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\$58B spent on DOD weaponry programs ultimately canceled

Bloomberg

The Pentagon has canceled 22 programs in advanced development after spending a combined \$58.3 billion on them since 2002, according to the Defense Department's latest assessment of its acquisition performance.

Among the weapons scrapped were Boeing's ground-based vehicle network for the Army, a Northrop Grumman minisubmarine for Navy SEALs and a chopper from Textron's Bell Helicopter unit. The tally published this week is the latest edition of a yearly report measuring the effectiveness of the process for spending billions of dollars annually to develop and build new weapons and outlining improvements. The updated list of canceled projects represents 17 percent of the 136 major weapons in advanced development for which the military had set cost, schedule and performance milestones from 1997 to 2015.

The individual cancellations all had been announced previously. The most recent was the Navy's decision this year to kill Lockheed Martin's underwater drone, which was supposed to hunt down mines for littoral combat ships. It was scrapped as unreliable even after the Navy spent \$700 million, 44 percent more than its development budget, according to the report.

Before that, the most recent cancellations were in 2012. The report, directed by Frank Kendall, the Defense Department's undersecretary for acquisition, said that reflects improvements in crafting requirements for weapon systems upfront, more realistic assessments of costs before an initial contract is awarded and tighter financial incentives to control costs.

Among the earlier cancellations was the Future Combat System developed jointly by Boeing and Science Applications International Corp. and

canceled by Defense Secretary Robert Gates in 2009. The FCS — a network of wireless, on-the-move communications, drones and sensors — accounted for 35 percent of the \$58.3 billion. The RAH-66 Comanche helicopter, developed jointly by Boeing and Sikorsky Aircraft and canceled by the Army in 2004, accounted for an additional 17 percent.

The research and development costs of the canceled programs represent about 3.4 percent of the \$1.7 trillion budgeted in those years for developing the 136 programs and an additional 25 active programs in preliminary development, Mark Wright, Kendall's spokesman, said in an email.

"It is also worth noting that sometimes the results and insights from ... canceled programs are used on other related programs," he said.

The \$58.3 billion "isn't much spread over a 20-year period," Loren Thompson, a defense industry consultant at the Lexington Institute in Arlington, Va., said in an email. "Program cancellations arise from many causes, including changing threats and the appearance of new technologies. Also, programs sometimes get killed because rigorous testing reveals unexpected flaws."

The \$58.3 billion "is still a lot," said Mark Cancian, a defense budget analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former examiner of weapons costs for the Office of Management and Budget. Asked if a 17 percent cancellation rate indicated a poorly functioning DOD acquisition system, Cancian said, "Yes and no. Several programs went ahead with unready technologies," with the Future Combat System "being the most egregious."

"But decision-makers knew they were accepting risk and not following best practices," he said.

At \$800K a round, Zumwalt's shells too pricey to fire

The Washington Post

Modern warfare is not cheap. Even among the priciest and most cutting-edge battle machines, though, the USS Zumwalt is in a class apart. The warship is the most expensive destroyer in the history of the Navy, costing about \$4.4 billion.

Along with the hefty price tag comes a marvel of nautical engineering. During its October commissioning ceremony in Baltimore, The Associated Press reported that Adm. Harry Harris, commander of Pacific Command, described the Zumwalt as the warship Batman would own.

Even a billionaire playboy like Bruce Wayne would struggle to finance the ship's guns, reported to fire ammunition costing \$800,000 a round.

The ship is 610 feet long but has the radar signature of a fishing vessel a twelfth of its size, thanks to a unique angular hull that obscures its guns, radar systems and sensors from detection. It treads quietly through the water.

Zumwalt-class ships were also meant to carry advanced, high-energy weapons. Specifically, the USS Zumwalt was designed to bear two guns that fired Long Range Land Attack Projectiles, or LRLAP. The advanced gun system was built to rapidly and precisely strike targets more than 70 miles away as a cost-effective alternative to cruise missiles. As developer Lockheed Martin described the system on its website:

"The 155 mm LRLAP is both the most accurate and longest-range guided projectile in U.S. Navy history, with a maximum range in excess of 63 nautical miles. It's (sic) precision and near vertical angle of fall enables the Warfighter to defeat targets in the urban canyons of coastal cities with minimal collateral damage."

The tests of the weapon showed promise. But just a few weeks after the Zumwalt's commissioning ceremony, it became apparent there was a problem with LRLAP: the \$800,000 price tag on a single shot of the GPS-guided, rocket-propelled ammunition.

"We were going to buy thousands of these rounds," an unnamed Navy official said to Defense News on Sunday. "But quantities of ships killed the affordable round." Fully stocked, the ship would carry 600 rounds of LRLAP ammunition.

Lockheed Martin initially estimated that the projectiles would cost about \$50,000 each. As *Ars Technica* noted, the current \$800,000 price tag is closer to that of a \$1 million-per-shot Tomahawk cruise missile, which is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead and traveling more than 1,000 miles.

The Navy's initial plan when it began developing the warships was to build 32 of the Zumwalt-class vessels. As the cost ballooned, the program shrunk from 24 ships to seven and, ultimately, the current plan of three ships. Of those, the Zumwalt is the only completed ship.

Largest ammo shipment in 20 years arrives in Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army has completed its largest ammunition delivery to Europe in more than two decades. It was the second delivery of a massive stockpile of ammunition and weaponry to Europe in less than a year.

More than 600 shipping containers, providing supplies for both the Army and Air Force, arrived at Germany's port in Nordenham Oct. 29 before being sent on to a depot in Miesau and other locations in Europe.

"This is about deterrence," U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Ben Hodges said in an Army news release. "We could have 1,000 tanks over here, but if we didn't have the ammunition for them they would not have any deterrent effect. It's another example of the commitment of the United States to security and stability in

Europe."

The delivery comes as the military builds up in Europe, where a U.S.-based tank brigade is scheduled to deploy in early 2017. The Fort Carson-based 3rd Armored Brigade, 4th Infantry Division will arrive in Germany in January and be dispatched to Poland and other positions up and down NATO's eastern flank. In addition, an Army combat air brigade from the 10th Mountain Division will rotate through Europe next year, with helicopter units spread across Poland and the Baltics.

The moves are part of the \$3.4 billion European Reassurance Initiative, which aims to showcase solidarity with NATO allies in Europe's east as well as send a signal of deterrence to Russia.

Ammunition stocks in Europe left over from the Cold War were reported to have been seriously depleted by the conflicts in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kosovo, Libya and Syria.

The current surge in ammunition coincides with an uptick in training exercises and large-scale war games that the Army has been conducting in support of the Atlantic Resolve operation, launched in the wake of Russia's 2014 intervention in Ukraine.

In February, the Army completed what was its largest ammunition shipment in more than 10 years when it sent 415 shipping containers — more than 5,000 tons — of ammo to Germany. The latest delivery involved 620 containers.

The delivery grabbed headlines in Russian media.

"We continue to build up the presence in Europe. This will help with reassuring our allies, along with the common defense of Europe if needed," Lt. Col. Brad Culligan, commander, 838th Transportation Battalion, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command, said in the news release.

DOD not sure if US troops will enter Mosul

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon will likely have to decide in the coming days whether American troops will enter Mosul as Iraqi forces near the Islamic State-held city from the south and push into its easternmost neighborhoods.

"We've had forces provide advice and assistance and in some cases accompany Iraqi security forces, Kurdish peshmerga and [Counter Terrorism Service troops] up to this point," Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook told reporters Monday at the Pentagon. "And a decision going forward as to how much farther [American troops] go will be something determined by commanders working with the Iraqis," he said.

The vast majority of the nearly 5,000 American troops serving in Iraq remain on bases far from Mosul, where they are training Iraqi forces. But the United States has the authority to embed military troops within Iraqi and peshmerga battalions and brigades.

Iraqi forces have pushed into neighborhoods in eastern Mosul without the American advisers who accompanied them through the early weeks of the campaign to retake the militant group's last stronghold in the country, according to the Pentagon.

Iraq's elite Counter Terrorism Service troops first entered Iraq's second-largest city Friday, and conventional Iraqi security forces have followed in recent days. They've already found an intense, urban fight against the terrorist group.

The Pentagon remains open to American troops entering the city to support Iraqi forces on the ground if Iraq's government approves it and the top U.S. commander in Iraq, Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend, deems it necessary, Cook said.

Sailors seeking gender transition get guidance

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

The Navy on Monday issued preliminary guidance for issues arising from sailors seeking gender transition, noting that no changes will be made to the service's physical readiness program for those individuals.

As of Oct. 1, transgender sailors could begin the process to officially change their gender in the Navy's personnel administrative systems.

Beginning July 1, 2017, transgender applicants will be allowed to join the U.S. military.

The policy change affects only active-duty and reserve Navy personnel.

"To remain the finest seagoing fighting force the world has

ever known, the Navy needs men and women who are the right fit for the right job regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, or gender identity," a Navy statement said. "If the individual can meet the Navy's standards, they should be afforded the opportunity to serve."

Sailors seeking to transition genders must receive a diagnosis from a military medical provider indicating that gender transition is medically necessary and develop a transition plan, approved by their commanding officer, the Navy said.

The transition plan must include a sailor's medical treatment plan and take into consideration both the desires

of the individual and "the operational requirements of the command," the Navy said.

The Navy has determined that certain policies will need to be changed as a result of the new transgender policy.

Among the changes will be "modesty policies" that will allow increased privacy in berths, showers and toilets; "adjustment to the language" in the urinalysis program; and adding gender identity to the military equal opportunity policy.

Commanding officers, however, are prohibited from creating separate head and shower facilities or living quarters for transgender personnel, the Navy said.

3rd body found on SC property

Associated Press

WOODRUFF, S.C. — Investigators discovered a third body on the property of a South Carolina man who is now linked to seven deaths and the kidnapping of a woman who was found chained inside a storage container, authorities said Monday.

Todd Kohlhepp, 45, became a suspect after the woman was found Thursday chained by her neck and ankle in a metal storage container on his 95-acre property near rural Woodruff.

The body of her boyfriend was found a day later. The couple had been missing for about two months.

The other remains were found near one another Sunday and Monday, and authorities are not sure who they are. Investigators were expected back at the property on Tuesday, but Spartanburg County Coroner Rusty Clevenger said he didn't think there were any more bodies.

"As the coroner, that's all I have been advised of. That was

the total number of bodies I was told was on the property. If I am told there are more, I will be back," he said.

Following Kohlhepp's arrest, he confessed to a 2003 quadruple slaying at a motorcycle shop in the small town of Chesnee, said Spartanburg County Sheriff Chuck Wright. He was denied bond Sunday on four murder charges for gunning down the motorcycle shop's owner, service manager, mechanic and bookkeeper.

Wright has said Kohlhepp gave details only the killer would know. His confession came a day before the 13th anniversary of the crime, which many feared would never be solved.

Before his confession, authorities granted him three requests, WSPA-TV reported. One was to transfer money to a girl Kohlhepp says he's helping raise, to help pay for college. The second was to give his mother a photograph, and the third was to let him talk to his mother.

Kohlhepp is charged with

kidnapping the woman, and more criminal counts are expected. He has chosen to represent himself, Wright told the Spartanburg Herald-Journal.

Kohlhepp showed investigators Saturday where he said he buried two other victims on the property he bought two years ago.

Kohlhepp did not tell investigators who was buried there. Removing the remains to "preserve every bit of evidence" is a meticulous, time-consuming process, the coroner said.

The gravesites Kohlhepp pointed to were in addition to the body found Friday in a shallow grave at the site. Authorities identified that victim as the boyfriend of the woman found Thursday. Clevenger said he died of multiple gunshot wounds.

The Associated Press is not naming the woman because the suspect is a sex offender, though authorities have not said whether she was sexually assaulted.

Clinical trials start for Zika vaccine

Miami Herald

MIAMI — With Florida health officials reporting more mosquito-borne Zika infections in Miami-Dade County, including one new case confirmed Monday, scientists with the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research in Silver Spring, Md., launched the first of five early stage clinical trials that they hope will lead to the development of a vaccine against the virus.

A Zika vaccine is still two to three years away from public availability, according to scientists, but most vaccines have traditionally taken a decade or longer to develop. The shorter time frame is due in part to lessons learned from prior infectious disease outbreaks.

Kayvon Modjarrad, a physician researcher and associate director for emerging infectious disease threats at the Walter Reed institute, or WRAIR, said scientists developed the trial vaccine, called Zika purified inactivated virus, or ZPIV, using the same technology they used to create a Japanese encephalitis vaccine licensed in 2009.

There are three Zika vaccine candidates undergoing human clinical trials, but ZPIV is the only one that uses a weakened or dead virus to provoke an immune system defense.

The other two candidates are DNA vaccines that also elicit immune system response by using genetically engineered DNA that stimulates cells. They are being tested separately in clinical trials by the National Institutes of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and by Inovio Pharmaceuticals — though no DNA vaccine has ever been licensed for human use.

After preclinical studies in early July showed that two doses of ZPIV, administered four weeks apart, provoked a protective immune response to Zika in rhesus monkeys, the vaccine candidate advanced to human trials.

LAX shooter: Plot evolved from suicide plan

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — A deadly rampage at Los Angeles International Airport grew from a suicide plan that morphed into a twisted mission to die in a blaze of glory taking out federal officers, the gunman said before being sentenced to life in prison.

In explaining the roots of his rage and offering a half-hearted apology, Paul Ciancia calmly told a federal judge the steps that led from him being "sick of life" to gunning down a Transportation Security Administration officer at point-blank range and wounding two other officers and a teacher before he was shot in the face and subdued three years ago.

"I knew exactly how I wanted to die," Ciancia stated. "I was going to take up arms against my own government."

Ciancia, 26, was sentenced

Monday to a mandatory term of life plus 60 years for the Nov. 1, 2013, attack that crippled the nation's second-busiest airport and disrupted travel nationwide. He previously pleaded guilty to murder and 10 other charges in exchange for prosecutors dropping efforts to seek the death penalty.

Dressed in an all-white jail suit and shackled at the ankles, the diminutive and pale Ciancia stared at the agents he had shot and airport police who sat in the courtroom with black bands across their badges.

He offered no apology to them, but he said he was sorry to Brian Ludmer, a teacher who was headed to a wedding in Chicago when he was struck by gunfire.

Ludmer was so appalled by Ciancia's "bizarre lack of remorse" for the officers and the family of slain Officer Gerardo

Hernandez that he decided to address the killer via a statement he filed with the court.

Ciancia, an unemployed motorcycle mechanic originally from New Jersey, said he wanted to kill himself in the fall of 2012. He planned to spend \$26,000 in savings as he developed the plot.

He was watching a lot of cable news during the presidential campaign and heard frequent discussion about gun control. After combing a conservative website known for peddling conspiracy theories, he decided to get a gun.

Although the sentence carries no chance of parole, Ciancia apparently thinks he may one day be released. In a court filing, one of his public defenders noted, "Ciancia believes he will get out of prison when the revolution begins."

Report of different phone model exploding

Associated Press

PARIS — A Samsung phone user in France says her Galaxy J5 smartphone caught fire and exploded on Sunday. The model is different from the Galaxy Note 7 that has been recalled worldwide.

Lamya Bouyirdane told The Associated Press on Monday that she noticed the phone was very hot after she asked her 4-year-old son to pass it over during a family gathering at her home. She said she threw the

phone away when she realized it had “swollen up” and smoke was coming out.

“I panicked when I saw the smoke, and I had the reflex to throw it away,” said Bouyirdane, a mother of three in the southwestern French city of Pau.

The phone then caught fire and the back blew off. Her partner quickly extinguished it.

Bouyirdane said she bought the phone new last June on a website offering discounts.

The South Korean company recently recalled millions of its Galaxy Note 7 smartphones globally because of a problem that caused the batteries to overheat and catch fire.

William Stofega, a mobile analyst for International Data Corp., said the incident in France was most likely an isolated one, noting that the phone has been on the market for several months now and this is the first report of a battery fire that he’s aware of. “These reports

tend to cluster,” he said.

He added that problems involving lithium-ion batteries used in not just smartphones but also laptop computers have been around for years, and there’s no easy fix for them.

Manufacturing defects or even a small amount of damage can cause a short circuit, resulting in an overheated battery and potentially a fire.

Samsung said in a statement that it cannot comment on the case yet because the company has not investigated it.

5 arrested in Germany for ties to Islamic State

Associated Press

BERLIN — German authorities arrested five men Tuesday on allegations they aided the Islamic State group in Germany by recruiting members and providing financial and logistical help.

The federal prosecutor’s office said in a statement that the men were arrested on suspicion of supporting a terrorist organization.

The arrests were made in a series of raids in the western state of North Rhine-Westphalia and the northern state of Lower Saxony.

The country’s justice minister, Heiko Maas, called the arrests “an important blow to the extremist scene in Germany.”

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said it was critical to prevent people from becoming “so radicalized that they are in danger of becoming terrorists.”

“We don’t want terrorism to take place in Germany,” he said. “We don’t want terrorism to be exported from Germany.”

One of the raids was in the Lower Saxony city of Hildesheim, which is a known center for ultraconservative Muslims known as Salafists and where a mosque was raided during the summer.

The prosecutor’s office, which handles all terrorism cases, said the suspects weren’t known to have links to Islamic State suspect Jaber Albakr, who killed himself in prison in October two days after being arrested on suspicion of plotting to attack a Berlin airport with homemade explosives.

The five men are suspected of recruit-

ing young Muslims in Germany and raising funds to send them to Syria to join the Islamic State group, prosecutors said. They’re also accused of providing logistical support for the trips.

One of the suspects, a 32-year-old Iraqi citizen identified as Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah A., who also goes by the alias Abu Walaa, is accused of being the ring-leader of the group.

He openly supported the Islamic State group, attended several extremist events as a speaker and approved the departure of those willing to go to Syria, prosecutors said.

His last name wasn’t provided, in line with German privacy laws.

Two other suspects, identified as 50-year-old Turkish citizen Hasan C. and 36-year-old German-Serbian citizen Boban S., were in charge of teaching Arabic and “radical Islamic content” to recruits.

The other two suspects, 27-year-old German citizen Mahmoud O. and a 26-year-old from Cameroon, identified as Ahmed F.Y., helped with the logistics of organizing the recruits’ departure to Syria.

“The network verifiably trafficked one young man and his family to the ‘IS’ in Syria,” the statement said, referring to the Islamic State group.

The accused were scheduled to be brought before a judge later Tuesday and on Wednesday, the prosecutor’s office said.

Life imitates art on flight as snake drops into cabin

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Passengers on a commercial flight in Mexico were given a start when a serpent slithered into the cabin in a scene straight out of the Hollywood thriller “Snakes on a Plane.”

The green reptile appeared suddenly on an Aeromexico flight from Torreon in the country’s north to Mexico City on Sunday, emerging from the ceiling behind an overhead luggage compartment.

Cellphone video shot by passenger Indalecio Medina showed it wriggling briefly as if trapped before partially dropping down into the cabin.

“I was reading a magazine and the passenger next to me saw it and said, ‘Oh my word!’” Medina told The Associated Press by phone. He estimated it was over 3 feet in length.

Passengers hastily unbuckled themselves to get clear of the dangling snake before it dropped to the floor, where people trapped it between rows 5 and 6 with blankets provided by a flight attendant, Medina said.

After the pilot radioed ahead, the plane was given priority landing in Mexico City and touched down 10 minutes later. Passengers exited out the rear, and animal control workers came on board.

“Snakes on a Plane” was a 2006 action movie that was about exactly what the title suggests. It is treasured by fans for its campy premise and star Samuel L. Jackson’s profanity-laced declaration of war on the CGI-generated serpents.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman arrested in arson, car theft, chase

MN ALEXANDRIA — Charges are pending against an Alexandria woman accused of causing an apartment fire, hiding from firefighters in the ceiling, then stealing a police squad car, after being handcuffed, and leading officers on a high-speed chase.

Police said firefighters responded to the residence Sunday evening and put out a small fire on the living room floor. The 35-year-old woman was arrested after falling through the ceiling tiles while allegedly possessing a methamphetamine pipe and lighter.

Authorities said the woman was able to get one arm free of handcuffs while alone in the back of a squad car and squeeze into the front seat through a sliding window. She allegedly drove off and led officers on a chase reaching speeds of 121 mph before being apprehended.

Suspect on video taking scepter from cathedral

NY NEW YORK — Police are searching for a suspect they say walked out of a cathedral in Brooklyn with a 4-foot-tall gold scepter.

Surveillance video shows the suspect walking out of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Sheepshead Bay last week. It shows him trying to conceal the religious artifact under a knee-length jacket.

WCBS-TV reported the object is more than a century old.

Police said the suspect also stole another artifact and \$30 in cash. Police said the items were found by the superintendent of a nearby building at the top of a stairwell, and have been returned.

Park wages war on destructive wild hogs

SC HOPKINS — Federal trappers have killed more than 100 wild hogs at Congaree National Park during the past year to keep the animals from menacing visitors and destroying rare plants.

The State newspaper reported that the National Park Service reached out to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's wildlife services division in November 2015 for full-time assistance in reducing the pig population inside the state's only national park. The park is about 30 miles southeast of Columbia.

Since then, resource officers have been trapping the pigs and shooting them.

Wildlife officials say South Carolina has more than 150,000 feral pigs statewide.

Breathalyzer use on students annoys parents

DE SMYRNA — Some parents are raising concerns about a school administering breathalyzer tests to students attending a homecoming dance.

The News Journal of Wilmington, Del., reported that some parents were annoyed by the practice at Smyrna High School and even felt it bordered on infringing on students' rights. Parents were most concerned about being unaware of the alcohol breath tests in the first place.

The Smyrna School superintendent defended the right for the district to continue the long-standing practice because it keeps students safe. It was started in 1994 in response to a Mothers Against Drunk Driving initiative.

Canned food donations reduce parking fines

KY LEXINGTON — The Lexington Parking Authority said it is reducing parking fines for violators in exchange for canned food items.

The agency said in a statement that its initiative, Food for Fines, runs through Dec. 16. Those who bring in 10 cans of food will receive \$15 off parking citations, including those that are past due. The statement said those with multiple citations will receive \$15 credit for every set of 10 cans.

A majority of parking fines cost between \$15 and \$35.

All donations will go to God's Pantry Food Bank.

After chase, police find body in trunk of vehicle

MO DESLOGE — Authorities said a body was found inside the trunk of a car that crashed in eastern Missouri after a police chase.

KSDK-TV reported that the pursuit started when a Missouri State Highway Patrol trooper attempted to stop a car on U.S. 67 in St. Francois County. The chase ended when the driver crashed into a tree in Desloge.

Patrol Corp. Juston Wheelley identified the body found in the trunk as that of Michael Vanstavern, 46, of Farmington.

The two men inside the car tried to run into the woods but were caught. Wheelley identified the men as persons of interest in the ongoing investigation. No charges were immediately filed.

2 charged with stealing money from toll baskets

NJ MAYS LANDING — New Jersey state police

said two people were charged with stuffing material into toll baskets on the Atlantic City Expressway to prevent coins from going in and then returning to steal the money.

Troopers said Monday that Angela Freeman-Poles, 54, and Aljah Reaves, 57, were arrested and charged with theft.

The South Jersey Transportation Authority had alerted investigators about several toll basket failures and toll shortages at the Exit 5 entrance and exit ramps.

Police said the Atlantic City residents were captured on surveillance footage tampering with the baskets and stealing coins.

Both suspects are jailed on \$35,000 bail.

Tickets revoked for 2 over offensive costumes

WI MADISON — University of Wisconsin-Madison officials have revoked season tickets for two football fans who dressed in an offensive costume.

The unidentified men wore a costume at the Oct. 29 game against Nebraska that involved one wearing masks of President Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton with nooses around their necks. The other wore a Donald Trump mask and led the first man around by the noose.

The Wisconsin State Journal reported Chancellor Rebecca Blank told the faculty senate Monday the tickets were revoked because their holder brought in a prohibited item and didn't follow directions from stadium staff.

Security officers asked the men to remove the noose but photos taken later showed they had put the noose back on.

From wire reports

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FBS programs going with young coaches

Associated Press

When searching for a new head football coach, schools have been showing a greater desire to hire an up-and-comer, like Tom Herman or P.J. Fleck, rather than a veteran with a long record of success, such as Les Miles.

The average age of the head coaches hired by FBS teams last season was 43.2 years old, the youngest in the past six years. Eight of the 26 new hires were under 40 when they accepted the job.

In 2010 and 2011, the average age of the 48 coaches hired by FBS schools was a touch over 47, including eight under the age of 40.

People in the business of hiring coaches are hesitant to call anything a trend, since each school comes to the marketplace with different needs and criteria. But the current climate favors coaches like Western Michigan's 35-year-old Fleck and Houston's 41-year-old Herman over a potential Hall of Famer such as Miles. The 62-year-old former LSU coach

won 77 percent of his games and a national title in 11-plus seasons with the Tigers before being fired in September.

Potential is often more appealing to those hiring a coach than an extensive résumé, according to Daniel Parker, the vice president and managing director of sports for Parker Executive Search, based in Atlanta. Parker helps programs identify coaching candidates and hire them.

"Bringing in somebody that's got a lot of energy, that's going to change the program, recruit really well, work really hard, that does something for the fan base. It re-energizes the athletics department. Re-energizes the fans," Parker said.

Miles told Sports Illustrated last week he has "10 or 12 years left in me." An out-of-date offense was a big part of why Miles was ousted, but he says he is willing to change and evolve his philosophies.

Recent history suggests the demand for Miles could be limited.

In 2010 and '11, four coach-

es who were at least 60 were hired by FBS teams, two each season. Since, Mike Riley, who went from Oregon State to Nebraska after the 2014 season, is the only 60-or-older coach to be hired as an FBS head coach.

"I think it's going to be up to Les as to what he's interested in doing," said Jed Hughes, of executive search firm Korn Ferry. "He's been at a powerful school. Does he think he wants to be at that level or will he be satisfied with something a little less that would allow him to stay in a Power Five school but not have the same kind of aura and tradition that LSU did?"

Mack Brown was 62 when he was pushed out at Texas after the 2013 season. He also has Hall of Fame-worthy credentials, but his last few years with the Longhorns when he went 30-21 overshadowed his string of nine straight double-digit victory seasons and a national title at Texas. Former coaches such as Brown and Phillip Fulmer, who was pushed out by Tennessee after the 2008 season at age 58, end up being

defined by their awkward exits instead of their long runs of success. Fans rarely want the coach some other school just discarded.

Brown said he still has not ruled out coaching again, but he is not actively pursuing jobs.

"I do think so many of the athletic directors and presidents have to listen to their boosters, and a lot of their boosters want whatever the hot name is, not only this year but this week," Brown said.

The job of major college football coach is increasingly becoming a 365-day per year gig. Recruiting never really takes a break. Recently proposed NCAA reforms to the recruiting calendar were made to acknowledge that schools are routinely offering scholarships to high schoolers well before their senior seasons.

"I remember specifically one (older coach) said, 'Don't hire me?'" Toledo athletic director Mike O'Brien said. "Meaning, don't hire someone of my age because I can't handle the 24/7 business of college football."

After two losses, Baylor tries to return focus to field

Associated Press

WACO, Texas — Acting head coach Jim Grobe said Monday he has talked to Baylor's assistant coaches, all from former coach Art Briles' staff, about staying focused on football for the final four games of the regular season.

"I think we're in a situation where everybody wants their perspective to be known, and I don't think that's a bad thing. ... So I would not say that I want to put a muzzle on our coaches," Grobe said. "My problem is I want to focus on the 100-plus great kids and I don't think we can do that if we're fighting other battles right now."

The Bears are coming off a 62-22 home loss to TCU, their second consecutive loss after a 6-0 start.

On the night before that

game, the assistant coaches and several staff members issued a statement on Twitter expressing their support for Briles, who was fired in May. They were disputing claims by school regents that Briles knew of an alleged gang rape.

With the players wearing all-black uniforms Saturday, as selected by seniors for the rivalry game, a group sold black T-shirts supporting the popular former coach outside the stadium before the game. The shirts had the hashtag "#CAB," which stands for "Coach Art Briles." A banner with those letters was flown from a luxury suite inside the stadium during the game, and some players reportedly had those initials on black bandanas they wore.

"I have no problems that they care about Coach Briles,"

Grobe said. "I just think if you get too caught up in making statements, you play terrible, and that's happened. ... I'd like for everybody to spend a little more time focusing on football."

After their worst home loss since 2005, the Bears (6-2, 3-2 Big 12) play Saturday at Big 12-leading and ninth-ranked Oklahoma (7-2, 6-0). The Sooners will have two top running backs returning while the Bears have benched career rushing leader Shock Linwood for attitude issues.

Baylor quarterback Seth Russell said Monday that players and coaches have talked about being 100 percent focused on football the rest of the season.

None of the assistant coaches has been available to speak with the media this season.

Grobe said he has no questions about whether the assistant coaches care about and are fully invested in the players. But he also understands that their focus can be affected.

The tweet Friday night was in response to what four Baylor regents said in a meeting with editorial board of The Dallas Morning News. The previous week, before the Bears lost by one point at Texas, there was a Wall Street Journal article when regents first provided some details about some of the allegations.

"It just seems like every week something's going to come out, and a lot of times, it's a rehash," Grobe said. "I'm not so sure it's not a culmination, it just built and built and built and built until finally it's a boiling point."

Seattle tops Bills in controversial win

Associated Press

SEATTLE — Another Monday night of controversy and madness involving the Seattle Seahawks.

For the third time in the past five seasons, a Monday night game in Seattle finished with most of the attention on the mistakes of officials, this time after the Seahawks beat the Buffalo Bills 31-25.

For how good Jimmy Graham, Russell Wilson and Tyrod Taylor were in putting on an entertaining primetime performance, their efforts became overshadowed by officiating mistakes at the end of the first half that eventually played a role in the final outcome.

"I'm not really sure what happened. I will say the refs were horrible at managing it," said Taylor, who had one of the best performances of his career throwing for 289 yards and running for another 43 yards, and giving Buffalo a chance in the closing moments. "They made some horrible calls throughout the game, too. It's not a thing where we're blaming the refs. I just think they need to be held accountable for that and at least give some explanation."

Taylor's final pass of the night on fourth-down in the closing moments fell incomplete in the end zone and handed the Bills their third straight defeat. Taylor had to throw in that situation because of what happened at the end of the first half that cost Buffalo a shot at a reasonable field goal attempt and eventually forced the Bills to try for a touchdown in the final seconds.

The chaotic final moments of the second quarter started calmly with Dan Carpenter lining up for a 53-yard field goal with 3 seconds left and ended several minutes later with anger. Richard Sherman was called for offside and not unnecessary roughness after he crashed into Carpenter attempting to block the kick — an incorrect decision according to NFL head of officiating Dean Blandino. Buffalo was assessed an injury timeout after trainers ran on the field believing Carpenter was injured and forcing the Bills to spike the ball with 1 second left as Carpenter had to leave the field. That was followed by officials not resetting the play clock and Buffalo being assessed a delay of game and the half finally ending with

Carpenter missing a 54-yard attempt.

"Ridiculous. Absolutely ridiculous," Rex Ryan said. "It was wrong. It's clear what happened, the guy roughed our kicker. Jumps offside, roughs our kicker and then because we had to go out and attend to him, and it wasn't called 'roughing the kicker,' then we had to spike the ball so that we could come back in and kick. We needed a little time there but, we saw him go down and our trainers ran out. ... From an officiating standpoint, I think you can do a little bit better than that."

Official Walt Anderson's explanation was Sherman was called for being unabated to the kicker and that his actions crashing into Carpenter did not rise to the level of unnecessary roughness.

"I didn't feel like the actions and the contact, because we were shutting the play down, warranted a foul," Anderson said.

Sherman said he did not hear a whistle and was just trying to block the kick.

"I went for the ball. The holder still had it so I didn't hear [any] whistle," Sherman said. "They say play to blow of the whistle

so I went and tried to block the kick and I got it. I think I got it and the kicker somehow kept going. I assumed he was going to stop when he saw me going for the ball but he didn't."

The chaos seemed a footnote at the time with Seattle leading 28-17 at the half, and became a focal point when Buffalo rallied in the second half, but needed a touchdown at the end.

"Player safety was not in their mind. He was offside and dove at our kicker's leg while he was in motion. That's a dirty play," Buffalo linebacker Jerry Hughes said.

Seattle's been the center of crazy Monday night moments in the past. In 2012, the infamous "Fail Mary" game ended when Golden Tate caught a disputed touchdown on the final play to give Seattle a win over Green Bay, a decision that was made by replacement officials. Last year, K.J. Wright should have been called for illegal batting for knocking a fumble out of the end zone for a Seattle touchback in the final moments of a win over Detroit. The penalty would have given possession back to Detroit but no flag was thrown.

Islanders extend Vancouver's losing streak

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Andrew Ladd and Jason Chimera scored their first goals with the Islanders and helped New York to a needed victory in a finale of a long stretch of home games.

Cal Clutterbuck and Ladd scored 1:39 apart midway through the third period to lift the Islanders over Vancouver 4-2 on Monday night, handing the Canucks their ninth straight loss.

Chimera and Nikolay Kulemin also scored and Jaroslav Halak stopped 30 shots to help the Islanders improve to 2-3-2 in their last seven.

"We had a little bit of puck luck tonight," New York coach Jack Capuano said. "The last few games we played well, we just haven't got results. It's good for the guys to get that feeling."

Ladd and Chimera, New York's top free-

agent signings in the offseason, had combined for just four assists through the first 12 games.

"It's great for me and Jason, just getting that good feeling to put a couple of pucks in the net," Ladd said. "Sometimes all it just takes is one and build off from there."

Daniel Sedin and Markus Granlund scored, and Ryan Miller had 28 saves for Vancouver, which fell to 0-8-1 with eight straight regulation losses since opening the season with four wins.

"It's tough. We need some good results," Canucks coach Willie Desjardins said. "It's nice we got the first [goal] tonight, it's been a long time since that's happened. ... We got one on the power play, and that hadn't happened in a while, either. ... We didn't take it away in the third like we needed to."

Clutterbuck backhanded the rebound of a shot by Johnny Boychuk past Miller's

blocker side at 9:11 of the final period to give the Islanders a 3-2 lead.

Bruins 4, Sabres 0: Tuukka Rask rebounded from his first loss with 32 saves for his second shutout, and Brad Marchand and David Krejci scored power-play goals in the second period as host Boston won.

David Pastrnak had a power-play goal and Riley Nash scored for the Bruins, who won for the fourth time in five games. Rask recorded his 32nd career shutout after losing 5-2 against the New York Rangers on Saturday. He improved to 7-1 this season.

Panthers 3, Lightning 1: Reilly Smith scored a tiebreaking goal with 4:28 left, Roberto Luongo made 34 saves and host Florida beat Tampa Bay.

Jonathan Marchessault got his seventh goal and Derek MacKenzie also scored.

Ondrej Palat scored for the Lightning, and Bishop stopped 29 shots.

Curry sets 3-pointer record in win

Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Stephen Curry let it fly from the top of the arc, backpedaled as his record-breaking three-ball dropped and then wildly began bobbing his head and shuffling his feet with the swagger of a two-time reigning MVP.

Add another remarkable achievement to a long list of them for Curry: most three-pointers in one game.

The star guard sank 13 to set an NBA mark — one game after missing all his three-point tries for the first time in two years — and the Golden State Warriors beat the winless New Orleans Pelicans 116-106 on Monday.

“This was a special night,” Curry said.

He finished with 46 points, three days after his league-record streak of 157 games with at least one three was snapped when he went 0-for-10 on three-point tries in a 117-97 road loss to the Los Angeles Lakers.

“I was hard on myself in practice the last two days. I had pretty good shooting sessions,” he said. “I don’t overreact to games like that whether I go 0 for 10 or 2 for 12 or whatever it is. My process is the same, but I had another level of focus the last two days trying to get my rhythm back and see the

ball go in.”

Curry shot 13-for-17 from beyond the arc in his seventh career game with double-digit threes. He broke the mark with 2:23 to go and bobbed his head in delight as the crowd roared.

Curry shared the previous three-point record of 12 with Kobe Bryant and Donyell Marshall.

“Nothing you can do about it. He was being Steph,” Pelicans star Anthony Davis said.

Grabbing back the spotlight from new Golden State star Kevin Durant, Curry raised his right arm and pumped his chest all night, howling and pointing as one shot fell after another. He went 16 for 26 overall in his first 40-point performance after leading the NBA with 13 last season.

Warriors fans enjoyed every minute of it, chanting “M-V-P! M-V-P!”

“That was quite a show. Not at all surprising the way Steph bounces back from bad nights,” Golden State coach Steve Kerr said.

Klay Thompson had 24 points with two 3s as the Splash Brothers looked far more in sync from long range at last. Durant added 22 for the Warriors.

Davis had 33 points and 13 rebounds for New Orleans (0-7), which along with the

76ers (0-6) are the NBA’s only teams still without a victory. Davis gave the Pelicans a 73-72 lead on a turnaround hook shot with 4:14 left in the third quarter.

Davis had 45 points, 17 rebounds, three assists, two steals and two blocks in the teams’ initial matchup on Oct. 28.

Draymond Green had his second double-double with 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Warriors, who were back at Oracle Arena after they embarrassed the Oklahoma City Thunder 122-96 there in Durant’s first game against his former team last Thursday.

Thompson — 2-for-10 against the Lakers from three-point range, a combined 0-for-13 vs. Phoenix and Portland and 9-for-46 overall (19.6 percent) this season coming in — missed his first three attempts before hitting from the baseline late in the second quarter as the sellout crowd went crazy.

Curry knocked down his first three-point attempt at the 7:29 mark of the first quarter. He received a technical with 1:45 left in the third for arguing he was fouled by Davis on a three-point attempt.

Durant has scored 20 or more points in 71 straight regular-season games, matching Kareem Abdul-Jabbar for the fifth-longest streak in NBA history.

Hot Harden carries Rockets over Wizards

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — James Harden was not about to let one rough half ruin his evening.

And the Houston Rockets’ star guard figures he has enough help around the court that the points are bound to flow for himself and the rest of his team.

Harden set aside a slow start to finish with 32 points and 15 assists — his fourth straight 30-10 game — and led the Rockets past the slumping Washington Wizards 114-106 on Monday night.

“Chemistry with everybody is getting there,” Harden said after helping Houston improve to 4-3, with help from Ryan Anderson’s 23 points, Trevor Ariza’s 15 and Clint Capela’s 14. “It’s just predicated on me making the right decision.”

Washington’s John Wall broke Hall of Fame center Wes Unseld’s franchise record for

career assists before getting ejected with 33.3 seconds left and his team trailing by five en route to falling to 1-5.

Official Marc Davis explained the reason for Wall’s second technical foul this way via a pool report: “After granting the team a timeout, I felt that there was contact and that he bumped me. I wasn’t certain of his intent. I told him to watch himself. He looked over his shoulder and used vulgarity and inappropriate language.”

Wall left with 21 points and eight assists.

“I didn’t do a good job of helping us win,” he said.

Clippers 114, Pistons 80: Chris Paul scored 24 points and made five of the host Clippers’ season-high 13 three-pointers in their 11th consecutive victory over Detroit.

Andre Drummond had 15 points and 13 rebounds to lead Detroit, which shot 37 percent and made just 4 of 12 three-

point attempts in its worst loss of the young season.

Hornets 122, Pacers 100: Kemba Walker had 24 points and 10 assists to help host Charlotte to their best start in franchise history.

The Hornets (5-1) scored on their first 12 possessions and led by as many as 21 points in the first quarter.

Charlotte tied a 23-year franchise record with 75 points in the first half on 56.5 percent shooting. The team’s starters were 17-for-25 from the field as the Hornets built a 20-point halftime lead.

Jazz 109, 76ers 84: Derrick Favors had 16 points and 14 rebounds and Rodney Hood scored 18 points to lead Utah over winless host Philadelphia.

Gordon Hayward scored 20 points in the second game of his return since he broke his right ring finger in training camp. He led the team in scoring last

season, averaging nearly 20 points per game.

Thunder 97, Heat 85: Enes Kanter had 24 points and 10 rebounds to lead host Oklahoma City.

Kanter made 10 of 12 shots in 21 minutes off the bench. Victor Oladipo scored 17 points, rookie Domantas Sabonis had a season-high 15 to go with 10 rebounds, and Russell Westbrook added 14 points and 11 assists for the Thunder. Oklahoma City improved to 6-1, the best seven-game start for the franchise since moving to Oklahoma City from Seattle in 2008.

Bulls 112, Magic 80: Jimmy Butler scored 20 points and Taj Gibson had 16 points and 11 rebounds for host Chicago.

Dwyane Wade scored 16 points and Doug McDermott finished with 11 for Chicago, which had dropped three straight. Wade went 7-for-12 from the field in 25 minutes.