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League's sideline technology inches forward
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US considers Iraq airstrikes

White House weighs military, humanitarian options to help trapped refugees

By JULIE PACE AND ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is weighing direct military strikes to stem an Islamic militant group's gains in Iraq, as well as humanitarian relief for thousands of displaced religious minorities in the country's north, according to U.S. defense officials and others familiar with the administration's thinking.

President Barack Obama huddled with his national security team

Thursday morning to discuss the crisis as the Islamic State group made further gains. Airstrikes in particular would mark a significant shift in the U.S. strategy in Iraq, where the military fully withdrew in late 2011 after nearly a decade of war.

Officials said an announcement about a decision by Obama was possible as early as Thursday.

In recent days, the Islamic State militants have swept through villages in the north that are home to religious minorities including Chris-

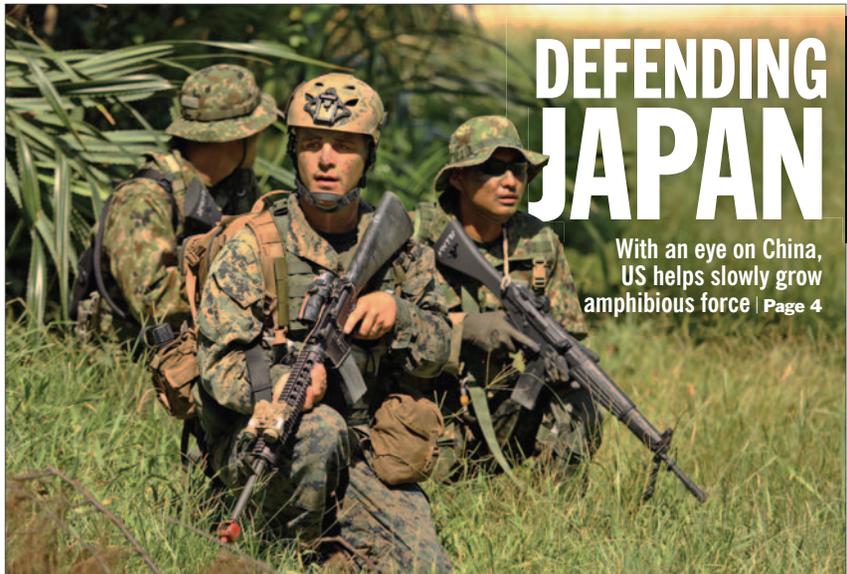
tians and the Yazidis, who follow an ancient religion with ties to Zoroastrianism. Furthering their gains, the extremists seized Iraq's largest dam Thursday, placing them in control of enormous power and water resources and access to the river that runs through the heart of Baghdad.

While the White House did not publicly outline the range of options under consideration, officials said the U.S. strongly condemns the extremists' assault on minorities.

SEE AIRSTRIKES ON PAGE 11

‘The situation is nearing a humanitarian catastrophe. We are gravely concerned for their health and safety.’

Josh Earnest
White House spokesman



DEFENDING JAPAN

With an eye on China, US helps slowly grow amphibious force | Page 4

ISMAEL PENA/Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Members of the U.S. 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and Japan Ground Self-Defense Force practice techniques and procedures during the Japan Observer Exchange Program on Okinawa on July 16.

Body of slain general arrives in US from Afghanistan » Page 3

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"Then I cut him ... I did what the Army taught me to do."

— Statement to police by William Earl Cunningham, 63, who is charged in the throat-slashing death of another man while they were arguing over which branch of the United States military was better, the Army or the Marines

See story on Page 9

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MIDEAST

Kerry to meet with Afghan candidates

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Secretary of State John Kerry arrived here Thursday to urge progress on a power-sharing agreement between the country's two presidential contenders, even as the Afghan government and international observers continue to review election results to determine a winner.

Spokesmen for Abdullah Abdullah and Ashraf Ghani said their candidates would speak with Kerry on Thursday evening. Kerry is also scheduled to meet with President Hamid Karzai, according to a U.S. official with knowledge of his schedule.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. State Department said Kerry's trip also was meant to encourage the candidates to speed up the election review process.

Kerry brokered an agreement between the two camps in July after allegations of corruption by Abdullah, who in a June runoff finished second to Ghani by roughly 1 million votes. Part of the agreement was the review of every vote cast in the runoff, a

process that continued this week despite a shaky start and confusion over the criteria for invalidating ballots.

The agreement also called for the formation of a so-called national unity government involving the losing candidate. Under the deal, the candidate who loses the runoff would be allowed to pick an individual to serve in a "chief executive" position. That individual, whose powers have yet to be enumerated, would report to the president and could be removed only by a decision of the Loya Jirga — a traditional assembly of tribal leaders from across the country — called by the president.

Such a division of power would be a first in Afghanistan, which is divided along ethnic lines and has traditionally seen power concentrated in a single individual. Ghani's campaign, which is believed to draw more support from



Kerry

the country's Pashtun majority, originally said it would delay talks on a unity government until after the election review was finished. Abdullah's campaign, which pushed for the new government structure, has charged that Ghani wasn't acting in good faith on the agreement by delaying the discussions.

As the election review continues, both sides have met in recent days to discuss the power-sharing framework, according to the U.S. official. Kerry's visit is meant to check the progress of those talks, said the official, who did not have permission to speak to the media and asked not to be named.

The visit underlines U.S. urgency for a resolution to the dispute and a peaceful transition of power as the country fights an entrenched insurgency and suffers from a stunted economy after decades of war.

The vote recount, beset by delays as the two sides fight over rules and trade accusations, appears to have picked up pace in the past few days. The U.S. Embassy in Kabul said Thursday that election reviewers have investigated 18 percent of the 22,828 ballot

boxes used in the election, including those from Kabul, Kandahar, Logar and Paktika provinces. All of the boxes had been delivered to examiners by Tuesday, according to the embassy. Officials have said they hope to finish the review by Aug. 25.

Kerry's trip comes days after an Army major general was slain by an Afghan gunman during a visit to a training base in Kabul. Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene was the highest-ranking officer killed in an enemy attack overseas since the Vietnam War. The attack also wounded more than a dozen NATO troops, including a German general, and Afghan military officials.

The NATO military coalition repeated Thursday that it couldn't release further details on the attack because of an ongoing investigation. News reports citing coalition officials have said the attacker was an Afghan soldier who hid and waited for the visiting delegation and fired his automatic weapon from a distance.

Zubair Babarkarkhail contributed to this report.
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Hagel visits India to pursue military projects

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

NEW DELHI — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel arrived in India Thursday to press for a number of new weapons agreements, including a pilot plan for the two nations to jointly develop a next-generation anti-tank missile.

The development initiative is part of a broader U.S. effort to improve what often has been a rocky relationship with India, the world's largest democracy and a major player in Asia.

Hagel's visit follows a similar stop in the country last week by Secretary of State John Kerry and Commerce Secretary Penny Pritzker aimed at wooing a key ally in Asia, in part as a possible countermeasure to China. Hagel plans to meet with top Indian leaders and business executives and explore plans for the co-

development of a Javelin missile that is cheaper, lighter and more capable.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him Thursday en route to New Delhi, Hagel said he recognizes India's intent to maintain its independence and to develop its own industrial base.

"No country wants to be seen as a second cousin" to the United States, Hagel said, adding that the U.S. must find ways to "adjust to what India's political requirements are, how they want to handle the relationship."

Hagel also expects to meet with newly elected India Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Modi was denied an American visa in 2005 after being accused of complicity in religious riots that killed more than 1,000 Muslims three years earlier in the country's western Gujarat state,

where he was serving as the top elected official. "India has many options to do many things with different partners," Hagel said. "This is a high priority for me."

Hagel said he also wants to talk about doing more joint military exercises with India and to get a better understanding of what projects India wants to pursue with the U.S. The U.S. wants to partner with India as it modernizes its military, but India seems more interested in co-development opportunities than in simply buying American-made weapons. Accompanying Hagel in India is Frank Kendall, the defense undersecretary for acquisition who is leading the new initiative.

Foreign military sales to India have grown substantially in recent years, totaling more than \$9 billion since 2008 and including cargo planes, helicopters and

missiles.

But progress on other agreements has been slow. In recent years, the U.S. and India have sparred over a wide range of issues, from trade deals and visa restrictions to the regulation of chemical emissions into the environment.

The war in Afghanistan also has frayed relations with India as the U.S. pursued an often uneasy alliance with Pakistan, pressing Islamabad to go after Taliban insurgents launching attacks against coalition forces across the Afghan border. Pakistan and India — both nuclear-armed — have battled in three major wars since their partition in 1947. But more recently, they have taken some steps to improve relations.

This is the second stop on Hagel's trip, which also will include a visit to Australia.

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MIDEAST



PHOTOS BY CHRIS CARROLL/Stars and Stripes

Family members approach the plane carrying the remains of Army Maj. Gen. Harold Greene on Thursday at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Body of slain two-star general arrives at Dover Air Force Base

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The body of Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, the first general officer killed in foreign hostilities since 1970, arrived at Dover Air Force Base on Thursday from Afghanistan.

Six soldiers slowly carried a transfer case with his remains past Army Secretary John McHugh and Army Chief of Staff Ray Odierno and placed it in a truck that carried it to the Air Force-run mortuary on the base.

The movement was carried out in customary silence, but afterward, soft sobs could be heard as members of the general's immediate family boarded the aircraft to thank the crew for taking care of Greene on his final flight.

It is unclear what led the shooter, identified as a man in his 20s, to hide Tuesday in a bathroom at the military training base near the Afghan capital, then emerge and open fire on a delegation of visiting American and European military officers before being shot dead himself.

Greene's death was the latest in what is a persistent problem endemic to Westerners training Afghan recruits: insider attacks.

Attacks by Afghan forces on their coalition partners — the Long Wars Journal has counted 87 since 2008 — reached a peak in 2012. That's when the U.S. military imposed security and education measures intended to protect coalition troops from the very people they are supposed to help. Until Tuesday's attack, those measures were thought to have been successful; it had been six months since a uniformed Afghan had attacked American soldiers.

But Tuesday's attack raised questions about whether the respite was because of the increased security measures or whether it was just the benefit of the drop in U.S. interactions with Afghan soldiers occasioned by the draw-



An Army carry team transfers the remains of Army Maj. Gen. Harold Greene on Thursday at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

down of American troops.

A German brigadier general and a senior Afghan commander also were among the wounded, as were 15 other Western troopers.

The German officer has been identified as Brig. Gen. Michael Bartscher, 56, adviser to the so-called Ministerial Advisory Group, which advises the Afghan defense ministry. He was taken to the German field hospital at Mazar-e-Sharif on Wednesday. His condition remains stable. A decision about transporting him to Germany will be made in the next few days, according to German army officials.

Of the 15 wounded, eight are American. Their conditions could not be ascertained by deadline.

Echoing the statements made by U.S. officials in recent days, Ambassador Maurits Jochems, the Dutch diplomat who is NATO's senior civilian representative in Afghanistan, said that although the investigation is still ongoing, he doesn't expect the attack to have a lasting impact on the coalition's operations.

"The number of insider attacks over the past year or so has diminished quite significantly," he told reporters in Kabul on Wednesday. If anything, Jochems said, he expects it to strengthen the resolve of international troops

to honor the sacrifice by Greene and others.

With the overall number of insider attacks — and American casualties in general — much lower than in previous years, Greene's death is unlikely to make much of a difference to an American public already soured on Afghanistan, said Anthony Cordesman, with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"Particularly in the United States, a general will get more attention, but Americans won't be any more disturbed by the war," he said. "It reminds them that the war exists, but it doesn't impact how the war is viewed."

He said the shooting should be viewed in the context of a sustained, and even growing, level of overall violence in Afghanistan, rather than as any harbinger of an increase in insider attacks.

"The problem is not so much green-on-blue, but rather the overall major increase in high-profile attacks," Cordesman said. "It indicates a greater insurgent presence in more areas. It shows that this war isn't transitioning into peace. It's a very serious conflict that is still going on."

Stars and Stripes reporters Josh Smith, Chris Carroll, and Jon Harper and the McClatchy news service contributed to this report.

Afghan troops' rocky past offers clues in shooting

By PAMELA CONSTABLE
The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — Maj. Gen. Harold Greene, the highest-ranking U.S. military officer killed in a war zone in four decades, died not at the hand of a sworn enemy but from a burst of gunfire by a soldier in an allied army who had been largely paid, trained and equipped with American and NATO support.

It will probably never be known what led the shooter, identified as a man in his 20s, to hide in a bathroom at a military training base near the capital Tuesday, then emerge and open fire on a delegation of visiting American and European military officers, before being shot dead, himself.

It was also unclear what provoked two other "insider attacks" this week: a firefight Tuesday between an Afghan police guard and NATO troops near the governor's office in southern Paktia province, and an incident Wednesday in Uruzgan province in which an Afghan police officer poisoned his colleagues' food and then shot at least seven of them before fleeing in a police truck, officials said.

But the troubled 11-year history of the post-Taliban Afghan security forces, including the Afghan army, offers an ample range of possible explanations for such deeply disturbing incidents, whether aimed at Afghan cohorts or foreign military dignitaries. The army, the most professional and popular of the new defense forces, has drawn recruits from across the country who have been expected to replace local and ethnic loyalties with adherence to a national government and its defense. The aim has been to forge an army of about 80,000 men and officers who could be weaned from foreign tutelage by now and prepared to take on the Taliban alone, then gradually grow to as much as 200,000.

From the beginning, however, the project has been plagued with problems. Soldiers have gone AWOL and deserted in high numbers. Ethnic imbalances between officers and troops have fueled loyalty and desertion. Equipment has been old and expensive to replace. Perhaps most problematic, the American mentors who have "embedded" with Afghan units were slow to arrive, and Afghan fighting traditions — honored over decades of anti-Soviet guerrilla combat and civil war — have been both more brutal and egalitarian than the orderly American ethos of haircuts, salutes and predawn drills.

In a 2009 report on the state of the Afghan army, the U.S. Corp. and the Royal Danish Defense

College found that although steady improvements were being made in professional skills and combat readiness, the army was still very much a "work in progress" and would need continued international support for the foreseeable future. Despite significant gains in some areas, the report said, "operational effectiveness remains very much in the balance."

Five years later, some problems have eased, but others have arisen. American military officials report that Afghan troops participate in all combat operations against the Taliban and lead at least half of them. The domestic popularity of the force has grown, say has increased and desertions have shrunk. But reports of high-level corruption have soured morale below, and enthusiasm for the fight has faltered as Taliban insurgents have become better armed and more rapacious.

One of the most vexing developments has been the spread of insider attacks, in which Afghan personnel have opened fire on their foreign military counterparts. The phenomenon became noticeable in 2008 and surged for the next several years. In 2012 there were 60 such attacks, including the fatal shooting of two American advisers by a government worker inside the Interior Ministry. By June of this year, 87 insider attacks had killed 142 coalition troops and wounded an additional 163, according to the Long War Journal, an online publication focused on counterterrorism and Islamic radicalism.

The motives behind these attacks have ranged widely. In some cases, insurgents infiltrated military troops and wounded or killed them to attack foreign troops. In others, Afghan soldiers and police attacked their American trainers after taking offense at certain orders or perceived insults. Some have been angered by civilian deaths in military operations. Others have been burned at U.S. bases. Others have professed Taliban sympathies or rallied at U.S. foreign policy in the Islamic world.

The fatal attack Tuesday was an acute embarrassment to the Afghan military and its coalition. It occurred inside the Afghan equivalent of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., and was aimed at a Western VIP delegation that had come to assess the army's progress in being able to defend the nation as Western forces pulled out.

Afghan officials said the shooter, who used the single name Rafigullah, had just returned from a patrol about midday and was still carrying his weapon when he concealed himself in a bathroom within close range of the delegation and then opened fire.

MILITARY



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

A Japan Ground Self Defense Force member performs reconnaissance during Rim of the Pacific Exercise in July.

Japan build amphibious force with help of US

By SETH ROBSON and CHIYOMI SUMIDA
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — The U.S. Marine Corps on Okinawa has spent more than two years helping Japan set up an amphibious force geared toward defense of islands in the East China Sea, according to U.S. and Japanese officials.

Members of the Japan Ground Self Defense Force have been observing and participating in amphibious training with U.S. Marines on Okinawa since 2012, U.S. and Japanese officials said in response to questions about the force. The training — off limits to media — is part of Japanese efforts to develop, in the next five years, an amphibious capability that includes new helicopter carriers and landing craft, along with a 3,000-strong army unit modeled on the U.S. Marine Corps.

The build-up has been taking place amid tensions in the East China Sea, where China has challenged Japan's claim to the Senkaku Islands (known as Diaoyu by the Chinese) nearby oil and gas resources.

As part of that build-up, more than 200 Japanese soldiers practiced amphibious landings at Camp Pendleton, Calif., with U.S. Marines in the Iron First exercise in February. Then, Japanese troops stormed beaches in Hawaii during last month's Rim of the Pacific Exercise.

Additionally, 30 Japanese troops from the 12th Infantry Regiment out of Camp Kokubu in Kagoshima prefecture were on Okinawa from June 23 through Thursday observing and taking part in U.S. amphibious training, according to a Japanese Defense Ministry spokesman.

The Japanese platoon had been working with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, Capt. Garon Garn, a public affairs officer with the Okinawa-based 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

The Japanese have been watching the Marines train with a variety of aircraft, rubber raiding boats and amphibious assault vehicles. They've also practiced swimming and martial arts together.

It is the third group of Japanese troops to do amphibious training alongside the U.S. Marines, Garn said.

The training — under the auspices of the

Japanese Observer Exchange Program — allows the Japanese to observe small-unit tactics and amphibious operations as well as enhance their ability to operate alongside U.S. forces, he said.

Operating from amphibious ships requires a lot of planning, coordination, synchronization and communication, Garn said.

"There are numerous challenges inherent to amphibious operations, from unpredictable weather to coordinating the efforts of literally thousands of Marines and sailors," Garn said. "The integration with JGSDF soldiers demonstrates the continued commitment of the United States and Japan to increasing interoperability of our militaries and maintains a strong partnership to enable a bilateral response to future challenges."

The training has, for the most part, been conducted in and around U.S. facilities on Okinawa, although Japanese troops did embark on U.S. amphibious ships in 2012 and participated in an exercise on Guam in past years. The Japanese may increase the size of the force training with the Marines for future iterations, Garn said.

A Japanese Defense Ministry spokesman said JGSDF troops are most interested to learn the landing skills and boat handling that might be needed to defend an outlying island. Japan's fiscal year 2014 defense budget included funding to establish an "Amphibious Rapid Deployment Preparatory Unit," with about \$3 million earmarked for enhancing the amphibious capabilities of two Osurui-class transport vessels and an Izumo-class destroyer, the spokesman said.

The SDF also purchased four amphibious assault vehicles, each capable of transporting 25 troops, from the U.S. in 2013. And, this fiscal year — which began in April — Japan plans to spend \$17 million on two

more amphibious assault vehicles which will be used for command and communication and vehicle recovery.

Ultimately Japan plans to acquire 52 such vehicles, the spokesman said.

Japan's Western Army Regiment, based in Sasebo, includes 700 personnel training for amphibious operations, but the goal is to produce a 3,000-member amphibious force, Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera said in comments provided by the Defense Ministry.

"We hope to establish the amphibious force as soon as possible," Onodera said, during a visit to the regiment's headquarters, Camp Ainoaura, in March. "We will continue to develop talented personnel and prepare for the formation of said force making use of the past experience at Camp Ainoaura and through joint exercises with the U.S. side, especially the U.S. Marine Corps."

The force will have two major tasks, he said.

"Japan has numerous islands including many remote islands," Onodera said. "As they are the basis for Japan's exclusive economic zone, which is the sixth-largest in the world, it is vital for us to defend them."

The amphibious force will also be helpful in disaster relief operations.

Japan has yet to determine where its amphibious force will be based.

"So far, from the perspective of the defense of remote islands, we are considering either Kyushu or the southwestern region," Onodera said.

Where the amphibious force will train in Japan is also uncertain, although there are plans to continue joint exercises with the U.S. Marines in California and on Guam, the Defense Ministry spokesman said.

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Japan has numerous islands including many remote islands. As they are the basis for Japan's exclusive economic zone, which is the sixth-largest in the world, it is vital for us to defend them.

Itsunori Onodera
Japanese minister of defense

Elite units renamed for 'Marine Raiders'

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — In honor of their legendary World War II predecessors, Marine Corps special operators will now be referred to as "Marine Raiders" according to a proclamation issued Wednesday by Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos.

The original Raiders, formed after the attack on Pearl Harbor to fight behind enemy lines, battled Japanese troops from 1942 to 1944. Members of the elite force earned seven Medals of Honor for their heroism during the war, according to the Marine Corps. Some consider the four Raider battalions that fought in the Pacific to be America's very first special operations units.

"United States Marines take great pride in our special operations and irregular warfare heritage ... From this point forward, the Marines of MARSOC will be officially aligned with the Marine Raiders of World War II and are charged with maintaining the high standards and traditions that accompany such distinction," Amos said.

Maj. Gen. Mark Clark, the outgoing commander of Marine Corps Special Operations, embraced the new name at a MARSOC change of command ceremony.

"We are proud and honored to adopt the name Marine Raider, carrying on the rich heritage passed along to MARSOC by the Raiders of World War II," he said, according to a Marine Corps press release. "As with every Marine Corps unit, MARSOC desires a moniker that creates its own unique identity that is based on Marine Corps heritage and enables Marines to trace the legacy of those Marines who served before them."

Much like the Raiders units, which were created at a time of crisis, MARSOC was established in 2003 as the demand for special operators skyrocketed during the post-9/11 wars.

Although the command itself will still be officially known as MARSOC, subordinate elements will carry the Raider moniker, such as Marine Raider Regiment and Marine Raider Battalion.

The change comes as the number of living Raider veterans continues to decline.

In the news release announcing the change, the Marine Corps said the move was partly an effort to fulfill a desire by members of the original Raider units to have their name carried on by the Marines.

"No military unit in the history of the United States brought more honor and glory to themselves, more pride to their countrymen, and more grief to their enemies as the four United States Marine Raider Battalions of World War II. It is imperative that their heritage and exploits live long past the surviving Raiders," the U.S. Marine Raider Association and Foundation stated on its official website.

Clark said the Marines are determined to carry the torch.

"The Marine Raiders have chosen MARSOC to be the holder of their legacy," he said at the change of command ceremony. "We feel we owe it to those Marine Raiders still living and their families to make every attempt to do so."

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MILITARY



PHOTOS BY JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

President Barack Obama signed legislation that overhauls the Department of Veterans Affairs' health care system Thursday in front of servicemembers at Fort Belvoir, Va.

Obama: VA law 'covers a lot of ground'

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Thursday signed into law a \$16.3 billion plan to overhaul the troubled nationwide health care system run by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In a speech at Fort Belvoir, Va., Obama said the law is an important step toward reforming a dysfunctional agency that has outraged Americans, but cautioned that much more work is needed to fix chronically long wait times for veteran patients and systemic wrongdoing among staff.

"This will not and cannot be the end of our effort," Obama said. "Implementing this bill will take time. It will take focus from all of us."

The massive reform package has been a rare instance of bipartisanship in Washington and won overwhelming support in both chambers of Congress in late July, just three months after delays in veteran health care exploded into a national scandal. It dramatically expands veteran access to private care, adds medical staff and facilities, and streamlines the firing of VA executives found to be incompetent or guilty of manipulating patient data.

"It's a good deal," Obama said. "This bill covers a lot of ground."

The law will pay private health care providers \$10 billion to treat vets who cannot get VA appointments within 30 days of requests or who live more than 40 miles from a VA health care facility.

Another \$5 billion will go to hiring new VA doctors — including specialty care physicians — nurses, mental health professionals and other medical staff. The remaining \$1.27 billion would primarily pay for 27 new medical centers in 18 states and Puerto Rico.

Obama received a loud round of applause when he mentioned a measure in the law aimed at cracking down on management misconduct.

The law allows new VA Secretary Robert McDonald to fire senior executives at will and those federal employees now have just

seven days to appeal a termination and an administrative judge would be required to rule on the appeal within three weeks. In the past, the process typically took months.

Comprehensive reviews of the entire VA health care system including its antiquated electronic appointment system, a \$360 million annual cap on employee bonuses, and more funding for sexual assault treatment programs are also tucked into the law.

The overhaul will ring up about \$10 billion in new deficit spending during the coming decade but only attracted the scattered opposition of a handful of fiscal hawks in Congress. About \$4.46 billion of the bill's total \$16.3 billion price tag will be covered by cuts from elsewhere in the existing VA budget.

Obama said the law follows on the heels of a renewed VA effort to fix its health care system, which serves about 200,000 patients a day and is the largest of its kind in the United States.

"We've already taken the first steps to changing the way VA does business," he said.

Obama said the VA has reached out to hundreds of thousands of veterans who have been guaranteed lifetime health care after military service but been unable to get treatment.

The confirmation of McDonald

last month was part of the effort to rebuild the VA's leadership team, he said.

McDonald, a former Procter & Gamble CEO, attended the signing with Obama and was scheduled to make his first visit to a VA medical facility Friday when he meets with veterans and staff at a Phoenix hospital.

That facility became the epicenter of the department scandal in April when a doctor alleged secret patient waiting lists might have led to 40 deaths. On Saturday, the secretary was slated to visit the VA's newest medical center in Las Vegas.

Earlier this week, McDonald called for town hall meetings at VA facilities across the country "to listen and learn directly from those who use our system," according to a released statement.

VA Deputy Secretary Sloan Gibson, who headed the agency for two months following the resignation of Gen. Eric Shinseki, visited hospitals and clinics across the country and was continuing the visits this month.

During a Wednesday public appearance in Denver, Gibson repeated a claim that the VA can solve its problems and regain the trust of veterans within two years,

The Associated Press reported. That claim has been met with skepticism on Capitol Hill. The access crisis in the veteran health care system has been deep and persistent.

The VA has reported it was juggling 6 million appointments in mid-July and more than 636,000 of those patients had been waiting more than a month for care — an increase of about 45,000 in such delays from May when the country was first learning of the crisis, according to the most recent data published by the department.

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PACIFIC

Nations standing up against proliferation

Exercise demonstrates international resolve to end trafficking of WMD

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Armed teams from Japan, South Korea and the U.S. boarded a ship Wednesday during a mock search for weapons of mass destruction about 10 miles off the coast of Honolulu.

The at-sea drill was part of the inaugural Fortune Guard exercise, which sprang out of the 2003 Proliferation Security Initiative. President George W. Bush launched the initiative in the wake of growing concern over the inability of nations to legally seize WMDs being smuggled across the seas — even after ships had been stopped and searched.

More than 100 nations have now endorsed the PSI, which seeks to curtail the illegal trade.

Wednesday's drill, which was observed by about 50 participants from 18 countries in the Pacific region, was held for two reasons, said Lt. Commander David Leather, who works for U.S. Pacific Command on issues involving WMD.

First, the search-and-seize drills demonstrate capabilities that other endorsing nations might want to develop, he said. Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore and the

U.S. are considered "operational experts" among the endorsing nations of the Pacific.

But the drill is also being held in a public forum because it "demonstrates to possible proliferators that there is a core group of nations out there — likeminded nations — that are not going to stand for proliferation," Leather said.

For the sea drill, the USNS Henry J. Kaiser, a military refueling ship, posed as a commercial tanker.

"This drill is specifically directed at a large commercial ship that may be carrying something that could be used in the production of WMDs," Leather said. "So it's not looking for the shiny bomb."

Boarding was done in three separate phases, with each country's team working independently.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team-Honolulu wrapped things up by "detecting" uranium-238 in a shipping container.

The heavily armored and armed Guardsmen each carried a radiation "pager" device that automatically beeps when a certain level of radioactivity is detected, said Paul Frantz, the team's commander. Some radiation is naturally emitted, while



Photos by WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Above: A member of the U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Safety and Security Team-Honolulu helps secure the deck of the USNS Henry J. Kaiser, which posed as a ship illegally transporting weapons of mass destruction during the weeklong Fortune Guard exercise in Hawaii. **Below:** A member of the South Korean navy boarding team frisks two officers of the Royal Australian Navy during the exercise.

others might emanate from fissile material that could be used for nuclear weapons.

"From there they use the secondary equipment to isolate the isotope and are able to send that back to an agency that can identify it and determine if it's naturally occurring or not," Frantz said. "From there you can look at the manifest and determine whether that should be there or not."

Fortune Guard will be held next year in New Zealand, followed by Singapore, Australia, Japan and South Korea.

"We want to make sure that it's happening on an annual basis, that the drumbeat continues," Leather said.

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Officials: Mosquito season may be looming in S. Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Officials are warning that the seasonal threat of mosquito-borne illnesses could be ramping up after Typhoon Nakri dumped heavy rain upon the area last week.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a nationwide warning this week for Japanese encephalitis, a virus transmitted to humans through the bite of infected mosquitoes, and urged people to take precautions, including vaccinations when appropriate.

Relatively low rainfall this year has wiped out most of the mosquito population in South Korea, but that could change after Typhoon Nakri's deluges.

"The mosquito population has definitely been much reduced this year compared to previous years," said Col. Hee-Choon Sam Lee, chief of Force Health Protection and Preventive Medicine for the 65th Medical Brigade. "With the rains that just came, mosquitoes may rebound, and it could become an issue all the way through October."

increased number of mosquitos found to be carrying Japanese encephalitis in the southeastern city of Busan.

Symptoms can include brain inflammation, headaches, high fever, disorientation, coma, tremors and convulsions, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The last reported case of Japanese encephalitis in the military community was in 2012, when an Air Force retiree working in Korea as a contractor died of the disease, Lee said.

Other mosquito-borne illnesses are a concern in some parts of South Korea, including malaria, which is considered more of a threat and occasionally affects U.S. troops stationed along the Demilitarized Zone.

The KCDC said people could cut their risks by using mosquito repellent, wearing long sleeves and pants when participating in outdoor activities and not going out at night to places where mosquitos are prevalent.

The Center also recommended that children aged 12 months to 13 years old be vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis.

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MILITARY

Guard to pull out of NASCAR, IndyCar

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The National Guard said Wednesday it will end its sponsorship of NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. and IndyCar's Graham Rahal, but it is not clear when that goes into effect.

Hendrick Motorsports said in a statement it has a contract through 2015. "We have not been approached by the guard about potential changes and plan to honor our current agreement," the team said.

Bobby Rahal, co-owner of Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing, said in a statement he learned of the guard's decision on Wednesday. He called the disappointing news "given the significant incremental brand exposure we have worked to produce for the Na-

Significantly constrained resources and the likelihood of further reductions in the future call for more innovative and cost-effective ways of doing business.

Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons
acting director of the Army National Guard

tional Guard in our first season together, including various off-track marketing and advertising programs focused on supporting the mission set forth."

The guard said in a statement posted on its web site it spent \$32 million on its NASCAR sponsorship and \$12 million on its IndyCar sponsorship this year, and noted that "sports sponsorships have played an

important role in helping the guard build strong brand awareness."

"Significantly constrained resources and the likelihood of further reductions in the future call for more innovative and cost-effective ways of doing business," Maj. Gen. Judd H. Lyons, acting director of the Army National Guard, said in the statement.

Military funding has come under in-

creased scrutiny in Congress as Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo, has called the sponsorship "wasting a bunch of money on a very expensive sports sponsorship."

"Since 2012, the Army Guard has reduced sports sponsorships from six — including professional fishing and motorcycle racing — to just the NASCAR and IndyCar sponsorships," the statement said. "In fiscal year 2015, the Army Guard's marketing budget is expected to be about half of what it was just three years ago."

The guard has been with Earnhardt since 2008. NASCAR's most popular driver has won three races this year — including Sunday at Pocono when the guard was on the No. 88 and his uniform as his primary sponsor — and is second in the Sprint Cup standings.

Did leadership by 'bold goals' spark VA wait-time crisis?

By TOM PHILPOTT

Until he resigned in May, VA Secretary Eric Shinseki led his department of more than 350,000 employees for more than a year, reaching his goal of setting "bold goals" that looked impossible to achieve but that he knew, from his Army years, could inspire better performance and, from Congress, bigger budgets.

But did a goal to cut wait times in half for patients mean he finally put VA administrators under such pressure that many chose to manipulate performance data, compromise their integrity and even put patients at risk?

A VA physician described for me his reaction, and that of colleagues when he reached them in 2011 that veterans seeking a primary care appointment, or specialty care consults, were to be seen within 14 days rather than 30 days, the goal VA health care had used since 1995.

That statement that we had to see patients within 14 days was so unbelievably unrealistic that people laughed at it," the doctor recalled.

He spoke frankly on condition that I not reveal his name or where he works.

"When I first started with VA I was told that when they put in a consult to [my specialty] — and it's all computerized so you can see exactly the time it was placed — the goal was to see that patient within 20 days. If we were seeing 80 to 85 percent within 30 days, [bosses] were happy," he said.

"That became very difficult because the volume of patients was just overwhelming. Then, all of a sudden, we heard that 30 days had become 14 days. It wasn't any kind of an official announcement. And I've got to be honest: nobody made a big deal about it. In fact they didn't pay any attention to it at all.

It was just so stupid they might as well have told me I had to see the patient within 14 seconds. It wasn't going to happen."

Not everyone inside VA health care, however, could ignore the new goal as nonsense. Administrators responsible for hitting appointment timeliness marks suddenly had higher hurdles to clear, or to meet around.

Who set the new goal and for

what reason?

A senior VA official made available to discuss this said the 14-day goal has been removed from all supervisor performance plans. He also said he didn't know who made the original decision, or if it was individual or a group.

When it was set, he explained, apparently there was concern about ensuring that patients who needed critical care be given "same-day access." So someone suggested that lowering the 30-day goal, he said, would somehow incentivize staff to deliver more same-day care to critical patients.

"I think the mistake we made was to use as an average measure" a 14-day goal set per appointment, as though using it would signal "we had same-day access for people who critically required it," this official said. "I think we just saw 30, we wanted to get closer to same day access, and so they adjusted the performance measure from 30 to 14."

That was as clear as he could explain what occurred. In retrospect, he added, another mistake was "we didn't change the resourcing levels with the [new] resource requirement."

In other words, the 14-day goal was set but not funded. VA health budgets still grew for a number of purposes and programs, but no dollars were committed specifically to shortening patient wait times. That would have meant hiring more physicians, nurses and support staff, buying more equipment and setting up more examining rooms and operating rooms.

"That was a mistake," this official conceded. Why no funding?

"At the time, it would have been just people thinking that setting bold goals was a good thing for an agency," he said.

That sounded familiar. Bold had characterized Shinseki's leadership style. He was the secretary who promised to end veteran homelessness by 2015. He also promised by that year to end the compensation claims backlog, which he conceded he had aggravated with another bold move. Shinseki added heart disease, Parkinson's and B-cell leukemia to the list of conditions VA would compensate for and treat as service-connected ailments if vet-

MILITARY UPDATE

eran had stepped foot in Vietnam. Scientists had found an association between these ailments and defoliants like Agent Orange used in the war.

Last summer, while Shinseki was visiting a VA claims processing site in Newark, N.J., I interviewed him about his ambitious goals.

"There's a fine line between being bold and foolish," the retired four-star general and wounded warrior said. "I think for the most part, over all the things I've ever done in life, I've mostly been bold and a few times foolish. I think I'm bold here."

He said he didn't regret setting

bold objectives.

"I've been writing plans all my life. I never wrote a tentative plan. That's not what you expect from a guy you want to solve a problem."

Debra A. Draper, director for health care at the Government Accountability Office, said VA officials told GAO that they had lowered the wait time goal to 14 days because "performance data by 2011 showed VA was meeting the old goal for more than 95 percent of veterans seeking care."

The trouble with that decision, Draper said, was that VA appointment data had been unreliable for years, as both by GAO and the VA's Inspector General often reported. Yet meeting wait time goals had been an element of VA performance contracts for administrators since at least 2000, she said.

Factors that made the data unreliable included a scheduling policy that was unclear and open

to local interpretation; antiquated scheduling software; inadequate staff training and, effectively, no oversight of data reports.

Was the shift to 14 days a factor in the current scandal?

"You don't know people's motivations," Draper advised. "But, yeah, going from 30 days to 14, for someone who was planning to do something nefarious or manipulative, it's more pressure to do that."

But Draper believes the scandal would have occurred even if VA had left the 30-day goal in place because so many veterans were complaining to Congress and to veteran groups about long waits to access care, she said.

"Whether it's 14 or 30 days, data need to be reliable so they can really measure [and manage] to whatever the benchmark is," Draper said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 23111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email mlupdate@aol.com

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NATION



CHARLES DHARAPAK/AP

President Barack Obama talks with Benin President Boni Yayi before the third session of the U.S. Africa Leaders Summit in Washington on Wednesday.

Obama wants momentum to follow Africa summit

BY JULIE EILPERIN
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama wrapped up a three-day summit with African leaders Wednesday, making a rare foreign policy advance even as his administration continues to face daunting challenges abroad.

The massive gathering of nearly 50 African heads of state and government in Washington allowed top U.S. officials to broker deals between American companies and African dignitaries, as well as press privately for action on security and human rights concerns. At a time when Europe and major economies such as China are expanding their foothold in Africa, the conference gave the United States a chance to reinforce its long-standing connection to the continent.

While the summit yielded a handful of high-profile announcements — including new public and private investments in economic, agricultural and health development totaling \$37 billion — it also featured the kind of behind-the-scenes diplomatic interactions that could produce meaningful benefits later on. Elected U.S.

officials and their African counterparts discussed issues ranging from tensions within the Great Lakes region to the ongoing conflict in South Sudan.

In a press conference Wednesday evening, Obama called the meeting “an extraordinary event” that can be “a forcing mechanism for decisions and action, so we agreed that the U.S.-Africa leaders summit will be a recurring event to hold ourselves accountable for our commitments and to sustain our momentum.”

The leaders agreed Wednesday to create a “new peace-keeping rapid response project” to enhance Africa’s ability to defuse conflicts, the president said, along with a security and governance initiative to professionalize security forces on the continent.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Edward Royce, R-Calif., cautioned in an interview Wednesday that the real value of the meeting will be best judged a year from now, “when the words on paper and the hours of talking are implemented and acted upon.”

Several conservatives, as well as some African policy experts,

have faulted the president for failing to engage more aggressively with the continent during his first term. Charlotte Florance, a research associate for economic freedom in Africa and the Middle East, wrote in an email that it took Obama “too long to show up to the table. The rest of the world is already working on the main course, while the U.S. is still talking about what it is going to order.”

But the frenetic pace of events in recent days — including bilateral meetings between African leaders and top American officials, and Obama’s attendance at several summit events — made an impression on many of the government and corporate leaders who had journeyed here.

Royce, who met with the presidents of South Africa, Nigeria, Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, said he had “tough meetings” that were “not uplifting” but delved into pressing issues, including how to stabilize parts of the continent and share intelligence and how to combat wildlife trafficking. “These leaders have their work cut out [for] them,” Royce said.

Majority find fault with Congress, president in poll

BY JENNIFER AGIESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The latest Associated Press-GfK poll finds the nation dissatisfied with what Congress and President Barack Obama have done lately, and few expect much more after the mid-term elections. Here’s a look at five things to know from the poll.

Disapproval dominates. Nearly 9 in 10 Americans say they disapprove of how Congress is handling its job, and 6 in 10 disapprove of the president.

More than half of Americans, 54 percent, disapprove of both.

Among this group, 94 percent say the nation is heading in the wrong direction. About 7 in 10 say someone new ought to win in their congressional district and about half say they are completely certain they’ll vote this November. Most, 57 percent, are Republicans or they lean that way, and 51 percent want to see the GOP wind up in control of Congress this fall.

The “who cares” bloc. One-third of Americans say they hope the Republicans take control of Congress outright this fall, and the same share want to see Democrats lead Congress. The final third? They say it just doesn’t matter who takes control of Congress.

So who says they don’t care? Among independents, 77 percent say it just doesn’t matter who takes control of Congress this fall. The remainder are split evenly — 11 percent favor the Democrats, 11 percent the Republicans.

Overall, those who say it doesn’t matter those are younger (63 percent are under age 50) and largely uninterested in the upcoming election (just 28 percent say they have a great deal or quite a bit of interest in following it).

Someone get Washington a GPS. All told, only 28 percent of Americans think the nation is heading in the right direction, the lowest level since August of an election year since 2008. It’s about on par with 2006, when Democrats took control of the House amid a backlash to the Iraq War. “Though the economy pushed

the nation’s “right direction” figures to historic lows in fall 2008, that does not seem to be the culprit in the new poll. About a third (35 percent) say the economy is in good shape, about the same as in May, and 58 percent say the economy has stayed about the same in the past month.

The decline in optimism about the country’s path now seems to mirror drops in August 2011 and October 2013, when congressional inaction led to the threat of a government shutdown in 2011 and a partial one in 2013.

Outlook for November a bit rosier for Republicans. There are some signs in the new poll that Republicans have gained ground as the height of the campaign approaches. In May, they trailed Democrats a bit on who ought to control Congress, but now the two parties are about even. Partisans are about equally likely to say they’d like to see their own party in charge of Congress after Nov. 4, with about three-quarters of each saying they hope their side winds up in control. That’s a negative shift for Democrats, who now have a bit less support than their own party to win now than they were in May — 74 percent in the new poll compared with 80 percent then.

For Obama, a new normal. The July poll marks the second in a row in which the president’s favorability rating tilted negative. Overall, 51 percent have an unfavorable impression of the president, compared with 44 percent who have a favorable take. Before his re-election in 2012, Obama’s favorability rating was consistently in majority territory in AP-GfK polling, bottoming out at 53 percent in December 2011.

The AP-GfK Poll was conducted July 24-28 using KnowledgePanel, GfK’s probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It involved online interviews with 1,044 adults and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents. It is larger for subgroups.

Appeals court might not back gay marriage

The Washington Post

CINCINNATI — If the issue of same-sex marriage is on an expressway to the Supreme Court, Wednesday was rush hour in a federal appeals court here.

In an unprecedented and marathon hearing, tag teams of attorneys for four states told an appellate panel why voter-approved prohibitions in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee should be honored.

It became clear after three hours of arguments that the panel

could become the first roadblock for proponents of same-sex marriage who have been on a winning streak knocking down state restrictions following a landmark decision by the Supreme Court in 2013. That 5-to-4 ruling struck down the part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act that defined marriage as only between a man and a woman.

But a panel of three randomly chosen judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit left questions about whether it would

follow the lead of two other appeals courts. Those courts said the Supreme Court’s decision meant that states lacked the right to limit marriage to opposite-sex couples and to deny recognition of unions conducted elsewhere.

If there is a split among the circuit courts on whether marriage is a fundamental right or, alternatively, that states are free to restrict it to heterosexual couples, that would almost surely require Supreme Court intervention sooner rather than later.

Hawaii to get its first hurricane in 22 years

HONOLULU — Iselle was supposed to weaken as it slowly trudged west across the Pacific. It didn’t — and now Hawaii is poised to take its first direct hurricane hit in 22 years.

Tracking close behind it was Hurricane Julio, which strengthened early Thursday into a Category 2 storm.

State officials are assuring the islands are ready and people should prepare but not panic.

Tourists wondered whether their flights and activities would be disrupted and tried to get in some last-minute beach time before the surf’s up, but ugly.

“Everybody says this is the last day of good weather, so we came down to the beach,” said Shonna Snodgrass, a tourist in Waikiki visiting from Stafford, Va.

Iselle is expected to arrive on the Big Island on Thursday evening, bringing heavy rains, winds gusting up to 85 mph and flooding in some areas.

From The Associated Press

NATION

Computer breach puts data of government employees at risk

By **STEPHEN BRAUN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Two government agencies Wednesday said they limited operations with a major government contractor that oversees hundreds of thousands of security clearance background checks for civilian and military workers after the contractor reported it had been targeted by a cyberattack.

The contractor, USIS, did not identify the suspected culprit but said in a statement that the cyberattack had “the markings of a state-sponsored attack.” An official with the Department of Homeland Security said the intrusion may have compromised some of its employees’ information.

USIS, once known as U.S. Investigations Services Inc., has been under criticism in Congress in recent months for its performance in conducting background checks on National Security

Agency leaker Edward Snowden and on Aaron Alexis, a military contractor employee who killed 12 people during shootings at the Navy Yard in September 2013.

Private contractors conduct background checks on more than two-thirds of the 4.9 million government workers with security clearances, and USIS handles nearly half of that number. Many of those investigations are performed under contracts with the Office of Personnel Management, the Department of Homeland Security and the Defense Department.

An OPM spokeswoman said the agency was temporarily halting all of USIS’s background check fieldwork “out of an abundance of caution.” The spokeswoman, Jackie Koszuczuk, said the hiatus will allow USIS to take “necessary steps” to protect its systems.

OPM’s own computers were reportedly penetrated earlier this

year by Chinese hackers, according to a New York Times account. The agency’s databases were breached in March before the threat was detected and blocked, the Times reported in July.

A DHS spokesman said it had issued “stop-work orders halting the provision of additional sensitive information” to USIS until the agency was confident that the firm could protect that material. The spokesman, Peter Boogard, said the FBI had begun an investigation into the matter. Boogard said the agency was separately working to identify the scope of the breaches and where they occurred.

The firm said in a statement on its website that it was working with law enforcement and had retained “an independent forensic investigative law firm to determine the precise nature and extent of any unlawful entry into our network.”



An artist from Los Angeles tattoos a person during the Body Art Expo at the Los Angeles county fairgrounds in Pomona, Calif.

Tattoo inks can cause infections, FDA warns

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Thinking about getting inked? Check the bottle first.

The Food and Drug Administration is warning tattoo parlors, their customers and those buying at-home tattoo kits that not all tattoo ink is safe.

Last month, California company White and Blue Lion Inc. recalled inks in in-home tattoo kits after testing confirmed bacterial contamination in unopened bottles.

At least one skin infection has been linked to the company’s products, and FDA officials say they are aware of other reports of infections linked to tattoo inks with similar packaging.

Infections from tattooing are nothing new. Hepatitis, staph infections and even the superbug known as MRSA have been tied to tattoos. Dirty needles and unsanitary environments are often to blame.

But people getting tattoos can get infections in the skin even in the cleanest conditions. The ink can carry bacteria that can spread through the bloodstream — a process known as sepsis.

Symptoms are fever, shaking chills and sweats, and the risk is particularly high for anyone with pre-existing heart or circulatory conditions. Less severe infections may involve bumps on the skin, discharge, redness, swelling, blisters or excessive pain at the site.

And you may not be out of the woods for a while: The FDA says it has received reports of bad reactions to tattoo inks right after

tattooing as well as years later.

The FDA says it is concerned that consumers and tattoo artists may have some of the contaminated products from the July recall. White and Blue Lion may have just been one distributor.

Some of the recalled bottles have a multicolored Chinese dragon image with black-and-white lettering, while some are missing manufacturer information. In general, the FDA says those looking to get a tattoo should always ensure that the ink has a brand name and a location of the business that manufactured it.

“What the consumer can do is talk to the tattoo artist and see the ink bottles,” said Linda Katz, director of the FDA’s Office of Cosmetics and Colors.

This isn’t the first outbreak linked to tattoo ink. Reports of infections have increased as tattoos have become more popular in the last decade.

Three years ago, 19 people in Rochester, N.Y., ended up with bubbly rashes on their new tattoos, linked to contaminated water that was used to dilute the ink.

Permanent tattoos aren’t the only tattoos that carry risk. An FDA alert earlier this year warned that temporary tattoos popular with kids and often found at beaches, boardwalks and other holiday destinations can be dangerous. The main risk is from black henna, an ink that is combined with natural red henna and can include chemicals that can cause dangerous skin reactions.

In that notice to the public, the FDA said regulation differs from state to state and can be lax in some places.

Man killed in fight over military branches

The Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. — A Montana man who is charged in the throat-slashing death of another man told police they were arguing over which branch of the United States military was better, the Army or the Marines, Yellowstone County prosecutors said.

William Earl Cunningham, 63, of Laurel, Mont., made an initial appearance on a deliberate homicide in Justice Court. Justice of the Peace David Carter set his bail at \$500,000 during Tuesday’s hearing.

Cunningham did not enter a plea in the death of Nathan Horn, 40, of Billings. He will be

assigned a public defender.

Charging documents say Cunningham told police that he and Horn were arguing Saturday night when Horn jumped up and took a swing at him.

Cunningham told the officer he pushed Horn back and said, “Then I cut him ... I did what the Army taught me to do.”

When officers arrived, Cunningham was leaning against a car and Horn was lying on the grass next to Cunningham’s feet. Horn had a cut on his right cheek and a deep cut on the left side of his neck.

Horn appeared to be gasping for breath as an officer applied pressure to the

neck wound, court records said.

“I cut him. He’s dead,” Cunningham told police, according to charging documents. “The knife’s on the table.”

Horn was pronounced dead less than an hour later.

After Cunningham was read his rights, he told officers he and Horn were sitting at the picnic table when they began arguing about whether the Army or Marines was the best branch of the military, court records said.

Laurel Police Sgt. Mark Guy said Monday that the men had argued the night before about the same issue. It wasn’t clear if Horn had served in the military.

Porn permits fall but movies keep on going

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Where have all the adult-movie filmmakers gone?

A quick review of the Internet shows there is no shortage of porn films available for instant download.

But in Los Angeles County, for years the country’s porn capital, records reveal only 20 permits to make adult films have been pulled so far this year.

Industry officials say that’s the result of an ordi-

nance voters passed more than a year ago requiring that porn actors use condoms.

So where are the films coming from?

Industry officials say many are still being made in LA County by filmmakers who have gone underground.

Others have taken their actors to neighboring counties or states.

If the ordinance remains in effect, many say they won’t come back.

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WORLD



EVGENY MALOLETKA/AP

Journalists walk near a crater caused by a shell which damaged a house following fighting between pro-Russia rebels and Ukrainian government forces in Shakhtarsk, Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, on Thursday.

Israel and Hamas dig in as Gaza talks go on

By TIA GOLDENBERG AND IBRAHIM BARZAK
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — An Israeli Cabinet minister warned Thursday that Israel will respond if Hamas resumes fire after a temporary truce expires in the Gaza Strip.

The statement, along with Hamas' earlier threats, signals that both sides are digging in their positions — presumably to secure best terms for a deal — as negotiations continue in Cairo on a lasting truce and reconstruction for the war-battered coastal territory.

The two sides remain far apart and far from anything resembling an agreement. Israel wants the Islamic militant group, which runs the Gaza Strip, to disarm, or at least ensure it cannot re-arm, before considering Hamas' demand to lift a crippling blockade

that was imposed by Israel in 2007 and later enforced by Egypt as well.

“We are preparing for any situation, and if they resume fire, the military will resume operations.”

Gilad Erdan
Israeli Cabinet minister

The temporary 72-hour truce, agreed to by both sides, went into effect Tuesday morning, which helped launch

the talks in Cairo. Israel and Hamas are under heavy international pressure to extend the cease-fire to allow more time for negotiations.

“We are preparing for any situation and if the truce ends, the military will resume operations,” Israeli Cabinet minister Gilad Erdan told Israeli Radio.

He said that, in principle, Israel does not oppose Gaza's “economic rehabilitation,” but said the strip's demilitarization was a key priority for Israel.

Hamas leader Moussa Abu Marzuq said Wednesday evening that so far, there has been no deal on extending the truce. Izzat al-Rishq, a senior Hamas member, told the Palestinian news agency that Hamas would condition any extension to the cease-fire on progress in the talks.

Highlighting the wide gap between the sides, a Palestinian official briefed on the talks in Cairo said he did not expect Israel's demand for disarming Hamas to be accepted.

“Nobody accepts demilitarization of the weapons in Gaza while the Israeli occupation is continuing and the siege on Gaza is continuing and the crimes against our people are continuing,” said Wasel Abu Yousef, stressing that he was expressing his personal view.

NATO issues warning to Russia

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

NATO's secretary general called on Russia on Thursday to “step back from the brink” as concerns mount that Moscow might be preparing to launch an invasion into Ukraine under the guise of a peacekeeping operation.

“Do not use peacekeeping as an excuse for war-making,” Anders Fogh Rasmussen said during a news conference streamed live from Kiev, where he met with Ukrainian leaders.

U.S. and other Western officials estimate that Russia has massed some 20,000 troops near the Ukrainian border, across which pro-Russia militants have been engaged in a bloody conflict with Ukrainian government forces.

“Russia's support to the separatists continues,” Rasmussen said. “It has intensified in scale and sophistication.”

The downing of a Malaysian airliner, killing all 298 people on board, “shows the tragic global consequences of that reckless support,” Rasmussen said. “And Russia has massed large forces on the Ukrainian border, to shield the separatists and to use any pretext to intervene even further.”

Rasmussen, who was in Kiev to meet with Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko, said the 28-nation NATO alliance is prepared to deepen its military partnership with Ukraine, a non-NATO member.

In June, NATO defense ministers agreed to establish four special trust funds to pool resources to assist Ukraine in areas such as defense planning, command and control, logistics and retraining

“Do not use peacekeeping as an excuse for war-making.”

Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO secretary general

retired military personnel who could assist in the current crisis.

The NATO chief also said he expects Ukraine to be incorporated into more joint NATO military drills with the goal of bolstering the country's defense capabilities.

“We are ready to intensify this cooperation,” Rasmussen said.

Since Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula in March, relations between NATO and Moscow have rapidly deteriorated, bringing to an end military cooperation in counterterrorism, counterpiracy and other areas.

While Western officials have stated there is no military solution to the crisis, the U.S. and its allies in Europe have gradually increased economic sanctions on Russia, which in turn has banned imports of a number of Western food and agricultural products. Moscow has also threatened bans on flights over its airspace.

Rasmussen said he expected severe economic penalties to be imposed on Moscow if Russia launches an invasion of Ukraine.

“I have no doubt it would lead to deeper, more profound, tougher economic sanctions that would really hurt the Russian economy,” Rasmussen said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

Shelling in rebel-held Ukrainian city kills 4

The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — Sustained shelling in the main rebel stronghold in eastern Ukraine struck residential buildings and a hospital, killing at least four people and wounding 10 others, officials said, as government forces pressed forward in their campaign to rout the separatists.

Mortar fire struck the Vishnevskiy Hospital in Donetsk on Thursday morning, killing one and wounding five others, Donetsk city council spokesman Maxim Rovensky said.

“There was a sudden explosion,” witness Dr. Anna Kravtsova said. “A mortar round flew through the window.”

The shelling, which destroyed an array of equipment in the dentistry unit, also hit three nearby apartment buildings.

It followed a night of shelling in another neighborhood as fighting between government and pro-Russia separatists is inching closer to the city center. The mayor's office said in a statement posted on its website that three people had been killed, five wounded and several residential buildings destroyed during those attacks.

Clashes erupted in central Kiev, the capital of Ukraine,

as city authorities sought to clear away the remnants of a tent colony erected by demonstrators involved in the street uprising against pro-Russia President Viktor Yanukovich. At the time, protesters were angry about endemic corruption and wanted closer ties with the European Union.

In scenes reminiscent of that revolt, which climaxed with Yanukovich's ouster in February, demonstrators set alight tires in their face-off against a volunteer battalion overseeing the clean-up operation.

In eastern Ukraine, government troops have made tentative progress in their strategy to retake Donetsk and other towns and cities. Armed forces have refrained from pitched urban battles, and instead favored pushing back their opponents with artillery fire. It has led to a growing number of civilians casualties.

Vishnevskiy Hospital, one of the city's larger medical treatment facilities, is less than 3 miles from the main square. It has been used to provide treatment to civilian victims of the ongoing conflict.

“The hospital became a nightmare. This is absurd,” said patient Dmitry Kozhur, 37. “We came here to keep living, but now we are risking death.”

WORLD

Iraqi militants seize nation's largest dam

BY SAMEER N. YACUB
AND VIVIAN SALAMA
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Sunni militants from the Islamic State on Thursday seized Iraq's largest dam, placing them in control of enormous power and water resources and access to the river that runs through the heart of Baghdad.

After a week of attempts, the radical Islamist gunmen successfully stormed the Mosul Dam and forced Kurdish forces to withdraw from the area, residents living near the dam told The Associated Press. They spoke anonymously for safety concerns.

The group's advances cause as the capital has been shaken by a string of car bombs that has claimed more than 80 lives in the last two days.

The Islamic State group posted a statement online Thursday, confirming that they had taken control of the dam and vowed to continue "the march in all directions," adding that it will not "give up the great Caliphate project." The group added that it has seized a total of 17 cities, towns and targets — including the dam — over the past five days.

Halgard Hekmat, a spokesman for the Peshmerga, said that clashes around the dam are ongoing and he does not know who is in control at this point in time.

The Islamic State group has established its idea of an Islamic state in the territory it controls in Iraq and Syria, imposing its harsh interpretation of Islamic law. Iraqi government forces, Kurds and allied Sunni tribal militiamen have been struggling to dislodge the Islamic State militants and its Sunni allies with little apparent success.

The Mosul Dam — or Saddam Dam as it was once known — is north of Iraq's second-largest city, Mosul, which fell to the militants on June 10. Fighting intensified in the region Sunday after

the nearby towns of Zumar and Sinjar fell to the militants. It's not the only dam they are targeting.

Iraq's second-largest dam, the Haditha Dam in the western Anbar province, has also been at risk of takeover but remains in the hands of the Iraqi military.

The Kurdish fighters, known as the peshmerga, had initially managed to stall the militant advances, but their defense has waned in recent weeks.

The seizing of dams and reservoirs gives the militants control over water and electricity that they could use to help build support in the territory they now rule by providing the scarce resources to residents. Or they could sell the resources as a lucrative source of revenue.

There are also fears the militants could release the waters of the dam and devastate the country all the way down to the capital Baghdad, though maintaining the dam's power and water supplies will be key to their attempts to build a state.

Late Wednesday, militants overran a cluster of predominantly Christian villages alongside the country's semi-autonomous Kurdish region, sending tens of thousands of civilians and Kurdish fighters fleeing from the area, several priests in northern Iraq said Thursday.

The capture of Qaraqoush, Iraq's biggest Christian village, and at least four other nearby hamlets, brings the Islamic State to the very edge of the Iraqi Kurdish territory and its regional capital, Irbil.

On Monday, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki ordered the Iraqi air force to provide aerial support to the Kurds, in a rare show of cooperation between Baghdad and the Kurdish regional government that underscored the serious nature of this crisis.



via AP video

Iraqi people from the Yazidi community arrive in Irbil in northern Iraq on Sunday after Islamic militants attacked the towns of Sinjar and Zumar.

Airstrikes: 'Humanitarian catastrophe' cited

FROM FRONT PAGE

"The situation is nearing a humanitarian catastrophe," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said. "We are gravely concerned for their health and safety."

Earnest singled out the plight of the Yazidis. Thousands fled their homes after the Islamic State group issued an ultimatum to convert to Islam, pay a religious fine, flee their homes or face death. Many of the Yazidis now are trapped on a mountain without food or water.

Obama used the threat of an imminent humanitarian crisis as a rationale for limited U.S. military action in Libya in 2010, as forces loyal to Moammar Gadhafi

threatened a massacre in Benghazi. The U.S. and NATO partners launched a bombing campaign over Libya, with Obama moving forward without congressional approval.

If Obama were to approve humanitarian assistance to the Yazidis and others, it could be delivered via airstrikes by the U.S. military. Airstrikes could be used to provide cover allowing the airstrikes to be made safely.

The military could also advise and assist the Iraqi air force on where and how to deliver humanitarian relief supplies.

The people familiar with the administration's thinking insisted on anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the mat-

ter by name.

Even as the White House weighed potential military options, Earnest said Obama would stand by his pledge to not put U.S. combat troops back on the ground in Iraq.

"There are no American military solutions to the problems in Iraq," he said.

Obama did dispatch hundreds of military personnel to Iraq earlier this year to provide additional security for the U.S. Embassy and to help train Iraqi security forces as they seek to push back the Islamic extremists. At the time, Obama ruled out airstrikes and other direct military intervention until Iraqi leaders addressed their troubled political system.

Liberia, Sierra Leone race to enforce Ebola quarantine

BY JONATHAN PAYE-LAYLEH
The Associated Press

MONROVIA, Liberia — Soldiers clamped down on people trying to travel to Liberia's capital Thursday from rural areas hard-hit by the Ebola virus hours after the president declared a national state of emergency.

Reports have emerged of families hiding sick relatives at home and of abandoned bodies being left in the streets.

Similar efforts were underway in eastern areas of neighboring Sierra Leone after officials there launched "Operation Octopus" to try and keep those sick with Ebola in isolation. While the outbreak has now reached four countries, Liberia and Sierra Leone account for more than 60 percent of the total, according to the World Health Organization.

The outbreak that emerged in March has claimed at least 932 lives.

In announcing the 90-day state of emergency, Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf said the worst recorded Ebola outbreak in history requires "extraordinary measures for the very survival of our state and for the protection of the lives of our people."

"Ignorance, poverty, as well as entrenched religious and cultural practices continue to exacerbate the spread of the disease especially in the counties," Sirleaf said late Wednesday.

She warned that some civil liberties could be suspended as needed, and by Thursday soldiers already were restricting movements on the roads to the capital, Monrovia, witnesses said. Some soldiers were deployed to the

crossroads town of Klay about 25 miles west of Monrovia in an effort to stop people from three Ebola-infected counties from coming closer to the capital.

Yet even as authorities tried to keep more people from reaching Monrovia, the capital already has been hard hit by the virus.

National Health Workers Association president Joseph Tamba said the state of emergency is necessary. But he says people should have been given advance notice to buy food ahead of the movement restrictions.

Previous outbreaks of the Ebola virus were limited to parts of Congo and Uganda, far from the capital cities in those countries.

The World Health Organization is holding talks this week on whether to declare an international health emergency.



MICHAEL DURF/AP

A woman washes her hands before she is allowed to enter a building Wednesday as part of an Ebola prevention campaign in Freetown, Sierra Leone.

WORLD

THE STRANGE,
SECTARIAN WORLD OF

BAGHDAD'S TATTOO PARLORS

By ABIGAIL
HAUSLOHNER

The Washington Post

BAGHDAD — To get to Dante's lair, you have to walk down an alley, up the stairs and along a corridor of a dilapidated shopping center in Baghdad's central Karrada district.

Inside a dimly lit room there on a recent, sweltering night, I found a group of tough-looking young men and teenagers gathered around a comrade who was struggling to remain stoic despite the pain.

Dante, 24, our protagonist, was hard at work, drilling a tattoo of the Shiite saint Ali into the young man's arm.

Photographer Max Becherer and I had come to meet Dante — with the help of our young driver, Osama — to see a different side of Iraq than its grinding political violence.

Of course, almost no place in Iraq is immune from the horrendous suffering that has plagued the nation for decades — first under the brutal rule of Saddam Hussein, then with the violence that exploded after the U.S. invasion in 2003.

But Dante's shadowy tattoo parlor contained an unusual mix of men and teens, Sunnis and Shiites, militants and civilians, who were brought together by their unusual hobbies: grunge, rap music and ink — lots of it.

Mohamed al-Najab — Dante's real name — opened his first Baghdad tattoo parlor in 2008.

For two years, Dante had worked as a translator for U.S. troops based at Baghdad airport. They nicknamed him Dante, for the main character in a dark animated film, "Dante's Inferno." And the name stuck.

An American soldier who had a tattoo parlor in Los Angeles taught Dante the craft of inking figures on people's bodies. Before that, he was just a kid who liked to draw.

Dante said he left the military job after a firefight that left his back and arm riddled with bullet wounds.

Dante's space plunges into total darkness when the power cuts out every 30 minutes. It was crowded with young people whose

tattoos reflected a mix of Western pop cliché and the religious and political symbols of Iraq.

Barek Basil, 21, an Iraqi Kurd, had devoted a full arm to his passion for music: tattoos of a microphone, a skull wearing headphones, musical notes and a guitar.

Beside him, another man had a tattoo of a Shiite saint, Hussein, who was killed in the 7th century by a rival Muslim army, in a battle that became a defining moment for the Sunni-Shiite divide. The words "Revenge for Hussein" arched above the picture on his shoulder.

Then there was Omar, Basil's 18-year-old friend, who had his explicitly Sunni name tattooed across his knuckles and on his upper arm.

Omar was an adolescent during the years that death squads executed civilians simply for having names like Omar or keeping pic-



Muhammad al-Najab, a tattoo artist known as Dante, applies a tattoo on the finger of Mustafa al-Jobory in his Baghdad tattoo shop.

tures of Shiite saints on their cellphones.

In the shadowy gloom of the shop, the symbols of Iraq's sectarian divide were out in the open for all to see.

And yet, in a country where religious affiliation was linked to so many deaths, they kept their political views — or animosities — quiet that night.

The scene underscored a fact that Iraqis feel the foreign press often misses: that Iraq is still a religiously and ethnically diverse country, full of mixed families and neighborhoods. Despite years of conflict, plenty of Iraqis still feel united by family, nationhood or simply a shared interest such as tattoos.

Barek Basil, 21, reveals a tattoo on his calf. Basil, a rapper and Iraqi Kurd, has devoted his arm to music-inspired tattoos.

PHOTOS BY MAX BECHERER
The Washington Post

NATION



One rainy wish

By DIANA MARCUS
Los Angeles Times

TERRA BELLA, Calif. — At first they called Fred Lujan a gentleman farmer.

The retired barber washed his tractor every night and parked it in the garage, a source of gentle amusement to the veteran growers around him. He called his pistachio trees his babies, his girls, and gave them names.

"Come on, Suzanne," he'd say to his wife in the evenings. "Let's have a glass of wine and sit outside and watch our girls grow."

Back when he was still learning to take corners while tilling, he sliced one of the saplings. The other farmers told him to pull it out, the tree wouldn't make it. But he wrapped the trunk in mud and water and tape the way his grandfather, born on an Indian reservation, had taught him.

He named the tree Survivor.

Eight years later, Survivor and the other trees were ready to give their first mature crop. In February, the 10-acre orchard was sprouting spring leaves.

Then a man from the irrigation district came and sealed off Lujan's water meter. A green tag read "No Irrigation Water Is Available This Year." There was a \$10,000 fine for breaking the seal.

For the first time in the more than half a century that the federal government had been diverting Sierra Nevada water to farmers, there would be no deliveries to most Central Valley irrigation districts. In the third year of drought, there wasn't enough water to go around.

It was a blow to the entire region, but a possible death knell to Terra Bella, whose pistachio and citrus groves are watered only by rain and the government's canals.

California drought imperils a dream

"How am I supposed to just sit here and watch everything turn brown and die?" asked Lujan, 68.

CS

The Lujans put a bucket in the shower to catch the water while it warmed up and used that to water the three fruit trees — peach, nectarine and plum — at the side of the house. They bought bottled water to drink and used tap water to keep their small garden alive.

Two weeks after irrigation water was cut, domestic water was rationed. Most of the 6,000 people who live in Terra Bella and whose children attend school here are immigrant farmworkers. They would have drinking water — about half the amount they usually got — but little work.

"There's so many worse off than us," Suzanne said. "But we tried so hard to do everything right, to plan ahead."

They had saved for retirement. But as they watched Fred's mother grow older and face ill health, they decided their nest egg wouldn't be enough. They downsized to the small house in Terra Bella and invested in pistachios. Lujan had several cancer operations, and this year he had heart surgery. Their retirement savings dwindled, but the orchard was their safety net.

CS

Survivor died in June. Not having water during the first heat spell was

too much stress for the injured tree. Lujan took it hard. It seemed like a harbinger.

He planned to look for a job the next week, beginning on Tuesday — barbershops are closed on Mondays.

"You can never quit," he said. "I'll beg, borrow or steal to keep my trees alive."

Driving to town, he noticed Setton Farms, which had a pistachio-processing plant in Terra Bella, had planted new trees — about all the way to Bakersfield, it seemed to Lujan.

Back when Lujan still had his barber shop, one of his clients was a lifelong farmer, Mike Smith. He had always liked Smith because he had a big laugh and a hard handshake.

Three years ago, Smith started a job as liaison between growers and Setton Farms. Lujan decided to talk to him.

"He's an up-and-up guy. I figured if he can help, he will, and if not, he'll tell me."

Smith delivered Lujan's plea, and Setton Farms agreed to advance the Lujans 10 acre-feet of the emergency water the company had bought, and let them pay for it after harvest.

"I was ecstatic to be able to help Fred. He's real. Just a very genuine person, and you may have noticed he's never met a stranger," Smith said. "But in my heart of hearts, I know this is only a Band-Aid. What happens next year? What if it doesn't rain? The small guys can't hang on."

Back at the Lujans', Fred was happy again.

He was back in the orchard, shooting at Evan the dog to stop being naughty and chasing the school bus.

"Mikey, my oldest grandson, just came back from Afghanistan. My trees, my babies, are alive," he said. "Now, I'm just waiting for it to rain."

He was sure it would.

Fred Lujan, 68, dreamed of retirement as a gentleman farmer in Terra Bella, Calif. But drought conditions have robbed his crops of water, leaving his future in doubt. MICHAEL ROBINSON CHAVEZ, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

FAITH

'Other' faiths left out in the cold

Poll: Which is your favorite religious group? Most Americans answer: My own.

By MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
The Washington Post

Are you sitting down? New research shows that when people are asked to rate their own faith group compared with others, they rate it more positively.

A survey by the Pew Research Center asked respondents to identify their feelings about various faith groups on a "cool" to "hot," 1 to 100 feelings thermometer. A 50 was described as neutral, not having "particularly" positive or negative feelings.

Every group, from atheists to Catholics and black Protestants to white evangelicals, felt most warmly about people like them.

For example, Catholics get an 80 thermometer reading from other Catholics, compared with a 58 among non-Catholics, and evangelicals get a 79 from people who call themselves born-again or evangelical, compared with a 52 from nonevangelicals.

Rating one another sounds like a harsh high school popularity game, but the survey does show the clear correlation between knowing someone of another faith and feeling more positively about them. For example, Jews get a 69 reading from people who know Jews, compared with a 55 from people who say they don't know any-one Jewish. Atheists receive a neutral score of 50 among people who know an atheist, compared with a cold 29 by people who say they don't know any atheists. People who know a Muslim give a neutral number (49) compared with a cooler one (35) from people who know none.

Scott Thumma, a sociology professor at the nondenominational Hartford Seminary, said such research is important to track social change. Hartford, which focuses on interfaith education, has run a research project called Faith Communities Today, which in 2000 found that only 7 percent of U.S. congregations reported worshipping with congregations from another faith. By 2010, that percentage had doubled. The percentage of congregations doing interfaith community service jumped from 8 percent to 20 percent in that period.

"There's great value in asking because you know if there is tension, or conversation in the nation, then obviously cultural change is happen-

ing," Thumma said. "Even if it still shows the nation has a long way to go."

Thumma said deeper research shows that Americans speak and think differently about other faith groups when asked in the abstract than they do when they are asked about specific interactions with people they know.

The Pew survey shows that many factors are associated with varying views about faith groups, including someone's age, level of education and political affiliation.

Older Americans give higher ratings than younger Americans to Christians and Jews, while younger Americans give higher ratings than older ones to other non-Christian groups. For example, the rating given evangelicals climbs from 58 to 67 percent between Americans 18 to 29 compared with those older than 65. A similar pattern is there with Jews and Catholics.

Younger people give Buddhists a 58, but the number drops to 47 by the oldest group. Pew researchers said the differences could have to do with the disparity in stated religious affiliation between the young and old: 85 percent of people 65 and older describe themselves as Christian, compared with 59 percent of younger Americans.

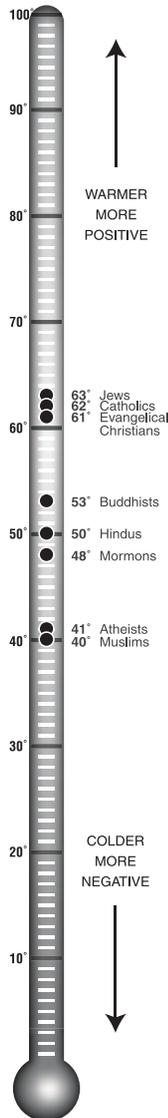
Party affiliation is also connected with feelings on faith groups. Republicans give the highest positive feelings toward evangelicals (a 71 reading), although the data show that is affected by the large percentage of evangelical Republicans. Among nonevangelical Republicans, the figure drops to 62 percent. Democrats give the highest readings to Jews (average rating of 62), Catholics (61) and Buddhists (57).

Greg Thumma, of Pew, said the organization has done multiple polls trying to get at the intersection between feelings about religion and about other things, such as how much people perceive themselves as having theological beliefs in common with others and people's ideas on religion and violence.

"In a society like the United States, where religion is such an important part of life, of how people view the world, how people approach politics — it's one of the things that drives some of the very serious cultural disagreements we see in American society," Smith said. "It's important to know how religious groups see one another, relate to one another."

'Religion is ... one of the things that drives some of the very serious cultural disagreements we see in American society. It's important to know how religious groups see one another, relate to one another.'

Greg Smith
Pew Research Center



Respondents in a Pew Research Center Poll:

"We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of groups on a 'feeling thermometer.' A rating of 0 degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 means you feel as warm and positive as possible. You would rate the group at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward a group.

Results above show total mean ratings of each religious group.

WORLD



APICHAIT WEERAWONG/AP

Pattaramon Chanbua, 21, top, sits Sunday with her children Game, 7, left, and infant son Gammy at a hospital in Chonburi province, southeastern Thailand.

Thai case casts spotlight on business of surrogacy

By GRANT PECK AND KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — For thousands of well-off childless couples, the dream of having a baby is often realized in places like Thailand and India. Ready to help them are young women who become paid surrogates, their wombs offered up as vessels that can safely carry the babies until they are born.

Most of the time, it's a bargain that suits both parties — unless something goes wrong. The case of an Australian couple accused of abandoning their child had Down syndrome — and taking home his healthy twin — has cast unfavorable light on the largely unregulated business of commercial surrogacy.

The suggestion that the Australian biological parents wanted to raise only the healthy child and left behind her blond, brown-eyed brother, who also has a congenital heart condition, sparked outrage worldwide.

"There is a dark side to this

business," acknowledged a Thai employee of the agency that arranged the deal involving the baby. Surrogate Pattaramon Chanbua, 21, a food vendor with two young children of her own, said she has not been paid the full \$9,300 fee she was promised.

"(But) most of the time, I have seen happiness," said the woman, who asked not to be identified because it might jeopardize her job.

Couples seek surrogacy away from home mainly for legal and financial reasons. Some nations tightly restrict surrogacy, or ban it outright. Others have no surrogacy laws, though national medical boards often deal with it in their codes of ethics.

Laws vary widely, and there is no guarantee that a contract — or the child resulting from the arrangement — will be recognized in another country. In the U.S., some states forbid commercial transactions and stipulate that any contract for a surrogate birth is unenforceable. Other states, including California and Illinois, are receptive to commercial surrogacy and have regulations to

help enforce agreements.

In Thailand, wealthy couples from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Australia — where commercial surrogacy is banned — are major customers, said Nandana Indandana, a Bangkok-based lawyer who headed a project to draft a Thai surrogacy law that was submitted Thursday to the country's military junta for consideration.

Contributing to Thailand's popularity is the large number of impoverished women who will carry babies for a price, and the availability of doctors with good reproductive medical skills, Nandana said.

India has also emerged as a major center for low-cost surrogacy thanks to its skilled doctors, medical infrastructure and vast population of poor women willing to act as surrogates. A full-term surrogate pregnancy normally costs between \$18,000 and \$30,000 in India, doctors say, with about \$5,000 to \$7,000 going to the surrogate.

Rights activists say the absence of regulations has led to widespread exploitation.

Furor erupts in wake of seminar by Concordia captain

By COLLEEN BARRY AND NICOLE WINFIELD
The Associated Press

ROME — A Rome university professor is facing a disciplinary hearing after inviting the captain of the shipwrecked Costa Concordia cruise liner to lecture students on emergency procedures.

The dean of Rome's Sapienza University, Luigi Frati, voiced anger Wednesday at the professor's decision to invite Capt. Francesco Schettino to give a seminar, calling it an "inappropriate and unworthy choice." Frati said he was turning the matter over to an ethics committee.

The university dismissed the "pathetic excuses" offered by the professor, Vincenzo Mastroratti, when confronted by the dean.

Schettino is being tried for manslaughter, causing the shipwreck and abandoning ship over the January 2012 capsizing of the Concordia, in which 32 people died.

Italy's education minister called the news "disconcerting," while the prosecutor in Tuscan city who is arguing for Schettino's guilt expressed indignation also at reports that Schettino had been awarded a diploma.

The Florence daily La Nazione reported that Schettino gave a nearly two-hour lecture to criminal science master's candidates last month, including reference to panic management. Passengers have described a chaotic evacuation of the Concordia.

Schettino, through his lawyer, defended the seminar, saying it was "a technical intervention on the basis of my knowledge and professionalism acquired over many years of service."

His lawyer, Cataldo Calabretta, criticized "an unacceptable attempt to discredit Schettino, who has been subjected for a long time already to unmerited media attacks."

The Concordia was towed from its Tuscan graveyard last month to Genoa's port, where it will be turned into scrap. During a search of the ship Wednesday, authorities found some bone fragments that they said could belong to the one person still unaccounted for from the tragedy: Indian waiter Russell Rebello. They said the bones could also belong to an Italian passenger whose partial, mutilated remains were found some months ago.

Celebrities appeal to Scotland to stay in UK

LONDON — Mick Jagger, Dame Judi Dench and Stephen Hawking are among dozens of celebrities and public figures in Britain who have signed a petition appealing to Scottish voters to vote to stay in the United Kingdom in a referendum in September.

The public is now being invited to sign the open letter, whose

other signatories include Helena Bonham Carter, David Attenborough and Simon Cowell.

The letter tells Scottish voters taking part in the Sept. 18 referendum that the undersigned "want to let you know how very much we value our bonds of citizenship with you, and to express our hope that you will vote to renew them."

"What unites us is much greater than what divides us," the letter said. "Let's stay together."

From The Associated Press

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NATION

ALL ABOARD CALIFORNIA'S ZOMBIE TRAIN: UNDEAD AHEAD

By ANGELA HILL
The Oakland Tribune

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Initial symptoms of the zombie infestation were subtle, barely evident as we boarded our dangerously exposed, open-air coach with roughly 50 other normal, uncontaminated humans, their heads surely screwed on straight. Big, juicy, brain-filled heads.

In hindsight, the fact that this conveyance was dubbed the "Zombie Train" — operated by the folks who run the Sacramento River Train and a Wild West shootout ride along the same route — should have been a dead giveaway. Yet on this bright, sunny, 97-degree Sacramento Sunday, the only reanimated corpse in sight was a small, seemingly gentle, decaying soul named Bud, secured to a white-coated research scientist by sturdy chain-link leashes.

Aww, who's the cutest widdle zombie in the post-apocalyptic world? That's right, you are! Yes, you are!

We checked in at an obscure boarding site next to a water-treatment plant — I in my befitting "Plants Vs. Zombies" T-shirt and my spouse sporting an equally apt "I don't play well with others" tee. Our onboard host, the hardscrabble Sarge (actor Tom Presler, of Lodi, Calif.), inspired confidence with his camo ensemble and mirrored aviators, frequently shouting, "Look alive, people!" which was, of course, our collective aim.

The train lurched forward on the two-hour ride, passing innocuous fields of vegetation and fruit trees, as the Talking Heads' "Road to Nowhere" played over the intercom. Then the music was abruptly inter-

rupted by crackling static and an emergency broadcast — something about an outbreak "that affects the brain and regenerates dead tissue," and a caveat to "try to remain calm."

Soon, we spotted a handful of already-dead heads rising from graves along the railroad bed. Others stumbled from neighboring barns at the sluggish speed of fright, chewing on scenery and nibbling sweet, sweet human flesh. Fortunately, we passengers were given license to kill, armed with hefty laser-tag guns that resembled grenade launchers, but which merely exuded a beam of light and a hollow, fake-gunsbot sound of "pow, puh-pop-pow" — not unlike the rifles at the shooting gallery in Disney's Frontierland.

The train whistle blared, and everyone blasted away. Some — like the young woman poised at the window across from us — fired willy-nilly at anything in passing backyards. Pow.

"You just shot a goat," my spouse pointed out to her.

"It might have been a zombie goat," she said defensively with another "pow," shooting herself in the foot. "I'm not very good with guns."

Yes, for all this drool and drama, it was just for good, fake-blood-y fun. No zombies were injured, and no actual human brains were sucked. And while one might have thought the zombie craze would have run — or perhaps shuffled — its course by now, it's clear the doggone undead just won't die.

In fact, they seem to be more virulent than ever, from TV shows and video games to Zombies Run marathons.

And now this. The Zombie Train kicked off last Halloween season with quick sellouts on each ride, despite mixed reviews from some who lusted for more zombie targets. This

Even zombies need to take a break as Matt Givens eats a hand sandwich in between performances.



Above: Ben Daniels, 16, and his father Sterling Daniels take aim at zombies during the Zombie Train ride in Sacramento, Calif.



Right: Zombie actress Crystal Provencio feasts on a human.

PHOTOS BY JOSE CARLOS FAJARDO, SAN ANEA NEWS GROUP/MCT

ror movies," Elizabeth said.

Bernie and June Fineman, of East Liverpool, Ohio, brought some of their grandkids who live in Orinda, Calif. "Every grandchild should learn to shoot zombies before the age of 12," Bernie said, picking a good example by eagerly setting off a few zombies lurking under a freeway overpass.

Suddenly, cute widdle zombie Bud broke loose from his keeper, not looking so cute and widdle anymore, drooling blood and engaging in fistfights with the Sarge. Our hard-bitten host took a solid bite in the arm. My husband reflexively fired a proactive laser shot, but it had no effect, and the inevitable ensue, which I'll leave to your imagination.

Let's just say, once bitten, twice as hungry for brains. Try to remain calm.

year, the attraction runs most weekends through summer and into October.

"We've been doing a Wild West shoot-em-up for a long time, so we thought it would be fun for passengers to interact and shoot back at the bad guys. And who's badder than zombies?" asked a grusomely gleeful Chris Hart, president of the rail group that also operates the Mendocino Railway, Sierra Railroad Dinner Train and the Skunk Train.

So they contracted with actors from the Sacramento branch of the international Zombie Club (who knew?), who ravenously helped develop brain-thirsty characters and a variety of plots.

Our afternoon ride drew everyone from kids to grandparents, locals and travelers. Elizabeth and Lorenzo Arreola, of San Jose, a couple in their mid-20s, chose zombie slaughter as a delightful way to celebrate their sixth wedding anniversary. "We love hor-



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August							September							October						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31	
31																				

■ Available ■ Not Available

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NATION

App uses facial recognition to find lost dogs

By SUE MANNING
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Any worried pet owner who has spent days hanging posters, making phone calls and knocking on neighbors' doors hopes there's a more scientific way to find a lost dog.

That became a reality when facial recognition technology successfully reunited a pet at San Diego County Animal Services with its owners. Joanne Cox's family in San Diego turned to FindingRover.com, a website and app that uses technology built by university researchers, to reconnect with their dog Roxy, a Shiba Inu.

The website keeps a database of photos from the three county shelters and tries to match eight distinctive facial markers on dogs with images uploaded by users searching for lost pets. Eyes and noses are important areas that differentiate poodles, including eye size and their position near the snout.

FindingRover.com founder John Polimeno wants to expand the photo database to improve the odds of more happy endings, with shelters elsewhere set to sign on. He's also showing it to rescues, veterinarians and dog groups and is visiting other

While people's faces are relatively uniform, with eyes, noses and mouths in the same general location, dogs' eyes and snouts are in different places.

countries.

The website is unique in using facial recognition but stands among many online tools people increasingly use to find lost pets. There are alarm systems, social media alerts and apps that post rewards or call people in neighborhoods.

Plus, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the largest and oldest humane society in the U.S., has its own mobile app for recovering missing pets. It offers tips on the best ways to search and allows users to create a digital flier to share on social media.

"Through research, the ASPCA has found that the best method for pet owners to find their lost pet is to get out the door, search their neighborhood, post fliers, check their local shelters and make sure that their pets have ID tags with updated information," said Dr. Emily Weiss, vice president of

ASPCA shelter research and development.

Facial recognition worked for the Cox family after Roxy bolted during a thunderstorm in late July. Five days after the dog disappeared, the family's 10-year-old daughter created a free Finding Rover account and the technology matched her uploaded photo to one taken at the shelter.

"Within four hours of her arrival to the shelter, we were there to pick her up," Joanna Cox said in an email.

Every dog entering San Diego County's three shelters is added to the photo database. Daniel deSouza, the system's deputy director, said the program can work two ways:

- Someone finds a dog, takes its picture and sends it to the database, where a match generates a notice to the owner. The owner then can call the good Samaritan and arrange a pickup.
- Dogs coming in to the

shelters have their photos run against the database. If there's a match, the owner gets a call.

The technology powering Finding Rover was built by Steven Callahan and John Schreiner, of the University of Utah's software development center.

They found the eight markers on dogs are far fewer than the 128 points on the human facial recognition program.

"People are sort of uniform, the shape of their faces, skin tones, all their eyes, noses and mouths are in the same general location," Callahan said. But dogs' eyes and snouts are in different places.

It's difficult to measure accuracy, Callahan said, but if there are 100 dogs in a database, a top-three match would be hit 98 percent of the time.



Colo. regulators: Gay bar discriminates against men in drag



Marzano

By SADIE GURMAN
The Associated Press

DENVER — A popular Denver gay bar discriminated against a man when a bouncer denied him entry last year because he was dressed in drag, Colorado regulators said in a decision that could become more common as anti-discrimination laws increasingly include gender identity.

The civil rights division of the

state's Department of Regulatory Agencies last month ordered the Denver Wrangler to resolve the dispute with Vito Marzano, 27, a gay man who was wearing a dress, makeup and a wig when he went to the bar on Aug. 31, 2013.

A bouncer said he turned Marzano away because his appearance didn't match his driver's license, and he was following a policy designed to thwart underage drinkers from entering the

club.

But regulators determined the bar illegally discriminates against effeminate men because its dress code bans high heels, wigs, "appearance-altering makeup" and strong perfume, according to the ruling issued last month and obtained Monday.

"In other words, a female with a masculine gender presentation would be permitted to enter, whereas, a male presenting as a female would

be denied entry," the determination stated. It said the Wrangler wrongly favors bisexual and gay men who embrace a hypermasculine image and shun interaction gay men who "exhibit effeminacy."

A bar employee who answered the phone wouldn't comment. General Manager Phil Newland told regulators that the dress code was implemented for safety reasons and he finds strong perfume offensive.

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WORLD

Them's fighting words!

Japan's naming of islands latest volley in world's battles over place names

By KEN MORITSUGU
The Associated Press

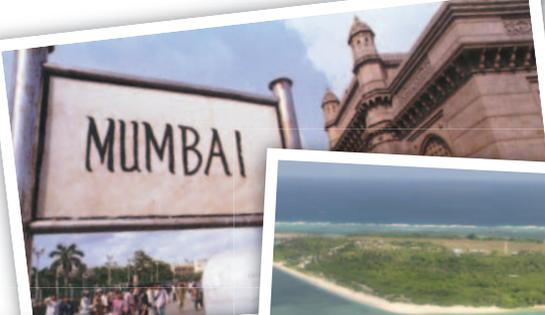
TOKYO — Is it the Persian Gulf or the Arabian Gulf? Mount McKinley or Denali? Mumbai or Bombay?

Some geographic names don't just tell us where we live or where we're going. They're also a political statement, or in the eyes of some, a politically incorrect one. They may not spark a war of the words, but they can cause a war of worlds.

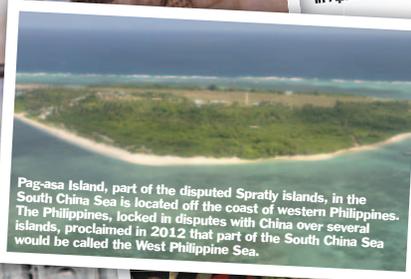
China struck back last week after Japan slapped monikers on 158 previously unnamed islands off its shores. Five of them are part of a cluster that both nations claim and is itself the subject of a name dispute: Is it the Senkaku or the Diaoyu islands?

"No unilateral action undertaken by Japan can change the fact that Diaoyu and its surrounding islands belong to China," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said, using his country's name for the remote tropical islands in the East China Sea.

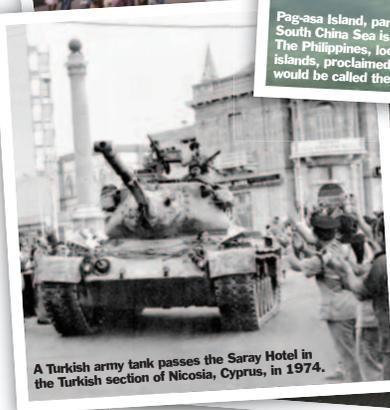
One of the most cited examples, probably because of the viral that ensued, is a 1970s feud over Cyprus that played out in a United Nations forum. It started after Turkey occupied the northern part of the Mediterranean island,



A sign at the popular Gateway of India tourist site in Bombay welcomes visitors with the unfamiliar name, "Mumbai," in April 1995.



Pagasa Island, part of the disputed Spratly islands, in the South China Sea is located off the coast of western Philippines. The Philippines, locked in disputes with China over several islands, proclaimed in 2012 that part of the South China Sea would be called the West Philippine Sea.



A Turkish army tank passes the Saray Hotel in the Turkish section of Nicosia, Cyprus, in 1974.



A protester shouts "Japan get out of Diaoyu Islands (Senkaku Islands)" in April 2012.

and replaced Greek names for villages with Turkish ones.

In a letter to the U.N. conference on geographic names, Cyprus accused Turkey of committing "all kinds of unprecedented atrocities" against the Greek population, according to retired Israeli cartographer Naftali Kadman, who reviewed the official documents.

"They demonstrate that geographical names can constitute explosive items or, in popular terms, hot potatoes," he wrote in a 2004 article for *The Cartographic Journal* in Britain.

The study of geographic names is known as toponymy, and those

who specialize in it say it's more than an academic pursuit.

Saigon became Ho Chi Minh City in 1976 after the North defeated the South and its American allies in the Vietnam War.

Since 1984, it's been Burkina Faso, not Upper Volta, or Haute-Volta, as its former French rulers dubbed the West African state.

In India, part of Britain's former empire, Bombay became Mumbai in 1995, and the southern city of Madras was renamed Chennai the following year. Politicians sometimes make these changes to stir national or ethnic pride, and some

in Mumbai still feel uncomfortable with the name change, which was carried out by a nativist party that rose to power after stoking deadly anti-Muslim riots in the city, said Naresh Fernandes, the author of "City Adrift: A Short Biography of Bombay."

"Given the bloody circumstances in which the name was changed, the word Mumbai now smells to me of gloating triumphalism, and I always call the city Bombay," said Fernandes, who covered the name change as a reporter for *The*

Associated Press in 1995.

East Asian waters are dotted with islands claimed by more than one country, putting even the names of the seas in dispute.

South Korea gained a victory this year when the U.S. state of Virginia, pressured by Korean Americans, agreed that new school textbooks should note that the Sea of Japan is also known as the East Sea, the name it prefers for the waters between the two countries.

The Philippines, locked in disputes with China over several islands and reefs, proclaimed in 2012 that part of the South China Sea would henceforth be called the West Philippine Sea.

For Japan, it was the act of naming the 158 islands last week that mattered, not the actual names. Now most of the 500 islands used to define the extent of Japan's territorial waters have been named.

"It's a rather unique mega-naming gambit to lay claim to uninhabited islands, reflecting Tokyo's concern that Beijing might name and claim for itself," said Jeff Kingston, a professor of contemporary Japan at Temple University's campus.

Name changes can cause diplomatic angst. The then-military government changed Burma to Myanmar in 1989, but the U.S. still refers to it in official documents as Burma, a name preferred by some in the Southeast Asian country's opposition. On a visit in late 2012, President Barack Obama used "Myanmar" when talking to the president, but "Burma" in a meeting with opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"We've said we recognize that different people call this country by different names," U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes told reporters afterward. "Our view is that is something we can continue to discuss."

As elsewhere in the world, the debate goes on.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Drone crashes into hot spring at Yellowstone

WY JACKSON — A tourist flew a drone into a Yellowstone National Park hot spring despite a park ban on drones. Park spokesman Al Nash told the Jackson Hole News & Guide the operator reported that the drone crashed into the picturesque Grand Prismatic Spring last weekend.

The drone is submerged in the spring's 160-degree waters. Officials hope to remove it.

Woman collapses at music festival, dies

CA ANAHEIM — Corona's officials said a 19-year-old woman who died after suffering seizures at a Southern California electronic music festival had tested positive at a hospital for methamphetamine and Ecstasy.

The Orange County Register reported Tuesday that Emily Tran, of Anaheim, collapsed Sunday while attending the Hard Summer Music Festival at Whittier Narrows Recreation Area.

Coroner's Lt. Fred Corral said initial evidence points to a possible overdose as the cause of death. An autopsy is planned.

Police: Mother-son firefighters are struck

KY GLENDALE — A mother and her son, both firefighters, were in the "mop-up" phase of putting out a vehicle fire along a busy interstate when a semitrailer slammed into their firetruck early Wednesday, killing the son and injuring his mother, police said.

Jonathan French, 25, was killed and his mother, Lisa French, was taken to a hospital where she was in serious condition, Kentucky State Police Trooper Jeff Gregory said.

Firefighting ran in the French family. Jonathan French had volunteered for the Glendale Fire Department for about five years. Lisa French had been there for about seven years. Her brother is the agency's fire chief.

Veterinarian saves kitten on heroin

PA EXTON — A Pennsylvania veterinarian used an overdose reversal drug to save a kitten that had been given heroin.

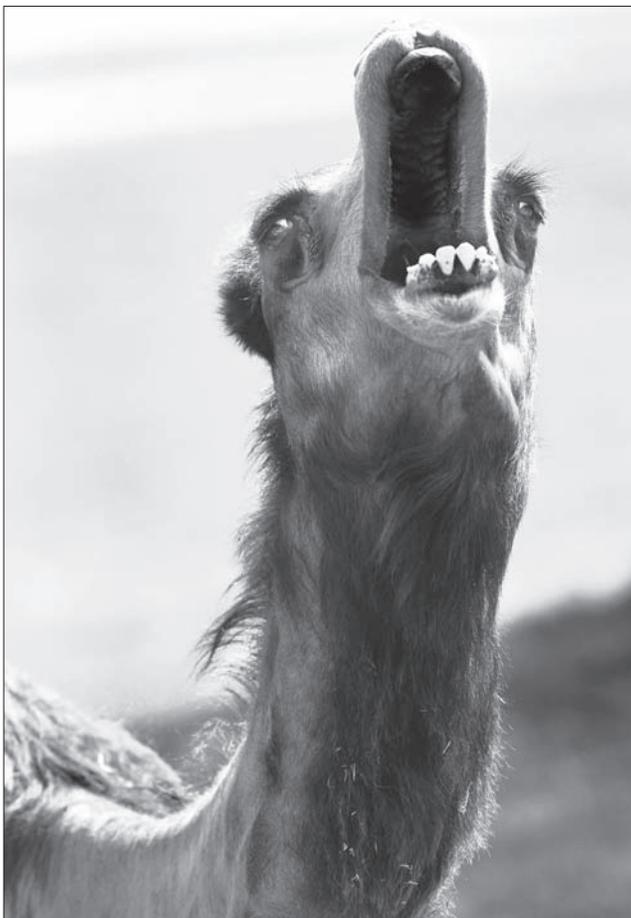
Police said Tuesday they arrested the suburban Philadelphia man who abused the cat.

West Chester resident James Myers faces charges including animal cruelty and drug possession. Police in West Whiteland Township said an officer spotted Myers' car parked in the middle of a street Sunday with a door open.

The officer said that under the door he saw an injured black kitten with a rope around its neck and several teeth knocked out. Police said they found bundles of heroin and dozens of needles in the car.

'Miranda' graffiti mars sacred Indian site

WA CHIMACUM — Graffiti expressing affec-



BUTCH COMEYTS, THE SCRANTON (PA.) TIMES-TRIBUNE

Over the hump

An 8-year-old male desert camel named Hershey yawns in the shade at the Safari Farm on Mount Cobb Road in Jefferson Township, Pa., on Tuesday.

tion for someone named Miranda has marred one of the most sacred sites for an American Indian tribe in Washington state. Jamestown S'Klallam officials learned last month of the pink and white painting of "I (heart) Miranda" on the 43 million-year-old Tamanawas Rock northwest of Seattle.

Interruptions by lawyer result in rare sanction

IA SIOUX CITY — A federal judge in Iowa meted out an unusual punishment to a lawyer for repeatedly raising objections and interrupting depositions: He must produce a training video showing why such tactics are inappropriate. Perhaps not surprisingly, her

law firm objected to the ruling. U.S. District Judge Mark Bennett issued the "outside-the-box sanction" last week to Chicago-based attorney Jene Ghezzi, a partner at the international law firm Jones Day.

Bennett said that rather than issuing a monetary fine against Ghezzi, he wanted to take a stand against "obstructive deposition practices" that are common and that some litigators are even taught to use.

With that goal in mind, Bennett ordered Ghezzi to write and produce a training video that "provides specific steps lawyers must take to comply" with the rationale of his opinion. He said the video must address the impropriety of lawyers vaguely objecting to the form of

questions, coaching witnesses and excessively interrupting.

Residents to vote on legalizing pot in capital

DC WASHINGTON — District of Columbia residents will vote in November on whether to legalize marijuana.

The D.C. Board of Elections voted Wednesday to add an initiative on marijuana legalization to the November ballot.

If approved, the initiative would allow people 21 or older to possess as much as 2 ounces of pot and to grow as many as six marijuana plants at home.

Earlier this year, Mayor Vincent Gray signed a decriminalization law that makes possession of less

THE CENSUS

\$325K

The amount Idaho County commissioners in northern Idaho say the Nez Perce Tribe owes the county in garbage fees. Commissioners late last month sent a letter to Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Chairman Silas C. Whitman demanding the money for garbage collection from 1995 to 2014. The commissioners also want the tribe to budget about \$19,000 annually for garbage collection on property owned by the tribe in Idaho County.



than one ounce of marijuana a civil offense punishable by a \$25 fine.

Police accuse woman of offering sex acts

UT OREM — Orem police have arrested a 50-year-old woman accused of offering sexual favors to massage clients.

Lt. Craig Martinez said detectives began investigating the massage parlor called Foot Massage after receiving citizen tips in June.

Martinez said business listings for the massage parlor featured women in revealing clothing and a business license listed false phone numbers and addresses.

Man pleads guilty to killing co-worker

IN SCOTTSBURG — A southern Indiana man is pleading guilty to a murder charge for the death of a co-worker whose body was hidden for three years.

Robert Riley, 43, of Austin, entered the guilty plea Monday in a Scott County court for the 2009 death of Paul Graupe, 50.

Police said a tip in November 2012 led investigators to Riley's home, where they found Graupe's body hidden in a building on the property.

Parents upset over new backpack rule

MA GULFPORT — The County School District a few weeks ago announced a new policy requiring clear or mesh backpacks in all schools, including elementary, and many parents are upset.

"I'm just kind of flabbergasted about the whole situation," said Rebekah Rush, of Saucier. She had ordered a book bag embroidered with her second-grader's name and matching lunch bag.

The Sun Herald reported county, but it was extended to elementary schools this year.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

BofA, US near settlement up to \$17B

By ERIC TUCKER
AND JOSH BOK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Bank of America is nearing a settlement of between \$16 billion and \$17 billion to resolve an investigation into its role in the sale of mortgage-backed securities before the 2008 financial crisis, a person directly familiar with the matter said Wednesday.

The deal with the bank, which

still must be finalized, would be the largest Justice Department settlement by far arising from the economic meltdown in which millions of Americans lost their homes to foreclosure. It would follow earlier multibillion-dollar agreements reached in the last year with Citigroup and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

The person, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced, cautioned that some details still

needed to be worked out and that it was possible the agreement could fall apart.

But the person said the two sides reached an agreement in principle following a conversation last week between Attorney General Eric Holder and Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan.

The person said the tentative deal calls for the bank to pay roughly \$9 billion in cash and for the remaining sum to go toward consumer relief.

A bank spokesman declined to comment.

The Wall Street Journal first reported details of the settlement discussions on Wednesday.

The deal would be the latest arising from the sale of toxic mortgage securities leading up to the recession. The Justice Department last year reached a \$1.3 billion settlement with JPMorgan and in July announced a \$7 billion settlement with Citigroup.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	...	\$1.3716
Euro costs (Aug. 8)	...	€0.7291
Dollar buys (Aug. 8)	...	\$1.73
Japanese yen (Aug. 8)	...	¥100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 8)	...	1,008.00

Commercial rates	...	0.3770
British pound	...	\$1.6835/0.5940
Canada (dollar)	...	1.0922
China (Yuan)	...	6.1647
Denmark (Krone)	...	5.5468
Egypt (Pound)	...	7.1515
Euro	...	\$1.3349/0.7491
Hong Kong (Dollar)	...	0.7510
Hungary (Forint)	...	235.63
Israel (Shekel)	...	3.4634
Japan (Yen)	...	102.33
Kuwait (Dinar)	...	0.2833
Norway (Krone)	...	6.2531
Philippines (Peso)	...	44.05
Poland (Zloty)	...	31.14
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	...	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	...	1.2518
South Korea (Won)	...	1,036.87
Switzerland (Franc)	...	0.9097
Thailand (Baht)	...	32.28
Turkey (New Lira)	...	1.5386

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

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.818	\$4.004	\$4.169	\$4.156
Change in price	-2.4 cents	-2.2 cents	-2.2 cents	-0.5 cents
Netherlands	...	\$4.842	\$5.128	\$5.013
Change in price	...	-4.5 cents	-5.1 cents	-0.5 cents
U.K.	...	\$3.974	\$4.139	\$4.126
Change in price	...	-3.2 cents	-2.2 cents	-0.5 cents
Azores	...	...	\$4.115	...
Change in price	...	...	-2.1 cents	...
Belgium	...	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	...	-0.8 cents	-2.8 cents	-0.3 cents
Turkey	...	...	\$4.293	\$4.993*
Change in price	...	...	-2.1 cents	-4.9 cents
U.K.	...	\$4.180	...	\$4.256
Change in price	...	+9.2 cents	...	+5.5 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	...	\$3.089	...	\$3.839
Change in price	...	-2.0 cents	...	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	...	\$3.669	...	\$3.839
Change in price	...	-1.0 cents	...	-1.0 cents
South Korea	...	\$3.639	...	\$3.979
Change in price	...	-3.0 cents	...	-3.0 cents
Guam	...	\$3.629**	\$3.819	\$3.979
Change in price	...	-3.0 cents	-4.0 cents	-2.0 cents

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 6, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	13.87 16,443.34
Nasdaq composite	2.22 4,355.05
Standard & Poor's 500	0.03 1,920.24
Russell 2000	3.99 1,125.55

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For the week of Aug. 9-15

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	...	3.25
Discount rate	...	8.00
Federal funds market rate	...	0.09
3-month bill	...	0.03
90-day bond	...	3.27

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	91	71	Rain	Fort Wayne	79	60	Cldy	Louisville	82	70	Rain	Pocatello	84	54	Pcldy	Sioux City	77	64	Cldy
Ablene, Tex	96	76	Pcldy	Cheyenne	79	55	Cldy	Fresno	99	73	Cir	Lubbock	97	72	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	78	67	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	77	62	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	78	56	Pcldy	Chicago	78	63	Cldy	Goodland	85	62	Pcldy	Macon	94	73	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	75	60	Pcldy	South Bend	81	61	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	89	55	Cir	Cincinnati	75	64	Rain	Grand Junction	88	60	Pcldy	Madison	79	60	Cldy	Providence	89	59	Pcldy	Springfield	85	60	Pcldy
Albuquerque	89	65	Pcldy	Cleveland	78	59	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	81	61	Pcldy	Medford	91	60	Cir	Pueblo	89	61	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	80	67	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	83	54	Cir	Colorado Springs	84	56	Cldy	Great Falls	88	68	Pcldy	Memphis	92	75	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	85	65	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	89	70	Cldy
Amarillo	84	67	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	90	73	Cldy	Green Bay	78	57	Pcldy	Miami Beach	89	76	Pcldy	Rapid City	81	59	Pcldy	St. Louis	89	80	Rain
Anchorage	62	54	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	93	75	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	81	66	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	99	73	Pcldy	Roanoke	90	62	Pcldy	Tallahassee	97	74	Pcldy
Asheville	78	64	Rain	Columbus, Ohio	79	64	Pcldy	Hartford	81	57	Pcldy	Milwaukee	74	62	Cldy	Richmond	86	63	Pcldy	Tampa	90	78	Pcldy
Atlanta	90	74	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	80	56	Pcldy	Hartford Spg	81	58	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	80	63	Cldy	Rochester	77	56	Cir	Tucson	90	75	Pcldy
Atlantic City	84	58	Cir	Corpus Christi	95	78	Pcldy	Helena	89	57	Pcldy	Missoula	89	53	Pcldy	Rochester	77	56	Cir	Topeka	85	69	Cldy
Austin	94	61	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	100	79	Pcldy	Honolulu	93	77	Rain	Mobile	93	77	Pcldy	Rockford	78	61	Cir	Tulsa	75	65	Pcldy
Baltimore	86	61	Pcldy	Dayton	76	62	Cldy	Houston	95	77	Pcldy	Montgomery	95	74	Cir	Sacramento	92	62	Cir	Tucson	99	76	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	93	75	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	91	76	Pcldy	Huntsville	92	72	Rain	Nashville	92	71	Rain	St. Louis	84	70	Cldy	Tulpeo	92	73	Cldy
Billings	89	61	Pcldy	Denver	82	60	Cldy	Indianapolis	83	65	Pcldy	New Orleans	91	77	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	90	80	Rain	Waco	98	69	Pcldy
Birmingham	94	74	Cldy	Des Moines	77	64	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	96	74	Pcldy	New York City	85	64	Cir	St. Thomas	90	80	Rain	Washington	98	75	Pcldy
Bismarck	84	61	Pcldy	Detroit	77	67	Cir	Jacksonville	96	74	Pcldy	Newark	87	63	Cir	Salem, Ore.	87	62	Pcldy	W. Palm Beach	89	78	Cldy
Boise	92	62	Cir	Duluth	77	67	Pcldy	Juneau	60	51	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	84	67	Cir	Salt Lake City	86	62	Cldy	Wichita	91	71	Cldy
Boston	78	60	Pcldy	El Paso	90	70	Cir	Juneau	63	68	Cldy	North Platte	82	62	Cldy	San Diego	99	75	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	99	75	Pcldy
Bridgport	83	59	Cir	Elkins	78	55	Cldy	Key West	91	81	Cldy	Oklahoma City	98	73	Pcldy	San Francisco	98	76	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	99	75	Pcldy
Brownsville	97	80	Pcldy	Erie	76	58	Cir	Knoxville	89	68	Rain	Omaha	80	66	Cldy	San Jose	91	73	Pcldy	Wilkes-Barre	81	52	Cir
Buffalo	77	58	Cir	Eugene	82	54	Pcldy	Lake Charles	92	76	Pcldy	Orlando	92	75	Pcldy	San Francisco	75	60	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	85	59	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	79	57	Cir	Evansville	83	69	Rain	Lansing	79	59	Pcldy	Paducah	88	71	Rain	San Jose	82	61	Cir	Yonkers	85	60	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	75	53	Cir	Fairbanks	74	50	Pcldy	Las Vegas	99	77	Cir	Pendleton	88	56	Pcldy	Santa Fe	86	56	Pcldy	Youngstown	79	54	Pcldy
Casper, Wyo.	83	53	Pcldy	Fargo	90	75	Pcldy	Lexington	81	67	Rain	Peoria	79	65	Cir	St. Louis	91	73	Pcldy				
Charleston, S.C.	90	74	Cldy	Flagstaff	79	67	Pcldy	Lincoln	81	65	Cldy	Philadelphia	85	64	Cir	Savannah	93	75	Pcldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	81	60	Cldy	Flint	80	54	Cir	Little Rock	93	75	Cldy	Phoenix	104	83	Pcldy	Seattle	74	56	Pcldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	85	70	Rain	Fort Smith	97	73	Pcldy	Los Angeles	82	66	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	80	55	Pcldy	Shreveport	97	75	Pcldy				

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

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 114, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 31, Bodie State Park, Calif.

WEEKEND



Jenny Lewis makes magic on 'Voyager'

Page 37

forecast: **Stormy**

'Into the Storm' joins list of films in which weather plays a starring role

Page 24

Also playing:

- 'The Hundred-Foot Journey,' Page 25
- 'Step Up All In,' Page 26
- 'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles,' Page 26

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAV/Stars and Stripes

It's better for your gadgets to put them to sleep each night, not shut them down.

Nightly rituals for electronics

By KEVIN HUNT
Chicago Tribune

It's better to put your computer to sleep at night, like a little electronic baby, or shut it down to save energy like a good global eco-citizen?

The minuscule amount of energy, if any, saved with a nightly shutdown won't reduce anyone's carbon footprint much, but could shorten your computer's life. The daily on-off stress isn't good for your computer's heart. It'll only lead to an early trip to the landfill or recycling center.

"A power cycle, which is turning a computer off fully and then turning it back on, should be relegated to a maintenance activity on approximately a weekly basis," says Damian Giannunzio, director of PC Labs of Los Angeles, which studies PC performance and stability.

Giannunzio, whose research contributes to the development of ITO Technologies' repair and optimization software for Windows PCs, says he runs his own computer in balanced power mode. This default Windows setting provides peak performance only on demand.

Even gamers should question whether Windows' high-performance power mode, with maxed-out screen brightness and processor constantly in high gear, is worth higher operating temperatures, increased power consumption, more noise and shorter life span.

"High performance, in my mind, is terrible," Giannunzio says. "It is absolutely not worth essentially removing any sort of limitation on (the processor's) frequency. It's no longer intelligent or adaptive."

"When you go into high-performance mode, you're letting it run at peak speeds all the time. That is death to a system. At low mode, you do end up seeing a penalty, which is activity and speed of the system."

So run your PC in balanced power mode and put it to bed each night in either standby or hibernate. Standby uses little power and awakes faster, where hibernate uses no power but revives slowly. (Apple computers have adjustable energy-saver sleep and idle modes.)

A fully charged notebook computer connected to a power outlet consumes an average of 29.48 watts, according to the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's tests for the Department of Energy. In sleep mode, it averages 15.77 watts. Turned off, it still consumes 8.9 watts.

Those 8.9 watts are classified as vampire, or phantom, power—energy used by devices ostensibly shut down. Your TV and cable box are energy hogs. So are printers, gaming consoles and coffee makers.

Here's the new nighttime ritual: Put your computer to sleep, turn off the monitor and use a smart power strip to kill electricity to vampire power users. Then you can put yourself into sleep mode.

GADGET WATCH

Get connected for accurate forecasts

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The Oregon Scientific Weather@Home (model BAR218HG) is one of those gadgets that you don't think you need—until you do.

With the weather station, you no longer have to troll your TV stations, websites or apps to get weather reports. Instead, you can become your own household's weather forecaster with the Bluetooth-enabled weather station you keep inside, paired with a temperature and humidity sensor you keep outside.

The sensor is powered by a single AA battery (not included) to take readings and send it to the weather station wirelessly. Then with Bluetooth you can read the results on your smartphone with the device's free app (Android and iOS), up to 55 yards away.

Temperatures are also taken inside along with daily highs and lows, humidity and forecasts.

I compared the weather station versus my local news weatherman, and they were both right on with predictions of temperatures above 100 with a slight chance of an afternoon storm. While it doesn't take much of a prediction with that forecast, they were both accurate as the week went on.

The Weather@Home is powered by 3 AA batteries (not included) and has other alerts for storm warnings, wind, frost, fog, the percentage of moon phase and an auto setting clock.
Online: OregonScientific.com/us, \$53.64

The Voyager Edge from Plantronics puts many other Bluetooth headsets to shame.

Sound and battery life are the most important features to me. Having a great-looking device without being able to hear your

caller is useless.

The Voyager Edge has all the features you need in a Bluetooth (4.0) device along with NFC pairing with NFC-enabled devices.

Like any other similar device, you have to pair it with your smartphone and you're ready to go.

The Edge was described as "Intelligent" by a company representative before I tried it out, and after using it I was impressed with how smart it is.

When I put the headset on, my phone instantly detected it and was ready to answer calls. Your voice command of "ignore or answer" will tell the device what to do next.

Noise-canceling technology enables you to hear incoming calls with crystal clarity, and three built-in noise-canceling mics allow your caller to hear you just as well.

The lightweight and water resistant Voyager Edge, unlike many others of its competitors, is a complete kit. You get several sized silicone ear-tips for the right fit and clip-on ear-loops.

But what makes it a complete kit is the car charger and charging case to give you extra power on the go. The extra battery will give you up to 10 more hours of talk time on top of the headset's battery for 6 hours.

A USB cable is included to give them both a charge.

Online: plantronics.com; \$129, available in black, white or gray

Henge Docks Vertical Docking Station is a space saver for the MacBook Pro (15 or 13-inch with Retina Display).

Just dock your laptop into the sleek-looking device and it connects to an external monitor, USB, audio (3.5mm) and Thunderbolt connections through built-in cables.

It's constructed from a durable metal alloy and a finish to match your laptop's look, which is an important aspect to many Apple users.

Once docked, rubber inserts keep your laptop scratch free, a built-in cable organizer keeps your cables in place and side vents are great for keeping the laptop cool.

To keep your laptop running while docked, since the cover is closed, you'll have to keep it connected to AC power. If you plan on using the dock often, it might be a good idea to pick up an extra power cord.

This is one of those gadgets where there's not a lot to it, it does exactly what it's supposed to do, and exactly well. Online: hengedocks.com, \$119



MCT
The new Weather@Home Line offers easy-to-use weather tracking solutions so you can plan your next outing.



Plantronics

ON THE COVER: "Into the Storm" is a special effects-heavy disaster film.

Warner Bros. Pictures

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for August 6:

- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
- "All I Need Is You," Lecrae
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Boom Clap," Charli XCX
- "Dirt," Florida Georgia Line

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from July 8 to Aug. 3:

- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Problem," Ariana Grande
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Latch," Disclosure
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Summer," Calvin Harris

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for August 6:

- "Divergent"
- "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
- "The Other Woman"
- "Need for Speed"
- "Noah"
- "The Spectacular Now"
- "Heaven Is for Real"
- "Snowpiercer"
- "Palo Alto"
- "God's Not Dead"

— Compiled by MCT



VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 games for August:

- "The Last of Us: Remastered Edition," PS4
- "Divinity: Original Sin," PC
- "Shovel Knight," Wii U, 3DS, PC
- "Dark Souls II: The Crown of the Sunken King," PS3, 360, PC
- "Oddworld: New 'n' Tasty," PS4
- "Ea Sports UFC," PS4, Xbox One
- "Another World: 20th Anniversary Edition," PS4, Xbox One, Wii U, PS3, 360, Vita, 3DS
- "Tales of Xillia 2," PS3
- "Sacred 3," PC
- "Valiant Hearts: The Great War," PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for August 6:

- ANDROID
- Battle Camp
 - Yummy Mania
 - Underworld Syndicate
 - City Island: Airport 2
 - Winkys Gone Wild

Top 5 free apps for August 6:

- APPLE
- Facebook Messenger
 - Crazy Taxi: City Rush
 - A Dark Room
 - Family Feud 2
 - No One Dies

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Disney is promoting its Disney Movies Anywhere service by creating several Muppets short films. The

Disney Drive-On with the Muppets shorts

More Muppet mayhem

show Walter looking for a job on the Muppets movie lot. It includes the usual Muppets-style wackiness, and will please fans of Pepe the King Prawn.

If you want even more of a Muppets fix, you can get "Muppets Most Wanted" on DVD on Aug. 12.

• **Watch the first video at tinyurl.com/DMAmuppets.**



Disney Enterprises, Inc.

The good old gang you remember: Gonzo, Fozzie Bear, Kermit the Frog, Miss Piggy, Rowlf and Scooter are back, as well as some newer members, in "Muppets Most Wanted."

2

See the return of those heroes on a half-shell

The Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles are back on the big screen, and this time they're brought to life by some seriously intense special effects. Some hard-core comic book fans are wailing about such details as the turtles having nostrils, but we advise you to sit back, relax and enjoy the on-screen fun.

• **Profile, review on Page 26.**



3

One last song for fans of The Civil Wars

Civil Wars fans, you have our condolences: The duo has officially broken up, but Joy Williams and John Paul White offer a lovely parting gift — a free download on their website. It's an oddly mournful, but still beautiful, acoustic version of "You Are My Sunshine."

• **Free song download at thecivilwars.com.**



4

Oscar-winning director spills trade secrets

Ever wish you could take a master class on filmmaking from director Ron Howard? Now you can get close through a video released by New York's Tribeca Film Festival. In the digital short "Leading by Example," the Oscar winner extols the virtues of salt baths ("they keep your skin baby soft for decades"), harmonics, maintaining a bounty ("nobody's gonna hold my film hostage"), calcium intake and self-flagellation by putting rocks in your shoes. We hope that last one is a joke.

• **Watch the video at tinyurl.com/tffvid.**



Howard

WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Into the Storm' swept up in effects

By Roger Moore

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

"Into the Storm" is as close to a real tornado as most of us would ever want to get. Its effects are so spectacular that it makes "Twister" look like "The Wizard of Oz."

But as impressive as the effects can be, as effective as the blend of TV news helicopter POV shots, security camera footage, cellphone video and storm chaser images mimicked here turn out, the human stories are given short shrift in this spend-out-budget-on-effects action picture.

Late in the season, "Tornado Alley" storm chaser Pete (Matt Walsh) hasn't scored the money shot. He's a freelancer with the backing to get the image nobody else has — the "eye" of the tornado, shots from inside the vortex. He's got a hired gun meteorologist, Allison (Sarah Wayne Callies), Titus, a veritable tank of a chase vehicle; some young videographers; and backers who'll put the budget in this venture if he doesn't produce.

That last big system whipping across Oklahoma is their chance. Everybody else is headed toward one town; Allison insists the real action will be in Silvertown.

As graduation day in Silvertown High, and vice principal Gary



(Richard Armitage) is hoping they can hold the ceremony outdoors and that his rebellious sons Donnie and Trey (Max Deacon, Nathan Kress) will film it for a video time capsule.

Donnie (Deacon) gets distracted by a girl (Alycia Debnam Carey) who needs to videotape an abandoned factory that's a waste dump for her internship, so he's a no-show. But the super cell isn't.

The twister hits and we're

sucked into that school with it. But the realism of this gripping school-under-assault scene isn't the first grabber moment. That comes in the opening credits — teens caught in a car, obsessed with cellphone recording the tornado that swooped down on them the previous night.

If "Into the Storm" has a theme, it's that. We've become a nation of gawkers, cultists forever holding our phones up to whatever tragic or comic disaster

is unfolding in front of us. Where "Into the Storm" makes you appreciate 1996's "Twister" is in the ways the new film makes the victims mostly anonymous, even if their deaths are spectacular. There's a reason movies are cast with movie stars, and this film makes you realize that, with every under-reaction to something this character or that one has never seen before, and performances that lack urgency. Movie stars have not just act-

Told through the eyes and lenses of professional storm chasers, thrill-seeking amateurs and courageous townspeople, "Into the Storm" throws viewers directly into the eye of the storm to experience Mother Nature at her most extreme.

Warner Bros. Pictures

New on base

"Into the Storm" is playing at the following facilities:

Europe
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Wiesock, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunsum.

Pacific
Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadema, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: intothestormmovie.com

ing chops and spark presence, but that ineffable siren that creates instant empathy. Director Steven "Final Destination 5" Quale doesn't give his cast the chance to take credit that empathy until very late in the picture. That's also, belatedly, when a ticking clock kicks in and we start to fear for characters' lives.

That's when the characters do what the audience does — gawk, in shock and something like awe. In a disaster picture, that only gets you so far.

"Into the Storm" is rated PG-13 for sequences of destruction and peril, and language. Running time: 89 minutes.

Weather takes leading role in 'Into the Storm,' other popular films

By Colin Covert

Star Tribune

Sometimes bad weather is an important supporting player in the movies. After all, without a thunderclap and a forked bolt of electricity striking his operating-room lightning rod, Dr. Frankenstein never could have shrilled his triumphant, "It's alive! It's alive!" And Dorothy never would have left Kansas if that cyclone didn't scoop her up and plunk her down in Oz. Gene Kelly couldn't have gone singing in the rain.

But in the upcoming meteorological adventure "Into the Storm," they're trying to do something different. The film, with a raft of low-wattage human actors, effectively makes lousy weather the movie's star. A massive barrage of tornadoes roars across a single Midwest town, sucking up semitrucks, crushing air-raid shelters, flattening buildings, carrying off some of the cast and leaving others dreadfully ruffled. In anticipation of the new film, here's a look back at a slew of movies where lousy weather played a pivotal role.

Hot and muggy

"Do the Right Thing" (1989)
The narrative effectiveness of Spike Lee's best film depends to a huge degree on the heat wave broiling his embattled characters. It's the hottest day of the year.

"HELTER SWEETER, 98-DEGREE AIR-RAID BREAKER" screams a Daily News banner headline. The simmering temperature pushes an irritable group of neighbors in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvesant to the boiling point. When a

frazzled cop kills an irritating but harmless local character, the other players erupt in a frenzy of recriminations, rioting and looting. Lee uses a scalding-hot red-orange color palette to push the point home, and strong, sizzling sunlight to make the tenements and storefronts look desert-harsh and hostile.

Flash flood watch

"Noah" (2014)

Darren Aronofsky turns the biblical story into a taut disaster-evacuation saga with complex theological overtones and outlandish special effects. Russell Crowe gathers up his family and a giant menagerie aboard an ark in preparation for an impending rain so ferocious it will obliterate his sinful,

immortal world. When the vicious storm hits, the devastation has a deeper meaning than bravura special-effects thrills.

Chilly but bright

"Frozen" (2013)

Disney's smart revision of its "princess movie" genre depends on the uncontrolled

flash-freezing abilities of Elsa, who accidentally unleashes eternal winter on her kingdom, then imprisons herself in a distant ice palace. She also freezes her caring sister Anna's heart, unless it can be thawed by an act of pure love. The film's

shimmering songs, radiant snowscapes and icebound adventures powered it on to become the highest-grossing animated film of all time.

Pack an umbrella and fork

"Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" (2009)

The gleefully silly animated adaptation of the children's classic stars Bill Hader as a hapless young inventor whose food-transforming gizmo goes haywire, triggering pasta precipitation and jelly bean hail. When a pancake the size of a city block flattens the local schoolhouse, followed by a huge splash of maple syrup, it's childish wish fulfillment on a grand scale. But the most delicious moment comes when it snows

ice cream and the local kids make snow angels face down.

Small craft warnings

"The Perfect Storm" (2000)

Wolfgang Petersen tells the true story of a superstorm. George Clooney, Mark Wahlberg and John C. Reilly are among

the crew of a Massachusetts fishing boat capsized during a cataclysmic 1991 storm at sea. Their boat is battered by hammering downpours and tossed by stomach-dropping giant waves that dismantle the vessel piece by piece. It's a

gripping drama told with kinetic punch that could make a viewer seasick.

Travel advisory

"The Ice Storm" (1997)

Ang Lee's film about affluent families trapped in failed marriages and the pursuit



of empty pleasures literally traps its players with a symbolic early winter storm. Kevin Kline, Sigourney Weaver and Joan Allen play suburbanites medicating their ennui with adultery and alcohol, while neglecting their drugged-up, alienated children. Ice rain

seeps into everything, like a force of nature dissolving the decadent characters' sexual inhibitions to tragic effect.

Seasonal affective disorder

"The Shining" (1980)

Trapped in the haunted Overlook Hotel as an endless blizzard howls outside, Jack Nicholson develops the worst case of cabin fever in history. Stanley Kubrick's prestige horror film uses some spook-story effects to amp up the anxiety, but the claustrophobia and isolation alone are enough to



drive viewers to the edge of hysteria. With a titanic snowfall making the mountain roads impassable, there's no way for the authorities to save the day, or for Nicholson's terrified wife and son to flee from their increasingly unhinged patriarch.



WEEKEND: MOVIES

An acquired taste

‘Hundred-Foot Journey’ is a bland comedy that takes forever to finish

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The culinary culture clash comedy “The Hundred-Foot Journey” dawdles, like a meal that drags on and on because the waiter is too busy texting to bother bringing you the check.

Based on the Richard Morris novel, it’s a low-flame romance and low-heat feud about a family of Indian restaurateurs who set up their spicic, gaudy and noisy eatery across the road from a posh, Michelin-endorsed, haute cuisine establishment in rural France.

Lasse “Chocolat” Hallstrom directs; Helen “The Queen” Mirren is the imperious, snooty French restaurant’s owner; and the young leads — Manish Dayal as the aspiring Indian chef, Charlotte Le Bon as the winsome French one — are charming.

How did this smorgasbord turn out so bland?

It begins with promise. Hassan (Dayal) learns to cook from his mother at their family restaurant in Mumbai. Mom (Juhi Chawla) teaches him to cook with “all the senses,” that “To cook, you must kill. You cook, you make ghosts.” Meats and vegetables must retain their “spirits” for the dish to be great.

Violence in India kills the mother and sends her brood — led by Papa (Om Puri) — first to Britain, then to France, where the locals don’t know Indian food. Why would they? They

New on base

“The Hundred-Foot Journey” is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

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

Online: dreamworkstudios.com/films/the-hundred-foot-journey

have French cuisine, the world’s finest.

A road accident forces the Indian clan (Papa and five kids) to take a closer look at a charming village in the south of France, and Papa is drawn to an empty restaurant. The huffy Madame Mallory (Mirren) provokes him into sealing the deal. Maison Mumbai opens, a flurry of curries and riot of color and noisy Indian music, right across the road from Madame Mallory’s long-established, one-star, fine dining institution.

Hassan tries to impress her; she’s not having it. He tries to



DREAMWORKS III/AP

Helen Mirren stars as the chilly chef proprietress of a classical French restaurant in “The Hundred-Foot Journey.” Her icy protests against the new Indian restaurant a hundred feet from her own escalate to all-out war between the two establishments.

make peace; she won’t have it.

When the newcomers go to the market for fresh fruits, meats and vegetables, Madame Mallory has already bought everything up (she got a look at their menu). “War is war!” Papa declares, and it’s on like Avignon, a tit-for-tat fight that escalates around the ears of the town mayor, a gastro-nome who only wants to enjoy that next meal.

Meanwhile, Hassan is discovering French culinary tradition through the books lent to him by the pretty sous chef at Madame Mallory’s place (Le Bon), and discovering love in her eyes. It’s a pity they work for sworn enemies.

The novel this is based on follows Hassan’s journey, from boy

learning from his mother to the height of the Paris cooking establishment. Dayal and his character aren’t charismatic enough to carry the picture, so Hallstrom and his screenwriter focus on the fish-out-of-water elements of the tale, on the older character’s “war” and the sparks they set off. When he abandons that to follow Hassan deeper into his career, the movie lurches to a halt.

Mirren is regal as ever, and Puri, best known in the West for “Charlie Wilson’s War,” fumes up a nice blubbering rage. But nobody else gets much screen time. Ugly French xenophobia pops up, abruptly, and is dismissed just as quickly.

And all those sensual delights that great food films are known

for, “The Hundred-Foot Journey” shortchanges. Close-ups of dishes are not enough. As Jon Favreau showed us with the far superior “Chef,” seeing the care a cook puts into the food requires an actor who is plainly doing his or her own chopping, mincing, filleting and stirring.

So this “Hundred-Foot Journey” seems to end several steps shy of completion, a bland romantic comedy where the actors don’t show us their characters’ love for each other or the food that supposedly is their reason for living. They merely talk a good game.

“The Hundred-Foot Journey” is rated PG for thematic elements, some violence, language and brief sensuality. Running time: 121 minutes.



From left, Brian Guzman, Briana Evigan, Parris Goebel and Christopher Scott, front, star in “Step Up All In.”

Lionsgate

New on base

“Step Up All In” is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilscek, Wiesbaden and Vicenza.

Pacific

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

Online: stepupmovie.com

A review of “Step Up All In” was not available at press time.

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In Digital 3D: Hercules (PG-13) - Fri & Sat 19:00

In Digital 3D: Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13) - Thur 15:30, 17:45, 20:15, Fri 15:30, 17:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, Mon - Wed 15:30, 17:45, 20:15

In Digital 3D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) - Fri 17:15, 20:45, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 17:15, 20:45, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 17:15, 20:45, Mon - Wed 17:15, 20:45

In 2D: Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13) - Thur 15:30, Fri & Sat 15:30, 22:30, Sun - Wed 15:30

In 2D: Hercules (PG-13) - Thur 18:00, Fri & Sat 22:30, Sun - Wed 19:00

In 2D: How to train your Dragon 2 (PG) - Sat & Sun 13:30

Maleficent (PG) - Sat & Sun 13:30

In 2D: Planes 2 Fire & Rescue (PG) - Fri 15:30, Sat 13:30

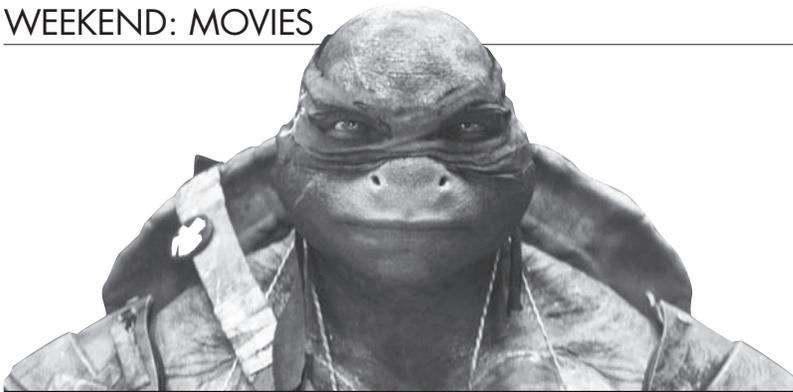
In 2D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13) - Fri - Wed 15:30

Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13) - Thur & Mon 20:00

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

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

WEEKEND: MOVIES



'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles'

A digital and divisive redesign

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

Over the past two years, inside the high-tech sanctuary of Industrial Light and Magic, the man who built a virtual virgin jungle for the last "Indiana Jones" movie and conjured 150-foot-tall aliens for "War of the Worlds" has been confronting his most difficult task yet: creating a digital version of the beloved Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles that could realistically interact on screen with Megan Fox.

On this assignment, Pablo Helman needed more than just turtle power. "For me, in the 19 years that I've been at ILM, this is one of the most challenging projects I've worked on," the visual effects supervisor said in a recent interview at his office. "Technologically, it's very difficult to capture someone's performance, put it on a character and make it believable. In this case, we had to design a way to combine performances that were taken at many different times."

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles," the live-action reimagining of the 30-year-old comic book franchise in theaters Friday, features a completely computerized version of the four sewer-dwelling superheroes, a take more akin to Gollum from "The Lord of the Rings" films or Caesar from the recent "Planet of the Apes" movies than the rubbery renditions from the 1990s live-action "Turtles" films.

The revitalized reptiles were fashioned at ILM by blending computer-generated imagery with several motion-capture performances by four actors. It's a radical departure from the original '90s film trilogy, when Jim Henson's Creature Shop crafted puppet suits for actors playing the half-shell heroes.

For the reboot, the performers physically portraying each Ninja Turtle donned skin-tight gray suits and shell-shaped backpacks, while helmets equipped with cameras captured their facial expressions. The actors' bodies were replaced on screen by their counterparts — massive talking turtles who know kung fu — and their facial expressions were grafted onto the Ninja



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES/AP

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" director Jonathan Liebesman, foreground right, discusses a scene with actors portraying mutant ninja turtles, from left, Noel Fisher, Pete Ploszek, Jeremy Howard and Alan Ritchson.

Turtles' green noggins.

Despite the effort to construct Ninja Turtles for the digital age, die-hard fans didn't initially deem the makeover of Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Donatello totally tubular. Instead, many were shell-shocked to see in early teasers and trailers that the filmmakers added nostrils and lips to the turtles' faces, a different anatomy than the one from the previous comics, cartoons, toys and films.

"This whole gritty, doofy, straight-out-of-Avatar look is not working for the iconic cartoon turtles," Jason Schreier wrote on the blog Kotaku last May. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles has never exactly been cool — Leonardo and crew were always doofy and cheesy in a lovable sort of way — but they have never had ridiculous zombie nostrils and gaping mouths like this before. It sure looks dumb."

Helman defends the humanlike faces because it allows the computer-generated characters, who he said are onscreen for about two-thirds of the movie, to be more expressive.

"You're never going to please everybody because what you're fighting

is that magical moment when, in this case, someone first discovered the Ninja Turtles," said the Academy Award-nominated visual effects guru. "It's not possible to convince someone that these are the Ninja Turtles; they fell in love with 30 years ago. The idea is that you have to take the original intent and make it your own."

"Ninja Turtles" director Jonathan Liebesman noted that producer Michael Bay, the man responsible for bringing "Transformers" to life, originally laid out three commandments for the overhaul of the Ninja Turtles: they should be charming, intimidating and individually recognizable — not just to kids but also their mothers. Liebesman believes the filmmakers accomplished their mission. "I feel like once people see the movie, they will understand why we made these decisions," said the "Wrath of the Titans" and "Battle Los Angeles" director. "We're trying to make them more lifelike and realistic. I don't think it sacrifices anything fans love, once they go and see the movie. I think hating on design is just a part of fandom, which is fine. There's a lot of value to what fans have to say."

'Turtles' less teenaged in this two-fisted reboot

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" earn a Michael Bay-produced 3-D re-boot that spares no expense in special effects and spares no decibel in volume. These digitally animated super-sized turtles have real-world presence and weight, stamping onto the scene like teenagers who haven't learned to do anything quietly. Their brawls with their trigger-happy foes from the Foot Clan are a blur of body blows and bullets. Their wise-cracks are up-to-date, their love of pizza unabated.

Directed by Jonathan Liebesman ("Battle Los Angeles"), the new film quickly and gracefully handles the back story — a lab experiment and a fire — and puts shapely TV reporter April O'Neil (Megan Fox) on their case right from the start.

The Foot Clan, led by the mysterious megalomaniac Shredder (voiced by Danny Woodburn) is trying to take over New York. But these masked vigilantes keep foiling their plans.

April starts to piece together a puzzle that points to her own past, the man her scientist father was in business with (William Fichtner) and the "mutagen" (William B. Davis) and other chemicals they concocted.

The heroes are masked ninjas, mutant turtles who grew huge, learned English and trained in martial arts with the inscrutable rat Splinter (Tony Shalhoub), Michelangelo, Raphael, Donatello and Leonardo only occasionally act like teenagers, usually in their banter.

"Did you tell her his name?"

"Maybe she's clairvoyant!"

"Maybe she's a Jedi!"

April cannot convince her boss (Whoopi Goldberg) that she's not crazy. And her on-the-make cameraman (Will Arnett, toned down and not nearly funny enough) is also a hard sell regarding these "heroes on a half-shell."

"So, they're aliens?"

"No. That would be STUPID."

The action beats are bigger and better than they've ever been in a "Ninja Turtle" film — brawls, shootouts, a snowy car-and-truck chase with big explosions and whack.

But in between those scenes is an awful lot of chatter and exposition. For a film that aims younger (save for the die-hards who grew up with this franchise), that's deadly dull.

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence. Running time: 101 minutes.

New on base

"Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" is playing at the following military sites:

Europe: Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsack, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Hartsen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kun, Nusan and Osan.

Online:

teenagemutantninja turtlesmovie.com

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



MARTIAL TREZZINI, KEYSTONE/AP

Visitors walk inside the Luminarium, an inflatable sculpture on the grounds of the Geneva Festival in Geneva, Switzerland. Throughout the festival, which ends Sunday night, guests can wander freely through the labyrinthine tunnels and cavernous domes against a backdrop of rich and changing colors. Entry begins at 2 p.m. Friday and noon Saturday and Sunday.

LAST CHANCE:
Geneva Festival

It's the final weekend to enjoy the largest tourist event in Switzerland, the Fetes de Geneve, or Geneva Festival. The event hosts concerts, activities, a fun fair, arts and crafts stands and more than 200 food stalls on the shores of Lake Geneva.

From Friday through Sunday, free concerts for all ages take place on four open-air stages featuring music ranging from rock to salsa to Chanson Francaise. Find the full program at fetesdegeneve.ch/2014/en/programme.

At 10 p.m. Sunday, 600,000 spectators will view a musical fireworks display dispatched from about 40 firing stations synchronized to within one-tenth of a second by powerful computers. (Organizers ask that guests take public transportation to the show and take seats by 9:30 p.m.) This year's theme, Man and Time, takes viewers on a journey through time punctuated by a thousand exploding effects, including fountains and Roman candles, gunpowder and the famous final bouquet that will light up the sky over the harbor.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Lakeside music fest

If you are young, love to party and are on a budget, the e-Lake festival in Echternach, Luxembourg, might be right for you.

For three days, a lakeside venue becomes a huge music and party zone with a wallet-friendly cost of entry: absolutely free.

First held in 1983 to give local youth something to do, the festival now attracts thousands of revelers annually. The program varies each day.

On Friday, concerts from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. rock two stages. The main stage features rock bands; the "urban" stage offers electronic and hip-hop artists.

Saturday's program kicks off at 3 p.m. and consists of disc jockey sets and live acts. Also slated for Saturday is one of e-Lake's traditional highlights: the VJ Melting Pol, a vivid and abstract mix of film and live footage projected onto two screens.

On Sunday, the sound starts up again at 3 p.m., when it's reggae time with the Plenn Plenn Sound System, a DJ service. The partying carries on until 1 a.m.

Camping is possible within a 10-minute walk of the festival. To ensure the e-Lake can continue, organizers stress the importance of keeping the camping area green and clean, as the fest grounds sprawl across the lands of local farmers graciously enough to share their property.



Karen Bradbury

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

Campers pay a 20-euro fee (\$26.80), 5 euros of which is refundable upon the return of their trash in a special garbage bag provided. No alcohol, glass bottles, pets or tin cans may be brought on site. Food and drink will be available for purchase.

Festival attendees must be 16 or over, or accompanied by a parent.

E-Lake's address for GPS is Rue Grégoire Schoupe, 6479 Echternach. Parking on site costs 10 euros. Cut costs by using the free Park and Ride system. Bus Line 110 runs from Luxembourg City directly to Echternach. Learn more at e-lake.lu.

Stuttgart's summer fest

Looking for a place to wear your fancy summer dress? The Stuttgart Summer Festival might offer that atmosphere of elegance

and sophistication you crave.

The venue itself is rather posh — the Palace Square and Palace Gardens around the lake in front of the State Theater, graced by big white tents that are romantically illuminated at night.

Some 30 stands offer culinary treats, from wild game specialties to giant shrimp, and a wide choice of beverages, from wines and proseccos to nonalcoholic selections. More than 30 acts provide 120 hours of live music on five stages, including contemporary hits with a swing, soul or jazz interpretation.

Acts play 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Friday, 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday and 5-10 p.m. Sunday. The fest opens at 11 a.m. all days.

To learn more, see stuttgart-er-sommerfest.de.

Shakespeare in Munich

Add a little culture to your stay in Munich, Germany, by attending William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" through Sunday at the amphitheater at the English Garden.

A 70-minute abridged version of the original will be performed in English by the Munich-based theater group ENTITY. The curtain goes up at 7 p.m. This open-air performance will be cancelled in the event of bad weather. To check, call (+49) (0)152-36147906 after 5 p.m. the same evening of the performance. See entitytheatre.com.



Courtesy of Stuttgart'er Sommerfest

At the Stuttgart Sommerfest, about 30 stands will offer culinary treats, from wild game specialties to giant shrimp, and a wide choice of beverages, from wines and proseccos to nonalcoholic selections. The festival will be graced by big white tents that are romantically illuminated at night.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Romantic Rothenburg

Walled German village enchants with medieval charm

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

A long Germany's Romantic Road sits one of the oldest and most historically preserved walled towns in Germany.

Dating to the 10th century, Rothenburg ob der Tauber is the very fairy-tale setting many tourists search for. Just a 2½-hour drive southeast of Wiesbaden and two hours west of Grafenwöhr and Vilseck, Rothenburg is worth the journey.

A 1.5-mile stone wall reinforced by oak beams encircles the town, and visitors may walk around the entire wall. Children might find navigating the old wall just as exciting as exploring the town, and they will enjoy looking out the watch windows, round and square alike. Take the city guided tour or purchase the audio tour of the wall that offers fun facts and interesting tidbits about how the wall was constructed. Families with strollers, however, might find the narrow top of the wall difficult to handle.

As you wander around the town, notice the charming facades of the merchants' buildings. Even though the streets are bustling, one can still leisurely stroll and enjoy the views.

Before entering the central market square, where the Rathaus and its bell tower are located, you will come upon the Criminal Museum. While some of the content might be too graphic for younger children, my 11- and 14-year-olds enjoyed it.



Photos by ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

The picturesque architecture in Rothenburg, Germany, is photo-worthy even from the distance of a bird's-eye view from the main square's bell tower.

The museum contains originals and replicas of many torture devices and methods of imprisonment common in Rothenburg throughout its history. One of my favorite displays was several authentic handwritten punishment orders by the king of the time, all written in the 13th and

14th century. Displays span three floors, which require a fair amount of stair-climbing and aren't stroller-friendly.

Continuing toward the market square, note the popular *Schneeball* pastries. These sphere-shaped treats are pie crust cut into strips, deep fried and sprinkled with powdered sugar or chocolate.

Rising above the market square, formerly the site of public executions, stands the bell tower, the tallest building in Rothenburg. It offers a panoramic view of the entire town and the surrounding Tauber Valley.

Once you climb countless steps, you must wait at an electronic gate for the light to turn from red to green, allowing another 20 visitors to complete the journey to the top. Just before squeezing through the final hatch to the crow's nest, I encountered some of the steepest and most difficult steps I have ever seen. The area at the top is very confined, and one must wait for those on the viewing platform to come down the ladder before moving up.

My kids loved this part of the trip. Unfortunately, backpacks with babies would not work because the climb is so steep. As our day was winding down, our group visited the Käte



Wiesbaden Child, Youth and School Services tour guide Patrick Hoban leads tourists around Rothenburg.

Wohlfahrt Christmas store and museum at Saint Jakob's Church. The gardens offer picturesque views of the Tauber River.

While Rothenburg is well-known for its Christmas market, don't miss an opportunity to visit this romantic fairy tale city in the summer as well.

Brown.eric@stripes.com

ON THE QT

GETTING THERE

From Wiesbaden, take autobahn A7 Würzburg, Ulm to Rothenburg. Take exit 108 "Rothenburg/Tauber" and follow the signs for *Stadtmitt*, or town center. From Grafenwöhr and Vilseck, take autobahn A9 toward Munich/Nuremberg. At the Kreuz Nuremberg-Ost, follow the signs for the A6 toward Heilbronn/N.-Fähre. Take exit 49-Feuchtungen-Nord for B25 toward Schillingsfürst; turn left onto state road 2419 and go through the roundabout. Take the A7 toward Würzburg/Rothenburg o.d.T. and take exit 108 to the town. Park in one of the car parks that are within a few minutes' walk from the old town.

TIMES

The bell tower is open 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1-5 p.m. daily from April to October; noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays in November. During Rothenburg's Christmas market (Nov. 28-Dec. 23 this year), the tower is open 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m. and 2:30-6 p.m. It will remain open until 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays during the market.

COSTS

Entrance to the Criminal Museum costs 2 euros. Climbing the tower is 2 euros for adults and 50 euro cents for children up to age 14. It's free to walk atop the wall.

FOOD

Rothenburg has an array of restaurants.

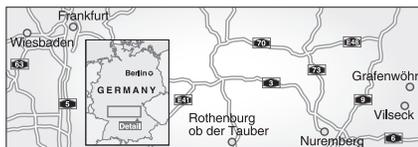
INFORMATION

There is an English link at tourismus.rothenburg.de.

— Eric A. Brown



Many of Rothenburg's beautiful structures, such as this one, are half-timbered buildings. This fairy-tale Bavarian town draws tourists from around the world.



NOGA AM/PR/Stars and Stripes

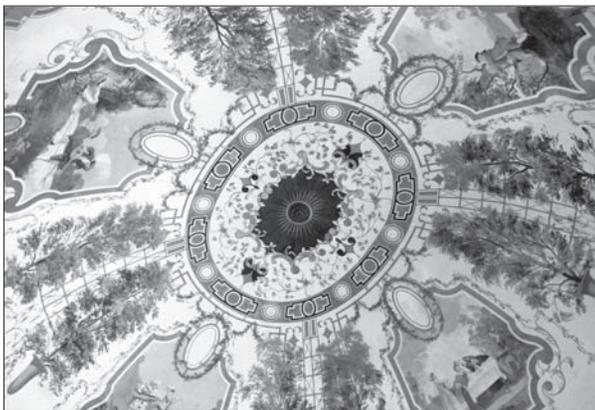
WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



Above: On Bopserwaldstrasse in Stuttgart, a sign marks the start of the walk to the Teehaus. It's about a five-minute climb up a series of steps.

Right: Adding to the charm at Stuttgart's Teehaus, which is 101 years old, is a fresco painted on the domed ceiling.



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

Dullness won't cut it in a knife

By EVAN S. BENN
The Miami Herald

The metal-on-metal swoosh-swoosh sound of cooks honing their knife blades on steel rods keeps a near-constant rhythm in Tom Azar's kitchen at the Lauderdale Yacht Club in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Keeping knives sharp, straight and nick-free is a smarter way to cook than using dull blades, Azar said. "You'll work twice as hard with a dull knife," said Azar, executive chef of the private Fort Lauderdale club who formerly cooked at Emeril's in Miami Beach and City Hall the Restaurant in Miami. "A sharp knife gives you cleaner cuts," making you work more efficiently.

Plus, he said, a blunted blade can lead to injury-causing slips.

"A dull knife will hack up everything," Azar said.

While cutlery experts, restaurant chefs and experienced home cooks suggest routine DIY touch-ups with a honing steel and sharpener, they also recommend periodic professional sharpenings.

For most at-home cooks, twice-a-year visits to the sharpening shop will leave blades so fresh and fine-tuned that they remind us what a joy it is to chop, cube, slice and dice.

In the market for new knives?

German and Japanese brands known for their quality, value and reliability include Wusthof, Shun, Zwilling J.A. Henckels and Global.

And four kinds of blades that should be in any set are a chef's knife, a serrated knife, a paring knife and *santoku* knife.

No matter whether you have a new set of knives or sharpened old ones, proper storage can greatly extend their lives. Keep in mind:

- **Keep them out of the dishwasher.** The harsh detergent and heavy jostling can damage and dull knife blades. Instead, carefully wash with a sponge using warm, soapy water.
- **Don't leave them soaking.** Someone could get cut by a knife hidden at the bottom of a murky pool of dishwasher. Or, other utensils and dishes could blunt the blade.

Use the right board. Wooden cutting boards are most forgiving on knife edges; acrylic and ceramic dull blades faster.

- **Store separately.** Don't crowd knives in a drawer with other utensils; they'll get damaged. Keep knives in a wooden block holder or a wall-mounted magnetic strip.

After Hours: Germany

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

The southern German city of Stuttgart, set in a valley and surrounded by hills and steep vineyards, is famous for its steps.

You encounter them everywhere you go, whether hiking up a flight through the working-class east or through a wine trail on the north side. There are some 400 outdoor stairways scattered around the city, and the reward for scaling one of them often is a panoramic view of the city below.

If you head up the steps along Bopserwaldstrasse in Stuttgart's southern section and make the modest five-minute climb, you'll be rewarded with something extra — a breath-catching break at one of the loveliest watering holes in all of Stuttgart.

The Teehaus, a little century-old gazebo, is the perfect place to kick back in the summer.

The cafe, which offers a wide range of drinks and a menu of regional favorites, is basically a tiny rotunda with about a dozen

tables inside and more around the perimeter. An old fresco painted on the dome roof adds the charm. The bartender says the place is 101 years old.

Beer, wine and cocktails and an assortment of nonalcoholic drinks are available. The food is standard beer garden fare — Spätzle (noodles), Maultaschen (filled ravioli-like pasta) and cold salads in the 10-euro range. There is typical beer garden seating outdoors, ensuring plenty of places to plop down.

I generally prefer to order a beer and wander the lush green grounds, eventually settling on a bench overlooking the city.

On weekends when the weather is nice, the Teehaus is packed with visitors. Luckily, the area around the cafe provides plenty of green space to throw down a picnic blanket and relax for the afternoon. Just stroll back to the Teehaus when you need a refill. And if you're bringing kids, you're in luck. There's a playground about 50 yards away that will help keep them occupied.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

TEEHAUS

After Hours: Teehaus
Address: Hohenheimer Strasse 119, 70184 Stuttgart.
Hours: Daily from 11 a.m.-11 p.m. March-October; on week-days during March, April and October, the cafe is open only when the weather is deemed nice, so call first.
Prices: Beers cost 3 euros; entrees range from 7 euros to

15 euros.
Dress: Casual.
More information: Telephone: (49) (0)711-236 7360. Park along Bopserwaldstrasse, which is directly off Hohenheimer Strasse (highway B-27). There is a sign at the foot of the steps leading to the Teehaus.

— John Vandiver



The Teehaus, a small cafe in the southern part of Stuttgart, Germany, offers drinks and food and a great view of the city.



The Teehaus offers outdoor seating where diners can enjoy regional dishes, such as Spätzle (small noodles) and Maultaschen (filled ravioli-like pasta).

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

A genius in summer

Relative of Toulouse-Lautrec shows chateau he visited as a child

By LEAH LARKIN

Special to Stars and Stripes

It was two days before her 89th birthday, but she had the vitality of someone much younger. Tiny, frail and slightly hunchbacked, she charged up the long staircases as we followed. Nicole-Berangere Tapie de Celeyran is a distant cousin of the famous post-impressionist painter Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of the artist whose cabaret posters have become synonymous with Paris and Montmartre, the area of Paris famous for its bohemian lifestyle and the haunt of artists, writers and philosophers in the late 1800s.

Tapie de Celeyran's passion is giving tours of her home, Chateau du Bosc in the Midi-Pyrénées region of southwest France. The young artist spent summers with his family in the medieval chateau whose centuries-old furnishings and decor are still intact. She led us from the kitchen, where she pointed out Toulouse-Lautrec's sketches on the wall, upstairs to a lavish salon and dining room, a bedroom, hallways and then into the garden. She had plenty to tell us about her famous relative, stories passed on from her grandmother and other ancestors who knew the artist.

"I love to talk. I want to preserve this house, the spirit of the family," she said. She also wants the opportunity to show Toulouse-Lautrec mementoes and correct misconceptions about the legendary artist.

Toulouse-Lautrec's father and uncles often went hunting.



PHOTOS BY LEAH LARKIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Madame Nicole-Berangere Tapie de Celeyran shows sketches by Toulouse-Lautrec at Chateau du Bosc, where he spent childhood summers, near Albi, France. She is a distant cousin of the artist, below.

They'd come back after an outing and relate tales of their adventures. Young Toulouse-Lautrec would sit on the floor, using coal from the fireplace to make drawings of their exploits, she said.

In his bedroom, the floor scattered with toys, she pointed out a boat he had made after his accident. He was a sickly child who fractured both thigh bones



in falls at the ages of 13 and 14. The breaks never healed properly, and his legs stopped growing. She showed us marks on the wall in one room where his height had been recorded each year. It stopped at 1 meter 52 (4 feet 9 inches). In another room she pointed out menus that Toulouse-Lautrec, who was passionate about cuisine, had embellished with his

drawings.

It was all fascinating, especially told by this delightful and amazing woman, and perfect background for a visit to the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in the nearby town, Albi, where the artist was born in 1864. He was an alcoholic and died at the age of 37 from complications of alcoholism and syphilis.

More than 1,000 of his works — paintings, lithographs, drawings, as well as the famous posters, most donated by his family — are on display in the Albi museum, which has the largest collection of his works in the world.

"What is important in a painting is the person. Landscape is secondary. That was his philosophy," a museum guide said. He painted psychological portraits, and he understood advertising, hence the posters, she explained.

The museum is housed in the Palais de la Berbie, built in the 13th century next to Albi's cathedral, and to serve as a residence for the city's archbishops. In addition to the Toulouse-Lautrec

collections, the museum has works of ancient art, archaeological pieces and modern art.

Albi is a UNESCO World Heritage site perched on the banks of the Tarn River, which is spanned by an 11th century bridge. With the spires of its mighty cathedral dominating the skyline, it almost seems too picture-perfect.

It was in Albi during the 13th century that a crusade was launched against the Cathars, heretics who had developed their own version of Christianity, which was viewed as a threat to Catholicism. Many were burned at the stake. Until this time this part of France had been virtually independent. After the Albigensian Crusade, it was annexed by the French crown. The building of the city's great cathedral got underway at the end of the century and went on for some 200 years.

The cathedral, Ste. Cécile, is the largest in the world constructed of bricks; it is also the only cathedral in France that is still completely painted with the original 15th-century paint still intact. During the Middle Ages, the interiors of churches were painted, although the paint in most of them has long since vanished. It survived here because the cathedral is very dark. The architecture is southern Gothic, a style unique to this part of France, with no flying buttresses, columns or transept.

Another Albi attraction is the city's Museum of Miniatures. Fifty-five miniature rooms are to be admired, all made by a 79-year-old woman who started the project 40 years ago. As a child she wanted a doll house, but she never got one. So, at 39, she set out to make her own. It takes her from six months to a year to make one room. Down to the minutest detail — silverware next to the dinner plates on the tables, for example — the rooms are a marvel.

See the sights, then wander around the pleasant town. The old districts are full of medieval splendor — narrow lanes with ancient brick and half-timbered houses, flower-bedecked courtyards, Renaissance mansions.

Leah Larkin can be contacted through her website, leahlarkin.com, or blog address, talesandtravel.com.



Toulouse-Lautrec's artwork adorns a room of the Toulouse-Lautrec Museum in Albi. The artist was born in Albi, and this year marks the 150th anniversary of his birth.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

KNOW & GO: ALBI, FRANCE

Getting there

Albi is 50 miles northeast of Toulouse, France's fourth largest city and the capital of the Midi-Pyrénées region. There is train service between the two cities.

Accommodations

The Hotel Mercure Albi Bastides on the banks of the Tarn River has the perfect location for admiring — and photographing — the city. The hotel building, classified as a historic monument, was previously a water mill. Its riverside terrace is ideal for outdoor dining. See mercure.com/Albi.

Costs

Chateau du Bosc admission and tour cost 8 euros. Museum Toulouse-Lautrec costs 8 euros. Museum of Miniatures costs 5 euros.

Times

- **Museum Toulouse-Lautrec**, Palais de la Berbie, open daily from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. from June 21 until Sept. 30. For opening times during other months, see musee-toulouse-lautrec.com
- **Museum of Miniatures**, 16 rue Rinaldi, open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily except Thursdays from April 1 to Sept. 30. During March, October, November and December, open from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. daily except

For more photos of Toulouse-Lautrec's birthplace, go to stripes.com/travel/europe-travel



Stars and Stripes

Thursdays and Fridays. Closed January and February.

Food

The restaurant Le Clos Sainte Cécile, located in a former school, has excellent food and a beautiful garden for enjoying meals under ancient plane trees. 3 rue du Castelviel. Telephone: (+33) (0)563-381974.

More information

Chateau du Bosc is located in the town of Naulcuze, 30 minutes by car from Albi. Nicole-Berangere Tapie de Celeyran gives guided tours in French only, but tours in English by other staff members who know all about Lautrec are offered year round from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. If you visit, you are sure to meet Tapie de Celeyran, who lives to welcome visitors. Telephone: (+33) (0)5 63 69 20 83.

— Leah Larkin



Charming old bridges and the majestic St. Cécile Cathedral combine for a postcard-perfect image of Albi, France.

LEAH LARKIN
Special to Stars and Stripes

Restaurant Directory GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area	Kaiserslautern area	Mainz / Wiesbaden area
 <p>Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nihilatum: 8.9267 Weiden-Opf Tel. 0961-3389 Fax. 0961-3402 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	 <p>Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	 <p>Steinmetzstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
 <p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	 <p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	 <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23853808</p>
 <p>Berge. 4, 9229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	 <p>The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in Ktown. Am Warmfreibad 3 - 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!</p>	 <p>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtald.de</p>
 <p>Open Wed-Mon: Noon - 1 pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08821-57486 www.restaurant-le-mama-garimbi.ch Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	 <p>Saytouno Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm-Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	 <p>Nassastrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketripe-bbq.com</p>
 <p>Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611-450483-50 wiesbaden@enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	 <p>reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OPX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>	 <p>Jodena's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodenas-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>
 <p>Waldrst. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesensbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	 <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-Kilde Tel. 0631/42828</p>	 <p>Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriels-restaurant.de</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

DO THIS: See Godzilla in Tokyo



Photo courtesy TM&©TOHO CO., LTD

The Godzilla Special Effects Photography Exhibition is in Tokyo now through Aug. 17. It commemorates the 60th anniversary of Godzilla's on-screen debut and features properties used in the Godzilla movies. See it at Sunshine Exhibition Hall A.

Now through Aug. 31, see a one-seventh scale model of Godzilla on the lawn at Tokyo Midtown. Godzilla "performs" for three minutes every 30 minutes from 7-9 p.m. The event is free. For more: tokyo-midtown.com/en.

Nono Murou/Stars and Stripes



SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

Cooling off

A boy plays in a pool at Toshimaen Amusement Park in Tokyo on Aug. 3. The pool is open through Sept. 7. It has different pools, including a diving pool with one- and three-meter diving boards and a 50-meter pool for competitive swimmers, and Hydro Polis, a huge complex of slides and tubes. For a list of water parks and pools in Japan, check out: tinyurl.com/q9l2npw.

OFF BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

TONIOKA HACHIMANGU SHRINE FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Aug. 13-17, includes a Shinto object of worship carried in a portable shrine on Friday, 53 portable shrines in a procession at Tomioka Hachimangu Shrine on Sunday and more.

NATURE'S BEST PHOTOGRAPHY JAPAN (Kanagawa prefecture): Aug. 14-17, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., featuring award-winning photos from Nature's Best Photography Contest, along with photos from the Smithsonian Museum; Yokohama Red Brick Warehouse; free.

ECO EDO NIHONBASHI ART AQUARIUM 2014 (Tokyo): Through Sept. 23, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. daytime version and 7-11 p.m. evening version;

5,000 goldfish in water with the theme of Seeking Cool Air with Edo-Period (1603-1868) Styled Practices; Corado Muromachi, Nihonbashi Mitsui Hall; 1,000

yen adults, 600 yen kids, free ages 3 & younger; <http://h-i-d.co.jp/art/exhibition>.

Okinawa

OOGUSUKU TUG-OF-WAR

FESTIVAL: Aug. 16, 6:30 p.m.; more than 200 local residents compete in tug-of-war at Oogusuku Shuraku Center, Nampo city; free.

South Korea

SEOUL INTERNATIONAL NEWMEDIA

FESTIVAL: Aug. 7-15, Korea's first and leading art festival of alternative videos, featuring visual and movie image arts to the public; Media Theater i-Gong, KT&G Sangsangmadang Cinema, Seoul Art Space-Seogyo, Post Theater, Yogi-ga Expression Gallery, The Medium, C Cloud, Kuchu Camp; Hongil University Station (Seoul Subway Line 2), Exit 8 or 9; www.nemat.net/main.

MUAN WHITE LOTUS FESTIVAL

(Jeollanam-do): Aug. 14-17; rare snow-white lotus flowers in Muan as well as lotus-themed activities; eng.muon.go.kr.

OKTOBERFESTS IN JAPAN

OKTOBERFEST 2014 MAKUHARI

(Chiba prefecture): Through Aug. 10, 4-10 p.m., until 11 a.m. Sat. and Sun.; taste German beers and hear live music; Toyosuna Koen, 17-minute walk from JR Kaihin Makuhari Station on Keiyo Line.

OKTOBERFEST 2014 OHI

(Tokyo): Aug. 11-16; German beers and live music at Ohi Horse Race Track, two-minute walk from Ohi Keibajomae Station on Tokyo Monorail; 100 yen admission.

OKTOBERFEST 2014

(Tokyo): Aug. 22-31, 4-10 p.m., 11 a.m. Sat. and Sun.; taste German beers, hear live music in Shiba Park close to Tokyo Tower.



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

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Courtesy of Asakusa Sightseeing Association

DRIFTING ALONG: Asakusa Summer Night Festival

Lanterns cast from Sumida Park Shinsui Terrace float on the Sumida River. The festival in Tokyo is 6:30-8 p.m. Aug. 16. It is 1,500 yen to float a lantern.

ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Register at Ranger Gym at **Atsugi** for the 2014 Sprint Style Triathlon — 500-meter swim/17 km cycle/5K run — to be held Sept. 6. Enjoy a Japanese baseball game Aug. 15 with transportation provided by Atsugi IIT. On Aug. 31, take a tour of Asahi Beer, Saijo Temple & Odawara Castle with Atsugi IIT. Head to the beach with Camp **Fuji** Trips and Recreation on Aug. 10. **Yokosuka** Tours has a Mount Fuji sightseeing trip Aug. 23 and another on Aug. 24 for Mount Fuji family hiking. It also has a tour to Hakone on Aug. 30. Climb Mount Fuji with Camp **Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center on Aug.



Snorkel Aug. 23 with whale sharks with **Kadena's Outdoor Recreation**. Or snorkel at **Fitou Beach** with **Camp Zama Outdoor Recreation Center** on **Sept. 6**.

23. Or enjoy free time at Mount Takao on Sept. 14 or visit Tsukiji Fish Market on Sept. 20.

Guam

Movies at Hotspot at **Andersen Air Force Base** include



*Madagascar: Escape to Africa; PG, at Arc Light Park on Aug. 9; "Insidious," PG, at the base theater on Aug. 22; and "Smurfs 2," PG, at Arc Light Park on Aug. 23.

Okinawa

Camps **Foster**, **Courtney** and **Kinser** have trips to Shuri Castle & Naha on Aug. 17.

To see your events here: SPEDlibrary@stripes.com.

Several installations have trips to **Mount Fuji**. The site closes for climbing at the end of the month.

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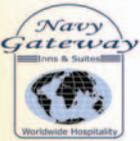
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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific

Wet and wild

Find a thrill in canyoning, rafting and nature tours in Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

If you need to get away from the electronic buzz of downtown Tokyo, head north.

Just one hour from Tokyo station via the bullet train, Japan's Canyons Tours offer canyoning, rafting, and nature tours — a perfect way to escape the city and the August heat, all while spending some refreshing time in the woods.

Half-day and full-day tours of varying degrees of thrill and physical difficulty are available, depending on your sense of adventure.

The action-packed Fox Canyon tour — the most popular tour package — runs for half of a day and consists of several water obstacles, most notably a 20-meter waterfall jump that's sure to give any adrenaline junkie his or her fix for the day.

The Fox Canyon tour begins with a quick safety speech, and is followed by a backward float down a one-meter drop to get participants used to the water's temperature and the sensation of falling — something that will come in handy in the not too distant future.

After a series of smaller drops and rock slides, participants reach the 20-meter waterfall. The instructors are very reassuring and are quick to calm any guests concerned with making the plunge.

Though it seems to last forever, the fall isn't as bad as one might think. Apart from dangling over the edge of the waterfall by a rope for a moment, it's over pretty quickly.

Back at the base camp, there are freshly grilled foods, soft drinks and beers available for purchase. The ribs are top notch and a very welcome sight after a day of exhausting canyoning.

Some groups tackle the course in a very entertaining mix of English and Japanese speakers, communicating in yelps and gurgles as the water tosses them about, but there are always instructors that speak either language attached to each group.

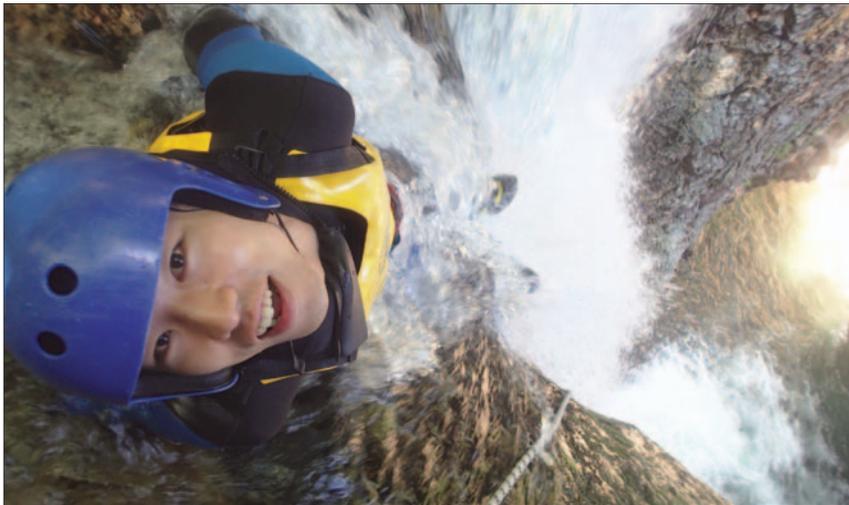
Wearing a swimsuit is encouraged, and a combination of goggles and contact lenses is recommended over wearing eyeglasses.

Changing rooms are open areas with benches and wall lockers, and the showers are communal with no walls. Bring your own towels.

The price of the tour includes gear rentals, a tour guide, a group photo and insurance.

Tours can accommodate groups as small as two people and as large as 24. Participants must be age 13 or older.

Guzman.eric@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

A Japanese thrill-seeker gets ready to slide down a waterfall during a canyoning tour in Gunma, Japan. Adventurers can choose among Canyon Tours' canyoning, rafting and nature tours. The company has four locations in Japan.



Triumphant tour members mug for the camera on a bus, above, and in the water after a day of canyoning in Gunma, Japan.



KNOW & GO

DIRECTIONS

Canyons Minakami: 45 Yubiso Minakami-machi Tone-gun Gunma, Japan 379-1727.

By train, Tokyo Station to Jomo-Kogen Station. A shuttle is available from the train station. There also is free parking.

TIMES

Canyoning season begins April 26 and ends October 27.

COSTS

Trips cost 8,000 yen (about

\$78) from May through June and 9,000 yen from July to September.

NOTE

The trips are physically demanding as most require a lengthy hike to access the start of the canyon. Pregnant women are not allowed on the tours.

INFORMATION

Telephone: 0278-72-2811; web: canyons.jp/en (in English)

— Eric Guzman



Canyons tour guides give visitors an overview of the day's events to avoid any surprises.



By SCHLITZ/Stars and Stripes

To see canyoners in action, check out the video at stripes.com/go/japancanyon



WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Dad's South Korea



PHOTOS BY THEODORE KIM/The Washington Post

The author's mother, Duckja Kim, walks in the fields of Wolseong Park in Gyeongju, South Korea. The region is home to temples and sites linked to the ancient Silla Kingdom.

My absent-minded father led me through his homeland, and I lived through it

By THEODORE KIM
The Washington Post

Think of the most put-together traveler you can imagine. James Bond with a tux and a passport, perhaps. Then picture the exact opposite. That's my dad.

George Kim is the ill-prepared tourist with the giant camera slung around his neck who always seems one turn away from navigational disaster. Once, when I was young, we were on our way home to New Jersey from Connecticut and somehow ended up in the Catskills.

Don't get me wrong. Dad is a sharp guy at 72, a retired electrical engineer who now teaches entrepreneurship classes. But his long-standing absent-mindedness is why I had put off traveling to my parents' homeland of Korea despite Dad's nagging. If you don't speak Korean, or don't speak it well (like me), you need a tour guide to experience the country properly, especially beyond Seoul. I finally mustered the courage, and booked the trip.

It was a first-time pilgrimage for me. It was also a milestone for my parents. They immigrated to the United States in the late 1960s, but they've spent a good chunk of the past seven years in South Korea, and I was the first of their four adult children to visit.

The plan was for my father and me to spend about a week seeing Seoul, Busan and Pohang, a port city in the east where my parents live. That's where my father teaches at Handong Global University, a Christian school. My mother would join us there.

Not surprisingly, things didn't start out well. Dad was two hours late picking me up at the airport when I arrived. We spent another

hour trying to find his car in the airport parking lot. Then we got lost on the way to our Seoul hotel. By the time we checked in, I was hungry and delightfully jet-lagged. Thankfully, it took only 90 minutes or so for Dad to settle on a place to eat.

Discovering the Korea of my parents' younger days also seemed hard at first. On our first morning in Seoul, Dad and I sat at an outdoor table sipping Starbucks coffee. I scanned the signs around us: Outback Steakhouse, Dunkin' Donuts, California Pizza Kitchen.

But Dad helped reveal the past. At Seoul Plaza, a green space in the city center, he pointed out a number of chips in the bricks of the older buildings — bullet holes left over from the Korean War.

Dad was 8 when North Korean tanks rolled down Sejong-daero, a main Seoul thoroughfare, and surrounded the plaza. He recalled the tidy lines of soldiers, the helpless civilians and the popping gunfire as militia from both sides ravaged the city. He and his family fled south, eventually to Busan, until the war ended.

Nearby Gyeongbokgung Palace, one of Korea's national treasures, has also suffered an unfortunate history. It was all but leveled during the 20th-century Japanese occupation and remains under restoration. To say that Dad holds grudges against both North Korea and Japan



The author's father, George Kim, stands in front of Gyeongbokgung Palace in Seoul, South Korea.

would be an understatement.

A few blocks southeast, off a street called Ujeonguk-ro, was another precious site — the former location of the small house where Dad had lived as a child.

The property has since been leveled, and the site now houses the Central Buddhist Museum. Next door is the Jogye Temple, one of the most famous Buddhist sites in Korea. Dad told me how he and his friends would peer over his backyard fence and mischievously throw rocks at the temple's roof lights, trying to shatter them. They sometimes succeeded.

We wandered around the nearby sites, including the sprawling Changdeokgung Palace and grounds, where my parents went on dates after the war. Dad then took me down some narrow streets where he had walked when he was young. The roads were all dirt back then, he remembered. He would often play with his toys in the mud, or sometimes just with the mud.

As we set off on the five-hour

drive to Pohang, the countryside opened up before us.

Beyond Seoul, much of Korea is mountainous. I followed our progress on Google Maps — both out of curiosity and to make sure that we wouldn't take a wrong turn and end up in China.

Space is at a premium in much of the country, and the rolling horizon struck me as a bit claustrophobic.

It was after dark when we arrived in coastal Pohang. We joined up with Mom and ate at a unique restaurant where you boil your own beef soup and roll your own spring rolls.

Pohang's main drag stretched along a boardwalk that smelled of sulfur. On the horizon, I could make out what appeared to be a large neon city. But Dad explained that this mini-Las Vegas was something else entirely: the Posco steel plant, one of the world's largest, gussied up to make it more palatable to look at.

Later, we headed an hour south to Gyeongju. The area is full of temples and sites linked to the ancient Silla Kingdom, one of three that controlled the peninsula around the time of the Roman Empire. At Anapji, a

Silla palace site with a tranquil artificial pond, Mom overheard people speaking Korean. She told me that they had a thick country accent, but the difference didn't penetrate my wooden ears.

By the time we reached Busan, my exasperation with Dad was growing again. The booming resort city on Korea's southern coast, with its spaghetti bowl of streets, didn't help.

Dad cautiously drove at half the speed limit. At one point, we somehow found our way into a dead end next to a pier with no railings. The situation compelled Dad to perform a risky K-turn maneuver that brought us just several feet from plunging into the East Sea. And though a torrential rainstorm had descended, Dad had his heart set on more sightseeing. Halfway down the slippery steps to the seaside Haedongyonggung Temple, Mom and I went back to the car.

At Jagalchi Fish Market, a pungent, chaotic shock to the senses, we walked past crowded, smelly stands selling mackerel, tuna, octopus, eel, sea urchins, oysters and some of the largest crabs I've ever seen. Vendors sliced up that morning's catch and served it up on plates along with fresh wasabi. I could have easily spent hours there with Dad and Mom, snapping photos of the fishy maelstrom.

But I had a bullet train to catch. Before long, I'd be speeding on the KTX back to Seoul and eventually home.

At the train station, I hugged Mom goodbye. Then Dad and I went inside. He made sure I was on the right train and helped me find my track. We headed to the main hall to say our goodbyes. As we parted and he walked off, I realized that he had been, in fact, the perfect tour guide for me.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Notes of gratitude

Clapton says thank you to Cale with 'The Breeze'

BY CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

For Eric Clapton, the early 1970s were filled with drug addiction, personal difficulties and growing dissatisfaction with music.

Singer-songwriter JJ Cale rescued him and gave him a direction, although the man known as the main architect of the highly influential Tulsa Sound didn't know Clapton at the time.

"I went into that dark period in my life and was just absent, and about that time some of JJ's early stuff was coming out," the 69-year-old rock musician said. "... I definitely was trying to shake off this guitar legend thing, which I thought was so plebian. It was such a pedestrian way of looking at things. I didn't want anything to do with that. I didn't want anything to do with this heavy metal (expletive) that was going on. I can't stand the noise. I wanted to kind of see the virtuosity. I wanted to get back to fundamentals, and he was a fundamentalist for sure. And to be his was my beacon."

Cale died last July at 74. Although he didn't have a major hit as a performer, he wrote some of rock 'n' roll's most identifiable songs.

Lynyrd Skynyrd had one of its biggest hits with

"Call Me the Breeze," and Clapton took "After Midnight" and "Cocaine" to No. 1. Cale's music continues to inspire and push Clapton in powerful ways, something Clapton marked with the recent release of "The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale," a 16-track thesis study in Cale's career.

Clapton was struck by the idea on a 12-hour flight to Cale's funeral, and planned it out in a burst of inspiration.

He thought he'd do the album for himself, and if he never released it,

so be it. But he met Don White, one of the first

band leaders to hire Cale, at the funeral and invited him to record a song. Once White was on board, Clapton decided to open it up to other friends, and brought in Willie Nelson,

Tom Petty, Mark Knopfler and

John Mayer

with drummer Jim Keltner and bassist Nathan East serving as the rhythm section.

All were influenced by Cale's distinctive sound in some way or another.

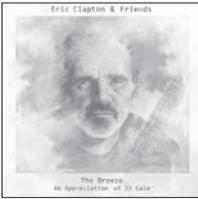
"All through the '70s it was JJ, it was Bob Marley, it was Stevie Wonder," Clapton said in a phone interview. "Those were the places where I knew there was safe, real, creative stuff, and for me out of those guys he was the one I felt I could come closest to if I wanted to follow that trail."

Cale's sound — a deceptively simple shuffle imbued with an irresistible driving groove hammered together at a cultural crossroads where rock, country, blues and jazz cohabitated peacefully — is easily identifiable. A knowledgeable listener can hear his sonic fingerprints all over modern rock 'n' roll. Few can reproduce his vibe — a swirling light-dark mix of up-all-night adrenaline and late-morning regrets.

Clapton has included a Cale cover from most of his albums, and they teamed up for "The Road to Escondido" in 2006. "The Breeze" includes many of Cale's most recognizable songs and three unreleased cuts culled from the numerous recordings that Cale never included on an album.

Although he never got to know Cale as well as he would have liked, Clapton said he still needed to say thank you.

"I prefer to think of him as my older brother, in a way, the older brother I didn't really have," he said. "... Musically it just seemed like we came out of the same place."



Eric Clapton & Friends

The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale (Surfdog)

Eric Clapton calls his new album of J.J. Cale songs an appreciation rather than a tribute, and that word choice gets at the appealingly modest vibe of this record.

In spite of cameos by heavy-hitting guitar guys like Tom Petty, Mark Knopfler and John Mayer, "The Breeze: An Appreciation of JJ Cale" — which honors the roots-music cult hero who died last year — dispenses with the grandstanding that bogs down most tribute albums; it sounds more like the product of an impromptu jam session.

Clapton opens this disc with "Call Me the Breeze," which Lynyrd Skynyrd turned into a hit. But he otherwise sidesteps Cale's best-known songs, focusing instead on gems such as the taut, funky "Rock and Roll Records" and the delicate "Magnolia," with a beautifully understated vocal by Mayer.

Willie Nelson turns up for a pair of acoustic country tunes, "Songbird" and "Starbound," while Knopfler's singing in "Someday" demonstrates how much he was pulling from Cale in Dire Straits. Clapton and Mayer keep their soloing to a tasteful minimum in "Don't Wait," which fades out after a quick 2½ minutes.

Does it sound like I'm congratulating a bunch of rock stars simply for restraining themselves? I suppose I am. But like Cale's unique charm, that's a rare occurrence worth celebrating.

— Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times



Eric Clapton
Courtesy of Guitar Center

6 seconds to stardom: Vine star Mendes hits pop charts

BY MESFIN FEKAU
The Associated Press

Six seconds isn't a long time, but Vine superstar Shawn Mendes made the time count when posting cover songs on the social media platform.

The teen singer says he would pick the hits he would cover — and the sections of the tracks — and post them on Vine to showcase his talents and grab positive attention.

"You'd think, 'I don't understand why the kid has so many followers because it's only six seconds. How are you supposed to know if he's any good at six seconds?' But there's an art behind getting people to be intrigued because you only have six or six and a half seconds to impress people," he said in a recent interview.

Mendes, 16, secured a following on Vine, which he had 300,000 fans awaiting his posts. Record labels caught wind of his strong social media presence.

"Island Records was the first record label to ... acknowledge me," said Mendes, who signed with the label. "After that, quickly Republic Records, and then Atlantic Records, Sony Records and Warner Bros. It was all the labels at once. It was absolutely insane, like, knowing that this

many record labels were interested in me."

Mendes' social-media stardom — he has 2.8 followers on Vine and 1.3 million followers on Twitter — is translating to the pop charts: His single, the ballad "Life of the Party," debuted at No. 24 on the Billboard Hot 100 last month, selling an impressive 148,000 tracks. He recently released a four-song, self-titled EP and is on tour with Austin Mahone and Fifth Harmony.

Mendes began posting clips on Vine last year from his home in Canada, starting with a cover of Justin Bieber's "As Long as You Love Me." His manager, Andrew Gertler, discovered the singer after searching YouTube for covers of A Great Big World's "Say Something." He immediately sent the clip to Ziggy Chareton, an A&R manager at Island Records.

"I never really looked at Vine as a resource to find talent," Chareton said. "We knew the social following was there, but he had never sold a song before," Gertler added. "Coming to New York and seeing that girls were showing up to his hotel and seeing that these numbers online were translating to physical people was when we were kind of like, 'OK, this is getting serious.'"

Chareton said Mendes' sound will

echo Ed Sheeran, John Mayer and OneRepublic.

"I want this to be the complete antithesis of Austin Mahone. Even though he's going on tour with him to kind of garner that same demographic and fan base, we want quality records," he said.

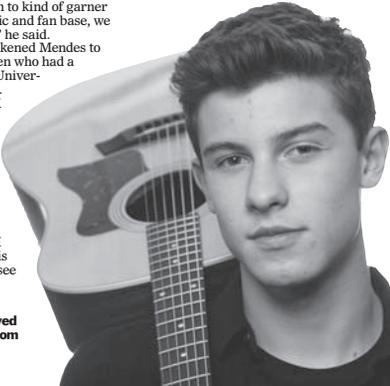
Some people have likened Mendes to Bieber, a Canadian teen who had a breakthrough on the Universal Music Group label. Chareton said he's OK with the comparison, but notes that fans should also expect something different.

"I take no offense to that because (Bieber) became extremely successful, but the one thing I will say about Shawn is you're never going to see

him onstage with 30 background dancers, pyrotechnics and record produced and having features from Nicki Minaj," he said.

Canadian teenager Shawn Mendes parlayed his social-media stardom into a contract with Island Records.

DREW GURIAN, INVISION/AP



WEEKEND: MUSIC

Courtesy of Warner Bros. Records

Jenny Lewis opens up on 'The Voyager'

By MIKAEL WOOD

Los Angeles Times

Jenny Lewis vowed she'd never return to California's San Fernando Valley, at least not to live.

The area was too closely linked to her childhood in Van Nuys, Calif. — to her experience as a young actor (in late-'80s artifacts like "Mr. Belvedere" and "Troop Beverly Hills") and to her complicated relationship with her parents. And it was too far from the Eastside neighborhoods where Lewis later established herself as an important figure in L.A.'s music scene, first with her band Rilo Kiley and then on her own.

Yet there she was on a recent afternoon, sitting in the dining room of her hillside home in Studio City, as she and her boyfriend, singer-songwriter Johnathan Rice, discussed options for oysters on Ventura Boulevard.

"As soon as I bought it, I had a panic attack," she said of the house, a stylishly woody number filled with books, records and vintage musical gear. "I remember pitching an AeroBed in the living room and thinking, 'This is the worst mistake I've ever made. I'm back in the Valley.'"

It's nerve-wracking, perhaps, but confronting old troubles is precisely what Lewis, 38, does on her superb new solo album, "The Voyager," which came out last week to rave reviews.

Failed romances, Rilo Kiley's breakup, the death of her estranged father — the singer addresses them all in songs that blend bruising introspection with a sly sense of humor.

But though the material can be heavy — "When I look at myself, all I can see/ I'm just another lady without a baby," she sings in "Just One of the Guys" — the music shimmers with weightless melodies and grooves that recall classic California pop by the Eagles and Fleetwood Mac.

"Jenny's songwriting skills are right up there with the best," said Lewis Waronker, the veteran producer known for his work with Randy Newman and James Taylor, among others. "This could be a record that reaches out to lots of kinds of people," he said.

Lewis built a devoted following almost immediately with Rilo Kiley, which she formed in the late '90s with another former child actor, Blake Sennett. Beloved by indie rock aesthetes for its crafty hooks and brainy lyrics, the band went on to release four albums and even toured with Coldplay. During breaks, though, Lewis dabbled with other musicians, singing on the hit debut by the Postal Service and putting out her first solo record, "Rabbit Fur Coat," in 2006. Her next one, 2008's "Acid Tongue," featured collaborations with Elvis Costello and Zoëy Deschanel.

"Everybody loves Jenny," said Benmont Tench, a member of Tom Petty's band, The Heartbreakers, who plays organ on "The Voyager." "You can't mention her in town without getting a positive response."

Yet mainstream stardom never quite materialized, even as younger L.A. acts Lewis had clearly influenced — such as Haim, whose Danielle Haim once played guitar in Lewis' live band — began catching on at Top 40 radio.

At her house, Lewis dismissed the idea that she'd blazed some kind of trail for artists eager to move beyond indie rock's famously disheveled vibe. She also seemed uncomfortable with the notion that "The Voyager" represents her conscious bid for a larger audience.

But there's no denying the care she put into the record. Some of the songs on "The Voyager," she said, date back several years to right after Rilo Kiley's dissolution in 2011; she'd recorded "tons of versions" in various settings but wasn't satisfied with the results.

Finally, Lewis took up with Ryan Adams, the alt-country singer-songwriter, at his Pax-Am Studio in Hollywood. There they remade the tunes, working quickly but attentively with a crew of top-notch L.A. players in an effort to capture a wide-open quality that didn't feel generic.

"I needed an outside person to help me get there," Lewis said, in part because (unlike her previous solo records) "The Voyager" had no clear-cut recording concept. Rather than taking pains to differentiate the music from Rilo Kiley, she was simply trying to "make the best possible record I could make." And within minutes at Pax-Am, she said, "I knew that this had that magic."



Jenny Lewis

The Voyager
(Warner Bros. Records)

WEEKEND: BOOKS

'Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel' conjures new literary form

By DAVID L. ULIN
Los Angeles Times

It's tempting to frame Anya Ulinich's "Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel" in terms of its antecedents: Bernard Malamud and Anton Chekhov, on the one hand, both of whom are referenced in the narrative, and on the other, graphic novelists such as Marjane Satrapi and Harvey Pekar, whose work is rich, allusive and (perhaps most important) alive with words.

What's more accurate, however, is that "Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel" has no antecedents, that it transcends its influences so thoroughly it creates a form, a language, all its own. Ulinich wrote a previous (non-graphic) novel, 2007's "Petropolis," which tells the story of a Russian mail-order bride named Sasha Goldberg, who ends up in Brooklyn by way of Arizona. Something of a similar set of migrations is at play here, but don't let that mislead you: This new book is a departure in nearly every way.

Most obvious, of course, is its status as a graphic novel, the interplay of words and images through which so much of the narrative unfolds. Ulinich has an MFA in painting from the University of California and has done her share of portrait work and illustration, but this is a different order of magnitude.

Then there is the story, narrated by a woman, Lena, very much like the author — late 30s, a novelist who came to the United States from Moscow as a divorced mother of two daughters, living and teaching in Brooklyn. Gone is the satirical edge of Ulinich's first book, replaced with a relentless drive toward revelation, a metaphorical mortification of the flesh.

"If I'm going to be an American novelist," Lena tells her mother after the State Department offers to send her back to Russia on a cultural exchange program, "I'd better write my next American novel."

"Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel" is that novel, a kind of social fiction in comics form. The simplest way to describe it is to say that it's about Lena's efforts to reconcile herself to sex and love (through OkCupid, among other contemporary intercessions), but that doesn't do justice to the complexity of what Ulinich has in mind.

Rather, "Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel" works as something of a confessional, a series of notebooks that excavate its protagonist's life and psyche from the inside. We learn about her upbringing in Russia, her infatuation there with a boy named Alik, with whom she has remained in touch. We witness, in subtle yet chilling detail, the two times she was abused as a child in the elevator

of her apartment block, incidents that have a lot to do with inability to connect.

This is the power of the graphic novel, that it not only tells but also shows us, that by integrating images into the narrative, it draws us into Lena's experience with the force of memory. Ulinich highlights this with her drawing, which merges elements of sketch and crayon into a style that is naturalistic and impressionistic at once.

For the most part, she forgoes panels in favor of full or half-page images, and throughout, she uses the device of a notebook, complete with lined paper and recreated spiral rings, to bring the process of her storytelling to life. The effect is that of seeing her working drafts — a useful strategy because so much of the book deals with her efforts to find a through line, to make sense of the disparate pieces of her life.

"I'm going to write about you," she announces late in

the novel to a man known only as the Orphan, a trust funder in full retreat from his privilege with whom she's fallen in love. "You won't be able to," he responds, "... (b)ecause you'll turn me into a stereotype like the characters in those mean satires you like."

It's hard, reading that, not to think about "Petropolis," a point Ulinich makes explicit by giving Lena a failed second novel, which flutters through the background of the story like an albatross. "Novels are so stupid!" she laments. "With their plots, deliberate as garbage truck routes,



Photos courtesy of Anya Ulinich

and character development, steady as garbage collection. ... Look at these three hundred pages of garbage! ... What does this 'realism' have to do with reality? ... Why keep trying to do, badly, what Tolstoy already did well a hundred years ago?"

In that sense, "Lena Finkle's Magic Barrel" can be regarded as a declaration of independence for character and (perhaps) author alike.

Throughout the book, we see Lena's most mundane and intimate interactions: making dinner for her daughters, riding the bus, wrestling with her self-loathing, her self-doubt. We observe her in all her flawed and glorious humanity. Even when she is making a mistake, we empathize with her desire for transcendence and her understanding that transcendence is another illusion, that the quotidian is all we get.

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Divergent”: This is the latest in a string of movies based on a popular young adult novel — a fact that works against the film. A young woman (Shailene Woodley) finds herself in the middle of a war between factions in a future world. Similarities to other movies and big questions about the story pile up so high the only thing that can save the film is the chemistry between the main characters. Woodley turns in a solid performance as the young woman facing major changes in her life. And Theo James is a dashing guardian to his young charge (maybe a tiny bit too young for him). There just aren't any sparks when they get together. It looks at a world filled with five factions: Abnegation, Amity, Candor, Dauntless and Erudite. For this review, Candor seems the best way to go: This is a film that will please fans of the book. It's not bad, but it feels too familiar and lacks on-screen chemistry for it to win over those who haven't read the book.



SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Shailene Woodley, left, and Theo James star in the DVD release “Divergent.”

“Californication: The Final Season”: The last 12 episodes of the Showtime comedy series continue the wild ride that has been the life of Hank Moody (David Duchovny). His portrayal of the flawed novelist has featured enough emotional highs and sexual lows to earn Duchovny a Golden Globe. Through each season, Moody has tried to adjust to being a New Yorker in sunny California. It's not been easy. The final season finds him in the writer's room as his never-released feature film “Santa Monica Cop” has been turned into a television series. In typical Moody fashion, he has trouble getting along with the other writers.

“Community: The Complete Fifth Season”: The NBC series that went from great to mediocre should have come to an end with these 13 episodes. But there will be a sixth season thanks to Yahoo Screen. This fifth season is an example of how original characters become less interesting with each passing year at the community college. The two-disc set for season five features the episodes, plus cast and crew commentary on every episode, outtakes and two behind-the-scenes features: “Re-Animating the ‘80s” and “Advanced Television Production: 5 Days, 2 Scripts, No Sleep.”

Also available on DVD:

“The Trip To Bouffant!”: TV movie that follows Carrie Watts (Cicely Tyson), who travels back to her beloved hometown.

“Need for Speed”: Mechanic hits the road after he is framed for a crime. Aaron Paul stars.

“Discovery Channel’s MythBusters Collection 11”: Continuing myth-busting efforts by Jamie Hyneman and Adam Savage.

“God’s Not Dead”: Freshman and devout Christian has his faith challenged on his first day of philosophy class.

“Getting On: The Go Doc Project”: A look at modern dating and lust becoming love.

“Ironclad: Battle of Blood”: One of the survivors of the Great Siege of Rochester Castle fights to protect his family’s estate.

“I’ll Follow You Down”: A sci-fi exploration of wormholes, parallel universes, love and the possibility of starting over.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



‘It’s like he’s the Walter White journey in reverse’

SHOWTIME/AP

Michael Sheen plays Dr. William Masters in “Masters of Sex.” The TV series is now in its second season and Saturdays on AFN-Spectrum.

Michael Sheen tackles tough role on ‘Masters of Sex’

BY YVONNE VILLARREAL
Los Angeles Times

It turns out that the pioneering sex researcher William Masters in “Masters of Sex” is most exposed when cloaked in a plush white bathrobe.

The July 27 episode of the highly praised Showtime drama had viewers more on edge than the moments before a physician delivers test results. The episode pivoted on Michael Sheen’s stellar performance as the famous sex researcher who slowly peeled back the Band-Aid on a very troubled childhood and then quickly re-applied it.

After delivering a baby with ambiguous genitalia, and later becoming incensed by the harsh reaction from the newborn’s father, Masters found himself reflecting on his own struggles with masculinity to research partner Virginia Johnson (Lizzy Caplan) during a secret hotel rendezvous. With nothing but a bathrobe as his armor, Masters became the patient.

“He did me a favor,” Sheen said in the scene where he tells of suffering a broken nose at the hands of his father at age 14. “He made me the man I am today.”

It was a commanding point in the slow burn of the icy character as the show settles into its second season. For the man who has thrived in Hollywood’s world of historical fiction — playing real-life characters in film such as David Frost in “Frost/Nixon” and former British Prime Minister Tony Blair in “The Queen” — the Welsh native has established himself as one of television’s premiere actors.

His depiction of the sex researcher as one of TV’s least sympathetic anti-heroes has been revered by critics — many took issue with his omission from this year’s

Emmy race.

Over a recent breakfast, Sheen reviewed the intricacies of the confounding character whose work help set the stage for the sexual revolution. As he cut into two poached eggs, the 45-year-old actor motioned to the oozing yolk with his eyes. “That will never be Bill,” he said. “You won’t see his feelings spill out, but he gave us a little something in that episode.”

After a pause, he elaborated.

“The road to happiness can often be a road of awfulness in getting there,” he added. “Bill has become the person he’s become and he’s adapted to life and dealt with things the ways he’s dealt with them because of stuff that happened to him when he was younger, but it’s not really working for him. What it’s created is kind of a prison. And, yeah, he’d like to be free from that prison, but there’s a part of him that made that prison for a reason, and he doesn’t want to leave it. It’s too scary. And I find that so damn interesting, I have to say. It’s like he’s the Walter White journey in reverse.”

When viewers met Masters, he was a prominent but upright OB-GYN physician at Washington University School of Medicine who was also a detached husband to a doting wife (Caitlin FitzGerald). He soon became fixated on the study of sex, a taboo subject particularly for an academic in the 1950s. Eventually, to pursue his passion, he enlisted Johnson to help conduct research — the two eventually began a sexual relationship.

The near constant in Masters’ character is that he’s a jerk much of the time. It’s a boldly honest approach to a character that dares to buck TV’s hang-ups with likability, Sheen said. And like Masters, Sheen isn’t here to play nice and make friends.

Michelle Ashford, who developed the series from Thomas Maier’s biography of the same name, initially gave consideration to making Masters slightly warmer and more palatable for viewers. The decision was being weighed during a time when audiences were actually rooting for meth-dealing Walter White of “Breaking Bad.” But Sheen fought against softening his character to please viewers.

“There’s a scene in Oliver Stone’s film ‘Nixon’ where (Richard) Nixon points to a painting of JFK, and he says, ‘When they look at you, they see what they want to be. When they look at me, they see what they are,’” he said in his best Anthony Hopkins-as-Nixon impersonation. “Most TV characters are who people want to be, even if it’s Walter White.”

“Sure, Don Draper isn’t a pleasant character, but he looks gorgeous, and everyone wants to sleep with him. I don’t look like that! And I want to make that a strength. At the same time, I have an absolute responsibility to be totally rigorous in making sure that he’s a real person. Why shouldn’t the audience have a character that’s about all their worst qualities?”

The role was presented to Sheen during his run as Hamlet in a controversial production in London in late 2011. The call was Ashford’s first glimpse of Sheen’s intensity. “He was really listening more than he was asking a ton of questions,” Ashford said. “Since then, the back and forth between the two of us as to who Bill is and what makes him tick and what makes him weak is a true collaboration. You can’t even say he’s been invaluable to the process. He just is the process. We ... talk all the time about this character. The way we’re able to follow this character for a long time really stirs something in Michael.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Helping women reach their fitness goals

Trainer puts emphasis on health, not looks

By JACKIE SALO
The Miami Herald

The fitness world always has had a fixation with physical appearance, but social media has propelled this into stratospheric levels of vanity.

Fitness gurus are posting countless photos of themselves online, with their accomplishments chronicled by selfies rather than definable health goals.

One South Florida trainer, however, is trying to buck this trend.

Idalis Velazquez wants her clients to focus on their health rather than their looks.

"For a lot of people, this is very superficial," Velazquez said. "I am about improving the performance. Let's get stronger, better and energized."

People are noticing. The Coconut Creek, Fla., trainer has been named one of five finalists in Women's Health magazine's "Next Fitness Star" competition.

"I honestly just want to get women fit and change that fitness world," Velazquez said. "Stop thinking about aesthetics and looks. It is about just so much more than that."

Velazquez's passion for personal training started with her own health struggles.

A former track and field athlete, Velazquez earned numerous national championships in the junior division level in her native Puerto Rico. At Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, she competed in track and field at the NCAA Division I level before a neck injury sidelined her.

With her track aspirations quashed, she began to work with a few clients as a personal trainer.



PHOTOS BY PATRICK FARRELL, THE MIAMI HERALD/MCT

After a sports injury and a brain hemorrhage, Idalis Velazquez, top center and above, re-evaluated and improved her fitness regimen.

"I was teaching other people, but I wasn't getting healthy myself," Velazquez said. "I started

to get weak."

Her health issues multiplied when during her second preg-

“For a lot of people, this is very superficial. I am about improving the performance.”

Idalis Velazquez
personal trainer

nancy in 2011, she suffered from a brain hemorrhage.

"My health really went downhill," Velazquez said. "After a year on and off, after countless ER trips and neurologists, I got really frustrated because I was used to being so active and strong."

She felt like a shell of her younger self and realized she had to take back control of her body.

"I started to exercise but in a smarter way," she said. "I would play around with exercises that

would not hurt me, but would strengthen my body and challenge all areas."

As her health improved, her mindset followed.

"During this time, I found this passion to help other moms out there because sometimes we really lose ourselves during pregnancy," Velazquez said.

Today, Velazquez advises women to "train smart rather than hard."

"Choose the right exercises — ones that are going to improve your mobility, your stability and that help you get stronger while working multiple muscle groups," she said. "If you train smart, the body will respond. You will see the changes."

She reiterates this message to a group of women she trains three times a week in Coral Springs. With her dark hair pulled back, Velazquez stands in front of the class, animated, regardless of how arduous the workout.

Many of the women had seldom exercised before they joined her "boot camp" class, but together they have progressed and built a bond around their success. Velazquez does not promote the class on her website since she feels the group has a unique camaraderie.

"They have these amazing personal histories. Seeing them happy and motivated here is amazing," Velazquez said. "It is a positive thing, and they feel good when they leave here."

Velazquez's class supports her in return.

"I was teaching this class (when I found out I was a finalist)," Velazquez said. "I started screaming and everyone was like 'Are you OK?' I was so excited and we were all hugging."

The competition landed Velazquez on the flip cover of Women's Health magazine. If she wins the competition, she will receive a DVD contract.

"It feels really good to have made it this far," Velazquez said. "I want to do my best to represent all of the moms that have struggled and normal, real women who want to feel their best."

After more than a dozen surgeries, vet gives knees a workout

By LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Pete Wright, 65, of Dallas, played all sports in high school. Not until a military injury during the Vietnam era, though, did he take up racquetball — the sport that became his passion. He played at Texas Christian University, and also won the first organized state singles championships in the late 1970s.

He became a racquetball instructor and operated two pro shops in Dallas. But, he says, "my knees were wearing out, and by the early '90s I was limited to swimming and biking." Eventually, "my knees were completely worn out."

But he wasn't about to use multiple knee surgeries — he's had 13, including replacements — as an excuse to sit still. He's still competing and will be playing for another national age group title in October.

Here are his thoughts on his regimen:

Typical week of workouts: I alternate days of swimming (or) biking with playing racquetball. Normally I work out at (a fitness center) six days a week for two hours. I also do light weights as a second workout twice a week.

If I had 20 minutes to work out, I would: Spend 10 minutes swimming followed by 10 minutes of light weights.

Proudest fitness moment: Returning to the courts again with my new knees.

Favorite healthy food: Fruit and health bars.

Favorite indulgence: Chocolate.

What I'd say to someone who wants to follow my routine: Identify activities you enjoy, get expert advice as needed, and know your limits.

What my workout says about me: I'm willing to make the sacrifices necessary to stay active for a lifetime.

Despite 13 knee surgeries, Pete Wright, 65, is a champion racquetball player.

MONA REIDER,
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



WEEKEND: FAMILY

In children's book author Todd Parr's world, 'It's Okay to Make Mistakes'

By LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

In Todd Parr's world, it's OK to wear your undies on your head, spill your milk or eat mac and cheese in the bathtub. Most of all, it's OK to be yourself. Inclusion and acceptance are Parr's mainstays in more than 30 quirky picture books for young kids, including "It's Okay to Make Mistakes," out last month from Little, Brown and Co.

Parr, 52, relies on playful, brightly colored drawings and easy-to-understand messages to win over the age 4-to-6 set, along with their teachers and parents. In today's competitive swirl of perfectionism, it's Parr who declares it OK to draw outside the lines, celebrate your big hair and feel lonely sometimes.

The artist and writer lives in Berkeley, Calif., and worked as a flight attendant for 15 years while he got his career off the ground after leaving home in Rock Springs, Wyo., soon after high school graduation.

A conversation with Todd Parr: **You've been called the artist who never grew up. Is that your secret to reaching kids?**

It's the best answer I have when people say, "Well you don't have kids, so how do you relate to kids?" My childhood is so vivid to me, and my dad was very funny. There's a playfulness and simplicity still within me.

You once got an F in art. What did the teacher say about that?

I was a difficult student. I struggled a lot. I continually expressed myself in art in ways that were not being asked of me and I got an F for



not doing what I was told.

People ask, "What would you say to your art teacher now who said you should pursue a different career?" He passed away years ago, but I think the only thing I would have said is why not point out any positives in what I was doing, like, "Todd, you draw really great circles, although that's not what I asked you to do."

Art was the one interest I had, but I didn't have the confidence. It took me years.

You entered a drawing of Snoopy in a contest when you were a kid and your dad said, "That's great, but you're not allowed to trace, when you hadn't. How did that feel?"

It was so good that he thought I had traced it, but I was disappointed. I was so deflated that I had expressed myself in such a way that I was so proud of and I wanted to hear, "That's really good."

You were a gay kid living in small-town Wyoming. How did your childhood impact the content of your books?

I felt that I didn't belong where I

grew up. I was so excited by what I thought was this big world that was out there waiting for me, where you could just be whoever you were. You could wear whatever you wanted. I felt like I was trapped in a place where basically you went to school, you went into certain types of jobs, and you got married and you had kids.

There weren't options to be different. My dad has said if he used the term "wanting to be an artist" with his dad and mom, they would have kicked him out of the house. It took my dad a number of years to embrace it and understand it. He finally said, "I just want you to be happy."

You take on a lot of tough subjects in a simple, straightforward style. Are other books for kids too preachy, busy or condescending?

The only self-imposed directive I had in the beginning was to stay away from preachy, teachy or new agey. My artwork originally led to a proposal from an editor who said, "Hey, have you ever thought about writing children's books?" I said, "No, I haven't." I did horrible in school. I barely made it out, so no. Books are for smart people."

I knew that whatever I did it had to be fun and edgy and simple so that kids could be like, "I can draw just like him!" I knew I would need some humor in there. Somebody once said, "Oh I thought you were a 6-year-old writing these books," and I thought, "Oh god, that's not good," but now I love that because that's what kids see and hopefully go, "I can do that." You don't have to beat them over the head.

No one was doing these kinds of books. When I started, "It's OK to Be Different" was in the self-help section of Borders. No one knew what to do with them. People were like, "Where are the bunnies and the bears and the pastels?"

Why do parents love your books so much?

I always try and think about how a grandma is going to feel reading this book, like my grandmother read to me every night, or a mom and dad are going to read this book, and I want them to laugh. I want them to feel warm when they're done.

I hope parents can really empower kids to believe in themselves, but I try to think about what parents are taking away from the books, too, to help them realize how much they love their kids.

Todd Parr is a bestselling author and illustrator of more than 30 children's books. In his books, Parr reminds kids to be themselves, love one another and embrace differences.

JEFF FIELDING/AP

SPOUSE CALLS

Moves, events, chores: There's a list for that

Life doesn't stop for a relocation, whether across town or across an ocean. It just keeps coming. For military families, our lives are not just what happens in between moves, it's what happens during those moves, too.

This is not a moving summer for my family, but thinking ahead to the next one I've been decluttering and cleaning our some boxes in our basement. I came across my to-do list from two moves ago. Perhaps the fact that I'm holding on to a 3-year-old list indicates how much cleaning out I need to do, but I'm a saver. I call it curating the history of our life on the move, and I had good reason to save this particular list.

It wasn't just one list. It was a combination of lists, some written on pages from a yellow legal pad, others on wide-ruled notebook paper, and one more jotted down on the back of a map of the villages around Panzer Kaserne in Stuttgart, Germany, so that home we were getting ready to leave. These checklists, more than a litany of tasks, are a record of significant events happening alongside our PCS.

Like many moves, that one came at the end of a school year, and preparations began months ahead. Our daughter, Jessica, was graduating from high school. Our youngest, Wesley, was finishing middle school. Our oldest, Will, was coming home from college for the festivities. It was an especially eventful season for our family, as my voluminous lists reminded me.

On one page were notes about the pre-inspection for our military quarters and cleaning assignments for each family member. Another page detailed items to send home with household goods, and necessities to keep in hold baggage for later transport. We listed everything needed for graduation events to ensure they didn't get packed with the earlier lot.

A couple of pages were dedicated to Jessie's graduation party. There was a guest list and a host of preparations: Create the slide show, order a cake, plan decorations, make food. Just as I was preparing for college, so there was another list for those details: Complete student housing forms, get student physical, fill out medical paperwork, set up a bank account.

Also listed were preparations for Wesley's middle school graduation, plus the dates of his last soccer games and end-of-season cookout. I had made notes to myself to contact his new high school in Virginia and pick up DOD school records.

Other important items: Get new passports, mail Mother's Day presents, set aside 220-volt appliances — useless in the States — to pass along to a family newly arrived in Germany.

I can think of more chores and events not on that list: Getting the cars ready for inspection and shipping, haircuts and orthodontist visits, Jessie got her braces off, porn, baccalaureate committee meetings. We signed a lease on our soon-to-be-home in Virginia, and Will's girlfriend came to Germany from Texas for a weeklong visit. By then we were living on loaner furniture and eating from paper plates, a nearly stress-free way to entertain company, it turns out. I highly recommend it.

Our monster list is not unique. Many military families write similar ones while preparing to move in the midst of lives already in progress. The challenge is not checking off the list. The challenge is to live this life — whether between moves or in the midst of one — appreciating the ebb and flow, because mobile or not, this is our one and only opportunity to live it.

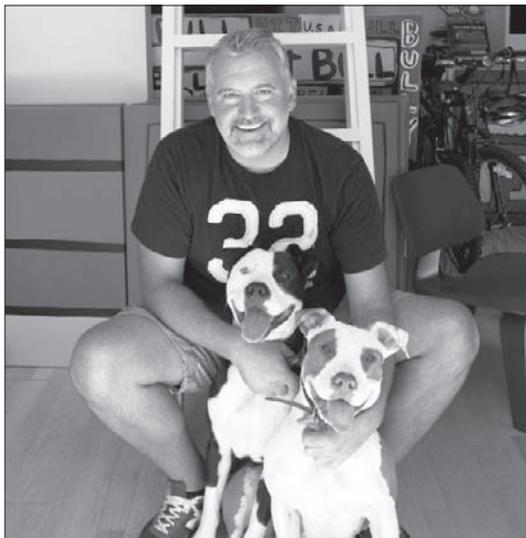
We can't live in the past, longing for the last place we called home; or in the future, wishing for the next place and hoping it will be bigger, better, smaller, more exciting or less stressful. The ordinary days and milestones go by quickly enough without wishing any of them away, as if we could fast-forward through a difficult period and get back any of our precious time when it's gone.

Military family life is truly no more transient than any other. We're all just passing through, whether we spend our lives in many places or just one. Perhaps military families are more aware of the passage of time, marked as it is by our changing locations and our lists of things to remember.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes



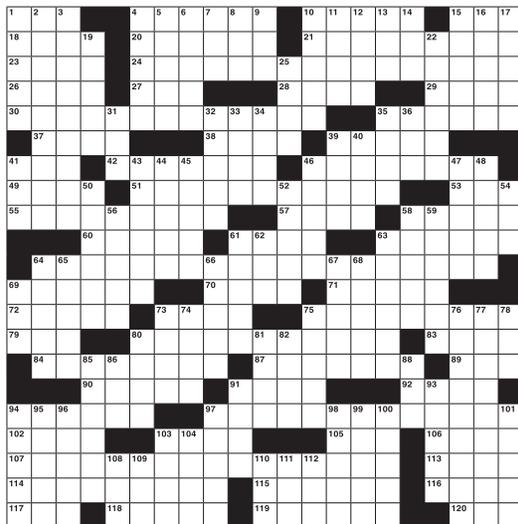
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

“CHEE WHIZ!”

By IAN LIVENGOOD / Edited By WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 Little muscle?
4 Like some turkeys
10 First, second and third, but not fourth
15 Rescue squad member, for short
18 Tax law subjects
20 Like much tax law
21 Gallery figure
23 Former Potlata Palace resident
24 German philosopher with an injury?
26 Gulf of ___
27 Court V.I.P.'s
28 Driver of "Girls"
29 Models, in a way
30 Guy who's covered in mud?
35 "Impossible is nothing" sloganer
37 Spiced tea
38 72-Across, e.g., informally
39 Models
41 Motor grp.
42 Chase scene staples
46 Request upon leaving?
49 Ruckus
51 African-American martial art
53 Iowa college
55 Cabby's phrase on arrival
57 S O S, e.g.



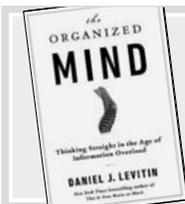
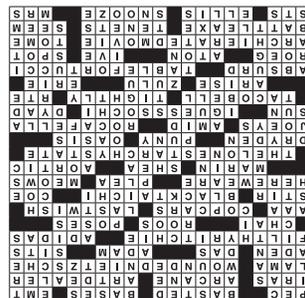
- DOWN
1 Rice ___
2 Do away with
3 Fine coat material
4 Off-color
5 Like Super Bowl crowds
6 "Pardon me," in Parma
7 Like 3-Down
8 Target of some passes
9 Wallace of "E.T."
10 Burglary, in police-speak
11 Verdi's "Ernani! Ernani, involami," e.g.
12 Flute section
13 D.C. summer setting
14 Declares, informally
15 Rider of the war horse Babica
16 Celebrated Bombay-born conductor
17 It's a lock
19 Seasonal cookie eater
113 Audubon's "The Birds of America," e.g.
114 Arm that's swung
115 Parts of a party line
116 Feel like
117 Dr.'s relatives
118 "Less Than Zero" author
119 Alarm clock button
120 ___ Fields
22 Italian town with Giotto frescoes
25 Roast locale
31 Drink since 1948
32 Trail to follow
33 Stop on a wine tour?
34 Have over
35 Italian wine hub
36 It disappears in the morning
39 Speed
40 Hazmat monitor
41 Bit of fallout
43 Shakespeare character with a magic aphrodisiac
44 Vanilla
45 ___ asada
46 Whitman's dooryard flower
47 Loner to Pierce in 1852
48 Comic Mandel
50 Holding one's breath, for hicups
52 Mimic's business
54 Emergency key
56 Home of Merlin, in Arthurian legend
58 Decorator's creation
59 Did away with
61 Tuxedo
62 Chinese dynasty preceding the Three Kingdoms
63 Go at
64 Game on the line?
65 Pack member
66 Fast pitch
67 Moonshine
78 Suffix with orange
80 Citation abbr.
81 Bump, as one's toe
82 Place for a potted plant
85 Not loose
86 Boston Garden legend
88 "Having fun ___?"
91 Billy of "Titanic"
93 Displays disuse
94 Kaffiyeh wearers
95 Film title character who likes to high-five
96 Shakers and others
97 Lugs
98 Police, in slang
99 Ex-Disney chief
100 Witherspoon of "Mad"
101 Agenda makeup
103 Kazakhstan's ___ Sea
104 Meter site
108 Basses-Terre, par exemple
109 Unagi, in a sushi bar
110 Sol's woe
111 W.C. sign
112 One half of an iconic 1981 Rolling Stone cover

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Bestselling author and neuroscientist Daniel Levitin explores how some people manage today's data deluge while successfully making more (and faster) decisions about their lives. Armed with the latest brain science, readers can change the way they organize their homes, workplaces, and time.

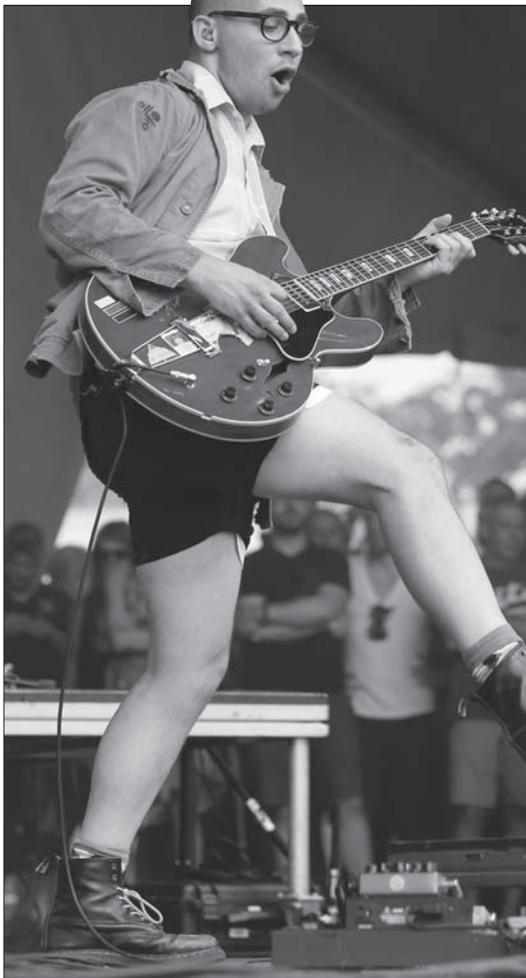
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FACES



Spin off

Jack Antonoff takes a break from fun., keeps making music

BY MESFIN FEKADU
The Associated Press

Jack Antonoff is spinning off from his chart-topping band fun., but he's recruited some big-time backup for his solo side project: Yoko Ono and Lena Dunham. The 30-year-old guitarist has taken a break from the Grammy Award-winning pop-rock trio for his project Bleachers, releasing the album "Strange Desire" last month.

Ono makes an appearance on the record, and his "Girls"-starring girlfriend directed the music video for lead single "I Wanna Get Better," currently No. 1 on Billboard's alternative songs chart.

Antonoff says despite their help, songwriting felt lonely since he was apart from the band mates he's worked with for six years.

"When you start writing songs on your own, there's no Bible, there's no one around you, so you're just writing and you're left with, like, the dead space in your head to know if it's a good song or an interesting concept," said Antonoff, who co-wrote fun.'s hits and has also written with Taylor Swift and Sara Bareilles. "And so it's almost the exact opposite of working in fun. ... And that's why it's interesting to me."

He wrote and recorded the music while on a plane, in the car or in bed — with some elements of the album stretching back several years — all while fun. was topping the charts, selling millions of singles and touring the world.

Jack Antonoff, guitarist for fun., takes up singing on his own project, called Bleachers.
STEVE C. MITCHELL, INVISION/AP

For the Bleachers project, you are singing. Will we hear you sing on future fun. records?

I don't know. I don't know if I want to. The exciting thing about Bleachers and fun. are they're different, and they're aesthetically different in many ways. But it's also like my role is very different, and that's cool.

Why call it Bleachers and not your name?

I never wanted to name the project my name because it felt too reactionary or too like, "This is my solo album" when it's not "this is my solo album." It's a whole different body of work.

How did the members of fun. respond when you told them you were releasing this album?

I've been touring for over 12 years and so have the other guys in fun. And we got together both, you know, being our own entities and our own bands. So we came together as like this delusional supergroup of sorts. So there was a never a moment of like, "Hey guys, like, I'm going to make my own record."

What was it like working with Lena on your music video?

She's a great director. I didn't have to worry about it because I knew she would handle it, whereas sometimes with other videos you're scared, like, "Is this going to be right?" ... I, just for once in my life, got to do nothing.

What was it like working with Yoko Ono?

She's ... uninhibited and free with her ideas. ... She went in and started screaming and grunting and making album noises and started talking crazy (expletive) and beautiful (expletive) and singing. I basically took this 20-minute file of her doing all this stuff, got in bed and started cutting it all up.

Top nominee Beyonce video to perform at MTV VMAs

The Associated Press

Beyonce is set to have a "Flawless" night at the MTV Video Music Awards.

The singer will perform at the Aug. 24 show at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif. She leads in nominations with eight, including video of the year for "Drunk in Love."

The 32-year-old will also receive the Video Vanguard Award, a lifetime achievement honor also bestowed to Michael Jackson, Madonna and Britney Spears.

Beyonce caused a stir last weekend when she released a Nicki Minaj-assisted remix to her song "Flawless," where the singer raps and references the leaked et-

evator video of her sister Solange attacking Jay Z.

Other performers at the VMAs include Ariana Grande, Maroon 5, Usher and 5 Seconds of Summer.

Pandora cuts first-ever direct deal with artists

Internet radio leader Pandora has come to its first-ever direct licensing deal with artists, a wide-ranging agreement with independent label group Merlin that both said would mean higher payments to artists and more play for them on Pandora stations.

That means Merlin-represented artists such as Arcade Fire, Bad Religion and Lenny Kravitz could

get more rotations as their representatives will be able to lobby Pandora to place their songs earlier in playlists where they fit.

Artists will also get access to Pandora data for the first time, enabling them to make informed decisions including what songs artists might release next. They will also have tools to directly communicate with fans on Pandora.

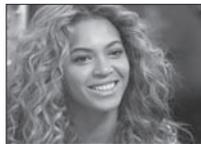
For Pandora Media Inc., the move helps improve relations with artists, who have complained that royalties on digital streaming services are too low.

Other news

■ George Clooney and his fiancée have posted a legal notice

declaring their intention to marry in Italy. Clooney and Beirut-born London lawyer Amal Almuhammad announced their engagement in April, though the pair have not yet announced a date for their nuptials.

■ A warrant has been issued for rapper Wiz Khalifa's arrest after he skipped a court date on a marijuana possession charge in west Texas. Online court records show the 26-year-old performer, whose real name is Cameron Thomaz, failed to appear for a scheduled Wednesday arraignment in an El Paso County misdemeanor court. So County Court-at-Law Judge Ricardo Herrera issued a bench warrant for Khalifa's arrest.



Beyonce will get the MTV Video Vanguard Award, a lifetime achievement honor, at the MTV VMAs on Aug. 24.

■ Singer Gary LeVox has lost his voice, forcing Rascal Flatts to cancel three shows in the Pacific Northwest this week.

■ Cheryl Boone Isaacs has been re-elected president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for another year.

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OPINION

No president can have carte blanche

By MEGAN McARDLE
 Bloomberg News

On Sunday, Ross Douthat of the New York Times wrote an uncharacteristically blistering attack on the plan being floated by the Barack Obama administration to quasi-legalize the status of almost half the immigrants who are now in the country illegally. The details remain somewhat vague but, according to The Washington Post, "Ideas under consideration could include temporary relief for law-abiding undocumented immigrants who are closely related to U.S. citizens or those who have lived in the country a certain number of years — a population that advocates say could reach as high as 5 million."

This is not the first time that the administration has floated this trial balloon, so I think it's safe to say that it is contemplating sweeping unilateral executive action that would grant millions of undocumented immigrants protection from deportation and issue work permits that would allow them to earn a legal living while they are here — at least, unless the news media or the public pushes back.

I agree with Ross: The media and the public should push back. I say this as someone who is broadly supportive of greater legal immigration, and who has tangled with immigration opponents in the past. Whatever your opinion on immigration policy, I hope it doesn't involve supporting giving the president extremely broad powers to simply rewrite any law that he thinks ought to be different. To say why, you need only ask yourself a simple question: Would

you like to give this power to a president from the opposing party on a law where the two of you disagree?

The defenses that have so far been mounded of this proto-plan are so far completely unconvincing. There is, for example, the argument that we have to expect this, because Congress is so dysfunctional that the president can't get any laws passed. But this is a terrible example of congressional dysfunction; immigration bills have been failing in Congress for years now, not because Congress is gridlocked, but because this is a difficult and contentious issue, and there's not really a ton of political support for increased immigration. Furthermore, polls on this issue seem to be moving in the wrong direction for the president. In this environment, the most functional Congress in the world might well politely decline to pass a bill that does what the president is proposing.

This has also been compared to Jimmy Carter's sweeping use of the pardon power to give blanket forgiveness to hundreds of thousands of draft dodgers. This simply won't fly, because the president unquestionably had the authority to issue those pardons; it's right there in the Constitution. One could certainly quarrel with the decision to issue those pardons, but not with whether Carter had the right to do so.

Most convincing is the argument that Obama has the right to do this because, after all, the executive branch gets to set enforcement priorities. And yes ... but no. At the point at which you are announcing that the law won't be enforced against a large fraction of the people who are violat-

ing it, then you are effectively rewriting that law. Few of the people who are coming up with these justifications would sit quietly while a Republican president, say, announced that he was ending audits and OSHA inspections for small-business owners so that he could refocus resources on earned income tax credit fraud. And if you wouldn't view that as an acceptable use of the president's power, then you should not endorse this power grab, either. Immigration is an important issue, one on which I would like to see significant changes in policy. But the rule of law is an even more important one.

The last 15 years have witnessed far too many presidential assertions of unconstitutional authority — and too many members of both parties who were willing to endorse those extralegal actions as long as it was their guy bending the rules. The result is a constant ratchet toward an imperial presidency.

Am I saying that the dark night of fascism will descend upon us all if Obama goes forward with this? Of course not. There is a lot of ruin in a nation: American presidents have tried these sorts of power grabs before, from the suspension of habeas corpus to court packing to, I dunno, Richard Nixon's whole last year in office. But do you know why the dark night of fascism never descended? Because long before we got to that point, honorable politicians, journalists and citizens said "Enough." It's time for all of us to say that again, loud enough for President Obama to hear it.

Megan McArdle is a Bloomberg View columnist who writes on economics, business and public policy.

Arguments for displaying Rebel flag don't fly

By ROBERT MCCARTNEY
 The Washington Post

HUBERT WAYNE CASH, 65, a Navy veteran and retired phone company worker, spent an hour at his home Tuesday explaining why he allowed the recent erection of a giant Confederate battle flag in his wooded backyard north of Fredericksburg, Va., overlooking busy Interstate 95.

"I've got 50 ancestors who fought in the Civil War," Cash said. "I honor their heritage."

Lights are being installed so the provocative banner will be visible at night. Cash said he leased the ground at a token price to the Virginia Flaggers, who share his sympathies for Southern secession, so the flag can fly "for at least 100 years."

The gray-bearded Cash was gracious and thoughtful in applauding his willingness to answer skeptical questions from an incorrigibly pro-Yankee news columnist.

But I still think Cash and his allies are wrong to display the flag. It's the principal emblem today of a hateful cause — the protection of slavery — from which it cannot be divorced.

Germans don't use Nazi swastika flags to honor their dead from World War II. The same logic applies to the Confederacy, even if the Nazis' sins were worse than those of Jefferson Davis and company.

Of course, the United States can't ban the Rebel banner outright, as German law prohibits the display of swastikas. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech.

But the public can and should try to shame the Confederacy flag club into scrapping the emblem of a wicked purpose and leaving it to be displayed only in museums

and history books. There are plenty of other ways to commemorate one's Rebel ancestors. What about plaques, flowers or the Virginia state flag? The Confederacy was big on states' rights.

The flag on Cash's property in southern Stafford County drew objections from the local NAACP and several people whom I interviewed at a nearby convenience store.

"I don't think it's a good idea," Wayne Samuel, 61, said. "It could be encouraging hatred."

Vickie Browning, 51, said: "I think it needs to be replaced by an American flag. [The Civil War] is done. It's over. They need to let it go."

It isn't the only Rebel banner to arouse controversy recently. Washington and Lee University last month removed Confederate flags from Lee Chapel — where the Rebels' most famous general, Robert E. Lee, is buried — following protests from African-American students.

Here's my main complaint about the flaggers, which Cash did little to dispel: Like many in the "Southern heritage" movement, they aren't just committed to honoring individual Rebel soldiers. They insist also on trying to whitewash the Confederacy by saying the Civil War was about something other than slavery.

This was evident in the Virginia Flaggers' announcement of the May 31 erection of the Stafford County flag.

The group said on its website that the Confederates took up arms for the sake of the "preservation of liberty and freedom guaranteed by our forefathers and embodied in the US Constitution of 1788."

It's a glaring contradiction to say the Confederacy fought for "liberty and free-

dom," given that the driving force behind secession was opposition to the election of Abraham Lincoln as president. He philosophically opposed slavery and wanted to block its expansion.

Note also the flaggers' enthusiasm for the U.S. Constitution of 1788, which formally counted slaves as three-fifths of a person.

Cash endorsed this interpretation of history. He said the Confederates were motivated principally by opposition to taxation, and he stressed that he bore no personal racial animus.

"We're not sitting around like a bunch of yokels thinking slavery was a good thing," Cash, speaking in his first news media interview, said.

Adding the none of his Confederate ancestors owned slaves, he said, "You think they fought for someone else's slaves?"

Well, yes. His forebears may not have intended it, but that was the result.

Consider South Carolina, which started the fighting by bombarding Fort Sumter. Its formal explanation for seceding focused overwhelmingly on complaints arising from what it called "the increasing hostility on the part of the non-slaveholding States to the Institution of Slavery."

Or listen to prominent Civil War historian James McPherson. His Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Battle Cry of Freedom," says, "The upper South, like the lower, went to war to defend the freedom of white men to own slaves and to take them into the territories as they saw fit."

That's how history happened. We should discourage the misguided from using an offensive flag to pretend otherwise.

It's a glaring contradiction to say the Confederacy fought for "liberty and free-

Robert McCartney is a Washington Post columnist.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Onshore tax reform preferred Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

President Barack Obama wants to lash "corporate deserters" — companies that move overseas to avoid U.S. taxes — with penalties and additional regulations.

It is another case of the president trying to pit Americans against one another instead of supporting an economy that would offer more jobs and opportunities for everyone.

"These companies are cherry-picking the rules, and it damages the country's finances," the president said in California last month. "It adds to the deficit. It sticks you with the tab to make up for what they are shuffling offshore."

During the lack of "corporate patriotism" may sound good on the campaign stump, but if the president was genuinely interested in keeping American companies from shifting operations overseas, he would attack the country's tax burden.

The nation's 35 percent corporate tax rate is the highest in the industrial world, and even the lowest companies allow some companies to pay considerably less, the U.S. tax rate remains unduly burdensome, precisely the reason more companies are moving abroad.

As The Wall Street Journal points out, when state taxes are added, the average corporate tax rate in the United States is 40 percent, double the average in Europe. Smart companies look for relief.

Since 1983, according to the Congressional Research Service, 76 companies have moved their corporate headquarters from the United States — 47 in the past decade.

The Journal reports 19 such deals in the past year.

In a recent Wall Street Journal commentary, Wall Group, the immediate past chairman of the National Association of Manufacturers' Tax Committee, wrote, "American businesses are taxed on a worldwide basis regardless of where in the world revenue is earned. This means U.S. multinationals pay taxes twice, first to the foreign country in which they do business and then to the U.S."

It seems to us that "corporate patriotism" should mean making American businesses as strong as possible. The president — and Congress — should stop looking for scapegoats and get serious about corporate tax reform.

China part of Africa Summit The New York Times

Even as the Ebola virus serves as a reminder of Africa's manifold challenges, a much brighter future for the continent was the world's last major economic frontier. There more than 40 African heads of state attended a summit meeting led by President Barack Obama. Done right, with sufficient follow-through, the event should strengthen American ties to a continent that is expected to outpace China and India in population by 2040 and is widely viewed as the world's last major economic frontier.

The event is a determined, and splashy, initiative by Obama to push back against other countries doing business there, especially China, which is investing heavily in infrastructure projects and using Africa as a source of vital oil and metals. It is also an opportunity to counter critics who say he has devoted insufficient attention to the continent.

Administration officials have been



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

Local resident Galina Dudkina gestures near to an entrance with "Bomb Shelter" written on the side, as she waits for shelling to start in Donetsk, Ukraine, on Monday.

eager to persuade Africa that America's democratic capitalist system can offer advantages that China's authoritarian system cannot. As Susan Rice, the national security adviser, said last week, "We don't see Africa as a pipeline to extract vital resources, nor as a funnel for charity." She described a broader vision in which the United States is committed to being a partner to create jobs, resolve conflicts and develop the human capital needed to build a better future.

To that end, the summit meeting was preceded by a gathering of 500 participants in Obama's Young African Leaders Initiative. Other events included forums on women, health, trade, food security and civil society. Still others brought together American corporate executives with African leaders.

The world has largely associated Africa with desperate struggles against war, poverty, famine and dictatorial leaders. But there are positive trends, too. Africa is home to six of the 10 fastest-growing economies in the world, an emerging middle class and markets that are increasingly open to foreign investment. In short, there is money to be made there.

There is also a growing threat from militants in some countries. And, as human rights groups point out, the summit meeting's focus on trade, investment and counterterrorism cannot be allowed to dilute the Obama administration's willingness to press for good and honest governance, fair elections and human rights, all essential for long-term stability and growth.

Need full-court press for Bae The Seattle Times

The longest-held American in North Korea since the Korean War is struggling from health problems that have twice put him in a hospital.

Kenneth Bae, a former Lynnwood, Wash., resident, now faces the possibility of being sent back to a North Korean labor camp, according to a July 31 interview with The Choson Sinbo, a newspaper based in Japan. No one outside of the reclusive North Korean regime understands the exact nature of Bae's alleged crimes, for which he was sentenced to 15 years of hard labor.

The 46-year-old tour operator has been held since November 2012. In a labor camp video obtained by CNN, Bae said he is trying to remain emotionally strong, but he suffers from chronic diabetes, back and other problems.

U.S. State Department officials must act urgently to secure this American's release on humanitarian grounds, whether that means continuing to rely on the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang, working diplo-

matic channels with North Korean officials at the United Nations in New York City or sending a high-level emissary the regime is willing to allow inside its borders.

On the eve of his 46th birthday on Aug. 1, Bae's family released a statement with a desperate plea: "Twice Kenneth has been hospitalized due to his health failing after months of strenuous hard labor, eight hours a day, eight days a week. We fear Kenneth's body will not be able to survive being sent back to labor camp for the third time."

Columbia University professor Charles K. Armstrong, an expert on North Korea, says Bae's situation is unusual, but the Obama administration should remain engaged.

"This can still be solved," he says. "There has to be pressure on Washington, D.C., to work out an agreement at a higher level to try to get [Bae] out."

Putin's tactics threaten NATO The Wall Street Journal

NATO's promise of collective security rests on the notion that aggression against one member of the Atlantic alliance triggers a response from all. Yet Russia's swift, stealthy operation to annex Crimea and destabilize eastern Ukraine has cast doubt on the alliance's capacity to fulfill that promise. What can NATO realistically do if Vladimir Putin sets his sights on the Baltic states?

The latest warning comes in a new report by the Defense Committee of the U.K. House of Commons. The report surveys NATO's widening conventional capability gap with Russia, highlights the Kremlin's aggressive nuclear posture and points to the doctrinal limitations that could hamstring a response to the next round of aggression.

Its stark conclusion: "NATO is currently not well-prepared for a Russian threat against a NATO Member State." Case in point: The British Army now fields a grand total of 156 main battle tanks, amounting to a single regiment. Russia has more than 2,800 active main battle tanks, according to a 2013 study by the International Institute for Strategic Studies. The committee notes that the Kremlin has unveiled an ambitious plan to expand and modernize Russia's conventional forces, with the aim to increase the proportion of conventional assets classed as "modern" to 70 percent by 2020, up from 10 percent in 2012.

Then there is Russia's bold nuclear-force posture. "Russia sees its strategic nuclear forces as a key deterrent to potential Western intervention or related response to Russian aggression," the committee notes. "Russia dedicates a third of its Defense budget to them." Moscow has at least twice

since 2009 simulated nuclear strikes, including one targeting Warsaw, Poland. By contrast, the Obama administration earlier this year announced plans for sharp, and unilateral, cuts to the U.S. strategic force well ahead of the 2018 deadline set by the New Start treaty.

The committee's most important findings relate to outdated doctrines that could prevent the alliance from keeping pace with Moscow's sophisticated, evolving strategy. A linchpin of Russian strategy is what the committee calls "ambiguous warfare." As one Russian defense theorist puts it, ambiguous warfare involves using irregular forces, cyberattacks and information warfare to "neutralize adversary actions without resorting to weapons (through indirect actions), by exercising information superiority."

The trouble ambiguous warfare poses to NATO is that the alliance's collective-defense obligations, and the strategic doctrines pinned to them, call for responding to "armed" assaults. But Russian aggression against, say, Lithuania may not look like an outright assault. The Kremlin is more likely to use Russian-language media to agitate the country's ethnic-Russian population while debilitating basic state functions through cyberattacks and the deployment of irregular commands.

The Crimea operation provided a blueprint for such attacks, and the Atlantic alliance would be foolish not to update its doctrines to meet the new Russian threat known as NATO's "gray" conflict in Cardiff, Wales, in September. But no amount of doctrinal evolution will matter if NATO members continue to treat national defense as someone else's burden.

Get supplies, not GIs, to Ukraine The (Bowling Green, Ky.) Daily News

The situation in Ukraine is getting worse every day.

Pro-Russian rebels are destabilizing that country, and the latest reports are that the Russian military is sending in heavy military hardware such as heavy machine guns, tanks and anti-aircraft guns.

Russian officials deny they are backing pro-Russian rebels, but it is quite obvious from information on the ground that they are not being truthful.

The Russians have a lot of blood on their hands. While it has not been 100 percent clear, it is known that the surface-to-air missile that shot down a Malaysian passenger plane a few weeks ago was launched from an area controlled by Russian-backed separatists inside of Ukraine. The death toll from the incident is 289.

Some Ukrainian soldiers have been killed by these pro-Russian rebels as well.

The bottom line is the people of Ukraine need help. They are literally fighting for the survival of their country.

The government in Ukraine has asked for help and indicated it needs heavy weaponry to try to fend off pro-Russian rebels.

The U.S. has just given them meals, ready to eat, or MREs, night-vision goggles, canteens and bullet-proof vests. This is a nice gesture, but these are things that need help. They are literally fighting for the survival of their country.

We agree with President Barack Obama and other leaders that there should be no American boots on the ground in Ukraine, but we could give that nation such things as anti-aircraft guns, anti-tank weapons, heavy machine guns and artillery, ammunition, tanks and other types of hardware they need.

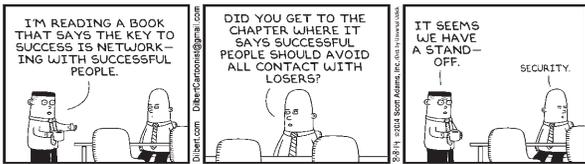
By doing so, we would be keeping boots off the ground, protecting an ally and showing Russia we will not tolerate its aggression on a sovereign nation.

We would also be giving the Ukrainian military a lifeline where it could prevail. They deserve a chance to defend themselves, but they need the necessary military hardware.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



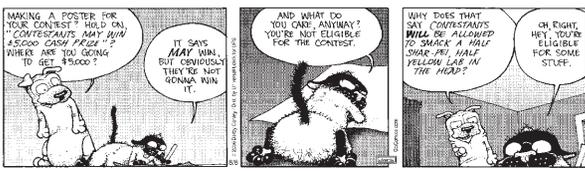
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Candorville



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
				35				36		37
38	39	40						41		42
								45		46
44								49		
47								48		50
52								53		54
55								56		57

- ACROSS**
- 1 Island greeting
 - 6 Outback runner
 - 9 Foundation
 - 12 Hawks' foes
 - 13 Arcs
 - 14 Baseball stat
 - 15 Luminaries
 - 16 Speech
 - 18 Country singer Tritt
 - 20 Competent
 - 21 J. Edgar's org.
 - 23 Karaoke need, for short
 - 24 Great fear
 - 25 Cupid's alias
 - 27 Shoe fasteners
 - 29 Fireplace shelf
 - 31 Entertained
 - 35 Friars Club honor
 - 37 Swizzle
 - 38 Inexperienced
 - 41 Charlotte's creation
 - 43 Whatever number
 - 44 Wander
 - 45 Buccaneer's pet
 - 47 Glee
 - 49 Operatic showstoppers
 - 52 Bygone time, in bygone time
 - 53 8-Ball need
 - 54 Baby bird?
 - 55 BamBI's Aunt Ema, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 Billboards
 - 2 Parcel of land
 - 3 Round of applause
 - 4 Frau's mate
 - 5 Tea variety from India
 - 6 Beethoven's Third
 - 7 Viking destination
 - 8 Actress Thurman
 - 9 Illegal payment
 - 10 African virus
 - 11 Ate in style
 - 17 Ankle
 - 19 Country estate
 - 21 Not masc.
 - 22 Bikini half
 - 24 Rep.'s rival
 - 26 Road
 - 28 Bring the food
 - 30 A billion years
 - 32 Depot
 - 33 "Ich bin — Berlin"
 - 34 Parched
 - 36 Steven Foster's river
 - 38 Midas' undoing
 - 39 Psychologist/author
 - 40 Dodge
 - 42 Audacious
 - 45 Serve tea
 - 46 "— take arms against ..."
 - 48 "Rocks"
 - 50 Exist
 - 51 Firmament

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-8 CRYPTOQUIP

EU JCT'XL WO CXPFCA COPEGP
 WOA JCTX PLLPF WXL HWABJ
 RXCCVLA, EBPFOV JCT
 GFCTBA HXWRL JCTXGLBU.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SINCE THE SUPERMARKET HAD SO MANY DIFFERENT PICKLE CHOICES, I FOUND MYSELF IN A DILL-EMMA.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals Y

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



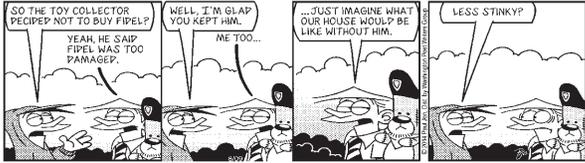
Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11						12					13	
14						15						
16				17		18			19			
20		21			22			23				
24				25		26		27				
				28		29		30				
31	32	33				34		35		36	37	38
39						40		41		42		
43						44		45		46		
47						48			49	50		
51									52			
									53			

ACROSS

- 1 Started
- 6 Human herbivore
- 11 Early release
- 12 Cameron movie
- 14 Garland
- 15 Distant
- 16 Some NFL players
- 17 Become established
- 19 Pinch
- 20 A util.
- 22 Commotion
- 23 "Whip lit" band
- 24 Missionary Junipero
- 26 OR stitching
- 28 Branch
- 30 React to gravity
- 31 Man of many words?

DOWN

- 1 Ornament of a sort
- 2 Pencil part
- 3 Deity
- 4 Hearty brews
- 5 Home of Hercules' lion
- 6 Sundry
- 7 Still
- 8 Group of whales
- 9 Repentant one
- 10 Indigenous
- 11 Rids of rind
- 13 Nonpayment
- 15 results, for short
- 18 Gridiron scores, for short
- 21 Unrefined
- 23 Exhumed
- 25 Illustrations
- 27 Middle X?
- 29 Explosive measure
- 31 Least desirable
- 32 Publishing turned into
- 33 Turpe into
- 34 Sinbad's bird
- 36 Sweet Spanish wine
- 37 Pre-refrigeration deliverers
- 38 Bottom
- 41 Bust
- 44 "Boe"
- 45 Logical
- 48 Suitcase
- 50 Trail the pack

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

8-9 CRYPTOQUIP

DJIWK IYW UMKHWKWK BKDOS
 YVU UFWHVDR VONVUVCVRVIA
 FMIVMO, YW DUSWB, "YDNW V
 XDBW XAUWRJ HRWDK?"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF YOU'RE AN ORTHODONTIST AND YOUR TEETH ARE BADLY CROOKED, I THINK YOU SHOULD BRACE YOURSELF.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: Y equals H

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Pontiac, Grand Prix GT, 2000

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Announcements 040

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

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

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

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

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

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

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

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

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

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

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

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



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

needs of their respective military communities.

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

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"Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –
Notable Narrative Winner
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(Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

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Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

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

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

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

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards –
Editorial Print /
Special Supplement: HEROES 2009;
Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

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

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

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

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award –
Ground Truth Series

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

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Iowa offensive lineman Brandon Scherff speaks to the media during Iowa's media day in Iowa City, Iowa. Scherff returned to the Hawkeyes despite being expected to be a first-round NFL draft pick.

OT Scherff working to be one of the best ever at Iowa

By LUKE MEREDITH
The Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Brandon Scherff garnered national attention in the most unlikely way imaginable — at least for an Iowa player.

Scherff went viral on Twitter.

Coach Kirk Ferentz doesn't even allow his players to use the social media site. But Hawkeyes strength and conditioning coach Chris Doyle posted a video last month of Scherff performing three lifts of 443 pounds from his knees to his shoulders as teammates watched in amazement.

It was a 30-second glimpse into why many consider Scherff the best lineman in the country.

The 6-foot-5, 320-pound senior's blend of strength and athleticism is why he's expected to be the third Iowa tackle in six years to be taken in the first round of the NFL draft. Scherff was expected to be a first-rounder after last season, but he surprised many by returning to school.

"I thought he was one of the better players you could find in college football a year ago. And we expect him to be a better player this year, and I think he expects that from himself," Ferentz said. "He's already awfully good, but I think he's got a chance to be one of the best players to ever play here."

Those who know Scherff best aren't surprised at how good he's become. Physical gifts aside, he has an intense work ethic, too.

Scherff grew up in Denison, a small town in western Iowa, playing nearly every sport his high school offered.

He was an all-state baseball player, an all-conference basketball player and a state champion in the shot put. He even earned a varsity letter for tennis as a freshman, but football was always Scherff's future.

Scherff was so athletic that Denison used him at quarterback as a sophomore, and as a junior he

caught five touchdown passes. He eventually grew into a star lineman, and by the start of 2012 he was Iowa's starting tackle.

Scherff broke his right fibula in a blowout loss to Penn State midway through that season, an injury that contributed to Iowa's late-year collapse. He bounced back in 2013, earning first-team All-Big Ten honors from league coaches.

"As strong as he is, the most impressive qualities when you look at him from a strength and conditioning standpoint is how athletic he is and how well he runs," said Doyle, who noted that Scherff's "hang clean" weights were the highest in his 16 years at Iowa.

Scherff played so well as a junior that nearly everyone assumed he'd jump to the NFL. But Scherff was always leaning toward staying for his senior season, and he confirmed that decision after a brief chat with Kirk and Brian Ferentz, the team's offensive line coach.

The move thrilled Scherff's head coach, who half-jokingly called him the most important recruit of the class of 2014.

"I can improve so much in all aspects. Run blocking, pass blocking. Just trying to become a better leader and a better player overall," Scherff said.

Scherff's progression from small-town recruit to a potential All-American will long be used as an example of why Iowa is one of the nation's top developmental programs.

But according to Brian Ferentz, Scherff's success is largely a product of his own skills and drive.

"For me to sit up there and pretend that I've coached him to do anything is kind of silly. Because, with all due respect to my wife, I think Brandon would be the same player if she was coaching him — and this isn't what she does for a living," Brian Ferentz said. "A lot of it is physical and what he's been blessed with. But the other part of that is the way he's embraced the work that it takes."

K-State's Snyder: 'college athletics has sold out'

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, Kan. — Bill Snyder ripped the big-time nature of college athletics as Kansas State opened fall camp Wednesday, lamenting the way universities have "sold out" in search of the almighty dollar.

During a lengthy oratory in which the 74-year-old coach planned to discuss the upcoming season, Snyder argued that TV has assumed too much control of college sports; education has become a second thought; and that the entire endeavor "distorts" the values of young people.

"It's changed. I mean, college athletics, football in particular, has changed dramatically over the years," Snyder said. "I think we've sold out. We're all about dollars and cents. The concept of college football no longer has any bearing on the quality of the person, the quality of students, universities are selling themselves out."

Snyder voiced his thoughts one day before the NCAA board of directors is to vote on a proposal giving the five wealthiest college football conferences — among them the Big 12, which counts Kansas State among its membership — the ability to make rules and pass legislation without the approval of the rest of Division I schools.

The autonomy proposal is expected to pass.

"It's no longer about education," Snyder said. "We've sold out to the cameras over there, and TV has made its way, and I don't fault TV. I don't fault whoever broadcasts games. They have to make a living and that's what they do, but athletics — that's it. It's sold out."

While the game changed dramatically from the days when Snyder played defensive back at tiny William Jewell to when he was hired as the coach of Kansas State in 1989, only in the last two decades have the changes picked up speed. Now, schools are building football palaces, coaches are paid millions of dollars and games are broadcast nearly every night of the week.

Kansas State is no different than the rest of them, either.

The Wildcats, who open their season Aug. 30, will play a high-profile Thursday night game against Auburn three weeks later. And it will be played in a stadium that recently underwent a \$90 million renovation, with another \$65 million in work scheduled to begin after the season.

"Everybody is building Taj Mahals," Snyder said, "and I think it sends the message and you young people today I think are more susceptible to the downside of that message, and that it's not about education. We're saying it is, but it's really about the glitz and the glitter, and I think sometimes values get distorted that way. I hate to think a young guy would make a decision about where he's going to get an education based on what a building looks like."

Yet across college sports, schools are in constant competition to do things bigger and bolder. Baylor is preparing to open a new, \$250 million football stadium this season. Oklahoma has received approval for \$370 million in upgrades to Memorial Stadium.

"Our professors — I have an office I could swim in. They're in a cubbyhole somewhere," Snyder said, "yet they go out and teach and promote education every day, and I value that."

Snyder, who has won 178 games in 22 seasons at Kansas State, also bemoaned the way schedules have bloated, not only in the number of games but the way they are played throughout the week.

When Snyder was a graduate assistant at Southern California in 1966, the Trojans opened the season on Sept. 17, played 10 games and were done with their regular season the Saturday after Thanksgiving. They played in the Rose Bowl on Jan. 2.

This year, Kansas State will play its third game on Sept. 18 and wrap its regular season on Dec. 6.

"Now tell me how that stuff happens. To me, that's not what football is about," Snyder said, shaking his head. "Now, that's only my opinion. I'm not upset with the people that promote some of that stuff because they're trying to do their thing. That's what they do. But I think we've lost sight of what college athletics is all about."

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AUTO RACING

Wallace earns induction into Motorsports HOF

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Former NASCAR driver Rusty Wallace was one of seven men inducted into the Motorsports Hall of Fame of America on Wednesday.

“I think my years in NASCAR were some of the best years NASCAR ever had,” Wallace said. “Places were mobbed out and sold out and I was winning a lot of races. People say, ‘You drove at a time when NASCAR was at its peak.’”

Wallace made his debut on the top circuit in 1980 in a Roger Penske-owned car and joined the series full-time in 1984. His first victories came in 1986 with Raymond Beadle’s Blue Max Racing team and he won the 1989 Sprint Cup championship after holding off Dale Earnhardt.

Wallace moved to Penske’s team in 1991 and ran the final 15 years of his career for the car owner, who presented him for induction Wednesday.

“He’s been an incredible mentor,” Wallace said. “I never had any car dealerships and I ran it by him for some advice and now I have seven of them.”

Wallace finished his career with 55 wins — 37 with Penske — and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2013. Five of those victories came at Michigan International Speedway, once owned by Penske.

His former car owner was happy to introduce Wallace on Wednesday.

“What he’s done for this sport and our team, we wouldn’t have what we have today without him,” Penske said. “He was one of the first drivers to really understand what it meant to keep a sponsor. Miller got in back then and it is still involved today. He was a driver, a technician, a marketer and a good friend.”

Arie Luyendyk, who began racing on the IndyCar circuit in 1985 and won the Indianapolis 500 in 1990 and ‘97, also was inducted. The Dutch-born driver’s winning average speed of 187.433 in his first Indy victory — at a time when Penske entries dominated at Indy — stood as a race record until 2013.

Like Wallace, he also looks back on his career as a good job of the sport.

“What I liked about the older days at Indy was you had different cars and different engines and not all the tight and close racing you see today,” he said. “It was about having the best tire, car, engine — a lot of things had to come together.”

“It’s not like today where everyone has the same car.”

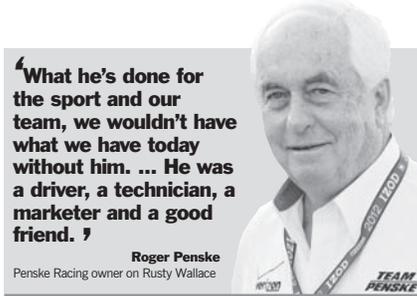
Drag racer and car owner Beadle had a heart attack last month in Texas. His son, Ryan, accepted the honor on his behalf.

The remaining members of the



JEFF SINER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Rusty Wallace, already a member of the NASCAR Hall of Fame, joined six others on Wednesday as the newest members of the Motorsports Hall of Fame. Wallace finished his career with 55 wins — 37 with Penske Racing — and was inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame in 2013.



“What he’s done for the sport and our team, we wouldn’t have what we have today without him. ... He was a driver, a technician, a marketer and a good friend. ”

Roger Penske

Penske Racing owner on Rusty Wallace

class — Ole Bardahl, founder of the Bardahl Oil Company that has sponsored entries in a variety of motorsports; IMSA founder John Bishop; three-time American Motorcyclist Association grand national champion Ricky Graham; and NASCAR pioneer Marshall Teague — are dead.

Teague’s widow, Mitzi, died Saturday at age 90. His daughter, Patty Teeters, came to Detroit on Wednesday to acknowledge her father’s induction.

The Hall of Fame, based in a suburb northwest of Detroit, will move to Daytona Beach, Fla., in January 2016.

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP

This week: Cheez-It 355 at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday Central European Time, 2 a.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Track: Watkins Glen International (road course, 2.45 miles).

Race distance: 220.5 miles, 90 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the third of his four 2013 victories.

Last week: Dale Earnhardt Jr. completed a season sweep at Pocono for his third victory of the year, closing the gap on points leader Jeff Gordon to 17 with five races left before the Chase.

Next race: Pure Michigan 400, Aug. 17, Michigan International Speedway, Brookline, Mich.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	757
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	740
3. Brad Keselowski	687
4. Matt Kenseth	662
5. Ryan Newman	642
6. Jimmie Johnson	633
7. Joey Logano	633
8. Carl Edwards	618
9. Clint Bowyer	617
10. Kyle Busch	611
11. Kevin Harvick	608
12. Kyle Larson	595
13. Greg Biffle	595
14. Kasey Kahne	589
15. Austin Dillon	588
16. Paul Menard	562
17. Marcos Ambrose	541
18. Brian Vickers	539
19. Tony Stewart	537
20. Jamie McMurray	536

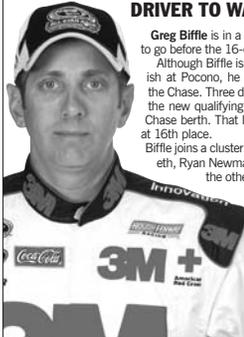
DRIVER TO WATCH

Greg Biffle is in a precarious place with just five races to go before the 16-driver field is set for the Chase.

Although Biffle is 13th in points after a fifth-place finish at Pocono, he is precariously close to not making the Chase. Three drivers with victories — a premium in the new qualifying format — will supersede him for a Chase berth. That leaves him as the last man standing at 16th place.

Biffle joins a cluster of five winless drivers — Matt Kenseth, Ryan Newman, Clint Bowyer and Kyle Larson are the others — jockeying for a playoff spot.

At 44, Biffle has been more of a Robin than Batman in the NASCAR Sprint Cup power grid. He has won titles in the Camping Truck and Nationwide Series this year, but has been unable to complete the championship trifecta.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Zippo 200 at Watkins Glen, N.Y.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8:15 p.m. Saturday CET; 3:15 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Watkins Glen International (road course, 2.45 miles).

Race distance: 200.9 miles, 82 laps.

Last year: Brad Keselowski raced to the fourth of his seven 2013 victories.

Last week: Keselowski won at Iowa Speedway, holding off Michael McDowell.

Next race: Nationwide Children’s Hospital 200, Aug. 16, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio.

Online: nascar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: Careers for Veterans 200, Aug. 16, Michigan International Speedway, Brookline, Mich.

Last week: Austin Dillon won at Pocono in a green-white-checked finish.

Online: nascar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Lucas Oil Nationals, Aug. 14-17, Brainerd International Raceway, Brainerd, Minnesota.

Last week: John Force won the NHRA Northwest Nationals in Kent, Washington, for his third Funny Car victory of the season and record 141st overall. Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel, and Jason Line topped the Pro Stock division.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

TUDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP: Continental Tire Road Race Showcase, Sunday (Fox Sports 1, 6:30-9:30 p.m.), Road America, Elkhart Lake, Wis.

Online: imsa.com

ARCA RACING SERIES: Federated Auto Parts, Saturday, Berlin Raceway, Marne, Mich.

Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Knoxville Nationals, Saturday, Knoxville Raceway, Knoxville, Iowa. Super DirtCar: Hall of Fame 100, Thursday, Weedsport Speedway, Weedsport, N.Y.

Online: www.worldofoutlaws.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Belgian Grand Prix, Aug. 24, Spa-Francorchamps Circuit, Spa-Francorchamps, Belgium.

Last race: Red Bull’s Daniel Ricciardo won the Hungarian Grand Prix on July 27 for his second victory of the season. Ferrari’s Fernando Alonso was second.

Online: formula1.com

NFL

Circuit: Sideline tablets will only show pictures ... for now

FROM BACK PAGE

Indianapolis Colts tight end Dwayne Allen, though, suggested that allowing video would improve the sport by making games even more competitive. And just as instant replay, once revolutionary, is now widely accepted and has been expanded over the years, the same could take place with the tablets. Adding video is possible in the future, NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said.

That would need to go through the league's competition committee, just as the introduction of tablets did. The NFL signed a sponsorship deal with Microsoft last year, which includes the standard promotions of sticking the league's logo on products and a more sophisticated collaboration of making NFL content available on Xbox.

But the company also became a sort of bonus IT department, engineering its Surface tablets to withstand the rigors of the NFL sideline. Searing heat in Arizona. Pouring rain in Seattle. Frigid cold in Green Bay. The screens had to be viewable in the glare of the sun.

And the devices couldn't be vulnerable to hacking — a real concern in a league famous for paranoid coaches, where the term "Spygate" was spawned.

The tablets will be locked in a temperature-controlled cart by the NFL during the week. They'll operate on a secure wireless network in stadiums.

The specialized tablets come in a protective case with an attached grip to make holding it easier. There will be 13 on each sideline and another 12 in the coaches' box. Other than that, the only people on the sideline allowed to carry digital devices are the medical staff.

Players and coaches can zoom in on each photo and write on it, either with their finger or an attached stylus.

Sometimes with the old paper printouts, New York Jets coach Rex Ryan recalled, "you'd get them back and you're like, 'Man, what is this?'"



DAVID RICHARD/AP

New York Giants tight ends coach Kevin Gilbride uses a Microsoft Surface tablet on the sidelines at the Pro Football Hall of Fame preseason game against the Buffalo Bills last Sunday in Canton, Ohio.



MICROSOFT, ORANGE LV HOLDINGS LLC/AP

Surface tablets are shown inside the temperature-controlled cart they will be stored in by the NFL during the week.

“This should be a lot nicer and the quality a heck of a lot better.”

Rex Ryan

New York Jets head coach

“This should be a lot nicer and the quality a heck of a lot better,” he said.

The old paper system will remain in place, both as a backup in case the technology fails, and for those coaches and players who don't want to switch.

“I'm old school,” said Ravens defensive coordinator Dean Pees, who watches games from upstairs and figures he'll keep using the hard copies because they work fine for his needs.

Still, the NFL's McCarthy predicts even the most old-school coaches — and the league has plenty — might be swayed if they suspect the other team is gaining an advantage. The photos will arrive to the tablets in a few seconds, and getting them even a half-minute faster is worth it to these ultra-competitive men who constantly seek the slimmest of edges.

Consider if the Ravens defense makes a stop, but then the offense immediately commits a turnover.

The tablet may be the difference in Baltimore's defensive players seeing some photos of the previous series before they run back onto the field.

Washington Redskins offensive coordinator Sean McVay said the tablets would also speed up looking for, say, first-half plays during the fourth quarter.

“I'm all for trying anything new,” said Denver Broncos offensive coordinator Adam Gase, “and if it can help us in any way, adjust that.”

If the tablets malfunction for one team before the game, then they're disabled for both clubs. But if they crash after kickoff, the other squad can keep using them, to prevent coaches from pretending that the devices aren't working in an attempt to gain an advantage in a game that's not going well.

The preseason offers teams a chance to test and grow comfortable with the new technology before the games start counting, and for the league and Microsoft to work out any kinks.

“Some of us dinosaurs don't change easily, but I think it has a chance to be a benefit,” said Miami Dolphins coach Joe Philbin, whose staff plans to use the tablets exclusively during one exhibition as a trial run.

Many of the players, of course, have been tapping on high-tech gadgets since they were kids. Teams are using them more and more during the week.

Under Whisenhunt, for instance, the Titans have added iPads for playbooks and an extra camera in the end zone during practice for extra angles.

But on Sundays, for now, the NFL is inching forward.

“Like anything, whether it's a new vacuum cleaner or a new car, you've got to get used to it,” St. Louis Rams general manager Les Snead said.

“Just because you can watch YouTube movies on your iPad,” he added, “doesn't mean it's going to happen that fast.”

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NFL

Bills' Spiller out to prove critics wrong

By JOHN WAWROW
The Associated Press

PITTSFORD, N.Y. — Don't think for an instant that C.J. Spiller failed to notice several of his critics last season who began referring to him as a "one-year wonder."

The Buffalo Bills' running back took names, and says he's ready to produce the stats in a bid to prove his doubters wrong, once and for all.

"Oh yeah, it's definitely a fire burning. I haven't forgotten what was written out there."



Spiller

Spiller told The Associated Press following a recent practice in training camp. "I've got my axe ready to chip away some wood."

Spiller's defiance is a reflection of the motivation he has entering his fifth season in what's been an up-and-down career in Buffalo since being drafted with the ninth pick out of Clemson.

After having difficulty establishing a niche during his first two seasons in Buffalo, Spiller enjoyed a breakout year in 2012. That's when he earned his first and only Pro Bowl selection after becoming only the NFL's seventh player to average 6-plus yards a carry by finishing with 1,244 yards on 207 attempts.

Spiller's average was a fraction of an inch behind league leader, Minnesota's Adrian Peterson. And it led Spiller to raise his expectations by suggesting a 2,000-yard season was not out of reach last season.



BILL WIPPERT/AP

Buffalo Bills running back C.J. Spiller runs past safety Aaron Williams during training camp drills in Pittsford, N.Y. Spiller is aware of what the critics wrote about him last year. The worst was when he was called a "one-year wonder," without taking into account that Spiller was hampered by a sprained ankle. Saying he's healthy, Spiller entered training camp this season ready to prove his doubters wrong.

Unfortunately, the chances of that happening were derailed from the start.

Spiller was dealing with off-field issues last August, when his step-grandfather shot and killed two people before killing himself in Florida. Then he was undone by injuries by first straining his right quadriceps, before being

hobbled by a high ankle sprain that never had time to heal.

He finished with 933 yards rushing and was limited to 10 starts in 15 games.

"Obviously, I wish I wouldn't have gotten hurt. But that's one of the things that just happen," Spiller said, assessing the year. "But to be able to do what I was

able to do with me just having one healthy leg, I thought it was very impressive."

Fully healed, Spiller is eager to show he's regained his powerful stride.

"I feel 100 percent," he said.

The Bills are counting on that, because Spiller remains an integral part of their offense's

strength: the run game.

Despite injuries to Spiller and co-starter Fred Jackson, the Bills still finished second in the NFL with 2,307 yards rushing — Buffalo's highest total since 1992.

The Bills also spent the offseason adding depth to their backfield by acquiring Bryce Brown in a trade with Philadelphia, and signing Anthony Dixon in free agency.

The additions were made to provide insurance against injuries. What they've also done is led to some speculation about Spiller being expendable because he's entering the final year of his contract.

Spiller dismissed the questions. "One thing I've learned is that you can't believe everything out there, and I don't," he said. "I'm a Buffalo Bill through and through. I love this place. This organization loves me. I'm here until further notice."

Offensive coordinator Nathaniel Hackett foresees Spiller playing a big role in Buffalo this season.

"When you have a player like C.J., you want to get him out there a whole bunch," Hackett said. "He's a great player, and we have to feature him just like we have to feature a lot of guys."

The Bills are being careful in keeping Spiller fresh for the regular season by limiting his playing time in practice and preseason games. Spiller had just one carry for 2 yards in a 17-13 preseason-opening loss to the New York Giants on Sunday.

Spiller's ready, and still stung by what some people wrote or said about him last year.

"That's what people get paid to write," Spiller said. "I definitely remember what was written. And I won't forget it."

Cornerback depth concerns Lions

By LARRY LAGE
TheAssociated Press

ALLEN PARK, Mich. — The Detroit Lions appear to be thin on talent at cornerback, counting on veteran Rashean Mathis and second-year pro Darius Slay to be starters.

Behind them, only Cassius Vaughn has significant experience in the NFL. "Every team can't be balanced," Mathis said after Tuesday's practice. "If people think we're a weakness now, hopefully they change their mind by the end of the season."

Detroit's cornerbacks will face opponents for the first time this year on Saturday night at home against the Cleveland Browns in an exhibition game.

Mathis believes Slay is ready to be a first-string player in his second season, replacing Chris Houston, who was cut in June because the team did not know when he would recover from foot surgery.

"He's up for the challenge," Mathis said. "Once he has the fire under his feet, we'll see how he reacts because

he'll be facing some of the most talented players in the world. Last year, it was easy to get him to waver because he was a rookie.

"That's part of growing and knowing that the best corner in the world — Deion Sanders — got beat sometimes."

Slay, a second-round pick last year, started the first two games of his NFL career and two games late in the season. He responded, "Oh yeah," when asked if he was eager to be in the spotlight opposite Mathis. After some growing pains, getting down on himself after giving up receptions, he feels ready to compete against the best.

"I'm stronger, faster and smarter," Slay said.

The Lions decided not to commit a lot of money toward improving their situation at cornerback during the offseason, re-signing Mathis to a one-year deal in April, and adding Vaughn and Aaron Hester as free agents.

Detroit did not draft a cornerback until the fourth round when it selected Utah State standout Nevin Lawson with the No. 133 pick overall.

"I'm in a great position with an op-

portunity to get a fair shot to get on the field," Lawson said. "They drafted me, expecting me to produce and not just sit."

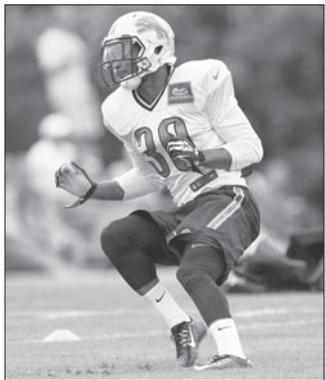
The Lions drafted three cornerbacks two years ago, taking Bill Bentley in the third, Chris Greenwood the fifth and Jonte Green the sixth. And, none of them have panned out.

When Slay walked off the field Monday with a neck injury, Vaughn replaced him. He was not surprised to get the nod after starting in 18 games over his first four seasons in the league with Indianapolis and Denver.

"I don't see myself as anybody's backup," Vaughn said. "I have been a starter in this league and I can still be if there's an opportunity. But it's about our unit, and we're going to be one of the best in the league."

Vaughn knows no one outside of the organization may agree with him.

"There's no reason we can't be a top-10 unit," he said. "When you start winning, people will hush their mouths. I like our talent and we have a lot of young guys who are hungry to show what they can do."



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

Detroit Lions cornerback Darius Slay runs through drills during the team's training camp session in Allen Park, Mich., on Tuesday. The Lions appear thin on talent at cornerback, counting on veteran Rashean Mathis and second-year pro Slay in the starting lineup.

NFL

Cooks gives Saints another weapon

By **BRETT MARTEL**
The Associated Press

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. — New Orleans Saints rookie Brandin Cooks has been getting some extra sprints in during practice — often with the ball in his hands as he speeds away from would-be tacklers.

The receiver's growing collection of training camp highlights has the Saints increasingly optimistic that their latest first-round pick will be an immediate, additional threat in a receiving game led primarily by Marques Colston and tight end Jimmy Graham.

"He's good, man. He does a lot of the little things well, and that's rare for a rookie coming right in,"



Preseason
New Orleans at St. Louis
AFN-Sports
2 a.m. Saturday CET
9 a.m. Saturday JKT

Saints safety Jairus Byrd said Tuesday after practice. "He's making beyond his years."

The 20-year-old Cooks, who caught a pass in the end zone during red zone work on Tuesday,

looked relaxed and confident as he discussed his transition to the NFL from Oregon State, where he caught 128 passes for 1,730 yards and 16 touchdowns last season.

"I feel good. It's football," Cooks said. "I just come out here and have fun and do what I do best and be a playmaker and learn from older guys."

Cooks' speed has been as good as advertised since he ran the 40-yard dash in 4.33 seconds at the NFL scouting combine last winter.

"He can run. It is our job to get him in space and let him do that," coach Sean Payton said. "There will be a handful of things we have to do to get him touches, whether it is through the passing game, whether it is through hand-offs, bubble screens — he has some versatility."

Cooks is also joining an offense that will make it difficult to slow him down. Graham and Colston combined for 161 receptions and 2,158 yards last season.

Asked about the advantages of lining up with Graham, Cooks said, "Come on, the guy's probably going to get triple coverage every game. So that lets guys like me and other receivers out there ... make plays out in space, one-on-one."

In the early days of camp, No. 1 quarterback Drew Brees connected with Cooks for several long gains on an array of short and deep passes during 11-on-11 drills.

"Watching his explosive ability to just navigate those blocks and hit a seam — if he hits the seam, he's gone," Brees said. "He's got short-area quickness, great transition ability, and phenomenal straight-line speed."

Cooks worked out with Brees in California this summer, and the rapport they developed has been obvious since camp began. But since Brees strained a muscle in his abdomen last Friday, Cooks has continued to be a favorite target of reserve quarterbacks.



CHRIS TILLEY/AP

New Orleans wide receiver Brandin Cooks runs with the ball during training camp Thursday in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

"It's awesome. A 5-yard out, he's able to take to the house," quarterback Ryan Griffin said. "He's a weapon that we're going to be able to use this year."

During an intra-squad scrimmage over the weekend, Cooks had six catches for more than 100 yards, making a falling 40-yard catch on a deep throw and later turning a short catch along the

sideline into a touchdown of about 30 yards.

"When you're guarding a guy like that, you've got to make sure that your shoes are very tight because he will probably leave you out of your shoes," cornerback Keenan Lewis said. "That's a guy who has been working extremely hard, and I'm excited to see what he'll do."



CHRIS TILLEY/AP

New Orleans receiver Brandin Cooks tries to break a tackle attempt.

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NFL

Running back Jamaal Charles' new contract extension adds about \$18.1 million to his deal and will keep him with the Kansas City Chiefs through the 2017 season.

DAVID EULITT,
KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT

KC to Canton

Chiefs RB Charles sets sights on reaching the Hall of Fame

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

AT SOME POINT this season, likely within the first couple of games, Jamaal Charles will slide past Larry Johnson and breeze past Priest Holmes to become the Chiefs' career rushing leader.

It's a goal, sure. But it's only a rest-stop on the way to loftier expectations.

After arguably the best season of his career and now armed with a new contract extension, Charles has his sights set on the Hall of Fame. The two-time All-Pro running back wants his name to be mentioned in the same breath as Emmitt Smith and Barry Sanders, players he grew up idolizing in Port Arthur, Texas, and who will forever be considered some of the best to play the game.

"It's all about staying consistent," Charles said. "I want to be in the Hall of Fame when I retire. I want to win a championship. That's what it's all about."

The Chiefs certainly want him to accomplish all of that with them. When he was putting up Madden-like numbers last season, including a dazzling five-touchdown performance against Oakland, the franchise was quietly reaching out to his agents about a contract extension. They knew there was no way Charles would play for the relatively paltry sum that he was making, so they were proactive in working out a way to fairly compensate him.

The negotiations finally became public as training camp approached, and the deal was consum-

Gaining ground



Jamaal Charles is third on the Kansas City Chiefs' all-time rushing leaders and needs just 248 yards this season to become the team's all-time leader, surpassing Priest Holmes (statistics also include yardage gained while members of

franchise's days in the American Football League (Dallas Texans, 1960-62 and Kansas City Chiefs (1963-69)).

Player	Years	At	Yds	Avg	TD
Priest Holmes	2001-05-07	1,321	6,070	4.59	76
Larry Johnson	2003-09	1,375	6,015	4.37	55
Jamaal Charles	2008-active	1,043	5,823	5.58	29
Christian Okoye	1987-92	1,246	4,897	3.93	40
Ed Podolak	1970-77	1,157	4,451	3.85	34

Source: kcchiefs.com

mated the day before Charles was to step on the field for the first full-squad workout.

The new deal adds about \$18.1 million to Charles' contract, but more importantly to him, keeps him in Kansas City through the 2017 season. And if he matches his production of last season, which included more than 1,200 yards rushing, four more years would mean eclipsing 10,000 for his career — more than Hall of Famers such as Earl Campbell, another product of Texas.

"Jamaal is our best player," said linebacker Derrick Johnson, who works out with Charles in the off-season. "He's a guy that we look up to. We put a lot of pressure on him to be our horse."

More than just a horse in Andy Reid's offense, though.

In the world of the NFL running back, where versatility is in high demand, Charles has become one of the game's most dynamic players. The Vikings' Adrian Peterson may remain the best pure runner in the league, but Charles proved last season that he can do much more than that, catching a career-best 70 passes for 693 yards and seven touchdowns.

"When it's in the heat of the battle, and it's kind of crunch time, you want your guys on the field, and that's the bottom line," Chiefs offensive coordinator Doug Pederson said. "Jamaal's a part of that and he's going to be on the football field regardless of how many touches he's had early in the game, or how many plays he has leading up to that point."

Besides, how else is he to continue his rapid climb in the record books?

Charles needs 248 yards rushing and 333 carries to become the Chiefs' career leader in each of the categories. He needs to merely maintain his average of 5.6 yards per carry to shatter the NFL's career mark of 5.22, held since 1965 by Hall of Famer Jim Brown.

Charles would turn 32 in December of the final year of his contract extension, a relatively advanced age for his position. But asked whether he'll be able to play out his deal, Charles had no doubts.

"I'm still fresh, I'm still feeling good," he said. "If I continue to work hard, I can go far. My philosophy is that hard work pays off. If I continue to work hard, things can still come to me."

"It's all about staying consistent. I want to be in the Hall of Fame when I retire. I want to win a championship. That's what it's all about."

Jamaal Charles
Kansas City Chiefs running back

MLB

Scoreboard

American League

	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
Baltimore	61	49	.556	—
Toronto	51	54	.486	4 1/2
New York	50	54	.482	5
Tampa Bay	50	59	.452	9 1/2
Boston	48	60	.444	11
Central Division				
Detroit	59	49	.559	—
Kansas City	59	53	.527	3 1/2
Cleveland	57	53	.519	4
Chicago	56	60	.478	9
Minnesota	46	61	.435	11 1/2
West Division				
Oakland	69	44	.611	—
Los Angeles	67	46	.593	2
Seattle	59	54	.522	10
Houston	57	52	.521	10 1/2
Texas	45	69	.395	24 1/2

National League

	W	L	Pct	GB
East Division				
Washington	51	56	.450	—
Atlanta	56	56	.500	4
Miami	58	58	.500	6 1/2
New York	54	60	.474	8
Philadelphia	50	60	.455	11
Central Division				
Milwaukee	52	54	.489	—
St. Louis	60	52	.536	—
Pittsburgh	60	52	.531	1 1/2
Cincinnati	58	56	.509	4
Chicago	64	49	.565	13
West Division				
Los Angeles	69	50	.585	—
San Francisco	67	52	.564	2 1/2
San Diego	59	61	.490	12
Arizona	49	69	.413	27 1/2
Colorado	45	68	.398	19

Tuesday's games
 Detroit 4, N.Y. Yankees 3, 12 innings
 Baltimore 7, Toronto 1
 Minnesota 3, San Diego 1
 Texas 16, Chicago White Sox 0
 Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0
 Cincinnati 4, Cleveland 3
 Philadelphia 2, Houston 1, 15 innings
 Miami 6, Pittsburgh 3
 N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 1
 Minnesota 3, San Diego 1
 Milwaukee 4, San Francisco 3
 St. Louis 3, Boston 2
 Seattle 4, Atlanta 2
 Kansas City 12, Arizona 2

Wednesday's games
 L.A. Dodgers 5, L.A. Angels 4
Thursday's games
 Texas 3, Chicago White Sox 1
 Tampa Bay 7, Oakland 3
 N.Y. Yankees 5, Detroit 1
 Toronto 5, Baltimore 4
 San Diego 5, Minnesota 4, 10 innings
 Seattle 7, Atlanta 3
 Philadelphia 10, Houston 3
 Pittsburgh 7, Miami 3
 Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 1
 Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 3
 San Francisco 7, Milwaukee 4
 Boston 2, St. Louis 1
 Colorado 4, Chicago Cubs 4
 Kansas City 4, Arizona 3
 L.A. Dodgers 2, L.A. Angels 1

Friday's games
 Tampa Bay (Archer 7-8) @ Chicago Cubs (Wade 1-1)
 Cleveland (Gauer 4-6) @ N.Y. Yankees (Ungedick)
 St. Louis (Masterson 1-0) @ Baltimore (Tillman 8-11)
 N.Y. Yankees (Sanchez 8-5) @ Toronto (Dickey 9-1)
 Chicago White Sox (Bumgarner 13-8) @ Kansas City (J.Vargas 8-5)
 Texas (Mikolas 1-4) @ Houston (Oberholzer 4-7)
 Boston (Webster 1-1) @ L.A. Angels (Weaver 12-6)
 Minnesota (Gibson 10-8) @ Oakland (Munoz 4-4)
 Chicago White Sox (Quintana 6-7) @ San Francisco (Lincecum 11-11)
 N.Y. Mets (Colton 10-9) @ Philadelphia (Feltner 6-11)
 San Diego (Suits 4-13) @ Pittsburgh (Morgan 6-6)
 Miami (Eovaldi 5-6) @ Cincinnati (Leake 6-6)
 San Francisco (Strassburg 8-9) @ Atlanta (E.Santana 10-6)
 L.A. Dodgers (Beckett 6-6) @ Milwaukee (Lohse 11-6)
 Cleveland (Matzek 2-6) @ Arizona (CAnderson 6-4)

Saturday's games
 St. Louis @ Baltimore
 Detroit @ Chicago Cubs
 N.Y. Mets @ Philadelphia
 San Francisco @ Pittsburgh
 L.A. Dodgers @ Milwaukee
 Miami @ Cincinnati
 San Diego @ Kansas City
 Washington @ Atlanta
 Cleveland @ N.Y. Yankees
 Toronto @ Houston
 Texas @ Los Angeles
 Minnesota @ Oakland
 Chicago White Sox @ Seattle

Sunday's games
 Miami @ Cincinnati
 N.Y. Mets @ Philadelphia
 San Diego @ Pittsburgh
 L.A. Dodgers @ Milwaukee
 St. Louis @ Baltimore
 San Francisco @ Kansas City
 Cleveland @ Chicago Cubs
 Colorado @ Arizona
 Washington @ Atlanta

Capuano outpitches Verlander as Yankees rally to beat Tigers

By DOUG GOULD
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The New York Yankees are outpitching some of baseball's best pitchers.

Facing the third successive Cy Young recipient in the last three games, the Yankees rode a superior performance from starter Chris Capuano and Adam Warren to a 5-1 victory over Justin Verlander and the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday night, their second win in the series.

Capuano allowed five hits and an unearned run with eight strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings, leaving with the game tied at 1. Warren (2-5) worked out of an eighth-inning jam created by a walk and two errors after the Yankees had taken a 2-1 lead on Brian McCann's homer in the seventh.

"I've seen him do this before and that was one of the reasons we went and got him," manager Joe Girardi said of Capuano, who has gone at least six innings in all three of his starts since being acquired from the Rockies on July 24th. "If I'm not mistaken, he did it to us last year here. He does know how to pitch, and he gave us a great performance tonight."

Chase Headley also homered for the Yankees, whose streak of 16 consecutive games decided by two-or-fewer runs ended when they broke out for three runs in the eighth against reliever Blaine Hardy.

Mark Teixeira injured his hand when he was spiked by catcher Bryan Holaday while scoring the Yankees' final run on a slide at home plate. Teixeira, called out by home plate umpire Tom Wodolny but ruled safe on a no-call, sustained a deep cut near his left pinky and will not play in Thursday's matinee finale of the four-game set.

"It (the cut) was pretty bad," said Teixeira, who was replaced at first base in the ninth by Headley. "I took one look and looked away. Steve (trainer Steve Donohue) rushed me up here, we got it cleaned up and got the stitches in there."

"You play hard, that's what happens. I'm just happy about the win. It was a great team win."

As they did in Tuesday's 4-3 victory, the Tigers scored in the first inning via the sacrifice fly, with Rajai Davis reaching on Derek Jeter's error.

That was all Detroit could generate against Capuano, Warren and David Huff, who pitched a perfect ninth.

"He was changing speeds, heights, location," Tigers third baseman Nick Castellanos said about Capuano. "He wasn't really giving anybody the same looks two times in a row. If he thought you were leaning, kind of diving for that changeup, you'd get a heater in. Both McCann and Capuano



KATHY WILLENS/AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Chris Capuano allowed five hits and one unearned run with eight strikeouts in 6 2/3 innings against the Detroit Tigers on Wednesday at Yankee Stadium in New York. The Yankees rallied to beat the Tigers 5-1 and former Cy Young Award winner Justin Verlander.

'I've seen him do this before and that was one of the reasons we went and got him.'

Joe Girardi
 N.Y. Yankees manager
 on Chris Capuano

had a great night tonight." Verlander (10-10) retired the first 11 Yankees he faced before surrendering a two-out single to center by Jacoby Ellsbury in the fourth.

"If I can pitch like that moving forward, there are going to be a whole lot of positive outcomes to come," Verlander said after allowing two runs on five hits in seven innings. "You've got to stay positive, and tonight there were a lot of positives to build off for me going forward: changeup, curveball,

fastball location. There were a lot of things that were much better than they have been."

Headley deposited a 2-2 fastball into the right-field stands with out in the fifth for his ninth homer and second as a Yankee to tie it at 1, and it remained deadlocked until McCann belted his 13th homer on a 1-2 pitch with one out in the seventh.

"I'm not going to dwell on two homers," said Verlander, who allowed five hits and one walk with five strikeouts in seven innings. "Headley's was gone anywhere. McCann's probably not in a lot of places, but, overall it was a good game."

The Yankees made four errors — two by Stephen Drew in just his sixth game at second base — but both Capuano and Warren picked off their fielders with key outs.

Jeter singled in the sixth inning and needs one hit to tie Honus Wagner (3,430) for sixth place on the career all-time list.

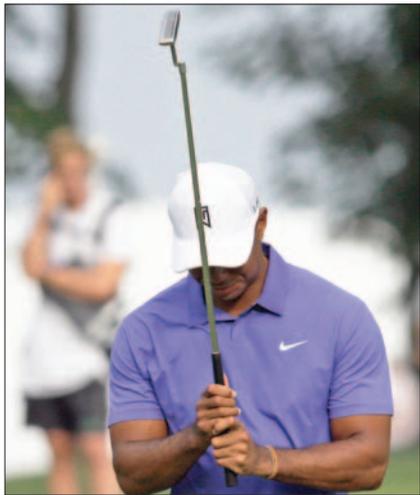
Trainer's room

Yankees' Michael Pineda, who has missed exactly half the season with a right shoulder muscle injury, will make his second rehab appearance Friday at Scranton. Girardi indicated Pineda's return might be accelerated. "He's probably available to go somewhere between 75 to 80 (pitches). Then we'll see where we're at," Girardi said.

Tigers' Right fielder Torii Hunter was listed as day-to-day after being hit on the left hand by Delin Betances' pitch in the ninth inning Tuesday night. Hunter said he had a ruptured blood vessel and had a difficult time sleeping last night, but was relieved nothing was broken. "I'd rather deal day-to-day than have a couple weeks off," he said before Wednesday's game. "If (the pitch) just backed up, I guess it just slipped out of his hand or something like that and stayed in on me."

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP/NBA

Woods struggles through first round



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Tiger Woods reacts to his putt on the 10th hole during the first round of the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club on Thursday.

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Maybe Tiger Woods should have stayed at home.

Looking much like a guy playing just his 11th competitive round since back surgery, Woods was spraying shots all over Valhalla and playing himself out of contention at the PGA Championship before heavy favorite Rory McIlroy even teed off Thursday.

Woods yanked one shot into the gallery, and put another into a creek.

"Oh, for ... sake, Tiger!" he yelled at himself on No. 2, muttering an obscenity after sending his tee shot near a creek, leading to a one-stroke penalty.

Woods underwent surgery March 31 and missed the first two majors of the year. He returned in time for the British Open, but struggled to his worst 72-hole finish in a major. Then he withdrew from the World Golf Championship at Firestone just four days ago after taking an awkward swing, hurting his back again.

He finally arrived at the PGA on Wednesday — with live television showing Woods parking his car and tying his golf shoes — and proclaimed himself fit.

It sure didn't look that way.

Starting on the back side, Woods bogeyed both of the par-3s after missing the green, though he did salvage an unlikely birdie at the 16th by holing out a wedge from more than 100 feet away.

But he missed a chance to make up more ground at the easy 18th, knocking his drive into a fairway bunker at the par-5 hole, and things really took a turn for the worse after Woods made the turn.

He just couldn't find any accuracy off the tee.

Woods drove one into a native area at the first, leading to a bogey. Then came another poor drive at the second, forcing him to take a drop and settle for his fourth bogey in 11 holes.

He was 3 over for the round and eight shots behind the early leaders.

Lee Westwood and Kevin Chappell shot 6-under 65 to share the early lead. Edoardo Molinari was two shots back. No one else was closer than three shots off the lead.

Ryder Cup hopeful Brendon Todd and perennial major contender Rickie Fowler led a group of players at 3 under.

This was a big week for Todd, who was 12th in the Ryder Cup standings and looking to push his way into an automatic spot at the

final qualifying event. The top nine after Sunday will make the team, before captain Tom Watson fills out his roster with three wild-card picks.

Fowler has finished in the top five at the first three majors this year, but is still seeking his first championship. He was runner-up at both the U.S. Open and British Open.

Phil Mickelson, playing in the same group as Woods for one of the rare times at a major, was 1 over. Lefty was just out of the mix for a Ryder Cup spot, though it's expected he would be a captain's choice if he doesn't qualify. Mickelson hasn't won in nearly 13 months, since his victory at the 2013 British Open.

This is his longest drought since 2003.

Everyone seemed to be chasing McIlroy, who was the overwhelming favorite coming off wins at the British Open and at Firestone. The three-time major champion had an afternoon tee time.

One player who won't be winning: Matt Kuchar, who withdrew just before teeing off because of back spasms.

John Huh took Kuchar's place and joined the threesome with Louis Oosthuizen and Justin Rose.

Sources: Cavs set to deal for PF Love

By TOM WITHERS
AND JON KRACZYNSKI
The Associated Press

Kevin Love isn't on his way to Cleveland just yet, but it won't be long before LeBron James has a new All-Star teammate with him on the Cavaliers.

Minnesota and Cleveland have agreed in principle to a trade that will send Love to the Cavaliers for Andrew Wiggins, Anthony Bennett and a first-round draft pick, two people with knowledge of the deal told The Associated Press on Thursday. They spoke on condition of anonymity because no official agreement can be reached until Aug. 23, when Wiggins, this year's No. 1 draft pick, becomes eligible to be traded.

By that point, the deal could be expanded to include a third team, according to one of the people familiar with the talks. The Timberwolves have had discussions with the Philadelphia 76ers about acquiring forward Thaddeus Young to help fill Love's shoes. The Wolves could use the first-round pick they get from the Cavaliers to help entice the Sixers to part with the 26-year-old Young, but talks continue on that front, the person said.

For now, the deal will unite Love, LeBron James and Kyrie Irving in a new-look Big 3 in Cleveland and give the long-suffering

sports town a realistic chance for its first title in 50 years.

James is the best player in the NBA, Irving is an All-Star and the

25-year-old Love is coming off his best season, one in which he averaged 26.1 points, 12.5 rebounds and 4.4 assists. He is the top "stretch 4"

— a power forward who can rebound and shoot three-pointers — in the game, but all of his offensive gifts haven't been enough to get the Timberwolves into the playoffs in the rugged Western Conference.

Love can opt out of his contract next summer, and the three-time All-Star made it clear to the Timberwolves that he was looking to join a contender after missing the postseason for six seasons in Minnesota.



Wiggins



Bennett



ANN HEISENFELD/AP

Two people with knowledge of the deal tell The Associated Press that Minnesota and Cleveland have agreed to a trade that will send All-Star forward Kevin Love (42) to the Cavaliers for Andrew Wiggins, Anthony Bennett and a future first-round draft pick. No official agreement can be reached until Aug. 23, when Wiggins, this year's No. 1 draft pick, becomes eligible to be traded.

The Cavaliers talked with the Timberwolves before the draft about bringing Love in, but his camp made it clear to owner Dan Gilbert and the Cavs front office that he wasn't interested in signing a long-term contract with a young and unproven team that had not made the playoffs since 2010.

Then James left Miami for home, changing everything for Love, who teamed up with the

four-time MVP to win the gold medal at the London Olympics.

Wiggins has been working out at a non-Cavaliers location and his representatives have already begun researching possible endorsement opportunities for him in Minnesota, according to a person with knowledge of those pursuits. That person spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity because the deals have not been completed.

The Wolves and Cavs have been in agreement on Love and Wiggins being the primary pieces of a trade for some time, the people with knowledge of the deal said. One told AP the Cavaliers have not had any discussions on a contract value or length for Love.

Love withdrew from his planned participation with Team USA at the FIBA World Cup of Basketball to avoid an injury that could derail the deal.

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

THE LONG GAME

PGA host courses that end with par 5

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky.

The typical closing hole for major championships is a long, challenging par 4 that makes it difficult for someone to protect his lead with par.

The most exciting closing holes are the par 5s.

It's rare to have two majors in one year that end with a par 5 — Pebble Beach and Valhalla in 2000, for example — and even rarer to have back-to-back majors end with a par 5. Royal Liverpool is the only links course on the Open rotation that ends in a par 5.

There wasn't much exciting at Hoylake the past two times because Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy had the tournament in hand.

Valhalla is a different. It was the decisive hole in the past two PGA Championships here, both times in a playoff. In fact, just about every time the PGA Championship is held on a course that ends with a par 5, that becomes the decisive hole.

Here are five of them:

5. SIWANOOY

The inaugural PGA Championship was held in 1916 at Siwanoy Country Club in New York, and it turned into a dandy championship match between Jim Barnes and Jock Hutchison that was decided on the last hole.

Hutchison led most of the 36-hole match, but he missed a 5-footer on the 35th hole to leave it tied with the par-5 18th remaining.

Both hit their second shots just short of the green and pitched up to about 5 feet away, so close that an official was called out to measure the distance to see who was away. Hutchison was about an inch farther away and missed another 5-footer. Barnes knocked in his putt and won his first PGA Championship.

He never gets much credit as the first repeat winner of the PGA, mainly because the championship was not held again until 1919 because of World War I.

4. PGA NATIONAL

The PGA Championship first went to its Florida headquarters in 1971 when it was held in February, making it the first major of the year. Jack Nicklaus won wire-to-wire, closing with a 73 for a two-shot victory.

It was far more dramatic in 1987 when the PGA was held in the heat of August.

Larry Nelson and Lanny Wadkins finished at 1-under 287, neither making birdie on the par-5 closing hole with a chance to win. Nelson won in a sudden-death playoff, though that took place at No. 10. Overlooked at this PGA was the first blown chance by Scott Hoch. He was well off ahead of the final group and had an 8-foot birdie putt for a 67 — no one shot better than 69 the last day — that surely would have given him his first major. Hoch missed the 8-foot birdie putt — and then missed from 3 feet for a bogey that ultimately left him one shot out of the playoff.

Two years later, Hoch would miss a more famous 3-foot birdie putt at the Masters against Nick Faldo.



No. 18 AT VALHALLA

A large bunker protects the left side of the fairway, with a pond down the right side. A decent shot will allow most players to go for the green. The second shot needs to come in high to an elevated green with a bunker guarding the entire front portion. The green has severe sloping that runs from the upper portion to the lower left and right levels.

AP Illustration is schematic; SOURCES: Valhalla Golf Club, AP.

3. PEBBLE BEACH

The 1977 PGA Championship was held at Pebble Beach for the only time, just five years after Pebble hosted its first U.S. Open. Gene Littler, out of golf for six weeks

because of a back injury, returned at the PGA and appeared to be headed to an easy victory until a collapse on the back nine when he lost a four-shot lead.

Lanny Wadkins, who started the final round six shots behind, made his only birdie of the final round on the par-5 18th to close with a 70 and force a playoff when Littler had to settle for par on the closing hole.

Wadkins won with a par on the third extra hole.

It was the first time a major had been decided by sudden death. Back then, the playoff began on the first hole. It wasn't until 1993 that a sudden-death playoff at the PGA Championship began on the 18th hole.

2. BALTUSROL

At Baltusrol, two is better than one. The New Jersey course closed with back-to-back par 5s, and that was decisive for Phil Mickelson in the 2005 PGA Championship.

He was tied for the lead in the final round when he drilled his tee shot on the 554-yard closing hole, perhaps the most critical shot. That left Mickelson a 3-wedge to try to reach the green, and for an extra dose of luck, he walked forward and tapped the plaque that commemorates the 1-iron Jack Nicklaus hit in 1967 when he won the U.S. Open.

Mickelson's shot was just right of the green, and he chipped to 2 feet, raising his arms because he knew he had won. He tapped it in for birdie and his lone PGA title.

1. VALHALLA

Valhalla Golf Club might be viewed as among the more ordinary championship sites, though no one can argue with the drama.

Kenny Perry had a two-shot lead in the 1996 PGA Championship, playing before a home Kentucky crowd, when he hit his tee shot on the par-5 18th well to the left and made bogey. Mark Brooks made birdie to force a playoff, and Brooks beat him in the playoff when Perry again failed to find the fairway.

Nothing topped 2000, however. Tiger

Woods, going for his third consecutive major, was tied for the lead and had a 6-foot birdie putt on the 18th. That putt became even more critical when Bob May knocked in an 18-foot birdie putt. Woods had to make it or his unprecedented sweep in the majors would not have happened. He made the putt to force the first three-hole playoff in PGA history. On the 18th in the playoff, Woods got up-and-down from a bunker for par to win by one.

SPORTS



Five to finish

Valhalla one of few major courses with par-5 finishing hole | Page 63

NFL

CIRCUIT TRAINING

NFL sideline tech enters digital age with introduction of specialized tablets

By RACHEL COHEN
The Associated Press

NEW YORK

NFL teams used to take Polaroid pictures of plays from atop the stadium during games then send them down to the field on a rope.

Technology improved so that an automated camera could deliver the images to a printer on the sideline, creating that familiar sight of a quarterback staring at a sheet of paper to figure out what went wrong on an interception.

That was still the case last season, when fans in the stands could watch highlights on their smartphones, but players and coaches were flipping through three-ring binders of black-and-white photos.

The NFL sideline is finally catching up.
Sort of.

Tablets were allowed for the first time Sunday night with the Hall of Fame game, although a few kinks had to be worked out early on.

"I was told mine was going to work, and mine didn't work," Bills coach Doug Marrone said after his team lost 17-13 to the New York Giants. "They said they would get it right and there was miscommunication."

Marrone said that the tablet did work in the second half and he "liked it a lot."

The tablets won't exactly

be running the most cutting-edge apps. The devices will replicate the old system of transmitting still photos to the field — but faster, clearer and in color.

No surfing the Web. No selfies or tweets. And more important from a football standpoint: no watching replays of the last snap.

"The purity of the game has always been not having video," Tennessee Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt said. "So when you're looking at pictures you have to sometimes guess, or a lot

of times the pictures aren't what really exactly happened. That part of it is still coaching, and I kind of like that."

SEE CIRCUIT ON PAGE 57



Microsoft Surface tablets were allowed on NFL sidelines for the first time last Sunday during the Hall of Fame game in Canton, Ohio, though they weren't exactly running the most cutting-edge apps.

Microsoft, OrangeV Holdings LLC/AP

Deal in place to send Love to Cavs
NBA, Page 62

Capuano, Yanks top Verlander
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