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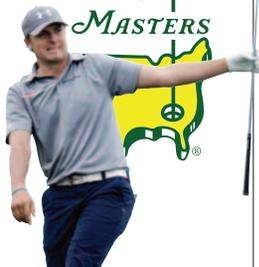
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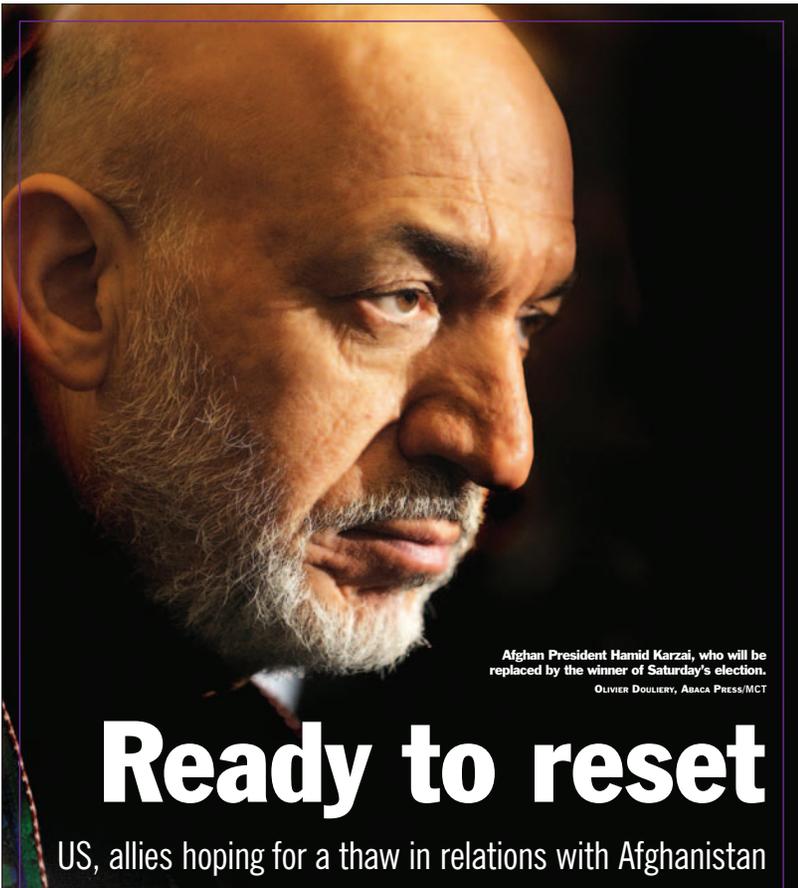
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Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who will be replaced by the winner of Saturday's election.

OLIVIER DOULIERY, AP/ACA PRESS/MCT

Ready to reset

US, allies hoping for a thaw in relations with Afghanistan

By HEATH DRUZIN AND JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

With all of the questions surrounding the outcome of the Afghan presidential election, the U.S. and its allies are taking comfort in one certainty: The country's next leader will not be Hamid Karzai.

For the past year or so, the relationship between Washington and Kabul has been on a relentless downward spiral of accusations and complaints, culminating in Karzai's refusal to sign a bilateral security agreement with the U.S. that is crucial for a small international military force to remain in the country past the end of the year for a training, assistance and counterterrorism mission.

Karzai, Washington's hand-picked choice to lead Afghanistan after the 2001 invasion ousted the Taliban, bristled at what he saw as U.S. violations of Afghan sovereignty. American officials became increasingly exasperated with his public statements portraying the international military force in the country as reckless and ineffective.

Adding a recent personal bent to the animosity was a Washington Post report that Karzai has a list of terrorist attacks he suspects were carried out by the U.S., including a massacre at a Lebanese restaurant in Kabul that left more than 21 people dead, among them three Americans.

The change in Afghan leadership won't remove all the problems facing Afghanistan — poverty, ethnic divisions, raging insurgency and a shattered state.

However, an election hailed both in Afghanistan and abroad for its high turnout and a relatively low level of violence offers hope that the relationship between Afghanistan and its international backers can be healed.

"It's just become a very emotional relationship," said Scott Smith, director for Afghanistan and Central Asia Programs at the U.S. Institute for Peace. "Having a new president come in with the wind of legitimacy at his back and be able to start discussing things from a fresh agenda will be immensely helpful."

SEE RESET ON PAGE 2

**Ballot
in the
balance**



QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“Twenty years ago today, our country fell into deep ditches of darkness. Twenty years later, today, we are a country united and a nation elevated.”

— Rwanda Minister of Foreign Affairs Louise Mushikiwabo, at an event marking the 20th anniversary of the beginning of a devastating 100-day campaign of genocide

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TOP CLICKS
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The most popular stories on our website:

1. Hollywood star and WWII veteran Mickey Rooney dies at age 93
2. Aviano airman dies while hiking
3. Married couples separated by German language test
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MIDEAST

Roadside bomb kills 15 in Afghanistan

By **MIRWAIS KHAN**
The Associated Press

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — A roadside bomb killed at least 15 people traveling in vehicles that had been diverted from a main road Monday after an earlier attack in southern Afghanistan, officials said.

The blast came after a relatively calm weekend in which no major attacks were reported as Afghans voted for a new president and provincial councils.

The Taliban had threatened violence to disrupt Saturday's vote and staged a series of high-profile assaults in the preceding weeks. Security forces tightened their grip and only sporadic attacks took place.

The two SUVs carrying the civilians hit the hidden explosives on a side road that was being used because authorities blocked the

main road following a suicide bombing targeting a NATO convoy in Kandahar province, the local government spokesman said.

Those killed included a woman, and four other people were severely wounded and in critical condition, according to Dawkhan Menapal, spokesman for the provincial governor. All the passengers were from Uruzgan province, north of Kandahar, and apparently were traveling home when the blast occurred in the Maywand district.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the earlier attack on Monday but blamed international forces for the roadside bombing, saying the foreign forces were trying to hurt the reputation of the Islamic militant movement by making it look like the Taliban were killing civilians.

The suicide bomber was in a minivan when he detonated his explosives in front of the

NATO convoy in the same district. Menapal said no serious casualties have been reported in that attack. The international alliance said it was aware of an incident in Kandahar but has not provided any details.

Electoral officials, meanwhile, remained largely mum about results from Saturday's historic vote, in which millions of people lined up in the rain, defying fears of violence to cast their ballots. President Hamid Karzai was constitutionally barred from a third term, and excitement was palpable as Afghans voted in what promises to be the country's first democratic transition of power.

Some candidate forecasts and partial results are expected in the coming days. Noor Mohammad Noor, a spokesman for the Independent Election Commission, said preliminary results were due April 24 and final results will be announced May 14.

Reset: US expects 'robust' ties with next Afghan leader

FROM FRONT PAGE

In the short term, at least, there are hopeful signs of a thaw when a new administration comes in, though who the next president will be is unlikely to be known for weeks, or even months. All of the major candidates who ran in Saturday's presidential election have said signing the security agreement will be a priority and they have championed improved relations with the West as a key foreign policy goal.

Abdullah Abdullah, who finished second to Karzai in 2009's fraud-riddled election and is a leading candidate in this year's presidential race, said he wants to quell the ill feelings that have built up under the Karzai regime.

"I think (the relationship with the West) will be back on the right footing," he said. "In the past few years, we have missed some opportunities because of hiccups." Zalmay Rassoul, seen as Karzai's favored candidate, has shied away from direct criticism of the Afghan president, but has pledged to have a positive relationship with Washington.

"We believe the United States is a strategic friend and partner for Afghanistan," said Rassoul's spokesman, Javed Faisal.

Noting that all the leading candidates had pledged to sign the security agreement, Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla., said it was in the best interests of the U.S. "to

help ensure the next leader has a smooth transition into office.

"I expect the United States will have a robust relationship with the post-Karzai administration elected by the Afghan people, and this relationship will help ensure a secure Afghanistan and a stable region."

Diplomats and elected officials were cautious about appearing critical so soon after what many see as a successful Afghan election, but the relationship between Karzai and the United States has boiled over into public animosity in the past.

In a December letter to President Barack Obama highlighting the importance of the bilateral security agreement, Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, urged Obama to look past Karzai.

"The next Afghan president, whoever he is, is also likely to be more reliable than President Karzai, and there would be greater confidence in his sticking with an agreement he has signed," Levin wrote.

In response to a Stars and Stripes query, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan James Cunningham released a statement saying that a successful transfer of power from Karzai to the next president and the signing of the security agreement would pave the way for a positive relationship

between Washington and Kabul.

"With those two things accomplished, we will look forward to working with the next president and to continued cooperation in building a stronger, more peaceful and stable Afghanistan," he said.

Other military partners in Afghanistan, too, are looking forward to working with the next Afghan administration.

British Ambassador to Afghanistan Sir Richard Stagg said the United Kingdom remains committed to Afghanistan no matter what, but that cooperation will be easiest if Afghanistan's new president works closely with international backers.

"We look forward to working with whoever the Afghan people elect as their new president," he said in an emailed statement in response to Stars and Stripes' questions. "We are determined to keep working with Afghanistan, and build on our close cooperation, for many years to come. The more the new president wants to work with the international community, the more we can do to support Afghanistan's future."

When the sheen of the election wears off, the U.S. and its partners will find themselves with a new president, but all of the same, deep problems they faced while working with Karzai.

Anthony Cordesman, a security analyst at the Center for Stra-

tegic and International Studies in Washington, who frequently acts as a consultant for the Department of Defense, is critical of what he sees as lack of planning for the post-combat mission the U.S. is hoping to lead starting next year.

"No one knows what that timeline is and no one has a plan," he said. "It's also a fact of life that, despite the constant positive spin that comes out of people (about Afghanistan), you don't have a meaningful improvement in any of the security ratings or in any of the economic areas."

How well the next administration tackles those problems will be key to the legacy of a controversial war of which Obama has taken ownership. More than 2,300 U.S. troops have died in the conflict, which has spanned more than 12 years and, according to one study from the Center for Strategic and International Studies, has cost American taxpayers more than \$640 billion.

What originally began as a military effort to oust al-Qaida and its Taliban hosts following the 9/11 attacks has morphed into the most expensive aid mission in U.S. history amid a deeply unpopular war.

Stars and Stripes reporter Chris Carroll contributed to this report. druzin.heath@stripes.com Twitter: @drcarroll Stripes smith.josh@stripes.com Twitter: @josjonsmith

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

From left: 2nd Cavalry Regiment soldiers say a prayer upon returning home safely to Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany, on Monday after their nine-month deployment to Afghanistan. Family and friends welcome the troops. Capt. Riley Redus holds his son, Caleb John, for the first time.

To view all the photos of the returning 2nd Cavalry Regiment troops, go to: stripes.com/go/vilseck



2nd Cavalry Regiment returns to Germany

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

The bulk of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment returned home to Vilseck, Germany, on Monday after what will be the final deployment in Afghanistan for most of the soldiers.

During their nine-month tour

in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province, the Dragoons were separated into different security advisement teams that worked with Afghan National Army troops and local Afghan police to secure Saturday's presidential election. Regiment commander Col. Douglas Sims said the success of

that election — in which an estimated 7 million votes were cast across the country — was a testament to the impact his soldiers had on Afghanistan's future.

"There wasn't a single incident at a polling site in any of the Afghan polling sites in southern Afghanistan, and then unprec-

edented voting, an incredible turnout in the south," he said in a statement.

Sims cited the work of the Americans and Afghans in the months leading up to the election as one reason why there was relatively little violence in the region where the regiment provided guidance.

"It's not often a battalion, squadron or regiment gets a chance to see the fruits of its labor," Sims said. "But at the end of this nine months, we were able to see exactly that, with the Afghan elections on Saturday. Really, the culmination of a tremendous deployment."

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Construction to begin on 2ID HQ in S. Korea

By ARMANDO R. LIMON
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — The planned redistribution of U.S. troops in South Korea took a step forward Monday with groundbreaking for the new 2nd Infantry Division headquarters.

"This is a momentous occasion, especially for the many of you here who have been personally involved in developing and shaping the concept for the new 2ID HQ building," Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Vandal, 2nd Infantry Division commander, told officials from 2ID, U.S. Forces Korea and the South Korean military.

Vandal called it a step years in the making as 2ID begins the gradual transition from Camp Casey to Humphreys as most U.S. forces shift from north of Seoul to regional hub bases in the south.

The Humphreys expansion is key to the relocation project because so many troops — 17,000, according to military officials — will be stationed there as part of a larger plan to turn over to South Korea more of the security near the Demilitarized Zone. Delayed twice, U.S. and South Korean officials maintain that construction will be largely done by 2016.

"As our soldiers and families move to Camp Humphreys, 2ID will continue to engage and build an even closer relationship with the surrounding government officials and communities in southern Gyeonggi province and northern Chungcheongnam



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

Kim Hyoung Pil, POSCO E&C's vice president, gives a speech during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new division headquarters at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday.

province," Vandal said. A 2ID statement put the cost of the new Freeman Hall at almost \$39.8 million, with POSCO E&C serving as the contractor. Completion is scheduled for Feb. 10,

2016. The three-story building will include an operations center, network operations center, sensitive compartment information facility and 2ID parade grounds.

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Army's summer program in Europe revived

Stars and Stripes

The Civilian Human Resources Agency began accepting applications Monday for the Army Europe Youth Summer Hire Program, which was suspended last year because of the budget turmoil caused by sequestration.

The program, which provides unskilled jobs involving clerical, light labor and child care duties, is open to qualified family members of active-duty servicemembers and Defense Department civilian employees throughout Europe.

Applicant requirements vary by location. In most of Europe, U.S. citizen applicants must be at least 14 years old and younger than 23 for the duration of the program. Non-U.S. citizens in Germany and the Benelux countries must be at least 15 and younger than 23. Non-U.S. citizens are not eligible in Italy.

The application window for all areas except Hohenfels, Germany, is open now through May 16. Hohenfels will accept applications from May 5 through June 13. Applications must be submitted online, and applicants must turn in completed in-processing packets to their Civilian Personnel Advisory Center.

Employment through the program runs from June 30 through Aug. 9 in all parts of Europe except Hohenfels, where it goes from July 13 through Aug. 23.

For additional information and to apply online, go to <https://acpol2.army.mil/sh/staffing/summerhire/>.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

Hagel tours China's new aircraft carrier

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

BEIJING — The United States' campaign to encourage China to be more open about its military growth and intentions got a symbolic boost Monday with a tour for Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel of the country's first aircraft carrier.

Efforts to get the Asian giant to be more transparent about cyberattacks and other defense operations has been less successful.

Hagel got a rare tour of China's first aircraft carrier, becoming the first foreign visitor to go aboard the ship, according to Chinese leaders.

But in a speech planned for Tuesday, Hagel will point to cybersecurity as an area where the U.S. wants the Chinese to be more transparent, said a senior U.S. official, who was not authorized to talk publicly by name about the speech so spoke on condition of anonymity.

Hagel arrived in Beijing after a stop in Japan, where he told reporters that China must be more open about its military buildup and better respect its neighbors — a pointed allusion to Beijing's ongoing territorial dispute with Japan and others over remote islands in the East China Sea.

The official acknowledged that U.S. officials recently met with Chinese leaders and shared some broad information about America's fundamental cybersecurity policies and how the U.S. approaches the challenges in cyberspace.

The Chinese, however, have so far refused to reciprocate, and have rebuffed U.S. efforts to gain more clarity on China's cyberoperations.

U.S. intelligence and defense officials have long complained about persistent, aggressive cyberattacks against U.S. government agencies and private corporations that emanate from China.

Hagel, in unusually forceful remarks during his stop in Japan, drew a direct line between Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and the ongoing territorial disputes between China, Japan and others over remote islands in the East China Sea.

Calling China a great power, he added that "with this power comes new and wider responsibilities as to how you use that power,



ALEX WONG/AP

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, left, is welcomed by Rear Adm. Guan Youfei, director of the Foreign Affairs Office of the Chinese Defense Ministry, right, and Max Baucus, U.S. ambassador to China, upon his arrival at Qingdao Liuting International Airport in Qingdao, China, on Monday.

how you employ that military power."

Officials on Monday said the tour of China's aircraft carrier was a good first step.

"The secretary was very pleased with his visit today aboard the carrier Liaoning," Pentagon press secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby said. "He understands how significant it was for the [Chinese military] to grant his request for a tour, and he was impressed by the professionalism of the officers and crew.

"He hopes today's visit is a harbinger for

other opportunities to improve our military-to-military dialogue and transparency."

A senior official said Hagel and a small number of his staff spent about two hours on the ship at Yuchi Naval Base. Hagel received a briefing about the carrier, then toured its medical facilities, living quarters, flight deck, bridge and flight control station.

He also had refreshments with junior officers in the dining area.

Reporters and photographers were not

allowed to accompany Hagel on his tour.

China spent a decade refurbishing the derelict Soviet-era carrier bought from Ukraine before commissioning it as the Liaoning in 2012.

It moved to Qingdao in February 2013 and is part of a major expansion of the Chinese navy that includes sophisticated new surface ships and submarines.

The U.S. defense official said the ship is not as fast as a U.S. aircraft carrier and doesn't carry as many aircraft.

Navy surveying enlisted women about submarine force

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

Navy officials are trying to gauge enlisted women's interest in volunteering for the submarine force.

Responses to an anonymous online survey, open to active-duty and reserve Navy servicewomen, will be used by a 60-person Navy task force. Headed by Rear Adm. Kenneth Perry, commander, Submarine Group Two in Groton, Conn., it was formed last June to develop options for integrating enlisted women into the submarine force.

"We seek input from professional women sailors throughout our Navy, even if they aren't interested in serving aboard submarines," said Perry, a career submariner. "Responses to the survey questions will help shape future Navy policy and are key to

getting the integration right."

Task force spokesman Lt. Timothy Hawkins said the ability to attract, recruit and retain quality female sailors is essential to the success of integration, and that it will be a big challenge.

"The work to develop options for a comprehensive integration plan is a top priority for the submarine force," he said. "There are very capable women who have the motivation, talent and desire to succeed in the submarine force."

In 2011, the Navy began integrating women into the submarine force's officer ranks. Today, more than 40 women serve as engineers and supply officers aboard the fleet's Ohio-class ballistic missile.

Leaders from each service branch and U.S. Special Operations Command laid out road maps

last summer to begin moving female troops toward combat front lines. The process would proceed deliberately over the course of years and be accompanied by a host of studies.

Despite criticism, each service has had success stories following the defense secretary's rescission of the 1994 Direct Ground Combat Definition and Assignment rule last year.

The Marines have opened more than 20 artillery, tank and engineer battalions to female officers and placed senior enlisted women into previously closed jobs as mentors for female Marines who might be assigned there in the future. The Navy used a similar strategy in integrating women into the submarine force.

Additionally, the Corps said last month that it plans to stand up a yearlong, 460-person ex-

perimental task force comprising both male and female volunteers in primarily ground combat-arms specialties to train and operate out of Camp Lejeune, N.C., this summer.

The Army opened up 33,000 jobs to women in 132 military occupational specialties supporting direct ground combat units, including medic, Black Hawk pilot, geospatial engineer and paralegal specialist.

The Air Force, which has fewer than 5,000 positions closed to women in special operations, says it is moving toward allowing women in all of them. The only roadblock is the service must work in consultation with U.S. Special Operations Command and the Army because of joint operations. The Air Force expects full integration sometime in 2018.

In addition to allowing women

to fill jobs in the submarine force and researching the possibility of increasing those numbers, the Navy opened more than 250 coastal riverine force jobs for women last month.

Jennifer Hlad, CJ Lin and Chris Carroll contributed to this report.
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MILITARY

Fort Hood victims honored

By WILL WEISSEIT
The Associated Press

KILLEEN, Texas — The church program pictured an empty road being enveloped by the dark clouds of a sweeping thunderstorm, and the preacher's lesson was from Isaiah 35:4: "Be strong, fear not." The preacher implored those gathered Sunday that they would find hope in God, but also acknowledged the question on everyone's mind: Why Fort Hood — again?

What would have been a routine Sunday service at Tabernacle Baptist Church just outside the sprawling Texas military base became a tribute to the soldiers killed four days earlier when a fellow servicemember opened fire. It also offered some catharsis for the community struggling to comprehend Fort Hood's second fatal shooting rampage in less than five years.

Similar somber religious gatherings were held throughout the military town of Killeen, but there were more questions than answers.

"A lot of us, I think this morning, are asking the question, 'Why? Why would this happen? Why Fort Hood again? Why are these types of things allowed to happen?'" Pastor Robert Sperbeck told dozens gathered at Tabernacle, where 90 percent of the congregation is current or retired military personnel. "The devil is the author of what happened on Wednesday, but we do know the answer; we know there is hope."

Investigators say Spc. Ivan Lopez, an Army truck driver from Puerto Rico, had argued with soldiers in his unit moments before killing three people and wounding 16 others and then fatally shooting himself. Base officials have said Lopez, who saw no combat during a deployment to Iraq, was being treated for depression and anxiety while being assessed for post-traumatic stress disorder.

The shooting immediately revived memories of the November 2009 attack by Nidal Hassan, an Army psychiatrist who killed 13 and wounded more than 30 people at the base.

The White House said Sunday that President Barack Obama planned to attend an official memorial service Wednesday at Fort Hood.

In the surrounding town, the grieving has already begun. Residents have also held a march and a vigil, while Killeen's Central Christian Church erected a memorial with a trio of crosses honoring those killed and 16 flags for those wounded.

Sperbeck led the singing of "Amazing Grace," passed a collection plate for the shooting victims and read the names of the slain soldiers.

He said Sgt. Daniel Ferguson, 39, from Florida, "died a hero," noting that he was killed while holding a door shut to keep the shooter from entering a room and targeting more potential victims.

The pastor said Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez, 38, from Aguadilla, Puerto Rico, was a 20-year Army veteran who was just seven months from retire-

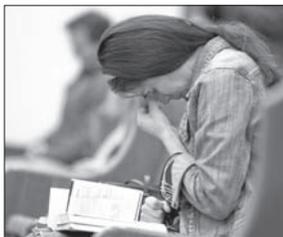
ment. Sgt. Timothy Owens, 37, of Effingham, Ill., "had planned to make a career serving in the military."

"Lord we pray for the military, for our fort where there are many that are without hope, that are in the midst of depression," Sperbeck said. "They need help, and we're here to help them."

As she listened, tears streamed

down the face of Kathy Abad, 31, whose military police officer husband was at Fort Hood at the time of the shooting but didn't witness the attack.

"My heart is shattered for all the families," Abad said afterward. "It hits home, feeling the loss of lives and mothers and entire families. Wounds have been reopened."



Kathy Abad prays during a memorial service for the victims of the Fort Hood, Texas, shooting at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Killeen, Texas, on Sunday. Abad's husband, Spc. Brian Beard, is a Fort Hood soldier.

JAY JANNER, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP



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NATION

Survey: Rate of health insurance gains increases

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A major new survey finds that a growing percentage of Americans gained health insurance as the initial sign-up season for President Barack Obama's health care law drew to a close last month.

Released Monday, the Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index measured the share of adults without health insurance. That shrank from 17.1 percent at the end of last year to 15.6 percent for the first three months of 2014.

The decline of 1.5 percentage points would translate roughly to more than 1.5 million people gaining coverage. The trend accelerated as the March 31 enrollment deadline loomed.

"The Affordable Care Act, commonly referred to as 'Obamacare,' appears to be accomplishing its goal of increasing the percentage of Americans with health insurance," said Gallup's analysis of the findings.

The survey is important because it combines the quick turnaround of media polls with extensive outreach usually seen

in government research. Gallup interviewed more than 43,500 adults, or more than 40 times the number in a typical national media poll.

Coming a week after the close of the health care law's first enrollment season, Gallup's numbers suggest a more modest impact on coverage than statistics cited by the Obama administration.

The administration says 7.1 million have signed up for subsidized private plans through new insurance markets, while 3 million previously uninsured people gained coverage through the law's Medicaid expansion.

Millions more remain potentially eligible for marketplace coverage under various extensions the administration has issued.

Results were based on telephone interviews conducted Jan. 2–March 31 with a random sample of 43,562 adults 18 and older living in all 50 states and Washington.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 1 percentage point at the 95 percent confidence level.

Researchers: Late flights up, airline complaints down

The Associated Press

DALLAS — Airlines are falling behind schedule more often and mishandling more bags, but customers aren't making a federal case out of it.

Academics who study the airline industry say that consumer complaints to the government dropped 15 percent last year after spiking in 2012. The researchers were to detail their conclusions in a report Monday. Among their findings:

■ **United Airlines** climbed out of last place in the rate of customer complaints.

■ **American Airlines** did better at staying on schedule last year than it did in 2012, when it accused pilots of a work slowdown.

■ **Most of the worst grades** — from late flights and lost bags to bumping passengers off planes — were earned by smaller regional airlines.

Researchers at Wichita State University and Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University compiled the report on airline quality from figures that the 15 largest airlines must report each month to the U.S. Department of Transportation. They graded the airlines on four categories:

■ **On-time performance.** Air-

lines operated 78.4 percent of their flights on time in 2013, down from 81.8 percent in 2012. Best: Hawaiian Airlines; worst: American Eagle.

■ **Bag handling.** The rate of lost, stolen or delayed bags rose 5 percent. Best: Virgin America; worst: American Eagle.

■ **Bumping.** The rate of bumping passengers from flights fell 8 percent. Best: JetBlue Airways; worst: SkyWest.

■ **Complaints.** Consumer complaints to the government in 2013 dropped 15 percent from 2012 after rising 20 percent the year before. Best: Southwest Airlines; worst: JetBlue.

One of the report's authors, Wichita State business professor Dean Headley, credited the drop in complaints partly to United Airlines. The company suffered computer-network outages and grounded hundreds of flights in 2012 when it combined the United and Continental computer networks after a merger, but "got their act together" in 2013, he said.

Headley said the drop in complaints might also reflect "a certain amount of resignation" that "it's never wonderful for airline passengers."



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Families of victims of General Motors safety defects in small cars hold photos of their loved ones as they gather April 1 on the lawn on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Families want GM prosecuted

By TOM KRISHER
AND PAUL WISEMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The families of those who died in General Motors cars with defective ignition switches want prosecutors to go after GM insiders responsible for letting the problems fester for more than a decade — and perhaps for covering them up.

"The only way the public is going to be protected from this negligence by companies is if there will ultimately be prison sentences," said Leo Ruddy, of Scranton, Pa., whose daughter, Kelly, 21, was killed in 2010 when her Chevrolet Cobalt veered inexplicably off the highway and crashed.

Family members attended hearings in Washington last week that stoked those sentiments. Lawmakers confronted GM CEO Mary Barra with what they said was evidence that in 2006, a company employee intentionally tried to conceal the switch problem. The head of the nation's auto safety watchdog said GM withheld critical information that connected the failing switch to air bags that didn't deploy in a crash.

"I don't see this as anything but criminal," said Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte, a former state prosecutor.

However, even if an employee or employees did conceal information, it's uncertain whether they would be charged with a crime. Legal experts say it's easier to prove wrongdoing by a corporation than by individuals. The internal documents that can be used to build a case against the company might be inadmissible as evidence against individuals. And it can be hard to prove that individuals knowingly made false statements.

The Justice Department didn't bring charges against any individuals last month when it closed a

years-long investigation of Toyota.

GM has acknowledged that in 2004 and 2005, engineers submitted proposals to fix the switches in Cobalts, Saturn Ions and other small cars, but the fixes were never implemented. GM says upper management became aware of the problem only last year. A recall of the small cars, now up to 2.6 million vehicles, began in February.

On Wednesday, Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill accused one GM employee of a cover-up. Ray DeGiorgio, the lead switch engineer on the Cobalt, said in a deposition last year for a law-

suit against GM that he never approved a change to the ignition switch. McCaskill produced a document from GM's switch supplier that showed DeGiorgio signed off on a replacement, but with the same part number. Failing to change a part number makes the part harder to track.

Appearing Sunday on ABC television's "This Week," McCaskill said, "There is no reason to keep the same part number unless you're trying to hide the fact that you've got a defective switch out there that in fact ended up killing a number of people on our highways."

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NATION

Face of gay marriage in Utah an unlikely pair

By BRADY McCOMBS
The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Derek Kitchen is a teenage runaway to grips with his sexual orientation when yard signs began popping up throughout his suburban Salt Lake City neighborhood in 2004 supporting an amendment to ban same-sex marriage.

Kitchen felt angry but feared he would be shunned if he spoke out to his Mormon family and classmates. Instead, he grabbed a marker and went around the neighborhood crossing out the “yes” on the “Yes on Amendment 3” signs and scribbling in “no.”

“It was my only way of expressing my opposition,” said Kitchen, who at 25 now laughs at the memory. “It felt like I was personally being attacked.”

The act of rebellion foreshadowed what lied ahead for Kitchen. A decade after Utah voters overwhelmingly passed that amendment, Kitchen and his partner, Moudi Sbeity, 26, are one of three gay and lesbian couples who are plaintiffs in a lawsuit against the state that led a federal judge to overturn the ban in December.

They will be among a Utah contingent of gay marriage supporters in Denver on Thursday for a hearing before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, which is mulling over whether to make gay marriage legal in Utah.

The couple have become the face of gay marriage and a major reason why more than 1,000 gay and lesbian couples were able to marry after the ruling and more may be able to legally tie the knot in the future.

During the past three months, Kitchen and Sbeity have become superstars in the gay marriage movement. They’ve given speeches at raucous rallies and have talked to high school classes. They’ve appeared in so many newspaper pictures and TV interviews that strangers come up to them and thank them for what they’ve done when they’re out selling their homemade hummus.

Their journey to this spot is an unlikely one.

Kitchen and Sbeity were both raised in conservative, religious families that shun gays: Sbeity in a Muslim family in Lebanon and Kitchen in a Utah family that belonged to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They each came out when they were 16 years old and had parents who at first struggled to accept the revelations.

“I was the only gay person that my friends knew and anybody in my family had never met,” Kitchen said. “They didn’t know how to react to me and I didn’t know how to handle it myself.”

Sbeity was raised in Lebanon, where, until this year, being caught having sex with someone of the same gender was punishable by up to one year in jail. As a gay teen, Sbeity was careful to hide his orientation to avoid being thrown into jail and because he feared his mother’s Muslim family would turn against her.

Sbeity came to Utah for college. While studying at Utah State Uni-

versity in Logan, he met Kitchen online. The two say they had an immediate spiritual connection.

They moved in together and started a business: making and selling homemade hummus. As the business grew, so did their bond. On their fourth anniversary, they got a domestic partnership certificate from Salt Lake

City and began dreaming of being able to marry legally.

Yet the couple had no plans to jump to the forefront of advocacy for gay marriage. That all changed when they met Mark Lawrence at a Utah Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce event in early 2013.

Lawrence was spearheading an effort to bring a lawsuit against

Utah and was looking for couples who would make strong plaintiffs. He asked Kitchen and Sbeity if they would join, but they said no. Kitchen was open to the idea, but Sbeity worried about how it might affect his parents in Lebanon.

Lawrence kept asking, and Kitchen chipped away at Sbeity. Finally, they agreed. Kitchen and

Sbeity knew they risked alienating customers and bringing a backlash on their families but decided the chance to bring meaningful change to a state where they intend to raise a family outweighed those concerns.

“I was thrilled,” Lawrence said. “They are perfect: They tell the story so well.”

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WORLD



PHOTOS BY BEN CURTIS/AP

Above: Crowds gather Monday to mark the 20th anniversary of the Rwandan genocide. Written in Kinyarwanda, the banner reads, "Remember 20." Right: A distraught Rwandan woman is carried away to receive help during the ceremony. She was one of dozens overcome by grief at recalling the devastation.



Rwanda marks 20 years since genocide

By JASON STRAZIUSO
AND KATHERINE SULLIVAN
The Associated Press

KIGALI, Rwanda — Sorrowful wails and uncontrollable sobs resounded Monday as thousands of Rwandans packed the country's main sports stadium to mark the 20th anniversary of the beginning of a devastating 100-day genocide.

President Paul Kagame and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon together lit a flame at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Centre, which estimates that 1,000,050 Rwandans perished in three months of machete and gunfire attacks by extremist Hutus who were mostly targeting the country's minority Tutsi population.

"Twenty years ago today, our country fell into deep ditches of darkness," said

Rwanda Minister of Foreign Affairs Louise Mushikiwabo. "Twenty years later, today, we are a country united and a nation elevated."

In the aftermath of the genocide, Rwandans felt alone, she said. But now, friends around the world have joined "to commemorate the rebirth of our nation."

Representatives from France, however, were absent after a spat with Kagame that began with him accusing France of participating in the execution of parts of the genocide violence. In an apparent jab at Paris, Mushikiwabo welcomed French citizens to Monday's ceremony.

Ever since the massive killing spree, the world community has been forced to acknowledge that it stood by and did nothing. The U.N. chief told a news conference he hopes to reaffirm the international com-

munity's commitment to the idea of "never again," though he said there are genocide symptoms elsewhere. Many experts say neighboring Central African Republic is at risk, as is Syria.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, who attended the ceremony, said the genocide was a "devastating reminder that nightmares seemingly beyond imagination can in fact take place."

As a survivor recounted his tale of violence, it triggered emotional reactions that required some mourners to be assisted by psychological counselors who were on standby. Bloodcurdling screams recalling the horror of seeing whole families slaughtered rang out from the crowd.

The violence Rwanda saw is nearly unimagined. Hutu attackers burned down churches with hundreds or thousands of

Tutsis inside. Machete-wielding attackers entered homes and slaughtered children and grandparents.

Hundreds of mass graves were dug across the country to bury the victims of what the government says was a long-planned killing spree that ignited after the plane of then-President Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, was shot down. Kagame led a Tutsi military force from neighboring Uganda into Rwanda to end the mass murders.

Kagame has won praise for pulling his country out of the worst spasm of violence the world has seen in decades. His government has advanced women's rights, economic development and health care. But critics say that progress has been marred by the government's authoritarian grip on control that has seen many government critics and opposition members killed.

Families sue Netherlands over deaths

By MIKE CORDER
The Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The Dutch government put the safety of its own troops ahead of that of Bosnian Muslims during the Srebrenica massacre, lawyers for relatives of thousands of victims of the 1995 slaughter told a court Monday in a civil suit.

The government rejected that charge and countered that it had no official control of its troops because they were "blue helmets" taking part in a United Nations peace-keeping mission during the Bosnian war.

The comments came in the latest legal battle in the Netherlands over the country's responsibility in Europe's worst massacre since World War II. Some 6,000 relatives of the approximately 8,000 men and boys slain by Bosnian Serb forces in the Srebrenica safe haven in July 1995 are seeking to hold the Dutch government liable because its troops failed to prevent the slayings.



PETER DEJONG/AP

Women from the Bosnian town of Srebrenica wait for judges to enter a court in The Hague, Netherlands, on Monday.

A handful of the relatives listened to the proceedings at The Hague District Court via a simultaneous translation. They sat stoically, mostly in silence, but occasionally responding angrily to the government lawyer's comments.

"This is also an opportunity for the Dutch people to recognize the responsibility of their politicians and soldiers in the genocide of Srebrenica," said one of the "Mothers of Srebrenica" Munira Subasic. "This is also an opportunity for the (Dutch) ministry of defense to reclaim their military honor."

Lawyers for the relatives are demanding compensation in a case

that could set legal precedents for other peacekeeping missions.

Dutch government lawyer Gert-Jan Houtzagers insisted the Dutch forces did all they could and the government was not in a position to issue orders.

"They were troops in blue helmets ... exclusively under U.N. command and control," he told the three-judge panel.

If judges accept that argument when they deliver their judgment later this year, it could leave the relatives with no more legal avenues. Dutch judges threw out attempts by the women to also sue the United Nations, saying the world body has legal immunity.

Irish leader headed to Britain

The Associated Press

DUBLIN — Ireland's head of state this week is making his country's first state visit to Britain, a trip that has been decades in the making and provides another poignant milestone for peace-making.

President Michael D. Higgins was flying to England on Monday, a day ahead of his formal reception by Queen Elizabeth II at Windsor Castle west of London. Higgins' tour, which runs through Friday, comes three years after the queen's first state visit to the Republic of Ireland, which a British monarch had not visited since 1911.

The two countries maintained frosty relations for decades following Ireland's 1919-21 war of independence from the United Kingdom. Ireland's 1937 constitution rejected the British monarch as its head of state and created a new office of president instead. State visits were deemed impossible during the Irish Republican Army's 1970-97 campaign of bombings and shootings seeking to push Northern Ireland out of the U.K. and into the Republic.

Much has changed since the IRA cease-fire and the U.S.-brokered Good Friday peace accord

for Northern Ireland in 1998.

Today, a former IRA commander, Martin McGuinness, is the senior Irish Catholic in Northern Ireland's unity government with British Protestants.

Yet until recently, McGuinness still boycotted contact with British royalty to avoid criticism from Irish republicans, some of whom brand him a traitor for agreeing to help govern a part of the U.K. McGuinness said he would be the queen's guest at Windsor Castle and other events this week in London even though it "involves political and symbolic challenges for Irish republicans."

Two previous Irish presidents met Elizabeth several times since 1995, when Mary Robinson opened personal diplomatic channels with Buckingham Palace. This is the first state visit to Britain by an Irish president.

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny said he hoped the queen could travel to Dublin in 2016 for the 100th anniversary of the Easter Rising, the rebellion that inspired Ireland's war of independence. He said British royal visits should become normal in the Republic of Ireland.

WORLD

Gunman kills Dutch priest in Syria

DAMASCUS, Syria — A masked gunman opened fire on a well-known, elderly Dutch priest in the central Syrian city of Homs on Monday, killing him instantly, a fellow priest and an activist group said.

The slaying of Father Francis Van Der Lugt, 72, underscores fears by many in Syria's Christian and Muslim minorities for the fate of their community should Syrian President Bashar Assad be overthrown by rebels in the country's civil war.

Australia, Japan agree on free trade deal

TOKYO — Japan and Australia have agreed on a free trade deal after overcoming differences on autos and agriculture.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott and his Japanese counterpart, Shinzo Abe, announced the pact at a news conference Monday.

The deal calls for Japan to gradually phase out its nearly 40 percent tariffs on Australian exports of beef. In turn, Australia is to end its tariffs on Japanese-made vehicles.

Libyan militia agrees to give up 4 oil terminals

TRIPOLI, Libya — A key Libyan militia in the east has agreed to hand back control of four oil terminals it captured and shut down last summer in its demand for a share in oil revenues, the official Libyan news agency reported.

The seizure and shutdown of the terminals has cost Libya billions of dollars and has escalated a political crisis that has threatened to plunge the country into even greater turmoil, unless since the 2011 civil war that ousted longtime strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

3 women attacked with hammer in London hotel

LONDON — British police are hunting a man who broke into an upmarket London hotel and battered three women with a hammer.

The Metropolitan Police force said the women, all from the United Arab Emirates, suffered head and facial injuries. One is in critical condition in a hospital, while the others are in serious but not life-threatening condition.

Police said Monday that they are treating the attacks as attempted murder.

From The Associated Press



ROE GRIFFITH/AP

A Chinese Ilyushin IL-76s aircraft touches down Monday at Perth International Airport after returning from search operations for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in Perth, Australia.

Underwater sounds similar to planes' black box pings

By NICK PERRY
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Underwater sounds detected by a ship searching the southern Indian Ocean for the missing Malaysia Airlines jet are consistent with the pings from aircraft black boxes, an Australian official said Monday, dubbing it "a most promising lead" in the monthlong hunt for the vanished plane.

Angus Houston, the head of a joint agency coordinating the search, warned that it could take days to confirm whether the signals picked up by the Australian navy ship Ocean Shield are indeed from the black boxes that belonged to Flight 370, but called the discovery very encouraging.

"Clearly this is a most promising lead, and probably in the search so far, it's probably the best information that we have had," Houston said at a news conference. "We've got a visual indication on a screen and we've also got an audible signal — and the audible signal sounds to me just like an emergency locator beacon."

After a monthlong search for answers filled with dead ends, Monday's news brought fresh hope given that the two black boxes, which contain flight data and cockpit voice recordings, are the key to unraveling exactly

what happened to Flight 370 and why.

Malaysian Defense Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters that in light of the new information, "We are cautiously hopeful that there will be a positive development in the next few days, if not hours."

There was little time left to locate the devices, which have beacons that emit "pings" so they can be more easily found. The beacons' batteries last only about a month — and Tuesday marks exactly one month since the plane disappeared during a flight from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing with 239 people on board.

The Australian navy's Ocean Shield, which is carrying high-tech sound detectors from the U.S. Navy, picked up two separate signals late Saturday night and early Sunday morning within a remote patch of the Indian Ocean far off the west Australian coast that search crews have been crisscrossing for weeks. The first signal lasted two hours and 20 minutes before it was lost. The ship then turned around and picked up a signal again — this time recording two distinct "pinger returns" that lasted 13 minutes, Houston said.

"Significantly, this would be consistent with transmissions from both the flight data recorder

and the cockpit voice recorder," Houston said.

Still, Houston cautioned that it was too early to say the transmissions were coming from the missing jet.

The airliner's black boxes normally emit a frequency of 37.5 kilohertz, and the signals picked up by the Ocean Shield were both 33.3 kHz, said U.S. Navy Capt. Mark Matthews. But officials contacted the device's manufacturer and were told the frequency of black boxes can drift near the end of their shelf lives.

The Ocean Shield was slowly canvassing a small area trying to find the signal again, though that could take another day, Matthews said.

The ping locator is designed to detect signals at a range of a little more than a mile, meaning it would need to be almost on top of the black boxes to detect them if they were on the ocean floor, which is about 14,800 feet deep.

"It's like playing hot and cold when you're searching for something and someone's telling you you're getting warmer and warmer and warmer," he said. "When you're right on top of it, you get a good return."

If they pick up the signal again, the crew will launch an underwater vehicle to investigate, Matthews said.

Fukushima kids start school, flee radiation

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

MATSUMOTO, Japan — The 12-year-old girl didn't want to leave her younger brother, and her grandparents didn't want her to go away. But a family living near the "no-go zone" surrounding Japan's destroyed nuclear plant has other things to consider.

Yukie Hashimoto and her husband sent their daughter 200 miles away to the picturesque ski town of Matsumoto, where the mayor offered to take in and educate young people living in the shadow of the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant.

Research has not shown the children to be in clear danger from exposure to low-dose radiation, but mistrust of the authorities remains high. The Hashimoto family, and the parents of seven other children, accepted the offer.

"I didn't really believe things are as safe as the government is telling us," said Hashimoto, who lives in Koriyama, about 20 miles west of the 12.4-mile no-go zone. "We made our decision with her future, 10 years and 20 years later, in mind."

The eight students — seven in junior high school and one in elementary school — began their new lives this month, with the beginning of Japan's school year. They live in a rented house with bunk beds and live-in caretakers.

The project is the brainchild of Mayor Akira Sugeno, a medical doctor who performed more than 100 thyroid-cancer surgeries in neighboring Belarus after the 1986 Chernobyl catastrophe.

For those outside the largely off-limits 12.4-mile zone, taking such a drastic step is relatively rare. The Hashimoto family went back and forth.

A wide range of views on the risks of radiation has divided both their family and entire communities. Hashimoto was nervous about speaking to a reporter because raising questions can get one branded as a troublemaker.

Like many near the Fukushima plant, Hashimoto routinely measured the radioactivity in her neighborhood. Some spots were a bit high, in a gray area where science is divided about the long-term effects. Children are far more vulnerable to radiation than adults.

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WORLD

Women set to join Palestinian commando unit

By KARIN LAUB
AND MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH
The Associated Press

JERICHO, West Bank — Palestinian women in combat fatigues and headscarves rappelled down a six-story tower, fired assault rifles at imaginary terrorists and, in a drill straight out of the movies, bundled a would-be VIP into a car and sped off after a shooting.

The 22 future commandos are trailblazers in a still largely male-dominated society, set to become the first female members of the Presidential Guards, a Palestinian elite force of 2,600 men. Their inclusion is the result of gradual changes in the West Bank in recent years.

Some gender barriers have fallen, with a few women assuming posts as mayors, judges and Cabinet ministers or starting their own businesses. At the same time, unemployment is on the rise, and families are more open to women entering nontraditional jobs if it means another paycheck.

Women make up just 3 percent of 30,000 members of the Palestinian police and other security agencies in the West Bank, but there's a push to recruit more, said Brig. Rashideh Mughbari, in charge of gender issues in the National Security Forces.

The female Presidential Guards recruits were picked from last year's graduating class of Independence University, a four-



Palestinian women who will become a part of the Presidential Guards, an elite force of 2,600 Palestinian men, train in Jericho, West Bank, on Sunday.

DUSAN VRANIC/AP

year security academy in Jericho that trains future officers.

For graduate Kurum Saad, the appeal was immediate. As a female officer, her

traditional role would have been in administration, but she wanted adventure.

"I didn't want to sit in an office," the 23-year-old said. "Since I was a little girl, I

loved shooting and sports."

All but two of the female Guards wore black headscarves, reflecting a growing trend among Palestinian women to cover their hair because of tradition, Muslim religious observance or social pressure.

The Presidential Guards were established under the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. He spent most of his life in exile but returned to the Palestinian territories in 1994, as part of interim peace deals with Israel, and set up a self-rule government.

Under Arafat's often-chaotic rule, various security branches grew in size, with often overlapping or competing assignments. After Arafat's death in 2004, the U.S. and Europe stepped in, training and equipping some of the units as part of an attempt to rein in vigilantes and militants.

Under Arafat's successor, President Mahmoud Abbas, the Guards are engaged in personal protection, including of visiting dignitaries, but are also trained for anti-terrorism missions.

For now, the female Guards are only being drawn from the West Bank. In the Gaza Strip, which is not under Abbas' control and is ruled by the Islamic militant Hamas, about 400 women serve in the 16,000-strong security forces. They have undergone some training, including in martial arts, but work mostly in administrative jobs, including as border control officers and an anti-drug unit.

India votes in world's largest election

By WASBIR HUSSAIN
The Associated Press

GAUHATI, India — Voters in India's remote northeast cast ballots on the first day of the world's biggest election Monday, with the opposition heading into the polls with strong momentum on promises of a surge in economic growth.

With 814 million eligible voters, India will vote in stages over the next five weeks in a staggered approach made necessary by the country's vast size. Voters will choose representatives for the 543-seat lower house of parliament.

Results from all 935,000 polling stations are expected on May 16. The opposition Bharatiya Janata Party and its candidate for prime minister, Narendra Modi, are seen as the biggest threats to the now-governing Congress party.

BJP is expected to do well but to fall short of a majority, making a coalition government a likely outcome, observers say.

Polls suggest Congress could face a drubbing due to corruption scandals and recent years of economic slowdown. The BJP's Modi has credentialed himself with ushering in strong industrial growth in the western state of Gujarat, where he has been chief minister for 11 years.

The election will be key to the future of the family dynasty that has ruled India for much of its post-independence history.



ALTAQ QADHI/AP

Voters wait to cast their ballots during the first phase of elections in Dibrugarh, in the northeastern state of Assam, India, on Monday.

The Nehru-Gandhi family is facing its biggest political threat in more than a decade, with Rahul Gandhi, 43, the family scion, leading the Congress' struggling campaign. While Gandhi has been presented to voters as a youthful leader who can rejuvenate India's faltering economy, many see him as privileged, aloof and out of touch with everyday Indians.

The party has not even formally declared Gandhi as its candidate for prime minister, political maneuvering aimed at protecting him from being scapegoated if the party — and the family — is forced from power.

Even as Congress faces a backlash, critics of Modi question whether the Hindu nationalist candidate can be a truly secular leader, noting he has failed to take responsibility or apologize for communal rioting that left more than 1,000 dead in his state in 2002. He is accused of doing little to stop the anti-Muslim rampage, though he denies any wrongdoing and has never been charged with

a crime.

The BJP was the last major party on Monday to release its campaign manifesto, which envisions India's path toward full development through futuristic infrastructure projects such as high-speed trains, 100 new modern cities and wireless Internet facilities in public places.

Such ambitious plans hold little appeal for most voters in rural Assam, where voting took place Monday in five constituencies as well as in one in neighboring Tripura state.

Here, people are more concerned about basic needs like guarding against the dangers of flooding, soil erosion and heavy rains washing away homes, or building more roads and bridges to connect far-away towns and villages to the main cities.

"As monsoon sets in, we get worried about our daily meals," said Pulk Nath, a voter in Lakhimpur. "We have been living on a mud embankment for years now after floods washed away our home and a large part of our village."

Netanyahu blames Palestinians for failing peace talks

By WILLIAM BOOTH
The Washington Post

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu broke his silence on the collapsing peace talks Sunday by blaming Palestinian leaders for the current crisis and threatening retaliatory steps.

In remarks at his weekly cabinet meeting, Netanyahu said that just as the parties were nearing an agreement last week to extend the U.S.-brokered negotiations through the end of 2014, Palestinian leaders announced their decision to sign on to 15 treaties and conventions under the auspices of the United Nations.

"The Palestinians' threats to appeal to the U.N. will not affect us. The Palestinians have much to lose by this unilateral move," Netanyahu said. "These will only push a peace agreement farther away, and unilateral steps on their part will be met with unilateral steps on our part."

Israel's retaliatory measures could include withholding transfers of millions of dollars in taxes and fees that Israel collects on behalf of the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinians say it is Israel that has pushed the talks toward collapse.

To restart the peace process, Netanyahu promised in July to release 104 long-held Palestinian prisoners, many convicted of murdering Israelis, and in return, the

Palestinians agreed not to seek greater recognition as a state from the United Nations.

The Israelis released three groups, a total of 78 prisoners, but balked last week at freeing the last batch of 26 inmates.

The Palestinians say that the Israelis reneged on their promise and that they believe it to be within their rights to go the United Nations. Last week, Mahmoud Abbas signed documents that would allow the Palestinians to become parties to 15 international treaties guaranteeing, among other things, the rights of women, children, the disabled and civilians in times of war.

Netanyahu's remarks Sunday came after days of charges and countercharges as Palestinian and Israelis jockey to blame each other for the crisis. U.S. diplomats have said that both sides have made "unhelpful" moves.

Secretary of State John Kerry declared Friday that "it's reality-check time" as to whether a deal can be reached and whether the United States will continue to play a role in bringing the two sides closer.

"You can negotiate, you can push, you can fugite, but the parties themselves have to make fundamental decisions and compromises," Kerry said last week as his signature diplomatic effort began to founder.

UKRAINE UNREST

Pro-Russians declare east Ukraine independent

Separatists seize building, demand May referendum

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Pro-Russian separatists who seized a provincial administration building in the eastern Ukrainian city of Donetsk on Monday proclaimed the region an independent republic in a move echoing the runup to Russia's annexation of Crimea.

The Interfax news agency said the activists demanded that a referendum be held no later than May 11 on the breaking away of the Donetsk region, which borders Russia.

In footage uploaded to the Internet, an unidentified pro-Russian activist in the provincial government headquarters in Donetsk asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to send peace-keeping troops to the region.

"Without your support, without the support of Russia, it will be hard for us to resist the Kiev junta on our own," Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Ukraine prime minister

he said, referring to the interim authorities that took power after the overthrow of Moscow-backed President Viktor Yanukovich in February.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk earlier in the day accused Russia of being behind the unrest that broke out in the country's eastern provinces Sunday and of seeking to sow instability as a pretext for dispatching troops across the border.

"The plan is to destabilize the situation. The plan is for foreign troops to cross the border and seize the country's territory, which we will not allow," he said, adding that people engaged in the unrest have distinct Russian accents.

Yatsenyuk said Russian troops remain stationed within 19 miles of the frontier.

Eastern Ukraine was the heartland of support for Yanukovich who fled to Russia in February after months of protests. About half of the region's residents are ethnic Russians, many of whom believe Ukraine's acting authorities are Ukrainian nationalists who will oppress Russians. Ukraine's interim authorities deny they are infringing on the rights of the ethnic Russian population.



PHOTOS BY ALEXANDER ERMOHENKO/AP

Activists wave old Soviet and Russian national flags in front of a barricade at the administration building in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Monday.

Ambitious Putin stirring angst in Azerbaijan

By ZULFUGAR AGAYEV
Bloomberg News

BAKU, Azerbaijan — As Vladimir Putin completes Russia's annexation of Crimea, Azerbaijan is worried that his next move will be to shift his attention southward.

The Caspian Sea nation, the only westward route for central Asian oil and gas that bypasses Russia, is finding itself hemmed in by Putin's regional ambitions. Russian troops are already stationed in neighboring Georgia and Armenia, and just four months ago, Putin said Russia will "never leave" the region.

That's stirring angst in a nation that was captured by Soviet Russia in 1920. Azerbaijan, the third-largest ex-Soviet oil producer, has spent the past two decades trying to establish itself as an alternative gas source to Europe. Home to the Shah Deniz field, the country struck a \$45 billion deal with a BP-led group in December.

"If the West doesn't do anything to stop Russia, they will be emboldened to take back Azerbaijan by force as they did a hundred years ago," said Zahir Rahimov, 39, a resident of Baku, referring to the Bolshevik takeover.

Officials already complain about feeling the Kremlin's pressure. The push from Moscow to join Putin's new customs union, a project he wants to rival the European Union, is similar to the squeeze put on Ukraine, according to Siyavus Novruzov, a senior member of the ruling New Azerbaijan Party.

Putin is extending Russia's reach as he tries to rebuild the



Masked activists prepare to fight with police in front of a barricade at the building.

prestige it lost after the end of the Cold War. To Azerbaijan's west, Russia has kept a base with about 4,000 soldiers in Armenia since a cease-fire in the Nagorno-Karabakh war in 1994. In Georgia to the northwest, Putin left forces stationed in Abkhazia and South Ossetia after a 2008 war.

"As for the Trans-Caucasus region, Russia will never leave this region," Putin said Dec. 2 after surveying Russian troops at the

base in Armenia. "On the contrary, we will make our place here even stronger. We will strengthen our position here, drawing on the best of what our forebears left us and with the support of good relations with all countries in the region, including Armenia."

While Putin hasn't directly threatened Azerbaijan and an invasion is unlikely, his comments underscore the fact that he can use his influence in neighboring

countries to hem in Azerbaijan, which has been ruled by the Aliyev family for four decades.

"Azerbaijan is going to be next after Ukraine," according to Arastun Orujlu, head of the Center for East-West Studies, a research group in the capital of Baku. "Russia will step up pressure."

Azerbaijan's position is complicated by the fact that it never courted the U.S. and the European Union the way that ex-Soviet satellites such as Poland and the Baltic states did.

Azerbaijan hasn't applied to join either NATO or the EU and has instead pursued an independent foreign policy.

The country has forged closer ties with Israel by buying its advanced weapons, including drones and missile systems, and NATO-member Turkey, with whom it signed an agreement on military cooperation.

Azerbaijan's strategy of plotting a course between Russia and the EU has left it "even more vulnerable to Russian pressure" to join the planned Eurasian Union, Richard Kauzlarich, the U.S. envoy in Baku in 1994-97, told the Azeri service of Radio Free Europe-Radio Liberty March 7.

‘If the West doesn’t do anything to stop Russia, they will be emboldened to take back Azerbaijan.’

Zahir Rahimov
resident of Baku,
Azerbaijan

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Hope against hope: It's a people thing

By ROBERT M. SAPIOLSKY
Los Angeles Times

The defining feature of human brains is the size and complexity of the cortex, which provides the underpinnings of rationality for our actions. But just because we have more developed cortex doesn't mean we are always rational decision-makers. We humans constantly find ourselves loving the wrong person, buying things we don't have the money for and believing that fat diets consisting of nothing but sundaes will work.

To be human is to hope against hope. When it comes to decision-making and risk assessment, we tend to think in an asymmetrical manner that feeds an optimistic outlook and denies discouragement. This has been shown in recent work by Christina Moutsiana and colleagues at University College London and published in the prestigious Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

In their study, the researchers asked test subjects to estimate the likelihood of something desirable happening to them. "There's a 10 percent chance," a subject might answer. If the researchers then told the subject that the odds were actually higher — say that there was actually a 20 percent chance of the desirable outcome — the subject was usually quick to adjust his own chances upward to 20 percent too. So far, he's behaving rationally: The subject has rationally updated his estimate based on feedback.

But if, after the subject gave his initial answer of 10 percent, the researcher provided bad news, explaining that actually the odds were more like 5 percent, the test subject was less likely to adjust his original estimate, apparently believing that somehow his own chances were better than average.

Humans believe in luck: in their good-luck charms, their lucky numbers, their lucky underwear, even. We resist updating assessments when the feedback is bad but are eager and adept at making upward ad-



Lai Seng Sui/AP

Messages of hope for passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, are posted at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on Saturday.

justments when the feedback is good. That cognitive asymmetry of hope is so pervasive in humans that its exception is considered a disease: clinical depression. Cognitive-behavioral therapists have long framed depression as a disorder of cognitive distortions. A person irrationally believes that because she once experienced a real trauma of having failed, or of having been rejected or abandoned, she then has trouble believing in the likelihood of ever having success or strong, happy relationships. In other words, the depressed person is resistant to updating expectations, even when the feedback is good, instead malignantly embracing bad feedback until it marinates every neuron.

Yet despite this picture of depression as pathological distortion, considerable research has shown that individuals suffering from depression are often more accurate in their assessment of the world than are healthy control subjects. "Sadder but wiser," as the jargon goes. Depression might

also be seen, then, as a failure of the human capacity for denial and self-deception. It is the healthy who are neuropsychologically distortive in this realm.

For those counted among the affectively healthy, hope is sustaining. We are able to ignore the reality of death, believing on some level that we and those who matter most to us will live forever — or at least lead happy and healthy lives before dying painlessly at a ripe old age. We believe our love will be requited, our efforts rewarded, and that nothing bad would ever happen to Bambi's mother in real life.

And then, during a week like this last one, we realize with an aching sadness how much we've been quietly holding out for the news that somewhere, on an uncharted landing-strip-long island in the south Indian Ocean, 239 people were safely waiting to rejoin their loved ones.

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Ernie Gates

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A Passover tradition explained — for \$35

By ROBIN WASHINGTON
McClatchy/Tribune News Service

It was at his old brother's bar mitzvah that Josh Levy, 9, gave the answer that everyone from the Dalai Lama to Janet Yellen wants to know:

"How much money is enough?"

"\$35," he said from the front-row pews of a synagogue in suburban Minneapolis. Although I had been encouraging call-and-response in my pulpit speech, I didn't quite understand what he meant (which I'll get to in a bit.) So I went on talking about the concept of "Dayenu" — a Passover song with the word roughly translating to "good enough."

Some verses are: "If God had split the sea for us, but not taken us across on dry land — Dayenu!"

"If God had taken us across the sea on dry land, but had not drowned our oppressors in it — Dayenu!"

My question to the congregants was what constitutes good enough? Would it really have been good enough to have been freed from slavery only to die in the desert?

Though it's sung at the Passover seder table, "Dayenu" isn't found in the Bible.

"It's a much later poem first appearing in the 9th century," said Rabbi David Steinberg of Temple Israel in Duluth, Minn. In fact, it conflicts with a Torah passage that says the children of Israel celebrated their liberation with a different song before kvetching to Moses about how hard it was trying to survive in the desert.

Another concept that seems almost sacrilegious to me is a verse stating it would have been good enough to have been fed on manna for 40 years and led to the Promised Land but never to have received the Ten Commandments.

What kind of religion is that — where you get tons of good stuff and don't have to do anything in return?

That's not to say I don't appreciate the fundamental value of liberation, which the late James Brown explained as cogently as the ancient rabbis:

"We'd rather die on our feet than live on our knees," he sang in "I Don't Want Nobody to Give Me Nothing" (a far more mili-

tant song than "Say it Loud!"), rhyming it with "the birds and the bees."

That song, too, was call and response, and a key word in both it and "Dayenu" is "we" — which personalizes the affliction, past and present.

So I get it, though to truly understand good enough, you also have to deconstruct "good" and "enough." Was the manna from heaven really that good? It's described as tasting like honey, though interpretations range from mushrooms to bird droppings. Regardless, the passage says the people tired of it after a while. Maybe it was more than enough of a good thing.

As for "enough," especially when it comes to money?

Fortunately, Josh was paying attention, and he gave the \$35 answer to the \$64,000 question. The amount, his grandmother explained afterward, was the remaining cash he needed to buy an iPod.

Good answer. And enough said.

Robin Washington is a research scholar for the San Francisco-based think tank Be'chol Lashon.

Tell us what you think

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OPINION

A question of Erdogan, Turkey and NATO

By MARKOS KOUNALAKIS

There is plenty to say about Turkey these days, although not on Twitter or YouTube. Both are frequently blacked out in Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan's Turkey. Erdogan says he wants to "wipe out Twitter." As a result, critically important voices regarding Turkey's strategic importance and democratic evolution are harder to hear.

My voice, too, is often discounted. My Greek name usually prevents me from writing about Turkey because it is dismissed as biased.

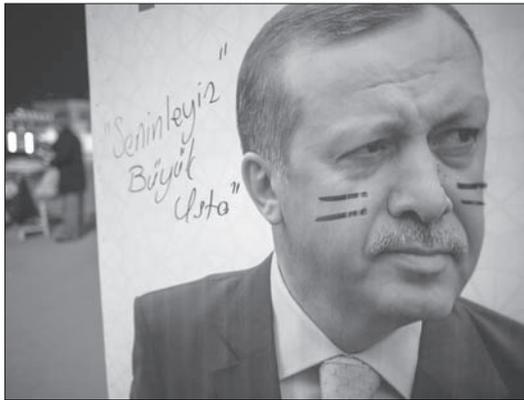
Though born and reared in California, my ethnic-origin labels me hostile to Turkey. The reason? Greece and Turkey have continuing disputes regarding territorial waters, airspace, islands, the future exploitation of continental shelf hydrocarbons, and the matter of Turkish troop-occupied Cyprus.

But here's the reality: I know and love Turkey. I have traveled the country multiple times, learned a bit of the language and even got married there.

Looking at the geopolitics of that nation-state, all I see is a Western-aligned country unjustly denied European Union association years ago, back when Erdogan was still interested in Europe. What I never stated in the official EU affiliation post-ponements and negotiations, however, is what is heard in the German and French streets — Turkey will never be a European Union nation because Turkey is not a European nation, because it is Muslim.

Everything else the EU says regarding Turkey's potential European Union accession is done with a wink and a nudge. It is no wonder that Erdogan has been able to use the EU's exclusionary tactics to his advantage when appealing to Turkish masses.

Turkey, of course, is Muslim. But it is also European. This is as true geographically as it is culturally. Most important, it remains a NATO member. And NATO



EMRAN GURULAP

A poster of Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan adorns an election billboard March 29 in Istanbul, Turkey. Erdogan has been ensnared in a corruption scandal at home, and his incessant us-against-them rhetoric and conspiracy theories have alienated allies.

means everything right now.

At a moment when other transnational structures are flailing to come up with appropriate responses to Russia's Crimean transgressions, NATO's mission is further clarified and emboldened. Moscow's aggressive military behavior triggers preparations for NATO's key collective defense function. Vladimir Putin has kicked NATO into gear, forcing it to tighten its tripartite function on member state borders.

Cross the NATO tripartite — made of troops and materiel — and expect a decisive and overwhelming response. Russia

has enough muscle memory to know this.

Of course, this is the last thing anyone wants and what Secretary of State John Kerry is negotiating to prevent. A war of any scale between Russia and NATO can only bring about memories of Mutually Assured Destruction and the Cold War. Which is why NATO exists: As a deterrent to aggressive military behavior against the West.

So where does Turkey fit into this scenario? It has a long and difficult shared border on the Black Sea with Russia. It controls the maritime chokepoint for Russian ships

based in Crimea. Looking back, the Cuban missile crisis was catalyzed by American "Jupiter" missiles based in Turkey.

Today, Turkey is a linchpin in the military struggles and relations with border states Iraq, Iran and Syria, and an increasingly important force in Egypt.

Turkey's strategic importance cannot be underestimated. But neither Turkey nor Erdogan can be given a pass for behavior that is unbecoming of a NATO member and EU aspirant.

From domestic repression to international folly, the Turkish leadership embodied in one incredibly charismatic populist has increasingly failed in its obligations and responsibilities — both to its people and its NATO allies. But Erdogan has earned incomparable political capital at home for his nationalist message over the years and cemented his rule with the recent local elections and quasi-referendum.

Erdogan now seems politically untouchable, blaming an Istanbul elite for anarchic unrest and promising further retribution to institutions and individuals who challenge him. A savvy politician, he knows his power is not dependent on Istanbul elites, but rather lies in the hinterland of his 77 million population.

Non-urban Turks are loyal and admiring of Erdogan's get-tough attitude and actions. They respond to his menacing approach to dissent. And they are happy with continually degrading relations with Israel.

Erdogan is an unreliable and dangerous leader who has purged his intelligentsia, military, judiciary and political opposition, and will pursue his national interests in any way he sees fit for a regional superpower that remains a shadow of its Ottoman self. What Americans should hope is not only that he lightens up with his own population but that he pursues a steady and reliable course for NATO. And, despite my ethnicity, I know the West's future depends on it.

Markos Kounalakis is a research fellow at Central European University and a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution.

US still indispensable when it comes to free trade

By DAVID IGNATIUS

WASHINGTON — Name a foreign policy issue on which China and most of the rest of the world's nations are struggling to keep up with a U.S. initiative. If you guessed "free trade," you're correct.

In a season that has mostly brought reversal for Obama administration efforts against the free-trade agenda keeps on chugging. The massive weight of the U.S. economy creates incentives for cooperation with America, rather than resentment.

The pace-setter is the negotiation for a Trans-Pacific Partnership that would include the U.S. and 11 other nations. That idea has gathered force since President Barack Obama announced the negotiation in late 2009, and it now involves powerhouse countries on both sides of the Pacific such as Mexico, Japan, Canada and Australia.

Michael Froman, the U.S. trade representative, hopes this so-called "TPP" negotiation is nearing the endgame. On the other side of the rhetorical road, however, there are now fewer than 10 unresolved issues, down from 125 last September. U.S. officials think a breakthrough could come if Japan opens markets to more food imports, such as beef, pork and dairy products, and Canada follows with concessions on several issues.

A Pacific agreement is important be-

cause it would add momentum for truly global trade standards and market access. The TPP countries account for about 40 percent of the world's GDP and 40 percent of U.S. exports. According to the trade representative's office, an agreement could add \$23 billion to global income by 2025 and could boost U.S. exports by \$124 billion. That means jobs, here and abroad.

The only major Asian player left out of the TPP club would be China — which is making Beijing nervous. With freer trade elsewhere in Asia, Western companies that are frustrated with manufacturing in China — because of low profits, corruption, pollution and theft of intellectual property there — could decide to pull up stakes.

China has been asking U.S. officials privately if it might join a TPP follow-on. Beijing is also negotiating an investment agreement with the U.S. that could open China to much freer Western activity.

The most telling indication of Chinese angst is their proposal of a TPP-like pact with Europe. "We must work to make China and the EU the twin engines for global economic growth," Chinese President Xi Jinping said Tuesday in Bruges, Belgium, in urging the pact.

China's problem is that the EU is already deep into negotiations for a new trade agreement with the U.S. This one is known as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, or "TTIP," to acronym lovers. An

With freer trade elsewhere in Asia, Western companies that are frustrated with manufacturing in China could decide to pull up stakes.

agreement among the 28 EU countries and the U.S. would cover about 45 percent of the world's GDP and 30 percent of global trade.

The European trade talks got off to a rocky start last summer, in the shadow of Edward Snowden's revelations about NSA surveillance, which infuriated Europeans. There was some talk of suspending the TTIP negotiation, but cooler heads prevailed, and there have now been four rounds of talks.

To try to harmonize European and American product-safety standards on autos, drugs and cosmetics, regulatory agencies on both sides of the Atlantic are talking directly. The model is common air-safety rules agreed on by America and Europe a few years ago.

As always in trade talks, negotiators must overcome parochial protectionism. Europeans argue that Parmesan cheese should come only from Italy and Peta cheese from Greece. The U.S. has similar petty protections, and Congress is often a stumbling block to free-trade agreements, despite their job-creating benefits.

European anxiety about NSA snooping

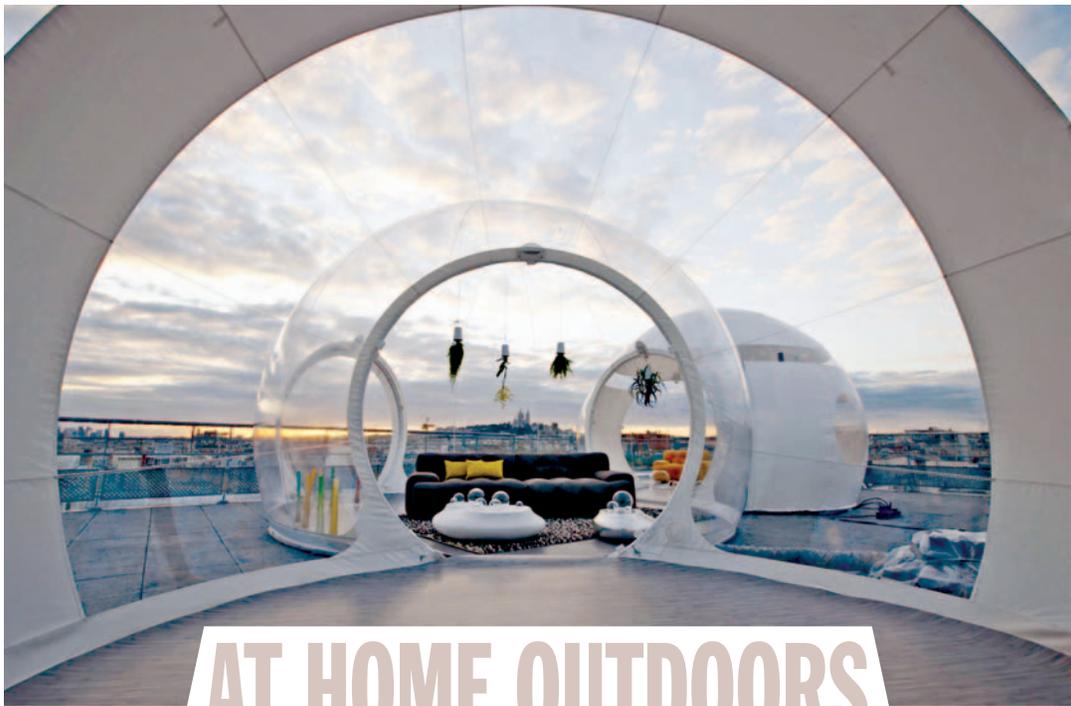
remains a problem. European politicians have talked about creating a "Euro-club" that would, in theory, be free from U.S. surveillance. But business leaders argue that such efforts to ring-fence data are "not the way," in the words of SAP Chairman Hasso Plattner, because they might cut European companies off from global markets. The Russian threat in Ukraine also makes partnership with the U.S. more attractive, despite worries about the NSA.

What's dawning on people is that there's a tipping point in global trade. If the U.S. can complete the Pacific and Atlantic partnerships, it will have framed standards and market access for about two-thirds of the global economy. At that point, it becomes a global superpower for China, Brazil and India to remain outside.

Free trade is one of those subjects that often make people's eyes glaze over. But it's an area where America remains an indisputable superpower — and where its trade partners increasingly seem ready to work by common rules.

David Ignatius is a columnist for The Washington Post.

NATION



AT HOME OUTDOORS

'CasaBubble' brings occupants closer to nature without sacrificing creature comforts

By MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE ◊ Akron Beacon Journal

A blow-up sphere is giving new meaning to living in a bubble.

The CasaBubble is an inflatable plastic sphere with a wood floor that lets you sleep under the stars, but with the comforts of being indoors. It's essentially an upscale tent that's either partly or entirely transparent, so you can commune with nature without annoyances like rain, mosquitoes and pollen.

The CasaBubble works a little like those blow-up decorations that pop up in front yards during holiday seasons. A fan keeps the bubble inflated while also maintaining a flow of fresh air and preventing moisture buildup. An airtight vestibule lets occupants come and go without deflating the bubble.

The bubble takes about 50 minutes to set up, including 20 minutes of inflation time, said Frederic Richard, the furniture maker who teamed up with fellow French designer Pierre-Stephane Dumas to develop the concept and bring it to market.

The idea is to put you close to nature in a comfortable way. But it's so much more, Richard said.

"When people see the pictures, they like the bubble. ... But when they are in it, they are crazy about it," he said.

That's because CasaBubbles have a cocoon-like quality, Richard said. The spherical shape is naturally comforting, he said, and the bubble muffles outdoor noise and redirects indoor sound in such a

The CasaBubble is an entirely transparent type of tent that can be used as an outdoor living space or bedroom. Multiple bubbles can be combined to create more extensive spaces, as in the photo above.

PHOTOS BY AKRON BEACON JOURNAL/MCT

way that the people inside are encouraged to speak more softly. The overall effect is to soothe the occupants and promote a sense of well-being, he said.

Bubble rooms range from about 11 feet to 26 feet in diameter, but the larger sizes are intended mostly for events. The most common size for individuals' use is 13 feet, Richard said.

The CasaBubbles also come in several configurations, ranging from the CristalBubble, a simple transparent globe, to the Grand-Lodge, a series of spherical rooms.

Opaque bubbles can be used for private areas such as dressing rooms and bathrooms, and you can even get a bubble that unzips from its base so you can bring in a hot tub or large piece of furniture that won't fit through the air-lock door.

It's also possible to join bubbles together to create your own arrangement.

The possible uses for CasaBubbles are many. Often people use them as outdoor bedrooms or guest quarters, Richard said, but they have also been used as TV rooms, playrooms and offices. Some bed and breakfasts are adding them as a way of drawing lodgers who want to spend the night surrounded by nature, and the bubbles can be rented for meetings and parties.

Richard thinks the bubbles' compact, portable nature and simple setup also give them potential as temporary housing for people left homeless by disasters.



SHIFTING GEARS

Will we soon yield driving to a computer?

Toyota, GM defects cast a shadow on the move for autonomous cars

By MICHAEL A. FLETCHER
The Washington Post

Computers are slowly taking over one of the most potent symbols of human independence: Driving.

The government says that shift will make the roads safer and eventually free people to work, read or even watch a movie as they travel from place to place.

But in the wake of deadly manufacturer defects at Toyota and General Motors, analysts are raising questions about whether autonomous vehicles could hurtle into dangerous territory.

Last month, the National Highway Transportation Safety Administration took the first step toward requiring that new automobiles be equipped with sophisticated computers designed to communicate with other vehicles, with the aim of preventing accidents and, eventually, guiding cars through traffic.

Those systems are being field-tested in Michigan. Some other states permit fully autonomous cars to be driven on their roads — in California, Google's fleet has logged more than a half-million miles without incident. Before the decade is out, Volvo and Nissan say, self-driving cars will be available to the average consumer in dealer showrooms.

But while autonomous cars herald great promise, they also pose difficult policy questions. Who is liable, the driver or the manufacturer, if autonomous vehicles wreck? Who owns the trove of data the cars generate? Should a computer steer a car off the road if a tree limb falls in front of it? What about a child on a bicycle?

And the prospect of manufacturer defects would become even more alarming in vehicles that rely heavily on increasingly complex computer technology.

"Cars are meant to be driven by people's hands and eyes," said Jean Claybrook, a consumer advocate and former NHTSA administrator. "I have enough trouble trusting my computer, much less a computer to drive my car."

Last month, the Justice Department fined Toyota \$1.2 billion for covering up a sudden acceleration problem that has spawned more than 400 lawsuits. Meanwhile, GM is facing multiple federal investigations into an ignition-switch problem that has contributed to at least 31 accidents and 12 deaths since surfacing more than a decade ago.

In both cases, the problems turned out to be basic and mechanical. But federal safety investigations into the defects were complicated by the millions of lines of computer code and advanced electronics that are al-



PATRICK T. FALLON/Bloomberg News

The Nissan Autonomous Drive Leaf electric vehicle is test-driven in Irvine, Calif., last summer.

ready standard equipment.

"The reality is that the vast, vast majority of accidents are caused by human error and computers are going to dramatically improve on people's driving," said Joshua Schank, president and chief executive of the Eno Center for Transportation, a research organization that has studied the challenges posed by autonomous cars. But "people are very nervous about the idea that computers could go haywire and cause us to die."

Researchers such as Schank tend to focus on the positive. In the foreseeable future, they say, self-driving technology will save fuel, cut pollution and reduce highway costs. As more cars become autonomous, they could safely tailgate, packing more vehicles into existing lanes and making traffic jams a thing of the past. Autonomous cars even have the potential to offer the disabled the freedom of the road.

The pace of change has been rapid. Just 10 years ago, a self-driving-car competition held by the Defense Department's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency failed to produce a winner. Not a single entry was able to complete a 142-mile desert course between California and Nevada and claim the \$1 million prize.

Fast-forward to 2007, when a team of researchers from Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University tricked out a Chevrolet Tahoe with conspicuous sensors outside and advanced electronics inside. The SUV was able to follow traffic laws, merge into moving traffic, make its way through

"The reality is that the vast, vast majority of accidents are caused by human error and computers are going to dramatically improve on people's driving. (But) people are very nervous about the idea that computers could go haywire and cause us to die."

Joshua Schank
president and chief executive of the Eno Center for Transportation

traffic circles and avoid other obstacles at a decommissioned Air Force base, proving that autonomous cars were more than a pipe dream.

By 2009, Google was test-driving autonomous cars on busy highways. Last year, speaking at a ceremony after the signing of a bill allowing the testing of autonomous cars on California highways, Google co-founder Sergey Brin said, "You can count on one hand the number of years until ordinary people can experience this."

Auto manufacturers have also stepped up the pace of research. Some have established outposts in Silicon Valley intended to foster collaboration with the region's deep well of technology entrepreneurs and quicken the pace at which the automobile is re-imagined.

The metabolic rate of what happens here is dramatically different than what happens everywhere else," said Venkatesh Prasad, a senior technical leader and self-described "what's-next guy" with the Ford Motor Co.'s Research and Innovation group in Palo Alto, Calif.

Other work is being done in Michigan, the ancestral home of

automobile development. In Ann Arbor, University of Michigan researchers backed by a federal highway safety grant have outfitted 3,000 cars with special sensors and wireless devices that allow them to exchange information with one another and with nodes mounted on traffic lights, at intersections and along curves on more than 70 miles of city streets.

Ten times a second the cars and roadways "talk" to one another, relaying vehicles' location, speed and direction, and alerting

drivers if their cars are going too quickly around a curve or if another car is erratically changing lanes or braking.

For consumers, researchers say, the automobile's transformation is likely to unfold in stages. Within the next decade, cars will be able to drive themselves, but people will still have the option to take over.

After that? Some engineers envision vehicles that are little more than the private equivalent of railroad passenger cars, with no controls for humans at all.



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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Thieves break into firefighters' cars

GA ATLANTA — Firefighters near Atlanta believe their personal cars are being targeted by thieves while they're away fighting fires and responding to emergencies.

Wayne Hines, of the Fulton County Professional Firefighters' Union, said the cars, parked at fire stations just southwest of Atlanta, are "just open, easy targets."

Police said thieves have forced car locks open and smashed windows.

WSB-TV reported that thieves struck Station 5 on Bethesda Road last week when firefighters were out on a call for three hours.

In November, burglars broke into nearly a dozen cars parked outside Station 5, Station 1 on Welcome All Road, and Station 7 on Buffington Road.

Fulton County Fire Chief Larry Few has told WSB-TV that he's working with police and trying to increase security outside the fire stations.

Sheriff: Scammers pose as deputy, IRS agent

OH HAMILTON — A southwestern Ohio sheriff is warning residents of a telephone scam in which scammers pose as a sheriff's deputy or an IRS agent.

Butler County Sheriff Richard Jones said at least two county residents were targeted recently. One scam involved a person posing as a deputy calling about complaints allegedly filed with the Department of Justice over a debt. Another involved a person posing as an IRS agent attempting to collect back taxes.

Authorities across the nation have reported similar calls. Jones said both residents were threatened with arrest or jail time if the debts weren't paid.

The sheriff said signs of a scam include instructions to wire money or purchase debit cards to settle a supposed debt.

He advised anyone suspecting a scam to call a local law enforcement agency.

4 dead, 1 hurt after car flips into creek

NY NEW YORK — A car headed down a dead-end street in Queens hit a curb and flipped into a creek, killing four passengers, authorities said Saturday.

The driver apparently escaped serious injury and told responding officers Friday night that the four were trapped in the submerged vehicle, the New York City Police Department said in a statement.

The 2009 Honda Accord tumbled into Steinway Creek, off the East River in Astoria, a neighborhood in Queens, around 10:35 p.m. Friday, police said.

Divers from the Fire Department of New York pulled two men and two women from the car, officials said. The women and one of the men were pronounced dead at Elmhurst General Hospital, and the other man was pronounced dead at Mount Sinai Hospital.

THE CENSUS

\$5.15B

The amount in dollars of a settlement the federal government reached with Anadarko Petroleum Corp. for the cleanup of thousands of long-contaminated sites nationwide. For decades, uranium ore was mined from the Lukachukai Mountains of northeastern Arizona, providing Navajo with much-needed employment but leaving behind a legacy of death and disease on the reservation. Uranium waste was thrown over the mountainside and carried by rain across the remote but scenic land used by hikers, anglers, medicine men and Navajo shepherds.



ANA RAMIREZ, THE (CONROE, TEXAS) COURIER/AP

Giddy-up!

Children ages 3 and 4 run in the youth Stick Horse Racing event as their parents cheer them on at the Montgomery County Fair and Rodeo in Conroe, Texas, on Friday. The fair runs through Sunday.

The 20-year-old driver was taken to Elmhurst, where he was listed in stable condition. Police did not immediately identify him or the four who died.

No other details were immediately available, and police said early Saturday the investigation was continuing.

Group wants to buy Pabst Blue Ribbon

WI MILWAUKEE — Long before it was known for fine cheddar cheese or the Green Bay Packers, Wisconsin was famous for beer, especially the national brands brewed in Milwaukee: Schlitz, Blatz and Pabst Blue Ribbon.

The brewing tradition started by Milwaukee's German immigrants in the 1800s endured for more than a century, until industry consolidation in the 1980s and '90s began sending familiar brands to other companies and cities.

Now a small group of Milwaukee residents wants to revive part of that proud history by buying Pabst Brewing Co. from a California executive in hopes of returning the brand to its birthplace, possibly as a city-owned brewery.

The effort appears to be a distant long shot, requiring hundreds of millions of dollars to acquire the 170-year-old beer best known as PBR.

The company that started in Milwaukee in 1844 is now headquartered in Los Angeles after being bought by food industry executive C. Dean Metropoulos in 2010 for a reported \$250 million.

Police arrest 2 teens in mob attack on man

MI DETROIT — Two Detroit teenagers were arrested Saturday in an attack on a suburban man who was brutally beaten by a mob after accidentally striking a boy with his pickup truck.

Investigators believe the 17-year-old and 16-year-old males had a direct role in the beating of Steve Utash, said Sgt. Mike Woody, a Detroit police spokesman.

Utash remained in critical condition Saturday, three days after the attack on the city's east side. Woody said no charges would be immediately filed against the teens while investigators continue their work. Police believe at least six people may have been involved.

"We still have a long way to go. I've been reminding people we're still at the very beginning stage of this investigation," the sergeant said.

Razor blades found at city playground

PA BROOKHAVEN — Police said razor blades were found duct-taped to playground equipment at a park outside Philadelphia.

Police in the Delaware County town of Brookhaven said the blades affixed to equipment in Eaton Park could have injured children playing in the area.

They said other parks in the town had been checked and were clear, but they will be checked by both patrol and plainclothes officers on every shift.

On their Facebook page, police asked parents to check equipment before letting children play, and said older, unescorted children should be warned as well.

Police credited maintenance personnel for discovering the vandalism. No injuries were reported.

Authorities in western Illinois recently found a dozen razor blades glued to playground

equipment in a city park in East Moline.

Fire starts after bride, groom are married

MA FOXBOROUGH — Authorities said a three-alarm fire broke out at a wedding outside Boston just after the bride and groom were pronounced husband and wife.

The Sun Chronicle reported that flames broke through the roof of the historic Lakeview Pavilion in Foxborough on Saturday night, destroying it. The fire was knocked down hours after it started.

Justice of the Peace Jerry Cibley said the fire began at the end of the wedding just as the bride, groom and their wedding party walked down the aisle. He told the paper he had "just pronounced them husband and wife" and that the couple were devastated about the fire.

Cibley said everyone got out safely, including the 150 or so guests.

The venue's website says it opened in 1906.

From wire reports

FACES

Actor Rooney dies



Stars and Stripes

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
The Associated Press

Mickey Rooney's approach to life was simple: "Let's put on a show!" He spent nine decades doing it, on the big screen, on television, on stage and in his extravagant personal life.

Asperstar in his youth, Rooney was Hollywood's top box-office draw in the late 1930s to early 1940s. He epitomized the "show" part of show business, even if the business end sometimes failed him amid money troubles and a seasaw of career tailspins and revivals.

Rooney's, early blockbuster success as the vixen but wholesome-sounding Andy Hardy and as Judy Garland's musical comrade in *Meet Me in St. Louis* and *The Band Wagon* were followed by roles in *The Sign of the Cross* and *The Muppetts*'s.

Rooney died Sunday at age 93 at his North Hollywood home, police said. The Los Angeles County Coroner's office said Rooney died of natural causes.

Rooney was nominated for four Academy Awards over a four-decade span and received two special Oscars for film achievements, won an Emmy for his TV movie "Bill" and had a Tony nomination for his Broadway smash "Sugar Babies."

Mickey Rooney, a World War II veteran, was the grand marshal for the 2008 National Memorial Day Parade in Washington, D.C. Rooney, a beloved actor since the 1930s, died Sunday at 93.

A small man physically, Rooney was prodigious in talent, scope, ambition and appetite. He sang and danced, played roles both serious and silly, wrote memoirs, a novel, movie scripts and plays and married eight times, fathering 11 children.

His first marriage — to the glamorous, and taller, Ava Gardner — lasted only a year. But a fond recollection from Rooney years later — "I'm 5 feet 3, but I was 6 feet 4 when I married Ava" — summed up the man's passion and capacity for life.

Rooney began as a toddler in his parents' vaudeville act in the 1920s. He was barely six when he first appeared on screen, playing a midget in the 1926 silent comedy short "Not to Be Trusted," and he was still at it more than 80 years later, working incessantly as he racked up about 250 screen credits in a career unrivaled for length and variety.

"I always say, 'Don't retire — inspire,'" Rooney said in an interview in March 2008. "There's a lot to be done."

'Captain America' sequel opens with \$96.2M, sets April record

From wire services

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the superhero sequel to the 2011 movie, generated an estimated \$96.2 million in its weekend debut for Walt Disney, a record for an April release.

The film, starring Chris Evans in the title role, left behind "Noah," the biblical epic with Russell Crowe, which took in \$17 million in its second weekend in U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to a Sunday estimate from Rentrak. "Noah" has taken in \$72.3 million in two weeks of release.

"The Winter Soldier" marks an early start to the summer film season, which traditionally begins in May and during which Hollywood studios release some of their biggest movies. Spreading out the premiere dates helps the industry avoid too many of its so-called tentpole pictures cannibalizing one another's sales.

Opening sales of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" beat the previous high for the month, \$86.2 million, recorded by "Fast Five" in 2011, according to Rentrak.

Overseas sales of "The Winter Soldier" have generated \$107.1 million, Disney estimated.

"Winter Soldier" picks up the story of Steve Rogers, played by Evans, the slight recruit who becomes a super soldier after volunteering for a top-secret project. In the sequel to the 2011 movie, set in World War II, Rogers finds himself in the Cold War era where he battles a new threat, a Soviet agent known as the Winter Soldier.

Scarlett Johansson is featured as Black Widow. Robert Redford

and Samuel L. Jackson also star.

"Divergent," a young adult sci-fi movie, collected \$13 million to place third. The film has taken in \$114 million in the U.S. and Canada, according to Rentrak.

"The religious-themed movie 'God's Not Dead' collected \$7.7 million for fourth place. 'The Grand Budapest Hotel' collected \$6.3 million to place fifth.

Judge rejects request to dismiss Brown case

Singer Chris Brown's assault case is going forward after a judge in Washington rejected a request to dismiss it.

Lawyers for the Grammy-award-winning singer had argued the case should be dismissed because prosecutors misused the grand jury process to prepare for trial. But a judge said Monday she did not believe there was any abuse.

Brown and his bodyguard were arrested in Washington in October and are accused of punching a man outside a Washington hotel. His trial on the misdemeanor assault charge is set for April 17.

France apologizes for flirtation with teen

James Franco has apologized for his Instagram flirtation with a 17-year-old.

On the morning talk show "Live With Kelly and Michael," Franco said Friday that he used "bad judgment" and "learned my lesson."

The 35-year-old actor and filmmaker was caught trying to pick up a Scottish girl named Lucy

Clode on the photo-sharing app.

Franco said Friday that he was embarrassed and that he's "a model of how social media is truly tricky."

Other news

■ **Barbara Walters**, 84, plans to make her final appearance on "The View" on May 16, part of a daylong retirement celebration that will include ABC News naming its New York headquarters after her.

■ **Malaysia and Indonesia** have banned the biblical epic "Noah," joining other Muslim nations that forbid the Hollywood movie for its visual depiction of the prophet.

■ **John Pinette**, the chubby stand-up comedian who portrayed a hapless carjacking victim in the final episode of "Seinfeld," died Saturday in Pittsburgh of natural causes, according to the Allegheny County Medical Examiner's office. He was 50.

■ **The Jennifer Lopez-backed** company that owns NUOVOtv, an English-language cable entertainment network aimed at Latinos, has bought the Fuse music network for \$226 million.

■ **Production companies** Syco Entertainment and FremantleMedia announced Monday that Guinness World Records has deemed the "Got Talent" TV series the most successful reality TV format worldwide. The producers say the format that was launched as "Britain's Got Talent" has been adapted for broadcast in 58 countries. The "Got Talent" format was created by music and reality TV entrepreneur **Simon Cowell**.

George Strait voted entertainer of year at ACM Awards

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

George Strait won his second entertainer of the year — 25 years after he won his first — and Miranda Lambert and Keith Urban teamed up to earn top honors Sunday night at a jam-packed Academy of Country Music Awards that had a little something for everyone.

Strait's victory was not unexpected. The 61-year-old is a few months from retiring from the road and won the same trophy at the rival Country Music Association Awards five months ago. But the ACMs entertainer award is fan-voted, and some wondered if Strait's older fan base might vote.

"I've always said I have the best fans in the world," Strait told the crowd. "I heard this was a fan-voted thing, so I rest my case."

Co-hosts Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan were also nominated in the category with Lambert and Taylor Swift.

Bryan and Shelton deftly stole the show with a mix of self-deprecating, celebrity-skewering jokes and two performances apiece.

Each performed twice with Shelton offering a subdued but powerful version of his song "My Eyes," playing an acoustic guitar while seated with Gwen Sebastian at his side, before returning flanked by Shakira on their duet "Medicine." Bryan, newformally "Play It Again" while standing on a revolving replica of a vinyl album, then teamed with vocal duo of the year winner Florida Georgia Line on "This Is How We Roll."

Lambert teamed with Urban to win vocal event of the year for their "We Were Us" collaboration, for which Urban won trophies as producer and performer. Urban won video of the year with Tim McGraw and Taylor Swift for "Highway Don't Care." The three wins Sunday night gave Lambert 18 trophies at the ACM Awards since she first won best new female artist in 2006.

Perhaps the most moving performance was by the audience at the MGM Grand, which broke into "Happy Birthday" as Haggard walked to the stage on his 77th birthday to receive the academy's Crystal Milestone Award.



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

George Strait, left, and Miranda Lambert perform at the 49th annual Academy of Country Music Awards in Las Vegas on Sunday. Strait won entertainer of the year, for which Lambert was also nominated.

Musgraves won album of the year for "Same Trailer Different Park" two months after taking the Grammy for country album

of the year. Lee Brice's "I Drive Your Truck" won song of the year, and Justin Moore won new artist of the year. It's the show's

only other fan-voted award. Jason Aldean won his second consecutive male vocalist of the year award.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Singapore looks to China to grow

By SHARON CHEN
AND CHOU HUI HONG
Bloomberg News

SINGAPORE — Singapore is encouraging companies to expand in China to tap rising consumption in the world's second-largest economy as President Xi Jinping sustains efforts to reduce his country's reliance on investment and exports.

The island's shipments to China will probably increase as a share of total exports, driven by consumer goods, infrastructure, logistics and energy, said Seah Moon Ming, chairman of the trade promotion agency known as IE Singapore. Seah, who also heads an energy supply and trading company, will lead a business delegation to Shandong, China, this week in his first overseas mission as head of the agency.

"We want to leverage on every possible access channel that we can have, either market access or business access," he said in

an interview last week. "China still will have net growth on the U.S." of 5 to 6 percentage points even as its economic expansion will probably slow by 7 percent, he said.

Asia's biggest economic overtook Malaysia as Singapore's top trading partner last year, as direct investment to China from the island rose 7 percent in 2012. The Southeast Asian nation's faith in China contrasts with concern among investors that growth will slow as credit risks escalate. The Shanghai Composite Index has fallen 2.7 percent this year as investors anticipate the government will miss its growth target.

China's government targets growth of 7.5 percent this year after the economy expanded 7.7 percent in 2013, the same pace as in 2012.

"In the bigger scheme of things, China is still a fantastic growth story," said Wai Ho Leong, a Singapore-based economist at Barclays, who predicts China's

economy will grow 7.2 percent this year. "We shouldn't be going there to set up factories; we should be going there to sell directly to the increasingly affluent Chinese consumer."

IE Singapore forecasts non-oil domestic exports will rise 1 percent to 3 percent in 2014, after falling 6 percent last year. The Southeast Asian nation's economy expanded more than economists estimated in the fourth quarter of 2013 after a pick-up in manufacturing, a sign the economy is recovering after exports fell 10 months out of the year in 2013.

Companies in Singapore are hesitant to venture into China because they may not have the capital and it's difficult to do business without knowing local government officials, according to Seah. Singapore invites future mayors to attend MBA programs in the city to build connections, Seah said, and his agency has helped train more than 2,000 Shandong government officials.

"The whole issue is not rules and regulation but how to navigate," said Seah, 57. "You want to go China, what do you want? Somebody to hold your hand."

Expanding overseas is a necessity for Singapore companies grappling with rising rental costs and a labor shortage at home amid a government clampdown on overseas workers willing to accept lower wages. Firms will have to restructure their businesses by improving productivity, reconfiguring their businesses or entering new markets, according to IE Singapore.

"Singapore also from a very domestic perspective knows that SMEs have been hitting up against the ceiling for a long time now," said Vishnu Varathan, a Singapore-based economist at Mizuho Bank. "We're hitting up against all the capacity constraints, the only way small and medium enterprises can go forward is to expand into regional markets."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 8)	\$1.4085
Dollar buys (April 8)	€0.7100
British pound (April 8)	\$1.70
Japanese yen (April 8)	101.00
South Korean won (April 8)	1,026.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6613/€0.6913
Canada (dollar)	1.0985
China (Yuan)	6.2122
Denmark (Krone)	5.4332
Egypt (Pound)	€9.770
Euro	\$1.3742/€0.7277
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7553
Hungary (Forint)	223.45
Israel (Shekel)	3.4863
Japan (Yen)	103.18
Kuwait (Dinar)	€0.2818
Norway (Krone)	5.9937
Philippines (Peso)	44.91
Poland (Zloty)	3.2060
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2610
South Korea (Won)	1,025.65
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8876
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.49
Turkey (New Lira)	0.1197

(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 non-local currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.75
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.58

WEATHER OUTLOOK

TUESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



TUESDAY IN EUROPE



WEDNESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 42 Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

Tuesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	W/P	Chatanooga	61	46	Cldy	Fort Wayne	51	37	Cldy	Louisville	59	41	Cldy	Pocatello	69	36	Cldy	Slou City	61	36	Pcldy
Ablene, Tex	74	41	Pcldy	Cheyenne	63	33	Cir	Fresno	89	55	Cir	Lubbock	74	33	Cir	Portland, Maine	58	43	Rain	Siou Falls	56	33	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	50	40	Cldy	Chicago	50	37	Cir	Goodland	68	32	Cir	Macon	70	53	Cir	Portland, Ore.	67	48	Rain	South Bend	47	35	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	69	43	Cldy	Cincinnati	55	43	Rain	Grand Junction	70	36	Cir	Madison	53	36	Cldy	Providence	63	47	Rain	Spokane	70	44	Pcldy
Albuquerque	72	39	Cir	Cleveland	48	39	Rain	Grand Rapids	52	34	Cldy	Medford	77	43	Pcldy	Pueblo	72	28	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	55	40	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	62	45	Cldy	Colorado Springs	65	29	Cir	Great Falls	69	40	Cir	Memphis	62	46	Rain	Raleigh-Durham	67	59	Rain	Springfield, Mo.	56	39	Cldy
Amarillo	73	33	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	67	57	Cldy	Green Bay	51	24	Cldy	Miami Beach	87	76	Cir	Reno	79	46	Rain	Tampa	76	70	Rain
Anchorage	36	25	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	67	51	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	63	53	Cldy	Midland-Odesa	75	41	Cir	Reno	79	46	Rain	Tucson	90	53	Rain
Ashville	58	44	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	55	45	Cldy	Hartford	69	46	Pcldy	Milwaukee	65	43	Cldy	Richmond	68	58	Cldy	Yonkers	64	51	Rain
Atlanta	68	48	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	58	38	Rain	Hartford	69	46	Pcldy	Minneapolis	63	33	Pcldy	Roanoke	62	44	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	65	37	Cir
Atlantic City	66	47	Cldy	Corpus Christi	82	54	Cir	Helena	71	38	Cir	Missoula	68	37	Cldy	Rochester	52	43	Rain	Wichita Falls	65	37	Cir
Austin	67	45	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	71	44	Rain	Honolulu	71	44	Rain	Mobile	71	44	Rain	Rockford	53	37	Cir	Wichita Falls	73	40	Pcldy
Baltimore	63	49	Cldy	Dayton	53	42	Rain	Houston	72	51	Cir	Montgomery	60	46	Rain	Sacramento	85	53	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	62	49	Cldy
Baton Rouge	70	55	Cldy	Daytona Beach	77	69	Rain	Huntsville	63	42	Cldy	Nashville	64	42	Cldy	St. Louis	57	43	Cldy	Yonkers	64	51	Rain
Bilings	69	40	Cir	Denver	68	31	Cir	Indianapolis	54	29	Cldy	New Orleans	69	58	Cir	St. Petersburg	76	71	Rain	Youngstown	72	45	Pcldy
Birmingham	61	43	Cir	Des Moines	59	40	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	66	44	Rain	New York City	64	48	Cir	St. Thomas	87	76	Cir	Youngstown	72	45	Pcldy
Bismarck	64	27	Pcldy	Detroit	53	37	Cldy	Jacksonville	76	67	Rain	Newark	68	49	Cir	Salem, Ore.	68	46	Cldy	W. Palm Beach	85	73	Rain
Boise	76	44	Cir	Fargo	52	28	Pcldy	Juneau	57	38	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	68	62	Rain	Salt Lake City	72	44	Rain	Wichita Falls	65	37	Cir
Boston	61	45	Rain	El Paso	78	46	Cir	Kansas City	60	41	Cir	North Platte	66	28	Pcldy	San Angelo	77	41	Cir	Wichita Falls	73	40	Pcldy
Bridgport	62	45	Cldy	Elkins	52	41	Cldy	Key West	77	68	Rain	Oklahoma City	64	41	Pcldy	San Antonio	80	52	Cir	Wichita Falls	73	40	Pcldy
Brownsville	81	59	Cir	Erie	44	40	Rain	Knoxville	59	45	Cldy	Omaha	63	38	Cir	San Diego	83	62	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	59	45	Cldy
Buffalo	51	39	Rain	Eugene	67	45	Cldy	Lake Charles	72	54	Pcldy	Orlando	77	69	Rain	San Francisco	73	52	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	62	49	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	69	42	Cir	Fairbanks	21	11	Snow	Las Vegas	87	59	Cir	Pasadena	67	58	Cir	San Jose	82	64	Rain	Yonkers	72	45	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	47	34	Rain	Fairbanks	21	11	Snow	Las Vegas	87	59	Cir	Pendleton	71	46	Cir	Santa Fe	68	30	Cir	Youngstown	68	41	Rain
Casper, Wyo.	67	32	Cir	Fargo	56	32	Cldy	Lexington	58	41	Cldy	Peoria	59	41	Cir	St. Ste Marie	41	32	Cir	Youngstown	62	49	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	73	63	Rain	Flagstaff	67	26	Cir	Lincoln	65	37	Cir	Philadelphia	64	48	Cir	Savannah	73	63	Rain	Youngstown	62	49	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	56	46	Cldy	Flint	51	34	Cldy	Little Rock	64	44	Cldy	Phoenix	94	63	Cir	Seattle	60	48	Rain	Youngstown	62	49	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	66	53	Cldy	Fort Smith	64	45	Cir	Los Angeles	87	59	Cir	Pittsburgh	51	42	Rain	Shreveport	68	48	Pcldy	Youngstown	62	49	Cldy

National temperature extremes
Hi: Sun., 91, Thermal, Calif.
Lo: Sun., 7, Mount Washington, N.H.

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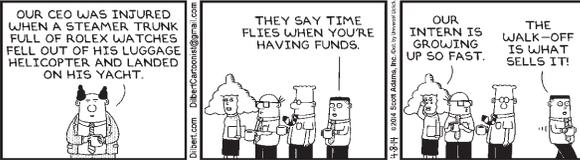
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Candorville



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												
42						43	44				45	46	47
48						49					50		
51						52					53		

ACROSS

- 1 Supermarket lineup
- 5 Soaks (up)
- 9 Taxi
- 12 Composer Satie
- 13 Present covering
- 14 Japanese sash
- 15 Moot
- 17 Eccentric
- 18 Gratuities
- 19 Social ranking
- 21 Hut
- 24 Sword handle
- 25 Midmonth date
- 26 Skydiver's thrill
- 30 Glutton
- 31 Makes tea
- 32 Ghost's greeting
- 33 Like some grapes and oranges
- 35 Paper holder
- 36 Even
- 37 Frock
- 38 Romney opponent
- 40 Shaving cream additive
- 42 Poke
- 43 Schedule
- 48 Everybody
- 49 Cupid's alias
- 50 Dirt
- 51 Eisenhower
- 52 Pub missile
- 53 Former mates

DOWN

- 1 Clamnett patriarch
- 2 Exist
- 3 Cage component
- 4 Gear for Kristi Yamaguchi
- 5 Trade
- 6 Spheres
- 7 Crony
- 8 Genus subdivision
- 9 Public officer
- 10 Touch
- 11 Champ
- 16 Up to
- 20 TV extraterrestrial
- 21 Rose fruit
- 22 Garfield's companion
- 23 Parsnip, e.g.
- 24 Chops
- 26 Wilma's hubby
- 27 Scale members
- 28 "Family Guy" mom
- 29 Prunes
- 31 Spoke
- sheepishly?
- 34 Badly lit
- 35 Foid
- 37 Speck
- 38 Town near Santa Barbara
- 39 Pitching slip-up
- 40 Latin love
- 41 Far fear that
- 44 A Gerstwin
- 45 Carthon
- 46 Whopper
- 47 Golfer Ernie

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-8

CRYPTOQUIP

HT XBSSHWZC, ZXCOL ZCU
GYQP PZU JOOC KYCZLQPX.
MYBSU OWOLNJYUN GCYM

EPOK ZX OUX YT XEZO?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASS TAKEN BY GROUPS OF FEMALE FAMILY BRUINS LACKING IN PATIENCE; FORBEARANCE FOR BEAR AUNTS.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals A

FREE Ad Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information.
No websites will be accepted in free listings.

Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads.

Advertising Kathryn Peterson kathy@stripes.com
Circulation Van Rowley rowley@stripes.com
Reader Letters letters@stripes.com

EUROPE Kathryn Peterson kathy@stripes.com
MIDDLE EAST Wayne Victor wayne@stripes.com
PACIFIC Yuko Saito ysaito@stripes.com

Wayne Victor wayne@stripes.com
Robert Reisman robert@stripes.com

Yuko Saito ysaito@stripes.com
Mari Matsumoto SSMatsumoto@stripes.com

CLASSIFIED Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. Sell fast! Buy fast!

Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classified scams can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements. Be aware of the common red flags. Some of the latest Scam fads are:
Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
People paying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS has a listing with a working phone and fax.
www.alcoholics-anonymous.com

Automotive 140

4 BMW Alloy OEM 15" Rims
2005 Audi A4 Sedan
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic

Automotive 140

2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic

Automotive 142

2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between buyers and sellers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Automotive 142

BUYER BEWARE

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. Stars and Stripes suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. Stars and Stripes is not liable for the contractual relationship between buyers and sellers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Automotive 142

Auto - Quality Pre-owned US SPEC Vehicles

2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic
2005 Honda Civic

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 735i, 1997 85000.00
BMW 520i, 1997 45000.00
BMW 320i, 1997 35000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW X5, 2007 524000.00
Excellent Condition. 59,000 miles.
BMW X3, 2007 324000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 320i, 1997 35000.00
BMW 520i, 1997 45000.00
BMW 735i, 1997 85000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Dodge Charger Rallye 2011
Dodge Charger Rallye 2011
Dodge Charger Rallye 2011

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Dodge Grand Caravan 2011
Dodge Grand Caravan 2011
Dodge Grand Caravan 2011

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Ford Fusion Sport, 2010
Ford Fusion Sport, 2010
Ford Fusion Sport, 2010

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Harley Davidson FLHX Street
Harley Davidson FLHX Street
Harley Davidson FLHX Street

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Corvette Coupe, 2004
Corvette Coupe, 2004
Corvette Coupe, 2004

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00
BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00
BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Honda Civic, 2005 54995.00
Honda Civic, 2005 54995.00
Honda Civic, 2005 54995.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Honda Element, 2007
Honda Element, 2007
Honda Element, 2007

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Ford Fusion Sport, 2010
Ford Fusion Sport, 2010
Ford Fusion Sport, 2010

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Harley Davidson FLHX Street
Harley Davidson FLHX Street
Harley Davidson FLHX Street

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Corvette Coupe, 2004
Corvette Coupe, 2004
Corvette Coupe, 2004

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00
BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00
BMW 316i, 1997 53000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

NISSAN EXPRADA, 2008
NISSAN EXPRADA, 2008
NISSAN EXPRADA, 2008

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Nissan Infiniti G35x, 2006
Nissan Infiniti G35x, 2006
Nissan Infiniti G35x, 2006

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Opel Vectra, 2001 29000.00
Opel Vectra, 2001 29000.00
Opel Vectra, 2001 29000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

2011 Ford Focus
2011 Ford Focus
2011 Ford Focus

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Toyota Sienna XLE, 2006
Toyota Sienna XLE, 2006
Toyota Sienna XLE, 2006

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volkswagen VW Passat, 2007
Volkswagen VW Passat, 2007
Volkswagen VW Passat, 2007

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

VOLVO V40, 2001 25000.00
VOLVO V40, 2001 25000.00
VOLVO V40, 2001 25000.00

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

VOLVO XC70 AWD, 2007
VOLVO XC70 AWD, 2007
VOLVO XC70 AWD, 2007

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

VW Golf GTI, 2012 19800.00
VW Golf GTI, 2012 19800.00
VW Golf GTI, 2012 19800.00

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Audi Romeo, MTO, 2009
Audi Romeo, MTO, 2009
Audi Romeo, MTO, 2009

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

Fiat 500, 2011 89500.00
Fiat 500, 2011 89500.00
Fiat 500, 2011 89500.00

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

BMW 650i, 2006 25000.00
BMW 650i, 2006 25000.00
BMW 650i, 2006 25000.00

Motorcycles 164

BMW R65, 1981 82500.00
BMW R65, 1981 82500.00
BMW R65, 1981 82500.00

Motorcycles 164

CycleSled, Motorcycle Enduro
CycleSled, Motorcycle Enduro
CycleSled, Motorcycle Enduro

Motorcycles 164

Ducati Monster, 2001
Ducati Monster, 2001
Ducati Monster, 2001

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson Road
Harley Davidson Road
Harley Davidson Road

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson Road
Harley Davidson Road
Harley Davidson Road

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson Super
Harley Davidson Super
Harley Davidson Super

U.S. military news 24/7 from around the world

Stripes.com posts regular updates on our overseas military bases in Europe, the Pacific and the Mideast - and covers the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

We also deliver on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and offer a Tablet Edition for iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES

Wherever you need us, however you read us: we're always for you.

OLYMPICS

IOC leaders shift focus to difficulties in Rio

By STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

With the Sochi Olympics behind them, IOC leaders are gathering in Turkey this week amid growing alarm over Brazil's troubled preparations for the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Six weeks after the close of the Winter Games in Russia, the International Olympic Committee executive board meets in the Mediterranean resort of Belek to review a wide range of issues — none more urgent than the chronic construction delays that are putting some of Rio's venue plans at risk.

IOC President Thomas Bach conveys his policy-making board Wednesday for a two-day meeting during SportAccord, an annual global sports industry convention.

Also meeting in Belek is the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations, whose leaders are deeply concerned about the construction backlog in Rio.

Bach has said repeatedly that Rio "doesn't have a day to lose" to get ready for South America's first Olympics, mindful of the continuing delays for this year's World Cup in Brazil.

The IOC's coordination commission left Rio last month warning that the games faced "challenging deadlines" and again urging organizers and government officials to get things moving.

Olympic officials said the situation bears similarities to the 2004 Athens Olympics, whose delays became so critical that then-IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch reprimanded organizers with a "yellow card." The IOC has so far stopped short of

issuing a similar warning for Rio, but the pressure is building.

In the past week alone, the head of Olympic planning for Rio's municipal government resigned, more than 2,000 construction workers went on strike and Brazilian soldiers stormed a Rio slum in a bid to improve security before the World Cup.

IOC leaders are particularly worried that work has yet to begin on the Deodoro complex, an area in northern Rio which is supposed to house the second largest cluster of Olympic venues.

Work is also being held up by the Olympic golf course. Peter Dawson, president of the international golf federation, said that a planned test tournament next year may not take place. Severe water pollution in Rio's Guanabara Bay has cast a cloud over the Olympic sailing venue.

Many of the delays are rooted in disputes among Brazil's three levels of government, including who pays for what.

A crucial meeting on Olympic spending, which was to have included officials from the office of Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff, did not take place as scheduled last month. It may be held this week.

Carlos Nuzman, head of the Rio organizing committee, and chief executive officer Sidney Levy were due to appear before the IOC board in Turkey this week, but may now stay in Brazil for the meeting and report to the IOC by video conference.

IOC vice president Nawal El Moutawakel, head of the coordination commission for Rio, will present her latest update to the board. In the meantime, the IOC is planning to send groups of experts into Rio to monitor the project.

Classified EUROPE For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSM: 583-9012

Tax Assistance 940

H&R BLOCK Germany H&R Block Tax Offices Get face-to-face tax help. Ramstein Wiesbaden Vilseck 06371-8020410 06134-256963 09662-701139 Email: eclemans@hrblock.com

Motorcycles 164

Yamaha, Fazer 600, 2003 \$2250.00 per bike to states and back to the USA. We have 36700 kilometers. This bike has a racing inspired conversion bar from being dropped other than the fuel tank. It has a brand new front Michelin pilot tire. Includes outdoor cover. Location: Garmisch, Mexico City. For more details, 015226607206

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

Jeep Grand Cherokee, 1995 \$2200.00. They don't make them like this anymore. This three wheel drive, 4 door, 2000 cc and approx equal top handle on the end of the subframe with the driver's seat! With a mileage of 156,000, the owner is moving to the USA. Also has new brake, automatic transmission, and wheel drive components. Please inspect, get test work. US Specs? Yep. Steady car. Job a hoot? You betcha. Need to worry about pesky little mice? No way. Informally, 405-807-9199. If included 405-807-9199

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

BMW, X5 - 35i, 2011 \$31000.00. Only selling to make room for an update before we head - we love the X5 that much! Fully loaded - AWD with sun roof, trim. The amenities go on and on. The price for this car is available on Clay Kenner's M-F. Or see this car go to loving owners that's trade in - a carry over price was 425 435 gm, 1206@yahoo.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

Trucks 174

Chrysler, Town & Country, Dodge, 1995-2000. Outstanding touring van get in line for spring drive. 700 mile passenger plus luggage with blow by and roof rack. 700 mile bumper to bumper warranty and 3 year/50,000 mile powertrain warranty. Seller guarantees satisfaction. 4 snow tires (mounted) and a continental tire for summer tires. 4 additional tires for summer tires in all parking garages, even with roof rack. \$6,200.00. 405-807-9199. Email me at Chrysler.de sales@yahoo.com for more details. 01511-6502218

Furniture/Appliances 511

Char-Broil Gas Grill for Sale \$75.00 model 46372012 gas grill with 8,000 BTU side burner. Has new 35,000 BTU main burner unit; grate and heat tent. Comes with extra replacement grate and heat tent. Electric grill is missing. Cash and carry only. Westland area. Call: 1974@yahoo.com

Home Electronics 570

LG Microwave for Sale \$40.00 LG large capacity microwave for sale \$200. Cash and carry only. Westland area. Contact with: 1974@yahoo.com. Panasonic Cordless Phone \$22.00 I am selling a Panasonic cordless phone (European Plug). \$22.50/ea. Call: ss2day@yahoo.com. Tackma Transformer 2000 Watts \$85.00 Selling a Tackma Transformer 2000 Watts Model number: S C 9 5 6 9. Call: ss2day@yahoo.com. Tramat 75 Watt Transformer: \$15.00 Selling a Tramat 75 Watt Transformer. Call: ss2day@yahoo.com

Computers 360

Sport watch 100 \$10 \$16.00. Only selling Hanna Sport watch 100. Have 2 but selling each for \$15. 10667@gmail.com

Jobs Offered 630

English Teachers Freelance / Part-Time LANGUACOM. Requirements: Looking for friendly, motivated, native professional with an academic degree (Bachelor or Master). German knowledge welcome. On-the-job training offered. Please send us your resume and cover letter to: call: 07115960-660

Furniture 510

Cash Electronics Furniture Classic Discounts & Pk. Lay Away. Call: 0227-917-2275. Queen Sleeper Sofa \$50.00. Call: 0227-917-2275. 0 3 5 2 6 3 9 1 8 B 3 callid@yahoo.com

Free Classifieds!

Visit Stripes.com for details.

STARS AND STRIPES

Musical Instruments 740

GIBSON Lucille BB King Electric Guitar 2011 \$2700.00. Selling because I am ETSing in a few months and need \$5. Includes free hardcase, custom num19@gmail.com

Stars and Stripes reserves the right to reject any free advertisement request. The use of full names is not permitted. You must be 18 years of age or older to place a free family notice to person advertisement.

Pet Accessories 822

Metal Outdoor Dog Kennel \$200.00 Large metal dog kennel and dog house. Gate and roof. Comes apart for moving and is expandable. 00322 2038183 callid@yahoo.com

Real Estate 850

Moving to Barksdale Air Force base Louisiana? \$347500.00. For sale by owner 4 x 3 swimming pool, 2651 sqft. Fully wired for surround sound, gas range, granite countertops, granite island, and closing costs. 15 minutes from base, best school district in the area. Home warranty and closing costs. Offered. No money down with a VA loan. Available immediately. Email: colcyca@yahoo.com

House Unfurnished 878

Spacious town home in Mantel, 195 sqm, 10 min to grid and 20 min to Visecek. 5 bedrooms, 2 full bathrooms, plus a powder room for guests, walk-in pantry, balcony and patio leading to a small backyard. Spacious kitchen, two parking spaces, 1000 Euro (utilities not included). If interested, call: 0178-93571466 after 6:00 pm.

Sporting Goods 980

Smith&Wesson .38 Model 64 revolver \$300.00 Model 64 S&W special, brushed steel finish, like new with holster. Call: 0166-898040 or email: ricksg2@hotmail.com 06303-8254. TREK 1000 Road Bike \$500.00. Call: TREK 1000 Road Bike, lightly used. Recently cleaned. 1500 miles. Call: 0166-898040 or email: ricksg2@hotmail.com 06303-8254. New back seat, two new tubes, Shimano deoreo shifters, Shimano SORA gears \$350.00 value about \$200.00. Call: 0166-898040 or email: ricksg2@hotmail.com 06303-8254. Specialized bike helmet and a pair of size 11.5 shoes. Call: 0166-898040 or email: ricksg2@hotmail.com 06303-8254

Travel 1000

*** Come Visit Garmisch*** Hotel Forsthaus Oberau am NH of Garmisch Hot tub/sauna. 3000 sq ft. 15 minutes from base, best school district in the area. Home warranty and closing costs. Offered. No money down with a VA loan. Available immediately. Email: colcyca@yahoo.com

Free Classifieds!

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Classifieds PACIFIC PacificClassifieds@stripes.com JAPAN DSM: 229-3276 Civ: 03-6385-3276 OKINAWA DSM: 645-7418 Civ: 098-893-0229 KOREA DSM: 721-7146 Civ: 82-2-2270-7146 FROM USA Overseas: 011-81-3-6385-3276

Autos for Sale -Japan 146

Nissan Cube, 2002 \$1950.00. Located at Yokosuka Bay 1500 sqm. New 2002 Mileage: 114K km. Call: 0227-917-2275. Insurance Expiry: 2/17/2015. Inspection: 2/17/2015. Power Inspection Due: 11/10/2015. Base Inspection Due: 11/10/2015. Call: 0227-917-2275. 0 3 5 2 6 3 9 1 8 B 3 callid@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale -Korea 148

DAEWOO, DAEWOO MAGNUS 2002 \$2600.00. 2002 DAEWOO MAGNUS 2002. Call: 0227-917-2275. 0 3 5 2 6 3 9 1 8 B 3 callid@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale -Korea 148

Jeep, Cherokee, Laredo, 2012 \$26500.00. Great condition, gas range kept and less than 2 years old. AWD and 4 door. Mile 2008 warranty. Contact for more details. 0151-6001854 weilmann@yaho.com

Sell Your Stuff!

Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS — sell everything with Stripes free classifieds! STARS AND STRIPES

SCOREBOARD

Sports on AFN

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

Auto racing

Bahrain Grand Prix

Formula One
Sunday
 At Bahrain International circuit
Sakhir, Bahrain
 Lap length: 3.65 miles
 1. Lewis Hamilton, England, Mercedes, 57 laps, 1:39:47.743, 115.249 mph.
 2. Nico Rosberg, Germany, Mercedes, 57, 1:39:49.828.
 3. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Force India, 57, 1:40:02.622.
 4. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull, 57, 1:40:07.232.
 5. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Force India, 57, 1:41:11.297.
 6. Sebastian Vettel, Germany, Red Bull, 57, 1:41:16.810.
 7. Felipe Massa, Brazil, Williams, 57, 1:40:18.400.
 8. Pastor Maldonado, Venezuela, Lotus, 57, 1:40:45.546.
 9. Kamui Kobayashi, Japan, Caterham, 57, 1:41:01.639.
 10. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Ferrari, 57, 1:40:15.338.
 11. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari, 57, 1:40:19.070.
 12. Daniil Kvyat, Russia, Toro Rosso, 57, 1:40:22.856.
 13. Max Chilton, England, Marussia, 57, 1:40:42.582.
 14. Pastor Maldonado, Venezuela, Lotus, 57, 1:40:45.546.
 15. Kamui Kobayashi, Japan, Caterham, 57, 1:41:01.639.
 16. Jules Bianchi, France, Marussia, 56, 1:41:09.205.
 17. Jensen Button, England, McLaren, 55, 42 laps, Lapped.

Not Classified

18. Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, McLaren, 55, 42 laps, Lapped.
 19. Esteban Gutierrez, Mexico, Sauber, 39, Accident.
 20. Marcus Ericsson, Sweden, Caterham, 33, Oil Leak.
 21. Jean-Eric Vergne, France, Toro Rosso, 18, Accident Damage.
 22. Adrian Sutil, Germany, Sauber, 17, Accident.

Drivers Standings (After 3 of 19 races)

1. Nico Rosberg, Germany, Mercedes, 61 points
 2. Lewis Hamilton, England, Mercedes, 50
 3. Nico Hulkenberg, Germany, Force India, 28.
 4. Fernando Alonso, Spain, Ferrari, 26.
 5. Sebastian Vettel, Germany, Red Bull, 23.
 6. Kevin Magnussen, Denmark, McLaren, 20.
 7. Valterri Bottas, Finland, Williams, 19.
 8. Sergio Perez, Mexico, Force India, 10.
 9. Daniel Ricciardo, Australia, Red Bull, 12.
 10. Felipe Massa, Brazil, Williams, 12.
 11. Kimi Raikkonen, Finland, Ferrari, 7.
 12. Jean-Eric Vergne, France, Toro Rosso, 4.
 13. Daniil Kvyat, Russia, Toro Rosso, 3.
Constructors Standings
 1. Mercedes, 111 points.
 2. Ferrari, 84.
 3. McLaren, 43.
 4. Red Bull, 35.
 5. Williams, 30.
 6. Toro Rosso, 7.

College hockey

NCAA Division I tournament

NORTHEAST REGIONAL
Championship
 Boston College 4, Quinnipiac-Lowell 3
EAST REGIONAL
Championship
 Union (N.Y.) 3, Providence 1
MIDWEST REGIONAL
Championship
 North Dakota 2, Ferris State 1, 2OT
WEST REGIONAL
Championship
 Minnesota 4, St. Cloud State 2
FROZEN FOUR
At Wells Fargo Center
Thursday
Semifinals
 Boston College (28-7-4), Union (N.Y.) (27-6-1)
 North Dakota (25-13-3), St. Minnesota (27-6-1)
Championship
Saturday, April 12
 Semifinal winners

Tennis

Monterey Open

Sunday
 At Monterrey, Mexico
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
 Ana Ivanovic (2), Serbia, def. Jovana Jaksic, Serbia, 6-2, 6-1

Family Circle Cup

Sunday
 At Charleston, S.C.
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
Singles
Championship
 Andrea Petkovic (14), Germany, def. Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, 7-5, 6-2
Doubles
 Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, and Yankovskaya, Kazakhstan, def. Chan Hao-ching and Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, 7-6 (4), 6-2

Davis Cup

World Group Quarterfinals

Winners to semifinals, Sept. 12-14
Zone A
Surface: Hard-Outdoor
 Radek Pavlicic, Czech Republic, def. Tatsuma Ito, Japan, 6-7 (5), 7-6 (5), 6-1, 7-5
 Czech Republic, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2
Zone B
 Czech Republic, def. Taro Daniel, Japan, 6-4, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2

France 3 Germany 2

At Nancy, France
 Tobias Kamke, Germany, def. Julien Benneteau, France, 7-6 (8), 6-3, 6-2
 Philipp Kohlschreiber, Germany, def. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, 5-7, 7-6 (3), 3-6, 6-2
 Julien Benneteau and Michael Llodra, France, vs. Andre Kuznetsov and Tobias Kamke, Germany, 6-1, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-5
 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, France, def. Tobias Kamke, Germany, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2
 Karol Beck, France, def. Peter Gojowatz, Germany, 6-2, 7-6 (0), 6-2

Italy 3 Britain 2

Surface: Clay-Outdoor
 Fabio Fognini, Italy, def. James Ward, Britain, 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, 6-1
 Andy Murray, Britain, def. Andreas Seppi, Italy, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3
 Colin Flinn and Andy Murray, Britain, def. Simone Bolegini and Fabio Fognini, Italy, 6-3, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5
 Italy, def. Andy Murray, Britain, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4
 Andrea Seppi, Italy, def. James Ward, Britain, 6-4, 6-2, 6-4

Switzerland 3, Kazakhstan 2

Surface: Hard-Outdoor
 Andrej Golubev, Switzerland, def. Stanislav Wavryniuk, Switzerland, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 3-6
 Roger Federer, Switzerland, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2
 Andrej Golubev, Switzerland, def. Roger Federer and Stanislav Wavryniuk, Switzerland, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 7-6 (5)
 Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-4, 6-4
 Roger Federer, Switzerland, def. Andrej Golubev, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (0), 6-2, 6-3

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL
AMERICAN LEAGUE
BOSTON RED SOX — Placed 38 Will Middlebrooks on the 15-day DL, retroactive to Saturday. Recalled Inge from Pawtucket (IL).
ATLANTA BRUINS — Assigned RHP Chia-Jen Lo outright to Oklahoma City (IL).
LOS ANGELES ANGELES — Sent RHP Dane De La Rosa to Arkansas (TL) for a rehab assignment.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Sent OF Craig Gentry to Stockton (CA) for a rehab assignment.
ST. LOUIS BRUINS — Announced Chris Gimenez refused outright assignment and elected free agency. Options RHP Jon Martinez to RHP Yu Darvish to the 15-day DL.
NEW YORK BLUE JAYS — Sent RHP Jai Happ to Dunedin (PSL) for a rehab assignment.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Sent RHP Jake Arrieta to Tennessee (CA) for a rehab assignment.
ANGELS DODGERS — Sent RHP Brian Wilson to Rancho Cucamonga (CA) for a rehab assignment.
NEW YORK METS — Options RHP Wilmer Flores to Las Vegas (PCL). Reinstated J.P. Jon Niese from the 15-day DL.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES — Sent LHP

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE		WESTERN CONFERENCE		
W	L	T	Pts	
Columbus	3	1	0	9
Toronto FC	2	1	0	6
Sporting KC	2	1	0	6
Philadelphia	1	1	3	6
D.C.	1	1	4	6
New England	1	2	4	6
Chicago	0	1	4	6
New York	0	1	4	6
Seattle	0	2	2	6
Portland	0	2	2	6
San Jose	0	2	1	4

Saturday's games

Portland 4, Seattle 4, tie
 Montreal 2, New York 2, tie
 Chicago 2, Philadelphia 2, tie
 Toronto FC 2, Columbus 0
 Colorado 2, Vancouver 1
 D.C. United 2, New England 0
 FC Dallas 4, Houston 1
 Vancouver at Los Angeles
Sunday, April 13
 Columbus at San Jose

National Women's Soccer League

W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	0	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0	0
FC Kansas City	0	0	0	0	0
Houston	0	0	0	0	0
Sky Blue FC	0	0	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0	0
Western New York	0	0	0	0	0

National Women's Soccer League

Portland 4, Seattle 4, tie
 Sky Blue FC at FC Kansas City
 Chicago at Washington
 Western New York at Washington
 Boston at Seattle FC

College baseball

Sunday's scores

EAST
 Baruch 8-4, CCNY 2-1
 Mount St. Mary's 7-6, New England 1-2
 Houston 8, Rutgers 1
 Montclair St. 48, Rutgers-Newark 2-5
 Mount St. Mary's 6, CCSU 4
 St. John Fisher 6-3, Utica 0-9
 Quinnipiac 6-8, Wentworth 1-4
 Slippery Rock 5-3, Gannon 4-0
 Susquehanna 8-1, York 1-4
 Thiel 10, Washington & Jefferson 7

SOUTH

Arkansas St. 7, WKU 5
 Belmont 6, UT-Martin 3
 Campbellsville 6-4, Pikeville 5-2, game 1, 11 innings
 Conner Newman 2, Newberry 0
 Centre 2, Tusculum 7, 7 innings
 Chowan 23-8, St. Augustine's 3-7
 E. Illinois 14, Murray St. 3
 Kentucky 9, Morehead St. 6
 Evansville 4, Charlotte 2
 FIU 1, Old Dominion 0
 Florida 11-4, Notre Dame 2-3
 Georgetown (Ky.) 6, St. Catherine 1
 Georgia Tech 1, Duke 0
 Guilford 3, Emory & Henry 2
 Kent St. 12,5-4,4,0
 Kentucky 9, Florida 8
 Lane 17, Kentucky 3
 Lincoln Memorial 1, Baker 3
 Lipscomb 6, ETSU 3
 Louisville 2, New England 0
 Miami 11, Wake Forest 3
 North Carolina 7-2, Belmont 3-7
 Maryland 1, Virginia Tech 0

MIDWEST

North Carolina 12, Boston College 2
 Park 9, Mid-Continent 2
 Park (Ga.) 5, Union (Ky.) 1-1
 Radford 1, Winthrop 0
 St. Francis (Ind.) 3, Roanoke 5-1
 Reinhardt 6, St. Andrews 5
 Shawnee St. 2, Lindsey Wilson 1
 St. Louis 6, Kentucky 1
 Tennessee 7, Vanderbilt 0
 North Wesleyan University 1
 Tennessee Tech 16, Austin Peay 9
 Thomas 10, Belmont 2
 Transylvania 5, Earlham 3
 Union (Tenn.) 12, Christian Brothers 3
 Virginia 3, Pittsburg 0

SOUTHWEST

Clark Canyon 3, Texas-Pan American 2
 Jacksonville St. 9, New Mexico 2
 Jacksonville St. 10, New Mexico 2
 New Mexico State 10, New Mexico 10
 New Mexico Highlands 10, Regis 7
 New Mexico State 10, New Mexico 10
 Sam Houston St. 10, Oral Roberts 4
 South Alabama 7, Texas St. 2
 Stephen F. Austin 10, Texas A&M-CC 6
 Texas 4, Baylor 0

AP spotlight

April 8

1995's Gene Sarazen gets a double eagle on the 18th hole to erase Craig Woods' three-stroke lead and goes on to win a PGA Tour title.
 1943 — The Detroit Red Wings beat the Boston Bruins 2-0 to win the Stanley Cup.
 1956 — Jack Burke Jr. comes back from eight strokes behind to beat Ken Venturi by one and win the Masters.
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NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference														
Atlantic Division					Metropolitan Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
z-Boston	78	33	19	11	81	212	199	x-Montreal	78	42	27	7	97	212
x-Tampa Bay	78	42	27	7	97	212	199	y-Pittsburgh	79	43	25	5	105	240
N.Y. Islanders	79	43	31	5	105	240	197	N.Y. Rangers	79	43	31	5	121	210
Philadelphia	78	40	29	9	89	220	220	Philadelphia	78	40	29	9	89	220
Wild Card														
Detroit	78	37	27	14	88	211	222	Columbus	78	40	31	7	87	215
New Jersey	78	34	28	16	84	191	200	Toronto	78	34	28	16	84	191
Washington	78	35	30	13	83	222	236	Washington	78	35	30	13	83	222
Carolina	78	34	33	11	79	196	215	Carolina	78	34	33	11	79	196
N.V. Islanders	79	21	48	3	63	158	258	N.V. Islanders	79	21	48	3	63	158
Florida	79	21	48	3	64	188	258	Florida	79	21	48	3	64	188
Buffalo	78	28	43	9	51	150	234	Buffalo	78	28	43	9	51	150

Western Conference														
Central Division					Pacific Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-St. Louis	78	52	19	7	111	245	177	x-Columbus	79	50	28	7	107	239
x-Chicago	79	45	19	15	105	259	207	x-Anaheim	79	49	21	8	108	251
x-San Jose	79	49	21	8	107	239	192	x-Los Angeles	79	49	21	8	98	197
Minnesota	78	38	29	11	92	195	194	Minnesota	78	38	29	11	92	195
Dallas	78	38	29	11	87	227	221	Dallas	78	38	29	11	87	227
Phoenix	78	36	28	14	86	209	221	Phoenix	78	36	28	14	86	209
Vancouver	78	35	32	11	81	187	210	Vancouver	78	35	32	11	81	187
Nashville	78	35	32	11	81	198	231	Nashville	78	35	32	11	81	198
Winnipeg	79	35	34	10	80	220	232	Winnipeg	79	35	34	10	80	220
Edmonton	79	32	41	6	65	157	251	Edmonton	79	32	41	6	65	157

Notes: Top three teams in each division and next two teams with the most points in the conference qualify for the playoffs. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Sunday's Games
 Pittsburgh @ Colorado, 2:00
 Chicago @ St. Louis, 2:00
 Florida @ Dallas, 2:00
 Edmonton @ N.Y. Islanders, 6:00
 Philadelphia @ Buffalo, 2:00
 Columbus @ Anaheim, 2:00

Monday's Games
 Calgary at Winnipeg
 Minnesota at New Jersey
 Anaheim at Vancouver

Sunday
Blue Jackets 4, Islanders 0
 N.Y. Islanders 2, 0-0
 Columbus 2, 0-0
First Period—1, Columbus, Jenner 14 (Lukas Plaharik), 4:21; 2, Columbus, Ja-Johnson 5 (Wisniewski), Dubinsky 13 (10:00).
Second Period—3, Columbus, Letestu 9 (Jenner, Frattini), 10:11; 4, Columbus, Murray 4 (Krisan, Dubinsky), 18:53 (09:28).

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 10-11-21. Columbus 13-9-11.
Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 2; Columbus 3 of 6.
Goals—N.Y. Islanders, Nilsson 6-2 (33 shots-23 saves). Columbus, Bobrov 25-25 (53). T—2:28.

Panthers 3, Stars 2
 Dallas 1, 1-0-2
 Florida 0, 2-0-1
First Period—1, Dallas, Ja-Bon 31 (Seguin, Daley), 3:45.
Second Period—Dallas, Seguin 3-6 (Goligoski, Daley), 39 (pp), 3; Florida, Upshall 15 (Gudbranson, Pirri), 8:20; 4, Florida, Pirri 13 (Plays, Butler), 19:23.
Third Period—5, Florida, Bergenheim 16 (Robak, Gomez), 15:26.
Shots on Goal—Dallas 12-15-37. Florida 10-14-24.
Power-play opportunities—Dallas 1-0 of 6; Florida 0 of 4.
Goals—Dallas, Lehtonen 31-20 (24 shots-21 saves). Florida, Luongo 24-27.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 2
 St. Louis 1, 0-1-2
 Chicago 2, 0-2-4
First Period—1, St. Louis, Schwartz 24 (Morrow, Pietrangeli), 1:57 (pp).
Second Period—2, Chicago, Morin 3 (Bleby), 8:34; 3, Chicago, Sharp 33 (Morin, Shaw), 19:33.
Third Period—4, Chicago, Kruger 8 (Nordstrom), 5:6; 5, St. Louis, Sobotta 9 (Bakus, Souvmeister), 17:53; Chicago, Smith 13 (Versteeg), 19:56 (en).
Shots on Goal—St. Louis 3-12-23. Chicago 11-12-23.
Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 1 of 6; Chicago 0 of 4.
Goals—St. Louis, Elliott 18-6-2 (34 shots-31 saves). Chicago, Crawford 31-10-10 (23:21). T—2:29.

Penguins 3, Avalanche 2
 Colorado 0, 2-0-0
 Colorado 0, 2-0-2
Pittsburgh won shootout
Second Period—1, Pittsburgh, Sutter 12 (Glass, Niskanen), 3:46; 2, Pittsburgh, Sutter 13 (Jokinen, Neal), 7:08 (pp).
Third Period—3, Colorado, O'Reilly 28 (Madrin, Mitchell), 15; 4, Colorado, Boudreau 5 (Barrie, Holden), 16:47.
Shootout—Pittsburgh 1 (Neal, Ng, Jokinen, G), Colorado 0 (Barrie, Ng, O'Reilly, Ng, Landeskog).
Shots on Goal—Pittsburgh 8-14-10-0-32. Colorado 15-12-11-3-41.
Goals—Pittsburgh, Fleury 38-18 (41 shots-29 saves). Colorado, Varlamov 40-14-6 (32-30). T—2:38.

Scoring leaders
 Through April 6

Player	GP	G	A	PTS
Sidney Crosby, PIT	57	36	66	102
Patrick Sharp, ANH	57	36	66	86
Tyler Seguin, DAL	76	36	46	82
Phil Kessel, TOR	79	37	43	80
Cory Perry, ANH	78	42	37	79
Claude Giroux, PHI	78	25	54	79

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FOCUS ST SAVE UP TO \$3,200



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Roundup

Flyers snap 4-game skid
 Schenn scores twice as Philadelphia downs Buffalo

The Associated Press

Oilers 4, Ducks 2
Anaheim 1 0 1-2
Edmonton 3 0 3-4
First Period—1, Anaheim, Silfverberg 9 (Cogliano, Rakei), 1:20.
Second Period—2, Edmonton, Hall 27 (Nugent-Hopkins, Schultz), 6:17 (pp), 3; Edmonton, Perron 27 (Gagner, Larsen), 8:22; Edmonton, Schultz 11 (Eberle, Hall), 16:38.
Goals—5, Anaheim, Perry 42 (Getzaf, Lindholm), 25 (pp), 6; Edmonton, Eberle 27 (Hall), 19:46 (en).
Shots on Goal—Anaheim 9-15-36. Edmonton 7-11-10-28.
Power-play opportunities—Anaheim 1 of 5; Edmonton 1 of 3.
Goals—Anaheim, Hiller 29-13-37 (7 shots-24 saves). Edmonton, Fashif 5-4-2 (36-34). T—2:33.
A—16,839 (16,839). T—2:33.

Flyers 5, Sabres 2
Buffalo 0 0 2-2
Philadelphia 3 1-1-5
First Period—1, Philadelphia, Read 21 (Streit), 13:20.
Second Period—2, Philadelphia, Rinaldo 2 (Read, Streit), 7:40; 3, Philadelphia, Schenn 19 (Streit, Lecavalier), 14:20 (pp), 4; Philadelphia, Lecavalier 19 (Voracek, Mosier), 17:28.
Third Period—5, Buffalo, Hodgson 19 (Ehrhoff, Emenick), 7:22 (pp), 6; Philadelphia, Schenn 20 (Simmonds, Timonen), 15:10; 7, Buffalo, Weber 1 (Hodgson, D'Agostini), 17:48.
Shots on Goal—Buffalo 5-6-8-19. Philadelphia 14-15-9-37.
Power-play opportunities—Buffalo 1 of 6; Philadelphia 1 of 6.
Goals—Buffalo, Liewen 11-4-0 (37 shots-32 saves). Philadelphia, Mason 32-18-17 (37). T—2:25.
A—19,603 (19,541). T—2:25.

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TOM MIHALKE/AP

Philadelphia Flyers' Brayden Schenn celebrates his second-period goal against the Buffalo Sabres on Sunday in Philadelphia.

Rinaldo, who entered with a team-high 137 penalty minutes, racked up 16 on Sunday and could face an NHL suspension.

"I had a lot of speed going at him. I put my shoulder down, and as he shot the puck my shoulder hit him clearly," Rinaldo said. "Proof is in the pudding right there. I shouldn't have done it. There's no need for it. We're up 4-0, but it's part of the game."

The Flyers turned the game into a rout with three second-period goals. Rinaldo, known more for pesky play than scoring, netted his second goal of the season when his wrist shot went off Liewen's glove and trickled over the line to make it 2-0 with 12:20 left.

Schenn deflected in Streit's slap shot on the power play with 5:40 remaining, snapping the Flyers' 0-for-12 skid on the man-advantage and stretching the lead to three.

Blue Jackets 4, Islanders 0: Boone Jenner and Mark Letestu each had a goal and an assist and

Sergei Bobrovsky stopped 31 shots for his second shutout of the week as host Columbus beat New York.

The Blue Jackets, desperate to hang on to a playoff spot in the East with a three-point lead over New Jersey with four games left, matched a season high with three power-play goals.

Blackhawks 4, Blues 2: Rookie Jeremy Morin scored and set up Patrick Sharp's go-ahead goal in the second period as Chicago held on to beat visiting St. Louis for their third straight win.

The Blackhawks ground out the win despite skating without injured stars Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane for the third game. Marcus Kruger and Ben Smith also scored for Chicago.

Penguins 3, Avalanche 2 (SO): Jussi Jokinen skated across the front of the crease and roofed a shot over sprawling goalie Semyon Varlamov to give visiting Pittsburgh a win over Colorado.

After falling behind 2-0 on Brandon Sutter's first multiple-goal game this season, Colorado's Ryan O'Reilly and Sebastian Brodeau scored in the third period to tie it.

Oilers 4, Ducks 2: Taylor Hall had a goal and two assists as host Edmonton beat Pacific Division leader Anaheim. David Perron, Jordan Eberle and Justin Schultz also scored for the Oilers, who have won two in a row.

Jacob Silfverberg and Corey Perry scored for the Ducks, who have lost two straight and remained one point ahead of the idle San Jose Sharks in the Pacific.

Panthers 3, Stars 2: Sean Bergenheim scored with 4:31 left to break a third-period tie as host Florida broke a five-game losing streak in a win over Dallas.

Scottie Upshall and Brandon Pirri also scored for Florida, and Roberto Luongo made 35 saves and beat Dallas for the first time in five starts. Tyler Seguin and Jamie Benn were goals for the Stars, who led Phoenix by a point for the last Western Conference wild card spot.



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MLB

Gallardo pitches Brewers to shutout win

Red Sox suffer three-game home sweep

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Strong outings are becoming a habit for Yovani Gallardo and the rest of Milwaukee's rotation.

In the Brewers' six games this season, no starter has allowed more than three runs.

"We see the guy in front of us do a great job and we want to do even better," Gallardo said after the Brewers beat the Red Sox 4-0 on Sunday, his second straight scoreless start.

Milwaukee swept the three-game series against the Red Sox, who were swept just once last year when they won the World Series. That was at Texas from May 3-5.

Sweeping the Red Sox in front of their passionate fans at Fenway Park is even tougher.

"Any time you come in here and win a series, whether it's three games or just two games, it's a great series," Brewers manager Ron Roenicke said.

The Red Sox, who never had a losing record last year, fell to 2-4 and matched their longest skid of 2013.

Gallardo (2-0) pitched six innings in Milwaukee's 2-0 win over the Atlanta Braves in the season opener. He and starters Kyle Lohse, Matt Garza, Marco Estrada and Willy Peralta have a 1.65 ERA, the bullpen has a 1.02 ERA and 12½ consecutive shut-



STEVEN SENNE/AP

The Brewers' Khris Davis doubles off a pitch by Red Sox starting pitcher Jon Lester in the seventh inning on Sunday in Boston.

out innings, and the team ERA is 1.45 with just 38 hits allowed in 56 innings.

"It's been outstanding," Roenicke said. "Hopefully, this is a sign that it's going to be a great year on the mound and I think it is going to be."

The Red Sox had nine hits, but stranded nine runners as they lost their first three home games for the first time since 1984.

"When we did get people on, Gallardo was able to get the ground ball," Boston manager

John Farrell said.

Of the 20 batters Gallardo retired, 11 were on ground balls.

Gallardo allowed seven hits, walked none and struck out three in 6½ innings in the interleague game.

"We don't get to come here very often," he said. "The fans cheer their team on nonstop and you've got to calm yourself down."

Jon Lester (0-2) pitched well for his second straight start but received little support again. In Boston's opener, he allowed two

runs on six hits in seven innings, but the Red Sox lost 2-1 at Baltimore. On Sunday, he gave up two earned runs in 7½ innings.

"I know our hitters are up there grinding out at-bats," Lester said, "The effort's there. Obviously, they don't want to not get any runs on the board."

The Brewers got all the runs they needed in the second.

Jonathan Lucroy led off with a double and took third on a bunt single by Khris Davis. Mark Reynolds then singled in front of

right fielder Daniel Nava, scoring Lucroy. And when the ball got by Nava for an error, Davis scored and Reynolds took second.

Then Lester settled down, retiring 15 straight batters before Davis doubled with one out in the seventh. Reynolds walked, Lyle Overbay struck out and Jeff Bani-anchi singled in Davis, making it 3-0.

Davis went 2-for-4 after getting four hits in a 7-6 win in 11 innings Saturday night, when he scored the winning run after his double.

NL roundup

Desmond's home run lifts Nationals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Ian Desmond led off the seventh inning with a home run — the only run of the game scored on a hit — as the Washington Nationals and their make-shift lineup avoided a sweep Sunday with a 2-1 win over the Atlanta Braves in the National League.

Desmond ripped a down-the-middle fastball from Alex Wood (1-1) well into the left field bleachers, the Nationals' first hit since the first inning. But it was enough to win on a day when four Washington pitchers combined to allow eight hits.

Taylor Jordan allowed one run over 6½ innings, working out of several jams along the way, and Jerry Blevins (1-0) retired two batters in the seventh to get the win. Rafael Soriano pitched the ninth for his first save.

Pirates 2, Cardinals 1: Tony Sanchez hit a tiebreaking RBI double in the seventh inning as host Pittsburgh edged St. Louis.

The hit by the rookie reserve catcher scored Pedro Alvarez, who led off the inning with a walk. It was Sanchez's second game-winning hit of the week after he singled home the winning run in the 16th

inning on Wednesday against the Chicago Cubs.

Padres 4, Marlins 2: Pinch-hitter Alexi Amarista celebrated his 25th birthday by hitting a go-ahead, three-run homer in the seventh inning to lift visiting San Diego.

Ian Kennedy (1-1) allowed one run and three hits in six innings for the Padres. He struck out five.

Reds 2, Mets 1: Alfredo Simon pitched seven impressive innings in his first start more than two years and began the go-ahead rally with his second career hit, helping visiting Cincinnati beat New York and salvage a win in the three-game series.

Simon (1-0) made 99 relief appearances for the Reds since his previous start, on Sept. 28, 2011, for Baltimore, but manager Bryan Price tapped the right-hander because Mat Latos is rehabbing from knee and elbow operations.

Diamondbacks 5, Rockies 3: Mark Trumbo homered for the fourth straight game as visiting Arizona averted a sweep.

Wade Miley pitched eight strong innings to extend his mastery over the Rockies. Miley improved to 7-0 with a 2.52 ERA in 10 career games (nine starts) against

the Rockies, matching the longest winning streak against Colorado to start a career. He also had a career-best three hits, including an RBI single as the Diamondbacks won for just the second time in nine games this season.

Cubs 8, Phillies 3: Ryan Kalish hit a two-run double and an RBI triple and host Chicago avoided a sweep.

A.J. Burnett (0-1), who signed a one-year, \$16 million contract with the Phillies after he spent the past two seasons with the Pittsburgh Pirates, allowed eight runs, four earned, in 5½ innings. He struck out three but walked six.

Dodgers 6, Giants 2: Matt Kemp hit his first two home runs at Dodger Stadium since late in 2012 and Hanley Ramirez slugged his first two homers this season, helping Los Angeles beat rival San Francisco and avoid a three-game sweep.

Zack Greinke (2-0) pitched six innings, allowing two runs and six hits — including Brandon Belt's fourth homer leading off the sixth and the first of the season by Hunter Pence three batters later. The right-hander struck out eight and walked none.



ALEX BRANDON/AP

Washington's Ian Desmond led off the seventh inning of Sunday's game against the Atlanta Braves with a home run to help lift the Nationals to a 2-1 victory.

NFL SCOREBOARD

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	4	3	.571	
Seattle	4	3	.500	1 1/2
Toronto	4	4	.429	1 1/2
Baltimore	3	4	.333	1 1/2
Boston	3	4	.333	1 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	4	0	1.000	
Chicago	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Minnesota	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Kansas City	2	4	.333	2 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	4	2	.667	—
Houston	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Oakland	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	2 1/2

Cubs 8, Phillies 3

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi	Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi
Reverse of	2	1	0	0	Concig	2b	4	2	1
Rollins ss	5	0	2	1	Kalish lf	3	2	2	3
Utley 1b	4	0	0	0	Strasburg rf	4	0	0	0
Howard 1b	5	0	0	0	Chirba rf	2	0	0	1
Byrd rf	4	0	1	0	Vaiken 3b	3	1	0	0
Rizzo lf	4	0	0	0	Wright 2b	3	0	0	0
DeWitt c	4	0	0	0	Valenz 3f	3	1	0	1
Asche 2b	3	1	1	0	Barny 2b	0	0	0	0
Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	Simon p	0	0	0	0
Lincoln p	0	0	0	0	Villanov p	1	0	0	0
Chirba 1b	0	0	0	0	Shillit p	0	0	0	0
Manly p	0	0	0	0	Oltch p	0	0	0	0
Gwynn ph	0	0	0	0	Holtz p	0	0	0	0
					Lake p	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Reds 2, Mets 1

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi	New York	ab	r	h	bi
Helsey cf	5	1	1	0	Evong lf	3	0	1	0
Phillips 2b	4	0	0	0	Abreu ph	1	0	0	0
Votto 1b	4	0	1	0	DWright 3b	3	0	0	0
Ludwick lf	4	0	2	0	WPAW 2b	3	0	0	0
Brayton 3b	4	0	0	0	Brucce rf	2	0	0	0
Brucce rf	2	0	0	0	Davis 1b	4	1	2	0
Archer 2b	4	0	0	0	Grady 2b	3	0	0	0
Czartoss 2b	4	0	0	0	Admard c	3	0	0	0
Benn c	4	0	1	0	Teljada 3b	3	0	0	0
P. Perez cf	4	0	0	0	Niese p	0	0	0	0
Bernad cf	1	0	0	0	Germ p	0	0	0	0
					Duda ph	1	0	0	0
					Gemmer	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Astros 7, Angels 4

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Calton rf	5	0	0	0	Villar ss	3	2	1	2
Trotter cf	4	0	0	0	Grsms lf	4	0	0	0
Yajuma 1b	4	1	1	0	Guerra 2b	4	0	0	0
JHunt lf	4	1	2	0	Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0
Freese 3b	4	1	2	0	Munro 1b	4	0	0	0
Ibanez dh	3	1	1	2	Krauss dh	3	0	0	0
Wright 2b	4	1	2	0	Waller 1b	4	0	0	0
Conger c	4	0	0	0	Presley cf	3	1	1	1
Arbass 3b	3	0	0	0	Hoesl r	3	1	1	1
Quigg 2b	3	0	0	0	Wespa	3	1	1	2

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	2	.714	
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1/2
Washington	4	2	.667	1/2
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1 1/2
New York	4	3	.571	1 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	—
St. Louis	4	2	.667	—
Chicago	4	2	.667	—
Cincinnati	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	3	3	.500	1 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	4	2	.714	
Los Angeles	3	2	.625	1/2
Colorado	4	2	.625	1/2
San Diego	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Arizona	2	4	.333	2 1/2

Cubs 8, Phillies 3

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi	Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi
Reverse of	2	1	0	0	Concig	2b	4	2	1
Rollins ss	5	0	2	1	Kalish lf	3	2	2	3
Utley 1b	4	0	0	0	Strasburg rf	4	0	0	0
Howard 1b	5	0	0	0	Chirba rf	2	0	0	1
Byrd rf	4	0	1	0	Vaiken 3b	3	1	0	0
Rizzo lf	4	0	0	0	Wright 2b	3	0	0	0
Asche 2b	3	1	1	0	Barny 2b	0	0	0	0
Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	Simon p	0	0	0	0
Lincoln p	0	0	0	0	Villanov p	1	0	0	0
Chirba 1b	0	0	0	0	Shillit p	0	0	0	0
Manly p	0	0	0	0	Oltch p	0	0	0	0
Gwynn ph	0	0	0	0	Holtz p	0	0	0	0
					Lake p	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Reds 2, Mets 1

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi	New York	ab	r	h	bi
Helsey cf	5	1	1	0	Evong lf	3	0	1	0
Phillips 2b	4	0	0	0	Abreu ph	1	0	0	0
Votto 1b	4	0	1	0	DWright 3b	3	0	0	0
Ludwick lf	4	0	2	0	WPAW 2b	3	0	0	0
Brayton 3b	4	0	0	0	Brucce rf	2	0	0	0
Brucce rf	2	0	0	0	Davis 1b	4	1	2	0
Archer 2b	4	0	0	0	Grady 2b	3	0	0	0
Czartoss 2b	4	0	0	0	Admard c	3	0	0	0
Benn c	4	0	1	0	Teljada 3b	3	0	0	0
P. Perez cf	4	0	0	0	Niese p	0	0	0	0
Bernad cf	1	0	0	0	Germ p	0	0	0	0
					Duda ph	1	0	0	0
					Gemmer	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Astros 7, Angels 4

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Calton rf	5	0	0	0	Villar ss	3	2	1	2
Trotter cf	4	0	0	0	Grsms lf	4	0	0	0
Yajuma 1b	4	1	1	0	Guerra 2b	4	0	0	0
JHunt lf	4	1	2	0	Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0
Freese 3b	4	1	2	0	Munro 1b	4	0	0	0
Ibanez dh	3	1	1	2	Krauss dh	3	0	0	0
Wright 2b	4	1	2	0	Waller 1b	4	0	0	0
Conger c	4	0	0	0	Presley cf	3	1	1	1
Arbass 3b	3	0	0	0	Hoesl r	3	1	1	1
Quigg 2b	3	0	0	0	Wespa	3	1	1	2

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	4	2	.714	
Atlanta	4	2	.667	1/2
Washington	4	2	.667	1/2
Philadelphia	3	3	.500	1 1/2
New York	4	3	.571	1 1/2

Central Division	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	4	2	.667	—
St. Louis	4	2	.667	—
Chicago	4	2	.667	—
Cincinnati	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Pittsburgh	3	3	.500	1 1/2

West Division	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	4	2	.714	
Los Angeles	3	2	.625	1/2
Colorado	4	2	.625	1/2
San Diego	3	3	.500	1 1/2
Arizona	2	4	.333	2 1/2

Cubs 8, Phillies 3

Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi	Philadelphia	ab	r	h	bi
Reverse of	2	1	0	0	Concig	2b	4	2	1
Rollins ss	5	0	2	1	Kalish lf	3	2	2	3
Utley 1b	4	0	0	0	Strasburg rf	4	0	0	0
Howard 1b	5	0	0	0	Chirba rf	2	0	0	1
Byrd rf	4	0	1	0	Vaiken 3b	3	1	0	0
Rizzo lf	4	0	0	0	Wright 2b	3	0	0	0
Asche 2b	3	1	1	0	Barny 2b	0	0	0	0
Abreu 1b	4	0	0	0	Simon p	0	0	0	0
Lincoln p	0	0	0	0	Villanov p	1	0	0	0
Chirba 1b	0	0	0	0	Shillit p	0	0	0	0
Manly p	0	0	0	0	Oltch p	0	0	0	0
Gwynn ph	0	0	0	0	Holtz p	0	0	0	0
					Lake p	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Reds 2, Mets 1

Cincinnati	ab	r	h	bi	New York	ab	r	h	bi
Helsey cf	5	1	1	0	Evong lf	3	0	1	0
Phillips 2b	4	0	0	0	Abreu ph	1	0	0	0
Votto 1b	4	0	1	0	DWright 3b	3	0	0	0
Ludwick lf	4	0	2	0	WPAW 2b	3	0	0	0
Brayton 3b	4	0	0	0	Brucce rf	2	0	0	0
Brucce rf	2	0	0	0	Davis 1b	4	1	2	0
Archer 2b	4	0	0	0	Grady 2b	3	0	0	0
Czartoss 2b	4	0	0	0	Admard c	3	0	0	0
Benn c	4	0	1	0	Teljada 3b	3	0	0	0
P. Perez cf	4	0	0	0	Niese p	0	0	0	0
Bernad cf	1	0	0	0	Germ p	0	0	0	0
					Duda ph	1	0	0	0
					Gemmer	0	0	0	0
					Verap	0	0	0	0
					Strap	0	0	0	0

Astros 7, Angels 4

Los Angeles	ab	r	h	bi	Houston	ab	r	h	bi
Calton rf	5	0	0	0	Villar ss	3	2	1	2
Trotter cf	4	0	0	0	Grsms lf	4	0	0	0
Yajuma 1b	4	1	1	0	Guerra 2b	4	0	0	0
JHunt lf	4	1	2	0	Altuve 2b	4	0	0	0
Freese 3b	4	1	2	0	Munro 1b	4	0	0	0
Ibanez dh	3	1	1	2	Krauss dh	3	0	0	0
Wright 2b	4	1	2	0	Waller 1b	4	0	0	0
Conger c	4	0	0	0	Presley cf	3	1		

MLB

AL roundup

Tillman, O's hand Tigers first loss

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Chris Tillman outpitched Justin Verlander, allowing one run while working into the ninth, as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Detroit Tigers 3-1 Sunday in the American League to avoid getting swept.

Tillman (1-0) gave up five hits, including Torii Hunter's solo homer in the fourth, in 8½ innings. Tommy Hunter entered with one out in the ninth and Victor Martinez on second base and retired the last two batters for his second save.

Baltimore won for the first time since its opener against Major League Baseball's last undefeated team.

Verlander (0-1) gave up two runs on five hits and two walks over eight innings. He struck out three, moving past Tommy Bridges and into fourth place on the franchise's all-time list with 1,674 in his career.

Yankees 6, Blue Jays 4: CC Sabathia pitched six innings for his first win of the season and Brett Gardner hit a two-run home run for visiting New York's win over Toronto. Sabathia (1-1) allowed four runs and seven hits, walked none and struck out six. He was hit hard in Tuesday's opening day loss at Houston, allowing six runs and eight hits, including two home runs, in six innings.

Twins 10, Indians 7: Chris Colabello drove in four runs and Brian Dozier scored three times as Minnesota outslugged host Cleveland.

Colabello broke a 6-6 tie with a three-run double in the sixth inning off Blake Wood (0-1). He

leads the AL with 11 RBIs after six games.

Joe Mauer had three hits and scored twice for the Twins, who took two of three in the series and will play their home opener Monday against Oakland.

Astros 7, Angels 4: Scott Feldman threw seven innings and five Astros homered as host Houston ended a three-game losing streak by beating Los Angeles.

Jason Castro, Matt Dominguez, Jesus Guzman and Alex Presley homered off Jered Weaver (0-2). Jonathan Villar added a two-run shot in the seventh off Matt Shoemaker.

White Sox 5, Royals 1: Chris Sale gave up four singles in eight scoreless innings for visiting Chicago in the win over Kansas City. Alexei Ramirez and Tyler Flowers each drove in a pair of runs as the White Sox won the series finale after dropping the first two games.

Sale (2-0) struck out six and walked one. In his previous four starts against the Royals, the White Sox had backed him with one run, enough to beat James Shields 1-0 in the 2012 opener.

Athletics 6, Mariners 3: Jim Johnson struck out two and closed it out after losing back-to-back outings to begin with his new team, saving host Oakland's victory over Seattle.

Brian Moss hit a three-run homer, Yoenis Cespedes connected in the eighth and Josh Donaldson beat out an infield single in the fifth to drive in the go-ahead run.

Johnson, who converted 50 of 59 save opportunities in 2013, was acquired from Baltimore to replace the departed Grant Balfour.



MIKE CARLSON/AP

The Rangers' Elvis Andrus, right, is congratulated by teammate Shin-Soo Choo after hitting a two-run home run against the Tampa Bay Rays in the eighth inning of Sunday's game in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Texas tops Tampa Bay in Darvish's season debut

By MARK DITLER
The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Yu Darvish showed no rust after missing three weeks.

Darvish allowed seven hits over seven innings in his season debut, Elvis Andrus hit a two-run homer, and the Texas Rangers avoided a three-game sweep by beating the Tampa Bay Rays 3-0 on Sunday.

"He was in control of the game," Rangers manager Ron Washington said. "He was using his pitches. He was throwing strikes. And that's what he does."

Darvish (1-0) struck out six and walked one. Sidelined by neck stiffness, it was his first outing since a spring training game on March 16.

"I didn't feel anything unusual," Darvish said through an interpreter.

Darvish got his 500th career strikeout, coming in 401½ innings, by fanning David DeJesus and Wil Myers in the third. According to the Rangers, it is the fewest innings for a starter to reach 500 strikeouts in major league history.

Andrus put the Rangers up 2-0 with his homer off Joel Peralta (0-



MIKE CARLSON/AP

Rangers starting pitcher Yu Darvish struck out six batters against one walk and seven hits over seven innings in Texas' 3-0 win over Tampa Bay on Sunday.

1) in the eighth. Donnie Murphy made it 3-0 on an RBI infield during the ninth.

"He's going to get five a year, and today was one of them," Washington said of Andrus' homer. "It was huge. We needed it. Today, he drove the bus."

Neal Cotts replaced Alexi Ogando for the Rangers with two on and two outs in the eighth, and

struck out Matt Joyce on a 3-2 pitch. Joakim Soria pitched the ninth for his first save.

Alex Cobb scattered three hits, walked one and struck out six in seven shutout innings for the Rays.

"Unfortunately for us, he was really on," Cobb said of Darvish.

Only one runner reached second against Cobb.

"He didn't give up any pitches," Andrus said. "I thought he was painting the whole game. I'm really glad that we had Yu out there. He was doing the same thing for us."

Tampa Bay had runners on second and third with one out in the fifth, but failed to score when Myers hit an infield pop fly and Ben Zobrist flew out.

Darvish got three consecutive outs after allowing Evan Longoria's double to lead off the sixth. He also worked out of a jam during the seventh after Ryan Hanigan hit a leadoff double.

"We just did not get the knocks when we needed it," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon said.

The Rays were hitless in 10 at-bats with runners in scoring position against Darvish, and 0-for-11 overall.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Baltimore starting pitcher Chris Tillman threw 8½ strong innings to earn the win for the Orioles on Sunday in Detroit.

MASTERS

Green: Nearly 25 percent of field will be Masters rookies

FROM BACK PAGE

"I think I've done a hundred interviews now," Zoeller said with a laugh. "Hell, I don't have any answers."

There's really only one question: Why has it been 35 years since a Masters rookie left town with a green jacket?

That was Zoeller in 1979. He leapt in the air when his birdie putt dropped on the second playoff hole at No. 11 to join Gene Sarazen (1935) and inaugural winner Horton Smith (1934) as the only players to win at Augusta on their first attempt.

"All the talent that has gone through that marvelous place, it's kind of weird that it hasn't happened," Zoeller said.

Is this the year? The odds have never been so stacked.

Spith and Reed are among 23 players in the Masters for the first time, which accounts for nearly 25 percent of the field. That includes six amateurs, as always. It also includes 20 percent of the world's top 50 players.

"I don't think it's out of the question to win," said Spith, who doesn't turn 21 until July. "If my game stacks up and I catch the right breaks, then sure. I don't see why not. I've been playing against these guys for a year now, so I feel comfortable."

Harris English is getting as much attention as anyone, and knows the course — maybe not the way it is for the Masters — better than most rookies. He played college golf at Georgia, which played Augusta National once a year.

English has won twice since the Masters last year, at the St. Jude Classic and



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Fuzzy Zoeller, the 1979 Masters champion, reacts to a shot from the sand trap on the 9th green during a round at Augusta National on Sunday in Augusta, Ga. Zoeller was the last man to win the Masters as a rookie.

in Mexico at the end of last year. The highest prize comes from other players, so it was intriguing when Graeme McDowell walked to the back of the 17th green at Bay Hill, nodded toward English, raised his eyebrows and said, "This boy can play."

English has been helped, no doubt, by watching college teammates Russell Henley win in his rookie debut on the U.S. PGA Tour, and Reed take on the world in winning a World Golf Championship at Doral.

"I don't know if this group knows how to win more," English said of his fellow Masters rookies. "It just seems like guys com-

ing out of college are more prepared. All these guys know how to win and seem to not be scared of the veterans."

Of the 17 professional rookies, 11 of them won on the U.S. tour last year. Among the exceptions were Victor Dubuisson of France and Stephen Gallacher of Scotland, who had two of the biggest wins on the European Tour. Dubuisson won handily in the Turkish Airlines Open last year, where Tiger Woods finished third. Gallacher won the Dubai Desert Classic, a tournament that featured Woods and Rory McIlroy.

Woods, Jack Nicklaus and Phil Mick-



ROCELLO V. SOLIS/AP

Harris English has won twice on the PGA Tour in the last year, and is one of 23 Masters rookies competing in the first major of the year this week.

‘I don't know if this group knows how to win more. It just seems like guys coming out of college are more prepared. All these guys know how to win and seem to not be scared of the veterans.’

Harris English

PGA golfer and Masters rookie

Did you know

There are 23 golfers — nearly 25 percent of the field — playing in their first Masters in 2014. Of the 17 pro rookies, 11 of them won on the PGA Tour last year and two won on the European Tour.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

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TRACK AND FIELD/SPORTS BRIEFS

Pistorius apologizes at his murder trial

By Gerald Imray
And Christopher Torchia
The Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa — Stifling sobs, Oscar Pistorius took the witness stand Monday in his murder trial and apologized to the family of the girlfriend he shot dead, describing himself as traumatized and now on antidepressant medication, and sometimes waking from nightmares to the “smell of blood.”

Pistorius’ voice quavered so much and was so low at the start of his testimony that Judge Thokozile Masipa asked him to speak up as, standing and addressing a packed courtroom, he talked of his remorse for having killed Reeva Steenkamp on Feb. 14, 2013.

Pistorius said he mistook her for an intruder when he fired four times through a locked toilet stall door in his home. Prosecutors said the double-amputee Olympian shot his lover as she screamed in terror after they had an argument in the pre-dawn hours of Valentine’s Day.

“There hasn’t been a moment since this tragedy happened that I haven’t thought about your family,” the star athlete said as Steenkamp’s mother, June, looked straight at him in the courtroom, stone-faced.

“I wake up every morning and you’re the first people I think of the first people I pray for... I was simply trying to protect Reeva. I can promise that when she went to bed that night she felt loved,” Pistorius said after asking for permission to make the apology at the start of his testimony.

Prosecutors allege Pistorius, 27, murdered the 29-year-old model with premeditation.



THEMBA HADEBE/AP

Oscar Pistorius weeps as he listens to evidence by a pathologist in court in Pretoria, South Africa on Monday. Pistorius is charged with murder for the shooting death of his girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp on Valentines Day 2013.

by shooting her in the head, arm and hip after an argument and have sought to paint him as a hothead with an inflated sense of entitlement and an obsession with firearms.

Attempting to counter that, defense lawyer Barry Roux led Pistorius through an account of his life, with Pistorius describ-

ing some of the hardships he faced after having his lower legs amputated as a baby, the positive role of his mother, Sheila, and his grief when she died when Pistorius was a teenager. Pistorius also spoke about the sacrifices he had made for his athletic achievements, his work with charity and how religion was important to him.

The accounts contrasted with that of prosecutors who, through witness testimony, have painted a dramatically different picture of Pistorius, a man they say was often angry, who cheated on a former girlfriend and who shot a gun out of a moving car in 2012 after an altercation with police and then laughed about it.

Pistorius said he has been taking medication since the week after he killed Steenkamp and has trouble sleeping. He described one night when he went to hide in a closet after waking up in “a panic.”

“I climbed into a cupboard and I phoned my sister to come and sit by me, which she did for a while,” Pistorius said.

His testimony on day 17 of his trial in Pretoria came on the same day his defense opened its case. Legal experts said it was crucial to his case that he testify to explain why he shot Steenkamp. Pistorius faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted of premeditated murder for Steenkamp’s killing.

His voice broke again and he struggled to speak when he described how Steenkamp was “a blessing” in his life. Yet in cellphone messages revealed by the prosecution, Steenkamp had once said that Pistorius scared her.

Apart from his emotional apology at the start, Pistorius didn’t directly address the killing of Steenkamp. He will return Tuesday to continue testifying after the judge granted an adjournment because she said Pistorius looked “exhausted.” Pistorius said he hadn’t slept the night before.

“I’m just very tired at the moment... I think it’s a lot of things going through my mind,” Pistorius said. “The weight of this is extremely overbearing.”

Briefly

US women’s soccer coach ‘blindsided’ by firing

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — Tom Sermanni coached the U.S. women’s soccer team to a 2-0 win over China in Colorado in the afternoon. By evening, he was out of a job.

Sermanni was fired by the U.S. Soccer Federation on Sunday after a disappointing finish last month at the Algarve Cup. The surprising move came just 16 months after he was put in charge.

The dismissal was announced hours after Lauren Holiday and substitute Megan Rapinoe scored in the exhibition victory over China in Commerce City, Colo.

“We felt that we needed to go in a different direction at this time,” USSF President Sunil Gulati said.

He said the federation will begin looking for a new coach immediately, with the team looking toward qualifying for the 2015 Women’s World Cup.

Jill Ellis, the USSF’s director of development, will serve as interim coach. She went 5-0-2 in that role in 2012. The women’s team faces China again on Thursday in San Diego.

“I was completely blindsided,” Sermanni told SL.com on Sunday night. “Maybe I’m losing my intuitive and perception skills, but I didn’t sense a real unease in the

team. But I could be wrong in that regard.”

Sermanni helped the U.S. to a 13-0-3 record last year, but the Americans went 1-2-1 at the Algarve Cup, the last major tournament for the U.S. before qualifying for next year’s World Cup. The seventh-place finish included a 1-0 defeat to Sweden and former U.S. coach Pia Sundhage, ending a two-year, 43-game unbeaten streak.

Thompson wins first LPGA major of season

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif. — Lexi Thompson took a lot of the drama out of the final round of the Kraft Nabisco Championship. So did Michelle Wie.

The Sunday showdown the LPGA Tour hoped for in the first major championship of the year fizzled on the front nine when the aggressive Thompson overpowered the cautious Wie.

Thompson went after it from the start at Mission Hills, smashing driver on every hole she could. Wie reined in her considerable power, hitting conservative fairway-metal stingers and only occasionally letting loose with the driver.

When it was over, the 19-year-

old Thompson cannonballed into Poppie’s Pond in the traditional victory leap, and Wie was left to wonder about her safety-first strategy.

Thompson birdied four of the first nine holes to open a five-stroke lead and parred the final nine for a 4-under 68 and a three-stroke victory over Wie.

“This is what I’ve worked so hard for,” Thompson said. “This was one of my goals coming into the year, to win a major. I’ve always seen myself winning a Kraft Nabisco. It’s such a huge honor with all the history behind the tournament.”

Wie birdied the final hole for a 71. She used her driver only four times.

In other golf news: ■ Matt Jones earned his first trip to the Masters with a remarkable 42-yard chip-in on the first playoff hole, outdueling Matt Kuchar on his way to winning the Houston Open.

The win is the first on the PGA Tour for the Australian, who made a 46-foot birdie putt on the 72nd hole to reach the playoff. He ended it one hole later, chipping over the right front bunker on the 18th and watching it roll in.

Kuchar, who bogeyed the final hole of regulation, then missed his bunker shot to give Jones the win — earning him nearly \$1.2 million and a trip to Augusta National.

T-wolves Cunningham arrested for threats

MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Timberwolves forward Dante Cunningham was arrested for a second time in three days because he sent threatening messages to a woman he was living with that “rose to a terroristic level,” police said Monday.

Authorities in Medina, Minn., released the details one day after Cunningham was jailed for another alleged incident with the woman he had been living with for the previous eight months. Cunningham had already been charged with felony domestic assault for allegedly choking the woman last week.

Police said they received a call from the woman in the early Sunday saying that Cunningham had violated a protection order by contacting her.

“When the officer arrived and reviewed the messages, they were direct and rose to a terroristic level,” the police statement read. Cunningham surrendered Sunday

and turned over his cellphone and computer as part of the investigation. The Associated Press left a message with Cunningham’s attorney seeking comment.

Cunningham remained in custody following his second arrest, but has not been charged. He was scheduled for an initial court appearance on Monday afternoon related to his assault charges.

Browns sign Burleson to 1-year contract

CLEVELAND — The Browns plan to give Nate Burleson plenty of responsibilities. One of them probably won’t be delivering pizza.

A free agent wide receiver with 12 years of NFL experience, Burleson agreed to terms on a one-year contract with the Browns on Sunday night.

Burleson, who has made 103 career starts and played in 135 games since he was drafted in the third round by Minnesota in 2003, finished last season with 39 catches for 461 yards with Detroit. However, he missed half the year after breaking his left arm in a car accident when he said he tried to stop pizza boxes from sliding off the passenger seat of his car.

NCAA WOMEN'S TOURNAMENT: FINAL FOUR

Huskies get past Cardinal

By TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Connecticut Huskies are back in a very familiar position, undefeated and playing for a national championship.

They'll be going for an unprecedented ninth national championship after Breanna Stewart scored 15 points and the Huskies advanced to another title game with a 75-56 win against Stanford on Sunday night.

It wasn't easy early, though the Huskies (39-0) did their part in setting up the highly anticipated championship showdown of undefeated teams.

They will square off against Notre Dame, who is 87-1 winner over Maryland, on Tuesday night in the title game. It will be the first women's national title game between unbeaten teams.

"It wouldn't be any fun if you didn't beat teams that were any good," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said of the matchup with Notre Dame. "I think women's basketball needs rivalries like this, teams that aspire to be great and want to win championships."

Now the Huskies have joined the UConn men's team in playing for the national title. The men play Kentucky on Monday night in Texas.

"I think it's awesome," senior guard Bria Hartley said. "Our men are excited for us, and we're doing the same for them. All the fans in Connecticut are really



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Connecticut forward Breanna Stewart (30) stops Stanford forward Chiny Ogumike (13) from shooting during the first half of their NCAA semifinal on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn. UConn won 75-56 and will play Notre Dame on Tuesday for the championship.

proud right now. Both teams have worked hard this year. Now the time has come, and we want to make sure we finish on a good note."

The Huskies also won their 45th straight game after overcoming another sluggish start. Stewart, the Associated Press player of the year, missed her first four shots and UConn was up just 28-24 at halftime.

But Connecticut settled down and put the Cardinal away in the second half, outscoring them 47-32. Kaleena Mosqueda-Lewis found her shooting stroke, scoring all of her 15 points in the sec-

ond half. Hartley added 13 points for UConn and Stefanie Dolson and Moriah Jefferson each finished with 10.

Stanford (33-4) lost its third national semifinal since reaching the 2010 championship against UConn, which the Huskies also won. All-American Chiny Ogumike finished with 15 points and 10 rebounds. Amber Orange scored 16 points, and Lili Thompson had 12.

"It's been an amazing remarkable experience to have Stanford on my jersey one last time," Ogumike said.

Notre Dame rolls over Maryland

By DOUG FEINBERG
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Kayla McBride seemingly did whatever she wanted, and enjoyed herself while she did it.

The All-American senior guard shed defenders with behind-the-back dribbles and quick crosses before scoring. She set the tone, refusing to let for Notre Dame's pursuit of a perfect season end and her Irish teammates followed her lead into Tuesday night's championship game.

In one of the most impressive games of her career, McBride scored 28 points as Notre Dame beat Maryland 87-61 on Sunday.

"She was truly special," Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw said. "She was having fun out there and that was the key. She was hitting shots from all over."

The Irish (37-0) will play the winner of UConn and Stanford. It's the third time in four years that Notre Dame has been in the title game. The Irish are looking for their first title since 2001.

"It means a lot as a senior," McBride said. "I'm so proud of this team. We went through a lot



JOHN BAZEMORE/AP

Maryland's Lexie Brown tries to shoot while being defended by Notre Dame's Taya Reimer in the first half of their NCAA semifinal on Sunday in Nashville, Tenn.

of adversity, especially after losing 'Ace.' We're going to go in and look at the film and be ready for the game."

McGraw, who was The Associated Press coach of the year, was concerned coming into the game about her team's ability to rebound against the bigger Terrapins with-

out Achonwa. Her team practiced all week on boxing out and not allowing second shots.

It worked. The Irish dominated the Terrapins (28-7) on the boards, outrebounding them in record fashion. Notre Dame had a 50-21 rebounding advantage, including a 19-4 mark on the offensive end.

"We thought the game would be won on the boards and I think it was," McGraw said. "To hold them to four offensive rebounds for the game was amazing. We did a great job boxing out and really limited their rebounds."

Said Maryland star Alyssa Thomas: "They wanted it more. They beat us at our own game."

Notre Dame also befuddled Maryland on defense, forcing the Terps into turnovers and poor shots with changing defenses. Thomas, who had 14 points, was constantly double-teamed and rarely got good looks at the basket.

"Obviously the better team won," Maryland coach Brenda Frese said. "Notre Dame did a terrific job. They took advantage and set the tone from the first possession. We really struggled to have an answer for (Jewell) Loyd and McBride."

UConn, Irish clash in historic contest

First time unbeaten teams meet for NCAA crown

By DOUG FEINBERG
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Women's basketball came away a winner Sunday night. After a season-long buildup, the NCAA tournament will be decided by the perfect championship game.

The undefeated titans of the sport this season will meet Tuesday night in an historic championship game when UConn plays Notre Dame. It will mark the first time in NCAA basketball history that unbeaten teams will play for a title when the former Big East rivals face each other.

"It is pretty amazing," Irish coach Muffet McGraw told The Associated Press after her team beat Maryland 87-61. "So many of the media and fans have been looking at this all season long. It's great that we've made it this far."

"Both of us remaining undefeated. See who the best team is."

Said UConn guard Moriah Jefferson: "Now we can finally talk about it. That has been the talk of this whole tournament and I guess it's finally here."

The teams didn't play during the regular season this year for the first time since 1995 as Notre Dame moved to the ACC. That helped set up the championship showdown that will put the sport in the spotlight.

"It looked to me like as the season went on it almost looked like it was inevitable to happen," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "It was supposed to happen. Our sport doesn't have enough significant moments. ... To have the spotlight on Tuesday on teams that one is going to lose for the first time this year, it's pretty remarkable when you think how hard it's to do for one team much less two."

Notre Dame (37-0) is one of the rare teams that has had success against the Huskies in recent history, winning seven of the past nine meetings, including beating UConn twice in the national semifinals. McGraw drew attention to that fact during the tournament selection show.

The Huskies (39-0) won the last one though, topping Notre Dame in the Final Four last season en route to the school's eighth national championship. A UConn victory Tuesday night will be a record ninth for Auriemma, breaking a tie with Pat Summitt for most all-time in the women's game. It will also cap the fifth perfect season for the Huskies and make them only the second team ever to go



National Championship Connecticut (39-0) vs. Notre Dame (37-0)

AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Wednesday CET
9:30 a.m. Wednesday JKT

40-0, joining Baylor which did it two seasons ago.

Auriemma has never lost a championship game.

Notre Dame will be trying for its second national championship. The Irish have had chances lately to win their first title since 2001, advancing to the national semifinals in four straight seasons. They lost in the championship game twice during that span.

They advanced to Tuesday night's game with a convincing 87-61 victory over Maryland behind 28 points from senior All-American Kayla McBride.

Notre Dame played without senior Natalie Achonwa, who suffered a torn ACL in the regional final victory over Baylor.

Even without their star forward, the Irish dominated the Terrapins on the boards, outrebounding them in record fashion. Notre Dame had a 50-21 rebounding advantage, including a 19-4 mark on the offensive end. It was the widest rebounding margin ever in a Final Four game, shattering the previous mark of 19 set by Louisiana Tech in 1989.

"They'll need a similar effort against UConn and its imposing front line of Breanna Stewart and Stefanie Dolson.

The Huskies got off to a sluggish start against Stanford before taking control in the second half in a 75-56 win. They probably can't afford the same thing to happen for a fourth straight game if they hope to win that record title.

"Now we can finally talk about it. That has been the talk of this whole tournament and I guess it's finally here."

Moriah Jefferson
Connecticut guard

SPORTS



Two perfect
Unbeatens Notre Dame,
UConn reach final | **Page 31**

MASTERS

Going green?

Strong field making Augusta debut could produce first rookie victory at Masters since 1979

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
The Associated Press

Fuzzy Zoeller has lost track of how many interviews he's given before the Masters, surprising for a guy who plays a limited schedule on the Champions Tour and stopped competing at Augusta National five years ago.

He doesn't need to follow golf to know what's going on.

Jordan Spieth started his rookie season without a card, finished at No. 10 on the money list, became the youngest American to play in the Presidents Cup and ended his remarkable year at No. 22 in the world. This will be his first Masters. Patrick Reed won three times in seven months, including a World Golf Championship, and told a U.S. television audience he felt he was among the top five in the world. This will be his first major.

They are joined by plenty of others, most of them in the top 50 in the world, who until now have only seen the Masters outside the ropes or in front of a television.

And that's why Zoeller's phone keeps ringing.

SEE GREEN ON PAGE 29

Jordan Spieth
No. 13 in the world
Played in Presidents Cup

Patrick Reed
No. 23 in the world
First major

Victor Duboisson
No. 21 in the world
One win in 2013

PHOTOS BY TIM DOMINICK,
THE STATE/MCT
and The Associated Press

Pistorius takes stand, apologizes
to victim's family | **Page 30**

US women's soccer fires coach Sernanni
after 16 months | **Page 30**

