitted across the U.S. There were more than 200 entries this year, according to Ronald T. Rand, president and CEO of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

"The (Medal of Honor) recipients believe that by ... recognizing people — normal people — who do extraordinary things, that they can demonstrate to a larger population across America the fact that everyone has the ability within them when confronted with tough choices and tough situations to do extraordinary and even heroic things," Rand said.

Landsberry was a 45-year-old former Marine and member of the Nevada National Guard who had served two tours in Afghanistan. He is the first to be awarded the honor posthumously. His widow accepted the award on his behalf at the ceremony, held at Arlington National Cemetery.

"He recognized that there was a danger. He recognized that there was extreme risk to himself," Rand said. "But to protect the students at his school — and maybe even to try and protect the young shooter — (he) put himself in harm's way voluntarily to try to defuse an extremely dangerous situation. And in doing that, he saved the lives of who knows how many students while giving up his own."

Also honored were Connor



PHOTOS BY JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

From left, Citizen Honors award recipients Sharon Landsberry (who accepted for her late husband, Michael), Connor Stotts and Troy Yocum attend a ceremony Tuesday at Arlington National Cemetery on Medal of Honor Day.

Use strong, specific text in the teaser for the web refer [webisbold.com](#)

Stotts, 19, an Eagle Scout who saved friends from drowning in a ripptide, and Troy Yocum, an Army veteran who hiked 7,880 miles throughout the United States to raise \$1.3 million to support military families as part of his work to help other veterans.

Yocum received the award for an "ongoing act of service" for his founding of Active Heroes, a charity focused on preventing veteran suicides. The nonprofit provides lifetime assistance funds for wounded veterans, repairs homes for military families, offers a fitness team-building program with 10,000 active veterans, and is building a 144-acre retreat for military families in Shepherdsville, Ky.

"It's not in the same category of extreme valor as the actions of Connor or Michael, but it clearly is in the category of extreme service to the community," Rand said. "It still demonstrates courage and selfless service and patriotism and integrity. And he's making a difference."

Yocum, 35, doesn't think he deserves the award; he thinks someone older who has had more time to give back to the community deserves it instead. And hearing about the feats of the other recipients makes him wonder whether



Medal of Honor recipient Hiroshi Miyamura prepares to present the Citizen Honors award to Troy Yocum.

his 17½-month hike through the U.S. and continuing efforts measure up.

But he hopes that accepting the award will bring attention to his cause, to which he was propelled by the suicides of his grandfather, a World War II veteran, and a close battle buddy. He also has watched other friends struggle with post-traumatic stress disorder and suicidal thoughts.

"I'm completely humbled by it," Yocum said. "I don't do my work to be honored ... when I served in Iraq, I just did my job, and after Iraq, I just wanted to do

something to help more and more veterans and their families.

"It's an honor and privilege to be chosen as a hero by my heroes," he said.

Stotts, a sophomore at the University of Southern California on a Marine-Option Naval ROTC scholarship, also received the award for an act of courage.

Or rather, three. On the night of his baptism in July 2011, Stotts was at a youth outing at the beach in Oceanside, Calif., when a ripptide swept up three friends: Stotts, who had life-guard training, pulled one friend

to shore and returned to rescue a second. A third was losing consciousness, and he placed her on his back — sometimes holding her arms to keep her from falling off — and swam back to shore with one arm.

"He knew there was great risk to himself," Rand said. "And ... knowing he was exposing himself to danger, he did it not once, not twice, but three times. That's pretty extraordinary."

For Stotts, rescuing his friends was instinct.

"There was some panic that gripped me; there was fear," Stotts said. "But mostly, nothing was going through my head. It was just like a reflex."

Stotts said he and his family were "floored" when they heard he would be given the award because they didn't think his feat was on par with those of some of the other nominees.

"Every day in civilian life, somewhere, somebody does something that is on the level of above and beyond," said Hershel Williams, a former Marine who received the Medal of Honor for the World War II Battle of Iwo Jima. "I enjoy coming here and witnessing what they did and reading their stories. It's just as interesting to me as the stories of Medal of Honor recipients."

For more information about Active Heroes, visit www.activeheroes.org. lin.cj@stripes.com Twitter: @cjin55

MILITARY

They built it so they could pump

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

You fly 10,000 miles and get pumped down in a compound with cardio gyms, weightlifting gyms and an outdoor Crossfit box.

What do you do?

Build a gym.

Camp Leatherneck, in Helmand province, Afghanistan, has all these facilities, plus dozens of areas suitable for soccer, volleyball, running and ultimate football. There are even Zumba classes available.

Still, that hasn't stopped self-proclaimed meatheads from building their own "prison gyms" all over base.

For Staff Sgt. Canon Richard and the other Marines of Georgian Liaison Team 11, it was a question of accessibility. Richard serves on a quick-reaction force and frequently is tied to his previously gymless compound for days at a time. So he and Lt. Tyler Ross set out to find some gear.

The Marines went to units that were leaving Leatherneck, then "begged, borrowed and pleaded" until they procured enough strength-training equipment to rival a 24-Hour Fitness. Then, they built a gym near the Georgian troops' living area and another near their work space for themselves.

"They told us we couldn't do it, and we did it," Richard said, noting that the previous GLT had wanted a gym on the compound but had only about five pieces of equipment. "The GLT is good



JENNIFER HLAD/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Canon Richard, Lance Cpl. Thomas King and Lt. Tyler Ross helped find the equipment and build the gym for Georgian Liaison Team 11.

at doing things people think we can't do."

It took about two months to get the job together, and Lance Cpl. Thomas King, with the help of a few other Marines, built a floor and walls in an empty area of the Georgian compound. Before they

could put on a roof or camouflage netting to cover the gym, a sandstorm came and knocked most of the walls down. They decided to leave it that way.

Now, the Marines do their weight training in a roofless gym with 2½ walls. They call it the

Iron Casket — "where bodies come to die" — and it has no cardio equipment: That's what running is for.

Got a photo of a gym you use (or used) downrange? Send it to tibbetts.meredith@stripes.com and we'll share it on the online version of this story.

DOD inquiry follows sexual abuse allegations

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — Pentagon officials will conduct an investigation into allegations of sexual abuse by Alaska National Guard members, a spokeswoman for Gov. Sean Parnell said Thursday.

Parnell's office last week released a Feb. 28 letter to National Guard Bureau chief Gen. Frank Grass that asks for an investigator to be appointed to examine open and closed investigations of alleged sexual assault, KTTU reported.

Parnell met this month with officials, including Col. Christian Rofrano, the chief counsel of the National Guard Bureau, and Maj. Gen. Wilton Gorske, assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Guard matters, said Parnell spokeswoman Sharon Leighow.

Alaska National Guard officials have said 29 cases of sexual assault have been reported since 2009. Of those, 21 were closed or suspended after law enforcement got involved.

Brig. Gen. Catherine Jorgensen, director of the joint staff of the Alaska National Guard, said Gorske met with Alaska National Guard officials last weekend to fill them in on the coming investigation.

From The Associated Press

Combat medics honored for service

By MEREDITH TIBBETTS
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Combat medics are men and women who swoop into a battlefield and save their fellow servicemember. Sometimes, as bullets fly around them, they risk their own life to help that of another.

On Wednesday, five combat medics were honored by the Armed Services YMCA in Washington at the aptly named event "Angels of the Battlefield."

"They work in the most challenging, hazardous and sometimes horrific conditions in the world," Mike Landers, the president and CEO of Armed Services YMCA said prior to the event. "I'm humbled each time I meet these guys."

Senior Airman Taylor Renfro, 23, from Jacksonville, Ill., who has both provided life-saving treatment, and received it. She was saved by another medic when her vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan.

Army Sgt. Kristopher Ritterhouse, 26, from Bullhead, Ariz., who continued to provide medical treatment for others after being seriously injured

himself in a battle in Afghanistan. Despite his injuries, he returned to search for more casualties while under fire.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Kevin Toland, 32, from Atlanta, who triaged and treated Marines, saving many lives when an IED hit a local bazaar in Afghanistan.

Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michael Marchante, 26, from Murrieta, Calif., who treated a severely wounded soldier in Afghanistan while under active fire. Marchante used his body to shield the victim from further injury.

Coast Guard Petty Officer 1st Class Janet Combs, 31, from Miami Beach, Fla., who has treated hundreds of patients including two rescued from the water when their helicopter went down, a critical stroke victim, and many others. She is known for motivating her personnel and for her compassion for her patients and their families.

This is the eighth year that Armed Services YMCA has run Angels of the Battlefield. They have honored 450 medical professionals.

"An even greater number as

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Last shopper, turn out the lights

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

Readers respond:

Guess the whine retirees should have opened the commissary to Federal employees. If they had, the commissary would have more business and therefore generate more revenue to be self-sustaining.

— Nichol Block

It's not a decision made by retirees, that is no board of retirees, there get together and decide who can use the commissary. Retirees may have complained about civilians using the commissary and rightfully so because the civilians didn't put up with the military life for 20+ years.

— James Campbell

Close em, close em, close em ... there is always Wal-Mart, Target, Safeway, Albertsons ... and a slew of other food chains ... better quality, better prices and friendly service ...

— bwjjsdtd

good luck going to wal mart and getting steaks cut the way you want them!

— Michaela Daniels

I've got a good money-saving idea for the government: stop getting us into unnecessary wars. Could you think about trying that for a bit, maybe?

— James

I have been reading this article about closing the commissaris and I'm retired and use the commissary with my wife and enjoy it. One thing Walmart, Safeway, and Albertson do not have and that is baggers who take out the shopping cart out to your vehicle for you and load it for you.

— butchlemmon

That bites—so the under-secondary predicts those pesky uppity retirees will change their shopping habits. And I predict they will change their voting habits and their support of recruiting too!

— IdoliHanz

Join the fray at stripes.com/gv/cuts

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MILITARY

Nuke test cheating linked to flawed leadership

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A basic contradiction lies at the root of an exam-cheating scandal that decimated the ranks of an Air Force nuclear missile group, investigators say: Commanders were demanding perfection in testing and ethics but also tacitly condoned rule-bending or even willfully ignored cheating.

An Air Force investigation concluded that no commanders participated in or knew about the specific forms of cheating in which 91 missile officers were implicated at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. But nine commanders, representing nearly the entire operational chain of command in the 31st Missile Wing, were fired and the wing commander, Col. Robert Stanley, was allowed to resign.

"From the perspective of a young company-grade officer looking up the chain of command, leadership has delivered conflicting messages" on integrity and test performance, the report said. Leaders

pressured young officers to achieve high scores "while tacitly condoning" acts that "take care of" crew members who might otherwise fall short of the expected perfect result, it said.

This "blurs the line between acceptable help and unacceptable cheating," it said. Malmstrom is home to one of three Air Force intercontinental ballistic missile wings, each responsible for 150 Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles. The other wings are the 90th at F.E. Warren Air Force Base, Wyo., and the 91st at Minot Air Force Base, N.D.

Beyond the investigation at Malmstrom, the Pentagon is undertaking two broader reviews of problems inside the ICBM force, including training failures, low morale and security lapses that The Associated Press documented over the past year. One of those reports is due in April, the other in June.

The force of 450 Minuteman 3 missiles is primed to unleash nuclear devastation on a moment's notice, capable of obliterating people and places halfway around the globe.

Investigators in the Malmstrom case

surveyed missile officers' views on a range of issues related to the alleged cheating, including the methods and attitudes of their commanders.

"A startling 60.2 percent of respondents at some level agreed that their squadron leadership was aware of improper behavior," the report said, adding that a "particularly high" proportion — 10.4 percent — chose not to answer that question. "This would suggest that misbehavior within squadrons, such as test collaboration, was known at the squadron leadership level."

One missile crew member was quoted as telling investigators, "Cheating has been going on for years; however, leadership pretends that cheating is not happening. Another said, "Our squadron leadership was just another generation of cheaters."

A squadron is commanded by a lieutenant colonel and is responsible for 50 Minuteman 3 missiles linked in sets of 10 to a network of five launch control centers.

Tony Carr, a recently retired Air Force officer who is studying law at Harvard, noted on Friday that three-quarters of the

officers accused at Malmstrom are lieutenants, meaning "they were probably not pioneers" in exam-cheating.

"They" more likely adopted the standards they found in the community when they arrived," he said — "standards that almost certainly pre-dated the current crop of commanders."

Investigators interviewed missile officers and their leaders at each of the three bases and at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., where airmen are given their initial 100 days of ICBM training before being assigned to one of the wings.

Missile launch crew members, known within the Air Force as missileers, typically are ages 22 to 27. The investigation report released by the Air Force said that 15 trainees at Vandenberg who participated in a focus group discussion with investigators, "no individual wanted to be a missileer."

The report found evidence that instructors at Vandenberg "conditioned" students to "expect help on tests" when they arrived at their missile duty station.

Veterans: Program to find incarcerated ex-servicemembers expanding nationwide

FROM FRONT PAGE

Haskell is a clinical social worker in Baltimore with the Department of Veterans Affairs, which has piloted a program in Maryland that allows the agency to identify more veterans in prison. That program — which matches VA records with prison records, enabling the VA to locate twice as many former servicemembers — is now expanding nationwide.

"Because so many people with mental health conditions and substance abuse conditions are winding up in the judicial system, it's really incumbent upon us to reach out to them and make sure that they're getting the proper services that they need," Haskell said. "Basically, that's what we do, is connect veterans to those services."

As part of the program, Haskell travels to prisons throughout the state to meet with incarcerated former servicemembers. He assesses the housing, treatment and job training they will need when they are released, connects them to those services, and reports to courts, parole boards and probation officers.

Many of the veterans Haskell works with suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, homelessness or other problems. The VA services that he can offer can lead a judge to send a veteran to treatment instead of prison, can persuade a parole board to release a veteran, can set up a veteran who has served time for a chance at success on the outside.

As the military winds down after more than a decade of war, and the Pentagon looks to reduce the number of servicemembers on active duty, the VA is stepping up its services for incarcerated veterans.

The agency estimates that about 8 percent of the U.S. prison population has served in the military. Among the roughly 22,000 inmates in Maryland's state prison system, that works out to more



KENNETH K. LAM, THE BALTIMORE SUN/MCT

Jim Haskell, a Baltimore-based social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs, works with incarcerated former servicemembers to help them successfully re-enter society. The VA estimates that about 8 percent of the U.S. prison population has served in the military.

than 1,700 incarcerated veterans. Since 2007, the VA has sent social workers and other specialists into courts, state and federal prisons to develop treatment plans for former servicemembers as they prepare to re-enter society.

The VA is studying the impact of the work of Haskell and his counterparts in other states on the veterans they are trying to serve. It is not clear how many stay off drugs, off the streets and out of trouble, or whether they

fare any better than nonveteran prisoners who are ineligible for VA services.

But Haskell believes he's having a positive effect. "When I first started going to Baltimore Central Booking, it didn't seem like I had any trouble finding veterans," he said. "But as time has gone on, it seems like it's been getting more difficult. I suspect we are making a difference."

Dennis P. Ferrell, the state

prison system's assistant director for transition services, called the work of Haskell and the VA "very helpful to us."

"We can never provide all the services that individuals need," he said.

State prison officials have promoted programs for veterans. Spokesman Mark Vernarelli said Maryland's is the first state prison system to have incarcerated former servicemembers training service dogs for wounded veterans, to have them cleaning state veterans cemeteries and to have them recording their stories for the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

Veterans groups in several prisons raise money for veterans charities. The group at Roxbury Correctional Institution in Hagerstown holds what state officials believe is the only inside-the-wire POW-MIA Remembrance Day ceremony in the country. State Veterans Affairs Secretary Ed Chow spoke at the ceremony in September, which was held at the veterans' memorial in the middle of the prison compound.

One of the veterans Haskell first met at Central Booking was Williams Ames.

The Baltimore native, a former nuclear missile mechanic with the Air Force, said the anxiety he has suffered since he worked in the missile silos at Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota in the early 1970s drove him to abuse cocaine and heroin.

His arrest on drug charges in February 2011 was the latest in a string that stretched back years.

But for the first time, Haskell was at Central Booking to greet him.

"Just hearing somebody from the VA, I was like, 'Damn, I'm glad now,'" remembered Ames, 61. "I figured this was maybe an opportunity to get my life back in order."

Haskell administered a psychosocial evaluation and shared the results and his recommendations for treatment with the court. When Ames was released in 2012, Haskell set him up with a veterans re-entry group at the Maryland VA Medical Center in Baltimore and a bed at Baltimore Station, a residential treatment facility for veterans.

Sharon Cole, supervising attorney with the Office of the Public Defender in Baltimore, said veterans' "entanglement in the criminal justice system" is often "just a manifestation of issues" such as substance abuse, homelessness and PTSD.

Haskell, she said, "helps provide for an effective intervention. Obviously, jail is an ineffective intervention."

Ames now works at Baltimore Station's Code Blue shelter program. When his stay there ends this year, he wants to get his own place and find work as a cook. "The re-entry program gave me a chance," he said. "I'm 61. I want to enjoy what I've got left."

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50TH ANNIVERSARY

Great Alaska Earthquake

BY DAN JOLING ■ *The Associated Press*

ELECTRIC clocks on walls in Anchorage shut down at 5:36 p.m. on March 27, 1964. Time stopped at the start of the '64 Great Alaska Earthquake, the second largest ever recorded at magnitude 9.2.

The ground shook for four to five minutes, roughly twice through "I Want to Hold Your Hand," the Bea-

gles No. 1 song that year. With the U.S. and the USSR facing off in the Cold War, some thought the Russians had attacked.

The quake produced a tsunami that wreaked havoc along the West Coast. Overall damage was estimated at \$2.3 billion in 2014 dollars. The quake and tsunami killed 131 people.

SEE ALASKA ON PAGE 7



AP photos

Left: With the city under martial law, soldiers patrol a street in Anchorage, Alaska, on March 28, 1964. Center: The Government Hill Elementary School in Anchorage is shown in ruins. Right: A photographer looks over wreckage as smoke rises in the background from burning oil storage tanks at Valdez, Alaska, on March 29, 1964. North America's largest earthquake killed 15 people and created a tsunami that killed another 124.

NATION

Alaska: 1964 disaster changed how experts prepare, respond to earthquakes

FROM PAGE 6

Though now a distant memory, it helped make experts better prepared for future quakes. It played a role in the formation of the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center and taught the U.S. Geological Survey what evidence to look for of previous great quakes, such as events in the Cascadia Subduction Zone off Oregon and Washington.

'A melange of broken dishes and glass'

From his vantage point on the 12th floor of an apartment building in Anchorage, geologist William Binkley could feel the light tremor.

He later told the USGS that it was then followed by minutes of violent jarring in which the building appeared to sway 10 feet to 12 feet horizontally and 1 foot to 2 feet vertically.

The sound was a deep rumble followed by shattering plaster and glass. Cabinets and the refrigerator crashed to the kitchen floor. It was "churned into a melange of broken dishes and glass, catsup and syrup, flour, beans, pots and pans, eggs, lettuce and pickles," Binkley said in a paper reissued recently by the USGS for the anniversary of the quake.

Binkley crawled into a hallway and braced his feet against one wall and his back against another until the shaking stopped.

Landslides caused most of the damage in Anchorage, about 75 miles from the epicenter. Sections of the city, including a 14-block stretch in the shape of an oval near the city's main street, slid. Buildings were damaged, including some that fell into a trench created by the ground subsiding. Nine people died in the city.

They call them megathrusts

Geologists have a name for such strong earthquakes: megathrusts.

Plate tectonic theory says the Earth's crust is made up of about a dozen major plates that rest on hot mantle. The thin, dense, Pacific Plate at Alaska's southern edge moves at a shallow angle beneath the North American Plate at an average rate of 2.3 inches per year and eventually is reabsorbed by mantle. Strain builds up until there's a slip.

The Moment Magnitude scale rates quakes by the energy they release by calculating the area of fault rupture, the average amount of slip, and the force required to overcome the friction sticking the rocks together, according to the USGS. Every whole number higher on the scale represents 30 times the energy of the previous number.

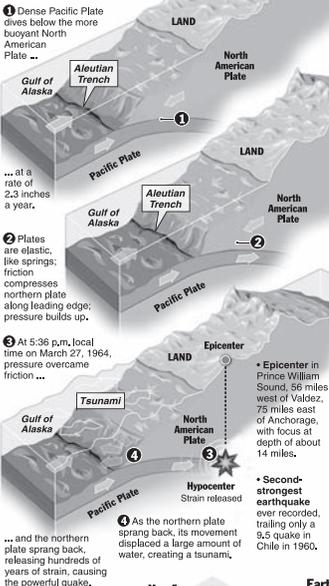
More energy was released in the 1964 magnitude-9.2 quake than all other recorded Alaska quakes combined, says USGS research geologist Peter Haessler. And drilling showed evidence of

Revisiting the 1964 Alaska earthquake

The massive 9.2-magnitude quake was centered between Anchorage and Valdez, Alaska, and caused extensive damage in that area, as well as creating damaging tsunami waves. Looking back at how it happened.

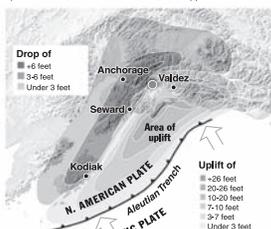
How the earthquake happened

The quake occurred along the fault where the Pacific Plate slides under (subducts) the North American Plate, forming the Aleutian Trench, which runs along the southern coast of Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.



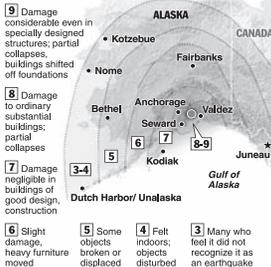
Change in elevations

As the North American Plate sprang back, its movement caused a downward shift (subsidence) in some areas and an uplift in others, relative to sea level, as mapped here.



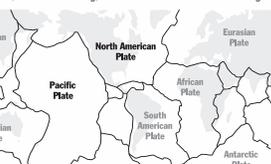
Measuring the intensity

Unlike the magnitude scale, the modified Mercalli scale measures the intensity of shaking felt by people on the ground; observations made at the time make it possible to draw zones of intensity radiating out from the epicenter.



Earth's tectonic plates

The North American and Pacific plates are two of the several major plates and many minor ones that form the Earth's crust; quakes, volcanism, mountain-building, trench formation occur on these edges



SOURCES: USGS, Geophysical Institute, University of Alaska Fairbanks

KEVIN POWELL, ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS/MCT



Left: Anchorage business owners were going full tilt clearing salvageable items and equipment from their earthquake-ravaged stores on shuttered Fourth Avenue in the aftermath of the 1964 earthquake. Right: Modern-day Fourth Avenue shows no sign of the quake's damage. The north side of the street on the right of the photograph dropped 11 feet in a landslide.

nine such megathrusts in south-central Alaska in 5,500 years. The average time span between them: 600 years.

Far more deadly were the ocean waves

The tremor caused two kinds of waves: local and transoceanic tsunamis.

Eighty-five of the 106 Alaska tsunami deaths were caused by waves generated by underwater landslides. Rivers flowing into Alaska floods built up huge deltas of unstable sediment on deep, underwater slopes, said USGS research geologist Rob Witter. Slides generated waves like a rock dropped in a pond.

During local tsunamis, water can at first retreat from the shore in response to the under-

derwater slide, then rush back. That's what happened at Valdez. When the water swept back in, it smashed a freighter into the city dock. Longshoremen and children who had assembled to catch oranges or candy tossed down from the crew were killed. Thirty-two people died.

The great quake also rumbled the ocean floor like a rug, creating a trans-ocean tsunami. The deadly waves traveled down the West Coast. Four campers on a beach died at Newport, Ore. A dozen died in the northern California community of Crescent City.

Rob Witter, U.S. Geological Survey

Now the West Coast has tsunami monitors

Anchorage had almost no seismic equipment measuring quakes in 1964. The state and the USGS now monitor them through the Advanced National Seismic System, which gathers information to assess hazards, create hazard maps and design buildings.

The quake played a role in the formation of the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center, renamed the National Tsunami Warning Center, operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The center within minutes of a quake can put out alerts to warn susceptible communities along the West Coast and Hawaii that a big wave is headed their way.

The quake raised awareness in Alaska that the only warning of a dangerous local tsunami will be the shaking of the ground itself.

"If you feel shaking and you're near the shore, you need to get to high ground, really quick," Witter said.

AP photos

NATION



MATTHEW SISSEL, COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL GUARD/AFP

Washington Air National Guardsmen methodically make their way through the mud and wreckage left behind by the March 22 mudslide near Oso, Wash. More than 70 guardsmen have been activated to support the search and rescue efforts.

'It's a very slow process'

Wash. county official describes difficult, rain-soaked search effort

By JONATHAN J. COOPER
AND MATT VOLZ
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Wash. — Finding and identifying victims from one of the most lethal landslides in the nation's history could stretch on for a very long time, officials warned in describing the arduous work of extracting and trying to identify the human remains.

"It's a very, very slow process. It was miserable to begin with, and as you all know, it has rained heavily in the last few days. It's made the quicksand even worse," Snohomish County Executive Director Gary Haakenson said at a Friday evening briefing. "I cannot possibly tell you how long this will last or when, or if, they will find more bodies. We hope that we do, but right now there's no telling."

Crews may be finding more remains amid the destruction in the community of Oso, northeast of Seattle, but Haakenson said the official death toll will remain at 17 until medical examiners can fur-

ther complete their work. Authorities have located at least eight other bodies in addition to the 17, and they previously said they expect the number of fatalities from the March 22 mudslide to rise substantially.

Ninety people were listed as missing, but hope for them began fading by midweek when they had not checked in with friends or relatives and no one had emerged from the pile alive.

Leslie Zylstra said everybody in town knows someone who died, and the village was coming to grips with the fact that many of the missing may remain entombed in the debris.

"The people know there's no way anybody could have survived," said Zylstra, who used to work in an Arlington hardware store. "They just want to have their loved ones, to bury their loved ones."

Haakenson described for the first time Friday the difficulty of the searchers' task. When a body

is found, the spot is marked for a helicopter pickup. That only happens when the helicopters are able to fly in the wind and rain that has pummeled the search area. The victim is then placed in a truck in a holding area.

At the end of the day, all the recovered victims are transported to the medical examiner's office about 20 miles away in Everett.

"Autopsies are performed, the process of identification takes place — if possible," Haakenson said. "The identification process has been very, very challenging."

Authorities have had to rely heavily on dental records, Haakenson told The Seattle Times. In a few cases, medical examiner's investigators have had to use DNA testing.

People who have reported relatives missing have been asked by the medical examiner's staff to provide identifying information such as eye color, hair color and possible tattoos, and to have the missing person's dental office compile records, he said.

Quake shakes LA; no major damage

By DAISY NGUYEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A magnitude-5.3 earthquake centered near Los Angeles caused no major damage but jittered nerves throughout the region as dozens of aftershocks followed.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck at about 9:09 p.m. Friday and was centered near Brea in Orange County — about 20 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles — at a depth of about 5 miles.

It was felt as far south as San Diego and as far north as Ventura County, according to the USGS.

Broken glass, gas leaks, water-main breaks and a rock slide were reported near the epicenter, according to Twitter updates from local authorities. Photos and videos showed bottles and packages strewn on store floors. Southern California Edison power outages to about 2,000 customers.

More than two dozen aftershocks ranging from magnitudes 2 to 3.6 were recorded, according to the USGS. Earlier in the evening, two foreshocks registering at magnitude 3.6 and magnitude

2.1 hit nearby in La Habra.

Public-safety officials said crews were inspecting bridges, dams, rail tracks and other infrastructure systems for signs of damage. The Brea police department said the rock slide in the Carbon Canyon area caused a car to overturn.

Callers to KNX-AM reported seeing a brick wall collapse, water sloshing in a swimming pool and wires and trees swaying back and forth. One caller was in a movie theater lobby in Brea when the quake struck.

"A lot of the glass in the place shook like crazy," he said. "It started like a roll and then it started shaking like crazy. Everybody ran outside, hugging each other in the streets."

A helicopter news reporter from KNBC-TV reported that rides at Disneyland in Anaheim — several miles from the epicenter — were stopped as a precaution.

Southern California has not experienced a devastating earthquake since the 1994 magnitude-6.7 Northridge quake that killed several dozen people and caused \$25 billion in damage.



KEVIN WEAVER/AFP

A car sits overturned on a highway in the Carbon Canyon area of Brea, Calif., Friday night after hitting a rock slide caused by the earthquake. The people inside the car sustained minor injuries.

Gitmo guard avoids sex assault trial

By CAROL ROSENBERG
The Miami Herald

MIAMI — A former Guantanamo prison camp guard is being permitted to quit the Army rather than face a sex assault trial, the military said Friday.

Army Sgt. Stevontae Laclefield, 24, told The Miami Herald from Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio that on Monday, the military notified him that all charges related to his case had been dropped.

He had a trial set for April 7-10 before an Army major. But by Friday, his case was docketed from the Fort Sam Houston trial judiciary docket.

"What this means is, instead of going to trial and court-martial, he's allowed to undergo separation from the military," said Army Col. Hans Bush, spokesman for U.S. Army South in San Antonio.

In another case, 1st Sgt. Richard A. Smith goes on trial next week. He is accused of raping a sergeant in January 2013, as well as sexually assaulting two other women at the base several months later.

The cases are being handled in Texas because Army South, a subsidiary of the U.S. Southern Command, is the bureaucracy that manages personnel matters for soldiers assigned to the 2,100-staff detention center in southeast Cuba that as of Friday held 154 captives.

Army Maj. Gen. Joseph P. DiSalvo, the commanding officer of Army South, approved the arrangement

“What this means is, instead of going to trial and court-martial, he's allowed to undergo separation from the military.”

Army Col. Hans Bush
U.S. Army South
spokesman

told The Herald on Friday, disclosing the resolution of his case short of a trial. He declined to describe his specific Guantanamo duties but said that during last year's Camp 6 raid that put hunger-strikers on lockdown, he saved the life of a detainee and received a Joint Service Commendation Medal.

Marathon bombing suspect seeks FBI records on brother

The Associated Press

BOSTON — Defense lawyers for Boston Marathon bombing suspect Dzhokhar Tsarnaev are looking for ways to show his deceased older brother was mostly responsible for the tragedy — a move that, if successful, could save their client's life.

The lawyers asked a judge on Friday to order federal prosecutors to turn over any FBI evidence related to Tamerlan Tsarnaev, hoping the defense can use it to build the case that he was the main instigator behind the deadly attack.

They say in court filings that if Dzhokhar is convicted, jurors could decide whether to give him life in prison or the death penalty based on how they perceive “the

brothers' relative responsibility for conceiving and carrying out the attacks.” The lawyers believe the jury's decision could rest on “the extent to which it views Tamerlan Tsarnaev as having induced or coerced his younger brother to help commit them.

“For this reason,” the defense argued, “any evidence tending to show that Tamerlan supplied the motivation, planning, and ideology behind the Boston Marathon attack, and that his younger brother acted under his domination is material ... and is also subject to disclosure.”

The lawyers want records of all FBI contact with Tamerlan based on information from the Tsarnaev family and unidentified other sources.

NATION

Health care law still has some bugs to work out

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As a roller-coaster sign-up season winds down, President Barack Obama's health care law has indeed managed to change the country.

Americans are unlikely to go back to a time when people with medical problems could be denied coverage.

But Obama's overhaul needs major work of its own if it is to go down in history as a legacy achievement like Medicare or Social Security.

Major elements of the Affordable Care Act face an uncertain future:

■ As a 6-month-long sign-up season comes to an end Monday, the administration's next big challenge is to make 2015 open enrollment more manageable for consumers unaccustomed to dealing with insurance jargon. There's also concern premiums will rise next year.

■ The new insurance markets created by the law are anything but customer friendly. After the HealthCare.gov website finally got fixed, more than 6 million people have managed to sign up, allowing the exchanges to stay afloat economically. But many consumers have bought policies with restricted access to top-tier hospitals and the latest medications. The website is seeing heavy traffic this weekend, and consumers may encounter a wait or last-minute glitches.

■ Nearly half the states are still opposed to or undecided about the law's expansion of

Medicaid, the government's health insurance program for the poor. As a result, millions of low-income people who otherwise would have been covered remain uninsured.

■ This year's pitch has been about the "carrots" in the law: subsidies and guaranteed coverage. But the "sticks" are just over the horizon: collecting penalties from individuals who remain uninsured and enforcing requirements that medium- to large-sized employers provide affordable coverage.

Many basic facts about the ultimate effects of the health insurance program remain unclear. It's not known how many of those who have gotten coverage were previously uninsured — the ultimate test of the law. Independent measurements by Gallup do show fewer uninsured Americans, but such progress hasn't won hearts and minds. The public remains deeply divided, with opponents of the law outnumbering supporters.

At a recent insurance industry conference, a top administration official acknowledged the huge job still ahead.

"The No. 1 thing that probably we've all learned from 2014 is that this is hard work," said Gary Cohen, outgoing director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, the agency created to carry out the health care law. "It's not a one-year project; it's a multi-year project ... we're asking a lot, frankly, of consumers," he added. "This is new for them."

Airline note upsets deaf couple

The Associated Press

DALLAS — A deaf couple is upset over a note that an American Airlines employee attached to one of their bags, referring to the pair as "deaf and dumb."

James Moehle and Angela Huckaby, of Houston, were returning home from a vacation in Hawaii when one of their bags was misplaced by the airline. When it was delivered later, a handwritten note attached to the bag read, "Please Text Deaf And Dumb."

Moehle's mother, Kay Moehle, told KTRK-TV in Houston that the note was "outrageous and cruel and unnecessary." She demanded an apology.

Airline spokesman Casey Norton said Friday that the employee

who wrote the note did not intend to insult anyone and will go through sensitivity training.

One of the couple's bags was misplaced on the final leg of the couple's journey home from Dallas to Houston. In such cases, American uses another company to deliver late-arriving baggage to passengers.

Norton said an American employee who is not a native English speaker scrawled the note to alert a delivery driver that he should contact the couple by text message when delivering the bag.

The airline employee "will go through new respect training," Norton said. "We are using it as a systemwide teaching example so that everybody is more respectful of those who have different impairments."



MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Protesters picket outside the federal courthouse in Detroit on Feb. 25 as the trial challenging the ban on gay marriage was about to get started.

US recognizes marriages of Mich. same-sex couples wed before stay

By TODD SPANGLER
AND KATHLEEN GRAY
Detroit Free Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder said Friday that the federal government will recognize the marriages of some 300 same-sex couples in Michigan performed March 22 before a federal appeals court put a stay on such ceremonies in the state.

In a statement Friday morning, Holder said that despite the stay placed on the ceremonies by the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals, the couples married in the hours before the stay "will not be asked to wait for further resolution in the courts."

"These families will be eligible for all relevant federal benefits on the same terms as other same-

sex marriages," Holder said, adding that Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder "has made clear that the marriages that took place ... were lawful and valid when entered into."

It means that at least for now, those couples married March 22 will have the same standing regarding federal income and estate tax benefits, as well as any other federal rights afforded other married couples. A court could eventually affirm or reject that standing, however.

"For the purpose of federal law, those marriages would be valid," said Carl Tobias, a professor at the University of Richmond School of Law. "State recognition is still on hold."

Holder noted that Snyder has said the state does not plan to extend state rights and benefits to

those couples, however, until the legalities of same-sex marriages in Michigan are sorted out in the courts.

Democratic members of Michigan's congressional delegation had called on Holder to recognize the marriages performed in four counties — Muskegon, Ingham, Oakland and Washtenaw — where clerks issued marriage licenses and performed nuptial ceremonies.

They did so after U.S. District Judge Bernard Friedman ruled March 21 that Michigan's ban on same-sex marriages is unconstitutional, opening the door to the ceremonies the next day. State Attorney General Bill Schuette appealed the decision, and by that afternoon, a panel from the U.S. 6th Circuit Court of Appeals stayed the ruling.

Lawmaker quits Congress for radio show

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
AND DAVID RUNK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Rep. Mike Rogers, the brash-talking Republican security hawk who has criticized the Obama administration yet commanded uncommon bipartisan support as chairman of the House intelligence committee, said Friday he was retiring from Congress next year.

The Michigan lawmaker made the surprising announcement in a radio interview, saying he'd leave Washington when his seventh term expires to begin a career in broadcasting. Rogers' departure comes despite a sharp climb in his national profile, as he considered a Senate run and his name was floated as a possible candidate for FBI director. He has been among the GOP's best fundraisers.

Rogers, 50, vowed in a statement to continue championing stronger national security strate-



Rogers

gy, a regular motif for one of Congress' loudest proponents of a more muscular approach for U.S. action around the world.

He was the first U.S. official to cite

strong intelligence of chemical weapons use by Syrian President Bashar Assad's forces, supporting President Barack Obama's effort, later abandoned, to win congressional approval for the use of force.

Rogers also has advocated creating safe zones in Syria to train and give weapons to anti-Assad rebels; sharply criticized the Obama administration's response to the killing of a U.S. ambassador in Benghazi, Libya, on the 11th anniversary of 9/11; and persis-

tently highlighted threats posed by the Afghan Taliban, al-Qaida and other militant groups determined to attack Americans.

Outgoing and gregarious, Rogers has been a frequent guest on nationally syndicated news television programs, sometimes exhorting Obama's cautious approach to foreign policy dilemmas. He was a national security adviser to Mitt Romney's presidential campaign.

Yet in an era of partisan divide, Rogers has maintained an excellent working relationship with the intelligence committee's top Democrat, Rep. C.A. "Dutch" Ruppersberger, of Maryland, with the pair frequently traveling together to foreign hot spots and combining efforts on legislation to tighten cybersecurity and fight terrorism.

He has a similarly close relationship with his Senate counterpart, Democrat Diane Feinstein, of California.

WORLD

More objects found, but no evidence of jet

By ROB GRIFFITH
AND GILLIAN WONG
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — A Chinese military plane scanning part of a search zone the size of Poland for signs of debris from Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 spotted several objects floating in the sea on Saturday, including two bearing colors of the missing jet.

But it was not immediately clear whether the objects were related to the 3-week-old investigation, and the second day of searching in the area ended with no evidence found of the jet, officials said.

The Chinese Ilyushin IL-76 spotted three floating objects, China's official Xinhua News Agency said, a day after several planes and ships combing the newly targeted area closer to Australia saw several other objects.

Ships from China and Australia scooped up items described only as "objects from the ocean," but none was "confirmed to be related" to Flight 370, said a statement from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, which is overseeing the search.

Relatives and friends of the passengers said they were tortured by the uncertainty over the fate of their loved ones, as they wait for hard evidence that the plane crashed.

"This is the trauma of maybe he's dead, maybe he's not. Maybe he's still alive and we need to find him. Maybe he died within the first hour of the flight, and we don't

know," Sarah Bajc, the American girlfriend of U.S. passenger Philip Wood, said in Beijing.

"I mean, there's absolutely no way for me to reconcile that in my heart," she said.

The three objects spotted by the Chinese plane Saturday were white, red and orange in color, the Xinhua report said. The missing Boeing 777's exterior was red, white, blue and gray.

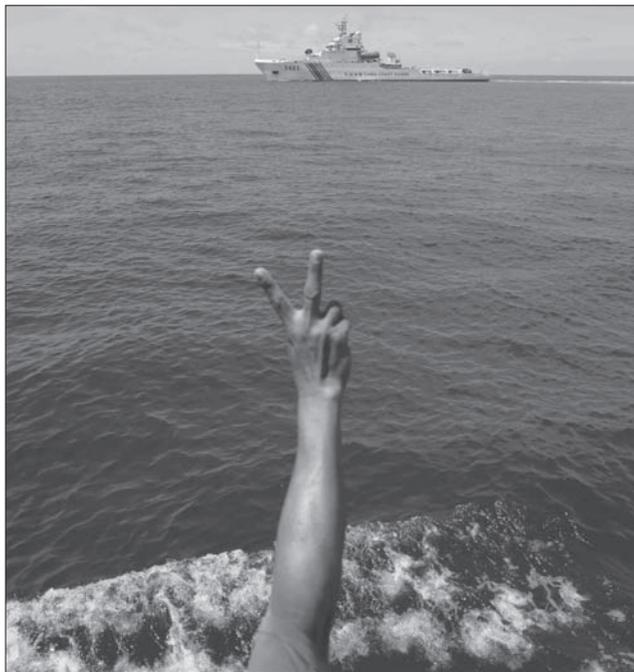
An Australian PC3 Orion search plane also sighted objects in a different part of the search area, but the maritime safety authority did not describe those objects in greater detail.

An image captured a day earlier by a New Zealand plane showed a white, rectangular object floating in the sea, but it was not clear whether it was related to the missing jet or was just sea trash.

Flight 370 disappeared March 8 while bound from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing, and investigators have been puzzled over what happened aboard the plane, with speculation ranging from equipment failure and a botched hijacking to terrorism or an act by one of the pilots.

The latter was fueled by reports that the pilot's home flight simulator had files deleted from it, but Malaysian Defense Minister Hishamuddin Hussein said checks, including one by the FBI, had turned up no new information.

"What I know is that there is nothing sinister from the simulators, but of course that will have to be confirmed by the chief of police," he said.



BULLIT MARQUEZ/AP

A Philippines marine gestures at a Chinese Coast Guard vessel trying to block a Philippines government vessel from approaching the Second Thomas Shoal on Saturday in the South China Sea.

Philippines supply vessel evades blockade by Chinese

By JIM GOMEZ
The Associated Press

SECOND THOMAS SHOAL — A Philippine government ship slipped past a Chinese coast guard blockade Saturday and brought food and fresh troops to a marooned navy ship used as a base by Filipino troops to bolster the country's territorial claims in the disputed South China Sea.

The incident was witnessed by journalists who were invited by the Philippines military to accompany the resupply mission.

It was a rare, close-up look at the tensions in the waters and the determination of both sides to press their claims. China's growing assertiveness is alarming smaller nations that have competing territorial claims and is worrying the United States, which is neutral in the disputes but is jockeying for influence with Beijing in the region.

About one hour away from Second Thomas Shoal, where the detachment is based, a Chinese coast guard ship marked "1141" twice crossed the bow of the smaller Philippines vessel in an attempt to stop it from proceeding. Another

tailed the Filipino boat.

The Chinese radioed the Philippines, telling them to stop. "You will take full responsibility for the consequences of your action," the voice said in English.

"This is the Republic of the Philippines," Philippine navy Lt. Ferdinand Gato, who was in charge of the supply mission, replied. "We are here to provision the troops."

The marines on board the supply boat waved the "V" for peace sign toward the Chinese vessel. The Filipino captain maneuvered his vessel to shallow waters where the Chinese ships couldn't sail to reach the marooned vessel, BRP Sierra Madre, which has become an awkward symbol of Philippine sovereignty in the remote offshore territory.

On March 9, Chinese vessels blocked a supply mission to the shoal, called Ayungin by the Philippines.

Philippine air-force planes have airdropped live-saving food and water at least twice since then.

The cat-and-mouse-like confrontation was witnessed by Associated Press journalists and more than a dozen other media

members who were allowed by the Philippine military to board the government vessel to show what the Manila government has said was "China's bullying" in the disputed waters.

As they approached the shoal, one of the marines raised the Philippine flag on the supply ship. Once inside the shoal, the marines and the crew applauded and exchanged high-fives. Journalists said a plane with U.S. Navy markings also flew above the marooned ship.

"Our policy is maximum tolerance," Gato said. "I will not let them stop us because our marines will starve."

The supply ship carried about 10 tons of food, including rice and canned goods, and water, Gato said. The provisions were placed into sacks and transferred to the marooned ship using ropes and pulleys.

China claims almost the entire South China Sea. The two countries were in a two-month stand-off at the Scarborough Shoal to the north, which the Chinese eventually occupied after Philippine ships left the area because of a storm in 2012.

Turkish court backs Twitter; site still blocked

By SUZAN FRASER
The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — In a second ruling against Turkey's ban on Twitter, a Turkish court has overturned an order for the social media network to remove an account that accuses a former minister of corruption, reports said Saturday.

Turkey last week suspended access to Twitter, which has been a conduit for links to recordings suggesting corruption by Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government, which faces local elections on Sunday.

The government then blocked access to YouTube following the leak of an audio recording of a top

security meeting where officials allegedly discussed a military intervention in neighboring Syria.

Twitter, which is challenging the ban in Turkish courts, announced late Friday that a court in Istanbul had ruled in its favor over the account that accuses former Transport Minister Binali Yildirim of corruption. It called the decision a "win for freedom of expression."

Yildirim's lawyer confirmed the ruling on Saturday, adding that it would be appealed.

Last week, another court ordered that access to Twitter be restored, but Turkish authorities said they have 30 days to implement the order and could appeal.

UKRAINE UNREST

Obama to Putin: Pull back from border

By **JOSH LEDERMAN**
and **JULIE PACE**
The Associated Press

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Worried about Moscow's intentions, President Barack Obama urged Russian President Vladimir Putin to pull his troops back from the border with Ukraine during an hourlong phone call Friday. The Russian leader, who initiated the call, consented that Ukraine's government is allowing extremists to intimidate civilians with impunity.

The White House and the Kremlin offered starkly different summaries of the call, which occurred while Obama was traveling

in Saudi Arabia. The contrasting interpretations underscored the chasm between how Moscow and Washington perceive the escalating international standoff sparked by Russia's annexation of Crimea away from Ukraine.

White House officials described the call as "frank and direct" and said Obama had urged Putin to offer a written response to a diplomatic resolution to the Ukraine crisis that the U.S. has presented. Obama told the Russian leader that Ukraine's government is pursuing de-escalation despite Russia's incursion into Crimea, urging Putin to support that effort. He urged Moscow to scale back its troop buildup on the

border with Ukraine, which has prompted concerns in Kiev and Washington about a possible Russian invasion in eastern Ukraine.

The Kremlin, on the other hand, said Putin had drawn Obama's attention to a "rampage of extremists" in Ukraine and suggested "possible steps by the international community to help stabilize the situation" in Ukraine.

In a statement, the Kremlin said Putin also pointed at an "effective blockade" of Moldova's separatist region of Trans-Dniester, where Russia has troops. Russia and the local authorities have complained of Ukraine's recent moves to limit travel across the border of the region on Ukraine's southern bor-

der. There were fears in Ukraine that Russia could use its forces in Trans-Dniester to invade.

Both nations said Secretary of State John Kerry planned to meet with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov to discuss further steps. That meeting could come as soon as Tuesday or Wednesday, when Kerry is scheduled to be in Brussels for a meeting of NATO foreign ministers.

Obama, in a CBS News interview aired Friday but recorded before the call, said Russia is amassing troops along the Ukrainian border "under the guise of military exercises."

"It may simply be an effort to intimidate Ukraine, or it may be

that they've got additional plans," Obama said. "And in either case, what we need right now to resolve and de-escalate the situation would be for Russia to move back those troops and to begin negotiations directly with the Ukrainian government, as well as the international community."

Putin's unexpected outreach to Obama came the same day that former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich pushed for a vote to determine the status of each of the country's regions, serving the Kremlin's purpose of turning Ukraine into a loosely knit federation and raising the threat of more unrest in Ukraine's Russian-speaking eastern provinces.

International aid targets Ukraine's corruption culture

By **DAVID McHUGH**
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — A hairstyling business closes four salons rather than deal with crooked officials. An independent salesman hustling paint from the trunk of his car faces a \$5 million tax penalty. A humble crafts stall gives up after taxes increase tenfold overnight.

That's the world of small business in Ukraine — a tangled thicket of bribe-hungry government inspectors and complicated, unpredictable regulations.

Reducing graft and red tape are set to be part of the conditions Ukraine will face in exchange for an international financial rescue package. Officials in Kiev are expected to wrap up talks with the International Monetary Fund as soon as Tuesday.

Yet it will take some doing. Ukraine's culture of corruption and bureaucracy is deeply entrenched.

Take the story of Aleksey Antonyuk, who runs a hairstyling, marketing and publishing company in Kiev.

He was part of the first wave of Ukrainian entrepreneurs in the waning days of the Soviet Union, setting up a hair salon with one stylist. He expanded that to a company that employed 200 people at its peak. He branched out into media, publishing a stack of glossy magazines on hair and makeup, and offered marketing services, training courses and hairstyling competitions.

"The trouble began when his business grew large enough to register as a limited liability corporation. That means he needed to install cash registers — and with those came government inspectors eager to find evidence of rule-breaking.

"It's like honey for flies," said Antonyuk 48, in an interview at his offices in a nondescript,

Soviet-era building away from the bustle of Kiev's city center.

The inspectors found something wrong at every turn — a register a few coins short, the safe in the wrong place. It was either a large fine — or bribe to ensure a smaller one. The going bribe rate is the equivalent of \$100 for small, recurring matters, and \$2,000 for yearly inspections.

Meanwhile, competitors had a simpler model: renting salon chairs to independent stylists, who didn't declare any income at all.

"I was competing with the black market," he said. "And you can't compete against the black market. I lost."

Antonyuk shut down four salons, keeping just two, and went back to the simpler form of business registration, as a sole proprietor.

"If I lived in another country, I'd have 100 salons, and I'd have sold them, and I'd be doing something else."

The hope of a better-governed country was one of the motivations for those who fought to get Ukraine closer to the European Union. Their protest movement helped drive out pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich, triggering a contract with Moscow that resulted in the annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region.

Antonyuk was part of the pro-EU protest encampment on Independence Square in Kiev and spent a cold night on the square Dec. 10 when there were fears it would be cleared violently by police. His phone is full of video of the protests. Though the demonstrations closed his downtown business for days, he said it was worth the trouble: "If there's no change, there won't be any business."

On a country-wide scale, corruption and bureaucracy are keeping people poor. As companies fail to grow or shut down, the



Aleksey Antonyuk, who runs a hairstyling, marketing and publishing company in Kiev, closed four salons and changed his business registration to avoid issues associated with government inspectors.

government — which is almost broke — misses out on valuable tax revenue. And good jobs are lost that could raise the per capita income of just \$7,400 per year, even adjusted for the lower cost of living.

The World Bank cites "pervasive" corruption as the burdens on small business as primary reasons why Ukraine has seriously lagged behind its neighbors economically since it gained independence at the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. The country of 46 million is poorer on a per capita basis than other former parts of the Soviet Union such as the Baltic states of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia — now EU members — and it even lags behind Russia and Belarus.

Making business laws simpler to navigate and more transparent is likely to be among the IMF's goals. Sudden changes to laws and taxes can make companies unviable overnight.

Dmitry Zimin, in the northeastern Ukrainian town of Sumy, had to close down his stand selling embroidery supplies at the central market when the tax code was amended in 2010. His social contributions rose tenfold, elimi-

nating his profits.

He's currently making do with odd jobs while he tries to build up a new business, a network of farms and homesteads that offer ecotourism holidays. But even there, growth is hindered by uncertainty. The members of his ecotourism network are struggling to get financing — banks concerned about the unpredictable nature of doing business in Ukraine demand annual interest rates of 30 percent or more on loans.

Another key issue the IMF is likely to look into is Ukraine's outdated system of tax inspections, which involves lots of face-to-face contact between bureaucrats and businesses — an open invitation to extorting bribes. Modernizing the system, so that businesses can do more of their paperwork over the Internet, for example, could help.

A more difficult aspect to change, some say, is a historical mistrust of entrepreneurs that has carried over from Soviet times, when businesspeople were denounced as speculators and prosecutors reigned supreme.

"For us, the prosecutor is tsar and god," said Vladimir Solodkov, a former small business owner in

the town of Armyansk.

Local officials in general remain a class by themselves who can't be called to account for their behavior, he said. Police, prosecutors and tax officials hang out together and the system protects its own.

Solodkov used to sell paint wholesale, taking supplies on consignment from a factory — until the local tax inspector decided he had violated tax rules. Solodkov was given an option — pay a bribe of 400,000 hryvnia (\$40,000) or a fine of 27 million hryvnia (a bit more than \$5 million).

The inspector, he said, had been too greedy: "If it had been 40,000 hryvnia (\$4,000) it would have been different."

He challenged the fine in the courts. The case is still pending after four years.

What will happen to the case is unclear. Armyansk is in Crimea, just 2½ miles inside what Russia now claims is its territory. The civil part of Solodkov's case is in Ukraine; a related criminal investigation is in Crimea.

In any case, he has forgotten about opening a business again. "The second I open something, they'll land on me," he said.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Car jumps curb at airport, hits 3 people

MA BOSTON — A car jumped a curb in the arrivals area of a Logan International Airport terminal and injured three people.

Massachusetts Port Authority spokesman Matthew Brelis said the people were taken from Terminal C to hospitals on Wednesday afternoon. He didn't know how badly injured they were but said they were conscious.

State police said a North Andover woman pulled up to the passenger pickup lane in a 1995 black Lexus sedan and stopped. They say the car later went over the curb and hit the pedestrians.

Police said they're investigating what happened.

Man convicted of felony DUI, gets 5 years in jail

MS GULFPORT — A Harrison County jury found Terrance Richard Campbell guilty of felony DUI.

District Attorney Joel Smith told The Sun Herald that the felony charge was because he had two misdemeanor DUI convictions.

Circuit Judge Larry Bourgeois sentenced Campbell on Wednesday to the maximum of five years in prison after prosecutors pointed out Campbell had a conviction for the sale of a controlled substance.

He was arrested Sept. 27, 2012, after authorities responded to a domestic disturbance and he drove up visibly impaired. He refused a field sobriety test, but authorities obtained a warrant to draw his blood. He had a blood-alcohol level of 0.14, nearly twice the state's legal limit of 0.08.

Police nab pig on the lam in city streets

CA SANTA MONICA — The cops caught the pig, but she's already out of the pokey.

A swine named Sophie decided to go free range on the streets of Santa Monica this week, and police and public service officers gave chase after getting several calls about a hog roaming a neighborhood.

The Santa Monica Daily Press said Sophie was captured quickly and safely when four officers cornered her in front of a garage.

Police said Sophie is a pet who was visiting a friend's house when she escaped.

She was taken to an animal shelter, where her owner picked her up Thursday.

'Pink slime' defamation suit won't be dismissed

SD ELK POINT — A South Dakota judge on Thursday refused to throw out a defamation lawsuit against ABC related to its coverage of a meat product called lean, finely textured beef, which critics have dubbed "pink slime."

Beef Products Inc. sued the television network in 2012 seeking \$1.2 billion in damages. Dakota Dunes-based BPI said ABC's coverage led to the closure of three plants and roughly 700 layoffs, including consumers into believing the product is unsafe.

THE CENSUS

600K

The number of cookies that the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois are sending to U.S. military personnel overseas. The (Joliet) Herald-News reported that the cookie donation is part of an annual effort by the organization. This year's donation, which amounts to 28,000 boxes, is the largest ever by the Girl Scout council, which oversees about 1,500 area scout troops.



MIKE STAUGAITIS, THE (SHAMONIN, PA.) NEWS-ITEM/AP

Riding with 'The Bike Guy'

Bob 'The Bike Guy' Swain rides his seven-person Conference Bike with six other people in the parking lot across from Smith Hall at Bucknell University on Thursday in Lewisburg, Pa.

Attorneys for ABC say the network in each of its broadcasts stated the U.S. Food and Drug Administration deemed the product safe to eat. They said BPI might not like the phrase "pink slime," but like all ground beef, it's pink and has a slimy texture.

In her Thursday ruling, Judge Cheryl Gering dismissed some claims but allowed most to go forward. Gering ruled that ABC isn't protected against liability by saying in its news reports that the product is beef, is safe and is nutritious.

City residents work on state barbecue map

NC CHARLOTTE — Two Charlotte residents are mapping all the barbecue restaurants across North Carolina.

Amanda Aileen Fisher and Paul Bright have raised more than \$10,000 in a campaign on the website kickstarter.com for the project, The Charlotte Observer reported.

Fisher and Bright hope to pro-

vide information on every barbecue restaurant in the state.

The map is expected to be ready in June. It will not be a detailed review of restaurants, but it will include symbols on the style of barbecue, the style of sauce and whether the meat is cooked on wood or by another method.

Fisher said the maps will sell for less than \$10 and hopes they'll be sold at barbecue restaurants and gift shops.

Hungry bears a threat; take down bird feeders

VT MONTPELIER — The Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife is urging people to take down bird feeders because hungry bears are beginning to emerge from winter hibernation and finding there isn't any food because of the late spring.

Biologists say bears typically begin to emerge from their winter dens when food becomes accessible, but this year the animals aren't finding much to eat. State Wildlife Director Mark

Scott said the state is urging Vermonters to take down bird feeders and seal garbage.

The late spring could benefit the moose herd, however, because snow that persists through April can reduce the number of ticks on the animals.

Signal of wandering wolf ready to fade

OR MEDFORD — The wandering wolf dubbed OR-7 has long exceeded his 15 minutes of fame. And despite intense public interest, he could soon fade from the spotlight.

The GPS collar that has sent regular electronic pulses to reveal his travels for the past three years has eclipsed its normal life span, and state and federal biologists don't plan to replace it.

"When that collar dies, we'll never know his fate," Rob Klavins, of the conservation group Oregon Wild, told the (Medford) Mail Tribune newspaper. "But that could be OK. It's

good to have a little mystery in the world."

The wolf gained celebrity status in 2011 after leaving a pack in northeastern Oregon days after the state issued a kill order for his father and a sibling for preying on livestock.

Woman pleads guilty to bigamy, fined \$500

MO FARMINGTON — An eastern Missouri woman has been fined \$500 after pleading guilty to a rare charge — bigamy.

The Daily Journal newspaper in Park Hills reported that Michelle Declue, 28, pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor on Thursday, and the judge issued the fine.

Court documents show that Declue was married in December 2010 in St. Francois County. Late last year, her husband told deputies that he had recently discovered his wife had married in October 2008 in St. Clair County, Ill., and never dissolved that union.

From wire reports

TRAVEL



Helping Hawaii

PHOTOS BY BRIAN J. CANTWELL/Seattle Times

The Hawaii Wildlife Fund is working to protect green sea turtles as they come ashore by the dozens at the same spot every evening on bustling Hookipa Beach.

Volunteers spend vacation time working to save land, sea and wildlife

By **BRIAN J. CANTWELL**
The Seattle Times

For months, dozens of green sea turtles have been showing up every evening at the same spot on Maui's Hookipa Beach to rest on the sand for hours. Naturalists call it "basking."

"We don't quite understand why they chose this place, but once they did, they have kept coming," says Hannah Bernard, president of the nonprofit Hawaii Wildlife Fund (wildhawaii.org), which is working to protect them. "No place in the world has as many basking turtles."

Visitors can photograph the turtles. Or they can have a richer experience: While on the island, they can volunteer as turtle monitors with Bernard's group, helping to educate others about these endangered sea creatures the locals call *honu*.

Helping the *honu* means spending a few hours on the beach — hardly a painful commitment. It's just one way to turn an island vacation into "voluntourism."

Theories vary on why the turtles are coming ashore. It might be related to a disease that causes non-malignant tumors, depleting their energy. It might be a way to escape predatory sharks. Or the cold-blooded turtles might just be taking a break to warm up, not unlike human swimmers.

That they've chosen as a refuge one of Hawaii's busier beaches — on the good-surfing side of the island, near the main Maui airport — is a challenge to those hoping to protect them.

Without human monitors for the turtles, visitors have been known to sit their kids on the tur-

bles' backs for photos, or disrupt their rest in other ways.

With slow, jerky gaits, more and more turtles carve a tractor-tread-like path up into the sand at the base of a bluff.

There's a baby, about a third of the size of the adults, which can grow as long as 5 feet and weigh 700 pounds. By 7:30 p.m., the end of that night's watch, we count 24 turtles resting on the sand.

It's a wildlife show that you'll never get at SeaWorld.

If human culture is of more interest, sign up for a van trip on the Kahekili Highway, one of the most challenging narrow roads on Maui. Snake around oceanfront cliffs and through gulches to near the island's northern tip, where volunteers are helping to restore "Uncle Oliver's" taro farm. The Kahakuloa Valley farm is the project of 70-year-old Oliver Dukelow, who has lived here 47 years as steward of this land passed down through generations to his wife, Valerie Rose Piimauna Aiwohi. Together the couple raised eight children here, four of whom became college professors.

He takes the honorary "uncle" title bestowed affectionately in island culture. This is another volunteer proj-

'Right now we're not taking care of the land or the ocean. We need to do better; that's what this is about.'

Oliver Dukelow
plant and fish farmer



"Uncle Oliver" Dukelow explains the virtues of the types of taro, a Hawaiian plant. Volunteers are helping him restore his taro farm.

ect with Hawaii Wildlife Fund. To reach the farm, I bounce along with Bernard in her little four-wheel-drive Chevy. The place has more green than Ireland. Banana trees, papaya, ti leaf and more.

"This is Hawaiian land, and the opportunity to come here is special because you can only come as an invited guest," Bernard tells me.

Uncle Oliver, a big man with leathery skin and tousled salt-and-pepper locks, shows us his ponds, which volunteers have helped to excavate and plant. Stairstepped behind his home on stilts, the ponds hold both taro, a traditional Hawaiian food crop grown in water, and fish.

The project is an effort to take fishing pressure off island reefs

and allow them to recover from damage caused by development runoff and other contamination.

Uncle Oliver has three tilapia ponds and plans two more ponds with mullet. In restoring the ponds, he aims to recapture some of the aquaculture innovations of his forebears.

"The land's still alive, and the spirits are still alive," he tells us. "I've never thought of owning the land, but of taking care of it. Right now we're not taking care of the land or the ocean. We need to do better; that's what this is about."

From the top of his clearing, I count more than a dozen ponds fed by diverted stream water splashing from PVC pipes. Around watery stalks, big fish swim in lazy circles. It's like Eden without

apples.

Above the ponds perches an old, unoccupied house decorated inside with photos of Uncle Oliver's stern-faced ancestors. This is one option for visitor housing.

A partnership between Hawaii Wildlife Fund, California-based Bluecoology and the Cascadia Research Collective will bring volunteer groups here. Activities might include learning to pound poi, the edible paste made from taro roots, and building a traditional underground oven.

If you're a speaker with a few gardening skills, head for Waieae Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge, northwest of Kahului, on any Friday morning between 8 and noon. It's Volunteer Day.

James Keoni Crowe, land steward for Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (hilt.org/protected-lands/maui/waieae-refuge), might put you to work pulling castor beans, Mexican poppy and other invasive plants from a 27-acre wetland pasture at the heart of this 277-acre preserve. It once was the site of a centuries-old Hawaiian village. Today, it's a birder's paradise and a great place for a waterfront hike.

When chores are done, we walk along a peaceful beachfront trail, past sun-bleached, bonelike driftwood, dazzlingly chartreuse dune plants called *naupaka*, and the remains of an ancient rock temple originally dedicated to Ku, the god of war, politics and fishing. (Somehow it made sense that those things went together in these islands.)

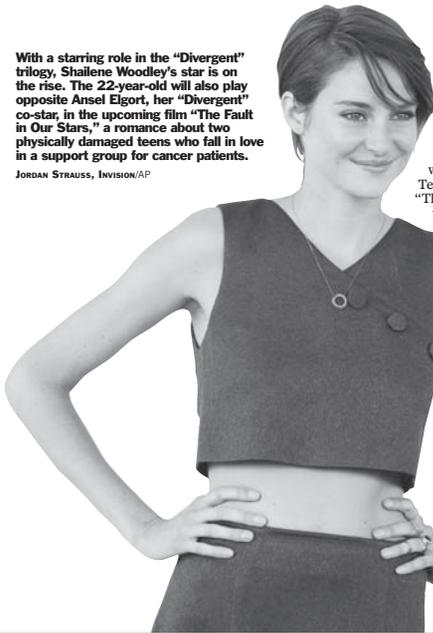
At trip's end, I've learned more than I've labored. I'm richer for it. Yet in a small way, I've given something of myself, in the spirit of *aloha*.

MOVIES

Hollywood embraces Shailene Woodley

With a starring role in the "Divergent" trilogy, Shailene Woodley's star is on the rise. The 22-year-old will also play opposite Ansel Elgort, her "Divergent" co-star, in the upcoming film "The Fault in Our Stars," a romance about two physically damaged teens who fall in love in a support group for cancer patients.

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP



By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The young actor Ansel Elgort has worked with Shailene Woodley in two films. And he has a suggestion for anyone meeting her.

"My advice to people, when they're first meeting Shailene, is to hug her back," Elgort says. "You are going to be hugged, so be ready."

"I do love a good hug," admits Woodley, whose work on TV in "The Secret Life of an American Teenager" led to breakout film performances in "The Descendants" and last summer's "The Spectacular Now."

Critics and her peers noticed right away her open-eyed, open-hearted transparency, the way any film she takes on instantly feels more real just because she's in it.

"Authentic" is the right word for her," says author Veronica Roth. Roth wrote the "Divergent" series, the sci-fi novels that Hollywood is predicting could become the next "Hunger Games."

"Shailene's not afraid to go places, playing it from the gut. Vulnerable."

Elgort, who plays Woodley's character's brother in "Love" and her love interest in this June's "The Fault in Our Stars," agrees. "It's science fiction. You need somebody as real as her to make it real."

For her part, Woodley doesn't consider that acting, "not so much a skill as just how I am." Maybe it's something she picked up. Maybe she's born with it.

"I'm astrologically a triple water sign (Nov. 15, a Scorpio), so I'm basically an emotional, water mess," Woodley jokes. "But I grew up with two psychologist parents, which explains a lot. They established feeling and compassion in me in a very young age. I wonder if that helped me connect, emotionally, with someone really easily."

"Divergent" depicts a dystopian future where teens choose their lifelong career path, their tribe or "faction," whether they'll be warriors or rulers or thinkers or laborers, based on their true natures — nurturing or brave, imaginative or cogs in the agricultural or manufacturing faction that makes this world work. Roth admits to being a fan of "The Hunger Games" novels and owns up — a little — to the resemblance between the two series.

But "Divergent" — to be followed by "Insurgent" and "Allegiant," as Woodley's character, Tris, finds herself and sets herself up in opposition to the rigid social structure she's born into — has the best "Young Adult" bona fides of any book turned to film series in that genre. It's not just the stars who are young (Woodley is 22, Elgort just turned 20). Roth, the novelist, is only 25 herself.

"The choices real teenagers have to make at 16, 17 or 18, feel like these life-and-death decisions," Roth says. "It's their emotional reality. I felt that at 16, this pressure to get it right the first time. People change majors, change colleges, change jobs. But when you're 16, 17, you don't have that perspective yet."

Woodley felt that herself as she pondered whether to tackle her first "franchise." She's spent a couple of years as a "critic's darling," making movies that did not become the sort of life-altering blockbusters that "The Hunger Games" did. That film series changed "Winter's Bone" starlet Jennifer Lawrence into the hottest acting property in Hollywood, and a tabloid favorite.

"I had to decide if I wanted something this big in my life," Woodley says. "I'm grateful that I did, because I have no regrets and I know that thinking about it more made it easier to see it was the right decision."

Introducing the rest of the 'Divergent' players

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Shailene Woodley plays the central character of Tris in the new action film "Divergent." But the film features a large supporting cast. Here's a look at some of the others involved with making the action film.

Ansel Elgort

Plays: Caleb, Tris' brother



You know him from: He was in the recent remake of "Carrie."

On turning the book into a movie: "I think the world is really three-dimensional. It's impressive because to have this kind of movie, that's the first in a series, you have to introduce a whole world.

Introduce all the factions. Introduce all the characters. And then you have to tell a story top down to it."

Mekhi Phifer

Plays: Max, the top dog in the military-oriented Dauntless.



You know him from: Spent years working in the "ER."
On being in a big-budget action movie: "This was an interesting journey for me because I have never done a sequel-based film. I am used to being able to understand

what the character's arc is in any given script by reading it from beginning to end. In this, I had certain things I knew I wanted to bring. It was interesting because I didn't know where the character was going."

Miles Teller

Plays: Peter, a member of Dauntless.

You know him from: He kicked up his heels in the remake of "Footloose."



On how he sees his character: "I don't think anyone wakes up and says 'I'm going to be mean today.' I think it comes from some kind of inner conflict and struggle, which (author) Veronica (Roth) talks about in her later books. Peter has a really nice arc by the end of it."

Maggie Q

Plays: Tori, a Dauntless member who unwillingly becomes a mentor for Tris.

You know her from: She starred in the CW Network series "Nikita."



On giving Tori depth: "When you are in the Dauntless faction, they are known for their bravery. They're a tough faction, and that can be a little flat and cold. You don't want that. You need the undertone to read properly when you are doing a film like this, so you aren't

just watching a bunch of mean, driven group of

people. What makes Tori engaging and mysterious is that line between what's felt and what's expressed."

Tony Goldwyn

Plays: Andrew, Tris' father.

You know him from: He plays the president on "Scandal."



On his "Divergent" character: "I had read the book and the character is similar to the book. I'll say that (director) Neil Burger in developing the book into the screenplay really fleshed out some of the some of the secondary characters more than they are in the book. He took a strong point of view with Andrew, where I think you

have a lot of compassion and connection to our family which is really useful in telling the story."

Jai Courtney

Plays: Eric, one of the leaders of Dauntless.

You know him from: He starred opposite Bruce



Willis in last year's "A Good Day to Die Hard."
On how he plays the character different from the book: "I actually wanted to make Eric a little more likable than he seemed on the page. When you have a cast of characters like this, you can feel a little functional. The

challenge was to try and do something about that and dig in and find out what his motivation was."

Ben Lloyd-Hughes

Plays: Will, a new Dauntless member.

You know him from: He was in the British TV series "The Hour."



On playing the character: "The challenge in playing Will is — because he has all the facts and is a complete know-it-all — to not make him Dr. Exposition so that everything he says is not about just moving the story along."

warmth of his character comes out in the film."

Theo James

Plays: Four, the instructor who connects with Tris.



You know him from: His "Downton Abbey" character died after having sex with Lady Mary.

On finding the elements to play Four: "I had an immediate affinity with the character. I think we share certain qualities. You tend to try and use everything you share with a character in everything you do. I love this person who you don't know what he's thinking. He's the type of person when he walks into a room, doesn't need to be the loudest voice, but you still feel his presence. He's not someone who speaks too much, but you know he's thinking all the time. He's a very perceptive person. On top of that, there's kind of a dangerous silliness. I felt he had when reading the book and the script."

ENTERTAINMENT

Roth puts the young in young adult genre

Author, 25, on success of 'Divergent,' film adaptation

By JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

“Divergent,” the latest young adult novel poised to become a blockbuster movie, meets all the criteria for the YA genre: The movie is adapted from a best-seller; the story is rooted in sci-fi; and the cast consists of hot, young stars-to-be. But unlike the “Twilight” and “The Hunger Games” series, this one was actually written by someone under 30.

In 2011, writer Veronica Roth was just 22 years old when her book hit shelves. It landed on the New York Times children’s best-seller list, where it remained for 11 weeks. She followed it up with the sequel “Insurgent” and completed her trilogy with “Allegiant.” Her books have sold more than 11 million copies.

Summit Entertainment, the same studio behind the “Twilight” franchise, acquired the film rights before the first copy of “Divergent” was sold. “It’s been surreal,” Roth said during a recent interview. “When I found out Summit wanted to make a movie, I was like, ‘They want to do what?’ I was really nervous, but I was relieved when it started doing well. That they were interested was really encouraging.”

During an interview with The Associated Press, Roth talked

about letting the studio take her book and run with it, the inevitable comparisons with “The Hunger Games” and how she’s grown as a writer.

The Associated Press: The first time you saw the film adaptation of “Divergent,” did it look the way you’d envisioned it?

Roth: Not until I saw the shot of the Sears Tower (now Chicago’s Willis Tower) and the characters going into the choosing ceremony did I really go, “Oh that’s really it.” I got really emotional. And I was happy because I didn’t want any sleek or super polished future, and it does look kind of destroyed. You can’t micromanage the movie adaptation of your book. First of all, they won’t let you. Second of all, I didn’t want to.

Your stories have been compared to writer Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games” series. Both focus on heroines in dystopian societies. Feel any pressure to match the box-office numbers of those adaptations?

I think it’s a double-edged sword. I try not to think about it, but I don’t succeed most of the time. “The Hunger Games” did something remarkable. So in that sense, it’s a flattering comparison. But you can’t hope to replicate that experience. It was unique.

What are your thoughts on the casting choices of Shailene Woodley as the character Tris and Theo James as Four?

(Shailene and Theo) transported me right away. They had great chemistry. That is what I was most concerned about because that has to carry the story.

What was the inspiration for the story?

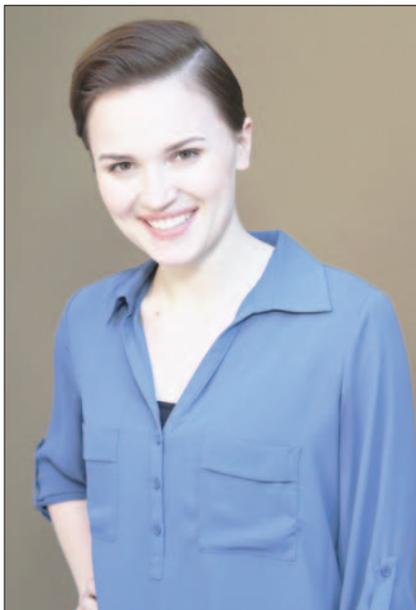
My freshman year of college I learned about exposure therapy, which is a method of treating anxiety and phobia. Someone is repeatedly exposed to the thing that makes them afraid, so they become habituated to it. I wanted to use it in a sci-fi context.

Writer Stephenie Meyer was 31 when her first book from the “Twilight” collection came out. Suzanne Collins was 46 when the first novel from her “The Hunger Games” trilogy released. How does it feel to be a young adult generating young adult material?

I feel acutely aware of how young I am. In a way that is good. It’s productive. It makes me realize that I should be growing as a writer and a person.

How have you grown as a writer?

I take things that I am putting on the page more seriously now. In the subsequent books I thought more about violence and young people. It’s very serious. That doesn’t mean I’m limiting the content. I just handle it different[ly]. In terms of writing skill, I think more detail and less repetition.



ANNIE I. BANG, INVISION/AP

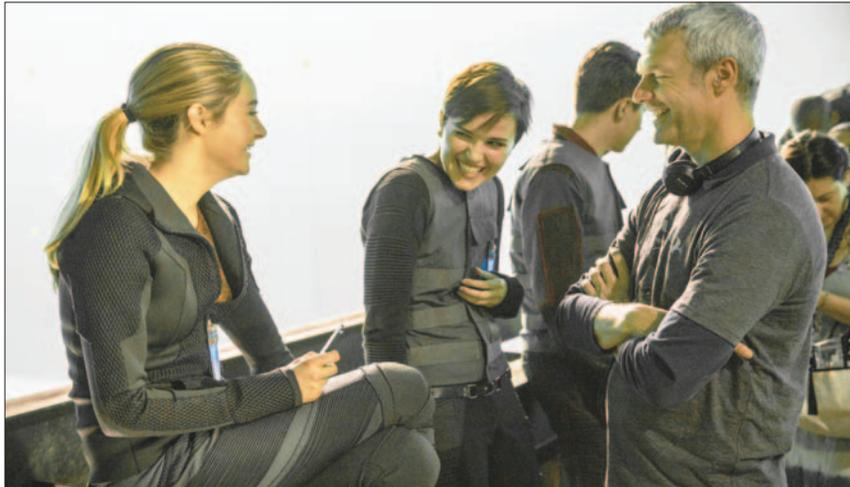
Author Veronica Roth was just 22 when her book “Divergent,” the first in a trilogy set in a dystopian Chicago of the future, hit shelves.

Does the pressure to produce a good follow-up weigh on you?

It depends on the day. The only time I’m able to write is when I can let that go. It’s been helpful to have a series finished ... whatever I do next just gets to exist between me and my screen for as long as I want it to. It’s a way of coaching

myself into relaxing. **Have you finished your next book?**

I wrote a collection of short stories that’s coming out in July. (The collection is told from Four’s perspective.) It’s kind of a prequel to “Divergent.” I’m just finishing them now.



SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/AP

From left, actress Shailene Woodley, author Veronica Roth and director Neil Burger share a laugh on the set of the film “Divergent.”

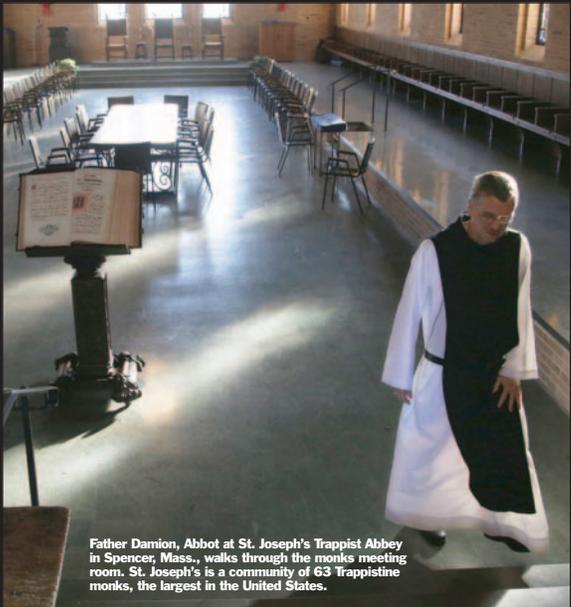
“You can’t micromanage the movie adaptation of your book. First of all, they won’t let you. Second of all, I didn’t want to.”

Veronica Roth



PHOTOS BY STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

Father William checks the color of a Spencer ale pour-off. Father William moved from St. Joseph's to Belgium to learn the art of Trappist beer brewing before returning to the U.S. to assume his duties at the Spencer Brewery.



Father Damian, Abbot at St. Joseph's Trappist Abbey in Spencer, Mass., walks through the monks meeting room. St. Joseph's is a community of 63 Trappistine monks, the largest in the United States.

Missio of

Brothers of St. Joseph Trappist beer for the

BY DAVE MARTIN
The Associated Press

For more than a century, Catholic monks known as Trappists have been brewing what many beer lovers consider some of the world's best. Eight monasteries — six in each in Holland and Austria — produced the beer, which was first recognized by the International Trappist Association in 1980.

Now the 63 brothers of St. Joseph's Abbey in Spencer, Mass., have joined them, selling their own beer brewed outside Europe.

Their ambitious venture was hardly met with universal approval among their existing Trappist brothers in Europe. After all, for nearly 60 years the monks in the U.S. have been selling jams and jellies to help support their community. Now they were interested in the real family business.

The journey from jams to beer started last year when St. Joseph's sent two monks on a fact-finding mission to the Belgian Beer Fest in Boston. Within hours, the monks were alarmed to learn of the industry's skepticism.

"The original skepticism was because Europe ... and Americans," said Father William, bald, jovial former potter who has been at the abbey for 35 years and now directs the brewing. "We were worried they would go too big too fast."

Keeley and another monk from St. Joseph's traveled to Belgium in December 2011 and moved to Belgium in December 2012. Their European brothers brew — and sell — beer that they could properly produce and sell in the U.S.

"We see it as a 50-100 year project. It's not on the shoulders of those who are currently building and supporting it, but on the shoulders of those who will be building and supporting it in the future. We are doing it for the sake of our brothers and our community."

“The monks were coming to us in a certain sense we have to be open to them.”



Monaries Malt

St. Joseph's Abbey begin brewing the first time outside Europe

Spencer Brewery Director Father Isaac Keeley was a potter before joining the Trappist community 35 years ago. He is one of 25 priests living in a community of 63 monks at St. Joseph's.



SPENCER, Mass. — Cistercian monks brewing and selling some of the best in the world in Belgium and one of the only beer produced in the United States as authentic

— about an hour's drive from the first Trappist brewery in the world.

With enthusiasm by the monks of St. Joseph's, Mass., had started their community business: beer.

After almost five years ago, the monks' finding mission to brew their European style beer.

When we were outside of the United States, Father Isaac Keeley, the director of St. Joseph's for the first time. "And the fear we

St. Joseph's packed over 2010 to see how they would convince them to produce an American Trappist beer.

ect. (Just) as we're who came before us tried the way of life, we were able to stand on our feet and see the brew-

ery as part of that," said Father Damian Carr, head of St. Joseph's Abbey.

The European monks, warming to the idea of an American Trappist beer, began giving close counsel to their Massachusetts brothers.

The European monasteries made three strong recommendations: To brew beer of Trappist quality they must build a state-of-the-art brewery, hire a skilled brewing engineer, and brew just one kind of beer for the first five years. The St. Joseph's monks set to work and built a multimillion-dollar brewery that would be the envy of almost any microbrewery in the world.

The European brewers, wanting a beer that wouldn't damage the Trappist brand, agreed to help the Americans develop a good recipe.

After more than 20 trial batches, the monks in Massachusetts settled on the recipe for what would become Spencer Trappist Ale, a "refectory ale" of 6.5 percent alcohol.

The cloudy, golden beer is all-American yet rooted in European tradition with sweet, yeasty notes familiar to fans of other Trappist ales.

With beer in his suitcase, Keeley flew to Belgium, seeking his brother monks' blessing.

He first delivered a PowerPoint presentation on the new brewery, then poured glasses of Spencer Trappist Ale for his European counterparts.

"They approved it unanimously," he said, "and after the vote there was applause."

With the Europeans on board, a U.S. distribution deal was signed. Sales will only be in Massachusetts at first, but plans are to expand nationally and someday, internationally.

On New Year's Day, at their annual holiday party, the brewery team tapped a keg of the final product for the whole St. Joseph's community — the first time many of the brothers tasted the beer.

Telling the story of that night, Keeley started to cry.

"The keg was pouring beautifully. We had this great head on the beer," he said. "The monks were coming back for seconds at least. And it just struck me ... in a certain sense we have made it."

coming back for seconds at least. And it just struck me... in a certain sense we have made it."

Father Isaac Keeley
Spencer Brewery Director

GADGETS & CHARTS



Jeff Chiu/AP

Chaos Industries CEO Humberto Convera, center, explains his game 'Agent Awesome' to an attendee of the Game Developers Conference 2014 on March 19 in San Francisco. After capturing legitimacy in recent years, the biggest challenge now facing independent game makers is convincing people to play their games.

Indie game makers struggle to stand out

By DERRICK J. LANG
The Associated Press

In almost every spot imaginable at last week's Game Developers Conference, there were indie game makers touting their latest creations in the hope of becoming the next "Minecraft" or "Gone Home."

The biggest challenge facing the growing number of independent video game creators — those risk-taking tinkers who self-publish their own titles — isn't making, distributing or even funding their creative visions. It's persuading people to buy their games.

"There's just something about human interaction," said Chris McQuinn, a designer at Toronto-based indie developer DrinkBox Studios. "The ultimate goal is to meet someone who might champion your game — a fan who will go off and tell their friends about it. There's a more powerful message about a game than when it comes from a fan."

The majority of developers at GDC, the largest annual gathering of the gaming industry in the U.S.

outside of the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, are now classifying themselves as indie. In a poll conducted by GDC organizers of 2,600 attendees at last year's show, 64 percent said they were self-publishing their current projects.

Advancements like crowd funding, easier-to-use development tools and digital distribution services have made way for indie creators crafting content mostly for PCs and mobile devices.

Despite the rise of self-publishing, most indies lack the big marketing budgets and promotional prowess of major publishers. Instead, indies typically rely on word-of-mouth to persuade gamers to click download.

Ultimately, an indie success comes down to the same query vexing all forms of entertainment: Is it any good?

"It's tough," said Jun Iwasaki, president of GungHo Online Entertainment America Inc. "The most important thing is the first 10 minutes of a game. If I want to keep playing, those are the games I want to work on."

GADGET WATCH

See and be seen with Nightstick flashlight

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The newly released Nightstick (NSP-2422) Dual-light flashlight from Bayco Products is not your average handheld light.

The flashlight portion turns on and off with the press of a button like most others, but has a range of almost 600 feet with the power of the included three AA batteries.

For flashlight junkies (that crowd exists; I've met many of them), the CREE LED is rated at 130 lumens.

The name "Dual" implies another feature, and sure enough, there is one. On the handle there's another button, this one for a floodlight (110 lumens) built into the bottom of the body.

It's designed for putting light on objects that are close. I found it to be of great use on night walks with my dog to light up the sidewalk.

You can have both lights on at once, or each independently. There's also a belt clip on the flashlight along with a hand strap.

Another handy feature is a built-in magnet on the bottom of the handle, enabling it to hold onto nuts, bolts and screws while working on a project.

Online: mynightstick.com, \$23

The Jabra Solemate Max portable Bluetooth (3.0) speaker is yet another Jabra product that proves that you don't need to be an expert to be able to judge great sound — you'll just know good sound when you hear it.

After cranking up the Jabra Solemate Max, I instantly concluded that it doesn't sound good.

It sounds GREAT.

I give it my all-important "wow factor" award right off the block, which isn't easy to get.

I did get a demo on the speaker at the Consumer Electronics Show earlier this year, but hearing it in a convention center doesn't compare to cranking it up at home.

The speaker is heavy, weighing 6.6 pounds and measuring 11.9 by 4 by 5.44 inches. For the most part, it's like having a great-looking brick (with a carrying handle) that pumps out amazing sound.

The X-Mini Me thumb-sized speaker offers big sound in a small package. The volume is controlled from the device outputting the music; all you do on the speaker is turn it on and off.



It's a little pricey, but you're getting a great product for the money.

Its battery is good for up to 14 hours, and it also has a port to use for charging a smartphone while playing your tunes. There's a battery status indicator to let you know when a charge is needed.

The speaker lets you control some functions of the device sending the music and has a built-in microphone for taking calls.

It comes with all the cables you'll need for charging or connecting a device directly with a 3.5mm audio connection.

Online: jabra.com, \$399 available in black and gray versions

The X-Mini Me thumb-sized speaker is one of those "great things that come in small packages" that we're always hearing about.

At first glance you wouldn't guess it's a speaker, but once you pop open the lid and connect it to your media source with the included three-way USB cable, you'll see what I mean.

It looks like a miniature barrel with rubber sides, measuring just 1.8 inches high and a little less than that in diameter with a weight of just 1.4 ounces.

The volume is controlled from the device outputting the music; all you do on the speaker is turn it on and off.

The 31mm speaker has a speaker output of 1.5W. A 2300mAh lithium-ion battery will give you about six hours of use before a two-hour USB charge is needed.

A lanyard also is included to attach to the built-on clip.

A Bluetooth version (X-mini WE) too wireless is good for about five hours of playback. A micro-USB cord is included for charging.

Online: x-mini.com, \$24.99



X-Mini/MCT

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for March 25:

1. "Shakira." Shakira
2. "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
3. "Unconditional," Memphis May Fire
4. "Glee: The Music," Glee Cast
5. "School of Roxes," Christian Gray
6. "Pulse," Karmin
7. "Divergent" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) (Deluxe Version), Various Artists
8. "Majestic" (Deluxe Edition) (Live), Kari Jobe
9. "Help," Erica Campbell
10. "Spring Break 6...Like We Ain't Ever," Luke Bryan

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from Mar. 17-23:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. John Legend, "All of Me"
3. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Various Artists, "Let It Go"
6. Pharrell Williams, "Happy" (from Despicable Me 2)
7. Beyonce, "Drunk In Love"
8. Lorde, "Team"
9. The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE — Original Mix"
10. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for March 25:

1. "Frozen"
2. "American Hustle"
3. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
4. "Saving Mr. Banks"
5. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
6. "A.C.O.D."
7. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"
8. "12 Years a Slave"
9. "Dallas Buyers Club"
10. "Gravty"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the top 10 Wii U games for March:

1. "Donkey Kong: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
2. "Super Mario 3D World," Nintendo
3. "Castles' Storm," Zan Studios
4. "Lega The Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.
5. "Dr. Luigi," Nintendo
6. "Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag," Ubisoft
7. "Deus Ex: Human Revolution — Director's Cut," Square Enix
8. "Lega Marvel Super Heroes," Warner Bros.
9. "Skylanders Swap Force," Activision
10. "The Legend of Zelda: Wind Waker HD," Nintendo

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for March 25:

- ANDROID
1. Threes!
 2. Link Bubble Pro
 3. Facets
 4. Papa's Freezeria To Go!
 5. Poke Craft

Top 5 paid apps for March 25:

- APPLE
1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 2. Loopy HD
 3. Surgeon Simulator
 4. SkyBlock — Survival Game Mission Flying Island
 5. Block Iron 3D (original) — Mini Survival FPS Craft & Multiplayer Game

— Compiled by MCT



VIDEO GAMES



Surrounded by a society that fears them, superhumans are ruthlessly hunted down and caged by the Department of Unified Protection in "inFamous: Second Son."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONY/AF



'inFamous: Second Son'

With stunning visuals, smooth combat, game is never boring

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL

Stars and Stripes

"inFamous: Second Son" is aptly named, as it's really the second big exclusive for the PlayStation 4 and as such, has a fair amount of expectation placed on it. Owners of the PS4 really needed "inFamous" to step up and fill a void in the quality of available titles that "Knack" and "Killzone" just haven't filled.

Luckily, "Second Son" is here, and it definitely helps justify the high cost of being an early console adopter.

Created by Sucker Punch, the "inFamous" series is best described as a superpowers action simulator, in which the actions you take in-game will result in you becoming a superhero or a murderous villain.

The first and second "inFamous" games focused on superpowered protagonist Cole McGrath as he ran around fictional analogs of New York City and New Orleans, either saving citizens and defeating evil or kicking puppies and generally acting like a big, electric jerk. This binary good or evil system lies at the heart of the franchise and influences everything from gameplay to story progression.

"Second Son" doesn't diverge from this formula much, although it does give us a new protagonist in the form of Delsin Rowe, whose story is told against the backdrop of the very real city of Seattle. Delsin is a small-time delinquent, specializing in graffiti and annoying his big brother, who just happens to be a local police officer. Through a chance encounter, Delsin finds out that he's a "Conduit" — the name given to super-

powered folks in the "inFamous" universe — with the ability to copy other Conduits' abilities. After a bit of exposition, he and his brother find themselves in Seattle with designs on taking down a corrupt government official.

In order to do this, Delsin has to chase down other Conduits in order to borrow their powers. To do this, he'll have to make a series of decisions that will influence



how the game plays out, both in how the story is told and how the abilities he gets will be used. If you make heroic decisions, your powers will be more benign. If you decide to be more villainous, your powers will be more combat-oriented.

While the past "inFamous" games toyed with different abilities, they never gave players the number of skills found in "Second Son." Without spoiling it too much, by the end of the game, Delsin has access to four sets of powers. Some of those abilities are basically palette swaps with one another, but there is enough variation between the abilities that players can adjust to fit their own play style.

Personally, I used the power that allowed me to run up walls when I needed to get from point A to point B, then I'd drain some smoke powers when it was time to throw down. The

power subsets can't be changed on the fly, but are switched up by finding one of the appropriate power sources scattered across the map and draining it. I wish we had been given the ability to change between abilities a bit quicker, but that's a minor nitpick.

Generally, a power set has a ranged attack, a transportation mode, a melee attack and a super attack, which is powered up by gaining combat "karma." For instance, if you use a power to disable an enemy, rather than kill him, you'll gain good karma points that will add up until you can unleash the big attack.

Only one of the power sets is missing this mega attack, which is sort of unfortunate, as it leaves that one feeling a bit unfinished. Other than that misstep, the combat system is extremely satisfying, thanks to a fluid set of controls that always feels like you're in charge. Action games live and die on their controls and ability to keep the action fresh, and thanks to the various sets of powers and fine control you have over the combat, the action in "Second Son" never gets boring.

While the combat is front and center in "inFamous," the storyline has a couple of neat hooks that help bring it above the comic book storytelling it generally falls back on. The best hook is tied into Delsin's graffiti artist background. His internal monologues are told with a stylized graffiti flair, and one of the common side missions builds on his background by having players hold their controller like a can of spray paint to tag surfaces throughout Seattle. The light on the DualShock even changes colors depending on the color of paint

Overall grade: **B+**

being used, which is a nice touch.

The side missions scattered through the city aren't as exciting as the combat or story though, as there really isn't much variety in the handful of games gives you. Completing them will free up sections of the city, which doesn't do much to affect the game besides giving access to a fast travel point. It would have been nice to have some sort of reaction from the antagonist as you slowly whittled away her control over Seattle, or even change up missions from sector to sector, but it was the same handful in each area. It turned opening up the city into somewhat of a slog, with no real payoff for the player, save for an unlocking of a different design for the back of Delsin's vest.

Those are really minor annoyances, though. The game is bound to be a hit for PS4 owners, and for good reason. It marries fantastic visuals with a fun, albeit basic, story and fantastic combat. For fans of the previous games, there is bound to be a sense of déjà vu, but there is enough new here for the formula to feel sufficiently refreshing.

Those who haven't played the previous "inFamous" games won't be lost as the story and setting are brand new, though those players might not get the Easter eggs and fan service scattered across the world. Both sets of PS4 owners really have no reason not to pick up "inFamous: Second Son," as it's easily the best game on the console right now.

Bottom line: B+ If you have a PlayStation 4 and like fun, "Second Son" is a no-brainer.

Rated: Mature

Platform: PlayStation 4

Online: infamousthegame.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Zuckerberg buying blitz: crazy or brilliant?

By **BARBARA ORTUTY**
AND **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Facebook's latest multibillion dollar acquisition of virtual reality headset maker Oculus is prompting some people to wonder if CEO Mark Zuckerberg is already living in an alternate reality.

Longtime technology analyst Roger Kay wonders whether Zuckerberg "is nuts" for agreeing to pay \$2 billion for Oculus less than five weeks after inking a deal to buy WhatsApp for \$19 billion.

Oculus, which gets its start on the crowdfunding site Kickstarter, doesn't have a consumer product on the market, just the promise of bulky virtual reality goggles that have generated huge buzz in the video gaming community.

Zuckerberg, for his part, sees long-term implications in the technology, for communication, entertainment and beyond. He was right about mobile, and he's

created the world's biggest online social network.

So, is he lonely, or visionary? "Mobile is the platform of today and now we're starting to also get ready for the platforms of tomorrow. To me, by far the most exciting future platform is around vision or modifying what you see to create augmented and immersive experiences." Zuckerberg said at a conference call Tuesday discussing the deal. "Today's acquisition is a long-term bet on the future of computing. I believe Oculus can be one of the platforms of this future."

Facebook's investors seem to think Oculus's promise is too far off. The Menlo Park, Calif.-based social networking company's stock fell 3 percent on Wednesday to close at \$60.38.

Beyond sticker shock, the WhatsApp and Oculus deals — along with the Facebook's spurred offer to buy Snapchat for \$3 billion — have raised questions about Facebook's ability to innovate on its own. Some of

the company's most high-profile products, such as the SnapChat-like Poke, the messaging service Facebook Messenger and Home, have flopped.

The jury's still out on Paper, a stand-alone app that lets users read news, Facebook feeds and more.

"Facebook I don't think has the best innovation strategy," said Gartner analyst Brian Blau. "So far it's been 'move fast and break things.' Move fast is good, but break things, may not be."

Blau called the Oculus acquisition "kind of out of left field."

"We have always thought about experience as a focus of virtual reality," he said. "Certainly it can be social, but we have not thought about it as a core social experience."

That's not to say it can't work. There were questions about Facebook's acquisition of Instagram back when it offered \$1 billion for the photo-sharing app (the final purchase price was \$715 million) in April 2012 — and Instagram

"turned out fine," Blau pointed out. Facebook said Tuesday that Instagram has 200 million users, up from 30 million at the time it agreed to buy the company.

Oculus is a horizontal acquisition for Facebook, which means it lets the company expand into a new space, rather than grow its core business.

It's a strategy employed by Amazon.com Inc., whose businesses range from online retail to video streaming to tablets.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 31)	\$1.4116
Dollar buys (March 31)	€0.7084
British pound (March 31)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (March 31)	100.00
South Korean won (March 31)	1,041.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6645/0.6008
Canada (dollar)	1.1055
China (Yuan)	6.2122
Denmark (Krone)	5.4255
Egypt (Pound)	7.7584
Euro	\$1.3751/0.7274
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7243
Hungary (Forint)	222.43
Israel (Shekel)	3.5012
Japan (Yen)	106.721
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2821
Norway (Krone)	6.0086
Philippines (Peso)	44.80
Poland (Zloty)	3.1033
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2587
South Korea (Won)	1,067.21
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8668
Switzerland (Dinar)	2.8588
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.49
Turkey (New Lira)	1.1902

(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., purchases in dollars and the United Kingdom) check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

March 28, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	+58.83 16,323.06
Nasdaq Composite	+4.53 4,155.76
Standard & Poor's 500	+8.58 1,857.82
Russell 2000	+0.37 1,151.81

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.08
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.55

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SUNDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SUNDAY IN EUROPE



MONDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Sunday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Ablene, Tex	82	50	Cir	Chatanooga	62	38	Cir	Fort Wayne	52	23	Cir	Louisville	62	30	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	44	26	Cir	Cheyenne	63	38	Cir	Fresno	68	50	PCldy	Lubbock	83	50	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	41	37	Rain	Chicago	60	28	Cir	Goodland	82	43	Cir	Macon	71	44	Cir
Albuquerque	76	46	Cir	Cincinnati	53	27	Cir	Grand Junction	58	40	PCldy	Madison	60	29	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	46	41	Cir	Cleveland	44	26	Cir	Grand Rapids	51	23	Cir	Medford	56	41	Cldy
Anchorage	39	21	PCldy	Colorado Springs	69	39	Cldy	Great Falls	42	28	Cldy	Mempphis	68	43	PCldy
Ashville	57	34	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	68	44	Cir	Green Bay	50	25	PCldy	Miami Beach	80	73	Cir
Atlanta	65	42	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	70	46	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	61	41	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	83	54	Cir
Atlantic City	54	49	Rain	Concord, N.H.	37	36	Snow	Hartford	59	33	Rain	Milwaukee	59	29	Cir
Austin	79	49	Cir	Corpus Christi	80	59	PCldy	Helenia	47	31	Cldy	Missoula	44	29	Cldy
Baltimore	54	43	Rain	Dallas-Ft. Worth	81	47	Cir	Honolulu	84	73	Rain	Mobile	44	29	Cir
Baton Rouge	75	46	Cir	Dayton	48	24	Cir	Houston	77	51	Cir	Montgomery	69	43	Cir
Bilings	45	34	Snow	Daytona Beach	75	58	Cir	Huntsville	66	37	Cir	Nashville	62	37	Cir
Birmingham	66	38	Cir	Denver	71	41	Cir	Indianapolis	57	27	Cir	New Orleans	71	53	Cir
Bismarck	63	39	Cldy	Des Moines	71	39	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	71	42	Cir	New York City	52	45	Cir
Boise	53	39	Rain	Detroit	49	23	Cir	Jacksonville	73	48	Cir	Newark	55	46	Cir
Boston	43	37	PCldy	El Paso	85	52	Cir	Janeau	42	24	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	53	49	Rain
Bridgeport	80	63	PCldy	Evansville	46	29	PCldy	Key West	73	42	Cir	North Platte	74	39	PCldy
Brownsville	80	63	PCldy	Fargo	43	33	Cldy	Kansas City	73	42	Cir	Northwest	71	44	Cir
Buffalo	38	30	PCldy	Flagstaff	57	36	Cir	Knoxville	60	36	Cir	Oaklahoma City	71	44	PCldy
Burlington, Vt.	32	27	Snow	Fort Collins	55	32	PCldy	Las Vegas	75	50	Cir	Omaha	74	42	Cir
Caribou, Maine	33	27	Snow	Ft. Smith	76	40	Cir	Las Vegas	75	50	Cir	Orlando	77	61	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	68	48	Cir	Fort Worth	76	40	Cir	Lexington	58	29	Cir	Pearla	65	34	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	54	33	PCldy	Flint	52	30	Cir	Lincoln	76	43	Cir	Philadelphia	55	45	Rain
Charlotte, N.C.	64	42	Cir	Fort Smith	76	40	Cir	Little Rock	69	43	Cir	Phoenix	84	59	PCldy
							Los Angeles	70	56	PCldy	Pittsburgh	47	28	PCldy	

National temperature extremes

Hi: Ft. Ri., 88, Corpus Christi, Texas and
Lo: Ft. Ri., 8, Crane Lake, Minn.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Bigger college issues than paying athletes

By CHARLES D. ELLISON
The Root

The campaign to generate salaries for college athletes is a standard rant that always accompanies the storied brackets of the annual NCAA March Madness men's basketball tournament — and the heat just got turned up on the issue, now that a regional director of the National Labor Relations Board has ruled that Northwestern University student-athletes can unionize.

The debate about poor, lowly servants on the court sweating their way into Final Four legend is becoming as commonplace as trash talk over players' on-court picks. Advocates for athlete pay want to convince viewers that salaried point guards somehow level the playing field in an industry that raked in more than \$1 billion in TV ad revenue last year.

And recent gripes stem from the glaring reality that, as the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Race in Equity and Education points out, black athletes account for a disproportionate share of football and basketball players in the top college conferences, 64 percent and 57 percent respectively, while they're only 3 percent of the student population. With such high numbers, many commentators and thought leaders jump to the conclusion that a coordinated system of neo-chattel slavery is in full effect.

But simply paying away these inequities isn't going to help, nor is it really the point. And you can imagine how other students might feel — especially those struggling through college on loans, work-study and cobbled financial aid packages — if their

schools were to suddenly add on new levels of preferential treatment on top of what they already offer athletes in full rides, housing, food and future market opportunities.

Hence, the argument unravels into one of the more unproductive chants in modern sports. Most Americans, when polled, already disagree with the notion of a paid college athlete. But paying athletes also defeats the purpose of going to college in the first place: educational and intellectual enlightenment. The debate rages on at a time when studies find that colleges are less frequently serving as centers of academic rigor and can be better described as degree-churning factories where students miss out on skills critical for post-campus professional development.

Critics of the system will throw money at any problem that smacks of exploitation. Yet, advocates for athlete pay are unwittingly engaged in a larger form of hollowing out the value of college — and the college athlete — as a scholar, which is what all students should aspire to. At a time when the black and Latino college graduation rates are still low compared to their white peers (especially among black and Latino men), is paying athletes really the conversation we should be having?

On average, college athletes already earn anywhere from \$55,000 to \$125,000 a year in accumulated full tuition, room and board packages. In addition, NCAA academic reforms implemented an effort to raise athletic standards have also imposed a cost on institutions as they scramble to either raise athletes' GPAs or risk penalties in costs and accreditation. Although college sports programs continue to find creative ways to game that reform system

— at the expense of the athletes — it's not as if athletes aren't getting enough special attention compared with other students. And the costs of that special attention end up getting transferred to those other students.

Perhaps the conversation should focus on what colleges could be doing with their multibillion-dollar tournament jackpots to improve academic standards and even improve the post-college soft skills that under-served athletes matriculating through the sports-industrial complex — or other fields — will clearly need.

Too many of our athletes are not becoming citizens equipped to make positive contributions beyond camera-flashing layups. And with those problems still unaddressed as challenged athletes enter the professional marketplace, more socioeconomic costs pile up when players are unable to manage their lifestyles, their finances and their futures beyond what they can do on the court.

Paying athletes in college would do them a great disservice because the payment would not be focused on improving their scholastic achievement. But a more well-rounded view of the associated long-term consequences of underserving players may compel the sports-industrial complex to eventually put capital into the athletes' academic development. That is where everyone — from the players to the fans, teams and institutions — can get a real return on their investment.

Charles D. Ellison is a veteran political strategist and frequent contributor to *The Root*. He is also a Washington correspondent for the Philadelphia Tribune and chief political correspondent for *Uptown* magazine.

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Economic info government collects helps us

By CATHERINE RAMPPELL
The Washington Post

The U.S. government is collecting more information on Americans than ever before. Yet somehow it is also leaving Americans far less informed about themselves and the country they live in.

In the past few years, federal statistical programs — you know, the ones that collect information openly through surveys, rather than secretly through wiretapping and malware — have been under attack. Budgets have been chopped and data series eliminated or at least made fuzziest, messier, less useful. The result is that, just when we need to better understand how the economy ticks and what we can do to help it tick a little faster, our measurement tools are breaking down.

To give but a few examples:

■ The American Community Survey, which collects data on U.S. households, habits and jobs, is again threatened with being gutted or outright eliminated.

■ The Economic Census, whose results get baked into tons of closely watched metrics, was released last week after a three-month delay caused by the sequester. That sounds like a relatively minor hiccup, but the delay degrades the quality of crucial information used to judge the economy's health, such as gross domestic product.

■ The Labor Department recently stopped publishing export price data. That's pretty important if you want to know how much U.S. businesses sell abroad (especially if your president recently promised to double exports). It also curtailed a survey used to estimate job growth, thanks to congressional budget cuts.

Few will shed tears for "just another statistic." But as arcane as the cuts may sound, they're a huge deal.

Federally collected data — on population, prices, jobs, companies, earnings — are used to gauge how well the economy is functioning and whether policymakers are doing a good job.

Federal statistics are used not only to evaluate policy but to implement it as well. Tamper-resistant formulas have been gradually replacing pork-barrel haggling in smoke-filled rooms as a method for distributing federal funds. One of the key ingredients in those formulas is the American Community Survey. The annual survey costs just \$234 million to administer but determines how \$450 billion in federal funds gets allocated for schools, housing, veterans' benefits and roads, among other things.

Entrepreneurs also use data such as the Economic Census to determine where to locate or how to make a good case for a loan.

"You hear about 'big data' all the time," Mark Doms, the Commerce Department's undersecretary for economic affairs, said in a pitch to journalists to pretty-please help make federal statistical collection sound sexier. "Commerce was really kind of 'big data' before 'big data' was cool."

So why are so many federal data programs on the chopping block?

To some extent, politicians may not care whether federal data collection falls victim to budget cuts. Perhaps they assume that the private sector will plug the holes, not realizing that many private data vendors are actually just reselling government data. ("A lot of our data is packaged and we don't get much attribution for it, you

know, which is fine," Doms says. "Our objective is: Our data get used.")

To some extent, politicians may want to preserve deniability about the sickness of the economy. If there are no reliable data on poverty, the poverty rate can be whatever they claim it is.

Some politicians attack federal surveys far being too "invasive." Why, critics ask, does Big Brother need to know how many toilets I have? Maybe because, when the entire country takes a bathroom break during a Super Bowl commercial, local water utilities need to be able to handle the synchronized flushing. Likewise, why does the government need to know what time I leave for work? Maybe so city planners can design roadways that minimize traffic. These "intrusive" data are published, in aggregate form only, so governments can fund their budgets.

All the information the government collects in secret probably does little to cultivate trust in the collection that occurs more transparently. Likewise, security breaches at companies such as Target probably make Americans more skittish about handing over information to anyone at all.

President Barack Obama's 2015 budget removed some of the funds cut recent years but also would give the statistical agencies expensive new mandates. There is, of course, no guarantee his budget requests will be met; last year they weren't.

If politicians are smart, they will invest more money in monitoring the economy. But sometimes they prefer to keep their heads in the sand.

Catherine Rampell, a former economics reporter for *The New York Times*, writes a twice-weekly column for *The Washington Post*.

OPINION

As their bats crack, take a crack at these

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON
“Andre Dawson,” Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully once said, “has a bruised knee and is listed as day-to-day. Aren’t we all?” Yes, so use some of your remaining time constructively by identifying the player or players who:

- 1) Won three batting titles by at least 44 points (two players).
- 2) Hit more than 50 home runs in a season in which he had fewer than 50 strikeouts.
- 3) Won a batting title hitting .361 but slumped to .243 the next season.
- 4) Was the oldest MVP.
- 5) Caught the most games.
- 6) Was the first catcher to hit 40 home runs.
- 7) Batted at least .300 and drove in at least 100 runs in each of his first 11 seasons.
- 8) Hit 50 home runs in one season and stole 50 bases in another (two players).
- 9) Had 3,000 hits and 1,500 walks (four players).
- 10) Had 3,000 hits, 300 home runs and a career .300 average (four players).
- 11) Received the most unintentional walks.
- 12) Is the only American League player to have 100 walks, 70 extra-base hits and 30 stolen bases in a season.
- 13) Are the only three National League players with such a season.
- 14) Was the first left-hander to win 300 games.
- 15) Won three ERA titles before age 26.
- 16) Was the last player to have 600 hits with three teams.
- 17) Is a Hall of Famer whose lowest winning percentage in 10 pitching seasons was .643.
- 18) Had 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons.

- 19) Had eight league home run titles, ranking second to Babe Ruth’s 12.
- 20) Completed 237 of the 370 games he started in the 1950s.
- 21) In 1968, the “year of the pitcher,” hit 10 home runs in 20 at-bats in six games.
- 22) Contracted tuberculosis, interrupting his Hall of Fame career at second base and perhaps costing his team a third consecutive pennant.
- 23) Hit five home runs in a doubleheader (two players).
- 24) Was the first African-American to win an American League batting title.
- 25) Are the only active players to have at least 350 home runs and a .320 average (two players).
- 26) Had his record for most home runs in the first 10 seasons of a career broken by Albert Pujols.
- 27) Had 27 wins in a season pitching for a losing team (three players).
- 28) Was the World Series MVP on a losing team.
- 29) Three times hit at least 40 home runs and had fewer strikeouts than home runs.
- 30) Made All-Star Game rosters at catcher and second base.
- 31) Played the most games at first base.
- 32) Had only 54 wins at age 30 but won 318.
- 33) Won two World Series MVP awards as a position player.
- 34) Other than Jackie Robinson, had his number retired by three teams.
- 35) Although a relief pitcher, started a season 17-0 and finished 18-1.
- 36) Threw 16 shutouts in a season.
- 37) Was the last pitcher with 10 shutouts in a season.
- 38) Hit the most career doubles.
- 39) Won 16 consecutive Gold Gloves (two players).
- 40) Won the Cy Young Award in his rookie season.



New York Yankees outfielder Ichiro Suzuki hits a single in an exhibition game against the Boston Red Sox in Fort Myers, Fla., on March 20. Suzuki had 10 consecutive 200-hit seasons, starting in 2001.

41) Was an All-American basketball player (Duke) before being an MVP.

- 42) Compiled the most total bases in a game.
- 43) Had the lowest World Series ERA (minimum 30 innings pitched).
- 44) Walked six times in a nine-inning game.

Bonus question: Who said, “The reason the Mets have played so well at Shea this year is they have the best home record in baseball?”

Answers:
 1) Rod Carew, Rogers Hornsby, 2) Johnny Mize, 1947, 3) Norm Cash, 1961-62, 4) Barry Bonds, 40 in 2004, 5) Ivan Rodriguez, 6) Roy Campanella, 7) Al Simmons, 8) Brady Anderson, Barry Bonds, 9) Rickey Henderson, Stan Musial, Pete Rose, Carl Yastrzemski, 10) Hank Aaron, George Brett, Willie Mays, Stan Musial, 11) Rickey Henderson, 12) Mike Trout, 13) Bob Abreu, Jeff Bagwell, Barry Bonds, 14) Eddie Plank, 15) Clayton Kershaw, 16) Johnny Damon, 17) Babe Ruth, 18) Ichiro Suzuki, 19) Mike Schmidt, 20) Robin Roberts, 21) Frank Howard, 22) Red Schoendienst, 1959, 23) Nate Colbert, Stan Musial, 24) Frank Robinson, 1966, 25) Miguel Cabrera, Albert Pujols, 26) Eddie Matthews, 27) Grover Cleveland Alexander, Steve Carlton, Eddie Rommel, 28) Bobby Richardson, 1960 Yankees, 29) Ted Kluszewski, 30) Craig Biggio, 31) Eddie Murray, 32) Phil Niekro, 33) Reggie Jackson, 1973 A’s, 1977 Yankees, 34) Nolan Ryan; Angels, Astros, Rangers, 35) Roy Face, 1959, 36) Grover Cleveland Alexander, 37) John Tudor, 1985, 38) Tye Speake, 792, 39) Jim Kaat, Brooks Robinson, 40) Fernando Valenzuela, 1981, 41) Dick Groat, 1960, 42) Shawn Green, 19: single, double, four home runs, 43) Harry Brecheen, 0.83, 44) Jimmie Fox. Bonus answer: Ralph Kinney, of course.

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

NATO must get back in business to deter Russia

By TOOMAS HENDRIK ILVES

Russia’s aggression in Ukraine marks a paradigm shift, the end of trust in the post-Cold War order. This order, based on respect for territorial sovereignty, the integrity and indivisibility of borders and a belief that relations can be built on common values, has collapsed. International treaties no longer hold, and the use of raw force is again legitimate. In its annexation of Crimea, Russia has thrown the rulebook out the window. The world is back in a zero-sum paradigm. This is not about only Crimea or relations between Ukraine and Russia. The shift has changed the assumptions underlying European security and dealings between democratic states and Russia.

Ongoing events in Kiev, Donetsk and Crimea put the international community’s relationship with Russia on a new standing. Justification of a military invasion by a fabricated need to protect ethnic “compatriots” resuscitates the arguments used to annex Sudetenland in 1938. For U.S. and European Union leaders, a Churchillian moment has come. We need to rise to the occasion with strength, clarity and speed.

Short- and long-term steps must be taken. In the aftermath of the 2008 war in Georgia, the world assumed that conflict was an ambiguous one-off, and we quickly returned to business as usual. Now, however,

Any economic sanction is cheaper than military intervention. Nothing costs more than the loss of freedom.

we know that we are witnessing a principle and a policy of restoration, announced at the highest levels of the Kremlin.

This is a time not for panic but for a calculated response to an explicit revision of the post-Cold War order. There is, after all, a toolbox for dealing with such challenges.

First, we must act decisively within NATO. Sen. Richard Lugar’s erstwhile dictum that NATO had to go out of its area or would go out of business no longer applies. Clearly we are back in area. We need to get back in business. NATO’s *raison d’être* is to defend its members and their territory. Steps must be taken immediately to ensure a NATO presence across the alliance’s territory. A 1930s-style war hysteria has taken hold in Moscow’s official media (Russia is the only country able to reduce the United States to “radioactive ashes,” the head of Russian state TV announced recently); in this environment, only a calm but firm commitment to deterrence can be the immediate response.

Recognizing that this challenge will remain for the medium to long term, a reform on NATO’s core responsibility should be the aim of the September NATO summit in Wales. This must go hand in hand with greater investments in defense by European allies. Maintaining 2 percent of gross domestic product for defense must become a major benchmark of allies’ commitment. Allies in Europe need to wake up and realize that meeting that target is vital to giving credibility to deterrence and for revitalizing the trans-Atlantic relationship.

Second, neither the aggression in Ukraine nor the illegal annexation of Crimea can become cost-free successes. I am appalled that, for several weeks already, some have been discussing where in Ukraine Russia may hit next. In addition to military pressure, Russia continues to try to undermine Ukraine politically and economically. Political support, economic assistance and practical know-how must be extended to the Ukrainian government as much as possible. Doing so is in Europe’s interest. There must be no question about our commitment and clarity of purposes in this regard. Ukraine requires our strong support. We must remain committed to helping as much as we can. Moldova and Georgia must also be assisted and reassured.

The Russian Federation’s practice of instant citizenship, whereby Russian passports are distributed willy-nilly to ethnic

Russians abroad so they can be “protected” in their current homeland, is unacceptable. Passports are travel documents, not a tool to justify aggression. What has been practiced recently in Ukraine, and in 2008 in Georgia, could be repeated in Prague, London or Brooklyn.

Third, Russia has to pay a price for its aggression. This is a matter of credibility of the international order, an order that, if it disintegrates into the “anything goes” model, will wreak havoc on international relations and peace and stability. Policies of positive engagement with Russia must be reconsidered in a number of international organizations, including at the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, NATO and the European Union. Our response to Russia should not be about the price of gas; it must be about respect for common values. Any economic sanction is cheaper than military intervention. Nothing costs more than the loss of freedom.

In years past, the trans-Atlantic alliance has withstood some difficult challenges. Today, we face the most difficult one in generations. The lights of liberty are being extinguished in parts of Europe. We must take decisive and united steps to ensure that future generations do not question why nothing was done and why we didn’t act when so much was at stake.

Toomas Hendrik Ilves is president of Estonia. This column first appeared in *The Washington Post*.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Study: MMA brain injury risk higher than boxing

The Associated Press

About one-third of professional mixed martial arts matches end in knockout or technical knockout, indicating a higher incidence of brain trauma than boxing or other martial arts, according to a study in the American Journal of Sports Medicine.

University of Toronto researchers examined records and videos from 844 Ultimate Fighting Championship bouts from 2006 to 2012 for the study published this month. They found that 108 matches, nearly 13 percent, ended in knockouts. Another 179 matches, 21 percent, ended in technical knockouts, usually after a combatant was hit in the head five to 10 times in the last 10 seconds before the fight was stopped.

Citing data from other research, the study said the mixed martial arts head trauma rate also outpaces American football and hockey.

The researchers proposed introducing rules like in boxing where a fighter gets a 10-second count and is evaluated after a knockdown. They also proposed more training to help referees identify fighters who are dazed or have lost consciousness so they can stop fights more quickly.

Professional mixed martial arts includes elements of wrestling, judo, boxing and kickboxing within an enclosure with fighters wearing small, fingerless gloves and no headgear.

Officials from UFC, the sport's major body have argued that mixed martial arts has evolved over 20 years with many safety regulations to protect fighters, including mandatory suspensions after concussions. They say it's safer than boxing, with no history of deaths or traumatic brain injuries sustained in the ring.

Lawrence Epstein, chief operating officer of UFC, called the Toronto study "somehow flawed" and said a forthcoming study by researchers at the Cleveland Clinic who have enrolled nearly 400 amateur fighters will provide better insight.

Steelers, RB Blount agree on contract

PITTSBURGH — The Pittsburgh Steelers and free agent running back LeGarett Blount have agreed on a two-year contract that will give the team needed depth in the backfield behind budding star Le'Veon Bell.

Blount, 27, ran for 772 yards and a career-high seven touchdowns in 2013 for the New England Patriots. He added 166 yards rushing and set a team playoff record with four TDs in a playoff victory over the Indianapolis Colts.

The Steelers need bodies in the backfield after Jonathan Dwyer and Felix Jones were not re-signed after last season. Blount has 2,711 yards rushing and 20 TDs in 56 games.

The 6-foot, 250-pound Blount also gives the Steelers a big back near the goal line to complement



Jeff Chu/AP

Josh Thomson, top, punches Nate Diaz during a UFC lightweight mixed martial arts fight in San Jose, Calif., on April 20, 2013. A new study says a third of professional MMA matches end in knockout or technical knockout, indicating a higher incidence of brain trauma than boxing or other martial arts.

the 6-2, 230-pound Bell.

Raiders sign RB Jones-Drew

ALAMEDA, Calif. — Free agent running back Maurice Jones-Drew is coming home to Oakland after signing a three-year contract with the Raiders on Friday.

Jones-Drew returns to his native Bay Area after spending his first eight seasons with Jacksonville and starting in college at UCLA.

Jones-Drew was hampered by injuries and poor play his final two seasons with the Jaguars. He had 8,071 yards rushing and 68 touchdowns for Jacksonville but was hampered by injuries the past two seasons. That led the Jaguars to let him test the market in free agency after his five-year, \$31 million contract expired.

After ranking second in the NFL with 4,321 yards rushing in a three-year span from 2009-11, Jones-Drew has been limited to 1,217 yards in 21 games the past two seasons. He averaged a career-low 3.4 yards per carry last season.

49er Culliver jailed on suspicion of hit and run

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Police say San Francisco 49ers cornerback Chris Culliver has been arrested on suspicion of felony hit and run and reckless driving after he drove a car into a bicyclist and fled.

San Jose police spokesman Albert Morales said Culliver was driving a white Ford Mustang when he hit the cyclist Friday morning near downtown San Jose. The bicyclist wasn't seriously hurt.

Morales says a witness followed

the 25-year-old Culliver, who also drove into the car of the witness. Morales says that vehicle blocked the suspect's car until police arrived.

Injured Clemson WR granted redshirt

CLEMSON, S.C. — Injured Clemson wide receiver Charone Peake was granted a medical waiver to restore his eligibility after missing most of last season.

The school announced Peake's status Friday. The 6-foot-2 Peake was a starting receiver for the Tigers last fall, but was hurt just two games in when he tore a knee ligament in a September practice. He needed surgery and was out for Clemson's last 11 games. Peake had been the team's second-leading receiver with eight catches for 84 yards and a touchdown when he was hurt.

Peake was considered the equal of Clemson star Sammy Watkins when both were freshmen in 2011.

Peake will have two more years remaining with the Tigers. He's expected to contend for a lead receiving spot that Watkins gave up to turn pro.

Kyle Busch wins Cup pole at Martinsville

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Kyle Busch became the sixth driver to win a pole in the first six races this season in NASCAR's top series.

Busch turned a fast lap at 99.674 mph on Friday in qualifying at Martinsville Speedway. It's his 14th career Sprint Cup pole, and first in 19 tries at Martinsville.

The pole is the 14th of Busch's career and follows a victory last week at Auto Club Speedway in Fontana, Calif.

Nadal, Djokovic get walkovers in Sony Open

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal and No. 2 Novak Djokovic advanced to the Sony Open final without playing a point.

Both received walkovers when their semifinal opponents withdrew for health reasons. That left Nadal and Djokovic to play for the title Sunday in their 40th career meeting and their first of 2014.

It was the first time since at least 1968 that an ATP Tour event had two walkovers in the semifinals.

Djokovic was given a walkover for the second time in the tournament when Kei Nishikori withdrew because of a left groin injury. Four hours later, Tomas Berdych pulled out before his match against Nadal due to gastroenteritis.

Mickelson just makes cut in Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO — Phil Mickelson made the cut on the number in the Texas Open on Friday, blasting out of a greenside water hazard to 5 feet to set up a birdie on the final hole.

Mickelson shot a 2-under 70 after opening with a 77 at TPC San Antonio's AT&T Oaks Course. Lefty was 11 strokes behind leader Steven Bowditch, the Australian who shot 67 to reach 8-under 136.

Mickelson was in the stream that runs in front of the 18th green after attempting to reach the par 5 in two from 288 yards with a 3-wood.

Bowditch held out from 83 yards for an eagle on the par-4. The 30-year-old topped the leaderboard at the end of a round for the first time in his PGA Tour career.

Also: ■ At Carlsbad, Calif., Dori Carter might have gotten a bit ahead of herself late in the second round of the Kia Classic. She still left everyone else behind.

After birdieing six of the first seven holes on the back nine, Carter bogeyed the final two holes for an 8-under 64. The round was her lowest in competition and broke the Aviaara course record.

Winless on the LPGA Tour, the former University of Mississippi player had 11 birdies and three bogeys. At 10-under 134, she had a two-stroke lead over Stacy Lewis and Cristie Kerr.

Skiing great Killy resigns from IOC

French skiing great Jean-Claude Killy has resigned as a member of the International Olympic Committee, declaring it's time to move on after spending the past seven years heading the oversight panel for the Winter Games in Sochi.

Killy, 70, said he completed his mission of helping deliver successful Olympics in Russia and defended his close working relationship with President Vladimir Putin, calling him "a good man."

Winner of three gold medals at the 1968 Grenoble Olympics, Killy is leaving the IOC after 19 years as a member. While he could have remained until the age of 80, he said months ago he planned to step down after Sochi.

Hanyu pulls off figure skating double

SAITAMA, Japan — Japanese teenager Yuzuru Hanyu came back with a brilliant free skate to become the first man in 12 years on Friday to win the Olympic and world figure skating titles in the same year.

Hanyu, 19, who trailed compatriot Tatsuki Machida by nearly seven points after the world championships short program, produced a near-flawless free skate to finish with 282.59 points, just three-tenths of a point ahead of Machida.

Pistorius trial delayed because of illness

PRETORIA, South Africa — The murder trial of Oscar Pistorius has been delayed until April 7 because one of the legal experts who will assist the judge in reaching a verdict is sick, abruptly ending expectations Friday that the double-amputee athlete was about to testify on his final shooting of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

Judge Thokozile Masipa announced the delay in court on the day Pistorius' defense lawyers were due to begin presenting their case after four weeks of prosecution-led testimony and a two-day adjournment.

NHL

Roundup

Penguins wrap up playoff berth

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Pittsburgh Penguins have struggled at times in an injury-filled season. When a game is in the balance, however, they still have the personnel and the experience to end up with the two points.

Chris Kunitz and Beau Bennett scored goals 47 seconds apart midway through the third period and Marc-Andre Fleury made 35 saves and the Penguins clinched a playoff spot with a 2-1 win over the Columbus Blue Jackets on Friday night.

"I thought to a man we stepped up," coach Dan Bylsma said after his team ended a string of three regulation defeats. "We're fighting for every inch we can get right now. Tonight, this was exactly what we've talked about and wanted from this game. It was a playoff-type game, with playoff-type intensity."

The Penguins are now at 99 points the way to move closer to clinching the Metropolitan Division title.

But it was far from easy, particularly without star forward Evgeni Malkin (foot) and other injured mainstays such as Paul Martin, Pascal Dupuis and Kris Letang.

Bennett hadn't played in the past 50 games after surgery on his wrist. Yet he came up with the game-winning goal.

Speaking on his own, it's a lot of skill stuff," he said of the hours spent rehabbing the injury and trying to get back into game shape. "It's something that's grown my game even with being out. I felt pretty good out there."

Fleury was at his best early — and late. He made a terrific save on the first shift on Cam Atkinson's shot off a deflection. Then he made huge saves on Brandon Dubinsky and Atkinson during a scrum in front of the net in the final seconds.

"He was outstanding all game," Bylsma said.

Oilers 4, Ducks 3: Andrew Ference ended at 3:51 of overtime and Ben Scrivens stopped 48 shots as host Edmonton pulled off an upset over Anaheim.

Sam Gagner, Jordan Eberle and Oscar Klefbom also scored for the Oilers, who are in last place in the Western Conference. Edmonton ends its three-game skid.

Nick Bonino, Patrick Maroon and Mathieu Perreault scored for the Ducks, who had a two-game winning streak come to an end and missed out on an opportunity to move into a tie for first in the Pacific Division with the San Jose Sharks.

The Ducks remain one win short of tying their franchise re-

cord of 48 wins in a season, set in 2006-07 when they won the Stanley Cup.

Flyers 4, Maple Leafs 2: Vinny Lecavalier, Scott Hartnell, Claude Giroux and Wayne Simmonds scored goals, leading host Philadelphia over Toronto.

Toronto's James van Riemsdyk scored 4 seconds into the second, matching an NHL record for fastest goal from the start of the period. But the Maple Leafs' skid reached seven games.

Lecavalier was dropped from a spot on the wing on the second line to his more natural center on the fourth line. But he also had the spot on the top power-play unit and scored in the first with Philadelphia holding a two-man advantage.

Flames 4, Rangers 3: Mike Cammalleri had a goal and an assist to lead host Calgary over New York.

Cammalleri has scored 10 times since the NHL's trade deadline on March 5 and four of them have been winners, including his goal with 7:8 seconds left in the second period. He also scored the shoot-out winner in Calgary's 2-1 win at home over the San Jose Sharks on Monday.

Joe Colborne, Mark Giordano and Kevin Westgarth also scored for the Flames, who tied a club record with their 45th one-goal game of the season. They improved their record to 22-17-8 in those one-goal matchups.

Brad Richards had a goal and an assist for the Rangers, whose winning streak ended at five games.

Senators 5, Blackhawks 3: Craig Anderson had 46 saves and Clarke MacArthur had a goal and two assists and host Ottawa beat Chicago.

It was Anderson's first game back since being injured March 10.

Erik Condra, Cody Ceci, Milan Michalek and Kyle Turris also scored for the Senators.

Patrick Sharp, Marian Hossa and Brent Seabrook scored for Chicago. Anni Raanta made 24 saves.

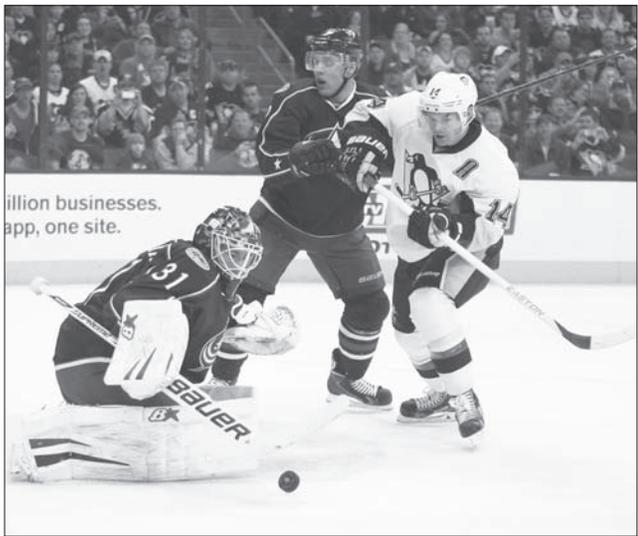
Stars 7, Predators 3: Dallas had seven players score goals in a victory over visiting Nashville.

Alex Golosovker had three assists, tying his career high.

Colton Svejchi, Trevor Daley and Ryan Garbutt each had a goal and an assist.

After Nashville pulled within 5-3 in the third period on Eric Nystrom's goal, Valeri Nichushkin and Cody Eakin scored 9 seconds apart for a 7-3 edge.

Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen allowed three goals on 28 shots.



Columbus goalie Curtis McElhinney, left, blocks a shot as Pittsburgh's Chris Kunitz, right, moves in while being defended by Jack Johnson during the first period of Friday's game in Columbus, Ohio.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Boston	47	22	5	99	233	154	
Montreal	47	26	7	91	195	188	
Tampa Bay	46	24	9	89	217	195	
Detroit	47	23	16	80	195	209	
Toronto	47	26	17	80	218	238	
Ottawa	47	20	29	14	74	210	
Florida	47	27	39	8	62	178	
Buffalo	47	25	8	48	139	218	

Metropolitan Division

x-Pittsburgh	47	22	5	99	238	184
N.Y. Rangers	47	31	4	86	200	183
Philadelphia	47	29	7	85	210	206
Columbus	47	30	6	80	205	198
Washington	47	34	27	12	80	212
New Jersey	47	31	28	14	76	177
Carolina	47	32	32	9	74	184
N.Y. Islanders	47	23	25	9	66	204

Western Conference

	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-St. Louis	47	30	16	107	238	214	
Chicago	47	42	18	97	247	196	
Colorado	47	46	21	6	98	224	
Minnesota	47	37	11	85	183	186	
Dallas	47	36	12	81	210	210	
Winnipeg	47	33	12	9	75	206	
Nashville	47	32	11	75	186	228	

Pacific Division

x-San Jose	47	32	11	103	230	191
x-Anaheim	47	47	18	8	102	234
Los Angeles	47	43	25	6	92	185
San Jose at Colorado	47	36	12	84	205	209
Vancouver	47	34	30	11	79	183
Edmonton	47	36	27	6	78	189
Edmonton	47	26	39	9	61	184

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

x-clinched playoff spot
 Friday's games
 Philadelphia 4, Toronto 2
 Pittsburgh 2, Columbus 1
 Ottawa 5, Chicago 3
 Dallas 7, Nashville 3
 Calgary 4, Anaheim 3, OT
 Edmonton 4, Anaheim 3, OT

Saturday's games
 Boston at Washington
 San Jose at Colorado
 Tampa Bay at Buffalo
 Detroit at Toronto
 Montreal at Florida
 New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders
 Columbus at Carolina
 Dallas at St. Louis
 Philadelphia at Phoenix
 Anaheim at Vancouver
 Winnipeg at Los Angeles

Sunday's games
 Boston at Philadelphia
 Calgary at Ottawa
 Tampa Bay at Detroit
 Chicago at Pittsburgh
 Washington at Nashville
 N.Y. Rangers at Edmonton
 Dallas at St. Louis
 Carolina at Ottawa
 Florida at New Jersey
 Winnipeg at Anaheim
 Minnesota at Los Angeles

Friday

Flyers 4, Maple Leafs 2

Toronto 0 1 1-2
Philadelphia 1 1 2-4
 First Period—1, Philadelphia, Lecavalier 16 (Timonen, Giroux), 5:35 (pp).

Second Period—2, Toronto, van Riemsdyk 29 (Bozak), 30-4, Philadelphia, Hartnell 20 (Timonen, Giroux), 11:30 (pp).

Third Period—4, Philadelphia, Giroux 25 (Hartnell), 4:55, 5, Toronto, Bolland 7 (Raymond, Gardiner), 6:18, 6, Philadelphia, Simmonds 25 (Rinaldo, MacDonald), 11:23-29.

Shots on Goal—Toronto 9-14-11-34. Philadelphia 9-10-10-29.
 Power-play opportunities—Toronto 0 of 4; Philadelphia 2 of 4.
 Goals—Toronto, Bernier 25-18-7 (29 shots-25 saves), Philadelphia, Mason 31-17-6 (34-32).

A—19,963 (19,541), T—2:31.

Senators 5, Blackhawks 3

Ottawa 0 2 1-3
Ottawa 0 2 1-5
 First Period—1, Ottawa, Condra 9 (Z.Smith), 9:25 (sh), 2, Ottawa, Geel 3 (MacArthur, Stone), 19:30.

Second Period—3, Ottawa, Michalek 14 (Spezza, Hensky), 23, 4, Chicago, Sharp 31 (Toews, Raanta), 10:46 (pp), 5, Chicago, Hossa 27, 19:19.

Third Period—6, Ottawa, Turris 23 (MacArthur, Wiercicki), 8:00 (pp), 7, Ottawa, MacArthur 23 (Stone), 10:54, 8, Chicago, Seabrook 7 (Hanus, Reagin), 7:00 (sh).

Shots on Goal—Chicago 14-23-12-49. Ottawa 12-11-29.

Power-play opportunities—Chicago 1 of 6; Ottawa 1 of 2.
 Goals—Chicago, Raanta 12-4-4 (29 shots-24 saves), Ottawa, Anderson 22-14-8 (60-46).

A—18,922 (19,153), T—2:39.

Stars 7, Predators 3

Nashville 0 2 1-3
Dallas 2 3 2-7
 First Period—1, Dallas, Garbutt 15 (A.Rousseil, Dillon), 8:03, 2, Dallas, Fiddler 5 (Seavour, Goligoski), 14:05.

Second Period—Nashville, Hornqvist 15 (Joshi), 2:53, 4, Dallas, Seavour 5 (Oxley, Goligoski), 5:37, 5, Dallas, Chiasson 13 (Whitney, Goligoski), 8:58 (pp), 6, Nashville, Del Zotto 3 (C.Smith, Jarrold), 9:53, 7, Dallas, Daley 7 (Seguin, JaBenn), 11:11.

Third Period—8, Nashville, Nyström 15 (Sissons, Clune), 1:48, 9, Dallas, Nichushkin 14, 7:39, 10, Dallas, Eakin 15 (Garbutt, A.Rousseil), 7:48.

Shots on Goal—Nashville 5-9-14-28. Dallas 9-14-6-29.

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 0 of 1; Dallas 1 of 10.
 Goals—Nashville, Rinne 7-10-2 (29 shots-24 saves), Dallas, Lehman 28-10 (28-25).

A—18,552 (18,532), T—2:25.

Penguins 2, Blue Jackets 1

Pittsburgh 0 0 2-2
Columbus 0 2 0-1-1
 First Period—1, Pittsburgh, Kunitz 34 (Crossby, Engelland), 10:32, 2, Pittsburgh, Bennett 2 (Gortuzzo), 11:22, 3, Columbus, Calvert 8 (Wisniewski, Johnson), 16:54 (pp).

Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 9-13-31. Columbus 13-8-15-36.

Power-play opportunities—Pittsburgh 0 of 4; Columbus 1 of 4.
 Goals—Pittsburgh, Fleury 35-17-4 (36 shots-36 saves), Columbus, McElhinney 19-10-1 (31-29).

A—18,908 (18,144), T—2:24.

Flames 4, Rangers 3

N.Y. Rangers 0 3 0-3
Calgary 2 2 0-4
 First Period—1, Calgary, Colborne 10 (Brodie, Glenross), 4:51 (pp), 2, Calgary, Giordano 13 (Cammalleri, Byron), 16:09.

Second Period—3, N.Y. Rangers, Boyle 6 (Dorsett, D.Moore), 2:12, 4, N.Y. Rangers, Diaz 2 (Richards), 2:51, 5, N.Y. Rangers, Richards 18 (Hagelin, Poulin), 5:58, 6, Calgary, Westgarth 3 (Stajan, Brodie), 15:49, 7, Calgary, Cammalleri 24 (Butler), 19:52.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 18-12-11-41. Calgary 10-12-26-28.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 1; Calgary 1 of 2.
 Goals—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 30-23-4 (38 shots-24 saves), Calgary, Ramo 14-11-4 (41-38).

A—19,289 (19,289), T—2:27.

Oilers 4, Ducks 3 (OT)

Edmonton 1 1 1 0-3
Anaheim 2 1 1 1-4
 First Period—1, Anaheim, Bonino 19 (Getzlaf, Vatanev), 3:5, 2, Edmonton, Gagner 9 (Perron, Hall), 4:43.

Second Period—3, Edmonton, Eberle 24 (Nugent-Hopkins, Manning), 10:22, 4, Anaheim, Maroon 8 (Perreault, Robidas), 15:22.

Third Period—5, Edmonton, Klefbom 1 (Perron, Schultz), 8:26, 6, Anaheim, Perreault 17 (Maroon, Selanne), 15:30.

Overtime—7, Edmonton, Ferenc 3 (Perron), 2:51.

Shots on Goal—Anaheim 12-16-16-7-51. Edmonton 57-8-3-23.

Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 0 of 4; Edmonton 0 of 1.
 Goals—Hiller 29-11-7 (23 shots-19 saves), Edmonton, Scrivens 14-13-5 (48-48).

A—16,839 (16,839), T—2:42.

Calendar

April 13 — Last day of regular season.
 April 16 — Stanley Cup Playoffs begin.
 May 25-31 — NHL combine, Toronto.
 June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup Finals.
 June 25 — NHL awards, Las Vegas.

NBA Roundup

Wizards, Pacers Face Pacers

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — John Wall scored 20 points, and Washington avenged two of its biggest losses of the season with a 91-78 victory over Indiana.

Marcin Gortat added 17 points and 12 rebounds for the Wizards, who dropped their first two games against the Pacers this season by a combined 47 points.

Paul George scored 19 points and Lance Stephenson had 13 points and matched a career-high with 14 rebounds for the Pacers, who have lost a season-high four straight road games.

Heat 110, Pistons 78: LeBron James had 17 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds to help visiting Miami beat a big lead, and then rested in the fourth quarter.

It was James' first triple-double of the season and No. 37 for his career.

Spurs 133, Nuggets 102: Marco

Belinelli scored 27 points, Tim Duncan had 20 and visiting San Antonio extended its winning streak to 16 games by beating Denver.

Raptors 105, Celtics 103: Amir Johnson scored the winning basket with seven seconds remaining, and host Toronto clinched its first playoff berth in six seasons.

Timberwolves 143, Lakers 100: Kevin Love had 22 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his second career triple-double, leading host Minnesota to the easy win.

Thunder 94, Kings 81: Kevin Durant scored 29 points to power Oklahoma City past visiting Sacramento.

Trail Blazers 91, Bulls 74: Mo Williams scored 18 points to lead five players in double figures, and Portland won on the road for a second straight night.

Nets 108, Cavaliers 97: Paul Pierce scored 17 of his 22 points in a flawless first

quarter, and Brooklyn quickly pulled away in the second on the way to its 12th straight home victory.

Pelicans 102, Jazz 95: Tyreke Evans had 22 points and a career-high 15 assists, and host New Orleans overcame the loss of Anthony Davis to extend its winning streak to a season-high five games.

Magic 0, Bobcats 105 (OT): Nikola Vucevic had 24 points and 23 rebounds for host Orlando, and Jameer Nelson scored five points in overtime.

Suns 112, Knicks 88: Goran Dragic scored 32 points in 32 minutes as host Phoenix routed New York for its season-high sixth victory in a row.

Warriors 100, Grizzlies 93: Stephen Curry scored 33 points, including a tiebreaking three-pointer, as Golden State used a closing run to beat visiting Memphis.



Wizards forward Drew Godden celebrates after a play on court in Washington. The Wizards beat the Pacers 91-78.

ALX BRANDON/AP

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division		Pct	GB
x-Toronto	41	31	56.9
Brooklyn	37	25	59.2
New York	30	43	41.1
Boston	23	49	31.9
Philadelphia	17	55	20.8
Southeast Division		Pct	GB
y-Miami	22	69.0	
Washington	37	51.5	12.4
Charlotte	35	47.9	15
Atlanta	21	52	28.8
Orlando	18	59	35.8
Central Division		Pct	GB
y-Indiana	42	21	71.2
x-Chicago	30	32	55.6
Memphis	23	39	51.8
Detroit	26	36	52.1
Milwaukee	14	58	19.4

Western Conference

Southwest Division		Pct	GB
x-San Antonio	56	16	77.8
Houston	49	22	69.0
Memphis	33	39	59.1
Dallas	43	58	13.9
New Orleans	28	64	44.4
Northwest Division		Pct	GB
x-Oklahoma City	53	19	73.6
Portland	37	35	63.6
Minnesota	36	35	50.7
Denver	22	41	43.8
Utah	19	47	39.9
Pacific Division		Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	22	69.9	
Golden State	45	26	62.5
Phoenix	44	29	60.3
Sacramento	25	47	47.9
L.A. Lakers	24	48	33.3

clinch playoff spot

y-clinched division

Fridays games

Orlando @ Charlotte	8:05	OT
Washington 91, Indiana 78		
Brooklyn 103, Boston 103		
Brooklyn 108, Cleveland 97		
Miami 110, Detroit 78		
New Orleans 102, Utah 99		
Minnesota 143, L.A. Lakers 107		
Oklahoma City 94, Sacramento 91		
San Antonio 133, Denver 103		
Phoenix 112, New York 88		
Golden State 110, Memphis 93		

Saturday's games

Detroit at Philadelphia	12:30
L.A. Clippers at Houston	12:30
Washington at Sacramento	12:30
Miami at Milwaukee	12:30
Orlando at San Antonio	12:30
Sunday's games	
Utah at Oklahoma City	12:30
Indiana at Cleveland	12:30
Toronto at Orlando	12:30
Minnesota at Brooklyn	12:30
Chicago at Boston	12:30
San Antonio at Memphis	12:30
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers	12:30
San Antonio at Indiana	12:30
Toronto at Charlotte	12:30
Phoenix at Miami	12:30
Milwaukee at Detroit	12:30
Portland at Atlanta	12:30
Boston at Chicago	12:30
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans	12:30
Memphis at Denver	12:30
New York at Utah	12:30

Friday

Magic 110, Bobcats 105 (OT)

Orlando 110, Charlotte 105 (OT) — The Orlando Magic defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 110-105 in overtime. Dwight Howard led the Magic with 20 points and 10 rebounds. Jeffery Taylor scored 27 points for the Bobcats. The game was tied 104-104 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Howard scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Orlando 36, Charlotte 28

Orlando 36, Charlotte 28 — The Orlando Magic defeated the Charlotte Bobcats 36-28. Dwight Howard led the Magic with 12 points and 6 rebounds. Jeffery Taylor scored 12 points for the Bobcats.

Washington 91, Pacers 78

Washington 91, Indiana 78 — The Washington Wizards defeated the Indiana Pacers 91-78. John Wall led the Wizards with 20 points and 12 assists. Lance Stephenson scored 17 points for the Pacers. The game was tied 78-78 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Wall scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Indiana 78, Washington 91

Indiana 78, Washington 91 — The Indiana Pacers lost to the Washington Wizards 78-91. John Wall led the Wizards with 20 points and 12 assists. Lance Stephenson scored 17 points for the Pacers. The game was tied 78-78 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Wall scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Raptors 105, Celtics 103

Raptors 105, Celtics 103 — The Toronto Raptors defeated the Boston Celtics 105-103. Amir Johnson scored the winning basket with seven seconds remaining. Amir Johnson led the Raptors with 27 points and 10 rebounds. Paul Pierce led the Celtics with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Friday

Nets 108, Cavaliers 97

New York 108, Cleveland 97 — The Brooklyn Nets defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-97. Paul Pierce led the Nets with 17 points and 10 rebounds. LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 97-97 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Pierce scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Brooklyn 108, Cleveland 97

Brooklyn 108, Cleveland 97 — The Brooklyn Nets defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-97. Paul Pierce led the Nets with 17 points and 10 rebounds. LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Heat 110, Pistons 78

Heat 110, Pistons 78 — The Miami Heat defeated the Detroit Pistons 110-78. LeBron James led the Heat with 27 points and 12 assists. Reggie Miller led the Pistons with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 78-78 at the end of regulation. In overtime, James scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Trail Blazers 91, Bulls 74

Trail Blazers 91, Bulls 74 — The Portland Trail Blazers defeated the Chicago Bulls 91-74. Mo Williams led the Trail Blazers with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Derrick Rose led the Bulls with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 74-74 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Williams scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Nets 108, Cavaliers 97

Nets 108, Cavaliers 97 — The Brooklyn Nets defeated the Cleveland Cavaliers 108-97. Paul Pierce led the Nets with 17 points and 10 rebounds. LeBron James led the Cavaliers with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

T-wolves 143, Lakers 107

Minnesota 143, Los Angeles 107 — The Minnesota Timberwolves defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 143-107. Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 107-107 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Love scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Minnesota 143, Los Angeles 107

Minnesota 143, Los Angeles 107 — The Minnesota Timberwolves defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 143-107. Kevin Love led the Timberwolves with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Kobe Bryant led the Lakers with 27 points and 10 rebounds.

Suns 112, Knicks 88

Suns 112, Knicks 88 — The Phoenix Suns defeated the New York Knicks 112-88. Goran Dragic led the Suns with 32 points and 10 rebounds. Carmelo Anthony led the Knicks with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 88-88 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Dragic scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Thunder 94, Kings 81

Thunder 94, Kings 81 — The Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Sacramento Kings 94-81. Kevin Durant led the Thunder with 29 points and 10 rebounds. DeMarcus Cousins led the Kings with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 81-81 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Durant scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Warriors 100, Grizzlies 93

Warriors 100, Grizzlies 93 — The Golden State Warriors defeated the Memphis Grizzlies 100-93. Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 33 points and 10 rebounds. Mike Conley led the Grizzlies with 27 points and 10 rebounds. The game was tied 93-93 at the end of regulation. In overtime, Curry scored the winning basket with 1:11 left.

Saturday's games

Orlando 110, Charlotte 105	8:05
Washington 91, Indiana 78	
Brooklyn 103, Boston 103	
Brooklyn 108, Cleveland 97	
Miami 110, Detroit 78	
New Orleans 102, Utah 99	
Minnesota 143, L.A. Lakers 107	
Oklahoma City 94, Sacramento 91	
San Antonio 133, Denver 103	
Phoenix 112, New York 88	
Golden State 110, Memphis 93	

Sunday's games

Utah at Oklahoma City	12:30
Indiana at Cleveland	12:30
Toronto at Orlando	12:30
Minnesota at Brooklyn	12:30
Chicago at Boston	12:30
San Antonio at Memphis	12:30
Phoenix at L.A. Lakers	12:30
San Antonio at Indiana	12:30
Toronto at Charlotte	12:30
Phoenix at Miami	12:30
Milwaukee at Detroit	12:30
Portland at Atlanta	12:30
Boston at Chicago	12:30
L.A. Clippers at New Orleans	12:30
Memphis at Denver	12:30
New York at Utah	12:30

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MLB



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Orioles first baseman Chris Davis hopes to build on his breakthrough 2013 season in which he led the majors with 53 home runs and 138 RBIs and was named to the All-Star team.

Crush: Davis looking to build on breakthrough year

FROM BACK PAGE

"In 2007, when I was in the minor leagues in High A and I was about 265, I ate (poorly)," he recalled. "I was 21 years old. I was kind of starting to get to the point where you're not in the high-school phase where you can just eat anything you want and just burn it off. I had to really adjust my diet."

"Eighty percent of the time I eat really clean, 20 percent of the time I'll splurge, so to speak. As long as you listen to your body, it will tell you what it needs and doesn't need. You cut carbs and you start to feel light-headed, that's a good sign you might need a big piece of bread."

Or a slab of pie. Whatever. Davis obviously is doing something right, as evidenced by his breakthrough 2013 season. Not only did he lead the majors in most power categories, including extra-base hits, but he made the All-Star team and earned a Silver Slugger Award.

The Orioles fell out of contention during the final week of the season, but they would have never gotten that far if not for Davis.

"I was so proud of two things he did last year," manager Buck Showalter said. "The way he handled all the adulation that came his way, and the defense he played. That's why I thought he was so strong in the MVP running, because he was our MVP — running the bases, fielding his position, throwing the baseball."

Showalter paused for an instant, grinned and added, "And yes, he did OK hitting, too."

No one will ever be able to take that 2013 season away from Davis. But now, the inevitable question arises: What can the man nicknamed "Crush" do for

an encore?

Babe Ruth had successive seasons with 50 home runs in 1920-21 and 1927-28. The next person to do it was Mark McGwire in 1996-97. McGwire later acknowledged using performance-enhancing drugs during that stage of his career.

Davis has never failed a drug test and adamantly denies using PEDs. But some still question the source of his power.

"It was frustrating when it first came up last year, because what happened to me was the culmination of a lot of hard work over the years," Davis said. "It was funny because people who didn't even know me were accusing me of using PEDs. My response was: I've always had power. You go back to high school, Little League, minor leagues, college, I've always had power. It was just a matter of putting the ball in play consistently."

Davis doesn't have to hit 50 for the Orioles to generate offense this season. Baltimore led the majors in home runs last year and recently added slugger Nelson Cruz, who banged 27 homers in only 109 games with Texas in 2013.

"Last year was great but it's over with. I've got to look forward to what we've got going this year," Davis said. "I knew when I hit 53 that the expectations were raised, but it's something I wanted. I expect great things out of myself on a daily basis."

Davis is focused on getting the Orioles back into the postseason in 2014, but his personal goals transcend the immediate future.

"It's extremely important to me to take care of my body," he said. "I want to play this game as long as I can. I know that everything I do in the weight room, the way that I eat, the way that I live my life, is going to allow me to do that."

Angels, Trout reach deal

Young star agrees to \$144.5 million, six-year contract

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Mike Trout and the Los Angeles Angels agreed Friday night to a \$144.5 million, six-year contract, keeping baseball's brightest young star under club control through 2020.

The Angels said the 22-year-old outfielder and his family will be at a news conference Saturday in Anaheim to formally announce the contract along with owner Arte Moreno, manager Mike Scioscia and general manager Jerry Dipoto.

Few players in major league history have approached Trout's accomplishments in his first two full major league seasons. The speedy center fielder is both a spectacular five-tool player and the darling of baseball's sabermetrics crowd, putting up old-fashioned highlights and statistical superlatives on a weekly basis.

"I think everybody is obviously thrilled that it got done," Scioscia said at Dodger Stadium after the Angels' exhibition game, which Trout missed with a stomach virus. "He's a special player and a special person."

The Millville, N.J., product was a unanimous choice for AL Rookie of the Year in 2012, and he finished second in AL MVP voting to Miguel Cabrera the past two years.

Trout's deal came on the same day Cabrera finalized a \$292 million, 10-year deal with the Detroit



MATT YORK/AP

The Angels locked up budding superstar Mike Trout through the 2020 season with a six-year, \$144.5 million contract on Friday.

Tigers, the richest contract in American sports.

The free-spending Angels were determined to reward Trout while locking up their prized possession beyond his first few years of eligibility for arbitration and free agency. Los Angeles has been quietly negotiating with Trout's representatives throughout spring training, and the club closed the deal three days before

opening day at Angel Stadium. Trout agreed on Feb. 26 to a \$1 million, one-year contract for 2014, much more than the Angels were required to offer him. His new deal runs from 2015-20.

The outfielder would have been eligible for arbitration for the first time after this season, and for free agency following the 2017 World Series. Now, he can't become a free agent until at least age 29.

Briefly

Biogenesis scandal spurs revision to drug agreement

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In the wake of the Biogenesis scandal that led to 14 suspensions last summer, Major League Baseball and its players' union announced Friday they are toughening penalties and increasing the frequency of testing in the most substantial revisions to their drug agreement in eight years.

Players suspended during the season for a performance-enhancing drug violation will not be eligible for that year's postseason. In addition, discipline will increase from 50 games to 80 for a first testing violation and from 100 games to a season-long 162 for a second. A third violation remains a lifetime ban.

Accused of being slow to react to steroids in the 1990s, baseball started testing with penalties in 2004, established a 10-day

suspension for an initial testing violation in 2005 and increased discipline to 50 games in 2006.

Braves' Gearrin has 'significant' elbow injury

ROME, Ga. — General manager Frank Wenn says right-hander Cory Gearrin has a "significant" injury to his right elbow.

Wenn said Saturday tests on Friday found "ligament involvement" in Gearrin's elbow. Gearrin will be examined by Dr. James Andrews next week and will open the season on the disabled list.

The possibility Gearrin could face season-ending surgery is another blow to a Braves staff that already has lost starting pitchers Kris Medlen and Brandon Beachy this spring to their second Tommy John surgeries.

Also:

■ Rockies right-hander Jhoulys Chacin will start the season on the 15-day disabled list with a shoulder strain.

Chacin never pitched in a spring training game this year and was limited to bullpen sessions. He won't be joining the club in Miami for their season opener.

■ Giants right-hander Tim Lincecum left his final exhibition start of the spring with a bruised left knee.

X-rays were negative and the team said he had a bruise.

■ The Philadelphia Phillies have acquired infielder Jayson Nix in a trade with the Tampa Bay Rays.

Nix is a career .218 hitter in 425 games over six seasons. The 31-year-old right-handed hitter batted .270 with a homer this spring.

NCA TOURNAMENT

Scoreboard

Men
East Region
EAST REGIONAL
Second Round
Thursday, March 20
At Buffalo, N.Y.
 UConn 89, Saint Joseph's 81, OT
 Villanova 73, Milwaukee 53
At Spokane, Wash.
 Harvard 61, Cincinnati 57
 Michigan State 93, Delaware 78
Friday, March 21
At Raleigh, N.C.
 Memphis 71, George Washington 66
 Virginia 70, Coastal Carolina 59
At San Antonio
 North Carolina 79, Providence 77
 Iowa State 83, NC Central 75
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Buffalo, N.Y.
 UConn 77, Villanova 65
At Spokane, Wash.
 Michigan State 89, Harvard 73
Sunday, March 23
At Raleigh, N.C.
 Virginia 78, Memphis 60
At San Antonio
 Iowa State 85, North Carolina 83
Regional Semifinals
At New York
Friday, March 28
 UConn 81, Iowa State 76
 Michigan State 61, Virginia 59
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 30
 UConn (29-8) vs. Mich. State (29-8)

South Region
Second Round
Thursday, March 20
At Buffalo, N.Y.
 Dayton 60, Ohio State 59
 Syracuse 79, Western Michigan 53
At Orlando, Fla.
 Pittsburgh 77, Colorado 60
 Florida 63, Albany (N.Y.) 65
Friday, March 21
At St. Louis
 Stanford 58, New Mexico 53
 Kansas 80, Eastern Kentucky 69
At San Diego
 Stephen F. Austin 77, VCU 75, OT
 UCLA 76, Tulsa 59
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Buffalo, N.Y.
 Dayton 55, Syracuse 53
At Orlando, Fla.
 Florida 61, Pittsburgh 45
Sunday, March 23
At St. Louis
 Stanford 60, Kansas 57
At San Diego
 UCLA 77, Stephen F. Austin 60
Regional Semifinals
At Memphis, Tenn.
Thursday, March 27
 Dayton 82, Stanford 72
 Florida 79, UCLA 68
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 29
 Dayton (26-10) vs. Florida (35-2)

Midwest Region
Second Round
Thursday, March 20
At Orlando, Fla.
 Saint Louis 83, N.C. State 80, OT
 Louisville 11, Manhattan 41
At Milwaukee
 Michigan 57, Wofford 40
 Texas 87, Arizona State 85
Friday, March 21
At Raleigh, N.C.
 Mercer 78, Duke 71
 Tennessee 86, UMass 67
At St. Louis
 Wichita State 64, Cal Poly 37
 Kentucky 56, Kansas State 49
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Orlando, Fla.
 Louisville 66, Saint Louis 51
At Milwaukee
 Michigan 79, Texas 65
Sunday, March 23
At Raleigh, N.C.
 Tennessee 83, Mercer 63
At St. Louis
 Kentucky 78, Wichita State 76
Regional Semifinals
At Indianapolis
Friday, March 28
 Michigan 73, Tennessee 71
 Kentucky 74, Louisville 69
Regional Championship
Sunday, March 30
 Michigan (28-8) vs. Kentucky (27-10)

West Region
Second Round
Thursday, March 20
At Milwaukee
 Wisconsin 75, American 35
 Oregon 87, BYU 69
At Spokane Arena
Spokane, Wash.
 N.D. State 80, Oklahoma 75, OT
 San Diego State 73, N.M. State 69, OT
Friday, March 21
At San Antonio
 Baylor 74, Nebraska 60
 Creighton 76, Louisiana-Lafayette 66

At San Diego
 Arizona 68, Weber State 59
 Gonzaga 85, Oklahoma State 77
Third Round
Saturday, March 22
At Milwaukee
 Wisconsin 85, Oregon 77
At Spokane, Wash.
 San Diego State 63, N.D. State 44
Sunday, March 23
At San Antonio
 Baylor 85, Creighton 55
At San Diego
 Arizona 84, Gonzaga 61
Regional Semifinals
At Anaheim, Calif.
Thursday, March 27
 Wisconsin 69, Baylor 52
 Arizona 70, San Diego State 64
Regional Championship
Saturday, March 29
 Wisconsin (29-7) vs. Arizona (33-4)
FINAL FOUR
At Arlington, Texas
National Semifinals
Saturday, April 5
 East champion vs. South champion
 Midwest champion vs. West champion
National Championship
Monday, April 7
 Semifinal winners

Women
Lincoln Regional
Second Round
Monday, March 24
At Los Angeles
 BYU 80, Nebraska 76
At Durham, N.C.
 DePaul 74, Duke 65
Tuesday, March 25
At Storrs, Conn.
 UConn 91, Saint Joseph's 59
At College Station, Texas
 Texas A&M 85, James Madison 69
Regional Semifinals
At Lincoln, Neb.
Saturday, March 29
 UConn (36-0) vs. BYU (30-2)
 DePaul (29-6) vs. Texas A&M (26-8)
Monday, March 31
Regional Championship
 Semifinal winners

Stanford Regional
Second Round
Monday, March 24
At Ames, Iowa
 Stanford 63, Florida State 44
Tuesday, March 25
At Seattle
 South Carolina 78, Oregon State 69
At Chapel Hill, N.C.
 North Carolina 52, Michigan State 53
At State College, Pa.
 Penn State 83, Florida 61
Regional Semifinals
At Stanford, Calif.
Sunday, March 30
 Stanford (30-3) vs. Penn State (24-7)
 South Carolina (24-0) vs. N. Carolina (26-9)
Regional Championship
Tuesday, April 1
 Semifinal winners

Notre Dame Regional
Second Round
Monday, March 24
At Toledo, Ohio
 Notre Dame 84, Arizona State 67
At West Lafayette, Ind.
 Oklahoma State 73, Purdue 66
At Lexington, Ky.
 Kentucky 64, Syracuse 59
At Waco, Texas
 Baylor 75, California 56
Regional Semifinals
At Notre Dame, Ind.
Saturday, March 29
 Kentucky (26-8) vs. Baylor (31-4)
 Notre Dame (24-0) vs. Okla. State (25-8)
Regional Championship
Monday, March 31
 Semifinal winners

Louisville Regional
Second Round
Monday, March 24
At Knoxville, Tenn.
 Tennessee 67, St. John's 51
Tuesday, March 25
At College Park, Md.
 Maryland 69, Texas 64
At Iowa City, Iowa
 Louisville 83, Iowa 54
At Baton Rouge, La.
 LSU 76, West Virginia 67
Regional Semifinals
At Louisville, Ky.
Sunday, March 30
 Tennessee (28-5) vs. Maryland (26-6)
 Louisville (32-4) vs. LSU (21-12)
Regional Championship
Tuesday, April 1
 Semifinal winners
FINAL FOUR
At Nashville, Tenn.
National Semifinals
 Lincoln regional champion vs. Stanford regional champion
 Notre Dame regional champion vs. Louisville regional champion
Sunday, April 6
National Championship
Tuesday, April 8
 Semifinal winners

Cardinals' Smith closes college career with class

By **EDDIE PELLIS**
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — His college career officially over, Louisville senior Russ Smith took a long walk down the corridor, went into the Kentucky locker room and shook hands with a group of freshmen he simply could not overcome.

Smith scored 23 points Friday night, but when his attempt at a game-tying three-pointer came up short with 4 seconds left, his quest to close college with back-to-back national titles was over.

The fourth-seeded Cardinals fell 74-69 to their in-state rivals in the Midwest Regional semifinals.

"I feel for him," said Kentucky's Aaron Harrison, who made the go-ahead three-pointer with 39 seconds left.

Eighth-seeded Kentucky (27-10) led for a grand total of 65 seconds. Smith and another senior, Luke Hancock (19 points), controlled most of the rest.

But the Louisville guard went 4-for-10 from the free-throw line, part of a 13-for-23 effort by the Cardinals. Louisville also got outbounded 37-29 and gave up 10 more second-chance points than they scored.

Those numbers, coach Rick Pitino said, were key in a game in which the Cardinals did almost everything else right.

"If you take that away, we played, really, almost a near-perfect game in a lot of areas," Pitino said.

It staked Louisville to a 13-point lead midway through the first half. The Cardinals led by seven with 4½ minutes left.

Then, Kentucky took over.

Actually, it was a sophomore, Alex Poythress, who started the comeback. He scored five points and blocked Smith's layup attempt during a 7-0 run that tied the game at 66 with 2:11 left.

From there, it was the Kentucky freshmen — the Kiddie 'Cats — who showed all the poise against the defending national champs.

Harrison took a pass from Julius Randle and spotted up in the corner for the go-ahead shot. Both finished with 15 points, as did yet another freshman starter, Dakari Johnson.

On the next possession, Louisville's Wayne Blackshear got fouled. The 71 percent career free-throw shooter missed the first. Randle came down and made two free throws to put Kentucky ahead by three.

Harrison guarded Smith and forced him to miss the three-pointer on the next possession — "His first stop of the game," Kentucky coach John Calipari quipped.

Smith said the play was designed to get the ball to Hancock.

"I came off a ball screen and I automatically looked for Luke and then I saw he was being face-guarded" by Poythress

and I tried to take a three-pointer to tie it up," he said. "Everything went the right way, Luke was just face-guarded."

A few seconds later, the Wildcats were chest bumping and Calipari was pumping his fists to a loud stadium that was about two-thirds Kentucky blue, one-third Cardinals red.

The latest victory for Kentucky was the ultimate lesson in patience for a team that, for so long, had trouble showing any. They were touted on T-shirts as the team that would go 40-0 and win the national title, then all head off to the NBA.

Two out of three are still possible. "They finally have surrendered and lost themselves in the team," Calipari said. "It's just taken a long time."

Pitino, meanwhile, lost his first Sweet 16 game in 12 tries.

A few more rebounds here, another free throw or two there, and Louisville could be one victory away from its third straight Final Four. Instead, its rival will play Michigan on Sunday in the Elite Eight.

"I told them we probably beat ourselves a little bit down the stretch," Pitino said. "But how can any of us complain with the run we've been on?"

Louisville's Russ Smith shoots around Kentucky's James Young on Friday night. Smith went just 4-for-10 from the free-throw line in a 74-69 loss.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP



NCAA TOURNAMENT

Spartans turn defensive tables on Cavaliers

Izzo on to regional finals for eighth time

By JIM O'CONNELL
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Michigan State turned the defensive tables on Virginia and the Spartans advanced to the Elite Eight, putting them back in a place where they have had a lot of success.

Branden Dawson had 24 points and 10 rebounds and the Spartans forced top-seeded Virginia into a terrible shooting performance in a 61-59 victory Friday night to advance to the East regional final of the NCAA tournament.

The fourth-seeded Spartans (29-8) will play Connecticut (29-8) on Sunday with a Final Four berth at stake.

Michigan State overcame a horrible start to the second half and then withstood a late run by the Cavaliers (30-7) to advance to the regional finals for the eighth time since 1999 — all under coach Tom Izzo. The Spartans have a 6-1 record in those games and in 2000 they went on to win it all.

Joe Harris and Malcolm Brogdon both had 17 points for Virginia, which became the second No. 1 seed to be eliminated, joining Wichita State.

Adreian Payne had 16 points for Michigan State and his three-pointer with 1:29 left gave the Spartans the lead for good at 54-51. After a miss by Brogdon, the 6-foot-10 Payne turned point guard, finding Dawson with a line drive lob pass for a dunk with 52 seconds to go.

Harris hit a three with 39 seconds left to bring the Cavaliers within 56-54.

Payne found another way to help the Spartans, making two free throws with 32 seconds left for a 58-54 lead.



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Virginia coach Tony Bennett leaves the court after his team lost 61-59 to Michigan State in the NCAA tournament early Saturday in New York.

Brogdon hit a three with 1.1 seconds left to bring Virginia within 60-59. Gary Harris made one of two free throws to make it 61-59 and Virginia's last attempt was well off the mark.

Michigan State came up with the kind of defensive effort that Virginia is known for. The Spartans held the Cavaliers to 35.1 percent shooting (20-for-57), well off the 45.7 percent they shot during the season and nowhere near the 54.3 percent they shot in the two NCAA tournament games.

Dawson, who averages 11.0 points per game, has scored in double figures in six straight games and he had a career-high 26 points in the third-round win over Harvard. He missed nine games this season with a broken



SETH WENIG/AP

The Spartans' Adreian Payne had 16 points in Friday's NCAA tournament win over the Cavaliers.

right hand, an injury he inflicted on himself when he hit a table while watching film.

"It was tough, being out for those nine games," Dawson said. "For me, just making the bad decision that I made, I learned from it a lot. That didn't stop me from coming in and working hard, and I think that being out for those

nine games, I just told myself that my team needs me, and I just need to step up and be a man. And that's what I did."

Payne missed seven games with a right foot sprain and Gary Harris and Keith Appling were bothered most of the season with nagging injuries. Since the Big Ten tournament started and the

Spartans didn't have much trouble winning it, everyone has been healthy.

"They have experience and they are a physical team. I think they're playing the best ball," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "Dawson makes all the difference; he did today. He was a matchup problem for us."



JULIO CORTESZ/AP

Connecticut's Ryan Boatright drives to the basket during Friday's 81-76 regional semifinal win over Iowa State in New York.

Huskies get past Cyclones

By RACHEL COHEN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — DeAndre Daniels' UConn teammates were going to keep passing him the ball until he cooled off.

By the time that happened, it was too late for Iowa State.

Daniels scored 19 of his 27 points in the second half, and the Huskies hung on for an 81-76 victory Friday to reach the East regional final a year after UConn was barred from the NCAA tournament.

"DeAndre's a scorer, and once you feel that you have that confidence, the next shot's going to go in," said senior Shabazz Napier, who knows a thing or two about scoring himself. "We kept feeding him, and he got super hot."

Daniels hit his first six shots after halftime, the only Husky to make a field goal for over 8½ minutes. His three-pointer gave seventh-seeded UConn a 49-32 lead.

The third-seeded Cyclones rallied late, pulling within 67-63

with 2½ minutes remaining. But senior Niels Giffey hit a three in the corner for his first points since the game's opening moments, and when the Huskies (29-8) made their free throws in the final minute, the UConn fans packing Madison Square Garden could celebrate.

The Huskies will face fourth-seeded Michigan State on Sunday for a trip to the Final Four.

Dustin Hogue scored a career-high 34 points for Iowa State (28-8), but Big 12 player of the year Melvin Ejim was 3-for-13 for seven points, more than 11 below his average.

The Cyclones, in the Sweet Sixteen for the first time since 2000, were playing their second game without third-leading scorer Georges Niang, who broke his foot in their tournament opener.

They trailed by 16 with less than 7½ minutes to go but nearly came all the way back behind Hogue's scoring inside.

"That's who these guys are,

they're fighters," coach Fred Hoi-berg said.

Second-year coach Kevin Ollie is now 3-0 in the NCAA tournament after taking over for mentor Jim Calhoun, who gave him a big hug after this one was over. The last time UConn made it this far, the Huskies won a national title when Napier and Giffey were freshmen.

The current upperclassmen could have transferred after the program's low scores on the NCAA's academic progress measure kept UConn from last year's Big East and NCAA tournaments.

"We were banned from a lot of things," Ollie said. "We couldn't come here for the tournament, but they weren't banned from loving and pushing and encouraging each other, and that's what it's all about. Those dark times, if you don't give up in the dark times, it will reverse, the wind will start going in your favor, your direction."

"And I think that's what's happened now."

NCAA TOURNAMENT



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Kentucky's Alex Poythress, left, blocks the shot of Michigan's Montrezl Harrell during the first half of Friday's Midwest regional semifinal in Indianapolis. Kentucky won 74-69 and will face Michigan on Sunday with a trip to the Final Four on the line.

Wildcats lower the boom

Kentucky rallies late to eliminate defending champ, rival Louisville

By **EDDIE PELL**
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Nobody will accuse these Kentucky kids of being the fastest learners. Not this season. And certainly not during most of Friday night's game against Louisville.

But once again, late in the game with everything on the line, they figured things out just in time.

Aaron Harrison hit a three-pointer for the go-ahead score with 39 seconds left and Julius Randle made a pair of clutch free throws to lift the fantastic freshmen of Kentucky to a 74-69 victory over their in-state rivals.

The eighth-seeded Wildcats (27-10) led for a grand total of 65 seconds in this Midwest Regional semifinal. They'll play Michigan on Sunday for a trip to the Final Four.

"I told them before the game, you'll get punched in the mouth and you're going to taste blood," coach John Calipari said. "You can fight or you can brace yourself for the next shot. They fought."

Fourth-seeded and defending champion Louisville ends its season at 31-6.

Few expected a run this deep for the Wildcats as this season played out and their five freshman starters struggled to

play a team game. But they've been learning slowly. They trailed by 13 midway through the first half, then by seven with 4½ minutes left.

Suddenly, things kicked in.

Actually, it was a sophomore, Alex Poythress, who scored five points and blocked a Russ Smith layup attempt during a 7-0 run that tied the game at 66 with 2:11 left.

"Alex Poythress won the game for us," Calipari said. "We were begging him the whole game to start playing, and he played at the right time."

From there, it was the Kentucky freshmen who showed all the poise against the defending national champs, who were led by seniors Smith (23 points) and Luke Hancock (19).

Harrison took a pass from Julius Randle and spotted up in the corner for the go-ahead shot. Both finished with 15 points, as did yet another freshman starter, Dakari Johnson.

On the next possession, Louisville's Wayne Blackshear got fouled. The 71 percent career free-throw shooter missed the first. Randle came down and made two free throws to put Kentucky ahead by three. Harrison guarded Smith and forced him to miss a tough three-pointer on the next



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Kentucky's Alex Poythress, left, and Aaron Harrison celebrate after the game.

possession — "His first stop of the game," Calipari quipped.

Kentucky has now knocked off previously undefeated Wichita State, defending national champion Louisville and has a meeting with last year's runner-up, Michigan, coming next.

Michigan holds off Tennessee

By **MICHAEL MAROT**
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Michigan coach John Beilein had watched his team blow almost all of a 15-point lead, and he was sure he knew how Tennessee would try to take the lead.

With 6 seconds left and trailing 72-71, Cuonzo Martin would probably send the ball into Jarnell Stokes, who would try to back into the post or drive. Beilein urged his defenders to buckle down and keep Stokes away from the rim.

Jordan Morgan, who scored 15 points, heeded his coach's advice and stood his ground until Stokes lowered his shoulder. The senior forward immediately crashed to the floor — perhaps embellishing the contact — but drawing the call that saved the game for Michigan and infuriated Tennessee's "Rocky Top" contingent.

Big Ten player of the year Nik Stauskas made a late free throw and nobody was more relieved than Beilein when Jordan McRae's 70-foot heave fell harmlessly to the floor as the buzzer sounded on a 73-71 Michigan victory.

"With the magnitude of this game, I don't think you could call a charge at that point," McRae said dejectedly after scoring 24 points.

But the officials did call it, allowing Michigan to reach a second straight regional final.

The Wolverines (28-8) have won 10 of their last 11, none as tense or excruciating as this one to set up a Sunday showdown against eighth-seeded Kentucky.

Tennessee almost pulled off one of the most stunning comebacks in recent regional history.

With 10:55 to go, Spike Albrecht's layup gave Michigan a seemingly insurmountable 60-45 lead.

When Stauskas made the last of his three three-pointers with 3:40 to go, the Wolverines still led 70-60. Stauskas finished with 14 points.

The Volunteers' staunch defense limited Michigan to just one basket over the final 3:40 and forced five turnovers in the final 97 seconds to give themselves a chance in the closing seconds.

"I don't think I fouled him," said Stokes, who had 11 points and six rebounds after two straight double-doubles. "But it was a smart play for him to try to take the charge. He pretty much anticipated it."

The 11th-seeded Vols, who had a first-round game in overtime at Dayton, Ohio, just to start their surprising postseason run, cut the deficit to 62-56 with 6:45 left. They got within 72-67 when McRae completed a three-point play with 1:56 to go. They made it 72-69 when Josh Richardson scored the last of his 19 points on a layup with 24.6 seconds left. McRae's layup following another Michigan turnover made it 72-71 with 10.8 seconds remaining.

So when the officials ruled Michigan's Caris LeVert caught the ball with one foot on the baseline and 9.6 seconds left, Martin made the smart call by giving Stokes a chance to win it with a basket or draw the foul.

"We got the ball to Jarnell. Jordan set a screen for him to get him right to isolate him, attack him in the middle," Martin explained. "Obviously we got the ball where we wanted it."

However, the call went against them.

SPORTS



Elite company
Regional championship matchups set
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MLB

Orange Crush

Baltimore's Davis ready for encore

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

On his 28th birthday last week, Chris Davis forked his way through a massive piece of peanut-butter cream pie.

It was a rare fling for the Baltimore Orioles first baseman, who dedicated the offseason to rebuilding his weary body following a summer in which he led the majors with 53 homers and 138 RBIs.

After earning fame, popularity and a third-place finish in the AL MVP balloting, Davis had no interest in earning hefty appearance fees on the dinner circuit as baseball's new Home Run King. Instead, he holed up in Texas with his family, made frequent visits to a nearby 24-hour gym and adhered to a regimented diet.

The 6-foot-3, 235-pound slugger now looks like he could play in 162 games and hit the ball a mile in every one of them.

"I'm about the same weight I was this time last year, but lower body fat," Davis said. "Maybe that's why I look bigger, I don't know. But working out has always been real important to me."

There once was a time when Davis would eat a whole pie out of the box without a shred of guilt. Those days are done.

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'You go back to high school, Little League, minor leagues, college, I've always had power. It was just a matter of putting the ball in play consistently.'

Chris Davis
Orioles first baseman

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