

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 73, No. 121 ©SS 2014

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2014

平成26年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



Every inch a Prince

New albums revel in noble weirdness
MUSIC | PAGE 37

MOVIES



Denzel injects intrigue into tired story of 'Equalizer'

Page 25

TRAVEL



Farmers, foodies gather at Europe's largest food festival

Page 30

MLB PLAYOFFS



Ausmus, Williams eye rare success as rookie managers

Back page

WARNING ⚠

An image from the Department of Defense Inspector General's 2014 Military Housing Inspections report shows a walkway at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Japan.

HOUSING HAZARD

Mold, radon in multiple Japan quarters raise questions over DOD policies

Page 6

General accused of sex assault quietly retired with demotion

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

A two-star Army general who was fired from his job in Djibouti last year after allegedly groping a female adviser was allowed to retire quietly with a demotion in rank at the same time that a sexual assault case against another Army general received international attention, according to Army officials and military documents.

Then-Maj. Gen. Ralph Baker, the former commander of the U.S. military's counterterrorism task force for the Horn of Africa, was investigated by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command on allegations of sexual assault, according to the newly released documents. Baker retired in September 2013 as a one-star general, although the Army never disclosed the circumstances of his retirement.

Details of the case were disclosed in

documents obtained by The Washington Post through the Freedom of Information Act.

An Army spokesman said Wednesday that Baker was given an administrative punishment at the time of the incident as well as a letter of reprimand — usually a career-ending punishment.

SEE GENERAL ON PAGE 6



Brig. Gen. Ralph Baker

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"I tried to sign up for Netflix but this happened instead."

—Comedian and movie star Adam Sandler, tweeting about his four-movie deal with Netflix

See story on Page 19

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Army general, accused of sex assault by adviser, quietly retired with demotion
2. Navy says Marine who bailed from Osprey missing in Persian Gulf
3. USS Boxer captain relieved after 3 months as commanding officer
4. IG report finds health hazards in Japan base housing, questions Pentagon policy
5. USS Carl Vinson nears Persian Gulf, will relieve USS George HW Bush group

COMING
SOON



Shifting Gears

GM tries again to crack the midsize pickup segment

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup	17
Business	48
Comics	42, 46, 47
Crossword	42, 46, 47
Faces	43
Faith	19
Opinion	44-45
Quick Trips	28
Sports	52-64
Weather	48
Weekend	21-42

MILITARY

Blast in Kabul kills 3, wounds 8

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three people were killed and eight wounded here Thursday in a suicide bombing next to a van carrying Defense Ministry employees, officials said.

Nearly simultaneous bombings in Kabul have coincided with the inauguration of new Afghan President Ashraf Ghani. The attacks appear intended to demonstrate the Taliban's capability to strike at will even in the heavily guarded capital.

A Defense Ministry statement said three of its staff were killed and eight injured in the

blast, which occurred when a man walked to a minibus that was picking up passengers and detonated the explosives he was carrying.

The attack was carried out near the old royal Darulaman palace in western Kabul.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was responsible for the attack.

On Wednesday, seven soldiers died and 19 people were wounded in two Taliban suicide attacks on an Afghan military bus and a security vehicle in different parts of Kabul.

A bomb exploded near Kabul airport without causing casual-

ties Monday, when Ghani was inaugurated during a massive security clampdown in the capital.

On Tuesday, Washington and Kabul signed a bilateral security pact that will allow nearly 10,000 U.S. troops to remain in Afghanistan after the withdrawal of NATO combat forces at the end of this year.

The Taliban have vowed to continue fighting until all foreign troops leave the country.

But in a possible indication that the insurgents may consider the new administration more flexible than the previous one, Taliban leader Mullah Omar said in a statement that the group would

also pursue "political means" to achieve its objectives.

"In addition to the military efforts, the Islamic Emirate is striving to reach its goals through establishing positive relations with trusted international sides," he said in a statement received by Stars and Stripes on Thursday.

In his inaugural address, Ghani urged the Taliban to rejoin an effort at reconciliation that foundered last year after former President Hamid Karzai objected to the opening of a Taliban office in Qatar, where the talks were scheduled to be held.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
lekic.slobodan@stripes.com

Afghan forces confident after peaceful switch in power

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The confidence of Afghan security forces is surging after a peaceful transition of government, but their casualties in battles with insurgents are spiking as well, the top U.S. commander in Afghanistan said Thursday.

The country's new president, Ashraf Ghani, took office this week and has made a point of embracing Afghan troops and the U.S.-backed security mission, said Gen. John Campbell, commander of U.S. and NATO forces, speaking to reporters at the Pentagon over a satellite link from Kabul.

"That made an immediate impact on them and their morale," Campbell said.

The morale boost came at an opportune time. Taliban insurgents have been pressing hard to make a statement about their viability before the end of the summer fight-

ing season, Campbell said. The last month has seen a "spike" in the number of dead and wounded Afghan national forces as the Taliban mounted offensives in the Helmand and Ghazni provinces, he said.

As a result, the number of ANSF casualties — as best U.S. officials can determine through Afghan channels — is between 7,000 and 9,000 this year, comparable to all of 2013, he said. An increase in casualties was widely expected when Afghans officially assumed most of the fighting duties from NATO troops last year.

But, Campbell said, some of the reports of Taliban successes have been dramatically exaggerated.

"They have quite frankly won the information war, because all of you back there think the Taliban have made great success, and they haven't," he said.

While Afghan troops still need extensive help with air support, logistics and intelligence, sur-

veillance and reconnaissance, Campbell said their basic fighting ability has grown greatly in recent years.

"There's nowhere that we have Afghan security forces that the Taliban can get the terrain and hold the terrain," he said.

On Tuesday, American and Afghan officials signed a bilateral security agreement that allows 9,800 U.S. troops, primarily trainers, advisers and counterterrorism forces, to stay in Afghanistan beyond the end of the current NATO combat mission in December.

Also on Tuesday, NATO signed an agreement that authorizes 2,000 troops from other NATO nations to remain.

Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai refused last fall to sign the agreement even after it was approved by a national council, saying his successor should be the one to sign it.

Disputed election results delayed the signing of the BSA until

this week, when Ghani was sworn in after a runoff election with rival Abdullah Abdullah.

The post-2014 mission has a relatively tight drawdown timetable, with President Barack Obama announcing plans earlier this year to withdraw half of the U.S. forces at the end of 2015 and the remainder by the end of 2016.

Campbell said he was confident U.S. and NATO forces could successfully fill many of the gaps in Afghan capability in the coming two years, but if the plan needs to change, he'll say so.

"I feel very confident we have a good plan," he said. "But as any commander on the ground, I reserve the right to take a look at the risk to force, risk to the mission and provide my assessment to my chain of command as we move forward."

carroll.chris@stripes.com
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll_

Navy announces home for West Coast F-35Cs

The Navy will base its West Coast F-35Cs at Naval Air Station Lemoore in California, the Navy announced Thursday.

A total of 100 F-35C jets will gradually replace 70 aging FA-18 Hornets, increasing the number of

aircraft at Lemoore by 30 by 2028, the Navy said, though the number will be similar to 2013 levels.

The Navy's joint strike fighter variant will be assigned in seven Navy Pacific Fleet squadrons of 10 jets each, and a Fleet Replacement Squadron will have 30 jets.

The move, which will begin in 2016, will increase the number of

operations at Lemoore by about 68,400 each year, and increase operations at Naval Air Facility El Centro by about 800 each year, the Navy said. There will be no changes in the number of aircraft based at Naval Air Facility El Centro.

In August, Bloomberg News reported that flight restrictions on the F-35 were hindering the abili-

ty of the DOD to do software tests, and that the testing for the Marine Corps version of the jet was five months behind schedule.

In March, the Navy's deputy assistant secretary for budget said the sea service was cutting the number of F-35Cs it will buy in the next five years from 69 to 36.

From staff reports

HIGH YIELD CERTIFICATE

You deserve more, so earn more with a 15 month certificate from Service Credit Union. Available for a limited time only.

Open online, at any branch or by phone 24/7.

0800.4728.2000 • 314.493.4384/4385
SERVICECU.ORG/stripes

ALL U.S. MILITARY AND DoD CIVILIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES



Follow us [social media icons]

1.15%
APY*

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA

*Rate shown is Annual Percentage Yield (APY), accurate as of 10/1/14 and subject to change without notice. Rate shown is based on a minimum of \$1,000 deposit and a term of 15 months. Penalty for early withdrawal. Must be a member of Service Credit Union or eligible for membership.

GET A LOW AUTO RATE ON A BMW/MINI MILITARY CAR PURCHASE IN GERMANY

AWARDED WITH A
RATE AS LOW AS

.89%*
APR



Find some of the BMW/MINI Military Sales authorized agents nearest you.



AUTOHAUS GRASER

Locations in:

Grafenwöhr / Vilseck / Hohenfels
Im Gewerkepark 1 92655 Grafenwöhr, Next to Roadside Diner
www.graser-bmw-us-carsales.com
www.graser-mini-us-carsales.com
Chad Sims: 09644-922-931
Brett Waldrop: 0160-9285-9239

EULER GROUP

Locations in:

Kaiserslautern Military Community (KMC)
Sembach / Landstuhl / Ramstein / Ramstein Airbase
Baumholder / Bruchmühlbach – Miesau
www.euler-group.de • Tel: 063 1-35-11 3
Mathias Hemmer: Ext 56 • Peter Brizan: Ext 57
William James: Ext 59

CARSInternational

Locations in:

Stuttgart / Panzer (Böblingen)
Kelly / Patch
www.cars-intl.com
Dennis Hunsman:
0711-687-3080



Locations in:

Wiesbaden / Mainz Kastel
www.bmw-karl-co.de
Gregory Franklin: 06134-2002-37 • Sylvester Hall: 06134-2002-53
Trevor Henry: 0611-27809-19



Locations in:

Spangdahlem / Bitburg / Geilenkirchen/
Belgium / Netherlands
www.bmw-schaal.de
Paul Anthony: 06561-9470-51 • paul.anthony@bmw-schaal.de

ALL U.S. MILITARY
AND DoD CIVILIANS
AND THEIR FAMILIES

Three easy ways to apply today!

- ▶ Online at servicecu.org
- ▶ In-branch
- ▶ By phone 24/7 at 00800.4728.2000

LIVE PERSON SERVICE 24/7 • 00800.4728.2000 • SERVICECU.ORG



Follow us

EUROPE



Courtesy of U.S. Army Garrison Stuttgart

As seen in this aerial view, work continues on the new high school and elementary school for Stuttgart, Germany, students. Garrison officials have proposed that the new schools, slated to open next school year, be named after two Green Berets who were killed in combat in Afghanistan.

Push on to name Stuttgart schools after Green Berets killed in action

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The new Stuttgart High School and Stuttgart Elementary School, slated to open next year, will bear the names of two fallen Green Berets, if the military community here has its way.

As construction continues on the two schools, scheduled to open in time for the 2015-16 school year, a push is underway to name the high school after Chief Warrant Officer 2 Douglas M. Vose and the elementary school after Staff Sgt. Patrick F. Kutschbach. Both were killed in combat in Afghanistan.

The move would mark the first time that any Department of Defense Education Activity schools in Europe have carried the names of service members killed during the post-9/11 era, and only the second time worldwide, according to DODEA. Hampton Primary School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, is named after Capt. Kimberly N. Hampton, a helicopter pilot shot down in Iraq in 2004.

"My desire is to always take the opportunity to recognize those who have sacrificed everything," said Col. John Stack, garrison commander in Stuttgart, who has led the push to rename the schools.

"These particular soldiers served here, deployed from here and went into harm's way. They were on the leading edge of combat in Afghanistan and they didn't come back," Stack said. "So when we build a significant structure like these schools, I think it is a fantastic opportunity to recog-

nize the sacrifice." During more than a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, more than 5,000 troops have been killed in action. In the years ahead, as military communities come to terms with those sacrifices, it's likely there will be more requests to get base buildings and schools named after fallen troops. It's only natural for communities to honor those who died in the line of duty, Stack said.

Stack's request is moving up the chain of command. He has already won support from top Army officials in

Europe, including U.S. Army Europe commander Lt. Gen. Donald Campbell, he said. Now, the request is headed to DODEA headquarters, where the final decision will be made.

Robert Puritman, a DODDS-Europe spokesman, declined to comment on whether school officials intend to endorse the plan, saying he didn't want to influence the process.

As a matter of DODEA policy, schools are generally named after their respective cities or towns. But there are exceptions,

such as Stuttgart's current Patch High School, which was named after a World War II general and is slated to close at the end of this school year.

Stuttgart, home to U.S. European Command and Africa Command, hosts some of the U.S. military's most elite fighting forces, including the Army's Green Berets and the Navy's SEALs.

When Stack came up with the idea of naming the new Stuttgart schools after fallen soldiers, he reached out to troops with the 1st Battalion, 10th Special Forces Group, a unit that has spent much of the past decade operating in Afghanistan. The 1-10 command put forward the names of Vose and Kutschbach.

Vose, who was killed in 2009 during combat operations in Afghanistan, was known in his unit for his physical toughness and courage under fire.

Kutschbach, who was killed in action in 2007, also was admired for calm and courage under fire.

"Those battles were fought and won by the guys on the ground, the chiefs, the staff sergeants, who made the ultimate sacrifice," Stack said. "Stuttgart (High School and Elementary) is not a bad name, but you're missing an opportunity to honor a servicemember and show the community we don't forget."

vandiver.john@stripes.com

GI being treated after rampage in German hospital

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — An American soldier shot last week by German police in the emergency room of a hospital in Munich is in good condition at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, officials said Thursday.

The soldier, a 28-year-old member of the Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, was shot in the legs Sept. 25 by Munich police after he allegedly backed them and a doctor into a corner and threatened to bludgeon them with a fire extinguisher, according to a release from the Munich police.

A spokesman for Landstuhl said the soldier is being treated for a leg fracture.

According to German media reports, the soldier fell and suffered a head injury while leaving the Oktoberfest beer festival, then lashed out at emergency responders as they attempted to treat him. Police and some of the soldier's colleagues helped get him to the hospital, according to Munich's Abendzeitung.

The soldier was given a sedative, according to press reports, and held for observation. He woke about two hours later in an

agitated state and began storming through the hallways, grabbing three fire extinguishers from the walls and allegedly attacking hospital staff and patients. An 89-year-old man suffered a split lip in the incident, the Abendzeitung reported.

Police called to the scene said they were forced to open fire when the soldier ignored repeated commands in German and English to stop and attempted to attack them with a fire extinguisher. The first shot did not stop the soldier, so police fired a second time. The soldier was treated immediately for his injuries, which were never considered life-threatening, according to Munich police.

The soldier was transferred this week to Landstuhl for further treatment, said Maj. Neil Penttila, a spokesman for the 2CR.

Penttila said the U.S. Army is conducting an internal investigation parallel to an investigation by Munich police. The shooting is under investigation by German authorities, but is believed to be a legal use of a weapon in an emergency situation, the German police release said.

news@stripes.com



Vose



Kutschbach



Courtesy of Bavarian Police

A police officer holds the fire extinguisher that an American soldier allegedly used to threaten German police with during a rampage through a Munich hospital.

GLOBAL VAN CO., LTD

★ FREE estimate for all moves! ★ Household goods, cars, office, equipment, merchandise delivery

CHATAN BRANCH
ENGLISH SERVICE
Call 098-936-0111
Mon. - Sat. 0800-1700
Closed Sun. & U.S. Holidays

GLOBAL

One call does it ALL!

Global saves you money and time!

MAIN OFFICE JAPANESE SERVICE
Call 098-899-2114 Mon.-Sat. 0800-1700
Closed Sunday & Japanese holidays

LOCAL AND DOMESTIC MOVING • QUALITY SERVICE • ON-TIME EVERYTIME

YES

Click today...cash today~
www.militaryloans.com

"We love to say yes"

MILITARY

“Redux” retirement bad deal even with bonus

By Tom Philpott

Would an E-6 careerist nearing retirement accept a \$30,000 car loan if forced to pay back a total of \$390,000 in principal and interest?

Would an E-7 accept a \$30,000 loan to make a down payment on a home or to wipe out credit card debt if the lifetime cost of that decision were \$386,000 in lost retired pay?

The answer to both questions, regrettably, is: You bet.

Hundreds of career servicemembers every month make a comparable choice while in their 15th year of service. That’s right, in return for an immediate cash bonus of \$30,000, they make an irrevocable decision to opt out of “High-3” retirement and accept the less generous “Redux” plan.

The man shark here is the federal government, the same Congress and Department of Defense that like to get tough with payday lenders outside of military bases who prey on young or naive enlisted members. Meanwhile, they offer their own rotten deal, which every year gets a little worse, say economists at the defense think tank CNA.

Under contract to the Marine Corps, CNA in late September sounded anew its periodic alarm over the Redux retirement option and its onerous \$30,000 Career Status Bonus, in a report titled “Retirement Choice 2014.”

Applying current military pay tables and fresh assumptions about the lifetime value of military retirement options, CNA spells out in blunt terms the penalties careerists impose on themselves when they take the \$30,000 bonus while five years from initial retirement eligibility.

For those who elect Redux, retire at 20 years and live until age 79, which is average life expectancy for their generation, E-6s among them will reduce lifetime retired pay by \$335,529. E-7s will lose \$391,600. CWO-3s will lose \$451,303. An O-4, who presumably retires at age 44 rather than 38 for enlisted, would see lifetime pay cut by \$382,522, CNA says.

“The best way to think about this is to consider Redux’s \$30,000 Career Status Bonus as an early cash-out of part of a member’s retirement. “We can calculate how much this cash-out costs ... by thinking of it as a ‘loan’ to be paid back later in the

MILITARY UPDATE

form of lower retirement checks,” CNA says.

While car loans and mortgages have fixed loan periods, often five years for cars and 30 for mortgages, the Redux bonus “has a rather peculiar payback scheme.” The member “pays nothing until retirement, pays quite a bit from the beginning of retirement until age 62, and then continues to pay back smaller amounts over the rest of his or her lifetime.”

To fully grasp the impact, careerists eyeing the bonus must consider how retired pay is calculated under High-3 versus Redux. Both plans provide an immediate annuity after 20 or more years of service computed on a base amount of their highest three years of basic pay. But rather than 50 percent base pay after 20 under High-3, retirees under Redux receive 40 percent.

That disparity narrows gradually for every year served beyond 20 so that after 30 years of service both the Redux and the High-3 retiree will draw 75 percent of their base amount.

What never disappears is the disparity in plan with inflation protection. High-3 has a higher annual cost-of-living adjustments to match inflation. Redux COLAs are set a percentage point below inflation. There is a one-time catch under Redux to restore lost purchasing power temporarily at age 62 but then the COLA-minus-one formula resumes.

Redux retirees feel the impact for a lifetime and so do their surviving spouses if they are covered under the military’s Survivor Benefit Plan. Unless Redux retirees elect to pay a higher SBP premium, survivor payments too are affected by COLA-minus-one.

Congress first approved Redux for new entrants in 1986 in hopes of saving billions of dollars in retirement costs. It repeated it in 2000 on worries that it was compromising career retention rates. But to hold down some pension costs, Congress voted for a scheme that entices some members back into Redux voluntarily with the \$30,000 bonus at the 15-

year mark.

Anita Hattiangadi, director of the Marine Corps Manpower Team at CNA and co-author of the retirement choice report, said in a phone interview that comparing the Redux bonus to a loan retirees must “pay back forever” helps careerists conceptualize the full effect of their decision.

“Another thing we do is to talk about the very high break-even interest rate you would have to earn” for the bonus to make any sense, she said.

Two main reasons given for taking Redux and the bonus is members want or need the money now, or they think they can do better than under High-3 retirement if they invest that \$30,000 wisely and watch it grow.

“Neither of these reasons should justify the Redux/bonus

choice,” the report concludes. “Service members who want or need the money now should look into other ways to obtain the required funds.”

Even members who draw their Redux bonus tax free while serving in a combat area, or who shelter the money in their federal Thrift Savings Plan accounts, would almost certainly be better off financially in the long run by sticking with High-3 retirement, the reports argue in considerable detail.

Congress hasn’t raised the bonus since it first was offered in 2001. Aline Quester, another co-author and principal research scientist at CNA, said military folks should be grateful because fewer careerists every year are being enticed to accept Redux. The Marine Corps “take rate” has fallen

from 56 percent in 2001 to 12 percent today. That’s still too high, the report argues.

“My big worry,” said Quester in an interview, “is that Congress will decide that instead of \$30,000 we should give them \$50,000 or \$60,000, which would still be a terrible deal but more people would take it. So I’m very content to have it get to be a worse and worse and worse deal because, I think, the take rates are going to keep falling.”

CNA has briefing slides and an online calculator for careerists to use to compare lifetime values of Redux and High-3 for them. These along with the full report are available at: www.cna.org/news/releases/2014-09-29.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

Over Here or Over There, We've Got You Covered

GEICO could insure your vehicle and personal property abroad with affordable overseas coverage. See how easy it can be. Contact GEICO Overseas for a free quote today.



GEICO OVERSEAS BENEFITS

- Flexible payment plans
- Worldwide claims service in English
- Maintain a continuous driving record
- Coverage in most countries

GEICO®

geico.com/overseas

Europe: 0049-631-41463100

USA: 800-248-4998

overseas@geico.com

AUTO PERSONAL PROPERTY CYCLE MARINE

Representing AIG Europe Limited (NL), AIG Europe Limited, AIG, Miracost Versicherungsgesellschaft GmbH through GEICO Financial Services GmbH. Some discounts, coverages, payment plans and features are not available in all states or all GEICO companies. Motorcycle and ATV coverages are underwritten by GEICO Indemnity Company. Nonowners, renters, boat and PWC coverages are written through non-affiliated insurance companies and are secured through the GEICO Insurance Agency, Inc. GEICO is a registered service mark of Government Employees Insurance Company, Washington, D.C. 20076; a Berkshire Hathaway Inc. subsidiary. GEICO Gecko image © 1989-2014. © 2014 GEICO

Navy: Shipyard workers got unearned credit

NORFOLK, Va. — Hundreds of nuclear workers at a Navy shipyard have been placed on restrictive duty after investigators discovered they were given credit for attending continuing training that didn’t actually attend, an official said Tuesday.

Norfolk Naval Shipyard spokesman Jeff Cunningham said about 300 workers, or about 6 percent of the shipyard’s nuclear workforce, have had their duties restricted until they can be verified as having “completed” the training. The shipyard in Portsmouth has

also temporarily reassigned eight employees responsible for administering the continuing training program until the investigation is complete.

Cunningham said it’s unclear whether workers were simply given credit in error, but they’ve all required to go through the training to perform their jobs.

“These continuing training program discrepancies in no way represent a failure on the part of workers to demonstrate qualification and competence in performing their duties,” Cunningham said in a written statement.

From The Associated Press

MILITARY

Japan housing posing 'serious health hazards'

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Mold and inadequate radon gas detection are posing "serious health hazards" to servicemembers living on military bases, the Defense Department Inspector General said in a report detailing 1,057 code violations in Japan base housing.

The report found elevated levels of radon — a naturally occurring gas associated with lung cancer — in multiple buildings throughout Japan, including one at Yokosuka Naval Base that registered nearly six times higher than recommended government limits.

The findings in Japan underscored what the IG stated was a problem affecting the military worldwide: The Defense Department has no uniform standards for detecting and fighting two serious health hazards.

"Based on our inspection, the significant presence of mold, and DoD's current ad hoc approach to radon mitigation places unnecessary risk on the warfighter and their dependents," according to the report, released Wednesday.

The IG called for Pentagon-level instructions to detect and remedy both excessive mold and radon, but was rebuffed by John Conger, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment.

Conger stated that the services' differing standards "reflects the continuing evolution in the knowledge of health risk assessment."

"Based on there is no U.S. federal standard for radon or mold in the U.S., there is no standard that would be applicable to U.S. facilities outside the U.S.," Conger wrote in a July 24 memo.

The IG disagreed, citing several fed-

eral laws and standards calling for radon mitigation in federal buildings within U.S. borders.

Stating a firm belief that "serious health hazards" such as these need to be addressed," the IG called for further comment from the Pentagon by Oct. 31.

The IG inspected housing and common areas at about 2 percent of all housing on select bases in mainland Japan and Okinawa between September 2013 and March, according to the report.

About half of all violations found were fire safety issues such as missing smoke detectors, broken alarms and inadequate suppression systems.

"Installation personnel did not ensure that fire protection systems were properly installed, periodically inspected and maintained," the report concluded. "As a result, risk of personnel injury or death is not effectively mitigated."

Electrical deficiencies, including missing surge protection and exposed wiring, made up the next-largest batch of code violations.

Environmental violations, which included the elevated radon readings, accounted for 87 citations.

Air Force and Marine officials in Okinawa deferred all comments about their bases to U.S. Forces Japan, which said it was pursuing responses to queries.

Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni had the highest ratio of citations, with 160 code violations found among 39 units.

Okinawa Marine bases were cited for 479 code violations after inspections on 416 units.

At Yokosuka, investigators found two buildings with elevated radon levels, including the one that registered a level nearly six times higher than the Environmental Protection Agency recommended standard for

mitigation. A required radon survey was not taken at the Negishi housing area, which is run by Yokosuka, the report added.

Investigators also found radon levels exceeding EPA standards at one building each at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Camp Courtney and Kadema Air Base.

One building at Naval Air Facility Atsugi was found to have elevated radon levels at more than four times the EPA standard, but a subsequent test found acceptable readings.

The IG recommended that each building in question be retested.

Several bases haven't been conducting radon surveys or maintaining databases, according to the report. For example, Atsugi had not performed a comprehensive radon survey for new and renovated housing in the past 23 years.

The EPA estimates about 21,000 lung cancer deaths each year in the U.S. are radon-related. Exposure to radon is the second-leading cause of lung cancer after smoking, according to the EPA.

On Thursday, Commander Navy Region Japan officials acknowledged that radon testing had not been performed for several years at Atsugi.

When the Navy received the IG's preliminary report last year, workers began retesting the buildings for radon levels and fixing the 134 code violations found at Yokosuka and Atsugi. Of those, 107 have been fixed, Navy spokesman Cmdr. Ron Flanders said.

Another 10 of those violations were found in homes slated for demolition at Atsugi, while the rest have been planned for remediation.

"We are quite confident that our families are in safe and quality housing," Flanders said. "We have taken a lot of steps and worked hard over the last several months to

fix the majority of those things."

It was unclear Thursday which building tested particularly highly for radon at Yokosuka, whether it was occupied and the status of current testing.

However, officials said they have been installing radon detection devices, including 300 at Atsugi, and working with Army personnel on retesting.

Although radon was cited in the report as particularly serious, it was excessive mold growth that made up the majority of environmental violations.

"When mold issues were identified, rarely was the source of water intrusion addressed," the report stated. "In addition, there is no DoD wide policy or guideline on mold mitigation and control."

Mold issues also have been identified in recent years by residents at bases in the United States.

A class-action lawsuit against a private contractor operating base housing in the Norfolk, Va., area is now in its third year of litigation.

The plaintiffs allege that Lincoln Military Housing's inattention to mold buildup led to allergies, respiratory problems and even brain injuries. The contractor denies the charges.

The IG investigation also tested radon levels, which measured at expected background levels and posed no demonstrable threat, according to the report.

Radiation became a concern for many in Japan following the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami that led to meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant.

Stars and Stripes reporters Matthew M. Burke and Sarah Rollson contributed to this report. slavin.erik@stripes.com
Twitter:@slavin_stripes

General: Former two-star denies assault, regrets drinking too much

FROM FRONT PAGE

Army Secretary John McHugh ordered that Baker be retired with the demotion as a brigadier general because it was found that he did not serve satisfactorily as a two-star general, the spokesman said. Baker also was fined an undisclosed amount.

Baker denied an interview that he assaulted anyone but expressed regret for drinking too much the night in question. Several who saw the general that night later told investigators that he was drunk.

"I own the fact that I got intoxicated that night at a social event, and I regret it," Baker said. "It was irresponsible of me. I can understand that in the position of responsibility I had, something had to be done about it."

Baker, who served 31 years, retired as another senior Army

officer, Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, faced court-martial for alleged forcible sodomy, adultery and other charges in a case that embarrassed the service. He was later acquitted of the assault charges but pleaded guilty in March to having a three-year affair with a subordinate officer and was forced to retire as a lieutenant colonel.

U.S. Africa Command disclosed last year that Baker was fired March 18, 2013, by Army Gen. Carter Ham, then the top U.S. commander for Africa, because of a "loss of confidence in his ability to lead."

Two Army officials told The Washington Post at the time that Baker was removed after allegedly groping a woman, but they did not reveal the severity of the allegations or that the Army was investigating the general for sexual assault.

The alleged victim, a female senior civilian policy adviser, said that on July 22, 2012, she was part of a contingent of Americans who traveled to a private party in central Djibouti, according to military documents.

The woman said that Baker drank wine heavily, and pushed his hand between her legs afterward while they were sitting in the back seat of an SUV on the way back to Camp Lemonnier, the task force's massive headquarters. She resisted his advances but was too embarrassed to mention what was happening to a U.S. soldier and a Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent who were sitting in the front seats, she said.

"I grabbed his hand and held it on the seat to try to prevent him from putting his hand deeper between my legs," she told an investigating agent in a sworn

statement. "He responded by smiling at me and saying, 'Cat got your tongue?'" It was appalling about what he was doing to me and did not know what to say."

Soldiers serving under Baker told investigators that he had a history of drinking heavily at off-base events and that they would "keep an eye out for him" when it happened, according to the documents.

An Army sergeant added that on one occasion at Camp Lemonnier, a Navy officer, a lieutenant, asked soldiers to go into town and buy alcohol for the general. When they refused, the Navy officer went into town to get alcohol for Baker himself, the soldier told investigators.

Baker denied he drank to excess. No senior members of his command corroborated that he did so when interviewed, he

added. Army documents show that the alleged victim discussed the night in question with an Air Force colonel who served as a chaplain in Djibouti, and later gave him permission to discuss it with authorities.

The chaplain told investigators in a Feb. 21, 2013, interview that she had come to him "very emotional and upset" after the alleged incident and conveyed essentially the same story to him that she later reported to authorities.

The two men in the front seat of the SUV during the alleged assault told investigators they did not remember any kind of attack occurring.

But the soldier, an enlisted specialist, said that he remembered Baker asking, "What does that cat have your tongue?" The soldier said he did not know any context for the remark.

Fall & Winter Escapade Tours On Sale!

Nagasaki Kanazawa Angkor Wat Myanmar Singapore

Please check our web page for more details!

FUN TOURS

Serving you with a difference
Zama ITT
Original Best Travel Agent
12 years in a row!

Phone: 263-4059/273 Fax: 0462-55-0356
0462-54-8896

E-mail: travel@zama.com
http://zama.com

MILITARY

6 from Army National Guard arrested for bribery

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The FBI said Tuesday it arrested six current and former Army National Guard officials for taking bribes in exchange for steering multi-million-dollar contracts to businesses, the latest fallout after Capitol Hill investigations earlier this year pointed to fraud and waste in recruitment and NAS-CAR sponsorship programs.

Four retirees — including two colonels, a lieutenant colonel and a sergeant major — one active-duty sergeant and one civilian took or paid in bribes to steer \$14.6 million to businesses hired to bring in new Guard members. Two of the defendants have pleaded guilty to the charges, the FBI said.

Congressional investigations led by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., first paid in February that the Guard's Recruiting Assistance Program, an Iraq War-era program that paid current and former members to recruit friends, defrauded the government out of \$50 million to \$100 million. Further probes found the service spent \$88 million to sponsor NAS-CAR racing as part of its recruitment efforts but could not say whether the investment resulted in any new members.

"Unfortunately, today's charges

expose National Guard officials who were 'always ready' to pocket bribes and 'always there' to take kickbacks," Dana Boente, U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, said in a release.

In one case, an active-duty colonel in charge of the National Guard Bureau's Guard Strength Directorate arranged a bribery scheme with a retired colonel who owned a company called Financial Solutions.

Former director Robert Porter, 50, of Columbia, Md., who is now retired, was paid a percentage of all contracts steered to the company by its founder retired Col. Charles Sines, 56, of Stafford, Va. Charges were also filed against an enlisted soldier and civilians.

Jason Rappocci, 39, an active-duty sergeant first class from Hampton, S.C., was allegedly paid \$30,000 by the company Mil-Team Consulting and Solutions to steer a \$3.7 million contract to a chosen company, according to the FBI.

The owners of the company pleaded guilty and admitted to paying the bribe. The FBI said they paid \$6,000 in cash to Rappocci and then paid the remainder to Rappocci's wife against a cashier's check routed through a relative's company.

McCaskill said bribery by top Guard leadership should result in jail time.

Retired Marine picked to run Gitmo war court

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon disclosed Tuesday that it had installed a recently retired Marine lawyer to run the war court at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Retired Maj. Gen. Vaughn A. Ary began work Monday as "convening authority for military commissions," said Lt. Col. Myles B. Caggins III, a Pentagon spokesman for Guantanamo issues.

Ary also has the title of director of the Office of Military Commis-

sions. It is a three-year civilian post covered by the Senior Executive Service, Caggins said. Ary reports to the deputy secretary of defense.

Ary's job includes deciding which charges to approve, potentially blessing plea agreements, assigning U.S. military officers to jury pools and deciding which trial experts and services to fund.

Ary retired in July as the Marine Corps Commandant's senior attorney after a 27-year military career.

Coast Guard calls off search for missing Marine

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — The Coast Guard's Guam sector has called off the search for a Camp Foster Marine reported missing Sept. 26 after wading into heavy surf on the northwestern shore of Tinian.

Cpl. Donovan Clancy, 26, from Ridgway, Pa., was temporarily assigned to the small island in the Northern Marianas with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 18 when he was swept over the reef at LamLam Beach, Marine and Coast Guard officials said. Exhaustive land, sea and aerial

searches covered 1,714 square nautical miles before they were called off Wednesday morning by Coast Guard District 14 Commander, Rear Adm. Cari Thomas, according to a Coast Guard statement.

Units from Marine Air Group 12, Kadena Air Base, Navy Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron Two-Five, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, as well as Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Enforcement and Homeland Security and Emergency Management took part in the search.

"This kind of betrayal of the public trust is outrageous, and dishonors the uniform of the brave members of the National Guard," she said in a release.

The senator led hearings on abuse of the Recruiting Assistance Program, what she called "one of the biggest fraud investigations in U.S. Army history" in February.

Army investigators opened hundreds of cases of possible fraud, including instances where suspects were paid hundreds of thousands of dollars after claiming to have recruited friends and relatives.

In May, a Senate hearing found that the Guard's \$32 million annual sponsorship of NASCAR aimed at recruiting had failed to

net a single new member in 2012. Last year, it generated less than 8,000 leads on potential recruits; the Guard needs about 1 million to reach its recruitment goals.

The Guard dropped its NAS-CAR sponsorship in August after an internal review.

ritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

U.S. DIRECT HIRE FEDERAL EMPLOYEES: GET READY!

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN
Caring for Your Health Worldwide®

Join us for an Open Season briefing:

ALCONBURY - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7

1500 - 1600 hours > Alconbury Middle School, Library

LAKENHEATH - WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

1600 - 1700 hours > Lakenheath High School, Library

BRUSSELS - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

1400 - 1500 hours > Brussels American High School, Library

GARMISCH - TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14

1100 - 1200 hours > Bldg. 203, Room 107

1445 - 1545 hours > Garmisch Elementary/Middle School, Library

THE PLAN THAT SERVES YOU OVERSEAS AND AT HOME

- Foreign claims paid based on provider billed amount and at in-network coinsurance level
- Preventive care paid at 100% when using an in-network or foreign provider
- Online claims filing and EFT reimbursement
- Wellness incentives that lower out-of-pocket costs
- Acupuncture, chiropractic and massage therapy benefits
- Personalized customer service

This is a brief description of the features of the Foreign Service Benefit Plan. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's Federal brochure (RI 72-000). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure.

Learn more at AFSPA.org/VISI

MILITARY

Long deployments push some sailors to leave the Navy

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Lengthy deployments and a risk-averse service culture are among the frustrations sailors face in the Navy, according to an independent survey led by a Navy pilot.

More than 5,500 officers and enlisted sailors responded to an unofficial online poll in May as part of the 2014 Navy Retention Study, a project led by F/A-18 pilot Cmdr. Guy M. Snodgrass to understand why sailors, and officers in particular, leave the Navy early. The service is not involved with the project, although its personnel chief, Vice Adm. Bill Moran, has expressed interest in it and spoken with the project leaders.

A solid majority of respondents in the voluntary survey (62 percent) described the balance between work and home as "not ideal," according to results released last month. Many described their last deployments as long (between seven and nine months), and just under half expected upcoming deployments to be just as lengthy or longer.

Majorities also said that senior leaders didn't care what they thought and didn't hold themselves accountable. They strongly believed the Navy was risk-averse and unable to stomach mistakes, and they held that performance rankings are based on factors other than merit.

"There are no quick fixes," the survey's authors concluded. "Resolute and thoughtful changes are necessary to improve the factors that impact sailors the most."

On the positive side, survey respondents reported they believed in their work and trusted subordinates and peers. Pluralities of enlisted and officer respondents said they wanted to retire from the service, with majorities citing benefits and pay as main factors for staying in.

Participants in the survey were self-selected, meaning there was no scientific sampling of sailors. It relied on participants to be honest about their active duty status, rank, length of service and com-

mitment to take the survey only once. More than half of participants were officers, who represent less than 20 percent of all sailors.

The survey is posted online at www.dodretention.org, a website established by the survey authors. It encouraged participants to urge others to take the survey.

The survey group said it relied on help from active-duty sailors with experience conducting official Navy polls, as well as a statistician at the U.S. Naval War College to craft questions and remove bias. The group distributed the survey through military social media channels, keeping it open during all of May. More than 6,100 people responded, and more than 5,500 of the polls were considered complete enough to include in the results, according to a report accompanying the survey findings.

Cmdr. Chris Servello, a spokesman for Moran's office, said that

while survey results roughly mirror the command's own polling, the authors draw different conclusions on some points. Recent benefit increases go against the report's suggestion that Navy pay and benefits are declining, he said. In the past year, Moran's office increased sea duty pay rates and added a high-tempo allowance for sailors at sea over 220 days.

The Navy also kept tuition assistance at a 100 percent funding level and expanded eligibility for advancements at sea.

"Those were all meant to get after, one, incentivizing sea duty, which is where we need our folks," Servello said, "and, two, it was meant to compensate folks for the longer deployments that we're seeing."

Navy leaders have said lengthy deployments are a concern as growing mission requirements combine with maintenance and funding issues to push ships to sea more frequently and for longer periods of time. Where deployments once averaged around six months, more are lasting seven to eight months, with carriers staying out even longer.

Fleet Forces Command, which determines deployment tempo, has unveiled a plan to stabilize



CHRISTOPHER LINDAHL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Petty Officer 2nd Class Ma Paula Fuerte signals an MV-22 Osprey to launch from the flight deck of the amphibious assault ship USS Makin Island on Sept. 9 while the ship was underway in the Indian Ocean.

lengths in the coming years. The Navy has said less publicly about concerns touching on service culture, the capabilities of its commanders and perceptions held by junior officers, all areas of interest in the recent survey.

Earlier this year Snodgrass, now an executive officer for a fighter squadron in Japan, and others sent Moran a paper that argued that the Navy faced a manpower crisis in the near future unless it made substantial changes. Titled "Keep a Weather Eye on the Horizon," it described a Navy culture growing rigid and top-heavy as an improving econ-

omy opened doors outside the service.

The paper recommended changing advancement opportunities, reducing administrative burdens and reinstating the critical-skills bonus for surface warfare and aviation commanding officers, a change the authors say would push officers at a critical juncture in their careers to remain for additional tours.

Authors of the current survey offer similar recommendations, as well as a request that the Navy "stop proactively highlighting" the firings of its commanding officers and command master

chiefs. While Moran has agreed that retention could become an issue as the economy improves, he has said current numbers remain positive.

The survey report says that while the Navy is taking some steps to address issues, many issues require long-term attention.

"Retaining quality individuals is critical to the continued success of the U.S. Navy, as we cannot directly hire into positions of responsibility — we must promote from within," it reads.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sjbeardsley



MISSOURIANS

ABSENTEE BALLOTS MADE
SIMPLE FOR MISSOURIANS
SERVING AWAY FROM HOME.

MoMILITARYVOTE.COM



JASON KANDER
SECRETARY OF STATE

WAR ON TERRORISM

Civilian casualty standard eased in Iraq and Syria

By KEN DILAMIAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama announced in May 2013 that no lethal strike against a terrorist would be authorized without “near-certainty that no civilians will be killed or injured.”

But amid unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties, the White House said this week that U.S. bombing in Iraq and Syria is not being held to the near-certainty standard. And the Pentagon, hamstrung by limitations in intelligence gathering, has been unable to determine in many cases whether the casualty reports are true.

“We do take extreme caution and care in the conduct of these missions,” Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon’s press secretary, said. “But there’s risk in any military operation. There’s a special kind of risk when you do air operations.”

Obama outlined his strategy to fight the Islamic State group earlier this month, he cited as parallels the limited U.S. counterterrorism campaigns in Yemen and Somalia, where American drone missile strikes have targeted al-Qaida-linked militants. Aides said he was also thinking of Pakistan but didn’t mention those strikes because drone killings there are entirely the work of an officially unacknowledged CIA operation.

But when it comes to civilian casualties, it has become clear that the targeted killing model that Obama has expanded and honed throughout his presidency does not apply to the more intensive military operation against the Islamic State and the Khurasan Group in Iraq and Syria.

According to the White House, the reason the near-certainty standard is not applicable turns on a fine point of international law — the theory that the U.S. is not involved in “active hostilities” in Yemen and Somalia, but is in Syria and Iraq. Such distinctions are controversial, given the frequency with which American bombs and bullets have flown in both countries.

A more practical reason is that the self-imposed rules on drone strikes against al-Qaida are simply too restrictive for a conventional military air campaign against the Islamic State group, which the U.S. says is both a terrorist group and an occupying army, and has ordered the Pentagon to destroy.

“It is much different in scope and complexity” than Yemen and Somalia, said Rep. Adam Schiff, a Democrat and an intelligence committee member. “I think it will be very hard to apply the very restrictive rules they put in place for other theaters.”

‘We do take extreme caution and care in the conduct of these missions. But there’s risk in any military operation. There’s a special kind of risk when you do air operations.’

Rear Adm. John Kirby
Pentagon press secretary

The drone attacks in Yemen, Somalia and Pakistan are carried out either by the CIA or, at times in Yemen and Somalia, the military’s Joint Special Operations Command. They employ Hellfire missiles, relatively small munitions designed to destroy people and vehicles.

In Iraq and Syria, the Air Force and Navy are using cruise missiles and conventional guided bombs to destroy buildings and other infrastructure that Hellfires can’t bring down. Allies, including Britain, France and Arab countries, are also using conventional bombs.

While most of the air strikes have been directed at the Islamic State group, the U.S. also used cruise missiles to attack the Syria headquarters of the Khurasan Group, an al-Qaida cell said to be plotting attacks on the West. Syrian opposition figures have said that one of those missiles went astray Sept. 23 and killed women and children in the village of Kafr Daryan near Aleppo.

All told, human rights groups have said that as many as two dozen civilians have been killed in U.S. and allied bombings in Iraq and Syria. The U.S. military says it hasn’t confirmed any civilian death but hasn’t ruled it out in every case, either.

White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the near-certainty standard was intended to apply “only when we take direct action outside areas of active hostilities.”

Military officials say they are taking great care to avoid civilian casualties in Iraq and Syria, consistent with international law. But international law does not require a near certainty that civilians won’t be harmed in military strikes. U.S. officials say harm to noncombatants is inevitable in a large bombing campaign — especially when the enemy is embedded in civilian areas.



Kurdish peshmerga fighters stand guard on the front line with the Islamic State group as they patrol in Raibi, northwestern Iraq, on Wednesday.
HADI MIZBAN/AP

Turkey approves military operations

The Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey — Turkey’s parliament gave the government new powers Thursday to launch military incursions into Syria and Iraq and to allow foreign forces to use its territory for possible operations against the Islamic State group.

Parliament voted 298-98 in favor of the motion which sets the legal framework for any Turkish military involvement in Iraq or Syria, and for the potential use of Turkish bases by foreign troops — possibly including U.S. forces operating from air bases in the east of the country. Asked what measures Turkey would take after the motion is approved, Defense Minister Ismet Yilmaz said: “Don’t expect any immediate steps.”

The vote occurred as Islamic State militants pressed their offensive against a beleaguered Kurdish town along the Syria-Turkey border. The assault, which has forced about 160,000 people to flee across the frontier in recent days,

left Kurdish militiamen scrambling Thursday to repel Islamic State extremists pushing into the outskirts of Kobani, also known as Ayn Arab.

Turkey, a NATO member with a large and modern military, has yet to define what role it intends to play in the U.S.-led coalition against the Islamic State group.

Parliament had previously approved operations into Iraq and Syria to attack Kurdish separatists or to thwart threats from the Syrian regime. Thursday’s motion would expand those powers to address threats from the Islamic State militants who control a large cross-border swath of Iraq and Syria, in some parts right up to the Turkish border.

“The motion prepares the legal ground for possible interventions, but it is too early to say what those interventions will be,” said Dogu Ergil, a professor of political science and columnist for Today’s Zaman newspaper.

Ergil said the motion could

allow Iraqi Kurdish fighters, for example to use Turkey’s territory to safely cross into Syria, to help Syrian Kurdish forces there, or the deployment of coalition forces’ drones.

Elsewhere, President Barack Obama’s envoy responsible for building the international coalition against Islamic State militants arrived in Baghdad on Thursday for consultations with Iraqi authorities. It was the first visit to Iraq by retired Marine Gen. John Allen since he accepted the job last month.

Allen was accompanied by his deputy, Brett McGurk, according to a State Department statement.

Also Thursday, The New York Times reported that more than 5,500 people have been killed in Iraq since the Islamic State offensive in northern Iraq last June. The newspaper quoted the United Nations as saying those deaths represented nearly half of the 9,343 civilians killed in Iraq from January through September.

DBA LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR FREE

INCLUDING NON-US CITIZENS

The Law Offices of Barnett & Lerner, P.A.
KNOW AND PROTECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS

INJURED CIVILIAN WORKERS

If you work for a company under contract with the United States Government outside the U.S., and fall ill or are injured at work, you may be entitled to benefits under the Defense Base Act. This law protects all injured employees, regardless of their citizenship or nationality. Under law, you may be entitled to select a doctor and you may be entitled to wages if unable or restricted from working.

HIRE US ON YOUR COMPUTER

www.injuredoverseas.com

You can now hire Barnett & Lerner, P.A. from your computer

Phone: 954.920.7400

US Toll Free: 888.732.7425

DON'T BE FOOLED BY FANCY WEBSITES

Before hiring an attorney, check their trial experience at www.oalj.doi.gov. Type “David C. Barnett” or “Barry Lerner” in the “For” box on the top right side of the home page and you will find over 300 rulings after trial. **NO ONE CAN MATCH OUR EXPERIENCE**

Barnett & Lerner
Professional Association
Fighting for injured workers



NATION



PHOTOS BY CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Hot Doug's owner Doug Sohn takes the order of David Kudla, center, and Christopher Sanders, who were first in line at 12:45 a.m. Customers of the gourmet hot dog stand in Chicago waited in long lines that extended into a local neighborhood to buy a hot dog before the business closed its doors.

In line for a taste of hot dog history

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Chicago's hippest hot dog stand helped elevate the lowly sausage into a culinary superstar by stuffing it with exotic ingredients including escargot, foie gras and rattlesnake. When the owner announced the gourmet shop was closing, everyone expected ennobled aficionados to line up for one last taste.



But this? Lines forming deep in the night. Lawn chairs, card tables, poker chips, sleeping bags and booze to help pass the wait of up to eight hours. A split for \$300. Apologetic announcements telling patrons they won't reach the front of the line and secure their coveted dog before closing time.

As Hot Doug's prepares to close Friday, in a city that takes



Michelle Ocoba sleeps under a blanket as she waits in line for Hot Doug's to open Wednesday.

its hot dogs seriously, the line outside Doug Sohn's "sausage superstore" has become as big a sensation as the stand itself. And nobody entertains the idea for even a second that this is the least bit crazy.

So, who are these people? Well, first was Christopher Sanders and his buddy David Kudla. They became Wednesday's first customers at 12:45 a.m., unfolding lawn chairs to wait for the doors to open at 10:30 a.m.

Sanders, 29, had never been to Doug's before — put off, by all things, by the sight of constant but shorter lines.

"I've driven past it, seen the lines and said, 'I'm not waiting that long, it's crazy,'" he said. "I will never get a chance to do it ever again."

Gov't website for doc payments needs work

WASHINGTON — Although it's called "Open Payments," the government's new website doesn't make it easy to find out whether your doctor is getting freebies, travel or other financial benefits from drug companies and medical device manufacturers.

This should be a clue: The website lacks a "Find Your Doctor" button.

The Obama administration

says consumers will start seeing some improvements later this month, particularly when it comes to navigation.

However, an Associated Press analysis found significant problems, including large chunks of missing information and disputed data. And those are not likely to be cleared up soon.

Disclosure of financial relationships between clinicians and industry has long been a priority for consumer advocates, who worry about unseen incentives that may influence prescribing decisions,

There is also Sergio Deleon, who arrived at 3 a.m., who knows that if he's not in his college classroom by 11 it will cost him a full grade in class.

"Gonna be worth it," said Deleon, 24, though he had a plan for salvaging an A — buy a dog for the professor too.

"See if it works," he said. Retired physician Jack Laude, from his lawn chair about 70 people down, can tell you all the reasons why hot dogs aren't healthy. Not that Laude, 62, would be deterred from the boar and bacon cheese dog he's intent on ordering.

"You want to know the secret of longevity?" he asks. "Pick your parents well."

the use of high-tech tests and even surgical procedures.

The Open Payments program was required by President Barack Obama's health care law, but for now it's not easy to pry loose the data.

Open Payments is administered by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which runs those giant benefit programs as well as HealthCare.gov, the online portal to the government's newest insurance plan.

From The Associated Press

Secret Service head resigns over incident at CDC

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One lesson from Julia Pierson's short tenure as director of the agency that protects the first family: The Secret Service can't keep secrets from the president.

The undoing of Pierson, who resigned Wednesday, was not telling the president about a Sept. 16 incident in Atlanta in which President Barack Obama rode an elevator with an armed security contractor during a visit to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, two White House officials said. The armed contractor's proximity to Obama violated the agency's security protocols.

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson as well as Obama appeared unaware of the full extent of the Atlanta incident and the Sept. 19 security breach in which a man armed with a knife jumped the White House fence and entered the building. Johnson, whose department oversees the Secret Service, was the driving force behind Pierson's resignation Wednesday, the White House officials said.

Since taking office last year Johnson had made it clear that he wouldn't tolerate even a whiff of scandal. He had repeatedly expressed concern about the Secret Service performance in the wake of the White House intruder, the officials said. Both officials were not authorized to discuss the issue by name and requested anonymity.

The White House learned about

the Atlanta incident just before details were published by two newspapers. In a meeting with Johnson, Pierson offered her resignation without being asked, but Obama had already told aides he thought she should go, the first official said. No one put up any resistance when she offered to step down, the official said.

Pierson did not respond to a telephone message seeking comment. In an interview with Bloomberg News, she said she felt that leaving the agency "was the noble thing to do" and that her departure "would take pressure off the organization." She suggested she felt forced out of the Secret Service after more than 30 years, just 18 months as director.

"Congress has lost confidence in my ability to run the agency," she said. "The media has made it clear that this is what they expected."

Pierson wasn't the first Obama administration official to deal with a scandal, but how she handled it contrasts starkly with others, including her immediate predecessor, Mark J. Sullivan.

Sullivan almost immediately suspended, fired or transferred implicated officers and agents in the immediate aftermath of a 2012 prostitution scandal in Colombia. He also quickly changed the rules governing employee behavior during work trips.

Pierson said Tuesday that personnel actions were pending.

Entertain Yourself!



Concerts, TV listings,
movies, video games
and celebrity antics
all in one convenient place!

STARS AND STRIPES

NATION

Ebola victim left Africa after direct contact

The Dallas Morning News

By Wednesday afternoon, his name and photograph had gone viral. Thomas Eric Duncan, in his mid-40s, hails from Monrovia, the coastal capital of the West African country of Liberia.

Duncan contracted the first Ebola case diagnosed in the U.S. He was exposed to the often deadly disease in his home country but showed no symptoms until he reached Dallas.

Duncan remains in intensive-care isolation at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas, near the culturally diverse pocket of Vickery Meadow in northeast Dallas. He arrived there Sept. 20 from Liberia, moving in with a

tenant in the Ivy Apartments.

For the past year, The New York Times reports, Duncan had worked as a driver at Safeway Cargo, the Liberian customs clearance agent for Federal Express. But his employer told The Times that Duncan quit "abruptly" on Sept. 4, giving no reason.

"His sister came from the United States and he asked for a day off so that he could go meet her at the Mamba Point Hotel," said Henry Brunson, the company's manager. "He quit a few weeks after that."

As Duncan's biographical details took on a life of their own, they blazed a trail from Dallas to San Angelo, where the man's

19-year-old son, Kasiah Duncan, attends college. Kasiah said he hasn't seen his father since he was a boy. He had heard that his father has Ebola but would say no more.

"I have homework to do," he said.

Kasiah's mother, Louise Troh, also declined to comment. "Leave me alone," she said before hanging up. "Only talk to the CDC," Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Duncan first sought treatment at Presbyterian on Friday. The virus was not identified, and hospital officials said Wednesday that there was a breakdown and the fact that Duncan had just left

Liberia was not fully communicated to the team treating him.

Duncan's motives for coming to the U.S. became the subject of widespread speculation on Wednesday. The New York Times reported that Duncan had direct contact with a woman stricken by Ebola on Sept. 15, four days before beginning a trip that would eventually land him in Dallas. The Times attributed the information to the woman's parents and to Duncan's neighbors in Monrovia.

The family of Ebola victim Marthalene Williams, 19, said they took her by taxi to a hospital with Duncan's help on Sept. 15. They opted for the taxi after fail-

ing to get an ambulance, said her parents, Emmanuel and Amie Williams. She was convulsing and, her parents said, she was also seven months pregnant.

Turned away from a hospital for lack of space in its Ebola treatment ward, the family said they had no choice but to take her home, where she died about four hours later, at 3 a.m.

The woman's parents described Duncan as a family friend who was also a tenant in a house owned by the Williams family.

Neighbors said Duncan helped carry Marthalene Williams, who had lost the ability to walk, back to the family home later that evening, hours before her death.



MARK DUNCAN/AP

Jennifer Cramblett and her partner have sued a Chicago-area sperm bank that provided them with sperm from the wrong donor.

White lesbian couple sues after sperm bank mistake led to use of black donor

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — An Ohio woman and her partner have sued a Chicago-area sperm bank after she became pregnant with sperm donated by a black man instead of a white man as she'd intended.

Jennifer Cramblett was five months pregnant and happy with her life in April 2012. She and her partner had married months earlier in New York, and within days of their nuptials she had become pregnant with donor sperm at a fertility clinic in Canton.

Cramblett, 36, and her partner, Amanda Zinkon, 29, were so elated that they called Midwest Sperm Bank LLC outside Chicago to reserve sperm from the same donor in the hope that Zinkon would someday also have a child.

That's when Cramblett received some disturbing news, says a lawsuit filed Monday against Midwest Sperm Bank in Cook County, Ill. She learned from an employee at the sperm bank that she had been inseminated with sperm from No. 330, a black donor, and not No. 380, a white donor she and Zinkon, who are white, had chosen.

"How could they make a mistake that was so personal?" Cramblett said during a telephone interview on Wednesday.

According to the lawsuit, her excitement about the pending birth was replaced with "anger, disappointment and fear."

Telephone calls to Midwest Sperm Bank were not returned on Wednesday. It's unclear who the sperm bank's attorney is.

Cramblett said she and Zinkon love their 2-year-old daughter, Payton, very much and wouldn't change anything about her. But they are concerned about raising her in the predominantly white community where they live.

The lawsuit said they had moved from Akron to Uniontown for better schools and to be closer to Cramblett's family. She said that as a lesbian she has felt the sting of prejudice but doesn't know what it's like to be mistreated because of her skin color.

Therapists had recommended that the family move to a more a racially diverse community with good schools, the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit says the sperm bank has no electronic record-keeping and no quality controls that would have prevented it from sending the wrong sperm to fertility clinics. The lawsuit seeks a minimum of \$50,000 in damages. Cramblett's attorney, Tim Misny, said some of the compensation would pay for ongoing counseling.

Touch the news with the Stars and Stripes Tablet Edition

The fastest and most reliable way to get the latest military-related news, videos and photos on your iPad®

The latest Tablet Edition offers:

- ✓ An all new, easy-to-read layout and design
- ✓ Dramatically fast performance and download speeds
- ✓ Beautiful, high-resolution original photography
- ✓ More categories and more articles than ever before
- ✓ Expanded photo and video galleries

All for the same great low price!

Learn more by visiting stripes.com/ipad



STARS AND STRIPES

TABLET EDITION v2.0

Download is available from the Apple App Store. iPad is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.

WORLD

Protesters warned not to storm government offices

BY ELAINE KURTENBACH AND LOUISE WATT
The Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong police warned of serious consequences if pro-democracy protesters try to occupy government buildings, as they have threatened to do if the territory's leader didn't resign by Thursday.

Tensions mounted ahead of the deadline by students for the city's Beijing-backed Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying to step down — part of broader demonstrations pushing for electoral reforms for the Asian financial center.

Both the Chinese government and the student protesters seemed to be losing patience during the weeklong street protests, the biggest challenge to Beijing's authority since China took control of the former British colony in 1997.

In a reflection of growing concern in Beijing, China's ruling party mouthpiece warned in a commentary Thursday of "chaos" in Hong Kong, and expressed strong support for Leung in his face-off with the protesters, an amorphous movement led mostly by university students.

Late Thursday afternoon, hundreds of young protesters crowded in front of the gate to the territory's government headquarters, rallying around the sides of the huge building and across the street. Many donned face masks and goggles, some had gas masks and rain capes — all precautions in case police might use tear gas and pepper spray, as they did last weekend to try to disperse demonstrators.

‘We can’t just sit here forever because we can’t achieve what we want. We hope to have a direction with actions soon, not just sit here aimlessly.’

Maness Ko
21-year-old college student

“We can’t just sit here forever because we can’t achieve what we want. We hope to have a direction with actions soon, not just sit here aimlessly,” said Maness Ko, a 21-year-old college student.

The protesters oppose Beijing's decision in August that candidates in Hong Kong's first direct election in 2017 for the territory's top post be approved by a mostly pro-Beijing committee. They accuse the central government of renegeing on its promise that the chief executive would be chosen through “universal suffrage.”

Hong Kong police spokesman Steve Hui told reporters that blocking or occupying government buildings would not be tolerated and would lead to “serious consequences.”

The students remained watchful but calm, looking on as police brought in tubs of gear, including some labeled “rubber batons.” Each change of police shift brought on a ruckus as students resisted but eventually gave way after being reassured they could occupy the pavement outside the government compound's gate.

“We are not asking C.Y. to come talk to us. We are demanding he resign,” said May Tang, a 21-year-old student at Lingnan

University, referring to Leung. “It’s too late for his government to be accountable to the people so we want a new one.”

The People's Daily said in its commentary Thursday that the “central government fully trusts Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying and is very satisfied with his work.” It added that it firmly supports the Hong Kong police — criticized for using tear gas and pepper spray on the protesters last weekend — “to handle illegal activities in accordance with the law.”

“Handling affairs without following laws, Hong Kong society will be in chaos,” it said, adding that the rule of law must be safeguarded to ensure “healthy development of democracy and politics in Hong Kong.”

The comments appeared to signal Beijing's growing concern that the protests could spiral out of Leung's control. But the Communist Party is known to send mixed signals at times, and such public support for Leung could also mean that Beijing is holding him responsible for bringing order quickly and decisively.

Some protesters said they disagreed with the student leaders' threat to occupy government



Wong Maye-E/AP

A student protester gets emotional while pleading for a peaceful resolution on Thursday in Hong Kong. The student leaders of the protests are warning that if the territory's top official doesn't resign by tomorrow, they will step up their actions — including occupying several important government buildings.

buildings.

“Getting into a confrontation with police doesn't seem peaceful to me,” said Wilson Yip, a 22-year-old recent university graduate. “If they try to force themselves inside and confront police, I don't see what kind of point that would make. It may make fewer people support the protests.”

In Washington on Wednesday, Secretary of State John Kerry

met with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and said the U.S. supports the “highest possible degree of autonomy” in Hong Kong. He said he hopes Hong Kong authorities exercise restraint and allow the protesters to express their views peacefully.

Wang said that the protests are “China's internal affairs” and that no country would allow “illegal acts” against public order.

Japanese officials: Most victims of eruption were killed by volcanic rocks

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Doctors have determined that almost all of the dozens of people killed on a Japanese volcano died of injuries from being hit by volcanic rocks that flew out during its eruption, police said Thursday.

Rescuers have retrieved 47 bodies from the ash-covered summit area of Mount Ontake since Saturday's eruption.

Doctors concluded that all but one of the bodies showed signs of having been hit by volcanic boulders and rocks, Nagano prefectural police said. The other victim died of burns from inhaling hot air.

Most of the bodies were found near the summit, where many climbers were resting or having

lunch.

The eruption at Mount Ontake, in central Japan, caught hikers by surprise. Seismologists have said that increased seismic activity had been detected at Ontake, one of 47 active volcanoes in Japan that are under 24-hour monitoring, but that nothing signaled such a big eruption.

The search for more bodies continued Thursday, but ended early due to bad weather and concerns about toxic gases. Authorities are looking into the possibility that about 20 people caught in the eruption are still missing.

The death toll is the highest from a volcanic eruption in Japan's postwar history, exceeding the 43 people killed in the 1991 eruption of Mount Unzen in southern Japan.



TOKYO FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

Firefighters carry a hiker who was trapped in the summit area of Mount Ontake during Saturday's initial eruption in central Japan.

Putin: state will support sanctions-hit sectors

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin says the state will offer support to sectors of the economy that have been hit by international sanctions, but says the country in general is unconcerned about the sanctions' consequences.

Putin said Thursday the sanctions, imposed by the United States, the European Union and others over Russia's role in the Ukraine conflict, violate basic principles of the World Trade Organization and obstruct international economics.

Putin, who was speaking to a major investment forum, added “we regard this calmly.”

The ruble has fallen sharply as the sanctions have taken hold and Russian companies are severely restricted from borrowing on Western capital markets.

Putin said “the state is ready to provide support to those sectors and companies hit with unwarranted external sanctions.”

From The Associated Press

NATION

A gun in every home

Firearm ownership simply a fact of life in southwestern Colorado town of Nucla

By LAUREN LOFTUS
Special To The Washington Post.

DNUCLA, Colo. driving north on U.S. 141 in southwestern Colorado, the road descends from red rock plateau into a wind-blown expanse of bedraggled shrubs and hardy desert trees called Paradox Valley. Passing only the occasional deer, the two-lane highway eventually ends at the intersection of the Dolores River. Just beyond its muddy bank lies the tiny town of Nucla.

The area's once booming uranium mine has long been shuttered, while the halls of Nucla High School echo with the sounds of only a few dozen students. Main Street is dotted with boarded-up buildings and deserted after sunset. With a poverty rate of nearly 20 percent, it's clear Nucla is in need of jobs, an economic boon that remains out of reach.

But there is at least one thing the town is not lacking. A gun in every home, required by law.

In May 2013, the Nucla Town Board passed the Family Protection Order, requiring every head of household to own a firearm. As written, the ordinance provides for the emergency management and general safety of a town with a population of less than 700.

Modeled on a similar law in Kennesaw, Georgia, that's been on the books since 1982, Nucla's ordinance includes all the expected exemptions: those who have a physical or mental disability that would prohibit them from using a firearm; anyone convicted of a felony; those who cannot afford a gun; and conscientious objectors.

Local law enforcement, consisting of a few Montrose County sheriff's deputies, was never enlisted to go door to door to make sure everyone has a gun. Most people already had one anyway.

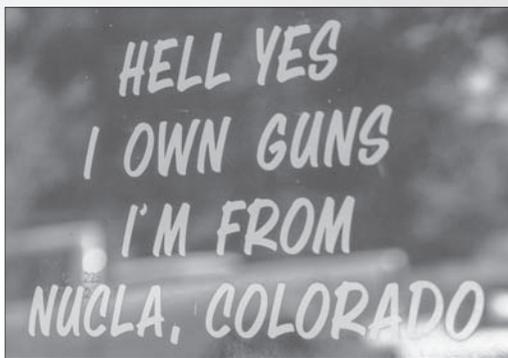
It's a wholly unenforceable law, something the town board understands. And yet only one trustee out of six voted no, while most residents are apt to pass it off with a shrug. Fitting for a place called Paradox.

Nucla occupies a tiny dot in the largely rural, rugged map of Colorado's Western Slope. It's a place that, on first glance, has been forgotten. The nearest stoplight, hospital and Walmart are two hours away.

There is a polling place for general elections in the equally-small town of Naturita five miles south though most people opt to mail in their ballots. But with a dwindling, aging population, their vote is barely a drop in the bucket.

As a rule, Nucla residents are self-sufficient folk, tenacious about their history and each other. It all feels very, very far away from the lawmaking and politicking happening 350 miles away in Denver. A state law limiting the size of ammunition magazines to 15 rounds, passed in response to the Aurora movie theater shooting, is seen as more of a nuisance than a matter of life and death.

The Family Protection Order is often framed by Nucla residents as an underdog rallying cry to catch the attention of those far-off lawmakers. A statement that says, "Hey! Remember us? We matter too." But it's also a continuation of life as is in Nucla; as it's



PHOTOS BY MORGAN SPIENS, NEWS 21/AP

A sticker adorns one of Nucla, Colo., Town Board member Les Mahana's vehicles. A law in Nucla requires every household to have a gun.

always been. A life that's fiercely protected despite it never being easy.

Board trustee Richard Craig says it all started, in a way, as a joke.

"This is a hunting, ranching community and everybody already has guns," says Board trustee Richard Craig, 74, explaining that the law did not change anything, except perhaps a brief uptick in media attention.

Trustee Bill Long was the only dissenting vote but he's quick to clarify that it wasn't because he doesn't like guns. It was because of government overreach.

"There's no difference between the government telling us you can't own guns or you must own guns," Long maintains.

To Long, being raised with guns and learning to respect them as

you would, say, a car, is just a part of life in a town as irrevocably tied to nature as Nucla is. He owns five or six himself.

After the ordinance passed, Long says he was contacted by the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence.

According to Long, the Center offered to help him sue Nucla as it successfully had in Nelson, Georgia, which less than a month before attempted to pass its own mandatory gun ownership ordinance.

"Then they found out I had guns and I haven't heard from them since," Long says.

Bill Long, right, of Nucla, Colorado, handles a .300-caliber magnum rifle, one of the guns he keeps at his home. Long was the only Nucla Town Board member to vote against an ordinance that mandates gun ownership. He voted against it not because he is against guns, but because he views any kind of government involvement in deciding whether one should own a gun or not as government overreach.



NATION



PHOTOS BY MEL MELCON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

People make their way down the street in front of the wall mural on San Julian St. in the heart of Skid Row in downtown Los Angeles. The mural was conceived and produced by activists and artists as a declaration of neighborhood pride and identity. Kelly Kurta, 64, below, homeless on and off for decades, said he most recently arrived on Skid Row a half year ago. Kurta said he hoped the mural would be a wake up call to City Hall and the nation to do something about the homeless crisis.

Sign of survival

Los Angeles 'Skid Row Super Mural' symbol of neighborhood's effort to reclaim its identity

BY GALE HOLLAND
Los Angeles Times

Skid Row is the place that dares not speak its name.

The neighborhood of 10,000 people on the eastern end of downtown Los Angeles — with the largest concentration of homeless people in the country — is generally not listed on municipal signs or maps. The local firehouse was ordered years ago to take “Skid Row” off its ambulances and rigs.

As bars, lofts and restaurants started to pop up in Skid Row’s traditional territory, the city — prodded by business groups — began using names like Old Bank District, Historic Core, Central City East or Industrial District to describe parts of the 50-block area.

This month, a group of residents sought to reclaim their turf, at least symbolically.

They put the final touches on an 18-by-50-foot mural with a detailed street map of the area and a clear message: Skid Row is a legitimate Los Angeles neighborhood, and should not be erased.

Organizers call “Skid Row Super Mural” a show of pride and self-determination by a community sick of being defined by its most unfortunate citizens.

Detractors say the mural is a misguided attempt to paper over the misery of the homeless enclave.

City Councilman Jose Huizar says it is the kind of art he envisioned when he pushed in October to lift the city’s 11-year-old mural

ban. “It’s community pride on the one hand, it’s cleverly done and it creates conversation and debate, which often great public art does,” said Huizar spokesman Rick Coca.

The San Julian Street project, which was registered under the city’s mural ordinance, is on the wall of a property known as Bob’s Bakery owned by businessman Peter Ta, according to city records.

The first phase, which went up in February, depicts the city seal and the words “Skid Row City Limit” in the familiar white-on-green lettering of official signs. In a jab at the city’s failure on the homelessness front, the population is listed as “Too Many.”

In another quietly subversive touch, the map text states that its boundaries are taken from Jones v. City of Los Angeles, a court case that barred nighttime homeless sweeps by police.

“The mural is the history of the community,” said Isabel Rojas-Williams, executive director of the Mural Conservancy of Los Angeles. “It’s very cleverly done.”

General Jeff Page, a formerly homeless activist who created the project, said he is as appalled as anyone that people languish in the streets. But Skid Row is not just people lying on sidewalks getting high, he said.

While City Hall was sleeping, he said, thousands of Skid Row residents — whose rehabbed flop-houses and apartment projects are

protected by covenants for a generation — have been bettering the community.

The mural was designed by Stephen Zeigler and painted by street artists calling themselves the Winston Death Squad, among them a man known as Wild Life, whose work often spoofs official signs.

The optimistic picture of the Skid Row community is not shared by everyone.

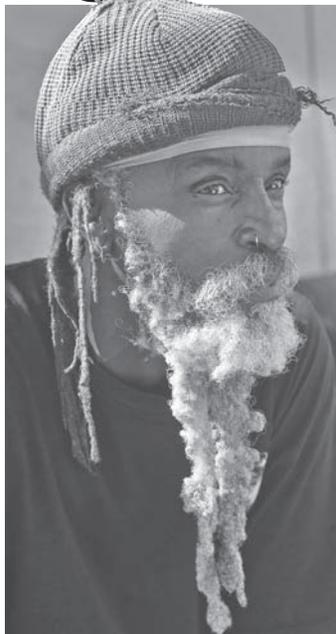
Raquel Beard, who heads the Central City East Association, the local business group, said the Skid Row she sees everyday is a place of pain, misery and degradation.

“Maybe in 10 years it will be an urban and edgy,” she said, “but before I can jump to Skid Row chic we have bigger issues to deal with. Let’s heal, then they can think about it as jazzy.”

Page, however, foresees a day when the Skid Row mural will join the Hollywood and Rodeo Drive signs as L.A. icons.

That day may be far off. Directly across from the mural, men and a few women were played out on the sidewalk, smoking a street drug called spice, or chanting in languages known only to themselves.

Said a homeless man who calls himself White Boy: “I love the General and I wish him well, but society’s not ready for Skid Row. It’s a 20-year plan for Skid Row and when it ends no way we’re in it.”



NATION



PHOTOS BY CRAIG LASSIG/AP

Guarding a community

Abdurizak Bihi, center, executive director of the Somali Education and Social Advocacy Center, watches kids play basketball at Currie Park in Minneapolis, near a large Somali community. While Bihi strolls through the parks, he is on the lookout for anyone who might be trying to recruit the city's young Somalis to join jihad in Syria.

Minnesota man goes on daily patrols at local parks to deter jihad recruiters

By AMY FORLITI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Every evening after work, Abdurizak Bihi strolls through neighborhood parks where young Somalis shoot hoops and play soccer. He tells jokes, urges them to clean up their trash and even grabs the basketball to take a few shots.

It may seem like fun, but Bihi's eyes are scanning the playgrounds and ball courts of Minneapolis for something sinister — anyone who might try to recruit these kids to join a jihad overseas.

If Bihi doesn't show up for his personal patrol for five, six or seven days, "somehow the word gets out, and they're back," he said.

Community members and law enforcement officials are on a mission to stamp out terror recruiting in Minneapolis, home to the largest Somali population in the United States. A handful of people from the community have left to join militant groups in Syria within the last year, according to authorities.

The anti-jihad work is not unlike longstanding efforts to keep young people out of gangs in any number of other U.S. cities. And just like street gangs, militant groups tend to prey on the vulnerable via the Internet or to strike up relationships through small group meetings or one-on-one conversation in parks, mosques or even hospitals.

Bihi's mission is also personal. His own nephew was recruited to fight for the al-Qaida-linked group al-Shabab in 2008 and died



Bihi spends time with kids playing soccer at Currie Park in Minneapolis, in September.

in Somalia.

He said he sees unfamiliar men with "hostile" eyes approach teens in parks. The kids describe how the men talk about the Quran — never about jihad at first — and scold them for wearing shorts or associating with infidels.

"It's about scaring the hell out of them first, telling them that they are bad people and that they can make them good," Bihi said. They leave when he approaches.

Terror recruiting is not new here: More than 22 young Minnesotans have traveled to Somalia since 2007 to take up arms with al-Shabab. Back then, authorities found a handful of people were holding secret meetings to promote the cause. Now social media are playing a prevalent role, ac-

ording to FBI spokesman Kyle Loven.

The Facebook page of one man who says he lives in Minneapolis and is a "full-time servant of Allah" features the Islamic State flag as his profile photo. A Twitter account believed to belong to a man who left Minnesota to join al-Shabab in 2008 is updated daily with tweets applauding Islamic State militants and criticizing the U.S.

One al-Shabab video — partly filmed in Minneapolis, including scenes from inside the airport — features a Minnesotan who calls Somalia "Disneyland" and urges others to join him. Another al-Shabab video urges people in Minnesota to answer the call of Allah and go to jihad "wherever

it is possible."

But pinpointing on-the-ground recruitment remains difficult. Loven said the FBI wants to "determine if there is a ground game here and who is involved."

Several teens or young adults approached by The Associated Press declined to speak about any experiences with recruiters. They are fearful of drawing attention to themselves, jeopardizing their personal safety or being targeted by law enforcement, said Omar Jamal, chief executive officer of American Friends of Somalia.

Some are skeptical, including Burhan Mohamed, 24, who works with high school kids. He said he's seen no evidence of recruitment on the ground.

"If there was a recruiter, believe me, half of the people here would call authorities," he said.

Jamal, Bihi and others cannot say for sure that those approaching young people in parks and elsewhere are recruiting for a terrorist group. But the community is on guard regardless. One local mosque banned a man this summer after he was ac-

cused of speaking about radical ideas. The man, who has not been charged, released a statement to the AP saying the accusations are baseless.

Jamal said young people have told him about small gatherings in the basements of homes or mosques that begin as discussions about the history of Islam or other educational topics but morph into something else over time.

"They'll say, 'Next week, we'll talk about what is jihad,'" Jamal said. "It's a very slow, very careful process. They don't just jump right in."

Evan Kohlmann, who tracks terrorists and terror activity as chief information officer at Flashpoint Global Partners, said the drawn-out method allows recruiters to eliminate spies or those who are considered unreliable.

"This is a part of the indoctrination process. They are trying to brainwash people," he said. "When it's face to face, it's a lot easier to get people interested or used to the idea of beheading someone."

www.ABCtravel.de/stripes ★ ☎ 0621 37 00 95 11

Top	Atlanta € 554
Discount Flights	Chicago € 599
Fly now	Los Angeles € 637
Pay later	Las Vegas € 617
We accept US \$	New York € 494
	Seattle € 637
	Miami € 557

Your special discount only on www.abctravel.de/stripes

Flights from AUG - OCT 2014. From/to Germany RT. All taxes incl. All prices based on availability.

TOP CRUISES

569 6 Days

up to **18 SEP 14** dep.

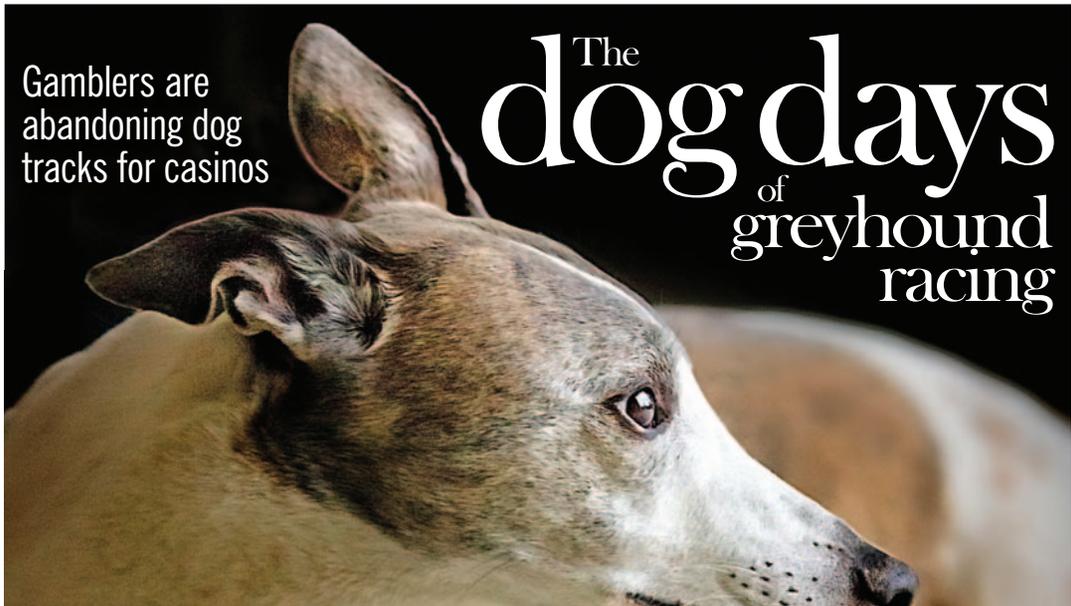
Mediterranean Sea on RC Oasis of the Seas

Barcelona/Spain, Rome/Italy, Naples/Italy - RT

NATION

Gamblers are abandoning dog tracks for casinos

The dog days of greyhound racing



By STEVE HENDRIX
The Washington Post

FOR a long time, the one-armed bandits inside the Mardi Gras Casino and the four-legged racers outside on the greyhound track were all spinning in the same direction.

The arrival of slots in the 1990s was a jackpot for West Virginia's fading dog-racing industry. As in many states, lawmakers here allowed new casinos to open only in conjunction with existing dog and horse tracks and steered a cut of their winnings to purses at the track.

"It was kind of a golden age after that," said Sam Burdette, head of the West Virginia Greyhound Breeders Association.

But now, an explosion of casino gambling is strangling the greyhound industry that once rescued. The bettors have largely migrated to the faster-paced gambling inside; the dogs are running in front of mostly empty stands, and the marriage between the bing-bing-bing and the bark-bark is heading for divorce. West Virginia may become the latest state to sever the link between casinos and tracks, a trend that could finally spell the end of the sport of queens.

"We'll be done in a couple of years if nothing changes," said Harvey Maupin, 50, a longtime West Virginia greyhound trainer who races at both of the state's dog tracks, in Charleston and Wheeling.

In much of the country, these are the dog days of greyhound racing. Once a mainstay of American gambling, dog tracks seem unlikely to outlast growing animal welfare concerns and the relentless expansion of other ways to gamble.

"People want instant gratification these days," Burdette said. "It'll take you half an hour to lose \$50 at a racetrack. You can do it in five minutes sitting in front of a slot machine."

Nationally, betting on greyhound racing has plummeted from a peak of \$3.5 billion in 1991 to \$665 million in 2012. At one time, more than 50 tracks oper-

ated in 15 states. Now, 21 tracks remain in seven states as interest has waned and legislatures have begun to re-examine the requirement that casinos operate — and subsidize — greyhound racing as a condition of offering slots, poker and blackjack.

Massachusetts, after a campaign highlighting animal welfare concerns, voted to ban racing altogether in 2010. Iowa became the latest state to cut the connection between casino revenue and dog tracks in May when Gov. Terry Branstad, a Republican, signed a law that will shutter one of the state's two tracks and eliminate the yearly \$14 million subsidy to the greyhound industry.

Similar "decoupling" initiatives are expected in other racing states this year, including West Virginia, where the politics are complicated by the fact that the governor's 80-year-old mother is one of the state's best-known greyhound owners.

West Virginia casinos are still required by law to operate the tracks for 220 days of racing a year. But the tight-knit racing community accuses its old ally of giving up on marketing the sport, and sometimes worse.

"I honestly think they're working against us," said Rod Monroe, who raises about 100 dogs on a farm near Wheeling. "I think they want to make it hard for people to come out to see the dogs."

At one point, patrons at Wheeling Island Casino were diverted through a parking garage to reach the dog track, Monroe

said, although the facility's new general manager has restored the old entrance. At Mardi Gras, race fans take a side elevator and navigate across two floors of gaming to access the outside gallery, which itself is filled with slot machines and table games.

In many states, casinos that want to get out from under the racing subsidies have formed a surprising alliance with animal welfare groups, who say the sport is cruel. In the worst cases, advocates say trainers have beaten dogs, fed them contaminated meat and trained them using live rabbits as bait.

But even at good kennels, they say, dogs are often injured in the races and

endure training routines in which they are housed in pens for most of the day.

"None of them are malicious acts of cruelty, but in our view these standard practices together constitute an industry that is cruel and inhumane," said Carey Theil, head of GREY2K, an advocacy group that

pushes anti-racing legislation around the country.

Greyhound breeders dispute that critique, pointing out that many urban dogs spend their days in crates. They were outraged in March when Danny Adkins, a senior executive of the company that owns both the Charleston casino and another in Hollywood, Fla., published an op-ed with

Humane Society President Wayne Pacelle that called for allowing casinos to get out of racing on animal welfare grounds.

Critics say the casinos' real concerns are sinking revenue, as gambling expands in one state after another, and the costs of operating the dog tracks. "He didn't think greyhound racing was inhumane when he was making millions from it," Byrnes said of Adkins.

Adkins said he does not consider the racing itself to be cruel. But as the money dries up, he said, it's fair to ask whether kennels can still afford to provide the dogs with proper care. In the op-ed, he cited the case of a kennel that falsified vaccination records to cut expenses.

"When we were making millions of dollars, they were making millions of dollars," Adkins said of the kennels. "Now I wonder how they're paying for it."

West Virginia racing opponents say they plan to introduce a decoupling bill in the coming legislative session, and both sides wonder what role will be played by Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin, a Democrat. His family owns Tomblin Kennel, a major player on both state tracks. His mother, Freda Tomblin, is one of the state's best-known greyhound breeders. Racing foes assume the governor will work to derail the legislation. But those in the industry point out that Tomblin has supported cutting the greyhound subsidy in the past.

"We don't expect the governor to be our savior by any means," Burdette said.

And there may not be one. In Florida, where 12 tracks operate mostly in conjunction with poker halls, Adkins sees no future at all for dog racing. He will close the Hollywood track if the law is changed to allow it, he said.

But in West Virginia, he thinks at least one track might survive if the yearlong racing schedule were reduced to a few months. Survive, at least for a while. "I think it's going to come to an end ultimately," Adkins said. "It just seems there is not much interest left."



BONNIE JO MOUNT/The Washington Post

Greyhounds race against each other at Wheeling Island Racetrack in West Virginia. The greyhound racing industry is under threat as the popularity of the sport has plummeted.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Some hospitals bill rape victims for tests, care

LA NEW ORLEANS — Hospitals should not be billing rape victims for forensic medical evaluations and care, state legislators and others say.

They responded to a report by NOLA.com and The Times-Picayune report that some victims are getting billed \$1,700 to \$4,000 even though state and federal guidelines require many of the services to be free for victims. Practices vary widely among hospitals and parishes, it said.

"I had no idea that was happening," said state Rep. Helena Moreno, D-New Orleans. "Talk about being traumatized twice."

A state Department of Health and Hospitals statement said officials will work with the Legislature to change things.

Dozens of animals dead in house fire

NV NORTH LAS VEGAS — Firefighters say dozens of animals were killed and injured in a fire at a North Las Vegas home.

Capt. Cedric Williams said the owner reported there were 90 to 100 animals in the home. Officials estimated Sunday night that about 30 dogs had died, but Williams said those numbers may have changed.

Court won't hear appeal in lover-in-closet case

TN NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Supreme Court has declined to hear the appeal of a woman who was convicted, along with her lover, in the slaying of her husband.

Martha Freeman and Rafael Rocha-Perez in 2006 were sentenced to life in the death of businessman Jeffrey Freeman, who was strangled and beaten in April 2005 at the Freemans' Nashville home. Prosecutors said Rocha-Perez had been living in a bedroom closet in the couple's home, apparently without the husband's knowledge.

The defense argued at trial that although Freeman waited a day to call police, the fact that she didn't cover up the crime scene showed she wasn't involved.

Hiker trapped in canyon by floodwaters dies

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Southern California man was found dead over the weekend in Zion National Park after rising floodwaters trapped him in a narrow canyon that is home to one of the park's best-known hiking trails.

Douglas Yoshi Vo, 34, of Westminster, Calif., and his friend began hiking early Saturday when rains came and the river began rising rapidly, forcing them to take refuge on high ground. They ended up on opposite sides of the raging river and could not talk to one another because of the noise of the water, Eaker said.

Vo's friend swam the flooding river to safety, while Vo remained where he was, Eaker said. Rangers found Vo's body Sunday after flooding subsided.

THE CENSUS

\$390K

The amount of a state lottery prize claimed by a Massachusetts man just hours before it would have disappeared forever. Dennis Cote, of Ware, Mass., purchased the "Lucky for Life" ticket Sept. 26, 2103, but didn't claim the winnings until last week. Under lottery rules, winners have one year to claim their prize. Cote told lottery officials he discovered that he had a winning ticket several months ago, but he wanted to do a little financial planning first and said he was just too busy to make the long trek to the lottery headquarters.



DAN PELLE, THE SPOKESMAN-REVIEW (SPOKANE, WASH.)/AP

A prehistoric point of view

Thor Tenold, 5, right, looks through a Tyrannosaurus rex interactive exhibit, as his sister Ada, 3, peeks through a triceratop's head, as they gaze at a dinosaur's point of view while visiting the T. Rex Named Sue exhibit on Tuesday at Mobius Science Center in downtown Spokane, Wash.

Navy: Aircraft carrier helps rescue fishermen

VA NORFOLK — The Navy says a Virginia-based aircraft carrier helped rescue two fishermen off the coast of Florida.

The Navy said the fishermen took to their life raft after unsuccessfully fighting an electrical fire aboard their vessel.

The Navy said the USS Theodore Roosevelt assisted Naval Air Warfare Center vessel 38 with the rescue about 90 miles off the coast of Florida on Monday.

2 teens cause more than \$100K in damage

WI BABCOCK — Wood County authorities say a vandalism spree that forced Ocean Spray's Babcock receiving station to close down for the weekend and divert deliveries caused \$200,000 in damages and lost wages.

Two 14-year-old Babcock-area boys broke vending machines, smashed windows and overturned a pickup truck at the receiving station last Wednesday night. Daily Tribune Media reported the pair also ransacked a local cafe and residence. The Wood County Sheriff's Department initially estimated all of the damage was well over \$100,000.

Wolf, coyote hunting derby wants larger area

ID BOISE — A group that overcame a court challenge last winter to hold a wolf and coyote-shooting derby is seeking a permit from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management to roughly double the area for a second event this winter.

"There's no excuse for not allowing us to hunt," said Steve Alder of Idaho for Wildlife. "It's on federal land. If we didn't have a derby, people are allowed to

hunt it anyway."

The BLM said a permit is required because a derby is considered a competitive event with prizes. Last year, the hunting group offered two separate, \$1,000 prizes. This winter's event is expected to draw about 100 to 150 hunters.

District to pay cancer bracelet lawsuit fees

PA EASTON — An eastern Pennsylvania school district has agreed to pay \$385,000 in attorneys' fees in the lawsuit over its efforts to bar students from wearing bracelets to promote breast cancer awareness.

The suit was filed in 2010 after two Easton Area School District middle school girls were suspended after refusing a principal's order to take off the "I (heart) Boobies!" bracelets.

The U.S. Supreme Court in March turned down the district's appeal, leaving in place last year's

federal appeals court ruling that the bracelets were not "plainly lewd" and hadn't caused any disruption.

Falcon has eye surgery, gets new set of lenses

NH CONCORD — A falcon in New Hampshire has undergone eye surgery to remove cataracts and has received new synthetic lenses.

Banner, a 4-year-old falcon, lost its sight and hasn't been able to fly or hunt for the past two years. On Monday, a team at Capital Veterinary Emergency Services in Concord removed the cataracts and put in artificial lenses in the hour-long procedure.

Banner's owners, Nancy and Jim Cowan of the New Hampshire School of Falconry in Deering, say it's the first time this surgery has been done on a falcon.

From wire reports

EUROPE

NSA flap not forgotten in Germany

By MATTHEW SCHOFIELD
McClatchy Foreign Staff

BERLIN — Juergen Hardt's position in the German government, coordinator of trans-Atlantic cooperation, once was considered a major honor — the official liaison to the United States, arguably Germany's closest ally.

But since the revelation that the U.S. National Security Agency eavesdropped for years on Chancellor Angela Merkel's cellphone, U.S.-German relations have been a twisting, stomach-churning roller-coaster ride so wild that many Germans wonder whether it's possible to get off. The pro-America crowd, meanwhile, can only warn that despite the nausea, it's not safe to leave a ride in motion.

"We have gone through challenging times in the bilateral relationship in the past," Hardt said in an interview. "As in every relationship, there have been ups and downs that now we navigate through challenging times when it comes to public perception."

The relationship between Germany and the U.S., two of the world's four largest economies, is no small matter. The U.S. relies on Europe as a strategic and trading partner, and Germany is the tail that wags the European

Union. As the world tilts toward Asia, economists and politicians think that perhaps the best way to extend the American Century and Europe's global influence is through good relations, from shared security through open trade.

But the mere fact that Hardt is in this role today says something about the state of affairs. In the past, the job has been trusted primarily to political senior figures. But Hardt joined the Parliament only in 2009, and before his appointment as liaison to North America he wasn't widely considered to be among Germany's political elite.

The job has lost much of its sheen. Hardt doesn't shy away from talking about why.

"Our nations share historic and long-standing close relations. We share bonds of friendships and personal connections between our people," he said. "This solid basis is often overshadowed these days for one simple reason: NSA surveillance. The problem is that this is to a certain degree a matter of two different cultures and experiences. What is being accepted in the United States is not acceptable here."

Hardt notes that Germans are not native about the ways of the modern spy world.

"We do not and we cannot expect a complete change of American security policy," he said. "But we do expect our citizens to be treated with the same respect U.S. law grants to its citizens. And we do expect that our national laws will be honored."

Germans were shocked by some areas of the U.S. spy program against his country, he said. And he reiterated a point made by Merkel: "In that regard, Germany needs some clear commitments."

What, specifically? Nonspecific electronic spying? "No go." Tapping the chancellor's cellphone? "Absolutely no go." Hiring spies in the German intelligence services? "No go."

Beyond that, it's become clear in Germany that part of the problem is the lack of transparency in the online world about where data are stored. It's understood that a German driver on an Italian highway is subject to Italian, not German, speed limits. But that driver knows he's on Italian roads. German Internet users on international Web services have as much of a right to know where their data are stored, Hardt said. They should know that the U.S. isn't permitted to spy on data stored in Germany, or Europe.

But that's only the first step in an overdue discussion, he said.

The problem the two nations have in starting this discussion is that it wasn't so long ago that relations were very, very good.

Germans say that had the U.S. asked to know what was going on in the parliamentary committee that's investigating NSA spying, Germany would have provided the information. Instead, the U.S. decided to pay a low-level committee worker when he offered information for cash. Just as it agreed to create another U.S. mole, in the German military, when approached by a low-level worker there.

Instead, German officials discovered the parliamentary leak when German counterintelligence intercepted an email the man sent to Russian officials. The Americans had already bought the information he was selling, giving Germany a heads up that there was someone selling parliamentary secrets — instead of paying for the secrets themselves — might have stretched a leg before it did harm.

"Our government is these days often forced to explain to our own people why ... we continue to work with the United States in so many different areas," Hardt said. "The trust that we lost in the past year between our nations must be rebuilt."

Palestinian-born man wants to lead Berlin

By GEIR MOULSON
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Berlin's mayor broke ground 13 years ago by winning election after coming out as gay. Now his top candidate to succeed him wants to make history of his own: Palestinian-born Raed Saleh is seeking to become Berlin's first immigrant mayor.

Saleh, who was born in the West Bank and came to Berlin at age 5, offers a story of social advancement he hopes will win over voters and set an example for others.

The son of a Palestinian "guest worker" who brought his family to then-West Berlin in the early 1980s, the 37-year-old Saleh started working at Burger King and later co-founded a company that offers printing services.

"At the moment, a lot of young people have the feeling that they don't have a share" in society, he told The Associated Press. Berlin is home to a large immigrant hierarchy, with individuals from people with Turkish roots, some of them poorly integrated.

Saleh joined the center-left Social Democrats of the current mayor, Klaus Wowereit, at 18 and rose steadily up the local party hierarchy. Now, in a move he announced in August that he was stepping down, Saleh — now the party's regional caucus leader — became a natural candidate to succeed him.

Members of the Social Democrats are choosing between Saleh and other candidates as he is their party's pick in a postal bal-



MARKUS SCHREIBER/AP

Palestinian-born Raed Saleh, center, talks with people during an event of his Social Democratic Party, Monday in Berlin. Saleh is seeking to replace Mayor Klaus Wowereit, who is stepping down.

lot that closes Oct. 17. The mayor will be elected by the Berlin state parliament in December. Since a Social Democrat-led coalition has a majority in the legislature, the party ballot's winner is all but guaranteed to get the job.

Saleh says his election could help give "courage and hope" to millions of people, showing that everyone is equal regardless of where they were born.

"This would of course be a great signal, and we would make

history together here in Berlin," he said.

Saleh also promises to ensure law and order and has taken an outspoken stance against anti-Semitic slogans chanted during protests against the Gaza war. "You can criticize if you have a different political view," he said, "but nothing justifies hatred of Jews."

Wowereit's decision to step down midterm gives the new mayor nearly two years before the next state election to shore up

his party's support. That has slid amid disillusionment with the long-popular Wowereit, whose personal reputation suffered from persistent delays in opening Berlin's new airport.

Saleh's chances are hard to gauge in a battle with local party chairman Jan Stoess and city development minister Michael Mueller, the best-known of three candidates who are hardly household names.

Vote Now
for Germany's Best
Vote online www.stripeswards.com/readers-choice

Stripes READERS' CHOICE 2014

FAITH

REMAKING Mecca

Between wealth and Wahhabism, Saudi urban overhaul transforms Islam's holiest city

By AYA BATRAWY
The Associated Press

MECCA, Saudi Arabia — As a child, Osama al-Bar would walk from his home past Islam's holiest site, the Kaaba, to the market of spice and fabric merchants where his father owned a store. At that time, Mecca was so small, pilgrims could sit at the cube-shaped Kaaba and look out at the serene desert mountains where the Prophet Muhammad once walked.

Now the market and the homes are gone. Monumental luxury hotel towers crowd around the Grand Mosque where the Kaaba is located, dwarfing it. Steep rocky hills overlooking the mosque have been leveled and are now covered with cranes building more towers in row after row.

"My father and all the people who lived in Mecca wouldn't recognize it," said al-Bar, who is now Mecca's mayor.

As Muslims from around the world stream into Mecca for the annual hajj pilgrimage this week, they come to a city undergoing the biggest transformation in its history.

Decades ago, this was a low-built city of centuries-old neighborhoods. Over the years, it saw piecemeal renewal projects. But in the mid-2000s, the kingdom launched its most ambitious overhaul ever with a series of mega-projects that, though incomplete, have already reshaped Mecca.

Old neighborhoods have been erased for hotel towers and malls built right up to the edge of the Grand Mosque. Historic sites significant for Islam have been demolished. Next to the Kaaba soars the world's third tallest skyscraper, topped by a gigantic clock, which is splashed with colored lights at night.

"It's not Mecca. It's Mecca-hattan. This tower and the lights in it are like Vegas," said Sami Angawi, an architect who spent his life studying hajj and is one of the most outspoken critics of the changes. "The truth of the history of Mecca is wiped out ... with bulldozers and dynamite. Is this development?"

Critics complain the result is stripping the holy city of its spirituality. They also say it is robbing the hajj of its more 1,400-year-old message that all Muslims, rich or poor, are equal before God as they perform the rites meant to cleanse them of sin, starting and ending by circling the Kaaba seven times.

Mecca is revered by hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide. They face the Kaaba every



The center of Mecca and the Kaaba in the middle of the square on Sept. 23, 1951.



Thousands of Muslims perform the Hajj pilgrimage in Mecca on Sept. 24, 1951.



Muslims visit the Kaaba, the Sacred House of Allah, during their pilgrimage in 1954.

day in their prayers. The Grand Mosque is one of the few places in the world where Muslims of all stripes gather — Sunnis and Shiites, secular Muslims, mystics and hard-liners.

Overseeing Mecca is also a key source of prestige for Saudi Arabia's monarchy. The past two kings — the current one, Abdullah, and his predecessor, Fahd — have adopted the further title of "custodian of the two holy mosques" to boost their status, referring to Mecca's Grand Mosque and Muhammad's mosque in nearby Medina.

Now the city is being molded to a particularly Saudi vision that bolsters the rule of the Al Saud

royal family.

Two forces shape that vision. One is raw, petrodollar-fueled capitalism. Mecca's planners are largely catering to wealthier pilgrims by focusing on construction of five-star hotels, surrounding the Kaaba in marble-sheathed luxury. Nearby pilgrims can shop at international chains, including a Paris Hilton store and a gender-segregated Starbucks.

The other force is Wahhabism, the strict, puritanical interpretation of Islam that the Al Saud rulers elevated to the country's official doctrine. In return, Wahhabi clerics staunchly back the monarchy. The monarchy has long given Wahhabi clerics a monopoly of preaching at the Kaaba.

One tenet of Wahhabism is that Muslim tombs or sites connected to revered figures — even the Prophet Muhammad, his family and companions — should be destroyed to avoid veneration of anything other than God. It's the same iconoclastic zeal that has prompted militants from the Islamic State group to blow up Muslim shrines in Iraq and Syria.

In Mecca, hardly any site associated with Muhammad remains. Many were destroyed in previous expansions of the Grand Mosque in the 1980s and 1990s, and the new development is finishing off much of what remains. In 2008, for example, the house of Abu Bakr, Muhammad's successor as leader of the Muslim community, was razed to make way for a Hilton.

The country's top religious official, Grand Mufti Abdul-Aziz Al-Sheik, backed such demolitions last year, saying "the removal of such things within the expansion is necessary."

The urban renewal is necessary, Saudi officials say, to accommodate hajj pilgrims whose numbers are expected to swell from around 3 million currently to nearly 7 million by 2040.

Essam Kalthoum, managing director of the government-owned Bawabat Makkah Company, which is involved in a number of projects around the city, acknowledged that "it would be a farce" to say financial motivations are not coming into play.

But he said the main goal is to increase space for pilgrims. Kalthoum showed a gift from a Turkish foundation he had just received: a photo of Mecca from the late 1800s.

"This is painful," he said. "For those of us who witnessed some of this (past), it brings back memories." But he pointed to the Kaaba in the photograph. "Because of this place," he said, the old markets and buildings had to go.



WAR/MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

First Lt. Matthew White, bottom left, gives a man a leaflet as Capt. Rodney Freeman looks on in Parwan province, Afghanistan on June 13.

3 Afghans who fled to Canada now living in fear

The Associated Press

BATAVIA, N.Y. — Three Afghan military officers who sought refuge in Canada after taking off from a military training exercise in Massachusetts said Wednesday they were trying to escape Taliban violence at home but now face the wrath of their own government as well.

“Now that we’ve decided to seek asylum, the danger has multiplied,” said Maj. Jan Mohammad Arash, who along with Capt. Noorullah Aminyar and Capt. Mohammed Nasir Askarzada traveled more than 500 miles by taxi from a Wal-Mart on Cape Cod to Niagara Falls.

The three walked across the Rainbow Bridge connecting New York to Ontario, Canada, to claim refugee status on Sept. 22 and were turned over to U.S. authorities, who charged them with immigration violations and began removal proceedings.

“Our pictures are in the newspapers in Afghanistan, Pakistan and all over the world and our government has turned against us,” Arash, 49, said inside the federal detention facility outside Buffalo, where they are being held.

All said they feared they would be killed or imprisoned and tortured if returned to Afghanistan.

In interviews with The Associated Press, the three described feeling elated as they took their \$1,600 cab ride toward the U.S.-Canadian border, never expecting they would be turned away and handed over to the United States under a U.S.-Canada agreement that requires asylum seekers to apply in the first country they land in.

“I felt like I was reborn again and I had become free and alive,” Askarzada, 28, said of the trip through Massachusetts and into New York. He and Arash answered questions in Farsi, which was translated by their attorney, Matthew Borowski. Aminyar spoke in English.

Askarzada said he has an uncle in Canada and that the three planned to seek him out for help in eventually bringing their families there as well. All are married and have children. Askarzada said his wife is pregnant.

Aminyar said he had been targeted by the Taliban in his village of Khowngi because of his work with U.S. soldiers in killing and capturing Taliban fighters. A platoon leader and company commander, the 30-year-old said he decided to leave the country after taking part in military training in the United States in 2012 and again in September.

While he was participating last month in a U.S. Central Command Regional Cooperation training exercise at Joint Base Cape Cod, Aminyar said, Taliban fighters went to his Afghanistan home intending to kill him, leading to a frantic phone conversation with his father.

U.S. authorities have said they do not believe the men posed any danger to the public.

Afghan pact rekindles questions

Security deal signing renews debate on how soon US should exit

By DAVID LERMAN AND ELTAF NAAJFIZADA
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The signing of a long-delayed security agreement marks both an end and a beginning for the United States in Afghanistan.

While it ends months of uncertainty about whether the Afghan government would agree on ground rules for U.S. forces to remain in the war-torn country after this year, it also reopens a debate over how fast the remaining American troops should pull out.

ANALYSIS

No sooner was the Bilateral Security Agreement signed in Kabul Tuesday than Republican lawmakers in Washington called on President Barack Obama to reconsider his withdrawal plan, which would leave a handful of U.S. troops in the country by the time he leaves office in January 2017.

“While the signing of this agreement is a positive step, the administration should reconsider its plans to draw down U.S. forces completely over the next two years,” House Speaker John Boehner, an Ohio Republican, said in a statement. “Of all the challenges facing our strategy there, the most potentially damaging and completely avoidable is quitting just short of the goal line.”

Obama has sought to walk a middle ground on Afghanistan, seeking to end U.S. combat while negotiating a phased withdrawal to avoid the abrupt departure from Iraq in 2011 that critics say contributed to instability and paved

the way for Islamic State radicals to seize territory.

Now U.S. forces are conducting airstrikes over Iraq in an effort to push back the Sunni extremists as Obama vows he won’t send American troops back into combat there.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s administration signed the security agreement with the U.S. and another with NATO to keep troops in the country after this year and secure billions of dollars in aid for Asia’s poorest country.

“The gains of the past decade have been won with blood and treasure,” Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement. “They must not be lost, and we all have a stake in ensuring they’re a foundation upon which to build.”

Taliban suicide attacks on an Afghan military bus and security vehicle in Kabul Wednesday killed seven soldiers and wounded 19 people, underscoring the dangers from insurgents seeking to retake power through violence.

Ghani took over on Sept. 29 from Hamid Karzai, who refused to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement after 13 years in power during which he increasingly opposed and denounced the U.S., which has lost 2,346 lives in the conflict so far. Ghani had pledged to secure the continued presence of U.S. and NATO troops within a week of taking office.

“We made an agreement which is helpful for Afghan stability and prosperity and for the stability of region and that of the world,” Ghani said as his national security adviser, Mohammad Hanif Hatmar, signed the agreements in a televised ceremony with U.S. Am-

bassador James Cunningham.

While the security deal won wide support in the United States, it revived criticism of Obama’s withdrawal plans.

“I just don’t think it makes any sense,” said Michael O’Hanlon, a defense analyst at the Brookings Institution, a Washington-based research group. “It reflects the desire of President Obama to end two wars on his watch.”

Withdrawing almost all forces over the next two and a half years is “just compounding the pressure when you have this political change in Kabul and uncertainty in Pakistan,” O’Hanlon said in an interview.

The extended U.S. presence gives Americans access to bases from which to fly drones near the tribal area of Pakistan, he said. “That’s a good thing for us to have for many years to come,” he said.

Obama wants to reduce this year’s deployment of more than 30,000 troops to about 9,800 by the start of next year. That number would decrease by about half by the end of next year and decline again to a small security force for the U.S. Embassy in Kabul by the end of 2016.

The vast majority of troops that remain next year will be used to help advise and assist Afghan forces, leaving few Americans available to conduct counterterrorism operations, a State Department official, describing strategy on condition of anonymity, told reporters Tuesday on a conference call.

“It’s premature to second-guess the transition strategy,” said Brian Katulis, a defense analyst at the Center for American Progress in

Washington, which has ties to the Obama administration.

Katulis dismissed the criticism from Republican lawmakers, who he said “are stuck in the past, wedded to the outdated notion of costly, open-ended commitments of U.S. troops as a cure-all.”

The U.S. spent about \$93 billion in military and economic assistance to Afghanistan from the Taliban’s ouster in late 2001 through September 2013, with an additional \$6.1 billion budgeted for this year, the Congressional Research Service said in May.

The accord with the U.S. sets conditions for a continued presence, including immunity from Afghan prosecution for American troops. The agreement with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization similarly provides for other nations’ forces.

“The NATO Status of Forces Agreement provides the legal basis for our new mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan security forces,” NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said yesterday in a statement on the alliance’s website. “The signing of today’s agreements means that this new NATO-led mission, called Resolute Support, can start on 1 January 2015, as planned.”

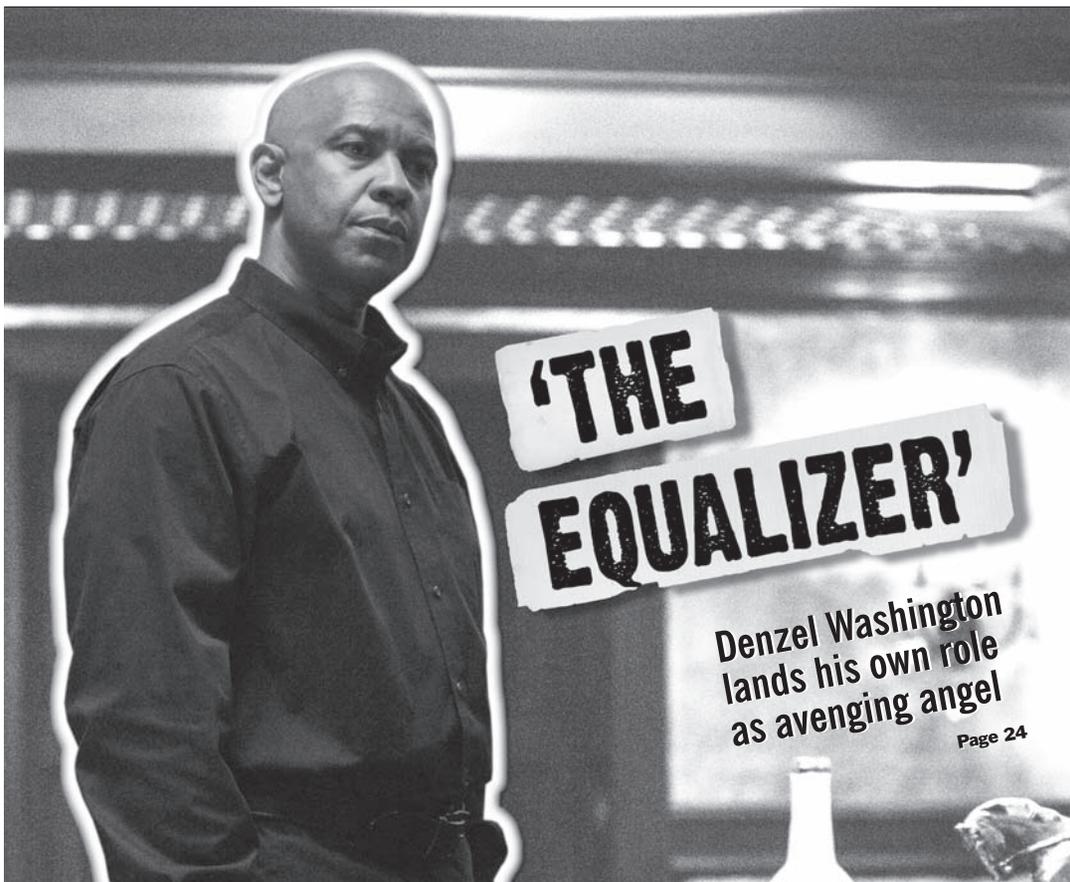
The Taliban criticized the U.S. in a statement Tuesday, saying its inability to back Ukraine against Russia revealed its weakness, spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said in a statement.

“Today, with the help of Almighty Allah and because of the holy Jihad of the Afghan people, America is no more a superpower,” the group said in the statement.

WEEKEND



Prince pops out solo, collaborative releases
Page 37



'THE EQUALIZER'

Denzel Washington lands his own role as avenging angel

Page 24

Fantastic food fair

Educational opportunities, tasty treats abound in Turin

Travel, Page 30



Irrawaddy adventure

Beautiful surprises await river cruisers in Myanmar

Travel, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Virtual reality tech still has long way to go

By BRIAN CRECENTE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Despite the soaring plaudits from professional technophiles, despite the growing support from the video game industry, the latest run at mainstreaming wearable virtual reality is doomed to be a commercial failure.

Yes, the Oculus Rift has reignited an interest in virtual reality goggles not seen in decades. And yes, the company behind the technology was purchased by Facebook for billions.

But ultimately the thing that the Oculus Rift delivers to users doesn't yet overcome the inherent inconvenience and cost of using it. And it still isn't the virtual reality millions brought up watching the likes of "Star Trek" and reading books like "Snow Crash" or "Ready Player One" would expect from the technology.

The Oculus Rift is a black headset that straps onto a user's face like a set of oversized, opaque ski goggles and then plugs into a computer. Inside the headset, an OLED display and twin lenses show nearly matching images to your eyes, tricking your brain into thinking it is perceiving not a flat image, but reality. The latest version, Crescent Bay, amped up the resolution, lowered the weight, added built-in audio and the ability to track 360-degree head movement.

It is the closest thing yet to a consumer-bound product that can deliver what virtual reality experts call presence.

Oculus VR chief scientist Michael Abrash, a virtual reality expert working on perfecting the tech at Valve Software at the time, delivered a seminal speech on the topic in January, saying that compelling, consumer-priced VR hardware is probably coming within two years.

"Presence," he said at the time, "is an incredibly powerful sensation, and it's unique to VR; there's no way to create it in any other medium. "Most people find it to be kind of magical."

Presence is essentially the sensation of being there, in the game, on the edge of a cliff, rising alongside "Game of Thrones'" mighty Wall, even when you're not. The Oculus Rift creates the same sense of presence you might get from a remembered dream: a detached feeling of being there, but still not being able to move, at least not in the ways you would be able to reality.

So when I first strapped on an earlier build of the Oculus Rift in Germany last year I was suddenly sitting in a movie theater, an experience so real that I almost fell out of my chair when I went



LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Palmer Luckey, founder of Oculus, holds a Rift headset in his Irvine, Calif., offices. The Oculus Rift has re-ignited an interest in virtual reality goggles, but the system is still rudimentary.

to lean on the nonexistent armrest.

It is indeed a powerful experience, and the Oculus Rift looks to have nearly mastered it.

There's no arguing that the work Oculus VR has done on presence is an important step. Once ready for consumers, the headset could be one of the most important technological leaps to date in the field of immersive virtual reality. But it's not the endgame; it's merely a move toward solving one of many significant problems facing the creation of true virtual reality.

Where the Oculus Rift could eventually deliver an experience that satisfies one of our senses, it does nothing for the others, nor does it deal with the very real problem of movement in a virtual world.

Ignoring the plethora of relatively smaller issues, like ridding the unit of a cable that needs to be plugged into the PC or perfecting a system that reduces motion sickness for all players, there are also these massive issues to be solved like how you deal with tactile feedback and how you allow users to move without breaking the experience.

Movement already has some options, but the best I've seen today involves purchasing what amounts to a circular treadmill and standing in the middle of it with tethers latched to your waist to protect you from accidental falls.

This isn't to say that what Oculus Rift is doing and hopes to do isn't worthwhile, but the buzz surrounding it and the expectations it is creating, especially among those not as technologically adept as the legions of fans the system has, are unrealistic.

For this to work, it has to do what all great mass appeal tech devices have done in the past: Deliver a benefit that outweighs the inconvenience of its use and prove that benefit is unique.

Right now, that's not the case. But check back in a decade.

GADGET WATCH

Monster headphones sound great

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Services

Monster, the company that makes great cables to connect all of today's electronics to one system also makes some other great products, most notably headphones.

A few weeks ago I took a vacation and brought along some new Monster products including the Monster NCredible N-Ergy Impressions earbuds.

It's clear that a lot of attention is put into packaging Monster products. Usually this ensures you're getting a well-made product, but not always.

In this case, you are getting what you expect: a well-made product with great sound.

For \$69, I consider these a great deal.

The sound is excellent; they aren't going to knock your head off with head-banging bass, but they produce a nice consistent sound at any volume.

Each speaker is magnetized so they can stick together and hang around your neck when not putting sound in your ears. They are also attached to a triangle-free cord.

The Monster Superstar (\$124) has a jamm'n' pocket-sized Bluetooth speaker.

This speaker is so smart, it speaks to you as it's powered on or off.

Don't worry about the sound — despite being pocket-sized, this speaker rocks.

It functions as a speaker phone for hands-free calls, and its built with what they describe as a tough, durable, shock-proof silicone protective shell that is also splash resistant (but not waterproof).

For non-Bluetooth devices, there's an input line port. The speaker is available in neon orange, neon green, neon blue, gray, neon pink and white.

Monster's Powercard Turbo portable battery (\$59.95) is fast-charging, and is designed to juice up almost any portable electronic gadget.

It measures just 2-by-2.25-by-.5 inches, making it easy to carry in a backpack, purse or pocket.

Inside is 3,350mAh of power, enough to recharge my iPhone 5s.

A USB port on the side handles the charging cable. A microUSB cable is included.

Online: monsterproducts.com



Monster's NCredible N-Ergy Impressions earbuds produce a consistent sound at any volume.
MCT photos

ON THE COVER: Denzel Washington is a problem-solver for hire in "The Equalizer."

COLUMBIA PICTURES/AP

ITUNES MUSIC

- Top 10 albums on iTunes for October 1:
1. "Partners," Barbra Streisand
 2. "Sundown Heaven Town (Deluxe Edition)," Tim McGraw
 3. "RUN WILD. LIVE FREE. LOVE STRONG: For King & Country
 4. "Anything Goes," Florida Georgia Line
 5. "Bulletproof Picasso," Train
 6. "The Cowboy Rides Away: Live From AT&T Stadium," George Strait
 7. "World On Fire (featuring Myles Kennedy & The Conspirators)," Slash
 8. "Old Boots, New Dirt," Jason Aldean
 9. "Title — EP," Meghan Trainor
 10. "Guardians of the Galaxy: Awesome Mix, Vol. 1," Various Artists

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

- The most-streamed tracks on Spotify from Sept. 22-28:
1. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
 2. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
 3. "Bang Bang," Jessie J
 4. "Black Widow," Iggy Azalea
 5. "Break Free," Ariana Grande
 6. "Chandelier," Sia
 7. "Cool Kids," Echosmith
 8. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
 9. "Blame," Calvin Harris
 10. "Animals," Maroon 5

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

- Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for October 1:
1. "Transformers: Age of Extinction"
 2. "Godzilla"
 3. "The Fault in Our Stars"
 4. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier"
 5. "Live Die Repeat: Edge of Tomorrow"
 6. "Fed Up"
 7. "Chef"
 8. "The Lunchbox"
 9. "Blended"
 10. "Draft Day"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

- Game Informer's top games in October:
1. "FIFA 15," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
 2. "Super Smash Bros.," 3DS
 3. "Destiny," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360
 4. "Wasteland 2," PC
 5. "Bayonetta," PlayStation 3, Xbox 360 and Wii U
 6. "Diablo III: Reaper of Souls — Ultimate Evil Edition," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360
 7. "Middle-earth: Shadow of Mordor," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360
 8. "Alien: Isolation," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
 9. "Metro Redux," PS4, Xbox One, PC
 10. "Hyrule Warriors," Wii U

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

- Top 5 new paid apps for October 1:
- ANDROID
1. Goal Simulator
 2. Dragon Quest
 3. Weather Timeline — Forecast
 4. Block Fortress
 5. Mage Gauntlet
- Top 5 paid apps for October 1:
- APPLE
1. Five Nights at Freddy's
 2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 3. Goblin Sword
 4. Sleep Cycle alarm clock
 5. Afterlight

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Feed your inner chef with movie and book

Chefs both fictional and actual provide tasty entertainment treats this week. The first, a critically acclaimed film starring Jon Favreau as a professional chef who starts a food truck, is now on DVD, all the better for enjoying at home.

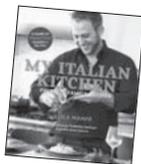
In the real world, Luca Manfé, who grew up near Aviano Air Base in Italy, has just released a book called "My Italian Kitchen." We bet it's good — Manfé recently won season 4 of the reality TV show "MasterChef." And if notorious perfectionist hothead chef Gordon Ramsay, host of "MasterChef," says you're good ... you are.

- Read more about Manfé on Page 26.
- Other new DVD releases on Page 39.



OPEN ROAD FILMS/AP

Jon Favreau: Not a real chef, but he plays one in the movie "Chef," recently released on DVD.



FOX

Season 4 "MasterChef" winner Luca Manfé, once a local near Aviano Air Base, Italy, plans to open a restaurant in New York. He's also just written a book called "My Italian Kitchen."

2

Viola Davis on a roll with dramatic TV role

Acclaimed actress Viola Davis is now on TV. Watch her new show, "How to Get Away with Murder," to see why the morally ambiguous role of professor and defense attorney was worth jumping into.

- Profile on Page 39.
- "How to Get Away with Murder" airs on Thursdays on AFN-Family and on Fridays on AFN-Spectrum.



3

Go gaga for duets on 'Cheek to Cheek'

We've had a few years to get used to the odd musical coupledom of Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga, who first teamed up on a Bennett album in 2011. They've just released a new collection of duet standards, "Cheek to Cheek."

- Unlikely as it might be, this duo strikes just the right tone together.
- "Cheek to Cheek" album review on Page 38.



4

'Tiny Detectives'? Not 'True,' but funny

The cast of the second season of cable TV's "True Detective" has been revealed. Presumably, fans of Colin Farrell and Vince Vaughn are pleased, but those who hoped for a female cast are not.

The online funsters at Funny or Die have created a parody video in which wee actresses Kate Mara and Ellen Page get their own show — but face challenges.

- See it at tinyurl.com/tinydetectives.



WEEKEND: MOVIES

‘Training Day’ star and director reunite for new thriller

Washington, Fuqua ride again in ‘Equalizer’

By Jake Coyle
The Associated Press

It's been a dozen years since Denzel Washington and director Antoine Fuqua rode the corrupt Det. Alonzo Harris and their Los Angeles crime odyssey "Training Day" to Oscar glory (for Washington) and a Hollywood breakthrough (for Fuqua).

"You look up, I didn't realize it was 12 years," says Washington. "That's quick. That's too fast."

In "The Equalizer," a very loose adaptation of the 1980s private eye TV series, Washington and Fuqua have finally reteamed, resuming a potent actor-director tandem. The film has also kick-started further collaborations. They are planning a "Magnificent Seven" remake ("You don't get many shots at a Western," says Washington, grinning) and could return for a potential sequel to "The Equalizer."

You might expect the two to have an easygoing congeniality together, ready to expound on the success of their partnership. You would be wrong.

"You don't overthink it," says Washington, who is not prone to brooding or rumination. "You just do. It does, so do."

In "The Equalizer," Washington plays a bald widower living a Spartan life in Boston. He works at a hardware store and every night fastidiously drinks his tea at a local diner. But when a Russian acquaintance (a prostitute played by Chloe Grace Moretz) gets involved with the Russian mafia, his proficiency with violence (not unlike it often is with Liam Neeson) is reawakened.

Washington's intensity, perhaps as it would be in any pairing with the veteran actor, is the dominant force between him and his director. Asked what appeals to Fuqua about working with Washington, the actor chuckles: "You want me to leave the room?"

"You work with somebody who's always challenging you and himself, and just wants you to be the best," answers Fuqua, whose credits since "Training Day" include the White House action flick "Olympus Has Fallen," the vigilante thriller "Shooter" and the period adventure "King Arthur."

"Even if it's challenging, that's what brings the best out of you."

It's that pressurized tension that seems to most fuel Washington and Fuqua. They are, tellingly, both amateur boxers and share the same trainer. Greeted on a recent morning at the Toronto Film Festival where "The Equalizer" premiered, they were eagerly discussing the previous night's fight. Boxing metaphors peppered their conversation.

"You go into the ring, you're going in to get it in," says Fuqua, whose next film is a boxing drama, "Southpaw," starring Jake Gyllenhaal. "It's the same thing with making a movie. You're going in there to put the work in, do something with some intensity — a little grit."

Washington, then, is like a prizefighter emerging from his trailer, ready to spar.

"You say you're ready, then I'm coming out and here we go," says Washington of his mindset going into a scene. "Walk in the ring and start throwing punches."

Washington and Fuqua had been set to reunite once before in "American Gangster," the saga about the Harlem drug dealer and smuggler Frank Lucas. But Universal Studios fired Fuqua weeks before

the movie was to begin shooting and, days later, the film was canceled altogether. The project was eventually rekindled with Ridley Scott directing.

But Fuqua and Washington continued to look to team up. Washington called Fuqua about helming "The Equalizer," and the director later approached Washington about "The Magnificent Seven." (The basis of the Western, Kurosawa's "Seven Samurai," Fuqua says, is what inspired him to be a filmmaker.)

Their work together is predicated on leaving the other enough room to operate in.

"I'm not looking over his shoulder," says Washington. "We collaborate all the time but we spend a lot more time in the preparation phase. Once we start shooting, he's got stuff to do, and if I'm not doing what I need to do on a set, I'm off the set. I'm in my trailer."

Washington says he needs his own space to focus, to hold on to his character. He's there to work, not make friends: "Nobody ever said 'Man, he sucked (in the movie), but I bet he was nice to everybody on set,'" he says.

Though he looks nearly two decades younger, Washington will turn 60 this December. But it's now clear that his movies with Fuqua will be a definite — if once interrupted — chapter in his career.

"I've worked with Jonathan Demme twice, Ed Zwick three times, Spike (Lee), I think four times and (the late) Tony Scott five times," says Washington. "There are people I'm comfortable with that know what they're doing. So it makes my job easier. It's a good collaboration, and we've had good results."

‘You work with somebody who's always challenging you and himself, and just wants you to be the best. Even if it's challenging, that's what brings the best out of you.’

Antoine Fuqua on working with Denzel Washington



"The Equalizer" reunites director Antoine Fuqua with actor Denzel Washington. The duo worked together on 2001's "Training Day," which earned Washington an Academy Award for best actor.

ANDY KROPA, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Denzel Washington puts intrigue into 'Equalizer'

By Cary Darling
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Denzel Washington must have been behind Liam Neeson in the line at the bank and glimpsed when the Irish actor deposited one of his massive checks from "Taken."

Washington wanting a cut of that late-career tough-guy action would help explain his presence in "The Equalizer," a straightforward revenge-action vehicle and update of the '80s TV series — as well as the possible kickoff for a franchise — that could very easily have starred Jason Statham and no one would have been the wiser.

Yet just having Washington in the title role elevates the film from a tired rerun — complete with (yawn) brutal Russian mobsters and their inept gunmen who couldn't hit the side of the Kremlin — to a rousing, crowd-pleasing take on a movie formula, like a forgettable pop song turned into a dizzying jazz solo.

On the television show, Robert McCall aka "The Equalizer" (British actor Edward Woodward) was a dapper defender of justice, a former agent who helped everyday people fight back against those taking advantage of them. Here, Washington's McCall is very different. A loner with a mysterious past who lives by himself in a small Boston apartment, he works at a home-improvement store by day and reads — he's working his way through a list of the 100 best books — at a local diner by night. When we meet him, he's deep into Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea."

This is where he makes the acquaintance of another patron, Teri (Chloe Grace Moretz, "If I Stay"), the prototypical hooker with a heart of gold and ambitions to be a singer. But she's under the heavy thumb of a well-connected group of crime lords run by Slavi (David Meunier), who beats her so badly one night that she's sent to ICU.

Faster than you can say "avenging angel on aisle one," McCall takes it upon himself to take out her employers — and that puts him on the radar of Slavi's overlords, specifically Teddy (a deliciously evil Martin Csokas), who has flown in from Moscow specifically to deal with the situation.

Washington is magnetic as McCall, imbuing his just-get-the-job-done, guy-next-door character with a sense of solid moral righteousness and swaggering physical authority.

New on base

"The Equalizer" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumhohl, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Misawa, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: equalizethermovie.com

All the while, Washington provides McCall a loose-limbed humanity. When he breaks into a bit of Gladys Knight & the Pips choreography while joshing around with his coworkers, it's tough to imagine the intense Neeson or the buttoned-up Woodward pulling that one off.

Director Antoine Fuqua ("Olympus Has Fallen," "Training Day"), working from the predictable script by Richard Wenk ("The Expendables 2," "The Mechanic"), possesses a flashy authority, and he injects a sense of energy by using some of his tricks he learned as a brand-name music-video director — take, for example, the "rain" scene in the climax.

Perhaps the most intriguing element in the way McCall has been reimagined is that Washington's race is not an issue. He never brings it up, and the myriad of foul-mouthed gangsters and corrupt cops never use it as an epithet.

At one point, though, McCall is seen reading "Invisible Man," Ralph Ellison's classic 1952 vision of what it's like to be black in America. It's a nice touch, saying what has been unsaid while also echoing McCall's life as the unassuming working stiff who just happens to have a hidden life as a courageous crime-fighter.

"The Equalizer" might not be a smart movie, but the filmmakers were smart enough to score more equal than others.

*"Equalizer" is rated R for strong bloody violence and strong language throughout, including some sexual references. Running time: 131 minutes



Denzel Washington, top, with Nash Edgerton, stars as a problem-solver for hire in "The Equalizer." The film was inspired by the 1980s television show of the same name.

SCOTT GARBFIELD, COLUMBIA PICTURES, SONO/AP

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life



WARNER BROS. PICTURE/MCT

Annabelle Wallis plays a pregnant 1960s housewife in "Annabelle."

'Annabelle' scares despite underacting, cheap effects

By Roger Moore

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

A child's crayon rolls across a floor. Curtains fly back from a window you thought was closed. A TV-distracted seamstress looks at her late-model sewing machine less and less as the camera zooms closer and closer to that naked needle whirring at her fingertips.

An alarming-ogling child's doll stares out of the corner of the frame as a puzzled, haunted young mother steps through a door in the background. Sometimes, the best effects are the cheapest.

"Annabelle" is another tale of a doll possessed, a horror movie of such hairy conventions that we meet the "knowing priest" (Tony Amendola) in the first scene, and we're introduced to the helpful, occult-curious bookstore owner (Alfre Woodard) before the first act is through.

There's nothing surprising about this late '60s tale, including its connection to the modern ghost stories told in "The Amityville Horror" and "The Conjuring." But what it lacks in originality it makes up for in hair-raising execution.

Mia (Annabelle Wallis) is a California housewife, pregnant with her first baby. Her husband, John (Ward Horton), is a young doctor and man of science.

A Manson Family-like slaughterer hits the couple living next door and spills into their lives. That's where the murderous cultist Annabelle got her hands on one of Mia's antique dolls before she died. And that's when strange things start to happen.

Father Perez (Amendola) has a theory that feeds Mia's growing suspicions about a doll so alarmingly grotesque it could only exist in a horror movie. And Evelyn (Woodard), an earthy widow who lost her child years before, is laughably matter-of-fact about the vintage books she sells.

Wallis (TV's "The Tudors") gives a flat, low-heat, soft-voiced performance. Her underplaying almost works as a counterpoint to the rising terror of director John R. Leonetti's vintage effects — baby carriages that roll on their own, noises in the attic.

New on base

"Annabelle" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumhohl, Grafenwöhr, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific

Misawa, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Casey, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: annabellemovie.com

We're lulled to sleep by the acting, jolted when something we've seen a million times happens.

Like "Insidious" and "The Conjuring," the only goal here is to raise the hairs on the back of your neck. And "Annabelle" does, more than once.

*"Annabelle" is rated R for intense sequences of disturbing violence and terror. Running time: 98 minutes.

BROADWAY KINO
MOVIE MAGIC

Ramstein-Süd / Landstuhl
For Reservations & Information call 06371-937037
Next to Autohahn A6, Exit 13 (Landstuhl)
Marktplatz 6, 66777 Ramstein - Messenbach
6 THEATRES, THX, EX and all Digital Sound

Website: www.broadwaykino.com

THUR OCT 02 - WED OCT 08

Dracula Untold (R) Thur 16:00, 19:00, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, Mon - Wed 16:00, 18:30

Gone Girl (R) Thur 17:45, 20:00, Fri 17:45, 19:45, 22:00, Sat 13:30, 17:45, 19:45, 22:00, Sun 13:30, 17:45, 19:45, Mon 17:45, 20:15, Tue 17:45, 20:00, Wed 17:45

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) Sat & Sun 12:00

The Equalizer (PG-13) Thur 17:45, 20:15, Fri 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:30, 20:00, Mon 17:45, Tue & Wed 17:45, 20:15

The Giver (PG-13) Thur 16:00, Fri 15:45, Sat & Sun 16:15, Mon - Wed 16:00

BROADWAY, BARGAIN TUESDAY**
ALL shows \$6 per person**
Not on holidays / Overflight & 3D price increase 1

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

A recipe for success

‘MasterChef’ winner, Italy native Luca Manfè touts book, restaurant, chef-for-hire venture

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

Luca Manfè will quickly point out that he’s not a trained chef. Yet he achieved a measure of fame and fortune last year because of a cooking show on American television.

The 33-year-old, who views Aviano, Italy, as home even though he’s spent the past decade in New York City, won season four of Fox’s “MasterChef,” a show probably better known for its hard-to-please host, Gordon Ramsay, than its contestants.

“It’s not as popular as some shows in the States,” Manfè said during a recent visit to Italy that included a book signing at the exchange on Aviano Air Base.

But nearly 6 million viewers is still a lot of people. And a barrage of press coverage after his victory proved that he had a lot of supporters in Italy, including his parents, who are longtime employees at the base.

Italian journalists “don’t want to talk to me now,” Manfè said, smiling. “They’ve moved on to other things.”

But since Manfè doesn’t plan to open a restaurant in Italy, he’s OK with that. He wouldn’t mind some level of fame in the United States, though. He’s got a book, “My Italian Kitchen,”



to promote, a venture as a personal cook that’s taken him across his adopted country, and a restaurant in New York to open. The fame generated from winning the series would help

with all of that. And the \$250,000 prize is going to help with the last part.

If his recent book signing was any indication, the fame is somewhat lasting. The exchange quickly sold the 175 copies it had in stock, and the line of people waiting to get the book signed stretched to the entrance.

It wasn’t Manfè’s first time on base. His mother, Bruna Fedrigo, has worked in the 31st Contracting Squadron for 26 years. His father, Fedrigho Manfè, has been with the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron for 20 years.

Manfè himself worked for two



Kent Harris/Stars and Stripes

Luca Manfè signs copies of his book, “My Italian Kitchen,” for Maj. Adam Tobias, his wife, Laura, and daughter, Mia, at the Aviano Air Base exchange on Sept. 3.

summers on base mowing lawns.

But gardening wasn’t the only thing on his résumé before he decided to try out to become the best home cook in America. He did work restaurant jobs in three countries — Italy, Australia and the U.S. — only none as a chef.

Manfè is modest about his talents. “I probably know a bit more about food than the average person. But I don’t have the knowledge, the technique ... I have a horrible relationship with yeast and dough.”

That hasn’t stopped him from creating his own chef-for-hire venture, called “Dinner with Luca,” which can be booked on his website (lucamanfe.com). He’s traveled from Florida to California to prepare intimate meals for people. “It’s gone surprisingly well,” he said. “I’m booked through November.”

With the help of his “MasterChef” victory, he’s attracted investors to take his career to a new level by opening New York City’s first Friulian venue.

Aviano is a part of Friuli-Venezia Giulia, Italy’s

most northeastern region. Many natives speak Friulano, a dialect that’s different enough from Italian to be considered a separate language by many. Proud of his heritage, Manfè credits his mother and grandmother as his main cooking influences. Many of the dishes come from Friuli. His presentation of frico was key to his success on “MasterChef.” It’s a dish of fried cheese and potatoes, often combined with other ingredients, such as flour, onions, radicchio and meats or mushrooms.

“Frico. That’s what the name of the restaurant will be,” he said, taking a glance at his American wife, Catherine, and 8-week-old son, Luca, lounging on a couch at his parents’ home.

His mother said she wasn’t surprised at his perseverance on the show. “He’s always been that way,” she said. “He tries different things, but he’s very good at finishing them.”

“And he’s always been a big eater,” she added.

harris.kent@stripes.com



Luca Manfè once cut lawns for Americans based at Aviano when he was growing up in Italy. Today, many would be happy to have the celebrated cook in their kitchens.

Photo courtesy of Luca Manfè

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

LAST CALL!

Oktoberfest 2014 wraps up on Oct. 5

It's last call at Oktoberfest, with beer flowing and rides dipping and twirling for only one more weekend.

But there's still time to break out the lederhosen and dirndls — low-cut Bavarian dresses that are now as likely to be hot pink satin and black lace as the old standard blue-and-white. Or just come as you are and enjoy some of the best brews Munich, Germany, has to offer.

Oktoberfest, which ends Sunday, offers something for everyone, even visitors who don't drink alcohol. There are whirling amusement rides and games of skill and chance on the fairgrounds. There are souvenir shops selling all kinds of traditional and silly mementos, including hats with beer kegs. And don't miss the hearty festival eats, including half-meter bratwursts, roasted chickens, schnitzel sandwiches and, for the more adventurous, pigs' knuckles.

About 6 million liters of beer are consumed each year. But if you're looking to drink liter-sized brews in one of the famed tents, your only chance is to arrive early — no seat, no service is the motto inside. Even spots outside fill up.

Find detailed information at the event's official website, oktoberfest.de/en. And mark your calendar for the 2015 fest, set to kick off on Sept. 19.



MATTHIAS SCHRADER/AP

Revelers sing and toast each other in the Hofbrauhaus beer tent on Sept. 28 at Oktoberfest in Munich, southern Germany. The world's largest and most famous beer festival and family fun fair wraps up on Oct. 5.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Paris Motor Show

Those who choose to attend The Paris Mondial de L'Automobile, or Paris Motor Show, shouldn't anticipate a solitary experience: the 2012 edition of this biannual event attracted well over a million visitors, marking it as the best-attended motor show in the world.

This vast show stretching across nine pavilions in the place where the world's foremost auto manufacturers show off what's been rolling off their production lines and preview the models of the future. More than 100 models premiered at the show's previous edition, which featured 270 brands from 21 countries. Scheduled debuts generating buzz in the trade press include Bentley's high-torque Mulsanne Speed; the high-tech, lightweight Jaguar XE; and Land Rover's laser-powered head-up display technology.

Another feature is a retrospective exhibition: "automobiles and fashion." Electric vehicles occupy a significant part of the exhibition's space, with thousands of test drives on offer to the public.

The show opens Saturday and runs through Oct. 14. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. except Thursdays and Fridays, when the venue remains open until 10 p.m.

Admission costs 14 euros



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel

(about \$18) for adults and 8 euros for ages 10-25; those under age 10 enter for free.

The event takes place at Porte de Versailles, easily reachable by Paris' public transportation.

Find more details at mondialautomobile.com.

Alpine autumn

Lugano, a verdant lakeside city surrounded by mountains in Switzerland's southernmost canton of Ticino, hosts an annual autumn festival that includes music, wine, entertainment, and an abundance of local food ready for sampling, taking home to enjoy or passing on as gifts to lucky friends.

Ten food catering establishments known as *grottini* will dish up regional specialties includ-

ing risotto, minestrone, gnocchi and polenta, serving their tasty treats until well past midnight on Friday and Saturday and until 6 p.m. Sunday. Folk music ensembles in bright costumes bring sound and color to the mix.

A grappa distillery shows how grapes are turned into brandy. Free excursions by boat or on foot allow visitors to see the city from new perspectives.

The heart of activity is located at Piazza della Riforma. Kids can enjoy age-appropriate fun down by the pier.

The market stalls open at 10 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday.

Get details at tinyurl.com/ns2qx65.

Ludwigsburg pumpkins

For many, October is synonymous with pumpkins. Those whose autumns aren't complete without the lord of the gourds should head to an exhibit running through Nov. 2 on the castle grounds known as Blihbendes Barock in Ludwigsburg, Germany, some 10 miles north of Stuttgart.

This impressive display is billed as the world's largest of its type. Pumpkins are used as building blocks to create works around a certain theme; this year the concept of royalty is explored, with images of "kings" such as Robin Hood (King of

Thieves) and Elvis Presley appearing in squash. More than 450,000 pumpkins in 500 varieties are used in the creation of these sculptures.

Pumpkin is also on the menu, appearing in soups, burgers, *tartes flambées*, spaghetti sauces and other unexpected places.

Weekends throughout October offer special events. On Sunday, the competition for Germany's heaviest pumpkin is on, with weigh-ins beginning at 1 p.m. On Oct. 12, the hunt for the plumpest pumpkin in Europe takes place from 1 p.m. On Oct. 19, starting at 10 a.m., master carvers turning those huge pumpkins into

works of art.

On Oct. 25, the public is invited to carve Halloween-themed pumpkins. On Nov. 2, the final day, the pumpkins will be sliced and the flesh handed out to park visitors.

The exhibit runs from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. daily. Entry costs 8.50 euros (about \$11) for adults, 4.20 euros for ages 4-15 and 23 euros for a family card for two adults and two children. Adult entry after 5:30 p.m. costs 5.50 euros. Other discount offers are available.

For more information, see blueba.de/kuerbisausstellung.html (German only).



Courtesy of lugano.thirdlight.com

Swiss specialties of the season will be on offer Friday through Sunday at the annual autumn festival in Lugano, Switzerland.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Up into the mountains

Choose a winding road to enjoy peak Dolomite views in Italy

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

When the sun is shining brightly in a cloudless sky, most Italians head to the beach, but some prefer higher (and cooler) ground.

The Dolomite mountains north of Aviano Air Base, for example, aren't nearly as crowded as the beaches to the south any time of year, except when the snow falls.

There are still a few months before that should happen, though, and there are several routes that wind their way up into the mountains for those interested in breathing air that's a little cooler and fresher than that on the plain below. One of them starts at Maniago and continues up to Tolmezzo or branches off to several other destinations.

On a recent sunny day — and in a small vehicle capable of making the climb — we encountered almost no traffic. Not a bad thing, considering that some of the roads seem barely wide enough for one vehicle.

The SP26 begins at the center of Maniago and ends just before the village of Poffabro. It's one of six villages in Friuli-Venezia Giulia given the designation *Borghi più belli d'Italia* (most beautiful villages in Italy). You can judge its merits for yourself, but other than taking in the view of the surrounding mountains, there's not a lot to do in Poffabro.

Backtracking about a mile, the SP63 begins. This would be a good route for those who'd like to get a taste of bicycling in the mountains but don't have the equipment or endurance to take on heavy climbs. It crosses the Meduna River and ends at the SP552. The town of Meduno — a metropolis in this area — is off to the right. Going left sends motorists further north into the mountains.

The SP552 continues 40 kilometers (about 25 miles) or so until it ends at the SS52 that runs roughly parallel to the Austrian border to the north. Much of that route is winding and narrow enough to not have any painted travel lanes. Those not interested in spending the night in the mountains can travel up a short distance to a trio of towns that share the same name. The first is Tramonti di Sotto (Sotto means lower). The Valtramontina camping ground nearby is pretty basic, but there are picnic tables and rudimentary toilets.

Tramonti di Mezzo (middle) is smaller and is located off a branch in the road. Tramonti di Sopra (upper) is the largest of the three. The road quickly gets narrower and more winding after that, so it's a natural place to turn around and head back down the mountains.

harris.kent@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

Most Americans who work at Aviano Air Base are most familiar with the part of the Meduna River that flows near a shopping mall of the same name on the outskirts of Pordenone, Italy. But the river gets its start up in the mountains.



The Dolomites rising up around Poffabro, Italy, make the town more beautiful than it would be otherwise.



All kinds of vegetation is growing from this hunk of rock along the SR52, a windy road that weaves through the mountains above Maniago, Italy.



An early explorer of Italy's Dolomite mountains is immortalized in concrete at the foot of the bell tower in Poffabro.



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Maniago is northeast of Aviano and can be reached in several ways. The easiest (mainly the SP19 road) starts at the industrial area of Aviano and takes about 15 minutes. Signs marking the various roads can be a little spotty, so it's best to have a map and follow the blue signs for the villages along the route.

TIMES

A rainy or heavily cloudy day cuts down on the visibility, and thus, the chance to enjoy the majestic scenery. Sunny weather is almost a must, unless you're planning to ski or engage in another winter activity. Roads are more crowded on weekends, but there generally isn't much traffic during the spring, summer and fall. Italian law requires that snow tires and/or chains be used on most parts of this drive from mid-November to mid-April.

COSTS

Just gasoline for the vehicle (a full tank to start is a good idea). No road tolls or entry fees.

FOOD

Places to eat are few. Meduno has a couple of options (and an Agip gas station). There's a pizzeria near the southern end of Lake Redona. Some of the other villages have sometimes seasonal restaurants or small stores whose opening hours (and days) vary widely. It might be best to bring picnic supplies.

INFORMATION

More information is available at the region's tourism website: turismo.fvg.it. Many local tourist offices have brochures and other information on the area.

— Kent Harris

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SWAN/Stars and Stripes

A salad with "potato pockets" is among the items on the menu at Bernd's Blockhaus in Weilerbach, Germany. The restaurant and guest house on rolling farmland on the outskirts of Weilerbach is open only on the weekends.



The ham and cheese platter can be ordered separately and shared among a group. Sliced pickles and a basket of brown bread with butter make it meal-worthy.

Tempt them out of bed with sweet nutrition

By ALISON SHERWOOD
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

As mornings get crisper and beds feel cozier, some of us need the promise of a sweet breakfast to get up. But that doesn't mean it has to be unhealthy. Here are two ways to get a satisfying yet nutritious start to the day.

Bird Bakery Granola

This recipe is from Bird Bakery in San Antonio.

Ingredients
5 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
2 cups unsweetened coconut flakes
2 cups unsalted pistachios
²/₃ cup unsalted pumpkin seeds
1 tablespoon sea salt
¹/₂ cup packed light brown sugar
¹/₂ cup packed dark brown sugar
²/₃ cup maple syrup
¹/₂ cup extra-virgin olive oil
¹/₂ cups dried cherries

Directions
Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. In a large bowl, mix oats, coconut, pistachios, pumpkin seeds and sea salt. In a small saucepan, combine brown sugars, maple syrup and olive oil. Stir over low heat until the sugar dissolves. Pour over oat mixture and stir well to combine.

Spread evenly onto baking sheets and bake in preheated oven until golden, about 20 to 25 minutes, rotating pan once at 10 minutes. Cool at room temperature. Break up granola and sprinkle with dried cherries. Store in an airtight container. Makes about 20 (¹/₂-cup) servings

Hot Cinnamon Apple Smoothie

Ingredients
1 medium apple, cored and cut into large chunks
¹/₄ cup raisins or golden raisins
¹/₂ teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 cup warm water (divided)
¹/₄ cup cottage cheese
2 tablespoons ground flax seed

Directions
Place apple, raisins, cinnamon and ¹/₄ cup of the water in a microwave-safe bowl and microwave on high 2 minutes. Remove bowl from microwave and cool at room temperature 2 minutes. Add cottage cheese, flax seed, peans and slightly cooled apple mixture to a blender along with the remaining ¹/₄ cup warm water. Blend on high 1 minute, until smooth and creamy. Serve immediately.

After Hours: Germany

By JENNIFER H. SWAN
Stars and Stripes

I'm sitting outside with friends eating good food that I didn't cook and drinking a Pils; horses and cows dot the outlying scenic pastures. Most happily, my kids are running around in the grass, entertained by other kids — and not me. There's even time to enjoy dessert or another Pils.

This used to be the stuff of daydreams. Few restaurant outings with my youngest family members could be equated with relaxing, no matter how kid-friendly the place.

That's changed now that Bernd's Blockhaus in Weilerbach, Germany, is part of my life.

Being able to sit down for an entire meal, however, would be nothing to write about if the food was mediocre, which it's not.

The Blockhaus' menu is mostly typical German, but with a few tasty twists. My favorite is the salad with three "potato pockets." They look to be fried, with a light, flavorful cheesy sauce in the middle.

If I could give up the potato pockets for one meal, I would order the ham and cheese platter. At first, "ham and cheese platter" evoked an image of rolled up American-style ham and cheese slapped on a plate. But it's so far from that. The ham is better than anything that comes packaged at the store, and the several varieties of cheese come in blocks and slices, all served on a wood cutting board. Sliced pickles and a basket of brown bread with butter make it meal-worthy.

Usually, I can measure the quality of food by the *pommes* (french fries), and the Blockhaus has among the best I've tried in the area. One perk of having a 3-year-old: He always leaves

BERND'S BLOCKHAUS

Location: Head north from Kaiserslautern on B270, go west on L367 past the turn for Weilerbach. Soon after passing Weilerbach, turn right onto L356 and then make an immediate left. A gravel parking lot is on the left. You can park there and walk to the restaurant (follow the signs), or you can turn right on the single-lane tractor road and drive a short distance to the restaurant. There is plenty of parking by the restaurant.
Hours: Opens 3 p.m. Friday; 11 a.m. Saturday; 10 a.m. Sun-

day and holidays.

Dress: Casual.

Menu: Mostly German fare with daily specials. Home-made cake and ice cream for dessert. Beer and Palatinat wine. Menus are in English and German.

Prices: Portions are generous; prices are reasonable. Average meal costs 4 to 10 euros.
More information: Telephone: (+49) (0)6374-992911; web-site: bernds-blockhaus.de; reservations available but not required.

— Jennifer H. Swan

pommes on his plate.

The restaurant also makes its own sausage. Daily specials change weekly, and usually include a beef dish and sometimes venison. Specials on a recent Friday night included a "wild pig" sausage and a venison goulash. Portions are plentiful,

and prices are reasonable. The most expensive item on the menu was the rump steak special with french fries and salad at 14 euros (about 18 dollars).

Blockhaus means "log house" in English. A suitable name, considering Bernd's Blockhaus is all wooden beams and rustic charm,



Bernd's Blockhaus, which means log house, is a suitable name, considering that it has wooden beams and rustic charm. The restaurant is kid- and dog-friendly, with animals dotting its farmland.

a combination guest house and restaurant on pretty farmland that makes it seem farther than it is from Kaiserslautern's dingy city center.

But the Blockhaus is an easy drive from Kaiserslautern. It sits just west of Weilerbach, next to grassy pastures along a network of biking and hiking trails. That makes it a motor-free option for residents of Weilerbach, Rodenbach, Mackenbach and other nearby villages.

The restaurant is open only on weekends, starting midafternoon on Friday. It is open for most of the day on Saturdays and Sundays.

The weekend schedule is probably a good thing, because it's not the type of place where you can eat and run. And who would want to? The Blockhaus is the perfect place to relax. There's plenty of outdoor seating, with big picnic tables in the back affording panoramic views, and plenty of grass for kids to run around on. The restaurant, indoors and out, is dog-friendly. Though I've never eaten inside, the interior looks cozy.

The only flaw in the Blockhaus experience is ordering food. Orders are taken outside at a window — and for some reason, which I haven't quite figured out yet, putting in one's order sometimes takes a really long time, even if the line is relatively short.

It seems the process is less than efficient, with staff writing down orders and calculating meal costs by hand; sometimes the same person taking orders is also the one getting your drinks.

But once your order is placed, the food comes fast.

Oh, yeah — and the cows. For a 3-year-old, they can be an irresistible temptation. I had to chase after mine when he took off after a herd of Black Angus.

swan.jennifer@stripes.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Conscientious cuisine

Largest food festival in Europe brings earth-friendly treats to Turin, Italy

By JAMES SAJO

Special to Stars and Stripes

When someone says "Italy," one of the things that comes into your head is great food, right? Well, what do you think of five aircraft hangar-size buildings full of great food?

That is exactly what you'll find if you travel to Turin, Italy, for the 10th International Salone del Gusto, a fair that runs from Oct. 23-27 at Turin's Lingotto fairgrounds. It is sponsored by the city of Turin and Slow Food, an international member-supported nonprofit organization. Its aim is to spread food culture, promote food quality, protect the environment and help improve the quality of life of small food producers around the world.

The fair is an enormous international event that brings together farmers, breeders and fishermen. It's a market that offers food items from 130 countries; it's a meeting place for 1,000 world-class chefs, 400 academics and hundreds of nutrition experts. And, finally, it's a food sampling opportunity for more than 200,000 hungry visitors. Simply put, Salone del Gusto is the largest food festival in Europe.

We are not talking about supermarket-variety, packaged fast food here. The products you can taste or buy are fresh and of the highest quality. There is more than plucking a tiny piece of cheese off the end of a toothpick. Education is one of the primary goals of the Salone del Gusto. There are seminars, lectures, demonstrations, and "taste workshops" open to all visitors.

Taste workshops require advance registration on the fair's website or at the entrance to the fairgrounds. A progress report on U.N. agricultural projects will provide information on sustaining agricultural programs for countries whose population is perennially suffering malnutrition and starvation.

Many of the seminars and lectures deal with global hunger. Discussions cover topics from saving small family farms, especially in developing countries, to providing policy methods to prevent overfishing. A progress report on U.N. agricultural projects will provide information on sustaining agricultural programs for countries whose populations are perennially suffering malnutrition and starvation.

This year, more than 100 taste workshops are scheduled, with subjects ranging from a comparison of coffees from around the world (16 euros) and tips for cooking leftovers (25 euros), to a session where you'll learn about pairing exotic cocktails with high-end cigars (15 euros).

Salone del Gusto is also about



Cheese is a universal palate pleaser. There are many options for tasting cheese treats at the 10th International Salone del Gusto, which runs from Oct. 23-27 at the Lingotto fairgrounds in Turin, Italy. The festival brings together food and drink items from 130 countries and 1,000 world-class chefs.

JAMES SAJO/Special to Stars and Stripes



Courtesy of Slow Food

Artisan honey makers offer the chance to buy at the event that brings together farmers, breeders, fishermen and foodies.



NOGA AMNHAV/Stars and Stripes

protecting traditional food produced by small independent family farms around the world.

A new initiative, called The Ark of Taste, is a global effort to save biodiversity. Consider that over the past 100 years, about 75 percent of the traditional cheese, grains, fruits and more have been lost to large-scale industrial

food production.

The Ark of Taste records and protects those products at risk of extinction. It is a unique effort to bring to light the connection between the loss of independent farms and damage to the environment, the loss of income and opportunities for small producers and the decay of culture in the form of recipes, festivals and traditions.

Visitors are invited to add food products (bread, grains, legumes or honey) to an Ark of Taste stand. Each added item will be researched to determine if it is a traditional product in danger of extinction. If so, it will be added to the growing global list of protected food items.

The real challenge at this global gastronomic gala will be getting it all in. Wandering around the huge space of Turin's Lingotto Fair Grounds, you'll likely want to sample something exotic. The taste workshops



JAMES SAJO/Special to Stars and Stripes

Olive oil vendors present their products and offer samples at the annual food fair.

and a new activity this year, a cooking school, are pretty much mandatory. The cooking school allows guests to prepare dishes as they work alongside master chefs. Beyond learning a new recipe, they will have a chance to learn kitchen skills that can make gourmet cuisine in the home a reality.

Plus, there are 17 mixology sessions in which cocktails are on the menu. Bartenders from around the world will give classes on how to combine flavors to mix traditional cocktails,

and each also has been asked to invent a drink for the Salone del Gusto. The Wine Bar will offer 1,000 wines.

In previous years, a visitor could sample Karakachan cheese from Bulgaria, artisan mustards from Germany, 25-year-old Italian balsamic vinegar and fragrant black pepper from Malaysia. It could all be washed down with a selection of microbrew beer from some 15 countries.

A favorite taste workshop in the past was called "Honey, Hops and Horns." Guests learned how a hopped-up bitter beer (think of an American IPA) balances perfectly with a sweet honey drizzled over soft sheep cheese. Yum.

International music nicely complements the food. More than 300 musicians from around the world — including Cameroon, Ethiopia, Argentina, Canada, Mexico, Bangladesh, Japan, Ireland and the United States — will perform throughout the six-day event.

James Sajo is a writer living in northern Italy. Find more of his work at james-sajo.com and follow him on Facebook at Jim Sajo the Writer.

HAESE **MILITARY & DIPLOMAT SALES**
WIESBADEN MAINZ-KASTEL

IT'S A GREAT DEAL

\$32,270
 VOLVO V40 STARTING PRICE, EX FACTORY

www.autohaus-haese.de | desk1@autohaus-haese.de | 06134-284943

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



Jim Sajo/Special to Stars and Stripes

Lessons in efficient ways to grow your own produce are offered at the International Salone del Gusto. Food education and improving food quality are among the primary goals of the festival.

KNOW & GO: SALONE DEL GUSTO

Getting there
To get to the 10th International Salone del Gusto in Turin, Italy, board the underground at the main train station (called Porta Nuova). The Lingotto Fairgrounds are at the last stop on the line, about a five-minute ride.

Times
11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Thursday

through Sunday, and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday.

Costs
A one-day ticket to the fair costs 20 euros for adults, 12 euros for ages 11-18 and over 65, 16 euros for groups. Multiple-day tickets are also available. Workshops cost extra to attend, and prices vary according to topic covered.

More information
For more information on reservations, prices and more, go to salonedelgusto.com.
For more on the Slow Food organization, see slowfood.com.
Watch the video at tinyurl.com/q3ynck5 to catch the real feel and atmosphere of the fair.

— James Sajo



Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area	Kaiserslautern area	Mainz / Wiesbaden area
 <p>China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Wilsdorf & 70037 Weiden-Opf Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	 <p>QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gläntzer Entenwanterstraße 74 67057 Kaiserslautern www.quack-3.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	 <p>PAPPELHAUS Steinertstraße 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastell 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
 <p>PALLAS GREEK SPECIALITIES Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	 <p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Sträßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	 <p>Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2383808</p>
 <p>Garmisch-Partenkirchen Open Wed-Mon: Noon-11 pm (Tues. Closed) Call for Reservations / Late Oct Orders Tel. 0821-57486 www.restaurant-la-motte-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	 <p>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewoogpizzeria.de</p>	 <p>Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
 <p>Restaurant Alte-Kanzlei The place to go for the original open fire grilled Gaucho style steaks! Hauptstrasse 412 • 55743 Idar - Oberstein 06781-38019/367713 www.restaurant-altekanzlei.de</p>	 <p>Saytouni Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	 <p>SMOKETRIPE Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketripebeq.com</p>
 <p>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICO Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3, 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbadensenchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	 <p>Café Temptation reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg) (PK area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>	 <p>Jodena's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodenas-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>
 <p>Gabriel's Restaurant Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden - Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel-restaurant.de</p>	 <p>Brauhaus Gastel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Ono-Saß-Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastell Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-gastel.de</p>	
 <p>City of the Mill Pension Am Schoenberg 18 • 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de mail:city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390</p>	 <p>WIESBADEN'S NOBLEST SUITE 09641-936390 www.courtyard-bad.com</p>	 <p>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 0824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>
 <p>Easy Corners Eichendorffstraße 3, 92655 Grafenwoehr (Germany) 0175-7235641 or 0151-65708336 (USA) 253.314.8980 Email: info@easycornersast.com</p>	 <p>Hotel de France "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstraße" Tel +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcome@hoteldefrance.de www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>	 <p>Hotel Am See Kirchentumbacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-402403 www.hotelamsee.de • hoteldamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited on the shore of the Rulwöhrer</p>
 <p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barracks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>		

WEEKEND



THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



CELEBRATE FALL IN JAPAN!

The Kanuma Butsuke Autumn Festival in Tochigi prefecture is Oct. 11 and 12. The event features 24 giant stalls decorated with carvings carried by local residents on parade into Kanuma city. Other festivals include the Autumn Takayama Festival in Gifu prefecture Oct. 9 and 10; the Sawara Autumn Festival 2014 in Chiba prefecture Oct. 10 to 12; and the Autumn Rose Festival at Jindai Botanical Garden in Tokyo on Oct. 12 to Nov. 4.

Photos courtesy of Kanuma City Sightseeing Association



Courtesy of JNTO

Cormorant fishing, Japan

More than 40 sightseeing ships set out on the Nagara River in Gifu prefecture at 6:15, 6:45 p.m. & 7:15 p.m. to observe cormorant fishermen — usho — catch sweetfish using trained cormorants, now through Oct. 15. For reservations: tinyurl.com/9s87eqd.

Other places to observe cormorant fishing:

- Uji River in Kyoto, 0774-23-3334;
- Katsura River in Kyoto, 075-861-0302;
- Kiso River in Inuyama city, 0568-61-0057;
- Nishiki River in Iwakuni, 0827-41-0470.



Courtesy of JNTO

Naha Tug of War, Okinawa

On Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m., about 15,000 people will participate in a tug of war, pulling on a 200-meter giant rope. It is on Route 58, Kumoji intersection.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

“ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!”

October							November							December							
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	
			1	2	3	4							1			1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31				
							30														

Available Not Available

BEATLES NIGHT OCT 18, SAT
Doors Open 6:30 PM

Admission, Themed Buffet Dinner, Live Entertainment and Dancing
R.S.V.P by Oct 11 Adult: \$36, After Oct 11 Adult: \$41 (Sorry, No One Under 20 years of age permitted)

ENTERTAINMENT
THE PARROTS

RESERVATIONS FOR EVENTS:
events@thenewsanno.com or 229-7151



RESERVATIONS FOR ROOMS: room_rsv@thenewsanno.com
or DSN 229-7121 CML 03-3440-7871 EXT.7121

We will respond with a confirmation number or contact you if your first choice of dates is not available.
For current availability, call our Reservation Desk or check our website: www.thenewsanno.com
Available dates on the above calendars are subject to change without notice.

Like us on Facebook



Use Your GI Bill to Earn an American Degree in Tokyo

TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
Japan Campus

Admissions Counseling Office
2-8-12 Minami Azabu, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0047
E-mail: ac@tuj.temple.edu Tel: 03-5441-9800
www.tuj.ac.jp #TUJapan



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

ALIGHT!: Jinju Namgang Yudeung Festival, South Korea

This festival, now through Oct. 12 in Jinju, includes the floating of lanterns carrying personal wishes along the Namgang River and a parade of lanterns created by students. For more: yudeung.com and tinyurl.com/qfnrw4r.

Courtesy of KTO NY



New to a city? Let Villy be your neighborhood guide

Name: www.Villy.co
What it does: Recommends neighborhoods and hotels best suited to you based on what you want to do on your trip. Destinations include Bangkok, Thailand; Barcelona, Spain; Berlin; London; New York; Paris; Rome; and Seoul, South Korea; with Amsterdam and Tokyo coming soon.



What's hot: First, pick your city, then click on your interests from a short list that includes restaurants, bars and pubs, nightclubs, museums, sightseeing and shopping. Then, note who will be traveling and your per-night hotel budget, hit explore and be prepared to be impressed as a map of neighborhoods appears. The left half of the page lists why the neighborhood has been selected. You can see a drop-down list of neighborhoods that have been scored for you, or you can click on more recommended hotels. Hotel price, Villy score (based on its own algorithm), TripAdvisor rating and distance to subway stops are also ready. The site is simple to use, and travelers can quickly fine-tune their results. Note: Mobile friendly too.

What's not: This travel website impressed me. I thought the one thing that could improve a user's experience would be additional destination content. Recommendations were spot on, but for the traveler new to the city, I wanted more travel descriptions about neighborhoods.

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



Traveling on Orders?

Save Navy's Dollars... Stay At NGIS!

Navy Gateway Inns and Suites

The official and preferred lodging choice for all TDY travelers offers:

- Professionally managed, comfortable accommodations
- Convenient locations near work assignments and base amenities
- A welcoming atmosphere and stellar customer service

Make your individual or group reservations now!

We Welcome:

- Active duty and retired military, reservists, NAF and DoD employees
- Sponsored friends and families
- Business/TDY guests on official travel
- Space-available travelers (no orders required)

Free Internet Access!

Planning a meeting, conference or catered event? We can help! Talk to our managers.

Creating comfortable guest services for those we serve: Today and Tomorrow!



Also, you can call us by scanning this code with your smartphone.





To Make Reservations:
 1-877-NAVY-BED (628-9233)
 or www.dodlodging.net

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

A cruise along Myanmar's

IRRAWADDY RIVER

By JAMIE RICH

Special to The Washington Post

The driver swerved around pedestrians, motorbikes and mules as our hired SUV sped through Mandalay on a hot July day. Riding in the back seat, I gripped the headrest in front of me and hung on for dear life. Dust swirled as we pulled off the pavement and came to a stop on a dirt path. Nearby, families sat on the ground weaving large sheets of bamboo, and cows foraged in the piles of garbage strewn about the banks of the Irrawaddy River.

"Is this the right place?" I thought to myself.

Then the driver eased behind a tall wooden wall, and chaos gave way to sophistication. The dust settled, along with my nerves,

as I gazed at the antique European river cruiser that stretched before us in the latte-colored water. A local woman in a tailored sarong and a blond-haired man wearing a sport coat stood smiling at the top of the gangplank, holding glasses of fresh-pressed mango juice to welcome me and my husband, Brian, on our three-night luxury cruise aboard the Road to Mandalay.

Drink in one hand and luggage in the other, we stepped over the threshold of the 333-foot vessel's entrance and set off a barrage of hospitality. Greeters whisked away our bags and replaced them with wet jasmine-scented cloths to soothe our hands and faces. A polite stewardess showed us to our compact but plush cabin overlooking the Irrawaddy. With an hour to spare before setting sail, Brian and I changed into the

soft white bathrobes hanging in the closets and wasted no time booking our first activity: a 90-minute spa treatment complete with Himalayan salts.

Minutes later, a petite massage therapist was sinking her oil-softened hands deep into my shoulders. And the peace inside the tiny teak-trimmed cabin was disturbed only by the welcome hum of the engines and the sound of water lapping against the hull as we pulled away from the shore.

While my fellow cruisers set sail from the sun-drenched top deck, waving to bamboo merchants along the riverbanks, I departed on my journey from two decks below, in a dimly lit, floral-scented well-being room, my eyes shut and my thoughts turning to the forthcoming adventure.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

Villagers fortify walls of the Irrawaddy riverbanks in Bagan, Myanmar.

JAMIE RICH/For The Washington Post



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FROM PAGE 34

Brian and I had booked this cruise to pamper ourselves and to reconnect far from distractions back home in Florida. But you don't travel across the globe to a country emerging from decades of isolation just to sip champagne and read George Orwell's "Burmese Days" by the pool. You cruise Myanmar (also known as Burma) because you want a little dust on your feet, bitter tea leaf salad in your belly and a holiday with some gumption.

Luxury hospitality brand Belmond, formerly Orient Express, has offered glamour and grit on Burma's Irrawaddy River since 1996 with its 50-year-old German river cruiser *Road to Mandalay*. The atmosphere on the long, slender boat reflects a decidedly vintage but also eclectic mix of Burmese, British, modern and traditional styles. Polished teak flooring and molding give the boat a rich, timeless appeal. Fine Asian fabrics accent the furniture in the common areas and the bedding in the cabins. The sprawling observation deck is the showpiece, with its scalloped canopy, dipping pool, cocktail bar and outdoor-living-room lounges. A fitness room, nightly entertainment, spa rooms, world-class cuisine and an attentive staff round out the luxury.

The boat carries up to 82 passengers, offering a peaceful oasis in a nation of thatched-hut villages, rice paddies and thousands of Buddhist pagodas. Despite the opening up of the economy in 2012 and growing numbers of tourists, cellphones and motor scooters, Myanmar's a country where villagers still bathe in the river, pull water from wells, live in houses made of bamboo and plow their fields with oxen.

Aboard ship, some of Myanmar's best old-world culinary traditions commingle with new-world flavors in the dining room, which is decorated with oil-lamp sconces and white tablecloths. For our first lunch, we sat at a table overlooking the rolling river and ate medleys of local salads, sippes, spicy soups and sampled curries off the buffet.

Not long after lunch, we docked a few miles upriver from our starting point and disembarked for a tour of Mandalay. Sixteen of us, from countries as far-flung as Canada, Egypt and New Zealand, split into small groups and climbed into minibuses that would ferry us to various heritage sites and Buddhist temples.

Our group's Belmond guide, Thet, explained that we should remove our shoes when entering pagodas, out of respect for Buddhist tradition. Then he led us on a barefoot stroll through Kuthodaw Pagoda, with its long rows of 729 white domed stupas, each containing a marble slab inscribed with ancient Buddhist scriptures. They're collectively known as the world's largest book.

Thet said, Next we traipsed through Shwenandaw Monastery, the only remaining original structure from Mandalay Palace, which was destroyed in World War II. With no guards or signs keeping tourists at bay, I explored the intricately carved rooms made of teak covered in gold leaf, which is fading now, thanks to the thousands of visitors who carelessly touch the walls, altars and pillars.

I saw only one warning at the monastery: a small plastic sign propped on the stairs leading to the main Buddha statue. "Ladies are not allowed to enter," it read. Eye-rolls from some of the women in our group quickly turned to chuckles when one of our fellow cruisers, 19-month-old Jasmine, picked up the sign and toddled around the gilded room.

After Jasmine's peaceful protest, our band of sightseers headed to the city's marble quarter, where artisans carve large blocks of rugged stone into shiny cross-legged Buddhas.

The Buddha count rose with each place that they took us to. Throughout the afternoon he told us about royal dynasties and Burmese generals and monks. He talked about architecture and explained the meaning of the Buddha's hand gestures. He showed us gold-leaf, silk-weaving and lacquerware workshops, where the conditions are rudimentary at best and ancient crafts are forged by hand. But by the third hour, I'd



GENE THORPE/The Washington Post

KNOW & GO

- When we travel: Belmond, a luxury holiday company, offers river cruises in Myanmar from January to April and July to December.
- Cost: Three-night cruises between Mandalay and Bagan start at \$2,500 per person. Seven- and 11-night itineraries, exploring Myanmar's ancient cities and sailing through gorges and teak forests, start at \$3,600 and \$4,000 per person.
- For more information, call 1-800-524-2420, or visit belmond.com.

reached the guided-tour saturation point.

At our last stop, the U Bein Bridge, our group scattered. Brian and I wandered along the 200-year-old teak boardwalk that stretches three-quarters of a mile over Taungthaman Lake. Fishermen waded in the lake, and tourists snapped photos of the sun sinking lower in the sky.

On Day 2 of the trip, Brian and I slept late in our cozy stateroom, skipping a photo-op with monks collecting alms near the ship's berth. We were ready to change course, cruise down the river at 12 knots toward Bagan and settle into the cushioned chaises on the sunny observation deck. We'd actually expected more than one full day of sailing, but with only 115 miles of waterway separating Mandalay and Bagan, there isn't much distance to cover. Once we shoved off, I whiled away the six-hour trip lounging by the pristine view, looking at the villages along the riverbanks, reading local English-language newspapers and having my fortune told by the onboard astrologer, Sayar.

I sat with the white-robed mystic at a small table outside the ship's piano bar. As he frantically scribbled lines, dots and tic-tac-toe boxes in his notebook, I blocked out Brian's warning that this was a sham. I hoped that Sayar was the real deal.

"Ah, you are a liberal woman," he said, raising his index finger and peering over his dark-rimmed glasses.

"Good, he's on to something, I thought.

"You have a sister," he said.

Well, that didn't last long.

"No," I said.

"A brother?"

I nodded and cracked a sideways smile, a bit deflated. According to Sayar's calculations, I was born under the sign of the Tiger, giving me "the courage to face any of life's challenges." Then he warned me to stay away from skiing, dogs and electronics.

easy advice to follow on a boat in the tropics with no Internet access.

The rest of his predictions boiled down to health and prosperity, which inspired a wish that I made later that night after dinner, as we sipped Burmese brandy and released miniature hot-air balloons from the boat's top deck, a tradition from Myanmar's festival of lights. Two paper lanterns, fueled by flames and a swift wind, carried 16 wishes off into the sky.

Anchored in Bagan for our last day, we ditched the afternoon group tour to go bicycling with Road to Mandalay's manager, Steve Locke, a New Zealander who'd first visited Myanmar in 1995. Perched atop a well-worn mountain bike, I pedaled down sandy paths winding through Bagan's peanut and bean farms. Red-brick pagodas with pointy bell-shaped stupas appeared in every direction. Some pagodas towered like Burmese castles with sweeping archways leading to ornate chambers holding golden Buddha, while others squatted by the roadside looking more like small kilns than places of worship. With reddish dust flying from our tires, Brian and I followed Locke as he zipped up a pathway and hopped off his bike in front of a large, vacant pagoda.

"Right. Up there," he said, pointing a beam of light up a narrow, dark, crumbling staircase. We ascended the steep passageway one at a time to an opening flooded with sun.

A stunning 360-degree vista greeted us at the top. A summer breeze blew off the Irrawaddy in the distance. Thousands of centuries-old red-brick domes rose out of an untamed wilderness of low acacia trees as far as we could see.

Instinctively, I reached for my camera, but it was on the boat.

"You'll just have to take a picture with your mind," said Locke, placing his finger against his temple.

And so I stood near the edge of the brick terrace, looked at the horizon and made a memory I'll never forget.



Fishermen cast their lines on Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay, Myanmar.

PHOTOS BY JAMIE RICH/For The Washington Post



Guests aboard the Belmond Road to Mandalay can sip poolside drinks and watch passing villages, pagodas and rice paddies.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW COUNTRY ALBUMS



Courtesy of The Green Room

Regaining

ALTITUDE

Lady Antebellum sounds like it's headed back to earlier heights



Lady Antebellum
747 (Capitol Nashville)

Lady Antebellum took off at jet speed with back-to-back multiplatinum albums in 2008 and 2010. Since then, while continuing to score radio hits, the trio's sales leveled out and started drifting downward. The group's fifth album, "747," sounds like a concerted effort to head back toward the stratosphere. After a couple of uneven albums, "747" has a cohesive, celebratory feel that brings out the best in members Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott. Landing on a sound all its own, Lady Antebellum presents pop-flavored, adult-oriented country music that stands out from Nashville's party-all-the-time male singers and the hard-edged, aggressive female stars. The inter-weaving voices of

Scott and Kelley have a buoyancy and maturity that returns on "747," an album that ranks with the trio's previous best, 2010's "Need You Now." The first single, "Bartender," is a grown-up take on country music's current obsession with hard drinking. But the album has better songs: the beautifully sensual "Damn You Seventeen," the musically and vocally complex "Down South," the sultry spiritual "One Great Mystery," and the yearning "Lie With Me," which makes good use of the clever double-entendre in the title and chorus. With "747," Haywood, Scott and Kelley find their own distinctive path once again. Long may they fly. — Michael McCall The Associated Press



Adult version of singer shines on new release

Blake Shelton's public persona — a mix of smart-aleck whimsy and thoughtful sensitivity — has made him country music's most ubiquitous male star. A full-grown man with a boyish cheekiness, his easy likability has made him a consummate award-show host, a high-profile judge on "The Voice" and a constant presence in ads across print, the web and TV.

His recent albums draw on both sides of this personality — but it doesn't always work as well on record. His new "Bringing Back The Sunshine" connects mostly when he sounds like a busy adult trying to balance love and career. "Lonely Tonight," an impassioned love song performed as a duet with the wonderful Ashley Monroe, shows off his vocal and emotional range. Other romantic cuts, like the fiery "I Need My Girl" and the wistful "Just South of Heaven," prove how well Shelton can deliver a well-written song.

The boyish side comes out when Shelton slips into a sweet, funky groove. The hit "Neon Light" is lighthearted fun, but on songs like "Gonna" and "A Girl," where he assumes the role of a guy half his age, he stops being believable. And credibility is just as important in country music as it is when sitting in the judge's chair. — Michael McCall The Associated Press

Blake Shelton leans toward maturity this time out.

INBC



WEEKEND: MUSIC



Prince

ART OFFICIAL AGE (Warner Bros.)

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Never let it be said that Prince doesn't retain the capacity to both dazzle and baffle. Through 36 years in the spotlight and one of the most influential of his generation, the man born Prince Rogers Nelson still pushes like he's gunning for fresh fame and acclaim.

With each effort, a consistent flow of art since his 1978 debut, "For You," the 56-year-old seems intent not just on challenging his muse but also on silencing the critics, feeding his public and reminding his musical offspring that he's still here, that he's still Prince and that when he commits his sharpened mind and dexterous digits, he can mess you up, make you shake your head in disbelief.

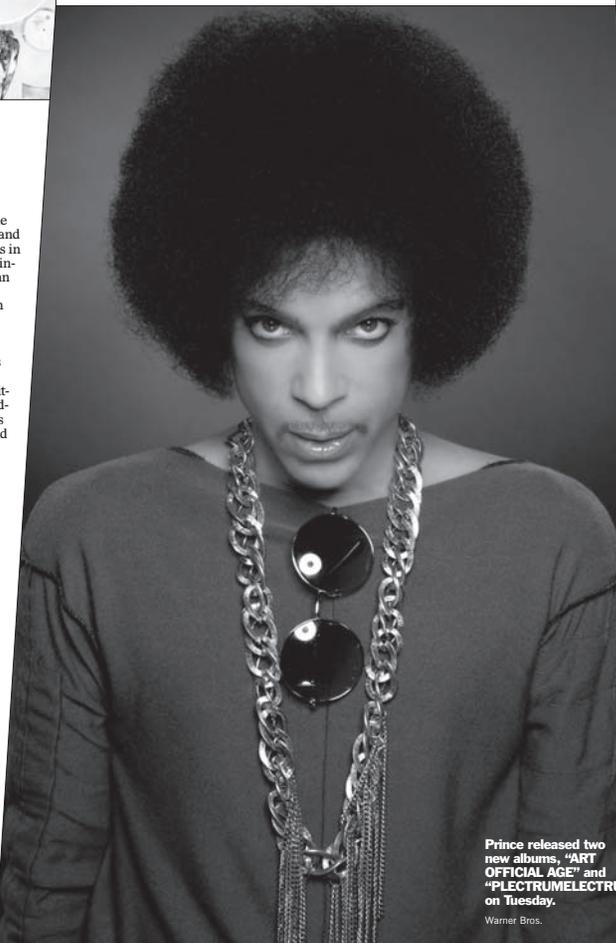
Further evidence of his deranging-do permeates his two new and distinctively varied albums, "ART OFFICIAL AGE" and "PLECTRUMELECTRUM." Released simultaneously on Tuesday, the dueling records are a homecoming with a label, Warner Bros., that ferried Prince to worldwide fame but that he later implied owned him as a slave. Combined, the albums reveal a muse blissfully free of constraints.

At their best, songs suggest an explorer freshly refueled by the Mothership and eager to roam. Tracks burst with aural delight while honoring their creator's noble weirdness — at one point during his rant against cloud computing, "Clouds," Prince zaps 45 years into the future after a period of suspended animation — and sense of humor. For example, this "Tic Tac Toe" refrain: "Like a bunch of blind people playing tic tac toe/Who knows where the zeros and the Xs go?"

But the records also reveal his flaws: Prince errs on the side of bounty, is blind to the occasional clunker and still finds himself a talent scout when he has his pick of could-be collaborators.

The full-lengths are at odds thematically and sonically: "ART OFFICIAL AGE" flows with synthetic beats, fake hand claps, futuristic bleeps, chipmunk-style vocals, rap, modernist R&B and a brand of digital seduction that Prince does better than anyone. The other, "PLECTRUMELECTRUM," rocks hard and with great distortion, and it seems a kind of negation of "ART OFFICIAL AGE." At various times, "PLECTRUM" sounds like a response to the work of the Black Keys,

Prince dazzles, baffles on new album releases



Prince released two new albums, "ART OFFICIAL AGE" and "PLECTRUMELECTRUM," on Tuesday.

Warner Bros.

Jimi Hendrix and Gary Clark Jr. Both albums share a song, "Funknroll," which Prince performs two ways.

Though the rock record has its moments and is ferociously played, its songs are relatively flat. If you're looking for a freaky good time, "ART OFFICIAL AGE" is your ticket.

Doubt Prince can still bring it? Cue up that album's "Breakdown," your new favorite sad Prince-wails-like-he's-losing-it ballad, replete with laser-gun sounds. I can already imagine actor-comedian Maya Rudolph mimicking Prince's stutter-phrased, falsetto-peaked line, "waking up in places that you would never believe."

The not-so-coy seduction of "Breakfast Can Wait" is a musical riff on the funny story that aired on "Chappelle's Show" involving Prince, sibling comedians Ingle and Eddie Murphy, entourage, late-night basketball and early-morning pancakes.

If your response to the first minute of "ART Official Cage," the opening track on "ART OFFICIAL AGE" is slack-jawed disbelief, you're not alone. Prince introduces the album with a 129 beats-per-minute disco-house thumper. Exactly one minute in, the now-clichéd sample of a blaring air horn arrives out of the blue, like a party-starting Diplo has just burst into the studio for an ecstatically dumb cameo.



Prince

PLECTRUMELECTRUM (Warner Bros.)

The future-freakiness of that jam moves like a compact, electrobotic Prince version of "Bohemian Rhapsody" with oddball U-turns, a synthetic bass-drop, a guitar solo, Prince vocoder, the sound of our hero being water-boarded (!), a string quartet and mini movements that spin into double- and triple-time blasts. It's a glorious mess, all in a song that clocks in at less than four minutes.

Other revelations? "The Gold Standard" proves Prince can nail a hard, synthetic funk jam better than inheritors Robin Thicke and Justin Timberlake and as powerfully as at any time in a career of classic groovers like "Kiss," "Housequake," "1999" and "Life O' the Party." His glistening cry can dredge a ballad with juiciness. "U Know" is as curiously modern as similar efforts by upstarts like Miguel, the Weeknd or Frank Ocean.

The rest of that record is shockingly heavy, sonically sophisticated and filled with enough musical loop-to-loops as anyone has a right to expect from Prince, each eight measures a new epiphany. The aforementioned "Breakdown" is as searing a love letter as anything he's done since he split with Warner Bros. in the mid-'90s. It's an instant classic Prince ballad.

"PLECTRUMELECTRUM," though, illustrates that Prince isn't as gifted an editor of his rock work. It stars his new outfit, 3rdEyeGirl (Prince, Hannah Ford Welton, Ida Nielsen, Donna Grantis). As a backing band, they're unimpeachable, as Prince himself sings on "Fix Ur Life Up": "A girl with a guitar is 12 times better than another crazy band of boys."

He and his band move through riffs, guitar solos and drum fills with a compact tightness that shouldn't surprise. Prince is a legendary taskmaster. The problem, though, is that half the songs, most obviously "White Caps," should have landed on the cutting-room floor. In fact, of the dozen rock tracks, only the middle third could be arguably included on a Peak Prince mixtape.

It's tough to criticize Prince for offering such a welcome bounty, even if some of it's so-so. After all, who among the '80s superstars remains as relevant? U? Madonna? Bruce Springsteen? I'll take the flawed, weird Prince rock of "PLECTRUMELECTRUM" over a conservatively bland U2 or Springsteen album any day. And I'll take an exquisite Prince R&B album like "ART OFFICIAL AGE" over pretty much anything else released this year.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

Odd couple, sweet sounds

Bennett, Gaga exhibit special chemistry on collection of duets

Tony Bennett has never forgotten the boost he got when Frank Sinatra declared him "the best singer in the whole business." Now it's Bennett's turn to grant his imprimatur to another Italian-American singer from New York: Stefani Germanotta, better known as Lady Gaga.

Bennett and Gaga first teamed up on his Grammy-winning 2011 "Duets II" CD to perform the standard "The Lady Is a Tramp," with Gaga displaying impressive vocal chops. It turns out that this seemingly odd couple — separated in age by 60 years — both share a passion for the Great American Songbook and jazz singing, which Gaga says she first took up as a teenager.

That led them to record "Cheek to Cheek" — only the second full album that Bennett has done with another singer in his nearly 70-year recording career. The first was the sublime 2002 album, "A Wonderful World," with k.d. lang, on which the two voices blended smoothly on a sub-duced collection of ballads associated with Louis Armstrong.

There's a completely different chemistry on "Cheek to Cheek" starting with the opening track, Cole Porter's "Anything Goes," with the duo trading lines in a bright, brassy big-band swing arrangement. A sassy Gaga enthusiastically belts out her lines, while Bennett is as always elegant and precise in his phrasing.

Irving Berlin's "Cheek to Cheek" and Duke Ellington's "It Don't Mean a Thing (If It Ain't Got That Swing)" are both briskly paced with Gaga's high-register vocals spinning around Bennett's middle-range lines with the two engaging in some crisp harmonizing and occasional scatting. On the Nat King Cole hit "Nature Boy," Gaga shows a different side, breathily caressing the lyrics and softly blending her lines with Bennett's, backed by a lush orchestral arrangement and the late Paul Horn's airy flute solo.

This is a liberating album for Gaga, who shows that she doesn't need the outlandish mead dresses, voice-altering electric effects and elaborate stage shows to make an impact because her voice stands out on its own. Had she been born in an earlier era, Gaga would have been right at home in an MGM musical. On her solo features, Gaga sings softly and with restraint on Porter's ballad "Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye," and shows her vulnerability in an emotional rendition of Billy Strayhorn's "Lush Life," clearly identifying with the song's theme of loss and heartache.

The only surprise with Bennett is how vibrant he



Lady Gaga shows a different side of her artistry on a new collection of standards with fellow New Yorker Tony Bennett.

AP

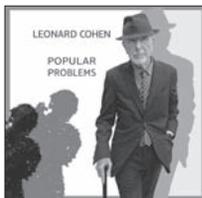
Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga

Cheek to Cheek (Interscope/Columbia)



stands at 88 with a voice that though raspier than in his early years has matured gracefully like fine wine, taking on more emotional depth, as reflected in his solo numbers, "Don't Wait Too Long" and Ellington's "Sophisticated Lady."

— Charles J. Gans
The Associated Press



Leonard Cohen

Popular Problems (Columbia)

Song poet Leonard Cohen celebrates turning 80 with the release of his 13th album. Creatively, Cohen seems to be picking up the pace: "Popular Problems" comes hot on the heels of the exhortatory "Old Ideas," which came out in 2012 after an eight-year wait. But musically and philosophically, the Zen versifier preaches in finiteness. "I'm moving down the tune, I never liked it fast," he sings on the aptly titled opener "Slow." "You want to get there soon, I want to get there last."

We're in gravely, nearly Tom Waitsian vocal territory on this nine-song set, but while Cohen's degraded rasp is not an attractive instrument at this stage, he still writes pretty, witty, worldly-wise songs that, with the help of producer Patrick Leonard, are presented with uncluttered, stately grace.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

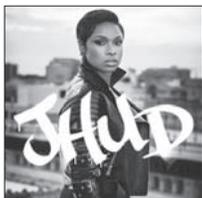


Dr. John

Ske-Dat-De-Dat: The Spirit of Satch (Concord Music Group)

Many tribute albums fall flat, and star duets can seem forced, but Dr. John manages to avoid these traps in his wonderfully eccentric homage to Louis Armstrong. This is one of New Orleans' finest paying tribute to one of the city's musical founding fathers, and it's as relaxed and joyful as can be. Instead of a note-by-note re-creation of some of Armstrong's most loved classics, this is a swinging free-for-all, beautifully arranged, with horns that alternately punch and soothe. No one could successfully imitate Armstrong's voice, so the raspy Dr. John and his guests don't even try. The album works both as a standalone piece and a celebration of Armstrong's spirit — the final track, "When You're Smiling (The Whole World Smiles With You)," seems like a personal note of thanks to Louis.

— Gregory Katz
The Associated Press



Jennifer Hudson

JHUD (RCA)

Jennifer Hudson's new album, "JHUD," would fly off the shelves if every copy included a tiny stage, complete with miniature Jennifer Hudson singing live.

Her voice — that powerful instrument capable of toppling pillars, and sending wigs into a tailspin — is what enraptured "American Idol" audiences back in 2004, and the rest of the world in 2006 with "Dreamgirls," which won Hudson an Oscar.

But three albums into Hudson's music career, the Grammy-winning star still sounds like she's singing other people's music. That is to say, while "JHUD" is a solid collection of tracks, Hudson seems to be conforming to fit a sound and persona not her own.

Here's hoping that her next set is as honest and powerful as she is.

— Melanie J. Sims
The Associated Press



alt-J

This Is All Yours (Atlantic)

The new album from alt-J isn't supposed to exist. Nobody, we're told, wants to hear this kind of stuff anymore. The album — and especially this artsy kind of album — is dead.

Yet here is "This Is All Yours": weird, complex, goopy, sublime, baffling and completely unlike anything else out so far this year. You might say the album has arrived just in time, spicing up a bland year with something of a puzzle for listeners who prefer their music complex (or fairly inscrutable, in this case).

"This Is All Yours" is probably a concept album. Maybe about traveling the world and opening your eyes to new experiences. Or about hooking up. Who knows? There's not enough time in the day to sort it out, and a lot of the references are delightfully nonsensical.

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press



Interpol

El Pintor (Matador)

Great news, Interpol fans! On its new album, "El Pintor," Interpol sounds like Interpol and not the imploding outfit behind the disappointing "Interpol" album in 2010. It's no surprise, really, that they sound better on "Everything Is Wrong," which welds dark thoughts and dance beats in a way that would make Joy Division proud, as singer Paul Banks channels cultivated cool over Daniel Kessler's chilly guitar riffs. They do warm up a bit on the catchy, club-ready "All the Rage Back Home," which rolls dangerously close to pop happiness. "El Pintor" does stretch, but mostly back to the sound that made Interpol one of New York's leading bands of the Aughts.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

"24: Live Another Day": The steely-eyed Kiefer Sutherland returns as Jack Bauer for another complicated spy storyline. The action has shifted to London, and instead of the season running 24 episodes, it is only 12. But everything else is pure high-octane Bauer. It's safe to say "24" works so well because Sutherland has found the right mixture of patriot, renegade, humanitarian and rebel. All it takes is one look from him to know that what seems like the end of his days is just another super hurdle to climb. Sutherland has said the series would work without Jack Bauer because the structure is what keeps fans watching. That's absurd. A "24" without Bauer would be like a "Rambo" movie without Sylvester Stallone or a "Die Hard" movie without Bruce Willis. It's been awhile since Bauer has saved TV at least one day a week with his reluctant hero antics. Even though the series is shorter, it is still twice as good as most of the action shows on TV.



OPEN ROAD FILMS/AP

Jon Favreau, left, and John Leguizamo star in the recent DVD release "Chef."

Also new on DVD:
"Chef": A chef who loses his restaurant job starts up a food truck business.
"Transformers: Age of Extinction"
"Motown 25: Yesterday, Today, Forever": The 1983 TV special best remembered for Michael Jackson's moonwalk.
"The Mentalist: The Complete Fifth Season"
"Sordid Lives": Actor faces truth about his dysfunctional family.
"The Paranormal Diaries: Clophill": Six investigators head to one of the world's most haunted places.
"Mike & Molly: The Complete Fourth Season"
"The Field of Blood, Set 1": Newspaper employee learns a murder story involves her family.
"NYPD Blue: Season 7": Andy Sipowicz (Dennis Franz) finds solace in his new partner.
"Walker, Texas Ranger: The Reunion": Walker's asked to help investigate a potential assassination attempt.
"Third Person": Paul Haggis film starring Liam Neeson.
"Agatha Christie's Marple, Series 6": Julia McKenzie stars in the final three episodes from the TV series.
"Ivory Tower": Documentary about the American higher education system at a crisis point.
"Nightcap": Thriller with comic undertones about the fine art of killing.
"The Mystery of Agatha Christie with David Suchet": David Suchet goes on a journey to learn more about the author.
"Audrey Hepburn Collection": Includes "Sabrina," and "Breakfast at Tiffany's."
"Enemy of the Reich: The Noor Inayat Khan Story": Woman serves as a British spy in Paris during World War II.
"Gone with the Wind 75th Anniversary Ultimate Collector's Edition": New special features include Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh attending Atlanta premiere.
"Sniper: Legacy": Tom Berenger returns as Master Gunnery Sergeant Thomas Beckett.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

The Fresno Bee

There's no big mystery as to why two-time Academy Award nominee Viola Davis signed on to star in the new drama from producer Shonda Rhimes, "How to Get Away with Murder."

It was killer material.

"I wanted to have a character that kind of took me out of my comfort zone. That character happened to be in a Shonda Rhimes show," Davis says. "And so I did the only smart thing that any sensible actress would do, and I took it. I dove at it. And I love the fact that she's messy and mysterious and you don't know who she is."

The role that sidetracked Davis from what had become a very successful film career — one that has included Oscar nods for her work in "The Help" and "Doubt" — is the strong and brilliant professor and defense attorney Annalise Keating. She's as passionate about what she does in the courtroom as her work in the classroom.

Each year, Keating selects four law students to help her with the legal cases she's still arguing. The relationship gets a little tricky with the latest batch because of a deadly event. Billy Brown, Alfred Enoch, Jack Palance, Katie Findlay, Aja Naomi King, Matt McGorry, Karla Souza, Charlie Weber and Liza Weil also star.

There was a time when film actors would balk at being in a TV show. Davis says those days are over because there is so much good material available on network and cable programs.

"I think people migrate towards material, especially after they reach a certain age," Davis says. "I will be bold enough to say that I have gotten so many wonderful film roles, but I've gotten even more film roles where I haven't been the show. It's like I've been invited to a really fabulous party, only to hold up the wall."

That's not the case with the new network drama. She's delighted to be playing a character who at times is strong and authoritative and at other times an emotional wreck. Davis calls that being human.

Davis initially balks at a question about whether or not her character's morally questionable.

Then she says, "I think we're all morally questionable. I think that we so much act on nature and not on morals. So I found her to be a realistic protagonist. I find her to be very human, as we all are, that we all have gray areas. And that was the attraction for me."

Viola Davis plays a professor on "How to Get Away with Murder." The show airs on Thursdays on AFN-Family and Fridays on AFN-Spectrum.

ABC



Killer good

Oscar nominee Viola Davis takes on the lead role in TV series 'How to Get Away with Murder'

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Designed for slim

Changing your environment can lead to weight loss

TAMMY LUNGBLAD, THE KANSAS CITY STAR/MT

What you put on your countertop can affect your weight, according to the new book "Slim By Design," by Brian Wansink.

By MARY MACVEAN
Los Angeles Times

Need to lose weight? Instead of changing yourself, you might consider changing your environment.

Making changes — big and small — to the world around you is much easier than mustering the willpower to refrain from eating high-calorie foods, says Brian Wansink, who has for years studied our eating habits, currently as director of the Food and Brand Lab at Cornell University.

And those changes can mean that your diet is more healthful without working so hard.

To lessen cravings while food shopping, chew gum.

Wansink dismisses the popular idea that mindful eating is the way to eat what we need without overeating junk food. "For 90 percent of us, the solution to mindless eating is not mindful eating — our lives are just too crazy and our willpower's too wimpy," he writes in his new book, "Slim by Design: Mindless Eating Solutions for Everyday Life."

The book includes ways restaurants, schools and other institutions can offer more healthful food, and provides scorecards for readers to figure out whether their homes and workplaces, the restaurants and supermarkets they patronize and their kids' school meals, are designed for slim.

Restaurants and food companies are likely to change if they can make more money, Wansink noted in a telephone interview. "If a bunch of consumers say, 'Is there something you can come up with that's not French fries or a boring salad?' I would eat

Buy only healthy foods in bulk.

here more often," then companies are likely to listen, he said.

They're in the profits business, not in business to make people fat, he said. It's a lesson Wansink and his students stumbled upon when they realized that the bigger the package of food, the more people ate of it, and that consumers would pay more for smaller packets that would help them control how much they ate.

"Eventually, Nabisco/Kraft gave my theory a run and launched the 100-calorie snack pack," Wansink writes. It's the sort of change that helps people eat less with no effort.

"Most of our lives have made us fat by design," Wansink said. So it's time, he said, to make ourselves thin the same way. Here are some of his findings and suggestions; pick those that work for you, he says.

- If you come home through your kitchen door, you'll weigh more than your neighbor who goes home through another room. Solution? Kind of obvious.

- Wansink and his researchers spent a lot of time watching and cataloging the behavior of people who ate at buffet restaurants. The slim diners scouted out the entire spread before taking any food and then cherry-picked their favorites. Heavy diners went straight for the plates and started piling on from the start of the line. And thin diners sat far from the buffet facing away from it. You can guess what the others did.

- If your plate is the same color as your food, you're likely to serve yourself 18 percent more food. You can either buy new dishes, or color-code your meals if you want to eat less. But here's a hint: White plates and lots of pasta, potatoes and rice? Maybe not. Smaller plates are better, too.

- Clear the counters! The average woman who had potato chips on her counter

weighed 8 pounds more than a neighbor who did not, Wansink writes. Big deal, it's chips, you say? Get this: Woman with a box of breakfast cereal visible anywhere in the kitchen weighed 21 pounds more than that neighbor who kept it in the cupboard, Wansink writes.

- If you are really serious, move your pantry food to a closet elsewhere in the house and that closet's stuff into the kitchen closet. Or put up shelves in a faraway room to hold the food. That, Wansink writes, will decrease "browsing" for snacks and make you think before the food gets to your mouth.

- Buying in bulk saves money, right? But Wansink writes that one study showed people ate half the chips, cookies, ramen noodles and the like in the first week — regardless of how much they bought. What to do? Buy only healthful foods in bulk. Or repackage the items once you get home and store some far from the kitchen, he writes.

If your plate is the same color as your food, you're likely to serve yourself 18 percent more food.

- Pay attention to the menu. On average, Wansink writes, a dish described as "buttery" has 102 more calories than a similar one not described that way. Crispy? Adds 131 calories, he writes.

- To lessen cravings while in the super-market, chew gum, Wansink says. When he and colleagues gave shoppers gum at the start of a shopping trip, they bought 7 percent less junk food than their empty-mouthed fellow shoppers.

To lose weight, eat less and exercise more

By DANIEL NEMAN
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

If you are serious about wanting to lose weight, the best method is the time-honored one:

Eat less. Move more.

Joe Holleman, a columnist at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, lost 85 pounds a couple of years ago. His secret, he said, was what doctors, nutritionists and dietitians have been promoting for years. It's all about the calories. If you expend more calories than you take in, you will lose weight.

You use a lot of calories just by living. A moderately active man weighing 175 pounds uses an average of 2,625 to 2,800 calories a day; a moderately active 135-pound woman, on average, uses 2,025 to 2,160 calories, according to calculations by the University of Washington.

All you have to do to lose weight, in theory, is to consume fewer calories than you use by living. If you burn off more calories by exercising, you will lose even more weight.

Of course, it is harder to do in practice than that. Holleman assiduously counted every calorie and found that he would use all of his allotted calories by the middle of the afternoon. So he had to adjust his way of eating by eating more low-calorie foods that made him feel full throughout the day.

He made sure not to deny himself any foods. He just ate smaller portions than he did before, and he adjusted his intake of other calories for the rest of the day accordingly.

He also exercised more, and, he said, "the more weight I lost, the easier it was to exercise."

Holleman was inspired by a story he read about Mark Haub, an associate professor of nutrition at Kansas State University. Haub wanted to test the theory that eating fewer calories than he expended would make him lose weight, no matter where the calories came from. So for 10 weeks, he ate little but twinkies, Oreos, Doritos and the like. He also took a multivitamin pill and had a protein shake every day, along with some vegetables.

The result? In 10 weeks, he lost 27 pounds.

Not only that, but his levels of cholesterol and triglycerides dropped considerably. Because of what he was eating, he had assumed they would rise, but losing the weight apparently made a bigger difference than what he ate. His sleep apnea also went away, a direct result of losing the weight.

He pointedly worked out about the same during this period as he had before it, so that the weight loss could not be attributed to increasing his exercise — that is, to burning more calories.

The diet was certainly not healthy, he emphasized. The exercise was entirely a classroom experiment, he said. And it memorably made the point that the best way to lose weight is to use up more calories than you consume.

WEEKEND: FAMILY

... And baby makes three

Economist makes case for marriage, planned parenthood

BY LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

When it comes to pregnancy and child-rearing, behavioral economist Isabel V. Sawhill sees a cultural divide between the planners and the drifters.

The senior fellow at the Brookings Institution argues in a new book, "Generation Unbound: Drifting into Sex and Parenthood without Marriage," that the act of not becoming pregnant until one is ready would save billions of dollars and help ensure that children are born into families with the means and motivation to care for them.

The book, from Brookings Institution Press, was released Sept. 25.

A conversation with Isabel V. Sawhill:

The premise of your book seems to be that unplanned pregnancies and births are bad for the economy, bad for our culture? Is that what you're arguing?

I'm arguing more centrally that it's not good for children. Their life prospects are being undermined by too many young adults drifting into relationships, pregnancy, childbearing, rather than waiting until they're ready to be parents.

We may have always known that to be true but we have not been practicing it. Sixty percent of all births to young unmarried adults, I'm talking about people under the age of 30, are unplanned, unintended.

On the one hand, you support all the personal choices and freedoms we now have in terms of sex, contraception and forming families, but you then argue that drifting into parenthood is a bad idea. Can you explain that a little bit?

The children born under those circumstances are going to have constrained life

chances, and it's going to be stressful for their parents as well, and it's often going to produce a single-parent family that is going to struggle both economically and in other ways.

I think that many single parents are doing a heroic job of raising children on their own. It's just a very hard thing to do. You have half as much time and often half as much money as you would have if you had joined forces with another person.

Can you talk specifically about the impact on families, governments, schools, etc. from a high rate of pregnancies and births, not just among teens because as you noted the teen birth rate is going down, but among unmarried women in their 20s? When did that start happening?

The teen birth rate has come down dramatically, and the fact that we've had some success there makes me somewhat optimistic that we can

have success with a slightly older group as well. But the problem of unplanned birth outside of marriage has shifted up the age scale. It's now a major problem amongst 20-somethings in the United States.

Over half of all births to women under 30 are outside of marriage and most of those births are unintended.

Can you address why social policies to reduce what you call too-early unplanned births have been ignored or sidelined, and where that fits into what you describe as a "demographic tide of family breakdown."

We had a huge transformation in our society from one that was based primarily on the idea that if you had children you should have them within marriage. And that worked reasonably well. Now marriage seems to be disappearing because, among other things, much greater opportunities for women, their ability to support themselves and their desire for autonomy and their ability to achieve that autonomy.

They don't need marriage in the way they used to. That to me is the biggest factor, but there are some others, such as the fact that men, less-skilled men in particular, are struggling in today's labor market, aren't doing as well and therefore have all kinds of problems and don't look terribly marriageable to the women that they might partner with.

What do you see in the future in terms of our culture's default when it comes to marriage and having children?

There will likely be more and more people deciding not to have children, but I'm not arguing that that's what we should make the standard for the way an adult should live. Far from it.

The important thing is to make an explicit choice, not just drift into marriage and parenting, at any age.

SPOUSE CALLS

No matter where boots are, war is never safe

When the President of the United States promises America will have "no boots on the ground" in Iraq or Syria, military members and their families don't take that phrase literally. He can't be saying that no American soles will touch Iraqi soil — because they already are. Do most Americans know this statement is about mission, not footwear location? Military families do. They know that plenty of boots belonging to people they know and love are on the ground.

When my Air Force husband is deployed, his boots really are on the ground much of the time, like those of many support troops. Neither he nor I would compare his position to servicemembers who routinely go forward to meet the enemy with weapons at the ready, whether on the ground, at sea, or in the air. As a non-combatant, his job is not inherently dangerous, but he sometimes does his job in dangerous conditions, as do many servicemembers with non-combat job descriptions. Military members and families understand the distinctions between these duties. Everyone in a combat zone operates at some level of danger; none are immune to danger by virtue of performing non-combat duties.

So when the Secretary of Defense reiterates "no boots on the ground," military families don't breathe a sigh of relief alongside the rest of America. We know too much. Even without a stated combat mission against terrorist organizations overseas, we know our loved ones and their boots are already in ships, airplanes, and yes, even on the ground. More are likely to follow, to train and support indigenous forces.

Whether the Pentagon calls it a combat mission or boots on the ground "no matter much to those doing the job and wearing the boots. Call them advisers, trainers or support personnel. They'll do what the mission requires. Their families will hold the fort at home, knowing terminology won't matter much either to enemies who've shown they have few scruples regarding human life.

Unfortunately, the only ones misled by the words "no boots on the ground" might be American civilians. When politicians use that phrase, I fear they use it to placate voters, reportedly weary of a war they never fought. Military members and their families are weary too, but changing the name doesn't change reality. It only minimizes the courage of those who wear the boots, whether those boots are on patrol, on a ship's deck, a tarmac, or an operating room floor.

I wonder if it also leads most Americans to believe our military can maintain a safe distance from the bad guys while fighting them. I hope they're paying enough attention to realize there's nothing safe or clean about war, on the ground or in the air. Ask those who pinpoint locations and provide coordinates for airstrikes — from the ground — if they consider themselves combat support.

On a Sunday morning news show, retired Army Gen. Carter Ham spoke with CBS journalist Bob Schieffer about what establishing a "no-fly zone" over Syria means. Ham knows, having overseen a similar operation in Libya in 2011 as the commander of U.S. Africa Command.

"It's a pretty high-risk operation," he said. "It first entails killing a lot of people and destroying the Syrian air defenses and those people who are manning those systems ... destroying the Syrian air force, preferably on the ground, in the air, if necessary. This is a violent combat action that results in lots of casualties and increased risk to our own personnel."

Too bad he was only on "Face the Nation." He would have had a much larger audience on "House of Cards" or "Game of Thrones," since public interest in politics or bloodshed extends more to the fictional than the actual.

My husband has had his boots on the ground in hostile territory on multiple deployments. Yet, people who do not know any better — and some who should know better — throw around the phrase "no boots on the ground," as if boots like my husband's don't count. But they do. Boots are already on the ground, and they all have people standing in them.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes



The Dallas Morning News Illustration

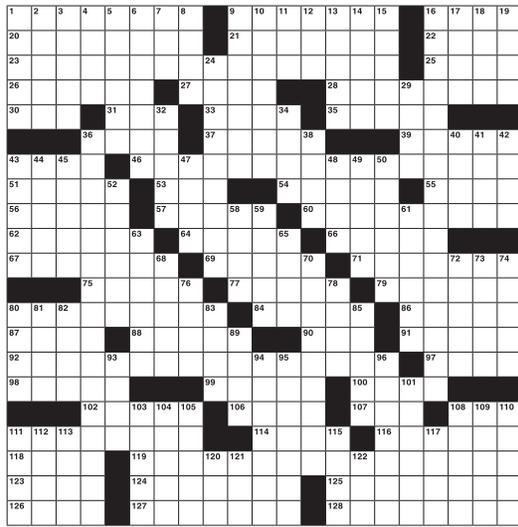
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

FOUR BY FOUR

BY TODD GROSS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 Bygone potentate
9 Ottoman inns
16 Web starter
20 Kind of steroid
21 Small thing to burn
22 "Fancy meeting you here!"
23 1975 Tony-nominated play about an extended affair
25 Spanish province
26 Rehquist's successor on the high bench
27 New home loan deal, in short
28 Exclaimed
30 "Guardians of the Galaxy" title characters, informally
31 Org. implementing the Protect America Act
33 Audacity
35 Chief Justice during the Civil War
36 Relationships
37 Skateboard jump
39 Private parts
43 Clear-minded
46 The Crossroads of the West
51 Fields
53 Early-millennium year
54 Undermine
55 Prop on "The Bachelor"
56 What a bachelor might do
57 ___ Watts, English hymnist who wrote "Joy to the World"
60 Uncontested basketball attempts
62 Swarms
64 Rockefeller Center statue
66 Go after
67 Irons, say
69 Encourage
71 Like a good-size estate, maybe
75 "Wait, you can't possibly think,..."
77 Writer painted by Velázquez
79 Pre-Bill Hillary
80 Historic figure with a reputation at stake?
84 Shelfmate of Bartlett's, informally
86 Onion relative
87 Go check-to-check with
88 Lingo
90 Good source of iron?
91 Examen Valdez, e.g.
92 Warm way to welcome someone
97 Millennials, informally
98 Unflinching
99 Be profligate, say
100 Radio host John
102 Throat problem
106 Team of oxen
107 "Say what?"
108 Brother
110 Brother
111 Not now
114 Stats for Aaron and Gehrig
116 Deeds
118 Goddess of marriage
119 Common slogan for a music radio station
123 Kind of cavity
124 Vatican City vis-a-vis Rome
125 "CSI Miami" actress
126 Take in some views?
127 Some farms
128 Unpredictable one
DOWN
1 Pool stroke
2 Put on ___
3 Gaze group
4 Biblical brother
5 Corkscrew-shaped pasta
6 George Orwell and George Eliot
7 Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory"
8 Taiwanese computer giant
9 Flowing glacial feature
10 Mandible's counterpart
11 Not the main rte.
12 The natural in "The Natural"
13 Build
14 Sparkly topper
15 Relative of a canny
16 "Don't be ashamed"
17 "Vincent van Gogh's brother
18 G
19 Pub order
24 Haggle
29 Hard to grasp
32 "Ditto"
34 Valley girl's filler
36 Reagan's challenge to Gorbachev
38 Architect Saarinen
40 Langston Hughes poem with the lines "They send me to eat in the kitchen / When my company comes?"
41 Earliest-born member of the Cartoon Hall of Fame
42 "___ Mine, All Mine" (1920s tune)
43 Goldman's banking partner
44 "___ of One's Own" (Woolf essay)
45 Into to science?
47 ___ Leslie, three-time W.N.B.A. M.V.P.
48 Get by
49 Driver's lic., e.g.
50 Like overtime periods vis-a-vis regulation play
52 Prefix with -scope
58 Bit of seaweed
59 Cav or Mav
61 Brand with a red arrow through its logo
63 Synagogue instrument
65 Midlink"
68 Some smug comments
70 Bum
72 It has almost 4,000 miles of coastline
73 Lustrous black
74 It might be at your fingertips
76 Werk units
78 One picked out of a lineup, informally
80 Classic movie shot on Martha's Vineyard
81 Dead reckoning?
82 Prefix with correct
83 Sights at 127-Across
85 Baby ___
89 Bar jarfal
93 Pituitary gland output, briefly
94 Corrupt
95 Activates, in computer lingo
96 No one can drive in this
101 Protect
103 All worked up
104 Justice Kagan
105 Oscar-winning actor whose name is Italian for "fishes"
108 Trees and shrubs
109 Come back
110 Pined
111 2007 purchaser of Applebee's
112 Nephew of Caligula
113 Asia's ___ Sea
115 Duck that nests in tree hollows
117 Gillette brand
120 Olympus OM-2, e.g.
121 ___ chi
122 Egg: Prefix



- 112 Nephew of Caligula
113 Asia's ___ Sea
115 Duck that nests in tree hollows
117 Gillette brand
120 Olympus OM-2, e.g.
121 ___ chi
122 Egg: Prefix

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Advertisement for 'TOP DOG' by Lucca K458, featuring a photo of a dog and text describing the book as a 'New York Times bestselling author' work.

Advertisement for 'WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!' from Stripes Book Club and Dutton, offering a chance to win signed copies of 'TOP DOG'.

FACES

Fresh break

Emmy winner Anna Gunn steps into new role on series 'Gracepoint'

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

The average TV binge viewer is indulging in catch-up. When Anna Gunn dove headlong into the British crime drama "Broadchurch," it was homework. Gunn stars as police Detective Ellie Miller in Fox's "Gracepoint," an adaptation of the moodily gripping U.K. series that's been uprooted from a seaside English town to a northern California one that's more scenic but no less fraught with pain.

The actress, who won two Emmy Awards for "Breaking Bad," is part of the makeover, one that stopped short of swapping out leading man David Tennant as a tough but troubled police detective.

Gunn, 46, said she fell "head over heels" for the emotionally layered drama about a boy's murder and the distrust and anger it unleashes in a placid community. She did fret about how Tennant would respond to her replacing "Broadchurch" star Olivia Coleman as his mismatched police partner. (Tennant and Coleman are paired again in season two of "Broadchurch.")

"At the very beginning I said, 'Do you feel you're cheating? Does it feel odd to you?'" Gunn recalled. "He said, 'It really doesn't. It feels like a whole new thing.'"

That's how its executive producers, including Anya Epstein, looked at Fox's remake of "Broadchurch." It re-



ceived a prestigious Peabody Award, but the nearly 1 million average weekly viewers that watched it on BBC America means most U.S. viewers are unfamiliar with the "amazing" series, Epstein said.

That includes her parents, she said, who stopped watching because they couldn't decipher Tennant's Scottish brogue.

That's not a problem in "Gracepoint," in which the former "Doctor Who" star plays an American accent. His character, renamed Emmett Carver, is no less prickly than the original, and Gunn's Miller has to cope with him and her first murder case.

Her inexperience and roots in the community are reason enough for her to cede authority to town newcomer Carver. But as embodied by the imposingly tall and charismatic Gunn, Miller appears ready to stand her ground.

"He's someone who approaches the world with a wary eye," Gunn said of Carver. "She's someone who approaches it with quite a bit of openness and the belief that you protect and serve, and also give people the benefit of the doubt until they prove you wrong."

As the 10-episode series progresses — taking different plot turns than the eight-episode BBC original and giving some characters more weight — so does Gunn's portrayal, Epstein said. "As things unfold, the fragility becomes more and more apparent," the producer said.

That's in contrast to Gunn's previous character who, granted, was in far different circumstances: Skylar White of "Breaking Bad" steeled herself to pull her family away from her meth-making husband as he descended further into evil and danger.

It was a rewarding role for Gunn but one that became a harsh introduction to the Internet's potential for unrestrained viciousness. Skylar was condemned in some online posts for being a failed, unsupportive wife, and Gunn became a target simply for playing her.

The actress responded in an eloquent New York Times op-ed piece last year. "Male characters don't seem to inspire this kind of public venting and vitriol," she wrote, adding that the comments shed light on attitudes toward gender and the "dark and murky corners" ignored in everyday life.

Anna Gunn — familiar to audiences for her work on "Breaking Bad" — stars as Detective Ellie Miller on the TV drama "Gracepoint." It starts Saturday on AFN-Spectrum.

Adam Sandler signs exclusive 4-movie deal with Netflix

From wire reports

Movie star and comedian Adam Sandler announced Wednesday night that he signed an exclusive four-picture deal with Netflix.

Sandler announced the deal on his verified Twitter account.

"I tried to sign up for Netflix but this happened instead," Sandler tweeted.

Netflix sent out an announcement shortly afterward.

"Under the deal announced today, Sandler's Happy Madison Productions will work alongside Netflix to develop the four films and to premiere them exclusively to members in the nearly 50 countries where Netflix operates,"

Netflix said. "Current studio film commitments are not included in this deal."

Fans of the former "Saturday Night Live" cast member can't get enough of his work, Netflix chief content officer Ted Sarandos said in a statement.

"People love Adam's films on Netflix and often watch them again and again. His appeal spans across viewers of all ages — everyone has a favorite movie, everyone has a favorite line — not just in the U.S. but all over the world," Sarandos said.

Sandler, jokingly, said the deal was simple.

"When these fine people came

to me with an offer to make four movies for them, I immediately said yes for one reason and one reason only. Netflix rhymes with wet chicks." Sandler said in a statement. "Let the streaming begin!"

Terms of the deal were not disclosed.

Bennett sets mark as oldest act with No. 1 LP

Even at age 88, Tony Bennett is still reaching No. 1 on the charts.

The singer is once again the oldest performer with a No. 1 album on the Billboard 200 for "Cheek to Cheek," his jazz duets

collaboration with Lady Gaga.

"Cheek to Cheek" sold more than 131,000 copies since its release last week, according to Nielsen SoundScan, edging out a pair of new albums by Kenny Chesney and Barbra Streisand. The placement gives Bennett his second No. 1 overall and Gaga her third consecutive No. 1 album.

Bennett established the previous record of 85 years old with the 2011 release of "Duets II."

"Cheek to Cheek" also landed at No. 1 on the jazz albums and traditional jazz album charts.

Other news

■ A federal judge in California

on Tuesday dismissed a lawsuit that John Wayne Enterprises filed against Duke University in North Carolina. The two have squabbled since 2005 over use of the name. The university objected last year when Wayne's heirs tried to register the name "Duke" to market bourbon and other alcoholic beverages.

■ A council in southern England said it instructed its workers to remove a mural before realizing it was the work of internationally famous graffiti artist Banksy. The mural, which featured a group of pigeons carrying anti-immigration banners, appeared at Clacton-on-Sea.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Michael C. Bailey, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

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

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief
 weyrteddie@stripes.com
 +49(0)631.365.9310, cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310
Pacific
 Paul Alexander, Pacific Bureau Chief
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)583.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377
Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +1(202)761.0908, DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Amanda Trypanis, Design Desk Supervisor
 trypanis.amanda@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 tel: +1202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: +1(202)761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301
Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com
Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contactus

OMBUSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 30 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45452, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45452, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a result, Stars and Stripes and its products may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution at remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

OPINION

US will 'meet the tests of this moment'

By President Barack Obama

American leadership is the one constant in an uncertain world. As Americans, we see the future not as something beyond our control, but as something we can shape for the better through concerted and collective effort. That was true this week, as we mobilized the world to confront some of our most urgent challenges.

America is leading the world in the fight to degrade and ultimately destroy the terrorist group known as the Islamic State. This group has terrorized all who they come across in Iraq and Syria. In the most horrific crimes imaginable, innocent human beings have been beheaded, with videos of the atrocity distributed to shock the conscience of the world. There can be no reason, no negotiation, with this brand of evil. The only language understood by killers like this is the language of force.

In this effort, we do not act alone. Nor do we intend to send American troops to occupy foreign lands. Instead, we will support Iraqis and Syrians fighting to reclaim their communities. We will use our military might to conduct air strikes to roll back the Islamic State, and we will be joined by friends and partners, including Arab nations. We will train and equip forces fighting against these terrorists on the ground. We will work to cut off their financing, and to stop the flow of fighters into and out of the region. Already, over 40 nations have offered to join the coalition against the Islamic State, and at the United Nations in New York, I worked to build more support for this coalition.

There is no nation on Earth better positioned to seize the future than ours.

In my annual address to the U.N., I also challenged the world — especially Muslim communities — to explicitly, forcefully and consistently reject the ideology of al-Qaida and the Islamic State. No children, anywhere, should be educated to hate other people. We must cut out the funding that fuels violent hatred, and contest the space that terrorists occupy, including the Internet and social media. At the same time, countries must do more to offer an alternative vision, and to tap the extraordinary potential of their young people.

American leadership is not confined to the fight against the Islamic State. We are leading the effort to rally the world against Russian aggression in Ukraine. Along with our allies, we will support the people of Ukraine as they develop their democracy and economy. We will reinforce our NATO allies, and uphold our commitment to collective defense. We will impose a cost on Russia for aggression, and counter falsehoods with the truth. And this week, I called upon even more nations to join us on the right side of history.

America is leading the fight to contain and combat the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. We're deploying our doctors and scientists — supported by our military — to help fight the outbreak and pursue new treatments. From the United Kingdom and Germany to Senegal and France, other na-

tions are stepping up their efforts, too, by sending money, supplies and personnel. But we need an even broader effort to stop a disease that could kill hundreds of thousands, inflict horrific suffering, destabilize economies, and ultimately spread across borders. That's why we will continue to rally other countries to join us in making concrete commitments to fight this disease, and enhance global health security for the long term.

America is engaging more allies and partners to confront the growing threat of climate change before it's too late. At home, we've taken historic steps to invest in clean energy, cut carbon pollution, and create new jobs in the process. Abroad, our climate assistance now reaches more than 120 nations. But we can only succeed in combating climate change if we are joined in this effort by every major power. So on Tuesday, I called on every nation — developed and developing alike — to join us in this effort for the sake of future generations.

America will do what it takes to meet the tests of this moment. Because despite all the challenges of this new century, there is no nation on Earth better positioned to seize the future than ours. The people of the world still look to us to lead. And we welcome that responsibility. We are heirs to a proud legacy of freedom, and as we showed the world this week, we are prepared to do what is necessary to secure that legacy for generations to come.

Hong Kong's protests probably aren't contagious

By Adam Minter

Bloomberg News

Are Hong Kong's pro-democracy protesters contagious? The Chinese government, never one to take chances with such things, certainly isn't doing so now in dealing with the Umbrella Revolution. Since demonstrations began to swell this past weekend, mainland authorities have clamped down on any references to Hong Kong in social media, blocked Instagram (the last major foreign social media service to have an un-censored presence in China), and strictly regulated what mainstream news sites could say about events in the Chinese-ruled city. Yet despite these efforts, plenty of protest news seems to be leaking through.

The proof is in the censorship itself. According to Weiboscope, a social-media analysis site at the University of Hong Kong, 452 out of every 10,000 posts to the Sina Weibo social media site were deleted on Sunday, when Hong Kong police used tear gas and pepper spray on protesters. That's roughly five times the preceding week's average, and double that which occurred during this year's 25th anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Many if not most of the deleted posts maintained at Weiboscope expressed admiration for protesters.

But the Weiboscope archive is hardly comprehensive, and the range of emotions that Chinese feel toward Hong Kong is much broader than a cache of admiring

tweets. Indeed, relations between mainlanders and Hong Kong Chinese have been tense and complicated for several years now. In early 2012, Apple Daily — the city's most ardently pro-democratic newspaper — ran an advertisement referring to the city's mainland visitors as locusts who were taking up space in the city's maternity wards. The ensuing culture war has barely flagged since, with mainlanders firing their own salvos at Hong Kongers for being insufficiently loyal to a shared Chinese destiny.

The divisions are deep and widening and yet curiously — there's very little overt sign of these resentments in censored or uncensored social media. Consider an odd Monday afternoon post to Sina Weibo by Exercise Book, the pseudonym for one of the site's more popular users (with 8.5 million followers). In it, he invokes Hong Kong's well-known role as the epicenter of an iPhone 6 gray market catering mostly to Apple-crazed mainlanders. (The new iPhones won't go on sale in China until Oct. 17 due to licensing issues.) "Treat Hong Kong a little better," he wrote. "Every one still wants to go there and buy the iPhone6."

This isn't the sort of thing that would go viral outside of China. But inside the country, it's been reposted more than 6,500 times and generated more than 6,000 comments. For many, it's a comic (yes, comic — the comment thread is filled with laughing emoticons) reminder that Chinese society is so thoroughly controlled by the

government that people must travel to Hong Kong for something as simple as a smartphone. For others — especially the censors who have allowed the post to stay up — it's something else: a backhanded reminder of the value that Hong Kong brings to China. And for many commenters, the post is an easy target for quick jibes like: "It's Hong Kong that should be treating the Mainland better."

What really emerges from Exercise Book's thread, and the deleted posts stored at Weiboscope, is simple curiosity: China's online communities are anxious to know more about what's happening in Hong Kong than what censors will allow. So, offers are made to share images and news stories; links are passed around. For those who seek it, a narrative about what's happening in Hong Kong slowly emerges.

Of course, if you go looking among the deleted posts or the extant comment threads on Sina Weibo, it's all but impossible to find anyone even hinting that such information should be used to foment umbrella revolutions on the mainland. Indeed, the most striking characteristic of even supportive posts is how the "praise" and "blessings" users are sending to Hong Kong sound like the sort of good wishes that one might bestow on a foreign country rather than one's own. For the regime at least, that's one unexpected benefit of the troubling divisions that have grown between the mainland and Hong Kong over the last several years.

Adam Minter is based in Asia, where he covers politics, culture, business and junk.

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

What to do with Ebola in US
The Modesto (Calif.) Bee

On Sept. 2, seven Northeastern University scientists wrote an academic paper published by the Public Library of Science predicting Ebola could reach the United States "by the end of the month."

Last week, The Washington Post reported that it was only a quirk of timing that kept an American doctor in Africa long enough to realize he had the disease before returning home. Otherwise, Ebola already would have arrived in the doctor's hometown, Dallas. The Post wondered if the "resulting panic" would be "impossible to contain" once the word got out that there was "Ebola in Texas."

The Northwestern academic paper proved prophetic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention confirmed Tuesday the first person infected with Ebola who has not been brought to the United States for treatment has, in fact, turned up in Dallas. We'll find out shortly if there will be any "panic." The CDC said the man flew to Texas from Liberia on Sept. 20 and exhibited symptoms Sept. 24 before seeking care two days later.

Ebola in America. Those words don't take you back, do they? You're hardly breathing. The disease is ravaging West Africa and experts have been screaming from the rooftops — and even the podium at the United Nations — that the world was not paying enough attention to a disease that has been doubling in scale every three weeks. It's not hard to see why. The president's computer modelers from Northeastern said that even if air travel out of Africa had been restricted by 80 percent, it would have delayed the spread by only three to four weeks. ...

What next? Quarantine Texas? Hardly it's time for a deep breath while insisting that our leaders are sufficiently concerned to take emergency action. Remember, this is only one case, and the nation's top doctor sounded the perfect note as he addressed it: "There is no doubt in my mind that we will not it," Dr. Tom Frieden said in a brief, blunt way. Second, Ebola might be capable of mutation, which could make it harder to stop. So the key to stopping it is arresting the spread early — which is what doctors are trying to do in Texas. ...

We have some unexpected experience, too. Ebola, like AIDS, is transmitted through bodily fluids. So the key to staying safe from Ebola is to have no contact with the bodily fluids of others.

Still, there's plenty of cause for concern. First, Ebola takes up to 10 days to manifest and death follows shortly in 70 percent of African cases. In nations with better health care it is likely to be a lower percentage, but no one knows by how much. Second, Ebola might be capable of mutation, which could make it harder to stop. So the key to stopping it is arresting the spread early — which is what doctors are trying to do in Texas. ...

If they really want to show us how effective they can be, Congress can put together an emergency plan and help the CDC and doctors on the ground get started on a cure. There's no time to waste. Ebola has arrived.

Holder exit sets up battle royal
The Dallas Morning News

Attorney General Eric Holder has been a divisive figure in office. His departure promises to be no less divisive.

Holder, an original member of the president's Cabinet, was a lightning rod for



liberals who questioned his record on national security and his indifference toward prosecuting Wall Street executives after the financial meltdown. Conservatives saw him as an obstructionist, most notably for his actions in Fast and Furious, the Justice Department's failed gun-running sting that led GOP lawmakers to hold him in contempt of Congress. And while Holder prominently backed more progressive drug laws, same-sex marriage and voting rights protections and spoke eloquently on issues of race and sentencing, he also crossed the line in using the power of his office to impede journalists and to discourage leaks critical of the administration.

It is in this charged environment that Holder steps aside, leaving an unclear path for his successor. Democrats have two options on how to time the confirmation proceedings. They could push for the lame-duck session after the midterms, while Democrats are sure to be in control of the Senate. Or they could wait until next year; the GOP might control the Senate, and Democrats would just dare them to create a showdown over an attorney general nominee.

Texas Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn have both said they don't want outgoing Democratic senators to accelerate a vote on Holder's replacement before year-end. "There is so much ill will already that this will poison the well even further," Cornyn told The Dallas Morning News' editorial board Monday.

Both scenarios are highly political and reflect the bitter partisanship of Washington. ...

Once the White House settles on a nominee, it normally could count on receiving background checks from the FBI and Senate Judiciary Committee and a Senate confirmation vote within two months. But these are not normal times. The upcoming elections and the snail's pace of other confirmation hearings signal that this process is going to get ugly. That is what happens when the politicians on both sides use the office of the nation's top law enforcement officer as a political club.

Then again, Holder has done his successor no favors. He or she has been left to dangle like a political pinata, making it almost impossible to have the independence from politics that the office demands.

Student loan load a risk to all
The Orange County (Calif.) Register

When we read the remarks Monday by Deputy Treasury Secretary Sarah Bloom Raskin, concerning the nation's record level of student loan debt, we were reminded of comments made in 2007 by Ben Bernanke, then the chairman of the Federal Reserve, concerning the nation's subprime mortgage crisis.

In a keynote speech at the annual meeting of the National Association of Business

Economics, Raskin assured attendees, "No one now expects a student loan meltdown because there is a great deal of integrity and stability in the student loan market."

That sounds to us very much like Bernanke's testimony to Congress seven years ago, when he assured lawmakers that "the impact on the broader economy and financial markets of the problems in the subprime market seems likely to be contained."

Well we know now that the subprime crisis was far from contained. In fact, it precipitated the collapse of the nation's housing sector that, in turn, mushroomed into the nation's worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

We don't think that the student-loan crisis will lay waste to the higher-education sector as the subprime-loan crisis did to housing, but we do not rule out the possibility of something just short of a student-loan meltdown.

Indeed, student loan debt has more than doubled since 2007, from \$50 billion to roughly \$1.1 trillion. The class of 2014 graduated college with an average \$33,000 in debt. Many of those freshly minted graduates did not find jobs with yearly salaries greater than their total debt, a rule of thumb for indebted graduates.

What worries us is the mismatch between student borrowing and post-graduation earnings appears to be getting greater, rather than smaller.

Indeed, from 2005-12, average student loan debt for borrowers in their 20s increased 35 percent, while the median earnings for 25-to-34-year-olds with undergraduate degrees actually declined 2.2 percent.

That explains, at least in part, why almost 7 million erstwhile collegians defaulted on their student loans last year.

The student-loan crisis has no easy fix. But at least part of the solution is reining in the runaway cost of higher education that has made loans so necessary for 70 percent of college students.

New era at Secret Service
The Washington Post

Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson wasted no time Wednesday in accepting Julia Pierson's resignation as director of the Secret Service. It had become clear, following her poor performance 24 hours earlier at a Capitol Hill hearing and the alarming revelation of a new security breach that allowed an armed felon to get close to the president, that there was no support for her leadership.

Even more important were Johnson's recognition that the agency's problems likely go much deeper than who is at its top and his decision to order an independent review. The string of troubling events in which White House security was

breached, protocols were ignored and the president apparently was kept out of the loop demands serious attention and action. Johnson's swift and decisive steps were reassuring.

With calls mounting from both parties for Pierson's departure, Johnson issued a no-nonsense statement announcing her resignation. He saluted her 30 years of public service and named Joseph Clancy, formerly special agent in charge of the presidential protective division of the Secret Service, to be interim acting director. Investigation of the Sept. 19 incident in which a man was able to get into the White House will be taken over by the Department of Homeland Security, and a panel of independent experts will be convened to look at issues relating to the Secret Service.

The need for this broader look is underscored by the fact that it was only 18 months ago that Pierson was brought in as director to help remake an agency tarnished by a scandal involving agents allegedly drinking and consorting with protesters while on overseas trips. Pierson established new rules, but her tenure was undone by the even more serious concern that agents were not up to the job of protecting the president and his family. In addition to the Sept. 19 incident, there were revelations of a security breach involving a 2011 shooting attack on the White House; the last straw was the report of an armed contractor with a criminal record who was allowed to ride in an elevator with the president during a Sept. 16 trip to Atlanta.

There is no question, as Johnson noted in his statement, that the Secret Service is composed of men and women willing to put their lives on the line to protect others. The dedication of its staff is another reason why it is important to quickly identify and address the root problems that have come to bedevil the agency.

Grain of salt with e-cig warning
Newsday

Big Tobacco might have been scared straight.

Some companies such as Reynolds American Inc. and Altria Group Inc. have voluntarily put one of the strongest health warnings in the industry on their entries in the fledgling e-cigarette market.

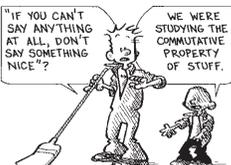
That's a startling about-face for an industry that for decades used smoke screens to deny the horribly addictive nature of nicotine and the ill effects of tobacco despite having evidence to the contrary. The fight ended in 1998 when the four largest domestic tobacco companies agreed to pay more than \$200 billion over 25 years to settle suits by 46 attorneys general over Medicaid costs to treat smoking-related diseases.

Altria Group, the maker of Marlboro, sells Mylech e-cigarettes with labels that flatly say, "Nicotine is addictive and habit forming, and it is very toxic." Altria warns against use "by children, women who are pregnant or breast feeding or persons with or at risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, or taking medicine for depression or asthma." Reynolds America, maker of Camel cigarettes, includes a similar warning on its Vuse e-cigarette packaging.

The companies might simply want to be honest about potential health hazards, but it's hard not to be skeptical. The aggressive, voluntary labeling just might be a strategy to insulate the companies against costly future lawsuits, or to carry favor with regulators.

Whatever the motivation, the warnings are important for consumers of a product that delivers nicotine or other chemicals for inhalation before regulators can assess the health risks and impose labeling standards. Smaller companies selling e-cigarettes should follow Big Tobacco's lead. What if e-cig users don't know could hurt them.

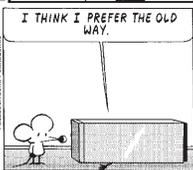
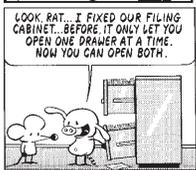
Frazz



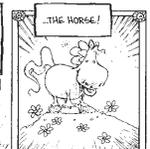
Dilbert



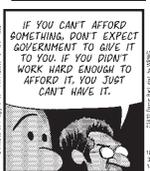
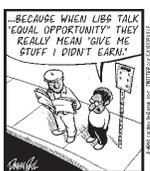
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
21		18				19			20	
22										
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										
54										
55										
56										
57										

ACROSS

- 1 Starbucks option
- 6 Delivery vehicle
- 9 Energy
- 12 Herd
- 13 Judge Lance
- 14 Lemieux milieu
- 15 Doctrine
- 16 Hold the reins
- 18 Catch in a lie
- 20 Mysterious character
- 21 Commotion
- 23 Author Brown
- 24 Old-hat
- 25 Consomme, e.g.
- 27 Tested the waters
- 29 Tranquil
- 31 Cars that have seen better days
- 35 Sill
- 37 Accomplishes
- 38 Handed out hands
- 41 Sprite
- 43 "Science Guy" Bill
- 44 Sea eagle
- 45 Sign up
- 47 Environment
- 49 —foot oil
- 52 Praise in verse
- 53 Croisy

DOWN

- 1 Banned bug spray
- 2 Before
- 3 Outline
- 4 State firmly
- 5 Stinky
- 6 Alpaca cousin
- 7 On
- 8 French refusal
- 9 PC woe
- 10 PC pictures
- 11 Donnybrook
- 17 Swapped
- 19 Manhandled
- 21 Fool
- 22 Buck's mate
- 24 Apiece
- 26 BB, e.g.
- 28 Reside
- 30 Profit
- 32 Hold
- 33 Crucial
- 34 Compass dir.
- 36 With TLC
- 38 Interior design-er's concern
- 39 Wear away
- 40 Wing
- 42 Last
- 45 Physical
- 46 Big rig
- 48 Ecol. org.
- 50 Stick with a kick
- 51 Sauce source

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	A	R	A	S	A	Y	P	L	O	Y			
A	L	O	T	E	G	O	A	U	R	A			
S	I	L	T	M	E	G	S	M	E	W			
S	A	L	A	M	I	A	C	T	I	O	N		
				C	O	N		P	E	N			
D	U	C	K	A	R	O	U	S	A	L	S		
U	S	A	R	R	O	R	R	E	P				
B	E	T	R	A	Y	E	D	M	Y	N	A		
				E	E	L		I	D	O			
L	A	N	C	E	R			N	O	T	I	C	E
E	S	A	U		O	V	A		I	D	O	L	
A	I	R	S		O	E	R		V	E	T	S	
F	A	Y	E		F	E	Y		E	A	S	E	

10-3

CRYPTOQUIP

FU SNT LFEFSPZQ, OJ PUQ

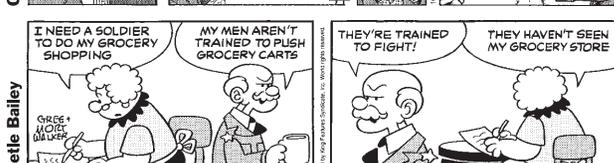
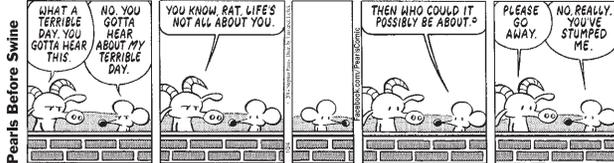
ZTBZKFSG SNPS NJRT SJ

XTBJLT REKLXTZG MJ

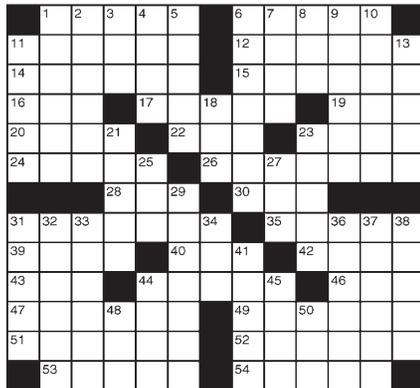
SNZJKMN XPGFB OZPFUFUM?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF HE'S BEING REALLY GOOD AT SUBTLE PERSUASION, I'D SAY THE PIANO SELLER USES THE SOFT PEDDLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals T



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Attempts
- 6 Prop in Laurel and Hardy's "The Music Box"
- 11 Civil War battle site in Tennessee
- 12 Sequentially
- 14 Hack
- 15 "World War Z" figure
- 16 Parisian pal
- 17 Father-in-law of Jacob
- 19 Spelldown
- 20 Harvest
- 22 Supporting
- 23 Constrict
- 24 Krupp Works city
- 26 Silver colors, in herakry
- 28 Junior
- 30 LummoX
- 31 Award recipient
- 35 Wild West show
- 39 Japanese sashes
- 40 The whole enchilada
- 42 Amateur-night prop
- 43 Wager
- 44 iPhone rival
- 46 Mellow
- 47 Toy Fair debut of 1959

DOWN

- 1 Humiliates
- 2 Leg bones
- 3 Priestly garment
- 4 Seethe
- 5 Wheat bundle
- 6 Conqueror of the Incas
- 7 Aware of
- 8 \$ dispenser
- 9 Small projecting part
- 10 East
- 11 Frighten
- 13 Gotta have
- 18 Slithery squeezer
- 21 Mexican money
- 23 Confuse
- 25 Neither mate
- 27 Needlefish
- 29 Next
- 31 Redford role in "The Natural"
- 32 Voodoo-like charms
- 33 — acid
- 34 "Xanadu" band, for short
- 36 Within one's power
- 37 Light up
- 38 Curved moldings
- 41 Chain parts
- 44 Regimen
- 45 Fender bender
- 48 Sib
- 50 Affliction

Answer to Previous Puzzle



10-4 CRYPTOQUIP

JTC AJDB GRJEV G TGKFN S

KWJ UJDAVGDVTF VGINA

UGANA VJ WOBWNS VSOREDGT A:

"WJJNC JD GZZNGTODB."
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IN THE MILITARY, DO ANY RECRUITS THAT HOPE TO BECOME PLUMBERS GO THROUGH BASIC DRAINING?
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals O

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Recession cut wages deeper across board

From wire reports

If you graduated college during a U.S. economic downturn any time before the Great Recession, your luck generally depended on your major.

Yes, wages for new job entrants in the job market fell across the board, but the losses tended to be most severe in lower-paying fields. Those in the best-paying professions — engineering or accounting, for instance — tended to be more sheltered from the

pain, building a major advantage relative to their peers.

But the Great Recession has proved different. Not only are the wage losses deeper, but they also extend more forcefully into better-paying fields, according to a new research paper. This recession, the authors wrote, was "more broad-based, impacting recent college graduates and higher-skilled majors to a greater extent than previous recessions." As for that advantage held by

the higher-skilled workers? It has been cut in half.

The paper, released this week by the National Bureau of Economic Research, analyzed earnings outcomes for college graduates between 1974 and 2011, a period of several recessions and expansions.

We've known for a long time that recessions are a brutal time in which to graduate from college, amounting to a 2 percent pay cut during your first 10 years of

work. Between 2008 and 2012, income fell 8.7 percent among full-time workers between ages 22 and 25, according to census data crunched by Time magazine.

The authors of the new paper, two from Yale University and one from the University of Memphis, don't offer any definitive conclusions on why high-earning and low-earning majors took an income hit after this recession that was more similar in size than had been the case historically.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (Oct. 3)	\$1.2982
Dollar buys (Oct. 3)	€0.7703
British pound (Oct. 3)	\$1.66
Japanese yen (Oct. 6)	107.00
South Korean won (Oct. 6)	1,034.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6142
Canada (dollar)	1.1142
China (Yuan)	6.1385
Denmark (Krone)	5.9859
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.2656/7.901
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7523
Hungary (Forint)	244.89
Israel (Shekel)	3.6522
Japan (Yen)	108.65
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2884
Norway (Krone)	6.4473
Philippines (Peso)	44.83
Poland (Zloty)	3.3210
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7514
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2718
South Korea (Won)	1,061.18
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9553
Thailand (Baht)	32.38
Turkey (Lira)	2.2712

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.657	\$3.640	\$4.013	\$4.058
Change in price	+0.1 cents	+0.1 cents	+0.3 cents	-2.3 cents
Netherlands	..	\$4.609	\$4.880	\$4.689
Change in price	..	-3.9 cents	-4.2 cents	-7.9
U.K.	..	\$3.800	\$4.075	\$4.028
Change in price	..	+0.1 cents	-0.2 cents	-2.3 cents
Azores	..	..	\$3.959	..
Change in price	..	..	+0.3 cents	..
Spain	..	\$3.753	\$3.952	\$3.976
Change in price	..	-8.6 cents	-7.4 cents	-10.0 cents
Turkey	..	..	\$4.147	\$4.808*
Change in price	..	..	-6.5 cents	No change
U.S.	\$4.201	..	..	..
Change in price	+11.4 cents	..	..	+11.4 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	..	\$3.798	..	\$3.839
Change in price	..	+1.0 cents	..	-3.0
Okinawa	\$3.509	..	\$3.839	..
Change in price	no change	..	-3.0	..
South Korea	\$2.475	..	\$3.639	\$3.839
Change in price	no change	..	+1.6 cents	-3.0
Guam	\$3.469**	\$3.649	\$3.829	..
Change in price	no change	no change	+1.0 cents	..

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Oct. 3-9

MARKET WATCH

	Oct. 1, 2014
Dow Jones Industrials	-238.19
16,804.71	
Nasdaq composite	-71.30
4,422.09	
Standard & Poor's 500	-26.13
1,946.16	
Russell 2000	-16.27
1,085.41	

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.07
3-month bill	0.01
30-year bond	3.09

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr				
Ablene, Texas	81	54	Cir	Chatanooga	78	66	Rain	Fort Wayne	67	62	Rain	Louisville	73	69	Rain	Pocatello	64	32	Cir
Akron, Ohio	75	61	Rain	Chicago	61	60	Cldy	Fresno	94	64	Cir	Lubbock	73	47	Cir	Portland, Maine	62	32	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	72	51	Pcldy	Cincinnati	70	63	Rain	Goodland	60	37	Cir	Macon	82	67	Rain	Portland, Ore.	77	48	Rain
Albuquerque	74	44	Cir	Cleveland	76	63	Rain	Grand Rapids	68	64	Rain	Madison	57	54	Cldy	Pueblo	65	35	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	72	50	Cldy	Colorado Springs	62	33	Cir	Great Falls	60	31	Pcldy	Memphis	77	65	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	81	62	Cldy
Amarillo	68	44	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	82	62	Rain	Green Bay	58	64	Rain	Miami Beach	89	77	Cir	Reno	82	43	Cir
Anchorage	46	35	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	80	69	Rain	Greensboro, N.C.	78	61	Cir	Miami	85	77	Cir	Rochester	80	60	Rain
Asheville	72	60	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	69	60	Cir	Hartford	73	65	Cldy	Missoula	65	29	Pcldy	Rockford	59	55	Cir
Atlanta	78	68	Rain	Concord, N.H.	67	42	Cir	Hartford Springfld	68	49	Cir	Mobile	90	75	Cir	Sacramento	91	58	Rain
Atlantic City	72	55	Cldy	Corpus Christi	87	77	Cldy	Helena	63	31	Cir	Honolulu	90	75	Cir	St. Louis	63	60	Cir
Austin	84	65	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	83	61	Cir	Honolulu	90	75	Cir	Houston	84	71	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	88	77	Rain
Baltimore	73	59	Rain	Dayton	69	61	Rain	Houston	84	71	Pcldy	Indianapolis	67	64	Rain	St. Thomas	88	80	Rain
Baton Rouge	85	74	Cldy	Daytona Beach	89	72	Cldy	Houston	78	68	Rain	Jacksonville	82	71	Cldy	St. Thomas	88	80	Rain
Bilings	68	44	Cir	Denver	75	50	Rain	Indianapolis	67	64	Rain	Jacksonville	82	71	Cldy	St. Thomas	88	80	Rain
Birmingham	80	71	Rain	Des Moines	53	47	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	82	71	Cldy	New York City	70	54	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	66	45	Cir
Boise	72	45	Cir	Detroit	70	67	Rain	Jacksonville	82	71	Cldy	Newark	71	55	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	66	45	Cir
Boston	62	51	Pcldy	El Paso	81	54	Cldy	Janeau	49	39	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	76	61	Cir	San Antonio	82	54	Cir
Bridgport	68	50	Pcldy	Elkins	76	50	Rain	Kansas City	58	47	Cir	North Platte	58	37	Cir	San Diego	89	67	Cir
Brownsville	88	78	Rain	Erie	75	63	Rain	Knoxville	78	61	Rain	Omaha	54	46	Cir	San Francisco	92	65	Cir
Buffalo	78	60	Cldy	Eugene	79	41	Cir	Lake Charles	85	74	Cldy	Orlando	91	72	Cldy	San Jose	86	63	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	61	39	Pcldy	Fairbanks	40	29	Cldy	Lansing	69	63	Rain	Paducah	74	65	Cir	Santa Fe	71	38	Cir
Caribou, Maine	57	27	Cir	Fargo	42	39	Rain	Lexington	72	67	Rain	Peoria	59	55	Cir	St. Louis	62	58	Rain
Casper	78	64	Cldy	Flagstaff	71	32	Cir	Lincoln	56	46	Cir	Philadelphia	73	56	Cldy	Savannah	85	64	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	84	64	Cldy	Flint	67	61	Rain	Little Rock	76	64	Pcldy	Phoenix	97	68	Rain	Seattle	70	49	Cir
Charleston, W.Va.	78	58	Rain	Fort Smith	74	59	Cir	Los Angeles	96	66	Cir	Pittsburgh	75	60	Rain	Shreveport	80	67	Cir
Charlotte, N.C.	79	63	Rain																

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

CELEBRATE THOSE WHO SERVED

The Exchange thanks you for your service and dedication to the United States of America. Visit your local Exchange as we honor your service with the annual "Still Serving" celebration.

Thank you for the opportunity to still serve you!



The Army and Air Force Exchange is a proud partner of the Vietnam War Commemoration.

We honor the service, valor and sacrifice of our veterans of the Vietnam War and pay tribute to the families of these veterans.

Enter for a chance to win one, two or all three of these great prizes at www.facebook.com/AAFES.BX.PX

Hurry! This giveaway starts October 3 and ends October 9, 2014

Calphalon

Unison Slide & Sear Nonstick 10-pc. cookware set. Total value \$519.



Cuisinart

9 Cuisinart kitchen appliances. Total value \$2000.



CRAFTSMAN

Special Edition Harley-Davidson tool storage combination with a 309-pc. mechanics tool set. Total value \$1800.



Visit **your local Exchange** for in-store events!



Online SAVINGS Club
Your E-newsletter!

Still Serving Savings Event!

10% off

your one-time shopmyexchange.com order over \$100!

Enter promo code **x4122save** during online checkout.
(code is case sensitive.)

* Offer valid October 3 - October 9, 2014 (discount up to \$200 max.). Excludes select online items including gift cards, gift certificates, phone cards, Exchange Protection Plans, Acer, Activision, Apple (iPach, iPod), Apple Care Warranty, ASUS, Bose, computers, Dell, Dreamgear, HP, iBuyPower, Intel, iView, Kenmore, Kindle, Lenovo, Mac, Speed Technologies, Microsoft, MSI, Nabe 2, Benetton, Military AWS items, Samsung, Sony, Exchange Protection Plans, Tempur-Pedic, Toshiba, Gift Cards, Phone Cards, Visa, Visual Land tablets, Whitipool, XBOX, XBOX Live, and Yada tablets, special orders, Price Match items, major appliances, and specialty Store and Exchange Online Mail purchases. Offer available for one discount per person and cannot be combined with any other coupon or offer.

Sign up at shopmyexchange.com/SavingsClub to be the first to know about online savings events and receive exclusive discounts only available to subscribers.

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys 178

NICKEL

US & German Attorneys
 US & German Divorces • Employment
 Wills and Probate • Support Issues
 Personal Injury • Tax

Contractor
 Issues

Call 069-299-2069-0
 Email: maiss@nickelonline.de

**EUROPE'S PREMIER
 MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**

COURT & CARPENTER
 Over 45 years defending
 servicemembers

Hellbronner Strasse 150,
 70191 Stuttgart, Germany
 Phone in Germany: 0711 490 04320
 www.militarylawfirm.eu

**Law Offices Joseph K. Kelso
 U.S. Attorney at Law**

Specializing in:
 U.S. Federal Employment Law,
 Administrative Boards, Personal Injury and
 Medical Malpractice, Claims, International
 Contracts and Immigration Law.

Frankfurt am Main
 Tel: (06108) 797579 • Fax: (06108) 799622
 joseph-kelso@t-online.de

Dental 902

**American
 Dental Care**

Services Offered:
 Family Dentistry
 Certified Orthodontics
 Crowns and Veneers
 Implant Surgery
 Zoom Teeth Whitening
 Wisdom Teeth Surgery
 Nitrous Oxide
 Saturday & Evening Appointments
 Caring, Friendly American Staff

LOCATIONS

Wiesbaden Dental Care
 06119 887 2650
 Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbadendental.com

Ramstein Dental Care
 06371 406230
 Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
 Ramsteindental.com

Certified American Dental
 Hygienists
 TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation 944

**VEHICLE
 SHIPPING SERVICES**

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY +49-6134-2592730
 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
 info@transglobal-logistics.de
 www.transglobal-logistics.de

UNITED KINGDOM +44-117-938 1919
 0800-7839351 (UK only)
 info@carshipuk.co.uk
 www.carshipuk.co.uk

U.S.A +1-972-602-1670
 +1-800-264-8167 (US only)
 info@tgalus.com
 www.tgalus.com

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global

LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Dental 902

Over 90% Non-Extraction

Member
 American Association of
 Orthodontists

Convenient Payment Plans
 No Referral Necessary
 Evening & Weekends
 Tricare Provider

American Orthodontist
 Dr. Michael Dillon, DDS, MS (Orthod)
 Univ of Maryland, Former USAF

All Treatment Fees in US \$

06371-918911
 www.dillonortho.com

**Dillon
 Orthodontic
 Care**

**Off Duty?
 Amuse Yourself!**

Concerts, events, TV,
 movies, music, video games,
 celebrity antics...

Get entertained with...

STARS AND STRIPES

Financial Services 904

LOANS up to \$10,000

For Active Duty U.S. Military

Call Toll Free

Germany: 0800 YES-LOAN
 Italy/Belgium: 00800 YES-LOANS
 Stateside: +1.931.802.6522

www.yesomni.com

omni
 MILITARY LOANS

"We love to say yes"®

© Omni Financial - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. All loans subject to approval.

Transportation 944

Interglobal Shipping GmbH

Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada
 Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings
 Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!
 info@interglobalshipping.de
 www.interglobalshipping.de

Tel: (0421) 340-650 Fax: (0421) 340-6565
 toll free: 08009006311

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

WSA
 WORLDWIDE SHIPPING

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
 0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)

For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
 Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

Transportation 944

transcar

Dependable POV Shipping

20 Years Experience
 supporting the U.S. Military Community

Professional, Proud Provider of
 Superior Customer Service

Port-to-Port or Door-to-Door Delivery Options

All-Inclusive Rates: No Hidden or Surprise Fees

Please contact us for more information and a quotation:
Toll Free (In Germany): 0800-transcar (87267227)
Outside Germany: +49 (0) 6146 6070
Email: povshipping@transcar.de
Web: http://povshipping.transcar.de

**Are you in
 the picture?**

Reading Stars and Stripes
 gives you a better handle on
 issues that affect you most.

No one covers the
 bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us, wherever you need us.

FREE Ad Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
• Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information. No website URLs will be accepted in free ads.
• Stars and Stripes reserves the right to not classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

STARS AND STRIPES Classifieds
Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. Sell fast! Buy fast!

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the uploaded photo.

Table with 4 columns: Advertising, Circulation, Reader Letters, and contact information for various individuals like Kathryn Peterson, Van Rowell, Robert Reismann, Wayne Victor, Yuku Saito, and Mari Matsumoto.

Classifieds EUROPE Information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Automotive 140
SELLER BEWARE
Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between the seller and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the website.

BMW & MINI parts
We ship to APDs via U.S. mail.
FREE catalog
www.BavAuto.com

Read STARS AND STRIPES online at www.stripes.com
PacificClassifieds@stripes.com
JAPAN DSN: 229 3276 Civ: 03-6385-3276
KOREA DSN: 7121-7146 Civ: 82-2-2270 7146
OKINAWA DSN: 645-7418 Civ: 098-893-0292

Classifieds PACIFIC

Automotive 140
Autos for Sale - Korea 148
Harley Davidson, Korea 168
Books 250
Sporting Goods 980
Free Classifieds!
Visit Stripes.com for details.
STARS AND STRIPES

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

Weekend peek

Kaiserslautern-Ramstein rivalry takes center stage

Archrivals renew acquaintances on Royals' home turf in football, volleyball and cross country

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

One day soon, the classic DODDS Europe rivalry between Kaiserslautern and Ramstein might sway in the Raiders' favor. It's unlikely, however, that Saturday will be that day.

The archrival Raiders and Royals match up in three different sports this weekend, all of them on Ramstein turf. But that's not the only reason the Royals have the edge.

Start on the gridiron, where Kaiserslautern appeared to be closing the gap with Ramstein. The Raider arrow pointed upward, with a long-awaited playoff berth

boosting spirits and a fresh core of impact players coming online. The Royals were supposedly descending a peg after a title-game loss to Wiesbaden ruined a dominant season and a cruel summer skimmed their talent base. Then reality intervened and the status quo reasserted itself.

Kaiserslautern saw its position as up-and-coming fringe contender usurped immediately when Patch handed the Raiders a 41-20 opening-night defeat. That was chased a week later with a crushing 40-3 drubbing at the hands of defending champ Wiesbaden.

Meanwhile Ramstein is not just 2-0, it's the most emphatic 2-0 possible. The Royals

started the season by obliterating Patch's momentum with a 45-0 shutout win; a week later, they hung 54 unanswered points on overwhelmed Lakenheath.

A volleyball upset looks equally unlikely for the Raiders.

Ramstein has been far from perfect in defending its European championship, losing to Patch twice and struggling to put away Black Forest Academy, Lakenheath and Bitburg.

It's not that the Royals aren't vulnerable to an upset; it's just that the Raiders probably aren't quite ready to pull one off. The young team is still finding its way and has won just one set in its 0-4 start.

The Raiders' third chance to land a blow against Ramstein will come on the cross-country course, but the numbers caution against that as well.

Royal contenders John Casey and Aaron Schlosser have posted times placing them in the DODDS Europe boys top 10 this season; Madison Morse and Katelyn Schultz have done the same on the girls side. No Raider runners have joined them on that list of the elite.

For now, Kaiserslautern is overmatched in the DODDS Europe game of thrones. And winter can't come soon enough.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

Games of the week

Volleyball Sigonella, Vicenza at AOSR

Saturday

There are a lot of reasons to like American Overseas School of Rome.

The Falcons return six players from a team that went undefeated in the regular season and reached the DODDS Europe Division II title match. The team that beat them for the title, Naples, moved up to Division I. The Falcons are loaded with talent and experience, notably outside hitter Margo Snipe, setter Margaret Quinn and libero Olivia Manager. Finally, the Falcons are off to a 4-0 start.

But it's that last fact that is cause for caution.

AOSR's four wins have all come against the same opponent, Rome neighbor Marymount. Though each has been a decisive straight-set victory for the Falcons, they make it hard to determine AOSR's viability as a contender.

That will change this weekend as AOSR shares the court with tougher competition in 4-2 Vicenza, another strong team recently promoted to Division I, and reigning Division III champion Sigonella.

Once those matches are in the books, AOSR's Division II rivals will have a better idea of what they're up against.

Football Vicenza at Naples

Saturday

Though they share a division and a region, the Cougars and Wildcats have so far played vastly different seasons.

Vicenza has feasted on a very advantageous early schedule. Its three wins have come over likely non-contenders International School of Brussels, SHAPE and Aviano; those teams will take a 4-6 combined record into the weekend.

Naples, meanwhile, has been solid over its first three games, but its just one win to show for its efforts. Its two losses have come to undefeated juggernauts Ansbach and Hohenfels, the latter by a respectable 40-28 margin.

The Cougars and Wildcats share just one common opponent in SHAPE, and each beat the Spartans by a similar spread. Naples won 20-7 on Sept. 20; Vicenza won 20-10 on Sept. 27.

A Naples win might reverse the two teams' momentum. Naples would enter its regular-season finale against Aviano in position to drag a winning season from its arduous schedule. Vicenza would be at risk of a two-game losing streak against Hohenfels.

A Vicenza win would cement the Cougars as a title threat and doom the Wildcats to a sub-.500 record.

Football Bitburg at Hohenfels

Saturday

It's remarkable how one game can change the fortunes of the teams that play it.

Hohenfels' stunning 38-28 win at Bitburg last October ousted the Barons from the postseason, ended their DODDS Europe-record winning streak and dashed their chance at a fifth straight Division II European championship.

The Tigers, meanwhile, won that very championship a week later, a 38-35 victory over SHAPE.

Those trends have continued in 2014. Coach Mike Laue's Bitburg's squad (3-1) is still a top-tier team, but is invincible no longer, having taken a 50-8 loss to Ansbach.

Head coach Larry Daffin has transformed Hohenfels from an upstart team striving for respectability into the role of frontrunner with a 3-0 start to its season. The Tigers are averaging 40 points a game on offense and surrendering just 16 a contest.

Perhaps that represents the new status quo in Division II football. But as Hohenfels proved a year ago, even the firmest of foundations will eventually be toppled.

Weekend schedule

Football

Friday

Menwith Hill/Woodham at International School of Brussels

Saturday

Kaiserslautern at Ramstein
Patch at Viseck

AFNORTH at Rota
SHAPE at Alconbury

Bitburg at Hohenfels
Ansbach at Baumholder

Vicenza at Naples

Volleyball

Saturday

Lakenheath, Kaiserslautern, Viseck at Ramstein

AFNORTH, SHAPE, Menwith Hill at Alconbury

Black Forest Academy, Wiesbaden at Patch

International School of Brussels at Baumholder

Bitburg, Ansbach at Hohenfels
Aviano, Marymount at Naples

Sigonella, Vicenza at American Overseas School of Rome

Cross country

Saturday

Bitburg, Wiesbaden, Kaiserslautern at Ramstein

AFNORTH, SHAPE, Cobham at Lakenheath

Black Forest Academy, Brussels, St.

John's at Baumholder

Patch, Ansbach, Viseck at Hohenfels

Vicenza, Sigonella at Naples

Marymount, Aviano, Florence at American Overseas School of Rome

Tennis

Saturday

Lakenheath at Alconbury
AFNORTH at International School of Brussels

Patch at Ramstein
Aviano at Marymount

Vicenza at Naples
Bitburg, Ansbach at Hohenfels

Kaiserslautern at Wiesbaden

Golf

Thursday-Friday

European championships at Wiesbaden



Follow the action

Gregory Broome has the latest on Twitter
[@broomestripes](#)

24/7 sports at stripes.com



Get the latest results:
stripes.com/sports/europe

Follow your favorite team:
stripes.com/sports/europe/schools

Relocation GUIDE

Moving? Find Your Home Online!

militarybyowner.com

Succeed with Your Military Network

Advertising Homes For Sale or Rent
Near US Military Installations

FAST

Click today...cash today™ www.yesomni.com

We've been making loans of up to \$10,000 to active duty military for over 63 years.



"We love to say yes"®

Free Classifieds!



Visit Stripes.com for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

Game of the week

Football: Daegu (3-0) vs. Humphreys (2-2)

When — 6 p.m. Friday.
Where — Blackhawks Field, Camp Humphreys, South Korea.
What — Chance for the visitors, the defending Far East Division II champion Warriors, to clinch a berth in a Pacific record-tying sixth D-II title game, matching Robert D. Edgren's record. The Warriors won last year's D-II title game 33-12 over Edgren, Daegu's third in school history, also tying Edgren, and three titles in four years. Last-stand, must-win game for the host Blackhawks. The Korea D-II team with the best record will travel to the site of the DODDS-Japan D-II finalist on Nov. 7.

In their first meeting this season, Daegu rallied from an early 12-0 deficit to overpower the Blackhawks 38-12 at Camp Walker on Sept. 12.
Players to watch — Humphreys will rely on speedy Da'Quan Wilson and athletic quarterback Tyreke Slaughter to try to level the season series 1-1. Daegu's main weapons are its tandem of DeAndre Rosalie (312 rushing yards, four touchdowns, 36 carries) and De-Marco Andrews (275, 4, 16).
Also — A Blackhawks victory Friday would delay the crowning of the DODDS-Korea D-II champion until Oct. 24, when the teams meet again at Camp Walker, Daegu's homecoming game.
 — Dave Ornauer, Stars and Stripes

Weekend peek

Daegu wants to 'close it out'

Warriors can clinch Far East slot, but Humphreys can knot series

BY DAVE ORNAUER
 Stars and Stripes

A sense of urgency pervades this week for the Daegu football team.

The reigning Far East Division II champions become road Warriors this week for their second of three regular-season meetings with Humphreys, and the only one at Camp Humphreys.

Daegu has already clinched the season series with Osan and leads the Blackhawks 1-0 by virtue of its 38-12 win over Humphreys on Sept. 12. With a win Friday, the Warriors can clinch a berth in their Pacific record-tying sixth D-II title game Nov. 7 at the site of the DODDS-Japan D-II finalist. Kickoff on Friday is 6 p.m.

"We've talked about the fact that our message this week is we haven't won anything yet," Warriors coach Ken Walter said.

He hopes his charges can "close it out ... something we want to put to bed early" so they can spend the rest of the season getting healthy and developing new players. He also doesn't want the team's homecoming game, Oct. 24 against Humphreys, to be a "pivotal game."

A specific area the Warriors are improving in is the offensive line. They entered the season with just four experienced linemen; next week at Osan, Walter says he can average 240 pounds across the line, tackle to tackle.

"Our one weakness was size," Walter said. "Now, we're getting to where we have seven linemen who are game-ready, and that's a big plus for us. We're getting better. If we get past this test, the rest of the (season) will be developing kids and getting ready for Far East."

Humphreys also has much at stake; a win does make the Oct. 24 game the most meaningful each team will play this season.

"We know what's at stake here," coach Aaron Mundy said. "We're going to give it our best shot. Daegu's in the driver's seat. They're coming to Humphreys this time. I'm sure Ken will have them ready to play."

While Daegu is fielding bigger bodies, Humphreys' players' "general football knowledge" continues to improve. "We took over a team of great kids with limited football knowledge," Mundy said.



CELINE JAO/Special to Stars and Stripes

Humphreys running back Osie Cruz gets some assistance on a run in the Blackhawks' loss to Daegu on Sept. 12. Humphreys needs a win in Friday's rematch to remain alive for a D-II title.

Tuesday was probably the Blackhawks' "best practice of the year," Mundy said. "We've gotten better. I'm sure they've gotten better. We're both small teams. We have some injuries that will affect us. It's whoever executes better on Friday who will win."

Another critical D-II battle takes place at Misawa Air Base on Friday, where Edgren hopes to go over the .500 mark in a rematch of last Friday's 18-14 Eagles win at Zama.

Two games with Division I implications are also on tap, defending DODDS-Japan champion Kinnick visiting Yokota on Friday and defending D-I champion Kubasaki looking to keep pace with the Red Devils when the Dragons visit Seoul American.

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

Schedule

Football	Girls volleyball
Friday Perry at American School In Japan, 4:30 p.m. Daegu at Humphreys, 6 p.m. Kinnick at Yokota, 7 p.m. Zama at Edgren, 7 p.m. Father Duenas at George Washington, 7 p.m.	Friday Seoul at CAJ, Kinnick at ASIJ Yokota Foreign at Daegu JFK at St. John's, Harvest Christian at St. Paul, Okkodo at Simon Sanchez, Guam Adventist at Guam, Academy of Our Lady at Notre Dame
Saturday Kubasaki at Seoul American, 3 p.m. Guam at Southern, 3 p.m. Simon Sanchez at Okkodo, 7 p.m.	Friday-Saturday King at Perry Saturday Yongsan at Seoul American
Cross country	Tennis
Saturday DODDS-Japan teams at Edgren Taejon Christian, Seoul Foreign, International Christian-Uijongbu, Chadwick vs. Osan, Seouk International, Gyeonggi Suwon International, Humphreys at Gyeonggi Suwon	Friday Daegu at Osan Friday-Saturday King and Perry at WJAA tournament at Senri Osaka Saturday Kinnick at St. Mary's (boys) Yongsan at Seoul American

Three other key matchups

Football
Kubasaki at Seoul American
Saturday, 3:30 p.m.

Defending Far East Division I champion Dragons pitting dual-threat quarterback DeCurtis Davis (34-for-55, 453 yards, nine touchdowns; 167 rushing yards, 40 carries) into Sims Field against the Falcons, winless in D-I.

Football
Kinnick at Yokota
Friday, 7 p.m.

Reigning DODDS-Japan champion Red Devils unleashing Dre Taylor, the Pacific's second-leading rusher (779 yards, Pacific-high 12 touchdowns, 79 carries) into Bank Field.

Girls volleyball
Kinnick at ASIJ
Friday, 7 p.m.

First of two regular-season meetings between the Red Devils and Mustangs, who've played the last three years for the Far East D-I Tournament title, with ASIJ winning all three, the last being reigning tournament Most Valuable Player Mia Weinland.

24/7 sports at stripes.com



Get the latest results:
stripes.com/sports/pacific

Follow your favorite team:
stripes.com/sports/pacific/schools



Dave Ornauer

Pacific sportsblog

Check in for frequent updates
stripes.com/pacblog

YOUR low price JOURNEY STARTS HERE

\$70
 GET A

BRIDGESTONE

VISA® PREPAID CARD
 WHEN YOU BUY A SELECT SET OF 4 BRIDGESTONE TIRES.

ONLINE OR MAIL-IN REBATE. VALID 10/5/14 THROUGH 10/31/14.

FREE SAME-DAY SHIPPING!

For most orders. Some restrictions apply.



DISCOUNT
TIRE DIRECT
discounttiredirect.com

888-459-4058
602-735-1800

M-F: 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. SAT: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. EST

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Notre Dame wide receivers William Fuller, left, and C.J. Prossie celebrate Fuller's touchdown against Syracuse on Saturday. The Irish have scored 30 or more points in each of their games.

Irish face first real challenge

By TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Ninth-ranked Notre Dame is about to face its stiffest challenge this season.

After beating four teams with a combined record of 7-11, with none of those opponents' victories coming against Power Five conference teams, the Fighting Irish (4-0) on Saturday host 14th-ranked Stanford (3-1), which has the nation's top-rated defense. The Cardinal also have beaten the Irish four of their past five meetings.

So it's the first real test for a young Irish squad coming off a sloppy victory over Syracuse where they won despite five turnovers. Coach Brian Kelly said he doesn't think of the game against Stanford in those terms.

"We really focus on how we need to do to get better. We turned the ball over. We gave up some big plays on the perimeter. We focus a lot more on that stuff than the bigger picture issues," he said Tuesday, adding the focus of the coaching staff is developing players. "We are not an experienced group and if we sway too far from working on getting out of our breaks and taking a direct snap, because we may fumble it, we're going to be in trouble. So that's where I really have to stay as a task master when it comes to those details."

The Irish are ranked higher than the Cardinal but are one-point underdogs, just the second time since the start of the 2011 season that an opponent has been favored over the Irish at Notre Dame Stadium. The other time was last season against Oklahoma, when the Irish were 3.5 point underdogs. The Sooners won 35-21.

That was the only home loss for the Irish in the past 16 games after starting 6-5 at home under Kelly. He attributed the improvement to a number of factors, including having better teams and making changes to the team's pregame routine, such as practicing at the stadium on Thursday and moving the pregame Mass from the morning of the game to the previous afternoon.

"At Notre Dame, there's a lot that goes on and probably just setting what I feel like is a really good schedule for our guys that doesn't overload them and then really, getting them to feel comfortable and relaxed at home," he said. "I felt like early in my time here, we were a little uptight and maybe trying to do too much. I think we have relaxed and played a lot more comfortable and really look at it as a home-field advantage."

Two years ago, the Irish beat Stanford with a goal-line stand in overtime to win 20-13 and send their confidence soaring as they improved to 6-0 during an undefeated regular season. Kelly said that 2012 squad just believed they would win close games, also beating Pittsburgh in overtime.

"Each year is a different group," Kelly said. "So we have not been in that situation yet here."

The Irish have scored 30 or more points in their opening four games, the first time they've accomplished that since the 1943 season, when they won a national championship. The Irish also haven't allowed more than 17 points, so none of the games has been close and the Irish have been behind this season for fewer than three minutes.

That's expected to change as the Irish face Stanford and then play at top-ranked Florida State in two weeks.

Wild, wild SEC West set for unprecedented day

By JOHN ZENOR AND
DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

Three teams from the powerful Southeastern Conference West Division are finally going down.

That much is assured on Saturday, when six teams ranked in the top 15 clash in an unprecedented day for any division in major college football.

First, No. 6 Texas A&M visits No. 12 Mississippi State in what will be a sea of maroon and cowbells. Then the action heads 100 miles north to Oxford for an even bigger showdown: No. 3 Alabama at No. 11 Mississippi.

Later that night, No. 15 LSU visits No. 5 Auburn. It's only the fifth time any division has had two games featuring Top 25 matchups on the same day, and the past two times it has featured SEC West teams, according to STATS.

No division has ever had a trifecta of Top 25 matchups.

Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban last week called it "the Golden Age of our division in the West." SEC West teams have won five of the past seven national titles.

The last time a conference had three ranked matchups was in the Big Ten on Oct. 18, 2003.

Alabama safety Landon Collins watched Arkansas flirt with an upset of Texas A&M on Saturday and pretty much summed up what's ahead for the six legitimate contenders in the West.

"When I was watching the game, I just said, 'This is crazy. This is going to be a crazy season,'" Collins said.

The historic day comes in a division that has a combined 23-4 record with three of those defeats coming in head-to-head matchups. Only Arkansas appears unlikely to contend, but it would be a feat for any SEC West team to emerge from the fray with a clean sweep of its division brethren.

Here's a rundown of the three big matchups:

No. 3 Alabama at No. 11 Ole Miss: Ole Miss quarterback Bo Wallace acknowledges it is tough to be a student these days. "You're sitting in class and you're trying to pay attention, but you know where your mind is at," Wallace said. Ole Miss (4-0, 1-0 SEC) is undefeated through four games for the first time since 1970 and now has a chance to end a decade of futility against the Tide. The



THOMAS GRANNING, THE DAILY MISSISSIPPIAN/AP

Rebels host No. 5 Auburn. It's only the fifth time any division has had two games featuring Top 25 matchups on the same day, and the past two times it has featured SEC West teams, according to STATS.

Rebels have lost 10 straight in the series and were shutout 25-0 last season in Tuscaloosa.

There are a myriad intriguing matchups, including one that features family ties. Alabama offensive coordinator Lane Kiffin, who has injected some style into the Tide's usually straightforward offense — will be trying to score points on his brother Chris, who is the defensive line coach for the Rebels.

Ole Miss coach Hugh Freeze didn't know if the relationship would help or hurt his team. He just knows Alabama (4-0, 1-0) is really good once again.

"Hopefully our team plays its best game of the year," Freeze said. "It's going to take that against a really superb Alabama team."

No. 6 Texas A&M at No. 12 Mississippi State: The Bulldogs have already had one big victory this season, ending a 14-game losing streak against LSU thanks to a 34-29 win on Sept. 20.

Now Mississippi State (4-0, 1-0) could really make things interesting in the West by beating the Aggies.

To do that, the Bulldogs will have to slow down Texas A&M's prolific offense that's led by first-year starting quarterback Kenny Hill. He led the Aggies (4-0, 2-0) to a stunning comeback over Arkansas on Saturday.

Mississippi State coach Dan Mullen said Hill — who is only a sophomore — is playing like a veteran.

"He's letting the ball go before receivers get in and out of breaks," Mullen said. "There's a lot of confidence that goes with that."

Mississippi State has a pretty good quarterback, too. Junior Dak Prescott has thrown for 964 yards and 11 touchdowns through four games.

No. 15 LSU at No. 5 Auburn: LSU (4-1, 0-1) could have no margin for error after its loss to Mississippi State.

"I don't think there is a person in our building that's not excited about the opportunity to go down and play very well at Auburn," LSU coach Les Miles said.

LSU handed Auburn (4-0, 1-0) its only regular-season loss last season on the way to the national championship game.

Auburn did rebound in the second half of that game after falling behind 21-0.

"Last year, that game really turned out heads," Auburn tailback Corey Grant said. "It made us realize what we were capable of."

Miles said LSU will start freshman quarterback Brandon Harris for the first time.

AP Sports Writer John Zenor reported from Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and David Brandt reported from Oxford, Mississippi.



Texas A&M (5-0)
at Mississippi State (4-0)

AFN-Sports
6 p.m. Saturday CET
1 a.m. Sunday JKT



Alabama (4-0)
at Mississippi (4-0)

AFN-Xtra
9:30 p.m. Saturday CET
4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT



LSU (4-1)
at Auburn (4-0)

AFN-Xtra
1 a.m. Sunday CET
8 a.m. Sunday JKT

College GameDay



NATE HANNIK/AP



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Player to watch

Ameer Abdullah RB | Nebraska

The Cornhuskers' star running back and potential Heisman contender racked up 208 rushing yards and three touchdowns last week in a 45-14 victory over Illinois. Abdullah leads the country with 212 all-purpose yards per game. No. 19 Nebraska is looking to stay in first place in the Big Ten West division when they take on No. 10 Michigan State on Saturday. Abdullah poses a tough challenge for a Spartans' defense giving up more big plays than in 2013.

No. 10 Michigan State at No. 19 Nebraska
2 a.m. Sunday, EDT
9 a.m. Sunday, Japan/Korea, AFN-Atlantic

Mississippi defensive tackle Robert Nkemdiche, left, and linebacker Denzel Nkemdiche, are part of a Rebels' defense that has allowed just 8.5 points and 248 total yards per game. They'll have their hands full Saturday against No. 3 Alabama, which is averaging 42 points and 335.8 yards passing per game.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force vs. Navy
Last week: Beat Boise State, 26-14
Next game: at Utah State, Oct. 11



Army vs. Ball State
Last week: Lost 49-43 at Yale
Next game: vs. Rice, Oct. 11



Navy at Air Force
Last week: Lost 36-27 vs. Western Kentucky
Next game: vs. VMI, Oct. 11

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

- Thursday's game**
No. 2 Oregon vs. Arizona
- Friday's game**
No. 18 BYU vs. Utah State
- Saturday's games**
No. 1 Florida State vs. Wake Forest
No. 3 Alabama at No. 13 Mississippi
No. 4 Oklahoma at No. 25 TCU
No. 5 Auburn vs. No. 15 LSU
No. 6 Texas A&M at No. 12 Mississippi State
No. 7 Baylor at Texas
No. 8 UCLA vs. Utah
No. 9 Notre Dame vs. No. 14 Stanford
No. 10 Michigan State vs. No. 19 Nebraska
No. 13 Georgia vs. Vanderbilt
No. 16 Southern Cal vs. Arizona State
No. 17 Wisconsin at Northwestern
No. 20 Ohio State at Maryland
No. 21 Oklahoma State vs. Iowa State
No. 22 East Carolina vs. SMU
No. 23 Kansas State vs. Texas Tech

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Florida St.	2	0	4
Louisville	2	1	4
Clemson	1	1	2
Syracuse	0	0	2
NC State	0	1	2
Boston College	0	1	2
Wake Forest	0	1	2

Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Georgia Tech	1	0	4
Pittsburgh	1	0	4
Virginia	1	0	3
Miami	1	1	3
Duke	0	1	2
Virginia Tech	0	1	2
North Carolina	0	0	2

Game of the week: Virginia Tech at North Carolina. Both teams were discussed as potential favorites in the muddled Coastal Division yet the loser will sit at 0-2 in the league after this one. The Hokies (3-2) won at Ohio State in Week 2 but followed that with losses at home to East Carolina and Georgia Tech. As for the Tar Heels (2-2), they've given up 120 points in the past two games.

Inside the numbers: Wake Forest ranks last among 128 bowl subdivision schools, averaging 29.2 yards rushing per game. They've played four FBS opponents and three of them have held the team to negative yards rushing.

Player to watch: Georgia Tech redshirt sophomore Justin Thomas. Thomas ranks second among all bowl subdivision quarterbacks in rushing yards per game heading into Saturday's matchup with Miami. He is averaging 110.8 yards on the ground.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Maryland	1	0	4
Penn St.	1	1	4
Michigan St.	0	0	3
Ohio St.	0	0	3
Indiana	0	1	2
Michigan	0	1	2
Rutgers	0	1	2

West			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Nebraska	1	0	5
Iowa	1	0	4
Northwestern	1	0	2
Minnesota	1	0	4
Wisconsin	0	0	2
Illinois	0	1	2
Purdue	0	1	2

Game of the week: Nebraska at Michigan State. The Huskers (5-0, 1-0) and Spartans (3-1, 0-0) have looked as strong as any team in the much-maligned Big Ten, and Saturday's matchup in East Lansing could be a preview of the league title game in December. It could also be a College Football Playoff elimination game for the loser.

Inside the numbers: Big Ten teams went 4-1 on the road last week. The only home winner was Nebraska. ... Ohio State's J.T. Barrett, who only became a starting quarterback when Brandon Miller injured his shoulder, leads the league with 13 TD passes. **Player to watch:** Illinois QB Wes Lunt. The Fighting Illini is expected to get Lunt back after he missed the loss at Nebraska with a sprained right knee. Lunt had solidified the quarterback situation at Illinois before the injury, throwing for 11 touchdowns in four games.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Oklahoma	1	0	4
Baylor	0	0	4
Oklahoma St.	1	0	3
Kansas St.	1	0	2
Texas	0	0	2
TCU	0	0	2
Kansas	0	1	2
Texas Tech	0	1	2
West Virginia	0	1	2
Iowa St.	0	2	1

Game of the week: No. 4 Oklahoma at No. 25 TCU. The Big 12 will be down to no more than two undefeated teams after this game, when the Horned Frogs are the last team to play their Big 12 opener. While the Sooners have won both series games since TCU joined the Big 12, those two victories were by a combined 10 points.

Inside the numbers: Oklahoma State, which hosts Iowa State, has won 13 of its last 15 conference games at home. ... Texas Tech had 16 penalties for 158 yards last week. The Red Raiders are the league's most-penalized team with 46 flags for 422 yards, an average of 105.5 yards per game. **Player to watch:** Oklahoma State QB Daxx Garman. The junior completed 17 of 31 passes for 370 yards and four TDs in a win over Texas Tech. He had six completions of at least 30 yards, four of those for at least 40 yards. Garman has 685 yards passing and six TDs in his two starts.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Oregon	1	0	4
Stanford	1	1	3
California	1	1	3
Washington St.	1	1	3
Washington	0	1	4
Oregon St.	0	1	3

South			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Southern Cal	2	0	3
Arizona	1	0	4
UCLA	1	0	4
Arizona St.	1	0	3
Utah	0	1	2
Colorado	0	2	2

Game of the week: No. 8 UCLA vs. Utah. The Bruins (4-0, 1-0 Pac-12) crushed Arizona State on the road last week, finally living up to the preseason hype surrounding them after three average wins to start the season. But UCLA still has some work to do on offense and are facing an offense led by Travis Wilson that's balanced and physical.

Inside the numbers: Stanford has the nation's top scoring defense (6.5 points) and is allowing a Football Bowl Subdivision-low 198 yards per game. But the Cardinal's offense hasn't been able to keep up, ranking 77th in scoring (27.5 points) and 68th in total offense (413.3 yards) per game. **Player to watch:** USC QB Phil Kessler. The junior has completed 95 of 132 passes for 1,107 yards. He is the only major college quarterback who has more than 106 attempts without an interception. On Saturday, he'll face Arizona State, which hasn't won in the Coliseum since 1999.

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Missouri	1	0	4
Florida	1	1	2
Georgia	1	1	3
Kentucky	0	1	2
Tennessee	0	1	2
Vanderbilt	0	3	1

West			
Conf.	W	L	All W
Texas A&M	2	0	5
Alabama	1	0	4
Mississippi St.	1	0	4
Auburn	1	0	4
Mississippi	0	0	2
LSU	0	0	1
Arkansas	0	1	4
KU	0	1	2

Game of the week: No. 3 Alabama at No. 11 Mississippi. It's been a lopsided series of late, with Alabama winning the past 10. But the Rebels are 4-0 for the first time since 1970 and giving up just 8.5 points per game to lead the SEC. The Crimson Tide counter with a potent offense, led by quarterback Blake Sims, receiver Amari Cooper and a three-man backfield of T.J. Yeldon, Kenyan Drake and Derrick Henry.

Inside the numbers: South Carolina coach Steve Spurrier owns a 20-1 career record against Kentucky, which hosts the Gamecocks on Saturday. No current Football Bowl Subdivision coach has won more games over an individual school.

Player to watch: LSU freshman quarterback Brandon Harris. He makes his first career start Saturday at Auburn after sparking in a relief role last week, leading seven consecutive touchdown drives in 63-7 blowout of New Mexico State.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Huskers, Spartans: It's all about offense

By DAN KILBRIDGE
The Associated Press

EAST LANSING, Mich. — Michigan State is off to a historic start on offense and welcomes another high-scoring team to begin Big Ten play against Nebraska Saturday at Spartan Stadium.

Michigan State (3-1) is ranked No. 10 in the AP poll and has scored 201 points through four games, best in school history. No. 19 Nebraska (5-0 overall, 1-0 Big Ten) is averaging 45.4 points per game.

“Two competitive football teams, two teams that don't want to lose,” Michigan State coach Mark Dantonio said. “You can feel the emotion from both football teams. That's what makes college football so great, so unique.”

Emotions will be higher than usual Saturday in what could be a preview of this year's Big Ten championship game in Indianapolis. Michigan State must run the table in conference play if it hopes to earn a playoff berth, and Nebraska might be the toughest remaining opponent on the Spartans' schedule. So this is certainly a game with big postseason implications for both teams.

“I think it's gonna be a classic Big Ten game,” left tackle Jack Conklin said. “It's a night game with another great Big Ten team, especially for me going against a guy like [Nebraska defensive end] Randy Gregory. It doesn't get much better for me competition-wise.”

The Spartans are first in the Big Ten in scoring offense with the Cornhuskers No. 2 — an interesting dynamic considering Dantonio and Nebraska coach Bo Pelini are former defensive coordinators. Nebraska beat Michigan State 28-24 in 2012 at Spartan Stadium, but this game should feature more offensive highlights.

“It doesn't seem like it's out of the norm in this day and age in college football,” Dantonio said of

By the numbers

201

Number of points No. 10 Michigan State has scored this season through four games.

45.4

Number of points per game No. 19 Nebraska is averaging through five games.

1-2

Where Michigan State and Nebraska rank in the Big Ten Conference in scoring offense.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

high-scoring affairs. “There are so many different ways teams are lining up and creating motion and creating different formations, and it's sort of cutting edge. You see that from our offense as well.”

The Spartans showed some new wrinkles on offense during a 56-14 win over Wyoming last Saturday. Co-offensive coordinators Dave Warner and Jim Bollman called a variety of end-around plays for the wide receivers and stretched the defense in different ways. Five different players had rushing touchdowns, and wide-out Keith Mumphery tallied 46



THE OMAHA WORLD-HERALD, MATT MILLER/AP

Nebraska running back Ameer Abdullah dives in for a touchdown during the first half of Saturday's game against Illinois in Lincoln, Neb. Nebraska won 45-14.



Nebraska (5-0)
at Michigan State (3-1)
AFN-Atlantic
2 a.m. Sunday CET
9 a.m. Sunday JKT

rushing yards and one score on three carries. Michigan State has gained more than 300 yards in its last two games, but Nebraska boasts the top rushing attack in the conference.

“We definitely want to keep our run game and we want to be known as the run team in the Big Ten,” Conklin said. “We're supposed to be this power team that runs the ball right at you, and it's gonna be a good game with two strong, physical teams.”

Nebraska is looking to stay in first place of the West Division coming off a 45-14 win over Illinois Saturday, during which star running back Ameer Abdullah racked up 208 rushing yards and three touchdowns. Backup tailback Imani Cross also ran for 100-plus yards.

It's a tough challenge for a Spartans defense that is giving up more big plays than the 2013 installment, a unit that was No. 1 in the nation in total defense for

most of last season. Dantonio said he isn't as concerned as some, with Michigan State playing six new starters on defense this year.

“Last year's defense set the bar very high,” Dantonio said. “Our defense is not broke. I know that we gave up a whopping 14 points last week, but our defense is not broke.”

Michigan State defensive end Shilique Calhoun isn't satisfied with the Spartans' defense through four games, so Saturday is the perfect opportunity to make a conference-wide statement.

“We have been giving up too many points,” Calhoun said. “Can we be at our best this week? They're a great team and we want to be known as a great team. It's time for us to fix our mistakes.”

Leaving the Far East?

Order Now for Stateside Delivery and

SAVE UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$1,000*

- All-new U.S. specification vehicles
- Privileged military pricing
- Custom order or choose from inventory
- Lowest price guarantee**
- Satisfaction guarantee
- Emergency payment protection included - to cover your payments if involuntary separation/downsizing occurs!



LiveChat

Speak with a representative online 24/7 at militaryautosource.com
Product Questions • Order Your Vehicle • Customer Service

*Ask your local sales representative for specific pricing details. Valid for Stateside delivery only. **Lowest Price Guarantee for Stateside delivery in effect up to 14 days after delivery, for the same vehicle, delivered at the same location by an authorized dealer. †Emergency payment protection covers payment up to \$500 per month for 12 months. Vehicles shown are for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Overseas Military Sales Corporation - OMSC Ltd. (NASC496)



MCS
MILITARY AUTOSOURCE

AUTO RACING



Nick Wass/AP

Six-time Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson believes getting a win this week in Kansas or next week in Charlotte is crucial to take the pressure off of having to navigate the unpredictable track at Talladega with a spot in the Chase's championship round on the line.

Drivers wary of contender round in NASCAR's Chase

Three-race stretch will trim field to 8 for title run

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Drivers have been fretting about the second round of NASCAR's Chase for the Sprint Cup championship for weeks.

The three-race stretch that begins Sunday at Kansas Speedway ends on Oct. 19 at Talladega Superspeedway, where four drivers will be booted from the field.

"I think that bracket will break some hearts," Brad Keselowski said three days before winning the Chase opener at Chicagoland Speedway last month.

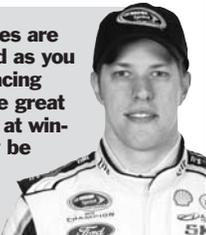
He hasn't changed his mind. The field has been trimmed from 16 to 12 drivers, and although they are all even as they head into Kansas, the margin of error will be small. Drivers will be desperate to run well at Kansas this week and Charlotte next week so that the crashout that is Talladega will not decide their championship fate.

"Two of the three races are as much of a wild card as you can get in NASCAR racing these days," Keselowski said Wednesday during a fan event for the 12 Chase drivers at NASCAR's Hall of Fame. "One of the great teams that has a shot at winning this will probably be left at home after this series of events, because you don't control your destiny as much as you do the other races of the season."

A championship cannot be won this weekend at Kansas, but it

"Two of the three races are as much of a wild card as you can get in NASCAR racing these days. One of the great teams that has a shot at winning this will probably be left at home after this series of events."

Brad Keselowski
Team Penske NASCAR driver



most certainly can be lost.

Kyle Busch has rolled into the 1.5-mile speedway in solid shape in the Sprint Cup standings time and time again, only to see his title hopes slip away. He crashed out of the Chase race there the last two seasons, and suffered the same fate in 2007 when he arrived at Kansas within a handful of points of the leader.

Under the new Chase format, a win in any of the three races guarantees a driver an automatic berth into the next round, so a bad day at Kansas can be overcome. But with Talladega, where one wiggle by one driver can wipe out half the field, few want to head to Alabama later this month in desperation mode.

The field has been reset since Dover last week and all drivers are again equal. That means everyone has caught up to Team

Penske drivers Keselowski and Kyle Logano, who won the first two Chase races, and Kevin Harvick, who has the fastest car seemingly every week.

All 12 drivers will be trying hard to get a win the next two weeks to avoid the pressure at Talladega. That goes for six-time Sprint Cup champion Jimmie Johnson, who has not led a lap in six races and has yet to show he's again a threat to win his record-tying seventh title.

"I'm not necessarily scared of the round, but I'm scared of Talladega," Johnson said. "Talladega in the Chase is not as fun as the Talladega spring race. I guess the only way it could change is for two fortunate racers who win the race at Kansas or Charlotte and roll on into Charlotte and have one of the better weekends of your life — just chill out and have some fun."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Hollywood Casino 400 at Kansas City, Kan.

Track: Kansas Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 3 a.m. Monday, Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Kevin Harvick raced to the third of his four 2013 victories, pulling away from Kurt Busch and Jeff Gordon on a late restart.

Last week: Gordon won at Dover for his fourth victory of the year and 92nd overall.

Next race: Bank of America 500, Oct. 11, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

POINTS STANDINGS

- Brad Keselowski.....3,000
- Jeff Gordon.....3,000
- Joey Logano.....3,000
- Jimmie Johnson.....3,000
- Kevin Harvick.....3,000
- Matt Kenseth.....3,000
- Denny Hamlin.....3,000
- Kyle Busch.....3,000
- Ryan Newman.....3,000
- Dale Earnhardt Jr.....3,000
- Carl Edwards.....3,000
- Kasey Kahne.....3,000
- AJ Allmendinger.....2,077
- Kurt Busch.....2,073
- Greg Biffle.....2,072
- Aric Almirola.....2,061
- Kyle Larson.....859
- Clint Bowyer.....817
- Jamie McMurray.....805
- Paul Menard.....781

DRIVER TO WATCH



If Dale Earnhardt Jr. has designs on winning his first Sprint Cup championship, his recent performance isn't giving his fans in JR Nation any reason to believe that it will happen this year.

Despite beginning the season by winning the Daytona 500 and later sweeping both Pocono races, he has been consistently in the middle of the pack heading into the Chase for the championship's contender round.

Earnhardt has only two top-10 finishes in the past 27 races since winning at Pocono July 29, with an average finish of 14.3. His best result in the Chase challenger round was ninth in New Hampshire.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Kansas Lottery 300 at Kansas City, Kan.

Track: Kansas Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 250.5 miles, 167 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 10 a.m. Sunday, Central European Time; 5 p.m. Sunday, Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the second of his two 2013 victories.

Last week: Kyle Busch won at Dover for his fifth victory of the year and record 68th overall. He swept the season Dover races and has a record five Nationwide wins at the track.

Next race: 300 Miles of Courage, Oct. 10, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK SERIES

Next race: Fred's 250, Oct. 18, Talladega Superspeedway, Talladega, Ala.

Last week: Erik Jones won at Las Vegas for his second victory of the year, holding off Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate Darrell Wallace Jr.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Japanese Grand Prix at Suzuka, Japan.

Track: Suzuka International (road course, 3.61 miles).

Race distance: 191.12 miles, 53 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel raced to the ninth of 13 2013 victories en route to his fourth straight season title. He's winless this year.

Last race: Lewis Hamilton won the Singapore Grand Prix on Sept. 21, for his seventh victory of the year. He took the series lead from Nico Rosberg.

Next race: Russian Grand Prix, Oct. 12, Sochi Autodrom, Sochi, Russia.

Online: formula1.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: ARCA 98.9, Kansas Speedway, Kansas City, Kan.

Online: arcaracing.com

TUDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP: Petit Le Mans, Saturday, Road Atlanta, Braselton, Ga. **TV:** AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5 a.m. Monday, Central European Time; noon Monday, Japan and Korea Time.

Online: imsa.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: National Open, Friday, Saturday, Williams Grove Speedway, Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

— The Associated Press

MLB PLAYOFFS

Royals vs. Angels:
A capsule look

Schedule

(Best-of-5; x-if necessary)
 Thursday: at Los Angeles
 Friday: at Los Angeles
 Sunday: at Kansas City
 x-Monday: at Kansas City
 x-Wednesday: at Los Angeles

Season series

Tied 3-3

May 23: Angels 6, Royals 1
 May 24: Royals 7, Angels 4 (13)
 May 25: Angels 4, Royals 3
 June 27: Angels 6, Royals 2
 June 28: Royals 7, Angels 4
 June 29: Royals 5, Angels 4

Projected lineups

Kansas City Royals

	AvG.	HR	RBI
SS Alcides Escobar	.285	3	50
RF Nori Aoki	.285	1	43
CF Lorenzo Cain	.301	5	53
1B Eric Hosmer	.270	9	58
DH Billy Butler	.271	9	66
LF Alex Gordon	.266	19	74
C Salvador Perez	.260	19	70
2B Omar Infante	.252	6	66
3B Mike Moustakas	.212	15	54

Los Angeles Angels

RF Kole Calhoun	.272	17	58
OF Mike Trout	.287	36	111
1B Albert Pujols	.272	28	105
2B Howie Kendrick	.293	7	75
SS Erick Aybar	.278	7	68
3B David Freese	.260	10	55
LF Josh Hamilton	.263	10	44
DH C. Cron	.256	11	37
C Chris Iannetta	.252	7	43

Projected rotations

Kansas City Royals

	W	L	ERA
LH Jason Vargas	11	10	3.71
RH Yordano Ventura	14	10	3.20
RH James Shields	4	8	3.21

Los Angeles Angels

RH Jered Weaver	18	9	3.59
RH Matt Shoemaker	16	4	3.04
LH C.J. Wilson	13	10	4.51

What to watch for

■ **Hamilton's health:** The Angels' \$125 million slugger missed 21 of the last 22 games with various upper-body injuries, but will return to left field for the postseason. Scioscia must figure out how much to use as a Hamilton's inconsistent bat, which still provides a corner at the Big A all season long.

■ **Experience counts:** The Angels haven't been to the postseason in a half-decade, but they've got ample playoff experience on their roster. Pujols has two rings and that famed three-homer performance in Game 3 of the 2011 World Series, while Freese was the MVP of the NLCS and the World Series with St. Louis just three years ago and with a postseason-record 21 RBIs. Hamilton has appeared in three postseasons, while Weaver and Wilson have both pitched in the playoffs.

■ **Royals hangover:** Their epic, emotionally draining win over Oakland took 4 hours, 45 minutes. By the time they boarded a plane, flew to Los Angeles and checked into their hotel, the sun was probably rising Wednesday. Will the quick turnaround hamper them in the series opener and beyond?
 —The Associated Press

Playoff managers hit, miss on replay

Nationals' Williams had highest percentage of reversal among teams in postseason

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

For Buck Showalter, Don Mattingly and every other manager in the playoffs, it promises to be a most challenging postseason.

This is the first October in which skippers can contest an umpire's call. Nearly everything is subject to replay review, except for balls and strikes, but managers only get one challenge per game if they're wrong.

Based on how they did during the regular season, some teams are better than others at spotting a play that should be reversed.

"I like the job our guy did," said Showalter, set to lead Baltimore against Detroit in the AL Division Series. "You call up, they say, 'He missed it,' and you challenge it."

"It ain't exactly brain surgery," he said. Showalter and the Orioles, who hired a former minor league umpire as their replay coordinator, hit exactly 50 percent this year: They contested 28 calls, 14 got overturned.

The Major League Baseball average was a bit better — 53 percent. Managers made 1,051 challenges and 557 resulted in reversals.

"I mean, I don't know our numbers, but we got a bunch of calls overturned that we wouldn't have had last year," Kansas City Royals manager Ned Yost said.

Yost did real well, in fact. He'd gotten it right almost 63 percent of the time going into Tuesday night's thrilling AL wild-card win over Oakland.

St. Louis manager Mike Matheny didn't fare so well at slightly under 39 percent. Of his 31

By the numbers

1,051

Number of calls challenged by major league managers this season.

557

Number of calls reversed after replay reviews.

82

Major league best percentage of reversals gotten by Yankees manager Joe Girardi.

challenges, only 12 were correct — he tied with Cincinnati manager Bryan Price for the fewest reversals in the majors.

When it came to those oh-so-solo strolls from the dugout onto the diamond, waiting for a bench coach to flash the thumbs-up or thumbs-down, Mattingly nearly matched the MLB average with reversals on 53.8 percent.

Among this year's crop of playoff managers, Washington's Matt Williams was best at 64.5 percent. San Francisco's Bruce Bochy was



64.5

Percentage of reversals awarded to the Nationals' Matt Williams, above, best among playoff managers.

557

Number of calls reversed after replay reviews.

over 61 percent.

Bob Melvin of the Athletics didn't spend much time trying out the review system. He made the fewest challenges overall in the majors with 26 and was right on 14 of them.

The Royals put Bill Duplissea, a former minor league catcher and previously Kansas City's bullpen catcher, in charge of replays.

"We got a real good video analyst. Very seldom does he ever make a mistake," Yost said. "You know we can't see it, so he's got to

almost like suggest what we need to do."

"And he'll tell us, 'Look, this is bang-bang, this is something that I think might be inconclusive,' or you get on there, boom, 'Challenge. Right off the bat,' you know that he's dead on it."

The success rates of the other playoff managers: Detroit's Brad Ausmus was 59 percent, Pittsburgh's Clint Hurdle was 57 percent and the Los Angeles Angels' Mike Scioscia was 56 percent.

Showalter said the Orioles changed how they handled replay challenges over the course of the season, but declined to share details of those adjustments.

Their replay guru is Adam Gladstone, who spent four years umpiring in the independent minor leagues and then worked in the front office for an Orioles' affiliate.

"We hired an ex-umpire. I know a lot of guys were hiring ex-players or somebody from the organization. I wanted somebody that really thought about it through an umpire's eyes, and could take the emotion out of it," Showalter said.

The best in the big leagues at challenging was New York Yankees manager Joe Girardi, getting reversals on 23 of 28 tries for 82 percent. Chicago Cubs manager Rick Renneria contested the most calls and got the most overturns, at 5 of 56.

"It's a lot better than the NFL's first year, I can tell you that. They had to shut it down for two years," Showalter said. "So we're ahead of the curve where they're concerned."

AP Sports Writer Jay Cohen and AP freelance writer Ian Harrison contributed to this report.

Rookies: Only four first-year managers have won World Series

FROM BACK PAGE

Brenly was the most recent, with the 2001 Diamondbacks, whose third baseman happened to be Williams. The others: Bucky Harris, 1924 Senators; Eddie Dyer, 1946 Cardinals; Ralph Houk, 1961 Yankees. Only 11 other rookie managers reached a World Series, according to STARS.

Both Williams and Ausmus are recently removed from lengthy playing careers (Williams, 48, retired in 2003 after 17 years; Ausmus, 45, stepped in 2010 after 18 years). Both replaced long-time managers (Davey Johnson, Jim Leyland) and kept the predecessor's bench coach and pitching coach. Both took over talented teams (the 2012 Nationals won 98 games; the Tigers' 2014 AL Central title is their fourth straight).

And both get credit in their clubhouse for keeping an even keel, connecting with players and, above all, being themselves.

"It's: How do you get the most out of these individuals and humans to win?" Ausmus said. "I think that's the most important part, and sometimes in this sabermetric age, that's lost."

The Tigers went 9-20 from mid-May to mid-June. Starter Anibal Sanchez got injured in August. They slid to second place when the Royals went on a tear. Ausmus never

was. "Whether we were winning six in a row or

First time's a charm

Rookie managers who have won World Series titles:

Bucky Harris, Washington Senators	1924
Eddie Dyer, St. Louis Cardinals	1946
Ralph Houk, New York Yankees	1961
Bob Brenly, Arizona Diamondbacks	2001

losing — whatever it was, he was the same guy," Detroit's Don Kelly said. "I don't know about inwardly, but at least to everybody else, he was the same guy."

Williams dealt with Harper, Ryan Zimmerman, Wilson Ramos and Doug Fister each spending more than a month on the disabled list. Stephen Strasburg lobbied to stay in games longer. Bullpen management didn't come naturally.

There were three potentially disruptive moments involving Harper: what Williams called "lack of hustle" in April; Harper publicly voicing lineup opinions in June; a radio-interview flap in August over whether a slumping Harper should go to the minors.

Williams weathered everything, wound up with an NL East title and could be NL Manager of the Year.

"We've accomplished one goal, and we're looking for another and another and another, hopefully," he said, heaping praise on his staff, including bench coach Randy Knorr, pitching

coach Steve McCatty and hitting coach Rick Schu, all holdovers. "Getting to know the players was important. I think I've done a better job of that. Understanding personalities — that takes time."

Williams himself earned a certain reputation as a player. A "roughneck," outfielder Jayson Werth has called him.

"Sometimes things go bad, and you can see him over in the corner of the dugout, staring at the ears. But he bites his tongue and kind of lets it roll over," shortstop Ian Desmond said. "It's good for players to know that he's making an effort to hold back. It's, 'This is not ideal, but I'm not going to yell at you for it, because I remember what it's like.'"

Brenly recalled a 1993 episode when Williams didn't hold back. Brenly was on Baker's Giants staff, Williams was the third baseman, and Barry Bonds had just arrived.

"Barry was a big personality; very loud at times, very abrasive at times. ... One day he said something, um, uncomplimentary, let's say, about one of Matty's teammates," Brenly said. "Matty got up off his chair and confronted Barry — not in a physical way, not that he wanted to fight him or anything — and said, 'Hey, we're all in this together. You may be the new guy on this team and you may be the superstar of the team, but we're a team.'"

AP Baseball Writer Noah Traister in Detroit contributed to this report.

MLB PLAYOFFS

Cards sit on playoff perch again

Year after year, St. Louis finds a way to field a contender for NL crown

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Even with an ever-shifting roster, the St. Louis Cardinals have a chance to reach the NL Championship Series for the fourth straight year.

“When we show up at spring training every year we set our goal to win the World Series,” ace Adam Wainwright said Wednesday. “Anything else is silly. What else are you playing for if that’s not the goal?”

The Cardinals repeated as NL Central champs and made it to the postseason for the 11th time in 15 years by overcoming a sputtering offense and injuries to Yadier Molina, Michael Wacha and Jaime Garcia. The profile is one of resiliency heading into an NL Division Series against the Dodgers on Friday at Los Angeles, which will start two-time NL Cy Young Award winner Clayton Kershaw.

“I’m pitching against the Dodgers. All this me vs. Kershaw stuff is blown way out of proportion,” Wainwright said. “I understand it’s good TV.”

Molina missed two months with a torn ligament in his right thumb, Wacha missed two months with a shoulder injury. Garcia lasted just 12 starts before surgery to relieve nerve compression.

Molina’s injury had the potential to be devastating, but A.J. Pierzynski and Tony Cruz filled the void and the Cardinals moved into the division lead for good two days after Molina returned in late August.

“I thought our guys did a nice job considering all of baseball said we couldn’t win a game without him,” manager Mike Matheny said. “That’s a knock on the rest of the guys. They realize that this stuff happens and you’ve just got to figure out a way to keep going.”

Four straight seasons is a franchise best for the 90-win Cardinals, who won the 2011 World



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

The St. Louis Cardinals were able to win the NL Central division for the ninth time in 20 years without the services of Yadier Molina (4) for three months after he tore a ligament in his right thumb. The Cardinals got their All-Star catcher back in late August and he’s been a difference-maker for St. Louis.

Series in Tony La Russa’s final season.

Though the team expects to be a contender, Mike Matheny said there’s no arrogance in the clubhouse.

“The conversations we had as we were popping champagne was, ‘Don’t take this for granted because there’s some guys who had incredible careers who have never done it one time,’” the manager said. “This will be the last time for somebody in here. That’s just kind of the facts. The game will humble you if you start taking the perspective that this is just going to happen all the time.”



Game 1
St. Louis at Los Angeles
AFN Sports
12:30 a.m. Saturday CET
7:30 a.m. Saturday JKT

This time last fall, Pat Neshek was looking for work, Johnny Peralta was rebuilding his reputation

with the Tigers, Randal Grichuk was a future throw-in in a deal that sent former October hero David Freese packing and John Lackey was about to augment his reputation as a big-game pitcher by beating the Cardinals twice in the World Series.

All four figure to play key roles against the high-spending Dodgers.

“We battled through the ups and downs and we got there,” first baseman Matt Adams said. “I think what helps us is knowing the core group of guys on this team have been in the playoffs basically every year.”

Dodgers use down time to heal up for playoffs

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers are heading into the postseason healthier than they were a year ago, and they hope it holds up.

The NL West champions have some question marks on their roster, most notably involving 14-game winner Hyun-Jin Ryu and second baseman Dee Gordon.

They’re using the four days before the NL Division Series against St. Louis begins on Friday to heal up.

Ryu threw a simulated game on Wednesday as he rehabs from shoulder inflammation. The left-hander used all of his pitches at his normal velocity and had no problems with his left shoulder during the 45-pitch workout.

He hasn’t pitched in a game

since Sept. 12, when he was removed after one inning, but the Dodgers’ foresight has him starting Game 3 in St. Louis on Monday.

The South Korean native was on the disabled list twice during the regular season, including missing nearly a month with the same problem, and bounced back each time.

In his first game back on May 21 against the Mets, Ryu pitched six innings and allowed two earned runs while striking out nine.

“It helps to know both times in the regular season I had good

games and I’m very encouraged by that,” he said. “I don’t see why this time would be different.”

Gordon left a game last Saturday because of irritation in his right hip, an issue that bothered him in June, too. He downplayed it during Tuesday’s workout at Dodger Stadium, suggesting others are making too big a deal of it.

“It was something that was just tight,” he said.

The Dodgers need a healthy Gordon on the basepaths. Their leadoff hitter led the major leagues



Gordon



Ryu

with 64 steals.

With Clayton Kershaw starting Game 1 for the Dodgers against Adam Wainwright, offense could be at a premium, making it crucial to get extra bases.

“When he goes, we go,” slugger Kemp said of Gordon. “We need him on base to create havoc and keep these pitchers working.”

Gordon was thrown out 19 times and Cardinals All-Star catcher Yadier Molina will surely challenge him. Molina threw out nearly half the potential base stealers (21 of 44 runners) against him.

“The Cardinals are pretty well-schooled on being quick. Usually a pitching staff will neutralize the running game,” Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. “Dee has the maturity of (knowing) when you don’t run.”

Cardinals vs. Dodgers: A capsule look

Schedule

(Best-of-five; x-if necessary)
Friday: at Los Angeles
Saturday: at Los Angeles
Monday: at St. Louis
x-Tuesday: at St. Louis
x-Thursday: at Los Angeles

Season series

Dodgers won, 4-3
June 26: Dodgers 1, Cardinals 0
June 27: Cardinals 3, Dodgers 1
June 28: Dodgers 9, Cardinals 1
June 26: Dodgers 1, Cardinals 0
July 18: Cardinals 3, Dodgers 2
July 19: Cardinals 4, Dodgers 2
July 20: Dodgers 4, Cardinals 3

Projected lineups

St. Louis Cardinals		
	Avg.	HR RBI
3B Matt Carpenter	.272	8 59
CF Jon Jay	.303	3 46
LF Matt Holiday	.272	20 90
SS Jhonny Peralta	.263	21 75
1B Matt Adams	.288	15 68
C Yadier Molina	.282	7 38
2B Kolten Wong	.249	12 41
RF Randal Grichuk	.245	3 8
Los Angeles Dodgers		
2B Dee Gordon	.289	2 31
CF Yasiel Puig	.296	16 69
1B Adrian Gonzalez	.276	27 116
RF Matt Kemp	.287	25 89
LF Carl Crawford	.300	8 46
SS Hanley Ramirez	.283	13 71
3B Juan Uribe	.311	9 54
C A.J. Ellis	.191	3 25

Projected rotations

St. Louis Cardinals		
	W	L ERA
RH Adam Wainwright	20	9 2.38
RH Lance Lynn	15	10 2.74
RH John Lackey	14	10 3.82
RH Shelby Miller	10	9 3.74
Los Angeles Dodgers		
LH Clayton Kershaw	21	3 1.77
RH Zack Greinke	17	8 2.71
LH Hyun-Jin Ryu	14	7 3.38
RH Dan Haren	13	11 4.02

What to watch for

■ **Hot Hitters:** With four days off before Game 1, the Dodgers might wonder whether their hot-hitting lineup can stay that way. Kemp has been tearing it up since the All-Star break after starting the season slowly. Gonzalez also struggled early, but has been a consistent run producer since the break.

■ **Deep Outfield:** Grichuk was considered an afterthought in an offseason trade for outfielder Peter Bourjos that sent 2011 postseason star David Freese to the Angels. Jay was supposed to be the fourth outfielder and got a one-year deal, a wakeup call that’s prompted his strongest overall season.

■ **Closing it Out:** Manager Mike Matheny had a pushbutton approach to the late innings, with Trevor Rosenthal leading staff with 73 appearances. Seth Maness with 72 and Pat Neshek with 71. Late in the year, all of them needed rest. The side-arming Neshek was a first-time All-Star and was nearly untouchable much of the year with ERA below 1.00 until late August.

— The Associated Press

MLB

Giants vs. Nationals
A capsule look

Schedule

(Best-of-five; x-if necessary)
Friday: at Washington
Saturday: at Washington
Monday: at San Francisco
x-Tuesday: at San Francisco
x-Oct. 9: at Washington

Season series

Nationals won 5-2
June 9: Nationals 9, Giants 2
June 10: Nationals 2, Giants 1
June 11: Nationals 6, Giants 1
June 12: Giants 7, Nationals 1
Aug. 22: Giants 10, Nationals 3
Aug. 23: Nationals 6, Giants 2
Aug. 24: Nationals 14, Giants 6

Projected lineups

San Francisco Giants		
	Avg.	HR RBI
CF Gregor Blanco	.260	5 38
2B Joe Panik	.305	1 18
C Buster Posey	.311	22 89
3B Pablo Sandoval	.279	16 73
RF Hunter Pence	.277	20 74
1B Brandon Belt	.243	12 27
LF Travis Ishikawa	.252	3 18
or		
LF Michael Morse	.279	16 61
SS Brandon Crawford	.246	10 69
Washington Nationals		
CF Denard Span	.302	5 37
3B Anthony Rendon	.287	21 83
RF Jayson Werth	.292	16 82
1B Adam LaRoche	.259	26 92
SS Ian Desmond	.255	24 91
LF Bryce Harper	.273	13 32
C Wilson Ramos	.267	11 47
2B Asdrubal Cabrera	.241	14 61

Projected rotations

San Francisco Giants		
	W	L ERA
RH Jake Peavy	7	13 3.73
RH Tim Lincecum	9	13 3.57
LH M. Bumgarner	18	10 2.98
RH Ryan Vogelsong	8	13 4.00
Washington Nationals		
RH Stephen Strasburg	14	11 3.14
RH J. Zimmermann	14	5 2.66
RH Doug Fister	16	6 2.41
LH Gio Gonzalez	10	10 3.57

What to watch for:

- **Playoff tested:** The Giants have won eight straight postseason games dating to their 2012 World Series run and have been at their best in October. They have won seven consecutive elimination games in the postseason after beating Pittsburgh.
- **Strasburg's debut:** The No. 1 pick in the 2009 amateur draft will show what he can do in the postseason spotlight. The Nationals shut down Strasburg in September 2012 to protect his surgically repaired pitching elbow, a decision hotly debated as the club exited the playoffs.
- **Storen's second chance:** A night after Werth's walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth forced a Game 5 in the 2012 NLDS against the Cardinals, the Nationals went from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows. Leading 7-5 with two outs in the ninth, Washington let the series slip away as Storen failed to record the final strike, walked two batters, then allowed a pair of two-run singles in a 9-7 loss.

— The Associated Press

Resilient Giants blast Pirates

San Francisco set to take on Washington in Division Series

By WILL GRAVES
The Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — Madison Bumgarner grabbed four beers, tilted his head back and chugged like a champion.

Then again, the San Francisco ace has plenty of practice.

The Giants celebrating in a soaked clubhouse on the road? Must be October. Next stop: Washington.

Bumgarner dominated the Pittsburgh Pirates in an 8-0 whitewash in the National League wild-card game on Wednesday night, tossing a four-hitter as the Giants advanced to the best-of-five Division Series in Washington starting on Friday.

"If you don't want to pitch in these games, you probably need to find something else to do," Bumgarner said.

No chance of the Giants doing that anytime soon. They've ended each year this decade with a World Series title. The quest for a third to join the championships they captured in 2010 and 2012 began in familiar fashion, with a lights-out performance on the mound and enough offense to get by.

"We thrive in these situations," shortstop Brandon Crawford said. "I don't know what it is. We just keep fighting no matter what the circumstance."

The Giants won their eighth consecutive postseason game — dating back to the 2012 NL championship series when they rallied from a 3-1 deficit to stun St. Louis — and seventh straight with their season on the line — including the division series against Cincinnati that year. The memories of that run remain fresh in a clubhouse that seems to thrive once



GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

San Francisco's Brandon Crawford hits a grand slam off Pittsburgh Pirates starting pitcher Edinson Volquez during the fourth inning of the NL wild-card playoff Wednesday in Pittsburgh.

the games start to dwindle. "We've been through this before, a lot of this team has," Brandon Belt said. "We used that experience tonight. We know when we get in these situations we're going to have a good ballclub."

Mixing his fastball with a slider and curve the Pirates rarely touched, Bumgarner was in complete control and looked very much like the ace who won 18 games during San Francisco's bumpy regular season.

"We got outplayed tonight," Pittsburgh second baseman Neil

Walker said. "Bumgarner went out there, he did what he wanted to do. He put up the strike zone and he made it tough on us."

So did Crawford, whose grand slam off Edinson Volquez in the fourth inning was the first in postseason history by a shortstop and he wasn't aiming for the fences.

With the bases loaded in the fourth and nobody out in a scoreless game, Crawford turned on Volquez's hanging breaking ball and sent it right to Pittsburgh's Travis Snider to play it off the wall. He never got the chance, instead slumping his shoulders as the ball landed a couple of rows deep to give the Giants a 4-0 lead that felt considerably larger. "I was in shock a little bit," Crawford said.

So were the Pirates, who never recovered. One night after Kansas City edged Oakland in a thrilling start to baseball's postseason, this one was over by the middle innings.

Overpowering one of the NL's best lineups, Bumgarner walked one and threw 79 strikes in his latest stellar October performance. The big left-hander, who allowed only four singles, has thrown 15 scoreless innings in two World Series starts.

Volquez was trying to cap his comeback season by sending Pittsburgh to the NLDS for the second straight year, but he

Scoreboard

Wild card
(Best-of-five) (x-if necessary)
American League
Baltimore vs. Detroit
Thursday: Detroit (Verlander 18-5) at Baltimore (Tillman 14-6)
Friday: Detroit (Verlander 15-2) at Baltimore (Chen 16-6)
x-Sunday: Baltimore (Gonzalez 10-9) at Detroit (Price 15-12)
x-Monday: Baltimore at Detroit (Porcello 15-13)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 8: Detroit at Baltimore

Los Angeles vs. Kansas City
(Best-of-five) (x-if necessary)
National League
Los Angeles (Weaver 18-9)
Thursday: Kansas City (Weaver 11-10) at Los Angeles (Weaver 18-9)
Friday: Kansas City (Ventura 14-10) at Los Angeles (Shoemaker 16-4)
Saturday: Los Angeles (Wilson 13-10) at Kansas City (Giles 14-8)
x-Monday: Los Angeles at Kansas City at Los Angeles

National League
Washington vs. San Francisco
Friday: San Francisco (Peavy 7-13) at Washington (Strasburg 14-11)
Saturday: San Francisco at Washington
Monday: Washington at San Francisco
x-Tuesday, Oct. 7: Washington at San Francisco
x-Thursday, Oct. 9: San Francisco at Washington

Los Angeles vs. St. Louis
Friday: St. Louis (Wainwright 20-9) at Los Angeles (Kershaw 17-3)
Saturday: St. Louis (Lynn 15-10) at Los Angeles (Lackey 3-3)
Monday: Los Angeles at St. Louis (Miller 10-9)
x-Tuesday, Oct. 7: Los Angeles at St. Louis (Miller 10-9)
x-Thursday, Oct. 9: St. Louis at Los Angeles

Wednesday NL wild card
Giants 8, Pirates 0

San Francisco	ab	r	b	h	Pittsburgh	ab	r	b	h
GBLanc	4	1	0	0	JHrrsn	3	0	4	2
Panik	2	5	0	3	Mercer	5	0	0	0
Posey	3	1	1	1	Alrexf	3	0	0	0
Sandoval	3	4	2	2	RMartin	4	0	1	0
Ariza	3	1	1	1	SMartin	4	0	1	0
Pence	4	2	1	0	NWalker	2	0	0	0
Belt	1	3	1	2	GSchn3	2	0	0	0
Shaw	3	1	1	1	SSnyder	1	1	1	1
Ishikaw	1	2	0	0	JHughes	0	0	0	0
LFPeav	1	1	1	1	DPerez	0	0	0	0
BMgrp	4	0	0	0	Hldzmp	0	0	0	0

Totals 37 811 8 Total 37 44
San Francisco 000 001 210-8
Pittsburgh 000 000 000-0

IP H R ER BB SO
San Francisco
Bumgarner 6.0 9 4 0 0 1 10
Pittsburgh
Volquez L0-1 5 5 5 5 3 3
JuWilson 1 3 2 2 2 1 1
JHughes 1 3 2 2 2 1 1
LAFronte 1 0 0 0 0 0 0
Holdcock 1 2 1 1 1 1 1
Metcalf 1 1 0 0 0 0 0

Volquez pitched to 1 batter in the 6th. WP—JuWilson. T—3:12. A—40,629 (BR,362).



DON WRIGHT/AP

San Francisco starting pitcher Madison Bumgarner threw a complete-game shutout. He walked one and struck out 10.

couldn't match Bumgarner.

The right-hander cruised until the fourth, when a pair of singles and a walk loaded the bases with none out. He'd retired Crawford 19 of the 22 times he'd faced him during his career.

It's the 24th that he'll remember.

"I tried to bounce it down, back foot, and the ball just kept going," Volquez said. "Bad spot."

That was more than enough for Bumgarner. Pittsburgh, fourth in the majors in extra-base hits this season, rarely hit the ball hard.

NFL

A laundry list of verboten celebrations

BY EDDIE PELLIS
The Associated Press

Dancing Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, shuffling Ikey Woods and the high-fiving Fun Bunch? Their entertaining touchdown celebrations would be illegal in today's NFL.

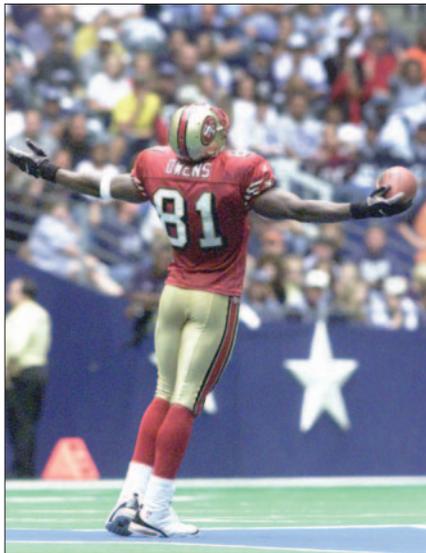
Though the league rulebook has some very specific examples of what constitutes a penalty, the grey area is as wide as ever.

Take, for example, Husain Abdullah's drop to his knees after returning an interception for a touchdown on Monday. It confused the referees — and caused them to throw a penalty flag. In their eyes, the Kansas City safety violated the language in Rule 12, Section 3(d) that states "Players are prohibited from engaging in any celebrations while on the ground."

But Abdullah is a devout Muslim, who had always vowed he'd fall to his knees if he ever reached the end zone. Critics pointed out that many players have knelt in Christian prayer and weren't penalized, most notably Tim Tebow, who's one-knee genuflection became a meme. After further review, the NFL said since it was part of a religious expression, Abdullah should not have been flagged.

Highlights from the NFL's forbidden list, who may have caused it, and who might get nailed today.

Throat slash, stomping on team logos: Fred Taylor of the Jacksonville Jaguars was tagged a few times for a throat-slash gesture that was popular, especially in college football, about 10 years ago. Terrell Owens, below, put team logos in the rulebook when, while playing for the 49ers, he ran to the star at the 50-yard line at Texas Stadium after a touchdown. Emmitt Smith responded by doing that himself a bit later. Then, Owens caught another touchdown and did it again, and Cowboys defensive back George Teague met him at the star and laid him out.



Prolonged, choreographed, excessive celebration: It could be said that the "Fun Bunch" — aka Art Monk, Alvin Garrett and the rest of the Washington Redskins receivers in the early 1980s — took the fun out of the NFL. After touchdowns, they would form a circle and time a group high-five. In a 1983 game at Texas Stadium, Cowboys defenders tried to break up a Fun Bunch celebration by standing in the middle of it. A year later, the league passed a rule banning "excessive celebration." Just last week, Antonio Brown (right) of the Pittsburgh Steelers broke this rule, and about three others, when he spun the ball on the ground, pretended he was spinning like the ball, then fell to the ground. He was penalized 15 yards and a scolding from coach Mike Tomlin. Victor Cruz of the New York Giants says he's planning a new Salsa dance to celebrate touchdowns.

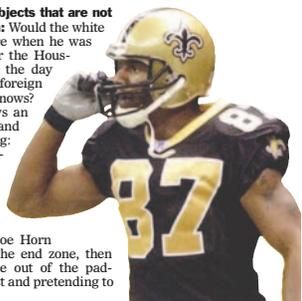


Spiking the ball over the goalpost: It had been one of the last bastions of good, clean celebration — that is, until Saints tight end Jimmy Graham knocked the post-off-kilter on a slam last season in Atlanta, causing a lengthy delay. This preseason, Graham was penalized twice and fined \$30,000 for breaking the new rule. His reaction: "You can't really have fun anymore." Well, Woods still can. The former Cincinnati Bengals runner is featured doing his once-famous Ikey Shuffle in a GEICO commercial that airs during NFL games.

Sack dances, home-run swing, incredible hulk: All are verboten if "committed directly at an opponent." Mark Gastineau of the New York Jets had one of the first (and possibly the worst) sack dance. It sparked a bench-clearing brawl in 1983 with the Los Angeles Rams and their Hall of Fame offensive lineman Jackie Slater, who said: "One lousy tackle and he puts on a big act. Why don't I dance every time I block him out?" Also forbidden under this category are home-run swings (Neil Smith), Incredible Hulk gestures (Clay Matthews used to do it. More recently, Packers running back Eddie Lacy cleverly bypassed this by wearing an Incredible Hulk shirt under his jersey) and military salutes (could've potentially put Terrell Davis, below, and the Denver Broncos famous Mile High Salute of the late 1990s in jeopardy).



Use of foreign objects that are not part of the uniform: Would the white shoes Johnson wore when he was returning kicks for the Houston Oilers back in the day have qualified as "foreign objects?" Who knows? But give these guys an A for creativity and advance planning: Terrell Owens pulling a Sharpie pen out of his sock and signing a ball after scoring. And New Orleans Saints receiver Joe Horn (right) reaching the end zone, then pulling a cellphone out of the padding on the goalpost and pretending to make a call.





GAMEDAY

WEEK 5

TELEVISED GAMES

Marquee matchup

Arizona Cardinals (3-0) at Denver Broncos (2-1)

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m. Sunday CET, 5 a.m. Monday JKT



Buffalo Bills (2-2) at Detroit Lions (3-1)

AFN-Sports
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Tied 4-4-1, but Bills have won three of last four.

Last meeting: Bills 14, Lions 12 on Nov. 14 2010 at Buffalo.

Notes: Quarterback Kyle Orton will make his first start for the Bills. Orton has a 4-0 career record and a 102.2 rating against the Lions. Lions wide receiver Calvin Johnson had 10 catches for 128 yards and a touchdown in his only game against the Bills.



Houston Texans (3-1) at Dallas Cowboys (3-1)

AFN-Atlantic
7 p.m. Sunday CET
2 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cowboys lead 2-1 and have won the last two.

Last meeting: Cowboys 27, Texans 13 on Sept. 26, 2010 at Houston.

Notes: Texans quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick passed for more than 250 yards (268) for the second straight week in last week's 23-17 win over Buffalo. The Cowboys are off to a 3-1 start for the first time since 2008. Running back DeMarco Murray leads the league in rushing with 534 yards and five touchdowns. He has a touchdown in all of Dallas' games.

SERIES RECORD: Broncos lead 7-1-1.
LAST MEETING: Cardinals beat the visiting Broncos 43-13 as Tim Hightower rushed for 148 yards and 2 TDs on Dec. 12, 2010.
VISITORS OFFENSE: OVERALL (24), RUSH (21), PASS (17).

VISITORS DEFENSE: OVERALL (5), RUSH (4), PASS (18).

HOME TEAM OFFENSE: OVERALL (23), RUSH (27), PASS (10).

HOME TEAM DEFENSE: OVERALL (27), RUSH (12), PASS (31).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: Cardinals have won 10 of past 12 and five in row vs. AFC... In five starts vs. AFC with Arizona, QB Carson Palmer is 5-0 and has 9 TDs, 1 INT and a 108.1 rating. QB Drew Stanton, who has been filling in for Palmer, has won four starts in row (2-0 in 2014)...RB

Andre Ellington has 238 yards from scrimmage yards in past two games vs. AFC...WR Larry Fitzgerald has 3 TDs in past four vs. AFC. He has a catch in 152 consecutive games; longest active streak in NFL. Since entering NFL in 2004, Fitzgerald leads NFL with 96 receiving TDs (including playoffs)... Rookie WR John Brown is first Cardinal with 3 receiving TDs in first three games since 1942 (Steve Lach). In the teams' last meeting, Broncos QB Peyton Manning passed for 379 yards and 4 TDs with one interception Manning needs 1 TD pass to join Brett Favre (508) as only two in NFL history with 500... In past 11 vs. NFC, WR Demaryius Thomas has 73 catches for 972 yards and 10 TDs... WR Emmanuel Sanders had career-highs in catches (11) and receiving yards (149) in Week 3... In past 5 vs. NFC, WR Wes Welker has 5 TD catches. TE Julius Thomas leads NFL with 5 TD catches.



Kansas City Chiefs (2-2) at San Francisco 49ers (2-2)

AFN-Xtra
Midnight Sunday CET
7 a.m. Monday JKT
(joined in progress)

Series: 49ers lead 6-5 but Chiefs have won last two.

Last meeting: Chiefs 31, 49ers 10 on Sept. 26, 2010 at Kansas City.

Notes: In his last two games, Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith has completed 39 of 51 passes for 434 yards and six touchdowns for a 140.5 rating. Since 2009, 49ers tight end Vernon Davis is second in the league with 53 receiving touchdowns.

Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning is closing in on another milestone. Manning's next touchdown pass will make him just the second player in league history with 500. Brett Favre has 508.

JACK DENNESE/AP



Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



Cincinnati Bengals (3-0) at New England Patriots (2-2)

AFN-Sports
2:20 a.m. Monday CET
9:20 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Patriots lead 14-9 and have won four of the last five.

Last meeting: Bengals 13, Patriots 6 on Oct. 6, 2013 at Cincinnati.

Notes: The unbeaten Bengals have allowed a league-low 33 points through three games and are the only team in the league to allow 16 points or fewer in every game. Patriots quarterback Tom Brady has won four of five career starts against the Bengals.

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East			AFC	NFC	Div
					PF	PA	Home Away			
Buffalo	2	2	0	.500	79	75	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Miami	2	2	0	.500	96	97	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0	1-1-0
New England	2	2	0	.500	80	90	1-0-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	0-1-0
N.Y. Jets	1	3	0	.250	79	96	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
South										
Houston	3	1	0	.750	87	67	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0
Indianapolis	2	2	0	.500	136	95	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0
Tennessee	1	3	0	.250	60	110	0-1-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	0-1-0
Jacksonville	0	4	0	.000	58	152	0-1-0	0-3-0	0-2-0	0-2-0
North										
Cincinnati	3	0	0	1.000	80	33	2-0-0	1-0-0	2-0-0	1-0-0
Baltimore	3	1	0	.750	103	60	2-1-0	1-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0
Pittsburgh	2	2	0	.500	97	99	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0
Cleveland	1	2	0	.333	74	77	1-1-0	0-1-0	0-2-0	0-1-0
West										
San Diego	3	1	0	.750	107	63	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-1-0
Denver	2	1	0	.667	75	67	2-0-0	0-1-0	2-0-0	0-1-0
Kansas City	2	2	0	.500	102	79	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	0-1-0
Oakland	0	4	0	.000	51	103	0-2-0	0-2-0	0-4-0	0-0-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	Pct	East			AFC	NFC	AFC	Div
					PF	PA	Home Away				
Philadelphia	3	1	0	.750	122	104	2-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	1-0-0
Dallas	3	1	0	.750	115	86	1-1-0	2-0-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	0-0-0
N.Y. Giants	2	2	0	.500	103	91	1-1-0	1-1-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Washington	1	3	0	.250	95	109	1-1-0	0-2-0	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-2-0
South											
Atlanta	2	2	0	.500	131	113	2-0-0	0-2-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	2-0-0
Carolina	2	2	0	.500	73	96	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-0-0	0-2-0	1-0-0
New Orleans	1	3	0	.250	95	110	1-0-0	0-3-0	1-2-0	0-1-0	0-1-0
Tampa Bay	1	3	0	.250	72	119	0-2-0	1-1-0	0-3-0	1-0-0	0-2-0
North											
Detroit	3	1	0	.750	85	62	2-0-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Green Bay	2	2	0	.500	92	96	1-0-0	1-2-0	1-2-0	1-0-0	1-1-0
Minnesota	2	2	0	.500	91	84	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-1-0	0-1-0	0-0-0
Chicago	2	2	0	.500	92	100	0-2-0	2-0-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-1-0
West											
Arizona	3	0	0	1.000	66	45	2-0-0	0-0-0	1-1-0	1-0-0	1-0-0
Seattle	2	1	0	.667	83	66	2-0-0	0-1-0	1-1-0	1-1-0	0-0-0
San Francisco	2	2	0	.500	88	89	1-1-0	1-1-0	2-2-0	0-0-0	0-1-0
St. Louis	1	2	0	.333	56	85	0-2-0	1-0-0	1-2-0	0-0-0	0-0-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Cleveland at Tennessee
Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Chicago at Carolina
St. Louis at Philadelphia
Atlanta at N.Y. Giants
Baltimore at Indianapolis
Pittsburgh at Jacksonville
N.Y. Jets at San Diego
Open: Miami, Oakland
Monday

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Oct. 9
Sunday, Oct. 12
Chicago at Tennessee
Detroit at Minnesota
Baltimore at Tampa Bay
Denver at N.Y. Jets
New England at Buffalo
Carolina at Cincinnati
Pittsburgh at Atlanta
Green Bay at Miami
San Diego at Oakland
Dallas at Seattle
Washington at Arizona
Arizona at Philadelphia
N.Y. Giants at Philadelphia
Open: Kansas City, New Orleans
Monday, Oct. 13
San Francisco at St. Louis

SPORTS



League has laundry list of forbidden celebrations

NFL, Page 62

MLB PLAYOFFS

Rookies with veteran poise

First-year managers Ausmus, Williams keep clubs on even keel all the way to postseason

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

Matt Williams was in his 18th game as a major league manager, still learning on the job, when he went with his gut. Williams saw Bryce Harper hit a comebacker in the sixth inning, jog out of the batter's box and veer off toward the home dugout, several strides before first base. Williams yanked Harper from the Washington Nationals' lineup. That decision in April was one of many that made clear Williams would do things his way, something he was taught by a couple of his managers, Dusty Baker and Bob Brenly.

"Dusty told me to be me. You can't ... try to be somebody that you're not. When Bryce didn't run to first, it made me mad," Williams said. "You've got to be who you are, warts and all."

Williams, whose Nationals host Game 1 of an NL Division Series on Friday, and Brad Ausmus, whose Tigers were to open their ALDS at Baltimore on Thursday, are attempting to accomplish something only four men have in baseball's long history: win a World Series as a first-time manager.

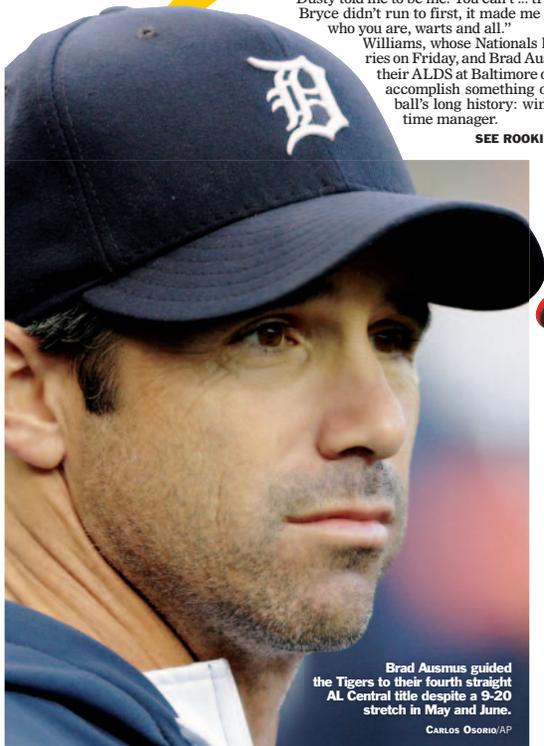
SEE ROOKIES ON PAGE 59

It's: How do you get the most out of these individuals and humans to win? I think that's the most important part, and sometimes in this sabermetric age, that's lost.

Brad Ausmus
Detroit Tigers manager

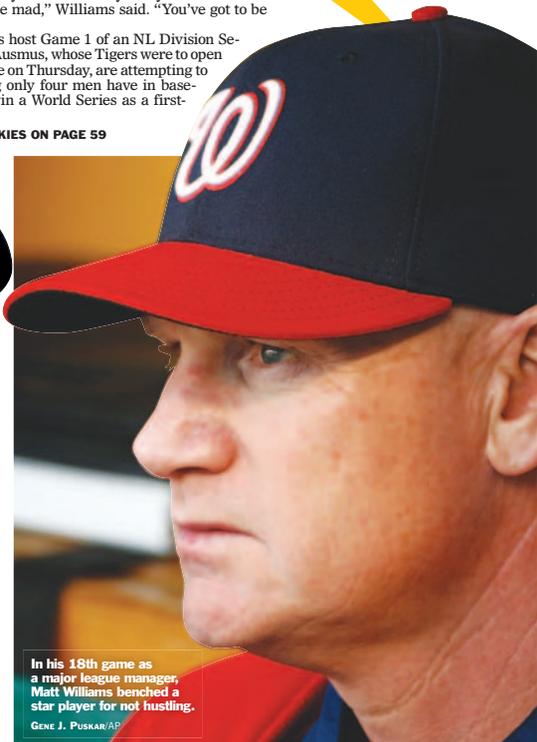
Dusty (former San Francisco Giants manager Baker) told me to be me. You can't ... try to be somebody that you're not. ... You've got to be who you are, warts and all.

Matt Williams
Washington Nationals manager



Brad Ausmus guided the Tigers to their fourth straight AL Central title despite a 9-20 stretch in May and June.

CARLOS OSORIO/AP



In his 18th game as a major league manager, Matt Williams benched a star player for not hustling.

GENE J. PUSKAS/AP

