

Baby

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Lindquist said.
Julio found the gun and shot himself in the head. McIntosh’s 8-month old daughter was in the car at the time and was not hurt.
Friends and family told detectives that Vita routinely showed off the gun with a laser sight and on one occasion offered to let Julio hold the gun before another adult intervened.
Vita’s attorney, David Gehrke, told

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KOMO that that shooting was a tragedy that has left everyone involved in shock. Vita acted reasonably, he said.
“I think he was being very careful. He did not just leave the gun there, without another adult present. And I think if the mother had stayed in there, this probably would not have happened,” Gehrke said.
“My understanding is that the child went from the back seat to the front seat, got the gun, the mom took it away and said, ‘No, leave that alone,’ and then put it under her seat. And then inexplicably she got out and went into the convenience store to buy something,” he said.
Gehrke said he’s not blaming the mother. “She lost her child, and that should be punishment for any parent in a circumstance like this,” he said.

The child shootings have raised questions about Washington’s gun laws. The state is one of 23 that doesn’t have a specific law to prevent child access to firearms, such as mandatory trigger locks or criminal penalties for adults who allow children to access guns, according to the San Francisco-based group Legal Community Against Violence.
Washington state law is specific about carrying loaded pistols in vehicles, however. A person with a concealed weapons permit must lock the gun and conceal it from view if it is left in the car.
In the Bremerton classroom shooting that nearly killed Amina Kocer-Bowman, the Kitsap County prosecutor charged the mother of a boy who brought the gun in his backpack and the mother’s boyfriend with felony assault for allowing the boy access to the .45-caliber handgun. Jamie Lee Chaffin, and her boyfriend, Douglas L. Bauer, have pleaded not guilty.
In the Stanwood shooting, the Snohomish County prosecutor’s office said Wednesday the shooting is still under investigation by the sheriff’s office. When the case is sent to the prosecutor’s office, it will decide whether charges should be filed against Officer Derek Carlile, who left a loaded gun in the car.
Snohomish sheriff’s spokesman Kevin Prentiss said Wednesday that investigators

Voting Rights



The 2012 David Dinkins Leadership and Public Policy Forum: Voting Rights v. Voter Suppression focused on a recent wave of legal measures which threatens voter participation. NAACP president Ben Jealous delivered the keynote address. The Forum took place on March 26 at Columbia’s School of International and Public Affairs in New York. Participants included, from left, Ester Fuchs, professor of international and public affairs and political science; Fred Harris, director of Columbia’s Institute for Research in African American Studies and professor of political science; Elinor Tatum, publisher and editor-in-chief of the New York Amsterdam News; Benjamin Jealous, president of the NAACP; Ted Shaw, professor of professional practice, Columbia Law School and Rodolfo de la Garza, professor of political science

are wrapping up loose ends and finishing interview transcripts, and the case should go to the prosecutor’s office within two weeks. Detectives used child interview specialists to question children.
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Lawyer

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with the defense.”
Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, after speaking to hundreds of Marines and sailors aboard the USS Peleliu off the San Diego coast, told reporters that he has made it clear that Bales should get “whatever information he would be entitled to under the

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military code of justice.”
Bales is charged with 17 counts of premeditated murder. The military says he left his base in southern Afghanistan and went on a nighttime shooting rampage through two villages on March 11. Nine of the dead were children.
Browne said military prosecutors have gone back on their word. “Normally, we

have cooperation with prosecutors and we get information. And in this case, they actually promised us if we sent people to Afghanistan ... that they would cooperate,” he said.
The defense team said in a statement that its members attempted to interview injured civilians being treated at a hospital in Kandahar, but were denied access and told to coordinate with prosecutors.
The prosecution team interviewed the civilians, but the defense team said they were unable to after the people were released and no contact information was provided for them.
The defense team said prosecutors are withholding information “while potential witnesses scatter.”
Browne’s team also said they have been denied access to the civilians’ medical records, as well as video allegedly taken from a surveillance blimp showing Bales on the night of the killings.
Browne said being given access to infor-

mation later won’t work, especially with Afghan witnesses.
The defense will have a right to interview witnesses that could be called at trial, so the Army could then take the defense team into the villages with security or coordinate to have them come onto the military base.
But Conway said the challenges of interviewing witnesses now means the defense
Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, after speaking to hundreds of Marines and sailors aboard the USS Peleliu off the San Diego coast, told reporters that he has made it clear that Bales should get ‘whatever information he would be entitled to under the military code of justice’
team may not be able to track down people to bolster their case - such as witnesses unable to identify Bales or those who believe there were two shooters.

“If they want to talk to those witnesses, they’re going to have to get an investigator and probably go to the village and talk to civilians themselves,” Conway said.
Browne also said the military is planning to within the next two months conduct a comprehensive mental health evaluation of Bales at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he is being held.
He said the mental health evaluation would delay the preliminary legal hearing. He said at this point his team hasn’t decided the defense strategy, such as mental issues or post-traumatic stress.
“Until we’re convinced that the government has a case, we’re not going to speculate what our defense would be,” he said.

Brain

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injuries and protect them from concussions in the past, and it isn’t doing enough to take care of them today.
What began last summer as a couple of cases with a handful of plaintiffs is growing week by week: An attorney who submitted the suit that includes Rypien and more than 120 others, Craig Mitnick, said that he was filing yet another complaint Friday, adding about 70 plaintiffs to the total.
Among the new plaintiffs: Golden

The lawsuits began in the wake of a growing body of scientific evidence connecting repeated blows to the head and long-term brain damage

Richards, who scored a touchdown in the Dallas Cowboys’ 1978 Super Bowl victory over the Denver Broncos; A.J. Duhe, the 1977 AP NFL Defensive Rookie of the Year, probably best known for his three interceptions for the Miami Dolphins against the New York Jets in an AFC championship game; Curt Warner, who ran for more than 6,000 yards after being taken by the Seattle Seahawks with the No. 3 overall pick in the 1983 draft out of Penn State; and Rypien’s Redskins team-

mate Chip Lohmiller, the second-team All-Pro placekicker in 1991. Mitnick also has been retained by other former players who have authorized him to put their names on future filings.
There is strength - and symbolism - in the continually rising numbers of former players taking the NFL to court, they believe.