

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, lays a wreath on a memorial for the 9th Air Force during an event commemorating the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Picauville, France, on Thursday.

## RETURN TO NORMANDY

On 70th anniversary, French towns commemorate liberators | Page 3

## Did troops die in the search for Bergdahl?

By TONY PERRY AND DAVID ZUCCHINO  
*Los Angeles Times*

SAN DIEGO—While members of Congress criticize the Obama administration for the way Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's nearly five years in Taliban captivity ended, another controversy is raging about how it began.

Several of those who served

with Bergdahl in the rugged mountains of eastern Afghanistan charge that soldiers died searching for him after he disappeared from his base. Experts are divided; in the fog of war, several questioned whether it would ever be clear whether soldiers died as a result.

"Directly or indirectly, people died because of what Bergdahl did," said former Army

medic Joshua Cornelison, who was part of a 30-man platoon that included Bergdahl. "He's responsible for some soldiers' deaths. They died looking for him."

Cornelison said that soldiers died either on search missions or on other missions that lacked normal combat support because resources were diverted to look for Bergdahl.

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# QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's like a modern-day lynching. He hasn't even been able to give his side of the story yet. This community will welcome him back no matter what."

— Lee Ann Ferris, who lives next door to the family of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in Hailey, Idaho

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# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. 5 facts you may not know about the Normandy invasion
2. The 3 other Americans being held in Afghanistan
3. If Bergdahl is a war-zone deserter, he joins a fascinating and bizarre club
4. Navajo Code Talker Chester Nez: Telling a tale of bravery and ingenuity
5. New research links dust at Iraq's Camp Victory to ill soldiers

# COMING SOON

## Science and Medicine

12,000-year-old skeleton may solve mysteries



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# MILITARY

# Marine Gen. Dunford picked to be next commandant

By JOSH SMITH  
Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., who has commanded U.S. and international forces in Afghanistan since February 2013, has been nominated to become Marine Corps commandant, the Defense Department announced Thursday.

He would replace Gen. James F. Amos, who has held the position of commandant since October 2010.

The announcement comes just months before NATO's current mission in Afghanistan is set to conclude by the end of 2014. Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren did not say who would replace Dunford in Afghanistan, nor did he outline a timeline for the move.

"Gen. Dunford, of course, has done tremendous work in Afghanistan," Warren told report-

ers. The nomination still needs to be confirmed by the Senate.

Thousands of U.S. troops were departed Afghanistan under Dunford's command, and President Barack Obama recently outlined a plan that would keep almost 10,000 servicemembers in the country past the end of the year to continue training Afghan forces and for counterterrorism operations.

Dunford took command as Obama pledged to reduce the number of U.S. troops by half by the beginning of 2014. Dunford's tenure included not only overseeing the massive drawdown of U.S. and coalition forces, but the politi-



Amos

cal fight over keeping troops in Afghanistan. Afghan President Karzai refused to sign a deal that would keep American troops around longer, but Dunford was among the military leaders lobbying skeptical politicians in both Kabul and Washington. Both of Karzai's potential successors have said they will sign the troop agreement, and Dunford or his successor will be instrumental in shaping the force that remains.

"Joe is one of the most knowledgeable and talented leaders and thinkers in the military today," Amos said in a statement. "He has commanded and excelled at every level. His tenure as commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces — Afghanistan over the past 18 months has been extraordinary, and is testament to the full measure of the man."

Before taking the top job in Afghanistan, Dunford served as the



Courtesy of the U.S. Department of Defense

**Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr. has overseen the drawdown of international forces in Afghanistan.**

assistant Marine Corps commandant. A career infantry officer, he led Regimental Combat Team 5 during the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

Amos' career has spanned leadership roles in a wide variety of Marine aviation units and he also previously served in the No. 2 spot as assistant commandant.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report. smith.josh@stripes.com Twitter: @joshjonsmith

# 5 Afghans, 1 NATO soldier killed in 3 separate attacks

The Associated Press

KABUL — A police chief and two other officers were killed Thursday when a roadside bomb exploded while they were on a demining mission, as two army officers were killed in a separate shooting attack, officials said.

And in eastern Afghanistan, a soldier from the U.S.-led military coalition was killed by enemy fire, according to a statement from the International Security Assistance Force, which did not identify the soldier or provide his or her nationality.

In the bomb incident, Mohammad Qasim, police chief for the Waghaz district in the southern Gazni province, had gone with other officers to remove a roadside bomb planted by Taliban insurgents, district governor Abdul Azim Farooqi said. When they

**When a police chief and two officers tried to remove a bomb by the road, another hidden under it exploded.**

removed the bomb, another mine concealed under it exploded, killing Qasim and two other officers. Another policeman was wounded in the blast.

In a separate incident, gunning on a motorcycle opened fire on a car carrying Afghan army personnel in the western city of Herat, killing two officers and wounding three others, said Mohammad Nadir Fahimi, the deputy provincial police chief. He

said police were searching for the assailants.

The Taliban have intensified their spring offensive in a bid to undermine the Western-backed government as foreign combat troops prepare to withdraw from the country by the end of the year.

The latest attacks came a day after a bomb placed in a thermos bottle exploded at a market in northern Afghanistan, killing two men and a woman, and wounding 12 other civilians, including four women and a child, according to a local official.

Roadside bombings are a major threat to both security forces and civilians in Afghanistan. Such attacks have escalated as the Taliban have stepped up their campaign ahead of the withdrawal of U.S.-led forces.

# Mother: Slain soldier wanted military career

ORWIGSBURG, Pa. — The mother of an eastern Pennsylvania soldier killed in Afghanistan says her son had dreamed of a career in the military from the time he was a boy.

Military authorities said Tuesday that Capt. Jason Jones, 29, of Orwigsburg, died on Monday in Jalalabad, Afghanistan, of wounds received from small-arms fire. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Suzy Jones told The Reading (Pa.) Eagle that she thinks her son's interest in the military stemmed from watching the Tom Cruise movie "Top Gun" when he was about 7.

Suzy said he was laid-back, humble, fun-loving and deeply in love with his wife after marrying less than a year ago.

Jason's father, Jay, said he was "just a special kid that was loved by everybody."

From The Associated Press

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# D-DAY REMEMBERED



JOSHUA L. DeMOTT/Stars and Stripes

An MC-130 performs a fly-by Thursday during a 70th anniversary D-Day commemoration at the 9th Air Force Memorial at Picauville, France.

## ‘It was worth it’

Appreciative Europeans greet veterans returning to city for memorial dedication

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

PICAUVILLE, France — In the middle of the night 70 years ago, residents of this town woke to the roar of aircraft engines, the thunder of German flak guns, a crash and the screams of dying Americans.

Those were the first casualties of D-Day, according to the lore here, where a new memorial to Americans who died in the air assault on Normandy was unveiled Thursday.

With American C-130 cargo planes buzzing low overhead, French officials said the crash was a horror, but also brought joy to the people because they realized that their liberators had arrived.

“This community remembers the liberation, as do others across Europe,” said U.S. Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO’s supreme allied

For more coverage of the 70th anniversary of D-Day including photos, visitor information, an interactive map and videos go to [stars.com/normandy](http://stars.com/normandy)

commander.

Breedlove was one of more than 200 members of the U.S. military at the ceremony, one of the hundreds of commemorations being held this week in Normandy in remembrance of the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the Allied invasion that led to the downfall of Nazi Germany.

Nearly a thousand people turned out here to watch as French and American officials and the daughters of two World War II pilots unveiled the memorial, which stands next to a memorial to the 9th Air Force, a model of a C-47 troop transport and the remains of one of the engines of the plane that crashed here in the opening moments of the Allied assault.

“You honor the sacrifices made



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Above: World War II veterans were the center of attention Thursday at an unveiling ceremony at the 9th Air Force monument at Picauville, France. The ceremony was part of the 70th anniversary of D-Day commemorations.

here, and you did not forget the heroes who rest below your soil,” Breedlove said.

Nearly 50 World War II veterans from every branch of service attended the dedication.

They were treated like rock stars by locals, officials, re-enactors and tourists who crowded in to get autographs from the men who fought here 70 years ago.

While many were remembering the war, Navy veteran Joe

Jackson, 88, said, “I try to forget it.”

“That’s easier said than done, though.”

“I remember shooting a gun, I remember dropping depth charges and I remember picking up a few of the dead bodies and took the dog tags off and we buried them at sea,” Jackson said.

He also remembers when his ship, a destroyer, hit a mine in the English Channel and limped back

to England.

This was his second trip to France since the war, he said, and he came back “to heal the wounds and to see why you were sacrificing your life.”

The Europeans he’s met in those trips, “have been real good, people have been real fine, and appreciative,” he said. “So I say it was worth it.”

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MILITARY

# Town cancels Bergdahl celebration

By BRIAN SKOLOFF AND RAHIM FAIEZ  
The Associated Press

HAILEY, Idaho — There will be no hero's welcome for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in his hometown, no fanfare of parades, music or picnics in the park.

A planned celebration for the end of June marking his return after five years of Taliban captivity in Afghanistan has been scrapped, largely due to security concerns as his release has touched off a nationwide debate. Was he an American prisoner of war who should be welcomed home after years in the enemy's hands or a deserter who abandoned his unit who should be punished accordingly?

For those who knew Bergdahl and his family in this small central Idaho town surrounded by forests and mountains, the politics of war have no place. They just want Bergdahl back home.

"It's like a modern day lynching. He hasn't even been able to give his side of the story yet. This community will welcome him back no matter what," said Lee Ann Ferris, who lives next door to the Bergdahl family and watched Bowe grow up. "He's a hometown kid and he's already suffered enough."

The town of 8,000 has been swamped with hate mail and angry calls, including the 28-year-old Bergdahl un-American and a traitor. Given the prospect of large crowds on both sides of the debate, organizers abruptly canceled their welcome home



BRIAN SKOLOFF/AP

**A Hailey, Idaho, business celebrates Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's release from captivity. The town canceled plans for a hero's welcome for Bergdahl after receiving thousands of angry calls and hate mail.**

celebration. "If you had 10,000 people, 5,000 on one side and 5,000 on the other, then just due to the national attention, we don't know what to expect," Police Chief Jeff Gunter said.

Hailey Chamber of Commerce President Jane Drussel said she

and the organization have gotten angry mail and calls from people lambasting the town's plans.

"The joy has all of a sudden become not so joyful," she said.

Bergdahl was captured by the Taliban after walking away from his unit, unarmed, in 2009. He's currently at a military hospital in

Germany, where he was reported in stable condition.

His parents have spoken publicly only briefly since his release. Several cars were parked outside their modest home Wednesday behind a closed gate with signs that read, "Guard dog on duty" and "No Trespassing."

# Tiny Qatar stands to benefit from go-between role

By ADAM SCHRECK  
The Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — Qatar's behind-the-scenes role in helping secure the release of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in exchange for five Taliban operatives was a classic move by a tiny but natural gas-rich Gulf state with outside ambitions that extend to hosting soccer's World Cup in eight years' time.

The OPEC member has shown a knack for keeping channels to conservative Islamists open while it carries favor with an array of world powers. For Qatar's ruling Al Thani family, it is a hedge that ensures influence and security in a volatile part of the world.

In this case, Qatar was able to act as a broker because of long-standing links to the Taliban. The Islamic militant movement last year opened a representative office in Qatar, but effectively shut it weeks later following a dispute over the use of the name "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" and of a flag flown when it ruled Afghanistan beginning in the 1990s.

It is unclear how many of the Taliban envoys ever left Qatar — but the foundation had been laid for ongoing talks.

The really big continuation of Qatar's strategy of making itself

useful to other powerful countries, and helping them sort out their problems," said Christopher Davidson, a specialist in Gulf affairs at Britain's Durham University.

He likened Qatar to an "Arab Switzerland" and doesn't see a contradiction in it cultivating relationships with both the U.S. and Islamist groups.

"They've always tried to keep a foot in both camps," he said. "It's a way of having a response to accusations that Qatar is un-Islamic. ... It can always pull out of the bag that it's one of the few states that have a direct line to Kandahar or Kabul or wherever else."

Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid bin Mohammed al-Attiyah described his country's role in the lengthy negotiations as a humanitarian gesture when asked about it at a news conference this week. He gave away few details, saying only that the trust Qatar enjoys with both sides helped smooth the process.

American officials have since told The Associated Press that Qatari intermediaries acted as go-betweens for months, including during the final days of negotiations that led to the detainee swap.

The deal that eventually emerged led to the Taliban lead-

ers' quiet arrival in Qatar as an international aviation conference was getting underway following the opening of a sleek, new airport in Doha — and as the country was coming under renewed international scrutiny over its winning, controversial bid to host the World Cup in 2022.

The role of mediator is not new for Qatar.

The emirate was the site of peace talks between Sudanese officials and Darfur rebel groups, and it more recently has hosted gatherings of Syrian opposition groups — of which it is a major backer — fighting to oust President Bashar Assad.

At one point, it even allowed an Israeli trade office to operate — before ordering it closed following Israel's 2008 mini-war with the Islamic militant group Hamas, which ruled the Gaza Strip.

Qatar has worked hard to strengthen its ties to the U.S., including a \$100 million pledge in 2005 to help Americans recover from Hurricane Katrina.

It was one of the only Arab countries to provide active military assistance to NATO-led attacks against the regime of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, deploying warplanes while simultaneously shipping cash and weapons to the rebels who even-

tually toppled him.

The desert outside the capital Doha is home to al-Udeid Air Base, which serves as a major command and logistics hub for American air power in the region. American oil companies including Exxon Mobil have large investments in Qatar's energy industry.

Qatar's actions haven't always been greeted warmly in Washington.

The U.S. government, like many Arab regimes, has had an uneasy relationship with the Qatar-backed pan-Arab TV news network Al-Jazeera. Critics see its coverage as biased and anti-American — charges the network denies.

Despite its dalliance with Israel, Qatar has supported the Jewish state's arch-enemy, Hamas. The former Qatari emir two years ago became the first head of state to visit Gaza since Hamas took over the strip in 2007, and Qatar continues to host Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal.

Other controversial figures who have taken up residence in Qatar over the years include the Egyptian-born cleric Youssef al-Qaradawi, whose fiery sermons have irked Gulf neighbors such as the United Arab Emirates, and Gadhafi's former spy chief Mousa Koussa.

# Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



## Anger over Bergdahl recovery

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's recovery after five years in captivity has rekindled anger among some of his military peers over how he came to fall into enemy hands.

Nice to know our commander-in-stupidity negotiates with terrorists! this endangers all of us, not just soldiers!

— Michaela Daniels

Bergdahl isn't worth the lives of the men lost looking for him or the terrorists we traded him for. Karma, Bergdahl, karma.

— otisreedleman

If this guy did in fact desert then well they should have just left him where he was ... but if there is any chance this is not the case, then we should have done anything possible to get him back.

— stephen michaels

Obama needed what he thought would be a positive distraction from the VA scandal. Looks like it backfired on him.

— thecalmvoiceofreason

I always thought Bergdahl was proven at a courts martial. Bergdahl probably deserted or at least went AWOL. But he has a right to trial before being judged.

— Woodyb4

I no longer believe anything this administration or its perfumed lapdogs in the Pentagon say.

— bhkuna

I hope he gets well, goes home, hugs his mom and disappears ... to never be seen in public again.

— GarryOwen6

Wow... He is getting more medical and psychological help than our veterans left to die on a waiting list...

— Constance Roberts Hoffman

Join the fray at: stripes.com/go/bergdahl

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## MILITARY

# If a war-zone deserter, Bergdahl in rare club

By DAN LAMOTHE

The Washington Post

The chatter about Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has been unrelenting ever since the White House announced Saturday that it had swapped five members of the Taliban in detention for the only U.S. service member held by the enemy in Afghanistan.

The buzz isn't just because Bergdahl had been held in captivity since going missing in Afghanistan on June 30, 2009. It's because it is widely believed that he walked off his base in a war zone with no plans to return. Doing so would be desertion, a crime in the military in which individuals leave their units with no plans to return, or quit to avoid hazardous duty or "important service."

Army Secretary John M. McHugh acknowledged the desertion concerns about Bergdahl on Tuesday, but added that the Defense Department will take "as long as necessary" to help him recover medically from his time in captivity.

"The Army will then review this in a comprehensive, coordinated effort that will include speaking with Sgt. Bergdahl to better learn from him the circumstances of his disappearance

and captivity," McHugh said in a statement. "All other decisions will be made thereafter, and in accordance with appropriate regulations, policies and practices."

Desertion, in itself, is not uncommon. Thousands of U.S. servicemembers did so annually during the height of the Iraq war, according to numerous media reports. Those individuals typically deserted while in the United States, however, either before their unit deployed, or while they were home on leave in the middle of deployments. Many of them sought refuge in Canada, like Kimberly Rivera, an Army private who was sentenced last year to 10 months in prison for fleeing in 2007 from a break in a deployment to Iraq.

What makes Bergdahl's case so unusual in modern times is that he disappeared while in a war zone. There are remarkably few known cases in recent years in which servicemembers have been accused of fleeing their units while deployed.

Perhaps the most famous case is that of Marine Cpl. Wassel Ali Hassoun, who disappeared June 19, 2004, from his base in Fallujah, Iraq. Several media reports suggested the following month that he had been killed after being held captive, but he later

resurfaced at the U.S. Embassy in Lebanon, where he had family. That reportedly came after members of his family traded gunfire in northern Lebanon with another family who had taunted him and his relatives for their ties to the U.S.

In December 2004, Hassoun was charged with desertion. He denied the accusations, but then disappeared again the following month after visiting family in Utah. Little was heard from him again until 2011, when his family reached out to a publicist in Los Angeles seeking a \$1 million book and movie deal, according to an Associated Press account at the time. The publicist told the AP that Hassoun's brother said the missing Marine was living in Lebanon with family.

Another famous case of a servicemember who went missing abroad is Air Force Maj. Jill Metzger. She disappeared while on an approved shopping trip in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, in 2006, sparking a nationwide search be-



Bergdahl

fore she reappeared three days later in a town 20 miles away, saying she had been kidnapped.

Defense officials told ABC News at the time that inconsistencies in her story raised questions whether she actually was running away from a recent marriage. She returned to active duty in 2010, however, after the Air Force Times reported that she had taken an 18-month medical leave. The Air Force released the results of its investigation in 2012 following a series of online reports that questioned her motives, saying it found she was kidnapped and had escaped after stabbing one of her captors. She was never charged with a crime.

The lack of recent desertion cases by U.S. servicemembers abroad contrasts with previous wars. In World War II, for example, some 50,000 U.S. troops deserted in the European theater, according to the 2013 book "The Deserters." Most of those who deserted broke down in combat, and some returned to duty voluntarily without any concerns being raised, the author, Charles Glass, told NPR.

One of the most famous deserters is Pvt. Eddie Slovic, who ran from combat duty in France in 1944 while deployed with the Army's 28th Infantry Division.

He acknowledged deserting in a written confession in October of that year — something that ultimately sealed his fate.

Slovic was shot by a 12-man firing squad after Gen. Dwight Eisenhower, later president of the United States, refused his appeal for leniency and made an example of him. He is still the last U.S. servicemember to be executed for deserting, and was memorialized in a 1974 TV special starring Martin Sheen.

Deserters also disappeared in Vietnam. In one case, a Marine by the name of Douglas Beane who vanished in 1969 was arrested in Australia in 1986, according to an AP report. He later said in interviews that he disappeared after watching a fellow Marine go on a rampage in their camp, killing two U.S. servicemembers and wounding three others. The Los Angeles Times reported that he had nine children with four women in Australia while roaming the countryside using false names, and turned himself in because he wanted to end his life on the run and visit his sick father in Vermont.

Like many other deserters, Beane got off relatively easily. He admitted to all charges in a hearing at Quantico, Va., and accepted an other-than-honorable discharge.

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MILITARY

# Bergdahl's health is said to be improving

# Search: Some soldiers say Bergdahl's actions in 2009 put many lives in danger

FROM FRONT PAGE

By JON HARPER  
AND JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl's health continues to improve, although he remains at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, a Defense Department spokesman said Thursday.

"His health continues to improve daily. He is conversing with medical staff (in English) and becoming more engaged in Landstuhl treatment plans. He is resting better and showing signs of improvement," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters.

Warren would not provide additional details about his health because of privacy concerns. Bergdahl is only in contact with his reintegrating and recovery team, and he has not yet spoken with his parents, according to Warren.

"We don't have a time or date for his next update," said Marie Shaw, a hospital spokeswoman. Bergdahl, who remains in stable condition, still requires medical care, she said.

"All three of these phases progress according to the individual aspects of the assessment of the [medical] team. All other aspects of his reintegrating will progress in accordance with his healing," Warren said.

Bergdahl arrived at the hospital Sunday morning, a day after the Taliban released him from captivity in a controversial prisoner swap for five senior Taliban detainees at Guantanamo Bay. He hasn't been seen by the public, despite a steady presence of media set up outside the hospital's emergency room entrance.

When Barack Obama said Thursday he "absolutely makes no apologies" for seeking the release of Bergdahl in a prisoner swap with the Taliban, vigorously defending an exchange that has caused a furor in the United States and has angered the president on his European trip this week.

When it comes to getting soldiers back from war, Obama said, "We don't condition whether or not we make the effort to try to get them back."

He also said Bergdahl's health had been deteriorating and, "we were deeply concerned about it."

"We saw an opportunity and we seized it. And I make no apologies for that," Obama said during a joint news conference with British Prime Minister David Cameron.

Members of Congress were upset over how the release was handled, saying they should have been consulted before the prisoner swap was carried out.

The Obama administration has told senators it didn't notify Congress about the pending swap of Bergdahl for five Taliban officials because the Taliban had threatened to kill him if the deal was made public, three congressional officials have told The Associated Press.

The threat — not just concerns

that Bergdahl's health might be failing — drove the Obama administration to quickly make the deal to rescue him, the officials said Thursday. The threat was transmitted by Qatari officials at the height of the negotiations, they said.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel was referring in part to the threat when he said Sunday that "there was a question about his safety," the officials told the senators in a closed-door briefing on Wednesday.

The latest explanation comes as several administration and congressional officials say that a December video shown to senators in the briefing portrayed Bergdahl's health as in decline but not so severe that he required an emergency rescue. An assessment by U.S. intelligence agencies in January came to the same conclusion, said two congressional officials familiar with it.

Once he's deemed well enough, Bergdahl will be moved to a military medical treatment center in San Antonio, where he'll continue reintegrating and be reunited with his family.

DOD's reintegrating of former prisoners of war or captives is geared toward gathering critical information while protecting the individual's health and welfare, according to DOD.

While the Pentagon has said Bergdahl's health is of top priority, officials say they also intend to thoroughly investigate the circumstances leading to his disappearance and subsequent capture by the Taliban in 2009 and have not ruled out punishment.

Warren said he did not know if Bergdahl had been debriefed by DOD officials regarding his capture and captivity, but noted that debriefings are an "integral part" of all three phases of the reintegrating process.

Warren said that Hagel will heed calls by lawmakers to discuss the Bergdahl case and the circumstances surrounding his release.

"Secretary Hagel looks forward to speaking with Congress next week. He understands that there are questions and concerns and he is looking forward to addressing them," Warren said, without providing a specific date or time for when that will happen.

Regarding Bergdahl's potential promotion to staff sergeant, which was expected to happen soon, Warren said Bergdahl's duty status has changed since he was released. While he was being held captive, he was classified as "Missing/Captured," but now he is considered an active-duty soldier.

"He now will be considered for promotion per normal Army procedures," according to Warren.

Other former soldiers, no longer bound by Army rules about not discussing Bergdahl, have said much the same and have attracted broad attention. The pictures of six soldiers they claim were killed during patrols assigned to find Bergdahl are being shown repeatedly on television.

Defense officials have responded cautiously. A Defense Department spokesman declined to comment on the assertions that soldiers were killed during a massive 90-day search for Bergdahl after he went missing on June 30, 2009. An initial Army investigation four years ago concluded that he had walked away from his unit without authorization.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel told reporters, "I don't know of any circumstances or details of U.S. soldiers dying as a result of efforts to get Bergdahl." Bing West, like Hagel a combat veteran of Vietnam and an assistant secretary of Defense in the Reagan administration, said it was likely that soldiers died looking for Bergdahl.

"Once a soldier is missing, hundreds of patrols are dispatched to find him," said West, author of books about Marines in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. "Undoubtedly some soldiers were killed during the search over so many years."

Other combat veterans and war historians caution that getting to the truth is very difficult.

"Sometimes you'll never know," said historian and journalist Marc Leepson. "Things happen in a fraction of a second. You know how they say that the worst witness is an eyewitness? Put that in the context of the battlefield and it's hundreds of times worse."

Memories can be faulty or contradictory, "after-action" reports can be skimpy or nonexistent, and sometimes enlisted personnel may not be privy to the complex reasons for any given patrol.

"You get three guys who had the same experience and you can get three different accounts, particularly when they're under stress and sleep deprivation," said Peter Owen, a retired Marine lieutenant colonel who led troops during the assault on Baghdad in 2003. He later wrote a book about World War I and said the research illustrated the limitation of after-



This image taken from video from Voice Of Jihad website shows Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl on the day he was turned over to the United States.

action reports.

"The rumor mill (is) down to dusk," said Leepson, the historian. "The rumors get flying, sometimes with a kernel of truth, sometimes with none."

While military officials have promised an investigation into the circumstances of Bergdahl's capture, they have stopped short of promising a review of assertions about soldiers dying.

"At the appropriate time," Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno said Wednesday, "we will conduct a thorough, transparent and complete review of the circumstances surrounding his capture."

Soldiers who served with Bergdahl agree that a full review is needed.

Evan Beutow, a former sergeant, said that although the unit was posted in a dangerous area subject to regular Taliban attacks, Bergdahl's actions meant soldiers were exposed to even greater dangers because of the demands of the search.

Gerald Sutton, a former Army specialist, said Bergdahl "put our lives in danger."

"All our normal assets were diverted to the search to find Bergdahl," Sutton said. "He needs to be held accountable."

Cornelius put the number of soldiers who died looking for Bergdahl at seven.

"He's not a hero, he's a deserter," he said. "The heroes are the seven people who died because of his actions."

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## MILITARY

# USFK site breach may affect 16,000 S. Korean civilians

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL — U.S. Forces Korea said Thursday the personal information of more than 16,000 South Korean employees, former employees and job applicants may have been stolen from its human resources recruiting system.

USFK senior leadership was notified May 28 of a possible compromise to a Civilian Human Resources Agency Far East website server involving two databases where information for South Korean job applicants and Army Korean Nationals were stored.

The system was subsequently removed from the network. No banking or credit card data or military or defense-related classified information was compromised, according to USFK.

"USFK aggressively and diligently identified potentially impacted individuals, and has taken measures to notify them immediately," the command said. "USFK remains confident in our network surveillance and

protection system and will continue to vigilantly protect our networks and information."

The statement said USFK has taken "prudent action," reported the potential theft to the relevant South Korean ministries and is consulting with the South Korean government. The Army's Criminal Investigative Command's computer crimes unit is investigating.

"We deeply regret and apologize for any inconvenience and concern this may cause you," USFK commander Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti said in a letter Thursday to South Korean employees. "Safety and protection ... are paramount."

USFK is sending letters to those affected by the possible breach and has set up a call center to work with them. It also will offer credit monitoring services to those who request help.

For more information, contact the Korean National Recruiting System Call Center at 080-850-1212.

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## S. Korean troops heading to US mainland for drills

SEOUL — The South Korean army is sending about 170 soldiers next week to take part in the first-ever joint exercise on the U.S. mainland, according to media reports.

The June 9-July 1 drill will take place at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., according to South Korea's Yonhap News.

A South Korean mechanized infantry company and one special forces unit will take part

in the exercise, which is aimed at improving joint combat interoperability.

Soldiers will train on reconnaissance and combat firing during the first half of the exercise. The last two weeks will focus on joint attack and defense drills related to small military units, Yonhap reported.

Previous joint drills have taken place mostly in South Korea, including the massive annual Foal Eagle drill in the spring and the Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill in late summer.

news@stripes.com

## Possible influence leads to dropped sex assault charge

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — A military appeals court has concluded that the Marine Corps commandant's push against sexual assault looked like unlawful command influence and overturned the conviction of an enlisted man on sexual assault charges.

The U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals also set aside the 19-year sentence handed down to Staff Sgt. Stephen P. Howell. The ruling, issued May 22, comes as the military and Congress seek to crack

down on sexual assaults in the armed services.

Howell's case stemmed from allegations of rape, forcible sodomy and adultery brought by a Lexington woman against Howell.

A military judge in October 2012 sentenced Howell to time at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The court concluded that comments by the Marine commandant, Gen. James Amos, tainted the panel handling Howell's case.



Family members take photos as the USS San Juan passes on the Thames River en route to the Navy submarine base in Groton, Conn., after returning from a 7-month deployment on May 16.

## Commander of attack sub relieved of duty

The commander of the attack submarine USS San Juan has been relieved of duty because of "shortfalls in his professional performance," the Navy said Wednesday.

Cmdr. Joseph Biondi was relieved Wednesday by Capt. Vernon Parks of Submarine Development Squadron 12 at Naval Submarine Base New London in Groton, Conn.

A Navy statement cited a loss of confidence in his ability to serve in the position.

Biondi assumed command of the Connecticut-based San Juan on April 27, 2012. He has been administratively reassigned to the staff of Commander, Submarine Group 2.

Cmdr. Sam Geiger, deputy commander at Submarine Squadron 4, has temporarily assumed command of the San Juan.

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## MILITARY



PHOTOS BY ALAN BROWN/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers from 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, are attempting to climb Mount McKinley in Alaska. The expedition will serve to validate training procedures used to maintain readiness for operating in high-altitude, extreme cold-weather environments.

# The McKinley test

Soldiers try out cold-weather training, gear on Alaskan peak

By WYATT OLSON  
Stars and Stripes

While some people see climbing mountains as an expensive risk, two teams of soldiers are demonstrating its practical gains.

The teams — primarily from the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division — are scaling Mount McKinley, the tallest peak in North America, to test their skills and new equipment.

“We’re here to validate our Arctic training and represent the United States Army and show that [U.S. Army Alaska] is No. 1 for Arctic training,” Spc. Matthew Tucker, with the 40th Cavalry Regiment of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, told reporters by phone from a base camp at about 9,600 feet.

Tucker is part of the eight-member Team 2, which arrived by plane at McKinley’s base this week. Team 1 got a much earlier start in May, but bad weather had its members hunkering down for about five days last week. Skies have been clear this week.

Most of the soldiers have not climbed McKinley before.

“I’m learning a lot about Arctic training, Arctic survival, expedition-style camping, expedition-style movement,” Tucker said. “If we don’t all make it to the summit, we’re going to be pretty disappointed. But we all want to make it back safely, too.”

If all goes as planned, they’ll reach the summit on day 14 of the climb, Tucker said.

Tucker estimated a couple hundred mountaineers were in the midst of making the climb. The annual window for ascending McKinley is small — May to July.

At 20,320 feet, McKinley is about 9,000 feet shorter than Mount Everest, mountaineering’s holy grail. But the Alaskan peak holds plenty of its own dangers, with treacherous crevasses and rock slides below 14,000 feet. Awaiting above are strong winds, frostbite and thin air.

Four deaths have been recorded in the last two years, three from falls and one from a heart attack.

Capt. Matthew Hickey, the leader of Team 2 with the 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, said during a call this week that he was “sitting next to our kitchen tent with four stoves blazing” while surrounded by hundreds of mountain range peaks “intermixed with all the black and white of the ice.”

Daytime temperatures were generally in the 20s, he said, but the “oven effect” of the sun reflecting off snow can make it seem warmer, he said. It drops to around zero at night.

The teams are trying out new equipment and apparel. For instance, U.S. Army Alaska uses skis nicknamed the “white rocket,” Hickey said, which are “not a very compatible ski for long-distance skiing,” supplemented with both “mountaineering” skis and alpine-touring skis.

They’ve also adapted the usual 10-man ahkio sled into a single-size sleigh. “We have individualized ahkio sleds so each soldier can be self-sufficient,” Hickey said.

They’re also wearing a new style of winter clothing that’s part of an extreme cold-weather layering system.

It’s the first time some of these items have gone up McKinley with soldiers, he said.



Among the new equipment being tested by U.S. Army Alaska soldiers are these “white rocket” skis.

U.S. Army Alaska climbing teams have ascended the summit via the so-called “West Buttress” route — the most popular with mountaineers — about 16 times in the past 35 years, according to an Army statement.

The teams are chronicling the ascent on Facebook, where one follower recently commented that such climbs are a waste of time and money.

Hickey disputed that harsh assessment: “There’s no other unit in the United States Army that is required to operate in an environment such as this. Soldiers in U.S. Army Alaska are required to deploy and operate not only in training but in a combat environment in a snow-bound, extremely cold, possibly glaciated environment.

“So in the event our nation calls upon us to go to war or to defend our nation in other capacities in environments such as this, we’re ready — or at least we know what changes we need to make in order to be ready.”

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The number of times U.S. Army Alaska climbing teams have ascended Mount McKinley via the so-called “West Buttress” route — the most popular with mountaineers — in the past 35 years, according to an Army statement.

MILITARY

# Acting VA head cites effort in wait-list scandal

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Acting Veterans Affairs Secretary Sloan Gibson said Wednesday his department has contacted all 1,700 veterans caught up in a hospital wait-list scandal in Phoenix and is working to immediately eliminate long treatment delays nationwide.

Gibson met with veterans' groups and spoke publicly for the first time since taking over from retired Army Gen. Eric Shinseki, who resigned Friday over widespread scheduling abuses at VA hospitals and clinics that have been blamed for 40 veteran deaths in Arizona.

But even as Gibson offered reassurances, new details emerged that VA health care facilities in the Midwest also kept 10 off-the-books waiting lists — with two being acknowledged as health threats to patients.

A VA inspector general report last week found the potentially dangerous patient scheduling abuses were systemic in the department but only listed specific problems at the Phoenix VA hospital, where patients were never added to official wait lists as a way to conceal treatment delays of up to several months.

"As the president has directed, we are moving immediately to get veterans off of wait lists and into clinics, and we are taking action to fix the systemic problems that allowed these unacceptable waits to occur," Gibson said during a White House event Wednesday.

Gibson described the VA efforts during a meeting earlier in the day with the American Legion, AMVETS, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of



Sloan Gibson, acting secretary of Veterans Affairs, speaks at the White House on Wednesday.

C.J. LivStars and Stripes

America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Vietnam Veterans of America.

Some of the 1,700 veterans in the IG report declined to provide contact information or were duplicate entries. According to a VA release, Gibson told the groups that by Friday the VA had called the 1,586 veterans the IG found on off-the-books waiting lists kept by staff in Phoenix.

"VA identified that roughly 725 veterans of the 1,700 identified by the (inspector general) wanted care within 30 days," according to the department.

The initial IG report, part of a larger audit of the Phoenix deaths and the VA's nationwide health care system, found that staff used strategies to make it appear facilities were meeting a VA requirement that veterans receive care within 14 days of their requested

schedule dates. The wait times were used in employee performance evaluations and were related to awards and pay bonuses.

A full report is expected to be completed in August.

Before resigning, Shinseki called the department's deep problems "indefensible," saying that level of wrongdoing was something he had rarely seen during his 38 years of military service. Gibson was the VA's No. 2 at the time and was tapped as the acting secretary while the White House searches for a permanent replacement.

For now, Gibson is responsible

for fixing the nation's largest integrated health care system, which serves 6.5 million vets per year — a system plagued with patient and benefits backlogs for years.

New details of wrongdoing and dysfunction were revealed this week in a letter from a VA medical center director to two U.S. senators who represent Kansas.

Ten unauthorized patient wait lists, similar to the lists in Phoenix, were used in the VA Heartland Network, a regional hospital system that serves veterans in Kansas, Missouri, and parts of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Arkansas, according to a copy of the letter sent to Republican Sens. Pat Roberts and Jerry Moran.

In eight of those cases, VA staff was giving training on proper scheduling procedures. But two cases "placed veterans at risk," VA Medical Center Director Francisco Vazquez wrote to the senators.

"The medical centers involved terminated the practice, corrected the gaps in access, and investigations for accountability are ongoing," Vazquez wrote.

Also, the hospital network found 96 veterans who had been waiting over 90 days for care at seven medical centers, according to the letter written May 30.

"Medical centers in VA Heartland Network will be calling the 96 veterans this week to schedule appropriate access to primary care," he wrote.

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Twitter: @Travis\_Tritten

## Health care pick withdraws

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's choice to be the top health official at the Veterans Affairs Department withdrew his nomination Thursday, saying he feared his confirmation could spark a prolonged political battle.

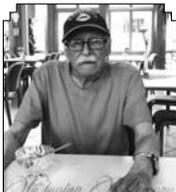
Jeffrey Murawsky, health care chief for the VA's Chicago-based regional office, was nominated last month to be the department's new undersecretary for health care, replacing Robert Petzel, who resigned under pressure.

Petzel had been scheduled to retire later this year but was asked to leave early amid a firestorm over delays in patient care and preventable deaths at veterans hospitals.

Murawsky now oversees seven VA hospitals and 30 clinics in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan, including one in suburban Chicago where there are allegations that its staff used secret lists to conceal long patient wait times for appointments. Murawsky was a doctor at the Hines, Ill., hospital and technically remains on staff.

### Francis "Frank" Miller July 30, 1936 - April 29, 2014

Beloved brother, uncle, friend and co-worker. Frank is survived by his sister Judy Rusch, his sister Mary Greenco and her husband George, his brother Richie Miller and his wife Pattie, his nieces Kim, Debi and Megan; Michelle Hetcher & Stefan, Jennifer and Bobby Sansoke with Leon, and the rest of the "Exchange" family; Simone Liewer, Corinna and the rest of his closest friends; but not least, his two cats, Blackie and Tiger.



Frank led an active and fun-filled life. His military service spanned from 1955-1973, stationing him in many interesting places such as Texas (where he developed a love for the Dallas Cowboys), North Dakota, Thailand and his favorite, Germany. After 20 years of service, he moved to Germany where he lived for 40 years.

Frank worked for AAES for 18 years, known to all as the Food Court "Dining Room Captain." His small pleasures: loving his morning Starbucks coffee with a slice of carrot cake or a doughnut or two, breakfast at the Golf Course on occasion, and he would enjoy a beer or two or three (yes, Frank, we are counting!) at the Bowling Center. The only thing he might love more than beer, coffee and sweets was walking.

At the age of 74, Frank walked the Nijmegen March in the Netherlands for the 25th time with two of his friends — Michelle Hetcher & Rosie Schmitz. His buddy Hector, his sister Mary and her husband George were at the finish line cheering them on. This march is a four-day walk for a total of 164 km in length. In his lifetime, Frank logged a total of over 165,000 km. He would often be seen walking between Bitburg & Spangdahlem. When the going got tough or the weather became nasty, our dear Frank would hitchhike. We would like to thank the kind people that would stop to pick up our friend.

-We love & miss you, Frank!!!

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## MILITARY

## No injuries as Harrier crashes into Calif. homes

By ELLIOT SPAGAT  
AND MATT HAMILTON  
The Associated Press

IMPERIAL, Calif. — A military jet slammed into a Southern California neighborhood dense with homes and exploded in flames, but the pilot and everyone on the ground emerged unscathed, officials said.

Moments after the pilot ejected to safety Wednesday afternoon, the Harrier jet went down in a residential area of Imperial and destroyed two homes and heavily damaged a third.

Christopher Garcia, 11, was watching TV with his father and brother when he heard a frightening boom. Outside, he said he saw a pilot in a parachute falling from the sky, and what looked like a mushroom cloud of dark smoke two blocks away.

He ran to the crash scene to find one house with a collapsed roof, the neighboring house on fire, and a crying woman shouting, "That's my house!"

The boy and other witnesses said panicked neighbors were

running in every direction.

Debris from the Harrier jet hit the roof of one of the houses, which was destroyed, Marine Lt. Col. John Ferguson said. The subsequent explosion and fire destroyed another house and badly damaged one more.

The pilot, the only one aboard the aircraft, landed in a nearby field. He was taken to a hospital for evaluation and released, Ferguson said.

The Harrier AV-8B had taken off from Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., and was almost at his destination at Naval Air Facility El Centro when he ejected and the jet crashed for reasons not immediately clear, Ferguson said.

It came down in the yard on a street lined with small homes on one side with a large park on the other in Imperial, a city of about 15,000 near the U.S.-Mexico border about 90 miles east of San Diego.

Residents of eight more homes had to evacuate for the investigation and cleanup but later returned, officials said.



LENNY IONELZI/AP

Officials stand outside an Imperial, Calif., home that caught fire after a Marine Harrier jet crashed into the neighborhood Wednesday. Debris from the jet is on the ground to the right.

## Fort Hood prostitution hearing concludes

The Associated Press

FORT HOOD, Texas — An official will recede Wednesday as Fort Hood sergeant will face a court-martial for allegedly setting up a prostitution ring of cash-strapped female soldiers.

Sgt. 1st Class Gregory McQueen faces 21 criminal charges that include pandering, adultery and sexual assault.

During the two-day Article 32 hearing, three women testified that McQueen recruited or attempted to recruit them to sell sex to higher-ranking soldiers.

One female private, who was granted immunity in exchange for her testimony, said she assisted McQueen in approaching young women.

"I didn't necessarily want to do it, Sir, but I did," she told the court-martial judge.

McQueen was a noncommissioned sexual-assault prevention and counseling officer when the solicitations allegedly occurred.

The outcome of the high-profile case will be closely watched amid growing criticism of the military's treatment of sexual assault within its ranks.

Sgt. Jennifer Dice, McQueen's successor at SHARP, testified Wednesday that the criminal investigation had "compromised" the program. "Now soldiers don't want to come forward; they don't trust leaders," she said.

McQueen made no statement during the hearing, and Fort Hood officials declined a request by The Associated Press to speak to the defendant.

## AAFES seeks to expand online sales

By TOM PHILPOTT

Defense officials are weighing a proposal from the director of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) to allow the nation's 22 million honorably discharged veterans, and perhaps an equal number of their family members, to shop online for military exchange products and discounts.

Shoppers who use the AAFES website enjoy savings of up to 25 percent on many brand name products. They also avoid state and local sales taxes on their purchases just like on-base shoppers do.

By providing online discounts to millions of deserving veterans and families, said Thomas C. Shull, chief executive officer of AAFES, the exchange services would see overall profits soar while protecting the benefit in tough budget times and ensuring that quality-of-life programs for military families continue to be funded by exchange profits or "dividends."

Shull pitched his idea in a May 8 memo to the under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, with review and comment also sought from top manpower officials in the Army, Navy and Air Force. A spokeswoman for Acting Under Secretary Jessica L. Garfola Wright said the proposal "is an exciting staffing and no decisions have been made."

Allowing veterans access to online exchange shopping, Shull said in his memo, "will not adversely affect the benefit to currently serving and retiree personnel in any way." Indeed, he added, it will enhance the benefit by increasing profits and, therefore, increasing dividends to support the services'

Morale, Welfare and Recreation "funding accounts."

"Then he summarized why it's in jeopardy, citing "announced and planned troop drawdowns, large cuts to the DOD budget for Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities, and fewer personnel and families living on the installation."

In a phone interview Tuesday from AAFES headquarters in Dallas, Shull, a West Point graduate and retired Reserve major, said his online proposal is a "win-win-win" idea. It would help veterans, help exchanges and help to protect force "readiness and resiliency" by ensuring that exchange profits can sustain on-base quality of life programs.

AAFES is the largest of three exchange services. Defense officials might reject Shull's plan unless all three support it. Marine Corps Exchange officials are said to be in favor, though this could not be confirmed by deadline.

Kathleen Martin, spokeswoman for the Navy Exchange Service Command, said with the proposal under review "it would be premature for us to comment ... at this time."

Navy officials, a source said, have raised concerns about the added cost of verifying veterans' status for millions of potential shoppers, and whether allowing online shopping would lead, over time, to pressure that millions of veterans deserve full access to on-base stores.

A total of 12 million active duty and Reserve component members, retirees, dependents and survivors

are now eligible to shop at military exchanges. Shull envisions that pool expanded for online shopping to 44 million including honorably discharged veterans and dependents. He projects online sales would climb from \$200 million a year to \$1 billion.

Unlimited exchange privileges are available now only to veterans who are military retirees or 100-percent disabled or hospitalized on base. To expand shopper eligibility requires only a change in defense policy, not law.

Whether Shull's plan is approved or not, AAFES will broaden its selection of goods sold online by year's end from 20 percent of items now stocked in larger exchange stores to 50 percent. AAFES also is conducting a major overhaul of its online shopping experience by partnering with outside retail experts to speed ordering and shipping, and to expand call centers. Online shoppers will see vast improvements by Labor Day, Shull said.

He first thought of giving more veterans access to online shopping a year ago, Shull said, in considering the extraordinary pace of operations from recent wars with many members deploying four or five times to Iraq and Afghanistan. This left servicemembers at greater risk but also their families, given high divorce rates and other consequences, Shull said.

The notion that vets from any era would deserve and appreciate online discount shopping, dovetailed nicely with other AAFES goals: to preserve the benefit amid

tighter budgets and a force drawdown, and to sustain profits to fund MWR programs.

Last March Shull had authored another controversial memo, this one in reaction to administration plans to slash funding for commissaries, from \$1.4 billion annually down to \$400 million, by fiscal 2017, and allow grocery discounts to fall from 30 percent, on average, down to 10 percent. Shull warned that an exodus of patrons would "render the commissary system unsustainable," forcing many stores to close with "devastating" consequences to exchanges.

To better handle such cuts and preserve discount shopping, Shull proposed merging commissary operations with exchanges, and relying on resulting efficiencies to stabilize grocery prices and ultimately keep patrons.

The administration's plan to cut commissary support has gained no traction in Congress this year.

To date, online shopping has been a break-even feature for AAFES. But if honorably discharged veterans are allowed to shop online, Shull predicts a 10-fold increase in online sales and profits of \$160 million annually, a pop of 50 percent in total AAFES profits.

Representatives of major military associations who serve on the Exchange Retiree Advisory Council unanimously support the plan. Shull said he hopes to have a decision from Defense officials within a few months. Shull would like to have online shopping open to millions more veterans by Veterans Day 2015.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or Twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update

MILITARY  
UPDATE

NATION



ROCELIO V. SOLIS/AP

**U.S. Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., waves to supporters as he leaves a stop Wednesday on the first day of a three-week campaign.**

# Miss. faces slog in 3-week race for Senate seat

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS  
The Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — Mississippi voters already weary of the ugliest campaign in a generation are bracing for another three weeks of tear-down-your-opponent politicking.

Challenger Chris McDaniel and Sen. Thad Cochran head toward a runoff in the tea party's strongest attempt this year to unseat a powerful longtime lawmaker. Automated phone calls already have started, and independent groups are pledging significant financial support for advertising.

McDaniel held a narrow lead over Cochran after Tuesday's primary as thousands of mail-in and provisional ballots remained to be counted. With a low-budget third candidate in the race, no one grabbed the majority needed to avoid the June 24 runoff.

McDaniel's campaign cited his first-place finish as evidence of a "groundswell of energy behind his campaign to bring a true conservative agenda to Washington, D.C."

Cochran, 76 and seeking a seventh term, made a brief afternoon stop Wednesday at a fast-food restaurant in a suburb of Jackson. He shook hands and posed for photos with constituents, many of whom had been invited to the event.

Emotions were running high in a state where gentility is a value in politics — if not a practice. Dannie Reed, a former member of the state Legislature and a McDaniel supporter, said the state Republican establishment has shunned people like him and Cochran's challenger.

"The tea party has been so vilified and labeled," he said. "Look at all the hypocrisy in the race. ... It's just everywhere around this established Republican institution."

Clark Reed, a Cochran supporter and former state party



GEORGE CLARK/AP

**Chris McDaniel addresses his supporters on Tuesday at the Lake Terrace Convention Center in Hattiesburg, Miss.**

chairman, criticized the spending by out-of-state groups that paid for a steady stream of anti-Cochran TV ads.

"They came in and hijacked the Mississippi tea party people, poured the money down here," he said. "We never had ads like this down here with half-lies, which is worse than full lies."

The third candidate in the race, real estate agent Tom Carey, said in an interview that he had a preference between Cochran and McDaniel but wouldn't disclose it.

"The two candidates need to talk about issues instead of the backbiting and backstabbing that they've done," Carey said, referring to the legal and political controversy that came when four supporters of McDaniel were arrested and charged in an suspected plot to illegally photograph Cochran's wife, who has dementia and lives in a nursing home.

Results from 99 percent of the state's precincts showed McDaniel with 155,040 votes, or 49.5 percent. Cochran had 153,654, or 49 percent. Carey had 4,789 votes, or 1.5 percent.

# Iraq veteran claims primary win by emphasizing her life

By THOMAS BEAUMONT  
The Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa — Joni Ernst, a mother from farm country and Iraq war veteran who was little known outside her rural legislative district only months ago, surprisingly won Iowa's Republican Senate primary going away and now appears well positioned to compete for a seat that could help determine whether the GOP wins control of Congress.

The state lawmaker projected a just-folks personality, backed by a blitz of clever TV advertising, to sweep the five-candidate GOP race and became one of the unexpected stars of the primary season. Now she faces a tougher test against a four-term Democratic congressman, Bruce Braley, who has more than \$2.3 million in the bank, compared with her \$100,000, and a slight edge in the polls. The winner will succeed Democratic Sen. Tom Harkin, who is retiring after five terms.

"She oozes personality, and a likable Republican in a swing state is hard to beat," said national GOP pollster and strategist Greg Strimple, who is not advising the Ernst campaign.

Ernst, 43, who defeated four male opponents in turning a one-candidate race into a rout, emphasized her background growing up on a farm and her National Guard service in Iraq to stand apart from



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

**State Sen. Joni Ernst speaks to supporters Tuesday at a primary election night rally in Des Moines, Iowa, after winning the Republican nomination for the U.S. Senate.**

the field. Her ads showing her smiling, gun-toting, motorcycle-riding image plays as well against Braley, 56, a lawyer, as it did against Mark Jacobs, the former energy company CEO who was her chief competitor in the primary.

"She's really authentic. What you see is what you get," said Lt. Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican and friend of Ernst's.

Republican strategists hope the smiling, gun-toting, motorcycle-riding image plays as well against Braley, 56, a lawyer, as it did against Mark Jacobs, the former energy company CEO who was her chief competitor in the primary.

The race for Iowa's first open Senate seat in 40 years comes as Republicans need to gain six seats to win the Senate majority. Braley seems more vulnerable than he did earlier this year, and both parties, along with outside groups, are expected to make the contest among the most expensive in the nation.

In the ad that boosted Ernst's rise, she likens her experience castrating hogs on the farm where she grew up to cutting government spending. "Let's make 'em squeal," she says, smiling.

Wednesday, Braley began airing ads challenging Ernst's boasts. The ad says Ernst never wrote legislation to cut spending and backed higher spending in the Legislature.

"Sen. Ernst's ads are clever," said Braley's campaign manager, Sarah Benzing. "It's important for Iowans to get to know the real Joni Ernst."

If elected, Ernst will be the first woman elected to Congress from Iowa.

Ernst grew up in small-town Red Oak and enlisted in the Iowa National Guard after attending Iowa State University. She won a state Senate seat in 2010. As a colonel commanding a transportation company, she led daily convoys of 60 trucks from Kuwait into Iraq in 2003 and 2004.

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## NATION

# Application 'inconsistencies' vex health law

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A huge, new paperwork headache for the government also could be jeopardizing coverage for some of the millions of people who just got health insurance under President Barack Obama's law.

A government document provided to The Associated Press indicates that at least 2 million people enrolled for taxpayer-subsidized private health insurance have data discrepancies in

their applications that, if unresolved, could affect what they pay for coverage, or even their legal right to benefits.

The final number affected could well be higher. According to the administration, the 2 million figure reflects only consumers who signed up through the federally administered HealthCare.gov website and call centers. The government signed up about 5.4 million people, while state-run websites signed up another 2.6 million.

For consumers, a discrepancy

means that the information they supplied, subject to perjury laws, does not match what the government has on record.

For example, someone who underestimated his income, and got too generous a subsidy as a result, could owe the Internal Revenue Service money next year.

The seven-page slide presentation from the Health and Human Services Department was provided to AP as several congressional committees investigate the discrepancies. Most of the data

conflicts involve important details on income, citizenship and immigration status — which affect eligibility and subsidies.

Ensuring that health care benefits are delivered accurately is a priority for HHS nominee Sylvia Mathews Burwell, whose confirmation as department secretary is before the Senate this week.

Responding to the document, administration officials expressed confidence that most of the discrepancies can be resolved over the summer. Nonetheless,

the department has set up a system to "turn off" benefits for anyone who is found to be ineligible.

Julie Bataille, communications coordinator for the health care rollout, said many of the discrepancies appear to be due to outdated information in government files — and the "vast majority" of cases are being resolved in favor of consumers. The government is making an all-out effort to reach those with various discrepancies, which officials have termed "inconsistencies."

## Report says NASA strategy can't get humans to Mars

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A sweeping review of NASA's human spaceflight program has concluded that the agency has an unsustainable and unsafe strategy that will prevent the U.S. from achieving a human landing on Mars in the foreseeable future.

The 286-page National Research Council report, the culmination of an 18-month investigation mandated by Congress, says that to continue on the present course under budgets that don't even keep pace with inflation "is to invite failure, disillusionment, and the loss of the longstanding international perception that human spaceflight is something the United States does best."

The report makes a case for sending astronauts back to the moon. That's an idea that has been vocally opposed by President Barack Obama. Obama killed the Constellation program, which had been backed by President George W. Bush and would have included a return to the moon.

The key argument against the Constellation program was that it didn't pencil out — that there wasn't nearly enough money dedicated to the program to achieve the lunar landing it envisioned. But now the NRC committee has delivered essentially the same assessment of the Obama Administration's current NASA program

of record. If the goal is Mars, the committee said, the current strategy isn't going to work.

"Absent a very fundamental change in the nation's way of doing business, it is not realistic to believe that we can achieve the consensus goal of reaching Mars," committee co-chair and former Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels said Wednesday morning in an interview.

NASA spokesperson David Weaver said the agency welcomed the report, and characterized it as being "consistent with the bipartisan plan agreed to by Congress and the Administration in the NASA Authorization Act of 2010 and that we have been implementing ever since."

Weaver added, "NASA has made significant progress on many key elements that will be needed to reach Mars, and we continue on this path in collaboration with industry and other nations."

The NRC's Committee on Human Spaceflight also probed the philosophical question of why we send humans into space to begin with. That question incited the formation of the \$3.2 million review effort, which was funded by NASA.

The committee concluded that the purely practical, economic benefits of human spaceflight do not justify the costs involved, but said that the aspirational nature of the endeavor may make it worth the effort.



RYAN LAVIS, (NEW YORK) STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/AP

Firefighters battle a blaze that tore through three townhouses on New York City's Staten Island early Thursday.

## NYC officials: 34 hurt in Staten Island fire

By ULA ILYTZKY  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Fire tore through three townhouses on Staten Island early Thursday, injuring 34 people including two young children who were tossed out of a smoke-filled, second-floor window into the arms of neighbors below, authorities and witnesses said.

About 200 firefighters responded to the blaze that erupted about 1 a.m. and battled the five-alarm fire for several hours.

A Fire Department of New York spokesman said 23 firefighters and 11 civilians suffered injuries ranging from minor to serious but none was considered life-threatening. He said the number was expected to climb slightly.

He said the flames were so heavy that firefighters were unable to say where the fire originated. That would be part of the investigation into what caused the blaze, he said.

"My life is in here," said Cindy Piscopo, who lived on the first floor of one of the four-family

townhouses.

She said she was awakened by a top-floor neighbor knocking on her door and yelling at her to get out.

The fire spread to the third building about two hours later, said Piscopo, who escaped safely with her 12-year-old daughter.

A neighbor, Anthony DiSimone, said he and his fiancée, Darleen Cerzowiec, helped two young children to safety after seeing a man screaming and dangling his young son from a second-floor window thick with smoke.

## Federal officials say shield against deportation can be extended

By ELICIA A. CALDWELL  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Young immigrants who have won U.S. government protection from deportation can apply for another two years of safety.

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will start taking renewal applications from the more than half-million immigrants already enrolled in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program

starting immediately.

Renewal applications are being sought now to ensure that immigrants already in the program don't fall out of status, Alejandro Mayorkas, the deputy secretary of the Homeland Security Department, said Wednesday. Renewals, like new applications, carry a \$465 fee. The program remains open for first-time applicants.

DACA, as the program has come to be known in immigration circles, was launched in advance of the 2012 presiden-

tial elections and the first applications were approved in September of that year. Since then, more than 560,000 immigrants who arrived in the United States as children but didn't have legal status have been given permission to legally stay for two years.

Mayorkas announced the renewal program in the midst of President Barack Obama's latest push to get Congress to pass a comprehensive immigration bill in advance of November's midterm elections. Last month, the White House announced

that a Homeland Security-led review of deportation policies would be put on hold until the end of the summer.

The delay is aimed at giving Congress time to act on immigration before the August recess.

DACA was hailed by immigration advocates as a good interim fix to a larger problem of what to do with the more than 1.1 million immigrants thought to be living in the country illegally.

## NATION

# Risky business

## Low-budget filmmakers rely on tricks, shortcuts and even some lawbreaking

By SABA HAMEDY  
Los Angeles Times

In a quiet hillside home in Topanga Canyon, Calif., filmmaker Brian McGuire instructed his cast members to take their shirts off, put their sunglasses on, snort fake cocaine and “party hard.”

The 20-person cast and crew were filming a party scene for McGuire’s low-budget production in a “borrowed” home. Permission wasn’t a problem — a friend of McGuire’s who had helped decorate the house knew where the key was.

“We didn’t even think we were trespassing, really,” McGuire said of the home, which was on the market. “We figured we’d just shoot here on a weekend when we didn’t think anyone was coming.”

By the third and final day of shooting the scene for the film, a dark comedy called “Prevertère,” the party was going really well — no damage, decent footage. Then McGuire and crew had an unexpected guest.

“A Realtor showed up with a couple of clients to show the house, and we were there shooting out this crazy party scene,” McGuire said. “All of a sudden I’m hearing that cops are on

their way. So we shot this whole number in 20 minutes, when it should have been in three hours ... and packed up and ran out of the house.”

McGuire, 38, knows things aren’t always easy — or necessarily legal — when it comes to low-budget filmmaking, a world filled with improvisation, favors and shortcuts.

“I’ve been close to danger, but I’ve gotten out of it,” McGuire said. “If you ever do get questioned, there are tricks to avoid trouble.”

Some of McGuire’s favorite tricks include not using a tripod (“they can’t fine you if you don’t put a tripod on the ground”) or saying he’s filming a wedding video. Once, when filming downtown, McGuire had his crew push the cameraman around in a wheelchair to avoid getting busted.

The shaggy-haired filmmaker has made six low-budget films and is working on his seventh. “I don’t think I’ve ever gotten a permit.”

Last year, permits for 584 feature films were sought from FilmL.A., the office that processes film permits in the city, said Philip Sokolosi, a spokesman for the office. The movies had budgets as high as \$170 million for the Marvel Studios hero flick “Captain America: The Winter Sol-

dier,” which filmed mostly in the city.

But also filming on the streets of the city are super-low-budget films made by students and other Hollywood hopefuls, like McGuire, working with four-digit budgets.

Some are working without permits despite a city ordinance that makes it a misdemeanor to film without one.

The cost is almost certainly a large factor: A film permit through FilmL.A. costs a minimum of \$625. Additional fees may be imposed by the city or county — depending on choice of locations and the “activities you plan to film,” according to its website.

Sokolosi said it’s harder for illegal filming to go unnoticed. In recent years, the Los Angeles Police Department has cracked down on unpermitted filming through its Contract Services Section.

“Revisions to L.A.’s film ordinance provided a clear legal mechanism for film permit enforcement,” he said.

“LAPD’s choice to dedicate a unit to film permit approval and enforcement made enforcement efforts more consistent. (And) communities know the process that legal filming goes through, so illegal filming stands out.”

Sokolosi said the LAPD reported 34 permit citations in 2012 and 52 ci-



Dan Finkel, right, directs a scene with actor Larry Lederman, in lab coat, at Finkel’s Los Angeles home for his latest film, “Brain Pickle,” in February. Some filmmakers are cutting corners in order to save money.

tations in 2013.

“Whenever a citation is issued, the unpermitted activity is also shut down immediately,” he said.

Low-budget filmmakers say it’s usually worth the hassle and occasional risk.

“People want to be part of something that’s cool and fun,” filmmaker David Lockhart said. “Low-budget filmmaking is about community and sharing your talents with others within that community.”

It took Lockhart only about 30 minutes to turn a Culver City dive bar into the set of a 1920s flashback scene for his \$500,000 film “Lockhart.”

Although Lockhart is working with a larger budget than McGuire, he still uses a lot of tricks to save money. For this project, he did get a permit — but he said he’s avoided doing so with smaller films in the past.

Suzanne Lyons, the author of “Indie Film Producing: The Craft of Low-Budget Filmmaking,” said fundraising for a low-budget film can often stifle the creative process.

“Film funding is a gigantic issue for all of us,” she said, “and that one thing alone will get in the way of someone making their film.”

To raise money and awareness about their projects, many filmmakers flock to fundraising websites Kickstarter or GoFundMe. Some go straight to investors.

“I think you have to look ahead — you don’t even necessarily need distribution,” Lockhart said. “You can sell it on your own website or Netflix, iTunes. There’s no good way or bad way.”

McGuire, for example, uploads trailers of all his films onto his professional website, Brianmcguire.info, and Vimeo. Several of his films are also available for purchase on Amazon Instant Video, Google Play and iTunes.

But in the process of looking for a means to make the film, Lyons said people often forget to follow laws.

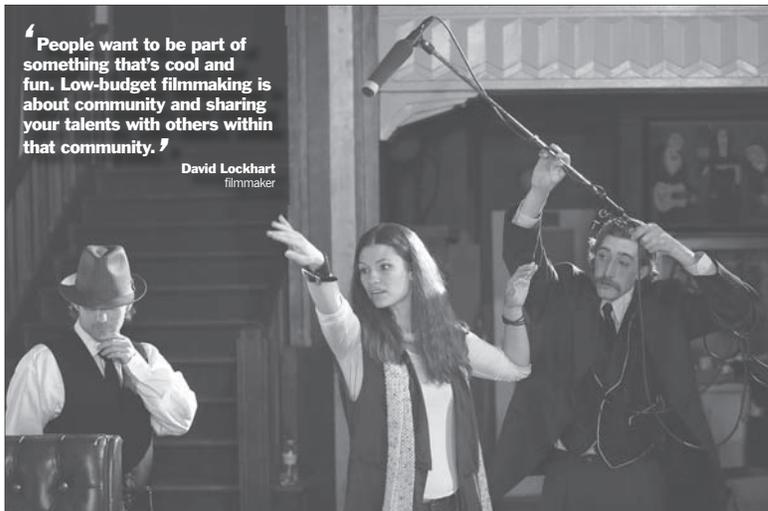
“What happens with us a lot of times in the indie world is we are so busy wearing the creative hat — which is important — but forget about the business hat,” she said.

Lyons said her No. 1 tip to aspiring filmmakers is “get your paperwork done.”

“Filmmaking can be easy if you take the right attitude and right approach,” she said.

“People want to be part of something that’s cool and fun. Low-budget filmmaking is about community and sharing your talents with others within that community.”

David Lockhart  
filmmaker



PHOTOS BY LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Actor Sean McIntire, right, holds an improvised boom microphone as director KT Kent sets up a shot for actor David Lockhart, left, on the set of the movie “Lockhart” in Los Angeles in March. Producing movies on a tight budget means everyone — cast and crew — may work several roles.

## FAITH



KATE LINTHICUM, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Participants on a Taglit Birthright trip earlier this year. The program, which organizes free trips to Israel for young Jewish adults, is growing.

## Making a deep cultural connection

### Birthright trips to Israel offer young Jews a free trip, maybe a chance to find a mate

By KATE LINTHICUM  
Los Angeles Times

DEAD SEA, West Bank — On a recent afternoon, Diana Blau, 22, was relaxing on the beach after bathing in the salty waters of the Dead Sea.

Blau's mother is Jewish and her father Greek Orthodox.

She has never strongly identified with Jewish culture or religion, she said, in part because she doesn't regularly attend synagogue and didn't grow up with many Jewish friends.

"There's a disconnect," said Blau, a graphic designer from Emerson, N.J. "I'm usually the only Jew in the room."

In many ways Blau is the target demographic for Taglit-Birthright, which provides free trips to the Holy Land for Jewish young adults ages 18 to 26.

In recent years, the program has been redoubling its efforts to help keep Jewish tradition afloat amid increasing anxiety that young members of the Jewish diaspora are losing their connection to their culture and to Israel.

One recent survey by the Pew Research Center found that one-third of Jews under 30 said being Jewish was very important to them.

That compares with 54 percent of Jews 65 and older.

Intermarriage, long viewed as a threat to American Judaism, also continues to increase.

Of survey respondents married since 2000, nearly 6 in 10 had wed a non-Jew,

**'If there isn't any kind of connection made, then Jews will intermarry. And eventually there won't be Jews anymore.'**

Michael Koss  
Birthright donor

compared with 4 in 10 among those who married in the 1980s and 2 in 10 among those who married before 1970.

Offering Jewish young adults a chance to experience Israel together may change that.

A recent Brandeis University survey on Birthright found that participants were more than 45 percent more likely to marry someone Jewish, a statistic that underscores one of the program's main goals: introducing Jews to one another.

Birthright encourages participants to socialize, and it also places young Israeli soldiers on every tour bus.

Birthright donor Michael Koss, a real estate investor in West Los Angeles, said introducing Jews to one another is essential to preserving "the continuity" of Judaism.

"If there isn't any kind of connection made, then Jews will intermarry," he said. "And eventually there won't be Jews anymore."

Created in 1999 by Seagram spirits heir Charles Bronfman and hedge fund manager Michael Steinhart, Birthright has recently expanded through donations of more than \$200 million each from Las

Vegas casino magnate and Republican fundraiser Sheldon Adelson and the Israeli government.

Last year, the program sent 44,000 people to Israel, double the number four years ago.

During that time, the program has also loosened its eligibility requirements, allowing some of those who have previously traveled in a group to Israel to participate.

It has also sought to broaden its appeal by reaching out to niche groups. It now offers specialized trips for those who love the outdoors and culinary tours designed for foodies, including an evening in which participants cook a meal for Israel Defense Forces soldiers.

Other targeted tours cater to animal lovers, lacrosse players, first responders, and the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community.

Blau, who acknowledges that she probably would never have come to Israel if it weren't for a free Birthright trip, was one of three dozen young Americans and Canadians between the ages of 18 and 26 who crisscrossed the country by bus this

year.

The group had been in Israel for less than two days, but already its members had prayed at the Western Wall, slept in a tent in the Negev desert, climbed to the top of the ancient fortress of Masada and ridden camels.

Walking through the stone gates to Jerusalem's Old City, Sam Paul, 26, said his emotions surprised him.

"It was a spiritual experience I didn't expect to get," said Paul, an insurance broker from Manchester, N.H.

For David Weingrad, 26, of Merrick, N.Y., being in Israel had reaffirmed his pro-Israel stance.

"We were here first, it's our land," he said. "We belong here."

Critics of the program describe it as a vehicle for Israeli propaganda that seeks to downplay the conflict with Palestinians.

Some have started an alternative program called Birthright Unplugged that includes extensive tours of the Palestinian territories, which the original Birthright leaves off its itinerary.

The tour guide leading the Birthright trip that Blau and Paul joined said he makes a point of taking his groups to the barrier that divides Israel and the West Bank.

Guide Ayal Beer said he also emphasizes Israel's domestic complexities, including tensions between the country's secular and ultra-Orthodox Jewish communities.

"My personal goal is that people will come out with more questions than answers," Beer said.

NATION

**“ I know what it is to be bullied and what is to be bullied online, and I want to be the protector of those who think it won't get better. ”**

**Lizzie Velasquez**  
motivational speaker

# Showing her strength

## Woman with rare syndrome draws on her life experience for anti-bullying documentary

BY ENRIQUE LOPETEGUI  
*The Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — In December, she inspired millions with her TED Talk. Now Lizzie Velasquez, once called “the world’s ugliest woman,” hopes to reach an even wider audience through an anti-bullying documentary about her story.

“I know what it is to be bullied and what is to be bullied online, and I want to be the protector of those who think it won’t get better,” said Velasquez, 25, who has a rare disease that makes it impossible for her to gain weight. She has never weighed more than 64 pounds and is blind in one eye.

“The idea is that they see the documentary and realize that, yes, it is possible to overcome everything,” she told *The Associated Press* during an interview in a coffee shop in Austin, Texas.

She’s raising money for the film, tentatively titled “The Lizzie Project,” through a Kickstarter campaign that has already collected more than \$123,000 in donations. The campaign, whose trailer can be seen at [TheLizzieProject.com](http://TheLizzieProject.com), ends May 31. The goal is to raise \$180,000.

Velasquez was born in Austin in 1989 with a syndrome so rare only two other people in the world are known to have it.

She became a celebrity on Dec. 5, 2013, when her TED Talk (short speeches designed to share and spread ideas from a number of disciplines) in Austin (part of the worldwide event TEDxWomen) became a hit.

In her speech, Velasquez explained that her life changed at age 17, when she saw herself on a YouTube video titled, “The world’s ugliest woman.”

The video’s comments section featured comments such as, “Do the world a favor and put a gun to your head.”

“Instead of just taking shelter of my tears, I chose to be happy and realize this syndrome is not a problem but a blessing that allows me to improve myself and inspire other people,” said Velasquez.

In the years since she saw the video and comments, Velasquez graduated from col-

lege, wrote three self-help books (the third, “Choosing Happiness,” will be published in August) and gained tens of thousands of followers on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. She’s been interviewed by Katie Couric and ABC’s “The View,” where she met Barbara Walters and Whoopi Goldberg.

Velasquez credits her strength to her parents, who have always loved her the same way they love her siblings, Marina and Chris, neither of whom suffer from the syndrome.

“They’re the best parents in the entire world,” said Velasquez. “From the moment I was born they showered me with love. And they didn’t just raise me. They raised my brother and sister in the exact same way. So that love, multiplied times three, is what definitely brought me to where I am today.”

Velasquez was born four weeks premature. Doctors used a photo to show her to her mother for the first time.

“I started crying inconsolably, but I asked them to bring her to me nevertheless,” said Rita Velasquez. “I wanted to see her, hold her and love her.”

Her father said Lizzie realized she was different on her first day of kindergarten, when other kids didn’t want to play with her.

“We told her about the syndrome and, ever since, (Lizzie) showed great signs of maturity,” he said.

“Lizzie has such an inner strength and sense of humor that anyone can relate to her,” said Sara Bordo, a first-time director working with Velasquez on the film project.

“We all have difficulties in life, but nothing compared to what she has been through. Her positive attitude elevates the spirit of any person in the world.”

Velasquez says she’s not interested in a possible cure for her syndrome.

“No, there is no way, I wouldn’t even consider it,” Velasquez said. “If you had asked me that question when I was 13, I’d probably have said yes. I’d be all for it, I’d do the trial, whatever. But if you ask me that now, I’ve learned and I’ve come such a long way to be able to accept who I am and own who I am that, if I changed anything about me I wouldn’t be Lizzie, I wouldn’t be true to myself.”



**Author and motivational speaker Lizzie Velasquez, who possesses a rare and unknown syndrome that prevents her from gaining weight, is raising funds on Kickstarter for an anti-bullying documentary.**

JOHN SHEARER, INVISION/AP

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WORLD

# US Embassy in Kenya increases defenses

By JASON STRAZIUSO  
The Associated Press

**NAIROBI, Kenya** — The Marine stood behind a camouflaged sandbag bunker atop the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi and scanned the horizon with binoculars. What he saw was a busy street that officials fear is full of targets for an attack by al-Qaida-linked militants because diplomatic missions are in the neighborhood.

More than 15 years after al-Qaida destroyed the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi with a massive truck bomb that killed more than 200 people, fear is rising that U.S. diplomatic personnel and property could again be targeted. Armed Marines are now stationed on the embassy's roof, one indication of recent security upgrades.

Intelligence has been circulating in the region the last two months that American interests are the next intended target for al-Shabab, an al-Qaida linked group in Somalia responsible for last year's attack on Nairobi's Westgate Mall, said a Kenyan police official who insisted on anonymity to talk about security matters.

The terror group has also

shown interest in attacking the U.S. military base in Djibouti, just north of Somalia, and there were indications that the U.S. Embassy in Ethiopia was being considered as a target last year, said Matt Bryden, the former head of the United Nations Monitoring Group on Somalia and Eritrea and a top expert on al-Shabab.

Ambassador Robert Godec last week told some 400 Americans at a town hall meeting. "We know that there's a threat, and we know it's serious."

The embassy looks likely to scale back the number of U.S. personnel stationed in Kenya, in part by reducing or moving the East Africa mission for the U.S. aid agency USAID.

In a statement to The Associated Press after the town hall, Godec, who was stationed in Nairobi during the 1998 embassy bombing, said the embassy is continually evaluating its security posture and updating security based on threat information analysis.

The U.S. Embassy sits across from the street from the U.N. headquarters in Kenya. Kenya recently deployed more security forces on the street.



Rescue workers carry Susan Francisca Muriainki, a U.S. Embassy office worker, over rubble following a truck bomb at the embassy that killed more than 200 people, in Nairobi, Kenya, on Aug. 7, 1998. Fear is rising in Nairobi that U.S. diplomatic personnel and property could again be targeted by terrorists.



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15	16	17	18	19	20	21	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	27	28	29	30	31	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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## THE NEW SANNO

## WORLD

# Japan, N. Korea eye deal despite tense climate

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan and North Korea appear to be on the verge of a breakthrough on a bizarre legacy of the Cold War, a secret, government-ordered program that led to the abduction of more than a dozen and possibly several hundred Japanese citizens in the 1970s and '80s by North Korean infiltrators and spies.

After three days of talks in Stockholm last week, North Korea agreed to open a new investigation into the abductions, the biggest step forward Tokyo and Pyongyang have made in years. Questions over the fate of the abductees — some believed to still be alive — have kept relations in a deep freeze.

A resolution would be a big win for Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, while North Korean leader Kim Jong Un would in return get the lifting of some

sanctions and possibly increased humanitarian aid. The U.S. and South Korea, however, fear Abe could weaken diplomatic efforts for North Korea to abandon its nuclear program by focusing too much on the abduction issue.

After it confirms North Korea has set up a committee to begin investigating the abductions, Japan says it will consider humanitarian aid for North Korea and lifting some sanctions. Previous deals with Pyongyang have proven fragile. After years of denial, North Korea acknowledged in an unprecedented summit between Kim Jong Il and Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi in 2002 that its agents had kidnapped 13 Japanese, mainly to train spies in Japanese language and culture. It allowed five of them to return to Japan that year, but said the others had died.

What appeared to be a major



Shinzo Abe



Kim Jong Un

step forward then deteriorated into a mire of even deeper distrust, as Tokyo accused Pyongyang of falsifying its claims about the deaths and reneged on its promise to send the five back.

# Vietnam shows video of Chinese ship ramming boat

The Associated Press

HANOI, Vietnam — Vietnam released video footage Thursday showing a Chinese vessel steaming into the back of a Vietnamese fishing boat and tipping it over into waters close to where Beijing deployed a massive oil rig last month.

The video appears to confirm Vietnam's version of the clash in the South China Sea on May 26.

It was the most serious incident between ships from the two countries since the positioning of the rig on May 1 triggered fury in Hanoi and underlined Beijing's determination to assert its sovereignty claims in the oil- and gas-rich waters.

China last week said the Vietnamese fishing vessel sank after it rammed into a Chinese ship.

The footage, shot from another Vietnamese fishing vessel, shows the Chinese boat chasing two much smaller Vietnamese ones. It then hits the back of one of them, tipping it over.

"Look, it rammed and sank it" someone off camera shouts.

Other footage released Thurs-

day then showed the hull of the sunken boat in the water. Vietnam previously said 10 fishermen had to be rescued from the seas, and the Chinese boat made no attempt to help.

At the briefing where the video was shown, Vietnamese officials said 24 Vietnamese boats had been damaged since the standoff began.

Massively outgunned militarily and economically intertwined with its giant northern neighbor, Vietnam has limited options in responding to Beijing. It is trying to rally regional and international support, and has said it is considering legal action against China in an international court.

Tensions between the two countries are likely to run high until Beijing withdraws the rig.

China insists it has done nothing wrong and is refusing to do that, but said when it positioned the rig that it would withdraw it on Aug. 15.

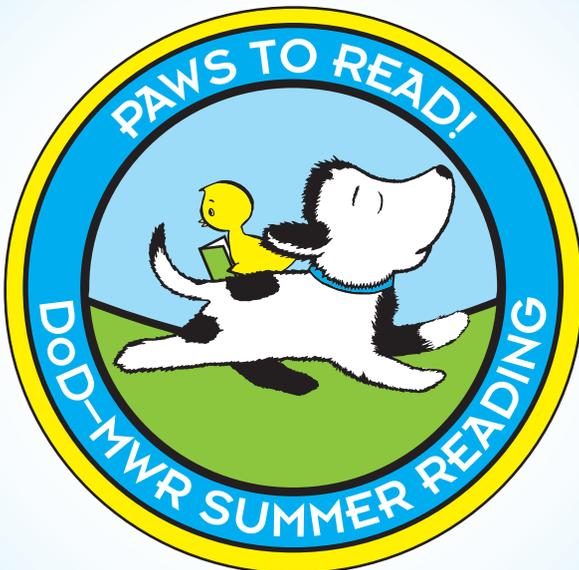
China claims nearly all of the South China Sea, bringing it into dispute with Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Taiwan and Malaysia.

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## UKRAINE UNREST

# Obama, Cameron set new markers for Russia leader

By NEDRA PICKLER  
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister David Cameron laid down new markers for Russia on Thursday, giving Moscow a month to meet conditions in Ukraine or face further sanctions that will hit key sectors of Russia's economy.

The new thresholds for action were laid out at a joint news conference following a Group of Seven world leader summit that was re-arranged to exclude Russian President Vladimir Putin after aggressive moves in Ukraine. Cameron said Putin's actions are completely unacceptable and at odds with the group's democratic values.

To avoid even harsher sanctions, Cameron said, Putin must meet three conditions: recognize the Petro Poroshenko's election as the new leader in Kiev, stop arms from crossing the border and cease support for pro-Russian separatist groups concentrated in eastern Ukraine.

"If these things don't happen, then sectoral sanctions will follow," Cameron said, standing before a row of U.S. and British flags. "The next month will be

vital in judging if President Putin has taken these steps. And that is what I will urge President Putin to do when I meet him later today."

Putin's meetings with Cameron, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel illustrate how Obama and European leaders are taking different strategies for dealing with Putin after trying to isolate him over his moves in Ukraine, including Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula.

But Obama said the G-7 leaders unanimously agree with the steps Cameron outlined, although they were not so explicit in written statements issued after two days of meetings.

"If Mr. Putin takes those steps, then it is possible for us to begin to rebuild trust between Russia and its neighbors and Europe," Obama said. "We will have a chance to see what Mr. Putin does over the next two, three, four weeks, and if he remains on the current course, then we've already indicated that kinds of actions that we're prepared to take."

Obama said he thought the fact Putin didn't immediately denounce the outcome of Ukraine's election last month offers hope he's moving in a different direction.

## B-52 bombers deploy to Britain for training

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Three B-52 Stratofortress bombers arrived in Britain on Wednesday for a training deployment, just days after President Barack Obama unveiled plans to boost America's military presence on the Continent.

The long-range bombers, which are capable of delivering conventional and nuclear weapons, landed at RAF Fairford to start a two-week deployment that will allow their crews to familiarize themselves with regional air bases and operations, the Air Force said in a news release.

The planes deployed from Barksdale Air Force Base, La., and Minot Air Force Base, N.D., according to the release.

It said the U.S. Air Force routinely runs training missions "to ensure the U.S. has a credible and flexible capability to respond to a variety of potential threats."

"Bomber operations enhance this capability by providing the president a variety of options he may need to protect the nation or

its allies and partners," the release said.

The planes came as Obama visits Europe to attend the G7 conference and to reassure allies about the U.S. commitment to oppose Russian expansion. Obama said he wants Congress to authorize up to \$1 billion to be spent on increasing U.S. military activity in Europe.

One of the three B-52s is also scheduled to participate in the D-Day commemoration on Saturday in France.

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MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and NATO's supreme allied commander Europe, speaks Thursday at an unveiling ceremony at the 9th Air Force monument at Picauville, France.

## Breedlove: NATO must be prepared to confront 'tyranny'

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

CARENTAN, France — As tens of thousands of people, including World War II veterans and active-duty troops, crowd into Normandy to commemorate the 70th anniversary of D-Day, NATO's top officer cautioned that the U.S. and allies must remain prepared to confront tyranny in Europe in the present day.

"Think about the investment in human life. Think about what went on here at D-Day to address tyranny and to bring peace to Europe," Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied commander, said in an interview Thursday in Carentan, which was seized by U.S. forces after nearly a week of heavy fighting in June 1944. "We are enjoying relative peace in Europe now, and we need to guard it cautiously and carefully."

After Russia's annexation of Crimea from Ukraine, "the lesson I think is that we thought that kind of behavior was over, and it's not, and so we need to remain prepared so that we don't have to undertake another operation like the one that started here on D-

Day at some time in the future," Breedlove said.

President Barack Obama announced on Tuesday that he was seeking \$1 billion to boost the U.S. military presence in eastern Europe to reassure allies on NATO's eastern periphery.

The British on Wednesday announced they would send as many as 1,000 troops and 25 tanks to NATO war games near the Ukraine border later this year.

Breedlove said that other nations also committed forces to the effort to reassure allies in closest proximity to Russia and Ukraine at a NATO ministerial meeting that ended Wednesday. He said he would leave it up to the countries themselves to make the announcements.

"Just suffice to say that some of our larger, more capable nations will be participating in battle-group-size formations," he said.

Breedlove attended a ceremony in Carentan on Wednesday in commemoration of the bloody, six-day battle American soldiers fought to wrest the town from the Germans days after D-Day.

On Thursday, Breedlove was in Picauville to pay tribute to

the Army Air Corps, which was responsible for flying the planes that dropped more than 13,000 American paratroops behind Normandy's beaches hours before the massive amphibious assault on June 6, 1944.

On Friday, he'll take part in commemorations at Normandy American Cemetery, where 9,386 headstones mark the graves of American servicemen who died in the invasion.

Breedlove said he has no plans to mention the parallels between Germany's actions in World War II and the current events on the Continent.

"Frankly, this D-Day time is about celebrating the human sacrifice, the incredible courage, the honor of what our troops did in the past," he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is scheduled to attend some of the events surrounding those celebrations. Breedlove said he has no plans to meet with Putin. "If the opportunity presents itself, I'll put my hand out and shake."

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Man drives hundreds of miles alongside corpse

**MI** WARREN — A Detroit-area man driving back to Michigan from Arizona failed to report a woman with him had died, and he completed the trip with her corpse.

Warren police Sgt. Stephen Mills on Wednesday said the man's 92-year-old mother also was in the van.

They left the Phoenix area Sunday after the woman checked out of a mental health facility. As they drove Monday through the southwest U.S., the 62-year-old man discovered the 31-year-old woman's body was cold. Police say she may have taken oxycodone.

Someone at the mental health facility called the woman's safe to check on her and was told she was dead. When the driver refused to contact police, the facility called police. Michigan authorities contacted the man who met them Tuesday in Warren. The incident is under investigation.

Police did not release the names of the man or the dead woman.

## WWII vet finally gets high school diploma

**FL** JACKSONVILLE — A World War II veteran graduated from a Jacksonville high school more than 71 years after he dropped out to fight in Europe.

Jack Koolik received his diploma Monday with students from Darnell-Cookman Middle and High School. Like the rest of the graduates, the 90-year-old wore a cap and gown for the ceremony.

In 1942, Koolik left his school in Brooklyn, N.Y., when he was 18 to join the military. "I was undecided what I wanted to do with my life," Koolik told *The Florida Times Union*.

Koolik was assigned to a radar unit looking for low-flying planes in Italy and received several medals for his service during the war.

Since last year, veterans who left school in any state to join the military and were honorably discharged can apply to receive a Florida high school diploma.

## Woman accused of theft over cancer claims

**IL** BELLEVILLE — An Illinois woman was charged Wednesday with bilking thousands of dollars in donations from hundreds of people she duped for months into believing she had terminal cancer, drawing scorn from an investigator who labeled the alleged global scheme "evil."

Prosecutors in St. Clair County charged Alissa Jackson with two felony counts of theft by deception. Jackson was jailed on \$100,000 bond and was scheduled to be arraigned later Wednesday in Belleville.

Belleville police Detective Sgt. Mark Heffernan said investigators began scrutinizing Jackson nearly a month ago after community members reported their suspicions that she was lying about having late-stage ovarian cancer. Police ultimately found that although the community staged several fundraisers meant to de-

## THE CENSUS

# 89

The number of artworks and writings created by John Lennon of the Beatles that were sold at auction Wednesday in New York. The items included whimsical drawings, such as the unfilled ink drawing (right), poems and short stories produced in the 1960s and fetched skyrocketing prices, including \$209,000 for a nine-page parody of Sherlock Holmes. Before becoming famous as a musician, Lennon trained as an artist at the Liverpool School of art. The collection belonged to Lennon's British publisher, Tom Maschler, who called Lennon a man of "extraordinary talent and imagination."



CLAY JACKSON, THE (DANVILLE, KY.) ADVOCATE MESSENGER/AP

## 3, 2, 1 — lift off!

Eighth-grade students from Boyle County Middle School in Danville, Ky., watch a plastic bottle launch on Monday. The students were learning about Newton's Second Law of Motion. The rockets were made from plastic bottles and cardboard.

fray Jackson's supposed medical expenses, Jackson never had cancer.

It was not immediately clear how long Jackson carried out her alleged deceit or how much she profited from it from well-intentioned donors police say were part of "Alissa's Army."

Wednesday's criminal complaint alleges Jackson pocketed more than \$500 on May 12 from local Pizza Hut restaurants that devoted 20 percent of their profits that day to her. Jackson also is accused of stealing at least \$500 from a woman who bought and sold T-shirts to raise funds for her from January through March 10.

The scope of Jackson's suspected ruse remained unclear Wednesday. Brendan Kelly, St. Clair County's state's attorney said that "it's fair to say this involved several thousand dollars."

## State board votes to protect gray wolf

**CA** FRESNO — California officials decided Wednesday to add the gray wolf to the state's endangered species list, extending protections to the animal.

The state's Fish and Game Commission voted 3-1 in favor of the

listing, which will keep the animal safe from hunters' crosshairs. The decision requires a second vote in August to become final.

The debate over whether to list the wolf pitted cattle ranchers, who consider the predator a threat to valuable herds, against those who wish to see the packs again flourish. Amaroq Weiss of the Center for Biological Diversity, which leads the push for protection, said there are places where wolves and livestock exist together.

"There are definitely avenues for not only tolerating wolves but accepting wolves," she said. "This was their home before it was ours."

## State court considers restoring big-soda ban

**NY** ALBANY — New York City officials are telling the state's top court to reinstate the city's ban on big sodas, arguing that the city has authority to restrict products that make people obese and contribute to disease.

Richard Dearing, attorney for the Board of Health, said the court should reinstate the 2012 ban against peddling sugary drinks larger than 16 ounces. The

ban was overturned by the lower courts.

Pushed by then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and backed by Mayor Bill de Blasio, the limits would apply to restaurants, delis, movie theaters, stadiums and street carts.

Restaurants, theater owners and beverage companies sued. They say New York City is the only jurisdiction attempting a ban. Their attorney Richard Bress said the board lacks authority for such a policy decision.

## Police: Teens called 911 on themselves

**NM** SANTA FE — Police said a group of suspected New Mexico teen vandals got so scared when a crime victim chased them that they called police on themselves.

KOAT-TV reported that Luciano Romero, 18, and his 15-, 16- and 17-year-old companions recently were arrested following the bizarre chains of events in Santa Fe.

According to police, the teens smashed several windshields in Santa Fe neighborhood until one victim jumped in his car and followed the suspects. Officials said the teens must have gotten fright-

ened because they called 911 and asked for help.

## Judge accused of hitting public defender

**FL** VIERA — A Florida judge accused of punching an assistant public defender during an altercation outside a courtroom isn't on the bench.

Another judge was taking over the caseload of Judge John Murphy in Brevard County on Tuesday.

Murphy allegedly hit Andrew Weinstock on Monday after the two exchanged words over whether his client could have a speedy trial.

A courtroom video moments before the fight shows the judge ordering Weinstock to sit down. The judge says he would throw a rock at Weinstock if he had one. The judge then asks Weinstock if he wants a fight to step outside the courtroom.

Court spokeswoman Michelle Kennedy said no decision on Murphy's status has been made.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Fed survey: US economy strengthening

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Federal Reserve survey shows the U.S. economy strengthening during the past two months in areas from manufacturing and construction to retail sales and bank lending.

Seven of the Fed's 12 regions — Boston, New York, Richmond, Chicago, Minneapolis, Dallas and San Francisco — reported "moderate" growth during the early spring, while the remaining five

described growth as "modest," according to the Beige Book survey released Wednesday.

Retail sales were reviving, helped by pent-up demand for new cars after the harsh winter, the survey found. Manufacturing was expanding in all regions, along with lending. One weakness was home sales, held back in large part by a tight supply of homes.

The Beige Book is based on anecdotal reports from businesses and will be considered along with

other data when Fed policymakers meet June 17-18.

Nothing in the report is likely to alter the widespread view that the Fed thinks the economy is reviving after a winter slowdown.

"The picture painted by the collective anecdotes in today's Beige Book may not illustrate robust growth, but it suggests the economy is at least moving in the right direction," said Dana Saporta, an economist at Credit Suisse.

Jennifer Lee, senior economist

at BMO Capital Markets, said it marked the 24th time out of 28 reports going back to early 2011 that the Fed has used "modest," "moderate," or often both words to describe the economy.

Economists generally believe the Fed in June will pace its pace of monthly bond purchases by another \$10 billion and pledge to keep its key short-term interest rate at a record low near zero for a "considerable" period after its bond purchases end.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 6)	\$1.3940
Dollar buys (June 6)	€0.7169
British pound (June 6)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (June 6)	100.00
South Korean won (June 9)	997.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6782/0.9599
Canada (dollar)	1.0942
China (Yuan)	6.2550
Denmark (Krone)	5.4937
Egypt (Pound)	7.1516
Euro	\$1.3585/0.7361
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7527
Hungary (Forint)	223.76
Israel (Shekel)	3.7443
Japan (Yen)	102.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2825
Norway (Krone)	6.0088
Philippines (Peso)	43.71
Poland (Zloty)	3.0703
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2565
South Korea (Won)	1,023.49
Switzerland (Frank)	0.8970
Thailand (Bath)	32.65
Turkey (New Lira)	1,040

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.927	\$4.099	\$4.261	\$4.155
Change in price	+1.6 cents	+1.2 cents	+1.0 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.898	\$5.193	\$5.029
Change in price	--	-0.7 cents	-0.7 cents	-0.7 cents
U.K.	--	\$4.664	\$4.226	\$4.129
Change in price	--	+1.2 cents	+1.0 cents	-0.7 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.217	--
Change in price	--	--	+1.0 cents	--
U.K.	--	\$4.084	\$4.219	\$4.215
Change in price	--	no change	-2.5 cents	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.672	\$5.006*
Change in price	--	--	-1.9 cents	-3.0 cents
U.S.	\$4.050	--	--	--
Change in price	+7.6 cents	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.359	--	\$3.909
Change in price	--	+2.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.679	--	--	\$3.909
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.940	--	\$4.279	\$4.169
Change in price	+2.0 cents	--	+1.0 cents	--
Guam	\$3.939**	\$4.109	\$4.269	--
Change in price	+2.0 cents*	+1.0 cents	+1.0 cents	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of June 7-13

MARKET WATCH

June 4, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	15,19
Change	16,737.53
Nasdaq composite	17.56
Change	4,251.64
Standard & Poor's 500	3.64
Change	1,927.88
Russell 2000	5.07
Change	1,131.22

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

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.10
3-month bill	0.04
90-day bond	3.44

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	87	67	Cldy	Fort Wayne	77	53	Clr	Louisville	82	61	Cldy	Pocatello	78	45	Clr	Sioux City	84	57	Pldy
Ablene, Tex	98	74	Pldy	Cheyenne	69	50	Rain	Fresno	100	66	Clr	Luibook	97	70	Clr	Portland, Maine	68	53	Clr	Sioux Falls	79	57	Pldy
Akron, Ohio	76	49	Pldy	Chicago	78	53	Clr	Goodland	78	59	Clr	Macon	92	70	Pldy	Portland, Ore.	76	52	Pldy	Springfield	77	50	Clr
Albany, N.Y.	75	53	Pldy	Cincinnati	79	56	Pldy	Grand Junction	87	55	Clr	Madison	78	51	Pldy	Providence	75	55	Clr	Spokane	75	49	Pldy
Albuquerque	93	64	Clr	Cleveland	73	50	Clr	Grand Rapids	77	49	Pldy	Medford	85	51	Clr	Pueblo	81	57	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	79	59	Pldy
Allentown, Pa.	78	50	Clr	Colorado Springs	75	52	Cldy	Great Falls	61	41	Cldy	Memphis	89	73	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	84	66	Pldy	Springfield, Mo.	80	68	Rain
Amarillo	67	46	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	91	71	Cldy	Green Bay	78	51	Pldy	Miami Beach	90	77	Clr	Reno	89	59	Pldy	St. Louis	81	52	Clr
Anchorage	65	48	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	92	73	Pldy	Greensboro, N.C.	84	65	Pldy	Midland-Odessa	99	73	Clr	Reno	89	59	Pldy	Tallahassee	93	70	Pldy
Asheville	80	61	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	78	52	Pldy	Hartford	79	55	Pldy	Milwaukee	70	50	Pldy	Richmond	83	61	Clr	Tampa	91	76	Pldy
Atlanta	78	55	Clr	Concord, N.H.	73	52	Cldy	Hartford	79	55	Pldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	59	Pldy	Roanoke	80	57	Pldy	Tucson	80	57	Clr
Atlantic City	78	55	Clr	Corpus Christi	92	76	Clr	Helena	68	43	Clr	Missoula	72	52	Pldy	Rochester	75	52	Pldy	Topeka	81	64	Cldy
Austin	84	64	Clr	Dallas-Ft Worth	94	77	Pldy	Honolulu	86	75	Clr	Mobile	82	62	Clr	Rockford	75	51	Clr	Tucson	105	69	Clr
Baltimore	79	57	Clr	Dayton	77	53	Pldy	Houston	93	75	Cldy	Montgomery	92	72	Cldy	Sacramento	95	57	Clr	Tulsa	88	73	Rain
Baton Rouge	92	74	Pldy	Denver	90	70	Pldy	Huntsville	89	70	Cldy	Nashville	86	66	Cldy	St. Louis	82	63	Cldy	Tupelo	88	71	Cldy
Beaumont	82	46	Clr	Denver	90	70	Pldy	Indianapolis	78	58	Pldy	New Orleans	89	75	Pldy	St. Petersburg	90	78	Clr	Waco	93	75	Pldy
Birmingham	87	72	Cldy	Des Moines	83	60	Pldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	72	Cldy	New York City	77	58	Pldy	St. Thomas	88	74	Clr	Washington	81	57	Clr
Bismarck	63	48	Rain	Detroit	73	52	Pldy	Jacksonville	84	73	Cldy	Newark	79	58	Clr	Salem, Ore.	77	49	Clr	W. Palm Beach	88	76	Pldy
Boise	80	48	Clr	Duluth	72	51	Cldy	Juneau	63	44	Clr	Norfolk, Va.	78	65	Clr	Salt Lake City	85	58	Clr	Wichita	83	67	Rain
Boston	71	55	Cldy	El Paso	106	78	Clr	Kansas City	80	62	Cldy	North Platte	79	55	Cldy	San Diego	93	75	Pldy	Wichita Falls	97	75	Pldy
Bridgport	77	55	Pldy	Elkins	76	47	Pldy	Key West	87	78	Pldy	Oklahoma City	92	73	Cldy	San Antonio	83	75	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	75	49	Pldy
Brownsville	92	77	Pldy	Erie	71	52	Pldy	Knoxville	86	65	Clr	Omaha	82	60	Pldy	San Angelo	71	63	Pldy	Wilmington, Del.	79	56	Clr
Buffalo	73	50	Cldy	Eugene	76	46	Cldy	Lake Charles	91	75	Pldy	Orlando	93	72	Pldy	San Francisco	73	55	Clr	Youngstown	78	50	Pldy
Burlington, Vt.	74	54	Cldy	Evansville	82	63	Cldy	Lansing	76	47	Cldy	Paducah	83	66	Cldy	San Jose	83	55	Clr	Youngstown	75	48	Clr
Caribou, Maine	65	55	Rain	Fairbanks	69	48	Cldy	Las Vegas	103	78	Clr	Pendleton	90	72	Clr	Santa Fe	89	51	Clr				
Casper, Wyo.	67	44	Cldy	Fargo	73	51	Cldy	Lexington	81	57	Pldy	Peoria	80	56	Pldy	St. Marie	73	40	Pldy				
Charleston, S.C.	90	73	Cldy	Flagstaff	81	41	Clr	Lincoln	83	61	Pldy	Philadelphia	80	59	Clr	Savannah	91	74	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	81	53	Pldy	Flint	76	47	Pldy	Little Rock	88	73	Cldy	Phoenix	108	77	Clr	Seattle	73	51	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	86	67	Cldy	Fort Smith	89	74	Pldy	Los Angeles	77	63	Pldy	Pittsburgh	76	49	Pldy	Shreveport	92	73	Pldy				

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Wed., 112, Death Valley, Calif.  
Lo: Wed., 23, Chumot, Ore.

# WEEKEND



Miranda Lambert  
Page 37



‘Watch Dog’ offers another likable digital vigilante

Page 26

## Treetop travels

Confront your fear of heights at nature center in Germany

Quick Trips, Page 30



## Pancakes and beer

Breakfast is king at Tokyo’s Slappy Cakes restaurant in Shinjuku Station

After Hours, Page 35



# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



LIONSGATE/AP

**A touring exhibition based on "The Hunger Games" movie, starring Jennifer Lawrence and Josh Hutcherson, will include "interactive displays of authentic costumes, props and other elements."**

## 'Hunger Games' exhibition takes movie props on tour

By **STEVEN ZEITCHIK**  
Los Angeles Times

Looking to get into the branded and live-event biz that has been so good to franchises like Harry Potter, Lionsgate announced May 30 it is launching "The Hunger Games: The Exhibition" and will tour it around the U.S.

The tour will include a range of material from and concerned with the Jennifer Lawrence franchise — "interactive displays of authentic costumes, props and other elements" from the Katniss smashes as well as "artifacts featured in the films from locations within the Capitol and the various Districts of Panem."

The extension is being designed in conjunction with live-event company Thinkwell and aims to be in "major museums and institutions across the country."

Lionsgate has also hired Thinkwell's Jennifer Brown to be the newly created post of senior vice president, branded attractions, which will have her "exploring" additional theme park attraction and other location-based entertainment opportunities" for "Hun-

ger Games" and various Lionsgate properties.

There's a strategic logic to the move. A number of bigger studios see major revenue and easy synergies with rides tied to movies and movies stemming from rides — Disney and Universal have been mining this for years, the latter not just with its own films but with dedicated parks such as The Wizarding World of Harry Potter, licensed from Warner Bros. Though a mid-major, Lionsgate wants in on the action too.

"Now that we've built a critical mass of intellectual property, we're committed to extending our brands into exciting new businesses that create opportunities for our fans to engage with our properties at the same time they deliver significant incremental financial benefits to Lionsgate," Tim Palen, the company's chief marketing officer, said in a statement.

Of course, "Hunger Games" is pretty dark stuff, so it will be interesting to see what the company chooses to incorporate, and how it does so — there's a limit to how much killing in the Arena you can simulate in a presumably family-oriented attraction.

## GADGET WATCH

### More gift ideas for Dad, or treats for yourself

By **GREGG ELLMAN**  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Here's another round of suggestions for Father's Day gifts, or just a cool gift for yourself.

**The Retrospective Laptop Case** from Think Tank Photo is being called a "retro-inspired alternative" series of over-the-shoulder laptop cases.

They come in two sizes (13L and 15L) with an old-school look and the great Think Tank durability, comfort and craftsmanship with quality zippers and padded, adjustable shoulder straps.

The bag has multiple compartments, the main one to hold a laptop (13 or 15 inches) while a rear pocket is designed to hold a tablet.

In front of the padded laptop divider is room for just about any other item one could need to carry, from folders and paperwork to cables and chargers.

There's another front zippered compartment along with a front sided area, which is held closed by Velcro straps that won't make that obnoxious Velcro sound because of the world-famous Think Tank Sound Silencer.

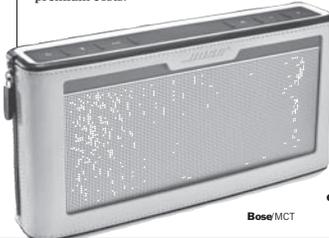
Inside the Velcro compartment are pockets for pens and business cards along with a key tether and a raincoat — for the bag, not you.

Something I never thought of (since I'm not a bag designer), is how a shoulder bag can put wear and tear on the clothing it rubs against. For that reason, Think Tank has incorporated a smooth back panel to reduce the wear and tear.

Online: thinktankphoto.com; Retrospective 13L \$149.95 and the 15L is \$159.75, both available in blue slate, pine stone and black

**The wireless (Bluetooth) SoundLink III speaker**, introduced by Bose earlier this year, stands out in the crowded shelves of Bluetooth speakers.

Bose, which calls this its "best-performing Bluetooth speaker ever," is known for the incredible sound clarity of its products. The speakers sound amazing — even at the highest volume levels — and the quality justifies the premium costs.



Ubisoft

Bose/MCT



BBQ DRAGON/MCT

The **BBQ Dragon** is one of the few products in recent times that made me actually read the instructions, mainly to ensure the only thing I was to set on fire was the contents of the grill.

In a nutshell, it's a hands-free contraption you clip on the side of your grill; it lights the charcoal or wood in a safer manner than having a flame flare up in your face with a liquid starter.

Once the spring-loaded clamp is attached to the side of the grill and turned on, the battery-operated accessory fan produces a steady stream of fire-fueling oxygen onto the charcoal or whatever is being used to cook dinner.

A foot-long stainless steel neck separates the fan from the clamp and can be angled in any direction.

The temperature can be controlled with a dial located on the handle. With the BBQ Dragon it takes just about 10 minutes to get the grill ready.

Four AA batteries are included, or you can purchase rechargeable NiMH batteries, which can be charged with the built-in microUSB port.

Online: bbqdragon.com; \$49.99

**The Bose SoundLink Bluetooth speaker III plays louder and longer than its popular predecessor, and a colorful assortment of optional covers let you personalize your speaker.**

**ON THE COVER: A vigilante hacker named Aiden Pearce battles corrupt authorities in Chicago in the video game "Watch Dogs."**

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on iTunes for June 4:

1. "Platinum," Miranda Lambert
2. "Animal Ambition: An Untamed Desire To Win" (Deluxe), 50 Cent
3. "Unstoppable Love," Jesus Culture
4. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay
5. "Fire Within," Biny
6. "Road Between" (Deluxe Edition), Lucy Hale
7. "If/Then: A New Musical" (Original Broadway Cast Recording), Original Broadway Cast of If/Then: A New Musical
8. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe Version), Sam Smith
9. "The Fault in Our Stars," (Music From the Motion Picture), Various Artists
10. "Just As I Am," Branley Gilbert

— Compiled by MCT

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from May 26 to June 1:

1. Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
2. Ariana Grande, "Problem"
3. Calvin Harris, "Summer"
4. Disclosure, "Latch"
5. Nico & Vinz, "Am I Wrong"
6. Coldplay, "A Sky Full Of Stars"
7. Jason Derulo, "Wiggle (feat. Snoo Dogg)"
8. MKTO, "Classic"
9. DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
10. MAAGICI, "Rude"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes store for June 4:

1. "Lone Survivor"
2. "RoboCop"
3. "300: Rise of an Empire"
4. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
5. "The Monuments Men"
6. "The Lego Movie"
7. "Inside Llewyn Davis"
8. "3 Days to Kill"
9. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
10. "Frozen"

— Compiled by MCT



## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine ranks the Top 10 games for June:

1. "Mario Kart 8," Wii U
2. "Watch Dogs," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
3. "Wolfenstein: The New Order," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
4. "Transistor," PS4, PC
5. "Super Time Force," Xbox One, 360, PS3, 360, PC
6. "Tropico 5," PC
7. "MLB 14: The Show," PS4, PS3, Vita
8. "Kirby: Triple Deluxe," 3DS
9. "The Walking Dead Season 2: Episode 3 — In Harm's Way," PS3, 360, PC, iOS
10. "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," PS3, 360

— Compiled by MCT

## APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for June 4:

- ANDROID
1. Monument Valley
  2. Warms 3
  3. R.B.I. Baseball 14
  4. Neon Glow — Icon Pack
  5. Dragon Quest VIII
- Top 5 paid apps for June 4:
- APPLE
1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
  2. Toca Town
  3. Disney Karaoke: Frozen
  4. Battleheart Legacy
  5. Frozen: Storybook Deluxe

— Compiled by MCT

## WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



# 1

## Drink coffee, help veterans

Coffee roasters in New England have veterans on their minds — and on their bags. Veteran Coffee Roasters, who operate out of Middletown, R.I., give one dollar from the sale of each pound of coffee to support wounded and disabled veterans through the Wounded Warrior project. Their website claims that roaster-master and Vietnam veteran Bob Mastin leads a roasting crew with more than 25 years' combined ex-

perience in preparing coffee beans. Several new blends have been developed for the brand, and the names are pretty clever: Reveille Roast ("This powerful blend will help drag you out of the rack and jumpstart your day!"); B-52 Blend ("Fly high with this powerful blend of high-altitude, high-octane coffees"); Recon Roast ("Dark and stealthy, this robust blend will keep you alert behind enemy lines"); Bosun's Blend ("For those salty sailors

who need extra energy to climb the rigging or handle the lines"); and R&R Roast ("Kick back with the ideal blend to start your first day of liberty"). And, of course, DEFCON Decaf ("This full-bodied blend will help you defend the homeland"). Mastin, who also founded the roasting company, offers the coffee at wholesale prices to active-duty military units.

• **Read more, order coffee at** [veterancoffee.roasters.com](http://veterancoffee.roasters.com)

# 2

## MacFarlane goes West

Seth MacFarlane, best known for creating raunchy comedies like TV's "Family Guy" and the movie "Ted," puts on a more sincere face as he steps in front of the camera in "A Million Ways to Die in the West." Western fans, don't miss it.

• **Movie profile on** Page 24; **review on** Page 25.



# 3

## Stockpile summer reads

Summer is almost officially here. Time to get serious about some frivolous, beach-worthy reading, whether or not beaches — or vacations — are in your plans. The season's hot options include a twist-filled novel from Stephen King, and other promising novels literally set on the beach or poolside.

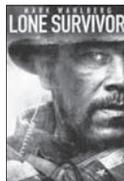
• **Suggested reading lists on** Page 38.



# 4

## Rent 'Lone Survivor'

This true story of Navy SEALs in Afghanistan, starring Mark Wahlberg, is a gripping, personal tale that shows that good and evil aren't always as clear-cut as we'd like. Some reviewers describe its battle scenes as the best since "Saving Private Ryan." If you missed this one in the theater last fall, snap it up now as a rental or DVD purchase.



• **Other new DVD releases on** Page 39.

## WEEKEND: MOVIES



## A wild, raunchy adventure

Theron, MacFarlane venture into new territory in comedy 'A Million Ways to Die in the West'

BY REBECCA KEEGAN  
*Los Angeles Times*

**T**he day after the premiere of their new comedy, 'A Million Ways to Die in the West' — and an afterparty that rolled on until 4 a.m. — Seth MacFarlane and Charlize Theron were each recovering in their own ways. He slept in and ate a grilled ham and cheese sandwich; she went to yoga and sipped green tea.

"I feel like such a loser," Theron said, joining MacFarlane in the bar of a Beverly Hills, Calif., hotel. "If I can go to yoga, I did not do it right."

"No, you did it right," MacFarlane said, clutching his head. Theron stared at her obviously suffering director and costar and laughed so loudly the sound reverberated through the bar and carried over a pianist playing "Tiny Dancer."

MacFarlane and Theron have an easy rapport, which they deploy with gusto in 'A Million Ways to Die in the West.' In the raunchy, R-rated Western comedy, their outsider characters discover a shared

hatred of life on the frontier, with all of its violence and discomfort.

"At the core of this movie's premise is that if you're not an alpha male, what can you do out there?" said MacFarlane, who also wrote the film, with Alec Sulkin and Wellesley Wild. "You've just gotta keep your head down."

Both are venturing into new territory with 'A Million Ways to Die in the West.' MacFarlane, 40, delivers his first starring film role, as Albert, a sheep farmer ill-suited to life in 1882 Arizona.

Theron, 38, is taking her first dip into a straight-up comedy as Anna, the dissatisfied wife of a notorious outlaw (Liam Neeson) who blows into town just as Albert is smarting over a breakup. Anna teaches Albert to shoot and to stand up for himself, helping him recover after his girlfriend, Louise (Amanda Seyfried), leaves him for a smarmy groomer of mustaches (Neil Patrick Harris).

Both MacFarlane and Theron like Westerns for different reasons.

For a guy who built his career on satire, MacFarlane has a surprising affection for sincere characters like "Gunsmoke's" Matt Dillon and "High Noon's" Will Kane.

"These were just good guys, earnest good guys," MacFarlane said. "I think that's what's missing from popular culture today. You can have edgy jokes, but it really becomes much more satisfying if you have a backbone of earnestness."

Theron is partial to the landscapes and to the element of survival in darker Westerns like "Unforgiven." Of the two, Theron, who grew up in South Africa, seemed better equipped for a dust-and-rain-whipped 70-day shoot in Utah and New Mexico than MacFarlane, who is from Kent, Conn. When she talked him into getting a Vitamin B-12 shot from the set medic, he bruised and she didn't.

"That's probably just circumstantial," she said. "Now I'm just like an old princess. I'm not 20 anymore."

The movie's women — Theron's sun-lit sidekick, Seyfried's prissy

ex-girlfriend, an industrious hooker played by Sarah Silverman — run the gamut. As with Mila Kunis' character in "Ted," Theron's beauty and affection for the movie's flawed leading man sometimes strains credibility but also helps his case. When she laughs at MacFarlane's joke about her "cans," she makes it OK for the audience to do so too. Or at least that's the theory.

"It's what Edithunker used to do for Archie," MacFarlane said. "It makes it OK for you to like him."

MacFarlane said he feels blowback not from audiences but from journalists.

"The press is very easily offended," he said. "It's the outrage industry. The rest of the country, they're fine. They'll laugh. They're OK with it. I don't operate in the way that I want to please the critics.

That's like putting a puppet show on for your parents. You want as many people to see it as possible, as many people to enjoy it as possible, and the audience at large is OK with that stuff."

When a beautiful, mysterious woman (Charlize Theron, left), rides into town, she helps a cowardly sheep farmer (Seth MacFarlane, right), find his courage in the comedy 'A Million Ways to Die in the West.'

# WEEKEND: MOVIES



“Maleficent,” starring Angelina Jolie, explores the untold story of Disney’s most iconic villain from the classic “Sleeping Beauty” and the elements of her betrayal that ultimately turn her heart to stone.

DISNEY/AP

## ‘Sleeping Beauty’ reloaded

Jolie brings wonder, excitement to ‘Maleficent’

BY RENE RODRIGUEZ  
The Miami Herald

There are two sides to every story, and there can be countless versions of the same tale. “Maleficent,” the enchanting live-action reworking of the 1959 animated Disney classic “Sleeping Beauty,” has all the touchstones you remember: The spinning wheel, the poisoned needle, the three fairy godmothers, the charming prince and a fearsome dragon that can stand alongside Peter Jackson’s Smaug without shame.

The main difference this time is that the babe is told from the point of the view of the eponymous villain (Angelina Jolie), an evil fairy who curses the infant daughter of the king (Sharlto Copley), condemning her to die on her 16th birthday. Sporting giant wings, black horns on her head and eyes that constantly change color and sparkle with malice, Jolie resists the natural temptation to push the character into camp. Instead, she plays the role straight-up, with subtlety and feeling, wielding her natural beauty as a weapon.

Even the augmented cheekbones that are part of her makeup can’t mar her looks, and first-time director Robert Stromberg, who won two Oscars for art direction (“Avatar” and “Alice in Wonderland”), goes in for close-ups of his star as often as he can. In a movie crammed with special effects — wait until you see the giant tree monsters — Jolie is the most startling and wondrous of all.

Stromberg and screenwriter Linda Woolverton didn’t darken the source material, first written by France’s Charles Perrault in 1697 and mutated into various incarnations over the centuries. Unlike “Snow White and the Huntsman” or “Red Riding Hood,” which upped the violence and danger to secure a PG-13 rating and lure older teenagers, “Maleficent” is unabashedly aimed at kids. Aside from some cartoonish-looking, overly cutesy forest creatures, the movie looks fantastic, shot in an inviting, striking palette by cinematographer Dean Semler (“Apocalypse”).

### New on base

“Maleficent” is playing at the following military facilities:

#### Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunssum.

#### Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Putenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: movies.disney.com/maleficent

Instead of falling into the CGI-overload trap that snared Sam Raimi in “Oz the Great and Powerful” or overloading the movie with superfluous subplots like Tim Burton did with “Alice in Wonderland,” Stromberg keeps the movie moving at a brisk pace, with no needless musical numbers or unnecessary characters.

The result is a rare live-action Disney movie that merits comparison to its beloved feature-length cartoons. “Maleficent” does out some surprises in its second half, becoming its own film while still being worthy of the title “Sleeping Beauty.” For fun, try showing your children the original cartoon before taking them to see this new and inventive retelling and watch their young minds reel (or maximum effect, spring for the IMAX 3-D version, which looks stunning).

“Maleficent” is the summer’s first real surprise — a project that looked like a cash grab built on a well-known brand name, as well as a vanity project for Jolie. But the movie turns out to be sweet and funny and exciting and touching. It also makes a convincing argument that sometimes, being bad feels pretty good.

\*Maleficent” is rated PG for mild fantasy violence. Running time: 97 minutes.

## ‘A Million Ways to Die,’ but not as many laughs

By COLIN COVERT  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

In the loopy cowboy farce “A Million Ways to Die in the West,” the jokes misfire, ricochet and hit the bull’s-eye about equally. Borrowing its setting and premise from “Blazing Saddles,” it gives us a sarcastic, modern-minded hipster in an 1800s Western town.

Albert, a fast-talking, cowardly descendant of Bob Hope and Woody Allen played by director/producer/co-writer Seth MacFarlane, is an underdog with an attitude. He hates Arizona, a place where boredom is everywhere and death is just around the corner. If the outlaws, rattlesnakes, or “the latest offering of the frontier disease-of-the-month club” don’t get you, he fumes, the doctors will: Medical science is likely to treat a headache with a muck sticking.

The film gives its tomfoolery a classic frame, with grandiose Monument Valley cinematography and a sweeping score that recalls the symphonic Western compositions of Elmer Bernstein and Dimitri Tiomkin. There’s also a story, a rarity in this era of arbitrary, chaos-driven comedies.

Albert, a knock-kneed yellow-belly, has to man up and confront the Arizona territory’s deadliest gunslinger (Liam Neeson). But he even has a full-blown subplot, a romantic rivalry involving Albert, his ex (Amanda Seyfried), her new beau (Neil Patrick Harris) and Albert’s new gunslinger gal pal (Charlize Theron), that occasionally becomes the main plot.

It’s good to see serious actors like Neeson and Theron letting their hair down, and they ably carry every scene they’re in. Much of the film rests on MacFarlane’s shoulders, and he has toned down the snide, obnoxious persona that spoiled his turn as the 2013 Oscars host.

Here, he’s poised, charming and handsome — quite affable. He’s at the center of most of his film’s brazen, immature gags but avoids the taint of smugness by playing craven melodrama.

The film plays like a raunchy, affectionate parody of the Western films that made an impression on MacFarlane when he was a kid. There’s a big, well-staged dance extravaganza, an epic barroom brawl, and a fairly thrilling horse-and-rain chase scene amid all the incongruous humor. True to the film’s title, any number of minor characters are carried off by absurd accidents. The county fair is a festival of death (what you do for the flesh powder in the photo booth, for example), and in the saloon we witness what I think is cinema’s first fatality by fart.

There are wildly funny bits here, including a 1980s pop-culture reference that is as uproari-

### New on base

“A Million Ways to Die in the West” is playing at:

#### Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunssum.

#### Pacific

Yokota, Zama, Foster, Putenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: amillionways.com

ous as it is unexpected. A film like this would be incompatible with an excrement gag, and the delightfully hammy Harris milks this one to hysterical extremes. And most of the film’s anachronistic jokes succeed. The racial, religious and sexual jokes here spoof ugly, retrograde attitudes rather than endorsing them.

The film’s biggest failing is its pacing. It carries a good deal of excess weight, clocking in at an arduous two hours. Sarah Silverman and Giovanni Ribisi have a generous amount of screen time but only a single over-stretched joke that spoils an original cobbler and his prostitute fiancée.

Universal has done one film no favors by revealing many of the choicest jokes in their advertising trailers. Expect a fistful of laughs, nothing more.

“A Million Ways to Die in the West” is rated R for strong crude and sexual content, language throughout, some violence and drug material. Running time: 116 minutes.

BROADWAY  
KINO  
MOVIE MAGIC

Region 2

Ramstein-Süd / Landstuhl

For Reservations & Informations call 06731-97037  
Verl. Postfach 100, 66111 (Landstuhl)  
Merkurstraße 9, 68871 Ramstein - Miesbach  
THEATRE: THX, EX and all Digital Sound

In: Digital 3D: Edge of Tomorrow (PG13):  
Thur - Wed 18:00

In: Digital 3D: Maleficent (PG): Thur 16:00, Fri 18:00, Sat 15:45, Wed 16:00

In: Digital 3D: X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG13): Thur 16:00, Fri 15:45, Sat 8 & Sun 15:30

Man - Wed 18:00

In: Digital 3D: The Way, Way Back in the West (R): Thur 18:00, Fri - Mon 17:45, Tue & Wed 18:00

In: 2D: Maleficent (PG): Thur 18:15, 20:30, Fri 18:15, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 16:00, 20:15, Mon 18:00, 19:15, Tue 18:15, 20:30, Wed 18:15

In: 2D: X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG13): Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 15:30, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:30, 20:00, Mon 15:30, 17:45, 20:15, Tue 18:00, 20:30, Wed 18:00, 20:30, Thu 18:00, 20:30, Fri 18:00, 20:30, Sat 15:30, 17:45, 20:15, Sun 13:30, 16:00, 20:15, Mon 18:00, 20:30, Tue 18:00, 20:30, Wed 18:00, 20:30, Thu 18:00, 20:30, Fri 18:00, 20:30, Sat 15:45, 20:15, Sun 13:30, 16:00, 20:15, Mon 18:00, 20:30

In: 2D: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13): Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 15:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sun & Mon 15:45, 20:15, Tue & Wed 18:00, 20:30

In: 2D: The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug (PG13): Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 15:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sun & Mon 15:45, 20:15, Tue & Wed 18:00, 20:30

In: 2D: Rise of Electric, Godzilla

Scan Here or  
visit our  
broadwaykino.com/mc

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

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

BY BRIAN BOWERS  
Stars and Stripes

Ubisoft's "Watch Dogs" promises a new sort of open-world adventure, where a digital vigilante battles corrupt authorities in an effort to break their stranglehold on Chicago. The game does a pretty good job of delivering on those promises — except for the "new" part.

Over the past few months, we have seen a number of games offer exactly the same scenario: "Batman: Arkham Origins," "Saints Row IV" and most recently "inFamous: Second Son" have featured protagonists with special abilities who fight villains in expansive city environments. And if you stretch the meaning of the term "special abilities" to include thuggery, you could add "Grand Theft Auto V" to the list.

In fact, "Watch Dogs" plays a lot like "Grand Theft Auto," with the major difference being that you shake down passers-by by hacking their cellphones instead of beating them to a pulp.

But none of this means that "Watch Dogs" isn't a good game.

It's well-designed, delivers superb graphics and offers action that's intense and engaging. And, although much of the game seems very familiar, it actually does present some interesting new gameplay opportunities thanks to the ability of players to enter each other's games.

You play as a hacker named Aiden Pearce. In the opening scene, Aiden stirs up trouble by trying to electronically rob a fancy hotel. This prompts a mysterious villain to strike back in an incident that kills Aiden's beloved niece and spurs a quest for vengeance.

As the game progresses, Aiden's journey leads him from downtown Chicago to gang-infested neighborhoods to the doorstep of the huge Blume Corp., which has Chicago under its digital thumb.

Aiden's main tool is his cellphone, which he uses to hack into Blume's electronic grid, which supports and connects practically everything that happens in Chicago. He can change stoplights, open doors, operate emergency transmissions, access video cameras, raise bridges and even cause local blackouts. These are helpful in gaining access, pilfering information, stealing funds and covering his tracks. It's like having Batman's entire arsenal of gadgets contained in one handy item.

But unlike the caped crusader, Aiden isn't able to fly, he does. He can use his phone to hack explosive devices hidden in the environment or carried by enemies. Or he can simply pull out a gun and blast away.

Many of the most satisfying events in the game combine hacking and gunplay. The campaign missions and side quests contain numerous battles, usually against gangsters or militia members or Blume security personnel. And if you don't mind taking a

# Hack with a vengeance

Well-designed 'Watch Dogs' offers intense action, superb graphics and new gameplay opportunities



Photos courtesy of Ubisoft

Set in Chicago, where a central network of computers connects everyone and everything, "Watch Dogs" explores the impact of technology within our society.



Overall grade: **B+**

major hit to your reputation, you can also do battle with Chicago's police department.

Although you can go into almost any encounter with guns blazing, I find it much more satisfying to sneak around the edges and use the electronic environment to soften up my enemies. For example, you can hack cameras and examine your foes and their surroundings for strengths and vulnerabilities. One enemy might be carrying explosives that you can detonate or have communications gear that you can silence. A wall might contain electrical equipment that can explode or a steam valve that can be released. It's usually possible to thin the ranks even further by using a silenced pistol before opening up with heavier weaponry.

But I have to admit that relying heavily on firearms seems to go against the spirit of the game. The defining element of "Watch Dogs" is hacking. The more you resort to firearms, the more the game seems

like "Grand Theft Auto" or "Saints Row."

No matter how you approach the battles, though, they are the most intense and enjoyable parts of the game.

The game also offers a lot of excellent puzzles. Aiden spends a lot of time gaining access to places he isn't wanted or investigating crimes that turn up during campaign missions. Many of these involve using a network of cameras to locate and unlock access points. Others involve manipulating elements of a "computer code" to create a path to the desired information.

While Aiden does a lot of crime-solving and gang-busting, his path isn't exactly straight and narrow. Of course that shouldn't be a surprise since his journey was sparked with a failed heist and propelled by vengeance. In addition to leaving a trail of bodies in his wake, Aiden funds his operations by hacking bank info from innocent passersby, and he steals a lot of cars. But despite this rob-from-the-poor-

and-keep-for-himself ethic, Chicago's citizens are inclined to see Aiden as a vigilante working on their behalf rather than a thief. That is, if you play the game the right way. If you stop a crime in progress or break up a gang, your popularity increases. If you run over pedestrians or shoot cops, it declines. The practical benefits of good cred are ample. You have a much lower profile with the police, and citizens are looking the other way when you commit crimes. If your profile is high, it's hard to accomplish anything between the police chases.

"Watch Dogs" delivers a solid selection of side quests and mini-games. In addition to stealing cars and solving crimes, activities including shooting up convoys of criminals, solving chess-themed puzzles or engaging in reflex-based "drinking games." The best mini-game is "Spider Tank," which takes a step outside of the game's version of reality to let you take command of a giant mechanical spider stalking the streets of Chicago. It's very well-designed and incredibly fun.

Since "Watch Dogs" is a game about online connectivity, it isn't surprising that it offers an interesting selection of multiplayer activities. You can hack other players' cellphones, race them through the streets of Chicago or join a team to decrypt computer files. Invitations to join other players pop up pretty frequently, and you can simply ignore them if you choose. However, you can also bring the outside world into your game uninvited if you hack the cellphone of someone identified as a "Blume affiliate." This will send a warning to Blume, which places a bounty on your data. Another player is likely to choose to accept the challenge and try to hack your phone. You'll receive a notice that you're being hacked and be given a chance to find the perpetrator. If you find and stop him, you earn a reward. If you don't, your foe does. If you don't like this sort of intrusion, you can simply avoid hacking anyone identified as a "Blume affiliate," or you can hack him, gain access to his money and then grab his phone before he can contact Blume.

All of this hacking and spying evokes headlines concerning the National Security Agency, WikiLeaks and identity theft. However, any political or social messages along these lines get submerged in Aiden's single-minded quest for vengeance and the idea that ends justify the means. While the story is deep and pretty interesting, I have to admit that Aiden came off as more of a self-righteous thug than a heroic Robin Hood saving the city from digital doom.

The game earns its mature rating because of violence, vulgar language and several scenes involving topless women.

**Bottom line: B+** "Watch Dogs" might seem familiar, but it delivers a lot of fun.

Platforms: PS3, PS4, Xbox 360, Xbox One, Wii U, PC

Online: watchdogs.ubi.com

## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Street musicians at Blühendes Barock

Through Sunday, the Blühendes Barock in Ludwigsburg, a castle known for its extensive and ornate gardens, will serve as the venue for the 11th edition of the Street Music Festival. While visitors are offered a wealth of possibilities for their listening pleasure, the performers are treated pretty well, too.

Some 50 soloists and groups from throughout the world will be giving their best on 12 stages scattered through the park. Each musician has half an hour to perform, be it folk, classical, pop or other genre.

Visitors will receive a card allowing them to vote for a favorite musician. The three musicians garnering the most votes win prize money. The top artist also gets the chance to perform a complete concert at the Reithalle in Ludwigsburg on June 18.

All artists receive an appearance fee, the change to bank and thus receive tangible thanks from the audience, vouchers for food and drink at the venue and a free bed in an artists' camp at the local youth hostel. Performers from abroad are given a small subsidy to cover travel costs.

Festival hours are 6-11 p.m. daily through Sunday. An awards



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at [stripes.com/travel/europe-travel](http://stripes.com/travel/europe-travel)

ceremony on Sunday, starting at 9 p.m., features performances by winners of the popular vote. On all days, adult entry costs 9 euros (about \$12.25), ages 4-15 pay 5 euros, those younger enter for free.

A restaurant and cocktail bar on the premises will keep hunger and thirst at bay. Blühendes Barock is in Ludwigsburg, about 10 miles north of Stuttgart. Learn more at [streetmusicfestival.com](http://streetmusicfestival.com).

## All American Music Festival in Luxembourg

What began as a project to support struggling artists has grown into a beloved and successful music festival and a summer staple for residents of and visi-

tors to Luxembourg's capital city.

The All American Music Festival, launched in 2006 to help musicians who had fallen on hard times after Hurricane Katrina in the U.S., opens Saturday evening and runs through Monday in Luxembourg city's downtown area. The festival aims to bring the sound, taste and feel of America's Deep South to the duchy.

Some 50 musicians will rock the large, open-air stage on Place Guillaume II with Dixieland, blues, jazz, rock, gospel and more. A total of 10 acts will perform, including Zanzibar 12's tribute to Ray Charles at 9 p.m. Saturday; the Gospel Church at noon and southern rock band Modern Earl at 9:30 p.m. Sunday; The Maverick's Country Show at 1:30 p.m. and Cashback Five's tribute to Johnny Cash at 5 p.m. Monday.

What to munch on as you're enjoying the day? Chill con carne, chicken wings served with a spicy dipping sauce, baked honey ham served in a bun, hot dogs, burgers and more might take you to a place that feels something like the USA.

Music fills the air Saturday from 9 p.m., Sunday from noon until around 11 p.m., and Monday from 11 a.m. to around 7 p.m. Admission to all concerts is free. More at [allamerican.lu](http://allamerican.lu).



AP

World Cup soccer is about to hit the streets. Viewing parties will take part in outdoor cafes, sports bars and stadiums across Europe as the World Cup takes place this month in Brazil. Shown above: A 2012 qualifying match between Russia and Northern Ireland.

## World Cup viewing

Whether you love "the beautiful game" or not, it will soon be hard to avoid. Soccer is about to dominate public social interaction as fans flock to screens in outdoor cafes, sports bars or even stadiums during the weeks to come.

World Cup group games run June 12-26, and the final match plays out July 13. Between now and then, plan to make one (or many) of your interactions with your host nation neighbors against the backdrop of a match. Dates to go out and cheer on Team USA are June 16 (vs. Ghana), June 22 (Portugal), and June 26 (Germany).

Owing to the time difference between World Cup host nation Brazil and Germany, it will generally be sometime between 6 p.m. and midnight when games are broadcast. Match-hosting Brazilian cities Rio De Janeiro and Sao Paulo are five hours behind central European time, while the cities of Manaus and Cuiabá are six hours behind central Europe.

Many cities will offer public viewing facilities. Most, but not all, venues will be broadcasting Germany's matches on June 16, June 21 and June 26, and all matches from June 28 on, when the round of 16 begins.

Here's an overview of some of the places to watch a match alongside thousands of others. For details on other cities hosting public viewing, see [wm-2014.net/wm-2014-public-viewing](http://wm-2014.net/wm-2014-public-viewing)

Berlin: Hyundai Fan Park on Strasse des 17. Juni between Brandenburg Gate and the Siegestasle. Free. Live music and shows will add to the entertainment. More at [tinyurl.com/nao78se](http://tinyurl.com/nao78se)

Bonn: Venues for the German matches include BSC-Stadion in Sportpark Nord; Brückenforum, which is covered; the Kunst!Rasen and Kunst!Garten; and the Kahema Grand. More at [tinyurl.com/uo77kw](http://tinyurl.com/uo77kw)

Frankfurt: The screen at Commerzbank Arena is about 4,305 square feet, which organizers call the largest in the world. Entry costs 8 euros. More at [tinyurl.com/nsm6ytr](http://tinyurl.com/nsm6ytr)

Hamburg: Heiligengestirfs "Kia Fan-Arena," capable of hosting up to 70,000 viewers. More at [tinyurl.com/pzm4edz](http://tinyurl.com/pzm4edz)

Heilbronn: "Fan village" on the Theresienvisse. Free. See [tinyurl.com/qcogawq](http://tinyurl.com/qcogawq)

Mainz: Coface-Arena; entry is 4 euros. A screen also goes up at Ernst-Ludwig-Platz. More at [tinyurl.com/mjprgoe](http://tinyurl.com/mjprgoe)

Mannheim: The old ice stadium at Friedrichpark can hold thousands of fans. Details at [tinyurl.com/nmneyt9](http://tinyurl.com/nmneyt9)

Munich: Olympiastadion will host tens of thousands of fans; 8 euros for adults, 6 euros for ages 6-14. See [tinyurl.com/nqkssky](http://tinyurl.com/nqkssky)

Nuremberg: The city's airport. Entry to "kick and groove park" is free. See [tinyurl.com/nv2le12](http://tinyurl.com/nv2le12)

Wiesbaden: Kurpark; entry is free. See [tinyurl.com/pfktbg](http://tinyurl.com/pfktbg)

— Karen Bradbury



JENS MEYER/AP

## GET INTO THE ART: Interactive exhibition in Augustusburg, Germany

A woman poses March 21 in an installation created in a special 3D-technique in the exhibition "You Are The Art" ("Du bist die Kunst") by a Chinese artist group at Augustusburg castle in Augustusburg, Germany. Visitors are invited to take pictures of themselves interacting with the art and to share the results on social networks. The exhibition includes 23 paintings and lasts until June 22.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Europe

# Historic stronghold

## Tower of London dominated by medieval castle built in the 1070s

By BOB DOWNING  
Akron Beacon Journal

**T**he Tower of London is history. The infamous Norman castle is nearly 1,000 years old. It is associated with such historical figures as William the Conqueror and Richard the Lionheart.

It has served as a royal palace, a fortress, a prison, a mint, a military storehouse, a treasury, home to the Crown Jewels, an armory, a public records office, a royal observatory and a royal zoo.

It is an unimposing complex of well-preserved medieval towers, walls, castles and grassy moats next to the River Thames in central London. It lies within two concentric rings of defensive walls and a moat. It is filled with steep stairs and narrow passageways.

The little-changed tower held many famous prisoners, especially during the reign of Henry VIII. It has a bloody history and image as about 100 people were executed, mostly outside the castle. You can see graffiti scratched into the walls of the Beauchamp Tower 500 years ago and learn of two murdered princes in the Bloody Tower.

The Tower of London was used as a prison from 1100 to 1952, peaking in the 16th and 17th centuries. Some say ghosts prowl the 18-acre grounds.

The World Heritage Site gets more than 2.4 million visitors a year. Along with Westminster Abbey, it's arguably one of the most historic sites in London. Perhaps its most impressive structure is the 90-foot-high White Tower that was built in the 1070s.

The Tower of London, officially known as Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress, has played a prominent role in English history. It was besieged several times and controlling it has been important to controlling England. It has been the center of political intrigue and imprisonment.

The two-story castle with a basement and towers was built as part of the Norman conquest of England and was a resented symbol of oppression inflicted on London by the new rulers. It was started by William the Conqueror, completed by William II and Henry I. It was expanded in the 12th and 13th centuries by Richard the Lionheart, Henry III and Edward I.

It is 118 feet long by 106 feet in width. The walls of limestone are 15 feet thick. A second floor and a roof were added later. It included three wells, a banquet



PHOTOS BY BOB DOWNING, AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

**The White Tower, a medieval castle built in the 1070s, is filled with armor and weaponry. It is the main building in the Tower of London, a popular destination for visitors.**

### KNOW & GO

The Tower of London, managed by Historic Royal Palaces, an independent charity, suggests that visitors allow two to three hours at a minimum. Audio tours are available.

The best advice in visiting the Tower of London is to have a plan, get there early and expect big crowds and long lines. Multiple tours are offered, led by the Yeoman Warders or the

Beefeaters, who have been doing it since 1485.

Hours: 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday March 1 through Oct. 31. Also from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 1 through Feb. 28. Adult admission is 20 pounds, 35 pence (about \$32).

For more: [www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk) or 0844 482 7777.

hall, a council chamber, a prison and a dungeon.

Today the White Tower is filled with very impressive Tudor and Stuart armor and weapons from the Royal Armouries, including Henry VIII's silvered armor from 1515 that celebrates his marriage to Katherine of Aragon. The armor has their intertwined initials, Tudor roses and Spanish pomegranates. There are two other Henry VIII armors, plus one belonging to his horse. Also on display is stunning gilt armor belonging to Charles I from about 1612. It is decorated with gold leaf and engraved foliage.

The Bloody Tower got its name in the 16th century. It is believed to be where two princes

were killed in 1483. Edward IV's brother, Richard Duke of Gloucester (later Richard III), was declared Lord Protector because 12-year-old Edward was too young to rule. Accounts say that Edward and his 9-year-old brother, Richard, were held prisoners by their uncle in the tower. The young brothers mysteriously disappeared, and the uncle was declared king. Bones thought to belong to the brothers were found in the tower in 1674 when a building was demolished.

Sir Walter Raleigh was imprisoned there for 13 years. Among those who were killed were three queens of England beheaded on the Tower Green: Anne Boleyn, Catherine Howard and Lady

Jane Grey. Boleyn and Howard were among Henry VIII's wives. They are buried in the Chapel Royal of St. Peter ad Vincula on the grounds.

Thomas More and John Fisher were both executed on Tower Hill. Both are now Catholic saints. In 1554, Princess Elizabeth was imprisoned briefly for plotting a rebellion against her sister, Mary Tudor, Queen of England. She later became queen.

One must-see Tower of London attraction is the Crown Jewels of the United Kingdom. They are housed in the Waterloo Barracks. The stunning and priceless collection of crowns, coronation regalia and jewels used by England's royalty since 1649 includes



**At top: Armor, including three suits belonging to Henry VIII, are featured in the display inside the White Tower inside the Tower of London in London, England. Above: The Bloody Tower is central to the murders of two princes in the 15th century.**

23,578 gems, one of which is the largest diamond ever found.

Most of the gold- and silver-encrusted pieces are used as coronations and are known collectively as the Coronation Regalia. That includes swords of state and ceremonial maces carried in procession, as well as orbs, scepters, trumpets, chalices, tankards, flagons, tunics and a silver-gilded punch bowl and tunics.

The collection is exhibited in glass displays and, yes, they are the real Crown Jewels. That is the most-asked question of visitors. Visitors are whisked along on a moving walkway.

St. Edward's Crown weighs 4.9 pounds and contains sapphires, tourmalines, topazes, amethysts and citrines. The smaller Imperial State Crown contains 2,868 diamonds, 273 pearls, 17 sapphires, 11 emeralds and five rubies.

St. Thomas's Tower, the Wakefield Tower and the Lambeth Tower are collectively known as the Medieval Palace that dates back to the 13th century.

**[The Tower of London] has served as a royal palace, a fortress, a prison, a mint, a military storehouse, a treasury, home to the Crown Jewels, an armory, a public records office, a royal observatory and a royal zoo.**

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



Eric A. Brown/Stars and Stripes

La Maison du Pain's inviting patio is perfect for breakfast or simply for a quick cup of delicious coffee in Wiesbaden, Germany, before hitting the outdoor market, which is no more than 50 feet away.

# After Hours: Germany

By **ERIC A. BROWN**  
*Stars and Stripes*

In a quest to re-create a tasty Parisian breakfast in Wiesbaden, Germany's pedestrian shopping district. Even though La Maison du Pain is a chain bakery, based out of Frankfurt, I was hoping it would come close to our Parisian experience.

La Maison du Pain, which means "the house of bread," is obviously a popular place in Wiesbaden, and a new branch is opening in Mainz this month.

The smell of the bakery pulls you in and you're greeted with eye-catching pastries and fresh breads galore. Even at 9 a.m., it was crowded, and seats on the patio were quickly being filled. We sat on the patio, which overlooks the Marktplatz, and soon our waitress, Zariah, appeared

and placed two English menus on the table.

Although disappointed that the salmon-and-onion quiche wasn't available—especially since La Maison du Pain's menu boasts that breakfast is served all day—I settled for the quiche Lorraine, which is a ham-and-onion variety. The quiche turned out to be delicious and was served warm with a zesty filling. It came with a light side salad topped with a creamy vinaigrette dressing.

My quiche was as good as quiche can be, but smaller than I had hoped. Averaging about the size of a fruit tart, I couldn't help but be a little disappointed. Coming in at 6.50 euros, I didn't feel this was much of a bargain. But of course, we are in downtown Wiesbaden and a good portion of the bill goes to ambiance.

My wife was glad to see a plate offering cheese, meat and bread as an option, since she's not a big fan of eggs. Yogurt with muesli, and common French breakfast breads, are also offered.



Above: Pastries, breads and more line the shelves and fill the counters of La Maison du Pain.

Left: The pièce de résistance: The chocolate croissant was buttery, flaky and had three rows of delicious piped chocolate filling inside.

I give props to the bakers, who prepare all the baked goods fresh each day. The bread basket that accompanied my wife's meal was outstanding: four types of bread served with French butter and strawberry jam. The raisin bread was particularly tasty with a crunchy crust and a moist, flavorful interior that certainly rivaled similar varieties we found in Paris. Unfortunately, I had to tangle with my wife over the one piece found in the basket. I wish there had been more.

The meat-and-cheese plate was somewhat lackluster, and we felt the Parisian version was much better; however, it does provide a hearty breakfast. At slightly more than 13 euros, the plate is a little pricey, but you walk away full and have some to share, and your hot beverage of choice is included.

As far as the coffee goes, La Maison du Pain serves one of the better cappuccinos I've tasted in Germany. I could have enjoyed another, but at 3.40 euros, the price was a little steep. I also grabbed a chocolate croissant to go. For 2 euros each, the croissant was perfection and well worth the coin.

Although I did see one family with a stroller there, the bakery prices were a bit high, so be aware before bringing all of the kids along for a meal. La Maison du Pain isn't a place I'd frequent each morning, but it makes for a quick pit stop for coffee and raisin bread.

To be fair, we went in with high expectations of our Parisian experience, and maybe you just can't compare apples to apples here. If you're in Germany, and want a Parisian-style breakfast, maybe La Maison du Pain is it for you. Give it a try.

brown.eric@stripes.com

## LA MAISON DU PAIN

Address: Marktstrasse 2-6, Wiesbaden

Times: 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and public holidays.

Prices: Moderate, but on the high end for most bakeries.

Clientele: Mostly business people and shoppers.

Dress: Casual.

Menu: English menus available.

Information: Telephone: (+49) (0)611-16661310; website: lamaisondupain.de/home; facebook.com/lamaisondupain.de. Reservations are not required. Credit and bank cards are accepted.

— Eric A. Brown



La Maison du Pain's "Aux champs" breakfast consists of a bread basket with fresh butter, jams and various cheeses and cold meats.



The quiche Lorraine is served warm with a zesty ham-and-onion filling and comes with a light salad topped with a creamy vinaigrette dressing.

# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

The Biosphärenhaus in Fischbach bei Dahn sits on the edge of a vast forest in southern Germany near the French border. Here, visitors gingerly negotiate a suspended segment of the nearby treetop trail.

# Explore a world of trees

Located outside Kaiserslautern, Biosphärenhaus features many interactive trails, a nature center

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

**S**teadying oneself on a slightly swaying rope bridge at eye level with leafy treetops is one way to develop a newfound fear of heights.

If you already have a fear of heights, and you manage to complete the lofty catwalk, then I would argue that you probably never had a fear of heights.

The *Wipfelpfad*, or treetop path, and nearby Biosphärenhaus are part of a sprawling, interactive indoor and outdoor nature center on the outskirts of Fischbach bei Dahn, a small town in the southern part of Germany's Palatinate Forest, near the French border.

It's an apt location for a tourist attraction devoted to nature. The Palatinate Forest and the adjacent Vosges Mountains in France form the UNESCO-designated Palatinate Forest-North Vosges Biosphere Reserve, one of the biggest forests in Europe.

After spending an afternoon at this woody wonderland located about an hour's drive south of Kaiserslautern, I discovered I fell somewhere in the middle on the acrophobia scale: I managed to traverse the entire length of the treetop path, but I felt jittery the whole time my feet stepped above terra firma.

Time for a confession: I did not go down the 40-meter (131-foot) tunnel slide at the end of the path. I told myself it was because I was carrying a camera bag and there was a sign in three languages, including English, that said no bags or daypacks



The Biosphärenhaus is spread over four floors and includes exhibits about the flora and fauna found in the region.

were allowed. But it was a relief not to have to sit on the slippery rubber mat and launch myself down the dark, hollow tube. The sign might as well have said "no wimps allowed."

But since there was no other way down — that I found, at least — I had to turn around and retrace my steps over the treetop trail, marveling along the way at the ease with which a girl looking no older than 6 walked among the trees on the rope bridge.

Opened in 2003, the trail is promoted as Germany's first canopy walk. Most of the 270-meter-long footpath is like a boardwalk, and with 19 steel supports underneath, it feels pretty solid, even at heights from

about 40 to 60 feet. Those feeling adventurous can cross the heavy rope bridge and a section of metal discs suspended by chains. Both are surrounded by crisscrossed ropes with spaces in between big enough for a small foot to slip through, but that's about it.

The loftiest point is some 115 feet above the ground at an observation tower that provides a bird's-eye view of the surrounding forest.

Signs with information about the local ecosystem and interactive displays, from listening to bat sounds to reading about how trees conserve water in summertime, serve as a nice diversion from the open space under foot.

At the Biosphärenhaus, or Biosphere House, an indoor, hands-on museum provides more fun opportunities to learn about the workings of the natural world. The exhibition is spread over four floors and includes a darkened room where visitors can learn more about the area's nocturnal critters.

There is still more outdoors, including a playground for kids and two adventure trails, each about two kilometers long (about 1 1/4 miles) and featuring hands-on learning stations. One trail meanders through the woods. The other heads away from the trees, through meadows and along a stream. It includes a short path where hikers are encouraged to shed their shoes and explore life in a creek's barefoot. Special events in July and August include night hikes and a sleep-out on the treetop trail.

svan.jennifer@starsandstripes.com



One segment of the treetop trail consists of a series of metal discs, suspended by chains inside a rope cage. Opened in 2003, the trail is promoted as Germany's first canopy walk.

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address: Am Königsbruch 1, 66996 Fischbach bei Dahn, about an hour's drive south of Kaiserslautern.

### TIMES

The center is open every day, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. November to March; 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. April, May, and October; 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. June to September. The treetop trail might be closed at times from November to March due to construction, according to the center's brochure.

### COSTS

Admission is 11.50 euros (about \$16) per adult, which includes access to the Biosphärenhaus, the treetop trail and a falconry show held twice a day, at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. For ages 4 to 17, tickets cost 9.50 euros apiece. Discounted family and group tickets are available. Children under 12 years have to be accompanied on the trail by an adult.



NOVA AMBAV/Stars and Stripes

### FOOD

The Biosphärenhaus restaurant opens at 11 a.m. daily.

### INFORMATION

Phone: (+49) (0)639392100; [www.biosphaerenhaus.de](http://www.biosphaerenhaus.de) (in German); email: [info@biosphaerenhaus.de](mailto:info@biosphaerenhaus.de)

— Jennifer H. Svan

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# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Europe

## Stroll through cozy Cotswolds

England's Cotswolds villages — while just a couple of hours' drive away from London — feel like a world apart. This tidy little region of characteristic old towns and gentle green hills is perfect for travelers looking to balance urban Britain with some thatched cuteness.

Each of Europe's famously quaint regions has a historical basis for its present-day charm. For the Cotswolds, it's a combination of old sheep wealth, which produced big fancy manor houses, gorgeous churches and stately market towns — all paid for by wool — and isolation from the rest of England, both economically and physically.

With the rise of cotton and the Industrial Revolution, the wool industry collapsed, people moved to the big cities, and time stood still in the Cotswolds towns. That, combined with sparse highway and train service to the region, turned the Cotswolds into a kind of backwater that missed the modern economic current.

My favorite place to stay is in the north Cotswolds. Two of the coziest towns are Chipping Campden and Stow-on-the-Wold. Either makes a fine home base for exploring the countryside. Another option, especially for those without a car, is Moreton-in-Marsh, which, though not as quaint, feels less touristy and has the best public transportation.

Chipping Campden was once the home of the richest Cotswold wool merchants. Its High Street is one of the finest in England,

with a parade of stone buildings lining either side. Despite differing architectural styles, they are all made from the same Cotswold stone — the only stone allowed today. At the center of town is the 17th-century Market Hall, Chipping Campden's most famous monument.

Located 10 miles south of Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold — with a name that means "meeting-places" — is the highest point in the Cotswolds. It's a crowded tourist town, but most visitors are day-trippers, so nights are peaceful.

Stow has no real sights other than the town itself, some good pubs, antique stores, and cute shops draped seductively around a big town square and a set of old-time stocks. Stocks were originally used to publicly ridicule people as punishment. Today, a visit to Stow is not complete until you've locked your partner in the stocks on the green.

Just outside Stow, the Cotswold Farm Park delights young and old alike with a chance to meet rare and endangered breeds of local animals.

The best activity in the Cotswolds is to take a hike through the countryside. After decades of visits to Britain, I finally took some time to do the nearly five-

mile stroll from Stow to Lower Slaughter, then on to Bourton-on-the-Water. I took home vivid memories of my time here in the time-passed Cotswolds.

Rick Steves (www.ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on television and radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



Rick Steves



At the Cotswold Farm Park, visitors meet endangered breeds of native British animals and partake in farm demonstrations and tractor rides.

Courtesy of Rick Steves

# Restaurant Directory

## GERMANY

<p><b>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</b></p> <p>Since 1978</p> <p><b>China Restaurant Peking</b></p> <p>Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nikolausstr. 8, 92637 Weiden/OP Tel. 0961-33096 Fax: 0961-34033/www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p><b>Kaiserslautern area</b></p> <p><b>QUACK</b></p> <p>Gasthaus &amp; Biergarten</p> <p>Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack.Mt.de Tel. 0931/49238</p>	<p><b>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</b></p> <p><b>Benjamin Gastel</b></p> <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Söhn Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.benjamin-gastel.de</p>
<p><b>Glutschauel Hotel &amp; Restaurant</b></p> <p>International Hotel &amp; Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: 0945/60 29 00 www.glutschauel.de</p>	<p><b>EFENDI 'Kebab'</b></p> <p>Enjoy the taste of Turkey</p> <p>Riesenstrasse 18 67655 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/EFENDIkebab</p>	<p><b>PAPPELHAUS</b></p> <p>Steinernstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649609 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p><b>PALLAS</b></p> <p>GREEK SPECIALTIES</p> <p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p><b>Trattoria Da Salvatore</b></p> <p>Fleischerherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 0671-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p><b>okinii</b></p> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2385808</p>
<p><b>EL GRECO</b></p> <p>This Way To Greece... Original Greek Cuisine Come as a friend, leave as a friend Tel: 0945/963 37279 Schlörplatz 9 92637 Weiden www.elgreco-weiden.de</p>	<p><b>Irish house</b></p> <p>KAISERSLAUTERN</p> <p>Eselsfuhr 11 (Just off the A6 down the way from Sembach) Open Daily Taxi Services Available Tel. 0631-40680 • www.irishhouse.de</p>	<p><b>Villa im Tal</b></p> <p>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admatal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p><b>Hotel Am See</b></p> <p>Kirchentumbacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-402403 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited on the shore of the Rulfwelther</p>	<p><b>Glutschauel Hotel &amp; Restaurant</b></p> <p>International Hotel &amp; Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 0945/602900 www.glutschauel.de</p>	<p><b>KB's Country &amp; Western Saloon</b></p> <p>Berge, 4, 9229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>
<p><b>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch</b></p> <p>Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Dine-In</p> <p>36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08242-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>	<p><b>IMAM'S BAR</b></p> <p>Alte Ambergstr. 36 92655 Grafenwöhr</p>	<p><b>China Restaurant</b></p> <p><b>China City</b></p> <p>Mongolian Grill-Barbecue</p> <p>All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>
<p><b>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana</b></p> <p>Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: hs425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com</p> <p>Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelti &amp; Patch Bars. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p><b>Hotel de France</b></p> <p>"Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Faunstrasse"</p> <p>Tel +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcome@hotelfrance.com www.hotelfrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>	<p><b>Garimish-Partenkirchen</b></p> <p><b>California</b></p> <p>Open Wed-Mon, Noon-11pm (Tues, Closed) Call For Reservations, Take Out Orders Tel: 09371-97486 www.istorante-la-mama-garimish.de Zugspitzstrasse 17, 82467 Garimish-Partenkirchen</p>
<p><b>Wiesbaden</b></p> <p>Book now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on Marriott.com via your M.I. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</p>	<p><b>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg</b></p> <p>Waldstr. 40, 66877, Rarnstein-Miesenheim Tel: 063719523955 Fax: 063719523944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<p><b>Enchilada - Piro Masoco</b></p> <p>Enchilada - Restaurant By Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3, 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbaden.enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>
<p><b>Stuttgart</b></p> <p>Authentic Indian Cuisine Eschlagge Str. 11 Phone 0711-5976 78 38 16 Leonenberg Str. 97 Phone 07152-90 33 32</p>	<p><b>Kashmir</b></p> <p>Indian Restaurant</p>	<p><b>Gabriel Restaurantino</b></p> <p>Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainerberg/XP area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>

# Hotel Directory GERMANY

<p><b>Hotel Am See</b></p> <p>Kirchentumbacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-402403 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited on the shore of the Rulfwelther</p>	<p><b>Glutschauel Hotel &amp; Restaurant</b></p> <p>International Hotel &amp; Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 0945/602900 www.glutschauel.de</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

# THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Tokyo Summerland

## FLOURISHING: See hydrangeas in Japan

Enjoy the 15,000 hydrangea plants at Tokyo Summerland in Akiruno City. For more: [summerland.co.jp](http://summerland.co.jp). Tokyo Summerland isn't the only place to view the flowers in bloom. Another site is Onike Hydrangea Garden in Gunma prefecture. Festivals include Nanbu Hydrangea Festival in Yamanashi prefecture and the Satte Hydrangea Festival in Saitama prefecture.

## ON BASE: FATHER'S DAY

### Japan

Dads bowl for \$1 at **Atsugi** lanes 11 a.m.-11 p.m. June 15. ITT Tours has two trips on June 15: one to a lunch buffet at Golemba Kogen Resort and another to Hakone. **Yokosuka** tours has a trip June 15 that features Mount Fuji sightseeing, National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation and brunch at New Sanno. At **Yokota**, enjoy a steak dinner 5-9 p.m. June 14 at the Officers' Club. On June

15, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., the Enlisted Club has a special brunch for Father's Day.

### Okinawa

See an Okinawan bullfight with Camps **Foster**, **Courtney** and **Kinsler**, noon-4 p.m. June 15. For more: [tinyurl.com/mddz2su](http://tinyurl.com/mddz2su).

To see your events here: [SSPEDITlibrary@stripes.com](mailto:SSPEDITlibrary@stripes.com).

## OFF BASE

### Japan

**IRIS FESTIVAL AT IZU NIJI-NO-SATO (Shizuoka prefecture):** Through late June, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., opens 6:30 a.m. June 7, 8, 14, & 15; [tinyurl.com/mypyryr](http://tinyurl.com/mypyryr).

**LOVE & CHARM IN OMOHARA (Tokyo):** Through June 27;



AP

### DO THIS: Toy Show

The free International Tokyo Toy Show is 9 a.m.-5 p.m. June 14 and until 4 p.m. June 15 and features toys from around the world at Tokyo Big Sight. For more: [toys.or.jp/toyshow](http://toys.or.jp/toyshow).

featuring costumes used in the movie "Maleficent," and more at Tokyo Plaza Omote Sando Harajuku Omohara Station (3rd floor); [tinyurl.com/nzi3nv](http://tinyurl.com/nzi3nv).

### Okinawa

**15TH SABANI SAILING RACE:** June 22, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; traditional sabani — sailboats made of wood — race 21.8 miles from Furuzamami Beach on Zamami Island to Naha Port.

### South Korea

**GOSEONG LAVENDER FESTIVAL**

(**Gangwon-do**): Through June 30, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; events in the areas around Echoeomni in Goseong-gun include photo exhibit, concert, perfume-making and more; free; [tinyurl.com/np4kprn](http://tinyurl.com/np4kprn).

**MUJU FIREFLY FESTIVAL (Jeollabuk-do):** June 7-15; the fireflies of Muju are one of Korea's natural monuments. Activities at the festival include trout fishing and rafting; english firefly or less.

**CENTUM BEER FESTIVAL (Busan):** June 12-29, 5-11 p.m.; taste a variety of beers; [tinyurl.com/psvqdpv](http://tinyurl.com/psvqdpv).

## CONCERTS

### Japan

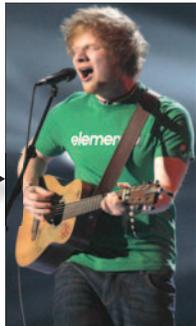
**FUJI ROCK FESTIVAL:** July 25-27; Includes Franz Ferdinand, Arcade Fire, The Flaming Lips and many more; Naeba Ski Resort, Yuzawa-machi, Niigata; [tinyurl.com/c5y25ac](http://tinyurl.com/c5y25ac).

**ED SHERAN:** Tokyo, Aug. 8, 7 p.m., Studio Coast, 5,800 yen (standing); Smash 03-3444-6751.

**BOYZ II MEN:** Tokyo, Sept. 19, 8 p.m., Sept. 20, 6 p.m., Tokyo International Forum Hall A.

### South Korea

**INCHEON PENTAPORT ROCK FESTIVAL:** Incheon, Aug. 1-3, Incheon Songdo 23rd Geunrin Park, 164,600 won/three-day pass; [tinyurl.com/366rwh](http://tinyurl.com/366rwh).



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# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Pacific



Courtesy of KTO NY

## SAND, SEA AND ART: Haeundae Sand Festival, South Korea

This event in Busan from June 6 to 9 features more than just art created with the area's white sand. There is also a hot sand bath, along with beach volleyball, a marathon, fireworks, concerts and more. For more: [sandfestival.co.kr/default/index2.php](http://sandfestival.co.kr/default/index2.php).

## Runners, hikers share new spots, old favorites

Name: trailburning.com

What it does: It's a website that lets people share their favorite trails. Traveling to a new country and hankering for a brag-worthy trail to run? Crowd-source it from another passionate enthusiast before you pack your shoes.



What's hot: It's not all about the where — you get a story too — and the large trail pictures bring the travels to life. I'm not a serious runner, or even a jogger, but I love discovering new places around the world, and Trailburning helps me do just that. Matt Allebeur's description of running in the Adelaide Hills of Australia says it all: "We were running through a herd of wild kangaroo and our hearts raced; it was something almost primeval. There we were running amongst wild animals with a sense that we too were wild. At that moment I felt I understood what it means to run — it's not about speed, distance or the finish line; to run is to run wild, as wild as an animal." Need a map to pinpoint the trail location? Done. Make sure you click on the initial map to get to trail run details and extra photos.

What's not: Is it too techie? Depends on you. Trailburning says, "It's as simple as uploading a GPX file from your running watch or favorite tracking app."

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



The tunnel tank at Shinagawa Aquarium in Tokyo gives visitors the feeling that they're underwater among various aquatic animals.

Courtesy of Shinagawa Aquarium

# Dive into Tokyo's Shinagawa Aquarium

Family-friendly atmosphere and tourist-ready exhibits make for a great day trip



The dolphin show at Shinagawa Aquarium is the only one of its kind in Tokyo. The venue offers hourly performances.

PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

By ERIC GUZMAN  
Stars and Stripes

**T**here's no shortage of aquariums in Tokyo. Some, like Ikebukuro's Sunshine Aquarium, are located inside high-rise buildings. Others come and go as pop-up installations, most famously in Roppongi Hills.

But the Shinagawa Aquarium — while not the most convenient — is located around — is hands down the best aquarium available in Tokyo.

The family-friendly atmosphere and tourist-ready exhibits make for a great day trip.

The water tunnel, the aquarium's biggest draw, lets you walk through the basement levels of the two-story facility while surrounded by water and sea life. Eels, sting rays, assorted species of fish and sea lions dance around the tube as visitors watch from the inside.

Dolphin, penguin and sea lion shows are hosted hourly.

Crowds for the dolphin show can fill up quickly, so it is advised to show up early to make sure there is seating available. The dolphin show is the only one available in Tokyo.

Guests also are invited to watch the sea lion and penguin feedings, as they're turned into small shows as well.

And there are splash zones designated for guests who want to

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Address is 3-2-1 Katsushima, Shinagawa, Tokyo. Accessible by metro from the Omori Kaigan Station, east exit. Also accessible by the Sujo Water Bus from Hinode Pier.

### COSTS

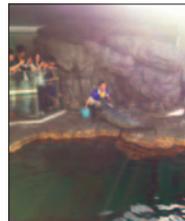
Entry is 1,300 yen for adults, 600 yen for ages 7-12, and 300 yen for ages 4-6

### TIMES

Open Wednesday through Monday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; doors close at 4:30 p.m.

### FOOD

The on-site Dolphin Restau-



Aquarium guests attend an afternoon sea lion feeding.

rant offers light meals and drinks.

### INFORMATION

Telephone: 03-3762-3431  
Website: [aquarium.gr.jp/en](http://aquarium.gr.jp/en)

— Eric Guzman

get the full aquatic experience. The cost for all shows inside of the aquarium is included with price of admission.

There is a restaurant at the entrance of the aquarium, with separate adult and children's menus available. Beer is served inside the restaurant and at one

of the concession stands outside. The Shinagawa Aquarium is located 15 minutes away from Omori Kaigan Station's east exit if you choose to walk, but the aquarium provides a shuttle from Hinode Pier if you would rather go by vehicle.

[guzman.eric@stripes.com](mailto:guzman.eric@stripes.com)



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## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific



Breakfast items like eggs Benedict, below right, as well as hamburgers and various sandwiches are served throughout the day at Slappy Cakes restaurant in Shinjuku, Tokyo.

PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes



## After Hours: Japan

BY ERIC GUZMAN  
Stars and Stripes

**F**inding something different for dinner can be a challenge, even in a city with 150,000 restaurants.

But at Shinjuku's Slappy Cakes restaurant — located in Shinjuku Station's Lumine building — you can have everything from burgers to pancakes, whenever you want.

Meal portions at Slappy Cakes are hearty; most plates come with eggs, bacon, toast and potatoes. Additional side items like macaroni and cheese or deep-fried bacon are also offered to go along with your order.

The Slappy Benedict (eggs Benedict served with bacon and potatoes) is a popular dish.

But what makes the Slappy Cakes experience truly unique is the option to cook your own pancakes on a surface hidden inside your table.

Anyone who has visited one

of Tokyo's popular okonomiyaki restaurants may be familiar with the setup, which gives guests the chance to pick ingredients ranging from berries to chocolate chips to toss into pancakes that they cook at their table. This option is plenty of fun for kids and adults alike, especially for the artistically inclined: The batter-dispensing squirt bottles are perfect for crafting custom-shaped pancakes.

For those who are looking for something other than breakfast or burgers, sandwiches are available for purchase.

There are milkshakes and cocktails on the drink menu, along with a small selection of domestic and import beers, and really, what complements a stack of pancakes better than an ice-cold beer?

English menus are available, and the friendly English-speaking staff can help if any further assistance is needed. Meals start at 1,000 yen.

guzman.eric@stripes.com

## SLAPPY CAKES

Address: 7F Lumine Est, 3-38-1, Shinjuku, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo

Access: Shinjuku Station

Telephone: 03-6457-4155,

or visit the restaurant's website at slappycakes.com/locations/shinjuku.

Staff speaks English.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily, last order at 10 p.m.

Dress: Casual

Price: Meals start at 1,000 yen.

Slappy Cakes is known for its do-it-yourself pancakes. Guests can pick their favorite flavors, made from scratch daily. Pancakes, which can be customized with different shapes and sizes, are cooked on a heated surface hidden inside guest tables. A variety of fillings and toppings can be added to pancakes.

## Sorghum, a Southern staple, sees success

BY MICHELE KAYAL  
The Associated Press

**W**hen chef Josh Feathers was growing up in Tennessee, his grandmother always had a jar of sorghum syrup in the cupboard. But he never gave much thought to it, or its significance to Southern culture.

That didn't happen until he'd grown up, moved away, then returned home to work at Blackberry Farm in Walland, Tenn. "My mentor, while we were creating desserts, he said, 'This is one of the main ingredients you need to look at,'" recalls Feathers, now corporate chef at Blackberry Farm. "This is a truly Southern heritage ingredient we want to highlight."

Today, much of the country — even the South itself — is experiencing a similar delayed appreciation for sorghum.

Sorghum syrup — or "sorghum molasses," as it's sometimes called — has long been a staple of certain Southern cupboards. Pressed from the tough, grassy stalks of the sweet sorghum plant, then boiled down, it was seen as the province of grandmothers, a stodgy, household ingredient no one paid much mind.

No more. Sorghum syrup and even sorghum grain are being thrust into the limelight by a new generation of chefs in the South and beyond who appreciate its complexities and its provenance.

"Sorghum wasn't considered a noble ingredient 10 years ago," says Edward Lee, chef of two Louisville, Ky., restaurants. "The first thing I get is this very rustic nuttiness, this umami rustiness, then the grassiness. And then the sweetness unfolds around that. It's a unique flavor. And it adds a lot of depth to what you're cooking, more so than honey."

Lee is not alone. He uses sorghum as a glaze for foie gras and highlights its distinct flavor in sorghum-and-grits ice cream. Feathers calls it "an all-purpose item" that can be drizzled over biscuits, shines up breakfast sausage and enlivens vinaigrettes. Vivian Howard, chef and co-owner of The Chef and the Farmer in Kinston, N.C., has deployed sorghum in candied yams. Washington, D.C., chef and restaurateur Jeff Tunks uses

sorghum on his "low-and-slow" roast duck. And in Philadelphia, chef Jeremy McMillan of Talula's Garden combines it with black garlic to glaze carrots.

Demand for sorghum syrup has doubled during the past five years, says James Baier, executive secretary of the National Sweet Sorghum Producers and Processors Association, rising so fast that some of his 300 members have begun running out before the new season starts.

Demand is being driven by the public's search for alternative sweeteners, Baier says, and also by the light shined on sorghum by chefs, restaurants, even cocktail mixologists. Distillers have begun producing a rum-like product from sorghum, Baier says, and others use it to make whiskey, beer and cocktail bitters.

## BLUEBERRY SORGHUM SPOON BREAD

Ingredients:

3 cups milk

½ cup sorghum syrup

1 teaspoon kosher salt

1¼ cups cornmeal

3 eggs

¼ cup (½ stick) unsalted

butter, melted

1½ teaspoons baking powder

2 cups blueberries

Directions:

In a medium pan over medium-high heat, combine the milk, sorghum syrup and salt. Bring to a boil then, while whisking, pour in the cornmeal in a steady stream. Continue stirring and cooking for 2 minutes, or until the mixture thickens. Remove from the heat and cool to room temperature.

Heat the oven to 350 F. Coat a 9-by-9-inch baking pan or a 1½-quart baking dish with baking spray.

Transfer the cornmeal mixture to the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a whisk. Add the eggs, melted butter and baking powder. Beat on medium to combine, then increase speed to high and beat for 6 to 8 minutes, or until the mixture is lighter in both color and texture. Fold in the blueberries, then spoon into the prepared pan. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes, or until lightly browned. Serve warm.

Makes 8 servings, 230 calories each  
Recipe from Alison Ledman



MATTHEW MEAD/AP

Sorghum syrup can be used to sweeten blueberry spoon bread.

## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

# Crouching rhino, HIDDEN TIGER

## Wildlife abounds at Way Kambas National Park in Sumatra

By HUGH BIGGAR

Special to The Washington Post

When a man with a machete silently joins us at the edge of the rain forest, my sister and I aren't sure whether to be alarmed or comforted. We already have a guide and a park ranger accompanying us as we set off into Sumatra's Way Kambas National Park. The mysterious machete man makes five.

The Indonesian island of Sumatra is one of the few places left in the world where elephants, rhinos and — of particular interest to Heather and me — tigers live together in the wild. Critically endangered, wild tigers are fighting to survive in the face of widespread poaching and forest-clearing. With this in mind, we've decided to travel to Sumatra to see what we can, while we can.

Before the trip, the eco-lodge arranging it warns us that it's extremely unlikely that we'll see any tigers. There are roughly 30 Sumatran tigers remaining in the 502-square-mile Way Kambas park, in southern Sumatra, and they mostly prefer to stay in the deep interior. Across Sumatra, there are fewer than 400 tigers left; they're extinct on the nearby islands of Java and Bali. Sumatra's tigers are smaller than their cousins elsewhere and have thicker black stripes.

Though getting a glimpse is a long shot, Heather and I are ready to try, hoping at the very least to spy a tiger paw print or claw marks on tree bark — any signs of the jungle cats will do.

From the clearing, we hike single file into the park with the mysterious machete man at the rear, the ranger at the front. Following a trail not much wider than a machete blade, we cross patches of shoe-sucking mud and kick up finger-size leeches that slow our pace as we keep stopping to shake them off. We also stop often to look at macaques, a well-named slow loris (a lemurlike primate that we're told has a toxic bite), small deer known as

muntjacs, and blue-banded kingfishers. Some of the trees are rare tropical hardwoods that are highly valued by loggers. Overhead, we hear monkey and wild-bird calls. As we'd been forewarned, despite the machete man at our backs, there are no traces of any tigers, the very thing we most hope to see.

"Perhaps the tiger cams are the best way to see the tigers," says our guide, Hari, once we're back at the ranger station, offering the thought as a sort of consolation prize.

After lunch, we try a different route into the park. The five of us set off in a small boat that cruises slowly along the Way Kambas River, on glassy water the color of milky tea. Our wake barely rouses a mostly submerged freshwater crocodile. There are no muddy tiger footprints along the bank, but gibbons and long-tailed macaques spot us and move higher up into the trees.

### Rhino at breakfast

In the morning, Hari picks us up and promises that we'll have better luck seeing Sumatran rhinos and elephants today. We follow a bumpy dirt road into the park,

driving past more muntjacs, monkeys and crested fireback pheasants on our way to the Sumatran Rhino Sanctuary.

The sanctuary aids Sumatra's endangered rhinos, which are considered one of the most threatened large mammals in the world. They are the smallest rhinoceros species — and considered the most vocal — and are also known as hairy rhinos because of the hair on their bodies. Once found across Southeast Asia, Sumatran rhinos today number about 100, with only 25 to 35 at Way Kambas.

We're fortunate enough to see one of them, a young 1,500-pound female that has come to the sanctuary for breakfast. Like other rhinos here, she's being reintroduced into the wild following a period in captivity. Mostly solitary creatures, the sanctuary's rhinos each receive a large wedge of rain forest to roam in, with the wedges radiating from a large circle, at the center of which is the sanctuary itself.

The rhino has returned from a night in the forest to eat mounds of leafy branches. She chews her food slowly while a sanctuary staff member tells a German documentary film crew and us that rhinos eat 10 percent of their weight each day,

which is certainly food for thought. Curious about the gathered crowd, the rhino ambles over closer to us. Up close, her leathery skin is indeed marked by patches of dark hair. Her eyes are lively, and she's surprisingly light on her feet. She cautiously investigates our small group and, fortunately for us, decides not to mark her territory with excrement (another Sumatran rhino characteristic).

### Elephants, but no tigers

A teeth-rattling ride in the SUV lands us at the Elephant Conservation Center. We pass lush forest and small patches of land cleared for farming, some marked by tall wooden platforms. Hari informs us that the farmers use these platforms to keep watch over the fields at night to make sure that the elephants don't trample their crops. Like the rhinos and the tigers, Sumatra's elephants have had their troubles. They are critically endangered, with fewer than 3,000 Sumatran elephants remaining, about 200 of them in the Way Kambas park.

This year, the elephant center expects to open Indonesia's first elephant hospital. Heather and I tour the center's low-slung bungalows and let a baby elephant reach into our backpacks and pockets with its long trunk to consume our stash of bananas. Then we climb aboard two resident elephants to explore farther afield. Our elephant drivers, or mahouts, guide us along a red dirt track, across swampy water and onto a grassy plain. In the distance, we can see pockets of grazing wild elephants.

"Any tigers here?" I ask the elephant driver, our elephants' ears flapping as we push through high bushes.

"Maybe in the past you see droppings," he says, pointing to the ground, "but now not too much."

That night at the eco-lodge, my sister and I drink warm beer and toast our good fortune at seeing the elephants, rhino and other rare wildlife. A small cat wanders from table to table hustling scraps, and we agree that it will have to do for our tiger of Sumatra.



HUGH BIGGAR/Special to The Washington Post

At Way Kambas National Park on the Indonesian island of Sumatra, Satwa Elephant Eco-lodge (occasionally visited by Sumatran rhens) puts guests in prime wildlife viewing position. But don't count on seeing the elusive Sumatran tiger.



Stars and Stripes

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

# RIPPED FROM THE HEADLINES!



Courtesy of RCA Nashville

Instant classic!

## Miranda Lambert examines darker side of celebrity on new album, 'Platinum'

By CHRIS TALBOTT  
The Associated Press

**M**iranda Lambert has learned something about human nature since becoming one of country music's most identifiable stars.

"People are very, very mean," she says of the tabloids that have made sport of her life, her looks and her marriage since her husband, Blake Shelton, joined NBC's musical competition "The Voice" as a celebrity coach.

Lambert's wild ride over the past two years is all over her ambitious, sprawling new album, "Platinum." The 30-year-old lays bare her life in many ways on songs that examine the darker aspects of celebrity, and she shows the tabloids have been getting everything wrong.

"There are people who literally, their only job is to make other people miserable, and that's a terrible way to live your life," Lambert said.

Lambert's multifaceted musical reaction to the gossip press helps make "Platinum," out this week, her most diverse album yet. It heads in many directions musically, from the rock 'n' roll of "Priscilla," "Girls" and "Little Red Wagon" to the singer-songwriter self-reflection of "Bathroom Sink" and "Hard Staying Sober."

"Priscilla" takes on the tabloids directly. In the song, Lambert identifies with Priscilla Presley and the troubles she must have experienced in her life with Elvis. The song resulted from a catch-up session between Lambert and songwriter Natalie Hemby as Lambert gathered material for "Platinum."

"When I get to write with her, I think she

just lets her hair down," Hemby said. "She doesn't have to be Miranda. I've known her before she was big and famous ... and I asked how she was doing. She said, 'According to the press, I'm pregnant or I'm fat or I'm getting divorced.' It just went on and on, and I just kind of laughed and said, 'Well, then you must be really successful.'"

Lambert says she's learning to live with all the attention. Her new trim look is a result of getting control of her emotions, she says, and not some darker reason. She simply no longer turns to corn dogs for solace when she reads an upsetting headline.

Tabloids aren't the only topic on "Platinum." There is plenty of joy and sass, just as there is in her life. She shows a beau the door in traditional country style on "All That's Left," featuring The Time Jumpers; examines her love of flea markets and her hatred of getting older on songs with titles that can't be reprinted, and teams up with Carrie Underwood for the powerhouse anthem "Somethin' Bad."

In the end, the album is as overstuffed as her life.

"Loretta Lynn said you've got to live a life in order to sing about it," Lambert said. "That's what I'm doing. The good, the bad and the ugly is on this record. It's who I am."

Country star takes on the tabloids!



### Miranda Lambert

Platinum (RCA Nashville)

**L**et's cut to the chase: Miranda Lambert's new "Platinum" album isn't just the finest work of her already-strong career, it's also the best album so far in an already impressive 2014.

Lambert does it by forgoing marketing strategies and current trends. She simply follows her heart and speaks her mind.

It's hard to imagine another superstar singer daring to be as raw as Lambert is in "Bathroom Sink," where her chorus is "It's amazing the amount of rejection that I see in my reflection, but I can't get out of the way," while still managing to rock hard.

Lambert effortlessly bounces from the Western swing style of "All That's Left" with The Time Jumpers to the Def Leppard-styled arena rock of "Somethin' Bad" with Carrie Underwood. It's clear that "Platinum" isn't about packaging Lambert as some sort of salable country star, which was an issue with her last album. This is about ripping away the packaging to let Miranda be Miranda.

Whether it's the Bonnie Raitt-ish "Holdin' on to You," which she co-wrote with fellow Pistol Annie Ashley Monroe and Jessi Alexander, or the honky-tonk sing-along "Gravity's a Bitch," Lambert uses whatever country-leaning style suits her material best. She might be most effective, though, when, like her husband, Blake Shelton, she romanticizes the glory days of country, as she does in the first single, "Automatic," and the gorgeous "Another Sunday in the South."

Considering how great "Platinum" is, Lambert better watch out. She might be leading country into a new Golden Age.

— Glenn Gamboa  
Newsday

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Marion Winnick of Newsday has compiled a summer reading list that she describes as "a picnic with fiction of every flavor: fantasy, thriller, romance, satire and the ever-popular genre of books about people going to the beach."

**"Cutting Teeth"** by Julia Fierro

An ensemble of Park Slope parents you'll love to hate take their playgroup to a shabby summer cottage on the Gold Coast. Everybody's got problems and burning secrets, including the nanny, "the Tibetan Mary Poppins." Will Grace have another baby? Will Tiffany put some clothes on? Will Nicole have to go back on Zoloft? Is the world about to end? All will be revealed by Labor Day.

**"The Vacationers"** by Emma Straub

Off to Mallorca with the Post family: parents celebrating their 35th, daughter just graduated from high school, older son and his girlfriend, a gay couple who are close friends. Unfortunately, Dad has just lost his job as editor of a men's magazine for reasons that put a damper on the anniversary celebration. Great characters, delicious setting.

**"Abroad"** by Katie Crouch

Those who couldn't get enough of the Amanda Knox trial will enjoy the nasty, deadly adventures of an Irish girl who falls in with a bad crowd during her year of study in Italy. Sex, games, jealousy, mean girls, money, booze, ancient Egyptian secrets, strange American roommate — it's all on the syllabus.

**"Summer House with Swimming Pool"** by Herman Koch

Dutch author Koch's reputation for creating irresistible stories about nasty people doing nasty things was established last summer with "The Dinner," now on its way to a screen adaptation directed by Cate Blanchett. This year's model focuses on the shady doings of a celebrity doctor whose star patient dies not long after he may have raped the doc's teenage daughter during a stay at their villa on the Mediterranean.

**"One Plus One"** by Jojo Moyes

Housecleaner, bartender and single mom Jess Thomas can't make ends meet — and tech mogul Ed Nicholl has woes at the other end of the financial spectrum. Beloved British chick lit author Moyes brings the two together on the side of the road, where Jess is standing beside a broken-down Rolls-Royce with her two oddball kids and giant dog. They were on their way to a math Olympiad in Scotland when a cop pulled her over. Now they're en route to a love story.

**"The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair"** by Joel Dicker

A literary thriller by a Swiss 20-something who spent summers in New England, this 670-page translation from the French has taken Europe by storm. Its narrator, young novelist Marcus Goldman, is in a sophomore slump when his mentor, Harry Quebert, is arrested for the murder of a 15-year-old girl he was in love with 30 years earlier.

**"The Last Magazine"** by Michael Hastings

"My name is Michael M. Hastings and I'm in my twenties." The first sentence of this novel about an ambitious intern at New York newsmagazine is made poignant by the fact that the author, the nonfictional Michael Hastings, was killed in a car crash last year. His reporting from Iraq, Afghanistan and Washington is the basis of this debut novel, a behind-the-scenes eye-opener for politics and news junkies.

# SUMMER READING

Lather on the sunscreen, get under an umbrella and enjoy a good book

From wire services

**F**or many of us, summer reading is code for what we plan to take to the beach to occupy our time while our loved ones frolic in the waves. We've all noticed that the more addictive the book, the less we're noticing the damage to our epidermis as we revel in the sun's ultraviolet glory.

After all, the goal is always to lose oneself in the literary experience, be it heavy or light. Light never has to mean frivolous.

novel because it is so massive, but fear not. You don't need to fully grasp the nuances of the Napoleonic wars to understand what this novel is about.

If you come from a family, then you'll understand the book's deepest meaning, thanks to Kaufman's erudition and scholarship. Turns out Tolstoy wrote "War and Peace" with our generation in mind.

**"The Rise & Fall of Great Powers"** by Tom Rachman  
Every journalist you know has either read or intends to read Tom Rachman's 2010 literary debut "The Imperfectionists," about the staff at an English-language newspaper in Rome. As a result, his sophomore effort is highly anticipated among writers. "The Rise & Fall of Great Powers" is a novel, but it is about book lovers and book culture.

**"Mr. Mercedes"** by Stephen King

All you need to know is that a madman driving a Mercedes mows down eight unlucky souls at a job fair and drives off. Years later, a suicidal detective is roused from self pity to find and arrest the killer.

Yeah, of course there are twists. This is Stephen King.

**"Prayer"** by Philip Kerr

Someone is killing the nation's most prominent atheists in ways only the Lord himself could differentiate from legitimate acts of God. FBI agent Gil Martins is a lapsed Catholic based in Texas trying to make sense of these unfathomable acts. Oh, there's also a serial killer nicknamed St. Peter on the loose killing only good people. This is not your run-of-the-mill thriller.

**"California"** by Edan Lepucki  
When the American economy collapses and anarchy reigns in the land, a couple from Los Angeles head for the hills where they have to forage for food and improvise shelter. They are quickly confronted by stark choices and must figure out whether reconnecting with other survivors would be worth the aggravation that comes with being a part of civilization.

Be warned: There are no zombies or mutants in this apocalyptic drama.

**"The Martian"** by Andy Weir  
Astronaut Mark Watney is stranded alone on Mars after he is believed killed during a violent dust storm that forces his comrades to make an emergency launch back to Earth less than a week after arriving. Though injured, Watney figures out how to survive the hostile Martian environment with minimal supplies and food. His ultimate plan is to make it back to Earth, though it will be years until a rescue mission can be launched. His ingenuity is rewarded by dramatic failures and successes.

Be prepared to read this sci-fi thriller in two or three sittings.



The (Columbia, S.C.) State Illustration

## WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

## NEW ON DVD

“Lone Survivor”: Director and writer Peter Berg takes on the same elements of the American spirit that made his “Friday Night Lights” so powerful: loyalty, commitment, trust, brotherhood, love and devotion. And, just as he did with his examination of high school football in Texas, Berg looks at these elements through a human filter, this time using a story about war and remembrance. Berg also doesn’t let the film sink into the standard good vs. evil. He shows that the difference between a person who wants to kill you or save you is a thin spiritual line. That combination gives “Lone Survivor” much more emotional weight than other films in the action-drama genre. Just like “Friday Night Lights” couldn’t be easily passed off as a typical sports film, “Lone Survivor” doesn’t fit the standard military movie mold. That’s because Berg takes the story past the superficial to the personal.



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Taylor Kitsch, left, and Mark Wahlberg star in the recent DVD release “Lone Survivor.”

“RoboCop”: A Detroit detective becomes more machine than man. This reboot uses the basic blueprint from the 1987 movie starring Peter Weller. It’s been modified and updated to create a sleeker design, but it is not as intellectually cutting-edge. Big business has become the new go-to villains now that the Russians aren’t as scary, making the film less of a cautionary tale about how machines are taking over our lives and more focused on the evils of corporate America. What the new “RoboCop” loses in its message, it makes up with first-rate fights.

“Breaking Bad: The Complete Series”: All 62 uncut episodes of this amazing cable series about a high school chemistry teacher turned meth kingpin is available in this set. If the outstanding writing, cinematography and acting aren’t reason enough to own the set, the 16-disc Blu-ray features about 55 hours of content, including the “No Half Measures: Creating the Final Season of Breaking Bad” documentary that chronicles the making of the final season from the first table read to the last day on set.

Also available on DVD:

“Son of God”: Story of the life of Jesus.

“In the Blood”: Gina Carano plays a trained fighter with a dark past.

“We Always Lie to Strangers”: A look at the in the Branson entertainment world.

“The New Adventures of Superman Seasons 2 & 3”: The Man of Steel continues to conquer the world’s villains.

“Valentine Road”: Documentary looks at a school shooting that took the life of a gay teen.

“Barbary Coast”: William Shatner plays an undercover agent patrolling the streets of 1880s San Francisco.

“The Motel Life”: Two brothers try to avoid the law.

“Rawhide: The Eighth and Final Season”: It’s the end of the road for the Clint Eastwood series.

“Beyond the Trophy”: Story of men’s obsession with power and how far they will go to collect the prize.

“The Adventures of Batman”: Animated series first broadcast as part of “The Batman/Superman Hour” in 1968.

“Mirage Man”: Journey through the badlands and backwaters of America.

— By Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

Bob Newhart won his first Emmy last year. He was rewarded for his role as Arthur Jeffries on the popular TV sitcom “The Big Bang Theory.” “He is the master of his craft. You can’t really anticipate what he’s going to do because his rhythms are so unique and his own,” “Big Bang” series creator Chuck Lorre says of Newhart.

# How about Bob Newhart?

BY SUSAN KING  
Los Angeles Times

Bob Newhart had modest expectations in 1960 when Warner Bros. Records released his first comedy album, “The Button-Down Mind of Bob Newhart.”

The recording, which included such seminal Newhart routines as Abraham Lincoln getting notes from his press agent before delivering the Gettysburg Address, was a marked contrast to the more edgy, controversial comedians of the day, such as Lenny Bruce and Mort Sahl.

“I never thought much would come of these record albums, to be honest,” said the affable comedian during a recent lunch near his California home. “I thought maybe 25,000 copies might sell. Then it went crazy.”

How crazy? “Button-Down Mind” sold 1.5 million copies and earned two Grammy Awards.

Before Newhart became one of the hottest comedians on the scene, he was offered a role in the 1962 World War II film “Hell Is for Heroes.” When the film finally started production several months later, Don Siegel was hired to direct and Steve McQueen was signed to star along with Bobby Darin and Fess Parker.

“It became a totally different movie,” said Newhart.

By that time, Newhart was also in a totally different place in his career. He was being offered substantially more money to do nightclub acts than he was making on the movie. So he came up with an idea to get out of the movie earlier than scheduled: He would suggest his character get killed.

“I would go up to Don Siegel and I’d

**A few months shy of his 85th birthday, Newhart has entered the national-treasure phase of his career, proving it’s still very hip to be square.**

say, ‘You know when that tank comes over the hill, I could trip!’ He said, ‘Forget it. You’re in the movie!’ I was in it to the very end.”

A few months shy of his 85th birthday, Newhart has entered the national-treasure phase of his career, proving it’s still very hip to be square.

Several generations of TV audiences have watched his classic CBS sitcoms — 1972-1978’s “The Bob Newhart Show” and 1982-1990’s “Newhart” in syndication and DVD. Recently, Shout! Factory released the entire “The Bob Newhart Show” on DVD with several extra features, including new interviews with Newhart and other cast members — Bill Daily, Peter Bonerz and Jack Riley among them — and the 1991 CBS reunion special.

Newhart has also developed a fan base with young audiences thanks to his roles as Papa Elf in the 2003 Will Ferrell holiday comedy “Elf” and for his role

as Arthur Jeffries on CBS’ top-rated sitcom, “The Big Bang Theory.”

Last September, Newhart finally won his first Emmy as the down-on-his-luck Jeffries, who, as Professor Proton, had hosted a tacky children’s science series that Sheldon (Jim Parsons) and Leonard (Johnny Galecki) watched as kids. In a recent episode, Sheldon, Leonard and the gang learn that Arthur has died. But Sheldon discovers that Arthur will be there by his side as his own personal Obi-Wan Kenobi.

“The plan is whenever Jim has a problem he comes to Obi-Wan to help him,” said Newhart. “They told me the idea, and I thought it was great.”

“Big Bang” show runner Steven Molaro came up with the idea of introducing a retired Mr. Wizard-esque character on the series. Series creator Chuck Lorre knew just the man.

“One of the smartest things I said in a while was, ‘How about Bob Newhart?’ I called because I know him personally and asked him,” Lorre said. “He was wide open because he liked the show.”

Getting to work with Newhart has been a remarkable experience for the cast and crew of the series. “He is the master of his craft,” said Lorre. “You can’t really anticipate what he’s going to do because his rhythms are so unique and his own.”

Newhart does about 20 stand-up gigs a year and still finds it exciting to write — and rewrite — new routines.

“That is the enjoyment — taking a new piece of business, trying it out, expanding on it a little and making it a little longer,” said Newhart. “Before you know it, you have five or six new minutes.”

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

## Work hard, play harder

How to create a winning team — on and off the field

By LESLIE BARKER

The Dallas Morning News

When it comes to success in sports, the first need that probably comes to mind is the obvious: talent.

But with softball and baseball seasons in full swing, it's good to be reminded that success requires one other must-have element: teamwork.

"It all comes out in performance," says Yolanda Bruce Brooks. The Dallas psychologist, whose background includes serving as senior director of player development for the National Basketball Association, has worked extensively with coaches and athletes at all levels.

The coach can have all the talent in the world, she says. But there's no guarantee of success if team members aren't working together to pool their talents.

Creating cohesion is a bit of an art, a delicate combination of happenstance and chemistry, serendipity and finesse. Think of a basket of market-fresh foods, or a jukebox of musical notes. Delicious and pure on their own, they don't always meld into a meal or a composition.

"Talent isn't enough," Brooks says. "There are so many elements that go into it. Is that person a good team player? Will that person help players on the team become better than who they are? It's about players, mindset, working with others as a team.

"You don't have to be friends or best buddies, but you have to figure out a way to get together."

Successful teams usually share three traits, she says:

**Common cause.** Everyone is working toward the same goal, she says.

**Mindset.** You're focused on achieving that goal. "They call it familiarity for the greatest good," Brooks says. "You know you won't stand alone and achieve goals. Everyone is there to support you."

**Creating the flow or synchronicity.** Successful teams learn to work together as one.

"Those are things you need to create a solid, cohesive team," she says, "whether in sports, business or the military."

Peyton Harris adds others: communication and longevity.

"Communication is a big key," says

Harris, who has played on the Jack Wagons since the Dallas softball team's inception five years ago. "It's not like we sit around and strategize, though. A big part of it is just playing together for so long."

For almost 10 years, Richard Danielson has worked with softball teams in Plano, Texas. Some are competitive, some play just for fun. The teams that work, that develop a bond, those whose camaraderie is palpable even to the casual observer tend to be both organized and altruistic.

"Why are you out there? If you're out there to show you're the best individual softball player in the world, maybe that's detrimental to the team as a whole."

Danielson says. "If you find a good mix of people who enjoy playing together and are willing to sacrifice individual accolades for working with the team, you're able to have a better group."

That works for the Jack Wagons.

"Everybody holds himself accountable and knows the others will hold themselves accountable, too," says Harris.

whose team has already won one tournament this year. "One of the biggest points we've driven home is that it's important to hit your cutoff man instead of having some guy trying to show off his arm and throw the ball home."

Coaches play a significant role in how well this works,

Danielson says. "If you can have a coach who treats each player as a special individual and finds a place for him to be on that team and contribute in a meaningful way, you'll have a better team overall as opposed to one who says, 'I have my team here. One pitches, one catches, one plays shortstop, and the rest we don't talk to,'" he says.

A good coach unites the team by treating players "differently but equally."

says Scott Martin, professor of sport and exercise psychology at the University of North Texas.

"Are you as a coach preparing each

player to be the best they can be and not coaching to the person you used to be as a young player?" he says. "... Good coaches make sure people understand how important their contribution is."

In strong teams, each player has a role, whether being captain or giving the pregame prayer or motivational speech.

"Who are the people who will be the go-to in the crunch?" Brooks says. "Who are the energizers? If they're not pumped up, you can see the energy of the team plummet."



PHOTOS BY ANDY JACOBSON, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Tyler Parrish, left, and Andrew Reinhardt, members of the Jack Wagons, cheer as runs are scored during one of the softball team's recent games at Fair Oaks Park in Dallas.

Stock illustration

## Tips for creating a solid team

So what's the best way to turn a disparate bunch of talent into a cohesive unit? Here's advice from the experts:

**Limit the number of players.**

"The more you have, the more you have to sit out," says Barbara Benante, First Softball Complex manager. "The whole point of the game is playing."

**Learn something new about other people on your team.**

This can "eliminate or reduce a biased opinion," says Scott Martin, professor of sports psychology at the University of North Texas.

**Do team-building activities.**

Psychologist Yolanda Brooks suggests going out to eat together and watching movies like "Remember the Titans."

"They were rival schools, but did you know you have to do to get along," she says.

**Think positively.**

Brooks uses two clichés with players: "Are you playing to win or are you playing to keep from losing?" And "Teamwork makes the dream work." "I love those because you don't know what your potential is when you come together and work as a team."

**Don't limit communication to game time.**

Talk during warm-ups, Brooks says. "Those informal things tell you they're working together."

**Be there for each other.**

"Do you celebrate someone doing something well? Do you ignore someone who's not doing well?" Brooks asks. "In football, when a guy is on the bench by himself, you might see a teammate sit by him, maybe he won't even say anything. That tells you a lot about players and interactions."



Peyton Harris of the Jack Wagons, right, believes that longevity and good communication are instrumental in his softball team's success.

## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Celebrate the split



San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News illustration

By LEANNE ITALIAE  
The Associated Press

**D**ivorce, it seems, has turned into a party — special cakes and all. Event planners, bakers, lawyers and academics note the rise of “divorce parties” over the past several years, many with cakes featuring weapon-wielding brides or gloomy black frosting on inverted tiers.

“I’ve taken to naming them freedom fests, as you aren’t celebrating the end of the marriage but the freedom you have chosen in your life,” said Richard O’Malley, a New York-area event planner who organized one divorce blowout that cost a woman about \$25,000. Michal Ann Strahlrevitz, a marketing professor at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, has been to a few such parties and sees them as part of a larger trend in celebrations.

“People are also celebrating ‘coming out’ to their parents or co-workers, and the birthdays of their pets. Cancer survivors are celebrating relevant milestones of being cancer-free. There has been an enormous increase in the variety of things that Americans celebrate,” she said. So why not a divorce, asks Steve Wolf, who lives outside Austin, Texas. He marked his amicable split with a party co-hosted by his ex that included a gluten-free cake she baked herself in lemon, a favorite flavor for both of them.

Wolf, the father of three boys, considers the end of his marriage

a “conscious uncoupling.” Yes, like Gwyneth Paltrow. The party, he said, offered closure, especially important because kids were involved.

“We wanted to do something that expressed the fact that we were doing the divorce not so much as an end of our relationship but as us moving into things like co-parenting and co-business management,” Wolf said.

“We cut the cake together like we did the wedding cake 10 years before. When life gives you lemons, make lemon cake,” he joked, noting the sentiment his former wife wrote in the icing.

In Orlando, Fla., cake designer Larry Bach recalled creating his first divorce confection about eight years ago for a woman whose wedding cake he had made 18 months prior.

“She said, ‘Your wedding cake was the best part of my marriage,’” he recalled. “We came up with this upside-down cake, with the cake landing on the groom. I’ve repeated that design several times. I think it’s a healthy thing. When my sister got divorced about 25 years ago, she and my mother went into mourning. Divorce was so embarrassing in those days.”

Family law attorney Jennifer Payne in Ann Arbor, Mich., sees of the divorce cake as a fresh take on closure.

“For divorce, that means the final date of divorce, when all of the hard work and emotions are over,” she said. “It used to mean going out with buddies. Then there was the idea of sending a divorce card, then the trip

## For unhappily wed couples, divorce is a reason to party

to Las Vegas, and now parties.”

Parties, O’Malley noted, that include cakes with the wife pushing the husband off the top tier or edible divorce decrees scanned on. Dessert chef Lisa Stevens in Tampa, Fla., makes one divorce cake a month.

“We call them freedom cakes. The first one was maybe six years ago. It was ordered by a guy. It had a groom with a broken heart on his lapel,” she said. “I try to redirect the anger to a more positive place when it comes to the cake.”

Duff Goldman, chef and owner of Charm City Cakes in Baltimore and Charm City Cakes West in Los Angeles, said he has been creating divorce cakes for a decade, with one or so orders a month nowadays.

“We’re thrilled to put a positive spin on what can be a difficult and stressful time for people,” said Goldman, whose custom cakes were featured on the Food Network reality show “Ace of Cakes.”

O’Malley’s first big divorce client popped up two years ago. She’s the one who hosted the \$25,000 bash at a fancy venue, complete with a cocktail reception, sit-down dinner, toasts and an eight-piece band.

“We set up a chapel-looking area and her father walked down the aisle by himself to take her back, instead of give her away,” O’Malley said.

The bridesmaid who caught the woman’s bouquet eight years prior threw one back to her, he said. “This is something you don’t have to regret, like the wedding,” O’Malley said. “It’s something without any shame.”

SPOUSE CALLS  
Reminders of conflict remain at Normandy

**T**he place was quiet, beautiful and nearly deserted. A middle-aged couple farther up the beach soaked up the sun, while our family tried to absorb the significance. My children wandered quietly, one looking at seashells, one drawing in the sand with a stick, another taking pictures. I was surprised by the peacefulness, the blue sky and even bluer water lapping at the shore of Normandy.

I’m not sure what I expected from Omaha Beach so many decades after D-Day, but it wasn’t serenity. My ideas about this strip of coastline had been dominated by black and white film recorded 70 years ago. Choppy seas, rain and low clouds added to the gloom of photos from June 6, 1944, the day Allied forces landed and began the liberation of Europe from Hitler’s forces.

Those gray, grainy pictures showed the beach crawling with troops, blasted by shells, marred by large iron barriers and crisscrossed with concertina wire. When our family went to Normandy in 2010, I didn’t expect soldiers and mortar fire, but for some reason I also didn’t expect such bright colors and such calm.

On the sunny stretch of Omaha where we stood, there were few signs of the stormy battle waged there. Farther west at Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, out of sight to us that day, a silver sculpture rises from the sand. It’s called “Les Braves,” created by a French sculptor to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day. Other older monuments stand on higher ground above the beach.

The landing beaches for the invasion, code named “Operation Overlord,” were named — from west to east — Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Omaha was the widest swath at about five miles, and was the site of the deadliest part of the battle on D-Day. As we walked across the now-peaceful sand, we remembered the thousands of troops who gave their lives to win this beachhead and others near it.

Between Omaha and Utah Beach, where more American forces landed, is Pointe du Hoc, a 100-foot cliff scaled by U.S. Army Rangers during the invasion. At the top, we walked among giant craters left by American bombardment of German defenses. Now grass grows inside the craters, and the feet of many visitors have worn paths into them all around them. Families pushed strollers along paved walkways and enjoyed the stunning view of the ocean.

On our trip, we stayed in the village of Arromanches overlooking Gold Beach, where British forces came ashore on D-Day. Canadian forces landed farther east at Juno, and more British at the easternmost, Sword Beach.

These days, the waterfront promenade at Arromanches is festive with French flags waving alongside American flags and Union Jacks. A carousel, ice cream shops and tourists mingle with WWII museums, static displays of tanks and weapons. Down on Gold Beach, children kick soccer balls among remnants of war, huge structures, which lay like beached metal whales at low tide. Farther out, a row of dark hulks rise from the water and pleasure boats drift among them.

These are remnants of ships and caissons that were scuttled as a breakwater to protect an artificial harbor now gone. The harbor was built after the invasion to facilitate a supply line for Allied troops who, after breaking through German defenses, continued their inland march.

Reminders of the conflict are everywhere, as are reminders of the cost. We visited the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial just above Omaha Beach and also a German cemetery nearby. In one day we walked among the grave markers of thousands who died — in one day.

We went to Normandy to see the place of a great battle, to pay respect to those who fought. We saw the evidence of war, and we saw the evidence of peace. Where brave men fought, children now play. Peace prevails. It’s what we all hope to find when war is over and for many years to come.

Terri Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of “Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life.” Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com.



Terri Barnes

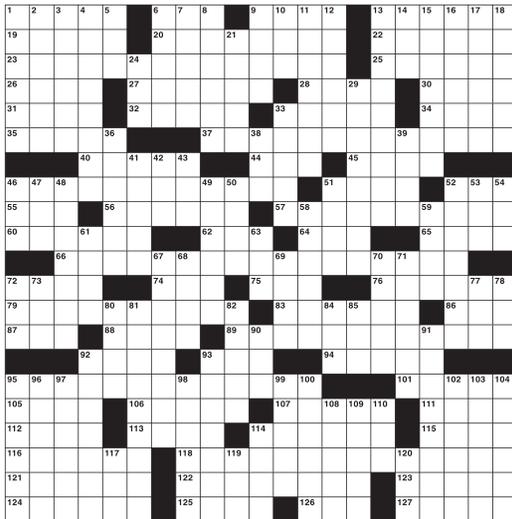
# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

ALADDIN

BY TOM MCCOY/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 To the same extent
  - 6 Something Pedro and Pablo might have?
  - 9 Coll. program
  - 13 Tug-of-war participant
  - 19 Wats on a screen
  - 20 Like some desk work
  - 22 One of a group of Eastern Christians
  - 23 King's move?
  - 25 Only what a person can take?
  - 26 In fine fettle
  - 27 Process of sorting injuries
  - 28 Gets browner
  - 30 Start of something big?
  - 31 Mineralogists' study
  - 32 Anoin't, archaically
  - 33 Like some French sauces
  - 34 Brooklyn squad
  - 35 The two sides of Pac-Man's mouth, say
  - 37 Principles espoused during Women's History Month?
  - 40 Cry after a roller coaster ride, maybe
  - 44 Together
  - 45 Coward from England
  - 46 Ability to walk a tightrope or swallow a sword?
  - 51 Land in the Golden Triangle
  - 52 Part of a giggle
  - 55 Pass with flying colors
  - 56 Like the 10-Down
  - 57 Soupon
  - 60 Olden
  - 62 Finish (up)
  - 64 Soprano Sumac
  - 65 At the discretion of
  - 66 Dream for late sleepers?
  - 72 Identify
  - 74 Car anti theft aid, for short
  - 75 Informal way to say 87-Across
  - 76 Sheen
  - 79 Chooses beforehand
  - 83 It's all tied up with the present
  - 86 Start to love?
  - 87 "Certainly"
  - 88 Collapse, with "out"
  - 89 Waterway leading to a SW German city?
  - 92 Way to l'le de la Cité
  - 93 Feature of many a Ludacris lyric
  - 94 Add up
  - 95 Slinky going down the stairs?
  - 101 Dough raiser
  - 105 Large family
  - 106 Postlarval
  - 107 Crimean conference locale
  - 111 Over
  - 112 Captain, e.g.
  - 113 Confederate
  - 114 Biblical book in two parts
  - 115 Star burst
  - 116 Neighbor of an 8-Down
  - 118 Dissertation on people's inherent spitefulness?
  - 121 Chaperone, often
  - 122 Treasure Stater
  - 123 Human or alien
  - 124 Some cheaters have them
  - 125 Frat members
  - 126 Drivers brake for it
  - 127 Pungent green
  - 13 Not be bold
  - 14 Commercial version of crazy eights
  - 15 In-between
  - 16 Cosmetician Estée
  - 17 And so on and so forth
  - 18 Go over and over
  - 21 Lost it
  - 24 Letter between two others that rhyme with it
  - 29 Like some care
  - 33 Lacks
  - 36 One who might stick his tongue out at you?
  - 38 Long time
  - 39 Agosto or settembre
  - 41 Ed of "Up"
  - 42 "\_\_\_ be my pleasure!"
  - 43 Burns's refusal
  - 46 It's widely hailed as a convenient way to get around
  - 47 Frozen over
  - 48 Entertains
  - 49 Bemoan
  - 50 Organic compound
  - 51 Monastery resident
  - 52 One parodied on "Portlandia"
  - 53 Fangorn Forest denizen
  - 54 Inflatible thing
  - 58 Sran for glasses
  - 59 Captain Morgan and others
  - 61 Does away with
  - 63 Layer



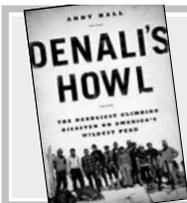
- 67 Action-packed
- 68 It has a light at one end
- 69 Roll of the dice, say
- 70 Up
- 71 Strip for a fashion show
- 72 Secret collector
- 73 Before, poetically
- 77 The \_\_\_ City (New Haven)
- 78 Literary inits.
- 80 Nobel Prize subj.
- 81 Trousers
- 82 Racing boat
- 84 Sandwich order, for short
- 85 Scary word
- 90 Young Darth Vader's nickname
- 91 Evergreen shrub
- 92 Thumbs' opposites
- 93 Represent, sportswise
- 95 Lines at a theater?
- 96 Like Flatland
- 97 Became less than a trickle
- 98 Composure
- 99 Spiral-horned antelope
- 100 Mischievous girl
- 102 Social breakdown
- 103 Common dice rolls
- 104 Elements of some accents
- 108 "American Graffiti" director
- 109 Frigid temps
- 110 Like
- 114 Srs.' worries
- 117 Colony member
- 119 Telephone trio
- 120 Its logo displays all Roy G. Biv except indigo

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



*In 1967, twelve young men set out to climb Alaska's Mount McKinley—known as Denali—one of the world's most popular and deadly mountaineering destinations. At nearly 20,000 feet, they endured winds of up to 300 miles an hour, freezing flesh solid in minutes. Only five survived.*

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## FACES

# Carrie Underwood wins 3rd straight CMT video of year

By CHRIS TALBOTT  
The Associated Press

Carrie Underwood's special connection with CMT viewers helped her continue her run at the CMT Awards — and crash Luke Bryan's party.

Underwood won her third straight video of the year Wednesday night, taking the top honor for the fifth time with "See You Again." The "American Idol" champion is CMT's top overall winner with 11 belt buckles in her career.

Underwood managed to horn in on all the fun top winners Bryan and Florida Georgia Line were having. The two acts teamed up to win collaboration of the year for "This Is How We Roll" — a song they performed at the top of the show with Jason Derulo and ZZ Top and released as a remix with Derulo and each won another belt buckle trophy.

Underwood teamed with Miranda Lambert to shut down the show with their song "Somethin' Bad" and was clearly surprised when she took fan-voted video of the year. "It's really hard to believe," Underwood said on stage. "I've been doing this for nine years, but every single second of those nine years you gotta have been amazing."

Underwood was probably surprised because it looked like it might be shaping up for a double Bryan-FGL win for "This Is How We Roll." It was one of the few times Bryan didn't win. Male video of the year winner Blake Shelton bet against himself in the category, wagering that Bryan would win the category. Shelton won for "Doin' What She Likes," and now he'll be doing



what Bryan likes.

"I owe Luke an expensive dinner, but that's OK," Shelton joked.

Bryan was a constant fixture early in the awards. He teamed up with his super-friends to kick it off, mashing up "This Is How We Roll," Derulo's "Talk Dirty" and ZZ Top's "La Grange." He took a shot from host Kristen Bell about falling off the stage last week — while wrapped in yellow warning tape. And he and FGL helped Bell with her monologue, taping a segment poking fun at the Jay Z-Solange Knowles elevator dustup, complete with black-and-white security footage.

He returned to the stage later after winning CMT performance of the year with Lionel Richie for their performance of "Oh No" and "All Night Long" from "2013 CMT Artists of the Year."

"The fact that I have won an award with you is just amazing, buddy," Bryan said from the stage.

"All I can say is, if I'm having this much fun, let's do it again," Richie responded.

Richie said Bryan is experiencing a run much like his own in the mid-1970s that made him an international star. "Every once in a while — and it happened to me — there's a moment and time in your career when the forces and stars come together ... and this is Luke's time," Richie said. "I knew it the first time I met him. It really is special. You can see it in his eyes. You can see it in the way he acts. He feels empowered right now and I know that wonderful feeling. And by the way, it's going to happen for a while because he has that genuine personality."

The Band Perry won group of the year for "Done," and Cassadee Pope took breakthrough video for "Wasting All These Tears."

**Carrie Underwood accepts the award for video of the year for "See You Again" at the CMT Music Awards held in Nashville on Wednesday.**

Wade Payne, Invision/AP



SHIZUO KAMATASHI, POOL/AP

**George Takei, right, speaks while his husband Brad Altman looks on during an interview before a reception at U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy's official residence Thursday in Tokyo.**

## George Takei sees gay pride starting in Japan

By MARI YAMAUCHI  
The Associated Press

George Takei said he needed courage and anger to come out as gay and to join the equal rights movement for sexual minorities in the U.S. and he hopes his Japanese counterparts will do the same to make their society more equal.

Takei said he has noticed a movement beginning in Japan, though the country of his ancestry still has a long way to go. He said Japanese people need to fight for their own rights and they need to be angry, too.

The "Star Trek" actor also known for his gay rights activism spoke Thursday at a U.S. Embassy-sponsored talk, held at American Center in Tokyo, where about 100 people gathered. Takei, 77, is in Japan to attend embassy-organized events marking Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in the U.S.

Takei said his activist roots come from his upbringing as a Japanese-American who was put in an internment camp with his family during World War II. He was silent for decades about being gay because of concern about hurting his acting career, but broke his silence in 2005 after then-California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger rejected a bill legalizing same-sex marriage.

He and his longtime partner, Brad Altman, were married in 2008. Takei said they chose to marry in a public ceremony for the sake of diversity and democracy.

# Director named for upcoming 'Star Wars' stand-alone movie

The Associated Press

Josh Trank will direct one of the planned stand-alone "Star Wars" films.

Lucasfilm announced Wednesday that the 30-year-old filmmaker will helm one of the two announced "Star Wars" spinoffs being made outside of the third trilogy. An earlier announced spinoff is to be led by "Godzilla" director Gareth Edwards.

Trank is the director of 2012's found footage-style science fiction thriller "Chronicle." He currently is working on "The Fantastic Four," the superhero team-up reboot scheduled for release next year. Lucasfilm gave no details on the subject

of the "Star Wars" movie. J.J. Abrams is in production on "Star Wars: Episode VII," which will follow "The Return of the Jedi" in chronology.

Abrams on Tuesday tweeted a photo with a plea pleading for people not to leak photos from the set of "Episode VII." In recent days, dozens of photos from the set of the film have appeared online. But his message was also tongue-in-cheek. Though Abrams alluded to "ridiculous claims that the Millennium Falcon is in the movie," his note was wryly played on the spaceship's familiar "Holohess" board. "Star Wars" fans quickly picked up on the pun.

## Rowling tweet tweaks Amazon

J.K. Rowling added a subtle comment under her pen name Robert Galbraith on Wednesday about the standoff between her publisher and Amazon.com. The "Harry Potter" author noted in a tweet from @jkr that there are "lots of ways to order" her novel "The Silkworm" in the U.S., as Amazon kindly suggest(s). Rowling spokeswoman Rebecca Salt confirmed that the twitter account was authentic. Amazon is in a contract dispute with Rowling's U.S. publisher, Hachette Book Group, and isn't accepting pre-orders released by Hachette. "The Silkworm,"

Rowling's second Galbraith detective novel, is out June 19.

## Other news

■ CBS News' **Lara Logan** is back to work at "60 Minutes" more than six months after being ordered to take a leave of absence for her role in a disputed story.

■ PBS says "**Antiques Roadshow**" is dropping appraisals of ivory tusks. The tusks won't be shown in new episodes or in segments drawn from previously aired shows, PBS said Wednesday. The popular public TV series features items brought in for professional assessment.

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OPINION

Ike, Obama faced nation's postwar fears

By DAVID IGNATIUS

When CBS News brought Dwight Eisenhower back to Normandy for the 20th anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1964, you might have expected the former commander of Allied forces to conclude with a triumphant comment. Instead, CBS captured an anguished Eisenhower against the backdrop of crosses at the American cemetery at St. Laurent, ruminating: "We must find some way... to gain an eternal peace for this world."

The 70th anniversary of D-Day this week offers a moment to reflect on American strength and weakness, and the way we sometimes confuse the two. Eisenhower was perhaps our greatest modern military commander. But he was a cautious and sometimes conflicted man, without any of the bluster of a George Patton or Douglas MacArthur. His gift was coordinating the talents of sometimes petulant subordinates — and persevering through the almost ceaseless U.S. military blunders on the way to the Normandy landings.

Perhaps it's a consequence of the United States being a relatively young nation that had to tame a wild frontier, but through our modern history, Americans have had a tendency to worry about whether our leaders are "tough enough" for the world's challenges. Presidents who talk about their yearning for peace, as Eisenhower often did, are frequently pummeled by commentators for being too "soft."

We've recently been in one of those cycles of national worry, as critics attack President Barack Obama's supposedly feckless and weak-willed foreign policy. The partic-

ulars of the case against Obama involve his reluctance to use military force after the frustrating wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Economist magazine raised the basic question of Obama's credibility, asking in a May 3 cover headline: "What would America fight for?"

I agree that Obama's foreign policy has been as firm, especially in dealing with Syria and Russia, as it should have been. As a result, the U.S. has suffered some reputational damage. But listening to the recent debate, I have increasingly been struck by its recurring cyclical themes, as opposed to the specifics involving Obama. Yes, this president may be overly cautious. But a retreat to lick the nation's wounds is fairly common after wars — and rarely does lasting damage.

A useful compendium of anxiety about American weakness is a book called "Talking on the World," about the columnists Joseph and Stewart Alsop, written by Robert W. Merry. He explains that at nearly every point from the late 1930s to the late 1960s, the Alsops (especially Joe, the dominant voice) were warning that weak and irresolute American leaders would open the door for our adversaries — in Europe, China, Japan and Vietnam. As it turns out, the Alsops' jeremiads proved correct. But often, they were flat wrong.

The Alsops' suspicion of Eisenhower was especially sharp. They feared Eisenhower's willingness to make peace in Korea would open the way for Russian and Chinese aggression in the future. As it may well be "at stake" in maintaining French power in Vietnam, Joe wrote in 1954. Similarly, wrote Stewart in 1955, the French retreat from Algeria "could fatally weaken the Western alliance." The Atlantic alliance

would "founder" if the British were defeated over Suez in 1956, wrote Joe. America's defenses would be gutted if Eisenhower cut \$5 billion from the \$40 billion defense budget in 1955. And on it went.

The Alsops' concern about Eisenhower reached its apogee during the debate over a supposed "missile gap" between Soviet and American strategic forces. In a 1958 column, Joe accused Eisenhower of being "misinformed" or "consciously misleading the nation" about the "flaccid" U.S. shortfall. Joe even pushed then-Sen. John Kennedy to make a 1958 speech about the "peril" represented by this imagined gap.

Joe knew from intelligence that the gap was nonexistent, but he feared blowing his sources, so he let the worried rant on.

When Kennedy became president, his secretary of defense, Robert McNamara, finally seeing the intelligence, announced that the gap was a myth. Joe at first thundered that McNamara had been "hoodwinked by the bureaucracy."

Then came Vietnam, a war that Joe chronicled and championed and that he saw as an ultimate test of U.S. willpower. He brooded that Lyndon Johnson would display "presidential weakness" and applauded every escalation that showed Johnson would not "subside by degrees into surrender." America finally retreated from Vietnam, but over time U.S. global power remained greater than ever.

The warriors get one big thing right. A strong, forward-leaning America is essential for global security. But many of the fulminations about supposed weakness and retreat of U.S. power tend to be mistaken.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Sacrifice, success of D-Day won't be forgotten

By ANN McFEATHERS

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Decades after my father landed in Europe during the D-Day Battle for Normandy, he finally talked about it, including the horror of watching men laden with heavy packs and weapons drowning because they couldn't swim in the frigid, churning water.

He also talked about the grit, bravery and determination of the young Allied soldiers as they struggled to regroup and head up the beaches dodging staccato bursts of deadly German fire.

My dad would have many more months of intense fighting, but D-Day and the Battle of the Bulge remained pivotal in his memories of war throughout his life, although he would return home, father 10 children and march in Memorial Day and Veterans Day parades for more than 60 years.

Fewer than 1 in 7 Americans alive today was alive on June 6, 1944, one of the most fateful military dates in history. But Normandy still stands as a synonym for courage, heroism and the best humans have to offer — making the supreme sacrifice to help others.

It's hard for us today to realize how electrifying the news of the D-Day invasion was on the home front, how dreadful it would have been if the invasion had failed as such a complicated, weather-battered

operation could so easily have done. If Gen. Dwight Eisenhower had waited any longer, the great storm of mid-June might have been insurmountable.

I was privileged to be at the 50th anniversary of D-Day. I will never forget the lined, proud faces of the veterans who managed long airplane rides, canes, wheelchairs and arthritic knees to be there. I will always remember how their eyes shone with tears as they reached to grasp the left hand of Bob Dole, the Kansas senator who lost the use of his right arm and is beloved for his courage and service in World War II.

There were even some paratroopers who re-enacted their daring plunge from the skies over enemy territory to light the fires that would help the airborne assaults.

Former President Bill Clinton was the speaker that day. Some mocked him for walking alone on the beach, picking up a few stones, "staging a photo opportunity."

But as a student of history, William Jefferson Clinton was completely awed as he contemplated the sacrifices and heroism of June 6, 1944.

And who could not be moved by what happened at Normandy, even today? The Germans were expecting an invasion and were well-fortified. They didn't know when it would happen but they believed a defeat at Normandy would mean the end of the Fatherland.

Eisenhower was a bundle of nerves, smoking four packs a day and drinking

gallons of coffee, trying to plan the agonizingly postponed operation of moving nearly 150,000 military personnel over the storm-tossed English Channel, the first such successful opposed landing in eight centuries. He also had to coordinate the air attack for the largest amphibious landing ever to occur. In one month 1 million men were landed.

Who even today is not moved by the quiet nearby cemeteries, with their rows and rows of eerily symmetrical white crosses and Stars of David? During the liberation of Normandy, 1,490 French civilians were killed and thousands more were injured. During three summer months in 1944, the Wehrmacht lost 240,000 men. During that period, 125,874 Americans died, and 83,045 British, Canadian and Polish soldiers were lost. An additional 16,714 Allied air force personnel perished.

On a bluff overlooking the channel are 9,387 Americans who never returned home and are buried at the American cemetery Colleville-sur-Mer, including 33 pairs of brothers and a father and his son.

As Clinton said as he looked around the veterans in front of him 20 years ago, "Let us not be forgotten when they were young, these men saved the world."

Even when there are no Americans left who were alive on D-Day, the Normandy invasion never will be forgotten.

Ann McFeathers is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

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## OPINION

## With Bergdahl, the answer had to be yes

BY KATHLEEN PARKER

The exchange of five Guantanamo detainees for the release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl has reminded us of three unpleasant facts of life:

The United States does negotiate with terrorists; the president will circumvent laws as circumstances require; Republicans and Democrats will be summarily outraged as party affiliations seem to require.

We might also add that processes will be “truncated,” as President Barack Obama described the exchange, and these are “hard choices,” as Hillary Rodham Clinton put it, cleverly employing the title of her new book.

Which is to say, war is tricky and we have no idea what we’re willing to do until the ball is in our court.

It is easier now to wish we had not invaded Iraq, given the absence of weapons of mass destruction. But in the wake of 9/11, when the Western world was convinced that Saddam Hussein had WMD, eliminating a destabilizing force in the region seemed to many a viable strategy.

It seemed so to then-Sen. Clinton, who voted for the resolution to use military force against Iraq, but not to Barack Obama, then an Illinois state senator who didn’t have to decide.

As president — how time flies — Obama was followed through on his campaign promises to end the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq but not to close Guantanamo. Promises are sometimes harder to keep when the facts are in your face. Obama also has increased drone “warfare,” eliminating enemies as well as civilians and at least one U.S. citizen deemed to be a combatant without, shall we say, due process.

So yes, as president, except... and he follows the law and protects the Constitution, unless... and he wants to close Guantanamo, but encountered the same daunting obstacles that George W.

Bush did.

Yes, yes, Bush created the problem. Noted. To the point of this column, however, when Obama was faced with whether to release prisoners in exchange for Bergdahl, he was forced to make an executive decision. And yes, he sidestepped the law requiring 30 days’ notification to Congress, but the law’s intent was unambiguous, given the reportedly narrow window of opportunity. Whether the president indeed had been discussing the possibility with Congress remains a matter of dispute.

A top GOP aide confirmed to me no such discussion took place before last weekend’s exchange and that, when the idea was floated more than two years ago, it met with strong, bipartisan opposition from congressional leaders.

Obama has justified his decision on the basis of precedent — other presidents have released prisoners as wars wind down — and on the principle that we don’t leave our people behind.

Equivalency is a fragile argument here. Bush’s wars and Obama’s drones are clearly not the same, though you might find those in Afghanistan or Pakistan who would argue otherwise. And George Washington’s release of British prisoners during the Revolutionary War can’t be compared to freeing Taliban warriors. Rather than returning home to reclaim their civilian lives, jihadists likely return even more resolved to continue a war that ends only after everyone on the planet converts to Islam.

That is often similar, however, is the moment of truth when a president has to make his own call because he thinks beyond any reasonable doubt that it is the right decision. History doesn’t always reward these decisions, but the titans of hindsight are usually compensated for style over content.

It is possible that some of the current criticism is tied to partisan pride as well as the opening of old wounds. Seeing the five bearded detainees was a vivid reminder



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

**Jani Bergdahl, left, walks with President Barack Obama before a news conference in the Rose Garden of the White House on Saturday about the release of her son, Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, in Afghanistan.**

of 9/11 and its chief perpetrator, Osama bin Laden. The sight of Bergdahl’s father, bearded and speaking Arabic and Pashto as he invoked Allah in the Rose Garden with the president, was both strange and creepy.

Obama critics naturally saw the president’s mouth tip in a smile, though it could be interpreted as a grimace. What was he to do, grab the microphone? Stare grimly at a father announcing the release of his boy after five years in captivity?

There is nothing trivial about these events, but the questions raised are, none-

theless, “Homeland”-ishly intriguing: Did Bob Bergdahl convert to Islam? Did his son? Did Bowe Bergdahl abandon his post, as fellow soldiers claim? Is he a traitor?

Until the Army provides answers, we’ll have to make do with speculation. Meanwhile, the only question that required an immediate response was, did the United States want Bergdahl back and what were we willing to trade?

This was indeed a hard choice — and the answer had to be yes.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

## When soldiers walk off, speculation swoops in

BY CHARLES LANE

The Washington Post

In the 1970s, Vietnam veteran-turned-novelist Tim O’Brien created Pvt. Cacciato, an impulsive soldier who, one fine day, gathered up rations, water, maps and a compass and, as O’Brien mordantly put it, “left the war,” telling his buddies that he intended to walk all the way to Paris.

Now after Cacciato, O’Brien’s phantasmagorical novel about the Army’s search for the AWOL grunt and its harrowing culmination in, yes, the City of Light, was an extended meditation on courage and cowardice and one of the best American books about the war in Southeast Asia, or any war, for that matter.

Now Afghanistan has given us Bowe Bergdahl, who apparently thought he could walk to Pakistan in real life as easily as Cacciato walked to Paris in fantasy but instead wound up a prisoner of the Taliban for five years, until President Barack Obama swapped five top Taliban figures for his week.

Politicians and pundits are struggling to impose their own self-serving narratives on this stranger-than-fiction character and his stranger-than-fiction tale.

Obama made a bit of a fool of himself by treating Bergdahl’s impending return as appropriate for a Rose Garden celebration, complete with grateful parents, even

## Politicians and pundits are struggling to impose their own self-serving narratives on this stranger-than-fiction character and his stranger-than-fiction tale.

though he knew, or easily should have known, that Bergdahl is hardly a hero.

That is often similar, however, is the feel-good story fell flat, as did national security adviser Susan Rice’s clueless depiction of Bergdahl’s Army career as one of “honor and distinction.”

White House efforts to glorify Bergdahl were matched by the right’s efforts to demonize him. He stands accused of desertion and of inducing an election-year feel-good story fell flat, as did national security adviser Susan Rice’s clueless depiction of Bergdahl’s Army career as one of “honor and distinction.”

White House efforts to glorify Bergdahl were matched by the right’s efforts to demonize him. He stands accused of desertion and of inducing an election-year feel-good story fell flat, as did national security adviser Susan Rice’s clueless depiction of Bergdahl’s Army career as one of “honor and distinction.”

I know of no mathematical formula that can determine whether freeing five

dangerous enemies of the United States was too high a price to get this one soldier back, any more than I can figure out what Obama’s critics think he should have done about Bergdahl — let him rot forever in Taliban custody?

But I do think we could all benefit from O’Brien’s sense of war’s ineradicable moral dilemmas and inherent absurdities — not the least of which is that even the most powerful army is vulnerable to the mental quirks of individual troops.

So there is a Bergdahl, just as there was a Sgt. Charles Robert Jenkins, who left his unit in South Korea in 1965 and crossed into the North, thinking the regime would ship him to the Soviet Union and he could go home from there. The North Koreans imprisoned him and made him do propaganda work until his negotiated release in 2004, whereupon the U.S. Army put a uniform on the old man, put him in jail for 25 days and, finally, discharged him dishonorably.

And there was a Pvt. Eddie Slovik, who thought linking up with a Canadian unit, rather than his own, for six weeks during

World War II would be a good way to get sent to the stockade instead of the front. His superiors, with a bloody fight for western Germany raging around them, decided to make an example of him. He ended up being the only American executed for desertion since the Civil War.

Slovik’s execution is now widely considered excessive, a low moment in U.S. military history, just as Abraham Lincoln’s famous propensity for pardoning Union Army deserters, to the great frustration of his generals, has been richly vindicated in hindsight.

Someday, we, too, may truly be able to make sense of Bergdahl and what he did out there on that ridge in Afghanistan, a place to which he and thousands of other soldiers had been sent to fight a war about which their government, under Obama, was at best ambivalent.

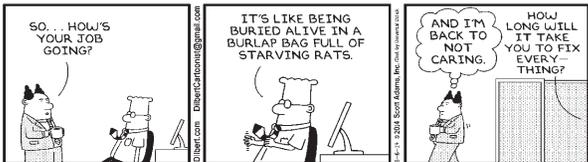
Clearly, some of Bergdahl’s comrades are in no mood to forgive, yet O’Brien tells us that Cacciato’s best friend in his squad felt more charitably toward that AWOL soldier: “He had nothing against Cacciato. The whole thing was silly, of course, immature and dumb, but even so, he had nothing against the kid. It was just too bad. A waste among infinitely wider wastes.”

Charles Lane is a member of The Washington Post’s editorial board.

Frazz



Dilbert



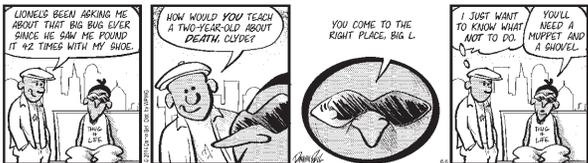
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11			
12			13			14							
15			16			17							
18			19										
20			21			22			23	24	25	26	
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31	32	33				36		37					
38													
						39	40			41	42	43	44
						45				46		47	
48	49	50	51									52	
53								54					55
56								57					58

#### ACROSS

- 1 Aries
- 4 Operated
- 7 Leary of "Rescue Me"
- 12 Eggs
- 13 "Hail, Caesar"
- 14 Unrivaled
- 15 Foundation
- 16 Hester Prynne's chronicler
- 18 Blunder
- 19 Epitome of hardness
- 20 Coloring agents
- 22 Covered path
- 23 Foolproof
- 27 "Ben- —"
- 29 Muppets mastermind
- 31 Skedaddle
- 34 Humongous
- 35 Jimmy Stewart movie

#### DOWN

- 1 In judge's garb
- 3 Mexican mom
- 3 Cheerleaders' calls
- 5 James Cameron movie
- 6 More recent
- 7 Wonka creator
- 8 "Xanadu" band, for short
- 9 Neither mate
- 10 Hostel
- 11 Spot
- 17 Computer expert
- 21 Push hard
- 23 Disparaging
- 24 Cable channel
- 25 Pal of Harry and Hermione
- 26 Tolkien tree creature
- 28 Multipurpose truck
- 30 Id counterpart
- 31 That girl
- 32 Scoundrel
- 33 Assoc.
- 36 Safecracker
- 37 Paralyzing poison
- 40 Took blades to blades
- 42 Congo's other name
- 43 Carnival attractions
- 44 Accumulate
- 45 Picnic invaders
- 46 Nays' cancellers
- 48 Scenery chewer
- 49 Inventor Whitney
- 50 Tex- —
- 51 Anger

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	A	D	C	A	L	M	A	N	T	E
I	D	O	O	B	I	E	L	O	R	D
D	O	L	D	R	U	M	S	L	O	U
I	O	N	B	A	L	O	N	E	Y	
B	U	T	T	E	R	S	A	W		
A	N	T	R	U	G	B	E	D	O	G
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B	A	N	A	N	A	S	D	O	H	
A	L	U	M	D	O	L	O	M	I	T
L	O	N	I	G	L	E	E	N	I	L
M	U	S	E	O	N	S	S	P	Y	

6-6

#### CRYPTOQUIP

EDVNZSS EZYKBCBKVGGI

CSPNLGVWYJ ASW WS

EYZVPVWY ISLP DVBP BAW S

GVIYPE: AS NSPY WBYPE.

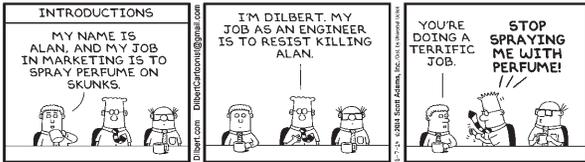
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THIS WEEK-OLD BREAD HAS GOTTEN SO HARD IT MIGHT BREAK SOMEONE'S TEETH. LET THE BITER BEWARE!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals O

Frazz



Dilbert



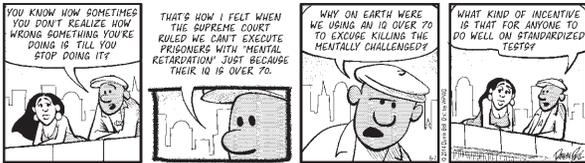
Pearls Before Swine



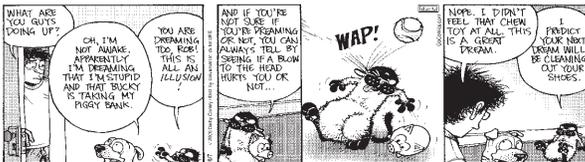
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### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
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			36				37					
38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45					46					47		
48					49					50		
51					52					53		

#### ACROSS

- 1 Greet the villain
- 4 KFC additive
- 8 Tablet
- 12 Shade provider
- 13 "American —"
- 14 1998 Sarah McLachlan hit
- 15 Fredericksburg victor
- 16 Igneous rock material
- 17 "Monopoly" payment
- 18 Texas
- 21 "Certainly"
- 22 Opponent's vote
- 23 Was long-winded
- 26 A mere handful
- 27 Kvetch
- 30 "Oh, woe!"
- 31 Coquettish
- 32 Prima donna
- 33 Blend
- 34 Bagel topper
- 35 Battling factions throughout time
- 36 Junior
- 37 Oz., lb., et al.
- 38 City in 18-Across
- 45 "It's a Sin to Tell —"
- 46 Cairo's river
- 47 Center
- 48 Portent
- 49 Stinky
- 50 Honest —

#### DOWN

- 23 Predicament
- 24 "The Greatest"
- 25 Grow
- 26 Sly one
- 27 Kibosh
- 28 Rd.
- 29 Petroli
- 31 Associate
- 32 Lucy's man
- 34 Bud's partner
- 35 Drive or putt
- 36 Exhausted
- 37 Puie
- 38 Moolah
- 39 Medley
- 40 Equips
- 41 Burn a bit
- 42 Counterfeit
- 43 Heavy horn
- 44 Mountain goat

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	A	M	R	A	N	D	E	N	I	S
O	V	A	A	V	E	A	L	O	N	E
B	E	D	H	A	W	T	H	O	R	N
E	R	S	T	E	E	L				
D	Y	E	S	A	R	C	S	U	R	E
			H	U	R	H	E	N	S	O
S	C	O	O	T		G	I	A	N	T
H	A	R	V	E	Y	C	O	D		
E	D	G	E	E	M	U	E	Z	R	A
			A	G	O	R	A	I	M	
H	E	M	I	N	G	W	A	Y	A	J
A	L	E	R	T	E	R	E	R	E	S
M	I	X	E	S	D	E	S	E	S	S

6-7

#### CRYPTOQUIP

C X D Z O S J Q I A M L Z O M O  
 K U N W T M C M S J V R C X  
 O C J A K F D U Q M . W ' C  
 A M J B B X K D W Q R W Q N J S U Z K  
 L W B W Q N L U A I M T W M .  
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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals M

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Automotive 140

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BMW, M3, 2001, 142n \$45000.00

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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Autos for Sale - Germany 142

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# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

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

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New England	7	4	2	23	19	16
D.C. United	5	5	4	19	14	14
Seattle Sounders FC	5	5	4	19	16	14
Houston Dynamo	5	5	2	17	27	20
Portland Timbers	5	5	2	17	18	18
Toronto FC	5	4	1	16	13	14
New York Red Bulls	4	6	5	15	20	20
Philadelphia Union	3	7	5	14	24	24
Chicago Fire	3	7	6	14	24	22
Montreal Impact	2	6	4	10	22	22

Western Conference	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle Sounders FC	9	3	2	29	29	21
Real Salt Lake	7	7	2	23	18	14
Colorado Rapids	6	4	4	22	15	15
Vancouver Whitecaps	5	7	3	18	23	24
Los Angeles Galaxy	4	3	4	16	13	20
San Jose Earthquakes	4	7	1	15	13	13
Portland Timbers	4	4	7	16	23	24
San Jose Earthquakes	3	7	6	14	23	24
Montreal Impact	2	6	4	10	22	22

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.  
**Wednesday's games**  
 Real Salt Lake 1, tie Colorado Rapids 0.  
**Thursday's games**  
 Sporting Kansas City at Houston  
**Saturday's games**  
 San Jose at Toronto FC  
 Columbus at D.C. United  
 Vancouver at Philadelphia  
 Seattle at Real Salt Lake  
 Colorado at FC Dallas  
**Sunday's games**  
 New York at New England  
 Chicago vs. Kansas City  
 Chivas USA at Los Angeles  
**Wednesday, June 11**  
 D.C. United at Montreal  
 FC Dallas at Portland

### WNBA

Real Salt Lake 1, Crew 1	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Real Salt Lake	0	1-1				
Columbus	2	1-1				
Second half - 1	Real Salt Lake 1-1					
2, 56th minute, 2	Columbus, Finlay 3					
(0-0, 85th)						

**Goals** - Real Salt Lake, Jeff Attinella; Columbus, Carlos Gehringer, Columbus, 16th.  
 A-11,121 (22,555)

### Fire 0, Rapids 0

Chicago	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Chicago	0	0-0				
Colorado	0	0-0				

**Goals** - Chicago, Sean Johnson; Colorado, John Berner.  
**Yellow Cards** - Wyo., Chicago, 20th; Western, York, 78th; Watta, Colorado, 85th.  
 A-13,402 (17,242)

### NWSL

Seattle	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	6	4	1	19	15	10
Chicago	6	4	1	19	20	20
Washington	6	4	2	14	10	10
Portland Thorns FC	4	3	2	14	10	10
Portland Thorns FC	4	3	2	14	10	10
Sky Blue FC	2	5	4	10	18	18
Portland Thorns FC	2	5	4	10	18	18
Boston	2	7	0	6	13	22

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.  
**Wednesday's games**  
**Saturday**  
 Boston at FC Kansas City  
 FC Kansas City 1, Western New York 0  
**Sunday**  
 Boston at FC Kansas City  
 Seattle at Seattle FC  
 Western New York at Portland  
**Sunday's game**  
 Houston at Sky Blue FC  
**Wednesday, June 11**  
 Washington at Boston  
**Wednesday, June 11**  
 FC Kansas City at Portland  
**Saturday, June 14**  
 FC Kansas City at Chicago  
 Sky Blue FC at Chicago  
 Washington at Portland

## AP spotlight

**June 6**  
 1-19 - Man o' War wins his first race, a 5-furlong one-over or a straightaway at Belmont Park. The favorite wins by 5 lengths, Chicago, 78th; Watta, Colorado, 85th.  
 59 seconds.  
 2-19 - Cyril Walker captures the U.S. Open with a three-hole victory over Brian Berman.  
 1936 - Granville, ridden by J. Stout, wins the Belmont Stakes by a neck over the Grand Bold Venture, the Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, does not win in the race.

## College baseball

### NCAA Duper regionals

Best-of-three, 5-if necessary. Visiting school is Game 1 home team; visiting school is Game 2 home team; coin flip determines Game 3 home team.

**At Jim Patterson Stadium**  
**Louisville**  
**Friday:** Kennessaw State (40-22) at Louisville  
**Saturday:** Kennessaw State vs. Louisville  
**Sunday:** Kennessaw State vs. Louisville  
**At Hawkins Field**  
**Nashville, Tenn.**  
**Friday:** Stanford vs. Vanderbilt (44-18)  
**Saturday:** Stanford vs. Vanderbilt  
**Sunday:** Stanford vs. Vanderbilt  
**At Allie P. Reynolds Stadium**  
**Silverdale, Okla.**  
**Friday:** UC Irvine (38-23) at Oklahoma State (48-16)  
**Saturday:** UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State  
**Sunday:** UC Irvine vs. Oklahoma State  
**At UFCU Dish-Falk Field**  
**Austin, Texas**  
**Friday:** Houston (42-10) at Texas (41-19)  
**Saturday:** Houston vs. Texas  
**Sunday:** Houston vs. Texas  
**At Davignon Field**  
**Charlottesville, Va.**  
**Saturday:** Maryland (39-21) at Virginia (47)  
**Sunday:** Maryland vs. Virginia  
**Monday:** Maryland vs. Virginia  
**At M.L. Tigue World Field**  
**Lafayette, La.**  
**Saturday:** Mississippi (44-18) at Louisiana-Lafayette (57-8)  
**Sunday:** Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette  
**Monday:** Mississippi vs. Louisiana-Lafayette  
**At Charlie and Marie Lupton Stadium**  
**Fort Worth, Texas**  
**Saturday:** Pepperdine at TCU  
**Sunday:** Pepperdine vs. TCU  
**Monday:** Pepperdine vs. TCU  
**At Griffin Park**  
**Lubbock, Texas**  
**Saturday:** College of Charleston (44-17) at Texas State (32-23)  
**Sunday:** College of Charleston vs. Texas State  
**Monday:** College of Charleston vs. Texas State

**MLB**  
**AMERICAN LEAGUE**  
**East Division**  
 Toronto 20 24 600 619  
 Baltimore 30 27 526 494  
 Detroit 29 28 500 600  
 Boston 27 32 458 814  
 Tampa Bay 27 37 383 131  
**Central Division**  
 Detroit 31 24 564 -4  
 Chicago 30 24 508 619  
 Cleveland 30 30 500 314  
 Minnesota 28 29 491 -4  
 Kansas City 29 36 492 8  
**West Division**  
 Oakland 31 29 467 -1  
 Los Angeles 31 27 534 514  
 Seattle 31 28 525 6  
 Texas 29 36 492 8  
 Houston 25 45 417 1214

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**  
**East Division**  
 Atlanta 21 27 544 619  
 Miami 31 28 525 619  
 Washington 29 28 509 161  
 New York 29 31 475 314  
 Philadelphia 24 33 421 619  
**Central Division**  
 Milwaukee 25 583 -  
 St. Louis 31 29 517 619  
 Pittsburgh 27 30 475 619  
 Cincinnati 27 30 474 619  
 Chicago 21 34 393 11  
**West Division**  
 San Francisco 38 21 644 -4  
 San Diego 38 23 619 619  
 Colorado 28 30 483 914  
 San Diego 27 38 450 1114  
 Arizona 29 36 410 114

**Wednesday's games**  
 Seattle at Toronto  
 Cleveland 7, Boston 4, 12 innings  
 Oakland 7, N.Y. Yankees 4  
 Detroit 2, Toronto 6  
 Miami 5, Tampa Bay 4  
 Baltimore vs. Texas  
 N.Y. Yankees 4, Houston 0  
 Minnesota 6, Milwaukee 4  
 St. Louis 2, Kansas City 2, 11 innings  
 San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 2  
 Washington 8, Philadelphia 4  
 San Francisco 2, Chicago 2  
 Chicago Cubs 5, N.Y. Mets 4  
 Detroit 3, San Diego 2  
 Chicago White Sox 2, L.A. Dodgers 1  
**Thursday's games**  
 Oakland at N.Y. Yankees  
 Oakland at Detroit  
 Tampa Bay at Minnesota  
 L.A. Angels at Houston  
 Baltimore at Texas  
 Philadelphia at Minnesota  
 St. Louis at Kansas City  
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 Boston (De La Rosa 1-0) at Detroit (Smly 2-4)  
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 Philadelphia at Cincinnati  
 Milwaukee at Pittsburgh  
 Miami at Chicago Cubs  
 N.Y. Mets at San Francisco  
 L.A. Dodgers at Colorado  
 Washington at San Diego

## Boxing

### Fight schedule

At Buenos Aires, Argentina, Juan Carlos Reveco vs. Felix Alvarez, 12, for Reveco's WBA middleweight title.  
 At Verona, N.Y., Yudel Johnson vs. Norberto Arce, 12, for Johnson's WBA super welterweight title.  
 At Las Vegas, Nev., John Williams, 10, junior middleweight.  
 At Fantasy Springs Resort Casino, Indio, Calif., Jorge Centeno Jr. vs. Gerardo Barrera, 10, middleweight; Eddie Gomez vs. Francisco Santana, 10, junior middleweight.  
**June 7**  
 At Moscow, Russia, Amir vs. Eduard Trovanyan, 12, for Amir's WBA World lightweight title.  
 At Schwerte, Germany, Juergen Braehmer vs. Roberto Bolonzi, 12, for Braehmer's WBA World light heavyweight title.  
 At Newcastle, England, Stuart Burt vs. Paul Butler, 12, for Hall's IBF bantamweight title.  
 At Madison Square Garden, N.Y., Sergio Martinez vs. Miguel Cotto, 12, for Martinez's WBA middleweight title.  
 At Las Vegas, Nev., Jorge Melendez vs. Javier Malca, 10, super welterweight; Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. vs. Marvin Sonsona, 10, featherweights; Andy Lee, 12, junior middleweight.  
**June 14**  
 At Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y., Demetrius Andrade vs. Brian Rose, 12, for Andrade's WBO junior welterweight title.  
 At Las Vegas, Nev., Ruslan Provodnikov vs. Chris Algieri, 12, for Provodnikov's WBO junior welterweight title.  
 At Bally's, Atlantic City, N.J., Glen Tapia vs. Keenan Collins, 10, junior middleweights.  
**June 19**  
 At Bayamon, Puerto Rico, McWilliams Arroyo vs. Salvador, 12, IBF flyweight eliminator.

At Monte Carlo, Martin Murray vs. Max Bursark, 10, middleweights; Hekmatullah Turajev vs. Pigny Mawaweth, 10, super welterweights.  
 At Koksietojin, 12, for Budler's WBO strawweight title.  
 At Matsuyama, Japan, Masayuki Iwama vs. Lungka Mubwa, 12, for the vacant WBA interim cruiserweight title.  
 At Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Anatoly Dubchenko vs. Nadji Mohammed, 12, IBF flyweight eliminator.  
 At StuHub Center, Carson, Calif., Vasily Lomachenko vs. Gary Russell Jr., 12, for the vacant WBO featherweight title.  
 Robert Guerrero vs. Yoshiruo Kagame, 12, welterweights; Devon Alexander vs. Jesus Soza Karass, 10, super welterweights.

**June 28**  
 At Omaha, Nebraska, Crawford vs. Yuriorkis Gamboa, 12, for Crawford's WBO lightweight title; Matt Korobov vs. Jose Lopez, 10, flyweights.  
**July 2**  
 At Foxwoods Resort, Mashantucket, Conn., Michael Faneva vs. Mark Davis, 12, super featherweights.

## Pro baseball

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 1. Bubba Watson 6,283,056  
 2. Jimmy Walker 4,956,075  
 3. Matt Kuchar 4,228,228  
 4. Jordan Spieth 4,120,867  
 5. Dustin Johnson 4,052,074  
 6. Jim Furyk 3,944,238  
 7. Jason Dufner 3,841,048  
 8. Patrick Reed 3,838,210  
 9. Phil Mickelson 2,982,562  
 10. Zach Johnson 2,911,177  
 11. Harris English 2,717,127  
 12. Chris Kirk 2,628,735  
 13. Ryan Moore 2,524,131  
 14. Brendon Todd 2,309,823  
 15. Webb Simpson 2,243,837

**European Points**  
 1. Victor Dubuisson 2,297,434.81  
 2. Jamie Donaldson 2,208,898.77  
 3. Thomas Bjorn 2,200,031.94  
 4. Henrik Stenson 1,912,467.23  
 5. Ian Poulter 1,817,616.47  
 6. Rory McIlroy 1,712,191.24  
 7. Joost Luiten 1,450,345.80  
 8. Miguel Angel Jimenez 1,449,628.00  
 9. Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano 1,261,406.24  
 10. Sergio Garcia 1,195,816.34

**World Points**  
 1. Henrik Stenson 2,993.30  
 2. Rory McIlroy 2,919.19  
 3. Sergio Garcia 2,386.86  
 4. Thomas Bjorn 2,386.86  
 5. Victor Dubuisson 2,065.43  
 6. Jamie Donaldson 1,454.43  
 7. Justin Rose 1,372.71  
 8. Miguel Angel Jimenez 1,372.71  
 9. Ian Poulter 1,372.71

## Presidents Cup points

### At Jack Nicklaus Golf Club Korea

**Incheon, South Korea**  
**Sept. 21-21, 2015**  
**Through June 15**  
**United States**  
 1. Jimmy Walker 2,306  
 2. Bubba Watson 2,093  
 3. Matt Kuchar 1,754  
 4. Jordan Spieth 1,754  
 5. Matt Kuchar 1,715  
 6. Dustin Johnson 1,474  
 7. Chris Kirk 1,376  
 8. Patrick Reed 1,376  
 9. Harris English 1,237  
 10. Brendon Todd 1,214  
 11. Webb Simpson 1,187  
 12. Kevin Na 1,187  
 13. Ryan Moore 1,081  
 14. Ryan Moore 1,081

## International

1. Adam Scott 9,21  
 2. Jason Day 9,21  
 3. Hideki Matsuyama 9,21  
 4. Matt Kuchar 8,21  
 5. Graham Delatt 8,21  
 6. Thongchai Jaidee 3,01  
 7. Adam Scott 2,84  
 8. Matt Jones 2,65  
 9. Adam Scott 2,65  
 10. Matt Jones 2,65  
 11. Rick Steene 1,84  
 12. George Stetzette 1,84  
 13. Chris Leishman 2,08  
 14. Kumaresh 1,84  
 15. Anirban Lahiri 1,84

## Champions Tour

### Charles Schwab Cup leaders

**Through June 1**  
**Points**  
 1. Bernhard Langer 1,227  
 2. Clint Montgomerie 1,189  
 3. Jay Haas 1,189  
 4. Matt Kuchar 1,189  
 5. Kenny Perry 774  
 6. Tom Lehman 774  
 7. Michael Allen 559  
 8. Matt Kuchar 559  
 9. Tom Lehman 549  
 10. Tom Lehman 549  
 11. Tom Pernice Jr. 549  
 12. Rick Steene 549  
 13. George Stetzette 549  
 14. Chris Leishman 549  
 15. Anirban Lahiri 549  
**Money**  
 1. Bernhard Langer \$809,929  
 2. Clint Montgomerie \$789,242  
 3. Jay Haas \$789,242  
 4. Matt Kuchar \$789,242  
 5. Kenny Perry \$475,514  
 6. Tom Lehman \$475,514  
 7. Michael Allen \$360,600  
 8. Matt Kuchar \$360,600  
 9. Tom Lehman \$339,239  
 10. Tom Pernice Jr. \$339,239  
 11. Rick Steene \$339,239  
 12. George Stetzette \$339,239  
 13. Chris Leishman \$339,239  
 14. Kumaresh \$339,239  
 15. Anirban Lahiri \$339,239  
**Wins**  
 1. Bernhard Langer 2  
 2. Clint Montgomerie 2  
 3. Jay Haas 1  
 4. Matt Kuchar 1  
 5. Kenny Perry 1  
 6. Tom Lehman 1  
 7. Michael Allen 1  
 8. Matt Kuchar 1  
 9. Tom Lehman 1  
 10. Tom Pernice Jr. 1  
 11. Rick Steene 1  
 12. George Stetzette 1  
 13. Chris Leishman 1  
 14. Kumaresh 1  
 15. Anirban Lahiri 1

## Golf

### Ryder Cup points

**At Glenagee Hotel**  
**Glenagee, Scotland**  
**Sept. 26-27, 2014**  
**Through May 25**  
**United States**  
 1. Bubba Watson 6,283,056  
 2. Jimmy Walker 4,956,075  
 3. Matt Kuchar 4,228,228  
 4. Jordan Spieth 4,120,867  
 5. Dustin Johnson 4,052,074  
 6. Jim Furyk 3,944,238  
 7. Jason Dufner 3,841,048  
 8. Patrick Reed 3,838,210  
 9. Phil Mickelson 2,982,562  
 10. Zach Johnson 2,911,177  
 11. Harris English 2,717,127  
 12. Chris Kirk 2,628,735  
 13. Ryan Moore 2,524,131  
 14. Brendon Todd 2,309,823  
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 1. Victor Dubuisson 2,297,434.81  
 2. Jamie Donaldson 2,208,898.77  
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 4. Henrik Stenson 1,912,467.23  
 5. Ian Poulter 1,817,616.47  
 6. Rory McIlroy 1,712,191.24  
 7. Joost Luiten 1,450,345.80  
 8. Miguel Angel Jimenez 1,449,628.00  
 9. Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano 1,261,406.24  
 10. Sergio Garcia 1,195,816.34

**World Points**  
 1. Henrik Stenson 2,993.30  
 2. Rory McIlroy 2,919.19

## WORLD CUP

# Keep calm and carry on

## American forward Altidore remains unfazed by scoring drought

By RACHEL COHEN  
The Associated Press

**J**ozy Altidore appreciates your concern. "Everybody is so worried about my confidence — it's unbelievable. My confidence is fine, my man," the U.S. forward said Sunday after his sixth straight international match without a goal. "It's not going to change whether I score a hat trick or I don't score at all."

Which better be true, since he hasn't been scoring lately. Since Dec. 4, Altidore has no goals in 27 games for his club and national team.

Add in another drought — U.S. forwards failed to score in the last two World Cups — and no wonder American fans are so worried about his confidence. Everybody except his coach and teammates, who insist there's nothing to fret about with the U.S. opening the World Cup on June 16.

"Sometimes you just need a little bit of luck on your side," said Clint Dempsey, who started alongside Altidore in the 4-4-2 formation in Sunday's 2-1 exhibition win against Turkey.

"You're only

Team USA forward  
Jozy Altidore

CHUCK MYERS/MCT

### By the numbers

# 27

Number of consecutive games without a goal for U.S. forward Jozy Altidore.

# 19

Number of consecutive months Altidore has gone without scoring an international goal.

# 0

Number of goals Altidore scored in four games for the U.S. in the 2010 World Cup.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

going to score if you create chances. He's creating chances, so it's just a matter of time."

Indeed, much about Altidore's performance Sunday was encouraging, other than the lack of a goal. "Energetic" is how Jurgen Klinsmann described it.

And when he's playing like that, the defense is occupied with the strong and physical Altidore, which opens up opportunities for his teammates and holds back the opponent's attack. Turkey coach Fatih Terim called him "the type of striker that the center backs don't like much."

DaMarcus Beasley, headed to his fourth World Cup, would like to remind everyone that at this time a year ago, the panic was about how Altidore had gone 19 months without an international goal.

Then he scored in a record-breaking five straight games last summer, including a hat trick in an exhibition against Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Every forward goes through a tough time with scoring," Beasley said Friday. "There's not one forward in history — expect maybe Messi."

After setting the record for goals by an American in a European club season with 31 in 2012-13 for the Netherlands' AZ Alkmaar, Altidore joined Sunderland of the Premier

League last summer. He figured he'd benefit from playing match after match against many of the same defenders he'll face in the World Cup.

Things did not exactly go as planned.

Altidore scored just twice in 39 appearances. He wasn't even getting many chances: a mere 19 shots in 31 league games.

Asked if he believed a player can quickly rediscover his form after rejoining his national squad, Altidore replied, "I'd be a fool not to."

"Guys try to get me teamed a lot," he said Friday of his American teammates. "I feel like I'm on the ball a bit more. I'm just able to be a different type of player."

This season was similar to 2009-10, when Altidore was loaned from Spain's Villarreal to England's Hull and scored twice. At 20, he was the youngest player on the U.S. roster for the 2010 World Cup and he started all four matches.

Altidore's last chance to score before this World Cup comes with Saturday's exhibition against Nigeria in Jacksonville, Fla. The Americans open play in their formidable group against Ghana in Natal in two weeks. The U.S. submitted its roster to FIFA on Monday, so the only changes would be for a serious injury at least 24 hours before its opener.

Klinsmann trusts that the player he's taking to Brazil "is the Jozy that we want to see." Asked what he's shown that makes Klinsmann so confident, Altidore joked: "Kick the ball straight."

"He's been the coach a while now," Altidore added, getting serious. "If a guy like that believes in you, believes you can do good things on the field, I think that says a lot."

Klinsmann quipped Sunday that perhaps the drought is setting up Altidore to break through with a goal against Ghana. For now, his faith must come from seeing his 24-year-old scorer do everything else.

"You've got to stay hungry and grind it out," Klinsmann said, "and sooner or later it's time and, boom, the ball is in the net."

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley in Stanford, Calif., and Ronald Blum in Harrison contributed to this report.

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# NBA FINALS

# Wade healthy, dangerous

## Miami guard feeling good as he pursues fourth title

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The last time Dwyane Wade played in an NBA Finals game, he needed fluid drained from his left knee and eight hours of intense game-day therapy just to get to uniform.

The Miami Heat guard later described it in a single word. "Hell," Wade said.

It was also worth it, after he scored 23 points, grabbed 10 rebounds and hoisted his third Larry O'Brien Trophy.

Now, unlike last year, Wade is not dealing with any injuries heading into the Miami's finals rematch against the San Antonio Spurs. At 32 years old and with 866 NBA games already on his playing odometer, Wade still deals with plenty of aches and pains, good days and bad days, and basically has a standing appointment in the Heat training room.

But compared to last season's NBA Finals, his knees are good as steel.

"He's a big-time, huge piece to our puzzle," four-time NBA MVP and Heat star LeBron James said.



Miami vs. San Antonio

Game 2

2 a.m. Monday CET

9 a.m. Monday JKT

AFN-Sports

"To have him out there in the groove that he's in right now, it's going to help us."

The Heat are looking to win their third straight title and Wade is on the cusp of joining a list of all-time NBA greats.

There are just seven players with four championships and at least one NBA Finals MVP award on their resumes: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, John Havlicek, Magic Johnson, Shaquille O'Neal, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan and the Spurs' Tim Duncan.

Wade could be the eighth person in that club.

"We just want to continue to add to what we're accomplishing," Wade said.

Almost forgotten amid all the memories of Wade limping about during last year's playoffs — he whacked what was his "good" left knee at this time last year, — is he had big games when Miami needed him.

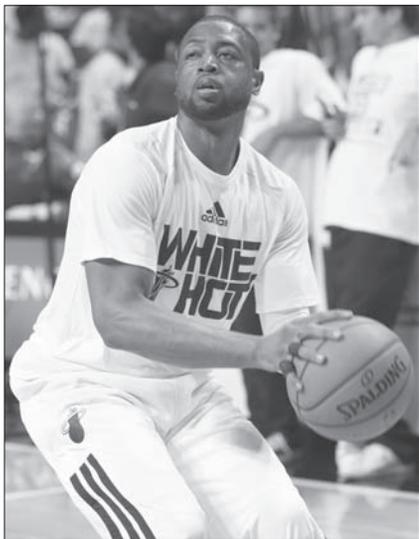
Through his first 14 games of the 2013 playoffs, Wade was averaging 13.6 points.

In the final eight games of that postseason run, starting with Game 7 against Indiana, he averaged 19.8 points.

And in the last four games of the finals, he averaged 23.5 points against the Spurs to close the series. As his knees got worse, Wade seemed to get better.

"He still found a way last year," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "He really did. He had some of his biggest games not only in the finals, but Game 7, we didn't think necessarily he was going to even play that game in the Eastern Conference finals."

As for now, when Wade talks about his health, he has just a one-word answer: "Better."



LYNNE SLADY/AP

Miami Heat guard Dwyane Wade played a key role in last season's run to the NBA championship despite playing on two injured knees. Wade is feeling much better this time around and his health could be the difference for Miami in its quest for a fourth championship.

## Five things to know

# Legacies, past and future, discussed at media day

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**  
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — They talked legacies and dynasties, recalled the past and looked toward the future.

The San Antonio Spurs and Miami Heat met with the media Wednesday in their final practices before Game 1 of the NBA Finals on Thursday night. Here are five things that came up along the way.

**1 Duncan's last rodeo?:** Tim Duncan is 38 years old and has been in the NBA for 17 years, so he probably knew the question was coming.

He just doesn't know the answer. Duncan's very first question Wednesday was about retirement, and what could make him consider it. Whenever he does walk away, he will end up in the Hall of Fame five years later, but he's not sure yet when that clock will start.

"I don't know when I'm going to retire. I don't know what the factors are going to be," he said. "I don't know any of that and I don't care about any of that stuff right in now. I'm not thinking about that in that respect. It will happen when it happens. I'll feel it and I'll know it and I'll call it a day."

**2 Finals failure:** LeBron James lost his first two NBA Finals, but that's nothing compared to Jerry West.

Despite playing on some powerful Lakers teams, West lost in his first seven finals appearances before winning his only championship in 1972.

So James said a conversation with West, and Isiah Thomas, another Hall of Famer, after Miami lost in 2011 helped him deal with his early failures.

"Obviously, I don't know if you guys know the story of Jerry West, the multiple times that it took for him to get over the



ERIC GAY/AP

Miami Heat forward LeBron James warms up during practice on Wednesday in San Antonio. They play Game 1 of the NBA Finals against the Spurs on Thursday.

hump and also Isaiah, and they gave me some great pointers, that I like to keep in my Rolodex, until I decide to write a book when I'm done," James said. "But those guys were very helpful."

**3 Second shot:** Chris Bosh and the Heat would have liked the same chance the Spurs have now.

Beaten by Dallas in 2011 in their first NBA Finals after LeBron James and Bosh joined Dwyane Wade in Miami, the

Heat never got a chance to avenge that loss. Mavericks owner Mark Cuban decided not to keep the team together in an attempt to have financial flexibility the following summer.

So the Heat understand what the Spurs are feeling in their rematch with Miami.

"We can draw on those feelings, because we'd give anything to play the Mavericks again, but we can't," Bosh said. "They didn't bring that team back and it's disap-

pointing because you always want some get-back for the team that put you out. We can draw off those feelings because we understand, man, if we would have had the chance. Not saying we would have won or lost, we just wanted the chance to compete again and just prove to ourselves that we're a better team."

**4 Going Green:** Danny Green would have been the NBA Finals MVP last year if the series ended in five games, having already shattered the series record with 25 three-pointers.

The last two games couldn't have gone much worse. He was 1 of 5 behind the arc in Game 6 and 1 of 6 in Game 7, part of a 1-for-12 finale. He said the biggest lesson he learned from his first finals was not to fear the pressure of the big stage.

"At the end of the day, you're not going to die from it or you're not going to go to jail for it," he said. "There are a lot worse things going on in the world. You can't play scared; you've got to be aggressive. Just lose yourself in the game."

**5 "Frozen" Heat:** He plays in Miami, but the cold doesn't bother Shane Battier anyway.

The Heat forward played along when Guillermo Rodriguez from "Jimmy Kimmel Live" came over to do a segment. Rodriguez asked Battier if he had seen the Disney movie "Frozen," then asked Battier which of the two main characters he considered himself, an Elsa or an Anna.

"I'm an Elsa. I'm an Elsa kind of guy," Battier said. "Just let it go. Just let it go. Let it go."

The two then sang "Let It Go," the Academy Award-winning smash that Idina Menzel, the actress who plays Elsa, sings in the animated film.

# NBA/COLLEGE BASEBALL

## Sterling to sell without legal battle

By TAMI ABDOLLAH  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Donald Sterling is leaving without a fight. He is dropping his plans to sue the NBA, leaving only approval by the league's owners for Steve Ballmer to become the new owner of the Los Angeles Clippers.

Sterling agreed Wednesday to sign off on the \$2 billion sale to the former Microsoft CEO, bringing the possibility of a resolution to weeks of rumors, uncertainty and looming legal action.

The agreement hadn't been officially signed Wednesday

afternoon, according to an individual with knowledge of the negotiations who wasn't authorized to discuss them publicly. But Donald Sterling's attorney, Maxwell Blecher, said he "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences."

Maxwell Blecher  
Donald Sterling's attorney

afternoon, according to an individual with knowledge of the negotiations who wasn't authorized to discuss them publicly. But Donald Sterling's attorney, Maxwell Blecher, said he "has made an agreement with the NBA to resolve all their differences."

Sterling gave his consent to a deal that was approved by his wife, Shelly Sterling, to sell the team, Blecher said.

Representatives for Shelly Sterling and the NBA declined to comment. The agreement was an about face for Donald Sterling, who just last week filed a \$1 billion suit against the NBA in federal court alleging the league violated his constitutional rights by relying on information from an "illegal" recording that publicized racist remarks he made to a girlfriend. It also said the league committed a breach of contract by fining Sterling \$2.5 million and that it violated antitrust laws by trying to force a sale. Blecher said that as a result of the agreement, the federal suit will now be dropped.

### All-NBA first team



**Kevin Durant, Oklahoma City Thunder, F.** League MVP was lone unanimous choice with 125 first-team votes; fifth overall selection.



**LeBron James, Miami Heat, F.** Eight-time All-NBA first team selection received 124 of 125 first-team votes.



**Chris Paul, L.A. Clippers, PG.** Fourth first-team selection for the first time all-defensive first-teamer.



**James Harden, Houston Rockets, G.** First time selected to All-NBA first team for fifth-year star.



**Joakim Noah, Chicago Bulls, C.** League's defensive player of the year named to first team for first time.

**Second-team:** Tony Parker, San Antonio; Stephen Curry, Golden State; Blake Griffin, L.A. Clippers; Dwight Howard, Houston; Kevin Love, Minnesota.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

## Then there were two...

8 of 10 SEC teams gone from NCAA baseball tournament

By DAVID BRANDT  
The Associated Press

The Southeastern Conference was noughted up in the first weekend of the NCAA baseball tournament.

Less than a week after a record-setting 10 SEC teams were invited to the 64-team bracket, eight of them are gone. Only Vanderbilt and Mississippi remain heading into the Super Regional round this weekend.

Florida's quick exit was the most shocking. The Gators were the nation's No. 2 overall seed but lost two straight to College of Charleston and North Carolina.

Perennial powers like LSU and South Carolina are also out of the running much earlier than usual.

The Tigers appeared in control of the Baton Rouge Regional before losing two straight to Houston. The Gamecocks — who won back-to-back College World Series titles in 2010 and 2011 — lost twice to upstart Maryland.

"To be honest with you," said Florida coach Kevin O'Sullivan after Saturday's final loss. "I didn't see it coming."

O'Sullivan's comments were directed at his Gators, but the same could be said for the entire league.

The SEC is usually a mainstay deep into college baseball's postseason. It's produced nine national champions and seven runners-up since 1990. There has been at least one SEC team in every CWS since 1992.

Now that streak is in jeopardy. Vanderbilt and Ole Miss have been solid programs over the past 10 to 15 years, but have combined for just one CWS appearance in the last 42 years.

Vanderbilt (44-18) hosts Stanford (34-24) in the Super Regionals this weekend while Ole Miss (44-18) must travel to Louisiana-Lafayette (57-8), which is the No. 6 overall seed in the tournament. All Super Regional matchups are a best-of-three series with the winner advancing to the CWS.

Coach Tim Corbin has built a powerhouse at Vanderbilt over the past decade, taking the Commodores to the CWS for the first time in 2011. They've advanced to the NCAA postseason nine straight seasons.

Vanderbilt faced Stanford earlier this season, sweeping a three-game series at home during non-conference play. The



GERALD HERBERT/AP

**An LSU player leans on the rail of the dugout during his team's loss to Houston on Monday. The Tigers joining many of their fellow SEC competitors in being shown the exit far earlier than usual in the NCAA baseball tournament this year.**

Commodores also have ace right-hander Tyler Beede, who could be a first-round selection in this week's Major League Baseball amateur draft.

The Rebels haven't been to the CWS since 1972 though they've been close many times over the past decade. Coach Mike Bianco has taken Ole Miss to the Super Regional round four times over 14 years, but lost to Texas in 2005, Miami in 2006, Arizona State in 2007 and Virginia in 2009.

The overall lack of success in the SEC so far this postseason isn't a complete surprise.

Though there were several good teams — few were great. Even the Gators, which won the SEC with a 21-9 league record, had a pedestrian 6-6 stretch during non-conference play.

The SEC's troubles are part of the reason the Super Regional round — which has 16 teams — includes unfamiliar names like Kennesaw State, College of Charleston, Maryland and Texas Tech. Five of the top eight national seeds have already been eliminated, including No. 1 Oregon State.

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# COLLEGE BASEBALL/AUTO RACING



STEVE CANNON/AP

Kennesaw State's players celebrate Monday after advancing to the NCAA super regionals.

## NCAA super regionals

# Keep an eye on the rookies

By ERIC OLSON  
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Five of the eight national seeds already have been eliminated from the NCAA baseball tournament. If the upsets continue in super regionals, there'll be some new faces at the College World Series next week.

The winner between Texas Tech and College of Charleston will make its CWS debut, Maryland will be going for its first trip to Omaha, Neb., and you can't forget about those Owls of first-time NCAA tournament participant Kennesaw State.

Here are 10 topics to consider heading into the best-of-three super regionals, which start Friday.

**1 Big 12 bounty:** While the SEC laments having eight of its record 10 NCAA tournament members eliminated, the Big 12 is celebrating having Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, TCU and Texas hosting super regionals. Four ACC teams hosted super regionals last year. Before that, no conference had so many host since the tournament went to its current format in 1999.

**2 Follow the money:** Houston coach Todd Whitting said Monday he was certain his team would be a host for its first super regional since 2003. He found out Tuesday that the Cougars couldn't match Texas' super-regional bid. Houston and Texas both were No. 2 regional seeds. But the Longhorns have a bigger stadium and, according to the Houston Chronicle and San Antonio Express-News, guaranteed the NCAA gross revenue of \$253,250 for a three-game series. Houston promised \$135,787.

**3 Stanford power surge:** Of Stanford's 35 home runs, nine were hit in its five regional games. No other

team hit more than four. Two of Stanford's were timely — Wayne Taylor's pinch-hit, three-run shot that keyed a comeback win over Indiana to force a second championship game, and Tommy Edman's two-run walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth in the clincher. Vanderbilt, the Cardinal's opponent, has given up one home run in its last eight games and just 15 for the season.

**4 All-ACC matchup:** Maryland travels to No. 3 national seed Virginia for the first super regional matching teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference. The Terrapins won their only meeting of the season, 7-6 in the conference tournament.

**5 Frogs on a roll:** No. 7 national seed TCU goes into its series against Pepperdine on a nation-best, nine-game win streak and with a pitching staff that's allowed no more than one run in 32 of 60 games. Big 12 pitcher of the year Preston Morrison and fellow all-conference first-teamers Brandon Finnegan and Riley Ferrell lead a staff that's first nationally with a 2.14 ERA.

**6 Tech turnaround:** Texas Tech second-year coach Tim Tadlock has overseen one of the nation's biggest turnarounds. The Red Raiders, who host College of Charleston, are 43-19 — a 17-win improvement from 2013. They've won 14 straight in Lubbock, and their 31 home wins are tied for third most in the nation.

**7 Give it a poke:** After allowing just seven runs in four games in regionals, UC Irvine will be tested by an Oklahoma State team that batted a tournament-best .355 and averaged nine runs a game in its regional. The Cowboys batted

.363 (28 of 77) and scored 19 runs in two games against Cal State Fullerton, which went into the tournament with a nation-leading 2.03 ERA. Donnie Walton (.583) and Conor Costello (.500) were the biggest of the Cowboys' boppers.

**8 Cardinals' strong arms:** Louisville starters Kyle Funkhouser, Anthony Kidston and Josh Rogers combined to allow three earned runs in 21 innings (1.28 ERA) with 21 strikeouts in regionals. They're backed up by a bullpen that has a 2.37 ERA in the last 79 2/3 innings.

**9 Win record in sight:** If No. 6 national seed Louisiana-Lafayette gets past Mississippi, the Ragin' Cajuns (57-8) will have a chance to set the record for most wins since the NCAA went to a 56-game regular season in 1992. Florida State won 60 games in 2002. Wichita State's 73 wins in 87 games in 1982 is the overall record.

**10 Kennesaw bandwagon:** Kennesaw State never drew more than 879 fans to its 1,200-seat stadium this season. A lot more fans are following the Owls now. Kennesaw State became a full-fledged Division I member in 2009-10, and the school is capitalizing on the unexpected exposure that's come with the Owls' run in the tournament. Watch parties have been organized at a suburban Atlanta restaurant, with discounts for folks dressed in black and gold, and the school bookstore has been fielding requests for apparel to mark the occasion.

"People on campus are definitely excited. This is kind of new for us, being on a national stage," bookstore assistant director Sean Rowland said.

## Around the track

### SPRINT CUP

**This week:** Pocono 400 at Long Pond, Pa.  
**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday, CET; 2 a.m. Monday JKT.

**Track:** Pocono Raceway (triangle, 2.5 miles).  
**Race distance:** 400 miles, 160 laps.

**Last year:** Jimmie Johnson raced to the third of his six 2013 victories en route to his sixth season title. He swept the 2004 races at the track.

**Last week:** Johnson at Dover for the record ninth time. He won the Coca-Cola 600 the previous week in North Carolina.

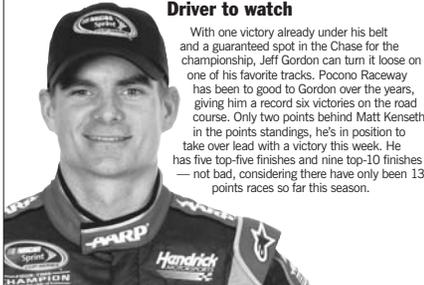
**Next race:** Quicken Loans 400, June 15, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.  
**Online:** nascar.com

### Driver standings

1. Matt Kenseth, 463
2. Jeff Gordon, 461
3. Carl Edwards, 438
4. Jimmie Johnson, 436
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr., 429
6. Joey Logano, 414
7. Kyle Busch, 411
8. Brad Keselowski, 404
9. Denny Hamlin, 379
10. Kyle Larson, 377
11. Ryan Newman, 374
12. Kevin Harvick, 373
13. Brian Vickers, 366
14. Paul Menard, 362
15. Austin Dillon, 358
16. Greg Biffle, 357
17. Clint Bowyer, 350
18. Casey Kahne, 349
19. Eric Almirola, 344
20. A J Allmendinger, 337

### Driver to watch

With one victory already under his belt and a guaranteed spot in the Chase for the championship, Jeff Gordon can turn it loose on one of his favorite tracks. Pocono Raceway has been good to Gordon over the years, giving him a record six victories on the road course. Only two points behind Matt Kenseth in the points standings, he's in position to take over lead with a victory this week. He has five top-five finishes and nine top-10 finishes — not bad, considering there have only been 13 points races so far this season.



### CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

**This week:** Winstar World Casino and Resort 400 at Fort Worth, Texas.  
**Track:** Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).  
**Race distance:** 250.5 miles, 167 laps.

**Last year:** Jeb Burton raced to his first series victory.

**Last week:** Kyle Busch won at Dover for his fourth victory in four series starts this season.

**Next race:** Drivin' for Linemen 200, June 14, Gateway Motorsports Park, Madison, Illinois.  
**Online:** nascar.com

### NATIONWIDE SERIES

**Next race:** Ollie's Bargain Barn 250, June 14, Michigan International Speedway, Brooklyn, Mich.

**Last week:** Kyle Busch won at Dover for his third victory of the season.  
**Online:** nascar.com

### FORMULA ONE

**This week:** Canadian Grand Prix at Montreal.

**Track:** Circuit Gilles Villeneuve (road course, 2.71 miles).  
**Race distance:** 189.7 miles, 70 laps.

**Last year:** Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel raced to the third of his 13 2013 victories en route to his fourth straight season title.

**Last race:** Nico Rosberg won at Monaco on May 25 then won Mercedes' season-opening winning streak to six and its string of 1-2 finishes to five.

**Next race:** Austrian Grand Prix, June 22, Red Bull Ring, Spielberg, Austria.  
**Online:** formula1.com

### VERIZON INDYCAR

**This week:** Firestone 600 at Fort Worth, Texas.

**TV:** Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 9 a.m. Monday, CET; 4 p.m. Monday, JKT.  
**Track:** Texas Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).  
**Race distance:** 372 miles, 248 laps.

**Last year:** Helio Castroneves raced to his fourth victory at the track. Team Penske was fined \$35,000 and docked 15 entrant points because of the underlying on Castroneves' car didn't meet specifications.

**Last week:** Team Penske swept the Detroit Grand Prix doubleheader. Will Power took the opener and Castroneves won the second race.

**Next race:** Grand Prix of Houston, June 23 and 29, Streets of Houston.  
**Online:** indycar.com

### NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

**Next event:** Thunder Valley Nationals, June 13-15, Bristol Dragway, Bristol, Tenn.

**Last week:** Australia's Richie Crampston won Top Fuel at the Summernationals in Englishtown, N.J. Cruz Pedregon won Funny Car, Greg Coughlin won Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines took Pro Stock Motorcycle.  
**Online:** nhra.com

### OTHER SERIES

**WORLD OF OUTLAWS Sprint Car:** Sprint Car: Friday, 1-80 Speedway, Greenwood, Nebraska; Saturday, Lakeside Speedway, Kansas City, Kansas.

**Online:** worldofoutlaws.com  
— Series capsules by The Associated Press

## STANLEY CUP FINALS

## Kings rally to win Game 1 in OT

## LA comes back from 2-0 deficit

By GREG BEACHAM  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Justin Williams usually saves his greatest postseason heroics for seventh games, not openers.

And for all of his series-saving feats over the years, the two-time NHL champion had never scored an overtime playoff goal.

When Williams got the puck on his stick with an uncontested chance to stake the Los Angeles Kings to an early lead in the Stanley Cup finals, Mr. Game 7 buried the shot and the New York Rangers.

Williams scored 4:36 into overtime after a turnover by Dan Girardi, and Los Angeles beat New York 3-2 Wednesday night in a thrilling series opener.

Kyle Clifford had a goal and an assist, and Drew Doughty made up for an early mistake by scoring the tying goal in the second period. Jonathan Quick made 25 saves as the Kings moved one victory closer to their second Stanley Cup title in three years — but only after another rally in a post-season full of comebacks.

“We certainly don’t want to make a habit out of this,” Williams said. “That is a world-class team up there with world-class offense. There could have been a lot of storylines tonight. They had a breakthrough in the end of the third period that (Jonathan) Quick made a great save on. We wouldn’t be sitting here right now. A lot of things (went) awry during the game.”

Game 2 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

For the fourth time in their 13 victories during this postseason, the Kings rallied from a multi-goal deficit to win. After the Rangers took an early two-goal lead and the Kings erased it, Los Angeles demonstrated what the rest of the Stanley Cup finals might resemble if New York can’t respond.

The Kings crushed the Rangers into the boards, dominated the puck and controlled the third period, outshooting New York 20-3. The domination abated slightly in overtime, but Los Angeles pounced when the puck bounced over Girardi’s stick and forced his panicked pass right to Mike Richards, who fed Williams for his eighth goal of the postseason on a high shot to Henrik Lundqvist’s stick side.

“The puck is going to me, I’m trying to make a play up the middle, and it bounces on me,” Girardi said. “I kind of got down to one



Jac C. Hong/AP

Los Angeles right wing Justin Williams, right, celebrates his overtime goal as New York Rangers left wing Benoit Pouliot looks on Wednesday.

knee, and I’m just thinking about getting it to the wall. But the guy was there and made a smart play. You can’t give Justin Williams a shot like that. He’s pretty clutch in the playoffs.”

Lundqvist made 40 saves and nearly stole an early win for the Rangers. Benoit Pouliot scored on a breakthrough and Carl Hagelin got a short-handed goal in the first period, but New York spent much of the final two periods on its heels.

“Not quite sure what happened there in the third,” Rangers coach Alain Vigneault said. “Not sure if it was them being that good, or us stopping moving the puck and skating and going north-south. They definitely took it to us in the third, and they were able to get a bounce on the winning goal and put it in the back of the net.”

The Kings and the Rangers played a combined 41 games in the first three rounds — just one fewer than the maximum — to emerge from the middle of the playoff pack. Los Angeles didn’t blame fatigue for its slow finals start after finishing off Chicago on Sunday.

Pouliot scored the first goal of the series on a breakthrough, stealing the puck from Doughty and skating past a stumbling Jake Muzzin. The Rangers’ small



Jac C. Hong/AP

Los Angeles left wing Dwight King goes over New York Rangers defenseman Raphael Diaz during the second period of Game 1 of the NHL Stanley Cup finals Wednesday in Los Angeles.

contingent of fans roared again 2:42 later when Hagelin’s breakthrough shot was kicked in by Slava Voynov, who hadn’t been able to keep up with Hagelin out of the New York zone.

Los Angeles answered late in the period when Jeff Carter passed from behind the net to Clifford, who banged in a sharp-angled shot for his first playoff goal since April 23, 2011. The

## NHL scoreboard

## Stanley Cup finals

(Best-of-seven; x=if necessary)  
Los Angeles 1, N.Y. Rangers 0  
Wednesday: Los Angeles 3, NY Rangers 2, OT

Saturday: at Los Angeles  
Monday: at NY Rangers  
Wednesday, June 11: at NY Rangers  
x-Friday, June 13: at Los Angeles  
x-Monday, June 16: at NY Rangers  
x-Wednesday, June 18: at Los Angeles

## Wednesday

Kings 3, Rangers 2 (OT)  
N.Y. Rangers 2 0 0 0-2  
Los Angeles 1 1 0 1-3

First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Pouliot 4, 13:21. 2, N.Y. Rangers, Hagelin 7 (Boyle, McDonagh), 15:03 (ch.). 3, Los Angeles, Clifford 1 (Carter), 17:33.

Second Period—4, Los Angeles, Doughty 2 (Williams, Clifford), 6:36.

Overtime—5, Los Angeles, Williams 8 (Richards), 4:26.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Rangers 13-9-3-2-27; Los Angeles 14-7-20-2-43.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3; Los Angeles 0 of 4.

Goalies—N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 12-8-0 (43 shots-40 saves); Los Angeles, Quick 13-9-0 (27-25).

A—(18,399 (18,118), T—2:51.

grinding forward had played 37 straight postseason games without a goal.

Doughty tied it for the Kings with a beautiful move, toe-dragging around Derek Dorsett and firing a wrist shot past Lundqvist for his fourth goal in six games.

# FRENCH OPEN

# Sharapova, Halep in final

By CHRIS LEHOURITES  
The Associated Press

PARIS — For the third straight year, Maria Sharapova will play in the French Open final.

The seventh-seeded Russian again lost the first set Thursday, but again managed to turn things around, beating Eugenie Bouchard of Canada 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

Sharapova will face fourth-seeded Simona Halep of Romania in Saturday's championship match. Halep reached her first Grand Slam final by defeating 28th-seeded Andrea Petkovic of Germany 6-2, 7-6 (4).

Sharapova won eight of the last 10 games against Bouchard, and has won 19 straight three-set matches on clay — the last three at Roland Garros after losing the first set.

"I would love to win those matches in two sets, but I always feel like I put in the work to be ready to play whatever it takes," Sharapova said. "If it takes three hours to win the match in three sets, I will be ready for that."

Sharapova completed a career Grand Slam by winning the French Open in 2012, but lost to Serena Williams last year.

Bouchard, a 20-year-old Canadian seeded 18th, was playing at Roland Garros for only the second time. Last year, she lost to

Sharapova in the second round. Sharapova struggled a bit with her serve, double-faulting nine times and getting broken four times. She made up for her shaky serving with solid groundstrokes, either going for winners or waiting out errors from Bouchard.

"I don't feel that I played my best tennis, but to be in the semifinals of a Grand Slam and winning a match where I felt my opponent played extremely well, exceptional tennis, and I didn't feel that I was playing my best, I fought, I scrambled, and I found a way to win," Sharapova said.

In the second semifinal, Halep played aggressive in the first set. She finished the set with 12 winners and seven unforced errors, while Petkovic had only three winners and 14 unforced errors.

The second set was much closer as Petkovic played with more consistency, but the 22-year-old Romanian was able to close it out in the tiebreaker with a forehand winner.

Both Halep and Petkovic were playing in a major semifinal for the first time. Bouchard, however, also reached this stage at the Australian Open in January.

On Thursday, she took the early lead with her first break in the third game, smacking a forehand winner for a 2-1 edge. She made it 3-1 by completing a run of win-

## Scoreboard

**Thursday**  
At Stade Roland Garros  
Paris  
Purse: \$34.12 million (Grand Slam)  
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

**Singles**  
**Women**  
**Semifinals**  
Simona Halep (4), Romania, def. Andrea Petkovic (28), Germany, 6-2, 7-6 (4).  
Maria Sharapova (7), Russia, def. Eugenie Bouchard (18), Canada, 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

**Doubles**  
**Men**  
**Semifinals**  
Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (12), Spain, def. Marin Draganja, Croatia, and Florin Mergea, Romania, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.  
Julien Benneteau and Edouard Roger-Vasselin (1), France, def. Andrej Golubev, Kazakhstan, and Samuel Groth, Australia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

**Mixed**  
**Championship**  
Anna-Lena Groenefeld, Germany, and Jean-Julien Rojer, Netherlands, def. Julia Georges, Germany, and Nenad Zimonjic (8), Serbia, 4-6, 6-2, 10-7.

ning 12 of 17 points.

The pair traded breaks in the second set. But Sharapova managed to stay ahead and broke Bouchard for the third time in the set to even the set score.

"It's always disappointing to be a little bit off," Bouchard said. "I felt like I was trying to do what I wanted to do, which was be aggressive, go for my shots. But often I constructed the point well and then didn't finish it as well as I could."



MICHEL EULER/AP

Russia's Maria Sharapova shouts as she wins the second set against Canada's Eugenie Bouchard during their semifinal French Open match Thursday in Paris. Sharapova won the match 4-6, 7-5, 6-2.

# Nadal takes 33-match win streak into semifinals



MICHEL EULER/AP

Rafael Nadal is 64-1 at the French Open, winning eight titles and carrying a 33-match winning streak into Friday's semifinal match against Wimbledon champ Andy Murray.

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
The Associated Press

PARIS — Five things to look for in the men's semifinals Friday at the French Open:

**1 Nadal's streak:** Heading into his semifinal against Andy Murray, No. 1-ranked Rafael Nadal's French Open record is a hard-to-believe 64-1, a run that includes eight titles — more than any man has won at any of the Grand Slam tournaments — and a 33-match winning streak. The lone loss came to Robin Soderling in the fourth round in 2009. Nadal is trying to become the first man to win five consecutive French Opens.

**2 Nadal vs. Murray:** Nadal or Murray has participated in each of the last 17 Grand Slam finals, a stretch that dates to the 2010 Australian Open. That will become 18 major finals in a row at this French Open, of course. But in none of those instances did Nadal and Murray face each other for the title. Eight of their 19 previous career matchups came at majors, with Nadal holding a 6-2 edge — once in the fourth round, once in a quarterfinal, and six in semifinals. Overall, Nadal leads 14-5. This meeting makes them the only two men in the Open era, which began in 1968, to have met at least twice at each Grand Slam.

**3 Murray on clay:** Everyone knows just how good Nadal is on red clay. But Murray, whose major titles came on grass at Wimbledon and on hard courts at the U.S. Open, is proving rather adept at handling the slow surface, too. This is his second French Open semifinal — he made it that far in 2011, before losing to Nadal, naturally — and he made

clear after his five-set victory over Gael Monfils in the quarterfinals that he is not satisfied. "It's definitely a big achievement, but that's not what I came here to do. Yeah, my goals are different and my expectations are different to a lot of people," Murray said. "I expect a lot of myself. I put a lot of pressure on myself to perform well at these events, and thankfully I have done OK so far. Still hopefully a long way to go in the tournament."

**4 Djokovic vs. Gulbis:** No. 2 Novak Djokovic meets No. 18 Ernests Gulbis, the only man from Latvia to enter a Grand Slam tournament, in Friday's opening semifinal. Djokovic holds a 4-1 lead in head-to-head matches, including a straight-set win in the 2008 French Open quarterfinals, the only other time Gulbis made it that far at a major. They go way back: Both attended a tennis academy in Munich in their early teens.

**5 Gluten-free:** Djokovic, a six-time major champion, needs a French Open title to complete a career Grand Slam. He's talked often — and even written a book — about how changes to his eating habits, including dispensing with gluten, helped him overcome problems with fitness and allergies early in his career. And Gulbis? He was asked this week why he needed a half-dozen years to get back to the latter stages of a major after doing so initially as a teenager. "What took me so long? I think I was eating wrong. I had the wrong diet," he said with a laugh. "Everybody was talking about this gluten-free diet. My diet is full-on gluten. I like a lot of ketchup, a lot of unhealthy stuff, so there is a balance which I found in the last couple of years."

## BELMONT STAKES

## California Chrome's greatest obstacles

BY CHILDS WALKER  
The Baltimore Sun

JULIE JACOBSON/AP

**Belmont Stakes hopeful Tonalist, winner of the Peter Pan Stakes, will bring fresh legs to the race.**

## A fresh find

Few analysts question that California Chrome is the best 3-year-old in America.

He easily avoided the pitfalls inherent in a 19-horse field in the Kentucky Derby, and he fended off early challenges from speedy contenders in the Preakness.

The road ahead is far steeper as California Chrome prepares to run for the third time in five weeks against horses who haven't worked nearly as hard.

His top rivals from Kentucky — Commanding Curve, Danza and Wicked Strong — are expected to run in the Belmont on five weeks' rest. A new challenger, Tonalist, will run on four weeks' rest after winning the Peter Pan Stakes on May 10 at Belmont Park.

Ride On Curlin, second in the Preakness, is the only other Belmont entrant who will have run the previous two legs of the Triple Crown.

So even if California Chrome is the best horse, he'll start at a significant disadvantage. Imagine the Miami Heat needing to win an extra round of playoffs before playing in the NBA Finals. That's the scenario here, and recent history says it makes a difference.

Since 1978, of the 11 near-misses who made it to the starting gate for the Belmont (I'll Have Another scratched in 2012), seven lost to challengers who had not run in the Preakness. It's an accelerating trend; the last five horses to win the first two legs of the Triple Crown lost the Belmont to horses who hadn't run in Baltimore.

California Chrome's co-owner, Steve Coburn, wasn't shy about calling for change after his horse won at Pimlico. Coburn said he'd like to see the Preakness and Belmont fields limited to horses who had run the previous legs of the Triple Crown.

"If you bow out in the Preakness, you don't come back for the Belmont," he said. "I honestly believe that if the Triple Crown is not won this year by California Chrome, I will never see it in my lifetime, because there are people out there trying to upset the apple cart."

## The fatigue factor

California Chrome has never run three times in five weeks. It's a work rate unfamiliar to most modern thoroughbreds. Trainer Art Sherman will tell you he prefers to rest his horses six or seven weeks between starts.

It's common to hear old-school analysts complain about the lack of stamina in modern thoroughbreds. Today's horses are bred to run shorter distances and often worked lightly before Triple Crown season. So come Belmont time, they're unprepared for the rigor, or so the argument goes.

Take Big Brown, who was perceived as even more dominant than California Chrome after he swept through the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness in 2008. He had run just three times before the Derby, and after battling a cracked hoof leading up to the Belmont, he pulled up mid-race, leaving his quest unfinished. Big Brown came back to win twice later in the year, confirming his talent. He simply could not handle the Triple Crown schedule.

The next near-miss, I'll Have Another, never even started in the Belmont because of a sore tendon. He had raced just five times entering the Triple Crown. "I think horses years ago were tougher, and they campaigned harder," said Affirmed co-owner Patrice Wolfson. "They usually relished racing."

Is there reason to think California Chrome will be different? Perhaps so. With 12 races on his resumé, five this year, his schedule is akin to those of the great 1970s champions. The Belmont was Secretariat's 12th race, for example. It was the ninth for 1977 Triple Crown winner Seattle Slew.

For all of Sherman's reservations about the schedule, his horse is well tested.



MCT

**Big Brown, a horse thought to be even more dominant than California Chrome, couldn't handle the rigors of the Triple Crown schedule in 2008.**



MCT

**Birdstone, left, ridden by Edgar Prado, passes Triple Crown hopeful Smarty Jones, ridden by Stewart Elliott, on the homestretch to win the 136th Belmont Stakes on June 5, 2004, at Belmont Park in Elmont, N.Y. The 1½-mile distance of the Belmont simply proves to be too much for some contenders.**

## The distance ▲

If the Kentucky Derby is marked by packed fields and the Preakness by early speed, the Belmont is the marathon of the Triple Crown slate.

Like most of his peers, California Chrome has never run longer than the 1¼ miles at Churchill Downs. The 1½-mile Belmont represents an unexplored frontier.

Sherman has been bullish about his colt's ability to handle the distance. The trainer likes to say California Chrome would run all day if permitted. By all accounts he had energy to spare at the end of the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness.

On the other hand, jockey Victor Espinoza had to run him hard down the stretch at Pimlico to hold off Ride On Curlin. Commanding Curve was closing fast at the end of the Derby. If either race had been 1½ miles, would California Chrome have been passed?

It's a question he might have to answer at Belmont Park, with strong contenders such as Commanding Curve and Wicked Strong in the field. The closest near-misses since 1978

— Silver Charm, Real Quiet and Smarty Jones — all led in the Belmont and lost to late charges.



## Race tactics

Espinoza feels an unusual affinity for California Chrome, who has responded to his calls for speed at various points in big races. This versatility might be the colt's greatest strength.

But Espinoza acknowledged that the Preakness presented a difficult tactical challenge, with speedy horses attacking California Chrome in the first half of the race. Given the 1½-mile distance, Espinoza had to decide whether to accelerate earlier than he wanted or risk letting a speed horse run away with the race. He asked for California Chrome's big move with more than a half-mile to go, and the colt had enough endurance to pull it off.

What if the same thing happens in the Belmont and California Chrome accelerates early only to face a much longer stretch run?

Many felt Stewart Elliott fell into that trap aboard Smarty Jones in 2004 and lost his lead to 36-1 underdog Birdstone because of it.

Patience is often key to a strong run in the Belmont.

## Bad luck

Any trainer will tell you that something can happen in horse racing. So many variables have to align for one victory, much less three in five weeks against the nation's best competition.

Already, California Chrome has evaded the threat of a poor post position at Churchill Downs and overcome the irritation of a sore throat at Pimlico. While rivals have been scratched because of injuries or become trapped in impenetrable race traffic, he has seemingly made his own luck.

But Sherman knows that some factors are out of his or the horse's control.

California Chrome could develop a minor injury, as I'll Have Another did in 2012 or Big Brown did in 2008. He drew the No. 2 post position and so he could become trapped against the rail with other horses kicking dirt in his face.

These are problems he has not yet confronted, and if we've learned anything about the Triple Crown, it's that the problems keep coming.

That's as it should be, traditionalists say.

"I think it takes not only an exceptional horse to win all three races, but

it takes great training and management, and it takes good luck," said Dr. Jim Hill, co-owner of Seattle Slew. "I think all those things should go together, and I don't think that the task should be lessened at all."



# BELMONT STAKES

# California Chrome to face old, new rivals

By BETH HARRIS  
The Associated Press

After California Chrome's trouble-free trips in the Kentucky Derby and Preakness, the chestnut colt with four white feet will be running in the Belmont Stakes with a bull's-eye on his back.

Trainer Art Sherman believes California Chrome can become horse racing's first Triple Crown winner since Affirmed in 1978 when he races at Belmont Stakes. Win and the horse becomes racing's next superstar.

"I feel more confident coming into this race than I did any race," said Sherman, who is training the best horse of his long career. "I'm getting pumped up."

So are those aiming to knock off the champ and prevent history from being made on Saturday.

California Chrome will start second from the rail as the odds-on-favorite to win at 3-5 after post positions were chosen on Wednesday for a field of 11 horses. The 1½-mile Belmont appears to be a mix of returning rivals and newcomers to the Triple Crown trail.

Ride On Curlin will test California Chrome again. The colt finished second, beaten 1½ lengths in the Preakness, and was seventh in the Derby. He and California Chrome will be the only horses to run in all three legs of the Triple Crown this year.

"I've gotten closer to California Chrome more than anybody else has this year," Ride On Curlin's trainer Billy Gowan said, "and with a little added distance maybe we can take him."

The Belmont is the longest of the three races. The distance can tire out a horse that has run on the compressed five-week schedule of the Triple Crown. No 3-year-old has run that far its life, and few will be asked to ever do it again.

"Some horses absolutely do not want to go a mile and a half," Gowan said, "and some horses thrive on it."

Commanding Curve, second in the Derby to California Chrome, is rested and ready to face his rival again after skipping the Preakness. His trainer, Dallas Stewart, wouldn't mind playing spoiler.

"There are a handful of horses that are capable of beating him even on his best day at this distance," he said. "The horse has really had two perfect trips. It may or may not happen on Belmont day. If he gets in a little bit of trouble, how is he going to handle it?"

Sherman draws his confidence from seeing California Chrome's

progression during his current six-race winning streak. The 77-year-old trainer is at the Belmont after spending time at his Southern California base since the Preakness.

He watched videos of his colt's daily gallops while talking with his son and assistant trainer Alan, who had earlier accompanied the horse to Belmont.

"I can't believe a horse bounces back like he does," the elder Sherman said. "He looks alert. He's doing great at training."

Another factor helping California Chrome is having veteran Victor Espinoza as his pilot. He was aboard during War Emblem's failed Triple Crown bid in 2002, when the horse stumbled out of the gate and failed to fire in the Belmont.

"He's a pretty intelligent rider," Sherman said. "I never give him instructions."

California Chrome has bulked up by 40 to 50 pounds in the last two weeks.

"He's a different horse now, he's maturing, he's very confident in himself," Sherman said. "He's like, 'Hey, I'm here, let's see you outrun me.' He doesn't want any horse passing him."

Two other Derby horses who bypassed the Preakness are in the Belmont field: Wicked Strong, fourth at Churchill Downs, is in the ninth post position and Samraat, who was fifth in the Derby, will start from the No. 7 position.

"One of our horses will have to run the race of their life and California Chrome will have to throw in a clunker," said Jimmy Jerkens, who trains Wicked Strong.

The newcomers to the Triple Crown trail are Commissioner, Matherhorn, Matuszak and Tonalist, who won the Peter Pan at Belmont on a sloppy track. Commissioner was second in that race.

Only 11 horses have swept the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont. There have been 11 Triple tries since Affirmed won the Triple Crown in 1978, the most recent being Big Brown in 2008. He won the first two legs, then was eased by jockey Kent Desormeaux and didn't finish.

"I'll Have Another won the first two legs in 2012, but was scratched on Belmont eve with a tendon injury.

Before Affirmed swept the Triple Crown, 25 years had passed between Citation in 1948 and Secretariat in 1973. So tough is the task that the current 36-year gap is the longest ever.

"I think they're going to see a champion," Sherman said.



California Chrome, right, with jockey Victor Espinoza on board, held off Ride on Curlin, left, by 1½ lengths to win the Preakness. Chrome's bid to become the first Triple Crown winner in 36 years won't be easy. Saturday's race will feature 10 challengers, the most to face a Triple Crown hopeful in the Belmont.



**'I feel more confident coming into this race than I did any race. I'm getting pumped up.'**

Art Sherman  
Trainer for California Chrome

### Three for three

The Triple Crown is a series of three races, each a different length, within five weeks.

Kentucky Derby • Est. 1875  
Churchill Downs,  
Louisville, Ky.



Preakness Stakes • Est. 1873  
Pimlico Race Course,  
Baltimore

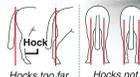


Belmont Stakes  
Est. 1867  
Belmont Park,  
Elmont, N.Y.

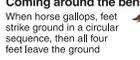


NOTE: Tracks at Derby and Preakness are mile-long ovals; Belmont track is a 1½-mile oval.

Hook Joint in hind legs: may reduce strength of rear legs



Coming around the bend  
When horse gallops, feet strike ground in a circular sequence, then all four feet leave the ground



Sequence takes 0.4 seconds, carries horse about 23 ft.

SOURCES: How Stuff Works, The Visual Dictionary of the Horse, Churchill Downs, Pimlico Race Course, Belmont Park, MCT Photo Service

## Running for the crown

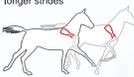
Hundreds of years of breeding have produced the remarkable thoroughbred horse, but only 11 have been Triple Crown winners.

### What breeders look for

Few horses have perfect conformation — the fine points of anatomy that breeders, owners and trainers look for

### Shoulders help acceleration

45- to 50-degree shoulder angle; horse swings shoulder blade in wider angles to allow longer strides



Straight shoulders give horse too short a stride

### Defects increase strain on front feet

Knees too far forward, too far back



Long, strong neck

Croup Top of hindquarters; line to buttocks should be long; too steep an angle reduces power

Deep, wide ribcage

Very long, slender legs

Heavily muscled hindquarters

California Chrome with Victor Espinoza at 140th Kentucky Derby

California Chrome 2014



Triple Crown winners

Failed attempts

Sir Barton 1919

GalBant Fox 1930

Omaha 1935

War Admiral 1937

Whirlaway 1941

Count Fleet 1943

Assault 1946

Citation 1948

Sir Barton and jockey Johnny Loftus, 1919 Preakness Stakes

Secretariat 1973

Seattle Slew 1977

Affirmed 1978

Spectacular Bid 1979

Pleasant Colony 1981

Alzheba 1987

Real Quiet 1988

Charismatic 1999

War Emblem 2002

Funny Cide 2003

Smarty Jones 2004

Big Brown 2008

Current dry spell is the longest: 36 years since last winner

Last dry spell listed 25 years

MELINA YINGLING/MCT





**Comeback Kings**

LA rallies for overtime victory in Game 1 of Cup finals | Page 59

# SPORTS



# Trouble trifecta

Fatigue, fresh opponents, distance have derailed recent Triple Crown bids

By CHILDS WALKER • *The Baltimore Sun*

“**S**ince Affirmed in 1978” — it has to be the most overused phrase in thoroughbred racing.

Yet it's inevitable every spring, when a new crop of 3-year-olds takes a shot at the sport's most cherished prize, the Triple Crown.

Affirmed was the last to do it, 36 years ago, and the ensuing drought has coincided with a long downturn in popularity for racing. The sport's stakeholders have hungered for a new superstar, and a Triple Crown seems the surest way to make one.

Which is where California Chrome enters the picture.

He's perfect for the role — a personable chestnut colt with four white hooves, an underdog story and scintillating speed. Five times he has entered the starting gate as a 3-year-old and five times he has blown away

the competition, the last two in the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes.

California Chrome will enter the Belmont Stakes on Saturday as a commanding favorite, having already beaten the best challengers in the field. He seems poised to follow in the hoofprints of another great chestnut who ended a long Triple Crown drought, Secretariat.

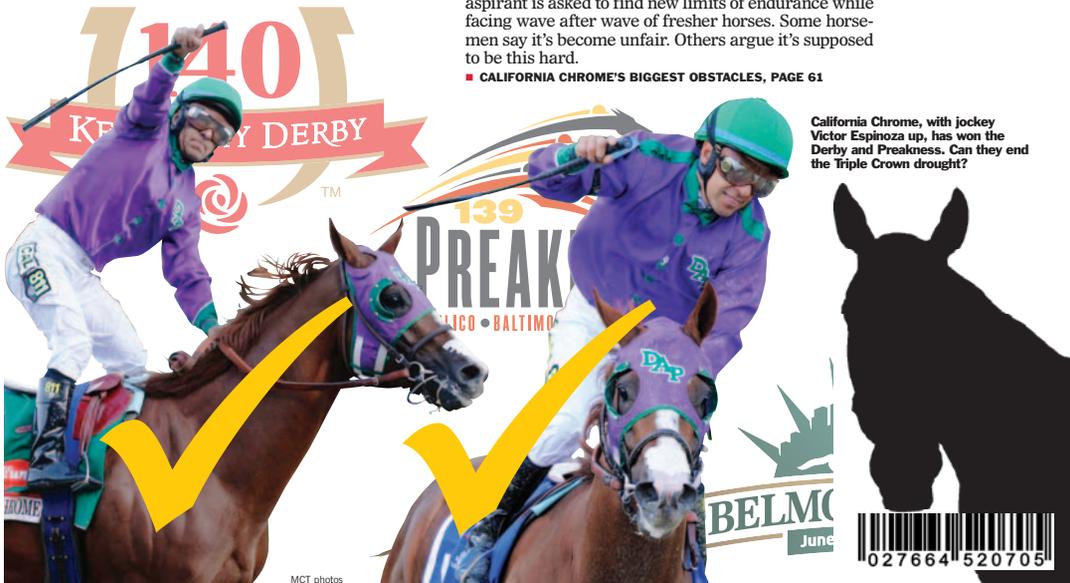
But the sport's recent past is littered with 3-year-olds who looked like the next superhorse only to falter on the 1½-mile track at Belmont Park. A dozen horses since 1978 have won the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness, then lost in New York. A few — Silver Charm, Real Quiet and Smarty Jones — came agonizingly close. Others, such as Big Brown and War Emblem, seemed spent shortly after leaving the starting gate.

The Triple Crown is a rigged game, one in which the aspirant is asked to find new limits of endurance while facing wave after wave of fresher horses. Some horsemen say it's become unfair. Others argue it's supposed to be this hard.

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California Chrome, with jockey Victor Espinoza up, has won the Derby and Preakness. Can they end the Triple Crown drought?

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