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EMPOWERED

Bahrain base adds self-defense to sex-assault prevention course » Page 6

Sgt. William Rivera ensures Petty Officer 2nd Class Kerstyn Wilson is throwing her punches correctly during a pilot run of a new self-defense class at Naval Support Activity Bahrain. It's the first time that self-defense has been included as part of the installation's Sexual Assault Prevention and Response program.

HENRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Senate takes up budget battle

With deadline looming, leaders urge passage of \$1.1 trillion spending bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A battle between the Senate's old-school veterans and new-breed freshmen such as tea partier Ted Cruz and liberal Elizabeth Warren took shape Friday as leaders pushed for passage of a \$1.1 trillion spending bill needed to keep the government running.

Cruz and Warren both boast national followings, but the smart money is on Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and GOP Leader Mitch McConnell, of Kentucky, the veteran lawmakers who steer the Senate.

Once Reid and McConnell forge an alliance, the fix is in and passage is only a matter of time.

"It's a compromise. That's what legislation is all about," Reid said as he urged senators to overcome their various objections and get the bill passed Friday to ensure that nearly all the government can stay open through September.

Still, liberals including Warren, D-Mass., and conservatives such as Cruz, R-Texas, will make their points. Warren strongly opposes a provision of the spending bill that loosens rules on banks, while Cruz is incensed that the measure doesn't block the president's plan to deport fewer immigrants.

The bill passed the House late Thursday after a day of drama but by a relatively comfortable 219-206 vote. The vote came after GOP leaders sent the House into a seven-hour recess to give the White House time to lobby Democrats angry that the measure weakens rules on trading risky financial products known as derivatives and allows wealthy donors to pour hundreds of thousands of dollars into political parties.

SEE BUDGET ON PAGE 5

Iraq's Sunnis, Shiites coexist in refugee camp

By JAD SLEIMAN
Stars and Stripes

IRBIL, Iraq — While Iraq is being torn apart along sectarian lines, Shiites and Sunnis have managed to keep the peace among themselves in a tent city near Irbil.

The United Nations-funded Camp Hashem houses more than 1,300 Iraqis displaced by the war that pits Islamic State militants against government and Kurdish forces. The French relief agency in charge manages to maintain order among the mixed, destitute population with just a

half-dozen employees and no security personnel. The camp opened its doors to all in September, accepting 35 families each day before reaching capacity in October.

"Here it's actually been incredibly calm," said Yasmine Colijn, the camp manager with the Agency for Technical Cooperation and Development.

"We've had some tensions arise, but I think in the same way you would in any city or village where you don't get along with your neighbors."

SEE REFUGEES ON PAGE 6

Everyone here is someone who has lost everything. We all just want the same thing. We want ISIS to leave, and we want to go home.

— Agell
Sunni former policeman whose house was destroyed during fighting in his hometown

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"If it's a living memorial, by God, it ought to be living."

— Brig. Gen. James Blackburn, a deputy commander of the 3rd Infantry Division in Fort Stewart, Ga., on the replacement of dying eastern redbud trees planted in memory of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan

See story on Page 4

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MILITARY

Congress questions perks for brass

By Tom Vandey Brook USA Today

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff petitioned Congress last month to retain privileges for top officers that lawmakers are seeking to trim, including deferred pensions and the number of enlisted aides serving generals and admirals, according to a letter obtained by USA Today.

Army Gen. Martin Dempsey wrote the letter on Nov. 12 to encourage leaders of the House and Senate Armed Services committees to undertake comprehensive reform to compensation for troops, rather than a piecemeal approach, according to his spokesman, Air Force Col. Ed Thomas.

"The chairman supports congressional reviews of these programs," Thomas said. "His recommendation was simply to ensure changes are part of a deliberate review."

There's no need to wait to rein in "insane" pensions and other perks, such as enlisted aides to cook for the top brass, said Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., of the House Armed Services Committee. Action should be taken in the National Defense Authorization Act, which both chambers approved last week.

"We need to clean it up," Speier said. "This is what happens when over time, requests are made by the brass at the Pentagon to the committees of the House and Senate charged with the NDAA. In an effort to make friends, the Congress has acquiesced."

Pensions for top officers were beefed up beginning in 2007 by as much as 63 percent — at the Pentagon's request — to retain senior officers during the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The change allowed long-serving officers to have pensions that exceeded active-duty pay, which is capped at \$181,500. Housing allowances and other considerations can boost their compensation by a



Carlos Bongioanni/Stars and Stripes

Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, speaks at a forum in Washington on Nov. 20.

third. In 2012, the top pension payment was \$272,892 paid to a retired four-star officer.

The Senate Armed Services Committee found the military had no problem retaining senior officers.

The change approved by the committees would cap pensions at \$181,500 per year, but officers currently serving would be grandfathered in under the current rule.

Dempsey, in his letter, told the chairmen of the House and Senate committees that the service chiefs "obviously do not object to congressional review of (generals' and admirals') retirement. However, we believe any proposal should be part of the systemic review under the congressionally established Military Retirement Modernization Commission." The commission's recommendations are due Feb.

1, 2015.

Lawmakers also want to reduce the number of enlisted troops who cook, clean and receive guests for the brass. The current limit of 300 enlisted aides would drop by 40, another change approved by Congress in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act.

The Pentagon has had difficulty accounting for the enlisted aides it has assigned to generals and admirals, according to a study this fall by the Government Accountability Office. In recent years, the Army and the Air Force had between 70 and 97 enlisted aides per year, or one for every four Army generals and one for every three-and-a-half Air Force generals. Their compensation averages just over \$100,000 per year. The Navy and the Marine Corps did not have enough data on their enlisted aides to determine their cost.

In 2012, the Pentagon's inspector general found that the superintendent of U.S. Army Military Academy at West Point had required staffers, including enlisted aides, to work as servants at private events, to provide driving lessons and to care for a cat. Then-Lt. Gen. David Huntoon agreed with investigator's findings, paid the soldiers more than \$1,800 and was reprimanded by the Army. He has retired.

A good-government group views Dempsey's letter as a tactic to preserve perks for a select few — three- and four-star generals and admirals.

"Making modest reductions to the number of enlisted aides is a commonsense reform that will help the Pentagon cut costs," said Ethan Rosenkrantz, national security policy analyst for the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog. "It doesn't surprise us that America's most senior general is opposed to a smaller staff and more modest retirement package."

Pentagon lays out plan for new combat ship

By Lolita C. Baldor The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Struggling to overcome nagging problems with its littoral combat ship, the Pentagon on Thursday announced that the Navy will upgrade the program and will build a more lethal fighting vessel that can better survive today's volatile security threats.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has approved the Navy's plan to build a new, small, surface-combatant ship, which will have better air-defense radar

and electronic-warfare systems and improved sonar, torpedo defenses and armor protection.

The decision comes in the wake of persistent criticism about the cost and viability of the \$34 billion littoral combat ship program, including design and construction problems and budget overruns. Earlier this year, Hagel cut the planned littoral ship buy from 52 to 32, and ordered a review of the program.

The so-called LCS ships were designed to be smaller, faster, more versatile and able to operate in littoral waters, which are

more shallow and close to shore. They are comparable in size to a Coast Guard cutter. Hagel toured one of the ships, the USS Freedom, in June 2013, when he was in Singapore. The USS Freedom was first of the littoral ships to deploy overseas.

But critics, including a Congressional Research Service report issued last year, questioned whether the ships could withstand battle damage and whether they were sufficiently armed to perform their missions.

On Thursday, Hagel issued a statement saying the new, small,

surface ship "will offer improvements in ship lethality and survivability, delivering enhanced naval combat performance at an affordable price." Upgrading the littoral ship rather than developing a whole new ship design, he said, is the most cost-effective option.

Hagel said the Navy will still buy a total of 52 ships, but it will be a mix of littoral combat ships and the new, smaller, surface vessels. The final numbers have not been determined.

Production of the new ship will begin no later than 2019.

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MILITARY

Bill backs full 'Grow the Army' soldiers' pensions

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Some Army officers would not be forced to retire at their previous enlisted rank under a House bill introduced in the final days of the congressional session.

The bill, sponsored by Reps. Glenn Thompson, R-Pa., and Tim Walz, D-Minn., allows soldiers who built most of their careers in the enlisted ranks to retire with commissioned officer pay and benefits after serving just four years as an officer, instead of the standard eight years.

The Army is shrinking after quickly expanding its ranks in

2007 to deal with Iraq and Afghanistan. Noncommissioned officers who ascended during that time are facing forced retirements at their enlisted rank, cutting deeply into pensions.

"Soldiers deserve to retire with the rank they have earned and corresponding benefits they've been promised, and anything less devalues the sacrifices they have made for our country," Thompson said in a released statement.

The "Grow the Army" program increased the number of active-duty soldiers to 570,000 in 2010; many NCOs stepped forward for commissions as Army officers.

The Obama administration has proposed reducing that to 450,000,

'Soldiers deserve to retire with the rank they have earned and corresponding benefits they've been promised, and anything less devalues the sacrifices they have made for our country.'

Rep. Glenn Thompson
R-Pa.

which could force the retirement of up to 30 percent of its commissioned officers, according to Thompson and Walz.

Their bill, called the Proudly Restoring Officers of Prior Enlistment Retirement Act, protects soldiers who have put in 20 years of service and at least four years as

an officer from losing a "large cut in their retirement," the congressmen said.

It might be a hit idea with soldiers, but the bill has very little chance of becoming law for now.

The 113th Congress is set to end this week, and legislation not forced through for last-minute

votes will die. Lawmakers were focused on passing critical budget bills Thursday.

Thompson and Walz could reintroduce the bill next year. Both were re-elected in November.

tritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

US, China begin 2-day anti-piracy exercises

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A pair of U.S. and Chinese military ships on Thursday began a two-day anti-piracy exercise in the Gulf of Aden off the Horn of Africa.

The USS Sterret, a guided-missile cruiser, will participate with a Chinese ship on "simple naval maneuvers," boarding exercises and helicopter cross-deck operations, which will see an American aircraft land on the Chinese ship and vice versa.

The ships were also scheduled to conduct a live-fire exercise in which guns on both craft would

fire on a common target.

In total, 700 sailors from both navies will be part of the exercise. Pentagon officials said Thursday they were unsure of the identity of the Chinese ship.

Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters the exercise was intended to "enhance partnership and demonstrate strength and presence in the region."

It's the second exercise of its type, Pentagon officials said. A previous joint U.S.-China anti-piracy naval exercise was held in August 2013.

Former Navy civilian charged with theft to be held until trial

The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — A former Navy civilian engineer charged with trying to steal aircraft carrier schematics and send them to his native Egypt will remain in custody until his trial.

Mostafa Ahmed Awwad, of Yorktown, Va., appeared in federal court for a detention hearing Wednesday. U.S. District Judge Douglas Miller noted the strength of the government's case in ordering Awwad held, according to the Virginian-Pilot.

Awwad, 35, a former Egyptian citizen, faces two counts of attempted exportation of defense articles and technical data. Prosecutors claim Awwad tried to steal technical data in the designs of the USS Gerald R. Ford, which is under construction and scheduled for delivery to the Navy in 2016.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Joseph DePadilla said in court that Awwad told an undercover FBI agent earlier this year that he took a job with the Navy for the sole purpose of stealing military secrets and providing them to the Egyptian government.

"I went to this place just for this reason: to steal the secrets of the man who posed as an Egyptian intel-

ligence officer.

According to prosecutors, Awwad said he turned down a job with Lockheed Martin because the lower-paying Navy job allowed easier access to classified information.

"The evidence shows this man is a patriot for Egypt," DePadilla told the court.

DePadilla said Awwad had given instructions to his mother in Egypt to kidnap his two young sons and raise them there if anything happened to him. Awwad described his wife as a "problem" because she did not know about his desire to help Egypt and would not support it.

Awwad's wife, who sat a few feet behind him during the hearing, declined to comment before leaving the courthouse.

Keith Kimball, an assistant federal public defender representing Awwad, urged Miller to release the defendant to the custody of his wife, who has lived in Canada and the United States since she was 1. He added that while his client allegedly said a lot of things to the undercover agent, "There seems to be a lot of exaggeration."



HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

The Laser Weapon System, or LaWS, is installed aboard the afloat forward staging base USS Ponce, deployed to the 5th Fleet area of responsibility. The weapon is being evaluated for its performance in a rugged maritime environment.

LaWS authorized for self-defense

By Jon Harper
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Sailors have been authorized to use a cutting-edge laser weapon in self-defense, Navy officials said Wednesday.

The Laser Weapon System, or LaWS, has been onboard the USS Ponce in the Persian Gulf since September. Over the past few months, the Navy has been testing it in an operational environment for the first time to see how it performs in real-world conditions, attacking small surface vessels and unmanned aerial vehicles similar to those that could pose a threat to American ships in the region.

The system has gone after mock targets both mobile and stationary.

"This is the first time in recorded history that a directed energy weapon system has ever deployed

on anything," Rear Adm. Matthew Klunder, the chief of naval research, told reporters at the Pentagon.

For the remainder of the laser's yearlong deployment, sailors will continue experimenting with the system and learning new tactics that could be used in future combat.

Earlier this week, the Navy posted a YouTube video showing the laser in action.

"It's working even beyond our expectations," Klunder said.

The system is performing so well, in fact, that U.S. military leaders have given the captain of the Ponce permission to use it if the ship is threatened, according to Klunder.

Pentagon officials are concerned that Iran or a terrorist group could use drones or small attack boats against American naval vessels.

"If we have to defend that ship today, we will destroy a threat if it comes inbound.... And we have the [rules of engagement] to support that," Klunder said.

He didn't lay out the rules of engagement, but did note that the Navy won't target individuals with the laser because doing so would violate the Geneva Conventions. However, the military is allowed to kill human beings aboard threatening ships or aircraft.

Rear Adm. Bryant Fuller, the deputy commander of ship design, integration and naval engineering at Naval Sea Systems Command, said the laser is fully operational and integrated into the Ponce's radar systems.

"We haven't actually engaged a threat [yet]," Klunder said, "but the reality is, it's ready."

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

MILITARY



RUSS BYNUM/AP

An Army soldier places American flags at the base of memorial trees at Fort Stewart, Ga., on Thursday.

Ga. base replacing memorial trees

By RUSS BYNUM
The Associated Press

FORT STEWART, Ga. — In the decade since this Army post in southeast Georgia began planting trees to honor each of its soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the living memorial known as Warriors Walk has become hallowed ground where friends and families remember the fallen and visiting dignitaries, including a president, come to pay respects.

Unfortunately, the 468 eastern redbud trees planted in memory of the dead weren't lasting long. As years passed, the balmy climate of coastal Georgia left the trees vulnerable to disease and infestation by bugs. With 40 or more of the redbuds dying and requiring replacements each year, Fort Stewart commanders finally decided all of them needed to be removed and swapped with a hardier tree species.

"It was our commitment to the families," said Brig. Gen. James

Blackburn, a deputy commander of Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division. "If it's a living memorial, by God, it ought to be living."

Four months of work wrapped up Dec. 1, and now dozens of families of soldiers who died serving in the 3rd Infantry are coming to Fort Stewart to see Warriors Walk's fresh start. During a ceremony Friday night, the old eastern redbud trees will be burned so their ashes can be scattered around the white crape myrtles taking their place. Families and volunteers will return Saturday to place holiday wreaths at each tree.

"They tried to do everything they could to get people through this," said Rhonda Kirkpatrick, of Upland, Ind., whose 20-year-old son had deployed from Fort Stewart to Iraq when he was killed by a roadside bomb in April 2007. "It's hard to express how appreciative you are of Warriors Walk. It's a beautiful place."

The tree honoring Kirkpatrick's son, Pfc. David A. Kirkpatrick, was the 327th planted at Warriors Walk. Kirkpatrick said she agrees all of the trees needed replacing. The last time her family made the 820-mile trip from Indiana to visit Warriors Walk, she said, they found her son's tree was dead.

The first trees were planted at Warriors Walk in April 2003, barely a month after 3rd Infantry troops from Fort Stewart helped lead the invasion of Iraq that toppled Saddam Hussein. The latest ones, No. 467 and 468, were dedicated last January. Lining each side of paved walkways flanking Fort Stewart's parade grounds, the long rows of trees exhibit the cost of the wars in a way that's staggering in scale yet also intensely personal.

At the base of each tree is a granite stone engraved with a soldier's name. Most are also decorated with personal mementos left by friends and family.

Carter said. Young men and women entering the academy were inspired to serve after the attack on the World Trade Center. "That really defined the Millennial generation."

Fewer dropouts, however, means the admissions process is becoming more selective, he said.

From Tribune News Service

Report: A dozen sailors suspected in sub shower case

Stars and Stripes

A dozen sailors are suspected of viewing secretly recorded videos of their female shipmates undressing in a submarine shower over a period of 10 months, according to a new investigative report obtained by Navy Times.

While it appears only one sailor has been implicated in the videos' production and distribution, 11 are suspected of watching them and failing to report the matter to leaderships, according to the Times.

It's unclear how many women were recorded. Navy officials told the Times they believe it's either three or four. All are assigned to the ballistic-missile submarine USS Wyoming, based in Kings Bay, Ga., and are among the first female sailors ever to serve in the submarine force.

Navy Times first reported the incident in November 2013, and the Pentagon released its annual report on sexual assault in the military. The recent, unclassi-

fied incident report informed the chain of command, including top Navy leaders, that the command investigation has wrapped up.

According to the second incident report, 12 male sailors are suspected of viewing the videos taken from August to November 2013, and from March to June 2014. The videos were first reported to the command in mid-November.

All of those implicated are petty officers, most of whom had seen or known about the videos but did not report it, a senior Navy official familiar with the investigation told the Times. The official emphasized that only one sailor, a second class petty officer, is believed to have recorded and distributed them using a smartphone.

The scandal is a major blight for a community that has touted an otherwise smooth effort to integrate women onto submarines, beginning four years ago with the first all-women and sub officers, the Times noted. Women first reported to the Wyoming in late 2011.

SpaceX closer to certification

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Billionaire Elon Musk's space-exploration company is close to winning the certification it needs to begin launching satellites for the U.S. military, according to an Air Force official.

If Musk's Space Exploration Technologies, known as SpaceX, received the approval by Dec. 31, it will qualify to be awarded a contract valued at as much as \$200 million in competition with United Launch Alliance, the joint venture of Lockheed Martin and Boeing that has been the military's sole launch provider.

"They will eventually be certified," Air Force Lt. Gen. Ellen Pawlikowski, the service's top military acquisition officer, said of SpaceX in an interview, although she declined to predict when approval will be in time for the contract this month to launch a payload for the National Reconnaissance Office.

"I'm pretty optimistic."

Musk has campaigned against United Launch Alliance at the Pentagon, before Congress and in the courts, saying the Air Force has given the military and sub officers, an unfair monopoly. A contract win by Hawthorne, Calif.-based SpaceX would be the first since the Pentagon opened the launch program in late 2012 to as many as 14 competitive missions.

The Air Force has set aside seven launches through 2017, including the one this month, Capt. Chris Hoyler, a spokesman for the service, said in an email. House and Senate negotiators added \$125 million for an additional competitive launch in the \$554.2 billion defense spending bill for the current fiscal year that awaits final passage in Congress.

SpaceX's certification is "just a matter of ensuring that the product they have" and "most importantly, their processes and their approach, are consistent with what the certification requires," Pawlikowski said.

Fewer dropping out at US Naval Academy

Millennials get a bad rep.

Generally, they've been branded as lazy, noncommittal, celebrity-obsessed. But the generation born since the mid-1980s has earned a fan in Annapolis, Md. The U.S. Naval Academy superintendent credits Millennials as a

reason for the academy's declining attrition rate.

Last spring, 14 percent of midshipmen failed to graduate, said Vice Adm. Walter Carter Jr., the superintendent. That attrition rate was about 33 percent when he was a midshipman 37 years ago.

"We're at the tail end of this Millennial generation that was affected by the event of 9/11,"

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NATION



Rep. Ralph Hall, R-Texas, one of Congress' last two World War II veterans, talks in April in his hometown of Rockwall, Texas.

Will Weisser/AP

WWII veterans among members leaving Congress

By CONNIE CASS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress is saying farewell to its last two veterans of World War II, the members whose lodgings inspired TV's "Alpha House" and a few dozen others this week as another session of bickering winds down.

As they end their careers, many lawmakers of various eras are sounding a common note — that they're leaving the institution in worse shape than they found it.

"The Senate is broken — the American people know it," Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor, who was shown the door by Arkansas voters after 12 years, Democratic Sen. Jay Rockefeller, retiring after three decades, warned: "As a governing body, we must not allow recent failures to take root."

"Politics today is too full of pettiness," complained Sen. John Walsh, D-Mont., who could hardly be blamed for the state of Congress because he only arrived as an appointee in February. Walsh's bid to win a full term ended in a plagiarism scandal, so he gets less than 11 months in office. That's not a record: One 1970s senator served only four days.

Republicans, looking forward to taking control of both houses in January, sound more upbeat these days than Democrats. But some departing GOP members are echoing the 9 out of 10 Americans who tell pollsters they disapprove of Congress' handwork.

Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon teared up as he spoke of reaching the twilight of a two-decade career, but the House Armed Services chairman also berated his colleagues for allowing budget cuts known as "sequestration" that he said are harming the military.

"There isn't a magical solution that Republicans can support and the president can sign without sacrifice on both sides," the Cali-

fornia Republican said, adding "shame on all of us" if Congress and the president fail to restore defense spending next year.

A new Associated Press-GFK poll finds Americans feeling pessimistic: Just 13 percent are confident that President Barack Obama and the incoming Republican-led Congress can work together to solve problems.

Rep. George Miller, one of the last of the Democratic "Watergate babies" swept into office after President Richard Nixon resigned in 1974, takes a longer view.

He says the partisan tone will fade away eventually — perhaps after another election or two — when the voters settle this latest round of arguments over the size and role of government.

"America has to make up its mind," Miller said in an interview, "so the Congress can make up its mind."

The California congressman's career focused on schools, the environment and helping workers, but he made his mark on popular culture in another way. Miller has shared his scruffy home-away-from-home with a revolving cast of lawmaker-housemates since the early 1980s, inspiring the satiric Amazon television series:

Congress' last two World War II veterans are in the record books for other reasons, too.

Rep. Ralph Hall is the oldest-ever House member at age 91. Hall, who lost his Republican primary in May, missed attending his colleagues' tributes this week because he's recovering from injuries suffered in a car accident in his home state of Texas.

Rep. John Dingell, 88, has served in Congress longer than anyone in history: 59 years. The Michigan Democrat was elected to Congress in 1955 after his father died in office. The seat will once again stay in the family, because Dingell's wife, Debbie, won it in November.

Budget: Legislation would fund nearly every Cabinet agency through September '15

FROM FRONT PAGE

In the end, 57 House Democrats voted for the bill, including two of the party's top three leaders. Democrats argued that there was too much good in the bill to scuttle it and get a worse deal next year when Republicans seize control of the Senate.

"Hold your nose and make this a better world," Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., said.

The measure would fund nearly every Cabinet agency through September 2015, awarding increases for health research, securities regulation, processing a backlog of rape kits and foreign aid. Republicans won cuts to the IRS and the Environmental Protection Agency. The 1,764-page bill is thick with carefully negotiated trade-offs on spending and policy "riders" on the environment, abortion and the lead content of ammunition. Democrats succeeded in getting the most politically toxic riders off the legislation.

Reid said he hoped the measure would clear the Senate for Obama's signature on Friday, though a vote may not come until the weekend.

Hours before the vote, House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi of California delivered a rare public rebuke of Obama, saying she was "enormously disappointed" he had decided to embrace legislation that she described as an attempt at blackmail by Republicans. But Pelosi never lobbied

'Hold your nose and make this a better world.'

Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif.

Democrats to kill the bill, and Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer of Maryland and No. 3 Democrat Jim Clyburn of South Carolina were a steady force in support of the measure.

Republicans, meanwhile, limited their defections to 67, mostly conservatives seeking an immediate confrontation with Obama over his moves to relax enforcement of immigration laws. Others simply refuse to vote for spending bills.

But Republicans scored many wins in the legislation, seizing on new leverage gained after their sweep in last month's midterm elections.

One provision particularly galling to many Democrats would relax new bank regulations that force riskier trades in financial instruments known as derivatives into separate affiliates unprotected by deposit insurance.

The White House stated its own objections to the bank-related proposal and other portions of the bill in a written statement. Even so, officials said Obama and Vice President Joe Biden both telephoned Democrats to secure the votes needed for passage, and the president stepped away from a White

House Christmas party reception line to make last-minute calls.

In addition to the government funding, the bill also sets a new course for selected, highly shaky pension plans.

Despite the day's uncertainty, there was no threat of a shutdown in federal services — and no sign of the brinkmanship that marked other, similar episodes. Instead, the House and the Senate quickly passed a measure providing a 48-hour extension in existing funding to give the Senate time to act on the larger bill. Obama promptly signed it.

The spending measure was one of a handful on the year-end agenda, with the others including an extension of expiring tax breaks and a bill approving Obama's policy for arming Syrian forces fighting Islamic State forces. A bill extending the government's terrorism insurance backstop could get tripped up by procedural hurdles.

A provision in the big bill relating to financially failing multiemployer pension plans would allow controversial cuts for current retirees, and supporters said it was part of an effort to prevent a slow-motion collapse of a system that provides retirement income to millions.

"The multiemployer pension system is a ticking time bomb," said Rep. John Kline, R-Minn., who negotiated the agreement with Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., who is retiring after 40 years in Congress.

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY HENDRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Above: Petty Officer 2nd Class Keyrstin Wilson practices a self-defense technique on Lt. Tony Wolfe during a Nov. 20 pilot run of a new self-defense class at Naval Support Activity Bahrain. **Left:** U.S. Marines from the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team teach sailors the techniques.

Self-defense class now part of assault prevention

By **HENDRICK SIMOES**
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. Marines from the Fleet Anti-terrorism Security Team based here have designed a curriculum that teaches defensive techniques as a last resort to prevent a sexual assault.

It's the first time at Naval Support Activity Bahrain that a self-defense course has been included as part of the installation's Sexual

Assault Prevention and Response program.

Lt. Tony Wolfe, one of the base victim advocates, said he has never seen a class like this in his 19-year Navy career.

"That's why I thought this was so great and wanted to get involved in this, because it has so much potential," he said. He wants to see the self-defense course integrated into other SAPR training.

Officials have been developing

the course since October, fine-tuning the curriculum and gauging base-wide interest through demonstrations and pilot classes. The first official class was taught earlier this month.

"What I like about this is that it's interactive," said Katie Scarborough, who oversees the 59 victims' advocates on base.

The instructors, trained through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, teach more than basic self-defense maneuvers

See Marines teach self-defense take-down techniques at: stripes.com/go/selfdefense

— like what to do when you're put in a choke hold. They also teach techniques aimed specifically at preventing sexual assault.

One involves fending off someone who is on top of you; another, how to break away from someone who has his or her legs wrapped around you.

"We want to empower people with another option if they are in a situation like that," said James Mandley, the base coordinator for sexual-assault response.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Keyrstin Wilson said she was going to tell everyone about the course. "Especially women my size or smaller than me ... don't really have an advantage over a guy."

simoes.hendrick@stripes.com
Twitter: @hendricksimoes

Refugees: Camp forms committees to peacefully resolve disputes among refugees

FROM FRONT PAGE

Internationally funded camps ideally house several different ethnic groups and faiths, she said, while private sites like those funded by the Catholic Church or improvised shelters may be more selective. Still, in practice most camps can easily be identified by the predominant group they house.

Disputes at Hashem, Cojijn said, have never led to violence. On Sunday, a distraught woman came to the administration tent pleading with workers for new housing. The family in the neighboring tent had stolen money from her, she said, and she could no longer trust them.

A worker directed her to one of four so-called community mobilizers, who meet with residents and form representative committees from their ranks to deal with problems. The family members surrounding her calmed down and walked away.

Like most of the camp residents, she had likely fled her home with little more than the clothes on her back and a collection of horror stories about Sunni Islamic State extremists, who have claimed village after village in northern Iraq.

"We used to eat and drink with



JAD SLEIMAN/Stars and Stripes

Iraqi Shiite and Sunni refugees gather in a tent at the Hashem Camp outside Irbil, Iraq, on Sunday. The camp is home to more than 1,300 people fleeing the Islamic State group's advance across northern Iraq.

our (Sunni) neighbors," said Mahmoud, 27, a Shiite carpenter from a village near Mosul. He and others felt safer providing only their first names.

"One night they were our neighbors, and by morning they were ISIS," he said, using an alternative name for the Islamic State group.

Mahmoud still gets mocking phone calls from his former Sunni friends, he said. They invite him back home and complain they missed out on the hefty bounty the Islamic State group placed on

fighting-age Shiite men like him.

His harrowing experience is typical of those fleeing the Islamic State group.

The militants' lightning summer offensive across northern Iraq inflamed sectarian tensions left over after the end of the American occupation. Iraq's Shiite-dominated army evaporated in the face of the Sunni extremists, while Iraq's marginalized Sunni communities sometimes welcomed and aided Islamic State fighters as an alternative to Baghdad's oppressive

government.

The Islamic State group considers itself the center of a transnational fundamentalist state that will continue to expand from the territories it now holds in Syria and Iraq.

The group's militants make no secret of their atrocities, filming and publishing videos of torture and mass executions. Meanwhile, Shiite militias that first arose to defend Baghdad and help the American-trained Iraqi Army reclaim territory lost to the Islamic State group face war crimes accusations from international human rights groups.

The continued violence has produced 1.4 million internally displaced refugees, according to U.N. statistics.

At the ACTED camp, Mahmoud once again has Sunni neighbors.

When asked about the sectarian violence spreading across Iraq, he looked to the man at his right.

The former policeman, whose name is Ageil, laughed and said he was Sunni.

Sharing the Sunni faith with Islamic State members did little to spare many from their brutality. Police officers like Ageil and other people associated with the Iraqi government were hunted down and executed by Islamic State

fighters wherever they seized ground.

"Everyone here is someone who has lost everything," said Ageil, whose house was destroyed in the fighting in his hometown on the Ninevah plains. "We all just want the same thing. We want ISIS to leave, and we want to go home."

Going home, however, is an increasingly difficult proposition.

Many refugees say they left expecting the Islamic State group to face a quick defeat. Months later, the Kurdish and Iraqi forces now face a possible stalemate. As winter approaches, the camp is preparing for the long haul; insulation and kerosene heaters began arriving last week.

While new neighbors at the camp get along, many refugees know full well that the Islamic State group, a hedge-podge of Iraqi and foreign fighters, could not have achieved success without help from their own countrymen. The difference isn't Shiite or Sunni; it's between those who stayed with the Islamic State group and those who left.

"You can't go up and see someone's jersey and know they are Shiite or they are Sunni," said Mahmoud. "We don't feel the difference here."

sleiman.jad@stripes.com

WAR ON TERRORISM

Director of CIA defends program

Addresses Senate report in unprecedented press conference at Langley headquarters

By **KEN DILANIAN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — CIA Director John Brennan is acknowledging that agency officers did “abhorrent” things to captive terror suspects, and he says he can’t prove the harsh treatment made the prisoners cooperate. But he defends the overall post-9/11 interrogation program for stopping attacks and saving lives.

That is the carefully balanced case that Brennan attempted to make Thursday during an unprecedented televised news conference at CIA headquarters, something no one on the CIA public affairs staff could remember ever happening at the secretive agency’s Virginia campus.

At the heart of Brennan’s remarks was an exquisitely nuanced argument: That while today’s CIA takes no position on whether the brutal interrogation tactics themselves led detainees to cooperate, there is no doubt that detainees subjected to the treatment offered “useful and valuable” information afterward. Brennan said it was “unknown and unknowable” whether the harsh treatment yielded crucial intelligence that could have been gained in any other way.

He declined to define the techniques as torture, as President Barack Obama and the Senate Intelligence Committee chairwoman have done, refraining from even using the word in his 40 minutes of remarks and answers. Obama banned harsh interrogations by the U.S. government when he took office.

He also appeared to draw a distinction between interrogation methods, such as waterboarding, that were approved by the Justice Department at the time, and those that were not, including “rectal feeding,” death threats and beatings. He did not discuss the techniques by name.

“I certainly agree that there were times when CIA officers exceeded the policy guidance that was given and the authorized techniques that were approved and determined to be lawful,” he said. “They went outside of the bounds. ... I will leave to others who they might want to label those activities. But for me, it was something that is certainly regrettable.”

But Brennan defended the overall detention of 119 suspects as having produced valuable intelligence that, among other things, helped the CIA find and kill al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

A 500-page Senate Intelligence Committee report released Tuesday exhaustively cites CIA re-

ports to dispute that contention. The report points out that the CIA justified the torture — what the report called an extraordinary departure from American practices and values — as necessary to produce unique and otherwise unobtainable intelligence. Those are not terms Brennan used Thursday to describe the intelligence derived from the program.

The report makes clear that agency officials for years told the White House, the Justice Department and Congress that the techniques themselves had elicited crucial information that thwarted dangerous plots.

Yet the report argues that torture failed to produce intelligence that the CIA couldn’t have obtained, or didn’t already have, elsewhere.

Although the harshest interrogations were carried out in 2002 and 2003, the program continued until December 2007, Brennan acknowledged. All told, 39 detainees were subject to very harsh measures.

Former CIA officials, including George Tenet, who signed off on the interrogations as director, have argued in recent days that the techniques themselves were effective and justified.

Brennan’s more nuanced position puts him in harmony with an anti-torture White House while attempting to mollify the many CIA officers involved in the program who still work for him.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the Intelligence Committee chairwoman whose staff wrote the report, conducted a live-tweeting point-by-point rebuttal of Brennan’s news conference, at one point saying the CIA director’s stance was inconsistent with the original justification for the brutal interrogations.

“EIT authority” (was) based on vital, otherwise unavailable intel,” she tweeted during Brennan’s remarks. “Not ‘useful information.’”

At the CIA, Brennan spoke while standing next to the stars engraved on a marble wall to memorialize fallen officers. He criticized the Senate investigation, saying, for example, it was “lamentable” that the committee interviewed no CIA personnel to ask, “What were you thinking?”

Seeking to put the controversy in context, Brennan stressed that the CIA after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, was in “uncharted territory,” having been handed vast new authorities by a president determined to thwart the next al-Qaida attack.

“We were not prepared,” said Brennan, who is deputy CIA executive officer at the time.



John Brennan

“In a limited number of cases, agency officers used interrogation techniques that had not been authorized, were abhorrent and rightly should be repudiated by all.”

John Brennan
CIA director

“We had little experience housing detainees, and precious few of our officers were trained interrogators.”

In starker terms than CIA officials have used previously, Brennan, a career CIA analyst, acknowledged mistakes when the agency took captured al-Qaida operatives to secret prisons and began using brutal methods in an effort to break them.

“In a limited number of cases, agency officers used interrogation techniques that had not been authorized, were abhorrent and rightly should be repudiated by all,” he said. “And we fell short when it came to holding some officers accountable for their mistakes.”

But he also said, “The overwhelming majority of officers involved in the program at CIA carried out their responsibilities faithfully. ... They did what they were asked to do in the service of our nation.”

Brennan denied that the CIA intentionally misled lawmakers.

He praised the CIA’s work to prevent terrorism on U.S. soil, and the fact that CIA officers were the first to fight and early to die in the Afghanistan War. The CIA, he said, “did a lot of things right” in a time when there were “no easy answers.”

Brennan said that while he personally believes brutal interrogations result in too much false information, he would not rule out that such tactics being used again.

Rectal rehydration’s effectiveness debated

By **MICHELLE FAY CORTEZ**
Bloomberg News

MINNEAPOLIS — The revelation that U.S. interrogators forced terrorism suspects through their rectums outraged human-rights activists and doctors, who called it an outdated practice with no legitimate medical rationale.

Rectal feeding was performed on at least five detainees, none with documented conditions that made it medically necessary, according to a report released by Democrats on the Senate Intelligence Committee. Others were also threatened with rectal rehydration, according to cables and records.

While rectal hydration may be used in emergency situations, it’s not the first-, second- or even third-best option, said Allen Keller, director of the Bellevue/ New York University Program for Survivors of Torture. It’s clear in the context of the report that there were ulterior motives in the decision to use the technique, he said.

“This was done not solely for therapeutic reasons but as another form of abuse or humiliation,” Keller said. “Given the circumstances, this is sodomy with the intention of humiliation under the guise of medical treatment.”

Central Intelligence Agency interrogators made clear that the practice, justified as a way to hydrate prisoners who refused to eat, wasn’t simply for their health. It was identified as a means of “behavior control” by CIA medical officers that could hasten the end of hunger strikes, according to the documents.

“While IV infusion is safe and effective, we were impressed with the ancillary effectiveness of rectal infusion on ending the water refusal in a similar case,” one of the officers wrote, according to an executive summary of the 6,000-page report, originally approved in December 2012 and now declassified.

The same officer described how the procedure was carried out:

“Regarding the rectal tube, if you place it and open up the IV tubing, the flow will self-regulate, sloshing up the large intestines,” he wrote.

Abd Al-Rahim Al-Nashiri, a Saudi man who was accused of planning the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole that killed 17 crew members, refused to eat after he went on a hunger strike, according to the report. He had refused to eat after accusing the

“We were impressed with the ancillary effectiveness of rectal infusion on ending the water refusal in a similar case.”

A CIA officer in a declassified 2012 executive summary

agency of drugging or poisoning his food and has since said he was tortured into confessing his role in seven attacks.

The technique was also used on Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, identified in the report as KSM, a top-ranking al-Qaida member and the mastermind behind the 9/11 attacks on the U.S.

The chief of interrogations ordered the rectal rehydration, a process he later said showed the interrogator’s “total control over the detainee,” according to the report. The practice was also intended to “clear a person’s head” and encourage Mohammed to talk.

The CIA, in a June 2013 response to Senate investigators, said rectal rehydration was a “well acknowledged medical technique,” though it didn’t address rectal feeding.

Rectal feeding or hydration, known as proctoclysis, has been performed for centuries. It is rarely done now, though a 1998 report found water or saline given rectally was safe and effective for terminally ill cancer patients.

There is no current medical reason to use rectal hydration or nutrition since the rectum is an inefficient way to absorb nutrients, said Ranit Mishori, a family medicine physician at Georgetown University School of Medicine and a consultant for Physicians for Human Rights.

The approach also carries significant risks, including rectal perforation and infection, she said. Intravenous and tube feeding through the nose are more appropriate approaches for nutrition and hydration.

“There is clearly no use or benefit,” she said. “As a physician, I can’t see any justification for this. It’s medical, physiological and psychological torture.”

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NATION

Shoppers go over Internet, into woods for holiday trees

By HOLLY RAMER
The Associated Press

WATERVILLE VALLEY, N.H. — Some Americans are going over the Internet or through the woods to find fresh Christmas trees this year, taking advantage of shopping options at opposite ends of the cost spectrum.

In one camp are thrifty folks paying as little as \$5 for trees they harvest themselves from national forests. In the other are consumers willing to spend significantly more on trees they order online and have shipped to their doors.

New Hampshire offers both options: The U.S. Forest Service provides permits for cut-your-own Christmas trees in the 800,000-acre White Mountain National Forest, while several of the state's farms ship trees all over the country.

Chris Proulx, 39, of Conway, snagged a tree from the forest the weekend after Thanksgiving and set it up on his porch. On the advice of a forest ranger, he and his family trekked about half a mile into the woods to a clearing where they hoped to find young balsam firs, keeping an eye out for "back-up" trees along the way.

Finding a good tree was a challenge, Proulx said. But in the end, it wasn't about the tree. He compares it to taking his kids fishing in Swift River, which runs through the forest in the summer.

"You do it not because the best or biggest fish are there. It's more about the experience. It's the same thing with these trees. You're not going to bag a trophy tree," he said. "The average person who comes in might call you a block head and say, 'Nice job, Charlie Brown, you picked out the perfect tree.'"

"But if you know that it's from the national forest and you know what it took to get it, it looks better to you than it will to everybody else," Proulx said.

The National Christmas Tree Association says U.S. consumers purchased \$3 billion farm-grown Christmas trees last year. About a third shopped at a big box stores, such as Wal-Mart or Home Depot; just over a quarter bought directly from farms; and just under a quarter purchased trees at retail lots. Internet sales accounted for less than 3 percent, but that number, though the association has heard anecdotal evidence that such purchases are increasing.

In northern New Hampshire, only about 500 of the roughly 11,000 trees sold by Mountain Star Farms in Haverhill go to online customers, but that number is growing, said manager Ben Hoyt. Customers include busy businesspeople, city dwellers without cars who don't want to drag a tree home from a retail lot, and former New Englanders living in warmer climates who miss their traditional trees. A 7-foot tree costs about \$50, plus another \$50 for shipping.



KENT PORTER, THE (SANTA ROSA, CALIF.) PRESS DEMOCRAT/AP

A resident of Guerneville, Calif., who parked his car overnight in a Safeway parking lot in Healdsburg, Calif., finds it partially submerged Thursday as Foss Creek topped its banks.

Calif. storm spurs mudslides

Residents evacuate as rain causes flash flooding, avalanches

By ANDREW DALTON
AND JOHN ANTZAK
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A dangerous storm system blamed for two deaths in Oregon, thousands of power outages in Washington and flooded roadways in the San Francisco Bay Area pushed into Southern California on Friday, causing mudslides and evacuations.

A powerful squall line led the storm's pre-dawn charge, lashing the region with wind-driven rain. Rain fell at the rate of up to 2 inches an hour, triggering flash flooding, the National Weather Service said.

Avalanches of mud and debris blocked part of the Pacific Coast Highway in Ventura County, weather service specialist Stuart Seto said. Street and freeway flooding snarled morning rush-hour traffic and triggered numerous accidents.

Mudflows in two areas stripped bare by wildfire forced people from their homes.

Mandatory evacuations were ordered for 124 homes northwest of Los Angeles in Ventura County, sheriff's Capt. Don Aguilar said. Some people needed help leaving because of property damage, but no injuries were reported in the area burned by a blaze last year.



GARY REYES, (SAN FRANCISCO) BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/AP

An SUV is crushed by a large oak tree during a storm in San Jose, Calif., on Thursday. No injuries were reported.

The storm's powerful winds caused power outages around Santa Barbara and other parts of the coast, and forecasters predicted the winds would pick up speed.

On Thursday, the center of the storm and its torrential rains hit the San Francisco Bay Area and the surrounding region, pushing waterways toward flood stage, toppling trees and cutting power to thousands.

In Oregon, the winds proved deadly. A falling tree killed a homeless man who was sleeping

on a trail, and a teenage boy died after a large tree fell on the vehicle in which he was riding, causing it to swerve and hit another tree.

Falling trees also injured a man in southwest Washington and a sixth-grader at an elementary school in Santa Cruz, Calif.

This Pineapple Express storm carried warm air and vast amounts of water in a powerful current stretching from Hawaii to the West Coast and up into the mountains, where gusts up to 140 mph blew through passes.

Poll: Many Republicans want carbon regulations

By DINA CAPPIELLO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Republicans take control of Congress next month, top on their agenda will be undoing environmental regulations they claim will harm the economy, chief among them President Barack Obama's plans to limit heat-trapping carbon pollution from coal-fired power plants.

However, the results of a new poll from the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and Yale University show their priorities may be misplaced.

Six in 10 Americans, including half of all Republicans, said they support regulation of carbon dioxide pollution, although they weren't asked how. Nearly half of Republicans said the U.S. should lead the global fight to curb climate change, even if it means taking action when other countries do not. And majorities across party lines said environmental protections "improve economic growth and provide new jobs" in the long run, a popular Obama administration talking point.

The picture of Republicans that emerges from the poll runs counter to the monolithic view of Republicans in Washington as a global warming-doubting, anti-environmental regulation party keen on attacking Obama's environmental plans.

"The American people have made it clear they know climate change is real and that we can protect the planet and grow the economy at the same time," Frank Benenati, a White House spokesman, said after reviewing the poll results. "Climate deniers in Congress and those who would try to block efforts to address the climate challenge would do well to listen."

Still, climate change itself ranked near the bottom of environmental problems tested in the poll.

"Global warming was second to last among environmental issues. That is all you need to know," said Mike McKenna, a GOP pollster and analyst.

In recent weeks and months, the White House has announced a deal with China to curb the greenhouse gases blamed for global warming and pledged \$3 billion to a fund that helps poor countries prepare for climate change, further irking Republicans after a near sweep in the midterm elections.

The divisions between Republicans and Democrats on global warming are real, the poll shows, and stark. A little over a quarter of Republicans believe global warming is an extremely or very serious problem, compared with 64 percent of Democrats. And while nearly three-quarters of Democrats believe global warming is happening, less than half of Republicans do.

NATION

Tribes wary of selling pot, even if DOJ says OK

By JEFF BARNARD AND GOSIA WOZNIAKKA
The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Many in Indian Country are wary of the idea of growing and selling marijuana on tribal lands, even if it could present an economic windfall and the U.S. Department of Justice says it's OK.

"I would really doubt tribes would be wanting to do something like that," said Don Gentry, chairman of the Klamath Tribes in Oregon, where voters this year approved a measure to legalize recreational pot. "We have an alcohol- and drug-free policy at work. It would just not be something we would be looking for into the future."

The U.S. Justice Department announced on Thursday that it has adopted a new policy saying Indian tribes, which are considered sovereign nations, can grow and sell marijuana on tribal lands as long as they follow the same federal conditions laid out for states that have legalized the drug.

Oregon U.S. Attorney Amanda Marshall said the policy addresses questions raised by tribes about how legalization of pot in states like Oregon, Washington and Colorado would apply to Indian lands.

"That's been the primary message tribes are getting to us as U.S. attorneys," Marshall said from Portland. "What will the U.S. as federal partners do to assist tribes in protecting our children and families, our tribal businesses, our tribal housing? How will you help us combat marijuana abuse in Indian Country when states are no longer there to partner with us?"

Whether tribal pot could become a major bonanza rivaling tribal casinos is a big question. Marshall said only three tribes — one each in California, Washington state and the Midwest — have voiced any interest. She did not identify them.

Seattle attorney Anthony Broadman, whose firm represents tribal governments throughout the West, said the economic potential is vast. "If tribes can balance all the potential social issues, it could be a really huge opportunity," Broadman said.

Many in Indian Country are wary. The Yakama Nation in Washington state recently banned marijuana on the reservation and is trying to halt state-regulated pot sales and growth on lands off the reservation where it holds hunting and fishing rights.

The Hoopa Valley Tribe in



DON RYAN/AP

A sample of cannabis is displayed Nov. 5 at Shango Premium Cannabis dispensary in Portland, Ore.

Northern California has battled illegal pot plantations on its reservation that have damaged the environment.

In South Dakota, the Oglala Sioux Tribal Council this year rejected a proposal to allow marijuana on the Pine Ridge Reservation. "For me, it's a drug," said Ellen Fills the Pipe, chairwoman of the council's Law and Order Committee. "My gut feeling is we're most likely going to shoot it down."

Marshall warned that problems could arise for tribes with lands in states that outlaw marijuana due to the likelihood that pot would be transported or sold outside tribal boundaries.

Broadman said tribes would enjoy a huge advantage selling pot, as they do with tobacco, because they would not have to charge taxes.

Alison Holcomb, a primary drafter of Washington state's legalization measure, said most people in larger states won't want to drive to far-flung reservations to buy pot.

But John Evich disagreed. He runs a legal marijuana store in Bellingham, Wash., near the Nooksack Indian reservation. When he chewed tobacco, he said, he used to stock up at the reservation because it was about 30 percent cheaper there. He had little doubt people would do the same if tribes began selling pot.

The tribal policy is based on an August 2013 Justice Department announcement that the federal government wouldn't intervene as long as pot legalization states tightly regulate the drug, keep it from children and criminal cartels and prevent sales to states that outlaw it, among other measures.



STEPHAN SAVOIA/AP

Pamela Hatchfield, a conservator at the Boston's Museum of Fine Arts, holds a time capsule Thursday that she had just removed from the cornerstone of the Statehouse in Boston.

Time capsule from 1795 removed from Massachusetts Statehouse

By RODRIGO NGWUI
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Crews removed a time capsule dating back to 1795 on Thursday from the granite cornerstone of the Massachusetts Statehouse, where historians believe it was originally placed by Revolutionary War luminaries Samuel Adams and Paul Revere among others.

The small time capsule is believed to contain items such as old coins, documents, newspapers and a metal plate that was owned by Revere. Secretary of State William Galvin speculated that some of the items could have deteriorated over time.

Officials plan to X-ray the capsule on Sunday at Boston's Museum of Fine Arts to get some idea of the contents and possibly details on their condition, then to open it next week.

Originally made of cowhide, the time capsule was believed to have been embedded in the cornerstone when construction on the state Capitol began in 1795. Adams was governor of Massachusetts at the time.

The time capsule was removed in the mid-19th century and its contents were transferred to a copper box, Galvin said. Its removal Thursday was due to an ongoing water-filtration project at the building, Galvin said the plan is to return it to the site sometime next year.

Pamela Hatchfield, a conservator at the museum, was exhausted Thursday after spending hours chiseling and drilling on the massive cornerstone, taking care not to damage the time capsule or the coins that were thrown into the mortar that held it in place.

She held up the capsule for viewing by state officials, reporters and contractors involved in the renovation of the Statehouse.

"It's heavy," Hatchfield said. "I feel happy and relieved and excited and really interested to see what's in this box."

Hatchfield said state officials did not know that the time capsule was embedded in the cornerstone until 60 years after some of the nation's leading founding political figures put it there.

"It was first put in there in 1795 by Paul Revere and Sam Adams

and was unearthed accidentally when in 1855 there were some amendments to the building," Hatchfield said. "They put the contents back into a new box and placed it in a depression in the stone, which is on the underside."

Galvin said there were notes from 1855 indicating that officials washed some of the contents in the capsule with acid before putting them in the new copper box.



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NATION

Black Greek organizations differ on protests

By Tom Foreman Jr.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Recent protests against the police killings of Eric Garner and Michael Brown have created a conundrum for the nation's black fraternities and sororities: to remain relevant in the black community they need to be involved, but still protect their reputations if demonstrations go awry.

The competing pressures were exemplified last weekend when black Greek members and alumni participated in lie-down protests across the country and two sororities asked their members not to wear their letters during the demonstrations so as not to embarrass them.

Many of the nine historically Black Greek organizations — known collectively as “The Divine Nine” — were born out of the nation’s racial conflict. Founded on college campuses in the early 1900s when black students faced racial prejudice and exclusion that barred them from

already-existing fraternities and sororities, a century later, they are wrestling with their role in the most recent protests.

There was a time when the black Greek organizations were in the forefront of the civil rights struggles, but those days have faded into memory, said Gregory Parks, an assistant professor at the Wake Forest University School of Law and a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

“These organizations, whether you’re talking about the fraternities or sororities, do indeed have a direct or indirect impact on African-Americans’ quest for social equality throughout the 20th century,” Parks said. But recently “these organizations’ voices have been absent in assertive fashion around racial justice and social equality.”

The sororities’ recent directive followed a picture on the front of the Dallas Morning News showing a woman wearing a Delta Sigma Theta t-shirt during one of the protests following grand jury decisions not to indict police of-



VERNON BRYANT, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/AP

A protester is restrained and taken into custody Dec. 5 as she marched with others against police brutality near the American Airlines Arena in downtown Dallas.

ficers in the killings of Brown and Garner. Standing behind the woman is an officer preparing to take her into custody. “Feel free to wear our sorority

colors, but REFRAIN from wearing Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. letters and/or symbols as our policy outlines,” the sorority said after the photo was published.

Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority also told its members they could wear the sorority’s colors but nothing identifying them as members.

The picture and directives sparked fiery commentary on social media. Many said black Greek organizations should be front and center during the protests and not worry about image. Some called for abject defiance with the call.

“I’ve always been extremely proud that Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. was born in protest and stood on not only the front lines of the Women’s Suffrage Parade in 1913, but the March on Washington in 1963,” said Tamara Lomax, a visiting assistant professor at Virginia Commonwealth University and a member of the sorority, in an email sent to TheRoot.com. “While some sorors have decided to toe the party line and not wear paraphernalia while protesting, many others have decided to fall in line with and honor the ancestors by doing the opposite.”

On Thursday, Alpha Kappa Alpha reversed course.

Father held, 4 sons safe after Calif. road standoff

By Christine Armario and Elliot Spagat
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — A Southern California man was arrested during a standoff on a freeway bridge, days after he vanished with his four sons and his wife, whose body was found in a car trunk.

Daniel Perez, 43, of Montebello, is considered a person of interest in the death of his wife, Erica, 39, and also could face child endangerment charges, authorities said Thursday.

The elementary school custodian and his wife had a troubled and violent marriage and both had criminal histories, Montebello police said.

The couple and their four sons, ages 6, 8, 9 and 11, disappeared last Friday from their home 15 miles



JOHN GIBBINS, U-T SAN DIEGO/AP

Police approach Daniel Diego Perez as he tries to jump off a freeway bridge Thursday in Santee, Calif.

east of downtown Los Angeles.

They didn’t answer phone calls and were off the map until Wednesday, when Erica Perez’s body was found in the trunk of the family’s Honda Accord about a half-mile from home, police confirmed.

The county coroner’s office will determine the cause of death.

On Thursday, the California Highway Patrol issued an Amber Alert stating that the children had been taken by their father. Montebello police activated an anti-theft tracker in the family’s other car, a Toyota Camry, which alerted authorities to its location in San Diego County and triggered a

pursuit shortly after 8 a.m.

The Camry stopped on a freeway ramp in Santee after a pursuit that lasted about 10 minutes and reached speeds of 85 mph, CHP Officer Kevin Pearlstein said.

With television helicopters circling above, Perez got out of the passenger door and walked backward to the railing of the 150-foot-high bridge with one boy at his side. Perez held a phone to his ear while the other boy followed a few steps behind. Police shot him with a beanbag round, Perez threw an arm and a leg over the railing, and officers rushed in to take him into custody.

Demonstrations inspire new protest songs

By Lisa Leff
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — Stop. Hey, what’s that sound? Protest songs are taking their place alongside chants of “I can’t breathe” and “Hands up, don’t shoot” as demonstrators raise their voices to condemn the deaths of unarmed black men at the hands of police. There’s something happening here.

The killings of Eric Garner and Michael Brown have inspired a musical outpouring perhaps unseen in the U.S. since “We Shall Overcome” became a civil-rights standard in the 1960s. Older songs are being redeplored for a new generation. New compositions are being widely shared, including some from major-label artists. And holiday classics are being rewritten, such as a barbed spin on “White Christmas.”

“Facts aren’t fueling this fire.

Feeling is what is fueling this fire, and until we express those feelings and those feelings are understood, we aren’t going to get too far,” said Daniel Watts, a Broadway performer who starred in a professionally choreographed Times Square flash mob in response to Eric Garner’s death on Staten Island. He’s also written two more spoken-word pieces about police brutality that others set to music.

One of the tunes gaining a following on the streets and social media was penned six weeks ago by Luke Nephew of The Peace Poets, a Bronx collective that has also composed event-specific cantos for protests at immigration detention centers, foreclosure auctions and other demonstration sites. It has four lines, starting with “I still hear my brother crying,” “I can’t breathe.” Now I’m in the struggle singing. I can’t leave.”

Did a massive volcanic eruption in India kill off the dinosaurs?

By Joel Achenbach
The Washington Post

There’s a solid consensus among scientists about what happened to the dinosaurs 66 million years ago: A mountain-sized meteorite crashed into the planet and triggered a mass extinction. The debris from the impact has been found in hundreds of locations around the world. Geologists also have found signs of the giant crater, centered on the tip of Yucatan Peninsula.

But there has long been an alternate theory, espoused by a rump caucus of researchers who think they’ve never been given a fair hearing. They believe the extinction was caused, at least in part, by an extraordinary volcanic eruption in India.

This eruption created the Deccan Traps, a geological formation that covers nearly 200,000 square miles of western India. It was created by a flood of basaltic lava, the kind of eruption seen today on the Big Island in Hawaii. But the

eruption that formed the Deccan Traps was unusually prolonged and prodigious. All told, the eruption produced about 1.5 million cubic kilometers of lava, which is about 1.3 million times as much material produced by the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. The eruption pumped enormous, climate-changing quantities of carbon dioxide and sulfur dioxide into the atmosphere.

Now scientists have found a way to date more precisely the Deccan Traps eruption, and the

results are a boost, potentially, for the volcano-did-it camp.

The main pulse of the lava flow began about 250,000 years before the mass extinction event, and ended about 500,000 years after it, according to a paper published online Thursday in the journal Science. Thus if the eruption is not a significant factor in the mass extinction, it’s a remarkable coincidence. Earlier attempts to date the Deccan Traps, using less precise methods, had a much larger margin of error, on the order of

plus-or-minus one million years.

The lead author of the paper, Blair Schoene, a professor of geosciences at Princeton, said the results indicate that both the catastrophic impact and the more gradual, but extraordinary, volcanic eruption could have been factors in the end-Cretaceous mass extinction.

“Both are potentially really important,” Schoene said. “I don’t know if we can say the extinction would have or would not have happened without both of them.”

WORLD

Mali's last Ebola patient released

The Associated Press

DAKAR, Senegal — The last Ebola patient being treated in Mali has survived the disease and been released, the Health Ministry said Friday, leaving no known cases in the West African country.

Mali had recorded eight cases of Ebola, all of them linked to people who crossed from neighboring Guinea. The country now has no confirmed or suspected cases, according to the ministry, but authorities are still monitoring 26 people who had contact with the sick. A person infected with Ebola can take as many as 21 days to show symptoms.

The last patient was discharged on Thursday after several Ebola tests came back negative, the ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

Because people are still being monitored and a sick person could cross the border again, the government warned Malians to remain vigilant.

Countries are only declared free of Ebola when 42 days — twice the maximum incubation period — have passed since anyone has had contact with a confirmed or probable case.

In the current outbreak, Ebola has sickened more than 18,100 people, the vast majority in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Of those, about 6,500 have died.

A photographer for the Washington Post sent to cover the outbreak in Liberia died on Thursday after collapsing while returning on foot from a village where he'd been working, the newspaper reported.

Michel du Cille, a three-time Pulitzer Prize winner, died before he reached Phebe Hospital in Bong County, Information Minister Lewis Brown told The Associated Press on Friday. It took two hours, traveling on dirt roads, to get Du Cille to the hospital after he collapsed, according to the paper.

Arrangements are being made to bring his body to Monrovia, Liberia's capital, Brown said.



Moscow's movie slumber party

People watch a movie at a cinema on the outskirts of Moscow on Wednesday. This week the Swedish furniture giant IKEA replaced a movie theater's seats with beds in its Russian "Awake Love" campaign. The switchover took place in the Moscow suburb of Khimki, not far from a branch of the store beloved by many Russians. It's the first movie theater in Russia to have beds instead of seats, and the 15 beds are fully booked through the limited run, which ends Monday. The campaign is modeled after a similar event at a Paris music hall in 2010.

PHOTOS BY IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Korean Air chairman, daughter sorry for nut rage

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — The Korean Air Lines Co. executive who delayed a flight in an incident dubbed "nut rage" bowed deeply in apology Friday before facing questioning by transport officials. Her father, the airline's chairman, also apologized and said he regrets he didn't raise her better.

The apologies came in response to simmering public anger about the incident and the airline's handling of it.

Cho Hyun-ah, who was head of cabin service at Korean Air, was angered when a flight attendant in first class offered her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a plate. She ordered a senior crew member off the plane, forcing it to return to the gate at John F. Kennedy airport in New York City. "I sincerely apologize. I'm sorry," a gloomy-faced Cho said before droves of

journalists in an almost inaudible, trembling voice. She said she will meet the victimized crew member and "apologize sincerely."

Clad in a long black coat, she lowered her face as she made the brief comments without making eye contact. It was her first public appearance since the Dec. 5 incident. Transport Ministry officials had summoned Cho for questioning over the possibility her actions violated aviation safety law.

Hours before her apology, Korean Air Chairman Cho Yang-ho also made a deep bow before journalists.

"It's my fault," he said. "As chairman and father, I ask for the public's generous forgiveness."

Cho Hyun-ah's actions caused an uproar in South Korea and abroad. South Korean

media called the 40-year-old a princess and some Koreans said she was an international embarrassment to her country.

Despite the anger, many South Koreans were not surprised by Cho's display of entitlement.

There was once respect in South Korea for the families that founded the industrial conglomerates, known as chaebol, which helped modernize the country and make it wealthy. Nowadays there is growing criticism of ostentatious wealth and unfettered power.

The criticism is particularly directed at the newest generation, which is inheriting the business empires founded by their fathers and grandfathers. All three children of Cho Yang-ho rose quickly to the top ranks of the airline, holding executive roles in it and affiliate companies.

Polish company: Nazi toy soldiers a 'fun way' to teach children

The Washington Post

This Christmas, some Polish children might receive some unusual — and highly controversial — presents: Nazi-themed toys including Nazi soldiers, tanks, anti-tank guns or jeeps.

The Polish company producing the new toys is, needless to say, being roundly criticized. But it has defended its product. Lego-like figures featuring Swastikas and Third Reich emblems are a "fun way" to teach children history, Robert Podles, CEO of Cobi Toys, told news agency Ruptly, which is part of Russia's RT network. Cobi Toys did not respond to an interview request by

The Washington Post on Tuesday.

The toy soldiers in question bear similarities to Wehrmacht soldiers and officers with the Gestapo, the Nazis' horrifying secret police force. Often referred to as the "worst of the worst," Gestapo officers were allowed to arrest suspicious people and send them to Nazi concentration camps. Many of those arrested never returned.

Despite the criticism, Cobi says it plans to continue producing the items. While Ruptly quotes Podles as saying that some of the tanks and vehicles feature swastikas, that symbol does not appear in an advertisement on Cobi Toys' website. However, it

does depict black crosses that were used as emblems of Germany's Wehrmacht (as the Third Reich's armed forces were known).

"We cannot separate this from history. We need to teach children in schools about it, we need to talk about it," Podles told Ruptly.

Not everyone agrees. The Swedish department store Gekas announced last week that it would remove the products from its shelves. In explaining its decision, it cited customer complaints about the toy soldiers, according to Swedish news site the Local.

"This is not something we want to promote as a form of ideal," said Gekas CEO

Boris Lennerhov, according to the site.

It is not the first time that the emblem of Nazi symbols has led to recalls or bans. Last weekend, Walgreens recalled wrapping paper that contained a swastika pattern. The Spanish fashion chain Mango came under fire in October for marketing a blouse printed with a motif that resembled the insignia of the Schutzstaffel, or SS, Hitler's protection force. Zara, another Spanish retailer, withdrew and apologized for a children's shirt emblazoned with a yellow star that resembled the Star of David badge that the Nazi regime forced Jews to sew on their clothing.

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 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Managing Editor International
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croyley, Managing Editor for Content
 croyley.tina@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
 moores.sean@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 weyrteddie@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908, fax: +1(202)761.0910, cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)583.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: +1(202)761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: +1(202)761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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OPINION

Bush knew — well before April 2006

By FRED KAPLAN

State

Of all the shocks and revelations in the Senate Intelligence Committee's report on CIA torture, one seems very strange and unlikely: that the agency misinformed the White House and didn't even brief President George W. Bush about its controversial program until April 2006.

The question of the claim's truth or implausibility is not trivial or academic; it goes well beyond score-settling, Bush-bashing, or scapegoating. Rather, it speaks to an issue that's central in the report in the long history of CIA scandals, and in debates over whether and how policy should be changed: Did the torture begin, and did it get out of hand, because the CIA's detention and interrogation program developed into a rogue operation? Or were the program's managers actually doing the president's dirty business?

If the former was the case, then heads should roll, grand juries should be assembled, organizational charts should be reshuffled, and mechanisms of oversight should be tightened. If the latter was the case, well, that's what elections are for. "Enhanced-interrogation techniques" were formally ended by President Barack Obama after the 2008 election, and perhaps future presidents will read the report with an eye toward avoiding the mistakes of the past.

But which was it? Were the CIA's directorate of operations and its counterterrorism center freelancing after the Sept. 11 attacks, or were they exchanging winks and nods with the commander in chief?

The annals of history suggest the latter and, in a few passages, so does the report. A big lesson of the Church Committee — Sen. Frank Church's mid-1970s probe into black-lag jobs, assassination plots, coup attempts, and other acts of CIA misfeasance since the agency's origins — is that, in nearly every instance, there was no "rogue elephant" at Langley. Rather, the presidents in office at the time knew what was going on, at least in broad, strategic terms — and their CIA henchmen knew to give the leader of the free world a wide berth of "plausible deniability" in case they got caught.

As the Church reports and books such as Tim Weiner's "Legacy of Ashes" clearly show, President Dwight D. Eisenhower knew about and approved the CIA's plot to overthrow Iranian Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadegh. President John F. Kennedy knew about, and approved, the plots to murder Cuba's Fidel Castro; in fact, his brother, Attorney General Robert Kennedy, formed a top-secret "special group" in the White House to oversee the operation. President Lyndon B. Johnson (who, after he left office, told a reporter that Kennedy had been running "a damn Murder Inc. in the Caribbean") carried on the enterprise elsewhere in Latin America.

It seems odd, then, that the officials running the CIA interrogation program kept things secret from the highest elected officials and thus, as the report puts it, "impeded effective White House oversight and decision-making." First, the history of these sorts of programs suggests they were carrying out White House decisions. Second, Bush and especially Vice President Dick Cheney supported the program, and they still emphatically defend it. Bush wrote in his memoirs that he approved it.

The committee's own account contains anomalies on this score, for instance, the report cites an internal CIA email not-

ing that "the [White House] is extremely concerned [that Secretary of State Colin] Powell would blow his stack if he were to be briefed on what's been going on." That was written in July 2003, nearly three years before Bush was supposedly first briefed on the program, yet someone in the White House not only knew about it, but knew enough to know that certain Cabinet secretaries — in this case, a former Army general and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff well-versed in the Geneva Conventions and official manuals on interrogation — might object.

The report also cites a briefing by a CIA station chief to a government official in a foreign country where the agency had set up a secret detention center. "The presentation," the report says of the briefing, "also noted that the president of the United States had directed that he not be informed of the location of the CIA detention facilities to ensure he would not accidentally disclose the information."

Not to be worried for when this briefing took place (or perhaps it's been redacted in the footnote), but the context suggests 2003 or 2004. Again, this is two or three years before Bush was supposedly first briefed on the program — yet, he already knew that the CIA did have secret foreign detention centers for interrogating suspected terrorists in ways that might be illegal if done state-side.

A key phrase here is that Bush "had directed" the CIA not to tell him the locations of these sites. This fits the classic pattern of "plausible deniability": The president is told about the drift and outlines of the black program (be it an assassination, a coup, bribery, torture, or whatever), but he doesn't want to be told too much. He doesn't want his fingerprints on any directive, so that, in case things go awry, he can blame Langley — and part of Langley's job is to take the blame.

With this in mind, let's take a close look at the committee's claim that Bush wasn't briefed on the program until it had nearly run its course: "According to CIA records," the report states, "no CIA officer, up to and including CIA Directors George Tenet and Porter Goss, briefed the president on the specific CIA enhanced interrogation techniques before April 2006."

As italicized in two words in this passage, for emphasis, "the second word is key: Bush wasn't briefed on the "specific" techniques until 2006. Under the well-known rules of plausible deniability, he would not have wanted to know too much about these specifics. As indicated in the station chief's presentation, it's not that the CIA didn't tell the president certain details; it's that the president didn't want the CIA to tell him.

But the other use of italics — "According to CIA records" — is more significant than it may seem at first glance. The Senate committee was denied access to White House records. Its staff examined only CIA records, and if the principles of plausible deniability were in force, the CIA probably would not have had records of earlier briefings, if there were any. (And we know there must have been some, because Bush knew, much earlier, about the fact that secret foreign detention centers existed.) It's worth noting, according to the report, that the April 2006 briefing took place

only after Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, demanded that he be briefed. At that point, deniability would no longer be plausible; word of the program had spread beyond the Oval Office and into the West Wing.

The report also notes that Powell and Donald Rumsfeld, the secretaries of state and defense, respectively, were finally briefed on these unpleasant specifics on Sept. 16, 2003. Are the report's authors suggesting that the CIA informed key members of the president's Cabinet 2½ years before it told the president himself? If nothing else, Cheney, who had his own back-channel contacts at Langley, would have known what was going on. It is now well-known that, on many national security issues, Cheney was running the show during Bush's first term. But there's no evidence, on any issue, that Cheney left Bush out of the loop.

One sign of the dysfunctional decision-making in Bush's first term is that, quite often, the National Security Council would decide on some policy, and then Cheney would have a one-on-one chat with Bush in the Oval Office, and the policy would be crucially modified or reversed. Unless Bush kept a tape recorder running, like Kennedy and Johnson, we may never know the full reasons for the invasion of Iraq, the termination of talks with North Korea, or many other actions Bush took that affected the fate of the nation and the lives of millions of people worldwide.

None of this should imply that the CIA was blameless, or merely a White House tool, in its torture of detainees. The report lays out compelling evidence that the agency's directorate of operations and its counterterrorism center lied to its own lawyers and inspector general, that they kept congressional intelligence committees in the dark; and that they contracted out many interrogations (at enormous expense) to inexperienced psychologists of a sadistic bent, ignoring dissent not only from FBI agents (who often eked out more useful information with gentler techniques) but also from the CIA's own chief of interrogations, who wrote a memo, back on Jan. 21, 2002, explicitly warning of the reservations about their techniques, adding, "This is a train wreck waiting to happen, and I intend to get the hell off the train before it happens."

The committee offers no recommendations on how to make things better (at least not in the 524-page executive summary partly declassified and released this week), but there are clear lessons for future presidents to absorb. Not least is the dark, slippery slide of "plausible deniability." It must be tempting for a president to nod his head, say, "Make it so," and then sit back, knowing that, whatever "it" will probably happen. That's part of what the CIA does and always has done. But as this report, like many similar reports in the past 40 years, clearly show, it's a perilous gamble; the people who carry out such orders take them literally, up to the maximum limit. Presidents should stop doing this, even if it means accepting accountability for things they've long been enabled to avoid.

Fred Kaplan is the author of "The Insurgents: David Petraeus and the Plot to Change the American Way of War" and "1959: The Year Everything Changed."

OPINION

Workers deserve better notice of schedules

By HAROLD MEYERSON

Hail the lowly bar code. By enabling retailers to track sales and inventory, it allows them to order goods from warehouses and manufacturers only when needed, reducing overhead and costs. Just-in-time production is a signal achievement of our digitized age.

Just-in-time labor is not. Millions of retail workers are routinely summoned to their workplaces with little or no advance warning than their employers accord the truckloads of goods or food those workers sell. Unlike those products, of course, workers have lives. They have kids to get to school or put in day care, families to cook for, courses to take, other gigs to report to in advance and keep. They care to all the more if they have regular schedules, but such schedules are often hard to come by.

A recent study by the University of Chicago's Susan Lambert reported that 41 percent of young (ages 26 to 32) hourly workers get their schedules a week or less in advance, and 10 percent get them only a single month, workers' hours varied on average by 37 percent in comparison to what they considered their usual hours."

Regular hours were once a cornerstone of Americans' work lives. They were a feature of the union contracts that covered a third of the workforce in the decades following World War II. But as unions have vanished and workers suffered a loss of power, thousands of employers have taken to summoning their employees — or telling them to wait, unpaid, until they are either called in or told not to report — with three days' notice in the name of honoring the workers' familial obligations. In recent years, as low-end retail and restaurant gigs have led the list of newly created jobs, the number of workers subjected to such existential constraints has increased.

Now, one city has decided to help such workers gain more control over their lives. Last month, San Francisco's Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted a Retail Workers Bill of Rights. The new ordinance requires employers to schedule their work-



People gather to protest for an increased minimum wage outside a McDonald's restaurant on Dec. 4 in Highland Park, Mich.

CHARLES V. TINES, DETROIT NEWS/AP

ers' hours at least two weeks in advance, though it makes allowances for schedule changes beyond the employer's control. It also requires employers to pay workers for hours they spend on call only to have their shifts canceled and to offer their part-timers more hours before they seek to hire new workers.

For nearly half a century, since the hippies first flocked to Haight-Ashbury, San Francisco has been associated more with cultural and lifestyle liberalism than with such New Dealish concerns as advancing workers' rights. In recent years, however, the city has staked its claim as a champion of workers' interests, much as it did in the 1930s, when a general strike actually shut the city down. In November's election, city voters overwhelmingly approved raising the minimum wage to \$15. In recent years, the Board of Supervisors mandated paid

sick leave and required employers with more than 20 workers either to provide them with health insurance or pay into a fund offering coverage to the uninsured.

Thanks to Silicon Valley, San Francisco is not merely a liberal city but also a wealthy one, economically able to legislate social guarantees at levels that many other cities and states cannot match. There's nothing distinctly liberal about its desire to help beleaguered workers, however. Last month, San Franciscans were joined by the voters of Alaska, Arkansas, Nebraska and South Dakota in raising their respective minimum-wage standards — albeit not to San Francisco's \$15 level. Similarly, there's nothing distinctly San Franciscan about the law that requires employers to let their workers know their hours far enough in advance so they can plan their schedules.

A bill requiring all U.S. employers to do

just that, in fact, has been introduced in both the Senate (where it has six sponsors) and the House (where it has more than 40). The Republican Congress that takes office next month is no more likely to enact such legislation than it is to mandate collective farms. For Democrats, however, this is just the kind of cause they can invoke not just to rally young and minority voters but also to appeal to the common sense of most Americans, who understand that workers are not products to be summoned at a moment's notice. As Democrats regroup from November's debacle, they should develop and promote a Workers' Bill of Rights ensuring the kinds of basic guarantees that Americans secured many decades ago and, for a time, took for granted.

Harold Meyerson is editor-at-large of The American Prospect. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Rags to rags: The Horatio Alger myth is just that

By LAWRENCE MITCHELL

WEALTH AND INCOME INEQUALITY have many causes, and it's pretty much beyond dispute that any well-functioning capitalist society will have some degree of disparity between the richest and the poorest.

It's also beyond dispute that we are approaching a social consensus that wealth and income inequality in the United States today now threatens to seriously damage our social fabric. That fabric is grounded in two fundamental ideas: liberty, or the freedom to determine our own destinies, and equality. The problem is that over the past 30 years — in tandem with rising inequality — we have favored liberty over equality.

Our emphasis on liberty has helped to create what I call an empathy gap, which in turn has permitted the creation of a selfishness surplus.

Superficial similarities

Philosophers David Hume and Adam Smith understood this phenomenon well. They argued that our moral compass comes from our ability to identify with others. Our empathy is understood intuitively that, because others are like us,

they suffer similar pains and enjoy similar pleasures. So far, so good.

The problem — the disconnect if you will — is that these similarities sometimes are superficial. The working poor may look like the more advantaged — they have jobs, houses, cars, etc. But the truth is that they live on the margins of financial disaster. Because they look like the advantaged, the latter assume that the working poor are just like them in all relevant respects — except for hard work. Superficial similarity allows the rich and powerful to assume their success is simply a result of working harder because in their minds it's clear that the poor could be just like them; they're just lazier or failed to develop the same skills.

The reality is different. The working poor are not like the advantaged, superficial similarities aside. A very significant component of success — one that may even be more determinative than hard work — is luck. This is true, even if the advantaged have worked hard to maximize the benefits of that luck. By luck, I mostly mean circumstances of birth and natural talents and abilities (which might well include the propensity to work hard).

Ironically, our ability to identify with others because of our essential similarities leads to a singular lack of empathy by the advantaged. Because the disadvantaged look like us, despite very real differences,

we conclude that their disadvantage is their own fault. We believe that the disadvantaged would succeed, just like us, if only they would work harder. We conclude, in effect, that they have freely chosen not to succeed. This is, for the most part, untrue.

Fairness is no longer fair

The second problem is with our laws. Many of our laws take some idea of fairness as their starting point, following Aristotle. We see justice as some notion of fairness in terms of how opportunities are distributed. Our sense of what is fair is structural or procedural, assuming that everyone has access to the same resources or jobs and the individual freedom to pursue them.

But we call, or work, say that fairness embraces a particular way to ensure economic goods are distributed evenly or adheres to some collective concept of social purpose. Constitutional due process, for example, attempts to balance the power of the state with the rights of an individual in a formal and structural way but without detailing how it should work in practice. The focus is on the system, not the outcome.

As any lawyer or economist can tell you, when you focus on structure or process, the result is typically the status quo. Thus if we start with inequality, we end with inequality. We may create, or hope to create, but we don't work, at least if social mobility

is our goal. And the apparent successes, such as due process in the 19th century, are few and far between and even today haven't entirely achieved their aims.

The rich's selfishness surplus

Combine the empathy gap with structural and procedural fairness and you get what I call the selfishness surplus. That surplus is the excess awarded to the rich and powerful over and above what they would have gotten if the resources in our society had been distributed more fairly and if our laws had been more redistributive in terms of fairness. As I detail in my book "Stacked Deck: A Story of Selfishness in America," this surplus is real and empirically identifiable.

Why do the disadvantaged tolerate this situation? The American myth of self-reliance. No matter the vagaries of fortune, we consistently find that Americans at all levels believe in some variant of the Horatio Alger myth — the classic American rags-to-riches success story — despite strong empirical evidence that belies it. I think that there is some evidence in recent years that belief in this myth is eroding, a fact that will be dangerous for society if the system continues as it currently is now.

Lawrence Mitchell is a professor of law at Case Western Reserve University. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Bacon, pet psychic turn up zilch in dog search

VT MONTPELIER — Rottisierie chicken, bacon, dog toys, more than a dozen volunteers and even a psychic have not been enough to find Murphy, an elusive golden retriever whose owner's five-month search for the beloved animal has captivated one mountainous area of Vermont.

Neighbors have pulled together to try to find Murphy since he was spooked by a car accident and ran off June 29, going door-to-door with posters, looking for tracks and setting out food and traps.

He's been spotted numerous times, in backyards and on trail cameras in Waterbury Center, about 8 miles from the crash. But any time someone gets close, the 3-year-old cagey canine darts off.

"I definitely think he's still in the fight-or-flight mode because he seems to run from everybody," said his owner, Kirstin Campbell, 24, of Morrisville.

Owner reclaims sheep wearing holiday sweater

NE OMAHA — A sheep wearing a festive red-and-green sweater who was found wandering around Omaha has been reunited with his owner.

Owner Margaret Vazquez told KMTV she initially panicked when the sheep named Gage went missing. She said the sheep "follows me everywhere."

Nebraska Humane Society spokeswoman Pam Wiess said the sheep was reclaimed Tuesday evening. The Humane Society was caring for Gage after he was found Sunday evening in an Omaha neighborhood.

Gage shares a shed with two chickens, when he isn't in his owner's house. Gage is used to walking on a leash and doesn't seem to mind that the holiday apparel he donned appears to have been designed for a dog.

Vazquez said it was the first time Gage has escaped and now will spend more time indoors.

Calves spill onto highway after crash

FL KISSIMMEE — A tractor-trailer carrying 130 calves overturned along the Florida Turnpike, leading to traffic delays and contributing to at least two other accidents.

Numerous calves spilled out of the semi and were loose on both sides of the highway about 2:30 a.m. Tuesday. A Miami County official from Osceola County helped herd the cattle and the owner of the tractor-trailer sent another truck to haul the calves away.

Troopers estimate about half the calves were killed.

The Florida Highway Patrol said a second crash involving three tractor-trailers and a car created additional traffic problems.

About an hour later, a Fed-Ex truck failed to slow down as it approached the stopped traffic and collided with another tractor-trailer. Seven people were hurt. None of their injuries was

THE CENSUS

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The number of male patients a Maine gynecologist is accused of prescribing medical marijuana in a case in which the doctor has surrendered his medical license. Dr. Keng-cheong Leong was limited to in-office gynecology after a separate disciplinary action three years ago. Officials said Leong issued medical marijuana certificates to the male patients, did not perform prostate examinations, did not create appropriate medical records, and saw patients at "unorthodox" sites instead of an office.



PETER PEREIRA, THE (NEW BEDFORD, MASS.) STANDARD-TIMES/AP

Santa crossing

Ronald Parkinson takes Santa for a ride on his mobile wheelchair Thursday after purchasing the 5-foot-tall singing decoration in downtown New Bedford, Mass. He will use Santa as a decoration for his apartment.

life-threatening.

Police: Students stole, ate fraternity's chicken

VT BURLINGTON — University of Vermont Police said three students are accused of stealing a chicken from a Burlington fraternity house, killing it and eating it at a dormitory. The Chittenden County prosecutor said he has declined to prosecute the students and all three cases have been referred to a reparative justice board.

Police said they received a report of trespassing and larceny on Sunday at a private residence where members of the Alpha Gamma Rho fraternity live.

The president of the fraternity, which is for those interested in agriculture or food industries, said they have decided not to pursue charges.

Police said they don't know the motive for the theft.

Dredging project funds 18th century cannon

FL MIAMI — A ship cannon dating to the early 18th century has been discovered by a company doing dredge work

to deepen the channel at Miami's port.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said Thursday the cannon was found in August in one of the port's ship turning basins by the Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Co. It was turned over in October to the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in Tallahassee.

Officials say the cannon will be studied and restored in the State Department's conservation lab and then put on public display. Secretary of State Ken Deitzner said the cannon will increase knowledge about Florida's maritime history.

News stories in 1919 reported that 14 old Spanish cannons were discovered in roughly the same area.

Countless crows, droppings irk residents

OH SPRINGFIELD — Thousands of crows roosting at night in a western Ohio city's downtown have some residents comparing the landscape with the Alfred Hitchcock movie "The Birds" as they work to drive them away.

The crows troubling Springfield aren't aggressive, as birds in Hitchcock's 1963 thriller were

portrayed. But their overwhelming presence on trees and buildings causes concern over damage and potential health hazards from droppings, said Roger Sherrock, CEO of the Clark County Historical Society.

The society operates the Heritage Center of Clark County, one of the buildings favored by the federally protected crows.

He estimates as many as 50,000 crows gather downtown after scavenging for food by day in fields surrounding the city.

Attorney general warns of IRS phone scam

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt said residents should beware of a telephone scam that is making its way across the state this holiday season.

Pruitt said his office has received a number of complaints from citizens who received phone calls from someone claiming to be a representative of the Internal Revenue Service.

The caller claims the IRS has a case against an individual and if that person does not call a telephone number within 24 hours, the person will be arrested. The

scam targets the most vulnerable Oklahomans who may not be aware of the IRS's procedures.

Pruitt said the IRS will never call about a payment or taxes owed without sending a notice in writing first. He says these types of scams are not unusual during the holidays.

Spanish-American War statue vandalized

SD SPEARFISH — Vandals have broken off the hands and rifle from a Spearfish statue depicting a soldier in the Spanish-American War.

Police Lt. Boyd Dean said that the vandalism was reported last weekend. Parks, Recreation and Forestry Superintendent Keith Hepper said the damage estimate might reach \$1,500.

That amount would make the crime a felony punishable by up to two years in prison and a \$4,000 fine.

The statue is believed to date to 1900. The memorial has the names of several soldiers and the words, "In memory of Black Hills volunteers, Spanish-American War, 1898-1899."

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



SEEING
LIFE IN A
NEW WAY

Photographer dispatches drone to record video of sites and events in Sacramento area for blog

By BLAIR ANTHONY ROBERTSON
The Sacramento Bee

Tim Pantle has always enjoyed photography and for years has been quick to delve into the latest and greatest technology. So when drones became mainstream and affordable, he soon plunked down \$1,200 and began flying — and hovering — his eye-catching new toy in the friendly skies of greater Sacramento, Calif.

“The first time I posted a video on Facebook, I knew from the reaction. People like this. People want to see this stuff.”

Now Pantle has an avid and growing following with his drone-inspired blog, *lovesacramento.blogspot.com*. With a Phantom 2 Vision Quadcopter hovering from on high and buzzing like a colony of bees, he records videos of many of his favorite places and plenty of new ones, from the historic Fair Oaks bridge and a bustling food truck event to a vineyard he happened upon one day when he was out driving in the country.

He’s part of the first wave of drone aficionados using the powerful technology, but these new

easy-to-use flying machines and their potential for both good and evil have lawmakers and regulators scrambling to play catch-up with new limits that could wipe out a new industry or create a new batch of renegade hobbyists.

A real estate agent with Coldwell Banker, the 46-year-old said he initially considered using his new drone to photograph properties from on high. But the Federal Aviation Administration soon put the word out nationwide that drones could not be used for such business practices. Pantle took stock and switched gears.

With a high-powered video camera sending signals from his drone to the display on his cellphone, he started creating an online catalog of sites and events seen in a whole new way.

When he shot his first in the spring, he said, “I was amazed, honestly. I was amazed at how clear it was. I can see what my camera sees on my cellphone while I’m recording, but the quality isn’t that great. But once you get it on the computer, it’s high-def.

“The first time I posted a video on Facebook, I knew from the reaction. People like this. People

want to see this stuff.”

To the uninitiated, watching Pantle operate his drone for the first time can be mesmerizing. With four propellers and a lightweight battery to power the motor, it takes off with ease, buzzing gently, and it can fly off at a rapid clip or hover for minutes on end without the operator even paying attention. Pantle attached his phone to the remote control, which he holds in front of him so he can see what the camera is looking at as the drone flies.

“This thing syncs up to GPS satellites. Once it syncs up and it lifts off, I can let go of the controls and it will just hover,” he said. “If I lose connection with the remote, the drone knows where it started and it will come home and land.”

Indeed, with just a little practice and patience, Pantle is shooting videos that only a decade ago might have required a film crew, a camera crane and a six-figure budget to pull off. The images are so clear and the camera work so steady that the videos have a professional polish to them that has left Pantle and other new drone enthusiasts excited about the future.

But the FAA, some law enforcement agencies and a variety of privacy advocates have plenty of concerns. Among them: What about those who push the limits and fly well beyond the current 400-foot height restriction and



PHOTOS BY RANDALL BENTON, THE SACRAMENTO BEE/TNS

Tim Pantle uses a remote-controlled helicopter equipped with a video camera to record events in and around Sacramento, Calif.

create mayhem in the skies? What about voyeurs? And, yes, what is the risk for domestic terrorism?

The FAA has its sights on those who fly their drones into rescue scenes, forest fires and police standoffs, creating havoc and jeopardizing safety by flying too high, too far and into places they shouldn’t.

It has suggested that it might soon require at least some users of drones — unmanned aircraft systems or UAS in FAA parlance — to be fully licensed pilots in order to operate them. That could require months of study, flying lessons in a manned aircraft and a \$10,000 investment.

If future requirements were broadly applied, would that spell the end of his new hobby? Pantle is agnostic at that thought.

“The FAA is killing me,” he said. “I think a lot of people are

just going to ignore the law and just take their chances. To require a pilot’s license is ridiculous.”

Pantle says he accepts the current FAA guidelines regarding recreational operation of his drone. He even favors requiring a license to operate the drone, but not a full pilot’s license.

“I’m fearful,” he said. “I hope cooler heads prevail.”

On his blog, Pantle explained that while the FAA limits him to 400 feet, the manual says the drone is equipped to climb as high as 984 feet. He noted he has heard stories of folks flying their drones up to 2,000 feet.

Until a decision is hammered out by the FAA, Pantle has continued adding content to his blog, such as his seasonal additions of ice skating in Folsom’s Historic District and the Global Winter Wonderland at Cal Expo.

HEALTH & FITNESS

YOGA

in school

Mindfulness course helps teens cope with stress

By GOSIA WOZNIACKA
The Associated Press

As the morning school bell rings and students rush through crowded corridors, teenagers in one Portland, Ore., classroom settle onto mats and meditation pillows. They fall silent after the teacher taps a Tibetan “singing bowl.”

“Allow yourself to settle into the experience of being here, in this moment,” teacher Caverly Morgan tells two dozen students at Wilson High School.

The students are enrolled in a for-credit, yearlong mindfulness class meant to ease youth anxiety and depression and to prevent violence. For 90 minutes, three days a week, they practice a mix of yoga, sitting and walking meditation, visualization techniques, deep breathing, journaling and non-judgmental listening.

The idea behind mindfulness is that focusing on the present moment helps a person deal better with stress, difficult emotions and negative thoughts.

Mindfulness, yoga and meditation have gained popularity among Americans in recent decades, buoyed by studies showing their benefits to emotional, mental and physical health. The centuries-old practices have roots in Buddhism and Hinduism, but Western culture has secularized them to focus on physical postures, breathing and relaxation techniques.

Such practices are now offered by corporations like Google, Target and General Mills to their employees. Prison inmates, hospital patients and the U.S. Marines are using them to combat stress and illness, increase focus and well-being. And now schools all over the country are introducing the practices.

Some people have greeted the move with less than enthusiasm.

Last year, an elementary school in Ohio ended its mindfulness program after parents complained it was too closely linked to Eastern religion and a conservative Christian law firm unsuccessfully sued on behalf of a couple in Encinitas, Calif., arguing their school district’s yoga classes indoctrinate children.

But many school districts are reporting success.

In Richmond, Calif., where a teacher started a mindfulness program called the Mindful Life Project, schools have reported drops in detentions and referrals among low-income, at-risk youth.

The school district in South Burlington, Vt., implemented a successful mindfulness course as part of a health and wellness program, and now administrators there have written a manual on incorporating mindfulness into K-12 curriculums.

Portland is known for its progressivism, so it should be no surprise the idea of teaching mindfulness is being embraced here. Students at Wilson say the class has been a boon for them.

“Sometimes I have trouble breathing; I have panic attacks. This class helps me bring more attention to my breath and overcome that,” junior Cassia McIntyre said.

“Sometimes I have trouble breathing; I have panic attacks. This class helps me bring more attention to my breath and overcome that. I’m less stressed out and able to better cope with stress.”

Cassia McIntyre
student, Wilson High School

“I’m less stressed out and able to better cope with stress.”

The class is the brainchild of Morgan, who trained at a Zen Buddhist monastery for eight years and started a meditation center in Sacramento. After moving to Portland two years ago, Morgan teamed up with Allyson Copacino, who teaches yoga to children.

The two started an after-school program at Wilson. After hundreds of students signed up, principal Brian Chatard took note. The school was dealing with a student’s suicide, and few resources were available to address students’ emotional and mental health.

Chatard said high school years are hard for many students, because they entail emotional and hormonal changes, social and academic pressures — and for some, depression.

“High school is the hardest period of time for kids,” Chatard said. “You’ve got emotional changes, hormonal changes, all the social pressures. It’s also the onset of mental

Below: Students meditate during a mindfulness class at Wilson High School in Portland, Ore. The brainchild of teacher Caverly Morgan, pictured at top left, and first for-credit, full-year mindfulness class offered at a public high school in the U.S., it incorporates yoga and meditation into school curriculums to bring socioemotional benefits to students.

PHOTOS BY GOSIA WOZNIACKA/AP



illness for some kids, depression hits, and there’s the pressure of college and sports. All these things kids do is overwhelming without having a strategy to deal with it.”

During a class in October, after a half hour of yoga exercises, Morgan asked students to visualize a stressful moment in their lives and notice the negative internal dialogue in their heads.

Students wrote the negative self-talk in a journal, then shared it with the class and practiced compassionate

— non-judgmental — listening in pairs. Learning how to recognize the “inner critic” is crucial for teens, Morgan said.

“It’s very important that teens learn how to do that, because that critical voice leads to behaviors that are extremely unhealthy, such as overeating, bullying, even committing suicide,” Morgan said.

Pediatric psychologists at Oregon Health & Science University are partnering with the mindfulness program to study its impact on students.

A similar yearlong program is offered at Rosemary High School, an alternative school in nearby Gresham that serves students who were expelled or dropped out, are homeless or single parents.

Unlike at Wilson, mindfulness at Rosemary is mandatory for some 70 students, many of whom knew little or nothing about it. Some of the students were initially skeptical and complained about the course, the principal, Erica Stavis, said.

But on mid-term reviews, students reported the class had helped them better recognize their feelings, deal with anger and distance themselves from destructive thoughts during difficult family situations.

“This program filled a gap,” Stavis said. “It helps students build capacity to problem solve.”

LIFESTYLE

Winged wonder

A huge statue of Pegasus at Florida racetrack turns heads

By CARLI TEPROFF
Miami Herald

South Florida has seen its share of head-turning landmarks.

A giant backyard middle finger erected by porn-king Al Goldstein. An island monument adopted for XXX movie shoots. An eye-bending mural on the side of the Fontainebleau. The spinning center-field sculpture at Marlins stadium.

And now, introducing the latest Florida wonder: a 110-foot-tall winged horse slaying a dragon.

The giant bronze thing rises from a plain asphalt parking lot at Gulfstream horse track and sits amid a bustling neighborhood of homes and businesses. And as workers put the finishing touches on the sculpture, some people stop for selfies, others shake their heads, still others gape in awe.

The Pegasus was shipped in pieces from China and Germany and was to be ready — except for the shooting water — in time for the recent start of racing season.

Naturally, people are curious as they see the progress — especially since the area's new eye-catcher looms over the lot and can be spotted from apartment balconies, City Hall and from busy U.S. 1.

The \$30 million Pegasus was put together over the past year and is nearly complete. Landscaping and waterfall should be done by summer 2015. A theater — showing the story of the Greek mythology character — and a Ferris wheel might follow.

"At first I didn't know what it was, then as it started to take shape I could see what it was making out to be," said Allyn Alford, who lives in a nearby condo and can see it from his balcony. "I just don't understand the point of it."

The point, project manager Guenter Czany said, is to show that good prevails over evil.

"People may wonder what it is now," said Czany from inside his work trailer office, covered with pictures of the sculpture from every stage of construction. "But it will become a landmark."

Czany, an official with high hopes for the mythical creature. "The statue is like no other in the world," said Tim Ritvo, president of Gulfstream Park and chief operating officer. The Stronach Group, the property owner and funder of the project. "It will enhance and help brand the city and Gulfstream Park."



A bicyclist pedals past the \$30 million bronze Pegasus statue at South Florida's Gulfstream Park. The statue is set to be completed in the coming months.

EMILY MICHOT,
MIAMI HERALD/TNS

On a recent weekday, a couple visiting from Costa Rica stopped their car in the street in front of the sculpture and posed for a selfie.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Jorge Mendez, who was with his wife, Elena Alvarez. The couple traded spots for pictures and tried to take several together. "We want to show people," he said.

Dale Raftery, who lives in Northeast Miami-Dade, pulled into the parking lot, sat on the hood of his car and stared.

"It's absolutely amazing," said Raftery, who visited after hearing from a friend that the Pegasus was nearly complete. "A lot of work went into that."

Czany, whose Germany-based company Strassacker handled the project, said amazing work went into the project. It started with an idea from Gulfstream's owner Frank Stronach. The idea — having a giant Pegasus to represent the track — then went from paper to clay and Styrofoam.

Czany said when he first

heard what Stronach imagined he thought it was "impossible," and "crazy." But working with a company in China, Strassacker came up with a plan to make the idea a reality.

Chinese engineers used a grid to create the horse and then cast the sculpture out of hundreds of tons of bronze. It was cut into pieces and packed in 26 shipping containers, then placed on a boat for a nearly six-week journey to America.

Meanwhile, the steel framework was created in Germany, which

PEGASUS BY THE NUMBERS

What: Pegasus slaying a dragon

Idea conceived: April 2011

Dimensions: 110 feet tall, 115 feet wide, 200 feet long

Materials: Pegasus is 330 tons of steel and 132 tons of bronze; dragon is 110 tons of steel and 132 tons of bronze

Journey to Hallandale Beach: Hundreds of bronze pieces were packed in 26 shipping containers and sent by boat from China, which took about six weeks. The steel was packed in 23 containers and sent by boat from Germany.

Nuts and bolts: 18,000 screws

Workers: More than 200, including four translators

Cost: About \$30 million

Construction: Took about eight months and is nearly complete.

included a lot of precision, Czany said. That was also packaged and sent to Hallandale Beach by boat.

In March, the building began. The South Florida branch of the Swedish company Skanska is handling the construction of Pegasus.

To help put the pieces back together, 40 Chinese workers came to Hallandale Beach. With the help of translators, the horse began to take shape. A special crane was brought in to lift the heavy head and wings into place.

Some say the piece just doesn't fit with the area. Homes to the north look up to the anatomically correct horse's rear. Diner customers across the street see it from the side.

"It's jarring to the landscape," said Emil Hubschman of neighboring Aventura to the south. "They should have reached out to the people who live in the area."

But Ritvo said it's part of the overall plan for Gulfstream, which is growing around the current race track, casino and complex of shops and restaurants. Soon construction will begin on the Gulfstream Park Tower, a 182-unit apartment building. Two new restaurants recently opened in the Village and a bowling alley will open in the winter. Work has begun on the owner's steakhouse and market.

Pegasus Park will be a landscaped area where people can get up close and personal.

"The statue is iconic," Ritvo said.

Not for everyone. Said Andy Harris, a Realtor: "Nothing says 'Welcome to Gulfstream Park' better than a horse stomping on a lizard that was made in China."

VIDEO GAMES



By MICHAEL DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

By now, you have likely seen the “Halo: Master Chief Collection” sitting on store shelves. This collection of every numbered “Halo” game, updated with shiny new graphics and packed with a plethora of features, tweaks and additions, is certainly an enticing package.

After all, 343 Studios could have just repackaged each game separately and made truckloads of money by reselling them individually to the Xbox One crowd. A collection of all the best “Halo” games almost seems like too good of a deal. So, this is an easy recommendation, right?

Sadly, as is the case with most things, what seems to be too good to be true often is.

To understand the disappointment that is “Halo: MCC,” it’s important to know that “Halo” has always been two distinct games. On one side, there is the story-based campaign that chronicles the increasingly over-the-top adventures of Master Chief as he shoots his way through hordes of aliens.

Here in the “Master Chief Collection,” the campaigns of Halo 1-4 are reproduced perfectly. The same soaring score punctuates the familiar, galaxy-spanning story and the tight, frenetic combat that made “Halo” a household name still fits like an old favorite pair of shoes. If you’ve played “Halo” before, there aren’t any big changes to the campaign.

The visuals in “Halo: Combat Evolved” (“Halo 1”) and “Halo 2” have been given a new, updated look that goes above and beyond what I would have expected from a collection of older games.

The textures, character and weapon models, along with the lighting, have all been redone and the difference, especially with the first two “Halo” games, is amazing.

Perhaps the coolest feature of the “Master Chief Collection” is the ability to swap between these updated visuals and the original graphics with a press of a button, no menus required.

Players can start from the beginning and work their way through to the conclusion of the controversial “Halo 4,” or pick and choose which missions from any of the games they’d like to play. There is even a play-list feature that allows players the chance to build their own “greatest hits” of missions. That means if you still want to experience the rest of the storyline but never want to, say, fight through the library again, you can make that happen.

If the review ended here, the “Master Chief Collection” would be given an A+ and possibly game of the year. The collection of all of the best “Halo” games (minus “ODST”) with the playlists and graphical updates make this a simple no-brainer for first-person shooter fans, Xbox One owners or anybody who just wants a good, solid game to spend some time with.

But as I mentioned earlier, “Halo” has always been two experiences, and it’s with the arguably more-popular multiplayer modes that “Master Chief Collection” drops the ball. Hard.

The term “broken” is thrown around quite a bit these days, and it’s often used incorrectly. A bug that appears every so often doesn’t normally break the game. A lost connection here and there happens. I give a good amount of leeway to bugs, unless they truly break the game. So when I say the multiplayer modes found in “MCC” are broken, you understand that it’s not something I say lightly.

To start with, matchmaking is a nightmare. Long waits can be expected, but the waits here are excessive and punctuated with frequent drops and stalled connections. I once timed how long it took to try to join a game, and I shut off the timer at 18 minutes.

The development studio is aware of the problems, and has even issued an apology for the poor online experience, so the problem is widespread. If I were reviewing “MCC” on its online merits alone, it would be a D-, at best. Sure, there are nearly infinite modes of play, spanning all of the greatest maps in the series, but if you can’t actually play on them, they might as well not exist.

So, that’s where “Halo: Master Chief Collection” sits. If you don’t care about the online modes, this is an easy purchase. It’s by far the best ensemble game we’ve seen. If you’re only in for the online multiplayer, I would highly recommend waiting until the studio has pushed out the promised patches before buying.

Bottom Line: “Halo: The Master Chief Collection” is nearly perfect with its single-player modes, and horribly flawed with its online components.

Grade: A+ for campaign, D- for online multiplayer

Platform: Xbox One

Online: xbox.com/halo

Perhaps the coolest feature of the “Master Chief Collection” is the ability to swap between these updated visuals and the original graphics with a press of a button, no menus required.

Microsoft

Take the good with the bad

‘Halo: Master Chief Collection’ features great single-player; multiplayer stumbles



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

MOVIES

By GINA MCINTYRE
Los Angeles Times

In Ridley Scott's lavish new 3-D epic, "Exodus: Gods and Kings," rivers run with blood, ancient seas part with tsunami force, and Christian Bale delivers a portrait of Moses as a passionate, hot-tempered holy man who struggles with his relationship to God, depicted as an androgynous, strong-willed child.

It's a radical departure from Cecil B. DeMille's Hollywood standard-bearer "The Ten Commandments," and even months before the release of their costly new popcorn retelling of the Old Testament story, Scott, Bale and Australian actor Joel Edgerton, who stars as the Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses, were bracing themselves for a wallop of a reaction.

"The reception, I think, that you're going to get to this is extremes," Bale said. "The film is one of extremes."

Maybe it was his time playing one of civilization's most famous prophets, but Bale's prediction has proved spot-on. From the outset, "Exodus: Gods and Kings" generated controversy over its choice of two Caucasian actors to play the leads. That particular point of contention flared up again just days ago after Fox's Chief Executive Rupert Murdoch tried to defend the movie on Twitter by asking "Since when are Egyptians not white?"

It remains to be seen how audiences might react to 11-year-old Isaac Andrews as the God who instructs Moses to leave his family and a Beverly Hills hotel with his leading men on a late September morning, Scott seemed relaxed and in high spirits, satisfied with the creative decisions that conjured his "Exodus." He set out to chronicle Moses' journey from privileged son of Egypt to embattled leader of the Israelites with enough blockbuster bombast to impress the Almighty himself.

Scott wasn't interested in merely repeating the cinematic triumphs of the past or offering moviegoers a sermon. "I didn't want audiences to feel they were going to go and see a Bible movie," said Scott, 77. "I wanted audiences to feel they were going to see a film about two men who wouldn't normally be brothers who are in competition with each other. One happens to be the pharaoh that will be, the other one is his friend and closest ally, and they come apart at the seams over the question of the nature of his nationality."



Christian Bale portrays Moses in "Exodus: Gods and Kings."



Photos courtesy of 20th Century Fox/AP

Ridley Scott's 'Exodus' casts wide net of spectacle, family

If his approach works, "Exodus" could qualify as one of Scott's biggest miracles, an end-of-the-year counterpoint to Darren Aronofsky's sci-fi-inflected "Noah," which played to a somewhat mixed reaction in the spring. Scott's specialty is spectacle; he dreams in wide screen, and it wasn't so long ago he resurrected the sword and sandals genre to best picture acclaim with 2000's "Gladiator."

"What I do for a living, I secretly enjoy most doing things where part of the task is to create universes," Scott said. "It's hard. I always think the universe that the actors work in is more than the presentism, it's one of the most important characters."

Producer Peter Chernin, who oversaw the movie business at Fox for years before launching his own venture, initially reached out to Scott to gauge his interest in directing the film. Scott's relationship with the studio dates to his 1979 breakthrough, "Alien," and he's made numerous other movies with the studio.

Reading the "Exodus: Gods and Kings" script, the director said he was intrigued by the scope and scale of the production but also "gobsombed" by what he didn't know about Moses.

Bale too said he was surprised by what he turned up in his extensive readings to prepare for the role, which included studying the Old Testament, the Torah, the Koran and Jonathan Kirsch's book "Moses: A Life."

"This guy had a really tumultuous life," he said. "In his early years, he was absolutely prone to all the

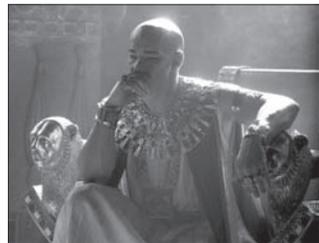
temptations and passions of all of us in everyday life. Even in his relationship with God, he wrestles, he fights, he tries to ignore him... You don't see that relationship very often. As you learn in the film, that's the meaning of Israelite, somebody who wrestles with God."

At the outset of the film, Moses hasn't yet learned the truth about his Hebrew identity. He's a warrior prince concerned with more earthly travails, including a pending siege of 15,000 soldiers against a Hittite army at the Battle of Kadesh. It's only after they claim victory that Moses, on a visit to the slave quarters near the marble quarry, encounters the scholar Nun (Ben Kingsley), who explains to him the circumstances of his birth.

Rumors spread throughout the kingdom that the favored son of the Pharaoh Seti (John Turturro) is, in fact, the descendant of slaves. Ramses banishes Moses from the kingdom, and he eventually finds shelter and a bride in the village of Midian. After seven years he's also confronted by a demanding God, who insists that Moses return to Egypt and secure the freedom of the Hebrews.

Edgerton, known for such films as "Warrior" and "The Great Gatsby," said he wanted Ramses to come across as a sympathetic figure, despite his willingness to perpetuate the injustices against the Hebrews.

"I'm a real sucker, and I think audiences are too, for family relationships, particularly when you reduce that to relationships between brothers," Edgerton said. "I have a very strong relationship with my brother and of the pride involved for Ramses of having a father who quite openly favors someone else, listens to someone else,



Joel Edgerton plays Egyptian Pharaoh Ramses.

more weight in another person's opinion..."

Although Scott had previously mounted a religious epic of a different sort with his Crusades costume drama "Kingdom of Heaven," "Exodus" was by far a more difficult film to make.

Shot in just 74 days, the \$140-million production visited England's Pinewood Studios, in addition to Almeria in southern Spain and Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa.

It took more than 1,500 visual effects shots to digitally bolster the ranks of the Hebrews and to help authentically render plagues of hail, locusts and frogs; 400 actual amphibians were brought to set at one point. And then there was the movie's most visually dramatic set piece, the parting of the Red Sea, which Scott said was inspired by a tsunami believed to have been triggered by an underwater earthquake off the Italian coast circa 3000 BC.

"I mostly don't lose sleep when I'm making a film," said Scott. "This one, I lost a little bit of sleep."

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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Artist wins 'eat more kale' trademark

By WILSON RING
The Associated Press

MONTPELIER, Vt. — A folk artist who became who he is after a fight with fast-food giant Chick-fil-A over use of the phrase "eat more kale" — similar to their trademarked "eat mor chikin" — has won his legal battle.

Bo Muller-Moore thanked his supporters Friday and said outside the Vermont Statehouse that the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office granted his application to trademark "eat more kale," a phrase he says promotes local agriculture. He silk-screens the phrase on T-shirts and sweatshirts and prints it on bumper stickers that are common in Vermont and beyond.

When asked Thursday what he felt caused the trademark office to approve his application, Muller-Moore, of Montpelier, said, "Your guess is as good as mine." The news was posted on the office's website Tuesday.



TOBY TALBOT/AP

Bo Muller-Moore rejected calls from Chick-fil-A to cease and desist making his kale shirts.

"I'd like to think that maybe some persistence and polite defiance, you know, and proving to them that we were in it for the long haul," he said. "It took us a decade, we're going to fight for a decade."

Chick-fil-A uses the phrase in images that include cows holding signs with the misspelled phrase "eat mor chikin" because, as Chick-fil-A spokeswoman Carrie Kurlander put it, "when people eat chicken, they do not eat cows."

Her response to the legal decision: "Cows love kale, too."

Muller-Moore started using the phrase in 2001 after a farmer friend who grows the leafy vegetable that is known for its nutritional value asked him to make three T-shirts for his family for \$10 each.

The phrase caught on and, with the approval of the farmer, Muller-Moore began putting it on clothing and bumper stickers.

In the summer of 2011, Muller-Moore sought to trademark the phrase. It was a short time later that Chick-fil-A sent Muller-Moore a letter telling him to stop using the phrase because the company felt it could be confused with "eat mor chikin." In the letter, Chick-fil-A cited 30 examples of others who had tried to use the "eat more" phrase and withdrew it after the company objected.

But Muller-Moore refused. His public fight drew the support of Shumlin and a team of pro-bono lawyers, including law students from the University of New Hampshire legal clinic.

"The message is out: Don't mess with Vermont. And don't mess with Bo," Shumlin said in a statement. "This isn't just a win for the little guy who stands up to a corporate bully; it's a win for our state. In Vermont, we care about what's in our food, who grows it, and where it comes from."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Dec. 15)	\$1.2776
Dollar buys (Dec. 15)	€0.7827
British pound (Dec. 15)	\$1.61
Japanese yen (Dec. 15)	115.00
South Korean won (Dec. 15)	1,076.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769
British pound	\$1.5719/0.6362
Canada (dollar)	1.1570
China (Yuan)	6.1893
Denmark (Krone)	5.9763
Egypt (Pound)	7.1488
Euro	\$1.2441/0.8038
Hong Kong (Dollar)	1.2486
Hungary (Forint)	248.20
Israel (Shekel)	3.9067
Japan (Yen)	118.98
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2916
Norway (Krone)	7.4666
Philippines (Peso)	44.53
Poland (Zloty)	3.36
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7531
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3131
South Korea (Won)	1,103.65
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9563
Thailand (Baht)	32.79
Turkey (Lira)	1,200.01

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., non-U.S. dollars), rates are provided by Chick-fil-A's bank, which has 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

Dec. 11, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	63.19	17,596.34
Nasdaq composite	24.14	4,708.16
Standard & Poor's 500	9.19	2,035.33
Russell 2000	5.09	1,166.96

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.12
Federal funds market rate	0.12
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	2.81

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



SATURDAY IN EUROPE



SUNDAY 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	69	58	Cldy	Chatanooga	56	32	Cir	Fort Wayne	43	35	Cldy	Louisville	47	38	Cldy	Pocatello	41	25	Cldy	Sioux City	51	48	Rain
Akron, Ohio	39	34	Cldy	Chicago	46	39	Cldy	Fresno	56	41	Cldy	Lubbock	68	50	Cldy	Portland, Maine	38	30	Cldy	Sioux Falls	47	45	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	35	25	Cldy	Cincinnati	44	35	Cldy	Goodland	55	39	Cldy	Macon	63	31	Cir	Portland, Ore.	48	38	Cldy	South Bend	44	37	Cldy
Albuquerque	55	33	Cldy	Cleveland	42	36	Cldy	Grand Junction	43	37	Cldy	Medford	46	36	Pcldy	Pueblo	63	28	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	50	42	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	40	26	Cldy	Colorado Springs	59	29	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	43	37	Cldy	Memphis	59	45	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	56	32	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	57	48	Rain
Anchorage	28	26	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	62	36	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	53	32	Cir	Miami Beach	72	56	Pcldy	Rapid City	62	32	Cir	St. Louis	66	53	Cir
Ashville	54	28	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	62	36	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	53	32	Cir	Midland-Odessa	71	52	Pcldy	Richmond	50	32	Cir	Tampa	67	47	Cir
Atlanta	60	37	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	61	31	Cir	Green Bay	39	36	Cir	Midland-Odessa	71	52	Pcldy	Rochester	50	32	Cir	Toledo	42	35	Cldy
Atlantic City	43	29	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	39	26	Cir	Hartford-Spfd	39	27	Pcldy	Milwaukee	43	39	Cldy	Rochester	34	32	Cir	Topeka	58	52	Cldy
Austin	61	37	Cir	Corpus Christi	77	63	Cir	Hartford-Spfd	39	27	Pcldy	Missoula	37	24	Snow	Rockford	45	37	Cir	Wichita	58	53	Rain
Baltimore	41	30	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	70	58	Cldy	Honolulu	81	64	Cir	Montgomery	64	35	Pcldy	Sacramento	55	41	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	42	29	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	70	47	Pcldy	Dayton	42	36	Cldy	Houston	72	57	Pcldy	Nashville	51	35	Cir	St. Louis	55	47	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Bilings	52	30	Cldy	Daytona Beach	68	42	Cir	Houstonville	56	37	Pcldy	New Orleans	67	49	Cir	St. Petersburg	66	53	Cir	Washington	46	30	Cir
Birmingham	59	36	Cir	Denver	57	27	Pcldy	Indianapolis	44	37	Cir	New York City	41	32	Cir	St. Thomas	86	74	Rain	Wash. DC	47	39	Cir
Bismarck	45	27	Cir	Des Moines	51	47	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	64	43	Cir	Newark	47	31	Cir	Salt Lake City	47	39	Rain	Wichita	58	53	Rain
Boise	25	25	Cir	Detroit	43	35	Cldy	Jacksonville	64	35	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	48	34	Cir	Salt Lake City	47	39	Rain	Wichita Falls	65	55	Cldy
Boston	38	31	Cldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Norfolk, Va.	48	34	Cir	San Antonio	71	58	Cldy	Wichita Falls	65	55	Cldy
Bridgeport	39	27	Pcldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Oklahoma City	63	56	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Wichita Falls	65	55	Cldy
Brownsville	78	64	Pcldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Oklahoma City	63	56	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	42	29	Pcldy
Buffalo	35	32	Cldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yakima	41	27	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	35	29	Cldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	35	29	Cldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Casper, Wyo.	55	26	Pcldy	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Charleston, S.C.	62	35	Cir	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Charleston, W.Va.	45	33	Cir	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy
Charlotte, N.C.	57	32	Cir	El Paso	69	44	Cir	Kansas City	56	50	Cir	Omaha	54	48	Rain	San Diego	71	60	Cir	Yukon	59	40	Pcldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Thu., 79, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, and Yuma, Ariz.
35: Fri., 35, Naval Air Station Kingsville, Texas, and Crested Butte, Colo.

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SPORTS BRIEFS/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Briefly

Kentucky F Poythress to miss remainder of season

The Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Kentucky starting forward Alex Poythress will miss the rest of the season after tearing a knee ligament during practice in a devastating loss for the top-ranked Wildcats.

The 6-foot-8 junior tore the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee, the school said Thursday. A date for surgery has not been set, but recovery typically takes six to eight months.

Wildcats coach John Calipari called the injury “a big blow to our team. No one will be able to replace Alex and what he did for this team.”

The coach said on his web site Friday that Poythress was injured on a breakaway layup without contact.

“He stepped with his left leg and just went down,” said Calipari, who was to discuss the injury at an afternoon news conference.

Poythress started eight games for the Wildcats (10-0), who face North Carolina on Saturday in a major test. He averaged 5.5 points and 3.8 rebounds in 20 minutes.

Hall of Famer Brown applauds player protests

BEREA, Ohio — Hall of Fame running back Jim Brown says he's encouraged to see athletes taking risks by “intelligently protesting” for social change.

The 78-year-old Cleveland Browns great has been an activist for more than 50 years. On Friday, he praised players like NBA superstar LeBron James for speaking out and “bringing attention” to high-profile cases in Ferguson, Mo., and New York.

James and Cavaliers teammate Kyrie Irving were among a group of players who wore “I Can't Breathe” T-shirts this week in support of the family of Eric Garner, who died in July after a New York police officer placed him in a chokehold while trying to arrest him.

Brown hopes for more dialogue between civic leaders and law enforcement to prevent further tragedies.

Rivera: Stewart to start at RB for Panthers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Panthers coach Ron Rivera says running back Jonathan Stewart will start Sunday against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

DeAngelo Williams, Carolina's all-time leading rusher, is listed as doubtful on the injury report with a broken hand. Rivera indicated Thursday that Williams would not play this week, but amended that on Friday saying Williams could play in an emergency situa-



STEVE HELSER/AP

Kentucky forward Alex Poythress will miss the rest of the season after tearing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during practice.

tion if another running back were to become ill before the game. Carolina (4-8-1) is a half-game behind the Saints and Falcons in the NFC South.

In other NFL news: ■ Former Saints safety Darren Sharper and two other men have been indicted on multiple rape allegations in New Orleans.

District attorney's spokesman Christopher Bowman says Sharper was indicted Friday on two counts of aggravated rape stemming from accusations that he sexually assaulted two impaired women in 2013. He also was charged with simple rape of a different woman.

Sharper has been jailed in California since Feb. 27, awaiting his next hearing there on charges that he drugged and raped two women in Los Angeles County. Sharper faces similar allegations in two other states.

Ole Miss coach Freeze gets big raise

Mississippi coach Hugh Freeze earned a big raise after leading the program to a nine-win season and a spot in the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl on Dec. 31.

The school said on Friday that it's finalized a contract with Freeze that will pay a base salary of \$4.3 million next season — a raise of more than a million from his 2014 salary.

The school also said the salary pool for Ole Miss assistant coaches will rise by “at least” 25 percent.

In other college football news: ■ Wisconsin athletic director Barry Alvarez says he hasn't offered the head football coach job to anyone amid reports that Pitt's Paul Chryst is the front-runner.

Alvarez says the university can't make an offer before Wednesday, the date given in a job posting that went up after Gary Andersen's abrupt departure this week for Oregon State.

■ Oklahoma State football star Tyreek Hill was arrested Thursday night, accused of punching and choking his girlfriend.

According to a report from the Stillwater Police department, the woman said she and the All-Big 12 player had an argument that escalated into physical violence. She said she was punched in the face and stomach, had a busted lip and was choked.

The woman said she was eight weeks pregnant, and was concerned about the fetus. The report said Hill, a 20-year-old junior, was arrested shortly after 11 p.m. on a charge of domestic abuse by strangulation.

Maze wins women's World Cup giant slalom

ARE, Sweden — World Cup leader Tina Maze posted a superb second run to win a World Cup giant slalom race on Friday for her third victory of the season and 26th of her career.

The Olympic giant slalom champion from Slovenia was in seventh place after the first run but gained time on the bottom section of the Olympia course to win in a combined time of 2 minutes, 23.84 seconds. She finished .20 seconds ahead of Sara Hector of Sweden and .28 clear of first-run leader Eva-Maria Brem of Austria.

The 31-year-old Maze is now in 12th place on the women's all-time list for World Cup wins. A men's giant slalom under floodlights was to follow later Friday.

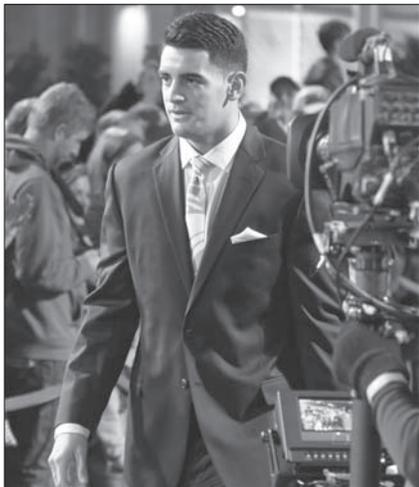
Kevin Harvick named Driver of the Year

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — NASCAR champion Kevin Harvick has been named Driver of the Year by a panel of broadcasters and journalists.

Harvick won the final two races of the season to earn his first career Sprint Cup title. He won five races in his first season with Stewart-Haas Racing, and it included three in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship.

Harvick received 13 of the 16 votes cast by motorsports journalists who vote for just one driver. Last year's champion Jimmie Johnson, Nationwide Series champion Chase Elliott and World of Outlaws champion Donny Schatz all received one vote each.

The Driver of the Year award is in its 48th season and encompasses all racing series in the United States. There are 17 journalists eligible to vote.



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Oregon quarterback Marcus Mariota arrives at the College Football Awards presentation on Thursday at in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

Clean sweep for Ducks' QB Mariota at awards show

By KYLE HIGHTOWER
The Associated Press

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. — Marcus Mariota put up nearly flawless numbers this season in leading Oregon to a spot in the first College Football Playoff.

At the College Football Awards Show on Thursday night, he went a perfect 3-for-3.



Patterson

Mariota said this week he has never been completely comfortable with the spotlight brought on by winning awards. Thursday there was no way he could escape it.

Already considered the frontrunner to win the Heisman Trophy on Saturday night, he now hopes to become the first player to win the Maxwell Award and Heisman in the same season since Auburn quarterback Cam Newton in 2010.

Some recent history is on Mariota's side. Four straight winners of the Davey O'Brien award have gone on to win the Heisman.

Other winners: ■ **Coach of the Year** — Gary Patterson, TCU

■ **Doak Walker Award (outstanding running back)** — Melvin Gordon, Wisconsin

■ **Fred Biletnikoff Award (outstanding receiver)** — Amari Cooper, Alabama

■ **Chuck Bednarik Trophy (best defensive player)** — Scooby Wright III, Arizona

■ **Outland Trophy (outstanding collegiate interior lineman)** — Brandon Scherff, Iowa

■ **Jim Thorpe Award (best defensive back)** — Gerod Holliman, Louisville

■ **Lou Groza Award (outstanding place-kicker)** — Brad Craddock, Maryland

■ **Ray Guy Award (best punter)** — Tom Hackett, Utah

■ **Sports Spirit Award** — Sterling Shepard and Bob Stoops, Oklahoma

college player of the year. In a separate announcement he also was selected the Walter Camp National Player of the Year.

“It's surreal. It's really all is,” Mariota said.

“Growing up as a kid you always kind of see these award shows. To say that I'm a part of really this

fraternity ... it's really just a blessing.”

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BUTCH DILL/AP

Arkansas running backs Alex Collins, above, and Jonathan Williams are the only teammates in major college football this season to both top the 1,000-yard rushing mark. They are the first pair to top the 1000-yard mark at Arkansas since Darren McFadden and Felix Jones in 2007.

Arkansas' dynamic duo

Williams, Collins form potent running tandem

By KURT VOIGT

The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — It's almost like Jonathan Williams never left Texas at this point, though Arkansas is more than happy to have him.

The standout running back will make his third trip back to his home state this season when the Razorbacks face the Longhorns in the Texas Bowl on Dec. 29.

Williams, from Allen, Texas, is one of the critical reasons for the sudden turnaround for Arkansas (6-6), along with backfield teammate Alex Collins. The two are the only teammates in major college football this season to have both topped the 1,000-yard rushing mark, and more of the same is expected against former Southwest Conference rival Texas (6-6).

"I can't say enough about both of them," coach Bret Bielema said. "Those two bring a little tandem that is very, very cool to watch and really cool to be a part of."

Williams and Collins both nearly reached 1,000 yards rushing last season, despite a 3-9 record in their first season under Bielema. While Collins became just the second freshman in school history to

'We just feed off of each other, every day, whether it's in the meeting rooms, we're watching film or if it's out there on the football field.'

Jonathan Williams

Arkansas running back, on playing with backfield mate Alex Collins

reach the mark with 1,026 yards, joining two-time Heisman Trophy runner-up Darren McFadden, Williams came up just short with 900 yards on the ground.

This season, the duo started quickly and rarely let up while becoming the first pair to top the 1000-yard mark at Arkansas since McFadden and Felix Jones in 2007. They finished fourth and fifth rushing, respectively, in the Southeastern Conference as Arkansas reached its first bowl game in three seasons.

Williams led the way with 1,085 yards rushing and 11 touchdowns on 188 carries (5.8 average), while Collins — boosted by a 212-yard rushing performance at Texas Tech — finished with 1,024 yards and 12 touchdowns and a 5.5-yard per carry average.

"That's kind of the goal we want-

ed to achieve, just kind of have the balance between me and him," Collins said. "It's just kind of like, we're always there for each other, just kind of so we always have fresh legs out on the field."

Despite the initial uncertainty about how the two would share the spotlight in Arkansas' backfield, Collins said their relationship has evolved from friends "into brothers." It's a bond formed out of mutual respect from the ever-shifty Collins and the bruising runner Williams.

"It's definitely come along, a lot," Williams said. "Definitely from when he first came in here as a recruit to where it is now. We just feed off of each other, every day, whether it's in the meeting rooms, we're watching film or if it's out there on the football field."

Playoff travel places strain on players' families

By RUSTY MILLER

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Take out a loan or even a second mortgage, forgo Christmas presents or split a hotel room.

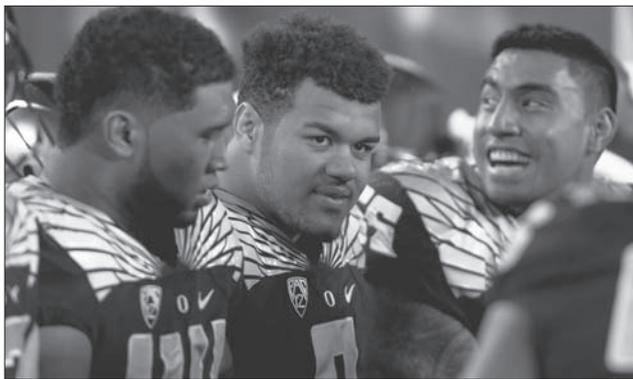
Faced with the possibility of two big postseason trips under the new college football playoff system, some players' parents are doing all they can to see their kids under the spotlight.

A bowl game trip can cost thousands of dollars. Although schools are permitted to reimburse families who need it for some costs out of a special assistance fund, some are questioning if it's time to provide more help now that teams could play in two games in the postseason if they progress to the national championship.

Two games means two hotel rooms, two car trips, two sets of meals on the road. Ohio State coach Urban Meyer brought the issue up right after his team got a playoff berth.

"You know what my biggest thing (is)? What are we going to do with our players' families?" he said. "People are all worried about the playoff and who's going to play who. (But) how is that mom and dad or mom and uncle going to see their kid play?"

The money coming into the conferences and schools involved in the new college playoff system is staggering: \$50 million per big-five conference, \$6 million for



RYAN KANG/AP

In this Nov. 1, 2014, file photo, Oregon defensive lineman Arik Armstead, center, sits during the fourth quarter against Stanford in Eugene, Ore. The numbers are staggering for the conferences and schools involved in the new college playoff system: \$50 million per big-five conference, \$6 million for each school in the semifinals, \$2 million per team for expenses. The numbers for the players' families are staggering as well. Some may go bankrupt just trying to watch their kid play.

each school in the semifinals, \$2 million per team for expenses.

NCAA rules do not currently allow players to be compensated — even though ESPN is reportedly paying \$500 million this year to televise the CFP games.

In a sport where top coaches

regularly make between \$4 million and \$7 million a year and get six-figure bonuses just for getting a team into the playoff, families have few advocates.

Under NCAA guidelines, schools can reimburse families for some travel costs. In the case

of Ohio State and other major schools, a player's family can receive up to \$800 for postseason travel. But those guidelines were developed under a one-bowl postseason setup.

"The parents aren't even allowed to share the experiences

that the kids have — which are once-in-a-lifetime experiences," said Guss Armstead, father of Oregon defensive lineman Arik Armstead. He said he is fortunate enough to be able to drive to his son's game. "So there needs to be some way that the parents can get some assistance to get to some of their kid's games."

Allowing a few days at the bowl city, a typical round-trip flight from Gainesville, Fla., to Los Angeles would run between \$950 and \$1,200, with even distant hotels costing \$200 a night with a car needed at around \$100 a day. For parents of Ohio State players going to New Orleans, a round-trip flight, hotels and car would likely cost \$2,000 per person.

Ohio State AD Gene Smith says he will push for rules for those needing it to see their sons participate.

"I am on record with the fact we need legislation to allow us to (fund) these trips," he said.

But when the stadium lights shine on the players this year, there will be dozens of proud parents, siblings and grandparents in the stands, all who found some way — any way — to get there for that one shining moment.

"We have all those people who sat in that room and selected (teams)," Meyer said of the CFP committee. "I wonder if they have another room of people deciding to make sure that we treat the players the right way."

NBA

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Toronto	16	6	.727	—
Brooklyn	18	12	.400	7
Boston	17	13	.563	8
New York	4	20	.167	13
Philadelphia	2	28	.095	13½
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	15	6	.714	—
Washington	15	6	.714	—
Miami	10	12	.455	5½
Orlando	9	15	.375	9
Charlotte	6	15	.286	9
Central Division				
Cleveland	19	—	.619	—
Chicago	13	8	.619	—
Milwaukee	11	7	.610	3
Indiana	7	15	.318	6½
Detroit	3	19	.136	10½

Western Conference				
Southwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct GB	
Memphis	17	4	.810	—
Houston	15	5	.750	1½
San Antonio	16	6	.727	1½
Dallas	17	7	.708	1½
New Orleans	10	11	.476	7
Northwest Division				
Portland	16	7	.773	—
Denver	10	12	.455	7
Oklahoma City	9	13	.409	8
Utah	6	16	.273	11
Minnesota	16	6	.728	11½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	19	2	.905	—
L.A. Clippers	16	5	.762	3
Phoenix	12	11	.522	8
Sacramento	11	12	.476	9
L.A. Lakers	6	16	.273	13½

Wednesday's games			
Washington 91, Orlando 89			
L.A. Clippers 103, Indiana 96			
Charlotte 91, Boston 87			
Atlanta 95, Philadelphia 79			
Chicago 105, Boston 90			
Dallas 112, New Orleans 107			
Portland 90, Minnesota 82			
San Antonio 109, New York 95			
Golden State 105, Houston 93			
Denver 102, Miami 82			

Thursday's games			
Oklahoma City 105, Cleveland 94			
Houston 113, Sacramento 109, OT			

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

Thursday
Rockets 113, Kings 109

HOUSTON — Ariza 4-13 4-15, Motiejunas 6-11 2-2 14, Black 2-5 0-4, Beverley 5-12 1-15, Harden 14-23 1-15 84, Dorsey 0-2 0-4, Terry 4-12 2-2 13, Johnson 1-3 0-2, Brooks 1-2 0-2 6, O'Quinn 1-2 0-2 6, **SACRAMENTO** — T. Gay 4-18 4-4 13, Thompson 10-11 1-13 24, 2-6 5, Collison 10-20 2-24, McLemore 9-15 1-13 21, Landry 3-5 1-2 7, Williams 5-12 5-6 17, Tollins 1-2 0-2 2, Cousins 2-2 0-4, Staushkas 1-2 0-3 3. Totals 38-84 23-34 109.

Houston 16 20 23 34 — 113
Sacramento 26 23 26 — 109

Three-point Goals—Houston 15-44 (Beverly 4-8, Ariza 3-10, Harden 3-10, Terry 3-10, Daniels 2-5, Motiejunas 0-1), Sacramento 8-18 (Williams 2-4, McLemore 2-4, Collison 2-4, Staushkas 1-2, Gay 1-4). Fouled Out—Motiejunas, O'Quinn, Brooks 0-2, Harden 5 (Beverly 10), Sacramento 18 (Harden 8), Sacramento 10 (Harden 8). Total Fouls—Houston 27, Sacramento 23. Technical Fouls—Beverly, Gay, Sacramento defensive three seconds, A—16.76 (17,17).

Thunder 103, Cavaliers 94

CLEVELAND — Dellavedova 5-8 0-0 14, Love 5-13 6-18, Varejao 4-11 1-1 9, Irving 7-21 5-20, Marion 1-5 0-4, Waiters 5-9 1-3 2-14, Thompson 4-8 6-8 14, Jones 0-4 3-3, Price 0-0 0-0, Harris 0-1 0-0. Totals 35-80 23-30 94.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 6-14 6-19, Ibaka 2-5 0-0 7, Adams 2-5 4-8, Westbrook 12-24 2-2 26, Robinson 2-3 0-4, Tucker 2-9 2-9, Jackson 2-4 0-0 13, Perkins 1-3 2-4, Collison 4-4 2-2 2, Morrow 4-8 0-11. Totals 38-87 20-22 103.

Cleveland 25 19 28 — 94
Oklahoma City 18 29 31 — 103

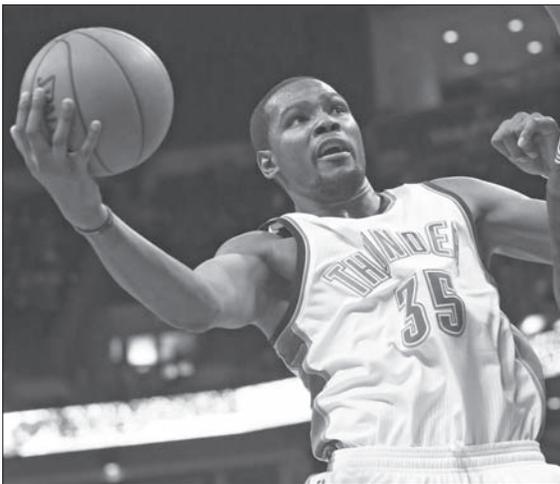
Three-point Goals—Cleveland 10-25 (Dellavedova 4-6, Love 2-5, Waiters 2-5, Irving 1-5, Marion 0-3, Jones 0-4), Oklahoma City 15 (Westbrook 4-10, Ibaka 1-3, Durant 1-4, Lamb 1-5, Jackson 1-5, Collison 1-0, Robinson 1-0, Brook 1-0). Fouled Out—Ibaka, Rebounds—Cleveland 46 (Love 16), Oklahoma City 52 (Adams 10). Assists—Cleveland 20 (Irving 6), Oklahoma City 22 (Westbrook 8). Total Fouls—Cleveland 20, Oklahoma City 23. Technicals—Varejao, Adams, A—18.203 (18,203).

Thunder too much for Cavaliers

OKC ends Cleveland win streak at eight

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Cleveland Cavaliers found out before Thursday's game that they would be without LeBron James.



SUE OROCKU/AP

They couldn't have found a less sympathetic opponent. Oklahoma City, which struggled without injured stars Russell Westbrook and Kevin Durant the first month of the season, took advantage of the short-handed Cavaliers with a 103-94 victory.

James sat out with left knee soreness, and without him, Cleveland's winning streak ended at eight games. Cavaliers coach David Blatt said before the game that James' injury wasn't too serious, and he would be day-to-day.

Oklahoma City still expected a tough game because Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love are capable players.

"We told them right from the start they're a good team," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said. "They've got two All-Stars on the court that are really good, and they're going to have an opportunity to have the ball in their hands even more. We knew they were going to compete. We weren't taking them lightly."

Oklahoma City's now-heavily dynamic duo took control as Westbrook scored 25 points on 12-for-24 shooting with eight assists and seven rebounds, and Durant scored 19 points.

Irving scored 20 points for Cleveland, but he made just 7 of 21 shots while struggling to finish against the ultra-athletic Westbrook.

The Thunder have won six of seven after a 3-12 start.

"We're growing," Durant said. "Every single game, you can see defensively, offensively, we're starting to catch a stride. We've just got to continue to do it."

Love had 18 points and 16 rebounds, and Tristan Thompson added 14 points and 13 rebounds for the Cavaliers.

Cleveland had another injury scare in the first half. With 1:31 left in the second quarter, Irving jumped to contest a shot by Westbrook, and his knee connected with Westbrook's knee, gave Oklahoma City a 67-57 lead in the

Oklahoma City forward Kevin Durant scored 19 points as the Thunder halted the Cleveland Cavaliers' win streak at eight games on Thursday in Oklahoma City.

head as he watched Irving writhe on the floor in front of the Thunder bench.

"Fear. Worry. Concern. And hope, which ultimately won the day," Blatt said. "There's a great saying in Russian ... 'Hope dies last.' Thank goodness he got up and he was able to play."

Irving expects to play at New Orleans on Friday.

"It will definitely stiffen up on me, without a doubt, but I plan on playing tomorrow," he said. "It just depends on how it feels in the morning. But as of right now, I'm going to get it out, no matter what."

A 10-0 run by the Thunder, featuring three-pointers by Serge Ibaka and Anthony Morrow, gave Oklahoma City a 67-57 lead in the

third quarter.

Durant, who had been quiet for most of the game, found Morrow for a three-pointer, then made a three himself to help Oklahoma City take a 78-66 lead into the fourth quarter. A step-back jumper, then a three by Jackson bumped Oklahoma City's lead to 83-66.

"That's what he does," Westbrook said of Durant. "I mean, he's being doing that, and that's why he's the MVP. He does that every night, and tonight, you could see he was getting his rhythm back, and he closed the game for us."

Cleveland made a final push to make it close in the final minutes. A tip-in by Thompson cut Oklahoma City's lead to 95-91 with two minutes to play before Oklahoma City held on.

Harden leads Rockets in OT

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Although he struggled to hit shots in regulation, James Harden demonstrated in overtime why he's the NBA's leading scorer.

Harden scored a season-high 44 points, including 10 in the extra period, and also had eight assists to lead the Houston Rockets over the Sacramento Kings 113-109 on Thursday night.

After tying the game with a three-pointer, Harden opened the extra period with seven unanswered points. The win was the fifth in six games for the Rockets, who are 9-3 on the road.

Harden missed 17 of 27 shots in regulation, then went 4-for-5 in OT and converted three of four free throws, leading the way as the Rockets outscored the Kings 18-14 in the extra period.

"He was rolling. In overtime he just took over," Houston coach

Kevin McHale said.

Harden started overtime with a driving basket, hit a three and then added another basket to put the Rockets up 102-95. Collison's three-pointer pulled the Kings within two, but Harden converted two free throws with 7.1 seconds left to seal the victory.

"I knew I had a lot left," said Harden, who shot 14-for-32 and made 13 of 15 free throws. "I just wanted to attack and create opportunities. I didn't shoot well in the first four quarters, but I wanted to come out aggressive in overtime."

Trevor Ariza scored 15 and Patrick Beverley had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Rockets. Donatas Motiejunas added 14 points and Jason Terry 13.

Darren Collison scored 24 points and Ben McLemore added 21 for the Kings, who dropped their second straight and seventh in nine games. Derrick Williams

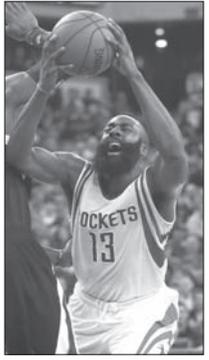
scored 13 and Jason Thompson had 13 points and 15 rebounds.

The Kings, who led by as many as 12 points, committed 22 turnovers that led to 27 Houston points in dropping another tight game.

"These losses are tough. We have to find ways to finish," Thompson said. "We really have to know how to get leads and not worry about the scoreboard."

Two of the NBA's top centers sat out: Houston's Dwight Howard and Sacramento's DeMarcus Cousins. The Rockets played their 11th straight game minus Howard, who has been out with a strained right knee. Houston is 8-3 without Howard, expected back in the lineup Saturday against visiting Denver.

Cousins has missed the last eight games with viral meningitis and there is no projected date for his return. The Kings are 2-6 without Cousins this season, 4-22 over the past three seasons.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Rockets guard James Harden is fouled during the first quarter of Thursday's game against the Kings in Sacramento, Calif.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL/MLB

'Little guys' taking down heavyweights

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

Upsets are expected late in the college basketball season, when the madness of March wreaks havoc on NCAA tournament brackets across the country.

What's happening so far this season has taken parity to an entirely new level.

Figuring there's no need to wait for March, the little guys have been busy taking down Go-liaths throughout the non-conference season. They've been doing it mostly on the road, too, creating can-that-be-right double takes as the scores scroll across the screen.

In case you've forgotten, here's a few of the more surprising wins by smaller programs so far this season:

NIIT 72, Michigan 70: New Jersey Institute of Technology is a commuter school that set an NCAA record with a 51-game losing streak a few years ago, is the only independent program in Division I basketball and has a tiny gym that doubles as a campus recreation center. Michigan played for a national title two seasons ago and has been an annual Big Ten power. As upsets go, this is a mammoth one. With the help of 11 three-pointers, the Highlanders took down the 17th-ranked Wolverines in Ann Arbor to become the biggest underdog in terms of point spread (plus-24.5 points) since Gardner Webb (plus-26) won at Kentucky in 2007.

Incarnate Word 74, Nebraska 73: Programs transitioning to Division I typically struggle against programs from larger conferences. Incarnate Word has been an exception to that rule, winning its share of games against D-I opponents since making the jump before last season. Still, knocking off a team that was in the NCAA tournament last season on the road was a big take-down. Keeping it close until the end, the Cardinals beat the Cornhuskers in Lincoln when Kyle Hittle hit a contested baseline jumper in the closing seconds. Incarnate Word's players ran onto the floor to celebrate as Nebraska's fans walked dejectedly toward the exits. It was the first time since 2010-11 that

a transitioning Division I team beat an opponent from a big-five conference.

Eastern Washington 88, Indiana 86: A 12-point second-half deficit at a venue like Indiana's Assembly Hall is usually a got-no-shot proposition, particularly for a program more known for its bright red football field than its basketball team. The Eagles didn't give it a second thought, shooting 61 percent in the second half to pull out a victory that ended the nation's third-longest non-conference home winning streak at 43 games. It gave Eastern Washington its first win in 13 games against Big Ten schools and was the Eagles' first victory in 21 games in front of a crowd of 10,000 or more. Now the Hoosiers are the ones seeing red.

Yale 45, Connecticut 44: An upset so big, an Ivy League professor turned it into an exam question. When Jack Montague hit a jumper from the corner with 17 seconds left, it ended UConn's 28-year winning streak against Ivy League schools, along with its 68-game winning streak against teams from the Huskies' home state. Seeing a learning opportunity, an assistant math professor at Yale created a complicated word problem to figure out the probability of Yale pulling off another upset against the Huskies. Based upon calculations most of us have no hope of understanding, the Bulldogs have a 7 percent probability of doing it again. As Lloyd Christmas said in *Dumb and Dumber*: So you're saying there's a chance?

University of the Sciences 54, Drexel 52: Speaking of academics, it's usually not a good sign when a Division I team loses to a school with Sciences in the name. Nothing against those schools, it's just the way it usually works when it comes to basketball. A pharmaceutical college not far from Drexel in Philadelphia, USciences, as it's called, knocked off the Dragons when Garret Kerr hit a three-pointer with 2.1 seconds left. Drexel lost two players to season-ending injuries and was without second-leading scorer Tavon Allen because of a knee injury, but losing to a Division II team on their home court was tough for the Dragons.



LENN IONELZI/AP

Baltimore manager Buck Showalter talks about gaining and losing players while talking about his team at the Major League Baseball winter meetings on Tuesday in San Diego. The meetings ended Thursday.

Old-style swaps mark end of winter meetings

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Baseball's winter meetings ended with an old-style swap of swaps, with All-Stars switching teams at a rapid pace and executives scrambling to fill roster voids.

Alfredo Simon, De Gordon, Yoanis Cespedes, Miguel Montero, Jeff Samardzija, Brandon Moss, Dan Haren and Howie Kendrick were among the All-Stars dealt by the time teams headed home Thursday, and Matt Kemp and Jimmy Rollins were on the verge of switching clubs.

The Los Angeles and Chicago teams were the epicenter of change along with Miami.

Twelve trades involving 44 players were made over the four days, according to Major League Baseball, up from five swaps last year and three in 2012. There hadn't been this many trades at a winter meetings since 2006.

With major league revenues in the \$9 billion range, increased sharing and changes to rules for the amateur draft, more clubs have money to spend and large-market teams are more constrained.

The four organizations chasing San Francisco in the NL West all changed their top baseball front-office official since last year's gathering: Tony La Russa took over at the Diamondbacks, Andrew Friedman with the Dodgers, A.J. Preller with the Padres and Jeff Bridich with the Rockies. Matt Silverman replaced Friedman with the Rays.

A \$155 million, six-year agreement between left-hander Jon Lester and the Cubs late Tuesday night seemed to break a market

Things to know

Finish with a flourish

The winter meetings ended with a flurry of big deals that realigned the stars. Hours after late night deals sent All-Star Howie Kendrick across Los Angeles from the Angels to Dodgers and the Dodgers sent De Gordon and Dan Haren to Miami, teams were at it again at sunrise. The Marlins acquired Mat Latos from the Reds, who also sent starter Alfredo Simon to Detroit. Soon after, the Tigers shipped Rick Porcello to Boston for Yoanis Cespedes.

Dot those I's and cross the T's

With the winter meetings taking place at a hotel about a 10 minute walk from Petco Park, the Padres were determined to make some noise. Boy, did they. Most awake Thursday to the news of pending deal in which they would acquire Dodgers star outfielder Matt Kemp. Los Angeles would send catcher Tim Federowicz and \$32 million of the \$107 million still remaining on Kemp's contract to San Diego. The Dodgers would get catcher Yasmani Grandal and two pitchers. The Dodgers are also working on a swap with Philadelphia that would land their 2007 NL MVP shortstop Jimmy Rollins.

Strictly by the numbers

Twelve trades involving 44 players were made over the four days, according to Major League Baseball, up from five swaps last year and three in 2012. There hadn't been this many trades at a winter meetings since 2006. The Angels, Dodgers, White Sox and Marlins each were involved in three official deals, by either trade or free-agent signing.

Come on, knock on our door

Detroit and Cincinnati made a trade on the final day of the meetings, and proximity may have played a part. Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski and Reds GM Walt Jocketty ended up with rooms across the hall from each other. The old friends spent a lot of time paying each other visits — in PJ's and slippers, perhaps? — while working on the swap that sent Simon to Detroit for Reds minor league right-hander Jonathan Crawford and infielder Eugenio Suarez. "We made the deal in the hallway," Jocketty joked.

— The Associated Press



MEL EVANS/AP

NIIT head coach coach Jim Engles shouts to fans after his team's 68-66 victory over St. Francis of Brooklyn in Newark, N.J., on Dec. 9. NIIT upset of No. 17 Michigan on the road last month.

logjam. In deals announced just before midnight Wednesday, the Dodgers acquired Kendrick from the Angels to play second and worked to obtain Rollins from Philadelphia in a remake of their middle infield. They dealt Gordon, Haren — who is mulling retirement — infielder Miguel Rojas and a player to be named or cash to the Marlins as part of a seven-player trade for left-hander Andrew Heaney, right-hander Chris Hatcher, infielder Kike Hernandez and catcher Austin Barnes.

The Dodgers then sent Heaney to the Angels for Kendrick.

And as dawn broke, the Dodgers had a deal in place to send Kemp and catcher Tim Federowicz to San Diego for catcher Yasmani Grandal and two pitchers.

Detroit made a pair of trades, sending Rick Porcello to Boston for Cespedes and two minor leaguers and replacing Porcello on its staff with Alfredo Simon, obtained from Cincinnati for two minor leaguers.

Boston also completed a one-year deal with free-agent pitcher Justin Masterson, who began his career with the Red Sox, and worked to finalize a trade with Arizona for pitcher Wade Miller.

The Cubs also have a \$20 million, two-year deal with right-hander Jason Hammel. And they acquired All-Star catcher Miguel Montero from Arizona.

On the South Side, the White Sox struck a \$46 million, four-year deal with closer David Robertson and acquired starter Jeff Samardzija from Oakland after adding reliever Zach Duke and first baseman Adam LaRoche earlier in the offseason.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Tampa Bay	29	17	6	41	103/75
Detroit	29	17	6	40	89/72
Montreal	28	19	7	42	107/77
Toronto	28	16	9	35	95/81
Pittsburgh	28	15	10	33	95/81
Florida	26	11	8	7	29/58
Ottawa	28	11	12	5	27/73
Buffalo	29	11	16	5	24/82

Metropolitan Division					
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA
Pittsburgh	29	19	8	39	88/64
N.Y. Islanders	29	10	10	38	93/85
Washington	29	12	10	38	91/77
Carolina	26	12	10	4	28/79
New Jersey	30	11	14	5	27/69
Philadelphia	28	10	13	5	24/86
Columbus	28	11	15	2	24/67
Carolina	28	8	17	3	19/60

Western Conference

Central Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Chicago	29	20	8	1	41	91/57
St. Louis	29	19	7	4	41	103/75
St. Louis	29	19	8	2	40	86/68
Winnipeg	30	15	11	6	36	72/61
Minnesota	29	15	11	2	37	67/67
Colorado	29	13	6	6	26	76/95
Dallas	28	11	16	2	24	81/100

Pacific Division						
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF/GA	
Anaheim	29	18	9	2	43	87/80
Vancouver	29	18	9	2	38	88/81
Calgary	30	17	11	4	39	93/80
San Jose	29	11	14	4	35	82/82
Los Angeles	29	15	9	5	35	77/63
Arizona	29	10	16	5	30	77/87
Edmonton	29	7	17	5	21	63/98

OT = Overtime goal for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Wednesday's games

Toronto 2, Detroit 3
Anaheim 2, Edmonton 1

Thursday's games

Colorado 4, Winnipeg 3, SO
Buffalo 3, Boston 2

Friday's games

San Jose 2, Minnesota 1

Saturday's games

Los Angeles at Montreal
Florida at Detroit
Anaheim at Edmonton

Sunday's games

Ottawa at Boston
Carolina at Philadelphia
Carolina at Buffalo

Monday's games

Detroit at Toronto
Chicago at Dallas
Tampa Bay at Washington

Tuesday's games

Chicago at Columbus
Anaheim at Winnipeg
Minnesota at Arizona

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay at Carolina
St. Louis at Colorado
Chicago at Vancouver
Nashville at San Jose

Thursday

Blackhawks 3, Bruins 2

Chicago 2, 1-0-3
Boston 0, 2-1-2

First Period—1, Chicago, 1-0-2
(B. Smith, Kruger), 9:10, 2, Chicago, 2-0-3
(Carroll, Kruger), 18:42

Second Period—3, Chicago, PKane 13
(Versteeg), 12:19, 4, Boston, R. Smith 7
(20)

Third Period—5, Boston, Krug 5 (Lu-
cchini), 12:17

Shots on Goal—Chicago 12-7-21, Bi-
ruins 10-10-20

Power-play opportunities—Chicago 7 of
4; Boston 0 of 2

Penalty minutes—Chicago, Darling 5-10 (34
shots-32 saves), Boston, Risk 12-9 (21-
16)

A-17,565 (17,565), T-2-33

Sabres 4, Flames 3

Calgary 0, 2-1-3
Buffalo 0, 2-2-4

First Period—1, Buffalo, Moulson
5 (Ennis), 5:34, 2, Calgary, Giordano 8
(Foligno), 13:31, 3, Buffalo, 1-1-2

Second Period—3, Calgary, PKane 13
(Versteeg), 12:19, 4, Boston, R. Smith 7
(20)

Third Period—5, Calgary, Monahan 11
(Colborne), 3:14, B. Buffalo, Girgensons 9
(Ennis, Gorges), 7:59, 7, Buffalo, Moulson
6 (Ennis), 12:17

Shots on Goal—Calgary 11-16-45, Fi-
lames 6-7-19

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of
4; Buffalo 0 of 2

Penalty minutes—Ramo 8-4 (19
shots-15 saves), Buffalo, Enroth 8-10 (4-
10)

A-18,208 (19,070), T-2-34

Lightning 2, Hurricanes 1

Carolina 0, 0-1-1
Tampa Bay 0, 0-2-2

First Period—1, Tampa Bay, 1-0-1
(Stralman, Nabokov), 6:35 (pp), 3-1
Carolina, Faulk 5 (Nash, Secker), 12:03, 3-1
Tampa Bay, Kuchel 11 (Kilorn, Carle), 19:20

Second Period—1, Tampa Bay, 1-1-0
Carolina 10-11-39

Power-play opportunities—Carolina 0 of
4; Tampa Bay 1 of 2

Penalty minutes—Ward 8-11 (27
shots-28 saves), Tampa Bay, Stalock 4-3
(30-29)

A-18,104 (19,204), T-2-24



Bruce Bovec/AP

St. Louis' Jon Lehtera, bottom, defends against the New York Islanders' John Tavares during the third period of Thursday's game in St. Louis. Tavares had a goal, but St. Louis won 6-3.

Flayers 4, Devils 1

New Jersey 0, 1-0-1
Philadelphia 2, 0-2-4

First Period—1, Philadelphia, Couturier
(Reed), 5:12 (sh), 2, Philadelphia, Read 3
(Gomez, Severson), 13:07

Second Period—1, New Jersey, Havlat
3 (Gomez, Severson), 13:02 (pp)

Third Period—4, Philadelphia, Simmonds
12 (Streit, Giroux), 15:44 (pp), 5, Philadelphia, Voracek 10 (Giroux, Streit),
17:30 (sh)

Shots on Goal—New Jersey 5-6-7-18,
Philadelphia 10-12-14-36

Power-play opportunities—New Jersey
2 of 2; Philadelphia 1 of 5

Penalty minutes—New Jersey, Schneider 11-13-
3 (35 shots-32 saves), Philadelphia, Em-
ery 14-1 (18-12), T-2-26

A-19,572 (19,541), T-2-26

Blue Jackets 3, Capitals 2 (OT)

Columbus 1, 0-1-1-3
Washington 0, 1-0-1-2

First Period—1, Washington, Oshie 5
(Carlson, Kuznetsov), 3:19 (pp), 2, Col-
umbus, Foligno 12 (Gibbons, Wisniewski),
15:36

Second Period—3, Washington, Brouwer
8 (Nickerson, Altzer), 9:20, 4, Columbus,
Connauton 2 (Wisniewski, Atkinson), 10:59

Third Period—5, Columbus, Foligno 13
(Johnson, Johnson), 4:41 (pp), 2, Wash-
ington, Foligno 12 (Gibbons, Wisniewski),
15:36

Shots on Goal—Columbus, 6-4-10-3-23,
Washington 13-13-11-41

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 1 of
1; Washington 1 of 6

Penalty minutes—Bobrovsky 10-8-11
(41 shots-39 saves), Washington, Holby
11 (24-20)

A-18,506 (18,506), T-2-40

Predators 5, Arizona 1

Nashville 3, 3-0-2-5
Arizona 1, 0-1-0-1

First Period—1, Arizona, Vermatek 5
(Boedker, Yandle), 4:11 (pp), 2, Nashville,
Fisher 1 (Webster, Forsberg), 6:57 (pp), 3,
Nashville, Neal 11 (Fisher, Josi), 11:06, 4,
Nashville, Ellis 3 (Neal, Ribeiro), 18:30

Second Period—5, Nashville, Jannirok 2
(Bourque, Forsberg), 2:43, 6, Nashville,
Jokinen 2 (Wilson, Weber), 7:20

Third Period—1, Nashville, 1-0-1-5-38
(Shots on Goal—Nashville 14-9-15-38,
Arizona 8-12-12-32)

Power-play opportunities—Nashville 1 of
1; Arizona 1 of 3

Penalty minutes—Rinne 19-5-11 (32
shots-31 saves), Arizona, M. Smith 14-12
(30-31)

A-10,194 (11,125), T-2-27

Sharks 2, Wild 1

Minnesota 0, 0-1-1-3
San Jose 0, 0-1-2-4

First Period—1, San Jose, Burns 9
(Brau, Johnson), 14:51 (pp)

Second Period—2, Minnesota, Folin 1,
1:03, 3, San Jose, Pavelski 15 (Thornton,
Dillon), 1:48

Third Period—1, San Jose, 1-0-1-5-39
(Shots on Goal—Minnesota 5-9-15-39,
San Jose 11-14-7-30)

Power-play opportunities—Minnesota 0 of
2; San Jose 1 of 2

Penalty minutes—Minnesota, Kuemper 11-9-9
(30 shots-28 saves), San Jose, Stalock 4-3
(19-18)

A-17,097 (17,562), T-2-24

Kings 5, Senators 3

Los Angeles 2, 2-3-5
Ottawa 0, 1-2-3

First Period—1, Los Angeles, Greene
2 (Carter, 1-0-2), 2, Philadelphia, Williams 7
(Muzzin, Dougherty), 9:17, 3, Ottawa, Ryan 6
(Giroux, Brown), 14:08

Second Period—4, Ottawa, Stone 6 (Leg-
wand), 1:48 (sh), 5, Los Angeles, Kopitar 6
(Doughty, Muzzin), 2:20 (pp), 6, Los
Angeles, Lewis 4 (Toffoli, Muzzin), 4:02,
7, Ottawa, Cowen 2 (Turris), 18:30, 8, Ot-
tawa, Pearson 11 (Richards, Quirk),
19:03 (pp)

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 5-15-16-35,
Ottawa 14-13-10-35

Power-play opportunities—Los Ange-
les 1 of 4; Ottawa 0 of 2

Penalty minutes—Los Angeles, Quick 12-7-4 (35
shots-32 saves), Ottawa, Anderson 6-8-4
(35-31)

A-17,284 (19,153), T-2-29

Avalanche 4, Jets 3 (SO)

Winnipeg 0, 0-1-0-3
Colorado 2, 0-2-0-4

First Period—1, Winnipeg, Ladd 11
(Scheifele, Frolik), 1:21 (pp), 2, Colorado,
Duchene 10 (Heida, Tanguay), 2:55, 3, Win-
nipeg, Postma 2 (Scheifele, Lowry),
14:40 (pp)

Second Period—4, Winnipeg, Scheifele 6
(Perreault, Frolik), 4:32, 5, Colorado,
Ignina 7 (Tanguay, Duchene), 12:55, 6, Col-
orado, O'Reilly 5 (Landskog, Redmond),
17:10

Third Period—0, Winnipeg, 0-2-4-11
(Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 9-16-5-33,
Colorado 10-4-7-5-26)

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg
2 of 4; Colorado 0 of 4

Penalty minutes—Pavelic 9-8-4 (26
shots-23 saves), Colorado, Pickard 4-5-0
(33-30)

A-14,300 (18,007), T-2-38

Blues 6, Islanders 3

St. Louis 0, 2-1-3
New York 2, 0-4-4

First Period—1, St. Louis, Steen 6
(Shattenkirk, Tarsanovic), 5:58 (pp), 2,
St. Louis, Jackman 1 (Steen, Lapiere),
14:18

Second Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Ta-
vares 12 (Cobble, 16-03), 4, N.Y. Island-
ers, Steen 6 (Shattenkirk, Tarsanovic), 5:58 (pp), 2,
18:16, 9, St. Louis, Schwartz 10 (Shatten-
kirk, Tarsanovic), 12:54

Third Period—5, St. Louis, Steen 7 (Os-
hiesh, Pietrangeli), 15:47, 7, St. Lou-
is, Stastny 7 (Backes, Oshie), 17:48 (pp), 8,
18:16, 9, St. Louis, Schwartz 10 (Shatten-
kirk, Tarsanovic), 12:54

Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 9-16-5-33,
Colorado 10-4-7-5-26

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg
2 of 4; Colorado 0 of 4

Penalty minutes—Pavelic 9-8-4 (26
shots-23 saves), Colorado, Pickard 4-5-0
(33-30)

A-14,300 (18,007), T-2-38

Blues 6, Islanders 3

St. Louis 0, 2-1-3
New York 2, 0-4-4

First Period—1, St. Louis, Steen 6
(Shattenkirk, Tarsanovic), 5:58 (pp), 2,
St. Louis, Jackman 1 (Steen, Lapiere),
14:18

Second Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Ta-
vares 12 (Cobble, 16-03), 4, N.Y. Island-
ers, Steen 6 (Shattenkirk, Tarsanovic), 5:58 (pp), 2,
18:16, 9, St. Louis, Schwartz 10 (Shatten-
kirk, Tarsanovic), 12:54

Third Period—5, St. Louis, Steen 7 (Os-
hiesh, Pietrangeli), 15:47, 7, St. Lou-
is, Stastny 7 (Backes, Oshie), 17:48 (pp), 8,
18:16, 9, St. Louis, Schwartz 10 (Shatten-
kirk, Tarsanovic), 12:54

Shots on Goal—Winnipeg 9-16-5-33,
Colorado 10-4-7-5-26

Power-play opportunities—Winnipeg
2 of 4; Colorado 0 of 4

Penalty minutes—Pavelic 9-8-4 (26
shots-23 saves), Colorado, Pickard 4-5-0
(33-30)

A-14,300 (18,007), T-2-38

Sabres 4, Flames 3

Calgary 0, 2-1-3
Buffalo 0, 2-2-4

First Period—1, Buffalo, Moulson
5 (Ennis), 5:34, 2, Calgary, Giordano 8
(Foligno), 13:31, 3, Buffalo, 1-1-2

Second Period—3, Calgary, PKane 13
(Versteeg), 12:19, 4, Boston, R. Smith 7
(20)

Third Period—5, Calgary, Monahan 11
(Colborne), 3:14, B. Buffalo, Girgensons 9
(Ennis, Gorges), 7:59, 7, Buffalo, Moulson
6 (Ennis), 12:17

Shots on Goal—Calgary 11-16-45, Fi-
lames 6-7-19

Power-play opportunities—Calgary 1 of
4; Buffalo 0 of 2

Penalty minutes—Ramo 8-4 (19
shots-15 saves), Buffalo, Enroth 8-10 (4-
10)

A-18,208 (19,070), T-2-34

Roundup

Blackhawks win eighth straight

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The Boston Bruins got their captain back on the ice for the first time in seven weeks.

The Chicago Blackhawks lost theirs, and they hope he won't be gone much at all.

The Blackhawks beat the Bruins 3-2 on Thursday night for their eighth consecutive victory, a win that was tempered by the loss of forward Jonathan Toews.

Chicago's captain and No. 2 scorer left the game after Dennis Seidenberg came up behind him, hit him on the back of the shoulder and sent him face-first into the boards in the second period.

"Dangerous. Tight area. Strong guy," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said. "He seemed all right. We'll see how he is tomorrow, but it looks like he's going to be all right."

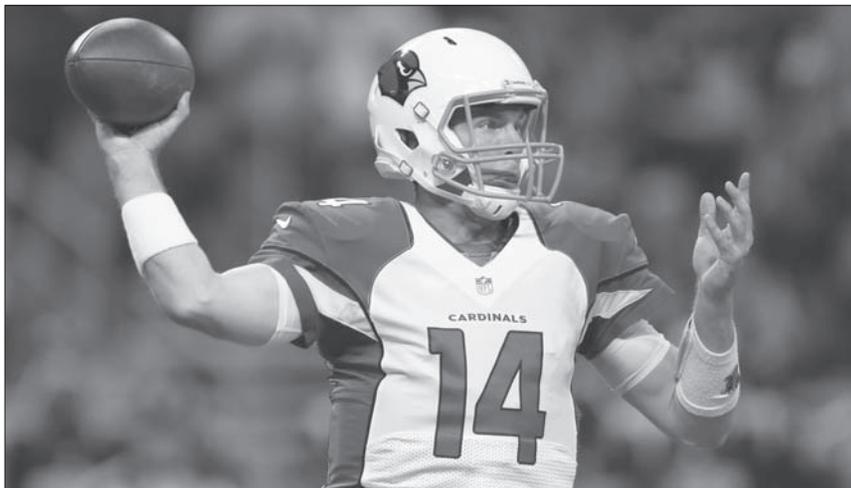
Seidenberg said he was aiming for the shoulder and had no intention to injure Toews, who was the MVP of the 2010 Stanley Cup playoffs.

A two-time Olympic gold medalist and two-time NHL champion, Toews has 11 goals and 12 assists in 28 games so far this season.

"It was unfortunate how he went into the boards," said Seidenberg, who waited in the hallway outside the Blackhawks dressing room after the game to shake hands with alternate captain Patrick Sharp.

"I try to be clean," Seidenberg told reporters. "I would never want to hurt anyone."

NFL



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Ryan Lindley took over at quarterback Thursday when starter Drew Stanton left the game in the second half with an injury to his right knee.

Win: Injury to Stanton forces Lindley to take over

FROM BACK PAGE

Drew Stanton hopped off the field after getting sacked by Aaron Donald in the third quarter, and coach Bruce Arians wasn't sure about the extent of the injury to his right knee. Stanton, who became the starter after Carson Palmer suffered a season-ending injury in the last game against the Rams last month, was expected to get an MRI on Friday.

"We'll take it very slowly with him and see how it goes," Arians said.

Stanton's injury forced Ryan Lindley into his first playing time since 2012. He completed his first pass to set up a 51-yard field goal by Catanzaro, then had a 14-yard pass to John Brown on third-and-7 to spark a drive that led to Catanzaro's 44-yarder and a 12-3 lead early in the fourth quarter.

Lindley started four games for Arizona as a rookie in 2012 and was cut by the Cardinals in training camp this year. He was signed off San Diego's practice squad after Palmer got hurt, but has hardly practiced with the team's top players.

"For him to come in in this type of situation, a hostile environment with all the implications going into this game, he did an amazing job," Fitzgerald said.

Some things to know from the Cardinals' win over the Rams (6-8) that officially eliminated St. Louis from the playoff race:

Shutout streak snapped: The Rams hadn't allowed a point in nine straight quarters before Arizona's Larry Fouts recovered Tre Mason's fumble at the St. Louis 27, leading to a second-quarter field goal. The back-to-back shutouts against Washington and Oakland had been in the franchise's first since 1945.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Arizona wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, 31, became the youngest player in NFL history to reach 900 career receptions at age 31 during Thursday's 12-6 victory over St. Louis.

"The difference in this ballgame was the ability to get the ball in the end zone. I thought our defense played well enough for us to win," coach Jeff Fisher said. "But in situations like this when your offense is struggling against a good defense, somebody's got to make a play."

The Rams still haven't given up a touchdown since the fourth quarter of a Nov. 23 loss at San Diego.

Arians unplugged: In his post-game news conference, Arians made it known that he was none too happy about the last-place Rams being favored against his first-place Cardinals.

"I love it when nobody says you're going to have a chance to win. There's an 11-3 team and a

team that's always 8-8," Arians said. "You figure it out."

Arians stuck it to the Rams' offensive line while praising his D-line. "I thought that our defensive line whipped their offensive line pretty solid. When they were making tackles behind the line of scrimmage, there was usually an offensive lineman holding onto their legs but somehow those flags never got called. But we were tackling them for losses, so it didn't matter."

And about that Rams' defense? "Everybody talking all that stuff about how great their defense is, they saw a good defense tonight. It was in red and white."

Larry Legend: With his fourth catch of the game, coming in the second quarter, Fitzgerald be-

came the youngest player in NFL history to reach 900 career receptions. Fitzgerald, 31, is more than a full year younger than Andre Johnson was when he reached the milestone.

"I'm glad to finally get it behind me so I can just get on and worry about the things that really matter," Fitzgerald said. "It's nice to be able to accomplish that in 11 years."

Kickin' it: All of the game's points came from kickers coming off shaky performances.

Catanzaro, an undrafted rookie out of Clemson, missed two of his five field-goal attempts against Kansas City — including a 34-yarder with 69 seconds left that failed to extend a three-point lead.

"There was no need to talk to him all week. He's a talented, talented young fella. He just had a bad day at the office last week," Arians said.

St. Louis' Greg Zuerlein had missed an extra point and two short field goals in the first half last week against Washington. He rebounded with makes from 24 and 19 yards.

Seattle showdown: No matter who's at quarterback, Arizona could have a chance to wrap up the division title and finish perfect 8-0 at home.

"That's a special game, to win a T-shirt, that hat: NFC West champs," said linebacker Larry Fouts, who had a sack and a fumble recovery. "We're going to play a great team in our place."

Lindley said he has a leg up on preparation because he studied the Seahawks when he was still with the Chargers, then again when the Cardinals faced the defending Super Bowl champs in November.

Scoreboard

American Conference

	East		Pct	PF	PA
	W	L			
New England	10	3	.769	401	267
Miami	7	6	.538	314	260
Buffalo	6	6	.500	281	241
N.Y. Jets	2	11	.154	214	349
South					
Indianapolis	9	0	.692	407	307
Houston	7	6	.538	314	260
Tennessee	2	11	.154	220	374
Jacksonville	2	11	.154	199	356
North					
Cincinnati	8	4	.654	281	289
Pittsburgh	8	5	.615	362	319
Baltimore	8	5	.615	356	285
Cleveland	7	6	.538	276	270
West					
Denver	10	3	.769	385	293
San Diego	5	8	.385	283	327
Kansas City	7	6	.538	291	241
Oakland	2	11	.154	200	350

National Conference

	East		Pct	PF	PA
	W	L			
Philadelphia	9	4	.692	389	309
Dallas	9	0	.692	343	301
N.Y. Giants	9	0	.692	283	262
Washington	3	10	.231	244	346
South					
Atlanta	5	8	.385	328	342
New Orleans	5	8	.385	333	359
Carolina	4	8	.346	269	341
Tampa Bay	2	10	.154	237	348
North					
Green Bay	10	3	.769	423	304
Detroit	9	4	.692	265	224
Minnesota	6	7	.462	263	281
Chicago	5	8	.385	281	378
West					
Arizona	11	3	.786	287	244
Seattle	9	0	.692	322	235
San Francisco	7	6	.538	244	268
St. Louis	6	8	.429	291	297

Thursday's game

Arizona at St. Louis
 Oakland at Kansas City
 Cincinnati at Atlanta
 Washington at N.Y. Giants
 Miami at New England
 Houston at Indianapolis
 Baltimore at Baltimore
 Green Bay at Buffalo
 Tampa Bay at Carolina
 Cincinnati at Cleveland
 Denver at San Diego
 N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
 San Francisco at Seattle
 Minnesota at Detroit
 Dallas at Philadelphia

Monday's game

New Orleans at Chicago
 Thursday, Dec. 18
 Philadelphia at Washington
 Saturday, Dec. 20
 Tennessee at Jacksonville

Sunday, Dec. 21

Baltimore at Houston
 Detroit at Chicago
 Atlanta at New Orleans
 Minnesota at Miami
 Cleveland at Carolina
 Green Bay at Tampa Bay
 Kansas City at Pittsburgh
 New England at N.Y. Jets
 N.Y. Giants at St. Louis
 Buffalo at Oakland
 Indianapolis at Dallas
 Seattle at Arizona
 Monday, Dec. 22
 Denver at Cincinnati

Thursday

Cardinals 12, Rams 6

Arizona	0	6	3	3	12
St. Louis	0	0	0	0	0

First Quarter	
STL—FG Zuerlein 24, 6:57	3-1
Second Quarter	
ARI—FG Catanzaro 23, 13:36	3-1
ARI—FG Catanzaro, 8:42, 8:25	2-2
Third Quarter	
ARI—FG Catanzaro 51, 7:22	3-1
Fourth Quarter	
ARI—FG Catanzaro 46, 10:48	3-1
ARI—FG Zuerlein 19, 10:48	3-1
A—55,880	

	ARI	STL
First downs	13	13
Total Net Yards	274	280
Rushes-yards	33-143	20-69
Passing	131	211
Turnovers	4-24	2-22
Punt Returns	1-18	4-116
Comp-Att-Int	16-30-0	0-0
Sacks-Yards Lost	8-38.4	20-89.1
Punts	3-24	3-18
Fumbles-Lost	8-38.4	0-0
Penalties-Yards	8-59	6-69
Time of Possession	34:27	25:36

STATISTICS
Rushing—Arizona: K. Williams 15-75, Taylor 14-61, Stanley 2-3, Ginn Jr. 1-3, Houser 1-1, St. Louis, Mason 13-33, Bailey 1-13, Hill 1-11, Austin 1-8, Cunningham 1-4.
Passing—Arizona: Lindley 4-10-30, St. Louis, Bailey 2-7-4, Britt 2-69, Cunningham 3-23, Cook 3-22, Austin 2-11-29.
MISSIED FIELD GOALS—None.

Calendar

Dec. 28—Regular season ends.
 Jan. 3-4-2015—Wild-card playoffs.
 Jan. 10-11—Divisional playoffs.

NFL

Colts aim to slow down Texans RB Foster

Indianapolis can clinch division crown with win

By JIM JOHNSON
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — The Colts understand what Arian Foster is capable of.

The Indianapolis defense has focused on stopping the rush all season, but the Texans' running back poses a different challenge.

"He has the speed and can break tackles," Colts defensive coordinator Greg Manuskay said. "Great eyes, great vision, he's great out of the backfield. He's an individual that's a pretty good player in this league that we have to take care of this week."

The Colts (9-4) can clinch the AFC South title with a win or the over Houston (7-6) on Sunday. First, Indy must find a way to contain Foster, who has proved what he can do with big games against Indianapolis.

He averages 6.4 yards a carry in games against the Colts and has topped 100 yards five times, including 109 yards — with two touchdowns — in the Colts' 33-28 win on Oct. 9.

Four years ago, Foster piled up 231 yards against the Colts — the last time Indianapolis allowed a rusher more than 200 yards. Now he's one of the top running backs in the AFC and leads the conference with 92.6 yards rushing per game since 2010.

For linebacker Jerrell Freeman, keeping Foster from getting into a groove is simple.

"Everybody just has to do their job," he said. "Everybody has to



STEPHEN B. MORTON/AP

Houston running back Arian Foster (23) has shown the ability to have big games against Indianapolis in the past. The Texans' star averages 6.4 yards a carry in games against the Colts, and has topped the 100-yard mark five times, including a 109-yard, two-touchdown effort in a 33-28 loss earlier this season.

know their gaps, stay in it."

The Colts have held opponents under 100 yards rushing in seven of 13 games this season, but Indy allowed the Texans to run for 136 yards when the two teams met in October. Foster was upgraded to limited practice time on Thursday after missing Wednesday

with a groin injury.

Freeman said the best thing the Colts can do is to just stick to the same defensive approach the team has gone with all season.

"Just be disciplined," he said. "I think that's the big thing. Be disciplined, know your job, and do your job. As long as we just

play together, we'll be able to stop the run."

Colts safety Mike Adams has seen Foster's ability unfold right in front of him before. He saw in Indy's first meeting with the Texans this season when Foster scored on a 12-yard run.

"I see him just reading the

defense and just reading us," Adams said. "And that's what he does and that's what he's good at — cutting back, one stop downhill, taking off. He's been doing that for a while and that's definitely what I see. I can see him about to make his cut or in the process of making his cut."

Bad December no barrier to Super Bowl title

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

Discussing his Green Bay Packers' victory over the Atlanta Falcons on a snowy night at Lambeau Field this week, coach Mike McCarthy uttered the sort of platitude that certainly sounds true.

"Winning in December is important," McCarthy said, "and winning in December is difficult."

Actually, a look at recent history shows the first part is not necessarily the case — especially if the ultimate goal is the Super Bowl. The idea that a strong regular-season finish is a prerequisite for an NFL championship trophy to be one of the myths and misconceptions about the last month of the year.

Only once in the last nine years has a team with a better post-Dec. 1 regular-season record than its Super Bowl opponent won the title. And three times in that span a team with a losing record down the stretch wound up tak-



MIKE ROEMER/AP

Packers fans greet one another outside Lambeau Field before last Monday night's game against the Atlanta Falcons in Green Bay, Wis. Conventional wisdom says that cold-weather teams like the Packers are better suited to the frigid conditions found in the NFL playoffs, but data suggests the advantages are not so clear-cut.

ing home the trophy: Baltimore was 1-4 after Dec. 1, 2012; New Orleans was 2-3 heading into the playoffs three years earlier; In-

dianapolis was 2-3 three years before that. Each of the champs beat a Super Bowl foe that had a winning record over its final five

regular-season games.

There's also a deep assumption that cold-weather teams dominate in the late season and playoffs.

"The weather definitely plays a part in football games late in the year," Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Warren Moon said. "I don't think there's a player alive that loves to play in cold weather, but you can get used to it."

While players — or their fans — in spots such as Buffalo or Pittsburgh might hope for an edge down the stretch in this season's tight AFC playoff race, data compiled by STATS also shows that not all teams based in cold-weather cities thrive this time of year.

Sure, over the past 10 seasons, New England is a league-best 42-7 in December, and 14-4 when it's 32 degrees or colder at kickoff (oddly enough, only Houston, at 3-0, has a higher winning percentage).

But Denver is only 8-9 at 32-or-below at kickoff, a 47.1 winning percentage that's a significant

drop from its .609 in all other games over the decade. Another example: The Cleveland Browns haven't been particularly good in any weather the past 10 years, but their winning percentage drops from .349 at 35 degrees or above to .238 when the mercury drops.

"Sometimes if you take a cold-weather team into warm weather late in the year, that can affect them just as much as it does when you take a warm-weather team and put them in cold weather," said Moon, who played for the CFL's Edmonton Eskimos before moving to the NFL. "Fatigue sets in. Guys can get a little more tired or dehydrated."

At the other end of the spectrum, there are teams from warm-weather sites that do just fine in the cold, such as the Miami Dolphins, who in an admittedly small sample size have gone 4-3 at 32-or-below since 2004, a 57.1 winning percentage that dwarfs their 33-and-above mark of 41.6.

SPORTS



No King for Cavs
James sits as Oklahoma City
downs Cleveland | **NBA, Page 27**



NFL

JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Arizona wide receiver Michael Floyd, right, makes a catch against St. Louis defender Janoris Jenkins during the first half of Thursday's game in St. Louis.

Cards win, lose

Arizona QB injured during victory

By **JEFF LATZKE**
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — The Arizona Cardinals know all too well the feeling of seeing their quarterback leaving the field in pain.

It happened the last time the Cardinals (11-3) faced the St. Louis Rams, then again in the rematch Thursday night.

The only silver lining: They found a way to win both times and are on the verge of clinching a playoff berth after slugging out a 12-6 win behind Chandler Catanzaro's four field goals.

"I'm glad we don't have to play the Rams any-

Inside:

■ Good December record isn't essential for success, Page 31

more. Both times we played them, they banged our quarterbacks up," receiver Larry Fitzgerald said after being limited to 30 yards and seven catches. "It's unfortunate."

SEE WIN ON PAGE 30



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Arizona quarterback Drew Stanton is taken off the field on a cart after injuring his right knee during the second half.

Blackhawks stretch winning streak to eight games

NHL, Page 29

Winter meetings distinguished by old-style trades

MLB, Page 28