

Inside

UKRAINE UNREST

EUCOM is sending advisers to Ukraine to assist in crash probe

Page 3



GOLF

PGA Championship is the final test against the strongest field

Back page



MILITARY

As PTSD claims grow, so do concerns of credibility in diagnosis

Page 5

FACES

'The Big Bang Theory' stars resolve contract dispute for big bucks

Page 17



SERVICE & SACRIFICE

Hagel: Killing of major general will not alter drawdown plans

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY AND ZUBAIR BARAKKARHAIL
Stars and Stripes

DKABUL, Afghanistan defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday that the killing of an Army major general by a suspected Afghan soldier would not alter U.S. drawdown plans or cause a reconsideration of a post-2014 training mission in Afghanistan.

The body of Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, who was shot dead at a military school in Kabul on Tuesday, was being flown to Dover Air Force Base in Delaware, a spokesman for the NATO coalition said, as details began to emerge about the Afghan soldier suspected of shooting him and other coalition troops.

Greene, a deputy commander at a training unit who worked with Afghan forces, was the highest-ranking officer killed by hostile fire overseas since the Vietnam War.

The Associated Press, citing an unnamed Afghan military official, said the gunman, who had enlisted in the Afghan army more than two years ago, apparently had failed to turn in his NATO-issued machine gun on returning from a patrol and

hid in a bathroom before shooting at NATO forces. CNN reported he shot from inside a building at the NATO troops outside. The AP's source said the soldier, who went by the single name Rafiqullah and was killed Tuesday, was the focus of the investigation. A motive was unclear.

The attack at the Marshal Fahim National Defense University on Tuesday also wounded more than a dozen coalition troops, including a German general.

Slain US general known for technical skill, leadership
Page 6

SEE HAGEL ON PAGE 6



“These soldiers were professionals, committed to the mission. It is their service and sacrifice that define us as an Army.”

Gen. Ray Odiermo
Army chief of staff

VA reform bill preserves employee bonus program

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Despite public outrage over dysfunctional and dangerously run hospitals, a landmark VA reform bill set to be signed Thursday by President Barack Obama will retain some department

perks: hefty bonuses for executives and other employees.

The bill includes a compromise by House and Senate lawmakers allowing the Department of Veterans Affairs to continue handing out up to \$360 million in employee performance awards each year as it attempts to overhaul its health

care system and ease chronically long patient wait times.

Obama has announced he will sign the legislation Thursday during a ceremony at Fort Belvoir, Va., following overwhelming support in Congress.

It will begin the most comprehensive VA reform in decades by expanding access to

private care, hiring more medical staff and streamlining how executives are fired.

The cap on employee performance awards, which totaled \$276 million across the department in 2013, was a product of fractious House and Senate negotiations in late July.

SEE BONUS ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"This issue reminds me of a iceberg, where 90 percent of it is actually underwater. ... So many cyberbreaches today are not actually reported."

— John Prisco, CEO of security firm Triumfant, commenting on reports of an Internet heist of 1.2 billion user names and passwords by Russian hackers

See story on Page 8

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. US major general killed in Afghan insider attack
2. Marine Corps to cut special duty assignment pay
3. Slain U.S. Maj. Gen. Harold Greene remembered for brilliance, humor
4. Super Pond diver, heroic to the last breath, to get Navy and Marine Corps Medal
5. Troop charity misleads donors while lining consultants' pockets.

COMING TOMORROW

Faith

"Other" faiths left out in the cold



TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup 16
- Business 18
- Classified 19, 22-23
- Comics 13
- Crossword 13
- Faces 17
- Opinion 20-21
- Sports 24-32
- Weather 18

MILITARY

USMC to cut special duty bonus pay

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Bonus pay is being cut for most Marines reporting to special duty assignments.

The rate cuts will affect a wide range of Marines, including recruiters, drill instructors, combat instructors and embassy security guards, according to a Marine Corps press release announcing the changes.

The Special Duty Assignment Pay reductions will go into effect Oct. 1. Troops who began their assignments before that date will not see their SDAP slashed as long as they remain in their positions.

SDAP provides enlisted servicemembers with extra compensation and is intended to attract high-quality troops to fill key billets.

SDAP currently ranges from \$75 to \$450 per month, according to the following pay scale: Level 1, \$75; Level 2, \$150; Level 3, \$225; Level 4, \$300; Level 5, \$375; and Level 6, \$450.

According to the Marine Corps, the level of bonus pay is determined by how demanding the job is, the level of responsibility involved, the qualifications required and manning challenges.

Marines subject to the pay cuts will be placed at lower SDAP levels than their predecessors. However, some servicemembers affected by the reductions will later be bumped up one SDAP tier after serving 12 months in their new billets, depending on their assignment.

Despite the general decline in funding, every billet that currently offers SDAP will



Courtesy of the U.S. Marines

A drill instructor motivates Marine recruits through log drills during training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

continue to do so at some level, according to the Marine Corps.

The SDAP drops come at a time when the Pentagon is facing large, congressionally mandated budget cuts in the coming years.

"As the Department of Defense and Marine Corps move into a more resource-constrained environment, we must fully evaluate each of our programs by weighing total costs and benefits of the current programs," 1st Lt.

John Krahlhing said in the press release.

The Marine Corps estimates the SDAP changes will save \$35 million over five years.

This isn't the first time this year that troops have lost bonus money. In June, the DOD decertified many areas of the world where servicemembers previously qualified for Imminent Danger Pay.

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @HarperStripes

Bonus: Despite scandal, performance awards survive debate

FROM FRONT PAGE

House lawmakers led by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the chamber's Veterans Affairs Committee, wanted to completely eliminate VA bonuses due to gross mismanagement, according to committee staff.

In one case, the VA awarded a nearly \$63,000 bonus to a Pittsburgh hospital administrator after an investigation in April found his facility failed to prevent a deadly outbreak of Legionnaires' disease among veterans.

The committee reported in June that about 65 percent of the department's senior executives received bonuses specifically for high performance — ranging between about \$7,000 and \$12,000 — and all were given fully successful performance reviews

during last year, even as staff across the country used secret lists to hide the fact hundreds of thousands of vets wait weeks or months for treatment.

Until recently, the VA awarded an average of \$400 million per year in total bonuses but began reducing the payments over the last two fiscal years due to congressional scrutiny, committee staff said.

Miller called the VA system of awards "scandalous, even criminal."

The Senate opposed the elimination of bonuses when Congress called a conference committee in June to hammer out a compromise bill to fix the VA.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, contended the VA was essentially good at pro-

viding health care once veterans got into the system and pushed for a vast expansion of medical staff and facilities.

The VA's head of human resources testified in June that bonuses are part of the expected compensation of managers including doctors, and are key to attracting the "best and brightest leaders."

After four weeks of fruitless negotiations, the House and Senate conference committee threatened to crumble due to concerns about the overall cost of the bill. Miller and Sanders agreed to come to the table for a final round of emergency talks aimed at striking a middle ground between spending that ranged from \$10 billion to \$25 billion.

The final \$16.3 billion compromise was released days later and

included \$5 billion to hire more doctors, nurses and other medical staff for the VA health care system.

Also, Sanders had successfully pushed to preserve performance awards for VA employees with the \$360 million annual limit, a "more modest cap spread out over a longer period of time," his staff said.

The House would have been unable to reach an agreement with the Senate without the cap, according to House Veterans Affairs Committee staff.

In a final joint statement, lawmakers said the VA should ensure annual performance bonuses are not disproportionately spent on upper management.

ritten.travis@stripes.com
Twitter: @Travis_Tritten

- Associate of Science
Business
Computer Science
General Education
- Bachelor of Science
Business Administration
Computer Science
Criminal Justice
Management
Political Science
Psychology
Social Science
Sport and Fitness Management
- Bachelor of Applied Science in
Resources and Technology
Management
- Master of Business
Administration
- Executive Master of
Business Administration
- Master of Science in
Post Secondary Education
- Master of Public
Administration
- Master of Science
Criminal Justice
Human Resource Management
International Relations
Management

TROY

UNIVERSITY
A future of opportunities.

1-800-414-5756

eTROY

All degree programs are 100% online.

Get Your Degree Online. troy.edu

UKRAINE UNREST

Hagel: 'No question' of Russian threat on Ukraine border

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany

— Rising concerns that Moscow is poised to launch an invasion into Ukraine are well-grounded because Russian troops are continuing to mass along the volatile border between the two countries, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

“There is no question that Russia continues to build up on the border,” Hagel said. “They are putting more troops on that border, more heavy military equipment on that border. Those are not good signs. They’re dangerous. They’re provocative. They’re irresponsible. And this needs to stop.”

Hagel, who met Wednesday with U.S. European Command chief Gen. Philip Breedlove at his headquarters in Stuttgart, said the U.S. continues to monitor the crisis in Ukraine, which in recent days has shown signs of a dramatic escalation.

Officials at NATO have also voiced increased concern that Russia could order troops into Ukraine under the auspices of a peace mission.

“We’re not going to guess what’s on Russia’s mind, but we can see what Russia is doing on the ground—and that is of great concern. Russia has amassed around 20,000 combat-ready troops on Ukraine’s eastern border,” NATO spokeswoman Oana Lungescu told French television.

Also on Thursday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk echoed those fears when he stated “the threat of a direct intervention by Russia into Ukraine is greater

than it was a few days or a couple of weeks ago” as some 20,000 troops line up near Ukraine.

Hagel, responding to a question about the Polish prime minister’s concerns, said “Of course it is a reality and a threat and a possibility.”

Moscow has in the past repeatedly denied that it plans to invade Ukraine.

Hagel’s visit to Stuttgart was the first in a series of stops that also include meetings with defense officials in India and Australia, where he will discuss military cooperation with those nations.

In the case of Europe, NATO finds itself at a crossroads, Hagel said. At the coming alliance summit in Wales, NATO must restructure itself into a more responsive military force, one that takes into account the crisis in Ukraine and Russian aggression in the region, Hagel said.

“Russian action around Ukraine is forcing us to take a look at the relevancy of NATO and how well it is structured and prepared,” he said.

One area of focus is the NATO Response Force, which includes several thousand troops from member nations. Breedlove, who serves as NATO’s supreme allied commander, has repeatedly stated that the alliance must bolster the capabilities of its rapid-reaction force, which in the past has mainly been used for exercises. The force must be reformed to respond more quickly to crises, Breedlove has said.

Other measures in the works include forward positioning military equipment closer to potential



JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel talks with troops during a stop Wednesday at U.S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, where Hagel met with Gen. Philip Breedlove and conducted a brief town hall session with servicemembers.

hot spots and maintaining a more regular U.S. and NATO rotational force in the region.

EUCOM has crafted plans to increase exercises across eastern Europe in connection with the so-called European Reassurance Initiative. If Congress approves the \$1 billion measure, the funds will enable the military to rotate a heavy brigade through Europe for additional training as well as to improve infrastructure supporting those and other troops, a defense official said.

Also, the U.S. is moving forward with its previously delayed Rapid Trident exercise in Ukraine, which had initially been slated to occur this summer. Troops from the Vicenza, Italy-based 173rd

Airborne Brigade will be taking part in the exercise, which includes about 12 nations and is set to start Sept. 15.

During a brief question-and-answer session with troops in Stuttgart, Hagel addressed concerns about the downsizing of the force, which continues to shrink in the face of a budget crunch and the end of combat operations in Afghanistan.

When asked if the many crises around the world — stretching from Ukraine and Syria to Iraq — have given the Pentagon pause, Hagel offered few reassurances.

“The reality is we have a finite set of resources and we’re going to have to prioritize,” Hagel said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

EUCOM team to aid probe of crash

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. European Command has dispatched a small team of advisers to Ukraine to support the investigation into the downing of the Malaysian airliner last month.

About 12 servicemembers were sent to Kiev, but they will not venture to the site of the crash in eastern Ukraine. The team will provide assistance to U.S. diplomatic personnel in areas such as communications, logistics and surveying, the Pentagon’s spokesman said Tuesday.

“Recovery operations is something, tragically and unfortunately, the U.S. military has to do and has to be good at. And these people are

Recovery operations is something, tragically and unfortunately, the U.S. military has to do and has to be good at.

they have expertise in that regard,” Navy Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters. Kirby, who arrived in Ukraine on Monday, was mobilized at the request of the State Department, Kirby said.

U.S. officials have accused pro-Russian separatists of shooting down the commercial aircraft, which crashed on July 17 in the heart of contested territory not far from Ukraine’s border with Russia.

Close to 300 people were killed, prompting widespread international condemnations. Soon after the incident, U.S. and European officials leveled additional sanctions on Russia. U.S. officials have accused Russia of supplying separatists with advanced anti-aircraft weapons systems that it believes were used in the attack. The separatists also have been accused of preventing access to the crash site, and hampering the investigation and the recovery of remains.

In recent weeks, Russia has moved more than 10,000 troops back to its border with Ukraine, according to U.S. officials, raising concerns that tensions in the region could further escalate.

“What matters is that they continue to reinforce these units, that they are very capable and very ready across what we call combined arms capabilities... and that they are closer to the border than they were in the spring,” Kirby said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

Airstrikes hit rebel stronghold of Donetsk

By YURAS KARMANAU
The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Airstrikes and artillery fire between pro-Russian separatists and Ukrainian troops in the eastern city of Donetsk have brought the violence closer than ever to the city center, as Kiev’s forces move in on the rebel stronghold.

With Ukrainian troops encircling Donetsk, Western leaders have accused Russia of building up forces along the border in what some fear may preface an intervention. On Wednesday, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said he believed that “the threat of a direct intervention (by Russia) is definitely greater than it was a few days ago, or two weeks ago.”

Russia has repeatedly denied having such intentions and rejected Ukrainian and Western claims of a military buildup on the border.

President Vladimir Putin has

resisted mounting pressure from Russian nationalists to send the army in to back the mutiny in eastern Ukraine. Even though the U.S. and NATO would be unlikely to respond militarily, the West would be certain to impose massive sanctions that would put the shaky Russian economy on its knees — and quickly erode Putin’s power.

Moscow has pushed for a ceasefire in the east, but the Ukrainian government has appeared bent on riding the momentum of a series of recent military advances to crush the rebels.

The Donetsk city administration said in a statement published online Tuesday that three people had been killed in shelling overnight.

In the Kalininsky neighborhood only 3 miles east of Donetsk’s central square, rebels and civilians were milling around outside after a night of which many said they believed were Ukrainian airstrikes. There were eight craters at the

scene that appeared to be the result of aerial bombing.

In another rebel stronghold, the city of Horlivka about 22 miles north of Donetsk, the city council said in Wednesday’s statement that 33 civilians have been killed and 129 wounded by shelling over the past few days. The claim couldn’t be independently verified.

As the Ukrainian military intensified its campaign against the rebels, heavily populated areas have increasingly come under attack. Kiev adamantly denies launching artillery barrage and air raids against residential neighborhoods and accuses the rebels of firing at civilian areas. The government has offered little evidence to prove its claims, which Human Rights Watch and others have questioned.

Ukrainian security spokesman Andriy Lysenko categorically denied Wednesday that Ukrainian airplanes have carried out airstrikes on Donetsk.

“The cities of Donetsk and Luhansk, as well as other cities and residential areas, are not being bombed by Ukrainian military aviation,” Lysenko said.

Alexander Pivko, an emergency worker at the scene, didn’t believe it. “It was an aerial attack, and two warehouse workers were injured,” he said, adding that no one in the neighborhood had been killed.

The only buildings damaged in this industrial neighborhood were a warehouse, a boiler room, and an auto repair shop. But one crater from an explosion was only 10 yards away from a nearby residential building.

“I ran with my two children to hide in the basement after the first strike,” said Marina Sibekina, a 30-year-old teacher. “A plane was in the air and in about five minutes a second explosion rang out.”

“The rebels built a base here, but we’re the ones who suffer,” she said.

PACIFIC

US, Chinese navies planning joint exercise

By ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Chinese and U.S. Navy officials were meeting Wednesday aboard the 7th Fleet flagship the USS Blue Ridge to discuss a joint search-and-rescue exercise that could take place within the next couple of weeks, Navy officials told Stars and Stripes.

The Blue Ridge arrived Tuesday in Qingdao, headquarters of the Chinese navy's North Fleet, for a goodwill port visit and will remain there this week.

"If we can get the planning done for this, we're hopeful we can actually do [the exercise] the first day after we leave here," 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. William Marks said late Tuesday.

The exercise planning underscores the attempts at developing cooperation, despite sharp differences between China's rapidly modernizing force and the Asia-based 7th Fleet.

The U.S. and most other nations oppose China's long-asserted view of what constitutes "freedom of navigation" in the waters of the East and South China seas. China maintains that ships do not have the right to surveillance within its exclusive economic zone, or EEZ. Such zones generally include international waters within 200 nautical miles of a nation's shores.

The differing EEZ view first gained attention in 2009, when five ships, including a Chinese navy intelligence ship, surrounded and harassed the USNS Impeccable 75

miles from China's shore. For a few years afterward, 7th Fleet officials told Stars and Stripes of further obstruction and shadowing of their ships by Chinese coast guard ships and nonofficial vessels.

In December, the USS Cowpens was forced to avoid a collision with a Chinese ship after it came within 30 miles of a Chinese exercise within China's EEZ.

The relationship between the two navies appears to have stabilized for the time being, 7th Fleet officials said.

The U.S. hasn't reported any recent incidents in which Chinese ships intentionally obstructed passage. In April, 21 nations, including China and the U.S., signed the Code For Unplanned Encounters at Sea, an agreement focused on preventing the sort of low-level incidents that have spurred U.S.-China maritime tensions.

"A few years ago, if a U.S. and a [Chinese navy] ship came together, there was no formal way to communicate," Marks said. "CUES actually gives both ships a lot of [options]."

Meanwhile, China appears to be giving ground on its EEZ surveillance, implicitly recognizing the right by spying on the United States within American EEZs. U.S. Navy officials say such moves are encouraging.

Last year, a Chinese official told Pacific Command's Adm. Samuel Locklear that they had been using surveillance ships in U.S. EEZs nearby Guam and Hawaii. Locklear told reporters he supported China's right to do so.



KELBY SANDERS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Capt. Richard McCormack, commanding officer of U.S. 7th Fleet flagship the USS Blue Ridge, receives a gift during a welcoming ceremony in Qingdao, China, on Aug. 5.

He said essentially the same thing last month after a Chinese intelligence ship showed up near Hawaii to observe the RIMPAC 2014 exercise in Hawaii, the largest multinational naval exercise of its kind.

"The good news about this is it's a rec-

ognition, I think, or acceptance by the Chinese that what we've been saying to them for some time is that military operations and survey operations in another country's [maritime zones] are within international law and are acceptable, and this is a fundamental right that nations have," Locklear told Pentagon reporters.

What the developing relationship between the U.S. and Chinese navies doesn't do is ease the tensions within the East and South China seas over territorial disputes.

China claims 90 percent of the South China Sea, putting itself at odds with U.S. allies and other neighbors, as well as generally accepted interpretations of international law. This summer, Chinese ships rammed Vietnamese vessels near the disputed Parcel islands when Vietnam challenged the Chinese deployment of an offshore oil rig.

There were no discussions Tuesday on the South China Sea disputes among the two navies' officials, who included 7th Fleet Vice Adm. Robert Thomas and North Sea Fleet Rear Adm. Yuan Yubai, Marks said.

In their remaining time in Qingdao, 7th Fleet officials will evaluate other ways in which the U.S. and Chinese navies could engage in 2015.

"This week we will be able to, at least in an annual planning, look to include them in some of the upcoming operations," Marks said.

slavin.erik@stripes.com

HAWAIIAN LUAU

AUGUST 22, FRIDAY DOORS OPEN 7 PM
AUGUST 23, SATURDAY DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM
ADMISSION 6 BUFFET ADULT \$33 / CHILD \$16.95(4-12)
HULA LESSON AND DINNER SHOW!

MARSHA GREY PERMANTZ
KAMANI CHEE

DISCOUNT

20%

OFF YOUR ROOM RATE

Stay July or August and Return **SEPTEMBER,**
Get 20% off!

Available for stays Monday through Thursday nights.

FOR MORE INFORMATION
229-7121 • 03-3440-7871 EXT. 7121
room_rsv@thenewsanno.com

RESERVATIONS SUGGESTED
229-7151 • 03-3440-7871 EXT: 7151
events@thenewsanno.com



Like us on
facebook



THE NEW SANNO

MILITARY

As disability awards rise, so do PTSD fakes

Number of veterans receiving benefits grows fivefold in last 13 years, raising concerns about exaggerated symptoms

By ALAN ZAREMBO
Los Angeles Times

The 49-year-old veteran explained that he suffered from paranoia in crowds, nightmares and unrelenting flashbacks from the Iraq War. He said he needed his handgun to feel secure and worried that he would shoot someone.

The symptoms were textbook post-traumatic stress disorder. But Robert Moering, the psychologist conducting the disability examination at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Tampa, Fla., suspected the veteran was exaggerating. Hardly anybody had so many symptoms of PTSD so much of the time.

As disability awards for PTSD have grown nearly fivefold over the last 13 years, so have concerns that many veterans might be exaggerating or lying to win benefits. Moering, a former Marine, estimates that roughly half of the veterans he evaluates for the disorder exaggerate or fabricate symptoms.

Depending on severity, veterans with PTSD can receive up to \$3,000 a month tax-free, making the disorder the biggest contribu-

tor to the growth of a disability system in which payments have more than doubled to \$49 billion since 2002.

"It's an open secret that a large chunk of patients are flat-out malingering," said Christopher Frueh, a University of Hawaii psychologist who spent 15 years treating PTSD in the VA system.

Diagnosing PTSD can be difficult in the best of circumstances. Experts have long debated how to define the condition. One person can suffer crippling anxiety from an experience that wouldn't faze someone else.

Assessing PTSD becomes even more difficult in a VA system that gives veterans a financial incentive to appear as sick as possible, former and current VA mental health clinicians said. The number of veterans on the disability rolls for the disorder has climbed from 133,745 to more than 656,000 over the last 13 years.

Vietnam and the recent wars have fueled the growth in roughly equal measure.

Frueh and other critics of the disability system have sparred in medical journals with senior VA mental health officials, who argue that the extent of malingering is

impossible to know without more research.

The veteran Moering evaluated was allegedly receiving \$1,600 a month in disability pay for PTSD as well as various joint problems. But he wanted to increase it.

Three tests designed to detect dishonest patients by looking for highly unlikely response patterns strongly suggested that the veteran was exaggerating, according to disability records that Moering allowed The Times to review. The case is one of eight that Moering opened to the newspaper. In each, he challenged a PTSD diagnosis. The records were redacted to hide names and other identifying information.

Moering said he could not determine whether the veteran was feigning entirely or simply stretching the truth.

Government policy in cases without a clear answer is to give the veteran the benefit of the doubt.

A 2007 study of 74 Arkansas veterans with chronic PTSD, most of them from the Vietnam War, concluded that more than half were exaggerating symptoms. Other research has found little evidence of malingering.

656,000

The number of veterans receiving disability benefits for PTSD from Veterans Affairs. The number 13 years ago was 133,745.

In online forums, veterans trade tips on how to behave in their disability evaluations. Common advice: Dress poorly and don't shower, refuse to sit with your back to the door, and constantly scan the room.

If an examiner asks about homicidal thoughts, a Vietnam veteran posted, say: "Doc, doesn't everyone, I mean didn't you ever think about killing someone? Hell, I think about it every time someone gets too close to me."

The motivation behind such advice is not always clear. It may be aimed at helping veterans get what they deserve from a system that many see as rigged against them.

Though VA investigations have exposed scams — including disability recipients who never served in the military — the department has focused on finding the system friendlier to veterans.

To get paid for PTSD, veter-

ans must link their symptoms to trauma that occurred during their service. In 2010, the VA expanded what situations could qualify. Credible fear of being attacked — without actually suffering or witnessing violence — became sufficient.

The VA also dropped its requirement to support each case of war-related PTSD with records of the underlying trauma. Those veterans are now taken at their word.

After the changes, the number of new PTSD claims rose 60 percent to more than 150,000 a year, and approval rates jumped from 55 percent to 74 percent.

In a 2014 paper, Arthur Russo, a VA psychologist in Brooklyn, argued that the disability system is prone to "collusive lying," in which veterans fake mental illness and clinicians go along with it.

Gail Poyner, an Oklahoma City psychologist, said she was dismissed in 2010 from a company the VA hired to conduct disability exams because she insisted on giving veterans tests to determine whether they were exaggerating.

"It's political," Poyner said. "It's not prudent to suggest that people who have served our country are not being honest."

Celebrate the Week With Yokosuka MWR



Officers' Club 243-5030

Double Discount Steak Night

Saturdays from 1700 to 2100 in Kosano Dining Room
Satisfy yourself and save money when you select one of our quality Angus beef steaks, "from the broiler" section of our menu or when ordering one of chefs new dessert creations. \$2 discount on steaks/ \$1 on select desserts.

Mongolian BBQ

Tuesdays from 1700 to 2100 in Kosano Dining Room
"Make-Your-Own" Mongolian bowl is only 75¢ per ounce and you get yours free when you guess the correct price within 5¢. Open to all hands.

The Deli - Open to All Hands!

Monday through Friday from 0700 to 1800 /
Saturday & Sunday from 0900 to 1800

Enjoy great selection of breakfast and lunch take out items including our signature fried chicken.

CPO Club 243-5506

CPO Club Dining room is open to all hands all the time!

Lunch Buffet

Monday-Friday • 1100-1330

Offering a large variety of all-you-can eat lunch buffet including our famous Asian and Continental specials. Dining room Open to all Hands. Only \$9

Asian Fusion

Fridays from 1700 to 2100

Have an amazing Friday with our Asian Fusion Buffet. We bring you continental and island cuisines from Japan, the Philippines, China and Thailand.

CRUISE INN

Monday-Friday • 0600-1330 | Saturday & Sunday • Closed
Serving breakfast, lunch specials to go. Pancakes, eggs, omelets, SPAM musubi breakfast sandwiches, chicken, burgers, jumbo hot dogs and more!

Club Alliance 243-3000

Juicy Prime Rib

Thursdays • 1700-2045 • Italian Gardens Restaurant

Enjoy our delicious prime rib slow cooked to perfection and served with a baked potato, veggies, soup and salad. \$15.95

Hip-Hop and R&B Dance Night

Fridays from 2000 to 0200 in Sharky's Bar & Brewery

Listen to the latest and greatest Hip-Hop, R&B and dance hits played by the DJ Lock and Friends.

Inferno Saturdays

Saturdays from 2000 to 0200 in Sharky's Bar & Brewery
It's getting hot in here, so take off for Sharky's Saturday nights as Yokosuka's best DJ's drop chart-topping, dance tracks and music vids.

Club Takemiya 246-8077

Fruits de Mer Fridays

Friday from 1700 to 2100

Various seafood dishes prepared fresh every Friday night!
Regular menu also available. \$11.95

Specialty Burger Night

Sunday from 1700 to 2000

A variety of burgers sure to please the palette! Special changes weekly. Only \$9.95

Negishi Club 242-4151

Daily Lunch Specials

Wednesday through Friday from 1100 to 1330
Only \$7.95!

Tex-Mex Dinner Special

Wednesday from 1700 to 2000

Delicious entrées that will have your mouth watering for next week. Chips and salsa appetizer included with each order, dine-in or take-out. Regular menu also available.

Fun Fridays

Fridays from 1900 to 2100

For all of you fun lovers — enjoy our free finger food while playing some free billiards or REAL darts! Both hard and virgin drink specials available to get your weekend off to a great start!

MIDEAST

General killed in Afghanistan key figure in logistics

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

HAWKING around Greene, the two-star Army general who became the highest-ranking U.S. military officer to be killed in either of America's post-9/11 wars, was an engineer who rose through the ranks as an expert in developing and fielding the Army's war materiel. He was on his first deployment to a war zone.

Greene was killed Tuesday when a gunman believed to be an Afghan soldier opened fire at a military academy near Kabul. More than a dozen other coalition soldiers were wounded, including about eight Americans, according to early accounts of the attack. It was among the bloodiest insider attacks of the war in Afghanistan.

The Army's top soldier, Gen. Ray Odierno, issued a statement Tuesday evening saying the Army's thoughts and prayers were with Greene's family as well as the families of those injured in the attack.

"These soldiers were professionals, committed to the mission. It is their service and sacrifice that define us as an Army," Odierno said.

In a 34-year career, he earned a reputation as an inspiring leader with a sense of humility. He had been in Afghanistan since January, serving as deputy commander of a support command called the Combined Security Transition Command, in Kabul.

Greene flourished in the less glamorous side of the Army that develops, tests, builds and supplies soldiers with equipment and technology.

That is a particularly difficult job during wartime, since unanticipated battlefield challenges like roadside bombs in Iraq and Afghanistan, call for urgent improvements in equipment.

In 2009-2011, for example, he served as deputy commanding general of the Army's Research, Development and Engineering Command and senior commander of the Natick Soldier System Center at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Aberdeen, Md.

During that tour of duty he gained the rank of brigadier general, and at his promotion ceremony in December 2009 he was lauded for his leadership skills and ability to inspire those around him.

LT Gen. Stephen Speakes applauded Greene for a "sense of

self, a sense of humility" and an exemplary work ethic, according to an account of the promotion ceremony published by the Times Union of Albany, New York, which called Greene an Albany native.

"In every job I had we got things done that I think made our Army better, and it was done by other people," Greene was quoted as saying. "All I did was try to pull people in the right direction and they went out and did great things."

Greene earned a bachelor of science degree in materials engineering and a master's degree in industrial engineering, both from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He later studied at the University of Southern California and also attended the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College.

In 2010, he spoke at the opening of the Social Cognitive Networks Academic Research Center, a research facility at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with the mission of improving the Army's understanding of social, information and communication networks, according to the Army's account of the event.

"We're in a fight now with an enemy that's a little bit different and uses different techniques ... and networks are a key part of that," Greene said.

He said finding patterns in the tactics of insurgents was difficult because of the way networks evolve and otherwise change. So the goal was to bring to light the patterns and determine how to anticipate and influence the actions of insurgents.

"The enemy is every bit as good as we are at using that network to our detriment so this is essential work, this is about defending our country," Greene said. "You must know that there is a direct application on the battlefield and we're using it today, but we don't really understand it yet so this is a critical element."

His awards include the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Service Medal, a Meritorious Service Award and an Army Commendation Medal.



An Afghan laborer walks past a gate of Camp Qargha as Afghan National Army soldiers stand guard on Tuesday just west of Kabul, Afghanistan. **MASSOOD HOSSAMI/AP**

Hagel: Defense secretary says current plans remain in place, drawdown remains on course

FROM FRONT PAGE

A NATO spokesman said Wednesday all were in stable condition but declined to discuss their injuries. The incident is still under investigation, he said.

Hagel said during a visit in Stuttgart, Germany, that he had written a condolence note to Greene's family on Tuesday and had spoken with President Barack Obama following the attack.

But he said it would not change U.S. plans for Afghanistan following the departure of all combat troops by the end of this year.

"We will continue on the same course we are on for post 2014," Hagel said.

When asked whether the attack that killed Greene and other recent insider attacks would result in a move to give commanders more flexibility over the pace of the drawdown — set to shrink to roughly 9,800 U.S. troops next year — Hagel said current plans remain in place and the drawdown remains on course.

A visit to the area outside the base on Wednesday revealed little about the shooting. Shopkeepers nearby said they often heard firing from training ranges near the installation, named Camp Qargha, but few could offer any concrete information about the attack.

The defense university, which is located on the base, is a series of dun-colored barracks and buildings surrounded by stone walls near the mountains of western Kabul. Run by the British military and sometimes referred to as "Sandhurst of the Sand," a reference to the U.K.'s esteemed officer's academy, the Afghan school



SOURCES: ESRI, TeleAtlas, USGS, AP MCT

opened last October with a class of 270.

It was unclear whether the school was attending the ceremony or affiliated with it in any way. A Taliban statement referred to the gunman as "a patriot" but did not claim responsibility for his attack.

The attack in Kabul occurred shortly after a separate shooting targeted U.S. soldiers in Paktia province, in the east. A guard at the provincial governor's home opened fire on the visiting soldier, said the provincial police chief, Zalmai Oryakhel. The attacker was shot and killed, and a spokesman for the NATO coalition said no members were injured.

As with the attack that killed Greene, the Taliban lauded the Paktia shooting but did not take

credit for it.

Yet the group claimed responsibility for an attack Wednesday at a police checkpoint in Terin Kot in Uruzgan province. According to a provincial official, a police officer was on watch at the checkpoint about 3 a.m. when he allowed insurgents to enter. They killed six police officers and wounded another, said the official, Gulab Khan, deputy head of the province's anti-crime department. The attackers all escaped, as did the police officer who helped them, he said.

A Taliban spokesman, Zabullah Mujahid, said insurgents killed several police officers with the help of an Afghan police officer and injured one. The Taliban commonly give different casualty numbers than Afghan or NATO officials, often inflating them.

An AP reporter said the police officer dragged the victims, citing a doctor at a nearby hospital.

Attacks by Afghan forces against Western forces have dropped since 2012, when 53 members of the NATO coalition were killed in 38 incidents, according to a count by the AP. Yet sporadic attacks, including those against Afghan forces, continue to plague security forces, despite efforts to improve vetting processes for new Afghan recruits. The attacks are a grim reminder of the challenges facing the U.S. as it seeks to keep a force of advisers in the country past the scheduled withdrawal of Western combat troops that year's end.

Stars and Stripes reporter John Vandiver contributed to this report from Stuttgart, Germany. john.vandiver@stripes.com Twitter: @jsbeardsley

GLOBAL VAN CO., LTD

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

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

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



GLOBAL

One call does it ALL!

Global saves you money and time!

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

MIDEAST



Iraqis seek protection

Iraqis from the Yazidi community chant anti-Islamic militants slogans in front of U.N. headquarters to ask for international protection in Irbil, Iraq, on Monday. Around 40 thousand people crossed into the northern Kurdish region of Iraq after being given an ultimatum to either convert to Islam, pay a security tax, leave their homes or die.

Report: Al-Qaida kidnappings are funding terrorists

Stars and Stripes

European governments are paying hefty ransoms for kidnapped citizens, and bankrolling al-Qaida operations in the process. The New York Times reported.

While the Europeans deny paying ransoms, an investigation by the Times found that al-Qaida and its affiliates have taken in at least \$125 million from kidnappings since 2008 — \$66 million just last year.

In news releases and statements, the U.S. Treasury Department has put the figure closer to \$165 million.

Those payments were made almost exclusively by European governments, who funneled the money through proxies, sometimes masking it as development aid, according to interviews the Times did with former hostages, negotiators, diplomats and government officials in 10 countries in Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Al-Qaida long received most of its money from wealthy donors, but counterterrorism officials now believe the group finances the bulk of its funding from ransoms paid to free Europeans.

Senior diplomats involved in past negotiations have described the decision to pay ransom for their citizens as an agonizing calculation to accede to the terrorists' demand, or allow innocent people to be killed — often in a gruesome, public way.

Yet paying has set off a vicious cycle, some contend. "Each transaction encourages another transaction," David Cohen, the Treasury Department's undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said in a 2012 speech. "Business is booming, the Times

notes. While in 2003 the kidnappers received around \$200,000 per hostage, now they are netting up to \$10 million.

To minimize the risk to their fighters, terrorists outsource hostage-taking to criminal groups who work on commission, the Times reported.

Their business plan includes a step-by-step process for negotiating, starting with long periods of silence aimed at creating panic back home. Hostages are then shown on videos begging their government to negotiate.

Although the kidnappers threaten to kill their victims, a Times review of the known cases revealed that only a small percentage have been executed in the past five years, a marked turnaround from a decade ago, when videos showing beheadings of foreigners held by the group's franchise in Iraq would regularly turn up online.

Only a handful of countries have resisted paying, led by the U.S. and Britain, according to the report. Although both have negotiated with extremist groups — evidenced most recently by the trade of Taliban prisoners for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl — they have drawn the line when it comes to ransoms.

It is a decision that has had dire consequences, the Times wrote. While dozens of Europeans have been released unharmed, few American or British nationals have gotten out alive. A lucky few ran away or were rescued by special forces. The rest were executed or are being held indefinitely.

"The Europeans have a lot to answer for," said Vicki Huddleston, the former United States deputy assistant secretary of defense for African affairs. "The danger of this is not just that it grows the terrorist movement, but it makes all of our citizens vulnerable."

Kurdish forces test ability to take on the Islamic State

By MITCHELL PROTHERO
McClatchy Foreign Staff

IRBIL, Iraq — Kurdish forces pushed Tuesday to retake territory they lost over the weekend to the Islamic State in a major counteroffensive that will test the ability of the best-trained military force in Iraq to confront the radical Islamist group.

Kurdish forces made up of thousands of insurgents from Turkey and Syria attacked Islamic State positions at Sinjar, one of three Iraqi cities that fell to the Islamic State over the weekend, while peshmegera militias loyal to Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan Regional Government pressed to lift the Islamic State's siege of the Mosul Dam, Iraq's largest and an important source of electricity. The Islamists nearly overran the dam over the weekend.

U.S. officials said they were working with the Kurdistan Regional Government in Irbil and

Iraq's central government in Baghdad to counter the Islamic State's advance. It was unclear what materiel assistance, if any, the United States was lending.

The Kurdistan Regional Government's representative in Washington said requested U.S. equipment intended to counter the sophisticated American weaponry that the Islamic State had captured in its June sweep of three Iraqi provinces had yet to arrive.

"We've been asking for all sorts of equipment," said Karwan Zebari, who added that among the requested hardware were armored vehicles and heavy artillery. Front-line peshmegera commanders have "been promised stuff but they haven't gotten anything yet" he said.

American officials were careful to say that U.S. weapons could be provided only through the government in Baghdad, which has a tense relationship with the Kurdistan Regional Government. One

State Department official said Obama administration officials were using the Islamic State advance "to engage with Baghdad and Irbil to enhance cooperation on the security front." The U.S. official spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the subject.

The entry of the Turkish and Syrian Kurds into the fight in Iraq marked a surprising new stage in the unfolding efforts to counter the Islamic State, and was a reminder that national borders have become insignificant in response to the Islamists, who themselves have proclaimed a caliphate in the areas of Iraq and Syria they control and are also fighting in Lebanon.

The Kurdish fighters identified themselves as "local self-defense" units, known by the Kurdish acronym YPG, which have been active in battling the Islamists in northern Syria for the past two years.

"Your Work Hard, Play Hard Weekend Place To Be"

Euro Palace Mainz Kastel
Peter-Sander-Straße 39 55252 Mainz-Kastel

Open Friday's and Saturday's at 22:00

Friday Night is Ladies Night.
EUR 20.- voucher for all the ladies

Saturday Night is Euro Party Night - drinks starting at EUR 1.

US dollars and Credit Cards accepted.
www.europalace.de

NATION

Report: Russian hackers steal 1.2B passwords

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Russian hackers have stolen 1.2 billion user names and passwords in a series of Internet heists affecting 420,000 websites, according to a report published Tuesday.

The thievery was described in a New York Times story based on the findings of Hold Security, a Milwaukee firm that has a history of uncovering online security breaches.

Hold Security didn't immediately respond to inquiries from The Associated Press.

The identities of the websites that were broken into weren't identified by the Times, which cited nondisclosure agreements that required Hold Security to keep some information confidential.

The reported break-ins are the latest incidents to raise doubts about the security measures that both big and small companies use to protect people's information online.

Security experts believe hackers will continue breaking into computer networks unless companies become more vigilant.

"Companies that rely on usernames and passwords have to develop a sense of urgency about changing this," Avivah Litan, a security analyst at the research firm Gartner told the Times.

Retailer Target Corp. is still struggling to win back its shoppers' trust after hackers believed to be attacking from Eastern Europe stole 40 million credit card numbers and 70 million addresses, phone numbers and other personal information last winter. Alex Holden, the founder and chief in-

Companies that rely on usernames and passwords have to develop a sense of urgency about changing this.

Avivah Litan
security analyst

formation security officer of Hold Security, told the Times that most of the sites hit by the Russian hackers are still vulnerable to further break-ins. Besides filching 1.2 billion online passwords, the hackers also have amassed 500 million email addresses that could help them engineer other crimes, according to Hold Security.

So, far little of the information stolen in the wave of attacks appears to have been sold to other online crooks, according to the Times. Instead, the information is being used to send marketing pitches, schemes and other junk messages on social networks on Twitter, the newspaper said.

The breadth of these break-ins should serve as a chilling reminder of the skull-duggery that has been going undetected on the Internet for years, said John Prisco, CEO of another security firm, Triumphant.

"This issue reminds me of an iceberg, where 90 percent of it is actually underwater," Prisco said in an emailed statement. "That's what is going on here ... So many cyberbreaches today are not actually reported, often times because companies are losing information and they are not even aware of it."

Republican primary victories lift hopes of taking back Senate majority

By STEVEN R. HURST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three-term Republican Sen. Pat Roberts beat back a tea party challenger in the Kansas primary election to join four other mainstream conservative incumbents who have clipped the wings of the small governing, low tax rebels, improving hopes of taking back the Senate majority in November general elections.

Roberts edged out Milton Wolf Tuesday night by single digits.

Wolf, a radiologist and distant cousin of President Barack Obama, had campaigned on a message that accused Roberts of not being sufficiently conservative.

The Republican establishment blames the tea party for costing it Senate control in 2010 and 2012 as upstart candidates stumbled in the general election. Republicans need to net six seats to regain the Senate, and the party has taken no chances this election cycle, putting its full force behind incumbents and mainstream candidates.

To that end, the Senate's establishment incumbents have kept their name on the ballots in primaries in Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina and Mississippi, though it took six-term Sen. Thad Cochran two tries before defeating Chris McDaniel, who is challenging the outcome. Kansas joins the list.

This year, the November elections should favor Republicans because the party that holds the White House historically does poorly in midterm votes, when turnout is lighter and dominated by the most extreme voters in both parties.

All 435 seats in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives are in play, while 36 of 100 Senate seats will be decided.

Democrats have little hope of regaining the majority in the House, where Republican domination since 2011 has stalled

Obama's legislative agenda. Now Obama could lose a friendly Senate, with many election forecasters giving the opposition of taking control.

If that happens, Republicans would likely start dismantling the president's biggest legislative accomplishment, the health care law known as Obamacare.

In one of the fiercest House Republican primaries, two-term Kansas Rep. Mike Pompeo defeated Todd Tiahrt, who served

eight terms in the House and was trying to return to Washington.

Two primaries in Michigan marked a turnaround from several years of widely heralded contests in which candidates have tried sometimes successfully — to unseat Republican incumbents they perceived as not being conservative enough.

Republican businessman Dave Trott ousted incumbent Rep. Kerry Bentivolio in a suburban Detroit district. Trott, 53, will

face the winner of a four-way Democratic primary in the fall.

Bentivolio did not survive, but two-term Rep. Justin Amash did.

In the 3rd Congressional District, Amash, who has challenged the Republican leadership, defeated Brian Ellis, a 53-year-old businessman. Amash is popular among libertarians for his challenges to the National Security Agency's surveillance of Americans.

Michigan voters also were set

to nominate candidates who will compete to replace retiring six-term Sen. Carl Levin, a Democrat. Michigan's race is considered competitive in November voting.

Five of Missouri's eight House members easily dispatched their underfunded challengers.

In Washington state, former professional football player Clint Didier led a crowded field of 12 candidates competing to replace 10-term Rep. Doc Hastings, a Republican who is retiring.



Roberts

Before you go shopping for your dream house, get the best loan rates available for veterans from a veteran-owned and operated company that partners with veteran nonprofits and carefully selected lenders.

STARS AND STRIPES

VA Loan Center

Get Real Time Pricing on VA Loans

visit stripes.com/valoans today!

Powered by VA Loan Captain

NATION

Mo. inmate executed for '95 rape, murder

By JIM SUHR

The Associated Press

BONNE TERRE, Mo. — A Missouri man was put to death Wednesday for raping and killing a college student in 1995, making him the first U.S. prisoner executed since a lethal injection in Arizona last month in which an inmate took nearly two hours to die.

The Missouri Department of Corrections said Michael Worthington was executed by lethal injection at the state prison south of St. Louis and was pronounced dead at 12:11 a.m., 10 minutes after the process began. He is the seventh Missouri inmate executed this year.

Worthington had been sentenced to death for the attack on Melinda "Mindy" Griffin, 24, during a burglary of her Lake St. Louis condominium.

Before the execution began, while strapped to a gurney and covered with a

sheet, Worthington spoke with his witnesses — some of them his relatives — through the glass, raising his shaved head.

When the drugs began flowing, his head lowered back to the pillow and he appeared to breathe heavily for

about 15 seconds before closing his eyes for good. Some of his witnesses began crying after he fell unconscious. A Bible had been placed on his chest at his request.

The U.S. Supreme Court and Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon had declined on Tuesday to block the execution.

Worthington, 43, had predicted that he would not be spared, saying in a telephone interview with The Associated Press that he had accepted his fate.



Worthington

"I figure I'll wake up in a better place tomorrow," Worthington, formerly of Peoria in central Illinois, had said Tuesday. "I'm just accepting of whatever's going to happen because I have no choice. The courts don't seem to care about what's right or wrong anymore."

In his final statement, he offered no apologies, blamed his death on the politics of capital punishment and "revenge," and said, "I'll no longer have to suffer. May God forgive those who call this justice."

Griffin's mother watched Worthington die.

"I feel I'm glad he's dead," Carol Angelbeck, 76, told reporters while seated next to her husband, Jack. "I won't have to deal with him, with our legal system. It's just about Mindy now."

Worthington's attorneys had pressed the Supreme Court to put off his execution, citing the Arizona execution and two others that were botched in Ohio and Oklahoma,

as well as the secrecy involving the drugs used in Missouri.

Those three recent executions have renewed the debate over lethal injection. In Arizona, the inmate gassed more than 600 times. In April, an Oklahoma inmate died after an apparent heart attack 43 minutes after his execution began. And in January, an Ohio inmate snorted and gasped for 26 minutes before dying. Most lethal injections take effect in a fraction of that time.

Arizona, Oklahoma and Ohio all use midazolam, a drug more commonly given to help patients relax before surgery. In executions, it is part of a two- or three-drug lethal injection.

Texas and Missouri instead administer a single large dose of pentobarbital — often used to treat convulsions and seizures and to euthanize animals. Missouri changed to pentobarbital late last year and since has carried out executions during which inmates showed no obvious signs of distress.

Court to hear gay marriage arguments

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — A federal appeals court is set to hear arguments in six gay marriage fights from four states — Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee — in the biggest such session on the issue so far.

Three judges of the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati will consider arguments Wednesday that pit states' rights and traditional, conservative values against what plaintiffs' attorneys say is a fundamental right to marry under the U.S. Constitution. Large demonstrations are expected outside the courthouse by both opponents and supporters.

Michigan's and Kentucky's cases stem from rulings striking down each state's gay marriage bans. Ohio's case deals only with the state's recognition of out-of-state gay marriages, while Tennessee's is narrowly focused on the rights of three same-sex couples.

Attorneys on both sides in the Michigan and Ohio cases will go first and get a half-hour each to make their cases. Kentucky and Tennessee will follow, with 15 minutes for each side from both sides.

Hundreds of gay marriage supporters rallied Tuesday at a park near Cincinnati's riverfront on the eve of the court arguments.

The Rev. Mary Moore, of Dayton, interim minister at the Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, says she has performed many services of "holy union" for same-sex couples, but they are not recognized by the state.

"It's not fair that all of the marriages I perform aren't allowed to be on an equal basis," she said.



NEW YORK CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT/AP

Emergency personnel respond to a collision between two double-decker buses on New York City's Times Square on Tuesday. The Theater District accident injured 14 people.

Tour bus driver charged in Times Square crash

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One of the drivers involved in a double-decker tour bus crash that injured 14 people in Times Square has been arrested.

William Dalambert, of Irvington, N.J., was charged with driving while ability impaired. Police said tests will determine whether prescription or illicit drugs were involved.

They said Dalambert was driving a Gray Line tour bus when he

struck another parked double-decker bus Tuesday.

It happened near the TKTS discount Broadway ticket booth.

Officials said none of the injuries was believed to be life-threatening.

Witnesses said the Gray Line bus rolled into the area at a high speed. A fire department spokesman said it then crashed into the other bus. A traffic light toppled, its metal pole lying on a pedestrian strip.

Grand Plastic Surgery

YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL WITH GRAND PLASTIC SURGERY

EYES & NOSE CORRECTIONS FACIAL CONTOURING BREAST CARE BODY CONTOURING ANTI AGING

Enhance your looks, regain confidence



Before After



Before After



Actress Clara

Open Weekdays : 10am - 7pm

Open Saturday : 10am - 5pm

Closed on Sunday and Public Holidays

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Phone (+82)70-7119-1580 / (+82)10-7156-6546

E-mail eng.grandplasticsurgery@gmail.com

Website http://eng.grandsurgery.com

Grand plastic surgery, combining expertise with excellence

- For a Flawless and a natural look
- Korea's biggest plastic surgery center with 9 specialized clinics and 2 plastic surgery centers
- Using the world's leading technology and the most specialized team
- Reliable, safe and effective
- Personalized surgery for the individual body features
- Allowing the body to be more balanced and well shaped



NATION



PHOTOS BY ROBERT F. BURKATY/AP

Above: Atlantic puffins congregate near their burrows on Eastern Egg Rock, a small island off the coast of Maine, on Friday. The Audubon Society is recruiting the public to monitor the bird's feeding habits as they are broadcast by a Web camera. Below: An Atlantic puffin comes in for a landing

Public invited to watch puffins stuff

The Associated Press

EASTERN EGG ROCK, Maine — Wanted: puffinologists. No experience necessary.

The Audubon Society wants bird lovers to contribute research to a project scientists hope will help save Atlantic puffins from starvation in Maine.

There are about 1,000 pairs of the seabirds, known for their multi-colored beaks and clownish appearance, in Maine. Audubon says the number of puffin fledging chicks has declined in the last two years, possibly because their key food source, herring and hake, are leaving for cooler waters. Puffins are on the state's threatened species list.

Audubon maintains three Web cameras on Seal Island, a National Wildlife Refuge in outer Penobscot Bay, 22 miles off Rockland and one of the key puffin habitats in Maine. Volunteers are being asked to watch the puffins and answer questions about their feeding behavior, said Steve Kress, director of the National Audubon Society's seabird restoration program.

From 2007 to 2011, Kress said, 77 percent of puffin pairs on Seal Island produced fledglings, or birds that are able to fly. The number declined to 31 percent in 2012 and 10 percent in 2013. While 2014 "appears to be better," he said, it's too early to tell.

"This is a citizen science project, hoping to advance the science as well as entertain the viewers," Kress said. "There are some ques-



tions that can be better answered through lots of people viewing."

Almost all of Maine's puffin population nests on three islands — Maticnicus Rock, Eastern Egg Rock, and Seal Island. Kress and others believe the decline in fledged puffin chicks is tied to rising water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine.

The puffins are left to try to eat butterfish, a species more available than herring and hake, seek colder waters, Kress said. Scientists say surface temperatures of the waters in the Gulf of Maine have increased slightly each year since 1982, but the pace increased

after 2004.

With fewer herring and hake, puffins have been giving their young butterfish, but those fish are too big for puffin chicks to eat, and many of the birds starve and die. That's what happened to Petey, the puffin chick the 2012 camera focused on.

Audubon is asking Web camera watchers to observe Pal and answer a survey about what kind of fish his parents feed him, including how many and when. The cameras have attracted more than 4 million views since 2012, and more than 1,000 people have completed Audubon surveys.

Explore.org, a Los Angeles-based nonprofit group that runs dozens of wildlife Web cameras around the world, installed the cameras and is partnering with Audubon. Explore.org founder Charles Annenberg said the project is about "making science fun again."

Boy, 12, held in stabbing death of 9-year-old

By COREY WILLIAMS AND PRIYA SRIDHAR
The Associated Press

KENTWOOD, Mich. — The giggles and innocence neighbors associated with the playground at the Pinebrook Village mobile home park vanished in the screams of a 9-year-old boy, who witnesses and authorities said was stabbed in the back by a 12-year-old.

The 12-year-old boy now faces a murder charge, and authorities say they are still investigating what led to the attack.

"The kids, I thought they were just playing," neighbor Barb Poelman, 50, told The Associated Press on Tuesday. "They're always out there playing."

Michael Conner Verkerke, his brother, his best friend and another child were playing Monday on the playground in Kentwood, near Grand Rapids. Witnesses said one boy pulled a knife and stabbed Michael in the back.

"We were sitting right on our deck," Poelman said. "We heard the kids run across the front ... screaming. He (Michael) ran with the kids that were with him."

Witnesses and police said Michael ran to his home and collapsed, bleeding on the porch. His mother pleaded for help on the grass outside, Poelman said.

"She was screaming, 'Where is the ambulance?' while her boy

was laying on the porch bleeding," Poelman said.

Michael died a short time later at a hospital.

The 12-year-old went to Glen Stacy's home nearby after the stabbing, witnesses said. Stacy told The Grand Rapids Press the boy asked to use his phone. He said the boy called 911 to report the attack and turn himself in.

Stacy said he also called police and described the boy as "very calm."

"The only time he raised his voice was when the police came," Stacy said.

When officers arrived at the mobile home park, they first went to aid the stabbing victim, but the older boy wanted the officers to pick him up and yelled, "Hello, I'm right here. You're going the wrong way," Stacy said.

Kentwood Police Chief Thomas Hillen said authorities were still investigating a motive for the attack. Police said the 12-year-old was evaluated at a hospital and then taken to the Kent County Juvenile Detention Center.

He pleaded not guilty to a murder charge in juvenile court Tuesday, according to his attorney, who told a court referee he may seek a mental evaluation to determine if the boy is competent to stand trial. The boy was ordered held until an Aug. 13 preliminary hearing.

Looking to buy or rent a Home in Stuttgart and near Böblingen?



WE CAN HELP!

+49(0)711 722 10 10
stuttgart-rooms@gmx.de
www.stuttgart-rooms.de

www.ABC-travel.de/Stripes

Danish Wedding

Call us: 0621 72 92 205

Fast. Easy. Proficient. We organize your Dream-Day.

Special Rates!

Atlanta	€ 554	Dallas	€ 587
Las Vegas	€ 617	Los Angeles	€ 637
Washington	€ 557	New York	€ 494
Chicago	€ 590	Miami	€ 557

Flights from Frankfurt - 31 OCT 2014 • Depart from Germany RT • Prices based on availability including all taxes • We accept US \$ Fly Now - Pay Later - 1 STOP Travel Agency

Dr. med. Peter v. Seck
... welcomes you to Wiesbaden!

Diagnostic and Therapy Center at CMC

City Medical Center
Rheinstr. 31, 65185 Wiesbaden, 8th floor (on top)

Email: vonseck@t-online.de • Call: 06 11 - 30 07 55

www.dr-von-seck.de

HOURS
Monday - Friday
8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
and 3 p.m. - 6 p.m.
(closed Wednesday afternoon)

Please make an appointment



VISIT PALACE WIECHLICE IN BEAUTIFUL POLAND AND LIVE LIKE A ROYAL!
(30 MINUTES FROM BOLESLAWIEC - HOME OF POLISH POTTERY)

POOL & SAUNA • SPA & COSMETIC SERVICES ON SITE
GOLF RANGE, BIKING, CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND,
FITNESS FACILITY AND MANY, MANY ACTIVITIES

FREE WI-FI • PET FRIENDLY

SPACIOUS & ELEGANT SUITES STARTING AT EUR 54,-
(INCLUDES BREAKFAST)

WEDDING RECEPTIONS
AND PRIVATE PARTIES AND MORE...

CALL FOR RESERVATIONS AND AVAILABILITY
TEL: 48 68 376 81 0
WWW.PALACWIECHLICE.PL
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/PALACWIECHLICE



WORLD

Indirect Gaza peace talks begin in Cairo

Israel seeks a disarmed Hamas before considering border openings

BY KARIN LAUB
AND MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Israel and Hamas began indirect talks on a new border deal for the blockaded Gaza Strip as a cease-fire ending their monthlong war entered its second day Wednesday.

Israel has said it wants the Islamic militant Hamas group to disarm, or at least ensure it cannot re-arm, before considering the group's demand that the territory's borders be opened. Israel and Egypt imposed a closure after the Hamas takeover of Gaza in 2007.

The indirect talks are being held in Cairo, with Egyptian mediators shuttling between the delegations.

Disarming Hamas tops the list of Israeli demands presented in a meeting with Egyptian mediators late Tuesday, said an Egyptian security official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

The Israeli delegation has since left for Israel but was to return to Cairo later Wednesday, the official added.

The Palestinian delegation is composed of negotiators from all major factions, including Hamas, and was to meet with Egyptian officials later Wednesday to be



HATEM MOUSSA/AP

Masked militants of an Islamic jihad group march during the funeral of their comrade Shaaban Al-Dahdoudh in Gaza City on Wednesday.

briefed on Israel's demands, said Bassam Salhi, a Palestinian delegate.

"The most important thing to us is removing the blockade and start reconstructing Gaza," he said. "There can be no deal without that."

He said the cease-fire, set to expire at 8 a.m. Friday, would likely be extended if more time for talks is needed.

Talks are still in the early stages, but the outlines of a possible solution have emerged, including internationally funded recon-

struction of Gaza overseen by a Palestinian unity government led by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. The Western-backed Abbas lost control of Gaza in the Hamas takeover of 2007.

In a step toward reconstruction, Norway is organizing a donor conference, tentatively set for the beginning of September.

Regarding easing the blockade, a statement by Egyptian intelligence indicated it would not agree to major changes at the Rafah crossing between Egypt

and Gaza, and the onus of lifting the border closure would fall on Israel.

The cease-fire is the longest lull in a war that has killed nearly 1,900 Palestinians — 75 percent of them civilians, according to the United Nations. Israel has lost 67 people, including three civilians.

On Wednesday, Israel's Justice Ministry said it had arrested Husam al-Qawasm, the suspected mastermind behind the killing of three Israeli teens in July.

He allegedly led a three-man cell, all of whom were affiliated

with Hamas. The militant group has not claimed any connection to the teens' abduction and killings.

In Gaza, people took advantage of the calm on Wednesday to return to their devastated homes and inspect the damage.

People trickled back to their homes, making their way over buckled roads and through dangling power lines and overturned trees to inspect their neighborhoods. Rows of flattened buildings alternated with moderately damaged structures — and rare buildings with no damage.

Cars and donkey carts loaded with household goods and mattresses filled the streets and queues formed at banks as people waited to withdraw cash from ATMs.

Crews from utility companies worked frantically to repair downed electricity and telephone lines. Gaza's only power plant was shut down after it was badly damaged by an Israeli attack and repairs are expected to take months.

The densely populated strip now has only two to three hours of electricity a day which trickles in from Egypt and Israel.

In the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanoun, some expressed hope that the intensity of the destruction in this round of fighting — the third since Hamas took control of Gaza — would ratchet up enough pressure on the international community to find solutions to the territory's problems.

"The war was necessary to force the blockade to be lifted," said Mohammed Mueh, 27, as he surveyed his now-uninhabitable third-floor apartment damaged by the shelling. "I hope that this time there will be a really permanent solution for it."

Ebola death toll reaches 932 in 4 West African countries

The Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria — A Nigerian nurse who treated a man with Ebola is now dead and five others are sick with one of the world's most virulent diseases, authorities said Wednesday as the death toll rose to at least 932 people in four West African countries.

The growing number of cases in Lagos, a metropolis of some 21 million people, comes as authorities acknowledge they did not treat Patrick Sawyer as an Ebola patient and isolate him for the first 24 hours after his arrival in Nigeria last month. Sawyer, 40, an American of Liberian descent with a wife and three young daughters in Minnesota, was traveling on a business flight to Nigeria when he fell ill.

The death of the unidentified nurse marks the second Ebola death in Nigeria, and that worries health experts as it is the Africa's most populous country and Lagos, where the deaths occurred, one of its biggest cities.

Ben Webster, a Red Cross disaster response manager in London, said it is "critically important"

Bahrain on alert over virus fears

MANAMA, Bahrain — Government officials here announced Tuesday they were stepping up preventative efforts to avert an outbreak of the Ebola virus that is spreading in West African nations.

Bahraini officials are putting the country on high alert after a man suspected of having the Ebola virus died across the causeway in neighboring Saudi Arabia, Saudi Arabia's Health Ministry said.

The man had recently returned from a business trip to Sierra Leone. Base officials at the Naval Support Activity in Bahrain didn't immediately respond to a query on whether the Navy is considering additional precautions here.

Bahrain's deputy prime minister has ordered the health ministry to "undertake all necessary preventive measures to avert any outbreak."

So far there are no suspected or confirmed cases of Ebola in Bahrain.

Bahraini authorities have temporarily suspended entry visas for visitors from Ebola-hit countries to stave off a potential outbreak in the island kingdom, which is home to the U.S. 5th Fleet and some 8,200 U.S. personnel.

Dubai-based Emirates Airlines has suspended flights to Guinea as precaution.

However, the airline said on its website it will continue flights to Senegal despite its proximity to the three affected countries of Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia.

From staff reports

viral hemorrhagic fever.

Spain's Defense Ministry, meanwhile, said a medically-equipped Airbus 310 is ready to fly to Liberia to repatriate a Spanish missionary priest who has Ebola.

The priest, Miguel Pajares, is one of three missionaries being kept in isolation at the San Jose de Monrovia Hospital in Liberia who have tested positive for the virus, Spain's San Juan de Dios hospital order, a Catholic humanitarian group that runs hospitals around the world, said Tuesday.

There have now been at least 1,711 cases of Ebola this year, which has no proven vaccine or treatment, according to new figures released Wednesday by the World Health Organization. More than 932 people have died in Sierra Leone, Guinea, Liberia and Nigeria as of Aug. 4, WHO said. In announcing the new deaths, WHO noted in particular that "community resistance remains high" in Liberia. Many fearful family members are refusing to bring sick relatives to isolation centers, preferring to treat them at home and pray for their survival as no

proven cure or treatment exists for Ebola.

The difficulties in quarantining sick people are complicating efforts to stop Ebola's spread.

In Nigeria, the five people now infected from Sawyer would not have been contagious to their neighbors or family members until they started showing symptoms of their own, health experts say. The delay in enforcing infection control measures, though, is another setback in the battle to stamp out the worst Ebola outbreak in history.

that people displaying symptoms are identified quickly.

In Saudi Arabia officials said a man who was being tested for the Ebola virus has died. The

40-year-old returned on Sunday from Sierra Leone, where at least 286 people have died from Ebola, and was hospitalized in Jiddah after showing symptoms of the

YES

Click today...cash today!
www.militaryloans.com



"We love to say yes!"

WORLD

Volunteerism shakes up Chinese society

Citizens, government respond to earthquake in new way, and the results are mixed

By CHRISTOPHER BODEN
The Associated Press

LONGTOUSHAN, China — Minutes after a deadly earthquake shook western China, disaster teams were on the move. Within hours, food, tents and even a 4G cellphone network were in place, showing how a fast-developing China can bring its plentiful experience and enormous resources to bear in handling natural disasters.

Yet while the military is leading the relief operation — seizing on the opportunity to strut its considerable stuff and show its commitment to the public good — growing numbers of volunteers from among students, social groups and private businesses are a prominent element of the effort, even if they sometimes get underfoot.

“We’re here to help however we can,” said Song Lina, 22, a college student from the western city of Chongqing. She and a dozen friends in red baseball caps and T-shirts reading “Sending our love” were making the 3-mile hike up the ruined road to the hard-hit town of Longtoushan.

“We’ll get to the town and go ask the soldiers and rescuers what they need us to do.”

Sunday’s magnitude-6.1 quake that struck in a mountainous part of Yunnan province left 589 dead as of Wednesday and brought a massive effort to clear roads and enter isolated mountain communities where people were still feared trapped in collapsed homes. On Wednesday, rescuers pulled a 50-year-old woman out of a pile of rubble, 67 hours after the quake struck. Liao Tengcui had serious head and waist injuries and couldn’t move her left leg, but was conscious, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

More than 2,400 people were injured in the farming region of Ludian county in the country’s deadliest tremor in four years and its biggest test of emergency response under President Xi Jinping.

Villages of bright blue tents for survivors have sprung up in and around Longtoushan, accompanied by pavilions and trucks offering cellphone and Internet service. Others offer to help with insurance claims, banking and medical services.

“It’s not enough anymore to just provide somewhere for these people to sleep and something to eat,” said Li Weiping, who was helping staff a tent offering 4G service for a national carrier along Longtoushan’s main street, clogged with rescue vehicles. “People need to maintain communication and all the other details of life to get back on their feet.”

As Li spoke, one of the dozen military helicopters devoted to the relief effort clattered overhead to bring supplies to a field on

“They are active, they are enthusiastic, but they are not sufficiently trained to do the job.”

Lu Wengang
associate professor of public administration and emergency management at Jinan University

the edge of town, circumventing the now-congested roads in the county of about 429,000 people.

According to official reports, 10,000 soldiers were dispatched to the rescue, along with dozens of troops from the air force and strategic missile command, presumably because of their facility with satellite communications and remote mapping. They were reinforced by more than 1,000 firefighters and more than 1,300 military and civilian medical personnel. Also dispatched were 31,000 tents, while boxes of bottled water, instant noodles and potato chips practically overflowed onto the streets of Longtoushan, where relief workers have doubled the town’s population.

A novel part of the Yunnan response was the use of drones to map and monitor a quake-ravaged lake that threatened to flood areas downstream. China has rapidly developed drone use in recent years, and they helped save time and money while providing highly reliable data, said Xu Xiaokun, an engineer with the army reserves.

China began bolstering its emergency response capabilities after the outbreak of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in 2003. The country was largely caught unprepared for the nationwide outbreak and initially sought to suppress news about it until it could muster a response.

Those efforts gained pace with a massive 2008 earthquake in Sichuan that left almost 90,000 people dead or missing. While China’s response gained mostly praise from the public, it was forced to rely almost exclusively on the military, and some isolated areas had to wait days for any relief.

Since then, China’s spending on domestic security has outpaced its overall defense allocations, providing massive funding for its emergency services. China even sends rescue teams to overseas disasters, including helicopter crews to flood-hit Pakistan and a navy hospital ship to the Philippines after a typhoon last year.

The quake relief also is helping to burnish the credentials of the president, Xi, whose strong authority over the armed forces has helped make him the most powerful Chinese leader in decades.



Above: A woman feeds instant noodles to children outside a tent set up for survivors of Sunday’s earthquake in the town of Longtoushan in southwest China’s Yunnan province on Wednesday. Some 10,000 troops and hundreds of volunteers have rushed to the area to clear roads and dig out survivors from the debris.



Left: Earthquake survivor Xiong Zhengfen, 88, is evacuated Tuesday by rescue workers after being buried under rubble for 50 hours.

AP photos

gether in times of hardship and that the volunteering phenomena had a strong vein of patriotism.

“What does seem to be the problem is that the volunteers are not professional enough,” Lu said. “They are active, they are enthusiastic, but they are not sufficiently trained to do the job.”

The volunteers in Ludian came in all stripes: Well-equipped, orange-jumpsuit-wearing engineers. Middle-aged Communist die-hards wearing Mao pins on their old-fashioned army uniforms. Sneaker-shod college students with little to offer other than their enthusiasm.

Zhang Xian, 25, an auto mechanic and veteran disaster volunteer from the eastern province of Henan, said he’s seen firsthand how enthusiasm can actually bog down official relief efforts.

“To be honest, they can be a bit of a nuisance,” said Zhang, who came to Ludian to offer his services repairing damaged vehicles. “They don’t have any skills and they just take up space and resources.”

“The party needs to reinforce its legitimacy by showing that it is helping the people and the political system in place is highly effective for such a purpose,” said Steve Tsang, a China politics expert at England’s Nottingham University.

At the same time, the ruling Communist Party uses such disaster relief operations to get its citizens involved and mobilize support for its rule, Tsang said. The current fad for volunteering marks a break from the party’s former total leadership in disaster relief, something the party seems eager to encourage but uncertain how to guide.

The outpouring of hundreds of volunteers in Yunnan also stands in contrast with what critics say is a general unwillingness among Chinese to help those in need in more mundane situations, a re-

sponse likely born out of a fear of being held responsible in the event the needy person should die — or even blame the do-gooder for their predicament. Chinese society was rocked by a crisis of conscience in 2011 when multiple passers-by were caught on security camera footage ignoring a toddler who had been struck by a van and eventually died.

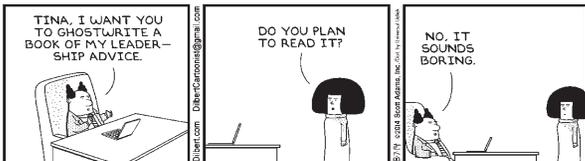
“No doubt these cases caused a lot of criticisms among the public,” said Lu Wengang, associate professor of public administration and emergency management at Jinan University in the southern city of Guangzhou. “They do reflect a social phenomenon that seems to be on the rise. It may very well be a result of a genuine decline in altruism in Chinese society.”

But Lu said Chinese citizens also had traditionally pulled to-

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			27	28	29		30	31	
32					33				34		
35			36	37					38		
			39				40	41			
42	43				44		45		46	47	48
49					50	51					
52					54						
55					57						
56					58						

ACROSS

- 1 Fragment
- 5 Fa follower
- 8 Greek consonants
- 12 "— Rose" ("The Music Man" song)
- 13 Singer Rita
- 14 Cape near Lisbon
- 15 Finished
- 16 Artesian appellation
- 17 Part of the loop
- 18 Insist on
- 20 Praline ingredients
- 22 Homer's interjection
- 23 Old pro
- 24 Sagacious
- 27 Lamb, for example
- 32 Green prefix
- 33 Berlin's "What'll —?"
- 34 Pen point
- 35 C-note, slangly
- 38 Actress Pinkett Smith
- 39 Festive
- 40 Have bills
- 42 "The Da Vinci Code" monk Silas, e.g.
- 45 Decline
- 49 Seethe
- 50 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
- 52 Hexagonal state
- 53 Farm fraction

DOWN

- 1 Doltish sort
- 2 Apian structure
- 3 The same (Lat.)
- 4 Procession
- 5 "Send in the Clowns" writer
- 6 Acapulco gold
- 7 Aladdin's friend
- 8 Expensive
- 9 Short musical work
- 10 PC picture
- 11 Without
- 19 "Unh-unh" volume
- 21 Longoria or Mendes
- 24 Symbol of intrigue
- 25 Lemieux milieu
- 26 Wren, for instance
- 28 Reagan-era prog.
- 29 Loud
- 30 Comical Caesar
- 31 Tinctured abbr.
- 36 Incomplete
- 37 Author Rand
- 38 Insipid
- 41 Lindbergh book
- 42 Blind as —
- 43 Crazy
- 44 Broad spread
- 46 Handy pc. of Latin
- 47 Bear liar
- 48 Yon folks
- 51 Pump up the volume

Answer to Previous Puzzle

P	A	C	K	T	A	J	K	T	E	E	M
I	R	A	N	I	D	O	A	G	R	A	
E	G	R	E	S	S	E	S	U	G	L	I
R	O	D	E	O		H	O	P	P	E	D
			L	U	G	S	M	E	L		
A	C	E	S	R	A	T	E	A	R	F	
D	O	G	R	O	B	I	N		N	E	O
S	P	Y	O	G	R	E	S	T	S	T	X
			P	A	M	A	R	I	A		
C	I	T	I	E	S		S	H	O	R	E
U	N	I	S		E	G	O	M	A	N	I
E	T	A	L		M	A	W	R	E	S	T
D	O	N	E		I	L	L	A	R	E	S

8-7 CRYPTOQUIP

WJBGY DEY WTXLRQLNYD
 EQC WP RQBZ CJAALYBD
 XJNGVY GPJGYW, J APTBC
 RZWYVA JB Q CJVV-YRRQ.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN DEMOGRAPHIC DATA IS GATHERED ABOUT A PRISON POPULATION, I ASSUME IT WILL BE A CON-CENSUS.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals S

NATION



AP photos

A family eats at a Domino's Pizza restaurant in Lagos, Nigeria. Years of solid economic growth have transformed Africa into one of the world's hottest markets.

Countries courting the African economy

BY PAUL WISEMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — They export BMWs and birdseed and plenty in between. Their middle class is growing fast enough to draw the likes of Marriott and Wal-Mart. China, Europe, Japan and the United States are vying to build roads and power plants there.

No longer are the nations of sub-Saharan Africa, long a symbol of war, famine and corruption, an economic basket case. Six of the world's fastest-growing economies are there. Higher oil prices, richer consumers and sounder governments have raised so much interest in Africa's economic promise that it's being showcased this week at the first U.S.-Africa Leaders Summit in Washington.

The question is: Can all this endure? Africa has stood on the verge of prosperity before only to see its opportunities fizzle. Yet never before has it stood to benefit as it does now.

"Africa presents enormous opportunities," said Paul Sullivan, director of international business development at Acrow Bridge in Parsippany, N.J., which has put up hundreds of prefabricated steel bridges across Africa.

As African leaders gather to mark a decade of economic gains, they appear intent on sustaining the growth and ensuring that the benefits are spread broadly and not siphoned away by corrupt officials and foreign companies.

In the decades after many of the countries regained their independence in the 1960s, their natural resources — Nigerian oil, Liberian diamonds, Congolese copper and cobalt — failed to support durable growth. They sometimes proved a curse. Proceeds

US, China looking to cash in on one of the world's fastest-growing markets

would vanish into Swiss bank accounts of corrupt leaders and give armed factions something to fight over.

Analysts note hopefully that the current resurgence is built on foundations sturdier than the ups and downs of commodity prices. Many African nations have become more democratic, making it easier for entrepreneurs to do business, and have boosted investment in education and infrastructure. A decade of solid growth has created a middle class with more spending power — 350

million strong in 2010 by the African Development Bank's count, up from 220 million in 2000.

Armed conflicts are down despite headlines about the terrorist groups Boko Haram in Nigeria and al-Shabab in Somalia.

The improved environment has benefited even countries without bounteous natural resources. In resource-poor Rwanda, for example, economic growth rose from an average 1.7 percent from 1990 to 2000 to 7.7 percent the next decade.



Employees prepare hamburgers and fries at Johnny Rockets in Lagos.

The consultancy Ernst & Young ranks Africa as the world's second-most-attractive market after North America. Cumulative foreign investment in sub-Saharan Africa has catapulted from \$33.5 billion in 2000 to \$246.4 billion in 2012, according to United Nations numbers crunched by the Brookings Institution.

South Africa exports BMW sedans to the United States. Ethiopia has developed a niche making shoes. And it produces the best-selling imported birdseed in the United States.

"We see Africa as the fastest-growing market worldwide," said David Picard, a manager at heavy equipment manufacturer Caterpillar.

In 2011, Wal-Mart acquired Massmart Holdings, which runs 350 stores in 12 sub-Saharan countries. Marriott International last year agreed to buy Protea Hospitality of South Africa, a 116-hotel chain in seven sub-Saharan countries. Cummins, a company based in Columbus, Ind., has enjoyed double-digit sales growth this year in supplying power equipment to Africa.

No nation has been more aggressive in Africa than China. Its direct investment in sub-Saharan Africa has jumped from virtually nothing in 2002 to \$18.2 billion in 2012.

This week's U.S. summit is seen as an American effort to regain some of the influence lost in the region to China over the past decade. Next year, the United States hopes to expand a 14-year-old free-trade deal with Africa.

On Tuesday, the Obama administration announced \$14 billion in commitments from U.S. businesses to invest in Africa — money to be plowed into construction, clean energy, banking, information technology and other sectors.

MILITARY

A place where everyone knows your pain

Couple channel grief into retreat for veterans

By MIKE HOUSEHOLDER
The Associated Press

OCQUEOC TOWNSHIP, Mich. — Before shipping out for Iraq, Army Sgt. Trevor Blumberg asked his father to do two things if he didn't return: Look after his puppy, Scrapy, and "take care of my guys."

Blumberg, a 22-year-old paratrooper known to his guys in the storied 82nd Airborne as "Blum," was killed days after deploying by a roadside bomb that tore through his Humvee.

In the decade since, Terry and Jan Blumberg have dutifully honored their son's wishes by using Trevor's death benefits and insurance money to build a 3,500-square-foot home on 12 acres in northern Michigan that doubles as their retirement home and a retreat for those who defend the country. For the past two years, veterans who served post-Sept. 11, 2001, have been welcome to stay for free at the three-bedroom Ocqueoc Township home for up to five days.

"We made a promise to Trevor," Terry Blumberg said.

The Blumbergs, church volunteers and veterans' group members toiled for years to build "Blum's Landing," which is tucked back from a dirt road and nestled among trees, with Orchard Lake around back.

Guests eat, rest and play alongside the Blumbergs and Scrapy, a light brown Staffordshire terrier who is now 12 and follows Terry Blumberg around everywhere with tail wagging.

Terry Blumberg, who fought in the Vietnam War, said the loss of their son is "never going to stop hurting," but he and his wife take satisfaction in knowing they are doing what Trevor would have wanted by hosting those who shared his mission.

He said the retreat's woody setting is perfect for the veterans who stay there to decompress.

"It gives people a place to relax and come down and maybe clear their head," he said. "When I came back [from Vietnam], going out in the woods was one of the ways I took care of my problems."

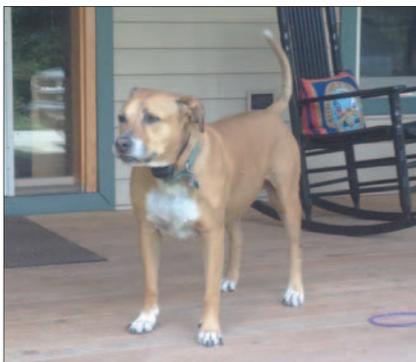
Richard Dunkley, a veteran from Linden, Mich., who earned his family's July stay at the home by serving as an Army supply specialist in Afghanistan, said the Blumbergs' tribute to their son is "moving, from one soldier to another."

He, his wife Mary, and their 12-year-old son, Sam, took a pontoon



PHOTOS BY MIKE HOUSEHOLDER/AP

Jan and Terry Blumberg, left, talk with Richard and Mary Dunkley during lunch at Blum's Landing in Ocqueoc Township, Mich. The Blumbergs used benefits and insurance money from their paratrooper son Trevor's 2003 death in Iraq to help build Blum's Landing. Veterans can stay at the two-story home free for up to five days. Richard Dunkley earned his family's stay by serving in Afghanistan.



The Blumbergs' dog, Scrapy, stands on the front porch of Blum's Landing. The Blumbergs promised their son they would take care of Scrapy, who was a puppy when Trevor Blumberg was killed.

boat ride, kayaked and relaxed on the porch. Although they didn't know their hosts well at the start of their stay, it wasn't long before the Dunkleys and Blumbergs were laughing and talking over lunch at the dining room table like old friends. They shared war stories (Mary Dunkley was a Marine during Operation Desert Storm) but also discussed less weighty topics, such as this summer's hungry mosquitoes.

"There's joy every time we have someone come in here," said Jan Blumberg, a longtime elementary school teacher and principal. "And we're as excited and nervous as perhaps they are when they come up to that door."

"But we always reach out and give them a hug, because I feel

like I already know them a little bit."

The rules are simple: No shoes or running in the house. Guests can otherwise kick back and relax.

"We want them to feel comfortable, and I do like to spoil," said Jan Blumberg, who bakes cookies and other treats for her visitors.

Trevor was an outdoorsman who loved the area's abundant rivers, lakes and woods. Although the Blumbergs raised Trevor and his sister in Detroit's western suburbs, they often took them "up north," where Trevor enjoyed many of the activities available to those who stay at Blum's Landing.

A statue of a saluting soldier carrying an American flag stands



Now in its third year, Blum's Landing serves as a retreat for those fighting the war on terror.

For more on the retreat center go to: www.blumslanding.org



guard on the front porch, but the home's inspiration isn't obvious until one steps inside. Photos of Trevor hang on the wall outside his parents' first-floor bedroom and adorn a shelf in the library. Upstairs, a sitting room features a quilt made in Trevor's memory, and a flag displayed behind glass is covered in handwritten messages from fellow soldiers.

Trevor, who received a Bronze Star, was known for taking care of his guys everywhere he served, which also included Afghanistan, South Korea and Fort Bragg, N.C., his parents said. In Iraq, he showed fellow soldiers how to place quarter-inch steel plates in the rear of an open Humvee to deflect bullets and placed sand-filled boxes to form a makeshift bunker inside.

When the bomb that killed Blumberg exploded in September 2003, the improvised shields protected other soldiers.

Asked if she feels Trevor in Blum's Landing, Jan Blumberg's response was simple: "Everywhere."

Still, she said, while her son "would have been honored" by the home, "he would have thought this was too ostentatious."

Or as her husband put it, laughing: "He would have just built them a bunkhouse and a place to go the bathroom."

Since it began accepting visitors two years ago, Blum's Landing has hosted 30 veterans. The Blumbergs are on the lookout for new recruits to stay, sending letters to Veterans of Foreign Wars posts, National Guard units and military bases and via social media.

They also seek donations, which help defray the costs of the veterans' stays. Terry Blumberg also hopes to build two cabins for disabled veterans.

"We want to pay it forward," Jan Blumberg said. "These are very unique times and very unique men and women who have volunteered their services, and we love them for that."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman charged in snake theft after crash

NY HYDE PARK — Authorities said a woman who crashed her car into a Long Island fire house was found to be in possession of marijuana — and a stolen snake wrapped around her neck.

Nassau County police said Sarah Espinosa, of Albany, was driving west on Jericho Turnpike on Monday when she crossed the center median and struck a vehicle. They said she continued through the front door of the New Hyde Park firehouse and collided with two firetrucks.

Fire personnel rushed to her aid and were surprised to find a small ball python around her neck. Authorities said the snake had been stolen from a nearby pet store shortly before the accident.

Espinosa faces charges including reckless endangerment and driving while intoxicated.

Same-sex couple seeks equality — divorce

MS JACKSON — The state Attorney General's Office has until Aug. 14 to file briefs in a case involving a DeSoto County woman who wants Mississippi to recognize her same-sex marriage in order to grant a divorce.

Lauren Czeka-Chatham has appealed a decision by DeSoto County Chancery Judge Mitchell Lundy Jr. that the Mississippi Constitution and statutes prevented him from taking action. Czeka-Chatham appealed to the Mississippi Supreme Court.

Czeka-Chatham and Dana Ann Melancon got married in San Francisco in 2008. They bought a house together in Mississippi the following year, but their relationship soured.

They could get a divorce in California, but Czeka-Chatham says she shouldn't be treated differently than straight couples.

Customs puts squeeze on bagpipes with ivory

NH CONCORD — Leave those bagpipes at home if they contain ivory and you're trying to cross parts of the Canadian border.

That's the lesson Campbell Webster, 37, learned the hard way as he tried to carry his pipes back from a competition in Canada. U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized the pipes, and those of his friend Eryk Bean, because they contain ivory.

The U.S. prohibits importing ivory taken after 1976, the ivory in the boys' bagpipes is older and they have certificates to prove it.

After contacting their congressional delegation and getting 3,000 signatures on an online petition, the boys have their pipes, but the hassle is lingering like a sour note. Leslie Webster, Campbell's mother, said the boys had to pay a fee.

Man charged in duct tape incident

PA BUTLER — A man has been jailed on charges

THE CENSUS

55

The amount of trash, in tons that municipal workers pick up on an average day during the annual motorcycle rally in Sturgis, S.D. Combined with trash from major privately run camps and other rally venues, the total surpasses 4 million pounds. Public Works Director Rick Bush said rally-goers wake up to clean facilities, but it take a lot of nighttime work to make it that way. He calls it "the untold story of the rally."



Mudslide in Utah

Above: A home is damaged by a mudslide Tuesday, in North Salt Lake, Utah. The home crumbled after rain-saturated soil from the hill above started piling up behind it at around 6 a.m. Tuesday. **Right:** Sliding soil left a void in the side of the hill. No injuries were reported.

RAVELL CALL, THE DESERET NEWS AP



that he attacked his girlfriend and duct-taped her home after an argument.

Gary Tichansky, 29, of Butler Township, was arraigned early Tuesday on charges including aggravated assault and unlawful restraint.

Officers responding to a report of a domestic dispute found the 37-year-old woman in a bedroom with facial injuries. She also told police her fingers hurt because she had been bound so tightly with tape.

Feathers flying over 'Angry Birds' trademark

WA SEATTLE — A Seagull artist who designed a line of plush toys for pets called "Angry Birds" is suing the company that sold them, saying it cheated her of millions of dollars when it reached a deal with the Finnish company that makes the popular videogame of the same name.

Julie Adams designed her pet toy line for The Hartz Mountain Corp., of New Jersey, in 2006.

The addictive "Angry Birds" videogame, launched in 2009, Adams' lawsuit says game-maker Rovio Entertainment wanted to market plush toys for dogs and cats based on the game, but it couldn't because Adams already had the U.S. trademark for "Angry Birds" pet toys.

She says Hartz apparently leveraged her trademark to persuade Rovio to grant it exclusive rights to sell pet toys based on the videogame characters.

5-year-old loses bid for third term as mayor

MN DORSET — Robert "Bobby" Tufts may have lost his bid for a third consecutive term as mayor of his tiny tourist town, but the 5-year-old isn't taking it too hard.

After raising hope money for local charities and declaring ice cream the top of the food pyramid, it was just time to move on, he said.

"It was fun, but it's time to pass on the vote," Bobby said Monday, a day after he lost the annual election in Dorset.

Bobby's rule over the tiny town — population ranging from nine to 28 people — was purely ceremonial, being that Dorset has no formal city government. People can vote as many times as they like — for \$1 a vote — at ballot boxes around town. The winner is drawn at random during the annual Taste of Dorset festival.

The new mayor, Eric Mueller, is bringing in more experience: He's 16.

Rise in hooping cough blamed on vaccine foes

ID TWIN FALLS — Public health officials are seeing an increase in the number of whooping cough cases caused by a wave of anti-vaccination theories they say are risky and unfounded.

Officials, doctors and educators are asking parents to vaccinate their children, as thousands of Magic Valley youth return to classrooms this month.

Idaho has one of the lowest immunization rates in the nation. Fewer than 60 percent of the



state's 2-year-olds have up-to-date immunizations compared with the national average of 71 percent. South Central Public Health District reports.

Shopping mall to close wild animal exhibit

IA DES MOINES — A Des Moines shopping mall will close an exhibit of caged wild animals that drew opposition from the public.

The bears, wolves and other animals will be moved out of the Merle Hay Mall by Oct. 31, Elizabeth Holland, the mall's chief operating officer, told The Des Moines Register.

The Academy of Wildlife Education exhibit was met with public backlash in June. An online petition to "stop the zoo" has 74,000 signatures.

City establishes rules for medicinal pot sales

IL URBANA — City Council members in Urbana set up rules governing where and how marijuana could be grown and sold in the city.

According to The News-Gazette in Champaign, the council voted Monday to require that growers be at least 2,500 feet from any school, day care or residence. Sellers would have to be 1,000 feet from schools or day cares but allowed in commercial areas.

There's no guarantee the city will have either business under the new state law allowing marijuana sales and growth for medicinal use. But city leaders believe setting rules early could turn Urbana into a likely location for what they see as an emerging health care industry.

3 Texans accused in marijuana thefts

CO DURANGO — Three people from Texas are accused of stealing pot in two separate robberies of Colorado medical marijuana dispensaries. In Durango, two 17-year-olds were arrested Monday for allegedly stealing a jar of pot after entering a dispensary wearing bandanas, cowboy hats and sunglasses and spraying workers with pepper spray.

The Durango Herald reported that employees were unable to provide a description of their car and the teens from Corsicana, Texas were quickly found.

In Pueblo County, the sheriff's office said David Lopez, 40, of Austin, forced an employee into a Pueblo West dispensary at gunpoint Monday, ripped the phones from the wall and took a large amount of pot and pot products.

Someone in the store called 911 and deputies arrested him as he left.

It's not clear if he has a lawyer.

From wires services

FACES



CBS/AP

New contracts for the cast of "The Big Bang Theory" — which includes Kunal Nayyar, left, Johnny Galecki, Jim Parsons and Simon Helberg — have been settled. Production on a new season was reportedly delayed by the contract negotiations.

THE BIG MONEY REALITY

Sitcom's stars sign reportedly lucrative new deals

The Associated Press

The studio that produces "The Big Bang Theory" said it has reached contract deals with the sitcom's cast.

With negotiations concluded, the comedy was to begin production Wednesday for the 2014-15 season, Warner Bros. Television said

in a statement Tuesday.

Work on the eighth season reportedly had been delayed as the cast of TV's top-rated sitcom held out for raises. Agreements have been reached with stars Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki and Kaley Cuoco for lucrative three-year contracts that trade reports put at about \$1 million per episode for each actor.

Warner Bros. declined to comment on specifics.

Deals are in place with the entire cast, which includes Simon Helberg and Kunal Nayyar, the studio said.

The CBS series about geeky scientist pals and the women who love them returns Sept. 22 stateside and Sept. 23 on APN.

'Gravity' lifts Bullock to top of Forbes list of highest-paid actresses

By OLIVER GETTELL
Los Angeles Times

Sandra Bullock's stratospheric paycheck for the Oscar-winning sci-fi thriller "Gravity" has launched her to the top of Forbes' list of top-earning actresses.

The 50-year-old actress made an estimated \$51 million between June 2013 and June 2014, mostly from the Alfonso Cuarón-directed film, Forbes said. Bullock claimed the No. 7 spot last year.

"Gravity," of course, was one of the biggest movies of 2013, grossing more than \$716 million at the global box office and winning seven Oscars (on 10 nominations). Bullock, who was nominated for best actress but lost to Cate Blanchett ("Blue Jasmine"), had a lucrative profit-participation deal on the blockbuster hit.

Bullock's impressive payday notwithstanding,

she and her fellow actresses still trail Hollywood's top-paid male actors: Robert Downey Jr. raked in \$75 million in the same period, and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson earned \$52 million.

Bullock is followed on the Forbes actress list by "Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence (\$34 million), "We're the Millers" star Jennifer Aniston (\$31 million), "Iron Man 3" star Gwyneth Paltrow (\$19 million), "Maleficent" star Angelina Jolie (\$18 million) and "The Other Woman" star Cameron Diaz (\$18 million).

Jolie topped last year's list with an estimated \$33 million, part of which was credited from her large upfront payment for "Maleficent." She's expected to earn more next year through a back-end deal on the Disney movie, which has grossed more than \$700 million worldwide.



Highly-paid actresses

1. Sandra Bullock, \$51 million
2. Jennifer Lawrence, \$34 million
3. Jennifer Aniston, \$31 million
4. Gwyneth Paltrow, \$19 million
5. Angelina Jolie, \$18 million
6. Cameron Diaz, \$18 million

Audiences keep tuning in for sequel

The Associated Press

With "Sharknado" and a tight battle between NBC and CBS, the week's Nielsen ratings illustrated how that traditional measurement is becoming less of a clear picture of how people are consuming television.

Last week's debut of the campy "Sharknado 2: The Second One" sequel averaged 3.87 million viewers on the SyFy network, the Nielsen company said. That was good, although not great: Seven other programs on cable television alone had larger audiences last week.

But SyFy didn't air the movie just once. "Sharknado 2: The Second One" was on four times last week, seen by a total of 9.5 million people. The movie also inspired some 581,000 tweets last week, more than any other program on television, Nielsen said.

There were shark-infested skies on SyFy all week, since the network aired last year's original movie four times, too.

Meanwhile, Nielsen said NBC narrowly beat CBS to be the most-watched network last week. The three most popular programs on the air last week were all on NBC — two editions of "America's Got Talent" and Sunday's exhibition football game between the New York Giants and Buffalo Bills.

Wait a few days, however, and CBS is likely to claim the week's crown. That's because Nielsen's weekly rankings are based on who watches the programs live or within the next 24 hours, and reality shows and sports programming are most likely to be watched live.

Dramas, which dominate CBS' schedule, are more likely to be time-shifted. For example, the July 14 episode of CBS' "Under the Dome" was seen by 7.6 million people within the first 24 hours, and just under 12 million within seven days — a 57 percent increase due to people watching on their DVRs or on demand. That week's one episode of "America's Got Talent" saw only a 17 percent bump when the full week's viewership was taken into account.

Rapper Lil Durk pleads guilty to gun charges

Chicago-based rapper Lil Durk has pleaded guilty to two weapons charges, but won't go to jail.

Citing court records, the Chicago Sun-Times reports the rapper, whose real name is Durk D. Banks, pleaded guilty in Chicago on Tuesday to felony aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and felony possession of a firearm.

The 21-year-old Banks was sentenced to probation for 18 months and 50 hours community service. He won't go to jail because the judge gave him credit for the 43 days he served.

The charges stem from an arrest in June 2013 on the city's South Side after police responded to a call of a person with a gun spotted Banks with a handgun.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Disney soars on 3rd quarter profits

By RYAN NAKASHIMA
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Animated hit “Frozen” continued to help boost The Walt Disney Co., as the company reported third-quarter net income that rose 22 percent, topping analysts’ expectations. The movie sold well at international box offices and in home video and lifted merchandise sales.

With another hit — last weekend’s Marvel superhero epic “Guardians of the Galaxy” — set to be made into a series, and the first of its annual “Star Wars” movies to launch next year, the company is on track for a multi-year revival of the studio that is lifting results across its divisions.

And it comes even after Disney delayed what would have been its only Pixar film of 2014, “The Good Dinosaur.” The movie, originally slated for a May release, won’t come out until November 2015.

“The fact that we’re doing as

well as we’re doing without a Pixar film probably says a lot about what’s up in the future,” CEO Bob Iger said on a conference call.

Since “Guardians of the Galaxy” was released on Friday, it has pulled down more than \$106 million in North America, adding to the best domestic August opening weekend ever.

This year’s successes, including nearly \$1 billion-gross hits “Maleficent” and “Captain America: Winter Soldier,” represent a huge turnaround for the studio. Previously, it had been crippled with what seemed like annual spring write-downs on bombs such as “Prince of Persia” (2010), “Mars Needs Moms” (2011), and “John Carter” (2012).

“The studio has continued to be a real game-changer for them,” said Robin Dierich, an analyst with Edward Jones. “As you look forward we’re looking to the ‘Star Wars’ properties and another Pixar film. And so the

pipeline is pretty strong.”

The Burbank, Calif.-based company said net income in the three months through June 28 increased to \$2.25 billion, or \$1.28 per share, from \$1.85 billion, or \$1.01 per share, in the same quarter a year ago. The average estimate of analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research was for profit of \$1.17 per share.

The company said revenue climbed 8 percent to \$12.47 billion from \$11.58 billion in the same quarter a year ago, beating Wall Street forecasts. Analysts expected \$12.16 billion, according to Zacks.

Quarterly studio profits more than doubled to \$411 million, the most of any segment. Meanwhile, the interactive unit had its fourth straight quarter of profitability on the strength of its Disney Infinity game franchise.

Disney shares rose 5 cents to \$86.80 after the earnings were released. The stock is up \$10.40, or 14 percent, since the beginning

of the year, while the Standard & Poor’s 500 index has risen 3.9 percent.

Iger said he expects the studio to keep humming for a while.

“We think we’re well positioned for the studio to be a significant driver of bottom line results for the company, certainly through the next five years,” he said. “I’m not sure I know what’s out there that could disrupt us except for wide-scale creative failure and I certainly don’t expect that.”

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 5, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	-139.81	16,429.47
Nasdaq composite	-31.05	4,352.84
Standard & Poor’s 500	-18.78	1,920.21
Russell 2000	-3.26	1,121.56

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 7)	\$1.3717
Dollar buys (Aug. 7)	€0.7290
British pound (Aug. 7)	\$1.73
Japanese yen (Aug. 7)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 7)	1,007.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6854
Canada (Dollar)	1.0909
China (Yuan)	6.1785
Denmark (Krone)	6.5663
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3419/7452
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.5201
Hungary (Forint)	233.60
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4163
Japan (Yen)	102.55
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2832
Norway (Krone)	6.2617
Philippines (Peso)	43.71
Poland (Zloty)	3.11
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2459
South Korea (Won)	1,032.41
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9068
Thailand (Baht)	32.15
Turkey (Lira)	1.3121

(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., Netherlands and the United Kingdom), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies 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	7.25
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	3.87

WEATHER OUTLOOK

THURSDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



THURSDAY IN EUROPE



FRIDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Thursday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	90	68	Cldy	Fort Wayne	79	60	Cldy	Louisville	85	68	Cldy	Pocatello	77	54	Cldy	Shreveport	94	75	Pcdy
Ablene, Texas	97	75	Pcdy	Cheyenne	81	56	Cldy	Fresno	97	71	Cir	Lubbock	98	71	Pcdy	Portland, Maine	79	59	Pcdy	Sioux City	77	64	Pcdy
Akron, Ohio	77	56	Cldy	Cleveland	77	61	Cldy	Goodland	90	62	Cldy	Macon	95	70	Pcdy	Portland, Ore.	81	61	Cir	Sioux Falls	75	62	Pcdy
Albany, N.Y.	77	58	Pcdy	Cincinnati	79	63	Cldy	Grand Junction	89	62	Pcdy	Madison	97	76	Cldy	Providence	79	63	Pcdy	South Bend	87	59	Pcdy
Albuquerque	90	64	Cldy	Cleveland	77	59	Cir	Grand Rapids	79	69	Pcdy	Medford	92	62	Cir	Pueblo	90	62	Pcdy	Spokane	86	62	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	81	57	Pcdy	Colorado Springs	86	59	Cldy	Great Falls	87	59	Pcdy	Memphis	91	74	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	88	69	Pcdy	Springfield, Ill.	79	65	Rain
Anchorage	96	63	Pcdy	Columbia, S.C.	96	72	Pcdy	Green Bay	78	54	Cir	Miami Beach	89	78	Cldy	Reno	88	62	Pcdy	Syracuse	77	56	Cldy
Ashville	83	63	Pcdy	Columbus, Ga.	94	74	Pcdy	Greensboro, N.C.	87	68	Pcdy	Midland-Odessa	101	74	Cir	Richmond	87	66	Pcdy	Tallahassee	96	72	Cldy
Atlanta	92	73	Pcdy	Concord, N.H.	79	55	Pcdy	Harrisburg	89	59	Pcdy	Mpls-St. Paul	82	64	Cldy	Roanoke	83	63	Pcdy	Tampa	92	78	Pcdy
Atlantic City	85	63	Pcdy	Concord, N.H.	79	55	Pcdy	Helena	87	58	Pcdy	Missoula	90	55	Cir	Rochester	76	58	Pcdy	Toledo	79	56	Pcdy
Austin	94	81	Pcdy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	97	78	Pcdy	Honolulu	86	77	Rain	Mobile	93	74	Pcdy	Rockford	78	58	Cldy	Topeka	85	67	Cldy
Baltimore	83	63	Cir	Dayton	79	59	Pcdy	Houston	95	75	Pcdy	Montgomery	95	72	Pcdy	Sacramento	94	65	Cir	Tucson	100	73	Cir
Baton Rouge	92	74	Pcdy	Daytona Beach	95	76	Pcdy	Houston	94	71	Cldy	Nashville	93	69	Cldy	St. Louis	83	71	Rain	Tulsa	95	75	Cldy
Bismarck	78	59	Cldy	Denver	87	61	Pcdy	Indianapolis	87	61	Pcdy	Paducah	88	70	Pcdy	St. Petersburg	89	81	Pcdy	Tupelo	92	71	Cldy
Birmingham	94	73	Pcdy	Des Moines	76	64	Cldy	Kansas, Miss.	94	72	Cldy	New York City	83	65	Pcdy	St. Thomas	90	81	Pcdy	Waco	95	75	Pcdy
Boise	88	64	Pcdy	Duluth	76	56	Pcdy	Juneau	61	50	Rain	Newark	86	65	Pcdy	Salem, Ore.	85	67	Cldy	Wichita Falls	99	73	Pcdy
Boston	77	62	Pcdy	El Paso	94	73	Pcdy	Kansas City	86	71	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	83	73	Cldy	Salt Lake City	86	63	Pcdy	W. Palm Beach	89	77	Cldy
Bridport	97	78	Pcdy	El Paso	94	73	Pcdy	Kansas City	86	71	Rain	North Platte	86	61	Cldy	San Angelo	98	74	Pcdy	Wichita	93	72	Pcdy
Brownsville	97	78	Pcdy	El Paso	94	73	Pcdy	Kansas City	86	71	Rain	Okahoma City	88	72	Pcdy	San Antonio	98	77	Pcdy	Wichita Falls	99	73	Pcdy
Buffalo	76	59	Pcdy	Eugene	86	57	Cir	Lake Charles	92	76	Pcdy	Orlando	94	76	Pcdy	San Francisco	80	70	Pcdy	Wilmington, Del.	83	63	Pcdy
Burlington, Vt.	76	53	Pcdy	Fairbanks	71	50	Cldy	Las Vegas	96	78	Cir	Pendleton	87	59	Cir	San Jose	83	61	Cir	Yonkers	88	70	Rain
Caribou, Maine	84	54	Pcdy	Fargo	81	61	Cldy	Lexington	82	64	Cldy	Pensacola	78	61	Pcdy	San Juan, P.R.	88	79	Pcdy	Youngstown	77	54	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	96	74	Pcdy	Flagstaff	79	47	Cir	Lincoln	81	67	Cldy	Philadelphia	84	65	Pcdy	St. Marie	76	51	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	82	62	Pcdy	Flint	80	57	Pcdy	Little Rock	93	74	Cir	Phoenix	105	81	Cir	St. Savannah	96	72	Pcdy				
Charlotte, N.C.	88	70	Pcdy	Fort Smith	94	73	Cldy	Los Angeles	81	65	Pcdy	Pittsburgh	79	56	Pcdy	Seattle	75	57	Cldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 111, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Tue., 41, Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys 178

NICKEL
US & German Attorneys
 US & German Divorce • Employment
 Wills and Probate • Support Issues
 Personal Injury • Tax
 Contractor
 Issues
 Call 069-299-2069-0
 Email: maiss@nickelonline.de

**EUROPE'S PREMIER
 MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**
COURT & CARPENTER
 Over 45 years defending
 servicemembers
 Heilbronner Strasse 150,
 70191 Stuttgart, Germany
 Phone in Germany: 0711 490 04320
 www.militarylawfirm.eu

**Law Offices Joseph K. Kelso
 U.S. Attorney at Law**
 Specializing in:
 U.S. Federal Employment Law,
 Administrative Boards, Personal Injury and
 Medical Malpractice, Claims, International
 Contracts and Immigration Law.
 Frankfurt am Main
 Tel: (06108) 797579 • Fax: (06108) 799622
 joseph-kelso@t-online.de

Military Items 720

DEPENDABLE
 We test each bag
 we add to our line
 Over 1000 bags
 All branches
 All camo types
 Check our reviews
 on Facebook
MILITARYLUGGAGE.COM

Transportation 944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY +49-6134-2592730 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only) info@transglobal-logsitics.de www.transglobal-logsitics.de	UNITED KINGDOM +44-117 938 1919 0800-7839351 (UK only) info@carshipuk.co.uk www.carshipuk.co.uk	U.S.A +1-972-602-1670 +1-800-264-8167 (US only) info@tgalus www.tgalus
--	--	---

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations

Trans Global
 LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Dental 902

American Dental Care
Services Offered:
 Family Dentistry
 Certified Orthodontics
 Crowns and Veneers
 Implant Surgery
 Zoom Teeth Whitening
 Wisdom Teeth Surgery
 Nitrous Oxide
 Saturday & Evening Appointments
 Caring, Friendly American Staff

LOCATIONS

Wiesbaden Dental Care
 06119 887 2650
 Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden
 Wiesbadendental.com

Ramstein Dental Care
 06371 406230
 Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein
 Ramsteindental.com

Certified American Dental Hygienists
 TRICARE Preferred Provider

Dental 902

Over 90% Non-Extraction

 Member
 American Association of
 Orthodontists
 Convenient Payment Plans
 No Referral Necessary
 Evening & Weekends
 Tricare Provider

American Orthodontist
 Dr. Michael Dillon, DDS, MS (Orthod)
 Univ of Maryland, Former USAF
 All Treatment Fees in US \$
06371-918911
 www.dillonortho.com

Financial Services 904

LOANS up to \$10,000
 For Active Duty U.S. Military
 Call Toll Free
 Germany: 0800 YES-LOAN
 Italy/Belgium: 00800 YES-LOANS
 Stateside: +1.931.802.6522
 www.yesomni.com

 "We love to say yes!"

Want a better picture?
 You'll get one - just by reading Stars and Stripes military news coverage.
 In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad
 No one covers the bases the way we do.

Dillon Orthodontic Care

Off Duty? Amuse Yourself!
 Concerts, events, TV, movies, music, video games, celebrity antics...
 Get entertained with...

Transportation 944

Interglobal Shipping GmbH
 Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada
 Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings
 Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!
 info@interglobalshipping.de
 www.interglobalshipping.de
 Toll Free (0421) 540 650 Fax (0421) 540 6555
 Toll Free 0800 0006311

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

OPENING HOURS: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri
 0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)
 For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de
 Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 samhain.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast
 Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 wey.teddie@stripes.com;
 +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific
 Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)925.5377

Washington
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com
 +(1)202(761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington
 Tel: +1(202) 761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 Fax: +1(202) 761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters
 letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts
 stripes.com/contacts

OMBUDEMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting, editing and publishing by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for \$1 on Fridays through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

OPINION

‘Intelligent, courageous and fearless’

By Beau Bridges

The man walked directly to me in the restaurant and placed the business end of his pistol between my eyes. This stranger quickly became the most important person I had ever met. Paul responded. A rumble ensued, and the man was ultimately apprehended. And I'm not the only one. Four out of seven members of my immediate family have had a loaded firearm pointed at them with bad intentions.

On March 30, 1991, all Americans were in shock from the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan. James Brady, Reagan's talented press secretary, was walking in front of the presidential party and took a bullet to the head. Reagan was gravely wounded.

Ten years later, I was offered the chance to play the title role in "Without Warning: The James Brady Story." My first order of business was to meet Mr. Brady and his family. But first came an invitation to watch Marlin Fitzwater, the press secretary then serving under President George H.W. Bush, in action. I exclusively took my seat in the press briefing room. This was a perfect chance to begin to step into the shoes of a highly complex and challenging job. Fitzwater entered and took his place at the podium, but before he fielded his first question, there was an interruption. All members of the press corps rose to their feet as James Brady himself wheeled into the room.

That's how I met the inspiring man they call "Bear." In the following months, I spent many hours with Jim, his wife, Sarah, and their son, Scott. This was a very positive, upbeat household, even with all the challenges they faced as Jim continued his long recovery. A brain trauma attacks you in a million ways. The fortitude and patience it demands are immense, and yet here was this resilient man, fighting his way back with such good humor and grace.

Jim and Sarah did not take the tragic event that changed their lives lightly. They made themselves catalysts for change, taking on leadership roles with the group Handgun Control Inc., later renamed the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, to respond to the rapid proliferation of



handguns in the United States. Thanks to their signature accomplishment, the Brady Law, more than 2 million prohibited gun purchases have been blocked since 1994.

Although the shooter from my story didn't pull the trigger, I was close enough to death by gunfire to understand, in a visceral way, the need to get guns out of the hands of criminals via background checks and to require those who buy them to learn proper gun safety. I lobbied with Jim at the Capitol for the banning of the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons. Jim told me I would be disappointed in many of the legendary senators and representatives I would meet. They would talk endlessly, saying nothing. And that's exactly what happened.

This was hard to take, considering that the purpose of my visit was to limit the sale of semi-automatic assault weapons, which seemed like such an obviously sensible reform, given all the terrible massacres that had occurred at schools and places of business across the country. Why would any civilian want a weapon that sprays bullets at such a rapid rate? Certainly not to use for hunting or target shooting.

Jim patiently explained that Washington was one of the great cities of the world, with fantastic food, culture and entertainment. The priority of most of the public servants was to keep their jobs at any cost, and thereby extend their stay in this wonderful city. They accomplished this by doing or saying nothing that was remotely controversial.

I have no problem with responsible gun ownership. I enjoyed hunting with my grandpa. I learned to respect and care for weapons during my service in the Coast Guard. But the nation we live in has a greater proliferation of firearms than any other country. No need to be the strongest, the quickest or the most cunning. Anyone can pick up a gun and become the toughest guy in the room.

Intelligent, courageous and fearless, with a ready wit, Jim Brady was a force for peace and common sense. His spirit will endure through his wife, his children and the millions of people he touched.

Beau Bridges won an Emmy Award for his portrayal of James Brady in the 1991 television movie "Without Warning: The James Brady Story." This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

It doesn't always pay to compare salaries

By Michael Carroll

In April, President Barack Obama signed an executive order forcing federal contractors to allow employees to discuss their pay with each other. Seems pretty basic, but I guess you cannot take anything for granted in the workplace. It was one of one of my first jobs where the boss, Big Al — about 300 odd pounds big — warned employees: "If you discuss your salary with others, you don't respect your salary."

He had a point. I did talk to my coworkers about my salary, and it was so low that I did not have all that much respect for it. Al was coming from a different place. He did not want discussion because dissension might flow from comparing paychecks. Employees might learn that there were often big differences in salaries of people doing the same job with the same skills and experience. Discussion might reveal disparities based less on merit and more on race, gender, who was sleeping with the boss, and other things best left unspoken. This might generate more discussion and even less respect for our salaries.

I do not wish to seem completely ungrateful. That very same job and boss taught me the value of a college education. During my interview, Al skimmed my application

and then announced that my annual salary would be \$6,000. I had no dependents, no car, and a cheap rent, so I could get by on that.

After he gave me the big fiscal news, his eyes returned to my application, wandered down a few more lines, and then brightened.

"I see here that you have college," he paused for full dramatic effect, then smiled. I smiled right back.

"Make that \$6,300."

So not for nothing had I spent four years at Bloomsburg, a Pennsylvania state college, now university. I persevered there for an extra \$300 a year.

It was the beginning of an eventful work year. I was part of an effort to organize the employees into a union. It succeeded, but only after I had moved on. One of the more memorable moments in that historic class conflict was when I came in one morning to find that someone — probably management goons or gun thugs brought in from the Harlan County, Ky., coalfields — had removed the phone from my work area. A classic failure to communicate.

All good things must come to an end, including that job. When I told Al I was leaving, he tried to conceal his joy and relief. He talked to me man-to-man and gave me

a firm handshake and wished me the very best. He went a little overboard, offering to write me a letter of recommendation. Now Tom and Edna Carroll did not raise any big geniuses, I'm afraid — I won't speak about my smart sisters — but neither did they raise a sun dumb enough to allow Big Al to send a letter I had not seen to terpedo future employment.

"Tell you what, Al," I said, "why don't you just write up that letter for 'To Whom it May Concern,' and I will just take it with me."

"Oh, sure. OK," he responded, a little green around the gills. "You can pick it up tomorrow."

Next day, I stopped by his secretary's small desk and grabbed the sealed envelope. As soon as I got to a private space, I tore it open and read the brief statement written in "Michael Carroll worked here from October 1973 to November 1974." Who could ask for a better endorsement?

I never forgot that job or Big Al. Over the years, I have grown to appreciate, if not always respect, my salary, which I am still willing to discuss. It's good to know that I now have the backing of the president.

Michael Carroll is a freelance writer in Philadelphia. This column first appeared in The Philadelphia Inquirer.

OPINION

Right conditions allowed me to survive virus

By MICHELLE BARNES

I left Uganda on New Year's Eve 2007 after a two-week adventure vacation, passing through London, then Iowa, on my way home to Colorado. I had no idea I was traveling the world while infected with a deadly virus. The symptoms began en route — a headache, a rash, nausea — but for five days I lived my normal life, enjoying my family, going to Starbucks, shaking people's hands. All the while, I was carrying this horrible disease at the height of its contagious period.

I'm the only person known so far to have imported an Ebola-like disease to the United States uncontrolled. I had contracted the Marburg virus from a bat cave in Queen Elizabeth National Park, one of Uganda's most popular tourist attractions. In the medical world, Marburg is known as Ebola's "kissing cousin." While different molecularly, the viruses infect victims in the same way and cause the same symptoms. Both result in fatality rates of 60 percent to 90 percent and run hot through a community — leaving sorrow and pain in their path. There is no vaccine or cure for either.

During my first days back in the United States, my body was slowly shutting down from multisystem organ failure. I visited my doctor and urgent care, complaining of a splitting headache, stomach rash, fever, nausea and confusion. I was sent home with painkillers and nausea prescriptions. As my liver, kidney, lungs, gallbladder and pancreas slowed, I went to restaurants and meetings and visited my parents. On my third visit to the doctor, I collapsed and was rushed to the hospital.

More than 220 health care professionals treated me over 12 days, offering excellent supportive care and compassion. But they couldn't diagnose my problem. I was tested for a variety of things, but none of the tests

were positive. Doctors treated me with fluids and antibiotics, and, surrounded by my husband and siblings, my body was able to fight off the illness that was shutting down all of my organs. After I started to recover, I was sent home with no clarity on what had brought me so close to death.

Twelve months later, I read about a Dutch woman who died of Marburg after visiting the same bat cave I had been to in Uganda. The World Health Organization investigated and determined that the bats carried the virus. My infectious disease doctor retested me, and jackpot! A year prior, unknown to me and my medical team, I had battled and survived Marburg — even though I hadn't touched or been bitten by a bat. It is still a mystery how I and the Dutch woman contracted Marburg.

After receiving my delayed diagnosis, I was panicked to think that I might have unwittingly transmitted the Marburg virus to another person during the weeks that I was contagious. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said no secondary cases were identified in either my situation or the Dutch woman's. Thanks to safety protocols in our hospitals, the fact that I cover my mouth and wash my hands a lot, and by the grace of God, the potential outbreak stopped with me. But the fact remains that I contracted Marburg in Africa and brought it home with me on a plane. I wasn't in quarantine, and I interacted with hundreds of other people while contagious. Epidemiologists believe Marburg and Ebola are transmitted between humans via bodily fluids, through airborne particles, and my experience supports that.

Still, there is reason to be scared. In Africa, Ebola is moving from person to person, crossing borders, and has already killed more than 700 people with hundreds more in quarantine. Health care workers are also falling victim. A lack of an understanding of how to prevent the spread of



SUNDAY ALAMBA/AP

Nigerian health officials wait to screen passengers at the arrival hall of Murtala Muhammed International Airport in Lagos on Monday. Nigerian authorities on Monday confirmed a second case of Ebola in Africa's most populous country.

this most deadly Ebola outbreak is feeding fears that the disease will continue to spread for months to come.

But the story in the United States is different. While Americans aren't exempt from contracting Marburg or Ebola, our odds of survival are better than people living in rural villages. We have access to more sophisticated health infrastructure, better information about the spread of disease and practices that more effectively contain infections. We've seen that system at work for Kent Brantly, a doctor who con-

tracted Ebola in Liberia, whose condition has improved significantly after receiving an experimental serum and being flown to Atlanta for treatment. If the Ebola virus is exported to the United States, as the Marburg virus was by me, I don't fear an outbreak here. Our health care system is prepared. I'm proof of that.

Michelle Barnes works as an intern executive in the nonprofit sector focusing on turnarounds and complex transactions. She lives outside Golden, Colo. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

New thinking on attracting highly skilled recruits

By WALTER PINCUS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON The military services are looking at innovative ways to change their personnel systems to boost the recruitment and retention of skilled people. The services are considering steps such as starting people at higher ranks and providing career paths that might include going in and out of the service.

On July 31, the National Defense Panel — co-chaired by former Defense Secretary William Perry and retired Army Gen. David Alvin — released the findings of the Defense Department's 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review and picked up that idea.

Among its recommendations: "Implementing a continuum-of-service model that allows service members to move fluidly between components and between the military, private sector, civil service and other employment."

A day earlier, the Air Force released a report titled "A Call to the Future," which described today's traditional military personnel model of 20 years of continual service with the option that it can be not widely replicated in the private sector."

It talked of a possible new approach noting that "breaks in service — or transitions between full and part-time — need not be punitive in the advancement of our future airman."

Alvin, then David Alvin, director of strategic planning in the office of the Air Force

deputy chief of staff for strategic plans and programs expanded on that in a New York Times interview.

"What if you entered the Air Force knowing you could serve for a few years, then go to work for an innovative tech company, and then return to the Air Force?" he said. "We could enter into partnerships with cutting-edge companies and allow our workforce the opportunity of a more flexible retirement system that allows you to do two different jobs and still get to a 20-year retirement. It might take 35 years, but you would get here."

Another route in the Air Force's "Call to the Future" report describes "a career development model that provides those in specialized career fields with incentives and promotion opportunities on par with those in more mainstream disciplines."

The Defense Department has long had a few special programs to attract people who might otherwise not enlist for military service.

Doctors have always been a special category. More recently, programs have been developed for foreign health care workers and language and cultural specialists who have visas and work permits. Their time in service, which could be a mixture of four to five years active duty and four years in the reserves, would also lead to U.S. citizenship.

One of the least publicized of such programs has existed for years with military bands, which recognized the need to recruit experienced musicians and start them at a higher rank.

Take, for example, the U.S. Marine

Band, "The President's Own." Its website recently advertised for a bassoonist. The notice says the "playing ability and expertise required are equivalent to those of any major professional musical organization."

The auditions, which will take place Nov. 1 in the John Philip Sousa Band Hall at Marine Barracks in Washington, "are conducted much like those of major symphony orchestras," the website says.

The person chosen will have the standard four-year enlistment, but unlike most other recruits it will be "for duty with the U.S. Marine Band only."

More important, the website says, "The President's Own" musicians are permanently assigned and may not be transferred to any other unit or location. Upon enlistment, new members are appointed to the rank of Staff Sergeant (pay grade E-6) in the U.S. Marine Corps and receive all pay and benefits commensurate with that grade.

What about basic training? The band's website's answer: "Unlike other Marine Corps musical units (and the rest of the Marine Corps), 'The President's Own' has no secondary combat role, and its members are exempt from all such training. 'The President's Own' musicians report to Washington fully trained to perform their primary duties in the accomplishment of the band's unique musical mission. Therefore, there is no requirement for 'The President's Own' musicians to undergo recruit training."

The Army Band — "Pershing's Own" — as well as the Air Force Band and the

Navy Band have similar programs, though they require their specially skilled recruits to take basic training before coming to Washington to join their respective organizations.

The recent talk about new pay and career paths is not just an exercise. Budgetary pressures have focused increased attention on rising Pentagon personnel costs, which have forced cuts in training — and thus readiness — and even delayed weapon modernization programs.

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, appointed in 2013 to come up with new approaches, recently released an interim report identifying 65 special and incentive-pay categories within the services along with more than 40 health benefit programs and more than 400 programs and benefits administered by eight federal agencies that support military, veteran, retiree and family member quality of life.

The commission is exploring whether this compensation system could provide valued benefits to servicemembers as well as the job flexibility needed to recruit and retain highly skilled people.

The panel's recommendations are due by Feb. 1. They are to be made public at the same time they are sent to President Barack Obama and Congress.

Here's a public discussion worth having.

Walter Pincus reports on intelligence, defense and foreign policy for The Washington Post and writes the Fine Print column.

STARS AND STRIPES

DAILY HEADLINES



Sign up to get the top stories of the day, emailed right to your inbox, every day!

TODAY'S TOP HEADLINES FROM STARS AND STRIPES.

STARS AND STRIPES

WEEKLY UPDATE



Subscribe to get each week's most important stories, along with other military news of note from bases around the world.

STARS AND STRIPES OFFERS A SUMMARY OF THE LEADING STORIES OF THE WEEK.



Get your news at: stripes.com/newsletters

NBA



Hammon hired as first female full-time coach

WNBA star to become Spurs assistant

By DOUG FEINBERG
The Associated Press

Becky Hammon has been defying the odds her entire basketball life. Now, the underdog is preparing for her biggest challenge yet.

Hammon accepted a coaching position with the San Antonio Spurs on Tuesday, making her the first full-time paid female NBA assistant coach. She will begin her new job with the defending NBA champions when her current one, playing for the WNBA's San Antonio Stars, is over at the end of the season.

"I'm the person that always is kind of like left off the roster. I'm the one that's always kind of picked last," Hammon said. "So this whole thing to me is a little bit crazy and mind-boggling that an opportunity like this has come down the pipe."

The 5-foot-6 guard has always seemed to be going against the grain. Coming out of high school, a lot of college coaches told her she couldn't play at the next level. She proved them wrong, having a stellar All-American career at Colorado State. She wasn't drafted by any WNBA team, but went on to be honored as one of the league's 15 greatest players of all-time.

She also became the highest profile American women's basketball player to compete for another country in the Olympics when she helped guide Russia to a bronze medal in the 2008 Beijing Games.

The 16-year WNBA veteran will work with Spurs coach Gregg

Others made inroads

Hammon isn't the first woman to work with NBA players. During the 2001-02 season, Cleveland Cavaliers coach John Lucas brought Lisa Boyer into the team's practices and some games. Boyer, now an assistant at South Carolina, wasn't paid by the Cavs and didn't travel with the team.

Nancy Lieberman and Charlotte Bobcats sideline reporter Stephanie Ready have coached teams in the NBA Development League. Lieberman now serves as the GM of the Texas Legends. Phoenix Mercury vice president Ann Meyers Drysdale knows there will be more scrutiny for Hammon than she had when she tried out for the Indiana Pacers in 1979.

"You guys didn't come out like you are today. You have tweets, Internet, Facebook, all that stuff. ESPN was in its first year when I tried out with the Pacers," Meyers Drysdale said. "Becky knows how to handle herself. People are going to say things. Media is going to rip her. There are going to be coaches out there saying they are just as qualified. Well, you know what, other people are just as qualified. It's being in the right place at the right time. They know what she is capable of doing."

— The Associated Press

Popovich on scouting, game-planning and the day-to-day grind of practice like no woman has done before. Last season, Hammon attended Spurs practices, film sessions and sat behind the bench at home games after suffering a torn ACL that kept her from playing.

“There are women that have trail-blazed much bigger paths. And really, trail-blazed the path for things like this to happen.

There are a lot more important things going on in the bigger (picture).”

Becky Hammon



WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

"Give credit to Gregg Popovich and the coaching staff, and certainly the San Antonio organization. But it's nothing new. They know what kind of player she is, they know what kind of person she is, they know her ability to coach the game. They wouldn't have hired her if she wasn't qualified, so to me it's got nothing to do with gender. She's been in the organization for eight seasons, and they know what she can do. She was with them last year!"

— Phoenix Mercury vice president Ann Meyers Drysdale

"That's pretty unbelievable, talk about opening opportunities for people down the line, for her to be able to do that, especially with the Spurs, a place where it's not easy to get in. (Spurs coach Gregg) Popovich has a tight crew up there. He's got a good one because Becky knows the game really well, she's a really avid worker, she's going to put everything into it. She's always going to be prepared, always going to be ready."

— Phoenix Mercury star Diana Taurasi

"On behalf of the WNBA, I want to congratulate Becky on today's announcement. Voted one of the WNBA's Top 15 Greatest Players, Becky is a true leader both on and off the court. Her great knowledge of and passion for the game will be an asset to the San Antonio Spurs when she assumes her role as an assistant coach following her retirement from the WNBA."

— WNBA President Laurel J. Richie

"The NBA does a really great job taking care of their people, and they're not afraid to think outside of the box. I'm really proud of them. I'm proud of the Spurs. I'm proud of Adam Silver. It's a great day for women, but it's a great day for the NBA and how they feel about their growth going forward."

— Basketball Hall of Famer Nancy Lieberman

"I know she'll do a great job for the Spurs, and I know the Spurs will be benefited by her presence. I'm just so happy and thrilled — I love seeing people I've been involved with have an opportunity in life to have these types of experiences. This one is unique. She's ready for it."

— San Antonio Stars coach Dan Hughes

"Congrats to @BeckyHammon for being the 1st female asst coach in the NBA! I love her for being progressive and recognizing Becky's talent!"

— Actress Eva Longoria, via Twitter

Quotes compiled by The Associated Press

Above: Becky Hammon, a 16-year WNBA veteran, will assist Spurs coach Gregg Popovich next season.

Chuck Myers/AP/MCT

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

McIlroy wary of tournament hype

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Golf stories about Rory McIlroy are a lot more flattering than those a year ago. And if he reads too much into them, they can be a lot more dangerous.

McIlroy lead from start to finish at Hoylake to win the British Open. Then, he overpowered Firestone at the weekend to win his first World Golf Championship. Now he is the overwhelming favorite at the PGA Championship. He is looked on in some corners as a sure winner. A label once reserved only for Tiger Woods.

"Sometimes I feel that people are too quick to jump to conclusions," McIlroy said Tuesday before heading out for his first look at Valhalla. "I've had a great run of golf and I've played well over the past few months. Look, I said at the start of the year that golf was looking for someone to put their hand up and sort of become one of the dominant players in the game. I felt like I had the ability to do that. And it's just nice to be able to win a few tournaments and get back to where I feel I should be."

He is No. 1 in the world again. He has three wins in his last seven starts. And with three legs of the career Grand Slam — only Woods and Jack Nicklaus were younger than the 25-year-old McIlroy when they achieved that — there was even talk about the start of a new era.

McIlroy wasn't buying.

"I'm just really happy with where my golf game is at the minute, and I just want to try and continue that for as long as possible," he said. "And people can say what they want to say. That's fine. But I can't read too much into it. ... Because if you read everything that was being written, I'd turn up at the first tee on Thursday thinking I'd already won the tournament."

After a bit of confusion, Woods arrived at Valhalla Wednesday.

The PGA of America sent out a release about noon Wednesday saying Woods was at the course. Then, officials said they weren't sure he had actually arrived.

Finally, about 1:15 p.m. EDT, Woods pulled into his reserved parking spot. He didn't seem to be in any pain as he got out of the car and changed shoes.

Woods is to tee off at 8:35 a.m. on Thursday with Phil Mickelson and Padraig Harrington.

Even if Woods can play, that won't take the focus from McIlroy.

McIlroy appears to be in full flight, just as he was in his record victory at Congressional in the 2011 U.S. Open, and just as he was when he won the PGA Championship by a record eight shots in 2012, and then added three more wins the rest of the year against strong fields.

Valhalla, where Woods won 14 years ago, would appear to be suited for him. Then again, just about any course is for a guy who hits it long and straight.

McIlroy said his work in gym



MARK DUNCAN/AP

Rory McIlroy, the No. 1 player in the world, celebrates after winning the Bridgestone Invitational golf tournament on Sunday at Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio.

has added about 7 pounds of muscle in recent months, and he is now the heaviest he has been. He also has shortened his swing, which would make him more accurate off the tee.

"He's such a great driver of the golf ball," Phil Mickelson said as he looked back on McIlroy's win at Firestone. "Even though the golf course was fairly tight and hitting

fairways is important, he kept hitting drivers and he kept putting the ball in play and he kept playing the course aggressively and making birdies, and he plays to his strength. He's just a very good talent. We've been waiting a year, year and a half now for it to turn. And it's really turned for him. And he's tough to beat."

Conquering: No slam dunk in strong field

FROM BACK PAGE

a major, 16 have been at the PGA Championship.

"How can I bloody put this?" Els said, searching for the right words to explain what makes the final major different from the other three. "When I get on the first tee at the PGA, I'm not as nervous as when I get on the first tee at the Masters, or the U.S. Open or The Open Championship. I think with the golf course in mind, mentally you know you can score. You can go on scoring runs. The other majors, you're trying to place yourself. You're trying to see where your game is or see what the golf course is taking."

"At the PGA, you've got to have an aggressive mindset," he said. "And with the players that strong in the field, you know you have to go low."

The question is how his bodes for someone like Woods, who is trying to salvage a lost season, and for Rory McIlroy, who is on the verge of a special season.

In soft, benign conditions at Congressional, three years ago, McIlroy set the 72-hole scoring record at the U.S. Open and won by eight shots. In moderate wind and slightly soft conditions at Royal Liverpool last month, McIlroy went wire-to-wire for a comfortable victory in the British Open.

"I feel like I've got a lot of momentum," he said. "And I can carry that through to the end of the year, and hopefully ride that and play some really good golf, and some golf similar to what you saw at Hoylake."

Only six players — including

Woods — have won the final two majors of the year.

Woods would settle for any major at this point. It's tough enough that he has been stuck on 14 majors since winning the 2008 U.S. Open. These days, it's a chore just to play in the majors. He had back surgery on March 31, forcing him to miss the Masters and the U.S. Open.

Woods won the British Open the last time it was held at Royal Liverpool. This year, he finished 69th.

Now, he goes back to Valhalla, where he won the PGA Championship in 2000 at the height of his game. Woods made a 6-foot birdie putt on the final hole to force a playoff with Bob May, a putt that Woods still considers the biggest of his career. They finished 18- under 270, the lowest score to par in PGA history.

That it was May who challenged Woods that day speaks to how wide open the PGA Championship can be. May never won a PGA Tour event and was No. 111 in the world that week.



Woods

Five things to know

Picking a winner not so easy this year

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

Rory McIlroy didn't spend much time celebrating his wire-to-wire win at the British Open.

Then again, he didn't have a lot of time.

Just 18 days after the engraver etched his name into the silver claret jug, McIlroy tees off in final round of the year at the PGA Championship, which returns this year to Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville. The PGA Championship used to be known as "Glorious Last Shot" until it went away from that slogan.

Now, the PGA of America promotes the final major as having the strongest field in golf (every-one from the top 108 in the world qualified or was invited) with the richest purse (\$10 million, with \$1.8 million going to the winner).

Picking a winner is about as easy as throwing darts blindfolded. Keegan Bradley won in 2011 in the first major he ever played. Tiger Woods has won four times.

And perhaps the most famous PGA winner was John Daly, who was the ninth alternate in 1991 when he got into the field at Crooked Stick and introduced golf to his "grip it and rip it" style of play.

Here are five things to look for when the 2014 major championship season comes to a close:

1 Tiger's last chance: For his eighth straight year, Tiger Woods goes to the PGA Championship with his last chance to win a major. But there's even more at stake this year. Having missed three months because of a back injury and pulling out of the Bridgestone Invitational last week, he needs to make it through four rounds in top form at Valhalla to get into the FedEx Cup playoffs, and possibly to persuade Ryder Cup captain Tom Watson that he can contribute to the American cause.

2 Rory on the rise: Rory McIlroy looked lost for so much of the year until two big weeks in England.

First, he won the BMW PGA Championship at Wentworth in late May, the same week that he announced he had broken off his engagement with Caroline Wozniacki. Then, the 25-year-old from Northern Ireland led from start to finish at Royal Liverpool to win The Open. McIlroy hopes this is the start of another big run.

3 Valhalla theater: Valhalla is designed by Jack Nicklaus and it is owned by the PGA of America, which explains why it is getting its third major event. It has not lacked for drama. At the 1996 PGA Championship, Kentucky native Kenny Perry looked to be the winner and was in the broadcast booth when Mark Brooks caught him and forced a playoff. Brooks won in sudden-death, raising questions whether Perry should have been on the range instead of a TV tower. Woods and May put on such an incredible show that May was tied for the lead, shot 31 on the back nine and still ended up losing.

4 Ryder Cup: Every two years, there are two tournaments in one at the PGA Championship. This is the final event for Americans to qualify for the Ryder Cup, with the top nine in the standings earning a spot on the team. It will go to the 10th spot now that Dustin Johnson is out for the rest of the season. The focus shifts to Phil Mickelson, who was No. 11. Mickelson already holds the U.S. record by playing on nine straight teams, and he has qualified for every one of them.

5 European success: Europe had gone 78 years without winning the PGA Championship until Padraig Harrington of Ireland won at Oakland Hills in 2008. That was the start of Europeans winning three of the last six times. But there's even more at stake at Valhalla. Martin Kaymer of Germany won the U.S. Open. McIlroy won the British Open. Europe has never had three players win majors in the same year.

MLB

Dodgers top Angels on play at the plate

Did you know

Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw didn't get a victory for only the second time in his 12 starts, dating back to May.



By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Even on a night when Clayton Kershaw looked positively human, the Los Angeles Dodgers concocted a way to win.

Juan Uribe scored on David Freese's errant throw to the plate in the ninth inning, and the Dodgers evened the Freeway Series with a 5-4 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Tuesday.

Kershaw recovered from a rocky start to pitch seven innings of seven-hit ball, but he gave up three early runs to the Angels' resourceful lineup. The two-time Cy Young winner didn't get a win for just the second time in

12 starts since May.

"It was a struggle at first, (and) I really don't know why," Kershaw said. "I was just missing. They're a great team, and they're going to hit mistakes. And sometimes they're going to hit pitches that aren't mistakes."

Kershaw still left with a chance for his major-league-leading 14th victory until Albert Pujols drove a tying homer into the left-field bullpen against Brian Wilson in the eighth.

Uribe hit an early three-run homer for the NL-leading Dodgers. He then singled against Kevin Jepsen (0-1) and eventually scored from third on Andre Ethier's grounder off a low curveball.

"It's all about putting a good, quality swing on the ball," Ethier said.

Freese was charged with his second throwing error of the night when Chris Iannetta couldn't hang on to the ball for the Angels (67-45), who dropped two games behind Oakland in the AL West.

"The ball just didn't have enough pace on it for David to get it and make a throw in one motion," Angels manager Mike Scioscia said. "On the defensive end, we hurt ourselves. Against a good club, we've got to play a clean game, especially against a guy like Clayton Kershaw."

Pujols and Iannetta had RBI doubles for the Angels, who made three errors and got just one hit after the third inning.

Hector Santiago yielded five hits and three walks while pitching into the sixth.

SOURCE: The Associated Press



MONEY GASH/AP

Brewers right fielder Gerardo Parra makes a falling catch on a ball hit by San Francisco's Brandon Crawford during the eighth inning of Tuesday's game in Milwaukee. The game ended when a call on the field was overturned by instant replay.

Hammel, Athletics blank Rays

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ
The Associated Press

OKLAND, Calif. — Jason Hammel walked off the mound in the sixth inning to a standing ovation from the announced crowd of 16,335 at the Coliseum. He saluted the fans with his right hand, looking more relieved than happy.

Maybe for good reason.

Hammel snapped a four-start losing streak since being traded to Oakland and led the Athletics past the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Tuesday night.

"Felt awesome," Hammel said. "I wanted to come in and make an immediate impact. It didn't work out that way. But it goes to show you how good of baseball fans we have here."

Hammel (1-4) allowed seven hits and four walks in 5½ innings. He entered the game with a 9.53 ERA since the A's acquired him and Jeff Samardzija from the Chicago Cubs on July 4.

The right-hander said he worked in more breaking balls to keep hitters guessing.

"It's a lot harder to hit when you're thinking of four different pitches instead of two," he said.

Coco Crisp, starting for the first time since July 26, singled home a run in the fifth, and Nate Freiman hit an RBI double during a two-run sixth to spoil Drew Smyly's debut with Tampa Bay. Smyly (6-10) gave up all three runs, seven hits and two walks, including one intentional, in 5½ innings.

The left-hander was traded from Detroit last week in the three-team deal that sent ace David Price to the Tigers.

"I fought pretty good," Smyly said. "My pitch count got up there. I had a couple of deep counts. I missed my pitch against Freiman. Other than that, I thought I pitched well."

Tampa Bay has lost three straight and five of six after an 11-1 stretch.

The Rays never could crack Hammel, who pitched for Tampa Bay from 2006-08, or any of the pitchers the major-league leading A's threw their way. Three relievers tossed scoreless ball before Sean Doolittle pitched a perfect ninth on his 17th save in 20 tries to preserve Hammel's win. "That might be just what we needed," Doolittle said, "to get on a roll."

Brewers use replay to beat Giants

By JIM HOEHN
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Brewers manager Ron Roenicke is a much bigger fan of video replay than his San Francisco counterpart Bruce Bochy — at least for one night.

Gerardo Parra snapped a tie with a home run in the seventh — his first hit since being acquired by the Brewers — and Milwaukee recorded the final out of its 4-3 victory Tuesday night against the San Francisco Giants when a replay review overturned a safe call at first base.

With two outs in the ninth, Brewers closer Frankie Rodriguez walked Hunter Pence. Joe Panik then bounced to second baseman Rickie Weeks, who was shielded on the play by Pence before making the throw to first. Roenicke challenged the safe call by first base umpire Hal Gibson, which was overturned after a review of

about 3 minutes, 17 seconds.

"I thought he was definitely out but with replay, you can't see everything clearly, you don't make the call," Roenicke said. "They got the call right; he was out."

Bochy saw the same play, but obviously had a different opinion of the overturned call.

"I didn't think they were going to overturn it," Bochy said. "I just don't see how it got overturned. It was so close. You always hear the word 'conclusive.' But they did, and that is the game."

The victory preserved the Brewers' one-game lead in the NL Central Division over St. Louis, which rallied past Boston 3-2. Pittsburgh fell 2½ games back after losing to Miami, 6-3.

Parra, acquired at the trade deadline from Arizona, homered with two outs off reliever Jean Machi (6-1). He also made a sensational sliding catch in the eighth in-

ning in foul territory on Brandon Crawford's opposite-field slicing fly ball with runners on first and second for the second out.

"It was certainly important on both ends," Roenicke said. "The defense, we know, he's a good-glover, what kind of arm he has. We know he has range out there. He's shown he has a good feel for where he is in the field."

Rookie Jimmy Nelson (2-2) allowed three runs on six hits in seven innings for Milwaukee. Rodriguez pitched the ninth for his 33rd save.

The Giants erased a 3-0 deficit on Pablo Sandoval's three-run homer off Nelson in the sixth.

"Pablo really delivered for us," Bochy said. "You'd like to win a game when you make a nice comeback like that. We are in August, they are not do-or-die games but they are really, really important."

NFL

Bengals' offense wants hard edge

Cincinnati seeks improved rushing attack; new coordinator focuses on being physical

By Joe Kay

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Pro Bowl linebacker Vontaze Burfict has felt a difference in the Bengals offense during training camp: It's leaving a mark.

Intent on running the ball a lot more, Cincinnati has been trying to hone more of an edge to its offense. First-year coordinator Hue Jackson wants it to take the field with an attitude.

Burfict has noticed. "They're more physical," Burfict said. "I'm a little more sore this year."

That's what Jackson is hoping that everyone feels.

The Bengals have made it to the playoffs each of the past three seasons on the strength of their defense, which has finished in top seven in the league each of those years. Cincinnati ranked No. 3 overall in yards allowed last season.

The offense has improved in each of quarterback Andy Dalton's first three seasons, moving up from No. 22 to No. 10 last season. But most of that is linked to the passing game, which gained more prominence as Dalton matured.

Offensive coordinator Jay

Gruden got the head coaching job in Washington after the season. Jackson was promoted to coordinator and made it clear the Bengals would run the ball more — they've finished 19th, 18th and 18th in rushing the past three seasons.

He's been trying to foster a hard-edged attitude on an offense known more for A.J. Green's acrobatic catches.

"Running the ball is the dirty part of the game," Jackson said after practice on Tuesday. "It's not the pretty part. Throwing the ball is the pretty part. So sometimes guys have got to like it rough and our linemen have got to like it that way and the backs like it that way or you can never have that kind of an identity."

And what exactly is that identity?

"Being very aggressive," Jackson said.

So far, they've done that. There have been several showing matches during training camp, and no backing down.

"I feel like they feed off of us," Burfict said. "We bring a little bit of feistiness, and I can tell that they're bringing it as well. It's a good competition. If I compete at a certain level, the guy in front of



AL BENHMAN/AP

Bengals running back Giovani Bernard, left, runs the ball against free safety Taylor Mays during practice at the team's training camp on Friday in Cincinnati. Bernard is the feature back in an offense that is determined the run the ball more and more effectively to take pressure off QB Andy Dalton.

me going is going to do the same thing.

"Hue gives them a lot of confidence. Hue has a little (loud) mouth. He even has Andy talking a little bit now. He's rubbing off on them."

Dalton got a six-year contract extension on Monday that shows the team's commitment to him as a leader. Dalton has gotten the Bengals to the playoffs in each of his first three seasons, only to have

some of his worst games while going 0-3 in the postseason.

Jackson thinks that a reliable running game will take some of the pressure off Dalton this season. And Dalton is taking on a more vocal leadership role as part of the offense's evolution.

"The intangibles, the leadership, how you get other guys to respond to you — it's all part of it," Dalton said. "My goal and my job here is to get 10 other guys on

the offense to play better around me and to play to their best potential."

Notes: The Bengals open their preseason on Thursday at Kansas City. Coach Marvin Lewis said on Tuesday that offensive tackles Andrew Whitworth and Andrew Smith, tight end Jermaine Gresham and receiver Marvin Jones are among those who won't play. All were limited by injury early in camp, setting them back.

Browns put gloves on DBs for hands-off approach

By Tom Withers

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The Browns are ready to rumble.

To prepare for the NFL's crackdown on defensive holding this season, the team is making its cornerbacks and safeties wear boxing gloves during training camp practices. The smaller, mittenlike gloves are meant to deter players from latching onto jerseys of wide receivers.

“They want to make sure we can’t grab or put our hands on a receiver.”

Joe Haden
Browns CB

an allowable tactic in the past but one that will draw a penalty flag now.

When he first saw the padded gloves, Browns Pro Bowl cornerback Joe Haden didn't know what to think.

"I came out and we had boxing gloves on," Haden said. "It was crazy."

Not long after putting them on, Haden was beaten on a long pass by wide receiver Travis Benjamin, who came back on his route to haul in a throw from rookie quarterback Johnny Manziel. Haden tried to get his hand on the ball, but the glove didn't allow him to tip it away. Haden, though, understands the cross-sport technology.

"With the way they're calling the game so tight now, they want to make sure we



TONY DEJAN/AP

Browns cornerback Justin Gilbert, left, defends against wide receiver Miles Austin during training camp on Tuesday in Berea, Ohio. Gilbert and the other defensive backs are wearing small gloves to keep him from grabbing jerseys of wide receivers.

can't grab or put our hands on a receiver," he said.

Browns coach Mike Pettine hopes the gloves can help restrain defensive backs from clutching and snatching anything they get their hands on.

"You've got to get guys out of that habit," he said. "It's more the mentality that they know they have to be able to cover more with an open palm than grabbing and restricting, especially if the rule is going to

be called as tightly as we're told it is."

During a scrimmage in Akron on Saturday, nickel back Buster Skrine and safety Johnson Bademosi were both penalized for holding. As tight end Gary Barnidge came out of a break on a pass route, Bademosi grabbed a handful of his jersey and got busted. Skrine, too, was too hands-on during coverage and was flagged by the officials.

Those infractions, and a warning issued

by the league at the start of camp, caused the Browns to, well, think outside the box and break out the gloves.

One of the Browns doesn't think the gloves are useful.

"Not for me," rookie Justin Gilbert said.

"I haven't gotten any holding calls. We have a couple of guys that have a couple of holding calls. So that means everybody's got to wear the gloves."

Gilbert said he drew "a couple" of holding calls at Oklahoma State, but he questioned whether he was guilty of any violation.

"They weren't really penalties, but flags were thrown," he said. "But that's not a part of my game. I don't grab and hold. I just play technique and use my athletic ability to make plays."

While he's not thrilled about the boxing gloves, Gilbert was excited to meet Hall of Famer Deion Sanders, who stopped by camp on Monday. Gilbert said he's long admired "Prime Time," who warned him that opposing teams will pick on him.

"He told me that they were going to be coming at me with Joe Haden being on the other side," the first-round pick said. "I told him I was ready. He was like, 'You know it's coming.' I know it's coming, so that's something I've got to be prepared for."

Gilbert has made strides during camp, but he's yet to lock up a starting job. He's listed behind Skrine on Cleveland's first depth chart, but Gilbert wants to change that.

"The season hasn't started yet," he said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL/SPORTS BRIEFS



APRIL L. BROWN/AP

Defensive end Trey Flowers is returning to Arkansas after receiving a third-round NFL Draft grade after last season. 'I was already leaning more on staying because of the season we had and wanting to help us win, but it was tough,' Flowers said.

Flowers' return boosts Arkansas

By Kurt Voigt
The Associated Press

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Trey Flowers chose Arkansas when he was in high school because he wanted the chance to win a national championship.

The Razorbacks' defensive end chose to return for his senior season because he wasn't ready to leave a program that had fallen so far from those championship expectations.

Little went as Arkansas had hoped during last year's winless march through the Southeastern Conference under first-year coach Bret Biellema. The coach got a much-needed boost following the 3-9 season when Flowers announced he was returning after receiving a projected third-round draft grade from the NFL.

The 6-foot-4, 268-pound Flowers had 13½ tackles for losses last season as a junior, and was expected to leave — especially after a tumultuous last two seasons in the wake of the Bobby Petrino scandal.

Arkansas went 11-2 and won the Cotton Bowl during Flowers' freshman season in 2011, but last year's collapse brought the school's two-year record to 7-17. Despite the struggles, Flowers' belief in his teammates and Biellema was enough for him to return for his final season.

"Knowing just a few years ago where we were and how close we were," Flowers said. "On the outside, they see last year's scores, but we see the work and know the belief is there again."

Whether Arkansas, which was picked last in the SEC West, can improve enough this season to reach a bowl game for the

first time since 2011 is anyone's guess.

Regardless, Biellema said Flowers' decision to return will have long-term benefits for a coaching staff still looking for its first SEC win — and the credibility that goes with it.

"What Trey did is he gave us a ringing endorsement as coaches because he's been through a lot," Biellema said.

To help Flowers with his decision, Biellema and Razorbacks strength coach Ben Herbert flew to Flowers' home in Alabama following last season.

The coaches desperately wanted their standout defensive end to return, but they also wanted to present Flowers with all the pros and cons regarding leaving for the NFL. They talked about Flowers' projected improvement as a senior, but Biellema also said he would recommend agents if he decided to leave school.

In the end, Biellema's directness was enough to solidify Flowers' decision.

"I was already leaning more on staying because of the season we had and wanting to help us win, but it was tough," Flowers said. "The NFL was sort of tempting, but it came down to making a sacrifice by not taking the money now vs. taking the money later with the potential to earn more money later."

Arkansas allowed 30.8 points per game last season, a statistic it hopes to improve under new defensive coordinator Robb Smith.

The Razorbacks also added Rory Segrest to coach the defensive line, and the former Philadelphia Eagles assistant likes what he has seen so far from Flowers — who added 12 pounds during the offseason and is eager to improve on his career totals of 32 tackles for losses and 12 sacks.

"The thing about Trey is he's really focused right now," Segrest said. "The biggest thing is just his determination on where he's wanting to go, and what he's trying to do to get there."

Briefly

Hoyer back with starters; Manziel remains No. 2

The Associated Press

BEREA, Ohio — The first depth chart didn't reveal anything new about Cleveland's quarterback order:

Brian Hoyer is first. Johnny Manziel is second. A day after Manziel took snaps with the Browns' starting offense for the first time, Hoyer was back behind center with Cleveland's first-team unit during 11-on-11 drills Tuesday. With their competition seemingly tighter than at the start of training camp, Hoyer and Manziel had their best days of practice and Cleveland's offense finally clicked.

"I thought there was some good competition out there," coach Mike Pettine said. "I was glad that the guys responded the way they did."

Pettine had cautioned not to read too deeply into Manziel's one-day promotion, saying it was part of the plan for Cleveland's coaching staff to evaluate the two quarterbacks. And sure enough, Hoyer was right where he's been since the Browns opened camp — ahead of Manziel.

Pettine did not reveal who will start the Browns' preseason opener in Detroit on Saturday. Pettine said he'll meet with the position group before deciding how the plays will be divided. On Monday, Pettine said it was likely that Hoyer will start against the Lions.

Manziel, the wildly popular first-round pick, appeared to close the gap on Hoyer following a solid performance in a scrimmage last weekend in Akron. But Hoyer seems to have responded in the past two days, making quick decisions and accurate throws as he tries to hold off the Heisman Trophy winner with the cult-like fan base.



TONY DEAN/AP

Browns quarterback Brian Hoyer passes during practice on Tuesday in Berea, Ohio. Hoyer directed the first-team offense and rookie Johnny Manziel ran with the second team one day after taking snaps with the starters.

Bears suspend, fine TE Bennett

BOURBONNAIS, Ill. — Tight end Martellus Bennett has been suspended indefinitely by the Bears after an altercation in practice the day before.

General manager Phil Emery says the team "made a decision to fine and suspend Martellus Bennett for an undetermined length of time," though he wouldn't specify the amount of the fine.

On Monday, Bennett was taken to the ground with a grab to the shoulder by rookie cornerback Kyle Fuller. The play occurred during a full-pad scrimmage when players are not supposed to be taken to the ground. Bennett responded by getting up, grabbing the first-round draft pick and slamming him to the ground.

Emery wouldn't go into specifics about why the decision was made, saying only, "He was suspended for conduct detrimental to the team."

Neither Emery nor coach Marc Trestman would characterize it as making an example of Bennett, who has been involved in several practice scrapes this training camp, and a few last year, as well.

"I play hard, go hard every single day," Bennett said Monday after practice. "I'm probably one of the most violent people on the field. That's just my style of play. That's how I play. I'm going to continue to play the way I play. That's what I'm here for."

In other NFL news: ■ Running back Knowshon Moreno has been activated by the Miami Dolphins after recovering from a left knee injury that forced him to miss the first 12 days of training camp.

Moreno came off the physically unable to perform list before Wednesday's practice and joined the competition for a starting job.

DE Fields still barred from TCU

PORT WORTH, Texas — TCU officials say defensive end Devonte Fields remains "separated" from the university, meaning the preseason Big 12 defensive player of the year is still barred from campus and all school activities.

Fields last month surrendered to authorities on a

misdeemeanor assault warrant amid allegations that he threatened his ex-girlfriend and punched her.

The university released a statement Tuesday night after several reports that Fields posted on his protected Twitter account that he was meeting with university officials. The school didn't publicly acknowledge any meeting, and only said the student-athlete's status was unchanged.

The Fort Worth Star-Telegram, citing an unnamed TCU official, reported later Tuesday night that Fields "unlikely will be allowed" to rejoin the Horned Frogs.

Neymar returns to training

BARCELONA, Spain — Barcelona says Brazil striker Neymar has returned to training after passing a medical exam as he continues his recovery from a fractured vertebra.

The Brazilian striker trained away from his teammates on Tuesday after being examined by team doctors.

Barcelona also welcomed back Argentine forward Lionel Messi on Tuesday after a standard medical exam as he begins his preseason preparations ahead of the start of the season.

The Catalan club hosts Elche on Aug. 24 in the opening match of the Spanish league season.

Miller, Jones excited to rejoin LeBron

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio — Mike Miller and James Jones came to Cleveland to help LeBron James win an NBA title. They hope Ray Allen joins them.

Miller and Jones were introduced Wednesday by the Cavaliers, who remain interested in signing Allen, the most prolific three-point shooter in league history.

SPORTS

Historic hiring
NBA champion Spurs hire first female
assistant in Hammon | **Page 25**

**Facts and figures**

- **Event:** 96th PGA Championship.
- **Dates:** Aug. 7-10.
- **Site:** Valhalla Golf Club, Louisville, Ky.
- **TV:** All rounds on AFN-Sports. First round, 7 p.m. Thursday Central European Time, 2 a.m. Friday Japan and Korea Time; Second round, 7 p.m. Friday CET; 2 a.m. Saturday JKT; Third round, 8 p.m. Saturday CET, 3 a.m. Sunday JKT; Fourth round, 8 p.m. Sunday CET, 4 a.m. Monday JKT.
- **Length:** 7,458 yards. Par: 35-36-71.
- **Field:** 156 players (136 tour pros, 20 club pros).
- **Prize money:** \$10 million. Winner's share: \$1.8 million.
- **Defending champion:** Jason Dufner.
- **Last year:** Dufner, who lost a four-shot lead with four holes to play in the 2011 PGA Championship, atoned for that collapse by closing with a 68 for a two-shot victory over Jim Furyk. Dufner all but clinched it with a wedge into 2 feet for birdie on the 16th hole. Dufner and Furyk each made bogey on the last two holes. Dufner became the sixth player to win a major with a 63, which he shot in the second round.
- **Last time at Valhalla:** Tiger Woods won his third straight major of 2000, making a 6-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole, then beat Bob May in a playoff.
- **Last big event at Valhalla:** The Americans won the Ryder Cup, 16½-11½, in 2008. Woods did not play that year.
- **Ryder Cup:** This is the final qualifying event for Americans to earn nine spots on the Ryder Cup team. Points will count double.
- **Tracking Tiger:** Woods has not scored better than 70 on the weekend of a major since a 67 in the final round of 2011 Masters.

— The Associated Press

Conquering Valhalla

PGA a final test against the tour's strongest field

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

The PGA Championship might be the hardest to win of the four majors, even if it seems to play the easiest.

Tiger Woods and Vijay Singh are the only multiple winners of the PGA Championship over the past 15 years, a testament to a major where every player — except for the 20 club pros — believe they have a realistic chance of hoisting the Wanamaker Trophy.

Since the world ranking began in 1986, no other major has produced more champions outside the top 100 — John Daly, Shaun Michael, Y.E. Yang and Keegan Bradley.

What makes it hard to win is the strength of the field. Everyone from the top 108 in the world rank-

ing was scheduled to play at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. Even with Dustin Johnson (No. 16) taking a leave of absence, no other tournament is loaded with so many great players.

That's what led Ernie Els to describe the field as a "PGA Tour event on steroids."

So why are the scores so low? Being played in the heat of the summer means more thunderstorms, or temperatures so hot that officials have to put more water on the course to keep the grass alive. Either way, it often leads to softer conditions and better scores.

The lowest 72-hole score in any major (265 strokes) was posted by David Tomms when he won the PGA in 2001 at Atlanta Athletic Club.

Of the 26 times that players have shot all four rounds in the 60s at

SEE CONQUERING ON PAGE 26



Adam Scott hits to the 13th green during a practice round Tuesday in Louisville, Ky. The tournament is set to begin on Thursday.
DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Inside:

- Five things you should know, Page 26
- McIlroy wary of the hype, Page 26



Price gets no decision in Tigers debut
MLB, Page 27



Bengals' offense wants hard edge
NFL, Page 30

