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Free to Deployed Areas



First and last line of defense

Fly-Away Security Teams act as air marshals of Afghanistan

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Staff Sgt. Thomas Tyrone provides perimeter security at Camp Shorab, Afghanistan, on Sept. 23.

CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Islamic State militants counterattack in Kirkuk

By EMAD MATTI
AND ADAM SHRECK
Associated Press

KIRKUK, Iraq — Islamic State militants armed with assault rifles and explosives attacked targets in and around the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk early Friday, in an assault that appeared aimed at diverting Iraqi security forces from a massive offensive against the militant-held city of Mosul.

Multiple explosions rocked the city, and gunfire rang out from the area around the provincial headquarters, where the fighting was concentrated. Smoke billowed over the city, and the streets were largely deserted out of fear of militant snipers.

The Islamic State group said its fighters targeted the provincial headquarters, in a claim carried by its Amaq news agency.

Three suicide bombers stormed

a power plant in the town of Dibis, north of Kirkuk, killing 13 workers, including four Iranian technicians, before blowing themselves up as police arrived, said Maj. Ahmed Kader Ali, the Dibis police chief.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Ghasemi condemned the Kirkuk assault, which he said killed four Iranians and wounded three others, according to the official IRNA news

agency.

The Turkmeneli TV station, which had earlier shown live coverage of smoke rising outside the provincial headquarters, said that one of its reporters, Ahmet Haceroglu, was killed by a sniper while covering the fighting.

There was no immediate word on casualties among other civilians or Kurdish forces in the city. Kirkuk is about 100 miles from the Islamic State-held city of

Mosul, where Iraqi forces have been waging a wide-scale offensive since Monday.

The militants have resorted to suicide bombings in and around Baghdad in response to battlefield losses elsewhere in the country. But the complex assault in Kirkuk more closely resembled those carried out by the Taliban in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

SEE KIRKUK ON PAGE 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Why is it so big? And so not clothed?"

— Keith Verville, 48, a parent, on "Truth is Beauty," a 55-foot tall statue of a nude woman unveiled this week in the working-class community of San Leandro, Calif., that is stirring controversy and a lot of conversation

See story on Page 10

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COMING SOON



Music

Norah Jones back at the piano

TODAY IN STRIPES

Table with 2 columns: Category and Count. Includes American Roundup (14), Business (20), Comics (22), Crossword (22), Entertainment (17), Health & Fitness (18), Lifestyle (15), Opinion (12-13), Sports (25-32), Video Games (16), Weather (20).

MILITARY

Carter visits Turkey amid rifts over Iraq, Syria

By Tara Copp Stars and Stripes

ANKARA, Turkey — Ankara has agreed in principle to negotiate with Baghdad on the contentious issue of the role of Turkish forces in the battle for Mosul, potentially defusing tensions between the two nations as Iraqi troops advance on the Islamic State-held city, Secretary of Defense Ash Carter said Friday.

Iraq began an offensive Monday to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city, which the Islamic State seized in a lightning offensive in 2014.

The military campaign involves 18,000 Iraqi security forces and 10,000 Kurdish fighters — but not the Turkish forces already in northern Iraq nor any of the Sunni forces that the Turks have been training for the Mosul campaign. The Shiite-led Iraqi government to date has not supported Turkish involvement in the battle and has become increasingly agitated by Ankara's refusal to withdraw its forces.

It remained unclear what the potential agreement would mean for the Turkish contingent. Turkey has said the forces are necessary to maintain its own border security, but the troops' continued presence sparked an exchange of angry statements as Baghdad launched the major offensive against the Islamic State group.

Carter met with Turkish Defense Minister Fikri Isik and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan to discuss the broader campaign but also to ease escalating tensions between the two nations over the issue.

"These are two close friends of ours," Carter said of Iraq and Turkey. "In the case of Turkey, it is a NATO ally, and we want to keep everybody focused on the objective here, which is to defeat the extremists."

Carter said Iraq's sovereignty was one of the principles Ankara agreed on, but that a way forward would also consider Turkey's interests in having a role in the battle, given its shared border and Sunni ties to Mosul's population. Carter said he was "confident" that a solution could be found that addresses "the sensitivities of all the parties."

"It's something the Iraqi government will need to agree to, but I think there's agreement there in principle and now we are down to the practicalities," Carter said. "I think Iraq



BURHAN OZBILIC/AP

Turks stage an anti-U.S. rally Friday outside the Parliament before a visit by Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in Ankara, Turkey. Carter met with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other officials amid escalating tensions between Turkey and Iraq over Turkish military operations in northern Iraq as forces move to retake Mosul from Islamic State militants.

understands that Turkey as a member of the (coalition) will play a role in ... operations in Iraq."

Carter said it still needs to be worked out whether the Turkish troops remain or take part in the Mosul fight, and that he would be discussing the issue with his counterparts in Baghdad.

A senior defense official traveling with Carter told reporters that one possibility could be Turkey providing a nonmilitary role in the Mosul fight.

It was Carter's first visit to Turkey since military officials attempted a coup in July against Erdogan. Carter paid his respects at a portion of the parliament building that was badly damaged during the fighting.

While Turkey is a member of the coalition fighting the Islamic State, it is also waging its own counterterrorism campaign in both northern Syria and Iraq against some Kurdish groups that it considers a threat to its homeland. Parliament voted last month to allow Turkish forces to remain in Iraq to target Islamic State fighters and any other "terrorist" organizations — which could include some of the same Kurdish forces that the United States has trained to attack Mosul.

Washington is attempting to avoid getting caught in the middle of the dispute, said retired U.S. Marine Corps Col. James Howcroft, a director at the George C. Marshall Center for European and Security Studies, a U.S. government-funded security research center that falls under the defense secretary's policy office.

"It's a no-win situation," said Howcroft, who was not speaking on behalf of the U.S. government. "If we get in the middle of this, we really won't have significant leverage to have either side do what we want. We will get blamed for

whatever comes out bad on this."

The United States also does not want to alienate Turkey and risk the country pulling away from its NATO allies and becoming more closely aligned with Russia, Howcroft said. But Washington also does not want to jeopardize the momentum that it has helped build with Iraq as that country fights for Mosul, which a senior U.S. defense official described as "the battle for Iraq."

"Obviously we've been urging both sides to tamp down the rhetoric," the senior defense official said.

Turkey has recently said it wants to establish a "safe zone" in northern Syria in an area that was cleared predominantly by a coalition of U.S.-trained and equipped Syrian Kurds. Turkey's influence in that zone also could alienate forces that the United States will depend on to advance on Raqqa, the Islamic State group's de facto capital in Syria.

The Pentagon has repeatedly said it is against a no-fly zone in Syria due to security risks.

Howcroft questioned Turkey's motivations for keeping its troops in Iraq and wanting support for a "safe zone."

"Look at where that safe zone is," Howcroft said. "Is this just a Turkish ploy to get power or stay on territory that the Kurds have already taken or that they feel is at risk to losing to the Kurds?"

Carter's stop in Turkey was part of a seven-day trip to the Middle East and Europe to discuss operations against the Islamic State group and the future rebuilding effort needed in both Iraq and Syria.

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MILITARY

Navy makes huge clean energy purchase

By CHRIS MOONEY
The Washington Post

On Friday in Maricopa County, Ariz., the U.S. government was expected to hit a clean energy milestone: what officials are calling the largest procurement of renewable energy by the federal government, in this case from a desert solar array.

The new 150-megawatt Mesquite 3 solar array is in Arizona, but the electricity it generates will be sent to California's electric grid and will power roughly one-third of the electricity needs of 14 naval installations in the state, including San Diego's naval base and the Marines' Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton.

"Today we're going to throw a switch and start getting those electrons flowing to our 14 bases," said Dennis McGinn, the assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment, who spoke from Arizona where he was on site for the plant's opening ceremony.

The deal will let the Navy buy solar power at a fixed price for 25 years from the array, which is owned by Sempra Energy.

"To me, the essence of solar power is, you know what the price of the fuel is going to be for the next 25 years, or more," McGinn said. "It's predictable, it provides financial planning and energy planning stability to our calculation, and it's part of our diversified energy portfolio."

The Navy has distinguished itself as a leader in the clean energy space of late, also experimenting with biofuels for planes, ships and vehicles, and even trying to subtly change officers' behavior to make them more energy conscious, based on the idea that using less energy provides a tactical advantage.

The move is being celebrated not only by the Navy, but also the Energy Department, which contends that the dramatic growth of large-scale solar plants in the Southwest is a direct result of major investments made by its Loan Guarantee program.

In 2010 the United States didn't have a single utility scale solar photovoltaic farm, a new analysis from the Loan Programs Office notes. But \$4.6 billion in loans from the Energy Department led to the installation of five such plants, capable of generating 1.5 gigawatts, or billion watts, of electricity capacity.

"Before 2009, utilities had a total of just about 20 megawatts of PV, total," Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said in an interview Friday. "So the fact that this couple of years when the loan program kick-started, as you can see, with 1.5 gigawatts."

That was the end of the federal program — but today, there are 45 more such large-scale projects, adding another roughly eight gigawatts of capacity, mostly in the Southwest.



DEVON RAVINE, NORTHWEST FLORIDA DAILY NEWS/AP

Special memorial

Airmen and community leaders gather at Hurlburt Field in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., around the base of a monument honoring U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command Special Tactics personnel.

Airmen based at Incirlik to receive additional pay

By ALEX HORTON
Stars and Stripes

SAN ANTONIO — The Air Force is looking for a few good airmen to serve in Turkey, offering \$300 per month in incentives to bulk up its presence there, the service announced.

Active-duty airmen assigned to Turkey between Aug. 29, 2016, and Dec. 31, 2018, are eligible for the Turkey Assignment Incentive Pay. Airmen can apply for the pay bonus "prior to departing their losing station, within 30 days of arrival in Turkey," or during the windows they are eligible to return overseas or become vulnerable to a transfer, a news release stated.

Airmen already in Turkey are also eligible if they elect to receive the incentive. Troops on an unaccompanied tour of 12 or 15 months within a 30-day window of arrival who agree to serve two years there will receive the payments from when they elect to receive it, the release stated.

For airmen who are outside the 30-day window, the bonus is only available if they extend their tour by 24 months, the release stated. The extension will net them \$7,200 in incentives.

Airmen who are traveling to Turkey for a 24-month deploy-

ment should file for the incentive before they leave to receive the full amount, the release stated.

The Turkey postings are not without tension, however. A failed coup in July interrupted operations at Incirlik Air Base in southern Turkey, a site housing U.S. nuclear weapons and 80 miles from the Syrian border.

Commercial power to the base was cut by authorities and the air space was temporarily closed, halting U.S. flights temporarily, Turkish Brig. Gen. Bekir Ercan Van, a top commander at the base, was implicated in the coup, Stars and Stripes reported in July.

The air base is a strategic hub in the air war against the Islamic State group, with a constant presence of drones, fighter jets and refueling tankers conducting operations over Iraq and Syria. There are roughly 2,500 troops in Turkey, mostly at Incirlik.

There is also a small presence of airmen in Diyarbakir, a staging site for an Air Force search and rescue mission in southern Turkey. There are plans to install a U.S. High Mobility Artillery Rocket System in southern Turkey to assist operations in Syria, Stars and Stripes reported in July.

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Russian carrier move prompts concern at NATO

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — A Russian aircraft carrier is steaming toward the Mediterranean Sea, sparking concerns that Moscow intends to intensify its bombing campaign in Syria by dispatching a 30-year-old vessel on its first combat deployment.

The move could be as much about optics as tactics as Moscow seeks to showcase to Western adversaries its ability to deploy a range of forces far and wide.

Unlike the United States, which uses an airbase in neighboring Turkey to conduct airstrikes in Syria, the Russian military already is well-positioned inside Syria itself, where its aircraft operate from bases under the control of the government of Syrian President Bashar Assad, a long-time ally.

NATO is monitoring the Russian carrier group's moves.

"We are concerned this Russian carrier group will support military operations in Syria in ways that will increase humanitarian suffering," NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said during a news conference at his Brussels headquarters.

On Thursday, Russia's only flat-top, the Admiral Kuznetsov, and a group of accompanying warships — including the nuclear-powered battlecruiser Peter the Great — were sailing through the North Sea and English Channel.

The deployment of Russian sea-going firepower comes at a tense time between the West and Russia, whose relations are at an all-time post-Cold War low. Disputes run the gamut — from allegations over Russian cyber meddling in the U.S. presidential election to Ukraine and the conflict in Syria, where Russian and Syrian planes have been bombing rebel-held parts of the city of Aleppo.

Stoltenberg said Russia's air campaign has targeted civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, in the city.

"I welcome that we now have a temporary cease-fire, but that is in no way enough," Stoltenberg said, calling the situation a "desperate humanitarian crisis."

Moscow counters that it is targeting Islamic extremist groups in Aleppo, such as the Nusra Front, an al-Qaida aligned band of militants.

Earlier this month, Russia announced plans to expand its naval supply base at the Syrian port of Tartus, which in the past has been a logistical hub for Russian ships patrolling in the Mediterranean. The plan is to install new air and anti-submarine defense systems, enhanced docking capacity and command and control infrastructure, Russian officials have said.

"We are going to have a permanent navy base in Tartus," Russian Gen. Nikolay Pankov said earlier this month.

At U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, officials said they are monitoring the Russian fleet as they do any other large ship movements through its area of interest.

"It is what we do to ensure safety of navigation for U.S. and coalition forces," EUCom spokeswoman Meghan Henderson said.

Russia sending warships through the Mediterranean is not uncommon, and in and of itself is not of concern, Stoltenberg said.

"It is important to underline Russia has the right to operate in international waters, and this is not the first time we have seen this carrier group deployed to the Mediterranean," Stoltenberg said. "What creates concern now is this carrier group may be used to contribute to the military operation over Syria and be used to increase attacks in Aleppo."

The Admiral Kuznetsov has been in and out of service over the years due to technical problems. The 55,000-ton vessel carries an air wing of up to 40 jets and helicopters.

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NATO is monitoring Russian aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov as the vessel sails toward the Mediterranean Sea.

WAR ON TERRORISM



PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Left: Airman 1st Class Jesse Johnson, left, and Staff Sgt. Thomas Tyrone, members of the U.S. Air Force's Fly-Away Security Team, suit up for a mission and walk toward a C-130J Super Hercules on Sept. 23 at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan.

'AIR MARSHALS OF AFGHANISTAN'

Fly-Away Security Teams guard planes, crews on high-risk flights

By **CHAD GARLAND**
Stars and Stripes

After a few orbits high over the airfield at the former British military base in Afghanistan, the C-130J Super Hercules began a rapid descent to the ruddy-brown earth.

"Look for stopped vehicles," U.S. Air Force Capt. Erik Svendsen, the pilot, said to his co-pilot over the intercom. "It's unusual. It means bad things."
The two craned their necks and swiveled their heads, checking the fast-approaching ground below through the bank of cockpit windows. Soon joining them in this ritual was Staff Sgt. Thomas Tyrone, 26, a member of the late September mission's Fly-Away Security Team, or FAST.

In teams of two to four, the "air marshals of Afghanistan," as one member calls them, guard the flight deck from potential hijackers on certain flights and provide added perimeter security around the aircraft while parked at high-risk airfields like Shorab. The base, formerly known as Camp Bastion, is located near the capital of Helmand province, where fighting now rages between government forces and Taliban insurgents.

"We're the first and last line of defense," said Tyrone, a Georgia native. "If anything happens, it's two dudes out there hoping for the best."

Tyrone is with a 13-man FAST detachment from Hill Air Force Base in Utah that deployed to Bagram Air Field for six months in April. By the end of September, they'd collectively logged more than 250 missions, racking up nearly 1,000 flight hours while securing aircrews that hauled more than 8,000 passengers and



Johnson helps load the Super Hercules after it landed in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan.

6,500 tons of cargo across Afghanistan.

'One less thing to worry about'

After 15 years at war, some places stubbornly remain, or have again become, hostile to Western forces in the country.

Camp Shorab, an Afghan base built on what remains of camps Bastion and Leatherneck, where thousands of Western personnel lived at the height of the war, now hosts just a few hundred U.S. and al-

lied troops and advisers.

But it doesn't meet the Air Force's high standards for flight-line security, which puts it on a short list of airfields in Afghanistan that call for a fly-away security detail on the C-130s ferrying passengers and supplies from Bagram and back.

On the ground, the team is responsible for keeping asylum-seekers at bay and fending off attackers long enough for the pilots to get the turboprop-powered Super Hercules airborne, even if that means the team stays behind.

Their added combat training and firepower — M-4 rifles, compared with the aircrew's 9 mm handguns — are a comfort "when you're someplace sketchy," said Capt. Michael Morrison, Svendsen's co-pilot.

"It's one less thing to worry about," he said.

'Sketchy' is a relative term

Shorab requires only a two-man team, but some places are sketchier than others. In Kunduz, which the Taliban took briefly last year and again entered this month, the airfield lacks a perimeter fence, which means flights there arrive with a larger number of FAST members.

Still, Shorab has its threats. On the approach in late September, someone spotted a truck stopped along a road outside the base perimeter, under the planned flight path to the runway. Svendsen began a dizzying evasive maneuver, banking the hulking transport plane to avoid the airspace over the truck, just in case it was packed with explosives.

CONTINUES ON PAGE 5

'We're the first and last line of defense. If anything happens, it's two dudes out there hoping for the best.'

Staff Sgt. Thomas Tyrone
Fly-Away Security Team member

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WAR ON TERRORISM

FROM PAGE 4

"We would have been at about 1,200 feet," Tyrone later explained. "You don't want to be that close to something that big in Afghanistan."

In the cockpit, Tyrone also reads the terrain for traffic volume and things that seem out of place, he said, details he passes on to intelligence officials and uses to identify looming threats he may face on the flight line.

Among the dangers, "the big one is vehicles coming at you," said Airman 1st Class Jesse Johnson, 22, something a parked truck at the end of the runway could become. Johnson, who is from southern Michigan, was Tyrone's partner on the mission.

After donning protective gear and radios, Tyrone and Johnson made their way with their rifles through the cavernous cargo bay to the back ramp of the aircraft as it taxied along Shorab's hot, dry runway. They jumped out, taking up posts about 30 feet from the plane — front and rear — and scanning the horizon with rifles at the ready.

The plane's four turboprop engines continued to run, blowing hot exhaust at Tyrone. Morrison, the co-pilot, said crews used to shut the engines down at Shorab until FAST members told them that the engine start checklist takes longer than they could expect to hold off attackers.

This visit to Shorab was uneventful, however. Passengers got off, a few got on, and just before the crew raised the ramp, Tyrone and Johnson were called in from the perimeter.

"The takeoff might be weird," Tyrone said, taking his seat again near the cockpit. The pilot would have to avoid the truck again on the way out.

Security teams face dangers beyond the threat of attack. Last October, two FAST airmen were among 14 people killed when a C-130J crashed shortly after takeoff from Jalalabad Air Field in eastern Afghanistan due to pilot error.

'It's the little things'

Missions can be relatively quick — a few hours from Bagram directly to Shorab and back, for example. This was not one of those missions. It would last many more hours as the aircraft hopped clockwise around the country from the south: to Kandahar Air Field, then Camp Arena in western Herat, Camp Marmal in Mazar-e-Sharif in the north, Kabul and back to Bagram. Shorab was the only airfield requiring the FAST members to suit up for perimeter duty.

"Ten-hour days for 15 minutes of work," Tyrone said. His last five missions in a row had been like that.

Despite the often long hours and grueling operational tempo — teams went out almost daily in July and August and remained on 24/7 alert in September — the job has its perks, such as getting to see much of the country, even if it's from 25,000 feet.

"People do pay money to see mountains like these," Svendsen said, looking out over a field of dark ridges as far as the eye could see, somewhere over the middle of Afghanistan.

The mission itself is rewarding, FAST member Staff Sgt. Jesus Mora said in an earlier interview, because "you get to do what you're trained to do."

Some have pulled duty on an Army C-20 Gulfstream that transported Gen. Joseph Votel, head of U.S. Central Command, to Pakistan and Tajikistan, said Tech Sgt. Gerry Chitwood.

"It's not common, but it's cool to do," he said. The business jet is a significant upgrade from spartan C-130s.

Sometimes, "it's the little things," Mora said, as when they grabbed Asian food in Kabul or authentic pizza in Herat, where Italian forces are deployed.

And sometimes at the end of a long mission, small favors make a big difference. Svendsen shaved minutes from the flight back to Bagram, landing roughly 14 hours after the crew's preflight briefing but still before the dining facility stopped serving steak dinner.

Also, Tyrone and Johnson learned that the next day held no slated missions, no 6 a.m. briefing, no shaky descent into the Taliban heartland.

Steak and a day off flying. "We lucked out," Tyrone said.

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PHOTOS BY CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

Passengers on a C-130J Super Hercules doze or watch videos during a flight from Mazar-e-Sharif to Kabul International Airport on Sept. 23.



Above: Senior Airman Christopher James, loadmaster on a C-130J Super Hercules, enters cargo data on a t

erminal aboard the plane in Afghanistan. Left: On the flight line at Kabul International Airport, from left, Airman 1st Class Jesse Johnson, Senior Airman Zachary Cross and Staff Sgt. Thomas Tyrone chat outside their Super Hercules as they wait for passengers to arrive.



WAR ON TERRORISM

2 Americans killed in Afghanistan identified

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon has identified two Americans, including one soldier, killed in an attack Wednesday near a NATO coalition base in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

Sgt. Douglas J. Riney, 26, of Fairview, Ill., and Michael G. Sauro, 40, of McAlester, Okla., died of wounds received from encountering hostile enemy forces, a Pentagon statement

said Thursday. Riney was assigned to the Support Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas. He entered active-duty service in July 2012 as a petroleum supply specialist and had previously served in Afghanistan from July 2014 to February 2015, The Associated Press reported.

Sauro was assigned to the Defense Ammunition Center, McAlester Army Ammunition Plant, McAlester, Okla.

He was described as a "stand-up guy, both as a manager and a friend," and a "joy to work with" by colleagues quoted by Oklahoma City's Koco 5 News.

He had been in Afghanistan for one month and was scheduled to return to the U.S. in March. It was his third Afghan deployment, Koco 5 News said.

The Afghan Defense Ministry described the incident that killed Riney and Sauro as an insider attack. The attacker was wearing a



Riney

Ministry spokesman Gen. Dawlat

military uniform when he assaulted a group of foreign soldiers at 11 a.m. near a military base in the Rish Khor area of western Kabul, said Defense

Waziri. The assailant was killed, the ministry said.

Riney and Sauro had been conducting duties as part of a train-and-advise operation by the NATO-led Resolute Support mission.

Another servicemember and two other U.S. civilians sustained injuries in the attack and were in stable condition.

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USS Wasp replaced amid Libya operation

By **JOHN VANDIVER**
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Navy's USS San Antonio is now serving in the Mediterranean Sea as part of Operation Odyssey Lightning, replacing another warship in a move that will alter the type of air power being brought to the fight in Libya.

The USS San Antonio replaces the USS Wasp as part of a planned switch, U.S. Africa Command said on Friday.

While Marine Harrier fighters have been a part of the operation aboard the Wasp, the San Antonio does not host fighters.

Still, AFRICOM said the mission, which began in August, will continue. "At the request of the GNA (Libya's government of national accord), U.S. assets will continue to provide precision airstrikes to the GNA-aligned forces," said Chuck Prichard, an AFRICOM spokesman.

Prichard added that the San Antonio is "more than capable of sustaining the current mission."

The USS San Antonio joins the effort with the UH-1Y Hueys and AH-1W Cobras from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Unit's Aviation Combat Unit, VMM-264, AFRICOM said.

The Wasp had played a key role in Navy and Marine Corps efforts in support of Libya's fragile national government, which is conducting an offensive against Islamic State fighters in the coastal city of Sirte. In nearly three months, more than 200 airstrikes have been carried out in and around Sirte. Prichard said the mission's focus has not changed, and forces have only been tasked to provide air-strike support and not part of any ground operation.

U.S. warplanes have been conducting regular airstrikes against the militants in support of Libyan ground forces. The USS San Antonio, a part of the 7th Fleet Amphibious Ready Group, is now positioned off the northern coast of Libya, AFRICOM said.

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KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

Iraq's elite counterterrorism forces raise an Iraqi flag after retaking Bartella, outside Mosul, on Friday.

Kirkuk: Historically Christian town rid of militants

FROM FRONT PAGE

Kirkuk is an oil-rich city claimed by both Iraq's central government and the largely autonomous Kurdish region. Kurdish forces assumed full control of Kirkuk in the summer of 2014, as Iraq's army and police crumbled in the face of a lightning advance by the Islamic State group.

Kemal Kerkuki, a senior commander of Kurdish peshmerga forces west of Kirkuk, said the town where his base is outside the city also came under attack early Friday, but that his forces repelled it.

He said the Islamic State group maintained strongholds in Kirkuk and the surrounding villages. "We arrested one recently, and he confessed," he said, adding that the attackers may have posed as displaced civilians in order to infiltrate the city.

Kirkuk province is home to hundreds of thousands of people displaced by the conflict.

Iraqi and Kurdish forces backed by a U.S.-led coalition launched a multipronged assault this week to retake Mosul and surrounding areas from the Islamic State group. The operation is the largest undertaken by the Iraqi military since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Iraqi forces advanced as far as Bartella, a historically Christian town about 9 miles from Mosul's outskirts, by Thursday.

An Associated Press reporter traveling with the Iraqi special forces on Friday saw homes along Bartella's main road painted with Islamic State graffiti, including the first Arabic letter in a derogatory word for Christians that is used by the militants to mark Christian property. Under Islamic State rule, Christians must convert to Islam or pay a special tax.

Islamic State militants had sprayed graffiti on the inside walls of the town's church as well. Iraqi soldiers raised the national flag over the building and rang the church bell, signaling its liberation.

"Bartella was liberated yesterday, and today we are inside its church," Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghati said. "Bartella was liberated yesterday, and today we are inside its church," Lt. Gen. Talib Shaghati said. "I bring the good news to our Christian brothers that the church is liberated."

Elsewhere in Iraq, the country's top Shiite cleric called on forces taking part in the Mosul offensive to protect civilians, and for residents of Mosul, a mainly Sunni

city, to cooperate with security forces.

"We stress today upon our beloved fighters, as we have before on many occasions, that they exercise the greatest degree of restraint in dealing with civilians stuck in the areas where there is fighting," the reclusive Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani said in a Friday sermon read by an aide. "Protect them and prevent any harm to them by all possible means."

Some 3,900 people, or about 650 families, have fled Mosul and the nearby Hamdania district since the operation began this week, according to Adrian Edwards, of the U.N. refugee agency.

Ravina Shamdasani, of the U.N. human rights office, said it had "verified information" that the Islamic State group had forced 550 people to relocate to Mosul from the nearby villages of Samalia and Najafia on Monday, part of an "apparent policy of preventing civilians from escaping to areas controlled by Iraqi security forces."

Shamdasani reiterated concerns the Islamic State group could use civilians as human shields and said the office was investigating reports that the group had killed at least 40 civilians for suspected disloyalty. She declined to elaborate on the reports, citing "security reasons."

Syria opens new Aleppo corridor for evacuations

Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Syrian government on Friday opened a new corridor for rebels and civilians who want to leave the besieged eastern neighborhoods of Aleppo, but the U.N. said planned medical evacuations haven't begun as scheduled because of a lack of security assurances from the warring sides.

The spokesman for the U.N.'s humanitarian aid agency, Jens Laerke, described an "astronomically difficult situation," although he declined to specify who was responsible for the breakdown in the plans on Friday.

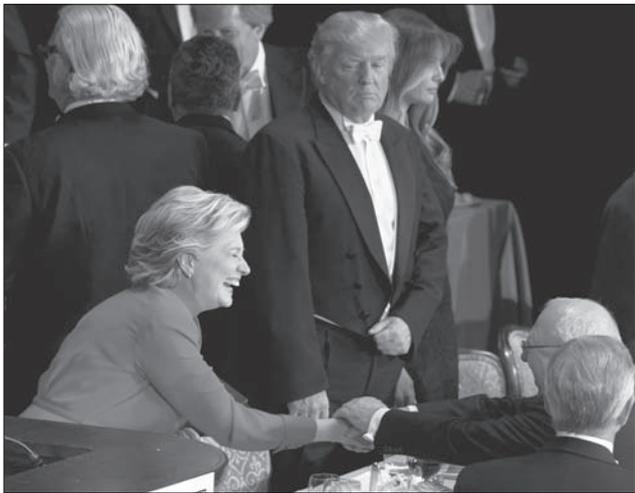
Speaking to reporters in Geneva, Laerke said the evacuations couldn't begin "because the necessary conditions were not in place to ensure safe, secure and voluntary" movement of people.

On Thursday, a U.N. humanitarian aid official, Jan Egeland, said the U.N. had received the "green lights" for the evacuations from Syria's government, armed opposition groups and Russia, which announced a pause in fighting in rebel-held eastern Aleppo.

Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said al-Qaida-linked militants in Aleppo were refusing to leave the city along the corridors created by the Russians and Syrian forces. He told reporters in Moscow that Russia is "seriously concerned that, despite the gestures of goodwill from Moscow and Damascus," the fighters from the al-Qaida affiliate previously known as the Nusra Front are "refusing to leave the city."

Aleppo's civilians are also being prevented from leaving the eastern, rebel-held part of the city through the corridors, Lavrov added. The pan-Arab Al-Maya-den TV aired live footage from Castello Road showing bulldozers that had opened the road. Buses and ambulances were parked by the roadside, waiting to take evacuees. But residents in eastern Aleppo have said many won't take advantage of the corridors because there are no guarantees the evacuees won't be arrested by government forces. By midday Friday, no evacuations were seen along the Aleppo corridor.

NATION



ANDREW HARRIN/AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, center, watches as Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton greets guests at the Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner in New York.

Trump, Clinton trade barbs as charity roast turns bitter

By JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner, a white-tie gala in New York that is often the last time the two presidential nominees share a stage before Election Day, is traditionally a time when campaign hostilities are set aside.

Not this year.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton traded sharp barbs and brutal takedowns Thursday, the night after their final debate, with many in the well-heeled crowd turning on the Republican nominee midway through his remarks and showering him with jeers.

Trump, who had drawn big laughs earlier in the speech, appeared to lose the room as he repeatedly dug in with caustic swipes at Clinton, drawing rare roars at a charity event meant to raise money for impoverished children throughout New York.

He appeared to straddle the line when he talked about how "listening to Hillary rattle on and rattle on" has made him better appreciate his longtime nemesis Rosie O'Donnell. But he then seemed to cross it when he referred to her as "corrupt" during a lengthy riff on the FBI's investigation into her use of a private email server as secretary of state.

"Hillary is so corrupt she got kicked off the Watergate Commission. How corrupt do you have to be to get kicked off the Watergate Commission? Pretty corrupt," he said to boos and at least one call demanding he get off the stage.

He then appeared to segue into the standard attack lines of his rally speeches, setting aside jokes to bring up material contained in galled Clinton campaign emails.

"Hillary believes that it's vital to deceive the people by having one public policy and a totally different policy in private," he said to growing jeers. "Here she is tonight, in public, pretending not to hate Catholics."

Clinton also veered into personal attacks, drawing rare boos as she said the Statue of Liberty, for most Americans, represents a symbol of hope for immigrants.

"Donald looks at the Statue of Liberty and sees a '4,'" Clinton joked. "Maybe a '5' if she loses the torch and tablet, and changes her hair."

Trump and Clinton sat one seat apart, with New York's Cardinal Timothy Dolan acting as the buffer. And when they entered, they did not greet each other, though they did shake hands at the conclusion of the roast.

Dolan later called his seat "the iciest place on the planet."

Most eyes were on Trump, who was first Catholic to receive a major party nomination for president when he unsuccessfully ran in 1928. The occasion has produced dozens of memorable presidential jokes — and sincere moments of goodwill that have remained largely absent from the 2016 campaign.

Some of his jokes landed well, drawing laughs from both the crowd and Clinton.

His biggest laughs came as he talked about Michelle Obama getting rave reviews for a speech. "They think she's absolutely

great. My wife Melania gives the exact same speech, and people get on her case," he said.

And some of his attack lines flashed a sense of humor that has been mostly absent from the grueling campaign. Clinton was the first one to laugh when Trump joked that she had bumped into him earlier in the night "and she very simply said 'Pardon me,'" an unsuitable reference to the Republican nominee's frequent declarations that she should go to jail.

Clinton, meanwhile, was more self-deprecating than Trump, joking that she's taken a break from her "usual nap schedule" to attend and suggesting that the audience should be pleased she's not charging her usual fee for speaking in front of potential donors.

But she also got in some digs at Trump, a few of which drew scattered jeers. Clinton said she understood why Trump was leery of teleprompters because they can be difficult to follow and "I'm sure it's even harder when you're translating from the original Russian."

The dinner is named after the former New York governor, who was the first Catholic to receive a major party nomination for president when he unsuccessfully ran in 1928. The occasion has produced dozens of memorable presidential jokes — and sincere moments of goodwill that have remained largely absent from the 2016 campaign.

"I can't wish my opponent luck," John McCain said in 2008, turning toward Obama, "but I do wish him well."

Trump will accept 'clear election result'

By JULIE PACE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has stepped back slightly from his refusal to say during his debate with Hillary Clinton whether he would concede if he loses on Election Day, failing to stem the criticism that flowed from Republicans and Democrats over an attitude some contended struck at the heart of American democracy.

"I would like to promise and pledge to all of my voters and supporters and to all of the people of the United States that I will totally accept the results of this great and historic presidential election," Trump said Thursday while campaigning in Ohio. After letting that vow hang in the air for a few seconds, he added, "if I win."

Putting aside his mocking tone, Trump said he would accept "a clear election result" but reserved his right to "contest or file a legal challenge" if he lost. He brushed

off the likelihood of that happening with a confident prediction that "we're not going to lose."

While Trump maintained he would win, numerous Republican leaders conceded he was heading for defeat barring a significant shift in the campaign's closing days. The GOP's top concern was salvaging its majority in the Senate, followed closely by worries over the Republicans' once comfortable grip on the House.

During an Ohio rally Thursday, Trump tried to turn the attention to Clinton by accusing her of "cheating" and suggesting she should "resign from the race." He cited a hacked email disclosed publicly by WikiLeaks that showed her campaign was tipped off about a question she'd be asked in a CNN town hall meeting during the Democratic primary.

"Can you imagine if I got the questions? They would call for the re-establishment of the electric chair, do you agree?" Trump said.

McCain must navigate tough path to 6th term in Senate

By BOB CHRISTIE
Associated Press

PHOENIX — In his pursuit of a sixth term, Republican Sen. John McCain reluctantly stood by Donald Trump despite personal insults and the businessman's string of controversial claims.

That tepid support ended earlier this month after the release of a 2005 recording in which Trump used crude, predatory language to boast about groping women. The Arizona lawmaker said the GOP presidential nominee's behavior and "demeaning comments about women and his boasts about sexual assaults" made it impossible to offer even conditional support.

Some Republicans are clearly angry. Conservatives routinely boo McCain, 80, when Trump mentions his name at rallies in Arizona, and some are unwilling to back his candidacy over his disavowal of the nominee.

The senator and two-time presidential candidate still has a solid advantage in polls over Democratic Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick, even as conservative Arizona grows more competitive in the presidential race. Democrat Hillary Clinton is investing money in the state and dispatching big-name surrogates, including first lady Michelle Obama and Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders.

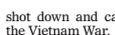
The pragmatic senator who has worked with Democrats on immigration took a surprising stand on Supreme Court nominees, pledging this week that Republicans would unite against any pick from Clinton if she becomes president.

An aide later clarified that he

will examine the record of any one nominated for the high court and vote for or against that person based on their qualifications.

McCain has spent most of the year doing a delicate dance in offering

lukewarm support of Trump even after the presidential nominee bashed McCain as a "loser" and "not a war hero" because he was



McCain

shot down and captured during the Vietnam War.

The senator criticized Trump for making disparaging remarks about NATO, immigrants, Muslims and a Gold Star family who lost a son in Iraq but stuck by him until this month.

McCain has grown visibly frustrated after reporters ask him about Trump, and his latest strategy essentially is to avoid the media. He's dodged reporters from The Associated Press and other outlets after events and refused to answer basic questions about the race.

After Trump refused to say at the final debate whether he will accept the election results, McCain issued a sharp statement Thursday highlighting his 2008 concession, saying congratulating the winner and calling them "my president" is "the American way."

Despite the backlash from some in the GOP over Trump, others say there's just no choice but McCain.

NATION

Foreign policy elites not sorry to see Obama go

By **GREG JAFFE**
The Washington Post

There is one corner of Washington where Donald Trump's scorched-earth presidential campaign is treated as a mere distraction and where bipartisanship reigns. In the rarefied world of the Washington foreign policy establishment, President Barack Obama's departure from the White House — and the possible return of a more conventional and hawkish Hillary Clinton — is being met with quiet relief.

ANALYSIS The Republicans and Democrats who make up the foreign policy elite are laying the groundwork for a more assertive American foreign policy, via a flurry of reports shaped by officials who are likely to play senior roles in a potential Clinton White House.

It is not unusual for Washington's establishment to launch major studies in the final months of an administration to correct the perceived mistakes of a president or to influence his successor. But the bipartisan nature of the recent recommendations, coming at a time when the country has never been more polarized, reflects a remarkable consensus among the foreign policy elite.

This consensus is driven by a broad-based backlash against a president who repeatedly has stressed the dangers of overreach and the need for restraint, especially in the Middle East. "There's a widespread perception that not being active enough or recognizing the limits of American power has costs," said Philip Gordon, a senior foreign policy adviser to Obama until 2015. "So the normal swing is to be more interventionist."

In other instances, the activity reflects alarm over Trump's calls for the United States to pull back from its traditional role as a global guarantor of security.

"The American-led international order that has been prevalent since World War II is now under threat," said Martin Indyk, who oversees a team of top former officials from the administrations of Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton assembled by the Brookings Institution. "The question is how to restore and renovate it." The Brookings report — a year in the making — is due out in December.

Taken together, the studies and reports call for more-aggressive American action to constrain Iran, to rein in the chaos in the Middle East and to check Russia in Europe.

The studies, which reflect Clinton's stated views and the direction she is likely to take if she is elected, break most forcefully with Obama on Syria. Virtually all these efforts, including a report released Wednesday by the liberal Center for American Progress, call for stepped-up military action to deter President Bashar Assad's regime and Russian forces in Syria.

The proposed military measures include calls for safe zones to protect moderate rebels from Syrian and Russian forces. Most of the studies propose limited American airstrikes with cruise missiles to punish Assad if he continues to attack civilians with barrel bombs, as is happening in besieged Aleppo. Obama has staunchly resisted any military action against the Assad regime.

"The immediate thing is to do something to alleviate the horrors that are being visited on the population," said former secretary of state Madeleine Albright, who



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

President Barack Obama toasts to Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi during a state dinner Tuesday on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington.

is leading a bipartisan and international team looking at U.S. strategy in the Middle East for the Atlantic Council. "We do think there needs to be more American action — not ground forces, but some additional help in terms of the military aspect."

Stephen Hadley, a former national security adviser to Bush and a partner with Albright on the Atlantic Council report, said that if Assad continues to bomb civilians, the United States should strongly consider "using standoff weapons, like cruise missiles, to neutralize his air force so that he cannot fly."

Such measures have been repeatedly rejected by Obama and his top advisers, who warn that they would draw the U.S. military deeper into another messy Middle East conflict. Last year, Obama dismissed calls for a no-fly zone in northwestern Syria — a position advocated by Clinton — as "half-baked."

In private comments to investment bankers, however, Clinton acknowledged that establishing such a haven would be difficult, requiring the destruction of Syrian air defenses, many of which are in populat-

ed areas. "You're going to kill a lot of Syrians," she said, according to transcripts of her 2013 remarks released by WikiLeaks.

Even pinpoint cruise-missile strikes designed to hobble the Syrian air force or to punish Assad would risk a direct confrontation with Russian forces, which are scattered throughout the key Syrian military bases that would be targeted.

"You can't pretend you can go to war against Assad and not go to war against the Russians," said a senior administration official who is involved in Middle East policy and was granted anonymity to discuss internal White House deliberations.

Virtually no one among the foreign policy elite is calling for a return to the Bush administration policies that led to the toppling of Saddam Hussein and the costly occupation of Iraq. Instead, they are advocating something of a middle ground between Bush's interventionism and Obama's retrenchment.

"Everyone has kind of given up on the Middle East. We have been at it for 15 years, and a lot of Americans think it is hopeless," Hadley said. "We think it is not."

Bayh's ties to Indiana questioned

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — U.S. Senate candidate Evan Bayh said his Indianapolis condominium has long been his home and that he has spent "lots and lots" of time there since deciding to run for his former Senate seat. But a copy of his schedule shows Bayh did not stay overnight there once during his last year in office in 2010.

The schedule provided to The Associated Press shows the Democratic spent taxpayer money or campaign funds or let other people pay for him to stay in Indianapolis hotels on the relatively rare occasions he returned from Washington.

During the same period, he spent \$5,000 in taxpayer money on what appeared to be job-hunting trips to New York, despite the assertion of his campaign that the trips were devoted to official media appearances.

The revelations raise new questions about Bayh's ties to Indiana and his use of official time as he campaigns to help Democrats re-



Michael Conroy/AP

Democratic U.S. Senate candidate Evan Bayh thanks campaign volunteers at a campaign field office in Indianapolis on Thursday.

take the Senate.

The AP obtained Bayh's schedule from a source who requested anonymity because the information was private. The Bayh campaign did not dispute its authenticity.

Earlier this month, the AP reported that Bayh spent substantial time during his last year in the Senate searching for a private-sector job while voting for or seeking changes to legislation that benefited the corporate and financial world.

Since unexpectedly entering the race in July, Bayh, whose primary residence is in Washington, has struggled to explain whether Indiana is home.

Thousands of student vets affected by faculty strikes in Pennsylvania

By **NIKKI WENTLING**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — About 3,500 student veterans at 14 state-run colleges in Pennsylvania are at risk of losing their monthly housing allowances if an ongoing faculty strike extends beyond the next few weeks.

Professors and other faculty at the schools entered their third day of a work strike Friday, disrupting classes for roughly 100,000 students. The Department of Veterans Affairs notified student veterans at the 14 colleges Wednesday that tuition payments would not be affected, but there's a time limit on how long those veterans will continue to receive housing allowances. If the strike were to go beyond 28 days, the VA would stop issuing the housing stipend.

There are 3,454 students who receive GI Bill benefits at the 14 colleges, according to a VA database. Monthly housing allowances range between \$1,000 and \$2,000 per veteran.

The VA deems a faculty strike as a school closure due to an emergency situation. The laws governing the Post-9/11 GI Bill state

benefits can be paid during emergency situations for up to four weeks, or 28 days, VA spokesman Megan Heup wrote in an email.

Thousands of professors and other faculty unionized through the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculty went on strike early Wednesday morning, when contract negotiations with the state stalled.

The state had instructed students to continue to attend classes, though many of them have been canceled, according to reports.

The strike affects Bloomsburg, California, Cheyney, Clarion, East Stroudsburg, Edinboro, Indiana, Kutztown, Lock Haven, Mansfield, Millersville, Shippensburg, Slippery Rock and West Chester universities of Pennsylvania. Faculty at Penn State, Temple University, the University of Pittsburgh and Lincoln University are not affected.

Before union members hit the picket lines, Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf had issued a statement Tuesday night urging both sides to come up with an agreement and avoid a strike.

"Most seriously, a strike could

drive a loss of students, which would further exacerbate an already precarious financial situation for the state system," the statement reads.

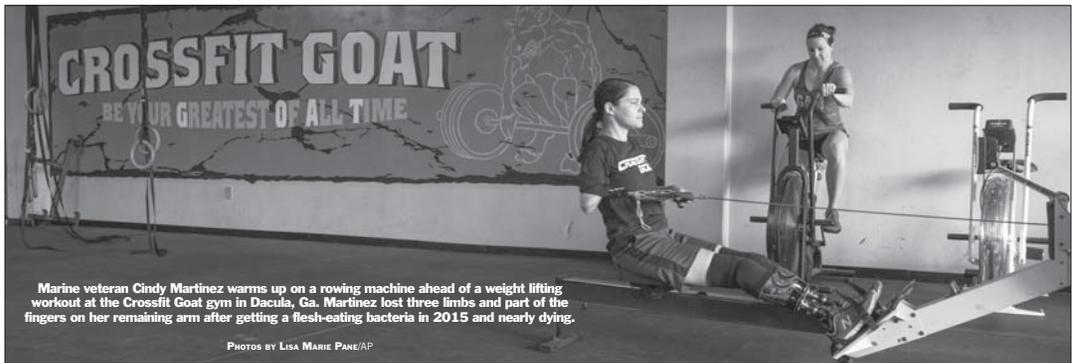
Student Veterans of America is monitoring the situation, said Chance Browning, the organization's communications director. SVA stepped in to guide veterans last month when ITT Technical Institute announced it was closing all of its approximately 130 campuses. The closure forced thousands of student veterans to make quick decisions about where to transfer to finish their degrees.

The Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education said it didn't formally negotiate with the union Thursday. The Associated Press reported. The faculty union said Thursday that it would announce when a negotiation meeting is scheduled. One had not been announced as of midday Friday.

In its statement about the strike, the VA said veterans at the affected schools should continue to verify their attendance as usual at gibill.va.gov/wave.

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NATION



Marine veteran Cindy Martinez warms up on a rowing machine ahead of a weight lifting workout at the Crossfit Goat gym in Dacula, Ga. Martinez lost three limbs and part of the fingers on her remaining arm after getting a flesh-eating bacteria in 2015 and nearly dying.

PHOTOS BY LISA MARIE PANE/AP

‘She will not be stopped’

Flesh-eating bacteria claims vet’s limbs, but not her drive

By LISA MARIE PANE
Associated Press

ADACULA, Ga. year ago, Cindy Martinez was struggling to walk even just a few feet and lift just 5 pounds.

A flesh-eating bacteria had ravaged the Marine veteran’s body. She had a grim choice: Amputate both legs, an arm below the elbow and parts of the fingers on her remaining arm — or face almost certain death.

The amputations saved her life. And after months of hospitalizations and rehabilitation, Martinez, 35, finally found herself back home but alone during the day while her young children were in school and her husband was off at work.

“It kind of takes a toll on you mentally, just sitting there after all that I had gone through,” she said.

In the stillness of her home, she fired off an email to a local gym and asked about joining. When they called back later that night, “I told the lady on the phone, well, there’s a twist to my story.”

She soon found herself sitting in a circle surrounded by trainers at Crossfit Goat — with the motto Be Your Greatest of All Time — in Dacula, about 45 miles northeast of Atlanta. She told them her story and began in February to embark on an unusual quest: becoming a Crossfit athlete. Crossfit gyms are known for high-intensity strength and cardio workout, and their members often consider their “box” to be like a family as they bond over workouts of the day that test their strength and resolve.

Her coach, gym owner Amanda Greaver, pledged to work with her and to find whatever way they could for her to do exercises that challenge even people with all of their limbs. She’s come away in awe of how Martinez tackles each workout.

“She will not be stopped, no matter what,” Greaver said. “If something doesn’t work, there’s no getting frustrated. We adapt and move on to something else. She is always, always positive.”

Martinez has worked up to dead-lifting 95 pounds — nearly her weight — and squatting 65 pounds.

She needs to use her abdominal muscles to ensure she remains balanced. The fingers on her remaining full arm have varying degrees of amputation, which makes it difficult to grip a barbell or dumbbell.

Part of the latissimi dorsi muscles on the left side of her back, the area where the infection first sprouted, were removed.

But she and Greaver constantly find ways to adapt. When she’s performing squats with the barbell behind her, she uses a strap to connect the arm that was amputated just below the elbow to the bar. When using dumbbells to do chest presses, she uses a strap to attach the weight to her hand and arm to allow her to lift it without needing a tight grip. When she’s performing body rows, she attaches a strap with a hook on the end so she can grab the rings, dip back and then pull herself back up.

Martinez is often surprised by the attention she gets and how others see her as inspirational.

“I’m just doing it. I want it — not that other people don’t want it,” she said. “I don’t know how to explain the speed that I’ve done it with.”

The gym and its members have rallied around her. At one point, Greaver created a workout for members so they would have a greater understanding of the challenges Martinez faces and help raise money to pay for a recumbent bike.

During the workout, athletes were allowed to use only one arm. One-armed pushups, one-armed kettlebell swings, one-armed farmer carries.

“Literally, everybody who came in from doing that came straight up to me and said ‘Look at my arm. Wow, that was so difficult. You really see how hard her workouts are,’” Greaver recalled.

Martinez worked her way up to walking farther and recently got a new pair of prosthetic legs that will allow her to run. She’s getting used to the new legs, which she says feel like she’s wearing high heels on a trampoline, but one day they will allow her to run around with her young children or perhaps enter a road race.

For now, she’s setting her sights on this month’s Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, which she will race on her recumbent bike.

“The mental aspect, it can be tough. It’s not that I don’t have a bad day,” she said. “But for the most part, I try to stay positive and I think staying active is a good way to — I don’t want to say get your mind off of it because it’s not like I can get my mind off of it, but I’ve got to work with what I’ve got. I’m here for my kids, my husband, and I want them to see I can still do things with them.”



Above: Fitness trainer Amanda Greaver attaches a special strap to Martinez’s wrist. Left: Martinez lifts a 25-pound dumbbell.



Martinez does a 65-pound squat exercise.

NATION

Big statue of nude woman in Calif. stirs controversy

By JOCELYN GECKER
Associated Press

SAN LEANDRO, Calif. — There have long been complaints about the lack of women in the tech industry. Now there's a towering female figure, in a tech park across the bay from San Francisco, although not quite what some people had in mind.

A 55-foot tall statue of a nude woman unveiled this week in the working-class community of San Leandro is stirring controversy and a lot of conversation.

At the base of the 13,000-pound statue is a message in 10 languages that says: "What would the world be like if women were safe?"

The statue — roughly three times as tall as Michelangelo's David — is made of steel mesh in the form of a graceful dancer, with an arched back and arms stretched overhead. The debate is not over its artistic merit but whether it's appropriate in public.

"If she's a ballerina, she should have some clothes on," said

Tonette Watts, 57, a resident and mother of a teen girl, who stopped and stared at the statue on her way to work. "If you've got kids, you do not want them seeing that."

Another parent, Keith Verville, 48, studied the sculpture and then asked: "Why is it so big? And so not clothed?"

The statue, named "Truth is Beauty," is on private property at the edge of a new tech office complex — in a highly trafficked and visible area just across from San Leandro's commuter rail station.

Many people, including city officials, have welcomed the statue as a reflection of the changing demographics in San Leandro, where young millennials now outnumber older residents.

"This is something I'd never have thought would come to San Leandro," said Mayor Pauline Russo Cutter. "It's edgy and modern, and it makes me proud."

The statue debuted in 2013 at Burning Man, the annual counterculture celebration in the Nevada desert. It then was bought by developers of the complex, for a price they haven't disclosed,

under a requirement by the city to include public art at the site.

The sculptor, Marco Cochrane, said he was marked as a child by the rape of a neighborhood friend and tries through art to bring attention to sexual assault and to the fear of many women, but also to the strength women feel when not afraid.

"She feels safe and she is loving herself in that moment, and hopefully people can feel that feeling," Cochrane said of the statue. "It's a beautiful woman, and part of it is to draw men in. Then they look down and see the message and they go, 'Ohhhh. I hope that happens thousands of times.'"

As word spreads about the statue, it's becoming a popular selfie spot.

Businessman Michael Fennell, 73, stood taking pictures from several angles to send to his son, a sculptor in New York.

"This is a world-class statue," Fennell said. "This is not a woman covering because the world is against her. This is a woman saying, 'Here we are! We have arrived.' I love it."



JOCELYN GECKER/AP

A woman stands Wednesday beneath a 55-foot-tall statue of a naked woman in San Leandro, Calif.

Toy companies break down barriers to be more inclusive

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Toy companies are working harder to think outside their usual box, offering more-inclusive items like dolls with disabilities, female superhero figures and characters with a range of skin tones.

Many of the products breaking down the barriers started with smaller businesses, but big names like Mattel and Hasbro are getting into the game and are offering lots more options this holiday season.

What that means on the shelves is Barbies that have a greater variety of body types, eye colors and facial structures, a Lego mini-figure of a boy who uses a wheelchair, and an American Girl doll with accessories like a diabetes kit and arm crutches in addition to the hearing aids and service dogs it has offered before. Other items include coding toys, robots and circuit-builder sets aimed at both girls and boys.

Jennifer Weitzman, whose daughter, Hannah, 5, has cochlear implants, has the American Girl doll with hearing aids and a Tinker Bell doll with a cochlear implant that Weitzman bought from a British site called Toy-LikeMe.org.

"She lit up when she was given her. She thinks it's awesome that they have implants just like her," said Weitzman, of Mount Kisco, N.Y. "For many kids, it helps them identify and makes

them feel included."

The trend started a few years ago, pushed by parents who didn't see enough diversity in the toy aisle and were turning to the internet or startups to find items.

Increasingly, the inclusiveness in the toy aisle means dolls with disabilities. Toys R Us has carried an exclusive line since 2013 called Journey Girls, which includes a wheelchair and a crutch set. Its partnership with American Girl to carry the Truly Me collection starting this month will include dolls that also use crutches, diabetes kits and wheelchairs.

While Lego has had larger figures before that use wheelchairs, the mini-figure introduced this year comes as part of the "Fun in the Park" set, mixed in with several other figures that don't.

"The designers were thinking about what might you see in the park in the city," said Lego spokesman Michael McNally.

Lego mini-figures had been yellow so that children could imagine their own identities for the characters. "We've always been about helping kids find themselves," McNally said. But in 2004, it introduced flesh tones when representing real-life personalities.

Experts say it's critical for children to play with toys that don't perpetuate stereotypes about what's considered beautiful. They say the toys children play with have lasting impressions on their careers and their confidence.

"There's been some good progress, but there is a lot of work that



RICHARD DREW/AP

Barbie Fashionistas, from Mattel, are displayed Oct. 6 at the annual TTPM Holiday Showcase in New York. Toy companies are offering products that are more inclusive, from Barbie dolls in all shapes, sizes and skin tones to baby dolls aimed at boys.

needs to be done," said Elizabeth Sweet, a sociologist and lecturer at California State University in Sacramento, Calif. "Kids need to see themselves in the toys and objects they interact with."

For building toys, the company GoldiBlox, founded in 2012, was among the first to disrupt the pink aisle by offering construction sets aimed at girls. But it also realized it needed more racial diversity, and last fall introduced a black character called Ruby Rails and since then has added a Latina engineer called Valentina and other characters.

Many experts have been closely watching the moves made by Mat-

tel, particularly with its iconic Barbie, whose business has been rebounding amid a makeover after seeing its sales suffer. The nation's largest toy maker launched the Barbie Fashionista collection last year that offered more skin tones, eye colors and facial structures.

This year, it added three body types — curvy, petite and tall. It said those items have been doing well. Spokeswoman Michelle Chidoni said the company also is looking to add different body shapes to the Barbie career line and the Fairytale doll collection.

Racial diversity also can be key. American Girl, which is owned by Mattel, launched a doll this year whose story is that she is growing up in civil rights-era Detroit. Walmart's My Life As doll collection has expanded the number of skin shades available, and Hasbro is adding more skin tones to its Baby Alive doll for next year.

Beyond introducing dolls and games that feature all kinds of characters, companies are starting to think differently about toys that traditionally have been aimed at boys or girls. The White House held a conference on gender stereotypes in media and the toys, drawing executives from major toy companies.

Target Corp. phased out gender-based signage in the toy aisle last year. It also was for a time the exclusive seller of Mattel's D.C. Super Hero Girls, including Wonder Woman and Batgirl, which were the first 6-inch action figures designed for girls. They join other female characters in the action figure aisle that include Black Widow and Star Wars heroine Rey, says Jim Silver, editor-in-chief of TTPM, an online toy review site.

John Frascotti, president of Hasbro Brands, cited My Little Pony, which originally was aimed at girls, and Nerf, which was traditionally for boys. Hasbro found the brands attract both boys and girls, so three years ago, it launched Nerf Rebelle that was styled for girls. As for My Little Pony, it's expanding into comic books, usually more a domain for boys.

"We are focusing on storytelling and worrying less about gender," he said.

WORLD

South Africa plans to exit international court

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA

Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa will soon submit a bill in parliament to withdraw from the International Criminal Court, its justice minister said Friday, making the country the second this week, after Burundi, to move to leave the tribunal that pursues the world's worst atrocities.

The bill will propose that South Africa repeal the Rome Statute that created the court because the statute is "in conflict and inconsistent with" the country's diplomatic immunity law, said Michael Masutha, the minister of justice and correctional services.

Under the Rome Statute, countries have a legal obligation to arrest anyone sought by the tribu-

nal. South Africa's decision raises concerns that states have begun to act on years of threats to leave over what they call the court's disproportionate targeting of the continent.

"It's important both for South Africa and the region that this runaway train be slowed down," Dewa Mavhinga, Human Rights Watch's Africa division senior researcher, said Friday.

South Africa's announcement follows a dispute last year over a visit to the country by Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the ICC for alleged war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in Darfur.

Al-Bashir was allowed to leave South Africa even though a local court had ordered authorities to prevent him from departing be-

cause of the international order for his arrest.

The "legal uncertainty" stemming from the Rome Statute hinders South Africa's goal of promoting the resolution of conflicts through dialogue, which can include hosting adversaries on its soil, Masutha said.

Subjecting the leader of another country to prosecution in a South African court or handing the leader over to the ICC would amount to interference in another country's affairs, according to Masutha.

A copy of South Africa's "Instrument of Withdrawal," dated Wednesday and signed by Foreign Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, was obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

It states that South Africa "has found that its obligations with re-

spect to the peaceful resolution of conflicts at times are incompatible with the interpretation given by the International Criminal Court of obligations contained in the Rome Statute."

Observers say a withdrawal from the ICC takes effect a year after the day the U.S. secretary-general is formally notified of a country's intention. Countries still would have to cooperate with any ICC proceedings that began before the withdrawal takes effect.

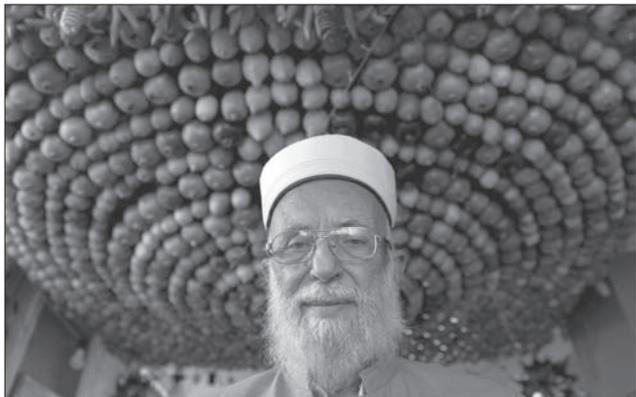
The ICC's charges against al-Bashir stem from reported atrocities in the conflict in Darfur.

On Tuesday, President Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi signed legislation to make his country the first to withdraw from the ICC, which had said it would investigate recent political violence there.



SHIRAZ MOHAMED/AP

South Africa allowed Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir to leave the country despite his being wanted by the International Criminal Court.



NASSER NASSER/AP

The high priest of the ancient Samaritan community Abdullah Wasef Tawfiq poses for a photo inside his house during celebrations of the weeklong biblical holiday of Sukkot, on Mount Gerizim, overlooking the West Bank city of Nablus. For the holiday, Samaritans build exquisite canopies of densely packed fruit.

Samaritans straddle tense spot in West Bank

Associated Press

MOUNT GERIZIM, West Bank — In one of the tensest corners of the West Bank, Israeli settlers and Palestinians live in separate worlds. But there is a spot on the top of a mountain that connects them both: a village of Samaritans.

To get there, Israelis drive up a steep, winding road, near ominous red road signs posted by Israel's military that warn them against entering the nearby Palestinian city of Nablus. Palestinians get to the top by driving up a steep, winding road from Nablus on the opposite side of the mountain.

At the top live about 380 Samaritans. They, and about 420 Samaritans based near Tel Aviv in Israel, comprise one of the world's oldest and smallest religious minorities.

Israelis and Palestinians are locked in continued conflict over land and national identity — currently a yearlong stretch of Palestinian lone-wolf attacks met by

often deadly Israeli force.

But the Samaritan hamlet in the West Bank is a place where both Israelis and Palestinians feel welcome.

The Samaritans' unique role — highlighted during the Sukkot holiday now under way — is particularly poignant at a time when hope for negotiating an end to the conflict is at an all-time low.

Best known from the New Testament parable of the Good Samaritan, the sect traces its roots to the ancient Israelites, follows the Five Books of Moses and celebrates biblical holidays.

In that way, the Samaritans are like their Israeli Jewish neighbors. But the Samaritans have lived in the West Bank for centuries and are fully embedded in Palestinian life. They speak Arabic, have common Arabic names, study in Palestinian schools, and work in Palestinian government offices. They're caught in a particularly

violent spot, just up the road from where a fatal Palestinian shooting incident last year on an Israeli settler couple helped fuel the current violence, and close to the intersection where Israeli border policemen on Wednesday shot and killed a 19-year-old Palestinian woman who they said walked toward them with a knife and ignored calls to halt.

Still, the Samaritans have managed to keep in the good graces of both Israeli and Palestinian societies, despite decades of conflict, including Israel's half-century of military rule over Palestinians.

"The Samaritans and Palestinians both claim the Samaritans as their own.

"I see them as my relatives. As brothers, really," said Yossi Dagan, the Jewish settler council chairman.

"The Samaritans are part of the Palestinian people," said Akram Rajoub, the Nablus governor.

Egypt is willing to take risks with its militant policy

By HAMZA HENDAWI
Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt has made fighting Islamic militants its overriding foreign policy objective, a decision that has brought it closer to Syrian President Bashar Assad, Russia and Iran, in turn antagonizing its chief financial backer, Saudi Arabia.

The policy is risky at a time when Egypt is struggling to contain a homegrown Islamic insurgency and tackling its worst economic crisis in decades. Saudi Arabia, which has helped keep Egypt's economy from collapse with billions in aid, has already signaled its displeasure by holding back promised supplies of fuel.

This direction of Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi's foreign policy is rooted in the military's 2013 ouster of its predecessor Mohammed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood.

"Cairo's single-minded pursuit of the Brotherhood — and of any Islamist group that bears the slightest resemblance to the Brotherhood — has become the guiding principle of Egypt's foreign, as well as domestic, policy," Middle East expert Steven A. Cook wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine.

Perhaps no single incident showcased this direction as much as Egypt's support this month for a Russian resolution on Syria at the U.N. Security Council.

Moscow put forward its resolution even as it vetoed a rival French resolution calling for a halt to Russian and Syrian airstrikes, which have caused hundreds of deaths in the Syrian city of Aleppo in past weeks.

'Cairo's single-minded pursuit of the Brotherhood ... has become the guiding principle of Egypt's foreign, as well as domestic, policy.'

Steven A. Cook
Middle East expert

Egypt voted in favor of both drafts, saying it did so in hopes of stopping Aleppo's suffering. But siding with Russia — and by implication Assad — reflected the stance of el-Sissi's government that defeating Islamic militants in Syria is the priority.

It led to the first public spat between Cairo and Riyadh since el-Sissi took office in 2014.

Egypt's direction undermines Saudi Arabia's hopes to build a Sunni axis to block the influence of its top rival, Shiite, non-Arab Iran. In fact, Cairo's show of support for Assad put it closer to Iran, the Syrian leader's top ally.

Cairo is willing to run the risks of its foreign policy in part because it believes "others similarly fear a takeover by political Islam," said Ayman al-Sayad, a prominent analyst.

But the Arab world's most populous country is also betting its backers won't end their support because "if it collapses, the fallout will be felt beyond its borders," he said. "It's true, but it involves an element of blackmail."

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OPINION

Don't worry about sex robots

By EJ Dickson

Special to The Washington Post

The HBO series "Westworld," which debuted last week to huge numbers, tells the story of a country-western theme park populated by androids. Because this is HBO, there's plenty of sex — the machines are programmed to acquiesce to all of the guests' needs, which are usually violent and/or sexual, and the park hosts a bordello staffed by a robot madam and robot prostitutes. And because it's a science-fiction narrative about robots and sex, the show has stirred long-standing concerns about what havoc technology could bring to bear on our sex lives.

From Alicia Vikander's pout-lipped android Ava in "Ex Machina" to Scarlett Johansson's sultry iOS assistant in "Her," pop culture has long been fascinated by the idea of humans copulating with robots. While the sexbots in question are occasionally male (remember Jude Law's dreamy gigolo in "A.I."?), these fantasies are largely female-centric, depicting a future in which multi-gendered female robots will submit to men's sexual whims at a push of the button.

While this brave new world of man-on-hardware action might sound exciting to some, many people are freaking out over it. It has been referred to as "the end of intimacy," as well as "the impending demise of the human species." Some of these arguments are based in feminism: robotics lawyer Sizinzia Gutiu, for instance, has argued that because they are incapable of saying no, sexbots will inspire men to rape women by "promoting" users' antisocial practices and impairing the dignity of women." Others, such as robotics expert Joel Snell, of Kirkwood College, warn that sex robots will become so "addictive" that humans won't want to be with other humans.

A feminist grass-roots collective, the Campaign Against Sex Robots, in its mission statement equates the relationship between a sex robot and its owner to that of a john and a nonconsenting prostitute, breathlessly warning that sex robots will "redundantly," "reinforce power relations of inequality and violence," and "sexually objectify" women and children."

Our collective freakout over sex robots is yet another example of how our culture is terrified of technology, even though history has consistently proved that technology in the bedroom is rarely, if ever, something to be feared.

From cultural commentators writing alarmist think pieces about how Tinder is ruining our sex lives to men panicking about their girlfriends' vibrators to parents wringing their hands over their kids watching online porn, there's a precedent for our anxiety over sex and technology.

Some of this concern is justifiable to a degree. It's true that the widespread availability of online porn has changed how we learn about sex. Many studies have concluded that sites such as Pornhub have essentially supplanted traditional sex education, resulting in young people having unrealistic expectations about sex.

Yet when you take a close look at many of the claims being made about sex and technology, it's clear that much of the panic is baseless. Take our obsession with how hookup apps are ruining our sex lives. While numerous media reports have claimed that Tinder and Grindr are causing rampant promiscuity, citing spikes in sexually transmitted diseases in various states, on the national scale, there's zero evidence to suggest that Tinder and Grindr are directly responsible for the spread of



John P. Johnson/HBO

Actress Thandie Newton portrays a robotic prostitute in the HBO series "Westworld." The portrayal of sex robots has stirred concerns over how technology could affect peoples' sex lives.

STDs or that young people are having unprotected sex at such an alarming rate that STDs are on the rise.

On the contrary, the nation's most common STD, chlamydia, is actually on the decline for the first time in three decades. Teen pregnancy and HIV rates are also falling. While STDs are on the rise, a 2013 British study attributed it to an increase in people getting tested, not to an increase in people having unprotected sex.

The sex-robot hysteria makes little sense, especially since sexbots, in their uterostrophicated, "Ex.Machina" form, don't actually exist yet. Despite pop culture's sci-fi-infused visions of big-breasted, lingerie-clad fembots, most of our current options for sex robots aren't actually that sexy. Most of them look less like Alicia Vikander and more like Rosie from "The Jetsons."

Take, for instance, Roxxy True Companion, which has been marketed as "the world's first sex robot." While Roxxy has a "heartbeat," a "circulatory system" and a vaguely human-like personality, such as "S&M Susan" and "Wild Wendy," the doll's vacant gaze and waxy skin give it the appearance of a janky hair salon mannequin, not a human sex partner. (It also has a \$9,995 price tag.)

Assuming, however, that the technology used to build sex robots will one day be advanced enough to make such products affordable, realistic-looking and readily available, there's still the nagging question: Will they permanently alter the way we have sex? Maybe the better question, though, is: Would it be so bad if they did? For those of us who don't, for whatever reason, consistently have sex with human partners, sex robots might prove beneficial — not just as a masturbatory aid, but as a source of intimacy. "Sex robots will make possible 'good sex' or 'plain sex' for persons and populations otherwise separated from and/or unable to attract a romantic partner," says Charles M. Ess of the Center for Research on Media Innovations at the University of Oslo.

Existing technology is already doing this, albeit in nonsexual forms: The robotic seal Paro (as seen on Netflix's "Master of None") is used to treat depression in the elderly. For people with conditions that make finding sexual partners difficult, it's reasonable to presume that sex robots could one day play a similar role for them, pro-

viding both emotional support and instant sexual relief.

It's also possible to imagine sex robots being used as an education tool, one that surpasses those now offered by hard-core pornography or our appallingly bad sex education system. Imagine sex robots teaching the value of foreplay by simulating clitoral orgasm, or instructing people with Asperger's on the value of nonsexual touch by snuggling with them in bed.

Of course, it's important to note that sex robots can't provide one crucial thing that a human partner can: informed consent. To many feminists, having sex with a piece of hardware that is unable to provide consent encourages men to view sex as a commodity, while the "sellers of sex are not attributed subjectivity and reduced to a thing," according to the Campaign Against Sex Robots. (The group does not appear to acknowledge the possibility that sex robots might also exist to please women, even though companies such as Realdoll are offering male versions for gay or female customers.)

Even though on-demand sex already exists in the form of online porn and escorting apps such as Ohlala, it's admittedly unsettling to envision a future in which men can purchase a plastic woman online and use her to his own ends, even if that woman is incapable of thinking or feeling. That feeling of discomfort is magnified by reports of so-called child sex robots, which have been suggested as a possible therapeutic tool to help pedophiles divert their sexual attraction to children.

No one wants to live in a world where there is a demand for or things like child sex robots, because no one wants to live in a world where men have the urge to rape and mistreat women and children. But we already live in such a world. Many clinical psychologists believe that pedophilia is a fixed sexual orientation, so their goal is not to eliminate pedophiles' sexual attraction to children but to teach them not to act on their urges. Child sex robots could potentially serve as such an outlet, thus preventing real children from being put in harm's way.

It's unclear at this point whether sex robots would be a successful therapeutic tool for pedophiles or if they would merely encourage such desires to blossom. (Past studies on increased statewide access to online porn has been correlated with a decrease in sexual assaults, although there's little consensus in the scientific community to bolster the hypothesis that porn in general serves as an outlet for deviant sexual desires.) Yet to dismiss offhand the mere possibility that sex robots could serve a greater good does a disservice not only to innovators in artificial intelligence but also society at large. If technology exists to serve society's needs, then it's worth identifying what those needs are and how sex robots can best serve them, regardless of how uncomfortable such a conversation makes us.

Visions of a "Westworld"-esque dystopia where the machines ultimately turn on us aside, the anxiety over the dawn of the sex robots is an all-too-familiar story: It's a fear of technology, masquerading as genuine concern over preserving sexual morality.

"There is nothing more central to our sense of identity and our moral or ethical sensibilities than matters of gender and sexuality," Ess said. "So the advent of sex robots immediately threatens to disrupt and alter our practices, norms, sense of identity, et cetera."

Dickson is a writer and editor in Brooklyn who focuses on the intersection between sex and technology.

OPINION

Silent stampede away from Trump underway

By PAUL WALDMAN
Special to The Washington Post

The final debate between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump wasn't exactly the end of the 2016 presidential race, but it was awfully close. Now that there are no more major events before the election, just the daily slog of rallies and organizing and charges and countercharges, you're going to be a lot less able to find the news about Clinton's direct employ who will pretend that they think he's going to win.

The result will be a kind of silent stampede away from him. Without drawing too much attention to what they're doing, Republicans everywhere are now going to accept that Hillary Clinton is going to be the next president of the United States, and reposition themselves accordingly.

It wasn't just the debate itself, at which Trump not only refused to say that he'll respect the results of the election but effectively sealed his fate with female voters (such a nasty business), he spoke about Clinton and wasn't just the candidate who's trailing in the polls by a margin from which no candidate has recovered at this stage of the race.

It's also that Republicans look at the candidate himself and the bumbling incompetents with whom he's surrounded himself, and rightly conclude that the chances that they could come up with a stratagem so brilliant it would reverse the trajectory of this race are rapidly approaching zero. If anything, Clinton's margin is likely to grow as Trump shoots himself in the foot a few more times and her formidable ground operation keeps going — earlier than Clinton, meanwhile the Trump campaign thinks it doesn't need to much more than rallies to get its supporters to the polls.

So if you're a Republican, what do you do now? You save your own skin, and begin thinking about how to deal with a second President Clinton.

Republicans are already hearing that advice from their allies. Thursday at the National Review, John Fund tells them to begin laying the groundwork for all the investigations they plan to do of Clinton's ad-



ministration, which might help them stay in Congress.

"It shouldn't be too hard to make a case to independent and even some Democratic voters that handing Hillary Clinton 'blank check' control of Congress would be imprudent and even reckless." Karl Rove writes much the same thing, saying that holding Congress "may be the best Republican can hope for." Fund's colleague Kevin Williamson writes an article about the future of gun policy titled "Some Advice for President Clinton."

"The biggest loser tonight was not Trump, the presidential race is over," said one Republican pollster. "Instead, down-ticket Republicans lost tonight — what they needed some help and got absolutely none." Even on Fox News, pundits were aghast at Trump's refusal to say that he'd respect the

results of the election, and there is likely to be increasing worry that claiming every day that the contest is "rigged" risks demoralizing and demobilizing Republican voters.

That would be a problem not only for Trump, but for Republicans running for every other office as well. So the more the conventional wisdom that Clinton will win solidifies, the more Republicans need an argument to prod voters to the polls, and "Send me to Washington to keep her in check" is the most logical one.

Nevertheless, that's far from an ideal message for a Republican candidate. It promises nothing but obstruction — no affirmative agenda, not even a set of principles to guide you. It just says that whatever Clinton does, I'll oppose, so if you like gridlock, I'm your guy.

Now for some Republican voters, that's a perfectly persuasive argument. One of the many ways this campaign has been unusual is that there hasn't been much of an ideological debate.

Perhaps because he's less comfortable with ideology than with talking about how our leaders are idiots and America is one giant Republic of idiots, Trump hasn't been making a case that Clinton is a liberal extremist, despite the fact that she's running on one of the most progressive platforms in history. So while there are lots of voters who dislike Clinton for various reasons, they haven't been primed to believe

that she'd be a leftist nutbar with a wild agenda that would turn America into a socialist nightmare where we spend our days standing in bread lines wearing shapless gray overcoats. If you're not too worried about that, it makes "Help me stop her!" a little less compelling.

But Trump has left other Republicans without much choice. If their best-case scenario is President Hillary Clinton with a Republican Congress, they can't promise the realization of conservative policies, just that they'll try to keep things from getting worse. It isn't particularly inspiring, but with fewer than 20 days until the election, it's all they've got.

Paul Waldman is a contributor to The Plum Line blog, and a senior writer at The American Prospect.

Base can't grow with GOP dug in on immigration

By JENNIFER RUBIN
The Washington Post

Donald Trump spent much of the GOP presidential primary hyping his "deportation force" and promising to deport millions of people. In the general election he publicly agonized: Did he really want to forcibly remove millions of people? In his inaugural speech he sure sounded like he wanted to kick out everyone else, but he and his spinners continued to fudge. Their "priority" would be kicking out criminals. But must everyone else go too?

At the third debate we got Donald Trump's final answer: "As far as moving these people out and moving — we either have a country or we don't. We're a country of laws. We either have a border or we don't."

And we got Hillary Clinton's best rebuttal to the no-legalization/mass-deportation crowd:

"I don't want to rip families apart. I don't want to be sending parents away from children. I don't want to see the deportation force that Donald has talked about in action in our country."

"We have 11 million undocumented people. They have 4 million American citizen children, 15 million people. He said as re-

cently as a few weeks ago in Phoenix that every undocumented person would be subject to deportation. Now, here's what that means. It means you would have to have a massive law enforcement presence, where law enforcement officers would be going school to school, home to home, business to business, rounding up people who are undocumented. And we would then have to put them on trains, on buses to get them out of our country."

"I think that is an idea that is not in keeping with who we are as a nation. I think it's an idea that would rip our country apart." She is right on two counts — that is what he is proposing (he did not quibble with her characterization) and Americans do not want that.

It turns out the country is overwhelmingly with her on this one. The talk-radio demagogues and the more respectable anti-immigrant publications and pundits always insisted the country was with them. That is false, and Trump's signature issue gets a big thumbs-down from the voters. (It actually got a thumbs-down among GOP primary voters as well, as evidenced by exit polling.) Recent polling shows just how unpopular his mass deportation and wall are.

A recent survey for the Chicago Council on Global Affairs found that "an over-

all majority of Americans (58 percent) say that illegal immigrants currently working in the United States should be allowed to stay and pursue a path to citizenship." The most recent Fox News poll finds that 74 percent of all respondents say we should give illegal immigrants a pathway to legal status; only 18 percent want to deport as many as possible. The anti-immigrant outfits such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform and the conservatives who spout its made-up facts represent a fairly small minority of voters.

We do wish Speaker of the House Paul Ryan, R-Wis., who personally believes in immigration reform and understands it is part of a pro-growth agenda, would recognize his party is hugely out of step with voters. One wishes he had the nerve to confront the small group of backbenchers who oppose any feasible immigration-reform plan. It might go some distance in redeeming him for his atrocious lack of moral courage in endorsing — and sticking with — Trump. And with a closely divided Senate, there might actually be a bill that addresses both border security and a path to legalization.

Right now, House hardliners, Trump, Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and most of the right-wing media (including conservative pundits who badly misrepresent the

extent of illegal immigration and distort the impact of immigration on native-born workers) do not represent the country's thinking on immigration. The vast majority of restrictionists might want to reconsider the efficacy of maintaining such an unpopular position (which is unwise economically to boot) that alienates large segments of the country.

On the other hand, the rump GOP could stay where it is with its sliver of a sliver of an aging electorate. The same center-right — in the mold of the Gang of Eight and conservative independent Evan McMullin — could embrace responsible reform on this and a host of issues that are actually popular with voters and in accord with conservative principles. They stand to pick up many groups that have viewed the GOP as anti-immigrant and/or economically short-sighted. As the old white males who made up Trump's base (and Fox News's TV audience) literally die off the ensuing decades, there will be insufficient numbers to stand on the hill of irrational and unpopular stances like immigration restrictionism. By then, however, the GOP could be long gone, which it will if it doesn't wise up on this and a host of other issues.

Jennifer Rubin writes the Right Turn blog for The Washington Post, offering reported opinion from a conservative perspective.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Storm blocks access for emergency vehicles

NC FAYETTEVILLE — Officials in Fayetteville are still trying to figure out how to get emergency vehicles to a neighborhood left virtually isolated after Hurricane Matthew.

The Fayetteville Observer reported the main road into the Rayconda neighborhood washed away.

That leaves a private road over an earthen dam as the only entrance to 222 homes.

Emergency management director Scott Bullard said firetrucks about the size of a pickup would probably be able to get into the neighborhood but pumps or ladder trucks are too heavy.

Homeowners' association president Freddy Rivera said the private road has been used mostly by joggers and people on bikes.

Rivera said city officials hope to build a ramp at the main entrance so a firetruck could be brought in and left until needed.

Company's network brings vets together

CT GROTON — U.S. Navy contractor Electric Boat is bringing military veterans who work at the company together to try to improve their job satisfaction, reduce attrition and recruit more veterans.

The "EB Veterans Network" officially launched Thursday at the Groton, Conn., headquarters, Rhode Island manufacturing facility and satellite sites nationwide.

It aims to connect veterans with one another through social events and mentoring, to build a community and camaraderie. It will also connect them with veterans' resources and staff at the company to answer their questions.

Some large companies, including GE and Pratt & Whitney, have programs to recruit veterans and help them advance.

But many companies that have been hiring veterans are just now trying to figure out how to ensure their new employees succeed.

Bank places 100 'lucky pennies' across US

MI DETROIT — Stopping a picnic at a stray penny off the ground may not seem worth the effort, yet one bank is trying to change that mindset by placing 100 fake pennies across the country worth \$1,000 apiece.

Ally Bank said it hopes to encourage Americans to look for opportunities to save through its "Lucky Penny" promotion. The lucky pennies carry a copper color like real pennies, but have the bank's logo instead of Abraham Lincoln's head. The flip side lists its value at 100¢. The pennies have been placed in New York; Los Angeles; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; Miami; Denver; Detroit; San Diego; Charlotte, N.C.; and Austin, Texas.

The coins can be redeemed online until the end of the year.

Nearly \$10,000 in cash returned to owner

NY SENNETT — Nearly \$10,000 in cash a res-

THE CENSUS

2,970

The length, in feet, of the longest ice cream sundae. Guinness World Records confirmed that the roughly half-mile-long sundae made (and eaten) in Ludington, Mich., in June claimed the record. The previous record holder for longest ice-cream dessert was made in Manurewa, New Zealand, and measured 1,957 feet and 1 inch. The Michigan dessert fed thousands of people lining eight blocks.



Rich Pedronella/UAP

A fall wonderland?

Debbie Kahn pulls her son, Eli, 7, left, and daughter, Talia, 2, through the snow in Serene Lakes, Calif., on Monday. A weekend storm brought rain to Northern California and snow to the Sierra Nevada mountains.

restaurant owner left in a shopping cart at an upstate New York store has been returned thanks to a couple who found the money.

Managers at the Tractor Supply Co. store in Sennett in the Finger Lakes region said the couple found around \$9,800 in an envelope Monday morning.

The Citizen of Auburn reported the couple turned the envelope over to the store's staff, did their shopping and left without giving their names.

A local restaurant owner called the store Monday saying she had put a week's worth of her restaurant's receipts in the envelope and mistakenly left it in a cart.

The woman said she'd like to tie the couple to reward them.

Couple celebrates wedding with puppies

MN MAPLE GROVE — A Minnesota couple celebrated their wedding day by posing with puppies.

Kathryn and Brad Ziemer, of Maple Grove, wanted to highlight the work of Secondhand Hounds, which rescues dogs from high-kill shelters. So instead of flowers, the couple chose puppies when they tied the knot on Oct. 15.

Kathryn Ziemer said, "Who doesn't love puppies?" She said having the animals at the wedding was more about the animal rescue, which she calls "incredible."

KMSP-TV reported that members of the wedding party did not know about the puppies until they went outside for group photos and found 13 pit bull puppies waiting.

Police nab bandit with taste for fancy cookies

CT STAMFORD — Police in Connecticut said a bandit with a taste for espresso and fancy cookies was nabbed because he asked an officer for directions to a pastry shop.

Stamford Police Lt. Thomas Barcello told the Stamford Advocate that Donald Newman-Smith, 26, had covered his face with a bandanna when he robbed a convenience store on Monday, getting away with around \$800.

Soon after, a police investigator was responding to the convenience store when Newman-Smith asked him how to get to the pastry shop.

Later, the investigator recognized the man as he watched surveillance footage of the robbery. Officers went to the shop and found Newman-Smith at an outside table, drinking an espresso with a dozen Pignoli cookies.

Officer pitches in to save unresponsive child

TX GRANBURY — A Texas police officer has

been honored for going out of his way to help save a little boy's life.

Police in Granbury said Officer Chase Miller was scanning his radio's EMS channel on Oct. 12 when he heard a dispatcher call for paramedics to respond to a 911 call about a 3-year-old boy who had stopped breathing. Miller realized he was near the location and immediately responded.

Video from Miller's dash cam shows him performing CPR on the boy until the child resumed breathing. The boys' parents told the officer he had suffered a fever-induced seizure.

Miller was given the city's Life Saving Award on Tuesday. He was joined at the ceremony by the boy and his family.

Work crews to move state's largest tree

ID BOISE — Crews are working to remove Idaho's largest sequoia tree from where it sits next to a hospital due to construction.

The Idaho Statesman reported that on Wednesday, Environmental Design Inc., a company whose expertise is moving large trees, began work to move the 104-year-old tree from next to St. Luke's to a new site at Fort Boise Park.

The hospital will pay around \$300,000 to move and care for the tree.

In order to move the tree, which stands 98 feet tall and is more than 20 feet around, crews will dig a trench around the sequoia and prune its roots to a 20- to 25-foot radius. A special watering plan will help heal the roots before the tree is moved in spring 2017.

Emmett Till marker strewn with bullet holes

MS GLENDORA — A sign at the site where Emmett Till's body was found 61 years ago has been damaged by what appears to be bullet holes.

WJTV-TV reported the historical marker in Tallahatchie County has been receiving a lot of attention after Kevin Wilson Jr. posted a picture of the damage on Facebook on Saturday. The sign has more than 40 holes in it.

"That marker was just evidence that there are people who are still living in those areas who still hold those ideologies dear to their heart," Wilson said. "Ideology that we're trying to get away from."

The Emmett Till Interpretative Project is raising money to get the sign replaced.

Till, 14 a black boy from Chicago, was kidnapped and brutally killed in 1955 after witnesses said he whistled at a white woman. His murder helped rally the civil rights movement.

From wire reports

LIFESTYLE



REDUCE, REUSE, ROCK

CEO turns whimsical idea into guitarmaking business that uses reclaimed wood

Mark Wallace, CEO of Wallace Detroit Guitars, holds a guitar on Sept. 20 in Detroit. Wallace, who started the company in 2014, uses reclaimed wood from Detroit homes and buildings to make guitars he sells online.

CLARENCE TABB JR., DETROIT NEWS/AP

By **STEPHANIE STEINBERG**
The Detroit News

In his Huntington Woods, Mich., attic, cluttered with drums, keyboards and a '70s photo of Elvis in Detroit, singer-songwriter Stewart Francke strummed his Wallace Detroit Guitar made with reclaimed wood from the Packard Automotive Plant.

"It's a beautiful guitar. It makes you feel good to hold it. It makes you feel good to play it," said Francke, 58, who's recorded with Bruce Springsteen and toured with Bob Seger. "I've got 25 guitars, but this one is the one that I play the most live, and it sounds probably the cleanest."

The Detroit News reported that Francke is among 70 local and national musicians who own one of Mark Wallace's original guitars. The CEO of the Detroit RiverFront Conservancy and a musician who plays the guitar, drums, violin and fiddle (which he played for 10 years with the Ypsilanti, Mich., bluegrass band Black Jake & the Carnies), started making guitars on a whim.

While touring a reclaimed wood warehouse in Detroit, he spotted a countertop designated for a coffee shop.

"I was looking at the side of it, and I realized it was about the same width as my electric guitar," he said. "Just daydreaming, I thought, 'it would be really cool to have a guitar made out of that type of wood.'"

He contacted a friend, a University of Michigan architecture professor who worked with CNC technology that could cut wood into shapes. After some research, he accepted the challenge to create an electric guitar out of reclaimed wood with his computer-driven router.

"I assumed I was going to make two guitars, and one of them would fall apart and maybe one of them would be cool," Wallace said. "That was as far as my aspiration went."

Then in 2013, after encouragement from friends who saw his prototype, he applied for — and won — an \$8,000 Knights Arts Challenge grant that enabled him to turn his whimsical idea into a business.

Wallace, 39, has crafted guitars with wood from historic buildings and old Detroit homes. His next batch will be assembled with maple from the former Detroit firehouse. He also uses pine, ash and mahogany collected by the Architectural Salvage Warehouse of Detroit.

"One of the big joys of the process is discovering that the wood works really well for guitars," he said. "Most people would look at a guitar made out of pine and just turn their nose up at it. Pine is typically not good for making instruments because the density of the wood ... You need wood that's hard enough that it resonates and doesn't get damaged when you set it down or when your belt buckle rubs up against it, but not so hard that it's not going to move and vibrate with the strings."

The ASW deconstruction crew usually gathers the wood, but sometimes Wallace finds gems he brings back.

The wood is then glued and sanded before it's sent to a luthier who puts the guitars together. By the end, a dozen people have touched the guitar.

Wallace admits he didn't know if the first guitars would even work. "I've put this in the hands of a lot of players who know about instruments, that play very expensive instruments, that play cheap instruments and everyone is surprised by how well they play and how great they sound," he said.

Francke attests the guitar has a "vintage" tone that "sounds just like a top-of-the-line Fender Telecaster or Stratocaster."

"It's built with the musician in mind," he said. "It's not just an item to be admired from afar."

While the guitars come with a high price tag — reaching \$2,450 — Wallace argues they're handmade and ingrained with the spirit of Detroiters.

"If you think about the history of Detroit, we're a town full of people who constantly push to make things better," he said. "Let's go from a manual transmission to an automatic transmission. Let's go from doo-wop to Motown. Let's just make it slightly better and slightly more awesome than what came before it, and I wanted the guitars to reflect that heritage."



Find more information at wallacedetroitguitars.com

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



MICROSOFT/EPIC

"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 barriers,

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: gears4ofwar.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 Kingstown, Va., a sleepy town with its own strange secrets. Over the course of one week, Anne will see and 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

ENTERTAINMENT



LIONSGATE/TNS

Tyler Perry stars once again in his latest Madea movie, "Tyler Perry's Boo! A Madea Halloween."

'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 con-

tacted 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 "funniest yet."

The Madea character has been at the core of Perry's successful 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 — 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.

STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

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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 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 \$700, 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.

"Mountain biking, he said, is difficult. "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.

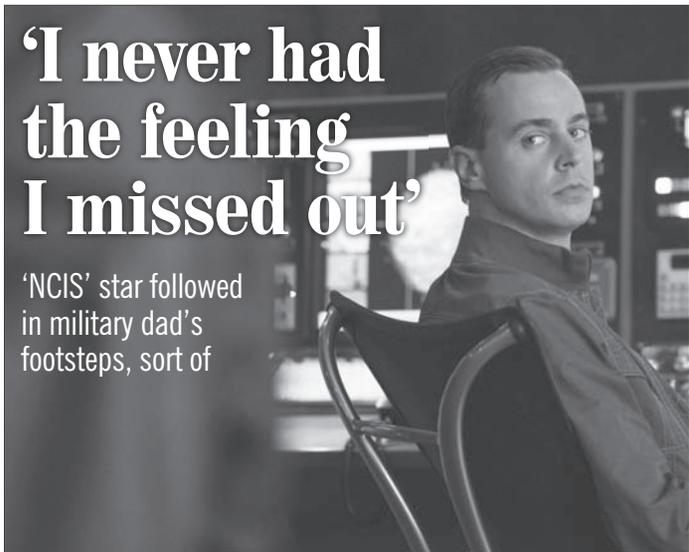
"There are two-and-a-half million people in the East Bay. Some of our trails are very crowded," said East Bay parks spokeswoman Carolyn Jones. "We have horseback riders, joggers, people with strollers, people in wheelchairs, we have hikers, bicyclists, dog walkers. It's just a safety issue. We already 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.

ENTERTAINMENT

'I never had the feeling I missed out'

'NCIS' star followed in military dad's footsteps, sort of



CBS

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.

By LUAINÉ 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-stance 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 do 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 wheedled 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 got 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 do 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 he 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, Patte 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.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Dissecting our holiday tradition

In the dusky light, I removed the longest, sharpest knife from the butcher block, its blade scraping against wood. Shwing! There, on plastic sheeting, lay my subject — plump, round and motionless.

Suddenly, a damp chill crept through the window sash and a shiver ran up my spine, setting my heart and hands in motion.

Before I knew it, I had hacked off its top, and was pulling handfuls of silny innards from its open cavity. Heart pounding, my knife plunged again and again into flesh, where eyes, nose and mouth belonged.

I stood back to catch my breath, and beheld its hideous glory. "It is done!"

This might sound like a scene from "Dexter," but actually, I'm describing a festive fall activity beloved by children for many years — Halloween pumpkin carving. Every red-blooded American has made a jack-o'-lantern at some point in his or her life. In the 1970s, my brother and I cut our pumpkins with serrated steak knives, completely unsupervised by our parents, who were smoking Tartyton 100s and watching "Love Boat" in our avocado and gold living room. Later, after my brother went out to toilet-paper the neighborhood, we roasting the seeds in our oven, with a pinch of salt.

But pumpkin carving didn't start in the 1970s. The tradition of making jack-o'-lanterns to ward off evil spirits (thought to roam the earth on Halloween) actually began in 19th century Ireland, where Celtic-speaking people cut scary faces into hollowed-out turnips. When the Irish immigrated to America, they found plentiful indigenous squashes called "pumpkins" and gave their jack-o'-lanterns, the tradition that lives on today.

However, modern folks are no longer concerned about warding off evil spirits or perpetuating obscure Irish traditions. In today's world of instant gratification, over-protective parenting, passivity and germophobia, one must wonder why such a messy, labor-intensive, potentially dangerous ritual persists at all.

Obviously, the desire to carve pumpkins transcends the advances of modern life. But why?

Our family has carved pumpkins every year, at every duty station, both home and abroad.

In Washington, D.C., our jack-o'-lantern sat on our apartment complex balcony overlooking the Hamburger Hamlet. In California, our carved pumpkin sunned itself on the patio of our brown and beige Fort Ord house. In the U.K., our jack-o'-lantern was stamped to bits by marauding English schoolboys in crested jackets. In Virginia, our pumpkins sat safely around our quiet suburban cul-de-sac. In Germany, we lugged our jack-o'-lanterns from our Patch Barracks stairwell apartment down to the shared patio, where dozens burned together on Halloween night. In Florida, our pumpkins succumbed quickly to fire ants and searing heat. In Rhode Island, the squirrels decided they'd make a good pumpkin smorgasbord.

No matter where we were stationed in the world, we were determined to carve pumpkins on Halloween.

What are the psychological forces that drive us to arm ourselves with dangerous kitchen utensils, attack poor defenseless squashes, and shamelessly display their gutted remains on porch steps and front stoops?

Perhaps humans crack under consumer industry pressure to buy Halloween decor, cheap imported novelties, and mountains of miniaturized candies? Or, maybe all the pumpkin-flavored foods are getting to us. Or, could it be that the political divisiveness of the campaign season has us all wanting to rip the flesh out of something?

We might never know why today's families see yearly pumpkin carving as the only exception to standard rules against carrying sharp objects, lighting matches and playing with food. But what we do know is that there's something ironically sweet and wholesome about carving pumpkins. Coming together as a family. Creating a work of whimsy. Standing back to watch it glow.

And, when it's all done, roasting the seeds like mom did, with a pinch of salt.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com. Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US confirms 11th death due to air bags

By Tom Krisher
and Dee-Ann Durbin
Associated Press

DETROIT — A 50-year-old woman who died after a car wreck last month in California is the 11th U.S. victim of Takata Corp.'s defective air bag inflators.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration confirmed the woman's death on Thursday but didn't release her name. Up to five people also may have been killed by the air bags in Malaysia, bringing the number of deaths globally to as many as 16.

The agency said the woman, identified in Riverside County, Calif., coroner's records as Delia Robles, 50, of Corona, was driving a 2001 Honda Civic. Riverside police said in a statement that a man making a left turn in a Chevrolet pickup was hit head-on by the Civic. The woman was rushed to a nearby hospital, where she died from her injuries, the statement said.

"The left turn: that's what

caused the collision," police officer Ryan Railsback told the Riverside Press-Enterprise, adding that police continue to investigate with state and federal help.

Honda said in a statement that its "thoughts and deepest sympathies are with the family of the driver during this difficult time."

Roble's son, Jose Contreras, told KCAL-TV that his mother was driving to get a flu shot when she crashed. He said she was doing 25 mph at the time.

"My mom was a very safe driver. Seat belt was on, always," he said.

He said he is considering taking legal action.

"It's not like she was sick and she had a terminal illness, and you knew this was coming. This happened from one minute to another," Contreras said.

Takata air bags can inflate with too much force, which causes a metal canister to rupture and sweep shrapnel into the vehicle. Tokyo-based Takata, unlike other

manufacturers, uses the chemical ammonium nitrate to create a small explosion that inflates air bags in a crash.

But the chemical can deteriorate when exposed to prolonged high heat and humidity and can burn faster than designed. That can blow apart a metal canister designed to contain the explosion.

The problem touched off what is now the largest auto recall in U.S. history.

More than 69 million inflators have been recalled in the U.S. and more than 100 million worldwide. Takata faces billions of dollars in costs.

Honda said the Civic involved in the California crash had been included in multiple recalls since 2008.

The company said it mailed more than 20 recall notices to the car's registered owners, but its records indicate the vehicle was never repaired.

NHTSA's urgent advisory covers vehicles that are up to

16 years old including 2001 and 2002 Honda Civics and Accords, the 2002 and 2003 Acura TL, the 2002 Honda Odyssey and CR-V, and the 2003 Acura CL and Honda Pilot, NHTSA said.

They were recalled from 2008 to 2011, and about 70 percent of them already have been repaired, the agency said.

Honda says it has sufficient supplies of replacement air bags for owners who still need them.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Oct. 24)	\$1.1207
Dollar buys (Oct. 24)	€0.8923
British pound (Oct. 24)	\$1.25
Japanese yen (Oct. 24)	101.00
South Korean won (Oct. 24)	1,107.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.1289
Canada (dollar)	1.3342
China (Yuan)	6.7651
Denmark (Krone)	6.8400
Egypt (Pound)	8.8832
Euro	\$1.0871/0.9199
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7752
Hungary (Forint)	283.61
Israel (Shekel)	3.8610
Japan (Yen)	102.70
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3030
Norway (Krone)	3.2722
Philippines (Peso)	48.31
Poland (Zloty)	3.48
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3955
South Korea (Won)	1,138.01
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9955
Thailand (Baht)	35.15
Turkey (Lira)	0.0869

MARKET WATCH

Oct. 20, 2016

Dow Jones Industrials	-40.27
	18,162.35
Nasdaq Composite	-4.58
	5,241.83
Standard & Poor's 500	-2.95
	2,141.34
Russell 2000	-2.85
	1,219.79

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.50
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.36
3-month bill	0.54
30-year bond	2.51

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Saturday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Arlene, Tex	80	56	Cir	Chatanooga	65	42	Cir	Fort Wayne	56	43	PCldy	Louisville	60	46	Cir
Akron, Ohio	50	40	Cldy	Cheyenne	74	42	Cir	Fresno	82	54	Cir	Lubbock	82	51	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	51	41	Rain	Chicago	59	45	PCldy	Goodland	80	42	Cir	Macon	71	41	Cir
Albuquerque	77	51	Cir	Cincinnati	56	44	PCldy	Grand Junction	73	42	Cir	Madison	61	41	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	53	40	Cir	Cleveland	52	43	Cir	Grand Rapids	55	42	Cldy	Medford	64	48	Cir
Amarillo	84	50	Cir	Colorado Springs	80	44	Cir	Great Falls	55	38	Cldy	Memphis	71	50	Cir
Anchorage	33	17	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	67	43	Cir	Green Bay	59	41	PCldy	Miami Beach	83	62	Cir
Ashville	56	38	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	70	46	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	59	41	Cir	Midland-Odessa	82	54	Cir
Atlanta	65	46	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	53	44	PCldy	Harrisburg	57	41	Cir	Milwaukee	59	44	PCldy
Atlantic City	59	44	Cir	Concord, N.H.	57	40	Rain	Hartford Spfld	55	38	PCldy	Missoula	53	35	Cir
Austin	67	52	Cir	Corpus Christi	81	66	Cir	Helena	56	34	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	62	44	Cir
Baltimore	58	43	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	76	56	Cir	Honolulu	97	73	PCldy	Norfolk, Va.	53	48	Cir
Baton Rouge	75	44	Cir	Dayton	54	44	PCldy	Houston	78	54	Cir	North Platte	78	38	Cir
Bilings	65	41	PCldy	Denver	75	53	Cir	Huntsville	66	42	Cir	Oklaoma City	71	53	Cir
Birmingham	68	41	Cir	Des Moines	69	48	Cir	Indianapolis	59	45	Cir	Oklahoma City	71	53	Cir
Bismark	64	47	PCldy	Detroit	53	41	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	72	43	Cir	Omaha	71	48	Cir
Boise	64	47	PCldy	El Paso	83	57	Cir	Jacksonville	62	40	Cir	Orlando	77	55	Cir
Boston	65	44	Cldy	El Paso	83	57	Cir	Lake Charles	76	50	Cir	Paducah	66	47	PCldy
Bridgeport	51	42	Rain	Elkins	48	39	Cldy	Lansing	54	41	PCldy	Pendleton	61	42	PCldy
Brownsville	85	68	PCldy	Erie	51	43	Rain	Las Vegas	89	65	Cir	Pensla	64	44	PCldy
Buffalo	48	40	Rain	Eugene	61	49	Cir	Lexington	56	44	Cir	Philadelphia	57	45	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	51	42	Rain	Fargo	59	40	Cir	Lincoln	73	46	Cir	Phoenix	96	67	Cir
Caribou, Maine	61	42	Rain	Fairbanks	25	6	PCldy	Little Rock	71	48	Cir	Pittsburgh	48	41	Cir
Casper, Wyo.	70	35	Cir	Fargo	59	40	Cir	Los Angeles	81	62	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	69	44	Cir	Flagstaff	71	39	Cir								
Charleston, W.Va.	55	42	Cldy	Flint	52	39	PCldy								
Charlotte, N.C.	63	42	Cir	Fort Smith	77	48	Cir								

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

National temperature extremes

Hi, Thu., 100, Fullerton, Calif., and McAllen, Texas
Lo, Thu., 9, Berthoud Pass, Colo.

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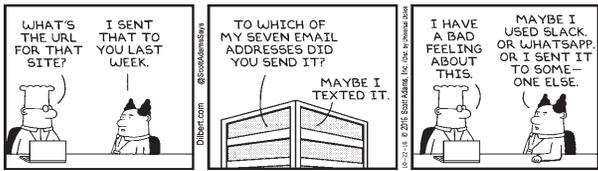
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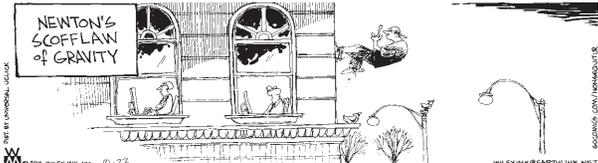
Dilbert



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			
15					16					17			
18					19					20			
		21					22						
23	24	25				26				27	28	29	
30						31				32			
33						34				35			
						36				37			
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

- 1 Cat call
- 2 Beehive State
- 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



VIETNAM

AT

50



Explore **STARS AND STRIPES** new feature section: Vietnam at 50.

With contributions from the men and women who were there, as well as voices from experts and our readers, we take a look back at the Vietnam War and the cultural changes that surrounded it. How the war was prosecuted, how it changed our military and foreign policy thinking, and how America viewed itself then and now. It's a radically new design for Stars and Stripes, and one you can help shape by sharing your thoughts and voices.

Visit online for more content and video—or to share your memories: stripes.com/vietnam50

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2015 Columbia Journalism School Dart Awards – Feature Story Reporting (Daily Circulation 1,500,000)
Finalist: Martin Kuz: "Army Sgt. Isaac Sims left the war in Iraq, but it didn't leave him"

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner/Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Former Actor: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabirow

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery
Photography: Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lower
Photography: Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Heroes

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Thursday's transactions

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
DETROIT PISTONS — Exercised its option on the contract of F Stanley Johnson through the 2017-18 season.
GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS — Waived G Cameron Jones, Phil Pressey and Eliot Williams.
MEMPHIS GRIZZLIES — Waived G Chris Crawford and F Vince Hunter. Signed G Matt Costello and G Kellen Dunham.
PHILADELPHIA 76ERS — Announced the retirement of point guard Brandon Rutt.
FOOTBALL
National Football League
CHICAGO BEARS — Activated LB Pernell McPhee from the PUP list. Waived FB Paul Linder.
GREEN BAY PACKERS — Placed RB Eddie Lacy on injured reserve. Signed RB Don Jackson from the practice squad.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Signed LB Trevor Taylor to the practice squad. Released WR Shaquae Evans from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

National Hockey League
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned D Dan Remour to Grand Rapids (AHL).
PITTSBURGH PENGUINS — Agreed to terms with G Matt Murray on a three-year contract extension through the 2019-20 season.

COLLEGE

CALIFORNIA — Signed women's basketball coach Linda Corbin to a three-year contract extension through the 2020-21 season.
TEXAS A&M — Extended the contract men's basketball coach Larry Brown through the 2020-21 season.
WASHINGTON STATE — Announced former coach Steve Lutz will receive \$10,000 and reimprised by the Pac-12 Conference for comments about the Arizona State football program.

Pro basketball

WNBA Finals

(Best-of-5)
 Los Angeles 76, Minnesota 76
 Los Angeles 79, Los Angeles 68
 Los Angeles 92, Minnesota 75
 Los Angeles 85, Los Angeles 76
Thursday: Los Angeles 77, Minnesota 76

NBA preseason

Thursday's games
 Charlotte 96, Miami 88
 New Orleans 111, New York 116, Brooklyn 111
 Atlanta 97, Chicago 82
Friday's games
 Toronto at Washington
 Charlotte at Minnesota
 Houston at San Antonio
 Dallas at Denver
 Phoenix at L.A. Lakers
 Portland at Vancouver

Pro soccer

MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GD
New York	15	9	2	47	58
New York City FC	14	10	9	51	58
Atlanta United	13	11	8	49	56
D.C. United	11	13	10	46	51
Philadelphia	11	13	4	47	53
Portland	11	13	4	42	53
New England	10	14	9	39	54
Chicago	10	14	3	39	54
Columbus	8	17	3	49	54
CFR	8	17	3	49	54
Chicago	8	17	3	49	54
FC Dallas	17	8	8	59	40
Colorado	17	8	8	59	40
Los Angeles	12	11	5	41	39
Real Salt Lake	12	11	5	41	39
San Jose	12	11	5	41	39
Portland	12	13	4	40	41
Portland	12	13	4	40	41
Sporting KC	12	13	4	40	41
San Jose	12	13	4	40	41
San Jose	8	11	3	38	42
San Jose	8	11	3	38	42
San Jose	7	12	3	38	44
San Jose	7	12	3	38	44

Note: Three points for victory, one for a draw.

College football

Thursday's scores

SOUTH
 ETSU 38, WV Wesleyan 7
 Troy 28, South Alabama 27
 Virginia Tech 37, Miami 16
MIDWEST
 Harding 35, East Central 17
FAR WEST
 Boise State 28, BYU 27

Schedule

Friday, Oct. 21
 Duquesne (4-2) at St. Francis (Pa.) (4-3)
 South Florida (5-1) at Temple (4-3)
 Penn (3-2) at Yale (4-4)
FAR WEST
 Oregon (2-4) at California (3-3)
 TCU (5-1) at San Diego St. (5-1)

Saturday, Oct. 22
EAST
 North Texas (3-3) at Army (4-2)
 Cornell (3-2) at Brown (1-4)
 Lehigh (2-2) at Holy Cross (3-3)
 Davidson (2-3) at Marist (3-3)
 Maine (2-3) at Rhode Island (4-4)
 Robert Morris (1-6) at Sacred Heart (5-1)
UPPER (3-4) at UConn (3-4)
 Syracuse (2-4) at Boston College (3-3)
 Lafayette (2-4) at Bryant (2-4)
 Syracuse (2-4) at Bucknell (2-4)
 Stony Brook (4-2) at Dartmouth (3-3)
 Georgetown (3-3) at Fordham (4-2)
 Princeton (4-1) at Harvard (4-2)
 Dartmouth (3-3) at Columbia (1-4)
 Memphis (5-1) at Navy (2-4)
 Wake Forest (4-2) at Towson (2-4)
 Albany (N.Y.) (4-2) at Villanova (5-2)
 Colgate (4-2) at Virginia Tech (5-0)
 UConn (3-4) at Penn St. (4-2)

SOUTH
 Kennesaw St. (4-2) at Gardner-Webb (3-2)
 NC State (4-2) at Louisville (5-1)
 UNC (1-6) at South Carolina (2-4)
 TCU (5-1) at East Carolina (4-2)
 Jacksonville St. (2-3) at Morehead St. (2-3)
FAR WEST
 NC Central (5-2) at Morgan St. (2-3)
 Delaware St. (0-6) at SC State (2-3)
 Wyo (3-3) at Chattanooga (6-1)
 TCU (5-1) at Coastal Carolina (4-2)
 Bethune-Cookman (0-6) at Norfolk St. (0-6)
 Mississippi (2-4) at Tenn. Tech (2-5)
 Jacksonville St. (5-1) at E. Kentucky (2-4)

COLLEGE
 Hampton (3-3) at Florida A&M (3-4)
 Grambling St. (2-4) at UNLV (2-4)
 North Carolina (5-2) at Virginia (2-4)
 Texas Tech (4-2) at Alabama (5-0)
 Idaho (4-3) at Appalachian St. (4-2)
 Richmond (5-2) at Elon (2-4)
 Martin (4-3) at Davidson (2-3)
 Monmouth (N.J.) (4-2) at Liberty (3-3)
 Stetson (3-3) at Campbell (2-4)
 South Hampton St. (6-6) at Nichols (3-3)
 Mercer (3-3) at Austin Peay (0-6)
 Houston Baptist (2-4) at St. Louisiana (3-3)
 U.S. — Pine Bluff (1-5) at Southern U. (3-2)

Football

Thursday
 Oklahoma State (4-2) at Marshall (2-4)
 Arkansas (5-2) at Auburn (4-2)
 Presbyterian (2-4) at Wake Forest (2-4)
 Southern (3-3)
 Wake Forest (2-4) at Clemson (3-3)
 McNeese St. (3-4) at Northwestern St. (1-5)
 Georgia (1-5) at Samford (5-2)
 Old Dominion (3-2) at W. Kentucky (4-2)
Friday
 Mississippi St. (2-4) at Kentucky (3-3)
 Michigan St. (2-4) at Michigan (3-3)
 Tennessee St. (1-5) at Vanderbilt (5-2)
 Mississippi (3-3) at LSU (4-2)
 Miami (Ohio) (1-6) at Bowling Green (1-5)
 Wisconsin (4-2) at Iowa (5-2)
 Oklahoma State (4-2) at Michigan (3-3)
 Texas (3-3) at Kansas St. (3-3)
 Rutgers (2-5) at Minnesota (4-2)
 Murray St. (1-5) at Illinois (5-2)
 Cent. Michigan (5-2) at Toledo (5-1)
 Dayton (5-2) at Butler (3-3)
 Ohio (4-3) at Kent St. (2-5)
 Murray St. (1-5) at Illinois (5-2)
 Missouri (3-3) at N. Iowa (2-4)
 Akron (4-3) at Ball St. (4-2)
 Youngstown St. (5-1) at S. Dakota St. (4-2)
 Indiana St. (3-4) at St. Illinois (2-4)
 Illinois St. (3-4) at South Dakota (3-3)
 Indiana (4-2) at Michigan (3-3)
 Buffalo (1-5) at N. Illinois (1-6)
 Purdue (3-3) at Nebraska (6-0)
 Eastern Michigan (4-2) at Kent St. (2-5)
 Middle Tennessee (4-2) at Missouri (3-3)
 East Carolina (2-4) at Cincinnati (3-3)
 N. Dakota St. (1-5) at Illinois (5-2)

SOUTHWEST

Jackson St. (2-4) at Texas Southern (2-4)
 Incarnate Word (1-5) at Abilene Christian (1-5)
 Prairie View (4-2) at Rice (6-0)
 Oklahoma St. (1-6) at 3-45 p.m.
 Lamar (3-3) at Cent. Arkansas (5-1)
 Oklahoma St. (1-6) at SMU (2-4)
 Oklahoma State (4-2) at Texas St. (2-4)
Friday
 UT (1-5) at UTSA (3-3)
 Oklahoma (4-2) at Texas Tech (3-3)
 Hawaii (4-3) at Air Force (4-2)
 E. Washington (5-1) at Montana St. (2-4)
Saturday
 Colorado State (2-4) at Stanford (4-2)
 Utah (1-6) at UNLV (2-4)
 Jalisco (3-3) at San Diego (5-1)
 Utah (1-6) at UCLA (3-4)
 North Dakota (5-2) at Idaho St. (2-4)
 Oregon St. (2-4) at UNLV (2-4)
 Oregon St. (2-4) at Washington (6-0)
 Montana (4-2) at Alabama (5-0)
 Georgia Southern (3-3) at New Mexico St. (4-2)
 Weber St. (4-2) at S. Utah (3-3)
 Northern-Monroe (2-4) at New Mexico (2-4)
 U.C. Davis (2-5) at Cal Poly (4-2), 9:05 p.m.
 Washington St. (4-2) at Arizona St. (2-3)
 Fresno State (4-2) at Nevada (3-3)
 Wyoming St. (1-6) at Utah St. (2-4)

Tennis

Kremlin Cup

Thursday
AT Olympic Stadium, Moscow
 Purse: \$M. 17,250 (W750); Women, \$23,888 (Hard-Indoor)
Men
 Daniil Medvedev, Russia, def. Viktor Troicki (4), Serbia, 6-3, 6-3, 6-1.
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, 7-5, 6-3, 6-6.
 Thomas Bellucci, Argentina, def. Igor Kuznetsov (8), Russia, 6-3, 6-6, 6-3.
Women
 Alexander Bugay, Russia, def. Roberto Bautista Agut (1), Spain, 6-2, 7-5.
Quarterfinals
 Elena Svitolina (4), Ukraine, def. Ana Konjuh (4), Croatia, 6-2, 6-2.
 Svetlana Kuznetsovna (1), Russia, def. Tímea Babos (2), Hungary, 7-5, 6-7 (2), 6-3.
Second Round
 Julia Georges, Germany, def. Darija Kasatkina (9), Russia, 6-4, 6-4.
 Daria Gavrilova, Australia, def. Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova (1), Russia, 7-5, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3.
Doubles
Men
Quarterfinals
 Juan Sebastian Cabal, Colombia and Robert Farah (2), Colombia, def. Nikola Pietrangeli and Andrius Panavas (2), Lithuania, 6-3, 6-3.
 Julian Knowle and Jürgen Melzer, Austria, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 6-3.
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, 6-1, 5-7, 11-9.
 Daniil Medvedev and Andy Rublev, Russia, def. Pablo Carreno Busta and Marco Granello (1), Spain, walkover.

Seminifinals

Marcel Haackevick and Lucie Hradecká (2), Czech Republic, def. Katerina Srebotnik (3), Slovenia, 6-2, 6-7 (13), 11-9.
 Darija Gavrilova, Australia, and Darija Kasatkina (9), Russia, def. Anna Karolína Šrebotnik (2), Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-4.
 Petra Kvitová (1), Czech Republic, def. Johanna Larsson (8), Sweden, 6-2, 6-0.
 Monica Niculescu, Romania, def. Caroline Garcia (2), France, 6-3, 6-3.
 Lauren Davis, United States, def. Andrea Petkovic, Germany, 2-6, 7-5, 6-2.

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The National Football League injury report, as provided by the NFL, is below. **QUESTION MARK** — Player on DNP - Did not practice; **LIMITED** - Full participation in practice; **Full** - Full participation in practice; **1** - 1 game out.

Sunday

NEW YORK GIANTS VS. LOS ANGELES RAMS AT LONDON — **GIANTS:** DNP: RB Austin Johnson (knee), TE Daniel Thomas (ankle), T Marshall Newhouse (calf), S Darian Thompson (foot), **LIMITED:** CB Eli Cole (groin), WR Niles Blake (ankle), LB Keenan Robinson (knee), CB Trevin Mitchem (ankle), WR Brandon Stedman (thigh), **DE OLIVER VERNER (WRIST):** DNP: RB Austin Johnson (knee), TE Daniel Thomas (ankle), T Marshall Newhouse (calf), S Darian Thompson (foot), **LIMITED:** CB Eli Cole (groin), WR Niles Blake (ankle), LB Keenan Robinson (knee), CB Trevin Mitchem (ankle), WR Brandon Stedman (thigh), **DE OLIVER VERNER (WRIST):** DNP: RB Austin Johnson (knee), TE Daniel Thomas (ankle), T Marshall Newhouse (calf), S Darian Thompson (foot), **LIMITED:** CB Eli Cole (groin), WR Niles Blake (ankle), LB Keenan Robinson (knee), CB Trevin Mitchem (ankle), WR Brandon Stedman (thigh), **DE OLIVER VERNER (WRIST):** DNP: RB Austin Johnson (knee), TE Daniel Thomas (ankle), T Marshall Newhouse (calf), S Darian Thompson (foot), 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COLLEGE BASKETBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS

NCAA: Pitino 'failed to monitor' staffer

By Gary B. Graves

Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The NCAA accused Louisville of four serious violations and criticized the conduct of coach Rick Pitino for failing to monitor a former basketball staffer who hired escorts and strippers for sex parties with recruits and players.

The governing body's report Thursday did not mention a lack of institutional control — considered the most serious violation in some cases.

Pitino disputed the finding that he did not monitor Andree McGee, saying his tendency is to over-monitor. If anything, the coach said he was guilty of trusting someone to tell him what was going on.

"This man (McGee) made a mistake and we apologize for his mistakes," he said. Pitino has denied knowledge of the alleged violations.

The NCAA's letter is the first step in a process that could extend into next spring. Louisville has 90 days to respond.

The letter culminates an inquiry that began with the publication last October of Katina Powell's book, "Breaking Cardinal Rules: Basketball and the Escort Queen."

Powell wrote that McGee paid her \$10,000 for strippers to perform 22 shows from 2010-14 — a period that includes Louisville's NCAA 2012-13 championship season — with many occurring in the players' Billy Minardi Hall



TIMOTHY D. EASLEY/AP

University of Louisville head basketball coach Rick Pitino, left, and Athletic Director Tom Jurich listen during a press conference on Thursday in Louisville, Ky. The NCAA has accused Louisville of four violations following an investigation that a former basketball staff member hired escorts and strippers for sex parties with recruits and players.

dormitory. The building is named for Pitino's brother-in-law, who died in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York.

Compliance consultant Chuck Smart, hired by the school to investigate the allegations, said he did not think vacating the title was "appropriate" based on precedent.

The NCAA's letter lists the value of the impermissible/extra benefits as at least \$5,400 and

cities multiple instances in which McGee hired strippers to dance and have sex with recruits.

Louisville already has imposed its own penalties. The most severe one was announced Feb. 5 — a postseason ban after the school determined violations occurred. A month later, the school announced the reduction of two scholarships and the number of days staffers could recruit.

Neville Pinto, the university's

acting president, and athletic director Tom Jurich said the NCAA's findings align with the results of the school's investigation. He said the school would fight the charge against Pitino.

"Improper activities took place in a dormitory that never should have occurred," they said in a statement. "When the facts were established, we acted. We took appropriate punitive and corrective actions. The penalties we

imposed were among the most severe penalties ever self-imposed by a NCAA member."

Those self-imposed penalties were taken as a way of possibly lessening NCAA discipline and follows measures used by Syracuse and SMU. NCAA punishment went further in those cases, with nine-game suspensions each this past season for Hall of Fame coaches Jim Boeheim and now-retired Larry Brown.

Briefly

Parker named MVP as Sparks win WNBA title

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Candace Parker and the Sparks jumped with joy on the court, joined in celebration by a guy named Magic Johnson who once made basketball championships a habit in Los Angeles.

Parker's old college coach, the late Pat Summitt, was there in spirit, too.

Nneka Ogwumike's short jumper with 3.1 seconds left, off the rebound of her blocked shot, gave the Sparks a 77-76 victory over the defending champion Minnesota Lynx in the deciding Game 5 of the WNBA Finals on Thursday night for the franchise's first title in 14 years.

Parker had 28 points and 12 rebounds to earn MVP honors of the Finals and her first WNBA title, capping a trying year marked by the death of the beloved Summitt, with whom she won two NCAA championships at Tennessee.

"The journey to get here, I wouldn't have wanted to do it with anybody else," Parker said. "It's amazing, when you surround yourself with good people, how fun it is."



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Los Angeles' Candace Parker, holding her daughter Laïla Williams, had 28 points and 12 rebounds to earn MVP honors of the WNBA Finals. The Sparks beat Minnesota for the title.

'Wild Thing' offers to throw out first pitch

CLEVELAND — Wild Thing is warming up for the Indians.

Actor Charlie Sheen, who played the bespectacled Ricky "Wild Thing" Vaughn in the movie "Major League," has offered

to throw out the ceremonial first pitch before one of this year's World Series games.

Shortly after Cleveland won the AL pennant on Wednesday in Toronto, fans began posting their wishes on social media to have Sheen — well, Vaughn — be part of the pregame festivities. The Series opens Tuesday in Cleveland.

Sheen responded to the demand Thursday on Twitter, posting a photo of himself as Vaughn in his Indians uniform and wrote, "Major League continues to be the gift that keeps on giving! If called upon, I'd be honored."

Nadal ends his season because of wrist injury

MADRID — Rafael Nadal says he will not play again in 2016 so he can fully recover from a left wrist injury.

Nadal said Thursday he is still being bothered by the injury that kept him out of action for more than two months this season and wants to treat it properly before coming back in 2017.

Nadal said in a statement that now it's "time to rest and start preparing intensively" for next

season.

He said he will not play next week in Basel or in Paris next month. He is also ruled out of the ATP Finals in London.

Nadal admitted he forced his recovery to be able to play in the Rio de Janeiro Olympics and that caused him to be in pain in every tournament since then.

NHL
Roundup

Penguins rally third, win Cup rematch

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Down two goals—and even worse, down two defenses—after two periods on Thursday night against San Jose, Pittsburgh Penguins coach Mike Sullivan offered his players a much-needed reminder.

“You can win ugly in this league,” Sullivan told them.

The Stanley Cup champions responded with 20 minutes of grit against an opponent only too familiar with how deep the Penguins can dig when the moment requires.

Evgeni Malkin, Scott Wilson and Patric Hornqvist scored in a 7:15 span in the third period to lift the Penguins to an unlikely 3-2 victory in a rematch of last June’s Stanley Cup final. Hornqvist and Malkin both finished with a goal and an assist while Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 32 shots to buoy the Penguins time until the offense finally got going.

“We played right,” Malkin said. “We moved the puck quickly. We shot the puck. We did the right things. There were lucky goals, off the post, off the goalie. It’s not pretty, but it’s important goals.”

Tomas Hertl and Patrick Marleau scored for the Sharks, who controlled the first 40 minutes and appeared well on their way to a one-sided victory before falling apart late. Martin Jones made 17 saves but saw the play in front of him break down in the third.

“This league is really a race to three goals, that’s pretty much how it works, and we couldn’t get that third goal,” San Jose coach Peter DeBoer said. “Again, let them hang around, which is something we’ve done lately.”

The Penguins captured the franchise’s fourth Stanley Cup in an entertaining final last June, finishing off the Sharks in Game 6 in San Jose. If San Jose wanted a glimpse at just how close it came to its first title, they need only look toward the rafters at PPG Paints Arena during warmups to get a look at the banner the Penguins raised last week.

Ducks 3, Flyers 2: At Philadelphia, Ryan Garbutt’s goal broke a tie in the third period and sent Anaheim to its first win of the season.

The Ducks opened 0-3-1 and had failed to score more than two goals in any of those games. Chris Wagner and Corey Perry also scored to help the Ducks spoil Philadelphia’s home opener.

Bruins 2, Devils 1: Patrice Bergeron scored the tiebreaking goal with 75 seconds left in his season debut to give host Boston a victory over New Jersey.

After missing the first three games with an unspecified injury, Bergeron returned to practice on Wednesday and took regular shifts in the home opener. He was on the ice when linemate Brad Marchand tied it 1-all with just under

10 minutes left in regulation, and he was there again to slide in the game-winner at the end.

Capitals 4, Panthers 2: Alex Ovechkin scored the game-winning goal midway through the third period to lift visiting Washington.

Marcus Johansson, Evgeny Kuznetsov and Justin Williams scored goals for the Capitals. Matt Niskanen recorded two assists and Braden Holtby made 26 saves.

Jaromir Jagr became the third player to score 750 goals. He is in third place in the NHL, behind only Wayne Gretzky (894) and Gordie Howe (801).

Canadiens 5, Coyotes 2: Carey Price made 27 saves in his season debut to help host Montreal beat Arizona.

Price sat out since most of last season after injuring his right knee on Nov. 25. He missed the first three games of this season because of the flu.

Avalanche 4, Lightning 0: Matt Duchene had two goals and an assist, and Semyon Varlamov made 27 saves for his 21st career shutout to lead visiting Colorado.

Andrew Martinson and Carl Soderberg scored for the Avalanche, who are 2-1 on a four-game trip. Colorado beat Pittsburgh in overtime and lost to Washington earlier on the trip.

Wild 3, Maple Leafs 2: Eric Staal scored twice and host Minnesota recovered from another deficit to beat Toronto.

Staal has three goals in his first four games with his new team, and his game-winner with 8 minutes left kept Minnesota unbeaten in its three-game homestand despite allowing the first goal in each game.

Kings 4, Stars 3 (OT): At Dallas, Alec Martinez scored 1:20 into overtime for Los Angeles.

Martinez’s wrist shot from the slot went past a screen by Tanner Pearson to beat Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen.

The Kings had lost their first three games. Dallas fell to 2-1-1.

Oilers 3, Blues 1: Connor McDavid had a goal and an assist as host Edmonton won its second straight game.

Hurricanes 4, Flames 2: Victor Rask scored his third goal of the season to lead visiting Carolina over Calgary.

Rask’s power-play goal with 3:48 left in the first period made it 2-0 as the Hurricanes built up a lead and never gave it up to pick up their first win of the season.

Canucks 2, Sabres 1: Jacob Markstrom made 26 saves and Daniel Sedin scored the game-winner in the third period as host Vancouver downed Buffalo.

With the victory, the Canucks (4-0-0) are the NHL’s only undefeated team after Colorado blanked Tampa Bay 4-0 on Thursday.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
Montreal	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	4	3	1	0	6	13 9
Tampa Bay	4	3	1	0	6	12 13
Ottawa	4	3	1	0	6	17 12
Florida	4	2	2	0	4	12 12
Detroit	4	2	2	0	4	14 14
Washington	4	1	2	1	2	4 14
Buffalo	4	1	2	1	2	4 14

Metropolitan Division						
Pittsburgh	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Colorado	4	3	1	0	6	17 14
N.Y. Rangers	4	3	1	0	6	15 14
Philadelphia	4	3	1	0	6	13 16
New Jersey	4	2	2	0	4	15 14
N.Y. Islanders	4	1	3	0	2	9 12
Columbus	4	1	3	0	2	9 12

Western Conference

Central Division						
St. Louis	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Nashville	5	3	1	1	7	13 11
Minnesota	4	3	1	0	6	15 11
Dallas	4	3	1	0	6	14 12
Chicago	4	2	2	0	4	14 12
Winnipeg	4	2	2	0	4	12 12
Nashville	4	2	2	0	4	12 12

Pacific Division						
Vancouver	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Edmonton	5	4	1	0	8	10 6
San Jose	5	4	1	0	8	20 16
Calgary	5	3	2	0	6	14 15
Anaheim	5	3	2	0	6	10 14
Vancouver	5	3	2	0	6	10 14
Los Angeles	4	3	1	0	6	10 15
San Jose	4	3	1	0	6	10 15

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

Thursday’s games
Pittsburgh, San Jose
Anaheim 3, Philadelphia 2
Boston 2, New Jersey
Colorado 4, Tampa Bay 0
Washington 4, Florida 2
Montreal 5, Arizona 2
Minnesota 3, Toronto 2
Los Angeles 3, Dallas, OT
Edmonton 3, St. Louis 1
Nashville 4, Calgary 2
Vancouver 2, Buffalo 1

Friday’s games
Chicago at Columbus
Arizona at N.Y. Islanders
Nashville at Detroit
Saturday’s games
Montreal at Chicago
Colorado at Florida
Tampa Bay at Ottawa
Minnesota at New Jersey
San Jose at Detroit
Philadelphia at Columbus
Carolina at Nashville
St. Louis at Calgary
Vancouver at Los Angeles
Edmonton at Winnipeg
Nashville at N.Y. Islanders
Arizona at N.Y. Rangers
Vancouver at Anaheim

Thursday
Ducks 3, Flyers 2
Anaheim 1 1 1-3
Pittsburgh 0 0 0-2
First Period—1, Anaheim, Wagner 1 (Vatanev, Bolli), 11:24. Philadelphia, Simmonds 2 (Giroux, Voracek), 4:52 (pp), 3; Philadelphia, Mouton 1 (Masonellmare), 10:26. 4, Anaheim, Perry 2 (Getzfel, Vermette), 1:07.
Second Period—5, Anaheim, Garbutt 1 (Sorensen, Holzer), 1:13.
Third Period—3, Anaheim 9-9-26. Philadelphia 6-8-22. 2
Shots on goal—Anaheim 9-9-26. Philadelphia 6-8-22. 2
Goals—Anaheim 1-1-7. Philadelphia 2-1-26. 23. 2
A-18,532 (19,537). T-2:23.

Penguins 3, Sharks 2
San Jose 0 2 0-2
Pittsburgh 0 0 0-2
First Period—1, San Jose, Hertl 2 (Kessel, Malkin), Wilson 1 (Cullen, Marleau 2 (Couture), 16:15.
Second Period—3, Pittsburgh, Malkin 2 (Gardner, Komarov), Wilson 1 (Cullen, Hornqvist), 9:01. 5, Pittsburgh, Hornqvist 2 (Kessel, Malkin), 17:33.
Shots on goal—San Jose 10-17-34. Pittsburgh 10-17-33.
Power-play opportunities—San Jose 0 of 3; Pittsburgh 1 of 5.
Goals—San Jose 2-2-0 (20 shots-17 saves). Pittsburgh, Fleury 3-1-1 (38-28).
A-18,511 (18,387). T-2:31.

Bruins 2, Devils 1
New Jersey 0 0 0-1-1
Boston 0 0 0-2-2
First Period—1, New Jersey, Miller 1 (Bertram 2 (Josefson, Severson), 4:14 (pp), 2; Boston, Marchand 3 (Liles, Miller), 9:47; Boston, Bergeron 1 (Pastrnak, Marchand), 18:45.
Shots on goal—New Jersey 6-15-9. Boston 11-8-17-36.
Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 4.
Goals—New Jersey, Schneider 1-2-0 (28-28). Boston, Rask 3-3-0 (29-28).
A-17,565 (17,565). T-2:39.

Wild 3, Maple Leafs 2
Toronto 0 2 0-2
Minnesota 0 1 2-3
First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Toronto, Polak 1 (Gardiner, Komarov), 9:13. 2, Minnesota, Staal 2 (Coyte, Dumba), 10:09. 3, Toronto, Matthews 5 (Kadri, Nylander), 15:28 (pp), 1:07.
Third Period—4, Minnesota, Dalpe 1 (Niedersetter, Brodin), 2:27. 5, Minnesota, Staal 3 (Suter, Parise), 11:53.
Shots on goal—Toronto 11-12-30. Minnesota 13-9-23.
Power-play opportunities—Toronto 1 of 3; Minnesota 2 of 2.
Goals—Toronto, Enroth 0-1-0 (27 shots-24 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 2-1-0 (33-31).
A-18,968 (18,064). T-2:36.

Oilers 3, Blues 1
St. Louis 0 0 0-1-1
Edmonton 0 1 2-3
First Period—1, St. Louis, Yakupov 2 (Jaskin, Edmondson), 3:37. 2, Edmonton, Pitlick 2 (Sokolov, Letavsky), 6:22.
Third Period—3, Edmonton, Lucic 2 (McDavid, Eberle), 0:36. 4, Edmonton, McDavid 4, 18:27.
Shots on goal—St. Louis 11-10-14-35. Edmonton 9-7-23.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 2; Edmonton 1 of 2.
Goals—St. Louis, Allen 2-1-1 (22 shots-20 saves). Edmonton, Talbot 4-0 (30-28).
A-18,347 (18,641). T-2:30.

Avalanche 4, Lightning 0
Colorado 1 1 2-4
Tampa Bay 0 0 0-0-0
First Period—1, Colorado, Duchene 1 (MacKinnon, Tyutin), 19:35.
Second Period—3, Colorado, Duchene 2 (Barkov, Marchessault), 19:08.
Third Period—3, Colorado, Martinson 1 (Cormier, Wierchicki), 7:53. 4, Colorado, Soderberg 2 (Zadorov, Duchene), 12:22.
Shots on goal—Colorado 17-12-16. Tampa Bay 10-12-27.
Power-play opportunities—Colorado 0 of 2; Tampa Bay 0 of 1.
Goals—Colorado, Varlamov 2-1-0 (27 shots-24 saves). Tampa Bay, Bishop 2-1-0 (16-12).
A-19,092 (19,204). T-2:27.

Canucks 2, Sabres 1
Washington 1 2 0 2-4
Vancouver 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, Washington, Williams 3 (Schmidt), 8:25. 2, Washington, Kuznetsov, Niskanen, 10:21. 3, Florida, Matheson 2 (Barkov, Vadekar), 13:47.
Third Period—4, Florida, Luongo 2 (Barkov, Marchessault), 14:10 (pp).
Fourth Period—5, Washington, Ovechkin 3 (Alzner, Niskanen), 7:33. 6, Washington, Johansson 1-18-40.
Shots on goal—Washington 12-4-13-29. Florida 8-14-28-28.
Power-play opportunities—Washington 0 of 1; Florida 1 of 4.
Goals—Washington, Holtby 2-0-1 (28 shots-24 saves). Washington, 2-1-0 (29-25).
A-12,440 (17,040). T-2:26.

Capitals 4, Panthers 2
Washington 1 2 0 2-4
Florida 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, Washington, Williams 3 (Schmidt), 8:25. 2, Washington, Kuznetsov, Niskanen, 10:21. 3, Florida, Matheson 2 (Barkov, Vadekar), 13:47.
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A-12,440 (17,040). T-2:26.



Pittsburgh right wing Patric Hornqvist, right, checks San Jose defenseman Paul Martin during the second period on Thursday. The Penguins scored three goals in the third period to win 3-2.

Kings 4, Stars 3 (OT)

Los Angeles 1 2 0 1-4
Dallas 1 1 1 0-3
First Period—1, Los Angeles, Dowd 1 (Gilbert, Brown), 8:18 (pp), 2; Dallas, Faska 1 (Gapezza), 11:02.
Second Period—3, Los Angeles, Carter 1 (Martinez, Pearson), 1:24. 4, Dallas, Benn 2 (Klingberg, Seguin), 5:00 (pp), 5; Los Angeles, Pearson 3 (Setoguchi, Carter), 19:33.
Third Period—8, Dallas, Spezza 2 (Shorc, Seurin), 17:53.
Overtime—7, Los Angeles, Martin 1 (Toufflet), 16:20.
Shots on goal—Los Angeles 8-18-12-1-39. Dallas 10-11-10-1-32.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 1 of 6; Dallas 1 of 4.
Goals—Los Angeles, Budaj 1-0-1 (20 shots-17 saves). Dallas, Lehtonen 1-1 (38-28).
A-18,532 (18,532). T-2:44.

Wild 3, Maple Leafs 2

Toronto 0 2 0-2
Minnesota 0 1 2-3
First Period—None.
Second Period—1, Toronto, Polak 1 (Gardiner, Komarov), 9:13. 2, Minnesota, Staal 2 (Coyte, Dumba), 10:09. 3, Toronto, Matthews 5 (Kadri, Nylander), 15:28 (pp), 1:07.
Third Period—4, Minnesota, Dalpe 1 (Niedersetter, Brodin), 2:27. 5, Minnesota, Staal 3 (Suter, Parise), 11:53.
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Power-play opportunities—Toronto 1 of 3; Minnesota 2 of 2.
Goals—Toronto, Enroth 0-1-0 (27 shots-24 saves). Minnesota, Dubnyk 2-1-0 (33-31).
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Oilers 3, Blues 1

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First Period—1, St. Louis, Yakupov 2 (Jaskin, Edmondson), 3:37. 2, Edmonton, Pitlick 2 (Sokolov, Letavsky), 6:22.
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Goals—Washington, Holtby 2-0-1 (28 shots-24 saves). Washington, 2-1-0 (29-25).
A-12,440 (17,040). T-2:26.

Capitals 4, Panthers 2

Washington 1 2 0 2-4
Florida 0 1 1-2
First Period—1, Washington, Williams 3 (Schmidt), 8:25. 2, Washington, Kuznetsov, Niskanen, 10:21. 3, Florida, Matheson 2 (Barkov, Vadekar), 13:47.
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A-12,440 (17,040). T-2:26.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hokies hammer Hurricanes

By HANK KURZ JR.
Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Virginia Tech didn't let a surprising loss five days ago linger, and the Hokies are once again atop the ACC's Coastal Division race.

Jerod Evans threw for two touchdowns and ran for a third and Virginia Tech (5-2, 3-1 Atlantic Coast Conference) beat Miami 37-16 on Thursday night, pulling into a tie with No. 22 North Carolina atop the division.

Evans hit Bucky Hodges with scoring throws of 7 and 12 yards, and Tramon McMillian ran for 131 yards for the Hokies.

"There were certain plays we put in this week that I had a feeling I was going to get the ball on, and the coaches just dialed it up," Hodges said after leading the team with seven catches for 66 yards.

Brad Kaaya threw for 323 yards and two touchdowns for the Hurricanes (4-3, 1-3), but he also was sacked eight times when lost their third in a row. The Hokies limited Miami to 42 rushing yards on 29 carries thanks to the sacks.

"Obviously the key for us was we needed to stop the run and make Miami one-dimensional, and we were able to do that," Hokies defensive coordinator Bud Foster said. "We really did a great job attacking the line of scrimmage, keeping the lanes and the gaps tight, keeping those backs in a phone booth, so to speak."

Joe Yearby had a 41-yard run for the Hurricanes, but he otherwise managed just 18 yards on his eight other carries.

"The defense was playing tough, stacking the box," he said. "They did everything we expected them to do."

Woody Baron had 2½ sacks for Virginia Tech, and Vinny Mihota had two despite having his shoulder pop out late in the first half.

"I'm not going to throw anyone under the bus," Hurricanes coach Mark Richt said. "Sacks have to do with a lot of things."



STEVE HELBER/AP

Miami quarterback Brad Kaaya is sacked by Virginia Tech's Woody Baron during the first half on Thursday at Lane Stadium in Blacksburg, Va. It was one of eight sacks in the game for the Hokies.

The takeaway: Miami: The Hurricanes have never won the Coastal Division since joining the ACC in 2004 and won't win it again this year. Their defense was supposed to be a question entering the game, and they were without three starters and had four freshmen in the starting lineup, but their inability to generate a running game put all the pressure on Kaaya, and while he put up some good numbers, an offensive line that allowed eight sacks isn't good enough to win most games against top level teams.

Virginia Tech: Evans was virtually mistake-free again, and their plethora of weapons in the pass game seems to be opening up the running game as well. Evans added 98 rushing yards, including a 34-yard score, as the Hokies piled up 253 yards on the ground.

"The quarterback misled me sometimes," Miami defense end Joe Jackson said. "I didn't do a good enough job of staying with him."

Ply implications: Apart from their 31-17 loss at Syracuse last week, the Hokies have been playing Top 25-level football. In their other four most recent games, they have outscored Boston College, East Carolina, No. 22 North Carolina and now Miami 174-36.

Holgorsen has WVU on a roll

By JOHN RABY
Associated Press

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen took plenty of heat for losing 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 month, 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 Route 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."

AP college football website:
www.collegefootball.ap.org

Boise St. blocks FG to edge BYU

By JASON CHATRAV
Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho — When BYU lined up to attempt a game-winning field goal with 16 seconds remaining, Boise State nose tackle David Moa was struggling to get his shoe on along the sideline as head coach Bryan Harsin was pleading for someone to help Moa.

"That might have been the most stressful moment in the whole game," Harsin said. "BYU is lining up for a field goal and I can't get my nose tackle out there."

Moa got his shoe on in three, and he blocked the 44-yard attempt and help Boise State escape with a 28-27 victory Thursday night in a wild finish.

The Broncos (7-0), who won their 23rd straight non-conference home game, overcame five turnovers in the victory. Since 2004, FBS teams that are minus-5 in the turnover category are

9-231.

"I think it shows the will of this team," Boise State linebacker Tanner Vallejo said. "We scratched and clawed and were able to get the win. This is a confidence booster for this team."

BYU (4-4) still had another chance to win the game after Rhett Almond's field goal attempt was blocked. The ball didn't cross the line of scrimmage and Mitch Juergens recovered for BYU, giving the Cougars the ball at the Boise State 42 with 8 seconds left.

The Cougars, who beat Boise State on a last-minute Hal Marry play last season, couldn't duplicate the magic on the final play of the game as the ball was knocked down in the end zone.

Taysom Hill was 21-for-42 passing for 187 yards for BYU, which was without leading rusher Jamaal Williams due to an ankle injury suffered in practice this week. It mustered just 322 yards of offense, well below its 405

yards per game average.

Brett Rypien engineered a 10-play, 90-yard drive that ended in a 4-yard touchdown run by Jeremy McNichols with 10:37 remaining. Tyler Rausa's extra point gave the Broncos a 28-27 lead that withstood BYU's last-minute rally.

Rypien threw for 442 yards and three touchdowns with two interceptions. McNichols rushed for 140 yards and had 109 yards receiving and two touchdowns.

Thomas Sperbeck also had 109 yards receiving on nine catches, his 11th career game with more than 100 yards receiving.

Ply implications: This game was likely Boise State's last chance to impress Top 25 poll voters in the regular season with a win over a quality opponent. However, the Broncos won't likely move up much in the next poll since the teams directly in front of them are either idle or play weaker opponents.

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
Virginia Tech	2	1	4
Virginia	1	2	3
Miami	1	2	3
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 Daves. He will have to find some holes in a tough Louisville run defense if the Wolfpack is going to knock off the Cardinals. Daves 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	4	3
Purdue	1	3	3
Illinois	1	3	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.		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
Stanford	3	0	4
Washington St.	3	0	4
Stanford	2	2	4
Southern Cal	3	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.

SEC			
East		Conf.	All
W	L	W	L
Florida	3	1	5
Tennessee	2	2	5
Kentucky	2	2	4
Georgia	2	3	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
Alabama A&M	3	1	5
LSU	2	1	4
Auburn	2	2	4
Arkansas	2	1	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.

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

MLB PLAYOFFS

Dodgers counting on ace Kershaw

Three-time Cy Young Award winner being called upon to save season, one more time

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Clayton Kershaw gripped a baseball in his left hand and grimaced while he watched Game 5 of the NL Championship Series from the dugout.

The Los Angeles Dodgers' best pitcher was ready and eager, and he was sitting on three days of rest. Manager Dave Roberts could have deployed him Thursday night in Chavez Ravine and probably again in relief at Wrigley Field.

Roberts declined to play his ace, instead holding his top card for the weekend. The Dodgers decided to rely on rookie Kenta Maeda and their busy bullpen against the NL's best offense.

Those pitchers hung in for the first three hours, but eventually proved to be no match for Jon Lester in the Chicago Cubs' 8-4 win. Los Angeles now trails the NLCS 3-2 after getting outscored 18-6 in two straight home games.

But the Dodgers didn't sound discouraged as they packed up for their flight.

"We can grab that momentum by one name," Dodgers first baseman Adrian Gonzalez said. "Kershaw."

Although Roberts has already proven unafraid to do unorthodox things with his pitchers in October, he stuck to a conventional plan to save Kershaw for Game 6.

And instead of pitching to clinch a pennant Saturday night, Kershaw must attempt to save the Dodgers' season again.

"We've got Clayton going in Game 6, so that's a game we expect to win," Roberts said.

Kershaw volunteered to pitch Game 5, but Roberts had several reasons to turn him down.

Roberts figured he would need to start Maeda at some point in the next three games, and he hoped the home crowd would benefit



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

The Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw watches from the dugout during the sixth inning of Game 5 of the National League Championship Series against the Cubs on Thursday in Los Angeles. Kershaw will start for the Dodgers in a must-win Game 6 on Saturday.

the inconsistent Japanese right-hander. With a day off Friday, Roberts also knew he could go deep into his bullpen — which has thrown 6 majors-high 43 innings in the postseason — with no repercussions.

"It's not an elimination game," Roberts said after Game 4. "And I think the accumulation of [Kershaw's] usage over the last 10 days plays a factor in our decision."

Instead of pitching on three days' rest in Game 5, Kershaw will be pitching on a luxurious five days' rest in Game 6. Although the three-time NL Cy Young Award winner already has pitched 19½ innings in the postseason, a midseason injury kept him off the mound for 2½ months, leaving his arm with much less accumulated action than in a normal season — 168½ innings combined this year, compared to 246½ last season.

Kershaw shrugs off that notion, saying he feels pretty much the same as he did in previous Octobers. The biggest difference is that

Kershaw, who acquired a reputation for postseason struggles over the past several seasons, has begun to erase that reputation this fall while he attempts to reach his first World Series.

"We all know what we have in front of us with Kershaw going into Game 6," Cubs lefty Jon Lester said after his win Thursday. "Hopefully he's not the good Kershaw, and we get kind of the mediocre guy that gives up a few runs and we're able to hold them where they're at."

The Dodgers are eager to see their ace at his best.

"We have Kershaw going the next game, which we're excited about," said Blanton, who gave up two homers and five runs to the Cubs in Game 1 after four scoreless appearances against the Nationals. "Our backs are against the wall, but we kind of like that. We've been there the whole year. We were in this situation in Washington, too. Maybe it's where we need to be."

Lead: Cubs chasing first World Series title since 1908

FROM BACK PAGE

But even with ace pitchers Mark Prior and Kerry Wood starting the final two games, Chicago collapsed against the Marlins in one of its most excruciating failures.

More than a decade later, the franchise is still chasing its first World Series championship since 1908.

"We've heard the history," center fielder Dexter Fowler said, "but at the same time we're trying to make history."

Budding star Javier Baez was in the middle of everything for the Cubs, a common theme this October. The second baseman made a sensational defensive play when the game was still close in the seventh, and his three-run double capped a five-run eighth that made it 8-1.

After busting out of his postseason slump Wednesday, Russell hit a two-run homer for the second straight game. This one was a sixth-inning drive off losing pitcher Joe Blanton that gave Chicago a 3-1 lead.

"Just rounding the bases, it was pretty exciting," Russell said.



JAE C. HONG/AP

Chicago's Addison Russell celebrates his two-run home run off Los Angeles Dodgers relief pitcher Joe Blanton during the sixth inning on Thursday in Los Angeles.

"Pumped up, not only for myself but for the team and that little cushion that Jonny had to go forward from that."

Baez had three of Chicago's 13 hits, matching the team's total in

Game 4, when the Cubs snapped a 21-inning scoreless streak and won 10-2.

Lester allowed one run and five hits, improving to 2-0 in three playoff starts this year. He has

Scoreboard

Playoffs

LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
American League
Cleveland 4, Toronto 1
Cleveland 2, Toronto 2
Toronto 5, Cleveland 1
Cleveland 3, Toronto 0
National League
Los Angeles 2, Chicago 2
Chicago 8, Los Angeles 4
Los Angeles 1, Chicago 0
Los Angeles 6, Chicago 6
Chicago 10, at Los Angeles 2
Thursday: Chicago 8, Los Angeles 4
Saturday: Los Angeles (Kershaw 12-4) at Chicago (Hendricks 16-8)
x-Sunday: Los Angeles at Chicago
WORLD SERIES
(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
All games televised by Fox
Tuesday, Oct. 25: NL at Cleveland
Wednesday, Oct. 26: NL at Cleveland
Friday, Oct. 28: Cleveland at NL
Saturday, Oct. 29: Cleveland at NL
x-Sunday, Oct. 30: Cleveland at NL
x-Tuesday, Nov. 1: NL at Cleveland
x-Wednesday, Nov. 2: NL at Cleveland

Thursday

Cubs 8, Dodgers 4

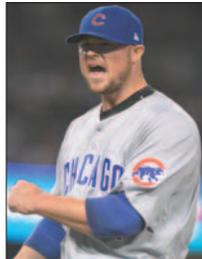
Chicago		ab		r		h		bi		ab		r		h		bi										
Fowler cf	5	2	2	1	E	Hr	nd	2b	2	0	0	0	0	Bryant 3b	5	1	2	Toles ph-if	1	1	1	1				
Rizzo 3b	0	0	0	0	Jr	Tr	3b	4	0	1	0	0	0	Zobrist lf	2	1	0	C	S	ger	ss	4	0	2	0	
Stroup p	0	0	0	0	C	R	uiz	cf	4	0	0	0	0	J.Baez 2b	5	1	3	A	d	G	nzi	1b	3	1	0	1
J.Baez 2b	5	1	3	3	A	d	G	nzi	1b	3	1	0	1	Keyward rf	4	0	0	P	uig	r	4	0	1	0	1	
Russell ss	5	2	2	2	P	el	s	on	cf	4	1	0	0	D.Ross 2b	2	1	0	F	ie	l	0	0	0	0	0	
Centras ph-1	2	1	0	F																						

Chicago		ab		r		h		bi		ab		r		h		bi	
Lester W-2	7	5	1	1	1	1	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stroup	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chapman	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Los Angeles																	
Maeda	3½	3	1	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fields	¾	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dayton	1½	3	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Blanton L1-2	1½	3	2	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Avilan	¾	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Baez	3	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stripling	1½	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

HR-B by Maeda (Hawkins) 2, Stroup (Turner). —T-416; A—54,449 (56,000).

MLB calendar

Oct. 25 — World Series starts, Cleveland.
November TBA — Deadline for teams to make qualifying offers for their eligible former players who became free agents, first day after World Series.
November TBA — Deadline for free agents to accept qualifying offers, 12th day after World Series.
Nov. 7-10 — General managers' meetings, Scottsdale, Ariz.
Nov. 16-17 — Owners meetings, Chicago.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

Cubs starting pitcher Jon Lester reacts after getting out of the seventh inning on Thursday.

SPORTS


Pack pounds Bears

 Rodgers throws three TD's in win over division rival » **Page 30**
NLCS: GAME 5

Cubs head home with lead

Chicago one win away from World Series **'It's within our reach right now.'**

Joe Maddon
Cubs' manager

 By **BETH HARRIS**
Associated Press

LOS ANGELES

One win away. Two chances at home. Seven decades of waiting.

The Chicago Cubs closed in on their first World Series trip since 1945 by beating the Los Angeles Dodgers 8-4 on Thursday in Game 5 of their National League playoff series.

Jon Lester pitched seven sharp in-

nings, Addison Russell hit a tiebreaking homer and the Cubs grabbed a 3-2 lead in the NL Championship Series.

On deck, a pair of opportunities to wrap up that elusive pennant at Wrigley Field.

"The city of Chicago has got to be buzzing," manager Joe Maddon said. "We're not going to run away from anything. It's within our reach right now."

The Cubs' first opportunity to clinch comes

Saturday night in Game 6, when Dodgers ace Clayton Kershaw faces major league ERA leader Kyle Hendricks.

"That's a game we expect to win," Los Angeles manager Dave Roberts said.

Of course, the Cubs were in the same favorable position 13 years ago — heading home to Wrigley with a 3-2 lead in the NLCS.

SEE LEAD ON PAGE 31


Chicago's Albert Almora Jr. and Dexter Fowler celebrate after Game 5 of the National League championship series against the Dodgers on Thursday in Los Angeles. The Cubs won 8-4 to take a 3-2 lead in the series.

MARK J. TERRILL/AP

 NCAA accuses Louisville, Pitino of violations in escort case » **Page 26**

 Pens rally late, win Stanley Cup rematch with Sharks » **Page 27**

 Virginia Tech bounces back from loss to beat Miami » **Page 28**