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Volume 75, No. 135 ©SS 2016 **FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2016**

平成28年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く) 発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目2番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

'NO MORE AMERICAN INTERFERENCE'

Philippine president declares split of military, economic ties with US

By **ANDREO CALONZO**
Bloomberg

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said he wants to break away from the U.S. and shift toward China and Russia, his strongest comments yet signaling a split with his nation's biggest military ally.

"In this venue, I announce my separation from the U.S.," Duterte said in Beijing on Thursday after meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping. Duterte also said he might go to Russian President Vladimir Putin and tell him "there's three of us against the world."

The announcement came in front of a packed room of Filipino and Chinese business leaders. The tough-talking 71-year-old leader has repeatedly questioned his nation's alliance with the U.S. while touting the economic benefits of friendlier ties with Beijing.

Earlier, China announced a resumption of bilateral talks

'No more American interference. No more American exercises. I will not go to America anymore [for assistance].'

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

on disputed territory in the South China Sea, an issue that had previously pushed the Philippines closer to America.

Chinese Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs Liu Zhenmin told reporters that the two leaders had agreed to return to a "track of dialogue" over the South China Sea in what is a "new stage of maritime cooperation."

"China has been a friend of the Philippines and the roots of our bonds are very deep and not easily severed," Duterte said in a speech at the Great Hall of the People after meeting Xi for 30 minutes. "Even as we arrived in Beijing close to winter, this is a springtime of our relationship," he said.

Duterte said he was mulling plans to require U.S. visitors to the Philippines to obtain a visa.

Officials from both countries signed 13 pacts on areas including trade, investment, tourism, narcotics and maritime cooperation at the summit meeting.

SEE INTERFERENCE ON PAGE 4

GI killed by IED in Iraq

By **TRAVIS J. TRITTEN**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—A U.S. servicemember died Thursday after being wounded by an improvised explosive device in northern Iraq, according to a statement by the military's Combined Joint Task Force Inherent Resolve.

The command did not identify the servicemember or immediately provide any additional information about the death, which coincides with a joint U.S. operation to retake the city of Mosul from the Islamic State group. As many as 200 special operators were embedded with Iraqi and Kurdish units this week moving to the front lines of the battle, the Pentagon has said.

A total of about 4,800 troops are in Iraq assisting in the mission to liberate Mosul and its roughly 1 million inhabitants.

The death announcement comes a day after two Americans — one a U.S. servicemember — were killed in Afghanistan in an apparent insider attack.

Earlier this week, the Pentagon said the embedded U.S. forces in northern Iraq were advancing to the last secure areas on the outskirts of Mosul as Iraqi and Kurdish forces wage a long-awaited offensive that could continue for weeks or months.

Iraq has about 18,000 troops moving on the city and the Kurdish peshmerga forces number about 10,000, according to Pentagon estimates.

Many U.S. troops were providing air support including nighttime raids by Apache helicopters, artillery bombardment, intelligence and forward air controllers who relay target information from Iraqi forces, according to the joint task force.

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INSIDE

Mosul operation shows the elasticity of military support endeavors

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Philippine President **Rodrigo Duterte** in Beijing on Thursday.

By **HAN GUAN/AP**

QUOTE

OF THE DAY

"This one smells like a dog. I hate them. Anyone I catch, I'll drink his blood, even if it's a child."

— Gasim Mohammed, of al-Hud, Iraq, as he kicked the head of the body of an Islamic State fighter who had been slain when residents rose up against the militants as Iraqi forces advanced in their operation to retake Mosul

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY DAN STOUTAMIRE/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Justin May, with 2nd Military Intelligence Battalion, 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, lies in the starting position Tuesday before the 110-meter shuttle sprint event of the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency testing at Clay Kaserne in Wiesbaden, Germany. May earned a gold badge, meaning he met the highest standard in all six events of the testing.

USAREUR soldiers vie for German badges for military proficiency

BY DAN STOUTAMIRE
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — Fifteen soldiers from the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade earned the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency after participating for three days in a battery of events designed to test their physical and mental strength as well as their marksmanship.

Depending on their performance, soldiers earned bronze-, silver- or gold-level badges. During this week's competition, two earned bronze, nine won silver and four won gold.

German Army Sgt. Maj. Juergen Schulz, of the Landeskommmando Bayern, which provided four officers and noncommissioned officers to assist with supervision and evaluation during the event, said he has been conducting the qualification for the badge for about 10 years. It's a good way to build unity between the two armies, he said.

"This brings people together from our different armies and lets us see what our strengths and weaknesses are and how we can help each other, to learn to trust each other," he said following the award ceremony Thursday.

The first of the three days focused entirely on physical fitness: a 110-meter shuttle run, broken up into 11 10-meter sprints; a flexed-arm hang during which participants had to keep their heads above a pull-up bar for a set period of time; and a 1,000-meter run.

"I thought that the (event) that hurt the most was the sprints. I'm not sure why since it wasn't very far, but it was a lot of back and forth," said Spc. Andrew Curtis, who earned a gold badge. "I took a while to recover for the other events, but I never had any doubt that I could perform at a high level and get gold in every event."

The second day of competition was a mix of physical and technical testing, with soldiers first asked to swim 100 meters in their uniforms



German Army Sgt. Maj. Juergen Schulz, left, of the Landeskommmando Bayern, pins the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency onto the uniform of Capt. Douglas Hutton, of the 66th Military Intelligence Brigade, on Thursday at Clay Kaserne.

in less than four minutes and then, a couple of hours later, hit at least three of five targets in a pistol challenge. The swimming event was a challenge, with four of the original 19 participants unable to finish.

"The toughest part was mind over matter, trying to figure out where you're at in the pool to keep going," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Dec, who earned a silver badge. "I would say three-quarters of the way in, you start to get gassed, and you're starting to get water in your mouth."

Finally, on Thursday, the 15 remaining soldiers had to complete a 745 mile ruck march with at least a 33-pound pack in under two hours.

The soldiers may wear the badges on their dress uniforms for the duration of their military careers.

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Armored unit heads to S. Korea

BY ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The Army announced Wednesday that a brigade of Fort Riley soldiers began a nine-month deployment to South Korea as officials from that country met with their U.S. counterparts in Washington over growing tensions with North Korea.

The 1st Armored Brigade, 1st Infantry Division at the Kansas base will send 3,500 soldiers to replace a brigade from the 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood in Texas, according to an Army news release.

Many of the soldiers are already in South Korea, with the rest to arrive in the coming days and weeks, Lt. Col. Kimeisha McCullum, a 1st Infantry Division spokeswoman, said Wednesday.

The regular nine-month rotation announcement comes as Defense Secretary Ash Carter and State Secretary John Kerry met their South Korean counterparts in Washington this week for annual defense talks and to discuss the looming threat of North Korean aggression.

A missile launch by North Korea on Saturday ended in failure as a Musudan rocket, capable of delivering a nuclear warhead, exploded after takeoff. That type of missile has the capability of reaching the U.S. territory of Guam.

"We strongly condemn this and North Korea's other recent missile tests, which violate U.N. Security Council Resolutions explicitly prohibiting North Korea's launches using ballistic missile technology," Navy Cmdr. Gary Ross, a Pentagon spokesman, said after the launch was announced.

"Our commitment to the defense of our allies, including the Republic of Korea and Japan, in the face of these threats is ironclad. We remain prepared to defend ourselves and our allies from any attack or provocation," he added.

Talks on Thursday between the United States and South Korea are expected to include plans on deploying THAAD anti-ballistic missiles to South Korea, Stars and Stripes reports Wednesday.

The rotational nine-month deployments to South Korea are designed to maintain U.S. troops there as budget cuts make it more difficult to keep units abroad. The U.S. troops will partner with South Korean military units for armed exercises and training, McCullum said.

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PACIFIC

Report cites risks to US, Australia of 'Chinese wedge'

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

One of the top risks to the U.S.-Australia alliance is an emerging "Chinese wedge," in which Canberra would be forced to juggle its economic ties with China and its defense bond with America, potentially undermining its foreign policy, according to an Australian think tank report.

"Against Complacency: Risks and Opportunities for the Australia-US Alliance," issued this week by the United States Centre in Sydney, advocates a dozen measures to strengthen the alliance.

Among the military-related recommendations are homeporting Navy vessels in Australia, expanding amphibious exercises, boosting cooperation in space and energizing Australia-Japan and U.S.-New Zealand ties.

Australia has been boosting its military strength and regional involvement and tightening its "web" of security ties with America and regional partners, says the report authored by Richard Fontaine, director of the Center for New American Security. Fontaine spent four months in Australia this year as the inaugural fellow for the Alliance 21 Fellowship, which was launched by the U.S. government.

The country shares America's commitment to a rules-based order that has benefited the two allies.

"The result is that Australia may today figure more prominently in the thinking of American policymakers than at any time since the Second World War," the report said. "The Australia-US alliance is deeper, closer and healthier than ever before, and it is newly relevant to the region in which both countries discern their most vital future."

But that shouldn't lead to complacency, the report contends, particularly with China, the rising superpower in the Pacific.

Australia's economic ties to

China are stark. A third of its exports go to China, a higher percentage than any other G-20 country, and China buys half of its exported iron ore from the country, the report said. Chinese investment and tourism in Australia are on the rise, which includes about 50,000 Chinese students studying there under the so-called "education export."

Complicating the relationship is China's routine "punishment" of perceived offenses by trading partners through economic penalties.

The report considers three scenarios in which a China wedge might emerge in U.S.-Australia ties.

The first has Australia acting in concert with American goals to limit growth in Beijing. That wedge is already materializing over China's claims to a vast swath of the South China Sea.

Canberra has called on China to abide by this year's decision from the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague that determined China's claims of sovereignty in the sea were not valid.

A Chinese foreign policy spokesman said China was "shocked" by Australia's "wrong remarks." China's state-operated Global Times newspaper warned that if Australia joined the U.S. in freedom-of-navigation patrols in the sea, Australia "will be an ideal target for China to warn and strike."

China also has criticized Australia's warm reception to the Pentagon's interest in rotating new bombers and tankers through the country's air bases, which already have hosted nuclear-capable B-2 and B-52 bombers, the report said.

A second scenario could arise from policy or operational disagreements between America and Australia. For example, Washington was displeased with Canberra's decision to grant a Chinese company a 99-year lease to the port of Darwin, near the site through which U.S. Marines have been rotating.



YURI RAMSEY/Courtesy of the Royal Australian Navy

A Navy landing craft, air cushion from amphibious transport dock the USS San Diego enters the well deck of Australia's HMAS Canberra off the coast of Hawaii during Rim of the Pacific drills in July. A new report suggests that expanding amphibious exercises between America and Australia is one of several ways to strengthen the alliance and to enhance the U.S. policy of rebalancing to the Pacific.

Repercussions from a greater issue, such as the possibility of one day imposing economic sanctions against China for its actions in the South China Sea, could "split" the allies "in damaging ways," the report said.

A third possible wedge could arise if an actual armed conflict arose between America and China.

"In this, Australia would be required to choose sides," the report said. "If Washington at that point called on Australian support, whether maritime or even intelligence in nature, Canberra would face an unavoidable choice between the United States and China."

The next presidential administration should build on the already firm foundation of the U.S.-Australia military alliance, the report recommended.

"First, the two countries should move forward from the several years of discussions about expanded access for Navy vessels in Australia and actually start doing so."

The Royal Australian Navy's primary base, HMAS Stirling, near Perth, "offers direct access to the Indian Ocean, an extensive offshore exercise area, submarine facilities and docking for surface vessels," the report said.

"Basing US vessels at Stirling would require significant investments, but the two governments

should be ambitious in examining the possibilities, including planning for forward basing an aircraft carrier strike group in Perth," the report said. "With the US Navy currently porting its Seventh Fleet in Japan, a second carrier strike group required in the region would likely come from the west coast of the US — and consume precious days in steaming there."

Expanding amphibious exercises "can represent a meaningful contribution to the regional stability on which Australia's security and economic interests depend," the report said.

Australia is in the process of acquiring new amphibious capabilities that will enable the Australian army to conduct "full spectrum, expeditionary operations," procurement that is parallel with Japan's development of its own capabilities, the report said.

"The three nations should step up trilateral amphibious exercises to ensure smooth integration."

The U.S. at one time had seven separate deep-space tracking stations in Australia; it now has only one. "The two governments should take a fresh look at bilateral ways to develop new commercial space opportunities and scientific expertise in both countries," the report said.

Despite an announcement by Australia and Japan in 2014 of a "special strategic partnership,"

Tokyo was stunned when its Australian partner chose to buy submarines from France instead of Japan.

The report suggests that Washington can play the role of "marriage counselor" by encouraging both nations to maintain forward momentum, despite the submarine setback.

With its own special relationship with Australia, New Zealand is growing more confident in its international role, with "a military engaged in operations as far afield as the Gulf of Aden and [East Timor]," the report said.

At the same time, a 30-year rift between the U.S. and New Zealand is coming to an end with the visit of a Navy warship there in November.

A 1984 New Zealand law banned warships carrying nuclear weapons from visiting the country, and because the Navy does not publicly announce specific weaponry, all of its warships essentially were barred entry. The U.S. declared a reciprocal ban on New Zealand warships, which was lifted in 2014.

"Banishing the anachronistic nuclear divide is the first step in an enhanced US-New Zealand partnership in which Australia could play a key role," the report said.

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Military parade will wrap up Stryker brigade's training in Japan

By LEON COOK
Stars and Stripes

Eighty carriers and eight armored personnel carriers from Japan's Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., will join a Tokyo military parade next week after wrapping up nearly two months of training with their Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces counterparts.

Troops and vehicles from the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division took part in the allies' annual Orient Shield drills near Osaka that involved 1,600 U.S. and Japanese personnel before traveling earlier this month to Marine

Corps base Camp Fuji for more time in the field.

During Orient Shield, the Stryker soldiers fired mortars and machine guns during simulated attacks in armored personnel carriers and helicopters. The exercise, which began Aug. 29 as part of the Army's Pacific Pathways initiative, also involved about 600 soldiers from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The soldiers then moved to the expansive Fuji Maneuver Area near Tokyo to sharpen their squad- and platoon-level tactics

and battle drills.

"Working with the Japanese was a great experience, and we learned a lot about each other," said 1st Lt. Matthew Konieczny, a platoon leader with B Company, 4th Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. "It's great to come out here, just as a company, and focus on small-unit tactics without sweating the big details."

Details like housing and feeding the soldiers and fueling the Stryker infantry carrier vehicles and providing ammunition for both blank and live-fire exercises were handled by the roughly 200 Marines sta-

tioned at Camp Fuji.

"The Marines have been very helpful and made it much easier for us to focus on our battle drills," Konieczny said.

Soldiers and Marines also compared tactics, techniques and procedures for fighting in urban terrain.

Sunday's parade is part of Japan's Review of Self-Defense Forces at Asaka Training Area on the border of Tokyo and Saitama prefectures. The review will also feature aerial displays of U.S. and Japanese aircraft.

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PACIFIC

US joins allies in exercise aimed at weapons shipping

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The United States, Japan and South Korea will practice detecting and stopping ships carrying weapons of mass destruction during a sea exercise this weekend.

The trilateral exercise comes in light of North Korea's continued work on its nuclear weapons and missile program. South Korean defense officials told reporters in Seoul on Thursday.

The maritime interdiction operation will be held Saturday and Sunday in international waters south of South Korea's Jeju Island, Yonhap News reported.

The sea services also will conduct search-and-rescue exercises aimed at rescuing personnel on disabled ships, the report said.

The Navy is sending the Yokosuka-based destroyer USS McCampbell, the replenishment oiler USNS Tippecanoe, a patrol aircraft and a helicopter, according to Yonhap.

Japan is sending the destroyer Ariake and multiple helicopters, while the destroyer Yulgok YiYi will represent South Korea, according to the report.

Officials at the 7th Fleet in Japan on Thursday referred all questions on the exercise to the Defense Department in Washington, where no one was immediately available for comment.

Although relations have been strained between South Korea and Japan in recent years, the U.S. and its two northeast Asia allies have agreed to share intelligence regarding North Korea.

On Oct. 14, senior military officials from Japan and South Korea

met with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Joseph Dunford and regional commanders at the Pentagon.

"They called on North Korea to "refrain from irresponsible provocations that aggravate regional tensions, and to instead focus on fulfilling its international obligations and commitments," according to a Pentagon statement.

Two days later, U.S. officials said they detected what they suspected was a failed Musudan intermediate-range rocket launch near Kusong, North Korea.

The South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff called the launch an "illegal act of provocation" in a statement Sunday. United Nations Security Council resolutions bar North Korea from continuing work on its nuclear program.

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ANGELIQUE PEREZ/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Japanese fighter jets fly in an undated photo. The frequency of Japan scrambling jets to check foreign aircraft is continuing to rise, according to new statistics from the country's Ministry of Defense.

Chinese, Russian aircraft spur scrambles by Japan

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japan is increasingly scrambling jets to check foreign aircraft as China tests its neighbor and Russia increases its presence in the Pacific.

While statistics on Japan Air Self-Defense Force interceptions for June to October show no air-space intrusions, there was an 11 percent increase from 281 in the previous three months, including a 4 percent rise in responses to near-approaches by Chinese fighters and a 30 percent increase in responses to Russian bombers.

The 594 sorties for April to October was a 73 percent increase from 343 in the same period last year. The 2016 figure included 407 sorties in response to Chinese fighters, an increase of 176 from the same period last year, which had been the highest number since 2001.

There also were 180 sorties in response to Russian bombers in April-October, an increase of 72 from a year earlier.

Both the Defense Ministry and the JASDF declined to comment on the figures, although officials repeatedly have criticized Chinese expansion in the region. They also declined to comment on how Japan's airspace is set up, as it is not uniform surrounding Japanese territory.

Included in the statistics were sorties last month to intercept eight Chinese military aircraft flying between Okinawa's main island and Miyako Island.

Japanese officials spoke out against China's comments last month that it would continue to patrol an Air Defense Identification Zone that includes portions of the East China Sea's high seas and

airspace over the resource-rich Senkaku island chain, claimed by both Japan and China.

There also have been 30 Chinese incursions at sea so far this year.

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Interference: US concerned about policies

FROM FRONT PAGE

Pacts on transport infrastructure, financing from Export-Import Bank were among those forged as China committed to support infrastructure development in the Philippines.

"At a certain point, if Duterte wants to reap the economic benefits from his visit to China he will need to pay the piper," said Malcolm Davis, a senior analyst at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute in Canberra.

Before his meeting with Xi, Duterte told hundreds of Filipinos in Beijing that "it's time to say goodbye" to the U.S.

"Foreign policy veers now towards" China, Duterte said on Wednesday night. "No more American interference. No more American exercises," he told a cheering crowd. "I will not go to America anymore" for assistance, he said. "We will just be insulted there."

The U.S. has been the Philippines' closest ally since independence in 1946, and the nations are linked by formal defense treaties. Members of Duterte's Cabinet have repeatedly tried to tone down his more inflammatory remarks — such as telling President Barack Obama to "go to hell" — and stress that a more independent foreign policy doesn't mean severing ties with the U.S.

Duterte himself told reporters Wednesday that his trip wouldn't lead to a military alliance with China or joint energy exploration in disputed seas. The plight of Filipino fishermen seeking to resume activity in the Scarborough Shoal, which China effectively took control of in 2012, will be mentioned "in passing" to Xi, Duterte said.

The U.S. has expressed con-



NG HAN GUAN/AP

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, center, walks with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a welcome ceremony outside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, China, on Thursday.

cern about Duterte's policies. Philip Goldberg, the U.S. envoy in Manila, said Wednesday that the Philippines' efforts to improve ties with China "shouldn't be a zero-sum game."

Duterte has lashed out at the U.S., the United Nations and the European Union for criticizing his drug war over alleged human-rights abuses. According to police data, more than 3,000 suspects have been killed after the policy took effect.

By contrast, the Philippine leader called China "very kind" for funding a drug rehabilitation center.

Hu Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry, said Wednesday that Beijing "appreci-

ates President Duterte's efforts to crack down on drug crimes and improve social security with the fundamental interests and well-being of his country and people in mind."

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EUROPE

606th ACS families welcome airmen home

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

SPANGDAHLEM AIR BASE, Germany — October is shaping up to be a month of reunions here, following the end of a pair of six-month combat deployments in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and other downrange missions.

A cold, dreary Thursday morning couldn't dampen the giddy spirits of the families who welcomed home more than 160 airmen from the 606th Air Control Squadron.

Among the crowd holding American flags and glittery signs while waiting inside the squadron building for the busloads of airmen to arrive from the base terminal was Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Solomon, a datalinks technician with the squadron.

She carried the reason for sitting out this deployment in her arms: Baby Fredrick, 3 months old.

Tech. Sgt. Brian Solomon, a radar operator, was about to meet the couple's sixth boy for the first time.

"It's huge," Tiffany Solomon said of the moment. "We haven't told the other kids yet. I just want him to have a few moments with the new one and then we'll add the family."

The couple's oldest, a high school sophomore, almost foiled the surprise.

"I was going to be in a dress," Tiffany Solomon said. "He asked questions this morning. I said, 'Oh, no, I'm just trying it on for when dad comes.' So I put my uniform back on."



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Tech. Sgt. Brian Solomon meets his new son for the first time with his wife, Tech. Sgt. Tiffany Solomon, at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, on Thursday after finishing a six-month deployment to Southwest Asia.

Thursday's reunion was held about a week after hundreds of Spangdahlem families celebrated another milestone — the return of the 480th Fighter Squadron after its first deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.

About 300 airmen deployed to Southwest Asia for six months in flight, maintenance and support roles for the squadron's F-16 fighter jets, base officials said.

The bulk of the airmen who returned Thursday worked from hubs at Al Dhara

Air Base in the United Arab Emirates and Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar, providing command and control to U.S. and coalition aircraft involved in three missions: the fight against the Islamic State group, operations in Afghanistan and the defense of the Persian Gulf. Other airmen with the squadron were spread out at satellite forward operating locations in the region.

"It was extremely, extremely unique because of the circumstances surrounding the AOR right now," said Lt. Col. Jason Zemler, the squadron's director of operations.

"A lot of interaction with Russian aircraft, a lot of interaction with coalition aircraft, a lot of interaction with players that you would traditionally not have interaction with, which was a challenge," he said. "The guys did absolutely awesome with it."

Downrange, the airmen were part of the 727th Expeditionary Air Control Squadron, known simply by the call sign "Kingpin." They supported 175 operators in 941,000 square miles of air space from Syria to Afghanistan while controlling 38,000 sorties, Zemler said.

If the mission could be likened to a football game, the squadron was the quarterback, Zemler said.

The receivers might "drop a bomb, refuel some assets or simply do some intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance," he said. "We're the ones who tell them where to go and manage them once they get there."

Spouses such as Cari Lara left behind to manage the home front had to manage

their own juggling acts.

A week after her husband, Maj. Ricardo Lara, an air battle manager with the ACS, had deployed, Lara found out that she was pregnant. She waited for him Thursday with an oversized belly and the couple's two toddlers.

"Oh my gosh, I'm a hot mess," she said. "I'm almost eight months pregnant, trying not to cry; my kids are running around like crazy."

For the Laras and other squadron families, there won't be much time for rest and relaxation.

Over the next several months, the squadron will complete its move to Aviano Air Base, Italy, where it will take over the facilities that were vacated by the 603rd ACS in August 2013 when it was inactivated.

The 606th's transfer to Aviano is one of the first moves of the European Infrastructure Consolidation Plan, part of a sweeping reorganization of U.S. forces on the Continent. The 606th's relocation will make room for the 352nd Special Operations Wing, slated to move to Spangdahlem from RAF Mildenhall in Britain, in the coming years.

The squadron will be out of Germany by the end of February, said Maj. Carol Kale, the 606th ACS Detachment One commander.

"That's when 'we close out the lights and nothing belongs to us anymore,'" she said.

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MILITARY

Arresting system passes key test

'Fly-in' trial conducted for advanced gear for carrier USS Gerald R. Ford

By HUGH LESSIG

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

A critical system on the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford that has symbolized the ship's struggles has taken "a big step forward," the Navy has reported.

The advanced arresting gear, designed to safely land aircraft on the flight deck, recently recovered a "fly-in" of an F/A-18E Super Hornet at a land-based site in New Jersey.

Prior to that, the Navy had trapped more than 200 aircraft in a "roll-in" type of land-based test.

"This milestone test event demonstrates AAG's capability and signifies a big step forward in getting the system ready for duty on board the Navy's newest aircraft carrier," said Capt. Stephen Tedford, program manager for aircraft launch and recovery equipment.

Built by General Atomics, the advanced arresting gear combines energy-absorbing water turbines and an induction motor to bring aircraft to a controlled stop.

It is currently installed on the Ford, which continues to undergo testing at Newport News Shipbuilding.

Naval Air Systems Command completed more than 1,300 "traps" using dead loads before switching to manned aircraft. The tests are being conducted at sites in Lakehurst, N.J.

The arresting system recognizes roll-in and fly-in landings as essentially the same, but the different approaches allow the Navy to test variable conditions the system will face, according to NAVAIR.

The Oct. 13 fly-in was deemed successful because it allowed the test team to gather data at 12 different points, said NAVAIR spokesman Michael Land.

Additional fly-in tests will not be needed, he said.

However, the Navy will continue to conduct roll-in tests with aircraft as well as dead-load tests.

Eventually, NAVAIR will issue what's called an aircraft recovery bulletin for the Super Hornet.

It instructs the crew on how to use the advanced arresting gear for a specific type of aircraft.

NAVAIR plans to issue a limited aircraft recovery bulletin so the Ford can test the arresting gear with manned aircraft on its flight deck.

That timetable hasn't been announced.

Besides the new arresting gear, several key systems on Ford have proved troublesome. The ship is well behind its intended delivery of September 2015, and the Navy hasn't specified when the \$12.9 billion warship will join the fleet.

Top Navy officials have attributed the delays to a decision made more than a decade ago to pack several new, untested technologies on the Ford, the first of a new carrier class, instead of gradually introducing new components over several ships.

Frank Kendall, a Defense Department undersecretary and lead weapons buyer, recently kicked off a review of the Ford carrier program, and arresting gear is among his top concerns.

The Navy has acknowledged those problems and is reviewing whether to install gear on the next Ford-class carrier, the John F. Kennedy.

The drumbeat of negative reports on the gear dates back almost two years.

In November 2014, the Government Accountability Office noted failures in land-based testing that led to further work and redesign.

In March 2015, a Naval Sea Systems Command officer said AAG was about two years behind schedule.

In October of that year, a Pentagon official told Congress that AAG testing had not yet accumulated meaningful data, yet it was already installed on the Ford.

In July 2016, the Defense Department inspector general said the program had recorded a 332 percent cost increase through research, development, testing and evaluation. It represented an overrun of \$371.5 million from 2005 baseline numbers.

In August, Kendall announced his intent to review the overall program.

Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who visited the Newport News shipyard last week, gave an upbeat assessment of the challenges that face Ford, although he declined to predict when it would be delivered to the Navy.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

The USS Detroit, one of the Navy's newest warships, arrived in Detroit last week. About 1,000 people were able to get aboard Wednesday, the only day the ship was open for public tours.

USS Detroit a popular site in namesake city

By BILL LAITNER

Detroit Free Press

On the only day of public visits to the new USS Detroit docked in downtown Detroit, a crowd of almost reverentially polite visitors mobbed the wharf Wednesday, but many were turned away.

Nautical buffs and the merely curious found that even waiting for hours did not necessarily get them aboard.

Cmdr. Michael Desmond, commanding officer of the littoral combat ship, strolled among those waiting at the river's edge,

greeting people, smiling for selfie photo requests and thanking all for their interest in the newest pride of the U.S. Navy.

When Desmond shook hands with Josh Riesenberger, 9, the boy's father immediately issued an order. "Thank him for his service," urged Glenn Riesenberger.

An estimated 1,000 fans got on deck to take 15-minute tours but many others waited in vain.

"Frankly, we could've had several days of this and still not gotten to everyone. But hey — it's a small ship and there's tremendous interest," said Gordon Cole

of Livonia, a retired Navy captain, and spokesman for the USS Detroit's visit.

The ship is 389 feet long, roughly half the size of its 796-foot namesake that was scrapped in 2005.

Just ogling this gleaming craft from a parking deck was enough for one family. Janie Smith, 96, of Detroit ducked the crowds by standing with her two daughters and a granddaughter on the fourth floor of a parking deck next to the Renaissance Center.

"I'm so excited to see it," Smith said.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

UN data: More children victims of Afghan War

By RAHIM FAIEZ
Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — The number of children killed and wounded in Afghanistan's conflict increased in the first nine months of 2016, compared with the same period last year, the U.N. mission said in a new report released Wednesday.

The U.N.'s Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said it has documented a total of 2,461 casualties among children in 2016 — 639 deaths and 1,822 wounded. That's a 15 percent increase, compared with the January-September period in 2015.

The mission stressed that it remains deeply concerned over the continuing increase in child casualties, which have risen every year since 2013.

Between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, UNAMA documented 8,397 conflict-related civilian casualties, with 2,562 deaths and 5,835 wounded. That represents a 1 percent decrease, compared with the same period in 2015, said the mission.

Again, ground engagements remained the leading cause of civilian casualties, followed by suicide bombings and other complex attacks, including use of improvised explosive devices.

"Increased fighting in densely populated areas makes it imperative for parties to take immediate steps to ensure all feasible precautions are being taken to spare

civilians from harm," the report quoted Tadamichi Yamamoto, the U.N. chief's special representative for Afghanistan, as saying.

The report also attributed the majority of the deaths to anti-government elements, saying the Taliban and other insurgents caused 61 percent of civilian casualties while pro-government forces caused 23 percent in the same nine months of 2016. Again, the report found that most of the dead and wounded civilians were caught in crossfire.

The U.N. report also documented numerous conflict-related incidents targeting health care and educational facilities, as well as those providing humanitarian aid.

Since Jan. 1, UNAMA documented 75 incidents of attacks targeting schools and education facilities, including targeted killings, abductions and threats against teaching staff.

The report also noted the Aug. 24 attack on the American University in Kabul, when militants stormed the sprawling campus grounds on the western outskirts of the Afghan capital, killing 13 civilians, mostly students, and wounding 48 others.

The UNAMA report on the Afghan civilian casualties, which is released quarterly, is based on on-site investigations wherever possible.

450 Md., Va. Guardsmen mobilized for Mideast duty

By ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — More than 450 soldiers of the Virginia and Maryland National Guard are slated for a deployment to the Middle East, Guard officials said Wednesday.

Soldiers from both states, which make up the famed 29th Infantry Division, will provide mission command for 18,000 troops of Operation Spartan Shield and theater security cooperation in the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, the division said in a news release. That area includes North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia, where U.S. troops are engaged in everything from drone strikes in Yemen to a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan and ramped-up operations during the battle for Mosul in a bid to oust the Islamic State group from its stronghold in Iraq.

The deployment will mark the largest number of troops that the division has led since World War II, the news release stated.

"This is an historic deployment and tremendous opportunity for the 29th Infantry Division as we take on mission command of forces in the Central Command area of operations," said Brig. Gen. Blake Ortner, commander of the 29th Infantry Division.

The Fort Belvoir, Va.-based

soldiers will train in Texas after their Oct. 30 departure ceremony and then will move on to the Middle East, the news release stated.

National Guard soldiers are taking on a more active role in theater support command. Soldiers from the headquarters staff of the Texas-based 36th Infantry Division are deployed now to

Afghanistan.

The 29th Infantry Division is notable for its service in World War I, and then later in World War II, when its soldiers were among the first wave to take Omaha Beach during the Normandy amphibious assault in 1944.

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Elite Iraqi unit joins Mosul fight

By LOVEDAY MORRIS
and KAREEM FAHIM

The Washington Post

SHEIKH AMIR, Iraq — Iraq's elite counterterrorism unit joined the battle to recapture Mosul from the Islamic State group for the first time on Thursday as Iraqi army forces and Kurdish soldiers attacked the militants' positions outside the city on several fronts.

Commanders said the counterterrorism force, which has received training and support from the United States, was besieging the town of Bartala, about 6 miles east of Mosul. Half a dozen Humvees from the unit were prepared to enter as Iraqi forces pounded Bartala with artillery.

The involvement of the counterterrorism unit came as Kurdish soldiers, known as peshmerga, opened a new front against the Islamic State group from the north of the city — the Islamic State group's last stronghold in Iraq.

Thursday marked the second major wave since Iraq embarked on a large-scale operation to cap-

ture the city earlier this week. Over the last two days, the Kurdish and Iraqi forces have captured a string of villages south and east of Mosul, closing to within a dozen miles of the city.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced to Western diplomats in a video call to Paris that forces were moving "more quickly than planned" toward Mosul.

For the Islamic State group, losing Mosul would likely break the back of its self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq.

Efforts to wrest Iraq's second-largest city from the militants' control have been stymied by concerns for the safety of more than 1 million civilians in the city, as well as squabbles over which of Iraq's fighting forces would participate.

Tens of thousands of soldiers are participating in the operation, which is backed by U.S. air support. Islamic State fighters are vastly outnumbered but have countered the attacking force with suicide car bombs, improvised explosive devices and mor-



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

A member of Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces pauses during the advance toward Mosul, Iraq, on Thursday. The Counter Terrorism Service is expected to lead the charge in Mosul.

tar fire.

The battle for Mosul is the most complex fight in the conflict to push Islamic State militants out of Iraq, involving not just Iraqi army forces, but also Sunni tribal units, Shiite militias and Kurdish forces.

Islamic State fighters overran the city in 2014, and it has since become the center of their opera-

tions in the country.

As Kurdish and Iraqi forces have pushed into the network of villages surrounding Mosul, they have found them heavily defended and boobytrapped.

Iraq's counterterrorism troops are among the most celebrated and effective units in the military. They led assaults on Ramadi and Fallujah earlier this year.

Town outside Mosul rises up against Islamic State

By BRAM JANSSEN

Associated Press

AL-HUD, Iraq — The mutilated bodies of Islamic State group fighters were still strewn on the ground of this northern Iraqi town on Wednesday. One was burned. Another's face was flattened by abuse.

Iraqi troops on the march toward Mosul moved into al-Hud a day earlier and declared it liberated. But they found residents had risen up and killed many of the militants in the town themselves.

With the offensive to recapture Mosul in its third day, Iraqi forces advancing from the south and east are trying to retake the towns and villages that dot the plains and line the Tigris River leading to the city. At times, they've met fierce resistance, with the militants sending explosives-packed vehicles careening toward the troops' positions.

In al-Hud, a Sunni Arab town on the Tigris, residents say their chance to get rid of them. On Monday, a man paraded through town with an Iraqi flag in a show of defiance, residents told The Associated Press. Islamic State fighters shot and killed him.

A group of residents gathered in a shop, news spread among the hundreds of people living in the town, and soon a crowd turned on the militants.

One resident, Ahmed Mohammed, said he and others shot a militant who was hiding by an outhouse behind a shop. "That didn't work. Then one of our guys came and threw a grenade on him from the top," he said.

Gasim Mohammed said his father was killed in the uprising against the militants. He kicked the head of one of the bodies. "This one smells like a dog," he said. "I hate his name. Anyone I catch, I'll drink his blood. Even if it's a child."

It was not clear how many militants had been in the village or how many were killed. The AP saw at least five bodies.

On Wednesday, residents were celebrating. Children ran toward an Iraqi military convoy waving peace signs while others threw stones at the bodies of the dead Islamic State fighters. Residents fired celebratory rounds into the air, and cars long the main road still flew white flags of surrender.

US troops to expand support for Iraqi forces

By MISSY RYAN

The Washington Post

As the operation to retake the Iraqi city of Mosul gets underway, American troops are poised to expand their hands-on support to local forces battling the Islamic State group. In a sign of the importance of the long-awaited offensive, military leaders are authorized to place U.S. forces advisers with Iraqi army battalions for the first time as they push toward militant lines, exposing U.S. forces to greater risks.

Military officials say the troops will remain back from the thick of combat and will limit their support to coordinating air and artillery fire, providing intelligence and helping plan troop movements. The new role will not, they insist, look like the years following the 2003 invasion of Iraq, when U.S. troops who operated nominally in support of local forces often did the bulk of the fighting themselves. This time, U.S. advisers are expected to be the front-line troops," Capt. Jeff Davis, a military spokesman, told reporters Tuesday.

Several days into the operation, Pentagon officials have provided only general information about where U.S. advisers will be located and how exactly they will take part in the hoped-for advance. While American troops have been widely seen alongside local forces in forward positions east of Mosul, Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook on Monday said only that U.S. forces are being positioned "on the outskirts of the city." He

said it was not yet clear whether U.S. forces would be permitted to enter the city proper.

Officials' reluctance to provide greater detail reflects a desire to protect U.S. advisers, attached to local units in small groups of about a dozen. It is part of an effort to keep the U.S. role in the background, as Iraqi leaders have ruled out a combat role for foreign forces and local military commanders seek to claim victory after past defeats.

But questions about the extent of U.S. activities in the unfolding ground operation also serve to highlight the elasticity of the American advisory role, which has been employed in a host of counterterrorism conflicts since 2001, such as joint planning at the Pentagon and in the field with U.S. troops fight alongside or even ahead of local forces.

David Maxwell, a former U.S. Army Special Forces colonel now at Georgetown University, said that U.S. advisers are grappling with the tension between nurturing local forces, who are often beset by systemic problems, and accomplishing the mission.

"One of the challenges we saw in Iraq and Afghanistan was that there was so much pressure to accomplish the mission that often U.S. partnered forces would take the lead," he said.

Sometimes, haziness about the U.S. advisory role is rooted in confusion about the terms military officials use to describe these activities, including "advise, assist and accompany," said

William Wechsler, who until last year served as deputy assistant defense secretary for special operations and counterterrorism.

"For the average person, advising sounds like something that is done from pretty far away, from time to time, with pretty limited responsibility," he said. "To the military, advising is something that you're doing on a day-to-day basis, shoulder to shoulder with your partners, and their success becomes your success."

Another element is that, while operational rules are established in Washington, decisions that shape the reality of what U.S. troops do are made by personnel in the field. That could come into play in the Mosul operation when advisers, who in most cases are authorized to accompany local troops only up to where they can protect themselves, make decisions about where that point stands.

"While policy limits must be established up front, there has to be some degree of flexibility allowed to those in the field," said

Wechsler, who is now a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress. "At the end of the day it's a call for the people at the tactical level to determine what the last terrain feature might be."

Advisers must also respond to changing battlefield threats that alter the advisory role, sometimes with deadly results. Last year, a Delta Force soldier became the first combat casualty in the renewed U.S. campaign in Iraq while providing support to an Iraqi rescue operation. When the Kurdish fighters came under unexpected fire, U.S. forces tried to come to their aid, and the U.S. soldier was killed.

Unlike some past operations, U.S. advisers in Mosul, who now number a couple of hundred, are expected to remain in a secondary role. That's partly because of Iraqi wishes but also a strong U.S. desire to avoid casualties. It may also reflect confidence that Iraqi troops, with the help of U.S. advisers and air power, can get the job done.

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WAR/MILITARY

Turkey escalates campaign against Syrian Kurds

BY SARAH EL DEEB
AND SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Turkish jets and artillery struck U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters in northern Syria Thursday, and Turkey's state-run news agency said as many as 200 militiamen were killed, in a major escalation of Turkey's offensive in northern Syria.

A senior commander with the main Syria Kurdish militia confirmed that Turkish jets and artillery were still attacking his forces north of Aleppo, but disputed the casualty count, saying no more than 10 fighters had been killed so far.

Farther south, a humanitarian pause announced by Russia for the besieged rebel-held city of

Aleppo took effect, and the Syrian military, using loudspeakers, called on residents to evacuate and for gunmen to lay down their weapons. But there was no sign of residents leaving the bombed-out districts.

The bombardment was a major escalation by Turkey just as the offensive to recapture the city of Mosul from Islamic State militants in Iraq was intensifying. Iraqi Kurdish forces have carried the brunt of the fighting so far in the Mosul offensive. Turkish troops in Iraq have trained fighters involved in the Mosul offensive, which has been a source of tension with the Iraqi government in recent days.

Kurdish forces in Syria also have carried out most of the fighting against the Islamic State group

and have made significant territorial gains, including advances in the past few days against Islamic State militants in Aleppo province, much to Ankara's fury in recent months. Turkey, which is dealing with a homegrown Kurdish insurgency, has been trying to prevent an expansion of Kurdish influence in Syria.

Commander Mahmoud Barkhadan, of the People's Protection Units, told The Associated Press that Turkish tanks have been shelling the Kurdish-led forces in the area since early Wednesday. He said jets joined overnight and continue to pound his forces.

He said more than 30 aerial attacks had taken place so far and

that early reports suggest no more than 10 fighters were killed and 20 were wounded. There was no word on civilian casualties yet.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 11 Kurdish fighters were killed and four are missing following the air raids in northern Aleppo.



DEZ WADE, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, CROWN COPYRIGHT/AP

A Royal Navy lookout aboard the HMS Richmond on Tuesday observes the Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov, rear second right, and the Russian battleship Pyotr Velikiy, which are part of a Russian task group during its transit through the North Sea.

UK sends warships to watch Russian ships heading toward Syria

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Britain has deployed warships to monitor a Russian aircraft carrier group and other vessels Thursday as they sailed through the North Sea and the English Channel reportedly en route to Syria's coast.

The frigate HMS Richmond escorted the aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its task group in the Norwegian Sea north of the U.K. between Iceland and Norway. The destroyer HMS Duncan has sailed from Portsmouth to monitor the group as heads south toward the North Sea.

The Royal Navy regularly shadows ships, and is being supported in this instance by the Royal Air Force. But this Russian deployment is somewhat different, in that only a few countries have the capability to deploy such a force — an aircraft carrier and supporting warships.

"It's a clear and military signal

that Russia is back on the international stage," said Peter Roberts, a senior research fellow for sea power and maritime studies at the Royal United Services Institute.

The ships are sailing in international waters, so NATO forces such as those of Norway, the Netherlands and Britain will simply watch them go past without challenge.

The Russian navy deployment will increase its firepower in Syria, where it has conducted an air campaign in support of President Bashar Assad's army for more than a year. It comes amid an offensive by Assad's troops on Aleppo, backed by Russian warplanes, that has caused international outrage.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has urged her European Union partners to unite in condemning Russia's role in Syria and to bring an end to what she called Moscow's "sickening atrocities" there.



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Thursday, October 20	Vicenza	1600 – 1700	Vicenza Army Base, Vicenza Elementary School
Friday, October 21	Aviano	Civilians 1330 – 1430	Aviano Air Force Base, Base Theatre (Area F)
		Teachers 1500 – 1600	Aviano Air Force Base, Aviano Middle/High Media Center
Monday, October 24	Alconbury	1515 – 1615	Alconbury Middle School Library
Tuesday, October 25	Naples	Civilians 0900 – 1000	Naples Navy Base, CAPO Fellowship Hall
		Teachers 1445 – 1545	Naples Navy Base, Naples Elementary, Media Center
	Lakenheath	1600 – 1700	Lakenheath High School Library
Wednesday, October 26	London	0900 – 1200	U.S. Embassy Cafeteria Lobby
Tuesday, November 8	Frankfurt	Open Season 1000 – 1100	U.S. Consulate Auditorium (TBD)
		Medicare & FEHB 1400 – 1500	U.S. Consulate Auditorium (TBD)

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NATION

Candidates clash in final presidential debate

By Julie Pace and Lisa Lerer
Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Threatening a fundamental pillar of American democracy, Donald Trump refused to say Wednesday night that he will accept the results of next month's election if he loses to Hillary Clinton. The Democratic nominee declared Trump's resistance "horrifying."

Trump has spent the days leading up to the third and final presidential debate warning voters that the election will be "rigged." Asked whether he would accept the outcome if Clinton emerges victorious, he said, "I will tell you at the time. I'll keep you in suspense."

That contradicted pledges by his running mate, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, as well as his daughter, Ivanka Trump. Wednesday's contest quickly shifted from a calm, policy-focused faceoff into a bitter and deeply personal confrontation. Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman," while the Democrat panned him as "unfit" to be commander in chief.

Clinton, who began the debate with a lead in nearly all battleground states, forcefully accused Trump of favoring Russia's leader over American military and intelligence experts after the Republican nominee

pointedly refused to accept the U.S. government's assertion that Moscow has sought to meddle in the U.S. election.

She charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was backing Trump because "he'd rather have a puppet as president of the United States."

Trump denied any relationship with Putin and said he would condemn any foreign interference in the election. But he notably declined to back the intelligence community's assessment that Russia was involved in the hacking of Democratic organizations. The Clinton campaign has said the FBI also is investigating Russia's involvement in the hacking of a top adviser's emails.

The 90-minute contest in Las Vegas came just under three weeks before Election Day and with early voting underway in more than 30 states. Trump has struggled to expand his support beyond his most loyal backers and must reshape the race in its closing days if he hopes to defeat Clinton.

The candidates clashed repeatedly over their drastically different visions for the nation's future. Trump backed Supreme Court justices who would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling, while Clinton vowed to appoint justices who would uphold the decision legalizing abortion.

The businessman entered the final de-

bate facing a string of sexual assault accusations from women who came forward after he denied in the previous contest that he had kissed or groped women without their consent. That Trump denied followed the release of a video in which he's heard bragging about exactly that.

Trump denied the accusations anew Wednesday night, saying the women coming forward "either want fame or her campaign did it."

Clinton said Trump "thinks belittling women makes him bigger." She avoided answering a question about her husband's infidelities.

Trump pressed Clinton on immigration, accusing her of wanting an "open borders" policy, a characterization she vigorously disputes. The Republican, who has called for building a wall the length of the U.S.-Mexico border, said that under a Clinton presidency, "People are going to pour into our country."

Clashing on trade, Trump said Clinton had misrepresented her position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, noting that she had originally called it the "gold standard" of trade agreements. Clinton shot back that once the deal was finished, it didn't meet her standards. "I'll be against it when I'm president," she said.

On foreign policy, Clinton reasserted her opposition to sending a large-scale U.S. troop presence to the Middle East to defeat the Islamic State group. She's backed a no-fly zone in Syria, which would mark an expansion of the current U.S. strategy.

For Trump, the debate marked one of his final chances to reshape a race that appears to be slipping away from him. Clinton's campaign is confidently expanding into traditionally Republican states, while Trump's narrow electoral path is shrinking.

Clinton has struggled throughout the campaign to overcome persistent questions about her honesty and trustworthiness. In the campaign's closing weeks, she's begun appealing to Americans to overcome the deep divisions that have been exacerbated by the heated campaign, saying on stage Wednesday that she intended to be a president for those who vote for her and those who do not. Clinton faced debate questions for the first time about revelations in her top adviser's hacked emails that show her striking a different tone in private than in public regarding Wall Street banks and trade. She quickly turned the discussion to Russia's potential role in stealing the emails.

Underscoring the deep discord between the candidates, they did not shake hands at the beginning or end of the debate.

Many voters still on fence

By Jeff Baenen and Scott Sonner
Associated Press

RIVER FALLS, Wis. — As a tumultuous campaign nears an end, undecided voters across the country watched the final debate of the U.S. presidential race with a mix of skepticism and rapt attention Wednesday night.

They were searching for clarity, and some found it. But others remained painfully undecided just a few weeks before the election, saying neither candidate won them over.

"I heard a lot of the same rhetoric spewed over and over again," said Tamon Holter, 41, who makes barbecue sauces and marinades in western Wisconsin. "I know I need to make a decision. I just don't know how to get there."

Watching the start of the debate at Bo's N Mine bar and grill in River Falls, Holter took notes when Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump again did not shake hands.

"He's just like a little kid," he said when Trump began speaking.

Still, the GOP candidate did a better job than in the first two debates, taking charge while Clinton stumbled, Holter said.

"She's no longer acting presidential" when she's interrupting Trump, he said.

Overall, he said, nothing either



MARK RALSTON/AP



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton squared off for a third and final debate Wednesday at UNLV in Las Vegas.

candidate said swayed him.

Chadd Bunker, 50, a union truck driver in Sparks, Nev., who considers himself largely politically apathetic, said after the debate he's still not sure if he will end up voting, but he doesn't think he'll cast his ballot for Trump.

The longtime LA Dodgers fan kept an eye on his laptop streaming the National League championship against the Cubs while watching the debate in his living room with his wife, Karen, a staunch Democrat.

"I think Hillary kicked his butt. And that's my unbiased opinion, because I don't really care," said Bunker, an avid outdoorsman and gun owner. "She may be crooked. She may have done stuff, but she seems the most logical."

He doesn't think his life will change much regardless of who wins. He likes Trump's experience in the business world and believes Clinton would be better at handling foreign affairs.

"Neither one of them is going to come to my house and take my

guns," Bunker said. "I don't know if I decided one way or the other. But if I did have to vote, I would probably vote for Hillary Clinton. I would not vote for Trump," Bunker said.

Taylor Botwinis, of Clinton Township, Mich., is 26, but this will be the first time she casts a ballot in a presidential election.

Clinton is a no-go for the homeschooling mother of three. For Botwinis, the debate was an opportunity to hear more from Trump and decide whether to support the Republican or vote for a third-party candidate.

She filled a page with handwritten notes early in the debate but put down her pen when the discussion slid into finger-pointing over ethics, morals and fitness for office.

"The first four issues — Supreme Court, Second Amendment, abortion, immigration — I could side with Trump," she said. "Now they're nitpicking. They're just like kids."

Botwinis cringed when Trump called Clinton a "nasty woman." "Even if he's thinking that — have a filter," she said.

Botwinis said she'll likely vote for Trump because of his "stances, not his personality."

Alanna Conti, 25, a graphic designer from rural Sweet Valley, Pa., changed her party registration from independent to Democrat so she could vote for Bernie Sanders.

After he lost the primary, she thought about casting her ballot for Libertarian Gary Johnson or Green Party candidate Jill Stein. But Conti doesn't want to throw away her vote so she's considering backing Trump or Clinton, even though "I dislike both of them very much."

As she watched the debate at her home, Conti drew two columns on a pad — one labeled Clinton, the other Trump — and quietly took notes.

Afterward, Conti said Clinton won on policy, as Clinton's views on guns, college and abortion

more closely align with hers.

Conti said she'll probably vote for Clinton.

For Justin Harris, both candidates had their moments in the debate, but neither really stood out. The 43-year-old father of three said he had hoped to hear more about foreign policy and economic issues and was frustrated when the candidates instead used their time to launch personal attacks. He scoffed and laughed toward the end of the debate when Clinton and Trump were talking over one another.

"I felt like I was in eighth grade or something," said Harris, who watched the debate at Big Al's bar in suburban Richmond while the other patrons continued watching sports.

Harris said he didn't like how Trump interrupted the moderator. But he also said he didn't think Clinton did a good job of actually answering the questions.

Harris says that after Wednesday's debate, he's leaning toward Trump.

NATION



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Madeline Dahl watches as Zach Forcade pulls out his cellphone while cardiac patient Stephen DeMont sits with them Wednesday at the University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle.

App helps save Seattle heart patient

By GENE JOHNSON
Associated Press

SEATTLE — If your heart is going to stop, right outside a hospital is not a bad place for it.

And if 41 people within a 330-yard radius have a cellphone app alerting them to your distress, so much the better.

That's what happened in Seattle last week when Stephen DeMont collapsed at a bus stop in front of University of Washington Medical Center.

While a medical student rushed over and began chest compressions, a cardiac nurse just getting off her shift was alerted by her phone, sprinted outside and assisted until paramedics arrived.

Five days later, DeMont, 60, is walking, smiling and talking about how the PulsePoint app helped save his life.

Seattle officials say the rescue shows the potential the free download has for connecting CPR-trained citizens with patients who urgently need their help. It's being used in 2,000 U.S. cities in 28 states.

"I put it on my phone yester-

day," said DeMont's wife, Debi Quirk, a former registered nurse. "He would not be here as we see him today."

Seattle officials hope DeMont's story will help persuade thousands more people to sign up for notifications; so far, about 4,000 people in Seattle have downloaded PulsePoint since the city adopted it earlier this year with financial support from an employee charitable fund at Boeing. The goal is to have 15,000 using it.

Developed by a former fire chief in Northern California, Richard Price, the app works through a city's 911 system. When a call comes in, operators alert people within a certain radius that CPR assistance is needed, along with the location of the nearest portable defibrillator.

About 900,000 people around the country have downloaded and carry the app, and 34,000 people have been activated to respond, he said, adding that alerts have been issued in 13,000 cardiac events.

It's not clear how many lives have been saved thanks to the app. Patient confidentiality laws

often prevent hospitals from disclosing a patient's outcome.

Madeline Dahl, 23, a cardiac nurse at the University of Washington Medical Center, said she downloaded the app about a month ago after reading a news story that mentioned it. Last Friday morning was the first time she'd ever received an alert. She bolted down a couple of flights of stairs and ran outside into the rain, where she found medical student Zach Forcade, 27, performing chest compressions.

Forcade had been on his way into the hospital for a lecture when he saw DeMont, who was just getting off his bicycle, slump over.

"I hadn't responded to a cardiac arrest before," Forcade said. "I thought, 'Did he just fall?' ... Even being in the medical field, I thought, 'Oh, man, who's going to step up?'"

He told another passerby to call 911, which triggered an alert sent out to 41 responders nearby.

It was reassuring when Dahl arrived to provide any needed backup, helped check for a pulse and otherwise made sure Forcade was responding correctly, he said.

CDC expands Zika testing guidance for South Florida

By DANIEL CHANG
Miami Herald

MIAMI — Concerned that mosquitoes are spreading Zika throughout Miami-Dade County — and not just in the identified zones covering a section of Miami's Little River neighborhood and nearly all of Miami Beach — the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday strengthened its guidance for pregnant women and urged them to get tested for the virus if they have visited any part of the county since Aug. 1.

The federal health agency's warning stressed Zika testing for all pregnant women who have lived in, traveled to, or had unprotected sex with someone who lived in or traveled to any area of Miami-Dade since Aug. 1, or to any part of the 4.5-square-mile zone in Miami Beach since July 14.

The CDC also created two new categories for warning the public about geographic areas where Zika is spreading. Zones shaded in red indicate active transmission of the virus, and those in yellow urge caution because local spread has been identified but

might not be as intense.

An agency map updated Wednesday showed two sections of Miami-Dade in red — the zones in Little River and Miami Beach — and the entire county colored yellow.

"Zika continues to pose a threat to pregnant women living in or traveling to Miami-Dade County," Lyle Petersen, a physician and director of the CDC's Division of Vector-Borne Diseases, said in a written statement.

Benjamin Haynes, a CDC spokesman, said the agency updated its guidance after state officials last week identified a one-square-mile zone in Miami's Little River neighborhood where mosquitoes are spreading Zika — but also because of the growing number of local infections occurring outside the identified zones.

Benjamin Haynes, a CDC spokesman, said the agency updated its guidance after state officials last week identified a one-square-mile zone in Miami's Little River neighborhood where mosquitoes are spreading Zika — but also because of the growing number of local infections occurring outside the identified zones. He reported 1,044 Zika infections statewide this year, with 184 local infections and 855 travel-related cases, including 110 pregnant women. An additional five cases are labeled "undetermined" after health officials failed to identify the area of exposure.

Strike enters 2nd day at 14 Pa. state universities

Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Professors at 14 Pennsylvania state universities hit the picket lines Thursday as their strike entered its second day.

Members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties went on strike at Wednesday after contract negotiations with the state stalled. The union represents more than 5,000 faculty and coaches.

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education said it made concessions and gave the union its best offer Tuesday night. At West Chester University, outside Philadelphia, a handful of picketers held signs reading "The faculty will not sacrifice quality," and others multitasked by walking their dogs on the line.

Spokesman Kenn Marshall said the state system was disappointed the union decided to strike because officials felt they had made significant progress

overnight toward a settlement.

The system said prior to the walkout that its latest proposal would provide raises to all permanent and temporary faculty members and a health care package identical to what other system employees have.

The state also reported it had withdrawn several proposals as part of those concessions in an effort to reach an agreement. The withdrawn proposals included one that would have required full-time, temporary faculty to teach an additional class each semester.

Late Wednesday night, the union said on its Facebook page that "the strike will end when negotiators reach a contract. Negotiations have not resumed."

The state has instructed its more than 100,000 students to attend classes unless the university indicates otherwise.

But many students said Wednesday that their teachers joined the walkout, leaving classrooms empty.

Calif. AG leads Wells Fargo criminal probe

Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — California's attorney general is conducting a criminal investigation into whether employees at San Francisco-based Wells Fargo bank stole customers' identities in the sales practices scandal that rocked the bank and cost its CEO his job, newly released documents show.

A search warrant and affidavit released Wednesday by the state Department of Justice show that agents sought evidence related to allegations that bank employees created up to 2 million bank and credit card accounts without customers' approval in order to meet sales goals.

The warrant, first reported by the Los Angeles Times, was

served Oct. 5. Copies obtained by The Associated Press under a public records request show Attorney General Kamala Harris' office sought the names of customers who had accounts opened without their permission, the names of employees who opened the accounts and their managers, and fees associated with the improperly opened accounts.

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NATION

After shooting, teens call for peace

Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Students at two San Francisco schools where four classmates were shot in the parking lot the day before exited classes arm-in-arm and called for an end to violence.

The expressions of sadness and resolve came after classes resumed Wednesday at the June Jordan School for Equity and the City Arts and Technology High School with extra security in place.

The gunfire rang out as students were leaving Tuesday, creating chaos. Teachers herded students into classrooms, and the schools were locked down.

Some students wiped away tears as they recounted the scene.
Devianna Lucero, 15, a sophomore, said she heard five or six loud bangs as she left school — at first thinking nothing of it. Then chaos erupted.

“At first, I didn’t believe they were gunshots. I thought someone was coming on the scene.”
“Then everyone was screaming and running to the classrooms.”

Flowers were strewn in the parking lot Wednesday, along with messages scrawled in chalk that said, “No More Violence” and “All Lives Matter.”

Police said they were looking for four suspects but did not how



SCOTT STRAZZANTE, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE/AP

Police stand at the site of a shooting Tuesday outside two San Francisco high schools where four students were shot in a parking lot shared by the schools.

many had opened fire, striking a female student who was believed to have been targeted and three other teens. All are 15.

Jessica Huang, a co-director at the June Jordan school, said the group that staged the attack were not students at the school. She said the girl underwent a successful surgery, and the other three had been released from the hospital.

Fernando Rodriguez, 16, a junior, told the San Francisco Chron-

icle he stayed inside a classroom with dozens of other students and a teacher with the door bolted shut for about 30 minutes.

Police searched both schools to determine there was no shooter inside. Rodriguez said students and teachers were later told that the shooting had happened outside and that it was safe to leave.

Counselors were on hand Wednesday and security was increased, school officials said.

NYC mayor: Police shooting ‘unacceptable’

By TOM HAYS
Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City’s mayor castigated a police sergeant Wednesday for fatally shooting a mentally ill woman brandishing a baseball bat, saying her “tragic” and “unacceptable” death resulted from failure to follow basic policies.

“Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with a dire situation. It’s very hard to see that standard was met,” Mayor Bill de Blasio said. “Something went horribly wrong here.”
The rebuke came less than 24 hours after Deborah Danner, 66, who is black, was shot to death in her Bronx apartment. And it came even as investigators were looking into why the white officer didn’t call for an emergency services unit and didn’t use his stun gun.

“If the protocols had been followed, she would be alive. It’s as simple as that,” the mayor said.

Earlier, New York police Commissioner Raymond O’Neill said his department “failed” by not using means other than deadly force.

“That’s not how it’s supposed to go,” O’Neill said. “It’s not how we train. Our first obligation is to preserve life, not to take a life even if it would be easier.”
The head of the police union

“Our officers are supposed to use deadly force only when faced with a dire situation. It’s ... hard to see that standard was met.”

Bill de Blasio
mayor of New York City

representing sergeants, Ed Mullins, said the shooting was self-defense and bemoaned what he characterized as a politically motivated rush to judgment.

Police were responding to a 911 call about an emotionally disturbed person around 6:15 p.m. Tuesday when Sgt. Hugh Barry encountered Danner in her apartment, police said.

Officers had been called to Danner’s home several times before to take her to the hospital during psychiatric episodes.

Barry persuaded Danner to drop a pair of scissors she had been holding, but when she picked up the bat and tried to strike him, he fired two shots that hit her torso, police said.

Danner’s sister, Jennifer, was outside the apartment waiting to accompany her to the hospital, when the shots rang out, said the mayor.

Danner “had been sick since she was in college,” her cousin,

Wallace Cooke Jr., said.
Cooke, 74, a retired police officer, said officers had been at her apartment “multiple, multiple times over the years.” His cousin had recently stopped taking her medication, but “that’s not an excuse to be dead.”

Barry was stripped of his badge and gun and placed on desk duty while the state attorney general’s office determines whether the case falls under its authority to investigate police shooting of unarmed civilians.

Court records show Barry was named as a defendant with other officers in two lawsuits alleging police brutality. Both suits were settled for a few thousand dollars.

New York City police respond to tens of thousands of calls about emotionally disturbed people each year. Officers and commanders receive training on how to deal with mentally ill people that includes instruction in techniques to “de-escalate” a situation.

Deputy is fourth officer slain in 2 weeks in California

Associated Press

ALTURAS, Calif. — A deputy responding to a disturbance call in Northern California has been shot to death — the state’s fourth law enforcement officer to die in the line of duty in just two weeks.

Sheriff’s deputies were dealing with the call on County Road 115, in a rural area near the Oregon border, when deputy Jack Hopkins, 31, was fatally shot. A suspect was detained shortly after, the sheriff’s office said.

Hopkins joined the force last year, the office said.

A video titled “Deputy Jack Hopkins Procession” that was posted late Wednesday to the Modoc County Sheriff’s Office’s Facebook page showed about two dozen patrol cars with their emergency lights on riding down a town’s street.

The Shasta, Siskiyou, Lassen and Colusa County sheriff’s offices and the California Highway Patrol are investigating the shoot-

ing, the office said.
The California Highway Patrol, the Alturas Police Department and the U.S. Forest Service

responded to the scene after a call about an officer-involved shooting went out, the office said.
The Modoc County Sheriff’s Office said in a state-

ment the deputy was involved in an active-shooter incident.

The deputy’s shooting death comes after two Palm Springs police officers were recently shot and killed during a domestic disturbance call and a Los Angeles County sheriff’s sergeant was

gunned down in the high desert town of Lancaster while answering a burglary call.



Hopkins

Georgia executes man who killed police officer

By KATE BRUMBACK
Associated Press

JACKSON, Ga. — A man convicted of killing an Atlanta police officer and wounding a second officer with an AR-15 rifle was executed late Wednesday, becoming the seventh inmate put to death in Georgia this year.

Gregory Paul Lawler, 63, was pronounced dead at 11:49 p.m. at the state prison in Jackson after he was injected with the barbiturate pentobarbital. He was convicted of murder in the October 1997 slaying of Officer John Sowa and for critically wounding Officer Patricia Cocciolone.

The Georgia Supreme Court said in a statement Wednesday it unanimously denied defense requests to halt execution plans originally set for 7 p.m. Defense attorneys later appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, which also declined to stop the execution.

Lawler didn’t make a final statement and refused a prayer. Then he lay on the gurney with his eyes closed as the lethal drug flowed, taking several deep breaths and yawning before becoming still.

Cocciolone sat in the front row of the witness area, as did Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard, whose office prosecuted Lawler.

The seven executions in Georgia this year are the most in a calendar year in the state since the death penalty was reinstated nationwide in 1976.

Georgia is one of five states that carried out executions this year for a total of 17 nationwide. Texas has executed seven inmates, while Alabama, Florida and Missouri have executed one each.

Sowa and Cocciolone were responding to a report of a man hitting a woman and arrived at a parking lot to find Lawler trying to pull his drunken girlfriend to her feet. Lawler quickly left and went to his apartment nearby, and the officers decided to help his girlfriend get home.

When they knocked, Lawler told the officers to leave. Once his girlfriend was inside, he tried to shut the door on them. Sowa put his hand up to keep the door from shutting and said they just wanted to make sure the girlfriend lived there and would be safe.

Lawler grabbed an AR-15 rifle and fired 15 times, using bullets that can penetrate body armor, prosecutors said.

Lawler’s attorneys argued that a diagnosis last month of autism spectrum disorder helps explain why their client acted as he did in the encounter with the officers. That disorder, which wasn’t diagnosed at the time, caused Lawler to misinterpret the officers’ intentions and led him to believe he was in danger and needed to fight for his life, his attorneys argued.

The State Board of Pardons and Paroles, which is the only authority in Georgia with power to commute a death penalty, declined to grant him clemency Tuesday.

NATION

Most US Syrian arrivals are kids, now entering school

By CHRISTINE ARMARIO

Associated Press

EL CAJON, Calif. — Seated at his desk at a suburban San Diego middle school, Abdulhamid Ashneh, 12, tries not to let his mind wander to the painful memories of his life in civil war-torn Syria.

His father disappeared suddenly four years ago and, the family believes, was killed. Months later, Abdulhamid's mother boarded a bus with her six children, the youngest 2, and fled to Jordan, the sound of bombs ringing in the distance.

"I think about my dad a lot," Abdulhamid said recently after practicing English at Cajon Valley Middle School, which has received an influx of Syrian children. "I wish he would come back."

Abdulhamid is like many of the Syrian refugees arriving today in the U.S. According to the U.S. State Department, nearly 80 percent of the more than 11,000 Syrian arrivals during the past year were children.

That's a larger percentage than in most refugee groups, in part because Syrians tend to have larger families and many have managed to stay together despite displacement, according to resettlement agencies that help families acclimate to the U.S.

Many of those children are enrolling in public schools around the country, including Chicago; Austin, Texas; New Haven, Conn.;

and El Cajon, which received 76 new Syrian students the first week of school.

Syrian children face many of the same challenges as other young refugees — limited English, an interrupted education — but they are somewhat distinct in the level of trauma they have experienced, school leaders and resettlement workers said.

"The truth is, a lot of them have seen some pretty nasty stuff," said Eyal Bergman, a family and community engagement officer for the Cajon Valley Union School District. "But I also see incredible resilience."

In response to the influx, school districts are beefing up English instruction and making extra efforts to reach out to parents unfamiliar with the U.S. school system. In El Cajon, one-on-one orientations introduce families to the school's teachers and staff and show them basics like how to read the district's academic-year calendar.

Some refugee students are enrolled in "newcomer" classes in which they are provided intense English instruction before being placed into mainstream classrooms. Others go directly into classes with English-fluent peers but are assigned to smaller groups for individual instruction. Teachers are trained in identifying trauma, and on-site counselors help students who need extra attention.

"I've had students tell me that maybe some of their family mem-

bers passed away," said Juanita Chavez, a second-grade teacher. "But I think a lot of them just want to focus on here, on learning. A lot of them don't focus on the negative things that have happened to them."

At night, Arabic-speaking staff and teachers hold a "parent academy" where newly arrived moms and dads are given bilingual children's books in English and Arabic and are guided on how to help improve literacy at home.

The rising number of Syrian refugee students comes amid a heated presidential campaign. During the second debate, Donald Trump called Hillary Clinton's plan to expand the Obama administration's refugee program and to accept 65,000 Syrian refugees the "great Trojan horse of all time."

Last November, in response to the deadly Paris attack believed carried out by operatives who fought and trained in Syria, nearly 30 states vowed to deny entry to Syrian refugees.

Resettlement agencies and school staff worry inflamed rhetoric about Muslims and Syrian refugees will trickle into the classroom. A report last year by the California chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations found 50 percent of Muslim students surveyed were subjected to mean comments or rumors because of their religion.

"This is a concern of ours, to be watching that they do not feel



CHRISTINE ARMARIO/AP

Student Abdulhamid Arab, 11, center, helps classmates Habebullah Najme, 12, left, and Nada Alraadi, 11, in a room filled with refugee children Oct. 4 at Cajon Valley Middle School in El Cajon, Calif.

shunned or stigmatized because of their national origin," said Ellen Beattie, a senior director with the International Rescue Committee.

El Cajon, a city of roughly 104,000 people 15 miles east of San Diego, has become a melting pot of refugees from Uganda to Afghanistan. The first Middle Eastern immigrants were Chaldean Christians fleeing persecution in Iraq in the 1970s. Those earlier, now established waves of migrants are playing a role in helping settle the new arrivals from Syria.

"Most of them tell us the only reason they accepted the whole immigration process is really for their kids," said Anas Kayal, who emigrated to the U.S. from Syria in 2001 and is a physician in San Diego. "They are OK with their own lives being disrupted by the war and crisis, but they are hoping their kids can have a better life."

Watching their children learn English and adapt to U.S. schools has been redeeming for Abdul-

amid's mother after two years in Jordan, where she often struggled to feed them and at one point lived in a feeble tent that would blow apart in the wind.

"We're still trying to cope with this emotionally," Amena Alshehneh, 37, said. "But it's the reality. We have to face the reality and get on our feet."

As Abdulhamid assimilates, he still pines for his homeland and the life he left behind.

He remembers the Damascus home where he wrestled and practiced reading with his father. He remembers playing soccer and hide-and-seek with his best friend, and wonders what happened to him.

He also thinks about his computer and a remote-control car — cherished toys his father gave him and that he had to abandon.

"I feel so sad I left Syria," said Abdulhamid, whose expression quickly shifts from joy to grief. "Because it's my country. My home."

Final cleanup of Alaska automobile junkyard underway

By MARK THIESSEN

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — The final cleanup for the Great Alaska Earthquake of 1964 is underway.

For decades after the Good Friday quake, discarded vehicles were imbedded into the 250-foot cliff overlooking Cook Inlet and directly above a wildlife refuge important for migratory birds.

The vehicles started arriving after the second-most-powerful earthquake ever recorded devastated parts of south-central Alaska, including the then-young city of Anchorage. Debris from downed or damaged downtown buildings left cars unusable.

"At the time, in the 1960s, they brought the vehicles out here to an old gravel pit, crushed them, threw them over the side of a 250-foot-high bluff," said Joe Meehan, the land and refuge manager for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The department runs the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, where the bluff, where thousands of migratory birds stop every year.

Meehan said unwanted sand from the gravel pit also went over the bluff, burying the cars and helping them become part of the bluff in the city's expansive Kincaid Park.

The site was used as a dump site for at least a decade.

"The official dumping of vehicles stopped here in the late 1970s after Earth



MARK THIESSEN/AP

A helicopter brings a 700-pound sack of car parts to a trash bin Wednesday in Anchorage, Alaska.

Day and environmental awareness came along," Meehan said.

It's estimated that about 2,000 vehicles

were dumped over the cliff, legally or illegally.

During the ongoing nine-year effort

to remove the cars, volunteers and staff members also have removed about 2,000 tires and about 100 tons of miscellaneous debris. Meehan said they've found "everything under the sun," from refrigerators to ovens to motorcycles.

That is in addition to about 100 vehicles that have been taken out for recycling, but they weren't all beaters from the 1960s.

"There was a fairly new vehicle, about a 3-year-old vehicle, that had been stolen and thrown over the edge," Meehan said.

In the past, workers waited until the marsh froze in the winter. They then were able to drive vehicles and heavy machinery on the ice to remove the cars from the bluff.

"Because of the warm winters we've been having, the marsh hasn't frozen and we decided this time around we're just going to use a helicopter to slingload all those parts out," he said.

The effort won't actually remove all 2,000 discarded vehicles. Workers have removed only cars that have reached the bottom of the bluff, near the marsh, to protect the wetlands and wildlife habitat. They are concerned that removing all of the cars could damage the bluff — and it would be very expensive. They are just going to let the cars that remain buried in the bluff to degrade over the centuries.

"Somebody comes back here in 500 years, they probably won't see anything except for a natural bluff," Meehan said.

WORLD

STRUGGLING TO STAY SAFE

IN THE WAKE OF DUTERTE'S DEADLY WAR ON DRUGS

By TODD PITMAN
Associated Press

The bodies terrified Betchie Salvador, because she always knew her husband could be next.

They had begun turning up all over the Philippines ever since President Rodrigo Duterte launched a controversial war on drugs this year — so many that one local newspaper had to create a “Kill List” just to keep track. Dealers and addicts were being shot by police or unidentified gunmen, who were dumping them on darkened streets beside cardboard signs that warned, “I’m a pusher. Don’t Be Like Me.”

With each new death, Betchie imagined losing the man she had loved for a decade — a proud father of three who was also an addict.

“We talked about it a lot,” she said. “I told him, ‘Please don’t go out at night.’”

“Don’t worry,” Marcelo told her. “It’s gonna be OK.”

Marcelo, who worked as a driver, had been introduced to a potent methamphetamine known as “shabu” two years earlier by a colleague who said it helped him stay awake at night.

In his campaign for the presidency, Duterte described the drug as a life-or-death threat to a nation. And the nation, exasperated by decades of crime and corruption, believed him.

Duterte modeled his drug war in part

“All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you. I have no patience, I have no middle ground.”

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte

on a brutal anti-crime campaign he spearheaded while mayor of Davao, where he rode a Harley-Davidson and cultivated a New Sheriff in Town image, with nicknames like “Duterte Harry” and “The Punisher.” The campaign was fought not just by state security forces, but by motorcycle-riding assassins known as the “Davao Death Squads” who massacred more than 1,000 people.

Duterte’s speeches were often fueled by provocative statements. He has encouraged the police to eliminate drug suspects, even called on the public to “do it yourself if you have the gun.” On his last day of campaigning on May 7, he said: “All of you who are into drugs, you sons of bitches, I will really kill you. I have no patience, I have no middle ground.”

After he was sworn into office June 30, the anti-drug operation — called “Double Barrel” — began. Police drew up “watch-lists” of suspected addicts and dealers, and security forces began carrying out raids. Vigilantes also went to work. Near Marcelo’s home, a couple was found murdered in their rickshaw. Later, another man was found with his neck slashed beside a placard labeling him an addict and a thief.

By then, Marcelo’s family was starting to fear for his life. He made a living driving a “tricycle” — a rickshaw taxi — earning just enough to support their two boys, ages 6 and 7, and a newborn baby girl. His mother, Betty Soriano, decided to accompany him to keep him safe and discourage him from doing drugs.

Marcelo also promised to quit shabu, saying it had become too dangerous. He told Betchie she didn’t have to worry “because I’m not using drugs anymore.”

At one point, a government official told Marcelo to turn himself in, a process called “surrendering” that has drawn about 700,000 drug users so far. Most are released after acknowledging their

crimes and pledging never to use again.

Marcelo waved the man off, saying he had quit.

On the night of Sept. 5, Marcelo parked his rickshaw at a small roadside kiosk, where he had stopped to buy essentials for the morning — coffee for his family, chocolate drinking powder for his kids.

When Malvin Balingatan, who worked at the shop, leaned forward to hand him change, shots rang out, according to the police report.

It was 10:05 p.m.

As Balingatan ducked, he caught a glimpse of two men in black on a motorcycle, helmets covering their faces.

Marcelo managed to run 10 or 15 yards to the corner, where more shots were fired. He collapsed.

His mother screamed out, “My son! My son!”

At their family home, a five-minute walk away, Soriano broke the news to Betchie. Marcelo’s children appeared, woken by the chaos and the crying.

“Where’s Daddy?” one of them asked.

“He’s gone,” Betchie replied, tears streaming down her cheeks.

By the time Betchie got to the scene, Marcelo — her Marcelo — was sprawled face-down in a pool of blood, his body lit by a halo of light from a bank of television cameras. A small translucent packet of white methamphetamines was visible beside his fingertips.

Her mother-in-law insists the drugs weren’t there when he died. She doesn’t know who put them there, or why. But she won’t press the issue with police,

who say they have no leads. “We don’t want any trouble,” she said. “What’s the point? What for?”

Betchie said she hopes they find who did this. But there was resignation in her voice. She was looking down toward her lap, eyes half closed.

Three days had passed since the shooting, and she was trying not to cry.

“I keep wondering what will happen to me, to my children,” she said, explaining that Marcelo, 39, was their family’s sole breadwinner. “All we can do now is pray.”



PHOTOS BY AARON FAVILA/AP

Above: Betchie Salvador, center, the wife of alleged drug user Marcelo Salvador, his mother and family members grieve during funeral rites at their house in Las Pinas, south of Manila, Philippines, on Sept. 14. Top: Police investigators inspect the body of Salvador after he was shot by unidentified men on Sept. 5.

Scientists in Europe downplay likely loss of Mars lander

Associated Press

BERLIN — Scientists at the European Space Agency downplayed the likely loss of its Mars lander, saying Thursday that a wealth of data sent back by the experimental probe would help them prepare for a future mission to the red planet.

The Schiaparelli lander was designed mainly to test technology for a European robotic mission to Mars in 2020 and avoid the fate of Europe's Beagle 2 probe, which failed to deploy after landing in 2003.

Data received from Schiaparelli show that it entered the

atmosphere as planned Wednesday and used its parachute to successfully slow down in the harsh Martian atmosphere, but its signal was lost shortly before the expected touchdown.

Experts hoped that about 600 megabytes of data sent back to Earth would provide answers.

The data are equivalent to about 400,000 pages of information.

Getting a spacecraft onto the surface of Mars is notoriously difficult, and the planet is littered with the remains of failed attempts.

Only NASA has repeatedly succeeded in landing several

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The apparent failure to achieve a "soft landing" marred an otherwise successful start to the ExoMars mission, a joint venture between ESA and Russian space agency Roscosmos.

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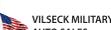
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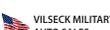
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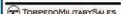
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WORLD

Report: Greece, EU fail refugees

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — The international aid group Doctors Without Borders says refugees at camps in Greece are still living in mostly “appalling conditions” with poor access to health care and a lack of provisions to identify the most vulnerable.

In the highly critical report issued Thursday, the agency commonly known by its French name, Medecins sans Frontieres, argued that the European Union and Greece had “collectively failed to establish humane and dignified reception conditions.”

More than 60,000 refugees and migrants — many escaping wars in Syria and Iraq — have been stranded in Greece following European border closures this year. Most still live in tents at about 50 refugee camps.

Around 14,000 of them are



PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP

A Syrian woman cooks outside her tent Wednesday at the Ritsona refugee camp north of Athens, Greece. Doctors Without Borders criticizes conditions for refugees in Greece in a new report.

confined to islands in the eastern Aegean Sea where they are being processed for potential deportation to nearby Turkey.

“The leaders of Greece and the EU keep telling us this is a success, but it isn’t. The reception system for refugees in Greece has failed,” said Loic Jaeger, country mission head for MSF.

At the garbage-strewn refugee camp of Ritsona, 50 miles north of Athens, children walk barefoot and families in tents used wooden pallets for flooring to stay above the mud and try to stay warm.

“It’s very bad. How can I explain; I mean very bad,” Syrian refugee Yusef Hanah said. “Can you imagine living in a tent with six persons and if you have a newborn baby how the situation will be?”

Hanah said he came to Europe as a last resort, unable to keep his family safe after his cheese factory was destroyed in the war and he moved around Syria.

MSF urged the government to seek alternatives to the refugee camp system and improve a screening process to identify

vulnerable migrants and improve training for health screeners, while it called on the EU to provide emergency financial support to the state health system.

Greece’s government has repeatedly defended its record in dealing with the refugee crisis, noting that more than 1 million refugees and migrants traveled through the country since the beginning of 2015, stretching state resources already under pressure from years of recession after the country came to the brink of financial collapse.

UK warships to watch Russian ship in channel

LONDON — Britain is sending warships to monitor a Russian aircraft carrier group and other vessels as they sail through the North Sea and the English Channel.

Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said Thursday that the military will watch the vessels “every step of the way.”

The aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov and its task group are heading south from the Norwegian Sea toward the North Sea. The Type 45 destroyer HMS Duncan sailed from Portsmouth to monitor the group.

The Royal Navy regularly shadows ships, and is being supported in this instance by the Royal Air Force.

Meanwhile, the Type 45 destroyer HMS Dragon is due to sail to meet two Russian corvettes traveling toward Britain from the direction of Portugal.

Brazil impeachment leader arrested

RIO DE JANEIRO — The powerful former speaker of Brazil’s lower house who spearheaded the ouster of President Dilma Rousseff was arrested Wednesday as part of a sprawling graft probe involving state oil giant Petrobras.

Federal deputy Eduardo Cunha, who until recently was a key ally of President Michel Temer, is accused of corruption, money laundering and tax evasion related to an oilfield purchase that Petrobras made in 2011 in the west African nation of Benin, among a series of other charges.

Prosecutors said in a statement that they requested Cunha’s detention on the grounds that he represented a threat to the integrity of the investigation and was a flight risk. They also asked for bank accounts he holds totaling more than \$60 million to be frozen.

In a statement, the former lawmaker said the arrest was “absurd.”

From The Associated Press

Spain’s high court overrules local bullfighting ban

By CIARAN GILES
Associated Press

MADRID — Spain’s top court on Thursday overruled a local ban against bullfighting in the powerful northeastern region of Catalonia, saying it violated a national law protecting the spectacle.

The Constitutional Court ruled that Catalan authorities generally could regulate such public spectacles, and even ban them, but in

this case the national parliament’s ruling that bullfighting is part of Spain’s heritage must prevail.

Catalonia stirred controversy when it banned bullfighting in 2010, becoming Spain’s second region to do so after the Canary Islands in 1991.

The decision was part of the growing movement against bullfighting but it was also seen as another step in the Catalan gov-

ernment’s push to break away from Spain.

The ban had little practical effect as Catalonia had only one functioning bullring, in its capital, Barcelona.

Catalan government officials said earlier this month that bullfighting would not be allowed again in the region. The last bullfight in Catalonia was in 2011 before the region’s ban took effect.

The court ruling followed a challenge to the ban by the conservative Popular Party headed by acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy.

Catalonia said it banned bullfighting to protect bulls but it did not prohibit events featuring bulls running around with flaming balls of wax or fireworks affixed to their horns that are popular in the region.

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PACIFIC

The art of lunch

Moms in Japan learn to make schoolchildren's meals attractive

By ANNA FIFELED
The Washington Post

TOKYO — In Japan, the packed school lunch has been elevated to an art form.

Every morning across this country, moms — always moms — wake up and make little boxes of delicious art for their children. Rice balls in the shape of pandas or bears, complete with eyes and smiles cut out from a sheet of dried seaweed, sausages carved to look like octopuses, and fruit speared with cute animal toothpicks. And all nutritionally balanced, of course.

But some moms go the extra mile — or rather, the extra hour — to make a uniquely Japanese kind of lunch box: the *kyara-ben*, or character bento. Think Hello Kitty or Doraemon the robot cat nestled in a bed of lettuce, pigs made out of ham resting on a rice ball, surrounded by a heart-shaped omelet and carrots cut into flowers.

"I'm here because I thought it would make my kids happy if I could make them cute bento," Saori Inokuchi, 36, a mother of two children, ages 4 and 5, said while attending a special class to learn to make more elaborate lunch boxes.

Inokuchi came along with her friend, Maya Minamisawa, who has three kids, ages 8, 4 and 1, to learn from Tomomi Maruo how to make Pokemon-themed bento. Maruo offers *kyara-ben* lessons at her home through her company, *Bento4kids*, and also has a YouTube channel.

The women learned how to shape rice into Pikachu, the yellow Pokemon rodent, how to make eyes from seaweed and cheese slices, and cheeks from crab sticks. They made Pokeballs by sticking half a cherry tomato to half a quail's egg, then wrapping a strip of seaweed around it, topped off with another cheese cube.

There were cheese hearts for the broccoli trees, and flowers made from ham.

All in all, it took about an hour, although Maruo, the teacher, already had cooked the broccoli and squash for the box. As a pro, she can do the whole thing in 40 minutes.

Maruo started making *kyara-ben* boxes when her sons, now 13 and 16, were younger. "I wanted my kids to enjoy eating lunch at kindergarten," she said.

Other mothers started asking her advice, kicking off a business that has had her offering *kyara-ben* lessons for the past 13 years. "Moms like to see their kids' happy faces, and most moms enjoy making *kyara-ben* because it's fun," she said.

Burden for mothers

Kyara-ben are mainly made

for children in preschool or kindergarten to help introduce them to a wide variety of foods and to stop them from developing picky eating habits. This approach may have some merit: The vast majority of Japanese children happily eat grilled fish and steamed vegetables.

But the *kyara-ben* craze is also a symptom of the enormous expectations placed on women in a country notorious for creating hurdles to becoming a working mother.

The Japanese government Cabinet office was sharply criticized for tweeting a link to a blog post in which a mom wrote about making cute lunch boxes even when she's tired or busy.

"Thanks to the smiles [I get from my son], making bento each day has become a time I enjoy," Keiko Iwata wrote on the *Cheer-up* for Women blog, associated with the government's "womonomics" efforts to getting more women into the workplace and let them "shine."

Critics noted the contradiction between promoting the idea that women ought to be making such time-consuming lunch boxes at the same time as it's trying to make it easier for women to work.

Many pregnant women are forced to leave their jobs, either because of *mata-hara* (maternity harassment) or because the relentless working culture is not compatible with family life. Japanese kindergartens in particular place a heavy burden on mothers — from sewing little bags for books and shoes to making cute lunch boxes.

Conflict over *kyara-ben*

There is no shortage of inspiration here.

The Japanese internet is full of photos of adorable *kyara-ben*, and there are hundreds of books devoted to the subject, with titles like "*Kyara-ben* for First-timers: You Can Make Cute *Kyara-ben* Quickly on a Busy Morning!"

Homeware stores have shelves of molds to easily press rice and even hard-boiled eggs into animal shapes, and supermarkets sell cute plastic containers for boxes.

A cable channel show offers instruction on how to make *kyara-ben* inspired by the mascots that are ubiquitous in Japan, and there are even *kyara-ben* competitions where moms vie to make the most breathtaking box. But sports days and other events where mothers are present — and can check out other kids' bento boxes — often turn into a contest of their own.

"This kind of pressure on moms can cause plenty of headaches. One news report titled "The cause is *kyara-ben*! A fight breaks out between mommy friends!" earlier this year described the envy that was fomenting among some



By KO SASAKI/For The Washington Post

Saori Inokuchi's bento box from a class in Tokyo on preparing school lunches includes the Pokemon character Pikachu.

mothers. Some kindergartens even have started banning *kyara-ben* for fear of bullying by kids making fun of those with substantial lunch boxes.

There are certainly detractors. "I saw *kyara-ben* images on Facebook and realized they were made by moms who woke up at 4 or 5 a.m. I am so glad I am not being a mom in Japan," one woman wrote in Japanese on the popular recipe site *Cookpad*.

But Minamisawa and Inokuchi, neither of whom works outside the home, said they were inspired by the class.

"It was much easier than it looked," Minamisawa said, although she noted Maruo had done most of the preparation. "It would be hard if I had to do everything from scratch."

Smoking chimp is new star at Pyongyang zoo

By ERIC TALMADGE
Associated Press

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Pyongyang's newly opened zoo has a new star: Azalea, the smoking chimpanzee.

According to officials at the newly renovated zoo, which has become a favorite leisure spot in the North Korean capital since it reopened in July, the 19-year-old female chimpanzee, whose name in Korean is Dallae, smokes about a pack per day. Dallae is short for azalea.

They insist, however, that she doesn't inhale.

"Thrown a lighter by a zoo trainer, the chimpanzee lights her own cigarettes. If a lighter isn't available, she can light up from a lit cigarette if one is tossed her way.

Though such a sight would draw outrage in many other locales, it seemed to delight visitors who roared with laughter on Wednesday as the chimpanzee, one of two at the zoo, sat puffing away as her trainer egged her on. The trainer also prompted her to touch her nose, to bow in thanks and to do a simple dance.

The zoo is pulling in thousands of visitors per day with a slew of attractions ranging from such typically rare as elephants, giraffes, penguins and monkeys to a high-tech natural history museum



By WONG MAYE-E/AP

Azalea, a 19-year-old female chimpanzee whose Korean name is Dallae, smokes a cigarette Wednesday at the Central Zoo in Pyongyang, North Korea.

with displays showing the origins of the solar system and the evolution of life on Earth.

Another of the most popular attractions that might come as a surprise to foreign visitors is the dog pavilion, which has everything from German shepherds to Shih Tsus. The zoo also has performances featuring other animals trained to do tricks, including a monkey that slam dunks basketballs and dogs trained to appear as though they can do addition and subtraction on an abacus.

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EUROPE

‘Brexit’ impact spreads to Marmite buyers

By DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

LONDON — Philip Walker spreads Marmite on his daily crumpet and stockpiles jars of the yeast spread. He’s a fan, and he’s upset at plans to raise the price of this icon of the British breakfast table.

Love it or hate it, Marmite has become the most visible sign yet of Britain’s decision to leave the European Union after consumer goods giant Unilever sought to raise wholesale prices for its products by a reported 10 percent to make up for a plunge in the pound.

Tesco, the U.K.’s biggest supermarket chain, rejected the increase and this month removed many Unilever products from its website. #Marmitegate was soon trending on social media.

Though the sides solved the dispute on Oct. 13, experts say it’s inevitable that food prices will rise. The issue has for the first time driven home the reality that daily life will be affected by “Brexit.”

“I am more angry at Unilever than I am at Tesco,” said Walker, 43, a regional manager for St. John Ambulance. “It seems Unilever is using Brexit as an excuse to hold Tesco customers to ransom.”



ALASTAIR GRANT/AP

Britain’s biggest supermarket chain pulled savory spread Marmite from its website amid a ‘Brexit’-related dispute. Though the dispute has been resolved, experts say food prices will rise in the UK.

Since Britons voted June 23 to exit the EU, the pound has dropped more than 18 percent against the dollar and almost as much against the euro. While for weeks the impact had been felt mainly by Britons spending abroad, the currency’s plunge is making imported goods spicier higher.

Unilever, which is based in the Netherlands and besides Marmite makes Dove soap, Ben & Jerry’s and Magnum ice cream

and Persil laundry powder, is the first company whose efforts to pass these costs onto its customers have become public.

“This is the first warning sign of there being a real change,” said Patrick O’Brien, content director at Verdict.retail, who predicts a future with many spirited negotiations between retailers and suppliers. “Someone has to pay.”

That tension is exacerbated in the supermarket business, where there is already huge competition

between chains over who has the lowest prices. Mainstream retailers like Tesco and Sainsbury’s are struggling to fend off discounters including Lidl and Aldi.

Supermarkets are essentially playing a game of chicken over who can hold off raising their prices the longest. The upshot is that food prices have not yet jumped by as much as the pound’s plunge would suggest, though analysts say it’s only a matter of when.

Brexit has thrown a “huge wobble” into the equation, said Christopher Haskins, who built Northern Foods into a major supermarket supplier.

“Undoubtedly what Unilever is doing is justified in terms of the economics of it, but Tesco’s worried that Aldi may not follow suit,” Haskins, who now sits in the House of Lords, told the BBC.

Before the impasse was resolved, shoppers searching Tesco’s website for Unilever products were greeted with the same message: “Sorry this product is currently not available.”

But it was Marmite, a distinctly British product, that seized the public imagination. The spread, made from concentrated brewer’s yeast, has become entwined in the national psyche since it was first produced in Burton-on-Trent, England, in 1902. Unilever

acquired the brand in 2000.

People could grasp the idea that this breakfast staple might suddenly become very expensive. In a discussion that has centered on national growth rates, inflation and currency fluctuations, Marmite could be understood by all.

And the public noticed. The very entrepreneurial put their yellow and green jars of Marmite on eBay. One seller offered a used jar for \$4.8 million, plus postage, with the description “But there’s still some left. Otherwise good condition.”

The matter even rose to the attention of Parliament. Pete Wishart, the Scottish National Party’s leader in the House of Commons, urged the government to reconsider its plans for a “full English Brexit.”

“Who would have thought that the first casualty of this hard Brexit would be the nation’s supplies of Marmite?” he said as lawmakers discussed the issue.

James Smith, 31, a teacher from Liverpool, took a photo of the brown-stained Marmite tub in his refrigerator and said he was “very grateful” to have some on hand.

All this despite there being no actual shortage of Marmite in stores.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man gets prison in death of a neighbor

NE OMAHA — A 56-year-old man has been imprisoned for killing his Omaha neighbor.

Robert Inman was sentenced Tuesday to eight to 10 years in prison. He'd pleaded no contest to a manslaughter charge in the death of John Hanes, 48. The two lived near each other at a mobile home park.

Prosecutors say Hanes took a meal of pot roast, potatoes and carrots to Inman's home early in the morning on Aug. 29, 2015, in hopes of partying. That pre-dawn disruption of their sleep angered Inman and his roommate. Prosecutors say a fight broke out, and Inman put Hanes in a chokehold to subdue him.

Inman says he called 911 after realizing Hanes wasn't breathing.

Democrats apologize for dumping sewage

GA LAWRENCEVILLE — The Democratic National Committee has apologized after one of its campaign buses was spotted dumping raw sewage along a road outside Atlanta.

News outlets report a Lawrenceville auto shop employee alerted police Tuesday morning after witnessing the sewage getting dumped into a storm drain. The bus, which bears the slogan "Forward Together" and features the likenesses of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and running mate Tim Kaine, was in town for an early voting event.

The DNC apologized in a statement, calling it "an honest mistake." A representative later said the sewage container was full and the driver was concerned about the contents leaking.

Gwinnett County fire hazmat crews cleaned up the spill. Georgia's Environmental Protection Division is investigating.

University creates post to honor native author

ME ORONO — The University of Maine is creating the Stephen E. King Chair in Literature in honor of one of its most famous graduates.

The university is collecting applications from English professors to fill the position now. The appointment is set to begin August 2017 and is a five-year, renewable term.

The university says the position is tenured and it designed it to honor UMaine English department's "most celebrated graduate." The school says the position will have undergraduate education as a central focus.

King graduated from the university in 1970 with a degree in English. His first novel, "Carrie," was published four years later, and he has been one of America's most beloved horror and fantasy authors for four decades.

4 pigs escape, others killed as hauler crashes

AZ LITTLEFIELD — Four pigs escaped and several were killed when a tractor-trailer rig carrying 172 hogs

THE CENSUS

549

The number of bears killed in New Jersey's first expanded black bear hunt in more than three decades, which ended just days after lawmakers advanced a measure that would remove the animals from a list of game species. Hunters could only use bows and arrows to kill their prey during the first three days of the six-day hunt, and muzzle-loading guns were added during the second half. New Jersey approved resuming the bear hunt in 2003 after more than 30 years as a way to curb a growing population that was increasingly crossing paths with humans. The first hunt didn't take place until 2010. Animal rights' groups and lawmakers say the hunt causes more problems and is "inhumane." The firearm-only season for bear hunting this year is scheduled to take place from Dec. 5-10.



GARY COSBY JR., TUSCALOOSA (ALA.) NEWS/AP

Strolling into the light

A student moves through a pattern of light and shadow Tuesday in the atrium on his way to class at Shelton State Community College in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

crashed into a barrier wall along Interstate 15 in a gorge in northwestern Arizona.

The Monday afternoon accident closed southbound I-15 well into Monday evening, and the Arizona Department of Transportation said the left-hand lane remained closed Tuesday morning.

The Department of Public Safety said motorists helped corral pigs that got onto the highway in the Virgin River Gorge between Mesquite, Nev., and St. George, Utah.

Youth center fined for head-banging injuries

MN ST. CLOUD — A St. Cloud youth center was fined after authorities say three teenagers suffered injuries from "daily and persistent" head-banging.

The Department of Human Services said the incidents at St. Cloud Children's Home took place in May and resulted in multiple concussions, facial injuries and

head trauma. State investigators found that facility managers either instructed staff to allow the head-banging or to not intervene until there was "imminent" damage.

The teens suffered from a range of mental health conditions, including depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, intense anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

The center has been ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and submit a plan on training staff on head and brain injuries. Trina Dietz, with center operator Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud, said the facility plans to appeal.

University condemns accusatory posters

CA SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco State University officials are condemning posters accusing a professor specializing in Palestinian studies of collaborating with terrorists.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that the David Horowitz Freedom Center has taken

credit for the postings. The posters single out Ethnic Studies associate professor Rabab Ibrahim Abdulhadi and carry the hashtag #JewHatred.

President Les Wong sent a campuswide email last week saying the posters were bullying. They were quickly taken down.

Native American art licenses considered

NM SANTA FE — Santa Fe city officials are considering requiring businesses to secure licenses to sell authentic Native American art.

The Santa Fe New Mexican reported that a proposal endorsed Monday by the City Council's Finance Committee would create a Native American Arts or Crafts District and require businesses selling such items to obtain a special business license.

The license would require business owners to clearly distinguish between authentic tribal art and other items, to display a sticker

at their entrance stating that they are selling Native American arts or crafts and to have a display at the cash register informing customers of their rights.

Man pleads guilty in Social Security theft

NH CONCORD — A New Hampshire man has pleaded guilty to taking more than \$101,000 in Social Security benefits erroneously paid to his dead mother.

Robert Duquette, of Hudson, pleaded guilty Monday to one count of theft of public money.

Court records say Duquette's mother was receiving widow's benefits from the Social Security Administration at the time of her death in October 2006. After she died, benefits were still deposited into a bank account that the 74-year-old Duquette held jointly with his mother. Court papers say the benefits were suspended in April 2014.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Tesla equipping cars to be autonomous

By **MICHAEL LIEDTKE**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO—Tesla Motors is starting to build its electric cars with all the sensors, cameras and other gear needed to drive completely on their own when regulations allow the technology to take over that responsibility.

The announcement, made Wednesday by Tesla CEO Elon Musk, marks the automaker's next step toward selling cars that can

navigate without a human's help. Google, ride-hailing service Uber and other automakers also are working on self-driving cars.

Tesla has offered an automatic steering and braking system called Autopilot since last year, but that technology is meant to be monitored at all times by a driver.

After additional testing and getting the necessary regulatory clearance, all the cars rolling off Tesla's assembly lines will have the equipment needed to be fully

autonomous, Musk said. By auto-industry standards Tesla is small, making about 100,000 cars a year.

Musk predicted the technology will be twice as safe as a human driver.

He added that the protection will jack up prices on Tesla vehicles that already can cost more than \$80,000. Adding the software and activating the hardware needed for a fully autonomous car will cost an additional \$8,000.

Musk said he thinks the price

will prove to be a pittance if he meets his goal of improving the technology so it's eventually 10 times safer than a human driver.

Tesla's future cars will have eight cameras instead of the single one currently on the vehicles running the Autopilot system. They will have sensors with twice the range as the current vehicles and have 40 times more computing power capable of performing 12 trillion operations per second, according to Musk.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 21)	\$1.1274
Dollar buys (Oct. 21)	\$1.2230
British pound (Oct. 21)	\$1.25
Japanese yen (Oct. 21)	101.00
South Korean won (Oct. 21)	1,094.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2230
Canada (Dollar)	1.3195
China (Yuan)	6.7398
Denmark (Krone)	6.7944
Spain (Euro)	\$1.0949/0.9133
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7579
Hungary (Forint)	280.96
Israel (Shekel)	3.6487
Japan (Yen)	101.00
Kuwait (Dinar)	3.0328
Norway (Krone)	8.1803
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	48.00
Poland (Zloty)	1.1257
Philippines (Peso)	7.3757
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3889
South Korea (Won)	1,125.70
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9908
Thailand (Baht)	34.95
Turkey (New Lira)	0.3538

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.87

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.517	\$2.776	\$3.002	\$2.741
Change in price	-1.5 cents	-1.3 cents	-1.2 cents	+3.6 cents
Netherlands	...	\$3.049	\$3.248	\$3.112
Change in price	...	-1.3 cents	-1.4 cents	+1.0 cents
U.K.	...	\$2.747	\$2.973	\$2.712
Change in price	...	-1.3 cents	-1.2 cents	+3.6 cents
Azores	\$2.927	...
Change in price	-3.9 cents	...
U.K.	...	\$2.747	\$2.973	\$2.712
Change in price	\$2.311	\$2.405
Change in price	...	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	\$2.904	\$2.694*
Change in price	-1.2 cents	No change
Qatar	\$2.877	...
Change in price	...	No change	...	No change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	...	\$2.779	...	\$3.819
Change in price	...	-1.0 cents	...	+4.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.289	\$2.479
Change in price	-2.0 cents	+4.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.329	\$2.589	\$2.809	\$2.549
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	+4.0 cents
Guam	\$2.319*	\$2.579	\$2.809	...
Change in price	-2.6 cents	-2.6 cents

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Oct. 22-28

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 19, 2016

Dow Jones Industrials	40,68
18,202.62	
Nasdaq composite	2,57
5,246.41	
Standard & Poor's 500	4,69
2,144.29	
Russell 2000	5,34
1,222.64	

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	69 57	Clcy	Fort Wayne	55 42	PCldy	Louisville	59 47	PCldy	Pocatello	67 33	Clcy	Sioux City	62 36	PCldy
Ablene, Texas	73	47	Clr	Cheyenne	68 35	Clr	Fresno	84 54	Clr	Lubbock	73 39	Clr	Portland, Maine	63 51	Rain	Sioux Falls	65 38	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	53	48	Rain	Chicago	53 39	Clr	Goodland	75 36	Clr	Macon	76 62	Clr	Portland, Ore.	60 51	Clcy	South Bend	53 43	Clcy
Albany, N.Y.	68	57	Rain	Cincinnati	56 48	Cldy	Grand Junction	70 36	Clr	Madison	52 34	Clr	Providence	70 56	Rain	Spokane	54 42	Clcy
Albuquerque	73	44	Clr	Cleveland	55 48	Rain	Grand Rapids	53 39	Clcy	Medford	63 52	Clcy	Pueblo	78 30	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	57 40	Clr
Allentown, Pa.	67	57	Rain	Colorado Springs	74 33	Clr	Great Falls	60 42	Clcy	Memphis	66 49	Clcy	Raleigh-Durham	71 61	Clcy	Springfield, Mo.	63 40	Clr
Amarillo	76	39	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	76 63	Cldy	Green Bay	50 35	PCldy	Miami Beach	84 70	Clr	Rapid City	68 38	PCldy	St. Louis	72 51	Rain
Anchorage	34	26	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	74 59	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	66 61	Rain	Midland-Odessa	74 45	Clr	Reno	76 41	Clr	Tallahassee	81 64	Clr
Asheville	60	56	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	55 48	Cldy	Hartford	67 61	Rain	Milwaukee	52 38	PCldy	Richmond	61 62	Rain	Tampa	84 69	Clr
Atlanta	69 68	59 46	PCldy	Concord, N.H.	67 69	Rain	Hartford Springfield	69 69	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	54 34	PCldy	Roanoke	63 59	Rain	Tucson	67 58	Clcy
Atlantic City	73 60	61 53	Rain	Corpus Christi	80 65	Clr	Helena	60 39	Clcy	Missoula	55 40	Clcy	Rochester	53 48	Rain	Topeka	66 40	Clr
Austin	71 61	53 43	Clr	Dallas-Ft Worth	73 53	Clr	Honolulu	97 81	PCldy	Mobile	57 49	PCldy	Rockford	55 34	Clcy	Tucson	95 68	Clr
Baltimore	71 61	53 43	Rain	Dayton	54 46	Cldy	Houston	78 59	Clcy	Montgomery	76 57	Clr	Sacramento	80 47	Clr	Tulsa	70 43	Clr
Baton Rouge	76 59	61 53	Clr	Daytona Beach	85 66	Clr	Huntsville	67 52	Clr	Nashville	63 51	Clr	St. Louis	60 42	Clr	Tulsa	68 50	Clr
Billings	65 43	PCldy	Denver	60 40	PCldy	Indianapolis	56 44	PCldy	New Orleans	75 64	Clr	St. Petersburg	84 72	Clr	Tulsa	72 51	Rain	
Birmingham	70 54	Clr	Des Moines	60 40	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	70 52	Clr	New York City	70 62	Rain	St. Thomas	85 81	PCldy	Waco	76 50	Clr	
Bismark	63 37	PCldy	Detroit	54 42	PCldy	Jacksonville	85 54	PCldy	Newark	72 62	Rain	Salisbury, Md.	59 49	Clr	W. Palm Beach	83 70	PCldy	
Boise	69 46	PCldy	Duluth	46 31	PCldy	Jamez	45 36	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	73 63	Rain	Salt Lake City	69 42	Clr	Wichita	69 43	Clr	
Boston	67 55	Clr	El Paso	77 56	Clr	Kansas City	63 40	PCldy	North Platte	70 35	Clr	San Angelo	75 46	Clr	Wichita Falls	74 45	Clr	
Bridgeport	71 57	Rain	Elkins	55 52	Rain	Key West	85 76	PCldy	Oklahoma City	73 43	Clr	San Antonio	76 55	Clr	Wilkes-Barre	63 57	Rain	
Brownsville	79 70	Clcy	Erie	55 48	Rain	Knoxville	60 54	Clcy	Omaha	65 41	PCldy	San Diego	88 66	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	70 61	Rain	
Buffalo	52 48	Rain	Eugene	59 49	Rain	Lake Charles	77 59	Clr	Orlando	85 66	Clr	San Francisco	72 57	Clr	Yonkers	59 40	PCldy	
Burlington, Vt.	61 52	Rain	Fargo	59 45	Clr	Lansing	83 39	PCldy	Padsuah	61 44	Clr	San Jose	76 52	Clr	Youngstown	59 40	PCldy	
Caribou, Maine	57 44	Rain	Flagstaff	26 15	Clcy	Las Vegas	86 60	Clr	Pendleton	59 47	Clcy	Santa Fe	71 35	Clr	Yonkers	53 47	Rain	
Casper	66 36	Clr	Fargo	56 35	Clr	Lexington	58 49	Cldy	Peoria	56 37	Clr	St. Ste Marie	46 37	Clcy				
Charleston, S.C.	79 61	PCldy	Flagstaff	72 32	Clr	Lincoln	67 39	PCldy	Philadelphia	70 62	Rain	Savannah	81 61	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	57 53	Rain	Flint	53 40	Clcy	Little Rock	67 48	Clr	Phoenix	96 72	Clr	Seattle	57 48	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	70 62	Clcy	Fort Smith	...	Clr	Los Angeles	94 65	Clr	Pittsburgh	55 50	Rain	Shreveport	72 54	Clr				

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

WEEKEND



'NCIS' actor comes from military family

Page 39



Feels like home

Norah Jones returns to the piano-based, jazz-inflected sound of her smash 2004 debut on 'Day Breaks'

Page 24

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



SAMSUNG/TNS

Samsung wants to get into the personal assistant game.

Samsung working on its own personal assistant

By MARISA KENDALL
The Mercury News

The world of virtual personal assistants is getting crowded.

There are those that live in your phone — Apple has Siri and Google unveiled its new Google Assistant recently. There are standalone models such as Google's new Google Home and Amazon's Echo. And then there are those that dwell in your online messaging services, such as Facebook's Messenger bots.

The newest addition to the club might come from Samsung.

The electronics company announced it will acquire Viv Labs — the San Jose, Calif.-based artificial intelligence startup founded by the creators of Siri. The move shows Samsung is interested in a personal assistant of its own

— according to the company, the buy is part of its plan to develop an AI system that works across all Samsung devices and services. As part of the deal, Samsung gets access to Siri creators Dag Kittlaus and Adam Cheyer, as well as Viv's third co-founder, Chris Brigham. The team will work closely with Samsung's mobile business, but will operate independently under their own leadership, according to a news release.

"Unlike other existing AI-based services, Viv has a sophisticated

natural language understanding, machine learning capabilities and strategic partnerships that will enrich a broader service ecosystem," Injong Rhee, CTO of Samsung's mobile communications business, wrote in the release. "Viv was built with both consumers and developers in mind. This dual focus is also what attracted us to Viv as an ideal candidate to integrate with Samsung home appliances, wearables and more, as the paradigm of how we interact with technology shifts to intelligent interfaces and voice control."

The Verge described the Viv assistant as "incredible" when it debuted in New York earlier this year. What makes Viv special appears to be its ability to handle queries on its own by connecting to third-party merchants to buy things and book reservations instead of passing off requests to a web browser. The Washington Post described Viv's ability to order a delivery pizza from start to finish without requiring the user to type anything, use a web search or download a food delivery app.

"At Viv, we're building the simplest way for anyone to talk to devices and services everywhere," Kittlaus wrote. "We see a future that is decidedly beyond apps — where you can get what you need quickly and easily no matter where you are, or what device you are near."

ON THE COVER: Grammy-winning musician Norah Jones returns to a jazzy, piano-based vibe on her latest album, "Day Breaks."

DANNY CLUNCH/Courtesy of Blue Note Records

GADGET WATCH

Backpack protects photographers' valuables

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Think Tank Photo's Shape Shifter backpack has been an industry leader for photographers lugging around big, bulky and expensive equipment in a low-profile form.

Based on input from professional photographers, Think Tank upgraded the backpack with the recent release of the Shape Shifter version 2.0, which gives it a narrower profile when empty, allowing photographers to configure it and have it expanded only when filled. Even when full, expensive camera gear is well hidden from the public eye until it's removed.

Like all Think Tank Photo products, the backpack has a comfortable design, top-notch hardware and numerous pockets and compartments with smooth rolling zippers. It's really amazing how much you can store in the backpack. Pockets are inside of pockets to carry photo gear, laptops up to 17 inches, smartphones, tablets, chargers, cables and the like. The backpack also has a detachable water bottle pouch.

If you want to carry a tripod, an attachment keeps it easily accessible and weight-centered. A padded shoulder harness is adjustable to make it easy to carry the backpack in comfort, and there's a removable rain cover and waist belt.

Online: thinktankphoto.com; available in three sizes, for 15 and 17-inch laptops; the Naked Shape Shifter can be totally customized.

The Yantouch EyeE Bluetooth speaker works great as a standalone speaker, but it has additional great features. The colorful bass-enhanced speaker has a 10-hour battery life inside a disk-shaped design, which features a topside app-controlled smart light. With the app, you get the choice of 16 million glowing, changing colors, according to a press release.

I really liked the Natural Sleep/Wake-up feature, which allows the light and music to gradually dim during bedtime and then wake me up with the sound of canaries singing.

If you have more than one Yantouch, they can easily be paired to form a left/right stereo



The Yantouch EyeE Bluetooth speaker features advanced wireless audio with enhanced bass, a Swiss horn-inspired resonance tube and Dual Channel Stereo with a flat, round design that perfectly fits the speaker driver for the most efficient sound-to-size ratio.

system while sharing the same Bluetooth connection. The linking was as simple as described, automatically linking together with a beep. The speaker is 6-by-2.3-by-3.7 inches and is available with a black or white bottom. A remote control is included along with a stand for use on a flat surface or wall hanging.

Online: yantouch.com; \$99

If your gardening skills are like mine, you have destroyed an embarrassing number of electrical extension cords with hedge trimmers.

The Dewalt 20V Max Hedge Trimmer eliminates the cord-cutting problem (and associated costs) since it operates on a 5.0Ah Lithium-Ion battery, allowing you to work cord-free. Using the 7.5-pound tool is as easy as attaching the charged battery, removing the protective cover from the blades and turning it on.

It's designed to trim branches up to ¾-inch thick with the 22-inch laser cut, hooked-tooth steel blades. The long blades enable trimming done in otherwise unreachable places. The trimmer is designed with a comfortable wrap-around auxiliary handle with an easy-to-reach lock and an on/off switch.

A charger is included with the trimmer and battery; additional batteries can be purchased. Online: dewalt.com; \$199 for the trimmer/battery combo, \$135.49 for just the trimmer, \$99 for extra batteries

The recently released Shape Shifter backpacks from Think Tank Photo come in three new configurations and have a narrower profile when they aren't full of the expensive camera equipment they're designed to protect.



TNS photos

ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on iTunes for the week ending October 13:

1. "Closer" (feat. Halsey), The Chainsmokers
2. "24K Magic," Bruno Mars
3. "Starboy" (feat. Daft Punk), The Weeknd
4. "Heathens," Twenty one pilots
5. "Let Me Love You" (feat. Justin Bieber), DJ Snake
6. "Broccoli" (feat. Lil Yachty), D.R.A.M.
7. "I Hate Love U" (feat. Olivia O'Brien), Gnash
8. "Juju on That Beat" (TZ Anthem), Zay Hilferrr & Zayion McCall
9. "Today," Brad Paisley
10. "Side to Side" (feat. Nicki Minaj), Ariana Grande

— Compiled by AP

SPOTIFY MUSIC

Spotify's Top 10 most-streamed tracks from Sept. 30-Oct. 6:

1. "Closer" (feat. Halsey), The Chainsmokers
2. "Starboy" (feat. Daft Punk), The Weeknd
3. "Let Me Love You" (feat. Justin Bieber), DJ Snake
4. "Broccoli" (feat. Lil Yachty), D.R.A.M.
5. "Cold Water" (feat. Justin Bieber & MØ), Major Lazer
6. "Heathens," twenty one pilots
7. "All We Know," The Chainsmokers
8. "Side to Side" (feat. Nicki Minaj), Ariana Grande
9. "One Dance," Drake
10. "Too Good," Drake

— Compiled by AP

ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies on iTunes for the week ending October 16:

1. "Ghostbusters" (2016)
2. "The Infiltrator"
3. "The Legend of Tarzan" (2016)
4. "Central Intelligence"
5. "X-Men: Apocalypse"
6. "Star Trek Beyond"
7. "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates"
8. "Ice Age: Collision Course"
9. "Dirty Grandpa"
10. "Jack Reacher"



— Compiled by AP

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the top 10 PlayStation 4 games for October:

1. "NBA 2K17," 2K Sports
2. "Pro Evolution Soccer 2017," Konami
3. "Darkest Dungeon," Red Hook Studios
4. "XCOM 2," 2K Games
5. "Virginia," 505 Games
6. "Batman: The Telltale Series — Episode Two," Telltale Games
7. "FIFA 17," EA Sports
8. "BioShock: The Collection," 2K Games
9. "Destiny: Rise of Iron," Activision
10. "Dragon Quest Builders," Square Enix

— Compiled by TNS

APPS

The top paid iPhone apps for the week ending October 16:

1. Minecraft: Pocket Edition
2. Heads Up!
3. Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas
4. Facelife
5. Blood ID 5
6. Earn to Die
7. Monument Valley
8. Plague Inc.
9. Moji Maker
10. Geometry Dash

— Compiled by AP

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



From left: Ryan McCartan, Laverne Cox and Victoria Justice are among the stars of the made-for-TV movie "The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again." The show airs Oct. 21 on AFN-movie.

FOX

1

'Rocky Horror' coming to AFN

"Rocky Horror Picture Show" fans, take note: If you feel like time is fleeting and madness has taken its toll, then you are ready to do the "Time Warp" dance again. Get ready to make a jump to the left or make a step to the right when a new version of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again" airs Oct. 21 on AFN. The made-for-TV movie features Victoria Justice, Ryan McCartan, Laverne Cox, Adam Lambert and Tim Curry, among others. Curry is the only member of the 1975 feature film in the new cast. He goes from playing Dr. Frank-N-Furter to the role of The Criminologist.

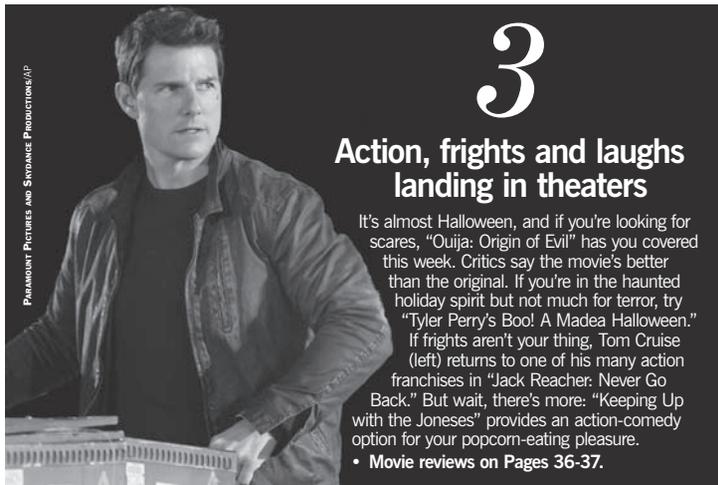
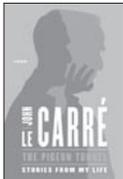
- **'The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again'** airs Oct. 21 on AFN-Movie.

2

Spy novelist spins some real-life tales

Have you heard of David Cornwell? Possibly not. You're more likely to have heard of John Le Carre, the pen name under which Cornwell has written some of the greatest spy novels of our time. Many have also been made into movies. In "The Pigeon Tunnel," Cornwell reflects on his brief stint as a British spy during the Cold War, and his long career as a revered espionage novelist.

- **Review of 'The Pigeon Tunnel' and other books on Page 38.**



3

Action, frights and laughs landing in theaters

It's almost Halloween, and if you're looking for scares, "Ouija: Origin of Evil" has you covered this week. Critics say the movie's better than the original. If you're in the haunted holiday spirit but not much for terror, try "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween."

If frights aren't your thing, Tom Cruise (left) returns to one of his many action franchises in "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back." But wait, there's more: "Keeping Up with the Joneses" provides an action-comedy option for your popcorn-eating pleasure.

- **Movie reviews on Pages 36-37.**

PARAMOUNT PICTURES AND SPINRANCE PRODUCTIONS/1P

WEEKEND: MUSIC

BACK TO HER
BREAKTHROUGH

Norah Jones emerges authentic and grounded on new album

By CHRIS BARTON
Los Angeles Times

Even after colossal music industry success that can lead to a certain fluid view of time and deadlines, Norah Jones hates being late.

Although her meeting a few weeks back with reporters at one of the studios inside the Capitol Records building began only a few minutes behind schedule, she apologized repeatedly. "I used to be the most on-time person I ever met, and now I'm always like 10 or 15 minutes late," she said.

"It's more for me," she explained with a laugh.

The idea of who Jones used to be has come up a lot in the run-up to her

sixth album, "Day Breaks," which was released Oct. 7. With covers of standards by Horace Silver and Duke Ellington, and a backing band that at various points includes Dr. Lonnie Smith and Wayne Shorter, the album has been presented as "Norah Jones' return to jazz," or more specifically, "Norah Jones returns to the sound of her 2002 breakthrough, 'Come Away With Me.'"

Although Jones doesn't find that description inaccurate, it's not her first choice. After writing on the guitar for her past few albums, she began gravitating back to the piano, which played a prominent role in her debut. Then in 2014 she performed at the Kennedy Center as part of a 75th anniversary celebration for her label,

Blue Note Records, with an all-star lineup that included Shorter, pianist Jason Moran and drummer Brian Blade.

That got her wheels turning. "I kind of tiptoed around [the idea] for a while," she said, explaining she had some hesitation about calling out of the blue. "I just wanted to play with Brian so bad because I wanted to do a few songs that were more jazz, maybe? Which is a loaded term," she said.

That label didn't sit right with her in the "Come Away With Me" days, but she doesn't mind it as much now, explaining that it came from a protective instinct for a genre she loves. "It was more about being a former jazz snob in high school and college and wanting to correct people," she said. "I was like, 'No, you've got to go listen to some really great jazz now.' This is not what it is, necessarily. Go listen to 'In a Sentimental Mood' with John Coltrane and Duke Ellington."

That sound

Jones worked on songs here and there at her home in New York City before going in the studio with Blade and bassist Chris Thomas, which eventually expanded to include Shorter with his bassist John Patitucci, among others. But for all her intentions of exploring a genre where many people believe she began, parts of the album kept drifting across categories in a way that resembles, well, a Norah Jones record.

"She has a sound. No matter what she sings," said Shorter, reached by phone at his L.A. home. "Ella Fitzgerald had a sound, Billie Holiday had a sound, Bing Crosby had a sound. 'If you go through the arc today, most of the sounds are like people on the highway sounding like the person in front of them,'" he added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Phish

Big Boat (JEMP Records)

Phish will not be remembered for its studio releases, and "Big Boat" shows why.

Bookended with a couple of duds, obfuscating some real gems in between, the Vermont-based jam band's 13th official studio effort is an uneven affair. It will leave longtime fans scratching their heads at some of the choices made while doing little to persuade anyone new to the scene to pay attention to Phish's studio output.

To be sure, there are songs worth remembering. "Waking Up Dead," by bass player Mike Gordon, is a standout, as are songs the band worked out live before recording, most notably "No Men in No Man's Land." Keyboardist Page McConnell appears to channel outsider musician Daniel Johnston in the refreshingly ragged ditty "Things People Do."

But "Friends," the track that kicks off "Big Boat," is an overproduced disaster that sounds more like a Pink Floyd outtake. "I Always Wanted It This Way" also sounds like a Floyd castoff, and not in a good way.

Then there's "Petrichor," the orchestrated closer named for the pleasant smell that comes after a rainfall following dry weather. At 13 minutes, it goes on about 10 minutes too long, and isn't all that pleasant.

"In a world gone mad, world gone mad," Trey Anastasio sings on "More," a jaunty rocker that should really spring to life onstage. "There must be something more than this."

Indeed.

— Scott Bauer
Associated Press



Bon Iver

22, A Million (Jagjaguwar)

Some weirdness pervades the release of "22, A Million," the third album by Bon Iver — symbols, images and liner notes that feel like they're fraught with meaning. Some of it might be nonsense.

Then there's the music. An adventurous journey in sound, "22, A Million" is never dull. Altered voices, the familiar falsetto of Bon Iver's mastermind, Justin Vernon, and acoustic and electronic shape-shifting stretch the conventional boundaries of song.

The album "is part love letter, part final resting place of two decades of searching for self-understanding like a religion," are we told. "If 'Bon Iver, Bon Iver' built a habitat rooted in physical spaces, then '22, A Million' is the letting go of that attachment to a place."

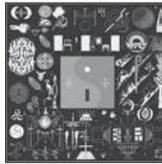
That might be nonsense; it's at least self-consciously artsy. So it's tempting to dismiss this as an ultimately meaningless collection of look-at-me life themes for hipsters. Then you give the music another listen.

There are extraordinary moments of sound on this album, with just enough melody to sustain them. A prime example, a cut called "8(Circle)" — the title itself is a symbol — builds from a heartbeat pulse through vaguely achy lyrics on a tidal swell to a spirited crescendo.

Pretextations notwithstanding, it is beautiful. Will Bon Iver's growing body of sonic experimentation lose its charm and sound dated, like Moby, when the shine wears off?

We may not know for a while, but it hasn't happened yet.

— Scott Stroud
Associated Press



John Prine

For Better, or Worse (Oh Boy)

Listening to one of this era's greatest songwriters perform material written by others is like watching Peyton Manning in a TV commercial. It's not what he does best, but it's still entertaining.

"For Better, or Worse" pairs John Prine with well-chosen covers and female partners as a sequel to his 1999 duets set, "In Spite of Ourselves." The best news is that Prine is in fine form despite his battle with throat cancer.

The set starts strong with Prine and Iris DeMent savoring the wit of "Who's Gonna Take the Garbage Out," a Loretta Lynn-Ernest Tubbs chestnut. Prine and his wife, Fiona, sound sweet together on the Elvis Presley tune "My Happiness," and Alison Krauss comes off like an angel while meshing surprisingly well with her gravely partner on "Falling in Love Again." Best is the finale, "Just Waitin'," an obscure Hank Williams gem that Prine performs solo with a masterful delivery. The lyrics will resonate with every impatient husband.

Other tunes are less successful. With Kathy Mattea on "Remember Me," Prine shows he should not sing harmony, and Miranda Lambert's unusual harmony on "Cold, Cold Heart" doesn't quite work.

The liner notes include a charming message from Prine but lack details about the songs that are worth a mention. "Falling in Love Again," for example, was written in German in 1930 and performed by the Beatles in their club days in Hamburg. Even the most precocious songwriter finds a good cover tough to resist.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press



"I knew what people's general image of me was. I don't think I felt the need to completely change it."

Norah Jones



TNS

Norah Jones, who recently released a new album, "Day Breaks," performs Sept. 27 on the TV show "Later ... With Jools Holland" in Maidstone, England.

track includes the line "I finally know who I'm supposed to be," a detail that easily stands out among those looking for artistic admissions in lyric sheets. Upon hearing the idea, Jones grins and sinks into the sofa.

"That's not all about me!" she protested, although she's not surprised, either. "I thought that, 'I should change it to third person,' but I was like, 'Nah, I don't really care.' People take everything in such a different way."

Disregarding expectations has been a theme in Jones' career since "Come Away With Me" threatened to turn her into Adele for the early '00s, complete with diamond sales numbers and an armload of Grammys. But she seldom looked back to that formula. Subsequent albums tilted more toward country, and her most recent record, 2012's "Little Broken Hearts," ventured into dark electro-pop with the help of producer Danger Mouse. That marked just one stylistic shift that year.

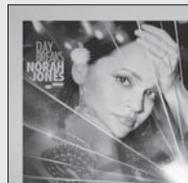
She also released a second album

with her country trio the Little Willies, recorded an album-length tribute to the Everly Brothers with Green Day's Billie Joe Armstrong and teamed with Oda to sing on the bawdy hip-hop goof "Deal-breaker" in a clip by a trio dubbed White on Rice. While these moves look like attempts to break with preconceptions about her music, Jones said it wasn't as conscious as that.

"I definitely didn't want to just do the same thing over and over," Jones said as she stirred a cup of tea. "And I really was proud of my first record, but I was still figuring out my sound. We definitely hit upon it, but I think that I was interested in still exploring."

"I knew what people's general image of me was. I don't think I felt the need to completely change it," she said, and then paused.

"Maybe in the beginning I did a little bit. I think more than anything I just tried to not let it define me. I didn't have to let it define me."



Norah Jones

Day Breaks (Blue Note Records)

Fourteen years later, we're still a deeply polarized nation. Those who loved Norah Jones' breakout debut album, "Come Away With Me," will enjoy "Day Breaks." It's music for the coffeehouse crowd that prefers songs sung in an indoor voice.

As for those who found Jones' early work too mellow, they're unlikely to applaud the return to her roots. She's again serving up intimate ballads in a sultry alto with hints of jazz, and while the music is pretty, it's also pretty polite.

There's a disconnect when pulling down from the cloud new music so grounded in the last century, especially the singer-songwriter heyday of the 1970s. "Flipside" echoes Joe Jackson, "It's a Wonderful Time for Love" borrows from Van Morrison and "Don't Be Denied" covers Neil Young.

On her original tunes, Jones sings about alcoholism ("Tragedy"), deceit ("Sleeping Wild") and a relationship giving off the wrong kind of heat ("Burn"), but she never raises the temperature herself. Standout drummer Brian Blade manages to boost the energy level at times, as do horn arrangements on a few cuts, but Wayne Shorter's squawky soprano sax seems jarring.

Jones' frequent piano solos, like her vocals, are lovely but restrained. Many listeners will likely find love to be plenty.

— Steven Wine
Associated Press

FROM PAGE 24

"People who took the trail less trodden — there's very few people on that trail, but that trail took them more places."

Shorter's bright, twisting tone can be heard on the purring ballad "Burn" (co-written by Jones with Sarah Oda) as well as a poignant cover of Silver's "Peace" and a hushed take on Ellington's "Fleurette Africaine," which is the album's most delicate moment with Jones on piano and humming the song's hazy melody before giving way to Shorter.

"I was listening to (that song) a lot trying to get some juju from it. Because I wanted something cool like this to play with Wayne. Then in the end I just thought, 'we'll just cover the song.'" Jones said.

"Norah has grown more into who she is," said Blade, who also played on "Come Away With Me." "Not that she wasn't confident from the beginning, but just in terms of in the studio and capturing performances, she worked in a very holistic way. She's looking for a band performance, which is great."

Personal touch

A country-tinted cover of Neil Young's "Don't Be Denied" gains a darker energy with a gender-flipped main character wearing "white chucks" instead of bucks, and then there's the R&B-tilted early single "Flipside," which was partly inspired by Les McCann's 1971 soul-jazz classic "Compared to What."

Led by Jones' driving piano, the brassy

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

New generation keeps 'Gears of War' spinning

By **LOU KESTEN**
Associated Press



Marcus Fenix is too old for this... well, you know the drill. Fortunately, the hero of Microsoft's Gears of War franchise has a son, JD, who's more than happy to pick up dad's old weapons. So as "Gears of War 4" begins, it's fresh-faced JD and friends fighting the dictatorial Coalition of Governments on the planet Sera.

Sera might look a lot different to "Gears" fans who are used to seeing it swarming with Locusts, the insectoid killing machines that Marcus and company wiped out in earlier games. Not to worry: You can't keep a good monster down, and before long JD and his team are trying to rescue their loved ones from fresh mutations.

There are some creatively vicious critters in this new batch: One will swallow you whole and start digesting unless your squad-mates bust you out. And there are fresh weapons, like a gun that fires razor-tipped discs that bounce from foe to foe.

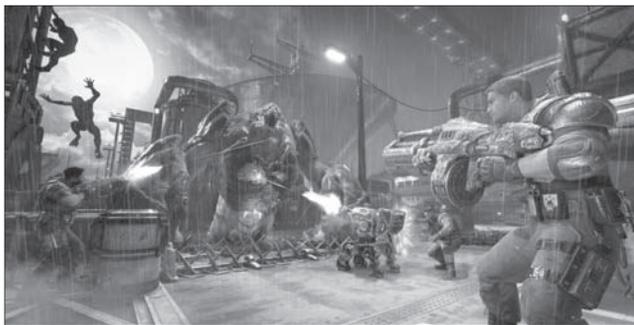
But "Gears 4" quickly falls into a familiar rhythm of firefights, initially against COG droids, then against the re-awakened, increasingly powerful bugs. Veterans know the routine: find cover, shoot, reload, move to the

next cover, repeat.

It's a somewhat stale formula, broken up by the occasional mission where you're defending a village rather than taking the fight to the monsters. I found the single-player campaign tedious and repetitive until the very end, when it finally picks up some momentum — only to end rather abruptly.

Still, Gears aficionados will regard the campaign as a mere appetizer to multiplayer action.

"Gears 4" delivers a beefy menu of online competition, with reliable standbys like Deathmatch and King of the Hill. There are some nifty new twists: In Dodgeball, a downed warrior can return to the battlefield if an



"Gears of War 4" follows JD Fenix, son of Marcus Fenix, as he discovers the source of a monstrous new enemy with close friends Kait and Del.

opposing player is killed, while in Arms Race, your weapons are upgraded after every three kills.

If you're in a more cooperative mood, Horde mode lets you team up with four other humans to fight off 50 waves of droids and beasts, with a particularly nasty boss every 10th round. "Gears 4" adds classes to the mix, so you can focus on long-range sniping, building defensive turrets and barri-

cades, or leaping into the fray with your chain saw-equipped gun.

Beyond the Marcus-JD family drama, "Gears 4" represents a changing of the guard in other ways. Franchise creator Epic Games has moved on, leaving the series in the hands of a Microsoft-based development team called The Coalition.

The new generation has done a worthy job upholding Epic's lega-

cy. The weapons have distinctive heft and power, the enemies feel suitably squishy, and the entire project looks spectacular.

Still, this is real meat-and-potatoes gaming that doesn't evolve much beyond "go there and shoot that." Gears fans will be satisfied; anyone seeking a brainier challenge can move along.

Platforms: Xbox One, PC
Online: gearsoffwar.com

'Virginia' a twisted, fascinating tale of deception, greed and mystery

By **CASSIDEE MOSER**
Shacknews.com

"Virginia's" strength lies in its silence. No character utters a single word throughout its course,

the story instead relying on visual cues and cinematic editing to cut together a bizarre, fractured narrative calling back

to the days of "Twin Peaks" and "The X-Files." A few technical hiccups mar the experience, but overall it's an intriguing take on the first-person, narrative-driven genre.

As FBI agent Anne Tarver, you're investigating the disappearance of a

boy named Lucas Fairfax alongside fellow agent Maria Halperin. But there are ulterior motives to this case, including the fact that this investigation is also masking a more secretive internal investigation into Halperin herself.

The investigation takes place in King-dom, Va., a sleepy town with its own strange secrets. Over the course of one week, Anne will need some experience a wide swath of bizarre, unnerving and surrealistic things, some of which could alter the course of her life.

"Virginia" is built around its story, and therefore funnels gameplay in a linear,



First-person mystery thriller "Virginia" follows graduate FBI special agent Anne Tarver as she investigates her first case: the disappearance of a missing boy in rural Virginia.

forward-driven way. Unlike its counterparts, there's little to no exploring to be done in any given location; no flavor text or collectibles to pick up, no audio logs to fill in the proverbial blanks. Instead, "Virginia" utilizes a film style of editing, jumping from scene to scene through wonderfully blended ways. Rather than walking down a long flight of stairs, the scene will automatically jump to the bottom, right when you enter the lengthy walkway

to Halperin's office. While pausing to look down at an object in the diner, you'll be transported to the next scene when looking up. It's a unique implementation of a more classic style of pacing, and the results grant it a tremendous amount of style and help to play into "Virginia's" already bizarre form of storytelling.

A relatively short game, "Virginia" took me about two hours to complete, during which I was slowly piecing together a twist-

ed and fascinating story involving elements of deception, greed, power and mystery.

Its story is a bizarre, surreal one that might require multiple playthroughs in order to understand. There are moments of clarity; sitting with friends while drinking, visiting with Lucas' grief-stricken parents, and even rejecting the advancements of a drunk man at the bar. But for every clear moment, there's another bizarre, twisted one, making it difficult to maintain a solid grip on reality. The environment transforms, doorways to other worlds appear wantonly, and several moments are punctuated by the presence of a mysterious Cardinal in various states of life. Symbolism is key in understanding "Virginia's" finer points, but it's often difficult to gauge exactly the meaning of a specific sight or occurrence, for better or for worse. What's more, the narrators shift, their stories don't always add up, and it becomes increasingly challenging to know who is responsible for Lucas' disappearance.

"Virginia's" one glaring flaw is some of its technical performance. During my time with the game, I noticed the occasional framerate dip, audio issues with cues not coming in on time and a strange headbob attached to the main character's movement that sometimes made it difficult to focus on the screen. Hopefully these issues can be smoothed out over time. "Virginia" is too neat of an experience to have faulty features that might deter the average user.

Platform: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, PC
Online: virginia.game

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



SOLENPHOTOGRAPH.CO.UK/Courtesy of the Scottish International Storytelling Festival

HEAR A GOOD YARN: Scottish Storytelling Festival

Now in its 27th year, the Scottish International Storytelling Festival is a 10-day celebration of live storytelling opening Oct. 21 in Edinburgh, Scotland. This year's theme, "Festival of Dreams," will explore the power of storytelling to lift listeners out of time and place. On the program are performances, workshops, talks and children's events. Find details at scottishstorytellingcentre.co.uk.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Dogs in London

London's ExCeL is a dog lovers' dream destination over the weekend, as breeders and owners display nearly 200 breeds of canines at the Eukanuba Discover Dogs show. The event is sponsored by the Kennel Club, an organization founded in 1873 that is a source of accurate information on breeds, the purchase of dogs from responsible breeders, and dog health and well-being.

Pet lovers can chat with experts about both popular and lesser-known breeds, shop for accessories, watch jumping displays and enjoy competitions such as the semifinals of the Scruffits, a competition between mutts and crossbreeds.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 22 and 23. Adult tickets cost 16.85 pounds (about \$20.60) when purchased online; those under the age of 12 enter free. Leave your own dog behind on the day, as only those invited by the Kennel Club are permitted into the show.

Learn more at discoverdogs.org.uk.

Frankfurt Book Fair

Those who feel there's no need like a good read will be in their element at the Frankfurt Book Fair, which runs through Oct. 23 at the city's cavernous trade fairgrounds. The fair is a meeting place for authors, publishers, booksellers, agents, film producers and other players in the publishing industry.

There are some changes from



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

previous fairs, including more prominent placement of English language and political books as well as greater inclusion of start-ups.

Each year's edition features a special guest country or region; Flanders and The Netherlands take the spotlight this year. Visitors can enjoy exhibitions, readings, virtual-reality installations, a crafts market and demonstrations by the chocolatiers of the guest region. A translation slam pits machine translation programs against living literary translators working in German and English.

The fair is open to private visitors from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Oct. 22 and from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 23. On the fair's last day, exhibiting publishers are allowed to sell their books at retail cost, but arrive early, as many exhibitors start to pack up by midafternoon. Day tickets cost 19 euros (\$21), ages 7-14 pay 13 euros, and those

age 6 and under enter free. For more information, see buchmesse.de/en/fbf.

Meat in Budapest

The name might not be pretty, but the cuts of meat will be tasty at the Pig Slaughtering Sausage Festival, which runs through the weekend in Budapest.

The Hungarian capital's Railway History Park serves as the venue for the festival, which showcases tradition, folklore and the best of present-day gastronomy.

Costume-clad butchers wielding traditional tools show how their trade has been carried out through the centuries. Csabai sausages, prepared on site, are just one of some 250 Hungarian varieties that can be purchased here. Other pork products also will be sold, along with wine, spirits, cheeses and spices. Folklore shows lend atmosphere to the festivities.

Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. Oct. 22 and 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Oct. 23. Single-day tickets cost 2,500 forints (about \$9.50). The venue is at 1142 Bupaest, Tatai utca 95. A special bus running from the city's West Railway Station ferries visitors to the site; alternatively, take the Esztergom rail line to the Railway Museum stop.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/ood5t4s.

Swabian culture

What does it mean to be a Swabian? The Landesmuseum

HALLOWEEN FUN FOR KIDS:
Brussels Museum for Fantastic Art

In what is now a decade-old tradition, the Museum for Fantastic Art in Brussels celebrates the scary season with its annual Halloween Festival. The event, set for Oct. 29 to Nov. 6, features tame fun for the young. Each year there is a new riddle to be solved, and the right answer entitles young guests to a diploma qualifying them as a witch or wizard.

For a break, the museum suggests enjoying pineapple "snail juice," bloody orange juice, "rotten apple" juice or pumpkin soup in its cafeteria. Organizers encourage visitors to come in costume and painted faces. On Halloween night there will be free animations on Pierre Paulus Parc and Morichar's Place, plus fire-works.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Entrance to the museum costs 6 euros; there is a 1.25-euro charge for the Tour of Fantastic Beasts. Reservations are necessary only for large groups.



Courtesy of the Museum of Fantastic Art

Brussels' Museum of Fantastic Art invites children to dress up for its Halloween Festival.

For details, see the museum's website, fantastic-museum.be/en/events/23_halloween-festival.

Württemberg in Stuttgart considers this phenomenon from all angles, looking beyond the clichés and contradictions of a cultural subset commonly stereotyped by fellow Germans as thrifty, cleanliness-obsessed and speaking an almost unintelligible dialect.

"The Swabians — Between Myth and Brand" offers insight into the cultural history of Swabia with a display of important art works from the Middle Ages to the present, a selection of icons of popular culture and a photo exhibition.

Augsburg, Konstanz, Stuttgart, Ulm and other cities come under the spotlight to illuminate

the region's art, architecture and longstanding importance in global trade. An English audio guide helps to orient foreign visitors. Curious youth can enjoy an exhibition titled "The Seven Super Schwaben — Heroes and Inventors in the Boy's Castle," which looks at the lives of famous Swabians.

The exhibition runs through April 23 in the Altes Schloss Stuttgart at Schillerplatz 6 and is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Mondays. Admission costs 13 euros (\$14.35) for adults and 3.50 euros for ages 6-18; those age 5 and under enter free.

Learn more at tinyurl.com/j5r2xt9.



ALEXANDER HEIMANN/Frankfurter Buchmesse

The Frankfurt Book Fair runs through Oct. 23 at the city's cavernous trade fairgrounds.

For more Europe travel information online, go to stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



HOP TO IT

PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

A few of the hundreds of rabbits in Parco Querini in Vicenza, Italy, take in the passing scene. The park is also home to chickens.

Visitors share Vicenza park with hundreds of rabbits

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

Awalk in the park in Vicenza's Parco Querini can be a little surreal.

Located in the heart of the city's dense historic district, it has vast green meadows, thickets of trees, running trails and fitness stations, like many parks. It also has a classical temple and a long, graveled walkway bordered on both sides by statues, something more clearly Italianate and elegant.

And then there are the rabbits. They lounge on the grass, hop hither and yon, or stand stock still in the time-honored way of prey animals hoping you won't see them. There are hundreds of them.

I first heard about the quirky park from some neighbors headed out on a weekend morning carrying a bag full of carrots. But it still came as a surprise. The park is quite large — about 30 acres — and the rabbits are everywhere.

The park was formerly the back garden of a wealthy residence and was opened to the public free of charge in the 1970s.

During a recent visit, the park was green and serene. Autumn in northern Italy lacks the fiery beauty of Vermont or upstate New York — there are no sugar maples. Still, it was quite soothing.



An elegant avenue bordered by statues is among Parco Querini's features.

ing. A family picnicked. A couple kissed. A pair of women ran around the track.

My dog and I walked around. We went over to the temple, which is inaccessible, surrounded by a murky pond said to be inhabited by nutria and turtles.

I tied the dog by his leash to a bench, took a bag of baby carrots out of my pocket and approached a solitary white rabbit. The rabbit let me get close enough to put a carrot in front of it but never made eye contact.

It's unclear how long the rabbits

have lived at the park, or how long they'll remain. This spring, the local paper had a story saying they'd be removed because they were ill and needed treatment and sterilization. The park closed for a few days in July for a rabbit roundup.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Parco Querini is located at Viale Ferdinando Rodolfo, 36100 Vicenza.

TIMES

Open 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. daily through October; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in November and December.

COSTS

There are pay parking lots nearby.

FOOD

Restaurants and coffee bars in Vicenza's old town are about a 10-minute walk away.

— Nancy Montgomery

But on an October day, they were everywhere, hanging out with the park's chickens — yes, there are also chickens — in a sort of Easter scene.

The park is open all year long and in summer offers free classes in Zumba, bellydancing, yoga, tai chi and self-defense.

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

After Hours: Germany

By JENNIFER H. SVAN

Stars and Stripes

If you're a parent with young children, you ought to pull up Google Maps and learn the route to the Santa Monica Pastry Shop.

Fresh scones, espresso drinks and a big play room for kids to romp: It's a slice of nirvana for harried and hungry caretakers of small tots in the Kaiserslautern area.

Santa Monica is the first "Kinder cafe" in the city, and might be the only of its kind in the state of Rheinland-Pfalz, says its owner, Mia Krueger.

Krueger, an American who was born on the now-closed Hahn Air Base, opened the cafe about five months ago after a visit to the area to see her sister turned into a permanent stay.

A single parent, Krueger had been living in Berlin and was looking for a change after experiencing hard times.

"I thought when you really have stress and a lot of turbulence in your life, how do you cope?" she said. "I wanted to make a sanctuary for families and for women, where they can relax, link up with other mothers and other women and just kind of get away from it all."

Krueger rented and fixed up an old radio shop a few blocks from the downtown pedestrian area.

She set up a kids' play area equipped with a flat-screen television, books, a play kitchen, a chalkboard, a small climbing wall, toys and tables for the grown-ups.

The front of the cafe invites relaxation, with a mix of chairs and couches, small tables and eclectic decor.

The limited menu has a distinct American flavor: Breakfast-type sandwiches served on English muffins have names such as Georgetown, Savannah and New Orleans. The taco plate comes with "Texas Chili" and the Monterey Chicken is served with tortilla chips.

"Everything here is freshly made," Krueger said.

Scones are a mainstay, as are the cafe's line of artisanal cookies: Love + Flour, Chocolate chip walnut and oatmeal raisin are among the daily offerings. Surprises, such as pistachio lemon sugar and sage cashew peanut butter, are courtesy of kitchen innovation.

The drink menu should satisfy health nuts and caffeine junkies alike with a variety of smoothies, fresh fruit and vegetable juices, coffee drinks and tea.

On a recent outing with friends, my caffeine craving was stronger than the need for a liquid spinach fix. The cappuccino was excellent. The iced coffee was also good, one friend said, while the other was disappointed in her milkshake, which tasted more like chocolate milk. So the sweets pictured on the cafe's Facebook page, such as cinnamon rolls and New



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

This sandwich at the Santa Monica Pastry Shop in Kaiserslautern was served on an English muffin and included a fried egg, smoked salmon, cheese and sundried tomatoes. It came with a side of hearty breakfast-style potatoes.

SANTA MONICA PASTRY SHOP

Location: Schubertstrasse 35, Kaiserslautern 67655

Hours: 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. weekdays; currently closed weekends, but hours might expand in the winter time.

Prices: Moderate. Sandwiches and other dishes start around 6 euros (about \$6.60) and stay under 10 euros. Expect to pay about 12 euros or less for food and beverage. Pastries and other sweet treats under 5 euros.

Menu: Combination of Ger-

man and English; staff can help translate.

Clients: American and German

Dress: Casual
Miscellaneous: Large play area for children. Unique line of artisanal cookies, which can be baked fresh in cafe upon order.

Information: Call (+49) (0) 631-8929-6790. On Facebook: facebook.com/sanmapaso; website: sanmapaso.com

— Jennifer H. Svan



Cinnamon rolls fresh from the oven are among the treats that will satisfy one's sweet tooth at the Santa Monica Pastry Shop.

York-style cheesecake, served on occasion, looked delicious.

Krueger and her staff say they welcome feedback. She will soon introduce a winter menu

featuring more soups, including one American staple: "Chicken noodle soup. It's so basic, but hard to find here."

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Earthy beets star in this fall salad

The Washington Post

During a recent interview event, "Gefilte Manifesto" writers Jeffrey Yoskowitz and Liz Alpern promoted lots of audience head nodding when they referred to "growing into" foods such as chopped liver. Beets fall into that category of things a mature palate can appreciate, I think. Their earthiness, attributed in part to an organic compound called geosmin, generally is not something young folks enjoy.

I grew up with a borscht-loving father and learned to make the stuff for him, yet still never cooied up to the vegetable

served that way on "Harvard" style, from a jar — until I had them roasted, when I was in my late 20s.

And at this time of year, when the purplish-red, candy-striped and golden ones get bundled together at the grocery store, roasting them all together is a fine way to go.

This salad shows off their color; the crunchy hazelnuts tossed in with them during the final minutes of oven time play off the beets' roasted texture, as does the pan-crisped paneer cheese.

A dressing of yogurt, dill, horseradish and a touch of honey provides an unexpected tangy jolt.

Paneer and Roasted Beet Salad

Firm, fresh paneer cheese is available in large supermarkets, where you can also sometimes find black mustard seed, a staple at Indian markets.

Serve with warm focaccia.

Ingredients

1 1/2 pounds beets, preferably of different colors

2 tablespoons canola oil

1 teaspoon black mustard seed (may substitute brown mustard seed)

1 teaspoon ground ginger
1 3/4 ounces (about 1/2 cup) skinned hazelnuts

5 1/2 ounces paneer cheese (may substitute haloumi cheese)

Several sprigs fresh dill

1/2 lemon

2 tablespoons plain Greek-style yogurt (regular or low-fat)

1 tablespoon prepared white horseradish

Pinch of fine sea salt, or more as needed

Drizzle of honey
2 cups watercress

Steps

Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil.

Peel the beets, then cut them into wedges and place on the baking sheet. Drizzle them with half the oil and toss to coat,

then sprinkle the mustard seed and ginger over them. Roast for 20 minutes, then add the hazelnuts to the baking sheet and roast for 5 more minutes, so the nuts become fragrant. Let cool on the baking sheet.

Meanwhile, line a plate with paper towels. Heat the remaining oil in a wide nonstick skillet over medium heat. Cut the paneer into large bite-size pieces. Once the oil shimmers, add the cheese and fry for a few minutes, moving the pieces in the pan so they become golden brown. Transfer to the plate to drain while you make the dressing.

Coarsely chop the dill and place a generous pinch of it in a medium bowl, then squeeze in the juice from the lemon half, being careful to avoid adding pits. Whisk in the yogurt, horseradish, salt and honey (to taste) in a medium bowl until emulsified. Taste, and add salt as needed.

Combine the watercress, the remaining dill, the roasted beets, toasted hazelnuts and seared paneer on a platter. Pour the dressing over the mix and toss to coat just before serving.

Makes 4 servings, 360 calories each.



DEB LINSEY/for The Washington Post

This roasted beet salad uses paneer cheese, which is available in large supermarkets. Halloumi cheese may be substituted.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



People enjoy food and drink under the colonnades that surround the lively Boqueria Market, just off Las Ramblas.



The avenue is best known for its street artists.



A Chinese dragon adorns a corner of a facade of the Casa Bruno Cuadros on Las Ramblas.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

LAS RAMBLAS

Barcelona's famous pedestrian avenue invites visitors to take a ramble

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

There is a lot to see and do in Barcelona.

The Spanish city, the capital of the province of Catalonia, is famous for its amazing Gaudi buildings, Montjuic Park with the sites of the 1992 Olympics, Camp Nou stadium, the Picasso Museum and Las Ramblas.

This avenue, stretching from Placa de Catalunya to the Christopher Columbus monument, is a pedestrian paradise squeezed in between the bustling traffic of the city.

A confusing aspect is its name. Signs and maps refer to it as La Rambla, La Ramblas or Las Ramblas. The last might be most accurate, as a close look at some maps and the street signs along the way will show that it is made up of many Rambla.

Starting from the Placa de Catalunya, walking toward the Columbus monument, Las Ramblas starts out wide, but as you walk it becomes narrower.

As it does, flower shops appear, selling their blooming bounty mostly to the locals.

Traveling on, you come to a section populated by artists, selling the sights of Barcelona or a portrait of yourself.

In the next section, as the lane gets wider again, you will see tourists dining and sipping large glasses of sangria.

While there is nothing wrong with eating here, we do have a tip for a more interesting food experience. Move on that later. Toward the end of Las Ramblas, you come to what the street



A vendor holds up an octopus at a fish and seafood stand in Barcelona's famous Boqueria Market.

For more photos of Las Ramblas, go to stripes.com/go/ramblas

is perhaps best known for today — human statues. They stand in fantastic costumes, posing for the tourists and hoping for some of their coins.

Las Ramblas ends at the Columbus monument with old Chris at the top, far above the bustle below, pointing out to sea.

No need to stop there, though. Mosey on down to the port and check out the boats moored there. From here you can take a cable car up to Montjuic.

As fun as Las Ramblas is, there is plenty else to see without wandering too far afield.

Hungry after all that walking? Head back up Las Ramblas and keep a lookout for the Mercado de La Boqueria, Barcelona's famous food market. Here you'll

find a concoction of sights and smells. Seafood, meat and fish meet fruit, vegetables and wine.

At many of the market's stands you can sit down and enjoy a freshly prepared meal, or just tapas and wine. This is a popular pastime, and seats aren't always easy to find.

After satisfying your hunger, walk up the same side of the street and look for Palau Guell, just off Las Ramblas. It was one of the first important buildings designed by Antoni Gaudi.

Cross back over Las Ramblas and delve into the narrow lanes that make up the Gothic quarter, Barcelona's old town. Check out the Basílica de Santa Maria del Pi, and farther in, the Barcelona Cathedral.

Despite the throngs of tourists, almost unavoidable in Barcelona, rambling up, down and around Las Ramblas is a great way to see a slice of Barca life.

abrams.mike@stripes.com



The Barcelona cathedral is just a short walk from Las Ramblas, and well worth the stroll. It dates to the late 13th century.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Your keys to a great first trip to Europe

If you're planning your first trip to Europe, congratulations! Learning about the world through travel is the best thing that ever happened to me.

Things are different in Europe — that's why you go. But every first-timer has concerns about getting along in an unfamiliar place. Travelers are worried or curious about everything from bed sizes and strange food to language problems and pickpockets. Here are a few friendly tips to help smooth the way.

Necessities: I've seen people pack a whole summer's supply of deodorant or razors, thinking they can't get everything abroad. You can get virtually everything in Europe. If you can't get one of your essentials overseas, perhaps you should ask yourself how many million Europeans can live without it.

Communicating: Getting over the language barrier isn't as hard as you think. Many hoteliers and waiters speak some English and are used to tourists. It's helpful (and considerate) to learn a few words of the native tongue, but you needn't try to master whole sentences. Instead of struggling to muddle through the local equivalent of "Pardon me, could you tell me where the restroom is?" (or blurring out "Where's the restroom?" in English), just ask "Toilette?" A few basic words and a bit of sign language are all you'll need.

Crime: Europe has very little violent crime, but there's plenty of petty purse snatching and

pickpocketing. European thieves target Americans — we're the ones with all the goodies in our day bags, wallets and purses. Zip up and secure your valuables, preferably in a money belt.

Restaurants: I used to think that all those sophisticated Europeans dawdling through their three-hour dinners were showing off. But now I know they're simply savoring the good life. Think of your dinner as the evening's entertainment — a cultural show-and-tell. Slow service is important. To get the check, you'll have to ask for it, but that's only because your host considers the table yours for the night.

At a table or at the bar: Throughout southern Europe, drinks are cheaper at the bar than at a table. The table price can be a great value if you want to linger and enjoy a world-class view. But if you're just tossing down a quick drink, do it at the bar for about half the price of table service.

Tippling: Don't overtip. A service charge is almost always included in a European restaurant bill, so locals just leave coins on the table, rounding up their tab a bit — and they often don't tip at all. Get tipping advice from a local. But don't lose sleep over



Courtesy of ricksteves.com

Oversized room keys, such as this one at Austria's Hotel Schweizerhof, should be left at the desk when you leave the room.

having walked out of a restaurant in Europe without tipping — it's not necessarily expected.

Passport check: Don't be alarmed if you're asked to temporarily surrender your passport when checking in at a hotel. It's a European Union requirement for hotels to collect your name, nationality and ID number for their law-enforcement databanks.

Hotel keys: Especially in family-run hotels, you may find yourself fumbling with an old-

fashioned key, often attached to a cumbersome key fob. You might be wondering how to fit it in your pocket, but don't even try. Your hotelier expects you to turn it in at the front desk as you come and go from the hotel.

In your room: European hotels are often in centuries-old buildings, so be prepared for idiosyncrasies. Rooms are small, bathrooms are quirky and you might need to climb stairs to reach the reception desk. A

double bed may be two twins sheeted together. Especially in northern Europe, don't be confused if your top sheet is "missing" — many hotels use covered duvets instead of a top sheet. You may need to lower your washcloth and towel expectations, too (they get smaller the farther south you travel).

Night noise: European cities have lots of night noise. If you're sensitive to noise, don't pay a premium for a room with a view — take a quiet room in the back (and pack earplugs). Better yet, leave your room: Get out in the streets and make them even noisier.

Driving: Big superhighways connect Europe's major destinations, but in rural areas and quaint villages, little single-track roads are the norm. Road etiquette varies from country to country. For example, in Germany, never cruise in the fast lane — use that just for passing. .

Much of the success of your travels will depend on the attitude you pack. If you're observant and tune into the little differences, you'll have a better time in Europe.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public radio and television. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

Rick Steves

Hotel Directory GERMANY

<p>Hotel Am See Kichenhofstr. 31c 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited on the shore of the Raulfweiher</p>	<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barracks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>
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Restaurant Directory GERMANY

<p>Bavaria Yannis Bar & Grill 09641-454857 Marktplatz 33 • 92655 Grafenwöhr Tue - Sun 5 pm to 3 am www.yannisbar.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Bonhofs Castel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel: 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Restaurant Alte-Kanstel Best Steaks Around • #1 on Trip Advisor Hauptstrasse 432 • 55743 Idar - Oberstein 06781-28059/367733 www.restaurant-altekanstel.de</p>
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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

When travel insurance saves your entire trip

By LISA IANNUCCI
TravelPulse

True tales of vacations gone wrong

When you're traveling, the last thing you want is something to go wrong, but unfortunately, it does. People get sick or die before they leave, get hurt or ill while on vacation, or Mother Nature simply prevents you from getting where you need to go. With all the money invested in your trip, smart travelers purchase trip insurance, which typically costs

from 4-10 percent of your total pre-paid, nonrefundable trip cost.

Travel agents know all too well how insurance has protected their clients.



THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

"I had a client on a cruise in Mexico, and another guest fell on top of her," said Alex Dalton, Affiliate of Travel Experts. "She was treated without any real problems. When she was on the bus going to another excursion, another guest stepped on her hurt leg. Back she went to the hospital and finished her trip without any more adventure. She never paid a dime out of pocket because the travel insurance took care of everything."

Andrea Crowther remembers two 60-year-old ladies who were taking their first trip without their husbands earlier this year, and who purchased travel insurance before they left.

"They were returning during the time that all flights going in or out of Charlotte Douglas International Airport were canceled due to bad weather," said Crowther, of Susan Peavey Travel. "They called us from Cancun airport at 9 p.m. on Sunday night, telling us that American Airlines could not get them on a flight out for three days. We booked them on a JetBlue flight for the following morning and found them a clean resort close by to spend the night."

Crowther texted them the address of the resort and new flight information.

"We told them to keep all their receipts, and we would open a claim when they got home," she says. "When they returned to the airport the next day, people who were booked on their flight from the night before were sleeping in the airport, waiting to go home on standby over the next two days. We submitted their claim and all was paid in 90 days."

CTC President John Krieger has a client who enjoys traveling on high-end luxury cruise lines, but he and his wife were in perfect health. I finally reached him after explaining, for the umpteenth time, that pre-existing conditions covered his extended family, and reminding him that his father has some health issues that needed to be covered."

"I have gotten to know a lot about his family over the years," said Krieger "His answer for not buying insurance was that he and his wife were in perfect health. I finally reached him after explaining, for the umpteenth time, that pre-existing conditions covered his extended family, and reminding him that his father has some health issues that needed to be covered."

That was enough for Krieger's client to purchase the insurance. "Four days prior to his cruise departure, his brother-in-law died unexpectedly from cancer," says Krieger. "Without the insurance, he would have lost \$76,800."

Young families typically don't believe anything is going to happen to them, and Pam Walker's clients weren't any different.

"I had a young family of four who thought nothing would ever happen to them or their healthy family members, so they spent \$45,000 on a trip to Peru and the Galapagos," says Walker, who is an affiliate of Travel Experts, Walker Adventures, LTD. "The day before they were to depart, the father-in-law dropped dead of a heart attack on the tennis court."

Unfortunately, the family never did take out insurance, but working with a travel agent helps in situations like this. "I was able to get \$20,000 refunded, and then the other amount saved for the eventual trip they would take," she says.

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.



Japan

Misawa IIT has a trip to pick apples and a Mount Nakano-Momiji tour Nov. 5. On the same date, **Yokota** IIT has a trip to pick apples and to visit the Monkey Park in Nagano.



Okinawa

Hansen Athletic Ultimate Frisbee is at House of Pain Gym on Nov. 11-13. It's \$90; register at MCCS Athletic Facility by 1 p.m., Nov. 7. tinyurl.com/zju9j19

South Korea

Osan Tours can get travelers to Jeju Island on Nov. 24-26. Register by Oct. 21 to get early bird rates; register by Nov. 10 to go. tinyurl.com/zmd3wl. **Humphreys** Tours also has a trip to Jeju Island on Nov. 12-14; register by Oct. 28.



Japan

Jimmy Buffett will take an audience at Berkeley Football Field at **Yokosuka** to Margaritaville on Oct. 30. The concert is free. tinyurl.com/zpm8mza

OFF BASE

EAT THIS:

Tokyo Ramen Show 2016

Japanese noodle dish shops from around Japan serve from 36 booths at Komazawa Park on Oct. 27 through Nov. 6. The event is free, but each bowl of ramen is 850 yen. ramenshow.com/english

Photos courtesy of Tokyo Ramen Show



Find out about Halloween festivals and events in Japan and Okinawa at stripes.com/go/pachalloween

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

OFF-ROAD ON LANAI

Lanai's 400 miles of unpaved roads offer access to the farthest reaches of the island.

PHOTOS BY JACKIE BURRELL
Bay Area News Group

Paved roads are scarce on rugged Hawaiian island

By JACKIE BURRELL
The Mercury News

Surrounded by rugged, Mars-like terrain, strange rock formations and crumbling dirt trails of a dark reddish hue, it occurred to us that we might be lost. And if we really were, it would be at least a day until Mikey came looking for us. Or rather, for his jeep.

Paved roads are few and far between on Lanai, pineapple king James Dole's plantation, which is now owned by tech titan Larry Ellison, who purchased 97 percent of the island in 2012. There's a main road, lined with precisely planted Cook pines, that connects Manele Bay's small boat harbor, where the ferry docks, to Lanai City, high above the sea in its own misty microclimate. Another road leads down to the commercial seaport, Kaunaloa Harbor.

But Lanai has 400 miles of dirt roads, a vestige from the island's plantation days. So if you want to really explore the island, you'll be following the rugged earthy trails that crisscross this otherworldly landscape, clutching a paper map with hand-drawn jottings as a hula dancer bobble shimmies on the dashboard.

Civilization disappears from view in a nanosecond as the trails swallow you up, taking you up ridges and down ravines,



Lanai's Shipwreck Beach offers interesting sights and hiking trails, including one that leads to ancient petroglyphs.

as your cell signal fades away. (Hence the importance of a paper map.)

One popular route takes you on a narrow, winding, paved road toward Shipwreck Beach — you'll see the wreck of a 1940s tanker as you wind your way down. Once there, hang a left at the sign and exercise caution. Better yet, park and hike or bike in.

The sandy trail might look passable, but it has some treacherously soft spots where unwary drivers can get mired up to the axles. You'll find the trail to the Kukui Point petroglyphs just beyond the signature Shipwreck Beach sign. (Shipwreck Beach is for the curious, not for beach bathers. If you're hoping to

swim, head instead for Hulopoe Beach, where dolphins frolic in the waves and the sand is soft and pristine. It's less than half a mile from the ferry dock on a paved road.)

But when the "we might be lost" idea arose, we were headed to the northwestern heights of the island and its rock-strewn Garden of the Gods. Maybe. It was hard to tell. The island has no stop lights, let alone road signs on dirt trails.

Mikey, the laidback Lanai local who runs Adventure Lanai EcoCentre, had left his bright-red jeep waiting for us in the ferry parking lot, stocked with a cooler, beach chairs, towels and the all-important map. We were hoping to return the jeep to the

harbor the next morning after a lovely hotel sojourn, not spend the night out here in the middle of extraterrestrial nowhere.

Despite its botanical name, the Garden of the Gods is a barren spot, all red undulations and strange boulders, with the occasional sage-green brush or wildflower sighting.

This is a place of legends, the most popular concerning two kahunas from Lanai and Molokai who challenged each other to a fire-burning competition. As the story goes, the Lanai kahuna burned everything to keep his fire alight. That might explain the barren landscape, but competitive kahunas do not explain the strange rocks twisted into spirals or oddly rounded and flung hither and yon.

The site is a favorite with the spiritually inclined, but we weren't here for the energy chakras. We were here for the adventure, for the strange sights and for the journey over a succession of unmarked dirt roads that might, we hoped now, lead back to Lanai City.

Turns out, most roads here do — even the unpaved ones. A scant 45 minutes after leaving Keahiakawelo and its rock garden, we were back in town, sipping Guava Southside cocktails at the Lanai City Grille and toasting to adventure — and to Mikey's map.

KNOW & GO

- **Getting there:** There are two ways to get to this remote island, by air from Honolulu International Airport or Maui's Kahului Airport, or via the Maui-Lanai ferry, which takes about 45 minutes. The Expeditions Ferry service runs five round-trips daily between Lahaina and Manele Bay. You will need reservations. One-way tickets are \$30 (\$20 for children); book online at go-landai.com.
- **Off-roading:** Most of Lanai is accessible only by four-wheel drive vehicles, mountain bikes or on horseback. If you're staying at a hotel, the front desk can arrange a jeep rental or a guided jeep safari. If you prefer to be independent, there are several jeep rental agencies on the island. Pack plenty of water, food, a paper map — cell service is exceedingly spotty and Waaze will not help you — and a first-aid kit.
- **Lodging:** Lanai has two hotels — the plantation-era Hotel Lanai and the Four Seasons Resort Lanai — open now. The Four Seasons Lodge at Koelie is closed for renovations but expected to reopen later this year.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY TYLER HLAVAC/Stars and Stripes

The chorizo and corn burrito at Mucho Modern Mexicano near Tokyo Station. Soup and salad that come with the 1,000-yen lunch set make up for the small portions.

After Hours: Japan

By TYLER HLAVAC
Stars and Stripes

For American expatriates, comfort food is often Mexican, and lack of good, spicy fare from south of the border is a chief complaint among many military personnel stationed in Japan.

Alternatives can be hard to find here, and they're usually overpriced, not very good or both. A trip to a newly discovered taco emporium in Tokyo can include both hope and fear.

Mucho Modern Mexicano, a short walk from Tokyo Station, offers a decent Mexican-food experience, although portions are small — something that's expected in Japan.

Some Americans might think, "I want large portions of Mexican food at dirt-cheap prices like back home." That's not realistic in Tokyo.

Mucho's 1,000-yen (about \$10) lunch set includes a salad, soup and a drink. Entree options range from enchiladas to *chorizo*, corn burritos and chicken fajitas.

On a recent weekday, I ordered the *chorizo* and corn burritos, while my companion ordered enchiladas. Everything was pretty good, and the soup and salad made the small portions easier to swallow.

The food tasted fresh, and it was good to receive a liberal dose of guacamole. There did seem to be an overabundance of tomatoes in the dishes, but I've encountered that before in Japan.

The restaurant was crowded during my visit, but no more so than other places in central Tokyo. The tables are spaced far enough apart to make it feel cozy rather than cramped. The clientele was mostly Japanese, but there were several foreigners as well.

Mucho's decor includes some



The enchilada lunch set at Mucho. The food tasted fresh and included a liberal dollop of guacamole.

MUCHO MODERN MEXICANO

Location: 2F Tokyo (Tokia) Building, 2-7-3, Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-6402. Only a few minutes' walk from Tokyo Station.

Prices: Lunch set is 1,000 yen; prices vary for other items.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 4 a.m., Monday through Saturday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday
Dress: Casual
Information: 03-5218-2791; English menu available

— Tyler Hlavac

rather unique color schemes — pink, yellow, green and blue — perhaps trying to live up to the "modern" portion of its name.

I can't speak to the nighttime dinner atmosphere, but I imagine things might get a bit more energetic because of the full bar. The restaurant is open until 4 a.m. on most nights, so it's also an option for people who miss the last train home.

Overall, Mucho offers a tasty meal that's not hard on the wallet and an alternative to the ramen-curry-outlet fare that's standard at many other lunchtime locations in the Japanese capital.

hlavac.tyler@stripes.com



Lunch set options range from enchiladas to chorizo and corn burritos and chicken fajitas.

Self-taught cook shares her love of Taiwanese food

By MARY ORLIN
The Mercury News

Carolyn Phillips' passion for Chinese cuisine stems from the eight years she lived in Taiwan, dining out and cooking in, using Chinese recipes her husband translated for her.

Now Phillips, a self-taught cook who writes the Madame Huang's Kitchen blog, has two new books coming out from Ten Speed Press, "All Under Heaven: Recipes from the 35 Cuisines of China" and the handy "Dim Sum Field Guide."

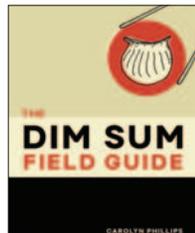
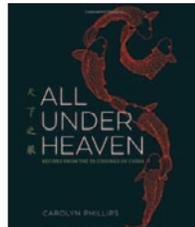
We caught up with Phillips to ask about her in-depth study of China's complex cuisine.

"The dim sum guide is a fun, fully illustrated guide to many of the savory and sweet snacks offered in Cantonese teahouses," Phillips says.

Each dim sum variety includes a hand-drawn cross-section view, complete with measurements and a key to ingredients inside.

For "All Under Heaven," Phillips spent 10 years re-creating dishes she discovered while living in Taiwan. At the end of World War II, she says, the wealthy, the educated and people with means went to Taiwan and brought their cooks, who preserved China's culinary traditions. When Phillips left Taiwan, she couldn't find that food in mainland China or the United States. "I was stunned by this loss of knowledge," she says, "and wanted to re-create it."

The cookbook's name, "All Under Heaven," refers to the ancient Chinese idea that everything under heaven was



China. "In Chinese, China means middle kingdom, the center of the world," she says.

Phillips divides China into five main regions with 35 sub-regions. "These regional areas have common ingredients, climate, culture and language," she says.

The book includes more than 300 recipes from those 35 areas, from steamed rice and sesame noodles to Guangdong-style steamed fish and a crispy basil omelet.

Here's a just taste.

SESAME NOODLES

Serves 4
Ingredients
2 tablespoons toasted sesame oil or chile oil
2 tablespoons toasted sesame paste (recipe below)
2 tablespoons peanut butter
1 or 2 garlic cloves, minced
1 green onion, white and green parts minced separately
1 tablespoon soy sauce
1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
1 teaspoon sugar
8 ounces dried wheat noodles

Directions
In a wok, mix sesame oil, sesame paste, peanut butter, garlic, minced white portion of the green onion whites, soy sauce, vinegar and sugar. Heat over medium low heat, stirring constantly, until sauce begins to simmer. Adjust seasoning to taste. Bring a 2-quart saucepan filled with water to a boil, add wheat noodles and cook until

al dente. Transfer noodles to wok; reserve pasta water. Toss noodles to coat with sauce, adding hot pasta water as needed to prevent clumping. Divide the noodles among the bowls, sprinkle with onion greens and serve.

ROASTED SESAME PASTE

Makes about ¾ cup
Ingredients
1 cup toasted sesame seeds
5 tablespoons toasted sesame oil, divided
Sea salt, optional
Directions
Use a blender to puree the seeds and a few tablespoons oil, gradually adding more oil until you have a relatively smooth paste. Season with salt, if you wish. Store, covered, in the refrigerator.

Adapted from Carolyn Phillips' "All Under Heaven" (Ten Speed Press, \$40, 524 pages)

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Paramount Pictures and Skydance Productions

Tom Cruise, right, reprises his Jack Reacher action role in "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back."

No big stretch for Cruise

'Reacher' sequel plays to movie star's strengths

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

Jack Reacher (Tom Cruise) will use a gun if the situation calls for it, but he prefers to use his fists. His punches in "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" don't so much land as explode like cannon shots, destroying car windows, cement walls and the faces of his enemies: soldiers turned mercenaries with grown-out buzz cuts. Reacher's former military himself, an ex-majior (emphasis on the "ex") in the Military Police Corps.

Now he roams the land solving crimes, enacting justice, and calling the current commanding officer of the 110th, Susan Turner (Cobie Smulders), to commiserate about the job. When Susan's arrested for espionage, Jack goes into full Reacher mode — he's a bit like a very violent, near-psychic MacGyver — to spring Susan from the clink and uncover a shady military arms deal.

"2012's 'Jack Reacher' was the first big-screen adaptation of the best-selling Lee Child novels featuring the character, but with Cruise in the leading role, the character is simply a vehicle for Cruise's star strengths — his efficient physicality; laconic, twitchy charm; and dogged pursuit of righteousness. As Reacher, he's anti-establishment, anti-authority and he absolutely hates being followed. His distaste for hierarchical systems of power makes him virulently anti-military. "The uniform no longer fit," he explains to Susan.

In "Never Go Back," Reacher's solitary loner life on the road is tested when it's revealed that a paternity suit has been filed against him for child support. The child is now a sassy, sarcastic, eye-rolling teenage girl, Samantha (Danika Yarosh), and DNA test or not, Reacher's obligated to protect her when the bad guys target her to get to him. Going on the run from murderous ex-military mercenaries, they make quite the trio. Reacher's used to working alone; Susan shares his background, while Sam has the same self-preservation instincts and distaste for authoritarian types.

Fear not for the cardiovascular health of the Reacher clan. They traverse most instances with the upright, arm-pumping sprits that are Cruise's signature move. Smulders paces him step for step,

New on base

"Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe
Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Baumholder, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vileck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza, Brunssum, Schinnen and Adana.

Pacific
Atsugi, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan and Carroll.

Online: jackreachermovie.com

and rains hell on bad guys with sticks and garden hoses and any other available implement. Reacher might be wondering whether or not he's fathered a daughter, but it's clear that Susan is the true heir apparent to the Reacher legacy.

Directed by Edward Zwick, from a screenplay by Zwick, Richard Wenk and Marshall Herskovitz, "Never Go Back" is the kind of action film where the simpler moral story sits on top of the larger, twistier, but essentially unimportant plot. There are New Orleans junkies, and security contractors and opium smuggling, and you'll often question the plausibility of the story and the laws of physics here, but none of that really matters. What matters is the opening and softening of Reacher's heart.

Zwick's direction is clean, clear, workmanlike action filmmaking, but the auteur is Cruise himself. The character is an ideal vessel for Cruise's gifts as a movie star. Even if he doesn't quite fit the physical description Child imagined in writing, Cruise takes Reacher and shapes him into one of his iconic characters. Cruise is one of the most consistent stars of our era — he doesn't seem to age — and in "Jack Reacher: Never Go Back," Cruise proves that in his career, the more things change, the more he stays the same.

"Jack Reacher: Never Go Back" is rated PG-13 for sequences of violence and action, some bloody images, language and thematic elements. Running time: 116 minutes.

Spooky 'Ouija' sequel improves on original

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

For a horror sequel built around a foundation of genre trends, "Ouija: Origin of Evil" contains far more spooky-fun than one might expect. This prequel to 2014's "Ouija" takes the retro approach that has made "The Conjuring" franchise so appealing, and layers it on top of the classic little girl possessed narrative. The result isn't so original, but it sports plenty of stylized thrills and chills that might make you think twice about a night with a Ouija board.

The film marks co-writer/director Mike Flanagan's third horror release of the year, after "Hush" and "Before I Wake," and he leans into the throwback vibe of the 1967 setting, down to the opening title design, in a blazing yellow font reminiscent of the game box. But this movie isn't about the game itself — it's simply a device to get us to the real story about a demonic spirit possession.

Any good exorcism movie has a few key elements, and "Ouija: Origin of Evil" delivers in spades. Start with an adorable moppet, one who's all the more horrifying when she terrorizes her family, spewing devilish incantations and climbing walls. Lulu Wilson has a picture-perfect blonde flip as Doris, who soon becomes a bit too close to a ghost named Marcus thanks to the Ouija board. Make sure she has a single mom (Elisabeth Reaser as Alice) who is simply too overworked and distracted to notice when her child becomes possessed by a demon. All the better if she's a widow and a fortune teller and open to the idea of channeling spirits. Don't forget a hunky Catholic priest (Henry Thomas as Father Tom) to identify and attempt to thwart the possession. The formula is as old as "The Exorcist," to which "Ouija" faithfully adheres.

The one additional element here is older sister Lina (Annelise Basso), who is both skeptical of the supernatural events and the person closest to Doris who can truly see what's going on. When Doris starts describing strangulation deaths, turn-

ing up old relics and money from the walls, and scribbling pages in Polish, Lina knows it's time to summon Father Tom to the house.

The film's design is spot on, from the heavy, dark, period-specific set dressing, to the costumes of miniskirts and beehives. It's almost a bit too on-the-nose at times, with a reliance on '60s slang, ya dig? But Flanagan takes it beyond just retro looks, using a few neat camera tricks to evoke the era, including unique camera movements and split diopter shots, a signature look of Brian DePalma.

"Ouija: Origin of Evil" is loopy on atmosphere and myth for its scares. The scares come from Doris and her terrifying behavior, less from action or special effects. The performance by Wilson tends toward the cutesy-creepy, and she sells it entirely. Reaser is saddled with the role of the clairvoyant mother who continually overlooks the danger that channeling spirits might bring to this home with an eerie past. There are some unintentionally funny moments, but the film rides the line of humor and horror deftly, the tone allowing for both jumps and tension-relieving laughs.

Realism or internal logic are not to be found in "Ouija: Origin of Evil," but it's an entertaining and creepy ghost story that just might scratch that seasonal itch for scares.

"Ouija: Origin of Evil" is rated PG-13 for disturbing images, terror and thematic elements. Running time: 99 minutes.

New on base

"Ouija: Origin of Evil" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe
Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Baumholder, Grafenwoehr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vileck, Aviano, Vicenza, Brunssum, Schinnen and Adana.

Pacific
Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan and Carroll.

Online: ouijamovie.com



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/TNS

Lulu Wilson is a demon-possessed child in "Ouija: Origin of Evil."

WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Boo!': First a joke, then a film

Tyler Perry's latest Madea movie got its start as a Chris Rock quip

By GREG BRAXTON
Los Angeles Times

Chris Rock does not appear in "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween."

But the comedy, which opens this weekend, would probably not exist without him.

In his 2014 film "Top Five," Rock's filmmaker character made a joke about audiences flocking to see a film called "Boo! A Madea Halloween." Rock contacted Perry for permission to use the quip, and Perry obliged. When executives at Lionsgate, which has partnered with Perry on his films, heard the joke, they called Perry, saying it sounded like a great idea for an actual movie.

The religious Perry, not a fan of witches and demons, whose films and plays have a faith-based message, hesitated. "But then I thought of a clever way to do it," he said, "and it worked out."

In the film, Madea, who is spending Halloween keeping an eye on her boy-crazy great-niece, winds up facing off against zombies and other scary creatures. Perry has called the film his "funnest yet."

The Madea character has been at the core of Perry's successful

New on base

"Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween" is playing at the following:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Baumholder, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano and Vicenza.

Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Carroll.

Online: boo.movie

This movie was not screened for critics. A review was unavailable at presstime.

empire with 2009's "Madea Goes to Jail" scoring more than \$95 million and "Madea's Witness Protection" in 2012 netting north of \$65 million at the box office. His non-Madea films — which include "Why Did I Get Married?" — have also performed well.

He is one of three directors — the others being Steven Spielberg and Robert Zemeckis



LIONSGATE/TNS

Tyler Perry stars once again in his latest Madea movie, "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween."

— who have had nine films open with more than \$20 million.

On his films and TV series, Perry exerts almost total creative control — producing, writing, directing and sometimes appearing.

He scored an unprecedented \$200 million deal with TBS in 2007 to produce "House of

Payne," a family sitcom, even though he had never produced a minute of television. The premiere drew record ratings and introduced the 10/90 model of syndication, in which a cable station buys 10 episodes of a series, and if the ratings are good, 90 more are ordered.

When Perry made an exclusive

deal with Oprah Winfrey's OWN network to produce the outlet's first scripted series, those shows, including the soap opera "The Have and the Have Nots," helped reverse the fortunes of the outlet, which had been struggling since launching in 2011, and still remain among the network's biggest hits.

Well-cast 'Joneses' doesn't keep up with expectations

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

A wise person once claimed "comparison is the thief of joy" — wise words to keep in mind when impossibly perfect, gorgeous, worldly new neighbors move into the cul-de-sac, as they do in the action-comedy "Keeping Up with the Joneses." But those Joneses (Jon Hamm and Gal Gadot) aren't exactly what they seem, and have more than a few surprises up their tailored sleeves.

But the biggest surprise of "Keeping Up with the Joneses" is the first credit that pops onto the screen at the end of the film: "Directed by Greg Mottola." For an action-comedy this shoddily schlocky, one doesn't expect to see the name of the director who helmed the comedy classic "Superbad" and the nuanced summer dramedy "Adventureland."

That's not to say that the film is necessarily without its merits, but it's wildly uneven, riding on a half-baked script by Michael LaSiere and the energetic efforts of such Galifianakis. In concept, it's all there: Galifianakis as fuddy-duddy suburban dad Jeff Gaffney; the delightfully unhinged Isla Fischer as his wife, Karen; Hamm and wonder woman Gadot as their new super-sexy neighbors, Tim and Natalie. But there's something not quite right; this one needed more time in the oven.

It's a twist on the "Mr. and Mrs. Smith"

New on base

"Keeping Up with the Joneses" is playing at the following locations:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Baumholder, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza, Brunssum, Schin-nen and Adana.

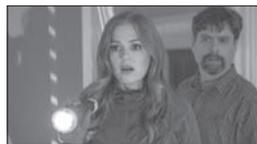
Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Carroll.

Online: tinyurl.com/z5jt587

concept that Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie perfected back in 2005, but instead of hiding their top secret lives of international espionage and covert operations from each other, the Joneses are trying to hide from their busybody neighbors. "We didn't last one week in suburbia!" Natalie explodes when their cover is blown by Karen and Jeff's overenthusiastic meddling.

For the Gaffneys, the Joneses are the kick in the pants to their marriage they didn't even know they needed. Consumed by work, family and community obligations, they've lost their senses of self and their marital passion, content to zone



PHOTOS BY TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX/AP

Gal Gadot, far left, and Jon Hamm costar with Isla Fischer, above, and Zach Galifianakis in "Keeping Up with the Joneses."

out to TV rather than experiment in the bedroom. Their sexual repression is an ongoing, nearly Freudian gag throughout. Additionally, there are other interesting gender dynamics at play. Both Tim and Jeff are the more sensitive partners, sharing their vulnerabilities with honesty, while the women take to fierce, ferocious warrior roles like they've finally been unleashed, physically and sexually.

The draw here is the chemistry of the performers, their personas bouncing around like atoms against each other creating energy — Hamm suave and sophisticated, Gadot exotic and strong, Fischer cute and neurotic, while Galifianakis does his dorky, lovable coward thing. The rule here seems: If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

It's just that everything around them doesn't work. The editing is awkward, the pacing off — jokes don't land, action

scenes are illegible. The in-between moments are the funniest bits, rapid-fire riffs or bits of physical comedy, but there's no time to enjoy them. The story takes too long to get to where it intends to average couple is thrown into a dangerous and action-packed arms deal. But once the film finally starts to fire on all cylinders, it's over.

Hamm's character is unfortunately underwritten, caught in the no man's land between Don Draper and a goofier comedic character. Galifianakis steals the show as the friendly fussybudget in a performance we've come to expect from him. The enormous potential on screen is tantalizing, which is why the disappointment of failed execution stings.

"Keeping Up with the Joneses" is rated PG-13 for sexual content, action/violence and brief strong language. Running time: 101 minutes.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Spy novelist relates stories from his life

By CARLA K. JOHNSON
Associated Press

Of stories to dine out on, David Cornwell has an abundance. Or should we say John le Carré has? Cornwell's pen name overshadowed the title on the cover of this, his first memoir. "The Pigeon Tunnel." The name "John le Carré" attracts the audience, but it's David Cornwell confiding in us here, as if over dinner, then chatting longer into the evening over snifters of brandy, or, as he unspools memories of Russia, glasses of vodka.

He is nearing his 85th birthday, so he reflects on his brief stint as a British spy during the Cold War and long career as a revered espionage novelist who does his own fieldwork. Fans

of le Carré's fiction will use this as a code book where they will match up characters from "Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy," "The Little Drummer Girl" and other titles to the real people who inspired them.

To research the Palestine-Israeli conflict for "Drummer Girl," for example, Cornwell works his way into the world of Palestinian liberation fighters and eventually wins an audience with Yasser Arafat. He interviews a Russian mafia boss to gather material for "Our Kind of Traitor." For "The Mission Song," he seeks out warlords in east Congo.

Film offers came early, so there are actors and directors to befriend. When hard-drinking Richard Burton, cast as the hard-drinking lead in "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold," the 1965 film adaptation of le Carré's early bestseller, needs a pal to keep him steady, it is Cornwell whom director Martin Ritt summons to the set.

Sober-minded Alec Guinness, who plays

George Smiley in two BBC miniseries versions of le Carré novels, encounters an actor showing up drunk and "the poor man might as well have gone to sleep on sentry duty," Cornwell recalls. But Guinness' anger gives way "to an almost desperate kindness."

When Sydney Pollack, Francis Ford Coppola and Stanley Kubrick call, Cornwell jets off to discuss impossible projects. "One day, I trust, it will be recognized that the best films of my work were the ones that were never made," he laments.

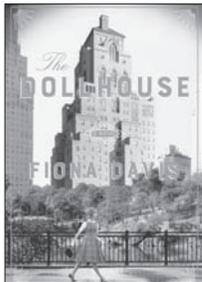
The title "The Pigeon Tunnel" comes from a much earlier memory. His con-man father (the inspiration for le Carré's autobiographical novel, "A Perfect Spy") has taken him on a gambling spree in Monte Carlo, Monaco. At a sporting club, the teenager David sees "well-lunched sporting gentlemen" shooting pigeons. He learns the surviving birds fly back to their home on the casino roof where they are doomed to be trapped in the tunnels that

lead them again into shotgun fire.

It's a troubling image. Does it haunt him into his 80s because he's trapped by his own inherited nature? His father, Ronnie, looms, at last fully formed, in "Son of the Author's Father," a chapter saved for late in the book. Roguish Ronnie cheats, lies, runs cons, sends others to prison for his crimes, beds women, goes to prison himself and still manages to send his sons to the best schools. Later in life, Ronnie takes advantage of his son's fame whenever he can.

In these pages, Cornwell becomes one of his most fascinating characters — the son who learns to dissemble at his father's knees, joins the British intelligence service and rounds out his life creating false worlds as a novelist.

"Sometimes I walk round him, sometimes he's the mountain I still have to climb," he writes of Ronnie. We listen and nod, sipping with pleasure, intoxicated by his words.



The Dollhouse

Fiona Davis

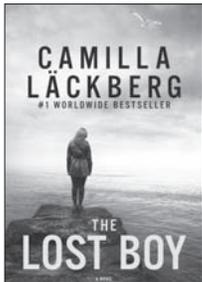
Built in 1927, the 23-story Barbizon Hotel for Women in Manhattan served as a home away from home for actresses, models and other women seeking a career in the big city for most of its history. Famous real-life residents included Joan Crawford, Sylvia Plath and Grace Kelly.

Davis moves back and forth between the early 1950s and present day as a journalist seeks to uncover past secrets from women who came of age at the hotel and continued to live there thanks to rent-control laws after the building was converted to condominiums in 2005.

Rose Lewin, a modern-day woman stuck in a love triangle, becomes obsessed with Darby, a secretarial student who moves from Ohio to the Barbizon in 1952. As she straddles the ethical line between journalist and snoop, Rose uncovers an unsolved murder mystery involving Darby and her friend, a maid at the hotel.

Through Darby and the Barbizon, we're treated to a colorful tour through an era, wars and all — jazz, heroin, racism and sexism, not to mention lies, betrayal and murder.

"The Dollhouse" is a thrilling peek through a window into another world — one that readers will savor for a long time.



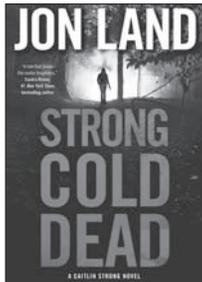
The Lost Boy

Camilla Läckberg

The joy that police detective Patrik Hedstrom and his wife, Erica, a true-crime writer, feel over the recent birth of their twin sons is balanced by a recent horrific car accident in which their infant nephew was killed.

Back on the job after sick leave, Patrik and his fellow detectives investigate the murder of Mats Sverin, finance officer of the coastal town of Fjällbacka, Sweden, who was instrumental in restoring a dilapidated hotel into a ritzy spa that surely will attract high-end tourists. Mats was well-liked by his colleagues and the town's residents, and doted on by his loving parents. His life recently had become complicated with the reappearance of his high school girlfriend, Nathalie Wester, and her 5-year-old son, Sam. Nathalie had fled to the area in the middle of the night, returning to the nearby remote island Graskar where she grew up. The island was nicknamed "The Island of the Lost" because of the legend that those who die on the island remain there in spirit. Nathalie believes in those ghosts — she talked with them when she was a child — and, now, she again finds comfort in them.

"The Lost Boy" is a psychological thriller that digs deep into each character's psyche.



Strong Cold Dead

Jon Land

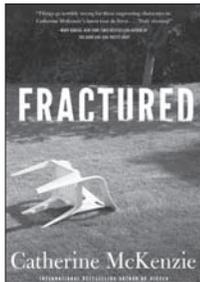
Caitlin Strong, a trigger-happy, often insubordinate, fifth-generation Texas Ranger, is back in another Land adventure that reads like a cross between a Randolph Scott Western, a Stephen King horror story and a Jason Bourne movie script.

The modern-day plot has a direct link to a case investigated by one of Caitlin's ancestors. This time, it flashes back to 1874, when "Steeldust" Jack, the first Strong to wear the Rangers' distinctive five-point star, faced down John D. Rockefeller as he tried to strong-arm his way onto oil-rich Comanche tribal land.

Now, a new generation of oilmen has arrived in Texas, lustful to seize the oil — or, perhaps something else — hidden beneath the dust of the same Indian reservation.

"Strong Cold Dead" ranges from Houston to the frozen reaches of Canada and involves peyote, ancient Indian legends, a new way of committing mass murder, a Canadian Mountie, ISIS and an apocalyptic conspiracy to kill everyone in Texas.

The plot of any Land novel can seem far-fetched at first, but as always, he pulls the disparate strings of the fast-moving, action-packed yarn together in a way that is both surprising and entertaining.



Fractured

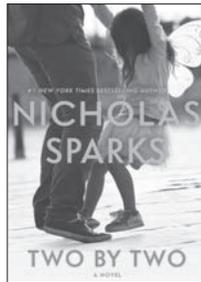
Catherine McKenzie

The end of summer doesn't need to mean the end of beach reads. And a beach read doesn't need to mean lightweight or purple prose.

"Fractured" tells the story of a newly popular contemporary fiction author, Julie Prentice, who is as well-known for her wildly popular first novel as she is for her stalker, a former university classmate. The fictional novel, "The Murder Game," may or may not be based on a real-life murder in Julie's past. When she and her family move to Cincinnati to dodge the stalker and attempt a fresh start, Julie's history looms large.

"Fractured" bounces back and forth in time and between the viewpoints of Julie and her neighbor John, with whom she shares a flirtation, but the moments are so adept, they never become confusing. Instead, readers are hurled through complex and overlapping plots — murder, noisy neighbors, courtroom drama — at a satisfyingly addictive pace.

The only less-than-satisfying aspect of the novel is the ending, which felt a bit too pat, almost like a "Movie of the Week" cop-out. But taking the journey with McKenzie for an afternoon or two is certainly worthwhile.



Two By Two

Nicholas Sparks

Russell Green is living a dream life. His young daughter, London, is adorable; his career is taking him places; and his wife, Vivian, is the total package. From the outside looking in, the Greens appear to be the perfect family, but that's not necessarily the case behind closed doors. He can't help noticing that his wife is distancing herself, but nothing can prepare him for the day when Vivian decides to leave the family and move to another state to start a high-end job.

In a matter of days, he must learn how to navigate the world as a single father raising a 6-year-old. He tackles washing dance outfits, driving to art classes, making nutritious meals and assuaging the anxiety of his little girl. Not only does he take care of every detail of his daughter's life, he also works hard to build a solid foundation for his new advertising firm.

"Two By Two" is a tumultuous story wrangled in a world of broken relationships. Sparks invites readers to take a journey that stares risks and rewards directly in the face. Whether it's tenderness between a husband and wife or affection between a father and his daughter, Sparks has definitely mastered the art of love.

— Associated Press reviews

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

"Downton Abbey: The Complete Limited Edition Collector's Set": One of the finest examples of television production is superb, from the cast led by Hugh Bonneville, Elizabeth McGovern, Michelle Dockery and Maggie Smith to the incredible writing. This is a must-own set. The lives, loves and losses of the inhabitants of Downton Abbey unfold in 52 episodes. When it debuted on PBS, it became the highest-rated drama on the channel. "Downton Abbey: The Complete Collection" will be available on DVD and Blu-ray. Also included in the special edition is a working "Downton Abbey" pull-bell and six cork-based coasters.



Carnival Films

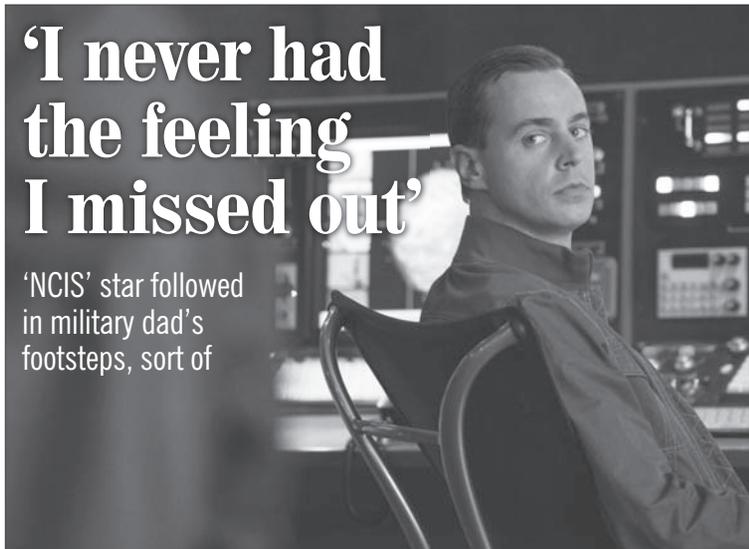
Laura Carmichael, from left, Elizabeth McGovern and Michelle Dockery starred on "Downton Abbey." A limited edition set of the entire series is now available.

"Alice Through the Looking Glass": The sequel to the 2010 release "Alice in Wonderland" should have been called "Alice in Blunder Land." From a complete disregard of Lewis Carroll's book to a convoluted tale of time travel, the sequel falls apart faster than Humpty Dumpty on a trampoline. The action picks up three years after Alice's (Mia Wasikowska) previous trip to Wonderland. Her life as the captain of her father's ship (the most unbelievable part of a movie where anything is supposed to be possible) is threatened. That problem is put aside while she returns to Wonderland to find The Mad Hatter (Johnny Depp) fading away from grief. Hatter believes his family is still alive, despite reports they were killed years ago. Alice heads back through time to save Hatter's family from a dragon fire death. It's a race against Time (Sacha Baron Cohen) to complete the mission. The sequel faces many of the same problems as the original film, plus some new stumbles of its own.

Also on DVD:
"Independence Day: Resurgence": Aliens take another shot at Earth.
"75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor": Two-disc set includes archival footage and interviews.
"Cafe Society": Bronx native finds love in Hollywood.
"Our Kind of Traitor": Chance meeting with a member of the mob puts a couple in danger.
"Guilt: Season 1": American exchange student's roommate is murdered in their London apartment.
"Child's Play": Horror film being re-released in a two-disc collector's edition.
"Doctor Thorne": Arranged marriage plans get complicated.
"The King of Pigs": Animated tale of murder and revenge.
"Hee Haw: Salute!": Includes three episodes of the comedy variety program hosted by Roy Clark and Buck Owens.
"The Marx Brothers Silver Screen Collection": Includes "The Cocoanuts," "Animal Crackers," "Monkey Business," "Horse Feathers" and "Duck Soup."
"Morphine: Journey of Dreams": Documentary on the Boston-born band who made it big on the music scene in the 1990s.
"Jack the Ripper": Young writers come face-to-face with the murderer.
"What We Become": Family copes with the collapse of civilization.
"The Fake": Beloved shepherd forced to work for unscrupulous elder.
 —Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

'I never had the feeling I missed out'

'NCIS' star followed in military dad's footsteps, sort of



By LUAINE LEE
Tribune News Service

Actor Sean Murray's dad spent 30 years as a naval officer. In an odd twist of fate, Murray finds himself playing an investigator burrowing into naval crimes in CBS' hit show "NCIS."

"My father gets such a kick out of that," says Murray.

If his parents had anything to do with it, Murray would be a vanguard in the cyber world. After all, he skipped a grade in school and used to take computers apart and put them back together for fun.

"To my father, the whole concept (of acting) was just insane. To be a kid and not have any desire to do anything BUT, I really had no backup plan I said, 'This is it this is what I want to do.' I remember my father many times saying to me, 'You realize you have nothing to fall back. If this doesn't work out — and it doesn't work out for most people statistically.' My dad is a very logical person. I said, 'Yeah, but it's all I can think of. It's the only thing I want to be a part of.'"

His mom was not much better. "She is so the anti-stage mother, I can't even tell you," he grins. "When I got my first series she, within a month, she said, 'I can't sit around and can't be with other parents doing crossword puzzles. I can't. I've got to go do something.' And I said, 'Mom, I completely get it.'"

Even so, they were with him. "As much as my father knew how hard the life was, he was very supportive. So was my grandmother. I come from a very middle-class family. We didn't have the money to come to L.A. and doing headshots, paying a ridiculous amount for rent and going to auditions all the time as a kid, so my father allowing that to happen alone, was a big support from him," he says.

By the time Sean was 12, he had already wheeled his way into professional acting. Being a military family, they moved often to posts in Australia, Singapore, London, and several in California.

"I was never in one place for more than two years," recalls Murray, 38. "I never had the feeling I missed out."

"I remember all kinds of positives for it. I remember very specifically being conscious of the chance to re-create yourself whenever we started someplace. So it was almost like it went toward an acting kind of nature. I remember thinking about that stuff as a kid. Bottom line

is, you are who you are, but every time assimilating to new kids and going through those ages is a hard thing, but that's what I grew up doing. It was always just what I did."

He was so determined to be an actor that when he heard they were hiring extras for the Steve Martin movie "My Blue Heaven," he begged his mom to take him. They were living in San Diego and the tryouts were held at the Jack Murphy Stadium. Candidates were asked to form a line and the casting people moved down the line, choosing a few to form a second line. "He didn't pick me. So I'm figuring, 'Are they picking the people who get out of the line, or are they picking the people who stay in the line?' I stood and thought for a second and instinctively I jumped into that second line when no one was looking."

"They marched us down, took all our information, we got called to come to the movie. And I get down there, it's Steve Martin, Rick Moranis, Joan Cusack, and two children. And within the first hour or so, they decided to take me and place me right behind Steve Martin. So getting that close to it, I got to be privy to directors talking to the actors, and I'm a real observer. I really take a lot in. I remember thinking, 'Oh, I can do this.'" He got to be an extra in the movie. He was 11.

When he was 15, his parents divorced and his and his mom moved to L.A. so he could follow his dream. At that point he became an emancipated youth — strictly for work reasons, he insists. Through no plan of his own, Fate tendered another surprise. His mother met and married Don Bellisario, executive producer of shows like "Magnum, P.I.," "JAG" and "NCIS."

Murray had appeared briefly on "JAG" before he ever saw a script for "NCIS." Even so, being Bellisario's stepson wasn't an advantage, says Murray.

"In fact, what people don't realize is if you're related to Don in any way, and you work for him, he's 10 times harder on you. He's so ultra critical. It's great though because it's for the right reasons. It's because he's passionate; he cares. That's what a writer is."

Murray's been married for 10 years to Cassie, an educator, who also hails from a military family. "From the moment I was a teenager, I wanted to be a father, wanted to be a family man," he says.

"By the time I was a teenager I'd decided what my son's name would be — River."

He has a daughter 9 and a son, 6, whose name is River.

Sean Murray stars on "NCIS." Murray's father was a naval officer for 30 years, and Murray lived in places around the world including Australia, Singapore and London. The show airs Wednesdays on AFN-Prime.

CBS

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



PHOTOS BY KARL MONDON, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS/TNS

Ethan Baron, business reporter for the Bay Area News Group, test rides an eBike on the trails at Water Dog Lake Park in Belmont, Calif., last month. The bikes aren't welcome on all trails — a mountain bike builder said they will put pressure on trails.

Powered up

Electric mountain bikes & controversy come to California area

By ETHAN BARON/*The Mercury News (San Jose, Calif.)*

Riding an electric mountain bike for the first time feels like having a superpower. It's just so otherworldly, the sudden, silent surge that sends you flying uphill while you pedal with minimal effort. As a tech product, these "pedal-assist" bikes are flat-out impressive. But as an increasingly popular phenomenon, they raise a host of issues. And as their numbers on San Francisco Bay Area trails grow and land-use officials ponder restrictions, conflict and controversy are bound to follow.

I decided to hit the trails for a couple of hours recently, alternating between an electric bike powered by a 250W Bosch motor with a lithium battery and a traditional full-suspension mountain bike.

I found the motorized technology simple to operate — a push of a button on a handlebar-mounted controller lets you power up and down through five settings, topping out at "turbo." The motor only kicks in when the rider is pedaling.

Using turbo and ascending a moderate hill, a few strokes of the pedals triggered a rocket-like boost, while the lower settings required more leg power. Still, even on a turbo, a particularly steep grade required an effort that had me huffing and puffing, although to a considerably lesser degree than on my regular mountain bike.

And on bumpy medium-grade hills, the power-assisted riding was relaxing

enough for me to gobble a chicken sandwich, slurp cherry ice cream and even enjoy a refreshing bottled beverage.

Downhill, the bike's 48-pounds, 29-inch wheels and front-and-rear shock absorption made for a smooth ride, though the weight meant the bike was harder to maneuver than a traditional mountain bike and felt slightly less nimble. The motor sits at the bottom of the bike, where the pedal cranks attach, and the battery is mounted on the frame in front of the motor.

With a 30-mile range on turbo and 90 miles on eco — after a full three-hour charge — I had little worry that I would run out of juice. A spare battery costs upward of \$70, so riders tend to stay within range, keeping an eye on the charge-indicator lights on the battery, rather than carrying an extra power pack.

So far, the bikes' debut onto California

trails has met with little overt resistance — even the Sierra Club has declined to take a position. But many trails remain closed to the bikes, and rumblings of discontent from traditional mountain bikers and official reviews underway foreshadow future trouble.

Legendary mountain bike builder Richard Cunningham of San Diego said he'd ridden electric mountain bikes and found them "absolutely fun." But he still doesn't want them on trails.

"If it was easy, everybody would be out there. It makes the backcountry unpopulated, and that's why we go out there," Cunningham said. "We go out there to disengage, and not to defend ourselves against another technology."

"It's going to put pressure on the trails, for sure," he added.

One rider who might not be on the trail without an e-bike is Bob Widinski of San Rafael, Calif., who in his younger years spent a lot of time riding traditional mountain bikes in Marin County. Now, he's 72, and started riding electric mountain bikes five years ago.

"I've just gotten to the point that it's difficult for me to ride some of the trails because I don't have the lung capacity that I used to have," said Widinski, a wine-industry consultant. "I can get back on the trails that I used to ride. I enjoy riding again, so much. It always brings a smile to my face."

At the Motostrano shop in Redwood City, Calif., owner Joe Witherspoon has been selling electric mountain bikes for about three years, and sales have doubled to more than 200 per year. His average buyer is male, aged 50 to 55, Witherspoon said.

"They're folks who look at a time when they can't ride. Or they haven't ridden for 20 years and they're out of shape. They don't want to get ready for three years before they do this," he said.

E-bike prices at Motostrano range from \$2,500 to \$16,500. With most manufacturers using Bosch motors, price differences have more to do with the frame, suspension and components such as brakes, cranks, wheels and shifters. So far, only one buyer at Motostrano has coughed up for the priciest model, made largely of carbon fiber.

It's not necessary to shell out thousands to sample the electric mountain bike experience — Motostrano is one of several shops that rent the machines, typically for \$100 per day and up. Motostrano loaned the San Jose Mercury News a \$4,400, German-made Cube Stereo Pro 120 electric mountain bike for our trail test.

The bikes aren't welcomed everywhere. Authorities for some trail areas in the Bay Area, including the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and the East Bay Regional Park District, put electric bikes in the same category as motorized vehicles such as motorcycles, and prohibit them on trails.

"There are two-and-a-half million people in the East Bay. Some of our trails are very crowded," said East Bay parks spokeswoman Carolyn Jones. "We have horseback riders, joggers, people with strollers, people in wheelchairs, we have hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers. It's just a safety issue. We already have enough problems with collisions and conflicts."

In California state parks, including Mount Tamalpais and Mount Diablo, electric mountain bikes are considered bicycles and allowed wherever traditional bikes are permitted — but local park administrators have the power to ban them, and rangers can issue citations for unsafe use.

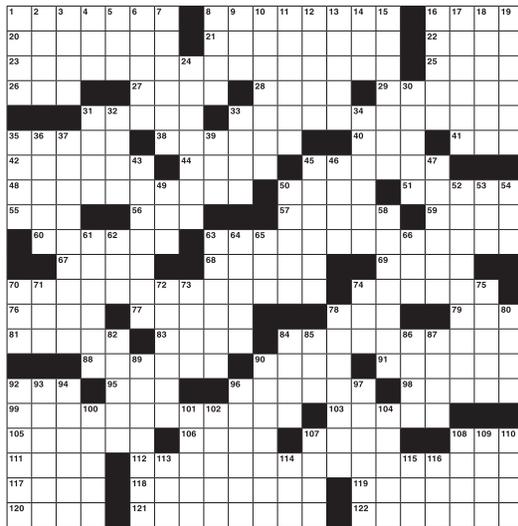
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

EMOTION

BY TOM MCCOY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
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40 Amer. money
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51 ___ donna
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11 Related in a different way
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18 12 21 5
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109 Nov. honorees
110 Covert "Hey!"
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114 Like "alumna": Abbr.
115 49-Down, with each letter shifted one place later in the alphabet (codename?)
116 Three, in prescriptions

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and online at gunstonstreet.com.

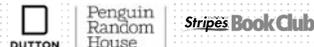
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FACES



From left: Kelsea Ballerini, Jill Scott and Meghan Trainor perform a tribute to Shania Twain, below, during the CMT Artists of the Year awards show on Wednesday in Nashville. "I want to thank CMT for being such a huge support all these years even in my more rebellious years in the beginning when I was probably considered controversial, but you still put me on the air," Twain said. The show airs Saturday on AFN-Prime Pacific.

PHOTOS BY INVISION/AP



Women of country rock

Female singers honor Shania Twain at CMT Artists of the Year

Associated Press

Country singers Shania Twain, Carrie Underwood and Kelsea Ballerini honored each other and celebrated their shared successes at the CMT Artists of the Year show.

Female singers rocked the stage, geeked out over on another and showcased women's impact on country music's past, present and future during the award show held Wednesday

at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville. The show will air on AFN-Prime Pacific on Saturday.

Twain, who is country music's most successful female singer, was given the artist of the lifetime award and was serenaded with a medley of her songs by female artists across three genres. Grammy winners pop singer Meghan Trainor and R&B singer Jill Scott joined Ballerini to sing Twain's

classic anthem to female strength, "Man, I Feel Like a Woman," while Twain sang along from her seat in the crowd.

Twain made her name in the mid-'90s with her big pop country songs and her music videos that combined sex appeal, female empowerment and high fashion.

"I want to thank CMT for being such a huge support all these years even in my more rebellious years in the beginning

when I was probably considered controversial, but you still put me on the air," Twain said.

Ballerini, who was given the breakout artist honor, was in the middle of her speech noting all the other young female singers she has worked with when she stepped to have a fan-girl moment.

"Whoa, I am nervous," Ballerini said. "That is Shania Twain," pointing to the Grammy winner in the audience.

Underwood, who was one of the artists of the year, performed "Like I'll Never Love You Again," backed up by hit songwriters Liz Rose, Hillary Lindsey and Lori McKenna. "Aren't we blessed?" Underwood said. "God is good, and he has definitely been good to me."

Also honored as an artist of the year was Chris Stapleton, who performed a solo rendition of "Whiskey and You." Luke Bryan was also honored at an artist of the year. The duo Florida Georgia Line also was honored as an artist of the year.



Jay Z

First rapper nominated for Songwriters Hall of Fame

Associated Press

Jay Z, one of contemporary music's most celebrated lyricists and entertainers, is one of the nominees for the 2017 Songwriters Hall of Fame, and if inducted he would become the first rapper to enter the prestigious music organization.

Jay Z is the first rapper to be nominated for the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

The Songwriters Hall gave The Associated Press the list of nominees Thursday, a day ahead of its official announcement. Other nominees that could be inducted next year are George Michael,

Madonna, Bryan Adams, Vince Gill, Babyface, Max Martin, Kool & the Gang and more.

Eligible members can vote for three non-performing songwriters and two performing songwriters until Dec. 16. Five songwriters, or songwriting groups, will be officially inducted in June.

Other performing nominees include Cat Stevens, Sly Stone, Chicago, Gloria Estefan, Jeff Lynne and David Gates.

Songwriters are eligible for induction after writing hit songs for at least 20 years. Jay Z released his debut album, "Reasonable Doubt," in 1996.

Is Bon Jovi buying NFL team? Singer clears up rumors

From wire reports

Bon Jovi's upcoming album is entitled "This House is Not For Sale," and apparently neither are the Tennessee Titans.

Earlier this week, CBS Sports reported that Bon Jovi and Peyton Manning were "monitoring the Tennessee Titans ownership situation," leading to speculation they were looking to purchase the Nashville-based team. That prompted Titans acting owner, Amy Adams Strunk, to say the team is not for sale.

On Wednesday, Jon Bon Jovi sat down with The Associated Press to set the record straight.

"Let me dispel the rumors right now," he said with a laugh. "I wake up to these headlines with my name on them, and they're just not true. I want to make it perfectly clear that the team is not for sale, nor has it ever been, and I respect and admire (late franchise founder) Bud Adams' legacy. End of story. I wish them all the success in the world."

He added: "You wake up to that and you're, 'Wait a minute. I don't want to upset anybody. I didn't do anything.'"

While the New Jersey rocker hopes to add NFL owner to his résumé one day, it's not happening yet. "I love the NFL, and I did in fact try to buy the Buffalo Bills, but this has nothing to do with that. All I'm doing — I'm in the music business. End of story."

Other news

■ "This Is Spinal Tap" writer and star Harry Shearer has sued Vivendi and subsidiary Studio-

Canal, which hold the rights to the classic 1984 mockumentary, for \$125 million. Shearer claims that fuzzy accounting prevented him and the three other writer-stars (Christopher Guest, Rob Reiner and Michael McKean) from collecting a potential bundle of licensing and ancillary music revenue. How little? Shearer says the principals have each been paid \$81 for merchandise and \$98 for music in the entire 32 years since the film's release.

■ Amy Schumer has issued a sarcastic apology days after she was walked out of a Tampa, Fla., show in which she criticized Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump. The comedian read a "Dear Tampa" letter during her show Tuesday night at Madison Square Garden in New York. She questioned how she could think it was "OK to spend five minutes having a peaceful conversation with someone with different views."

■ Actress Shailene Woodley has pleaded not guilty in a North Dakota court to criminal trespass and riot charges after her arrest in a protest against the Dakota Access pipeline. Court records show the "Divergent" star entered her pleas on Tuesday through her attorney, Alexander Reichert. Woodley and 26 other activists were arrested Oct. 10.

■ Bobby Shmurda, a rapper once on the rise thanks to a viral music video that popularized the Shmoney dance, was sentenced to seven years in prison Wednesday after claiming he was railroaded into taking a guilty plea on charges he conspired with a violent drug gang. The 22-year-old Shmurda, whose birth name is Ackquille Pollard, is best known for "Hot Boy," a gritty song with rhymes about gunplay.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471-900) is published weekly except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1 on 5 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #5002, APO AF 96358-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit #5002, APO AF 96358-5002.

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OPINION

The 3 times Trump disqualified himself

By DANIEL W. DREZNER
Special to The Washington Post

Wednesday night's third presidential debate was the most substantive of the three (an admittedly super-low bar). Chris Wallace did an excellent job of moderating and made the wise tactical decision to open with policy questions before turning to both candidates' scandals for a brief spell, and then pivoting back to policy. Donald Trump seemed to have prepped more for this debate than either of the first two, and occasionally got in some sharp attack lines on Hillary Clinton's record.

And yet, nothing in the above paragraph matters, because on at least three separate occasions, Trump said something that made it pretty clear he is radically unfit to be the president of the United States. Let's just list them here for posterity:

1) Refusing to say he would accept the election results if he lost.

If you're Donald Trump, or a Republican politician who has endorsed Donald Trump, it was not good that Thursday morning's front page of major newspapers bannered this response.

I'm not going to belabor this point as it is the story of the day and analyzing it, like almost all analysis of Trump, leads you to the same conclusion. But to give an example of how serious Trump's breach of political norms was, let's go to the Twitter feed of Richard Haas, president of the Council on Foreign Relations: "Defining feature of American democracy is legitimacy of vote & peaceful transfer of power. World will note that this is no longer a given."

Haas is obligated by his position to be strictly nonpartisan on matters pertaining to presidential elections. Tweeting this is the CFR equivalent of saying that Trump has crossed waaaaaaay over the line with his comments.

2) Refusing to acknowledge the intelligence community's consensus that Russia is responsible for hacking email accounts

to interfere with this election.

A joint DHS/ODNI statement makes the assessment of the intelligence community crystal clear: Trump was informed of this assessment as part of the intelligence briefings he receives as the GOP nominee. And yet this exchange took place Wednesday night.

CLINTON: I think that this is such an unprecedented situation. We've never had a foreign government trying to interfere in our election. We have 17 — 17 intelligence agencies, civilian and military, who have all concluded that these espionage attacks, these cyberattacks, come from the highest levels of the Kremlin and they are designed to influence our election. I find that deeply disturbing.

WALLACE: Secretary Clinton ...
CLINTON: And I think it's time you take a stand.

TRUMP: She has no idea whether it's Russia, China, or anybody else.

CLINTON: ... an honest, expert myself.

TRUMP: She has no idea.

CLINTON: I am quoting 17.

TRUMP: Hillary, you have no idea.

CLINTON: ... 17 intelligence — do you doubt 17 military and civilian.

TRUMP: And our country has no idea.

CLINTON: ... agencies.

TRUMP: Yeah, I doubt it. I doubt it.

CLINTON: Well, he'd rather believe Vladimir Putin than the military and civilian intelligence professionals who are sworn to protect us.

Seriously, what can you say about this? I get the idea that presidents should ignore the intelligence community. I get guarding against groupthink. But this is Trump unilaterally asserting without any foundation whatsoever that he knows what he's talking about and intelligence professionals don't.

In this section of the debate Trump combined the worst aspects of his personality: his stupidity, his arrogance and his vanity. The only conclusion one can draw is that Trump refused to criti-

cize Russia because he likes the fact that Vladimir Putin can see things about him. And if that's the way Trump makes decisions, he should be kept as far away from the Oval Office as possible.

And finally ...

3) Refusing to act like a mature adult.

The moment this debate turned was when Clinton dropped this line in response to an immigration question: "When it comes to the wall that Donald talks about building, he went to Mexico, he had a meeting with the Mexican president. Didn't even raise it. He choked and then got into a Twitter war because the Mexican president said we're not paying for that wall."

Clinton was obviously baiting Trump with that line — and yet, the baiting obviously worked. The moment Clinton said the word "choked," Trump's eyes narrowed into slits. Whatever self-control he'd managed to muster in the opening sections melted away. He melted down on the Putin job. He said to Clinton, "You're the puppet! No, you're the puppet," sounding even more immature than usual. He kept interrupting her. He even challenged Wallace a few times. And then, at the very end of the debate, came the moment when Clinton was discussing her plans for Social Security and Trump interjected, "Such a nasty woman."

What a sorry, immature specimen of a human being.

In the third debate, Trump vindicated Clinton's strongest attack during the general election campaign: that Trump is temperamentally unfit to be president.

The instant debate polls suggested that Clinton won these debates, but that's not the important part. The important part is that Trump lost the last chance he had to change the manner in which he was elected. And he also demonstrated why that's probably the best outcome for everyone concerned.

Daniel W. Drezner is a professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a regular columnist for the Washington Post blog PostEverything.

After election, we'll need a national timeout

By ANN McFEATHERS
Tribune News Service

Perhaps the worst thing the Republican presidential nominee has done is announce it is impossible for millions of us to talk civilly to each other. And that will take a long time to change.

I shudder to think of all the Thanksgiving dinners that will be ruined because Uncle Vince wants to talk about how great he thinks Donald Trump is and Cousin Betty wants to throw the soup tureen at him (both Vince and Donald, if he were there).

The vulgar anti-Clinton T-shirts seen at Trump rallies. The complete contempt the candidates have for each other. The media dialogue about sexual assault, racism and bigotry. The coarsening of our culture. The verbal and even physical violence of political foes toward each other.

It used to be your mom put you in a timeout for calling someone a liar. Now that word is thrown around so lightly and on so little basis, that hearing it hardly even shocks us.

Trump boasts of sexual assault on women, and his third wife, Melania, 24 years his junior, dismisses it as "boy talk." He was "egged on" to make such remarks, she said. And when a remarkably diverse array of women come forward to say they were victims of his unwelcome advances, Melania tells us to look askance at who

they are and their motivations. As if any right-minded woman would enjoy telling the world of having Trump's tongue thrust down her throat.

We are such a culturally divided nation now that Trump supporters and Clinton supporters have almost nothing in common, not even pride in their country. Trump supporters think the country is a mess. Clinton supporters think the problems have solutions that don't depend on one combed-over blowhard who refuses to discuss policy and whines that the system is rigged against him.

The most outrageous thing Trump is doing now is sowing doubts about the legitimacy of the American election system, as if 3,143 counties and county-equivalents such as parishes could be cudgeled into voter fraud. The most relevant statistic to come out in the wake of Trump's absurd and unfounded claim is that out of 1 billion ballots, 31 may have involved fraud.

Here's betting that after Trump loses the general election on Nov. 8, he and his scurrilous buddy Roger Ailes, who was forced out of his Fox News job after a series of sexual harassment complaints were made public, will work out a Trump "news" network, getting Trump's base to pay monthly bills.

Trump will challenge Clinton as an illegitimate president, much as he did Barack Obama. He will continue spewing hate and venom toward immigrants and Muslims. He will do his best to wreck all efforts at reconciliation between Republicans and

Democrats in Washington. He will appeal to the basest of his base. He will make a lot of money (but not create many jobs) by being the worst citizen imaginable, fomenting his revolution against decency.

It would be different if Trump had specific proposals to debate and discuss in a civil manner. It would be different if Trump did not get down and dirty with personal smears of his opponents, causing his supporters not just to dislike them but hate and demean them. It would be different if Trump could be gracious in defeat as were all his predecessors who lost.

But none of those things, we feel, Trump has done. He is a vulgar and self-indulgent, undisciplined tyrant, Trump will eventually get the treatment he deserves, even if it is only in the history books, where he will be reviled as one of the worst people ever to run for the White House.

But most troublesome is what will happen to our national psyche, at least in the short term. What about the friendships that have been severed, the brothers and sisters who no longer speak to each other, the communities where beneficial projects languish, all because of the vitriol Trump has spawned? What have we done to our children?

After this election, we need a national timeout, a cooling-off period, a chance to recoup and think about what we all love about this nation. No more nasty words. No more Trump titillation. Boring sounds OK about now.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

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

Trump shuns democratic ideal

The Washington Post

Donald Trump showed a bit more self-control in the third and final presidential debate Wednesday night than he had in the previous two. His back and forth with Hillary Clinton was more substantive, thanks in part to firm guidance from moderator Chris Wallace. But all of that was overshadowed by Trump's breathtaking refusal to say that he will accept the results of the election.

"I will look at it at the time," he said. "The media is so dishonest and so corrupt ... they poison the minds of the voters ... they should never have been allowed to run for the presidency!"

Clinton rightly called his stance a "horifying" repudiation of U.S. democracy. ... Next to that, policy issues seem small. Yet the policy discussion was clarifying also, exposing as it did Trump's ignorance of — or is it distaste for? — the economy. He again insisted that the North American Free Trade Agreement has sucked jobs from the country, when economists have found otherwise. He indicated the debt would take care of itself under his economic plan because "we will have created a virtuous economic machine," which is pure snake oil. ...

In another striking moment, Trump denied that the Russian government has been meddling in this election, refusing to accept the judgment of the country's intelligence community. Clinton said "the most important question was whether Trump would acknowledge Moscow's interference. Trump at first declined to do so, saying he doubted the reports by U.S. intelligence agencies. He avoided any criticism of Russia's Vladimir Putin, repeatedly insisting it would be "good" to get along with Russia, with no mention of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and other actions that have made getting along difficult. ...

As if to prove Clinton's point that Trump would withdraw U.S. leadership from the world — to Putin's delight — the Republican nominee doubled down on his insistence that NATO countries and other allies "have to pay up," and he absurdly took credit for forcing reforms on the decades-old alliance. Clinton, by contrast, insisted that the United States benefits from engagement in the world, which used to be a consensus view on presidential debate stages. ...

Clinton managed to dodge some questions, including on communications that took place between the Clinton Foundation and the State Department under her leadership. She rightly said that she would not worsen the national debt as Trump would, but she could not refute Wallace's point that she has no plan to reduce it. She had no clear answer on how she could impose a no-fly zone over Syrian airspace now controlled by Russia. ...

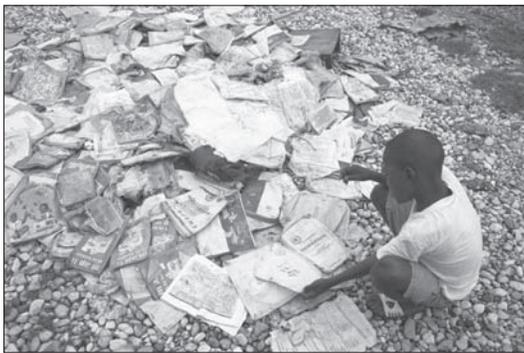
These are gaps that would have been probed and tested in a normal campaign. The fade to the status of trivia in the face of an opponent who will not accept the basic rules of American democracy. ...

Canada sends love south

The Arizona Republic

Canadians delivered a love note to Americans via social media, and it was basically the international equivalent of taking a casserole to a neighbor in need. ...

Clearly our friends to the north can tell this election season is making a lot of us queasy. ...



Rosmond Eliscar, 10, looks at a school math book, scattered among others salvaged after Hurricane Matthew hit on Oct. 4, in Mersan, Haiti, on Sunday.

The #TellAmericasGreat campaign includes a video in which several dozen Canadians tell us what's right about our country. ...

"We know you've got some really big decisions to make," says one. But "as you think about your future, we want you to know we really think you're great." ... "Sometimes friends just need to look out for each other," said Shari Walczak, a founder of The Garden collective, an image marketing agency behind the effort. In a blog post called "A Friend in Need," the agency spelled it out: ...

"It's no secret that America is going through a hard time right now. The election has exposed some pretty scary realities that will likely challenge them for years to come, regardless of who's elected. They've been bombarded with a tremendous amount of negativity and it's likely that for many of them, the immediate future seems rather bleak. ... America could probably use a little cheering up." ...

At a time we're churning out so much rich material for comics and other peddlers of satire and one-liners, these Canadians decided a little kindness might be more helpful. ...

How right they are. ... These pro-America messages are a necessary reminder that America is better than its politicians. And that we will get through this — with a little help from our friends. ...

Complexities meet in Mosul

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The long-awaited assault on Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city, has started, including the participation of U.S. forces. What Americans have not yet been told is why American lives have been put at risk and other assets committed to this difficult, largely symbolic effort. U.S. military leaders have said it could take six months to complete. There isn't any guarantee that the attack will be successful. ...

The motley army that is attacking Islamic State forces in Mosul, which they have held since June 2014, includes, in addition to the some 5,000 U.S. forces in country, Iraqi government forces, Shiite Muslim militias, some led by and affiliated with Iran, and Iraqi Kurdish forces. ...

The religious piece of the puzzle is especially complex. Mosul's population contains elements of a number of different Middle Eastern religions, but is predominantly Sunni Muslim, as is the Islamic State group. The forces that seek to liberate Mosul from Islamic State control are acting on behalf of the Baghdad government, which is largely Shiite Muslim. Sunnis in Mosul will resist the attackers on that basis, concerned at what will happen to them if Shiite government and informal

forces take over, even if they are not supporters of the Islamic State group. ...

The urban warfare that may occur in hard combat, as U.S. forces found when they were trying to take Iraqi cities during the occupation. If the attacking forces surround Mosul and shell it, the humanitarian disaster taking place in Aleppo, Syria, could be replicated in Mosul. ...

The Obama administration justifies U.S. participation in the battle as a manifestation of support for the Iraqi government of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and an expression of confidence in the policy of training and equipping Iraq's armed forces to defend their own country against the Islamic State group and other potential opponents. ... If the Islamic State group responds to the assault on Mosul by simply exiting the city into the Iraqi and Syrian hinterland, to live and fight another day, their "defeat" won't mean much. If, of course, the coalition of Iraqi government, Shiite militias backed by Iranians, and the Americans were to be repelled, or become bogged down by Islamic State resistance in Mosul, the lesson will be the opposite, making this campaign a high roll of the dice. ...

Haiti's needs often forgotten

The Philadelphia Inquirer

With so much happening in our country, including a pivotal presidential election and coastal states' daunting recovery from Hurricane Matthew, maybe it's understandable that the storm's impact on Haiti has been an afterthought for many Americans. But the death and destruction in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation shouldn't be ignored. ...

The United States and Haiti were the first nations in the hemisphere to be freed from colonial rule. Americans fighting under George Washington declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776. Haitians led by Toussaint Louverture won their independence from France in 1804. But the Haitian rebellion was, in fact, a slave revolt, which made America's slave-holding status uncomfortable and European nations dismissive. ...

Marines occupied Haiti from 1915 to 1934 to protect U.S. financial interests. Ties with Haiti continued during the dictatorships of Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier, who ruled from 1957 to 1971, and Jean Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier, who fled into exile in 1986. Haiti subsequently endured further misery under a number of corrupt, ineffective leaders. ...

A 2010 earthquake that left more than 200,000 dead and sprouted an ongoing cholera epidemic brought the country to its knees. In a struggle to recover from the earthquake, Haiti became Matthew's

punching bag on Oct. 4. ...

Massive financial aid is needed, but the United States can also provide relief in other ways. It can extend to more recent arrivals the Temporary Protected Status, or TPS, provided to undocumented Haitians after the 2010 earthquake. It would be difficult for the immigrants to return to Haiti in its storm-devastated condition. Giving them TPS would allow them to stay here, get work permits and send money to their families in Haiti. ...

The United States can also expand its Haitian Family Reunification Parole, or HFRP, program, which allows eligible U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents of Haiti to petition to apply for parole status for family members so they can get work permits and permanent resident status here. ...

Inviting more immigrants to the U.S. isn't popular, especially in this election season. But Haiti hasn't been treated fairly. The Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti says fewer than 2,000 Haitians have come to the United States since the HFRP program began in 2014. Compare that with the 100,000 immigrants who have come here through the Cuban Family Reunification Parole Program. ...

Natural disasters occurring amid everyday life in Haiti are putting a strain on the struggle. But only when Haitians are dying by the hundreds does the rest of the world pay attention. The world's attention span never lasts as long as it should with Haiti. ...

Med students not maniacal

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Washington University medical school is weaning itself off the use of cats in medical training after concluding that technological advances in simulators and mannequins reduced the need to use live animals. The transition is a responsible one we can support. ...

The school resisted years of pressure from animals rights groups to use alternative teaching methods and was the last in the country to use animals to train new doctors who'll insert breathing tubes. The reason for not changing the training was medically defensible, and patients should appreciate that the university did not cave in to bullying tactics by animal protectionists. ...

Dr. Bo Kennedy, a pediatric emergency specialist with St. Louis Children's Hospital, has said that the anatomy of a cat's windpipe most closely mimicked that of a newborn infant. Using cats provided the best training ground for medical students. ...

Any parent who has anxiously waited while a doctor safely inserted a life-saving breathing tube into a newborn's delicate airway understands the importance of that training. ...

Hostile campaigns by animal rights groups have tried shaming doctors into using less-effective, alternative training methods. The right time to start such a transition is when technological advances provide a more realistic medical procedures as precisely as possible using mannequins instead of animals. ...

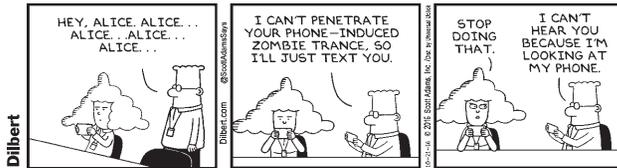
Most nonhuman scientific and medical research uses less complex animals, such as rats and mice, which tend not to generate the same levels of protest as procedures involving animals that humans empathize with. ...

Safeguards and oversight that ensure animals receive humane treatment in laboratory settings help ease the moral dilemma. Washington University said cats in its training lab will be adopted by medical school employees and that no cats have been used in similar medical procedures. ...

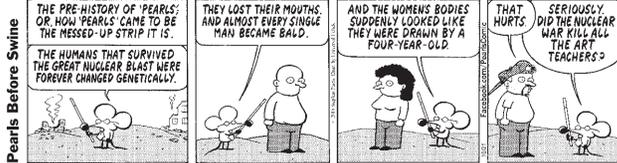
As public awareness increases, and technological developments lead to more lifelike mannequins and simulation devices, the use of live animals almost certainly will decrease. Federal ethical guidelines for the use of humans in research were developed in part to follow similar guidelines on animals are long overdue. ...



Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11			
12				13				14							
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18				19											
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48	49	50	51											52	
53										54				55	
56										57				58	

ACROSS

- 1 Wee lollop
- 4 Shade tree
- 7 Hot dog side dish
- 12 Ram's mate
- 13 Conk out
- 14 Perfectly timed
- 15 Kilmer of "Top Gun"
- 16 Laundry cleaner
- 18 Spanish gold
- 19 Open-mouthed
- 20 Reporter's quest
- 22 Yalie
- 23 Writer James
- 27 Math ratios
- 29 Convincing, as an argument
- 31 Washroom tub
- 34 Pale purple
- 35 Pressing
- 37 Capital Hill VIP
- 38 Wagers
- 39 Sinbad's bird
- 41 Glitz partner
- 45 Casino "boxcars"
- 47 Goose, in Guadaluajara
- 48 Rigorous
- 53 — Beta Kappa
- 55 Vowel group
- 54 Pro vote
- 55 A billion years

DOWN

- 56 Fix, as software
- 57 Superlative suffix
- 58 Orange Muppet
- 25 Disney deer
- 26 List-ending abbr.
- 28 Hostel
- 30 Flamenco cheer
- 31 Fella
- 32 Exist
- 33 Pvt.'s superior
- 36 Advanced math
- 37 Parts of acts
- 40 Daisy variety
- 42 Actress/singer Jennifer
- 43 "Bless you!" trigger
- 44 Pine Tree State
- 45 Comfy-cozy
- 46 Doc's "Now!"
- 48 Blue
- 49 Golf peg
- 50 Tease
- 51 Debtor's letters

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-21

CRYPTOQUIP

IWVHT ZABAMBRJA LFIADRTB
 NQF FNLAZ BQFHTWLZT FI
 TUWDD, DWMK UWBT: WXBQHX
 MFLWL ZFRDK.

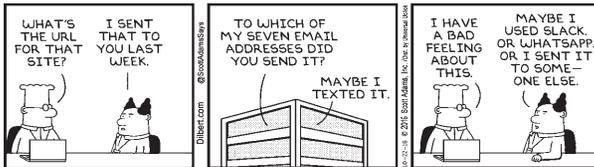
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE FELLOW OPENING BIRTHDAY GIFTS IS UNAVAILABLE TO VISIT RIGHT NOW. HE IS PRESENTLY OCCUPIED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals F

Frazz



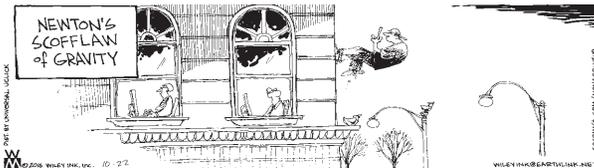
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



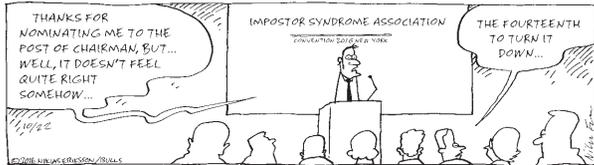
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12					13					14				
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38	39	40								41		42	43	44
45							46					47		
48							49					50		
51							52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Silent
- 4 Grassy area
- 8 Corrals
- 12 Tours season
- 13 Skin soothe
- 14 Matty of baseball
- 15 Granola morsel
- 16 Oxen's burden
- 17 Tragic
- 18 "Beg pardon?"
- 21 Director Howard
- 22 Historic time
- 23 Show indifference
- 26 Corpulent
- 27 Plaything
- 30 Hayseed
- 31 Knight's address
- 32 Gratis
- 33 "Exodus" hero
- 34 Entreat
- 35 Soup eater's noise
- 36 Mode lead-in
- 37 JFK info
- 38 "Beg pardon?"
- 45 On
- 46 Reunion attendee
- 47 — polloi
- 48 Scouting outing
- 49 Broad
- 50 List-ending abbr.
- 51 Org.

DOWN

- 2 West of Hollywood
- 3 Transcending (Pref.)
- 4 Small pooch
- 5 Fully committed
- 6 Fireplace fuel
- 7 It begins on Jan. 1
- 8 City near Venice
- 9 Yale students
- 10 Asta's mistress
- 11 Chop —
- 19 Verifiable
- 20 Scrap
- 23 Madrid Mrs.
- 24 "Ben- —"
- 25 Slugger's stat
- 26 Pear-shaped fruit
- 27 Capote nickname
- 28 Not "heath"
- 29 "Uh-huh"
- 31 Seattle athlete
- 32 Banner
- 34 Diner order
- 35 Pollen-producing organ
- 36 Colorado music festival town
- 37 Chopin piece
- 38 "Funny!"
- 39 Elevator name
- 40 Stir-fry pans
- 41 "I cannot tell —"
- 42 Throat clearer
- 43 Tiny bit
- 44 Pleasing

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

10-22

CRYPTOQUIP

M BZN EDCYIPAPIK HTZXIP AD

HTLPSNAZTL KDHS LMIPCCZ.

XHA TDB M'C XPJMTTMTJ AD

NPP AOP YIMJOA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS DETECTIVE NOVELIST WHO OWNED THOUSANDS OF SMALL, LACY MATS: ARTHUR CONAN DOILY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

FAITH



Left: Ultra-Orthodox Jewish youths walk in the city of Elad, Israel. Mayor Yisrael Porush, member of a prominent haredi family, said his main objective was to develop the city and provide opportunities for residents.

Below: Health Minister Yaakov Litzman is the senior representative of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israeli government. He doesn't apologize for the insular lifestyle he advocates.

PHOTOS BY SEBASTIAN SCHEINER/AP



TSAFIR ABAYOV/AP

Looking ahead

New generation of Israeli ultra-Orthodox challenges old guard

By ARON HELLER
Associated Press

As the senior representative of ultra-Orthodox Jews in Israel's government, Health Minister Yaakov Litzman is unapologetic about the insular lifestyle he advocates, despite irking mainstream Israel and endangering its long-term economic prospects. He insists that shirking compulsory military service, rejecting secular education and raising large families on state subsidies all serve the noblest of purposes: a life devoted to the study of scripture that has preserved Jewish traditions over centuries and will ultimately bring about the coming of the Messiah.

"To sit and learn is a mitzvah," or commandment from God, he told The Associated Press. "It is the most important thing." But the parochial establishment he represents is increasingly being challenged by a new generation of ultra-Orthodox Jews who are demanding academic degrees, satisfying professions, a bigger role for women and greater immersion in Israeli society.

"We are looking into the future, what will become of the next generation," said Avigayil Karlinsky, a 28-year-old social activist. "I am part of the larger Israel and I want my voice to be heard."

She said the ultra-Orthodox leadership's aversion to progress and integration is mostly about maintaining political power rather than serving their constituents. Until recently, such open criticism was unheard of, but it is gaining traction as people like Karlinsky try to change their world from within.

Experts have long warned that the ultra-Orthodox community's high birthrate and poverty levels, along with low rates of employment and education, could doom

We are looking into the future, what will become of the next generation. I am part of the larger Israel and I want my voice to be heard."

— social activist Avigayil Karlinsky

Israel's economic prospects. Many ultra-Orthodox acknowledge that, but they reject any outside effort to enforce changes and insist the process has to happen at its own pace. Critics inside and outside the community say a more comprehensive reform is needed, including greater emphasis on teaching children math, English and computer literacy. There also are growing calls for outreach to Israel's secular majority.

The ultra-Orthodox, or "haredim" — Hebrew for "those who fear God" — are the fastest growing sector in Israel. They make up about 11 percent of Israel's 8.5 million citizens, with the majority living beneath the poverty line, according to a recent study by the Israel Democracy Institute, an independent think tank. With a growth rate four times that of the general Jewish population, their numbers are expected to rise to 14 percent in 2024, 19 percent in 2039 and 27 percent in 2059, the think tank predicted.

Gilad Malach, a researcher who specializes in the community, said reform was already underway. He said a majority of haredi men now work, compared with just a third in 2003. Women continue to be the primary breadwinners, and their employment rates of close to 75 percent are comparable to those of the general public, he said.

The number of ultra-Orthodox joining the military and pursuing degrees has also quietly grown, but "modern" haredim like Karlinsky still only make up about 10 percent of the community, Malach said. He said the leadership hopes it stays that way.

"Their approach is 'nothing has changed,'" said Malach. "But regular people are more sophisticated than that. Every mainstream haredi knows he has to make adjustments." The state offers specialized training programs, study grants and other incentives to haredim, but they have to be handled with care so as not to come off as patronizing. While leading rabbis and their representatives in parliament have given their blessing to some projects, they have offered none of their own.

"There is no vision. That's the real problem," said Malach. "They don't have any plans and it would be best if the push came from them."

Litzman, who has gained popularity with the general public as health minister by campaigning against junk food and advocating for medical marijuana, has defied calls to change his community. He points to low crime rates as evidence of their superior values and insists that intensive Jewish studies at an early age instill lifelong learning skills that allow haredim to easily pick up professions later in life.

There is always new ways and new things which we have to get used to and check out if we can live with it, but there

is no change in halacha," or Jewish law, he said. "Until the Messiah will come, it will stay like that."

Karlinsky said she too is guided by her religious beliefs, but takes issue with what she considers a hypocritical approach of a leadership that clings to tradition to maintain control and reinforce a false sense of victimhood. Her husband was a star seminary student in Jerusalem until he decided it wasn't for him. He turned to computer programming and now works among secular colleagues at Google in Tel Aviv. She established the Torah Hub, a Facebook support group for like-minded haredim, and another for victims of sexual abuse in the community — another previously taboo topic. She plans to send her two young children to ultra-Orthodox schools but also make sure they learn English so they have more options later in life.

"I'm not afraid of change," she said, dismissing long-held fears that immersion would lead to assimilation. "Perhaps those who are so afraid of being tempted by secularism don't have strong enough faith to begin with."

In Elad, a central Israeli city of 50,000 mostly haredi residents, the ultra-Orthodox are seeking a happy medium. It boasts the highest rates of employment, salaries and high school matriculation of all haredi communities in Israel. It also prides itself in having clean streets, close ties to neighbors and a wide range of amenities, such as public services like libraries, theaters and community centers.

Mayor Yisrael Porush, 35, a father of six and scion of a prominent haredi family, said his main objective was to develop the city and provide opportunities for residents. "It's such an open door for them and it doesn't come at the expense of study," he said. "The world is moving forward and everyone wants to feel equal."

He deferred larger questions about haredi society to the rulings of the great rabbi, but clearly reveled in the companies and colleges that had opened branches in his city and accommodated haredi needs, such as separate working spaces for men and women, and flexible hours for working mothers. He said such an approach would be much more effective than open confrontation.

"Everyone understands that you have to provide for your family," he said. "But if you come at us with a gun, or with a whip, or threats, we have a problem."



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AT

50



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HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA EUROPE

Realignment helps D-II avoid qualifying quirks

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

After years of tinkering and realignment, the 2016 DODEA Europe Division I football regular season has produced a clear and uncontroversial set of eight playoff qualifiers.

Seven of the available quarterfinal spots were already determined before last weekend's set of regular-season finales, and the last was settled decisively.

Even more remarkably, there's not even a tie for seeding in either the North or South region. Undeclared Rota tops the North at 5-0, while Bitburg (4-1), International School of Brussels (3-2) and SHAPE (2-3) fall in place one game behind the team of the. "The season is true in the South as Naples (3-1), Vicenza (2-0) and Hohenfels (1-3) line up under two-time defending champion Ansbach (4-0).

This appealing level of order is likely the product of the division's latest realignment. Alcornbury's exit from the gridiron ranks dropped the Division II field from 12 to 11, making it impossible to duplicate last season's arrangement of three regions featuring four teams each. Instead, DODEA-Europe sorted the remaining 11 into two divisions, the North and South.

That streamlining move also balanced the process of qualifying for the playoffs.

In years past, teams had various out-of-region schedules, and those games counted towards the playoffs. In 2015, that created a situation where all four teams from the Central region made the playoffs, while only two each from the North and South qualified; the last-place Central team was ISB, which went winless in region play but

advanced to the playoffs on the strength of two non-region wins.

This year's system featured no such quirks.

Only regional games counted towards playoff qualification, meaning every team in each region was measured against the same set of opponents. Of the three teams to miss the playoffs, none had a legitimate gripe: two went winless in their regions, while the third enjoyed only a win over one of those winless teams.

While this year's system appears to approach the ideal possible setup for such a geographically disparate league, DODEA Europe plans to continue to steadfastly review the process for football, the only team sport in the organization that doesn't automatically invite all of its participating teams to the postseason.

"I don't think (DODEA Europe Athletic Director) Karen Seadore is ever content," Naples coach Jim Davis said. "She asks for our input and I believe we are always looking for ways to do things better."

Now that the field has been assembled, the time has arrived to thin it.

This weekend's four Saturday afternoon quarterfinals will produce four losers, some possibly by substantial margins. But entering the postseason, it's hard to identify a truly weak link.

Hohenfels visits returning European runner-up Rota saddled with the worst regional and overall record of any playoff team. But the young Tigers have markedly improved in October, hanging with No. 2 seed Naples in an 18-10 loss and taking a respectable 20-12 loss to powerhouse Ansbach a week later. Rota, meanwhile, hasn't been tested since a 34-29 defeat of Bitburg



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Rota's Ray Reyes tries to break a tackle in Baumholder, Germany, on Oct. 8. Undeclared Rota leads the Division II North as DODEA Europe quarterfinals take place Saturday. Rota hosts Hohenfels.

in the second game of its season.

To that end, Rota coach Ken Walter isn't taking victory for granted.

"Hohenfels has some very good athletes. They run a lot of different looks," Walter said. "We need to stay disciplined and play within our schemes."

South No. 4 seed SHAPE has a similar opportunity against Ansbach. While the Cougars are undefeated, they haven't matched the level of dominance they attained in recent seasons. Ansbach's average margin of victory over playoff teams this fall is a mere eight and a half points.

Suitably, the middle matchups of second and third seeds offer even more intrigue.

Vicenza's costly 17-6 loss to Naples on Sept. 24 cost it a winning divisional record and the No. 2 seed. But the Cougars can still threaten No. 2 Bitburg if they can finally eradicate the mistakes that have kept them from greater success this fall.

"What we are not doing well is taking

care of the ball, which we should have cleaned up by now," Vicenza coach Jesse Woods said. "We would like to execute our offense better."

Naples, the second seed in the South, hosts a gritty ISB team that stormed its way into the playoffs over the last two weeks of the season with a hard-won 25-22 win over SHAPE and a clinching 42-22 rout of AFNORTH/Brussels.

That's about as much intel as Naples itself has on its quarterfinal opponent.

"ISB is an unknown to us, so that is a challenge," Davis said.

As game day approaches in southern Italy, the senior-heavy Wildcats are simply thrilled that a season's worth of long road trips has been rewarded.

"Having a first-round playoff home game makes the regular season meaningful," Davis said.

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Twitter: @broomestripes

Weekend peek

Playoffs effectively start now for D-I football

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The DODEA Europe Division I football postseason doesn't officially start for another week. But for half of the division's six teams, the playoffs are already here.

Just like last year, multiple teams will enter the final weekend of the regular season deadlocked in the standings and facing de facto elimination games. While Ramstein and Lakenheath, both 3-1 in conference play, have already secured their playoff spots and winless Kaiserslautern had contention out of contention, the postseason prospects of 2-2 squads Vilsack, Stuttgart and Wiesbaden remain unsettled.

The Falcons and Panthers will meet Friday at Stuttgart in what amounts to a play-in game. The winner will improve to 3-2 on the season and become the third team to clinch a semifinal spot.

Meanwhile, the Wiesbaden Warriors round out the four-team playoff bracket, and earn the opportunity to return to the European championship game, with a Saturday win against visiting Lakenheath. But a Wiesbaden loss would end the Warriors' season,



MICHAEL B. KELLER/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Trevor Miller passes the ball at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, last week.

as they've lost to both the Falcons and Panthers in the regular season and would therefore fall short in head-to-head tiebreaker with either.

However it turns out, a quality team will be excluded from the Division I postseason.

The defending champion Panthers have managed to remain very competitive this fall despite major losses from last year's his-

tory-making squad. A 21-20 defeat of Wiesbaden on Oct. 7 proved the Panthers' persistent mettle and put them in position to potentially defend their title.

The Falcons, meanwhile, have carved out a distinctive niche in Division I football, one they've continued to inhabit this fall. Vilsack hits as hard as anyone and consistently slows some of DODEA-Europe's most potent

offenses, but its own offense still struggles to keep pace on the scoreboard. That proved true in an 18-3 loss to Ramstein and a 14-7 loss to Lakenheath, but a 49-9 blowout of Kaiserslautern and a 14-7 defeat of Wiesbaden sends the Falcons to Stuttgart with a two-game winning streak and growing confidence with the ball in their possession.

Finally, a Division I postseason minus the Warriors would represent a major revision to the DODEA-Europe status quo. Wiesbaden won the 2013 title and has returned to the championship game in each of the last two seasons. This year's group appeared destined for similar heights when it recorded double-digit defeats of Kaiserslautern and Ramstein over the first two weeks of conference play, but narrow losses to Stuttgart and Vilsack over the last two weeks have the perennial contenders at risk of a premature demise. To extend their season, the Warriors will need to beat Lakenheath, which bested Wiesbaden 27-20 in the teams' Sept. 17 non-conference season opener.

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Game of the week

Volleyball: Ramstein, Stuttgart at Wiesbaden

When: Saturday

While many Division I football teams meet this weekend with their seasons on the line, those same schools' volleyball teams don't face that same pressure. As they do every season, all nine Division I squads will pile into the bracket of the European championship tournament starting Nov. 3 at the Kaiserslautern Military Community.

But that's not to say they don't face pressure at all.

The Stuttgart Panthers, Ramstein Royals and Wiesbaden Warriors represent half of a very crowded upper echelon of large-school title contenders that also includes a greatly improved Lakenheath squad and persistent Italian contenders Naples and Vicenza.

The unbeaten defending champion Panthers are the frontrunners, having already recorded wins over top rivals including Vicenza, Naples and Ramstein. But the Royals and Warriors own just three combined losses on the season, and could bring the leading Panthers back to the pack with wins this weekend.

NHL

Around the league

Weber making his presence felt in Montreal

By JOHN WAWRO
Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Shea Weber didn't have to turn far to get the lowdown on Montreal upon learning he had been traded to the Canadiens.

Standing immediately next to Weber was good friend and former Canadiens defenseman Josh Gorges, who was staring at his phone in disbelief. The two had just finished a boating excursion with their sons in Kelowna, British Columbia, and left their phones in the car when the blockbuster trade that sent P.K. Subban to Nashville was completed on June 29.

"We parked the boat and grabbed our phones and both were blown up by calls and messages," recalled Gorges, who now plays for the Sabres. "It was kind of comical, to be honest with you."

Once the shock wore off, Gorges told Weber what to expect in making the switch from relative anonymity in Music City to Montreal, one of the NHL's most passionate hockey markets.

"You'll be under the microscope," Gorges said. "People are going to know everything that's going on."

Gorges also knew that if anyone could handle the added attention, it was Weber, an 11-year NHL veteran and six-year captain of the Predators.

"He kind of just makes people around him follow him," Gorges said. "He's got this intimidating presence to him where if you aren't going as hard as he is, you better watch out."

Though both are elite NHL defensemen in their own regard, Weber and Subban are polar opposites in personality and styles of play.

The Predators gave up toughness but got younger by adding a 27-year-old play-maker.

For Montreal, the trade made sense for a variety of reasons.

Subban was the Canadiens' most popular player and highly regarded for his charitable work, but his defensive lapses and outgoing personality didn't exactly fit coach Michel Therrien's blue-collar philosophy or preferred leadership style.

The 31-year Weber is a big-bodied player who is sound defensively and adds offense with a blistering shot. Just as important is Weber's no-nonsense approach.

"He's got some maturity, he's got some experience. He's a true leader," Therrien said. "And we've got some young guys who are going to learn to become pros because this guy is all business."

That wasn't always the case with Subban, who drew attention to himself through his on-ice celebrations or off-ice run-ins with celebrity.

Weber, by comparison, is an introvert. Shortly before Montreal's



PAUL CHASSON, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Montreal Canadiens defenseman Shea Weber, 31, is a big-bodied player who isn't just sound defensively, but also adds offense with a blistering shot. Just as important is Weber's no-nonsense approach to the game.

season-opening 4-1 win at Buffalo last week, Weber wasn't yet ready to assess the differences between Montreal and Nashville.

"I've only been here a couple of weeks so it's tough to tell," Weber said. "I'm going to prepare the same way I have over my career and try to be the same player and the same guy they brought me in here to be."

Captain Max Pacioretty has already noticed a difference.

"I've seen it from the second he walked into the locker room. He has a presence," Pacioretty said. "Every team is looking to improve their locker room and making sure they have the right guys off the ice. Ours is just magnified because of the market we play in."

Popular Predator: Subban is already making a splash in Nashville, where he will be featured in a Bridgestone Tire national ad campaign. On Sunday, Subban turns his attention to the NFL as the "Honorary 12th Titan" for Tennessee's home game against the Indianapolis Colts.

Catching up with Carpenter: With his three kids now out of high school, former NHL star Bobby Carpenter is considering a return to coaching.

Though nothing's firm, Carpenter expects to start at the American Hockey League ranks to re-familiarize himself with the job. Carpenter had 320 goals and 728 points in 1,178 career games over 21 NHL seasons split over six teams, including his final six

in New Jersey, where he won a Stanley Cup in 1995. After retiring in 1999, he won two more Cups as a Devils assistant coach.

Carpenter was in Buffalo recently to watch his daughter, Alexandra, make her National Women's Hockey League debut with the Boston Pride.

At Boston College, Alexandra Carpenter was college hockey's top player in 2014-15, and she was a member of the U.S. team that won a silver medal at the Sochi Games. She already has four goals and five points in five games for the Pride.

"This is entertaining," Carpenter said of the second-year league during Boston's eventual 4-1 win over the Buffalo Beauts.

Before the game, Beauts defenseman Harrison Browne announced he identified as male in becoming the league's first transgender player.

"I don't have any problems with any of that at all. It just makes everything more interesting," Carpenter said of Browne. "It's such an open world."

Behind the mask: Washington Capitals goalie Braden Holtby raised more than \$20,000 for charity in auctioning off his Team Canada World Cup of Hockey mask, the National Hockey League Players' Association announced. The money will go toward two of Canadian rocker Gord Downie's charitable foundations. Downie, The Tragically Hip frontman, is being treated for a brain tumor.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
Tampa Bay	4	3	0	0	6	13	9		
Ottawa	4	3	1	0	6	17	16		
Montreal	3	2	0	1	5	11	5		
Florida	3	2	0	1	5	9	6		
Boston	3	2	1	0	4	11	8		
Toronto	3	1	0	2	4	12	11		
Detroit	4	2	2	0	4	12	12		
Buffalo	3	1	2	0	3	10	10		

Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
Washington	3	2	0	1	5	7	4		
Pittsburgh	4	2	2	0	4	15	12		
N.Y. Rangers	4	2	2	0	4	15	12		
New Jersey	3	1	1	1	3	5	6		
Philadelphia	3	1	1	1	3	11	13		
Carolina	3	0	1	2	2	9	12		
N.Y. Islanders	4	1	3	0	2	9	12		
Columbus	2	0	2	0	0	5	9		

Western Conference

Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
St. Louis	4	3	0	1	7	12	8		
Colorado	3	2	1	0	4	10	11		
Minnesota	3	2	1	0	4	12	9		
Dallas	4	2	1	1	4	11	9		
Chicago	4	2	2	0	4	16	15		
Winnipeg	4	2	2	0	4	14	16		
Nashville	2	1	2	0	2	7	9		

Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L
Vancouver	3	3	0	0	6	8	5		
Edmonton	4	3	1	0	6	17	15		
San Jose	4	3	1	0	6	12	12		
Calgary	4	1	1	2	3	12	17		
Arizona	2	1	1	0	2	8	10		
Anheim	4	0	3	1	1	6	12		
Los Angeles	3	0	3	0	0	6	12		

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

Tuesday's games

San Jose 3, N.Y. Islanders 2
Washington 3, Colorado 0
New Jersey 2, Anaheim 1
Ottawa 7, Arizona 4
Montreal 4, Pittsburgh 3
Tampa Bay 4, Florida 3, SO
Minnesota 6, Los Angeles 3
Dallas 2, Nashville 1
Chicago 7, Philadelphia 4
Calgary 4, Buffalo 3, OT
Edmonton 3, Carolina 2
Vancouver 2, St. Louis 1, OT

Wednesday's games

Winnipeg 5, Toronto 4, OT
Detroit 2, N.Y. Rangers 1

Thursday's games

San Jose at Pittsburgh
Anheim at Philadelphia
New Jersey at Boston
Washington at Florida
Arizona at Montreal
Colorado at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Minnesota
Los Angeles at Dallas
St. Louis at Edmonton
Carolina at Calgary
Buffalo at Vancouver

Friday's games

Chicago at Columbus
Arizona at N.Y. Islanders
Nashville at Detroit

Saturday's games

San Jose at Detroit
N.Y. Rangers at Washington
Minnesota at New Jersey
Tampa Bay at Ottawa
Colorado at Florida
Toronto at Chicago
Montreal at Dallas
Carolina at Philadelphia
Pittsburgh at Nashville
Edmonton at St. Louis
St. Louis at Calgary
Vancouver at Los Angeles

Milestone watch: Blackhawks forward Marian Hossa scored his 50th goal and 1,093th point in his 1,240th career game in a 7-4 win over Philadelphia on Tuesday night.

Leaders: Points, Brent Burns (San Jose), 8; Goals, Vladimir

Tarasenko (St. Louis), David Pastrnak (Boston), Richard Panik (Chicago) and Auston Matthews (Toronto), 4; **Power-play points,** Ryan Johansen (Nashville) and Nasimus Ristolainen (Buffalo), 4; **Penalty minutes,** Jonathan Ericsson (Detroit), 24.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rested Aggies ready for Bama

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — Myles Garrett isn't about to tip his hand. Not with top-ranked Alabama next on the schedule.

The sixth-ranked Aggies' star defensive end said he felt much better Tuesday following Texas A&M's week off after admitting to being only 65-70 percent healthy against Tennessee. Garrett is dealing with an unspecified leg injury.

He broke into a huge smile when asked for an update.

"Well I can't let them know," he said. "I'm good enough to play well."

The Aggies (6-0) will need him and the rest of their star players to be at full strength as they put their undefeated record on the line on Saturday against the Crimson Tide (7-0), the Southeastern Conference's other unbeaten team.

Garrett and fellow defensive end Daeshon Hall have formed a dangerous combination this year with nine tackles for losses each, helping the Aggies rank third in the nation with 9.7 a game.

While Alabama was dismantling Tennessee 49-10 last week, the Aggies had time to recharge before traveling to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, this week.

"It was a good situation for us ...



No. 6 Texas A&M (6-0)
at No. 1 Alabama (7-0)
AFN-Sports2
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

I thought our guys were at a point where they needed it," coach Kevin Sumlin said. "It came at the right time after getting through the two weeks prior."

The Aggies got a 24-13 win at South Carolina on Oct. 1 despite playing without Garrett and three other starters. The next week, Garrett played almost exclusively on third downs when they held off a late charge by Tennessee to get a 45-38 victory in double overtime. Texas A&M also used its break to evaluate what it's done so far and how the team can build on that success in the second half of the season.

"You spend about a day looking back and do a midseason report on where we're at, the receivers did it," receiver Christian Kirk said. "Just where we're at and what we can work on to go



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Texas A&M wide receiver Christian Kirk, left, and the sixth-ranked Aggies put their undefeated record on the line on Saturday against Alabama (7-0), the Southeastern Conference's other unbeaten team. Kirk leads the team with 40 receptions and has 352 yards.

through this last stretch and win every game. So it was good to look back and see what we need to improve on."

Kirk leads the team with 40 receptions and his 352 yards receiving rank second for the Aggies. Kirk and Josh Reynolds, who is first on the team with 488 yards receiving, have been Trevor Knight's favorite targets with senior Ricky Seals-Jones out the last two games with an injury.

Knight has been solid in his first season at Texas A&M after joining the team as a graduate transfer from Oklahoma. He has

thrown for 1,500 yards with nine touchdowns and five interceptions. He's also proven to be a threat on the ground, rushing for 502 yards with nine more scores.

It's been a nice bounce-back season for Knight, who was benched last year in favor of Baker Mayfield before leaving Oklahoma. He also spent some time last week reflecting on his first six games with the Aggies and came away with an encouraging conclusion.

"I still don't think we've opened our best football on the offensive side of the ball," he said.

The defense is also looking for ways to get better after giving up some big leads before coming back to win in overtime in a couple of games this season. Despite those lapses, defensive coordinator John Chavis has been impressed with much of the work his unit has done so far.

"When you're in situations to finish a game, we've got to be able to do that," he said. "We have not done that as well as I expect and our players expect. But our players are giving great ... effort and that's a good starting place."

No. 21 Auburn aiming to avoid repeat against Arkansas

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — The Auburn Tigers are again 4-2 and showing signs of a turnaround going into the Arkansas game.

The No. 21 Tigers are trying to avoid a repeat of last season's deflating outcome Saturday against the No. 17 Razorbacks. They lost that game 54-46 in four overtimes to start a 1-4 finishing swoon in Southeastern Conference games.

Auburn (4-2, 1-1) rides a three-game winning streak into the rematch, including SEC West victories over LSU and Mississippi State.

The defense has been consistently solid and the once-struggling offense has come to life in beating Louisiana-Monroe and the Bulldogs by a combined 96-21. The Tigers entered the Top 25 before last week's open date, but recent history proves it's way too early to proclaim this a successful season.

"The good thing about this team is our leadership is very strong," Auburn coach Gus Malzahn said. The leadership will definitely keep everybody grounded. They're on a mission. They're really helped us through the tough times. There were no chinks in our armor, and it really starts with our leaders. They've got a good pulse for our team. Our younger guys really listen to them."

And the offense, especially, is full of younger guys. Underclassmen have accounted for 88 percent of the Tigers' offensive yards during the first half of the



BUTCH DILL/AP

Auburn head coach Gus Malzahn reacts to a targeting call during the first half against LSU, in Auburn, Ala., last month. The 21st-ranked Auburn Tigers have definitely shown signs of improvement in recent weeks, but Saturday's game with No. 17 Arkansas will give a better gauge of where they stand.

season, led by a trio of sophomores — quarterback Sean White and tailbacks Kamryn Pettway and Kerryon Johnson.

They've helped lead a turnaround since a 1-2 start that included competitive losses to No. 4 Clemson and No. 6 Texas A&M.

Malzahn has since handed over play calling duties to offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee, with positive results so far. He said the Tigers have improved "quite a

bit" since the Texas A&M loss.

The defense has gone three straight games without allowing a rushing touchdown for the first time since 2008. White has completed 77 percent of his passes over the past three games, stabilizing the offense and his own status as the No. 1 quarterback. Malzahn played three quarterbacks early in the season opener against Clemson.



No. 17 Arkansas (5-2)
at No. 21 Auburn (4-2)
AFN-Sports2

Joined in progress. 1 a.m. Sunday CET
8 a.m. Sunday JKT

But now come two bigger tests — the Razorbacks (5-2, 1-2) and at No. 23 Mississippi. Auburn could emerge as a SEC West contender or a team scrambling to secure a winning record like last year.

White sustained a knee injury against Arkansas but led a last-minute drive toward a tying field goal in the fourth quarter to force overtime. Not pulling that game out "still makes me mad," Malzahn said.

It's one of several close games Malzahn and Auburn players could point to during the offseason as a key to reversing the Tigers' fortunes.

"That was kind of one of our messages during the summer is finish games like that," guard Alex Kozam said. "Find a way to put ourselves over the edge and win those games."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pleasant surprises and some flops so far

The best and worst at midseason

BY RALPH D. RUSSO

Associated Press

The first half of the 2016 college football season featured the emergence of a new star quarterback, the re-emergence of an old Pac-12 power and the end of an era at LSU.

Texas is back! Nope.

Houston to the playoff! Nah.

Tom Herman to LSU? Tom Herman to Texas? Tom Herman to the Chicago Bears? This, unfortunately, has only just begun.

With seven weeks of the season in the books, we assess the best and the worst of the first half.

Most surprising undefeated team

No. 6 Texas A&M: The Aggies were unranked and appeared to be an unsettled program to start the season. Assistant coaches made off-season headlines for the wrong reasons. The five-star quarterbacks had fled and were replaced by former inconsistent Oklahoma quarterback Trevor Knight. There is no more hot-seat talk about coach Kevin Sumlin as the Aggies head to No. 1 Alabama for a game that could decide the SEC West on Saturday. There is still potential for things to go sideways for Sumlin and the Aggies, but so far A&M has replaced the swag with substance.

Most disappointing team

Notre Dame: There are some serious candidates here. Oregon, but the Ducks were showing signs for crashing coming into 2016.

Michigan State, but the Spartans were probably due for a reset season. Notre Dame, however, is a big hot mess. Seven games in and coach Brian Kelly has fired his defensive coordinator and created an unnecessary quarterback controversy. Even allowing the Fighting Irish some leeway for over inflated expectations, 2-5 and scrambling to get bowl eligible is unacceptable.

Best coaching job-head coach

Nick Saban, Alabama, and Urban Meyer, Ohio State: We often reward the coaches who exceed expectations and do the most with the least. That's all well and good, but sustained excellence is really where it's at. No. 1 Alabama won the national championship last year and is better this season with a freshman quarterback. No. 2 Ohio State lost one of the great NFL draft classes from one school of all time and the Buckeyes have not missed a beat.

Best coaching job-coordinator

Justin Wilcox, defensive coordinator, Wisconsin: Could go back to Alabama for Lane Kiffin or Ohio State for Greg Schiano, but Wilcox is the pick as he re-establishes himself as one of the better defensive coordinators in the country. He took over a well-stocked group after Dave Aranda left for LSU, but the 10th-ranked Badgers are as feisty as ever.

Best turnaround

Colorado: It has been a long hard road back to relevance for



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Texas A&M quarterback Trevor Knight rushes for a touchdown past Tennessee defensive back Mical Abernathy during a game in College Station, Texas. The sixth-ranked Aggies were unranked to start the season and their transformation from unsettled team to highly ranked is a surprise of the season.

the Buffaloes, but Mike McIntyre has Boulder interested in its college football team again. CU has not won more than six games since 2004 and had just two Pac-12 victories in McIntyre's first three seasons. Now the Buffs (5-2) are a win away from bowl eligibility and 3-1 in conference with a legit chance to take the Pac-12 South. Props also to defensive coordinator and former USF coach Jim Leavitt for the most improved part of the team.

Breakout player-offense (not named Lamar Jackson)

Dede Westbrook, WR, Oklahoma: Lots of good candidates here among receivers, most notably Cal's Chad Hansen and Syracuse's Amba Etta-Tawo. Westbrook was the Big 12's offensive newcomer of the year last year so it's not as if he is coming out of nowhere. His recent surge (26 catches for 574 yards), though, has him playing like an All-American and he has already surpassed last year's numbers for receptions and yards.

Breakout player-defense

Joe Mathis, LB, Washington: Mathis has gone from solid player to an absolute force for the fifth-ranked Huskies in his senior season. He has already topped his career total for sacks with five and nearly doubled his career tackles for loss with 7.5 this season. Oregon coaches could still be searching game tape for play in which the Ducks handled Mathis.

Best game

Clemson 42, Louisville 36: Two great quarterbacks doing spectacular things. Talented players everywhere. Huge swings in emotion and momentum. Comebacks on both sides and clutch performances. All played in one of the best venues in college football. And it came down to 1 yard. Sure it was sloppy at times, but so much fun.

Worst game

Michigan 78, Rutgers 0: Maybe the most noncompetitive conference game in the last 25 years of college football.

Worst officiating

The officials who worked the Central Michigan-Oklahoma States: It is one thing to blow a judgment call. It is quite another to badly misinterpret a rule and that have that mistake cost a team a game. Both the MAC officials on the field and Big 12 replay officials earned suspensions.

Worst firing

Les Miles, LSU: LSU athletic director Joe Alleva wanted Miles out last season, but botched it and allowed Miles to gain a groundswell of support. So at first chance this season, after an ugly loss at Auburn named the Tigers to 2-2, Alleva dumped Miles before the coach could go out and save himself again. It was time for a change in Baton Rouge. And if handled properly it could have been done 10 months earlier.

Hot-seat coaches

Cooling contracts: Mark Stoops, Kentucky. Has a \$12 million buy-out. With assistants, firing him could cost more than \$17 million.

Steve Addazio, Boston College. Received an extension in 2014 that runs through 2020.

Warm: Paul Johnson, Georgia Tech; Mark Helfrich, Oregon; Gus Malzahn, Auburn

Warmer: Charlie Strong, Texas Toasty: David Bailiff, Rice Cooked: Tim DeRuyter, Fresno State

Hot coaches from Group of Five (not named Tom Herman)

Jeff Brohm, Western Kentucky P.J. Fleck, Western Michigan Scott Satterfield, Appalachian State

Willie Taggart, USF

Halfway Heisman

1. Lamar Jackson, QB, Louisville
 2. Jake Browning, QB, Washington
 3. Greg Ward Jr., QB, Houston
- Three more to watch:** Dalvin Cook, RB, Florida State; J.T. Barrett, QB, Ohio State; Jalen Hurts, QB, Alabama

Top four now (doesn't matter)

1. Alabama
2. Ohio State
3. Michigan
4. Clemson

Top four on Dec. 4 (matters)

1. Alabama
2. Ohio State
3. Clemson
4. Washington



SUE OGROCKI/AP

Oklahoma wide receiver Dede Westbrook was the Big 12 offensive newcomer of the year last year, and he has followed that up by already surpassing his 2015 numbers and playing like an All-American.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



PHOTOS BY RAINER EHRHARDT/AP

Troy running back Jordan Chunn (38) rushes against Clemson during the second half of their game last month in Clemson, S.C. The Trojans have staged a major comeback. A program that hasn't had a winning record since 2010 is on the brink of bowl eligibility, leads the Sun Belt Conference and flirted with an upset of the No. 4 Tigers.

Troy off to best FBS start

Trojans on brink of bowl eligibility

By JOHN ZENOR
Associated Press

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — The Troy Trojans have staged a major comeback.

A program that hasn't had a winning record since 2010 reached the season's midpoint already on the brink of bowl eligibility, leading the Sun Belt Conference and receiving Top 25 votes. The Trojans, who visit in-state rival South Alabama Thursday night, are off to easily their best start since moving up to the FBS level in 2011.

Second-year coach Neal Brown started the season wanting his team to build confidence and continue improving from his 4-8 debut as a head coach. That's already been accomplished with the Trojans starting 5-1 and winning their first three Sun Belt games.

"Now, it's about handling prosperity," Brown said. "We're 5-1 but we have not reached any of our goals. We've got everything in front of us. We understand that our schedule only gets tougher as we go. And for the first time, the guys on our football team are winning."

"They've never had this experience. They're getting better crowds. The kids on campus are excited, so they're telling them and obviously their families are telling them how they're doing."

The program hasn't seen much success since the 26-year-old Brown was major college football's youngest offensive coordi-



Troy quarterback Brandon Silvers looks to pass against the Tigers during the first half of last month's game in Clemson, S.C.

inator: The Trojans captured their fifth straight Sun Belt title in 2010 and haven't had a winning record since then.

Longtime coach Larry Blakeney retired and his former underling was lured away from his job as Kentucky's offensive coordinator. Brown is the fourth-youngest FBS head coach.

He appears to have a program on the rise again that has won national titles in both the NAIA and Division II and was once a regular in the FCS playoffs. Now, the focus is on sustaining, especially against a South Alabama team that has already toppled Mississippi State and then-No. 19 San Diego State.

"With each win, energy grows, excitement grows, expectations grow," Brown said. "But your day to day really shouldn't. How you got to that point really shouldn't. That's a positive thing. This program deserves that, and this program has won at a high level for a

long time. "It deserves to be in that conversation. If we want to continue to do that, we've got to continue to handle these situations well."

The Trojans' most attention-getting performance came in their lone defeat. Troy scored two touchdowns in the final five minutes against No. 4 Clemson, but couldn't convert a final onside kick in a 30-24 defeat.

The Trojans lead the Sun Belt in 11 categories, including scoring and total offense and rush defense.

They lead the nation with 14 interceptions and one sack allowed and are second nationally in red zone defense, allowing opponents to score only 63.2 percent of the time after driving inside Troy's 20-yard line.

The result has been a terrific start for a team that had never opened better than 3-1 at the FBS level and now has grander ambitions.

Holgorsen has WVU on a roll

By JOHN RABY
Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen has gone from the hot seat to leading West Virginia to a sizzling start to the season.

No. 12 West Virginia (5-0, 2-0 Big 12) is a surprising early contender in the conference after being tapped in the preseason to finish seventh.

"I'm excited where we're at," Holgorsen said. "But it's just five games. We've got seven more important ones coming up."

Faced with plenty of questions about his own job security entering 2016, Holgorsen has put together strong performances — and had some good luck along the way.

Kansas State missed a late field goal in a tight game earlier this season, and BYU nearly rallied from 16 points down in the fourth quarter but turned the ball over on its final drive near West Virginia's end zone.

A confidence boost came with West Virginia's 48-17 dismantling of high-scoring Texas Tech on the road last Saturday. The celebration was limited to the two-plus hour plane ride home before preparations started for Saturday's home game with TCU (4-2, 2-1).

"You get over it real quick," Holgorsen said. "It's pretty much you settle in and get back to work. This is our hardest game yet."

To be determined: Whether his players held his word about staying focused.

It didn't work in 2012, when West Virginia started 5-0 and rose to No. 5 before its first full Big 12 season took a toll. West Virginia lost the next five games.

"I don't think anybody truly knows that answer until we go through it. And you all are thinking 2012. I know you all are," Holgorsen said. "This is a totally different team."

"I think this team is a good group of kids that like each other and like playing the game. And they didn't listen when everybody was saying we sucked, and they're not going to listen when everybody is saying we're good. It's pretty much as simple as that."

Win or lose, his players say Holgorsen has remained consistent with his perfectionist approach.

"He's always going to be fired up," linebacker Al-Rasheed Benton said. "He's always going to be one of those guys that will get in your face if you aren't doing exactly what you need to do. From the first game to the last game, he won't let up. He just wants to see you getting better and better each week."

Holgorsen's schemes certainly have changed.

Holgorsen comes from the Air Force coaching tree that included Hal Mumme at Iowa Wesleyan



RAYMOND THOMPSON/AP

West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen took plenty of heat for the Mountaineers' struggles in its first four seasons after joining the Big 12. He's getting the bulk of the credit for undefeated WVU's hot start this season, one that could wind up saving his job.

and later under Mike Leach at Texas Tech. But rather than relying on a passing attack, Holgorsen understood the need to evolve his running game, too.

Wendell Smallwood was the Big 12 rushing champion a year ago. West Virginia now runs the ball 54 percent of the time. Quarterback Skyler Howard has shown he's dangerous with both his arm and his feet.

On defense, Holgorsen has made it a greater priority to recruit junior college players and other transfers who can step right away. Despite having nine new starters this season, most of them are seniors.

Holgorsen went 10-3 and won the Orange Bowl in his first season in 2011, then signed a six-year contract extension — his last one — in August 2012. But Holgorsen went 26-25 the next four seasons.

Athletic director Shane Lyons told Holgorsen last December he could keep his job. Lyons later said no further contract discussions would be held until after the 2016 season.

Lyons reiterated that point again this week. He did say the Texas Tech win accelerated the team's momentum.

"That's what you want, you want to build your confidence," Lyons said. "That's what Dana and his staff have done."

TCU coach Gary Patterson said he's noticed the Mountaineers have "got a lot of energy and they've got a lot of positive on their side right now."

"It's been fun watching them. Dana has done a great job. The kids are playing hard," Patterson said. "You've got to be able to go match that."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



BRADLEY LEE/AP

Player to watch

Hardy Nickerson LB | Illinois

The California transfer is averaging a Big Ten-best 9.7 tackles a game and has two interceptions, tying a team high. Nickerson's dad, the former NFL linebacker of the same name, is the Illini's defensive coordinator. On Saturday, Nickerson faces a touch challenge in unbeaten No. 3 Michigan.

Illinois at No. 3 Michigan
9:30 p.m. Saturday, CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea
AFN-Sports



Nick Wass/AP

Navy running back Darryl Bonner makes a catch for a touchdown against then-No. 6 Houston on Oct. 8. Navy won 46-40, but hasn't played since. The No. 24 Midshipmen host Memphis on Saturday (9:30 p.m. CET); 4:30 a.m. JKT, AFN-Atlantic) with sole possession of first place in the AAC West at stake.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Clemson	0	7	0
Louisville	3	1	3
Pittsburgh	2	2	2
Florida St.	2	2	2
NC State	1	2	3
Syracuse	1	2	3
Boston College	0	3	3
Coastal Division		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
North Carolina	3	1	5
Pittsburgh	2	1	5
Virginia Tech	2	1	4
Virginia	1	2	4
Miami	1	2	4
Georgia Tech	1	3	4
Duke	0	3	3

Game of the week: North Carolina State at No. 7 Louisville. It looks like the best game on an extremely tight schedule that has only three games on Saturday. The Wolfpack (4-2, 1-1) missed a chance to upset a top-10 team and Heisman Trophy contender last week against No. 3 Clemson. They get a chance to make up for it when they visit Lamar Jackson and Louisville (5-1, 3-1).

Player to watch: N.C. State running back Matt Dyes. He will have to find some holes in a tough Louisville run defense if the Wolfpack is going to knock off the Cardinals. Dyes has surpassed the 100-yard mark in five of six games and is coming off a 106-yard effort against Clemson. A productive running game might be the best way to Louisville.

Big Ten			
East		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Michigan	3	0	6
Ohio St.	3	0	6
Corn St.	2	4	2
Indiana	1	2	4
Michigan St.	0	2	4
Rutgers	0	4	2
West		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Nebraska	3	0	6
Iowa	3	1	6
Northwestern	2	1	3
Wisconsin	1	4	2
Minnesota	1	2	3
Purdue	1	2	3
Illinois	1	2	3

Game of the week: No. 2 Ohio State at Penn State. Ohio State can improve to 35-1 in regular season conference games under Meyer and can take another step toward the Big Ten championship game with a win. The Nittany Lions are still looking for a marquee win during James Franklin's tenure. He's 0-7 against the Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State and the Nittany Lions are 0-9 against top-five 5 teams in the last decade.

Inside the numbers: The visiting school came away victorious in all six Big Ten games last Saturday. The last time road teams won every Big Ten game was Nov. 7, 2009, when all five road squads prevailed.

Player to watch: Nebraska safety Nate Gerry. He is playing at an All-Big Ten level and the anchor of a much-improved secondary. He's the team co-leader with seven tackles for loss and has two interceptions, and he's coming off one of his best performances of the season, making eight tackles and blowing up a couple screens against Indiana.

Big 12			
Conf.		All	All
W	L	W	L
Baylor	3	3	6
West Virginia	2	0	5
Oklahoma	3	0	4
TCU	2	1	4
Oklahoma St.	2	1	4
Texas Tech	1	2	3
Kansas St.	1	2	3
Texas	1	2	3
Kansas	1	3	1
Iowa St.	0	4	1

Game of the week: TCU at No. 12 West Virginia. This will be the third meeting in Morgantown for the teams that came into the Big 12 together in 2012. TCU won each of the previous two games there by one point — in overtime four years ago and on a game-ending field goal in 2014, while WVU won in overtime in Fort Worth between those games. West Virginia quarterback Skyler Howard (eighth nationally with 357 total yards per game) is a Fort Worth native.

Inside the numbers: Kansas State is 8-4 against Texas since the inception of the Big 12, including wins the last four meetings in Manhattan, where the teams play Saturday.

Player to watch: Oklahoma senior Dede Westbrook. He has eight touchdowns catches in the last three games, a stretch when he has 26 catches for 574 yards. Six of those touchdowns are 40 yards or longer, including an 88-yarder last week against Kansas State.

Pac-12			
North		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Washington	3	0	6
Washington St.	3	0	4
Stanford	2	2	4
California	1	2	3
Oregon St.	1	2	4
Oregon	0	3	2
South		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Utah	3	1	6
Colorado	3	1	5
Southern Cal	3	2	4
Arizona St.	2	2	5
UCLA	1	3	4
Arizona	0	4	2

Game of the week: No. 19 Utah at UCLA. The steady Utes could knock the inconsistent Bruins out of the Pac-12 South race with their second straight victory at the Rose Bowl. UCLA was the preseason favorite to win the division, but three losses in four games have forced the Bruins into a series of must-wins in mid-October. UCLA coach Jim Mora won't guess whether QB Josh Rosen will play. He missed last week's loss at Washington State with an undisclosed injury.

Inside the numbers: Washington sophomore QB Jake Browning leads the FBS in passing efficiency (204.9), while Washington State junior QB Luke Falk leads the FBS in completions per game (35.17).

Player to watch: Colorado TB Phil Lindsay Jr. The junior rushed 26 times for a career-high 216 yards and 3 TDs in a 40-16 win over Arizona State. He's the first CU player to rush for 200 yards since Chris Brown in 2002. The Buffaloes travel to Stanford on Saturday.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force vs. Hawaii
at Dallas
Last week: Lost to New Mexico 45-40
Next game: at Fresno State, Oct. 28

Army vs. North Texas
Last week: Beat Lafayette 62-7
Next game: at Wake Forest, Oct. 29

Navy vs. Memphis
Last week: Did not play
Next game: at USF, Oct. 28

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE	
Thursday	
No. 14 Boise State vs. BYU	Saturday
No. 1 Alabama vs. No. 6 Texas A&M	No. 2 Ohio State at Penn State
No. 3 Michigan vs. Illinois	No. 5 Washington vs. Oregon State
No. 7 Louisville vs. NC State	No. 8 Nebraska vs. Purdue
No. 10 Wisconsin at Iowa	No. 11 Houston at SMU
No. 12 West Virginia vs. TCU	No. 16 Oklahoma at Texas Tech
No. 17 Arkansas at No. 21 Auburn	No. 19 Utah at UCLA
No. 20 Western Michigan vs. Eastern Michigan	No. 22 North Carolina at Virginia
No. 23 Mississippi at No. 25 LSU	No. 24 Navy vs. Memphis

SEC			
East		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Florida	3	1	5
Tennessee	2	2	5
Kentucky	2	2	4
Georgia	2	2	4
Vanderbilt	1	2	3
South Carolina	1	4	2
Missouri	0	3	2
West		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Alabama	4	0	7
Texas A&M	3	1	5
LSU	2	1	4
Auburn	2	2	4
Kentucky	2	2	5
Mississippi	1	2	3
Mississippi St.	1	2	2

Game of the week: No. 3 Texas A&M at No. 1 Alabama. Three seasons ago, Trevor Knight was Oklahoma's quarterback when his engineered a Sugar Bowl upset of Alabama. Now that he has rejuvenated his career at a new school, Knight will try to beat Alabama once again when Texas A&M visits Tuscaloosa. Alabama has won 19 consecutive games over the last two years.

Inside the numbers: South Carolina is the only FBS team that hasn't played a game this season in which their team scored at least 30 points.

Player to watch: Ole Miss TE Evan Engram. The 6-foot-3, 235-pound Engram leads the nation for tight ends with 37 catches for 590 yards. He's also scored five TDs. The senior has become the focal point of the 23rd-ranked Rebels' league-leading passing offense. He's the nation's active leader for tight ends with 1,984 career receiving yards and already has the most career catches, receiving yards and receiving touchdowns for a tight end in school history.

MLB PLAYOFFS



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

From left, Cleveland catcher Roberto Perez, relief pitcher Cody Allen, and teammates Andrew Miller and Coco Crisp celebrate the Indians' 3-1 victory over the Blue Jays in Game 5 of the American League Championship Series in Toronto on Wednesday. The Indians won the series 4-1.

Tribe: Merritt, bullpen secure series

FROM BACK PAGE

scintillating year in Cleveland after LeBron James and the Cavaliers earned the city's first major pro sports championship since 1964.

The Indians' title drought dates to 1948. In 1997, they let a one-run lead get away in the bottom of the ninth inning in Game 7 and lost to the Florida Marlins in the 11th.

"We always said if we could do it with this group it would be so special because this is as close to a family feel as you can get in a professional setting. So for that part of it, it is beyond feeling good," Francona said.

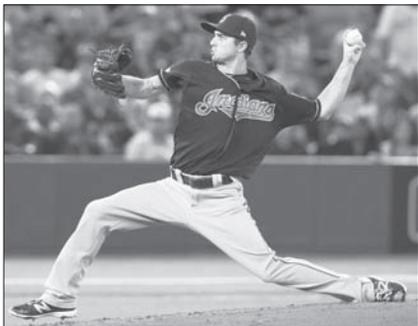
Miller, acquired from the New York Yankees in a midseason trade, was selected the ALCS MVP as the Indians took their sixth pennant.

"I feel like I've said the word 'special' a million times in the last 20 or 30 minutes. But it's the truth. It's a blast to be a part of," Miller said.

With all of 11 major league innings under his belt — and only one start, on Sept. 30 — Merritt took the mound and looked just like a seasoned vet. The lefty retired the first 10 batters and allowed a mere two hits before being pulled after 4½ innings.

"I know they were counting on me," Merritt said. "Before the game, they came and told me they had my back, everybody had my back, good or bad. So that takes some pressure off, and I just went out there and pitched and trusted my team."

Merritt got taps on his heart and hat from teammates when he left the mound. Then it was up to Cleveland's tireless relievers to hold a three-run lead against the wild-card Blue Jays.



MARK BLINCH, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Cleveland Indians starting pitcher Ryan Merritt was just the second pitcher to start a postseason game with only one previous regular-season start. The 24-year-old lefty retired the first 10 batters and allowed just two hits before being pulled after 4½ innings.

Miller again did most of the heavy lifting, going 2½ innings before Cody Allen worked the ninth for a save. Winning pitcher Bryan Shaw tossed an inning before Miller came in.

Carlos Santana and Coco Crisp homered for the Indians.

With starting pitchers Carlos Carrasco, Danny Salazar and Trevor Bauer dealing with injuries, the Indians kept defying the odds.

Cleveland overtook defending World Series champion Kansas City and topped a \$196 million Detroit team to win the AL Central, then put an abrupt end to Big Papi's career, sweeping David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox in the Division Series.

The Indians stayed on a roll in the ALCS, shutting down the banging Blue Jays. Cleveland won despite hitting .168 in the series, with slick-fielding shortstop Francisco Lindor leading the way in going 7-for-19.

Toronto lost in the ALCS for the second straight year.

"I'm sure there will be some disappointments and grumbling and complaining about how you fell short again, but that's not coming from me," manager John Gibbons said. "Because I know what these guys did, and I think it's a pretty good accomplishment. The key is we want to take that next step one of these days. Hopefully, it's next year."

Miller's moment

Cleveland reliever named MVP of ALCS

BY NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

TORONTO — MVP: Most Valuable Pitcher.

The humble workhorse in a wipout bullpen, Andrew Miller was selected AL Championship Series MVP after his latest spotless outing sent the Cleveland Indians to their first pennant since 1997.

Miller tossed 2½ innings in a 3-0 victory Wednesday over Toronto, capping a five-game series in which the lanky left-hander overpowered the dangerous Blue Jays.

He had one strikeout in Game 5 and finished the series with 14 — an ALCS record for a reliever. Miller gave up three hits in 7½ shutout innings against Toronto and earned a four-out save in Game 3.

"At this point of the year, you just find a way. That's all that matters. It's about winning," Miller said. "I would have given up 100 runs if we won 101-100. That's all that matters is we're going to the World Series, and that's a special experience and I can't wait."

After capturing their sixth pennant, thanks in large part to Miller, the Indians are four wins from their first championship since 1948.

Miller was acquired from the New York Yankees for a package of prospects in a July 31 trade, and Cleveland had an interesting idea of how to feature him. Rather than restricting him to a closer role or using him only in the eighth inning, the Indians have been flexible with Miller — especially in the postseason.

"It's so fun to be a part of this team," he said. "I really enjoyed my time with the Yankees. It's tough when you leave a comfort zone and a place that you like and people that you like. But I knew I was coming to a team that had won a lot and had expectations to



NATHAN DENETTE, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Cleveland relief pitcher Andrew Miller accepts the ALCS MVP trophy after the Indians defeated the Blue Jays 3-0 in Game 5 on Wednesday in Toronto.

win more."

Now, whenever the Indians have a lead in the middle innings, the 6-foot-7 lefty begins looming large in the bullpen — and Miller time is near.

With that nasty slider and a sizzling fastball he spots to both sides of the plate, he struck out 21 of 41 batters during the AL playoffs. He has allowed a mere six hits over 20 scoreless innings in his postseason career.

There are plenty of other important contributors in the Cleveland bullpen, particularly closer Cody Allen, who had 32 saves during the regular season and hasn't allowed a run in the postseason.

In fact, Indians relievers racked up 22 innings in the ALCS — the same amount as their starters.

But it's Miller who strikes the most fear in opposing hitters after he whiffed a whopping 14.9 per nine innings this season while going 10-1 with a 1.45 ERA and 12 saves.

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NFL

Don't panic: QB Jones tells Steelers he's ready

By Will Graves
Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Landry Jones is a realist. Call it the byproduct of spending the last three-plus years fighting for a job and fending off repeated attempts by the Pittsburgh Steelers to find somebody better to back up Ben Roethlisberger.

So in a team meeting Wednesday with the franchise quarterback resting at home while recovering from left knee surgery and a visit from the New England Patriots awaiting on Sunday, Jones felt it was time to send a message, albeit more than a little tongue in cheek.

"Don't panic."
"No, really."
"Any time THE Landry Jones graces us with his verbal leadership, we appreciate that," linebacker Arthur Moats said with a laugh.

"In all seriousness ... we understand the 'next man up' motto doesn't matter. Any position as you've seen this year, we've had those guys have success. It's no different with Landry."

Jones gets he's not Roethlisberger. There again, few are. That hardly means he expects offensive coordinator Todd Haley to delete him from the playbook or the Steelers (4-2) to coddle at the sight of Tom Brady.

From the day the Steelers took him in the fourth round of the 2013 draft, Jones has believed he can be an NFL starting quarterback. That belief hasn't wavered. Now in the final year of his rookie contract, Jones is well aware there's possibly more than a stake Sunday than one game in the standings. There's a very real chance to prove to 31 other teams he can be a difference maker.

"Yeah, but that's way on the backburner though," Jones said Wednesday. "Right now, I'm on this team. I'm ready to go. I want to play and I want to play well. And I want to win the game. All of that stuff will take care of itself."

Maybe, though it often doesn't for second-string quarterbacks when tasked with trying to beat a Hall of Famer. The Patriots have rarely done to backups on Brady's watch. The list of newbies who have shaken Brady's hand in triumph over the past 16 years is short.

Really short.
Roethlisberger did it in 2004, though by Week 7 the rookie had already supplanted Tommy Maddox as the starter. Kevin Kolb did it in Week 2 in 2012 as Arizona pulled off an unlikely upset in Foxboro.

Brock Osweiler did it while subbing for Peyton Manning last November, a performance that helped swing home-field advantage to the Broncos in the playoffs and Osweiler land a \$72



LYNNE SLADKY/AP

Steelers quarterbacks Ben Roethlisberger, right, and Landry Jones sit on the sidelines during Sunday's game against Miami. Jones will start this week as Roethlisberger recovers from knee surgery.

million contract from Houston in the offseason.

Otherwise, backup quarterbacks have met the same fate as anyone else caught trying to outsmart Bill Belichick or keep up with Brady.

"They're going to do what they do, but for each team there are little tweaks here and there," Jones said. "I'm sure they'll have something different for us."

Jones, however, hopes the Steelers don't do anything differently with him in the huddle instead of Roethlisberger.

The leading passer in Big 12 history during his record-setting career at Oklahoma was intermittently effective in 2015, leading a second-half rally at Arizona and a winning drive against Oakland with Roethlisberger unavailable.

Yet Jones also did little in a loss at Kansas City in the one game he started and finished. He looked overmatched when thrown into last January's wild-card game in Cincinnati while Roethlisberger was getting his sprained right shoulder worked on, throwing what appeared to be a season-ending pick before the Bengals went into a full meltdown.

The Steelers weren't exactly impressed, re-signing veteran Bruce Gradkowski to serve as Roethlisberger's understudy in the spring.

When Gradkowski went on injured reserve with a torn hamstring in August, Jones survived once again. He was OK if hardly spectacular during the preseason,

playing extensively while Roethlisberger rested.

Now Roethlisberger is out — again — and Jones finds himself with perhaps his last best chance to show he belongs. Make no mistake, he's going out there swinging. And there's proof Pittsburgh can survive without Roethlisberger's familiar No. 7: The Steelers are 11-9 when Roethlisberger hasn't started since 2004.

"Coach Tomlin said something along the lines of 'gunfighters are going to get shot,'" Jones said. "For me, I have to go out there and cut it loose and play like that. [Rather] than trying to be too careful and try to just go out there and take every check down that I can."

Having one of the best running back/receiver tandems in the league in Le'Veon Bell and Antonio Brown should help. And Jones' teammates insist they've got his back.

Six other quarterbacks have come and gone since the spring of 2013, from the famous (Michael Vick) to the not-so-famous (Brendon Kay). Jones remains. Now he finds himself facing a "dude" he grew up watching.

The gap in inexperience and expectation on Sunday is nearly incalculable. That doesn't mean it's impossible to bridge, at least not to Jones.

"You have to play smart," Jones said. "But, you have to take what the defense gives you and try to be cautiously aggressive."
Optimistic, too.



PAUL SANCTA/AP

Eagles head coach Doug Pederson talks with quarterback Carson Wentz during warmups before a game against the Detroit Lions. Wentz was able to learn from former starting quarterback Sam Bradford before Philadelphia traded him to Minnesota. The teams meet on Sunday.

Bradford helped Wentz in Philly before being dealt

By Rob Maaddi
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Carson Wentz owes some of his success to Sam Bradford.

Bradford certainly wasn't thrilled when the Eagles drafted Wentz with the No. 2 overall pick, but he served as a mentor to the rookie throughout the summer until he was traded to Minnesota on Sept. 3.

"When I first got here, it was good to have Sam and Chase (Daniel)," Wentz said Wednesday. "I talked to Sam quite a bit and really wanted to dive deeper into this offense. Sam had some good insight on our offense, and he was in a number of other systems as well. We had good conversations. I really built a good relationship with him and I look forward to playing against him."

Wentz leads the Eagles (3-2) against Bradford and the unbeaten Vikings (5-0) on Sunday in Philadelphia. While much of the focus centers on the quarterbacks, Wentz isn't getting caught up in the hype.

"The Vikings are the next game on the schedule. We're excited for it," Wentz said. "We have had two tough losses where we didn't execute the way we wanted to. We don't put pressure on ourselves, but at the same time, we play with a sense of urgency that we have to

be better. We know that, and we will."

Bradford, a former No. 1 overall pick by the Rams, set franchise records in his only season in Philadelphia with 346 completions and a 65 percent completion rate. His 3,725 yards passing in 14 games was the fourth-most in Eagles history. Bradford passed up free agency and signed a two-year, \$36 million contract with \$22 million guaranteed in March.

Then Philadelphia moved up to get the second pick and selected Wentz. Bradford figured his days with the Eagles were numbered. Still, he thought he'd get one more season.

"I was really excited about the year there," Bradford said. "I felt like I had a really good spring. I felt like I played well in the preseason. I felt like things were really coming together on offense for us. I looked forward to playing this year there and continuing the chemistry we had built last year."

But the Vikings were desperate for a quarterback after losing Teddy Bridgewater to a serious knee injury and they moved quickly to acquire Bradford for a first-round draft pick and a conditional fourth-round pick.

It's turned out to be a win-win trade for both teams.

“Sam had some good insight on our offense, and he was in a number of other systems as well. We had good conversations.”

Carson Wentz

Eagles QB on former teammate Sam Bradford



GAMEDAY

WEEK 6

TELEVISED GAMES



Marquee matchup

Minnesota Vikings (5-0) at Philadelphia Eagles (3-2)

AFN-Atlantic, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

New York Giants (3-3) vs. LA Rams (3-3) at London

AFN-Sports
3:30 p.m. Sunday CET
10:30 p.m. Monday JKT
Series: Rams lead 25-15.

Last meeting: Giants beat Rams 37-27, Dec. 21, 2014.

Notes: Giants have won seven straight over Rams since 2002. QB Eli Manning has never lost to Rams. ... Rams had NFL's worst offense last season and again for most of this fall. ... QB Case Keenum is coming off best game of season, going 27-for-32 with 321 yards, three TDs and franchise-record 19 straight completions.



New England Patriots (5-1) at Pittsburgh Steelers (4-2)

AFN-Sports
10:25 p.m. Sunday CET
5:25 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Steelers lead 15-13.

Last meeting: Patriots beat Steelers 28-21 on Sept. 10, 2015.

Notes: Patriots QB Tom Brady is 8-2 against Pittsburgh, 4-2 at Heinz Field. ... Patriots TE Rob set career high in yards receiving (162) last week vs. Cincinnati. ... Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger is out. Pittsburgh is 11-9 in games Roethlisberger has not started since 2001. ... WR Antonio Brown's 41 receptions rank second in NFL.

SERIES RECORD: Vikings lead 13-9.
LAST MEETING: Vikings beat the Eagles 48-30, Dec. 15, 2015.

LAST WEEK: Vikings are coming off their bye; Eagles lost to Redskins 27-20.
VIKINGS OFFENSE: OVERALL (30), RUSH (32), PASS (24).

VIKINGS DEFENSE: OVERALL (2), RUSH (4), PASS (6).
EAGLES OFFENSE: OVERALL (21), RUSH (8), PASS (26).

EAGLES DEFENSE: OVERALL (6), RUSH (18), PASS (4).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Vikings QB Sam Bradford passed for 271 yards & 2 TDs in Week 5. Aims for 8th in row with 90+ rating. ... RB Matt Asiata had 3 rush TDs in last meeting.

TE Kyle Rudolph has TD catch in three of past four. ... DE Danielle Hunter has sack in four of past five. DT Linval Joseph had sack in last meeting (10/27/13 with NYG). ... DE Brian Robinson had 2 sacks and a forced fumble in Week 5. Had 2 sacks in last meeting. ... CB Marcus Sherels had 79-yard punt return-TD in Week 5. Leads NFL with two punt return-TDs in 2016. ... S Andrew Sendejo had INT in Week 5. ... Eagles rookie QB Carson Wentz averaging 289.5 yards per game with four TDs for 112.3 rating in two home games. ... RB Ryan Mathews has rush TD in two of past three at home. ... WR Jordan Matthews aims for 5th in row at home with TD. Has 100+ pace for yards in three of past four at home. ... TE ZACH ERTZ had TD catch in last meeting. ... LB Connor barwin had sack in last meeting. LB Nigel Bradham had 10 tackles in Week 6. LB Mychal Kendrick has 8 tackles, sack & INT in last meeting.



San Diego Chargers (2-4) at Atlanta Falcons (4-1)

AFN-Atlantic
10 p.m. Sunday CET
5 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Falcons lead 8-1.

Last meeting: Falcons beat Chargers 27-3, Sept. 23, 2012.

Notes: Chargers rookie DE Joey Bosa has two sacks in first two games. ... QB Philip Rivers passed Hall of Famer Dan Fouts for most passing yards (43,094) in Chargers history. ... Falcons have NFL-best 30 passes of at least 200 yards. ... QB Matt Ryan has 21 consecutive games with at least 200 yards passing in Georgia Dome and averaging 369.3 yards in last four.



Seattle Seahawks (4-1) at Arizona Cardinals (3-3)

AFN-Sports*
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
9:20 a.m. Monday JKT
Series: Tied 17-17.

Last meeting: Seattle is 3-0 at Arizona since Bruce Ariens became Cardinals coach, outscoring them 105-34. ... Russell Wilson has been sacked 10 times through five games, compared with 26 in first five games year ago. ... Cardinals ended Seattle's two-year run as NFC West champions last season. ... RB David Johnson leads NFL in yards from scrimmage.

*AFN-Sports2 if NLCS Game 7 is needed.

Vikings quarterback Sam Bradford plays his former team, the Eagles, on Sunday.

Bob LEVERONE/AP

Game capsules compiled from Associated Press

Also on AFN:
Buffalo Bills (4-2) at Miami Dolphins (2-4), AFN-Sports, 7 p.m. Sunday CET, 2 a.m. Monday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W		L		T		Pct		PF		PA		Home		Away		AFC		NFC		Div	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
East																						
New England	5	1	0	833	149	91	3-1-0	2-0-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Buffalo	4	2	0	667	162	103	2-1-0	2-1-0	1-2-0	3-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Miami	2	4	0	333	118	134	2-1-0	0-3-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
N.Y. Jets	1	5	0	167	95	364	0-2-0	1-3-0	1-3-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
North																						
Houston	4	2	0	667	105	127	4-0-0	0-2-0	3-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Tennessee	3	3	0	500	120	127	1-2-0	2-1-0	2-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Jacksonville	2	3	0	400	101	127	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Indianapolis	2	4	0	333	160	174	2-1-0	0-3-0	1-3-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	1-1-0
South																						
Pittsburgh	4	2	0	667	154	123	3-0-0	1-2-0	3-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	3	3	0	500	117	115	1-2-0	2-1-0	3-1-0	0-2-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Cincinnati	2	4	0	333	109	145	1-1-0	1-3-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Cleveland	0	6	0	000	113	176	0-2-0	0-4-0	0-4-0	0-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
West																						
Oakland	4	2	0	667	152	163	1-2-0	3-0-0	3-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Denver	3	2	0	667	140	108	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Kansas City	3	2	0	600	109	102	2-0-0	1-2-0	3-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0	0-0-0
San Diego	2	4	0	333	173	155	2-1-0	0-3-0	2-3-0	0-1-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0

National Conference

	W		L		T		Pct		PF		PA		Home		Away		NFC		AFC		Div	
	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	1	2
East																						
Dallas	5	1	0	833	159	107	2-1-0	3-0-0	4-1-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Washington	4	2	0	667	142	142	2-2-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Philadelphia	3	3	0	600	135	78	2-0-0	1-2-0	2-2-0	0-2-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	2-0-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
N.Y. Giants	3	3	0	500	116	131	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-3-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
North																						
Atlanta	4	2	0	667	159	166	1-1-0	3-1-0	2-2-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	400	94	142	0-2-0	2-1-0	2-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	2	3	0	400	155	168	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Carolina	1	5	0	167	161	176	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-4-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
South																						
Minnesota	5	0	0	1000	119	63	3-0-0	2-0-0	3-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0	2-0-0
Green Bay	3	2	0	600	114	113	2-1-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	1-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Detroit	3	3	0	500	150	153	2-1-0	1-2-0	2-2-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-2-0
Chicago	1	5	0	167	101	143	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-3-0
West																						
Seattle	4	1	0	800	105	78	3-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-0-0
Los Angeles	3	3	0	500	110	137	1-1-0	2-2-0	3-2-0	0-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Arizona	3	3	0	500	153	104	2-2-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
San Francisco	1	5	0	167	127	185	1-2-0	0-3-0	1-4-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0	0-1-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

New Orleans at Jacksonville
Oakland at Jacksonville
Baltimore at N.Y. Jets
Washington at Detroit
Indianapolis at Tennessee
Buffalo at Miami
Cleveland at Cincinnati
Tampa Bay at San Francisco
Ope: Tampa Bay, Minnesota
Monday
Houston at Denver

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Oct. 27
Jacksonville at Tennessee
Sunday, Oct. 30
Washington at Cincinnati
Detroit at Houston
Arizona at Carolina
Kansas City at Indianapolis
N.Y. Jets at Cleveland
New England at Buffalo
Seattle at New Orleans
Oakland at Tampa Bay
San Diego at Philadelphia
Green Bay at Atlanta
Philadelphia at Dallas
Ope: Los Angeles, San Francisco, N.Y. Giants, Miami, Baltimore, Pittsburgh
Monday, Oct. 31
Minnesota at Chicago

SPORTS



Big shoes

Landry insists he's ready to step in for QB Roethlisberger » **NFL, Page 62**

ALCS: GAME 5

Tribe tops Toronto

Cleveland headed to World Series for 1st time since 1997

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

FOR the Cleveland Indians, the script was the same every game — hope for the best from whoever they started, then count on Andrew Miller and the bullpen to close it out.

That plan seemed especially dicey in Game 5 of the AL Championship Series, with lightly used Ryan Merritt on the mound.

But out of nowhere, the rookie delivered.

Merritt coolly kept the Indians ahead until reinforcements arrived, and Cleveland earned its first trip to the World Series since 1997 by blanking the Toronto Blue Jays 3-0 Wednesday.

The 24-year-old lefty defied expectations, shutting down the powerful Blue Jays before exiting in the fifth inning. Thanks to a most unlikely pitching performance, a most unexpected team won the ALCS 4-1.

Cleveland, which has never hosted a World Series opener, will play Game 1 at Progressive Field on Tuesday night against the Chicago Cubs or Los Angeles Dodgers.

Manager Terry Francona's team will try to augment what's already been a

SEE TRIBE ON PAGE 61

ALCS MVP Andrew Miller celebrates during Wednesday's 3-0 series-clinching Game 5 win over the Blue Jays in Toronto.

FRANK GUNY,
THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP



Inside:

- Miller named ALCS MVP, Page 61
- Cubs' bats come alive in Game 4 as Chicago evens NLCS with LA, Page 60

Weber making presence felt in Montreal » **NHL, Page 55**

