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WEEKEND EDITION

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D-DAY AT 70

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League welcomes small-school stars to big stage

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The National Guard sponsors the No. 88 car driven by Dale Earnhardt Jr.

NASCAR

SPONSORSHIP BACKFIRE

National Guard spends millions on NASCAR but gains virtually no recruits

By TOM VANDEN BROOK ■ USA TODAY

The National Guard spent \$26.5 million to sponsor NASCAR racing in 2012 to bolster its marketing and recruitment but failed to sign up a single new soldier to its ranks, according to data provided to USA Today.

Even though the Guard spent \$88 million as a NASCAR sponsor from 2011 to 2013, it is unclear how many new recruits, if any, signed up

because of it, according to documents. The Guard on Wednesday would not confirm the figures on prospects and recruits developed through its NASCAR sponsorship.

Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., who was expected to hold a hearing on the recruitment program Thursday, assailed the Guard for "wasting a bunch of money on a very expensive sports sponsorship."

The Guard received 24,800 recruiting prospects from the program in 2012, documents show. In those cases, potential recruits indicated the NASCAR affiliation prompted them to seek more information about joining. Of that group, only 20 met the Guard's qualifications for entry into the service, and not one of them joined.

SEE NASCAR ON PAGE 9

House's defense bill retains pay raises, benefits

By TRAVIS TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House pushed ahead Wednesday with a vote to preserve troop pay raises and benefits during the coming year despite dire budget warnings from military leadership that not making cuts will harm readiness.

The House Armed Services Committee passed a 2015 mili-

tary personnel budget that rejected the Department of Defense's proposals to cap troop pay raises at 1 percent and slash the costs of base supermarkets, housing allowances and health care.

Military brass has warned it needs the reforms to fund a force that's equipped and ready to fight. But in a marathon debate and amendment session, House

lawmakers worked up a draft version of the nation's defense budget that maintains the slate of benefits and wrings funding out of some ship, aircraft and construction programs.

Committee Chairman Buck McKeon, R-Calif., said the House strategy is to keep up military funding and investment as much as possible until Congress can

reverse the Budget Control Act of 2011, also known as sequestration, a measure that requires steep reductions in defense and other federal funding.

"I think it's best for the nation that we hold on to as much as we can until we find ourselves in a better [fiscal] situation," McKeon said.

SEE BILL ON PAGE 4



MISSION FOR THE FUTURE: STAYING ON DUTY.

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MILITARY

Bill: Democrats' move for base closings is rejected

FROM FRONT PAGE

In addition to the 1 percent pay raise, the DOD wants to cut subsidies to base supermarkets from \$1.4 billion to \$400 million annually, reduce housing allowances until servicemembers pay about 5 percent for residences and utilities, and consolidate the Tricare health care system.

The House draft budget includes measures to poll troops and study commissaries, but otherwise ignores the DOD personnel recommendations. It is now headed to the House floor for a final vote later this month.

The Democratic minority tried to offset some of the budget spending by initiated a new round of military base closures and sidelining 11 of the Navy's Ticonderoga-class cruisers. The proposals gained no traction Wednesday during the House debate.

Rep. Adam Smith, D-Wash., introduced the proposal to trigger the Base Realignment and Closure act, which would close a review and possible closure of military facilities. The last BRAC process began in 2005 and remains controversial; critics contend that projected savings from that round have never been realized.

"This is going to need to be done in terms of saving money," Smith said. "We are simply not in a position to have the Department of Defense spending money on facilities that do not need."

But Smith pulled the amendment and said he would introduce it to the full House later.

He also proposed to take the cruisers off duty following a budget recommendation by the Navy that would save about \$4 billion over five years.

"The Navy looked at their entire situation ... and concluded one of the best things they could do is this plan, to save a little money and spend it elsewhere," Smith said.

But the cruisers will be seaworthy for years to come and Republicans on the committee rose up against the measure to take them out of service and do a refurbishment.

"We are going to take ships out of active duty that have 10 years left in their service life," Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va. "It just doesn't make sense to me."

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▲AH-64D Apache Longbow helicopters sit on the tarmac at the National Guard facility in Morrisville, N.C., on Feb. 6. The House budget proposal would allow the Army National Guard to keep its Apaches.

House debates budget proposals

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

The House Armed Services Committee debated into the night Wednesday, adding or striking a variety of new proposals for the 2015 defense budget. Here's a rundown:

■An effort by Democrats to take sexual assault prosecutions out of the military chain of command was defeated in a 28-34 vote by the committee, despite strong and emotional support from some members. The military has strongly opposed such proposals, and House opponents said commanders should retain control and be held accountable for their decisions.

■Lawmakers approved a measure to protect tobacco sales in base exchanges. Bill sponsor Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., who served in the Marine Corps, said young servicemembers should have the right to smoke or chew, and lawmakers who support base tobacco bans should "just outlaw war" because it also damages servicemember health.

■A proposal requiring that the Department of Defense Inspector General report on a recent rash of misconduct among the military's top brass be made public was dropped by its sponsor, Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., who had said

Americans "shouldn't depend on media leaks for accountability."

■The Army National Guard could keep its AH-64 Apache attack helicopters under the House budget. Congressmen Joe Wilson, R-S.C., and Bill Enyart, D-Ill., added an item that bars the DOD from transferring all the helicopters over to the Army, saying the planned move "dramatically reduces the National Guard's ability to maintain combat capability."

■Rep. Hank Johnson, D-Ga., added \$10 million to the defense budget for science research at historically black colleges, though he said the funding is still short of what is needed. "Some of the most important and advanced scientific research in the nation is taking place" at such institutions, he said.

■Johnson was also successful in adding a proposal that blocks the DOD from enforcing new hair and grooming standards for female soldiers. For now, the amendment is redundant. After an outcry from soldiers and the Congressional Black Caucus, which claimed the hair regulations were racist, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said last month the rules would not be enforced pending a review.

■The House added a measure blocking new Department of Labor minimum-wage standards

for contract workers at base concession stands. The change has significantly boosted pay for low-wage workers but amendment sponsor Rep. Scott Rigell, R-Va., whose district covers Virginia Beach Navy facilities, said the higher employee pay requirements were causing base concessionaires to close shop. Opponents of the amendment said it was attempting to "undermine an effort to help the lowest wage earners" in the country.

■New regulations on the production and use of alternative biofuels by the military were passed. Two amendments lifted a requirement that the DOD procure biofuels that are proven to be cheaper than standard oil-derived fuels and barred the DOD from building any biofuel refinery unless Congress passes a new law specifically allowing the move.

■Rep. Tammy Duckworth, D-Ill., floated a proposal to stop giving money to the Navy for littoral combat ships until the service presents its long-term strategy for the crafts. Opponents who shot down the measure said more LCSs are badly needed and that Congress has already "done oversight almost ad nauseum."

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AF sets billions for new bomber

By TONY CAPACCO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Air Force projects that its annual spending on long-range bombers will almost double after 2019 as it seeks a new stealth aircraft that may pit Northrop Grumman against a joint bid from Lockheed Martin and Boeing.

The service's total budget for bomber production and upgrades will jump to about \$9.5 billion in fiscal 2020 from less than \$5 billion for the year beginning Oct. 1, according to a Pentagon document obtained by Bloomberg News. After that, spending would remain greater than \$9 billion a year before dropping to \$8 billion in fiscal 2024.

The current goal is to achieve an initial capability in the mid-2020s for the new Long-Range Strike Bomber while also upgrading the B-2 stealth bomber made by Falls Church, Va.-based Northrop and the older non-stealth B-1 and B-52, according to the plan that was submitted to Congress last month but had not previously been disclosed.

The new bomber is described by the Air Force as vital to reaching far-flung, heavily defended targets worldwide. The service has said it may buy as many as 100 of the new aircraft in a program that may top \$55 billion, generating billions of dollars in revenue for the contractor chosen to build it.

Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed, the biggest U.S. government contractor, and Chicago-based Boeing, which is No. 2, said in October that they planned to bid on the project as a team. Northrop Grumman, which has the advantage of its experience on the B-2, hasn't announced that it intends to bid.

The report doesn't incorporate the constraints of the automatic budget cuts called sequestration, which are scheduled to resume in fiscal 2016.

In addition to funding for bomber programs, the Pentagon report, "Annual Aviation Inventory and Funding Plan" for fiscal years 2015 to 2044, outlines long-range plans for fighters, drones and helicopters.

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STARS AND STRIPES.

MILITARY

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Should Shinseki go or stay?

On Monday, the head of the American Legion called on Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, to step down, pointing to recent management failures, some of which are allegedly connected to the deaths of veterans waiting for care. Some top GOP lawmakers have joined the chorus, but Shinseki says he will stay.

Readers respond:

Maybe it's time to bring in someone who has experience outside of government/military to run the VA.

— otismreedleman

The VA isn't a business, it is an organization that makes NO money ... how exactly do you have a business mentality for an organization like that?

— hiruu

I agree. Its salvation army image contributes to the inefficiency. But if they run it like a business, instead of a free clinic, soup kitchen, homeless shelter things will change.

— Thecalmvoiceofreason

I've worked for Shinseki, and he was great. My hat is off to him for taking on the VA job, nobody will ever not get fired from that post, it's only a question of how long before some dang thing or other surfaces. Perhaps if the chief had carte blanche to clean house AND replace folks quickly....

— ReggieDunlap

He is great, but, he is in way over his head. He needs to quit.

— disqus_jrCdmAu8t

Who wouldn't be in way over their head? Replacing him wouldn't solve the systemic problems, many of which are caused by Congressionally-mandated processes.

— jldj

The problem with the VA runs long and deep. Poor service, smug attitudes and a knowledge that there is no valid complaint system available to the veteran is all indicators that the employees of this organization are not worried about the veteran.

— John Arnez

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

Will wage hike close restaurants on bases?

Labor Department is asked to block wage increase for military's fast-food chains

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of the first fruits of a series of one-day strikes by low-wage employees of federal contractors last year was the broadening of a Labor Department rule to make fast-food workers on military bases eligible for a health-and-welfare benefit of \$3.81 an hour.

The promise was enhanced in February when President Barack Obama signed an executive order to raise the minimum wage for

workers on new federal contracts from \$7.25 to \$10.10 an hour beginning in January.

But those increases — part of Democrats' efforts to raise stagnant wages and begin to address the nation's growing economic inequality — are now bumping up against economic reality in a way that could test the resolve of Obama and other Democrats.

Republican lawmakers and Defense Department officials say the wage increases could drive many fast-food restaurants and the thou-

sands of jobs they provide away from military bases. They have asked the Obama administration to exempt fast-food concessions on bases from the wage increases.

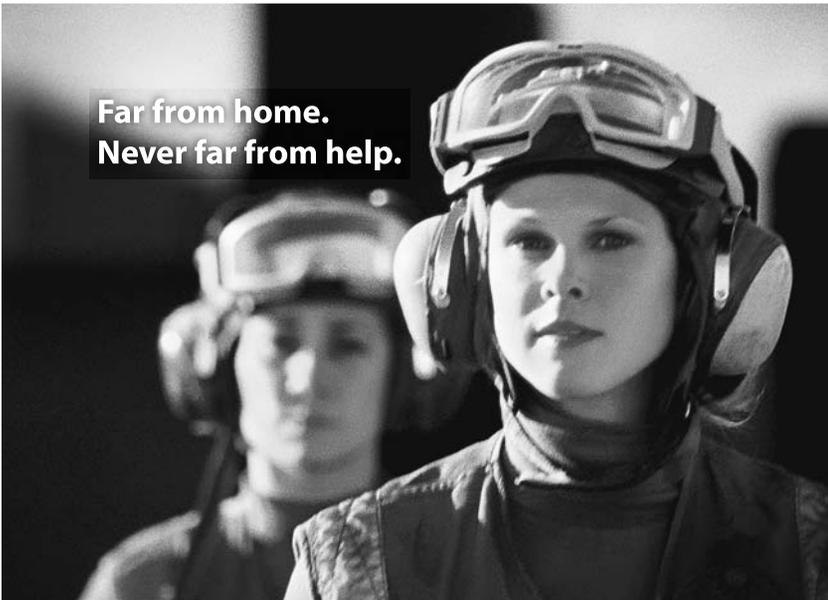
Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., said in an interview that "the unintended consequence of hiking the minimum wage is to ultimately close fast-food restaurants on military installations." He noted that military officials and lobbyists for the industry say that several have already closed across the country.

Wilson was among 40 lawmak-

ers who signed a letter asking the Labor Department to exempt military installations from the increases. The department is reviewing the increases, but supporters are urging the agency not to back down.

"I hope the Labor Department upholds the wage and offers to work with those franchisees to find some way to meet the intent of the order," said Rep. Raul Grijalva, D-Ariz. "It is not like this will mean economic ruin for these companies."

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EUROPE

Library at Aviano delayed after contractor defaults



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

The library under construction at Aviano Air Base, Italy, scheduled to open this spring, is not likely to open until summer 2016.

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

AVIANO AIR BASE, Italy — Those hoping to use the new base library here might want to consider an additional tour in Italy.

After a series of delays, the \$2.2 million facility on Area 1 was supposed to open this spring. A revised timeline now calls for the facility to open in summer 2016.

The latest delay is due to the fact that the Italian contractor for the project has defaulted, according to Mark Schluter, deputy base civil engineer.

The revised timeline includes canceling the existing contract, advertising and awarding a new one and then completing construction. The facility initially was expected to be completed by the end of 2009.

It's not the first time that a contractor has defaulted while working on a project at Aviano. The U.S. military is required to follow a series of regulations on any construction project that often give the contract to the low-



Officials at Aviano Air Base, Italy, had hoped that **community members would be using a new library this month.**

est qualified bidder. At Aviano, that has sometimes resulted in a contractor's submitting a bid it later judges too low to complete

the project and then asking for more money.

The military isn't legally allowed to provide more money in such cases, Schluter said.

MATI Sud SpA, of Taranto, Italy, was awarded the contract to demolish the existing library and build a new two-story facility between the kindergarten and youth center and the education center. The foundation and much of the exterior were completed, but the contractor failed to meet conditions set in the contract, Schluter said.

The Italian court system will determine how much the contractor is still owed or how much the contractor will have to pay back, he said.

It's possible the library might cost more than its current price tag, depending on the terms of the new contract.

A temporary library was set up in Area 2 before the old one was demolished.

Unless the base can find a new temporary home for it on the flight line or Area 1, it could cost

millions of dollars more.

Pending other construction, the base hopes to close Area 2 by the end of the year and eventually to turn it back to Italian authorities.

Officials estimate it costs millions of dollars in utilities, maintenance and personnel to maintain Area 2, and its planned closure is part of an ongoing Air Force initiative to reduce facilities and costs.

The library is one of the last projects of Aviano 2000, a \$600 million-plus program launched in 1999 to turn a little-used base into the home of the 31st Fighter Wing. Much of the funding has come from NATO, and one of the numerous delays involved Spain putting a hold on funds until an unrelated matter was resolved.

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Kaiserslautern gauging interest in private, international school

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — City planners are floating the idea of opening a private school in Kaiserslautern that would teach an internationally recognized curriculum mostly in English.

The International School Kaiserslautern would serve the international and local communities in the greater Kaiserslautern area, said Andrea Oliver, the director of U.S. relations for the city.

Before any school bells ring, the city first must determine whether there are enough potential students in the region to sustain the school.

The city would need positive feedback from between 180 and 200 potential students to move forward, Oliver said.

Tuition would range from 12,500 to 17,000 euros (about \$17,400 to \$23,600) annually, based on grade level.

To that end, the city, with support from the regional nonprofit

association ZukunftsRegion Westpfalz, is circulating two online questionnaires, one for families and one for international corporations. The surveys are available in English and German on the city's website, <http://www.kaiserslautern.de/>. Questions include whether companies provide an educational allowance and, if not, whether a family could afford the tuition.

Backers of the plan also are assessing what age groups or grade levels are needed from prekindergarten through 12th grade. The city has extended the deadline to accept completed surveys through the end of May.

"We are trying to formally establish the need in our region," Oliver said.

The city has some anecdotal evidence that there is a need.

"We keep hearing over the years that there is a big clientele of individuals in the Kaiserslautern areas — German, American and other nationalities — who are not part of the military system" and

therefore don't have free access to Department of Defense schools on base, Oliver said. "They would like to put their children in an international school system that allows them to be able to transfer back into other schools in Canada, Italy, other NATO countries" after they leave Germany.

Those families currently either enroll their children in German schools or leave their dependents at home, while one parent works abroad, Oliver said. Some also pay to send their children to a DOD school on base, she said.

About 220,000 people live in Kaiserslautern city and the surrounding county of Kaiserslautern, a figure that doesn't include the approximately 55,000 Americans who are not registered with German authorities because they fall under the NATO Status of Forces Agreement, according to Oliver.

The school could serve dependents of U.S. contractors and those working for NATO countries that don't have their own

school system here, among others, she said.

In the Kaiserslautern Military Community, 91 students pay for tuition to attend a base school, according to an official with Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe. Those include children of Air Force and Army contractors, foreign service workers and U.S. companies. The family member must have base access. Annual tuition costs between \$23,000 and \$26,500 per student.

The city's international population is diverse, with residents representing more than 140 nations, excluding SOFA-status members, Oliver said.

Many of those are students or instructors at one of the city's two universities or researchers with the area's scientific institutes, Oliver said.

Several major and smaller U.S. companies are located in Kaiserslautern, including Corning, Fruit of the Loom, Avid, Celanese and John Deere.

John Deere opened its European technology and innovation center in Kaiserslautern about six years ago, Oliver said, one of only three John Deere research facilities worldwide.

The school would offer an International Baccalaureate education program. The main language of instruction would be English, with a strong secondary focus on German, Oliver said. The school would offer all-day schooling, including before- and aftercare, according to a brochure published by the regional association.

No location has been determined yet, though the city is looking at several, including the former German military recruiting center, "a nice old villa in a park in the center of town," Oliver said.

"There's no concern about finding enough English instructors, she said.

"Some of the very first repliers are all from potential teachers who want to work there," Oliver said.

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OMBUDSMAN

Joint Chiefs divided over commissary savings cuts

By TOM PHILPOTT

All seven members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testified Tuesday on the need to slow growth in military compensation and apply dollars saved to underfunded readiness accounts for training, equipment and spare parts.

But their unified front for easing current budget burdens cracked over the notion of slashing savings for commissary shoppers.

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos called the proposal to cut commissary appropriations, from \$1.4 billion yearly down to \$400 million within three years, and the projected cut in average shopper savings from 30 percent down to 10 percent "a sore point for me."

"That's a 66 percent drop in savings for my Marines. I don't like that," Amos told the Senate Armed Services Committee. Families don't either.

"The commissary issue itself is radioactive," Amos said.

At the same hearing, Navy Adm. James A. Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs, defended lowering the appropriation for the Defense Commissary Agency in increments, starting with \$200 million next year, and suggesting the initial impact at least would be modest.

"We think DeCA can find at least the first-year savings through efficiencies, not price increases, especially since we exempted them from the 20 percent staff cuts that everyone else is taking," Win-

nefeld said.

Later, Winnefeld said first-year savings might be achieved if Congress would just repeal a law requiring commissaries to stock only brand names.

It's a law "apparently lobbied for by the food industry," Winnefeld said, which "takes money right out of our people's pockets. It really does."

Industry sources said brand names do generate higher profits for suppliers but the issue is more complex and less disturbing than Winnefeld implied. Brand name suppliers can afford to support DeCA with trade-offs in store services such as free stocking of shelves and with product promotions.

DeCA provided a statement explaining that commissaries evolved by design into a brand-name system to ensure "worldwide availability of quality, recognizable brand-name products such as Kellogg's cereals, Kraft cheeses."

A brand name "bestows a known quality assurance that our military families rely upon wherever they serve. Providing food security and a familiar 'taste of home' is particularly important for those stationed overseas," DeCA said.

Although it doesn't carry generic items, DeCA since 2000 has operated a "best value items" program with name brand products "equal to or cheaper in price than the private labels found downtown," the agency said.

Winnefeld assured senators that

MILITARY UPDATE

the budget plan to squeeze commissaries doesn't order any store closures. The goal is efficiency.

"Whatever they can't ring out of efficiencies would be a price increase," he acknowledged. "So you might go from the 30 percent claimed advantage [in prices] right now ... to 26 percent" that first year.

In looking at the competitiveness of stores in each market, 26 percent savings should ensure that most thrive. But "there are probably situations where you might close one or two," Winnefeld said.

The plan overall, he said, is "a heck of a lot gentler than it looks."

Winnefeld did not describe the impact on commissaries if DeCA takes a \$500 million hit in 2016 and \$1 billion hit starting in 2017, as is also proposed.

Amos didn't either. But he said a better solution to raising prices would be "to force DeCA to become more efficient and figure out how to do it, and don't put that burden on the back of our young enlisted Marines."

"We don't need to turn our back" on making commissaries part of compensation reform, Amos said. "But I think we are going at it the wrong way. I think we ought

to force DeCA to do some of the things that the services have had to do over the last year to try to live within our means."

Base exchanges or department stores used to depend on appropriated dollars too, Amos said, but they were forced at some point to be run like businesses. Commissaries should be made to run as efficiently.

What the commandant did not mention, but that resale officials describe often and openly, is that exchanges, because they are run as businesses, deliver a level of savings about half what commissaries do. Indeed commissary prices are a magnet to bring more exchange shopping.

There were other signs in the hearing that the Joint Chiefs were out of their comfort zone in discussing the military retail store system.

Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., tried to sum up what he just heard on the commissary plan from Army Gen. Martin Dempsey, Joint Chiefs chairman, and from Winnefeld whom Dempsey said "did most of the heavy lifting" on the issue.

"You would like to get efficiencies out of the system" and you believe DeCA, "can generate these efficiencies," Reed said. If DeCA can't, "then they are going to have to curtail some of their operations."

Given that, Reed asked Dempsey, have you "thought about a criteria for curtailment ... something other than, 'We'll get some

efficiencies?'"

"We have sir," Dempsey said. "And I will tell you that commissaries has been the most difficult issue to wrap our arms around, because it's very difficult to understand the functioning of the commissary, and the effect that a reduction in the subsidy will have until you make the decision to do it."

That's why, Dempsey said, the first cut would be only \$200 million. Even senior enlisted advisers "say 'Let's see what happens.' Let's see how much efficiency we can ring out of it in order to gain some savings," he added.

If left unaddressed, Dempsey warned, "We will be providing \$1.4 billion in perpetuity" to subsidize grocery shopping, "and that just doesn't seem to be a reasonable course of action."

A day later, the House Armed Services Committee voted for only a \$100 million cut in commissary funding in 2015. Its chairman, Rep. Harold "Buck" McKeon, R-Calif., said he rejects increasing out-of-pocket costs for service families.

But McKeon, whose family once ran a popular chain of cowboy clothing stores, also said he knows "efficiencies can be made that reduce the cost of the program without increasing prices."

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



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PACIFIC

US calls China-Vietnam fracas a 'provocation'

By ERIC SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A standoff between Chinese and Vietnamese ships in the South China Sea continued on Thursday, with both sides trading diplomatic barbs and the United States criticizing Beijing for provocative actions.

Chinese officials blamed Vietnam on Thursday for "disruptive activities" in waters claimed by both countries near the uninhabited Paracel Islands, the day after Vietnam released a purported video of Chinese ships ramming Vietnamese vessels and spraying them with water cannons.

The dispute began when China announced on May 3 that it had moved the deep-water oil drilling rig Haiyang Shiyu 981 to within about 150 miles of the Vietnamese coast, and about 30 miles away from the Paracels.

Chinese officials said Thursday that the oil rig was within China's territorial waters. China claims the Paracels and about 90 percent of the South China Sea as its own, based largely on arguments of historical discovery. Most of China's neighbors dispute that claim, based on international law.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a news conference in Beijing on Thursday that the fleet of Vietnamese vessels at the scene "are in viola-

tion of China's sovereign rights." Vietnamese officials on Thursday maintained their claim on the Paracel Islands and its nearby waters, which Hanoi says are within its exclusive economic zone.

However, it is China's aggressive response — involving a fleet of 80 vessels and seven naval warships, according to Vietnam — that has drawn the criticism of U.S. officials.

"China's unilateral action appears to be part of a broader pattern of China's behavior to advance its claims over disputed territory in a manner that undermines peace and stability in the region," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement from Washington. "We are also very concerned about dangerous conduct and intimidation by vessels operating in this area."

The Asia-based U.S. Navy 7th Fleet acknowledged the conflict, but struck a cautious note on Thursday. Officials declined comment on whether the standoff had affected any naval missions.

"The role of the U.S. Navy forces in the Pacific is to promote security and stability, while also being prepared and ready to execute any missions at any time as directed by leadership," the 7th Fleet released in a statement. "Any provocative or unilateral actions taken by one country could jeopardize the peace and security



COURTESY OF THE VIETNAM COAST GUARD/AP

A Chinese ship, left, shoots a water cannon at a Vietnamese vessel Wednesday while a Chinese Coast Guard ship, center, sails alongside off Vietnam's coast in the South China Sea.

in the region."

Last month, President Barack Obama visited Japan, Malaysia and the Philippines, all of whom have territorial disputes with China. Obama called upon Beijing to resolve its claims without "coercion and intimidation" during a press conference in Manila.

Chinese officials dismissed the U.S. response.

Hua told reporters Thursday in Beijing that the U.S. has no right to make unwarranted remarks on China's sovereign rights and that drilling is "normal and legal," according to The Associated Press.

China's relationship with the U.S. military in the Asia-Pacific region has proven rocky in recent years. Chinese ships surrounded the surveillance ship USNS Impeccable in 2009 when it operated in international waters about 75 miles from China's coastline.

For years afterward, Navy officials accused China of shadowing 7th Fleet ships and blocking their passage.

In 2010 and 2011, China canceled military-to-military exchanges with the U.S. following scheduled arms deals with Taiwan.

The military-to-military relationship has shown signs of improvement lately. China is participating in the U.S.-hosted, multinational RIMPAC exercise in Hawaii in June. Top Navy officials also were on hand in Qingdao last month to agree on rules of conduct in international waters. And last month, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel became the first foreign official to tour China's new aircraft carrier.

However, it's a slow-moving relationship compared with the ties that some Southeast Asian nations are building with Wash-

ington. The Philippines recently signed an accord that will allow U.S. military use of Philippine bases for 10 years. Last month, Vietnam conducted its first at-sea search-and-rescue mission with the USS McCain. The two nations also have been engaging in exercises since 2010.

"The complexity of [Naval Engagement Activity] Vietnam has increased in a measured, incremental way since this engagement began," said Lt. Cmdr. Clay Doss, a spokesman for Commander Task Force 73 in Singapore. "We look forward to making next year's NEA more complex in ways that will enhance our ability to operate with confidence in the maritime domain."

It's unlikely that Vietnam would move toward a Philippine-style agreement with the U.S. military forces, said Euan Graham, senior fellow with the Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

However, "it would certainly add to the argument of those who would want to press for a closer relationship with the United States," Graham said.

While the next moves in the China-Vietnam standoff are unpredictable, Graham noted that neither side wants to be the one that fires the first live round.

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S. Korea: Drones from North sent to spy on military facilities

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Three drones that crashed were launched from North Korea for spying purposes and had been programmed to fly over South Korean military installations, the Ministry of National Defense said Thursday.

An MND statement said the "smoking gun" of a joint South Korean-U.S. investigation was an analysis of the drones' flight plans, which showed that all were launched from and intended to return to North Korea. South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that one drone crashed due to an engine problem while the other two ran out of fuel.

Baek Seung-joo, vice minister of national defense, told reporters that the drones were trying to gain visual intelligence of South Korea and to test whether its air defense system could detect small objects.

The rudimentary, blue drones, which were all similar in size and design, were equipped with cameras and parachutes and, according to the MND, pose a new military threat, even as North Korea is believed to be preparing for its fourth nuclear test.

Baek said the drones did not have the capability to carry a significant load of weapons or the software to provide a live feed to a ground contact, indicating the North is in the early stages of de-

veloping unmanned aerial vehicle technology.

"We see this as the beginning stage of ground-level work of UAVs," he said.

However, Baek cited North Korea's "irrational" and "unpredictable" nature in saying drones could pose a threat if Pyongyang tries to load some amount of weaponry onto them.

One drone, found March 24 in the border city of Paju, was launched about 3 miles from the North's town of Kaesong, home to a jointly run industrial complex. Yonhap reported that it had taken photos of the Blue House, the president's office in Seoul, as well as other installations.

Another drone was recovered a week later on the border island of Naeryong, and was launched from about 17 kilometers southwest of Haegu. Yonhap reported that it had taken photos of troops on two South Korean islands.

A third drone was found last fall on a mountain in Samcheok, in the eastern part of the country, by area residents, though South Korea's military did not announce that discovery until April 6. That drone was launched from about 10.5 miles east of Pyongyang, but no photographs were found on it.

An MND spokesman said the joint investigation team, which formed April 14, included 10 Americans and 15 Koreans. He described the Americans as drone

experts with a wide range of experience in computer software and the technology of small aircraft.

Last month, South Korea issued an interim investigation citing a "striking similarity" in appearance to drone models shown in North Korean media footage in 2012 and 2013, leading investigators to conclude that they were of North Korean origin.

Six fingerprints not traceable in South Korea's national database also were found on two of the drones.

The drones' ability to penetrate South Korean airspace without notice has raised questions about the country's air defense. The MND vowed Thursday to "respond forcefully" to future drone provocations and said efforts are

underway to enhance its ability to monitor and down UAVs.

Yonhap reported that Seoul is trying to buy about 10 low-altitude radars from Israel. It also said North Korea is believed to have built the drones based on Chinese models it obtained in Hong Kong.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story.
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MILITARY

NASCAR: Senator says Guard 'wasting bunch of money on very expensive sports sponsorship'

FROM FRONT PAGE

In 2013, the number of proposals submitted with NASCAR dropped to 7,500, according to briefing materials for the Senate subcommittee on Financial and Contracting Oversight led by McCaskill. The National Guard needs 1 million leads to meet its annual recruiting goal of 50,000 soldiers.

The NASCAR initiative, along with the \$38 million spent on an IndyCar racing sponsorship, over the same period, will be the target of the hearing led by McCaskill.

The contract entitles the Guard to plaster its logo on the team's car for 20 races, set up mobile recruiting displays at tracks and conduct the NASCAR-affiliated "Race-2-Achieve" recruiting effort in high schools, according to briefing materials for senators.

NASCAR-related recruiting and retention materials. Sponsoring NASCAR and driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. puts the Guard's name in front of 77 million fans, he said.

"In today's media-driven environment, a strong branding effort is a good value and helps create a focused, unified National Guard as a career option," Breitenfeldt said in a statement.

NASCAR draws sponsorships from major corporations because they value the return on their investment, said David Higdon, NASCAR's spokesman. Coca-Cola, Sprint and Toyota, he said in an email, "are in NASCAR for

one reason: Because it works."

Earnhardt's win at the Daytona 500, for example, generated the equivalent of millions of dollars in advertising for the Guard, according to marketing research.

The Guard remains alone among the services in continuing its relationship with NASCAR.

"The Army, the Navy, the Marines and the Coast Guard all canceled their sponsorships with NASCAR due to cost, ineffectiveness and difficulty in measuring results," according to the briefing document. The Army specifically stated that NASCAR was declining against the Army's core target audience and that NASCAR sponsorship had the highest cost per engagement in the Army's portfolio of sponsorships — three times the next highest program.

"The leadership of the Guard is probably more in the target range," McCaskill said. "It's probably something they watch. I'm a fan of NASCAR, too. That's not a slam on NASCAR. It's whether or not tax dollars are being used for the intended purpose."

McCaskill intends to ask whether the sponsorship program included perks for Guard leaders at NASCAR events.

McCaskill has placed the Guard's recruiting under scrutiny. In February, she slammed the Guard for a recruiting bonus program that has resulted in criminal investigations of more than 800 soldiers. They allegedly gained the system and obtained hundreds of millions in recruiting bonuses. Her subcommittee highlighted as much as \$100 million fraudulently obtained by soldiers.

Airman hospitalized after car collides with dump truck

By MATT MILLHAM

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A 39-year-old airman is in serious condition after his BMW collided with a dump truck Thursday morning outside Ramstein Air Base in Germany.

The airman, who has not been identified by German or American authorities, was airlifted to a hospital in Ludwigshafen, roughly 50 miles east of where the accident occurred. A spokeswoman for the German police in nearby Landstuhl said the airman suffered severe head trauma.

The truck and the BMW sedan were headed in opposite directions on the L356 near the Azur outdoor swimming pool. The truck driver told police that the BMW had driven into his lane, causing the crash. A witness told police both vehicles had wandered over the center line.

Because of the damage to the BMW, rescuers had to cut the roof off of the vehicle to extract the airman, who was unconscious.

The truck driver was treated at the scene for minor injuries to his shoulder and torso, police said.

German first responders typically transport patients to German facilities regardless of nationality, a spokeswoman for Landstuhl Regional Medical Center said. The accident happened about 7 miles from LRMC, which is the military's only top-level trauma center overseas. The hospital the victim was airlifted to is also a trauma center.

The accident is at least the second major collision involving an airman in the Ramstein area in the last six months.

In December, an airman died after slamming into a boulder in a one-car crash on the base. Results of the investigation into that crash still haven't been released. Early reports in that case said that Airman 1st Class Jonathan Santos-Carvajal lost control of his car while trying to pass another vehicle.

Stars and Stripes reporter Marcus Kioecker contributed to this report. millham.matthew@stripes.com

Report: KBR wants burn pit lawsuits heard by high court

Stars and Stripes

Government contractor KBR has petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear arguments in a collection of class-action and individual lawsuits alleging that KBR and former parent company Halliburton acted negligently when operating the burn pits for the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan, exposing troops to toxic fumes and pollutants, the Military Times reported Thursday.

According to the report, Houston-based KBR is arguing that the cases — reportedly 57 in all, with hundreds of plaintiffs — should be heard by the high court because they address issues of constitutional law on combatant activities and contract support.

"In Vietnam, people who were drafted, they drove the trucks, they did the laundry, cooked the food — all the things that have been outsourced by the Army

were done by soldiers," KBR counsel Mark Lowes told the Times. "I don't see us ever going back [to that]. Contractors are going to be tied to the military from here on out, and it behooves the court to tell us how that relationship is going to work."

Last year, a U.S. District Court judge in Maryland dismissed the suits, affirming KBR's defense that it deserved the same protection as the U.S. government from litigation stemming from injuries in war zones.

But a three-judge panel from the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va., disagreed, ruling that the lawsuits could continue because KBR had not sufficiently demonstrated it was acting under military orders specifically during burn pit operations or water treatment activities.

The judges concluded the cases need further exploration as to

whether KBR should share the same immunity the military has from litigation over injuries in war zones.

Roughly 10,000 petitions are filed with the Supreme Court each year, and the court elects to hear 75 to 80 cases.

Plaintiffs in these cases say the smoke produced by the open-air burn pits contained toxins such as dioxin and volatile organic compounds that have made them sick, causing respiratory illness, neurological disorders and cancer.

They also charge that KBR violated military orders in performing water treatment services, causing troops to fall ill.

The Supreme Court would likely announce in June or October whether it will hear the cases, the Times noted. If it declines, they will continue to be considered in the Maryland U.S. District Court.

AF officer gets jail time, dismissal in drugs case

NEWMARKET, England — An Air Force officer has been sentenced to three months' confinement and dismissal from the service at the close of her court martial at RAF Lakenheath on Wednesday.

First Lt. Stephanie Frick pleaded guilty to charges of using and distributing ecstasy and mushrooms containing psilocybin, a hallucinogenic substance, a base spokesman wrote in an email.

Her charge sheet states the crimes occurred between September 2011 and April 2013 at or near Rosamond and San Ber-

nardino, Calif.

In January it was reported that an investigation into two officers allegedly involved with illegal drugs at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., had expanded to 10 officers stationed at various bases, including Lakenheath.

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SCAN WITH PHONE



NATION



PHOTOS BY SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Barack Obama accepts the USC Shoah Foundation Ambassadors for Humanity award and a map from movie director Steven Spielberg in Los Angeles on Wednesday. Obama plans to spend three days in California to raise money for the Democratic Party.

Big-name stars align for Obama at benefit

By SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — President Barack Obama shared a table with Steven Spielberg and Bruce Springsteen at a benefit dinner, but broke away to chat with Barbra Streisand and Samuel L. Jackson.

The president was the guest of honor Wednesday at a fund-raising gala celebrating the USC Shoah Foundation, which Spielberg established 20 years ago to collect video testimonies from survivors of the Holocaust and other genocides.

Inspired by the making of "Schindler's List," the video archive Spielberg created now includes more than 50,000 personal accounts and is available to schools across the globe.

"As long as we fail to learn, our work will be urgent work," he said of the foundation's mission. "This institute exists because we know that the future can always be rewritten."

Obama accepted the foundation's Ambassador for Humanity award at the private event at the Century Plaza Hotel.

Springsteen provided musical entertainment, tucking his black tie into his white shirt to perform two songs with his acoustic guitar.

"I think anyone who has a boss wishes it was you," Spielberg told the stalwart rocker, who sang



Bruce Springsteen performs during the USC Shoah Foundation's 20th anniversary Ambassadors for Humanity gala.

"Promised Land" and "Dancing in the Dark."

The filmmaker called Springsteen "this nation's hardest working lyrical poet for our common humanity."

Conan O'Brien hosted the event, speaking in Yiddish and teasing the president for the traffic snarls he causes when visiting Los Angeles.

"You left Washington six hours ago, but I left Burbank seven hours ago," O'Brien joked.

Liam Neeson, who played Oskar Schindler in Spielberg's 1994 film, opened the evening.

It was two nonfamous women who left the audience most inspired.

San Diego high school teacher Michelle Sadrena Clark recited a poem about how the Shoah Foundation's work enriches her curriculum and connects her students to history.

"Your institute has literally

changed my teaching and my life," she said.

Several of her students attended the gala, where they showed guests the multimedia projects they developed using survivor testimonies.

They were also introduced to the president.

Celina Biniaz was one of the Jews Schindler saved. At 13, she worked in his factory, cleaning the machinery with her small hands.

Now a grandmother whose story is included among the Holocaust testimonies, she said, "Oskar Schindler gave me my life, but Steven Spielberg gave me my voice."

Obama said that genocide survivors and the families they've created are "the ultimate rebuke to evil and the ultimate expression of love and hope."

"You are an inspiration to every single one of us," he said.

Health nominee gets praise from Senate panel

By ERICA WERNER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's nominee for health secretary faced pointed questioning Thursday from Republican senators over the health care law but also won GOP praise in her first appearance before a Senate committee.

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, who will take over implementation of "Obamacare" if she is confirmed as Health and Human Services secretary, told senators that the law has improved the economy, held down the growth of health costs, reduced premiums and expanded coverage.

The law "is making a positive difference," Burwell, who now serves as Obama's budget director, said in testimony before the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, the first of two Senate committees that will hold hearings on her nomination.

Republican senators disagreed. The top committee Republican, Sen. Lamar Alexander, of Tennessee, warned her that Republicans hope to retake the Senate in November and scale back the law in numerous ways.

At the same time, Alexander cited Burwell's "reputation for

competence" and Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., declared he plans to vote in favor of her nomination, calling her a "tremendous asset."

The exchanges pointed to a potentially smooth confirmation for Burwell even as her nomination hearings allow Republicans to focus renewed election-year attention on the health law. Burwell was unanimously confirmed by the Senate last year as budget director, and no senator has announced opposition so far to her nomination to the HHS post.

Burwell is Obama's choice to replace Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, who resigned last month after presiding over the passage of the health law and the disastrous rollout of the federal enrollment website.

Although a surge of sign-ups rescued the health law's big enrollment launch from failure, Burwell faces significant challenges in sustaining that momentum next year.

If confirmed, she will preside over a \$1 trillion bureaucracy that rivals the Pentagon in complexity.

The Health Committee won't actually vote on Burwell's nomination, that task falls to the Senate Finance Committee, which has yet to schedule its hearing.

House GOP ready for Benghazi probe

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Republicans are set to begin a special investigation of the deadly attack on the U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, raising the stakes in a political battle with the Obama administration as the midterm election season heats up.

Democrats are considering a boycott of the committee, which was expected to be approved formally when the Republican-led House voted Thursday afternoon.

They don't want their presence to provide legitimacy to what they believe will be a partisan forum, yet they don't want to lose the ability to counter Republican claims and provide cover for potential witnesses.

Speaker John Boehner vowed Wednesday that the examination would be "all about getting to the truth" of the Obama administration's response to the attack and would not be a partisan, election-year circus. "This is a serious investigation," he said while ac-

cepting President Barack Obama and his team of withholding the true story of how militants killed Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans on Sept. 11, 2012.

Democrats voiced wide-ranging concerns over the scope and composition of the select committee. They said they'd make no decision on whether to participate in the panel until Boehner responds to a demand from Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi that he scrap his plan for a committee of seven Republicans and five Democrats. Democrats say membership should be evenly split, and want clearer time and cost constraints for a forum they likened to a "kangaroo court."

Republicans have made Benghazi a central plank of their strategy to wrest control of the Senate from the Democrats in November's traditionally low-turnout midterm elections.

The administration has yet to say if it will cooperate with the select committee.

NATION

Poll: US split on legal pot, against Web bets

By WAYNE PARRY
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Americans are split over whether marijuana should be legalized for recreational use, according to a poll released Thursday. The same poll finds them solidly opposed to online gambling.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll finds that 50 percent of Americans favor legalizing marijuana use, while 27 percent support legalizing Internet gambling in the 47 states that don't allow it.

Although only New Jersey,

Nevada and Delaware currently allow Internet gambling, at least 10 other states are or recently considered legalizing it.

"Right now, online gambling looks to be a long shot in the court of public opinion," said Krista Jenkins, the poll's director and a professor of political science at the university.

The poll examined public attitudes about two activities that Jenkins said are taking place whether legal or not.

It found that 65 percent of respondents are not closely following news about Internet gambling.

But when asked if they favor or oppose allowing casinos to run online gambling for people in their states, 63 percent are opposed, with 27 percent approving. The numbers are largely unchanged from when similar questions were asked in 2012 and 2010.

In contrast, far more Americans are paying attention to news on marijuana legalization, with 86 percent saying say they've heard of or read about legalization efforts.

By a ratio of 2-to-1, Democrats (63 percent) favor legalization more than Republicans (32 percent), with independents (58 per-

cent) more closely aligned with Democrats.

Young people also are far more supportive of legalization, with 65 percent of the millennial generation and more than half of Gen Xers (56 percent) in favor, compared with fewer than half (48 percent) of baby boomers and about a third (36 percent) of the World War II generation.

"Democrats set getting high as a lifestyle choice, whereas Republicans are more likely to understand it through the prism of morality and social deviance," Jenkins said. "However, the age differences we're seeing suggest

that legal (pot) smoking in the future is more a question of 'when' rather than 'if.'"

Washington and Colorado have legalized recreational marijuana use, and several other states are considering it. Numerous others have approved medical marijuana use.

The nationwide poll of 1,151 adults ages 18 and older who live in the United States was conducted by telephone with both land lines and cellphones from April 21-27. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points.



MINE GROLL/AP

Bryan Preston, left, of Hannaford supermarkets, talks with job seekers during a job fair at Columbia-Greene Community College in Hudson, N.Y., in April.

Applications for jobless benefits decline to 319K

By CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The number of Americans seeking unemployment benefits fell 26,000 last week to 319,000, the latest sign that the job market is slowly improving.

The drop follows two weeks of increases that reflected mostly temporary layoffs around the Easter holiday. The holiday can cause an uptick in layoffs of bus drivers, cafeteria workers and other school workers during spring break. Those earlier increases caused the four-week average of applications, a less volatile number, to rise 4,500 to a seasonally adjusted 324,750.

With the impact of the holiday fading, applications are returning to pre-recession levels. The average fell in early April to 312,000, the fewest since October 2007. The recession officially began in December 2007.

Applications are a proxy for layoffs, and so the decline suggests that companies are cutting fewer jobs.

About 2.69 million people are receiving benefits, 76,000 fewer than in the previous week. That figure has fallen nearly 11 percent in the past year. An additional 1.3 million people lost benefits when an emer-

gency program that had provided up to 47 extra weeks of aid expired at the end of 2013.

Employers have stepped up hiring in recent months. The economy gained 288,000 jobs in April, the most in 2½ years, the government said last week.

In addition, the unemployment rate plunged to 6.3 percent from 6.7 percent. That drop occurred because fewer people looked for work. The government doesn't count people as unemployed unless they are actively searching.

In the past three months, employers have added an average of 238,000 jobs per month, up from 194,000 per month last year. The improved hiring should help boost economic growth for the rest of this year.

The economy barely expanded in the first three months of the year, growing at an annual rate of just 0.1 percent. That was largely because a brutal winter kept consumers away from shopping malls, shut down factories and discouraged home and car sales.

Many signs suggest that the economy has rebounded since then as the weather has warmed. Most analysts estimate that the economy is growing at a healthy annual pace of about 3.5 percent in the current April-June quarter.

How high is too high to drive? States find no easy answers

By ROB HOTAKAINEN

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Josephine Drum says her daughter was "cheated out of life" when she was killed while driving to work in downtown Seattle in 2012, hit by a man in a Jeep whose blood tested positive for marijuana.

"I feel if you smoke marijuana and you have to smoke it, that you should not be able to drive under the influence," said Drum, of Stockton, Calif. "I'm 84 years old. To have lost my daughter is something hard for me to accept."

With the push to legalize marijuana surging in popularity, states want to assure the public that roads will be safe. But they face a perplexing question: How stoned is too stoned to drive?

"The answer is: Pretty damned stoned is not as dangerous as drunk," said Mark Kleiman, professor of public policy at the University of California, Los Angeles, who served as Washington state's top pot consultant.

He said Washington state has a law that's far too strict and could lead to convictions of sober drivers, with many not even knowing whether they're abiding by the law.

With no conclusive research, states are all over the map as they try to assess intoxication by measuring blood levels of THC,

the main ingredient in marijuana.

There's no easy way to do it, with marijuana stored in fat cells and detectable in blood long after it's smoked or consumed, for days or weeks, depending on individual tolerance and level of use.

Washington state and Colorado, the only two states to fully legalize marijuana, have set a limit of 5 nanograms of active THC per milliliter of blood. In Washington state, legalization proponents included the language in the ballot initiative approved by voters in 2012.

"It appealed to the voters, but it's nonsense — it's not a good measure of whether somebody's impaired or not," Kleiman said. "The fact that legislators will not do their job on this means we go through the cockamamie initiative process — it's a lousy way to write legislation."

In California, much to Drum's disappointment, lawmakers last week rejected an even tougher standard. The state's Assembly committee on Public Safety voted to kill a bill that would have set the limit at 2 nanograms per milliliter of blood, rejecting the pleas of police officers.

In Arizona, the state Supreme Court last month struck down part of the state's zero-tolerance law, saying it could result in convictions of sober drivers.

Ore. police say handcuffing of girl, 9, uncovers a policy gap

The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — A Portland police officer told a citizen oversight panel Wednesday night that a case in which officers handcuffed a 9-year-old girl shows an area where the police department has a policy gap.

The department has set up a work group to examine its juvenile custody directives, posting the directives on its website Wednesday and inviting public comment.

"This is an area where the Police Bureau has identified a gap in policy," Capt. Dave Famous said. He told the citizen panel he'll update it next month on the work group's progress.

The little girl's mother, Latoya Harris, is disturbed that two officers who handcuffed her daughter in May 2013 and took her to

headquarters to have her fingerprints and mugshot taken were not disciplined. She appealed to the citizen panel to take some action. Portland police previously had said the officers were following police bureau policy. The Oregonian reported.

"Please make sure this does not happen to another child," Harris told the committee tearfully. "No child should be treated like that."

Two officers investigating a fight at a youth club came to the girl's home, handcuffed her as she stood in a bathing suit and led her away to be processed on a fourth-degree assault charge.

The girl's mother wasn't allowed to accompany her in the police car, and the girl was held for an hour.

Prosecutors didn't take the case to trial.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sorority faces discipline for city park incident

WA PULLMAN — Washington State University officials plan to discipline a sorority for an incident last weekend in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, that involved students urinating in a city park in front of families.

The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority will be charged with violations of the university's standards of conduct as a result of Saturday's incident, which occurred during a sorority-sponsored event.

The university received complaints from a Coeur d'Alene resident who reported that drunk students were observed exiting a chartered bus and urinating in public in the park.

If students are found responsible, they face a variety of punishments ranging from warnings to expulsion.

Man accused of killing wife with laced Kool-Aid

MO EMINENCE — A southeast Missouri man is charged with first-degree murder after investigators allege he killed his wife by giving her Kool-Aid laced with prescription drugs.

KYTV-TV reported Jason McClurg, 35, of Winona, is accused of poisoning Stephanie McClurg, 32, on Sunday after unsuccessfully trying to do the same a day earlier.

A probable cause statement said McClurg told an unidentified person he had mixed Kool-Aid with a large number of pills on Saturday because he wanted to "get rid of" his wife, but it didn't work.

A second person told police McClurg claimed to have thrown a pill capsule by the couch to make it look like she had committed suicide.

He was being held without bond in Shannon County Jail.

Man is rescued after jump at Niagara Falls

NY BUFFALO — A suicidal man spent six hours near the brink of Niagara Falls before jumping into the water in front of the rescuers who had been trying to coax him to safety, authorities said Wednesday.

Firefighters and police were able to pull him from the Niagara River about 15 yards from the precipice, Lt. Patrick Moriarty, of the New York State Park Police, said.

Moriarty said the 33-year-old man, who was from Long Island, was taken to a Niagara Falls hospital for evaluation.

The incident began shortly before 1 a.m. Tuesday when the man called 911 and told dispatchers he planned to kill himself.

Moriarty spoke with the man for hours but he jumped around 7 a.m. Apparently changing his mind, he quickly began swimming toward shore, allowing police and firefighters to pull him out.

"Shaking violently from the cold," the man said nothing as he was taken to an ambulance.

THE CENSUS

77

The estimated age of a basketball used in the first Olympic gold medal basketball game that a Kansas sports promoter hopes to sell. The undersized, deflated ball that's stitched together like a volleyball has been in Canada since a player's wife slipped it under a blanket after the championship game in Berlin in August 1936. The U.S. team took the gold with a 19-8 win over Canada, but a Canadian player, Jimmy Stewart, wound up with the game ball. Now, Overland Park, Kan., promoter Keith Zimmerman, right, is trying to sell the ball on behalf of Stewart's son. He expects it to net "six figures" when it is auctioned off July 12.



TYSON TRISH, THE RECORD OF BERGEN COUNTY (N.J.)/AP

Bagpipes tribute

Passaic County Sheriff's Capt. Scott Smith plays the bagpipes with other members of the Passaic County and Port Authority Pipes and Drums Corps during the 15th annual Blue Mass honoring deceased law enforcement officers, celebrated at St. Gerard Majella Church in Paterson, N.J., on Tuesday.

Tree-trimmers grind up more than limbs

CA OAKLAND — Federal and state wildlife officials are investigating a tree-trimming operation in Oakland that witnesses say sent baby birds into a wood chipper, a newspaper reported.

Horrified onlookers called police on Saturday as crews ground up black-crowned night heron bird chicks that were nesting in trees being trimmed in the downtown area, the San Francisco Chronicle reported Tuesday.

"It was awful," said Lisa Owens Viani, director of Raptors Are The Solution, who was among the first on the scene. "It's especially appalling because these birds are so vulnerable and such a valuable part of the ecosystem."

Police stopped the work, and Viani and others were able to rescue five chicks, according to the Chronicle.

Joe Campos, a supervisor with Campos Tree Service, said the

crew was new and didn't know the baby birds were in there.

Police: Bank robber's note leads to arrest

OR BEND — A Bend police affidavit says a robber at the Home Federal Bank two weeks ago demanded money by giving the teller a note written on the back of part of a grocery receipt.

Police said the receipt contained the last four digits of a food stamp account, which led to a suspect's name and a phone number, and then a telephone service provider came up with coordinates of the phone's location — a Central Oregon campground.

The Bulletin newspaper reported that's where Bend police arrested Robert Short, 54, on theft and robbery charges.

Police said Short denied the charges, saying he never keeps receipts and would have thrown it in the trash, where anyone could have picked it up.

VA hospital agrees to allow Christmas carols

GA AUGUSTA — A private school in Augusta whose students were banned from singing some Christmas carols at a VA hospital said a new agreement will allow the songs to be sung during the upcoming holiday season.

Alleluia Community School administrators said they've been assured by Augusta's Charlie Norwood Veterans Affairs Medical Center that students will be able to sing their carols — including those with religious content — within the hospital.

In December, the hospital announced a stricter stance on its policy banning carolers from singing religious Christmas music in public patient areas. As a result, the students were prevented from singing songs such as "Silent Night" and "O Come All Ye Faithful."

The VA said in a statement that it welcomes the school carolers.

Man charged in deadly dispute over deer

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A 57-year-old New Brighton man is charged with murder after he allegedly killed his neighbor over a dispute about feeding deer.

Prosecutors charged Neal Curtis Zumberge on Wednesday with one count of second-degree murder and one count of attempted second-degree murder.

According to the criminal complaint, Zumberge opened fire on his neighbors Monday, hours after Zumberge's adult son was arrested for allegedly threatening them. The complaint said Zumberge's son had accused the neighbors of giving Zumberge Lyme disease because they feed deer.

The complaint said Zumberge shot at his neighbors multiple times. Todd Stevens, 46, was killed and Jennifer Damerow Cleven, 58, was wounded.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Recalls challenge GM, vex customers

By TOM KRUSHIER
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Nine million parts.

That's what General Motors needs to repair millions of cars it has recalled since Feb. 7. With ignition switches, power steering motors and other parts slowly arriving at dealers, frustrated drivers face waits of weeks or months, some while driving cars they fear are unsafe.

Any recall can present challenges for automakers and customers. Still, most recalls include fewer than 50,000 vehicles and are typically completed in two or three months.

But experts say eight simultaneous recalls covering 7 million vehicles is too much for any organization to handle quickly, even one as big as GM. Suppliers have to make the parts — millions aren't sitting in stock. GM must notify customers, ship the parts

to dealers worldwide and train mechanics how to do repairs.

GM says it will take six months to make and distribute all the parts for the largest recall: 2.6 million small cars with faulty ignition switches that the company links to 13 deaths. The switches, mainly in older Chevrolet Cobalts and Saturn Ions, can slip out of the "run" position into "accessory," shutting off engines and disabling power-assisted steering and air bags. GM has told dealers

to offer concerned owners loaner cars while they wait for parts. Those cars also need to have a second part replaced.

There's no estimate yet on when the other recalls will be finished. Owners of all car brands might watch the mail for more notices. GM rival Toyota, which itself recently ordered recalls of millions of vehicles, expects automakers to be more proactive in bringing cars in for repairs.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 9)	\$1.4333
Dollar buys (May 9)	€0.6982
British pound (May 9)	\$1.74
Japanese yen (May 9)	99.00
South Korean won (May 9)	997.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6962/£0.5895
Canada (dollar)	1.0876
China (Yuan)	6.2283
Denmark (Krone)	5.3812
Egypt (Pound)	7.0473
Euro	\$1.3872/€0.7209
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7518
Hungary (Forint)	218.76
Israel (Shekel)	3.4463
Japan (Yen)	101.79
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2809
Norway (Krone)	5.8796
Philippines (Peso)	44.05
Poland (Zloty)	3.10
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2468
Taiwan (New Dollar)	1.02270
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8784
Thailand (Baht)	32.51
Turkey (New Lira)	0.0692

(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 is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

May 7, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	117.52 16,518.54
Nasdaq composite	-13.09 4,067.67
Standard & Poor's 500	10.49 1,878.21
Russell 2000	0.54 1,108.55

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
3-month bill	0.09
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.40

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.921	\$4.101	\$4.264	\$4.201
Change in price	-2.9 cents	-2.4 cents	-2.0 cents	-1.1 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.939	\$5.239	\$5.073
Change in price	---	-3.0 cents	-2.9 cents	-2.9 cents
U.K.	---	\$4.036	\$4.199	\$4.136
Change in price	---	-2.4 cents	-2 cents	-1.1 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.482	---
Change in price	---	---	no change	---
U.K.	---	\$4.084	\$4.243	\$4.215
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.445	\$4.069*
Change in price	---	---	no change	-1.1 cents
Italy	---	\$3.974	---	---
Change in price	no change	---	---	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$3.959	---	\$3.959
Change in price	---	-2.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.679	---	\$3.959	---
Change in price	-3.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents	---
South Korea	\$3.939	---	\$4.279	\$4.219
Change in price	-3.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.929*	\$4.109	\$4.279	---
Change in price	-3.0 cents	-3.0 cents	-2.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of May 10-16

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	82	63	Clay	Fort Wayne	74	65	Louisville	77	67	Rain	Pocatello	57	42	Rain	Sioux City	69	44	PCldy	
Ablene, Tex	88	57	Pdly	Cheyenne	60	33	PCldy	Fresno	78	58	PCldy	Lubbock	84	52	Cir	Portland, Maine	58	42	Rain	Sioux Falls	64	44	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	77	62	Rain	Chicago	74	64	Rain	Goodland	72	38	Cir	Macon	88	60	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	59	50	Rain	South Bend	73	65	Rain
Albany, N.Y.	66	52	Cldy	Cincinnati	75	63	Rain	Grand Junction	69	35	Cldy	Madison	67	61	Cldy	Providence	63	47	Cldy	Spartanburg	58	44	Rain
Albuquerque	76	45	Cir	Cleveland	76	60	Rain	Grand Rapids	72	65	Rain	Medford	64	48	Rain	Pueblo	74	39	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	74	65	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	69	55	Cldy	Colorado Springs	66	35	PCldy	Great Falls	59	42	Cldy	Memphis	81	67	Rain	Raleigh-Durham	60	62	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	77	62	PCldy
Amarillo	83	47	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	92	63	PCldy	Green Bay	66	62	PCldy	Miami Beach	85	76	Cir	Rapid City	64	32	Cir	St. Louis	88	74	Cir
Anchorage	59	44	PCldy	Columbus, Ga.	86	63	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	88	60	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	89	55	Cir	Reno	70	48	PCldy	Tallahassee	89	62	PCldy
Asheville	81	54	Cldy	Columbus, Ohio	77	61	Rain	Hartford	78	57	Cldy	Milwaukee	66	59	Cldy	Richmond	88	66	PCldy	Tampa	89	72	Cir
Atlanta	83	64	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	83	63	Cldy	Hartford Springfld	64	48	Cldy	Mpls-St Paul	61	51	Cldy	Roanoke	86	58	PCldy	Wichita	77	57	PCldy
Atlantic City	70	56	Cldy	Corpus Christi	86	73	Cldy	Helena	59	42	Rain	Missoula	55	41	Rain	Rochester	81	58	Cldy	Topeka	73	51	PCldy
Austin	61	50	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	89	69	PCldy	Honolulu	86	72	PCldy	Mobile	68	51	Rain	Rockford	69	63	Cldy	Wilmington	72	55	Rain
Baltimore	78	61	Cldy	Dayton	74	63	Rain	Houston	84	73	Cldy	Montgomery	85	65	Cldy	Sacramento	75	65	PCldy	Tulsa	78	62	PCldy
Baton Rouge	84	72	Rain	Daytona Beach	85	69	PCldy	Huntsville	79	65	Rain	Nashville	81	65	Rain	St. Louis	81	65	Rain	Tupelo	77	66	Rain
Beaumont	86	36	Cldy	Denver	84	64	Rain	Indianapolis	74	64	Rain	New Orleans	84	72	Rain	St. Petersburg	88	74	Cir	Waco	77	57	PCldy
Birmingham	80	65	Cldy	Des Moines	68	52	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	79	68	Rain	New York City	63	53	Cldy	St. Thomas	84	74	Rain	Washington	81	63	PCldy
Bismarck	64	31	Cldy	Detroit	74	62	Rain	Jacksonville	88	65	PCldy	Newark	64	53	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	87	74	Rain	Wash. Park Beach	77	76	PCldy
Boise	63	48	Cldy	Duluth	55	47	Cldy	Janeau	83	39	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	82	67	Rain	Salt Lake City	61	45	PCldy	Wichita Falls	72	55	PCldy
Boston	61	48	Cldy	El Paso	84	56	Cir	Kansas City	71	51	PCldy	North Platte	70	36	Cir	San Angelo	91	54	PCldy	Wichita Falls	87	60	Cir
Bridgport	61	50	Cldy	Elkins	81	53	PCldy	Key West	85	77	PCldy	Oklahoma City	80	59	PCldy	San Antonio	88	73	Rain	Wilkes-Barre	72	55	Rain
Brownsville	90	75	Cldy	Erie	78	60	Cir	Knoxville	82	62	Cldy	Omaha	70	46	PCldy	San Diego	70	60	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	72	58	PCldy
Buffalo	77	60	Rain	Eugene	60	47	Rain	Lake Charles	82	72	Rain	Orlando	91	68	PCldy	San Francisco	68	57	PCldy	Yakima	63	44	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	66	47	Rain	Evansville	74	66	Rain	Lansing	72	65	Rain	Paducah	77	67	Rain	San Jose	71	55	PCldy	Youngstown	79	61	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	63	30	Cir	Fairbanks	58	35	Cir	Las Vegas	87	64	Cir	Pendleton	62	48	Cir	Santa Fe	72	34	Cir				
Casper, Wyo.	61	32	Cir	Fargo	60	43	PCldy	Lexington	77	63	Rain	Phoenix	72	63	Rain	St. Marie	63	49	Rain				
Charleston, S.C.	88	63	PCldy	Flagstaff	64	31	Cir	Lincoln	72	44	PCldy	Philadelphia	73	58	Cldy	Savannah	87	64	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	87	58	PCldy	Flint	74	64	Rain	Little Rock	83	67	Rain	Phoenix	91	64	Cir	Seattle	57	49	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	89	59	PCldy	Fort Smith	80	65	Rain	Los Angeles	73	57	PCldy	Pittsburgh	81	60	Cldy	Shreveport	82	68	Rain				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 102, Dryden, Tex., and
Lo: Wed., 20, Saranac Lake, N.Y., and
Mount Washington, N.H.

FAITH

The lure of faith



PHOTOS BY PHIL CARLSON, THE QUINCY (ILL.) HERALD-WHIG/AP

Tom East holds one of his Christian Fishermen crankbait lures in the basement workshop of his home in Coatsburg, Ill. East turned his love of fishing into a business that also benefits faith-based organizations.

Ill. man combines love of fishing with Christian beliefs and charity

By DEBORAH GERTZ HUSAR
The Quincy (Ill.) Herald-Whig

COATSBURG, Ill. — Tom East believes faith, family and fishing can be a “reel” catch combination.

The Coatsburg man turned a lifelong love of fishing into a sideline business donating part of its proceeds to faith-based organizations.

“We’re a business, but it’s more of a mission,” East said.

Listening to an inner voice led East to try making his first ring lure back in 2010. It turned out “ugly and heavy,” and he kept it as a reminder of how far he’s come in crafting lures but as a way to teach a valuable lesson to his three daughters.

“When life tells you to give up, you keep pushing on,” East said.

Had he given up, he said, “No never would have impacted people in God’s name, never had an opportunity to give back to anywhere because we quit.” Trial and error led to making better

lures, which he showed off to co-workers at Knaphside. When they wanted to buy the lures, “I had to come up with a new idea of how to go a little faster,” East said.

A basement room of a former grade school turned into his family home “is where the magic happens,” East said.

He still crafts wooden lures, cutting out the basic shape, sanding, priming, painting, adding the details and a clear coat finish.

He also makes plastic lures, working with a two-piece resin mold taken from his wooden lures. Purchased eyes and spoons help finish the custom bass and roan runner lures, and “when we’re all done, we tie a marabou on the tail,” East said.

“They may resemble other people’s lures, but they are not copied. They are our own original,” he said.

The most fun in the process is the painting, turning the basic lures into underwater art sporting everything from camouflage

to colors from area school districts.

“The way it looks is for the fisherman. Everything else is designed for the fish,” East said. “The way these are cut will make the water turn and vibrate. That’s what the fish like. With this thing rattling, they’re going to chase it.”

Fishing has been a huge part of East’s life since childhood, when the catch helped feed the family.

“My grandfather taught my dad. My dad taught me and my brothers. Now we’re teaching the girls,” East said. “This is a way to make a connection to the past and a way to make a connection to your future.”

It’s not just about catching fish. It’s bonding time, spent in conversation in the boat, and it’s a way to emphasize his faith.

Talking with Tom Robbins, his pastor at Faith Baptist Church and frequent fishing partner, sent the business in a new direction, “giving it back to God where it belongs,” East said.

Originally known as Tommy’s Hand Made Lures, the business now is known as Christian Fisherman, with a symbol tying together a fishing hook and a cross and an emphasis on a Scripture, Mark 1:17, “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will

make you become fishers of men.’”

He’s willing to spread the message with church groups and Scout troops, working with young people to foster both faith and an interest in fishing.

East and his family also create wordless Bible necklaces, and they sell T-shirts and bracelets.

East donates 10 percent of the business proceeds to Christian charities, food banks and faith-based organizations.

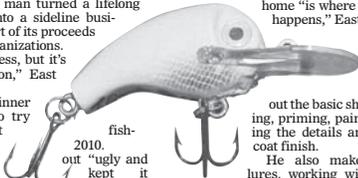
His very first profits went to buy cans of tuna donated to the Community For Christ Assistance Center in Camp Point.

And his faith helped promote the business.

“I’m always taking stuff to show the pastor,” East said. “Some guy says ‘Can I see those?’ I can sell those.” He manages GameMasters fishing department. It’s still new out there, but the stuff’s moving.

Beyond GameMasters, his lures are available at Wiemelt Bait and Tackle in Quincy. T-shirts are available at the Mustard Seed. And all the items are available through East and his website, tommyslures.webs.com.

“Everything we do has been prayed over,” he said. “It might not make a difference to somebody else, but it does to me.”



UKRAINE UNREST

Pro-Russians to hold referendum in Ukraine

By PETER LEONARD

The Associated Press

DONETSK, Ukraine — The pro-Russia insurgency in eastern Ukraine decided Thursday to go ahead with Sunday's referendum on autonomy despite a call from Russian President Vladimir Putin to delay it.

While Putin's call on Wednesday to postpone the vote was seen as part of an effort to step back from confrontation and negotiate a deal with the West, he fanned tensions again Thursday by overseeing military exercises that Russian news agencies said simulated a massive retaliatory nuclear strike in response to an enemy attack.

Putin said the exercise involving Russia's nuclear forces had been planned back in November, but it came as relations between Russia and the West have plunged to their lowest point since the Cold War.

On the ground in Ukraine, many have feared that the referendum could be a flashpoint for further violence between Ukrainian troops and the pro-Russia militants who have seized government buildings in about a dozen cities in the east.

The decision to hold the vote as planned was unanimous, said Denis Pushilin, co-chairman of the so-called Donetsk People's Republic.

He said the suggestion to postpone the referendum "came from a person who indubitably cares for the population of the south-east" of Ukraine and thanked Putin for his efforts to find a way out of the situation. "But we are just a bullhorn for the people," Pushilin said. "We just voice what the people want and demonstrate through their actions."

The question on the ballot is: "Do you support the act of proclamation of independent sovereignty for the Donetsk People's Republic?"

Despite the phrasing, the organizers have said that only after the vote will they decide whether they want actual independence, greater autonomy within Ukraine or annexation by Russia.

The poll conducted last month by the Washington-based Pew Research Center found that 77 percent of people nationwide want Ukraine to maintain its current borders, while nearly as many, or 70 percent, in the east feel the same. Only among Russian speakers does the percentage drop significantly, but it is still over half at 58 percent.



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

The head of the elections commission of the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic, Denis Pushilin, center, talks about the Ukraine referendum at a press conference at the occupied administration building in Donetsk on Thursday.

The central government in Kiev has the confidence of only about 41 percent of Ukrainians, with a sharp divide between the west of the country, where support is 60 percent, and the east, where it is a low 24 percent, according to the

poll.

Russia, however, is viewed with great suspicion, with three times as many Ukrainians surveyed saying Russia is having a bad influence on their country as say its impact is positive.

US frigate visits Georgia amid tensions in region

Stars and Stripes

A U.S. warship pulled into the Black Sea port of Batumi, Georgia, on Thursday as part of ongoing U.S. and NATO efforts to reassure friends and allies amid regional tensions.

The USS Taylor, an Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigate, will host ship tours and a reception for Georgia officials, a Navy press release said. It will also host training for Georgia's Coast Guard, including vessel boarding, search and seizure and medical care. The country's small Navy effectively collapsed in its 2008 war with Russia, which destroyed the Georgian fleet of patrol craft and missile boats.

The visit is the first by a Navy warship since Russia's invasion of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula in March. The Taylor was previously in Constanta, Romania, where it trained with NATO ally Romania. The Navy has sent warships on individual visits to the Black Sea since the start of the crisis.

The U.S. and NATO relationship with Georgia has been a source of angst for Russia over the past decade. U.S. Marines worked with Georgian troops before the 2008 war, and they continued to train them for deployments to Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led coalition there.

Countries in the region fear further Russian incursions into Ukraine in the run-up to a scheduled election on May 25.

On Thursday, the Pentagon announced that U.S. special operations forces will take part in three multinational and bilateral exercises this month in the Baltic region. The first one, Spring Storm, kicked off earlier this week at Amari Air Base, Estonia, Defense Department spokesman Col. Steve Warren said. Spring Storm is a two-week bilateral exercise which involves weapons familiarization, tactical movement and mission planning between US and Estonian special operations. Exercises Flaming Sword and Namejs will take place in the coming weeks.

Warren said that American special operations will be participating in a number of smaller, Joint Combined Exchange Training exercises in five countries in the Baltics and Eastern Europe. The JCETs will enable U.S. troops to hone their tactical and cultural skills and increase interoperability, according to Warren.

"These JCETs...send a clear signal to both our partner and allies in the region that we are committed to security and stability in the area," Warren said.

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SILENT AUCTION AND PREVIEW BEGINS AT **2PM TIL 5PM**
MAIN AUCTION BEGINS AT **3PM**

Hors d'oeuvres will be served and a cash bar will be available.
ALL HANDS WELCOME!

WORLD

Nigerians: Security slow to respond before attack

BAUCHI, Nigeria (AP) — Residents of a town attacked by Boko Haram said at least 50 bodies have been recovered, many horribly burned, and they criticized security forces for failing to prevent the attack even though they had been warned that the Islamic militants were nearby.

The attack on Gamboru town, in remote northeastern Borno state near the border with Cameroon, happened Monday. The death toll was initially reported by a senator to be as many as 300, but a security official said it is more likely to be around 100. The attack happened in the same state, Borno, where Boko Haram kidnapped more than 300 girls from a school last month. Most of those girls remain in captivity, believed to be in the vast Sambisa forest.

Some Gamboru residents said bodies were recovered from the debris of burned shops after the town's main market came under attack on Monday afternoon.

Gamboru resident Abuwar Masta said the bodies were found after the market reopened on Wednesday as health workers, volunteers and traders searched for missing people. He said most of the bodies were burned beyond recognition.

"It seems they hid in the shops in order not to be killed while fleeing," Masta said. "Unfortunately, several explosives were thrown into the market."

Masta and other traders said that some villagers had warned the security forces of an impending attack after insurgents

were seen camping in the bushes near Gamboru.

"To help the Nigerian government locate and free the schoolgirls, the U.S. military is contributing to an U.S. government interagency "coordination and assessment cell" that will advise and assist the Nigerians with communications, logistics, and intelligence.

On Thursday, the Defense Department announced that 11 troops who were already on the ground in Nigeria have formed the core of the cell. Another team of military experts, primarily from U.S. Africa Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany, will arrive in country in the coming days to augment the cell, Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren told reporters. That team from Stuttgart will consist of fewer than 10 personnel, Warren said. The cell will operate from the U.S. embassy in Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

Although the U.S. military is contributing to the advisory effort, the Pentagon does not have any intention of using American special operations forces against Boko Haram to liberate their captives, according to Warren.

"At this time we are not considering a U.S. operation to help rescue the girls," he said Wednesday, when DOD first unveiled its plan to assist the Nigerians.

Pakistan frees American identified as FBI agent

By ADIL JAWAD
The Associated Press

KARACHI, Pakistan — Pakistan released an FBI agent on bail Thursday after three days in custody, officials said, a move that is likely to prevent the situation from escalating into a diplomatic spat.

The American man was detained after airport authorities found him carrying ammunition and three knives Monday as he was about to board a flight for the Pakistani capital, Islamabad.

The arrest threatened to open a new chapter in troubled relations between Pakistan and the U.S., which have been uneasy allies since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. The relatively fast release, if confirmed, suggested efforts to defuse any tensions.

A law enforcement official in the U.S. has said the man was an FBI agent and said he was in Pakistan as part of a multi-agency, anti-corruption program. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the diplomatic sensitivities of the case, said the agent appeared to have made a mistake and didn't mean to carry bullets aboard the plane.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki confirmed the detention Wednesday and said the U.S. was coordinating with Pakistani authorities to resolve the matter. She did not identify the man.

A Pakistani court directed the man to

submit a surety bond of 1 million rupees (\$9,800) for his bail, police officer Rao Anwaar said. The American arrived in Karachi on May 1 and was detained after officials found him with the ammunition, knives and electronic devices that were being examined.

He said the release came a day after police completed the investigation and submitted the report to the court.

Other police officials said investigators were under immense pressure from the Interior Ministry and other government officials to release the American, so the report was rushed. They found he had no criminal intention in carrying the bullets during domestic air travel, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity in exchange for release of the details.

Washington needs Pakistan's help fighting al-Qaida and stabilizing neighboring Afghanistan as NATO uses Pakistani roads to supply its troops. However, relations have strained over a series of incidents: CIA contractor Raymond Davis shot and killed two Pakistani men in Lahore in January 2011. The U.S. unilaterally killed Osama bin Laden in the Pakistani city of Abbottabad in May 2011, and American forces accidentally killed 24 Pakistani troops along the Afghan border the same year. U.S. drones strikes in the country also have angered Pakistanis.

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WORLD

Rebel bombing of Syrian hotel kills at least 14

By BARBARA SURK
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — A rebel-claimed bombing Thursday in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo leveled a once-luxurious hotel near the ancient Citadel that government troops used as a military base, causing multiple casualties, activists and militants said.

Syrian state television said the explosion struck the Carlton Hotel in a government-held area on the edge of a contested neighborhood in the old part of Aleppo.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which maintains a network of activists on the ground, said at least 14 soldiers were killed in the blast. The Islamic Front — Syria's biggest rebel alliance, which claimed the attack — claimed to have killed 50 soldiers. Both groups did not say how they know how many soldiers died, and the claims could not be independently verified.

In a live broadcast from the site of the blast, the station's correspondent in Aleppo stood on a huge pile of rubble with twisted metal and palm trees sticking out, saying that the army had been using the building as a base and soldiers were positioned there at the time of the explosion. In the broadcast, Syrian TV did not mention casualties but said the rebels blew up the building by tunneling underneath and planting explosives.

"They use tunnels like rats because they cannot face the Syrian Arab Army," the correspondent said, adding that the explosion felt like an earthquake to those around Aleppo.

The attack was the second carried out by the Islamic Front against the Carlton. The first, allegedly carried out also through explosives-packed tunnels, caused a partial collapse of the building in February. The Front, an alliance of several Islamic groups fighting to topple President Bashar Assad, appears to favor this technique and has used it to carry out deadly attacks

against government forces in Aleppo and Idlib provinces.

Thursday's attack was a blow to Assad's government in the north as his troops prepare to regain control of the central city of Homs following last week's cease-fire agreement after a fierce, two-year battle with the rebels trying to oust him.

Rebels were completing their withdrawal from Homs on Thursday, a day after hundreds of fighters evacuated from the city under the cease-fire deal.

No such agreement appears to be in sight in Aleppo, Syria's largest city and former commercial hub. The city has been carved

'They use tunnels like rats because they cannot face the Syrian Arab Army.'

Syrian TV correspondent

up into opposition- and government-held areas since the rebels launched an offensive there in mid-2012, capturing territory along Syria's northern border with Turkey. In recent months, government aircraft relentlessly have bombed rebel-held areas of the city and the opposition fighters have hit back, firing mortars into government-held areas. The rebels also have detonated car bombs in residential areas, killing dozens of people.

The Islamic Front posted a statement on its official Twitter account Thursday saying that its "fighters this morning leveled the Carlton Hotel barracks in Old Aleppo and a number of buildings near it, killing 50 soldiers."

The Observatory said Islamic Front fighters planted a huge amount of explosives in a tunnel they dug below the hotel and detonated it remotely. It said the hotel was completely destroyed in the blast and at least 14 government soldiers were killed in the blast.

The Syrian government does not publicize its casualties in the civil war.



Typhoon survivors clean up a village in Tacloban city, Leyte province, in central Philippines, on Feb. 13. There are signs of progress since the storm devastated the Philippines on Nov. 8, but much work remains.

6 months after typhoon, signs of progress in the Philippines

By TERESA CERJOJANO
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Six months after the strongest typhoon to hit land killed his mother and tore down much of their house in the eastern Philippines, Sofronio Cervantes wants to return home — if only he can scrape together the money to rebuild his life once he gets there.

Like thousands of others, the 38-year-old farmer fled the destruction wrought by Typhoon Haiyan to Manila, the capital. But after a fruitless search for work and surviving on the charity of his wife's relatives, Cervantes says it is now time to go back to his village, where his father lives in what remains of their house — a tarpaulin roof strung between two broken walls.

"I want to restart our lives there," he said while visiting the Social Welfare Department, where he managed to get a cash handout of 2,800 pesos, or \$60, to cover the bus fare for his wife, 1-year-old son and himself back to his home province of Leyte. "What will I do here? It is better for us to go home."

There are signs of progress since the monster storm slammed into the Philippines on Nov. 8, leaving more than 7,300 dead or missing and flattening hundreds of thousands of homes and other structures. Many survivors have started rebuilding and debris is slowly being cleaned up and carted away.

Enormous work remains. As of the end of April, more than 2 million people were living without adequate shelter, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said. Access to water and sanitation also remains a challenge.

"We know that recovery will be a long road," said Marcel Fortier, of the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. "I can tell you based on our experience, after three years, there would still be a lot of needs that will not be covered."

Recovery efforts have been stymied by government bureaucracy, said Panfilo Lacon, a former senator who heads the government's rehabilitation team.

The rebuilding master plan that includes input from local government officials has yet to be

reviewed by Cabinet officials and presented to President Benigno Aquino III for approval, he said. Lacon also said he doesn't have full authority to make decisions, implement plans and disburse funds, unlike the official put in charge of rebuilding after the massive 2004 earthquake and tsunami in Banda Aceh, Indonesia.

"I am really frustrated," Lacon said. "It is difficult to coordinate but we have the implementing authority."

He was relieved, however, that there had been no epidemics or breakdown in law in order in the disaster zone, and noted that it took eight years for areas hit by Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. to fully recover.

Reconstruction from the Haiyan disaster will cost 104 billion pesos, or \$2.35 billion, the government estimates.

So far, \$763 million in foreign aid has been pledged for rebuilding, and the government has received about half of that. Those funds are apart from the millions of dollars in food and other emergency aid that was distributed directly by aid groups shortly after the typhoon.

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WEEKEND

A return to **NORMANDY**

Where and how to mark
the 70th anniversary of D-Day

Pages 25-29



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Spinning Stacy's tale

By Andrew A. Smith
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

You know Gwen Stacy is dead, right? I'm not talking about her fate in the movie "Amazing Spider-Man 2," now in theaters. I don't know that myself, and wouldn't tell you if I knew.

No, I'm talking about comic books, where Gwen Stacy has been dead since being thrown off a bridge by the Green Goblin in 1972.

That's a long time to be dead in comics. But the reasons for that and how it came about is a story in itself.

Where did Peter Parker first meet Gwen Stacy? Not at Parker's Midtown High! While many of the movies, cartoons and other Spidey media establish both Stacy and Mary Jane "MJ" Watson as Parker's contemporaries in high school, in the comics he met both in college.

Stacy appears for the first time in 1965, on Parker's first day of classes at Empire State University. As a science major, she appreciated Parker's intellectual gifts, but thought he was egotistical (because he didn't hang out with "the gang"), and that he was wasting his talents due to personal irresponsibility. Which is ironic, since a sense of responsibility is what drives Parker to constantly change into Spider-Man. But it was those changes — and Parker's unexplained absences — that led to Stacy's disdain.

Just as Gwen and Peter got over their initial misimpressions and started making goo-goo eyes at each other, Marvel editor and "Spider-Man" writer Stan Lee shook up the strip by creating a love triangle with the addition of red-haired party girl Mary Jane Watson. Her memorable introductory line in 1966 was, if anything, understated: "Face it, Tiger — you just hit the jackpot!"

This was the end result of a long-running gag in "Amazing Spider-Man." While Parker was still in high school, his doting Aunt May was always pushing for him to meet the niece of Mrs. Watson next door, a girl named Mary Jane.

Parker figured any girl his aunt would approve of must be boring, and probably unattractive as well, so he was always finding excuses to avoid meeting her. The joke was, as the readers knew, MJ Watson was and is drop-dead gorgeous.

It was hilarious watching Parker squirm, trying desperately to avoid meeting a girl that would eventually make his eyes bug out. But it turns out



IMAGES COURTESY OF MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT INC./MCT

The fateful comic book, "Amazing Spider-Man" No. 121, in which Gwen Stacy dies.

the joke was on the book's creators, because MJ proved extremely popular with readers — more popular than Parker's ostensible girlfriend.

"Johnny [artist John Romita] and I had always planned for Peter to be in love with gorgeous Gwen," Lee said in his autobiography, "and one day end up marrying her. But somehow, Mary Jane was the one who seemed to come alive on the page. She crackled with energy, excitement, sex appeal. Much as we tried, we couldn't make Gwen as appealing as MJ."

So Gwen had to go. "The Night Gwen Stacy Died!" appeared in "Amazing Spider-Man" No. 121. And naturally, fans howled with outrage.

Technically, it was Spider-Man — not the Green Goblin — who killed Gwen Stacy. The Goblin threw her off a bridge, sure, so legally, morally and in almost every other way, the Goblin is responsible for Stacy's demise. But Spider-Man tried to catch her with a quick shot of webbing — and when it made contact and arrested Stacy's fall, a small "SNAP" sound effect emanated from her neck. As the old joke goes, it isn't the fall that kills you, it's the abrupt stop at the end.

Fans were furious. It was one thing to kill Gwen Stacy, but the added detail that it was Spider-Man's attempts at rescue that actually did the deed just smacked of cruelty.

So endeth the Gwen Stacy story — at least in comics.

GADGET WATCH Pelican cases built for pros

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Pelican touts its reputation for making high-performance case solutions that are watertight, crushproof, dust proof and used by professionals in the most demanding situations including fire-fighters, police and military.

The Pelican 1560LOC overnight case (full of camera equipment) redefines the word "useful."

First, a little bit about Pelican cases: They are probably the most durable hard cases available. Composed of Polypropylene copolymer, a hard surface that can be stood on and dropped, they keep your valuables intact.

Pelican cases can tolerate temperatures ranging from minus 10 degrees to 210 degrees Fahrenheit and are wear resistant. Many can be ordered with customization to specific needs. For the 1560 I tested (exterior dimensions 22.06-by-17.93-by-10.43 inches, 18.8 pounds), I had Velcro dividers along with my first look at the built-in compartments for holding a laptop and its accompanying accessories.

The dividers can be set up however you wish for any type of gear, but what got me hooked on this case was the laptop storage enabling everything to be in one case. The padded laptop sleeve is attached to the inside front cover and can store a laptop up to 17 inches. Similar padded and removable sleeves surround the laptop for storing cables, chargers or whatever accessories are needed.

Once everything is stored to your liking, clip shut the easy-open and close latches, pull out the retractable extension handle

and start rolling. Cases can be ordered with the Velcro dividers or foam to customize to your exact items. A personalized nameplate is also an option. Online: pelican.com, \$249



SoundFreaq's Sound Rise (SFQ-08) wireless speaker and alarm clock is a nightstand system designed the way a gadget like this should be; attractive, with great sound, taking up a small amount of space and able to use with any brand of wireless device. Charging and docking are done with the included USB cable.

Your phone plugs into the USB port, which enables bedtime reading, texting or whatever you need. As for the clock, it's a front-facing display that has controls to adjust the brightness with blue display settings.

Audio is streamed with Bluetooth (4.0) into a great-sounding speaker system. If wireless streaming isn't your thing, there's an aux-in port for a wired connection.

There's also a backup battery compartment to keep the clock running in the event of a power failure.

Time in 12 or 24 hour settings, snooze, snooze, two alarms and even a FM radio is built-in if you want to go old school with the presets.

Controls on the Sound Rise (5.5-by-3-by-3.25 inches) are on the top for most settings.

Online: soundfreaq.com; available in black (\$69) or wood/taupe (\$79) finishes



ON THE COVER: This statue of "Iron Mike" stands in La Fiere, France, near Ste.-Mère-Eglise, to represent the paratroops of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions that fought there in World War II.

MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for May 7:

1. "Storyline," Hunter Hayes
2. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay
3. "Shine On" (Deluxe Edition), Sarah McLachlan
4. "iCOW That's What I Call Music 50," Various Artists
5. "Southsiders" (Deluxe Version), Atmosphere
6. "Sheezus" (Deluxe Edition), Lily Allen
7. "Turn Blue," The Black Keys
8. "The Hunting Party," Linkin Park
9. "Just As I Am," Brantley Gilbert
10. "Strangeulation" (Deluxe Edition), Tech N9ne Collaboros

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from April 28 to May 4:

1. Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
2. John Legend, "All of Me"
3. Ariana Grande, "Problem"
4. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
5. Calvin Harris, "Summer"
6. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty — feat. 2 Chainz"
7. DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
8. Bastille, "Pompeii"
9. Coldplay, "Magic"
10. Idina Menzel, "Let It Go"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for May 7:

1. "Walk of Shame"
2. "The Monuments Men"
3. "Frozen"
4. "Ride Along"
5. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
6. "That Awkward Moment"
7. "The Secret Life of Walter Mitty"
8. "The Legend of Hercules"
9. "American Hustle"
10. "August: Osage County"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine rank the top 10 Xbox 360 games for May:

1. "Dark Souls II," Namco Bandai
2. "Titanfall," Electronic Arts
3. "South Park: The Stick of Truth," Ubisoft
4. "BioShock Infinite: Burial at Sea Episode 2," 2K Games
5. "Strider," Capcom
6. "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," EA Sports
7. "Child of Light," Ubisoft
8. "Legs The Hobbit," Warner Bros.
9. "The Wolf Among Us Episode 3 — A Crooked Mile," Telltale Games
10. "Trials Fusion," Ubisoft

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for May 7:

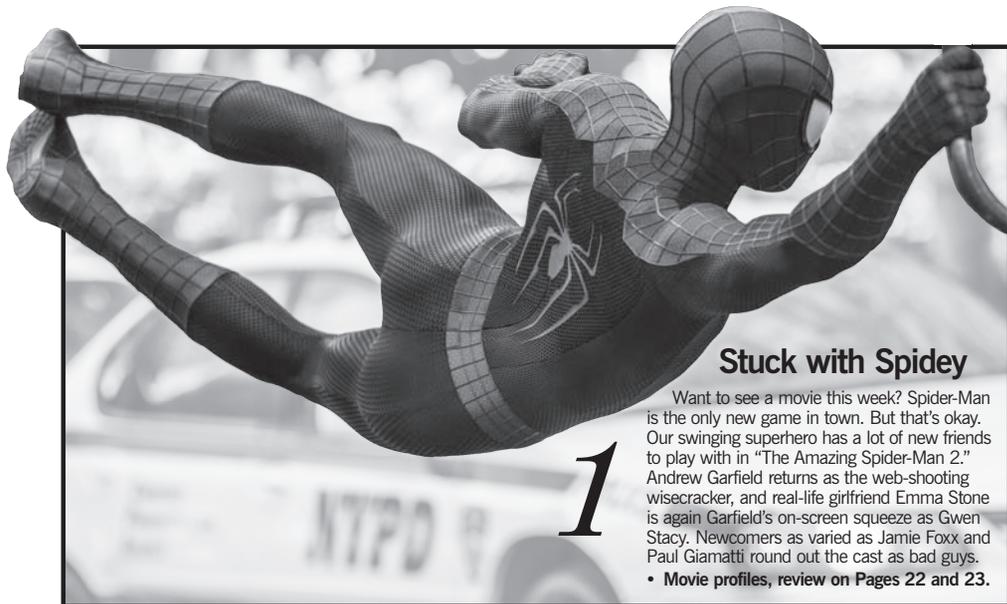
- ANDROID
1. LEGO Star Wars Microfighters
 2. The Amazing Spider-Man 2
 3. XCOM: Enemy Unknown
 4. Baldur's Gate Enhanced Edition
 5. TurboScan: document scanner
- IOS
1. 5 new apps for May 7
 1. APPLE
 1. Pencil Apps — Pocket Edition
 2. The Amazing Spider-Man 2
 3. Blek
 4. Hooked on Phonics Learn to Read Classroom Edition
 5. Sumatori Dreams

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Stuck with Spidey

Want to see a movie this week? Spider-Man is the only new game in town. But that's okay. Our swinging superhero has a lot of new friends to play with in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2." Andrew Garfield returns as the web-shooting wisecracker, and real-life girlfriend Emma Stone is again Garfield's on-screen squeeze as Gwen Stacy. Newcomers as varied as Jamie Foxx and Paul Giamatti round out the cast as bad guys.

- **Movie profiles, review on Pages 22 and 23.**

Columbia Pictures

2

100 best comic book characters, Part 1

Comic books aren't just for the scarily geeky any more. Paste magazine has assembled this list to help the more laid-back fan appreciate the vast, seemingly limitless realm of comic-book heroes and villains.

Chances are, you haven't heard of most of these (that's Adam Warlock above, FYI), so take a few minutes to educate yourself.

- **List of 100 best comic book characters, 100 to 41, is at tinyurl.com/kruo46j**

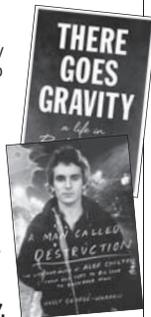


3

Books explore rockers' seamy sides

"Rock musicians" and "crazy stories" are a natural fit. Two recent books take on musical subjects. Journalist Lisa Robinson puts artists and their works into historical context while dropping the occasional juicy vignette in "There Goes Gravity: A Life in Rock and Roll." "A Man Called Destruction" recounts the late Alex Chilton's troubled career in spooky detail.

- **Book reviews on Page 37.**

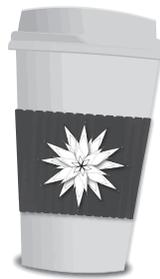


4

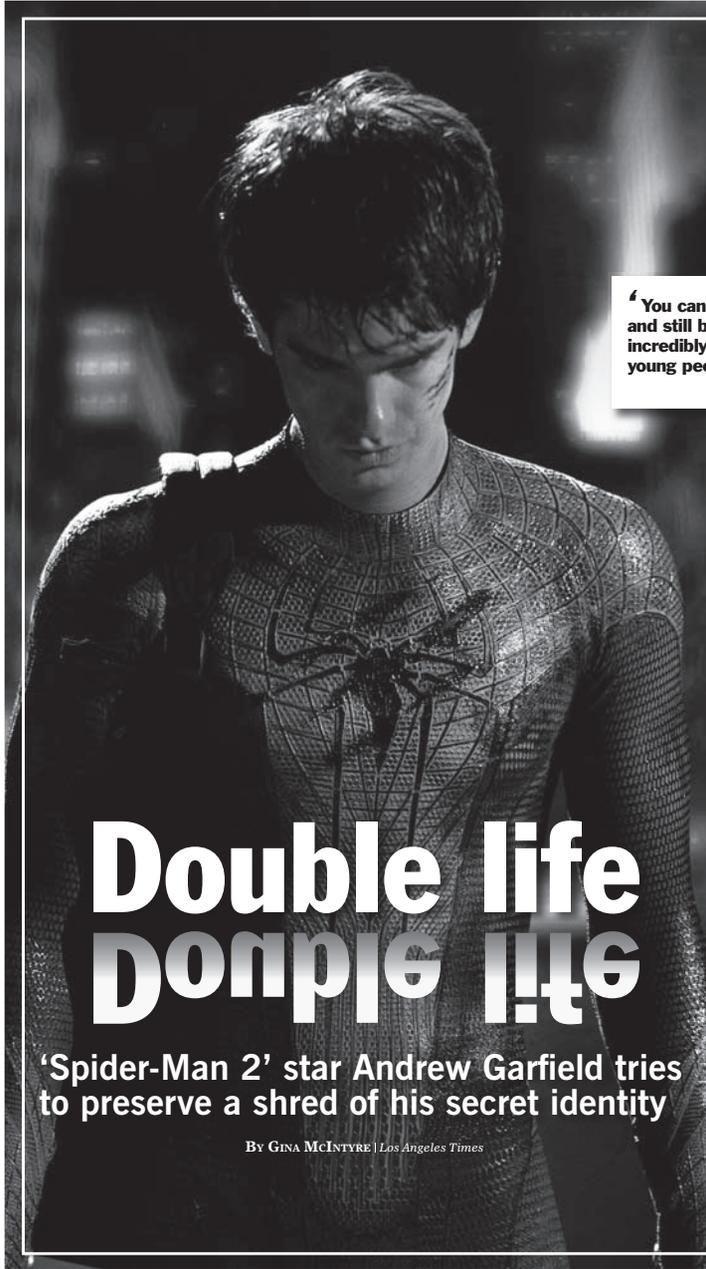
'Frozen' parody for coffee drinkers

This parody video plays off the touching strains of "Frozen's" "Do You Want to Build a Snowman?" A lonely college student seeks a companion to make a coffee run with her. It's the perfect combination of sweet and ridiculous, with a great twist at the end.

- **Watch it at tinyurl.com/khizbya**



WEEKEND: MOVIES



Andrew Garfield, the star of "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," took one glance around the Bell-Air eatery and made a quick assessment: "Peter Parker wouldn't be allowed in here," he said with a nod.

It is nearly impossible to picture the brainy, blue-collar kid from Forest Hills, Queens, enjoying fine California cuisine on an upscale restaurant patio on an April afternoon, and even Garfield, the 30-year-old actor who has lived inside Peter Parker's skin for the past few years, seems a little too low-key and comfortable unkept to belong to the class of diners soaking up the mild sunshine.

But Peter's outsider quality and the transformational aspect of his accidental encounter with a scientifically enhanced arachnid was one thing that deeply appealed to Garfield long before he ever starred in a blockbuster

or had even settled on an acting career: The self-described skinny kid in England who was bullied by his classmates found solace — and hope — in the web-slinger.

"I needed a myth," Garfield said of his attraction to the crafty costumed hero created by Stan Lee and Steve Ditko at Marvel Comics in 1962. "I needed

a story to put myself into to understand where I was at, to remind me that it's OK to be imperfect. ... You can be imperfect and still be a hero. That's incredibly empowering for young people."

In the new \$200 million production — directed like its predecessor by Marc Webb — Garfield's well-crawling hero is beset by numerous threats, chief among them Jamie Foxx's Electro, an incandescent blue bad guy who wields the ability to control the power grid.

Yet even as he must try to contain the damage Electro inflicts across Manhattan, Peter Parker struggles to learn more about his own past, including his father's demise. He's also wrestling with his relationship with Gwen Stacy (Emma Stone), attempting to balance his feelings for her with his desire to keep her out of harm's way. Plus there's the matter of an old friend, Harry Osborn (Dane DeHaan), whose reappearance spells trouble.

It's the kind of conflicted, complicated character that appeals to the actor.

"This is the Spider-Man movie that I want to make," said Garfield. "This is the Spider-Man that I want to portray, and this is the Spider-Man that I want to have the opportunity to be."

"The Amazing Spider-Man" turned out to be a blockbuster hit that took in upward of \$262 million at the domestic box office and also earned critical praise, thanks in part to the winning chemistry between Garfield and Stone, who met and began dating during the production.

With the exception of the "Spider-Man" movies, Garfield seems to prefer projects that tilt toward the prestigious — he recently shot the indie drama "99 Homes" with award-winning filmmaker Sam Bahart, and he's poised to play a 17th century Jesuit priest for director Martin Scorsese in the film "Silence." On stage, he won acclaim (including a Tony Award nomination) for his Broadway run playing Biff Loman in "Death of a Salesman" opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman for director Mike Nichols in 2012.

His adventures in comic book cinema aside, it would be difficult to accuse Garfield of courting fame. In person, he's thoughtful and soft-spoken and refers often to "the energy" of a person or a place, displaying much of the low-decibel charm he brings to his scruffy, sarcastic Peter Parker. He makes his home in the same city as his screen alter ego too, where he said it's easier to avoid becoming caught up in Hollywood politics.

"New York City, you know that no one (cares) about who you are — that's healthy. Here, people really care," Garfield said. "I do just want to create things and be an artist and explore and experiment and be free of fear of judgment. That's the big joke. The religion of celebrity and fame, the fanaticism of the star, it's not real in any way. It's all illusion."

Andrew Garfield stars as Peter Parker/Spider-Man in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

COURTESY OF SONY FILMS/MCT

'You can be imperfect and still be a hero. That's incredibly empowering for young people.'

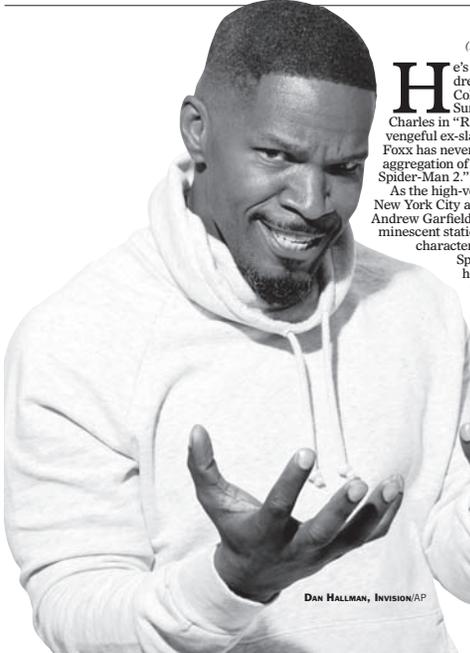
Andrew Garfield

Double life Donpie life

'Spider-Man 2' star Andrew Garfield tries to preserve a shred of his secret identity

BY GINA MCINTYRE | Los Angeles Times

WEEKEND: MOVIES



DAN HALLMAN, INVISION/AP

By COLIN COVERT
(Minneapolis) Star Tribune

He's got a range that extends from cross-dressing tomfoolery on TV's "In Living Color" to gridiron drama in "Any Given Sunday," masterful musicianship as Ray Charles in "Ray," and blaxploitation heroism as a vengeful ex-slave in "Django Unchained." But Jamie Foxx has never had a role as extreme as the angry aggregation of electrons he plays in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

As the high-voltage villain Electro, Foxx terrorizes New York City as he flings lightning bolts at co-star Andrew Garfield. Digital effects add a kind of bioluminescent static electric spark beneath the character's glowing ice-blue skin.

Spidey's iconic nemesis isn't all bad, however. In a phone conversation, Foxx said one of the attractions of the film was that it adds a sympathetic back story to the menace, who begins as a downtrodden engineer.

"We really homed in on the personal story of Max Dillon," an Osborne Corp. lackey first seen with nerd glasses, a front-tooth gap and an oily comb-over. There's comic pathos in the way the character is betrayed in family, work and love, pushing him to lash out at the world, Foxx said.

"What's interesting in the 'Spider-Man' comic books is that they don't start out bad. They start out with good intentions, but it seems like the world deals them the wrong cards. It's the same with Peter Parker," a nice high school kid who takes the weight of the world on his shoulders after a radioactive spider bite. "Then they get to that crossroads of being powerful for good or powerful for bad."

Foxx, born Eric Bishop, grew up in Terrell, Texas, on a cultural diet of "comic books, cartoons and 'The Electric Company,'" the PBS children's show where the web-slinger appeared in nonsen-



COLUMBIA PICTURES-SONY PICTURES/AP

Jamie Foxx stars as Max Dillon/Electro, Spider-Man's new nemesis, in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

sical skits. "Spider-Man was interesting 'cause he was a high school kid, while Batman was older," Foxx said. "And Spider-Man was easier to do because he didn't have a cape. You could just run around and shoot your webs."

As a kid, Foxx acted out sketches in the mirror and studied piano. By his teens he was in demand to play for the country club set. He studied music at college in San Diego, but got sidetracked into comedy when he took the stage at a stand-up club's amateur night. He joined the cast of Keenen Ivory Wayans' multicultural sketch show "In Living Color" from 1991 to 1994.

He quickly climbed the Hollywood ladder. In 2005, he was Oscar-nominated both for his supporting turn in the Tom Cruise thriller "Collateral" and his lead performance in "Ray," and won for "Ray." He's also a double Grammy winner for performances with Kanye West and T-Pain.

Appearing in the "Spider-Man" sequel had its attraction for both Foxx and the producers, he said. They could use his presence to draw viewers who enjoy his work but haven't hooked into the "Spider-Man" story line. And Foxx, 46, could use the franchise, which he calls "popcorn-friendly," to reach younger viewers.

"Kids will really respond to it because it's really up their alley. It's very jokey. It's back to the childlike Spider-Man, where it's a lot of fun. It seems to be working in our favor."

The film opened well, earning \$92 million in North American theaters in its first weekend. The first to show "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" opened on a Tuesday in 2012, making \$62 million on its debut weekend and \$137 million over its first six days.

Entering the rebooted franchise in its second installment had advantages and drawbacks, Foxx said. "When there's a family already there, you want to get along with the family. At the same time you want to enhance the film as much as you can, bring as much flavor and information to the character as you can. When I'm doing Max, it's like going back to my 'In Living Color' days, being over-the-top. Then it lets me go into Electro, which isn't Django, but it's more serious. They may not be able to use all of it, but you want to be a good family member."

Foxx puts a charge into 'Spider-Man 2'

Garfield finds his voice as Spidey in sequel

By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

If there's a tie that binds most of the characters of the Marvel Universe together, it's the mutability of the supposedly immutable human body. Characters are poisoned by radiation, zapped by electricity, bitten by spiders or broken, crushed, ruined or whatever.

And as Spider-Man cracks in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2," just "shake it off. It's just your bones, muscles ..."

But the real world doesn't work like that. That's one reason this comic book world has such a lasting appeal. Bullies are foiled, criminals are caught and great wrongs righted with supernatural intervention by supernaturally augmented humans.

"Amazing 2" is kind of about that. It's a violent film, with blood and death in between the digitally-animated brawls.

Things tend to drag as director Marc Webb has problems with focus, keeping the many story threads straight and continuity (watch Gwen Stacy's outfits).

But Andrew Garfield finds his voice as the character, making his second try at Peter Parker a caffeinated wise-cracker, enjoying his notoriety, talking to himself just like the guy in the comic book. He's funny.

Peter hums Spider-Man's theme song and hurls himself into situations with a teen's

New on base

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2" is at:

Europe
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumhögger, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

Pacific
Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futemata, Hansen, Kadena, Kinsler, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: theamazingspiderman.com

recklessness. He almost misses his and Gwen's (Emma Stone) high school graduation, dealing with a villain named Aleksei (Paul Giamatti).

But even though he doesn't carry the angst of Tobey Maguire's Spidey, Peter has problems. He sees Gwen's late dad (Denis Leary) everywhere he looks, and remembers his promise to the dead cop to distance himself from his daughter, due to the danger.

Jamie Foxx is an ignored, humiliated electrical engineer who has an accident involving electric eels and power lines. That transforms him from a Spider-Man fanboy into



NINO TAVERNIS, COLUMBIA PICTURES-SONY PICTURES/AP

Max Dillon (Jamie Foxx, left), and Spider-Man (Andrew Garfield) have a heated exchange in "The Amazing Spider-Man 2."

a glowing blue guy in a hoodie. In the ethos of this movie, Peter/Spidey reasons with the tormented villains, trying to connect with the doomed kid Harry Osborne (Dane DeHaan) or his "nobody" engineer.

Returning director Webb relies on the 3-D flying effects to cover the rough patches in "Amazing 2." While Garfield and Stone have a nice sass to their scenes, Webb can do nothing to give this relationship the longing and heat of the Kirsten Dunst/Tobey Maguire moments from the earlier films.

"The Amazing Spider-Man 2" is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and violence. Running time: 140 minutes.

RAMBLING

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THEATRE: THE, EX and DigitalSound

THUR MAY 08 - WED MAY 14

Digital 3D: The Amazing Spider-Man 2: Rise of Electro (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, Fri 19:00, Mon - Wed 16:00

in Digital 3D: Godzilla (PG-13) - Wed 20:30

Captain America: Winter Soldier (PG-13) - Thur 18:00, Fri 17:30, 22:00, Sat 14:00, 17:00, 22:00, Sun 14:30, 20:00, Mon - Wed 18:00

Neighbors (R) - Thur 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Fri 16:00, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:30

Die 2 (G) - Sat 8:30, 9:30

in 2D: The Amazing Spider-Man 2: Rise of Electro (PG-13) - Thur 17:00, 20:00, Fri 16:00, 19:00, 22:00, Sat 13:30, 16:00, 19:30, 22:30, Sun 13:00, 16:30, 19:30, Mon & Tue 17:00, 20:00, Wed 8:30, 20:15

The Other Woman (PG-13) - Thur 18:30, 20:30, Fri - Sun 20:00, Mon & Tue 18:30, 20:30, Wed 18:30

Scan Here or visit: www.broadwaykimo.com/mmc

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

DO THIS:

Visit Dutch windmills

The second Saturday and Sunday in May are National Mill Days in Holland, when 950 windmills and watermills open to visitors. For centuries, windmills were an integral part of Dutch life, used for milling grains, cutting wood and draining the lowlands of excess water. More than 10,000 windmills once dotted the country's landscape. They have hardly any economic value these days, but they remain beautiful icons of the Netherlands.

This weekend, millers decorate their mills with flags and flowers and welcome the public inside for tours. The year's theme is "Discover Your Mill," and children's activities are central.

The Netherlands Board of Tourism says the best way to visit the mills is — how else? — by bicycle. Find bicycle routes and more information at molens.nl.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A view of windmills in Kinderdijk, Netherlands. Each second weekend in May, Holland invites the public to tour its mills.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Mother's Day bubbly

It's Mother's Day weekend, so take the one who loves you most out for a special treat. Saturday, "Sekt Day" will be celebrated throughout Germany. If Mom's into her bubbly, she might enjoy a visit to a production site of this special occasion beverage.

Places near U.S. military communities marking the day include:

- **Koblentz:** Deinhard offers a short tour of its cellar museum in which the secrets of Sekt manufacture are unveiled. Culinary treats certain to pair well with fizzy drinks are on the menu. Careful performers from the city's music school provide the entertainment.

Visitors are welcomed between 11:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. This free-entry event is found at Deinhard-platz 3.

- **Esslingen:** Kessler celebrates the day with tours of its manufacturing facilities and the cellars at noon, 4, 4:30 and 5 p.m. The 7-euro (\$9.70) cost for adults includes a glass of Sekt at the end.

Those under 16 take the tour for free but without a drink. Kessler is located at Georg-Christian-von-Kessler-Platz.

- **Ridesheim:** Ochs organizes activities on Saturday and Sunday. On both days, guests can sample the latest vintages and learn about the technology behind the labeling process. Bands will play well into the night on Saturday. Kids can enjoy games, crafts or getting their faces painted.

Doors open from 3 p.m. Saturday and from 11 a.m. Sunday. Ohlings is on Kaiserstrasse 4a. **Stuttgart-Bad Cannstatt:** Rilling will offer tours of its facility, along with Sekt and wine-tasting under an expert's



Karen Bradbury

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

guidance, from 1-8 p.m. Rilling is located at Brückenstrasse 8.

- **Wiesbaden:** Henckel invites all ages to enjoy a festive day out, which includes guided tours of the facility, live soul trio music and a magic show. The day is suitable for children, with activities geared toward them.

Doors are open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Henckel is on Biebericher Allee 142.

Other locations can be found in this list of participating facilities: tinyurl.com/mtcjkgc.

Europe song contest

It's a bit cheesy, and you might find yourself covering your ears during some of the performances, but here's an event that brings the Continent together in somewhat friendly rivalry: the Eurovision Song Contest.

As last year's contest winner, Denmark has the honor of hosting this year's show. The B&W Halls at the Refshaleoen, a former shipyard, will host the event featuring 37 musical acts chosen to represent their homelands.

The winner is determined by popular vote. Once all acts have performed, each country opens up a hotline in which residents can vote for any act, except for their country's entry.



Courtesy of Eurovision Song Contest

Hersi, the Albanian representative in the 2014 Eurovision Song Contest, rehearses for the show.

The act with the most points wins the competition, and next year's edition of the contest moves to the winner's country. The voting results often make a good barometer for understanding who's friends with whom these days.

The program, which begins Saturday at 9 p.m., will be shown on national television channels throughout Europe and via livestream at: tinyurl.com/lbrb7x.

Abstract art in Holland

New York meets old Amsterdam over the next five months as

an exhibition of the Guggenheim New York alights at the Cobra Museum in Amstelveen, a suburb south of Amsterdam.

"International Abstraction: 1949-1960," which runs through Aug. 31, contains 51 abstract works. The period is considered particularly dynamic, as modern art reflected the radical changes post-World War II societies underwent.

The 44 artists exhibited include De Kooning, Francis, Pollock and Rothko. They were considered "taste breakers" in that they experimented with unorthodox materials, techniques

and subjects, pushing the boundaries of art at the time. Most of the pieces are being shown in Holland for the first time.

The Cobra Museum is open daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Adult admission to the exhibition costs 14.50 euros, ages 6-18 pay 6 euros, and those 5 and under enter for free.

Three evenings per week, the museum's restaurant, Le Petit Cobra, is open late and allows groups of up to 40 to enjoy dining on four- or five-course menus among the works.

For more information, see cobra-museum.nl.

WEEKEND: RETURN TO NORMANDY



Photograph from the Army Signal Corps Collection in the U.S. National Archives

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, troops in a landing craft approach Omaha Beach. At Omaha, one of five landing areas on the coast of Normandy, France, the U.S. 1st and 29th Divisions came under heavy fire. Despite bombardment from air and sea, the Nazis still had plenty of firepower, turning Omaha into a killing field.

The day that changed WWII

Seven decades ago, Operation Overlord hit the beaches of Normandy

Seventy years ago next month, the largest armada ever assembled set off from England for the French coast.

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied troops, supported by 700 warships and carried by 2,500 landing craft, assaulted a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast in an effort to push the Nazis out from occupied France and drive into Germany.

Earlier that day, thousands of paratroopers landed behind the enemy's defensive lines to protect the armada's flanks.

Despite heavy losses within the first six days of the assault, 326,000 men, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of materiel came ashore in what was called Operation Overlord.

But the battle for Normandy was far from over. Twenty days into the opera-

tion, the Allies had advanced only a dozen miles inland. By July, the breakout from Normandy had begun. Troops fought the battle among the hedgerows and captured St. Lo. By month's end, they were at the edge of Brittany. In August, Brittany was in Allied hands, and it was on to Paris, which was liberated on Aug. 25.

The Allied advance suffered a setback in the Netherlands during Operation Market Garden and stalled in December at the legendary Battle of the Bulge. On March 7, 1945, the U.S. 9th Armored Division captured the bridge at Remagen, Germany, and by the end of the month all of the Rhine was in Allied hands. The march across Germany had begun.

On May 9, 1945, just a little more than 11 months after D-Day, the Nazis surrendered.

INSIDE

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ON THE WEB

See stripes.com/normandy for:

- More photos
- Visitor information
- An interactive map
- Videos: D-Day and Normandy American Cemetery sights

Now, seven decades later, still-thankful French residents, D-Day veterans, their families and friends, along with tourists and history buffs, will return to the invasion beaches — Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword — to commemorate the Allies' efforts and sacrifices.

WEEKEND: RETURN TO NORMANDY

In the footsteps of heroes

Visit the sites where hard-fought battles were won and heroism ruled the day

Early on June 6, 1944, an armada of warships and landing craft headed toward the coast of Normandy, France, and the night sky was filled with a swarm of more than 3,000 airplanes and gliders.

Airborne troops — 20,000 of them — were to jump into Normandy with the task of capturing and securing bridges and beach exits for the amphibious force that was to hit the beaches in the morning in an effort to rout the Nazis from occupied France. British paratroops were to secure the eastern flank of invasion beaches while the more than 15,000 paratroopers from the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions were to protect the western flank around the town of Ste.-Mère-Eglise.

In that town, just a couple of miles inland from Utah Beach, the night sky was, unfortunately, not particularly dark as the paratroopers floated down. A burning house, possibly set on fire by pre-invasion bombing, lit up the sky, revealing the silhouettes of descending paratroopers.

For one trooper, the situation was even more unsettling. Pvt. John Steele had been shot in the foot on the way down, and, to make matters worse, his parachute got caught on the steeple of the Ste.-Mère-Eglise church. Hanging there, he played dead before being captured by the Germans.

Visitors to Ste.-Mère-Eglise today can still see the 82nd Airborne soldier hanging there, albeit in effigy. His plight was retold as part of the 1962 movie "The Longest Day," in which Steele was played by Red Buttons.

In the church, there are two interesting stained-glass windows: one of the Virgin Mary surrounded by paratroopers and one of St. Michael, patron saint of paratroopers, which was donated by veterans of the 82nd Airborne Division for the 25th anniversary of D-Day.

Across the street is the U.S. Airborne Museum, which is worth a visit. On display is a Douglas C-47 used in the invasion to transport paratroopers and tow gliders, along with a Waco glider used to ferry troops and cargo during the assault.

The town itself is worth a look. Check out the post marking Kilometer 0 of the Voie de la Liberté, or Liberty Road, in front of the town hall, that follows the American drive across France in World War II. Interestingly, there is a Kilometer 00 marker at Utah Beach, as well.

About two miles from Ste.-Mère-Eglise, on road D15 toward Pieauville, stands the "Iron Mike" statue, dedicated to the paratroopers of the 82nd and 101st Airborne Divisions. The battle for the small bridge across the Merderet River at the hamlet of La Fièvre was one of the heaviest fought by the 82nd in Normandy. A parachute jump to mark the battle is scheduled here for June 8.

Follow the road a little farther and you will come to a small monument to the glider pilots. A short drive on, there's one to the 507th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

H-Hour at Utah and Omaha Beach — the time the invasion was to begin — was 6:30 a.m.

Normandy American Cemetery



Visitors to Normandy American Cemetery study an orientation table showing the D-Day invasion beaches. The cemetery is open daily, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 15 to Sept. 15; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the year; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1. Admission is free. For information on American cemeteries and memorials in Europe, visit abmc.gov.

Utah Beach Museum



Visitors to the Utah Beach Museum study the Martin B-26 Marauder. This plane did not see action on D-Day, but Marauders played a major role in the run-up to the invasion. The Utah Beach Museum is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Oct. 1 to May 31; 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. June 1 to Sept. 30; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Dec. 26 to Jan. 5. On Dec. 31, the museum closes at 4 p.m. Admission is 8 euros for adults and 3.50 euros for children under 15. Children under 7 and World War II veterans get in free. The museum website is utah-beach.com.

Ste.-Mère-Eglise



An effigy of Pvt. John Steele, an 82nd Airborne Division paratrooper, hangs from the steeple at the church in Ste.-Mère-Eglise, France. Steele's parachute got caught on the steeple when he jumped on D-Day. He played dead for several hours, but eventually was taken prisoner by the Germans. He later escaped and continued to fight in the war.

WEEKEND: RETURN TO NORMANDY

At Omaha, the U.S. 1st and 29th Divisions came under heavy fire. Despite bombardment from air and sea, the Nazis still had plenty of firepower, turning the beach into a bloody killing field.

At Utah, things went better. Due to a stroke of luck, the 4th Division had landed slightly off course, on a strip of beach not as heavily defended. However, no one's role on D-Day was easy. When things started to bog down, Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr. marched up and down the beach urging his soldiers to move inland. For his efforts, he was given the Medal of Honor. He died of a heart attack on July 12, 1944, and is buried at Normandy American Cemetery.

The Utah Beach Museum tells the story of D-Day, from preparations for the invasion to its successful outcome. There is much to see, from an original Martin B-26 Marauder twin-engine bomber, to a Higgins boat landing craft. Many personal items used and carried by soldiers, sailors and airmen are on display, and the uncanny "Victory in the Sand" is itself worth the price of admission. In front of the museum is a monument to the 4th Infantry Division.

On the beach there are a number of other monuments. There is a memorial for the 90th Infantry Division, the 1st Engineer Central Postal Directory, and on top of an old German bunker, and nearby is the U.S. Navy Monument, the newest on the beach. The Utah Beach American Memorial is being renovated, but is due to be finished for the anniversary commemoration.

Driving toward Ste.-Marie-du-Mont you will see across the beach's newest monument, which is, as its plaque says, dedicated to those who led the way on D-Day. It depicts Maj. Richard Winters of "Band of Brothers" fame. A memorial to his "Easy" Company is nearby.

At Pointe du Hoc, Lt. Col. James Rudder and the men of the 2nd Ranger Battalion fought their way up steep 100-foot cliffs that rose from the sea, to capture a German gun position that could have riddled Utah and Omaha Beaches with shells. They captured the position only to find that some of the guns had been moved and tree trunks were used as props.

A new visitors center was recently opened at Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument, and a visit there should not be missed. First, watch the video, then walk out toward the monument, past and over derelict German bunkers and through a landscape still scarred with craters from the Allied bombing and shelling.

The monument is beautiful in its simplicity. A tall granite pylone stands atop a German bunker with tablets at its base inscribed in English and French.

On Omaha, things had not gone well all morning. The tanks that were to land on the beach to soften up the enemy were released too far out to sea, and most sank. When infantry troops hit the beach, they immediately got pinned down by enemy fire. The draws, the roads up from the beach, were blocked by Germans. To make things worse, landing craft filled with troops kept pouring in, clogging up the beaches.

Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Norman Cota of the 29th Infantry Division, the troops began climbing directly up the bluffs, blowing away obstacles with explosives and opening up the way inland. Still, the beachhead and the cliffs would not fully be in Allied hands until the end of the day. By midnight, around 34,250 troops had landed, with about 2,000 casualties.

Today, it is hard to imagine the horror, blood and confusion at Omaha Beach on D-Day. The loudest sound now might be the tour buses rolling down the coastal road.

Along the road down to the beach at Vierville-sur-Mer there are monuments to

Pointe du Hoc



The Ranger Memorial at Pointe du Hoc as seen through the opening of a German gun position. A new visitors center was recently opened at Pointe du Hoc Ranger Monument, and a visit there should not be missed. It is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 15 to Sept. 15 and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the year. Admission is free.

the 29th Infantry Division, with its motto "29. Let's Go!" engraved on it, and to the 6th Engineer Special Brigade.

The U-shaped National Guard Monument is the most prominent sight on the western end of Omaha at Vierville. It, too, is built on a German gun position, and behind it you can still see a gun. There is also a marker for the 58th Armored Field Artillery Battalion here.

At St.-Laurent-sur-Mer stands the Signal Monument with a dedication to the 1st Infantry Division on one side and the 116th Infantry Regimental Combat Team on the other. Behind it on the beach is the modern sculpture "Les Braves." The stainless steel sculpture is 9 meters high at its tallest point and weighs 15 tons. Its pieces represent the wings of hope, the rise of freedom and the wings of fraternity.

On the far eastern end of Omaha Beach near Colleville-sur-Mer stands the 1st Infantry Division Monument, a tall obelisk bearing the names of the division's fallen.

Nearby are two museums worth checking out, the Overlord Museum near the American cemetery and the Omaha Beach Memorial Museum on the road to Ste.-Laurent-sur-Mer.

High on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach is hallowed ground. Here, at Normandy American Cemetery, 9,387 American war dead are buried.

The entrance to the cemetery is through a visitors center featuring multimedia displays that trace the run-up to the invasion and its aftermath. Outside the center, a path takes visitors to the bluff overlooking the beach. An orientation table, high above the sands below, shows all the Normandy invasion beaches. But the cemetery's focal point is the 22-foot-high statue "The Spirit of American Youth Rising from the Waves."

The headstones are of white marble in the shape of a Latin cross, except for the 149 topped by the Star of David that mark Jewish graves.

Three Medal of Honor recipients are buried here, along with 41 sets of brothers and even a father and son.

Behind the statue is the Garden of the Missing, its walls inscribed with 1,557 names of those missing in action.

Standing at the foot of the statue looking across the reflecting pool, with the graves stretching row upon row almost as far as the eye can see, you get an idea of how much the country sacrificed for freedom on D-Day and beyond.

Airborne Museum



A look inside the Waco glider on display at the U.S. Airborne Museum at Ste.-Mère-Eglise, France, shows the cramped conditions in the aircraft. The museum is open daily except Dec. 24, 25, 31 and all of January. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Feb. 1 to March 31 and Oct. 1 to Dec. 30; 9 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. April 1 to Sept. 30. For more, see the museum's website, airborne-museum.org.

Utah Beach



The 90th Infantry Division memorial on Utah Beach. The "Tough Hombres," as they were known, fought from Utah Beach to Czechoslovakia during the war.

Ste.-Mère-Eglise



A post marking Kilometer 0 of the Voie de la Liberté stands in front of the Ste.-Mère-Eglise town hall. The route follows the Americans' drive across France to liberate the country in World War II.

Omaha Beach



The remains of a World War II landing craft lie embedded in the sands of Omaha Beach below the Normandy American Cemetery. The D-Day beaches and Normandy American Cemetery are about 175 miles northwest of Paris, about a three-hour drive.

WEEKEND: RETURN TO NORMANDY

D-Day

On June 6, 1944, 160,000 Allied soldiers assaulted a 50-mile stretch of the Normandy coast of France, launching a pivotal effort against Nazi Germany. The Allied armada was composed of 700 warships and 2,500 landing craft. In the first six days, 326,000 men, 54,000 vehicles and 104,000 tons of materiel came ashore.

Supreme Commander
Allied Expeditionary Force
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower
Deputy Supreme Commander
Air Chief Marshal A. W. Tedder

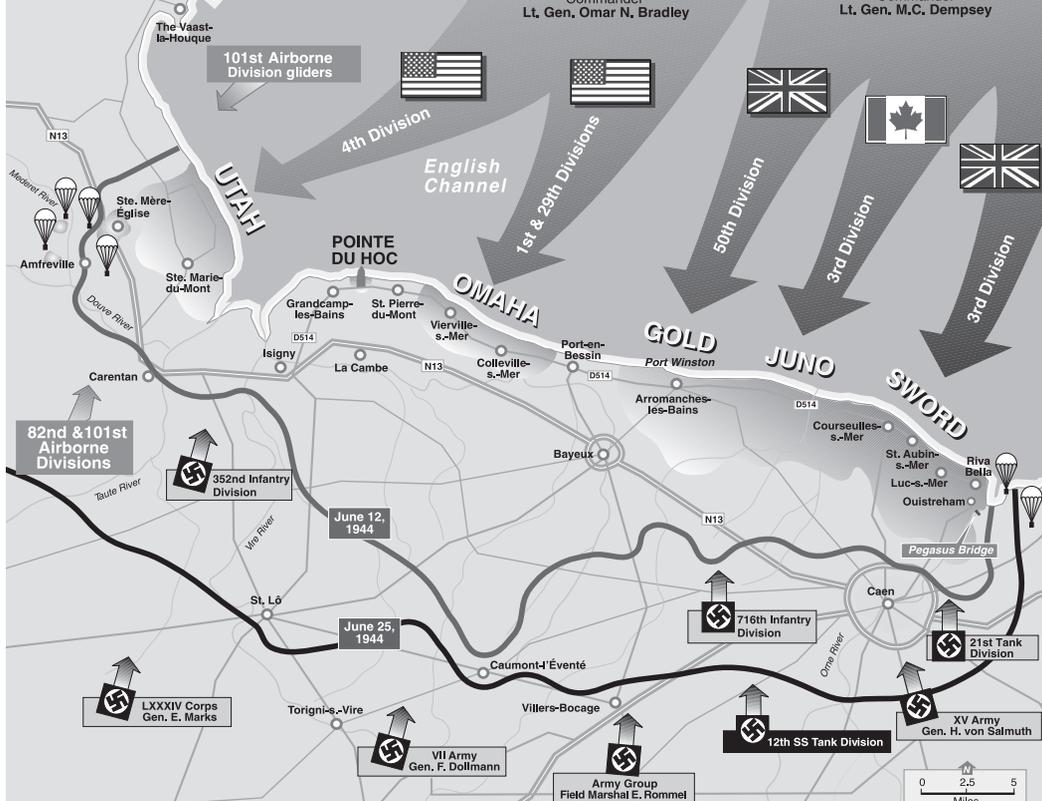
Commander-in-Chief
Allied Expeditionary Air Forces
Air Chief Marshal
T. Leigh-Mallory

Commander-in-Chief
Land Forces
Gen. B.L. Montgomery

Commander-in-Chief
Allied Expeditionary
Naval Force
Adm. B.H. Ramsay

1st U.S. Army
Commander
Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley

2nd British Army
Commander
Lt. Gen. M.C. Dempsey



Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force

Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen of the Allied Expeditionary Force!

You are about to embark upon the Great Crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. In the company with our brave Allies and brothers in arms on other Fronts, you will bring about the destruction of the German war machine, the elimination of Nazi tyranny over the oppressed peoples of Europe, and security for ourselves in a free world.

Your task will not be an easy one. Your enemy is well trained, well equipped and battle-hardened. He will fight savagely. But this is 1944! Much has happened since the Nazi triumphs of 1940-41. The United Nations have inflicted upon the Germans

great defeats, in open battle, man-to-man. Our air offensive has seriously reduced their strength in the air and capacity to wage war on the ground. Our Home Fronts have given us an overwhelming superiority in weapons and munitions of war, and placed at our disposal great reserves of trained fighting men. The tide has turned! The free men of the world are marching together to Victory!

I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking.

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower

Legend

- Allied beachheads, D-Day, June 6, 1944
- Allied airdrops
- German movements
- Allied line June 12
- Allied line June 25



WEEKEND: RETURN TO NORMANDY

Hallowed ground

Cemeteries bear witness to war's cost in lives on both sides

Both the Allies and the Germans suffered heavy casualties on D-Day and during the following battle of Normandy.

Exact numbers are still unknown even after 70 years, but it is estimated that between 2,500 and 4,500 Allied forces were killed during D-Day (more exact research by the U.S. National D-Day Memorial Foundation had raised the number of casualties to 4,500). Estimates of those killed on the German side are between 4,000 and 9,000.

By the time the battle of Normandy was over, more than 53,000 Allied troops and well over 100,000 German troops had been killed.

Today, dozens of war cemeteries in Europe hold the remains of more than 100,000 dead from both sides — American, German, British, Canadian, Poles, French, Australians and more.

Americans might be most familiar with the American Battle Monuments Commission's Normandy American Cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer (abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/normandy-american-cemetery/), but the British Commonwealth Graves Commission and the German Volksbund Deutscher Kriegsgräberfürsorge also have cemeteries throughout Normandy.

The Commonwealth Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest among the British cemeteries from the D-Day campaign, with 4,648 burials. Although the largest number of those buried there, 3,935, are British, the cemetery also holds war dead from Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, France, Poland, Italy, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia and even 466 from Germany.

A special feature of the Commonwealth cemeteries that sets them apart from those of the ABMC is that families of the fallen were allowed to have short messages engraved on the headstones. Messages such as "One of the dearest, one of the best, now in God's keeping, safe at rest" or, simply, "Beloved son and brother" give the cemetery a very personal touch.

The cemetery at La Cambe is the final resting place for more than 21,000 German war dead. Of note is the mound at the center of the cemetery topped by a large cross flanked by two figures representing mourning parents. There are 296 Germans interred in the mound.

At the La Cambe cemetery, also note the Peace Garden with more than 1,000 trees planted along the road leading to and in

German War Cemetery



The German War Cemetery at La Cambe, France, is the final resting place for 21,140 German war dead. In the mound underneath the large cross, 296 fallen are interred. The cemetery's website has an English-language link at volksbund.de.

British Commonwealth Bayeux cemetery



The British Commonwealth Bayeux War Cemetery is the largest WWII cemetery of Commonwealth soldiers in France, with 4,648 burials. Find more information by visiting the Commonwealth Graves Commission website, cwgc.org.

front of the cemetery.

Although the Commonwealth cemeteries hold some Canadian soldiers, there are two Canadian War cemeteries near D-Day beaches at Bény-sur-Mer and Bretteville-sur-Laize. The Polish cemetery, with 650 burials, is near Grainville-Langannerie.

About an hour-and-a-half drive southwest of the American cemetery at Colleville-sur-Mer is Britany American Cemetery, where 4,408 Americans are buried. Most of those interred there were killed during Operation Cobra, the breakout from Normandy and the battle for St. Lo.

ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

The 70th anniversary of D-Day will be commemorated across Normandy next month, from Cherbourg to Caen.

There will be big affairs with international dignitaries attending, as well as small events in villages along the invasion route. No matter how big or small, though, they will have one thing in common: to celebrate Normandy's liberation from Nazi Germany by the soldiers, sailors and airmen from the many nations involved in the invasion.

• **The main international ceremony will be on Sword Beach near Ouistreham on June 6 at 3:30 p.m.** If you want to attend, go to the American Battle Monuments Commission website, abmc.gov, click on the News and Events button and read the instructions. Admission is very limited.

Meanwhile, there are plenty of other ceremonies and events around the American landing beaches involving Americans.

Here is a sampling of the bigger ones:

- **June 4: Carentan**, 5 p.m.
- **June 5: Pointe du Hoc**, time to be determined, but between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m.
- **June 6: American-French ceremony at Normandy American Cemetery**, Colleville-sur-Mer, 10:30 a.m.
- **June 7: Ste.-Mère-Eglise**, 5 p.m.
- **June 8: La Fiere drop zone — "Iron Mike" Memorial**, with parachute jump (weather permitting) 4 p.m.; ceremony welcoming the paratroopers 6 p.m.

For a full list of events, go to the 70th-normandy.com and tinyurl.com/k7a7c82.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

A masterpiece of Islamic architecture

Real Alcázar sheds light on Christian, Muslim history of Seville

By **STEVEN BEARDSLEY**
Stars and Stripes

Just over a century after his ancestor forced the Moors out of Andalucía, Seville's king turned to Muslim artisans to replace an iconic residence within the city.

The result is the Mudéjar Palace inside the Real Alcázar, a masterpiece of Islamic architecture in old Seville and a window into the relationship between Christian and Muslim Spain. Located only an hour outside the U.S. naval base in Rota, the palace alone merits a visit to Seville.

There are, of course, many reasons to visit Seville, from its annual Feria to its tapas. Yet at the city's cultural core are the Alcázar and two other buildings, the cathedral and Archivo de Indias, a museum chronicling the country's exploration of the New World. The three sites reflect a certain era in Spanish history, when the country was emerging from the Middle Ages and its Muslim rulers and exploring new trading routes and colonies abroad.

The Alcázar is a Moorish fortress, built in 712 as tribes from North Africa swept into southern Spain en route to a conquest that extended as far north as the Pyrenees. They would remain for more than 500 years, administering Spanish lands and leaving a strong imprint on Spanish culture and art.

In Seville, the Muslim governor ruled from the Alcázar and lived in a palace constructed within the fortress in the 10th century.

Christian armies led by Ferdinand III reconquered the city in 1248, part of a drive that pushed the Moors deeper into southern Spain before stopping at Granada, their final toehold in Spain until the 15th century. The new rulers retained the Alcázar as their seat of power and the palace as their residence.

It was to Granada that Peter I, king of Seville in the 14th century and descendant of Ferdinand, turned after an earthquake leveled the original Muslim palace inside the Alcázar. Between 1364 and 1366, Muslim architects and artists from the region worked on a new palace that would adhere to Islamic aesthetics while featuring Western elements.

The outcome is a hybrid style later referred to as Mudéjar. The heavy portraiture of Gothic interiors is replaced by bright geometric designs, interweaving patterns and plaster latticework so delicate that it often resembles lace — while incorporating Western touches such as slender colonnades and pointed arches.

At the center of the palace is the Maidens Courtyard, with a recessed garden of orange trees split by an elevated walkway and fountain. The Hall of Ambassadors, a ceremonial room, is topped by a gilded dome and

adorned by molded seashells on the walls — an Islamic symbol representing the ears of Allah.

Peter's heraldic emblems, the castle and lion (for his dominions of Castile and León), are also worked into palace designs. The lion above the outside gate wears a cross and lifts a cross in one of its paws, a seeming reminder that despite the interior design of the palace, the crown belonged to a Christian.

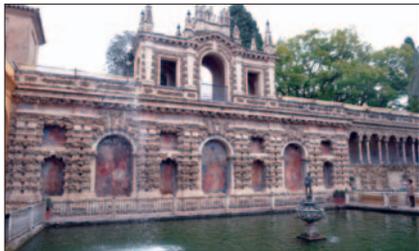
Peter didn't have long to enjoy his residence; he was murdered shortly after its completion. The palace remained a royal residence through the ages, housing the likes of Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor, who left his own emblem — the Pillars of Hercules — on a tower.

Even today the palace hosts Spain's royal family when they visit the area. They stay on the upper floors, which are closed to the public. If those rooms look anything like the ones below, their lucky few visitors must pinch themselves as soon as they set their bags down.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sjbeardsley

Right: The heraldic emblem of a crowned lion holding a cross aloft greets visitors at the gate of the Real Alcázar, an eighth-century Moorish fortress in Seville, Spain, that houses Mudéjar Palace.

PHOTOS BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes



Top: A fountain in the palace gardens exhibits Western elements. Above: Bright geometric designs can be seen throughout the palace.



By **SCHEILING**/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Patio de Banderas s/n, 41004 Seville, Spain, inside the Real Alcázar.

TIMES

9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily April to September; 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily October to March; closed Jan. 1 and 6, and Dec. 25.

COSTS

9.50 euros for general admission; disabled visitors and anyone under the age of 16 are admitted free. Students between ages 17 and 25 are admitted for 2 euros. Tickets can be purchased inside the building. A cab ride from Seville's main train station, Santa Justa, was 7 euros in February 2014.

FOOD

Seville has multiple dining options.

INFORMATION

Real Alcázar website: alcazar.sevilla.org; UNESCO World Heritage website: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/383>

— Steven Beardsley

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Memorials abound in Berlin

Berlin is a city that looks to the future while making a point of acknowledging and remembering its past. Thought-provoking memorials installed throughout the city center confront some of Germany's most difficult history of the past century.

Close to the iconic Brandenburg Gate is the Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe, the first formal Holocaust memorial to be sponsored by the German government (in 2005). Nearly 3,000 gravestone-like pillars, all roughly the same size but of different heights, spread out in a grid over an open field. Because the ground is unevenly inclined, a visit can be disorienting, as points of reference shift or disappear as one walks among the pillars.

As you stroll through Berlin's residential neighborhoods, you might notice small bronze plaques in the pavement. These are a different sort of memorial, called Stolpersteine — "stumbling blocks." Meant to commemorate those persecuted by the Nazis, the stones are placed in front of the spot where victims resided. Each stone begins with "Here lived" — giving one name, remembering just one person.

The inscription ends with the place — usually a concentration camp — and the date on which the individual died. Thus far, more than 5,000 Stolpersteine are installed around Berlin.

The most historic square in Berlin, Bebelplatz, has a glass plate set into the pavers at its middle. Beneath it is a room with empty bookshelves. This is the memorial to the notorious Nazi book burning of 1933.

Crowned by the Brandenburg Gate, the ultimate address in Berlin is the square called Pariser Platz. Within 100 yards you have the ultra-high-security American Embassy, a big Starbucks, the hotel balcony where Michael Jackson dangled his baby, and the glass dome capping the Reichstag roof, from where Russian troops quelled a furious Nazi last stand in May 1945.

When I visited, a group of string musicians had set up here, on a ground that was once a nightmarish no-man's-land. As I listened to them play with

deep passion and joy, I reminded myself to embrace the world positively. In so many ways, a visit to Berlin can be an inspirational reminder to never forget.

Rick Steves writes Europe travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



Rick Steves



Courtesy of Rick Steves

A Berlin site: The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe.

Restaurant Directory

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p>Since 1978</p> <p>China Restaurant Peking</p> <p>Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nikolaus, 8, 92627 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33096 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK</p> <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0931-42928</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Brannigan Gastel</p> <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Söhn Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brannigan-gastel.de</p>
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<p>PALLAS</p> <p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 1, 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p>Trattoria Da Salvatore</p> <p>Fleischerherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p>okinii</p> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2385808</p>
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<p>KB's Country & Western Saloon</p> <p>Berge, 4, 92229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<p>China Restaurant China City</p> <p>Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>SMOKETOP</p> <p>Nassaustraße 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smokertopbbq.com</p>
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<p>Garimish-Partenkchen</p> <p>Garimish</p> <p>Open Wed-Mon, Noon-11pm (Tues, Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08931-97486 www.ristorante-la-mama-garimish.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garimish-Partenkchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Saytouno Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Gabriel's Restaurant</p> <p>Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel-restaurant.de</p>
<p>Hotel Votter's Sporkristall</p> <p>Schlößlein 22, 5710 Kapfen, Austria Tel.: +43 (0) 6547/7134-0 hotel@sporkristall.at • www.sporkristall.at</p>	<p>Kashmir</p> <p>Authentic Indian Cuisine Eschwege Str. 11 Phone 0711-99 76 38 16 Leonenberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-90 33 32</p>	<p>Stuttgart</p>

Hotel Directory

<p>Hotel Am See</p> <p>Kircherthambacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@onsa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situatied on the shore of the Aulflueher</p>	<p>glutschaufel</p> <p>Glutschaufel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 09645/602900 www.glutschaufel.de</p>
<p>China Restaurant Peking</p> <p>Am Schoenberg 18 • 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotels-pension-grafenwoehr.de www.pullmanhotels.com FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390</p>	<p>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch</p> <p>Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted • www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>
<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana</p> <p>Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Kelly & Patch Barracks. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p>Hotel de France</p> <p>"Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstraße" Tel: +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcome@hoteldefrance.de www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

OFF BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

KANDA FESTIVAL (Tokyo): May 10, 11, 14 & 15; one of the three great Shinto festivals of Tokyo (along with Fukugoya Matsuri and Sanjo Matsuri). This festival started in the early 17th century as a celebration of Ieyasu Tokugawa's victory in the battle of Sekigahara and was continued as a display of the prosperity of the Tokugawa shogunate. The festival features a mikoshi parade at Kanda Myojin shrine and surrounding districts.

GRAND SUMO TOURNAMENT - MAY BASHO (Tokyo): May 11-25; at Ryogoku Kokugikan; www.sumo.or.jp

ASAKUSA SANJA MATSURI (Tokyo): May 16-18; Sanja Matsuri was one of three great festivals in Edo (the former name of Tokyo) and it features about 100 mikoshi — portable shrines into which Shinto gods are symbolically placed — in a parade to bring good fortune to the local businesses and residents. Smaller neighborhood mikoshi can be seen on the streets of Asakusa; the focus of the festival, the three large mikoshi belonging to Asakusa Line, are delivered Sun.; Subway Asakusa Line, or Ginza Line, Asakusa Station on Asakusa and Ginza lines; www.asakusajinja.jp/english.

SPRING ROSE FESTIVAL IN YOKOSUKA VERNY PARK GARDEN (Kanagawa prefecture): May 17 & 18; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; 2,000 trees and shrubs and 130 varieties of roses grow in this garden, open daily; free.

SPRING FESTIVAL OF NIKKO TOSHOGU SHRINE (Tochigi prefecture): May 17 & 18; May 17, 11 p.m.; yatai-come horseback archery at Sanno; May 18, 11 a.m., 1,000-person Samurai-style procession from a five-storied pagoda of Toshogu Shrine and 1 p.m., 1,000-person Samurai-style procession from Otsuba; two-hour ride from Asakusa on Tobu



SHIZUO KAMAYASHI/AP

A mother and her daughters pose for a photo at a Mother's Day event in Tokyo on May 6. In Japan, just like in the U.S., Mother's Day is celebrated on the second Sunday in May. The balloon reads: Thank you always.

MOTHER'S DAY ON BASE

Japan

Atsugi IT Tours has a trip to Kingwaga River cruise and Ashikaga Flower Park and another to Yunessun Hakone Spa for the day with special prices for moms.

With **Yokosuka Tours**, moms can enjoy brunch at the New Sanno and shopping in Odoba or visit Hakone.

From 10 a.m.-2 p.m., **Yokota** Enlisted club is offering brunch. Moms bowl three games free when they bring the kids at Tomodachi Lanes Bowling Center. There is a buffet noon-4 p.m. at Kiji Dining

Room in Tama Hills Lodge. The Officer's Club has a breakfast buffet, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

Okinawa

Camp Foster Tours has a Mother's Day dinner cruise, 4-8:30 p.m. Tengan Castle on **Camp Courtney**, has a brunch buffet 9 a.m.-2 p.m. **Camp Kinser's** breakfast buffet is 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Surfside.

Spend a relaxing day at Hotel **Kadena** ITT. Or sample the Mother's Day buffet dinner 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Southern Beach Hotel.

Asakusa-Line; tinyurl.com/592r9k.

Okinawa

ALL-OKINAWA SPRING BULLFIGHTING: May 11, noon; Okinawa bullfighting is bull vs. bull and the event includes Eisa dance; Ishikawa Multi-purpose Dome, Uruma city, 70-minute drive from Naha Airport; 3,000 yen; 098-965-5634.

South Korea

EUMSEONG PUMBA FESTIVAL (North Chungcheong Province): May 22-25; performances, pumba (street performing) musical drama, a pumba singing contest, a pumba marathon contest, yook-cutting [Korean tuff] contest and more. Seolseong Park area; tinyurl.com/oiq7ro3.

TEA TIME: Hadong Wild Tea Culture Festival, South Korea

At this event, May 16 to 18, visitors can taste varieties of Hadong's tea for free, but fees may be charged for some activities. For more: festival.hadong.go.kr.

For additional concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Photos courtesy of Shimoda City Sightseeing Association

**CELEBRATE HISTORY:
75th Shimoda Black Ship Festival**

This festival in Shizuoka prefecture, Japan, is May 16-18 and commemorates the 1854 visit to Shimoda by U.S. Navy Commodore Matthew C. Perry and his Black Ships and celebrates the signing of the Kanagawa Treaty (U.S.-Japan Friendship Treaty), which opened Japan ports to the West.

May 16: 10-11 a.m., U.S. Army Band concert at Inazusa Junior High School; 2:30-3:15 p.m., U.S. Army Band concert at Gyokusenji Temple; 6-8:05 p.m., hula dance at Madogahama Sea Park; 6:30-7 p.m., U.S. Army Band concert at Shimoda Post Office; 8:50-9:30 p.m., U.S. Army Band concert at Madogahama Sea Park.

May 17: 10-11 a.m., U.S.-Japan Friendship Treaty memorial ceremony at Shimoda Park; 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., parade on main streets; 1:20-3 p.m., kimono-fashion show at Ryosenji Temple; 2:30-3 p.m., taiko (Japanese drums) performance at Bunka Kaikan parking; 6-6:45 p.m., Japan's self-defense Maritime Band at Bunka Kaikan; 7:30-8:15 p.m., U.S. Army Band at Bunka Kaikan.

May 18: 10-11 a.m., Nigiwai (fun) concert; 11 a.m., Nigiwai (fun) parade on main streets; 12:30-1:10 p.m., re-enactment of the signing of the U.S.-Japan Friendship Treaty at Bunka Kaikan; 1:15-2:15 p.m., dress-up show at the end of Takugawa shogunote at Bunka Kaikan parking; 1:30-2 p.m., children's daiko (small Japanese drums) performance at Michi-no Eki Kaiko Shimoda Port; 2 p.m., Japan-U.S. tug-of-war at Michi-no Eki Kaiko Shimoda Port.

For more: tinyurl.com/kvraee4

Clockwise from top: Fireworks are set to blow at 8:15 at Shimoda Port on May 16; the U.S. Army Band will perform several times during the festival; see the re-enactment of the signing of the U.S.-Japan Friendship Treaty at Ryosenji Temple on May 17 and 18.

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific

Calling all thrill-seekers

Record-breaking rides, fun for all can be found at Fuji-Q Highland

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

Thrill-seeking families looking for a roller coaster fix during the warmer months need look no farther than Mount Fuji.

At the foot of Japan's most famous mountain sits Fuji-Q Highland, which provides just the right mix of drops, turns and spirals to get the adrenaline pumping.

While the four main roller coasters are for adults, there are kid-friendly alternatives available at the park's Thomas Town children's area, including smaller roller coasters, tower swings and a water park.

The main attractions at the park are, of course, the roller coasters — Fujiyama, Takabisha, Eejanaika and Dodonpa.

All four have set a world record at one point or another; Dodonpa is the fastest-accelerating roller coaster in the world, and Takabisha owns the record for steepest free fall. Eejanaika is one of

only seven "4th dimension" roller coasters, meaning the seats can rotate forward or backward 360 degrees in a controlled spin.

There is no shortage of other entertainment around Fuji-Q. Evangelion: World features 3-D shows based on popular Japanese anime. You can also spend time at the Super Scary Labyrinth of Fear, the Ultimate Fort or the

Shining Flower ferris wheel.

Food and drink options within the park vary, and include everything from curry and rice to pizza. Canned beer is also available at the park.

Lines at Fuji-Q can sometimes exceed two hours for one ride on the weekends, so it is recommended

to schedule visits during the week to avoid long waits. When planning a trip, it is also recommended to check the weather, as most of the larger coasters stop for high winds and rain.

All stations at Fuji-Q offer English menus and instructions, and there are employees throughout the park to assist guests, as needed.



NASA/Alamy/Stars and Stripes



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

With a 121-degree drop angle, Takabisha at Fuji-Q Highland in Japan is the world's steepest roller coaster.



In addition to roller coasters, Fuji-Q Highland offers plenty of other attractions, including water rides.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Take the train to Fuji-Q Highland Station (about \$26 and 120 minutes from Shinjuku Station). A round-trip bus ticket costs \$75. Passes with discount rates are available through the Fuji Q website.

ADDRESS

5-6-1 Shin-Nishihara, Fujiyoshida, Yamanashi Prefecture 403-0017, Japan

COSTS

Visitors can pay a 1,400 yen (\$14) entrance fee and then buy individual tickets for each ride, or they can pay 5,200 yen (\$52), which grants them

access to the park and unlimited access to the rides.

TIMES

Fuji-Q Highland is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends. The park also takes occasional holidays, so check the website in advance.

FOOD

Restaurants and snack shacks offer a variety of treats.

INFORMATION

Website: www.fujiq.jp/en/;
Phone: 0555-23-2111

— Eric Guzman



Above: Visitors to the park's gift shop can pick up souvenirs and re-enactments.

Right: Three-dimensional re-enactments of scenes from "Rebuild of Evangelion," a Japanese animated film series and a reboot of the original "Neon Genesis Evangelion" anime TV series, can be seen at Evangelion: World.



WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

MOJA in the House in Shibuya-ku, Tokyo, Japan, offers a wide variety of soul food items. The restaurant accommodates 124 and is open every day from 11 a.m. to midnight.

After Hours: Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

Japanese cuisine is amazing enough in its own right, but what makes dining in Japan especially interesting is the ability of Japanese chefs to take the quirks and qualities of other cultures and turn them into a uniquely Japanese dish.

Earlier this year, McDonald's served up an American vintage burger that included "Chicago-style steak sauce" and mashed potatoes. Wendy's introduced the world to lobster burgers and caviar burgers in 2012. Even Krispy Kreme has gotten into the act, last month treating customers to doughnut ice cream sundaes.

But foodies looking to add a little more soul to their lives need look no further than MOJA in the House in Shibuya-ku.

MOJA offers a wide variety of items on its menu, from chili and nachos to red velvet cheesecake, but it's the house waffle chicken that steals the show.

The chicken, covered in a corn-meal-based fish fry-style batter, is fried perfectly, ending up crispy and slightly salty on the outside while the chicken breast inside remains moist, tender and packed with flavor. The chicken sits atop two savory waffles, which are almost a meal in their own right.

Bottles of Tabasco sauce and imported Canadian maple syrup are offered with every plate to help patrons tweak the balance of sweets, salts and spices to their liking.

The drink menu is packed to



The red velvet cake is covered in berries, frosting and syrup and has a cheesecake center.

the brim with cocktails and craft beers, both foreign and domestic.

Brooklyn Lager seems to be a restaurant favorite as it's included in many of their cocktails, namely the love hangover. A mix of lager, Jack Daniels whiskey and grenadine syrup served in a pint glass, the love hangover tastes a lot better than it sounds.

Also available are non-alcoholic juices and blended drinks, which are all cleverly named and changed out weekly. The parvovirus biology juice, a mix of fruits, vegetables and MOJA in the House's own homemade syrup, is very popular.

The 124 seats inside MOJA in the House are available for weddings, parties and dinner reservations. Booth seating is available,



The love hangover is a tasty mix of Brooklyn Lager, Jack Daniels whiskey and grenadine syrup.

along with couples' tables and long tables for larger parties.

The trendy, warmly lit decor is a welcome escape from the neon glow of nearby Shibuya Crossing, which is known as the world's busiest intersection in terms of both pedestrian traffic and flashing billboards.

Jazz music combines with irresistible aromas from the open kitchen to create a welcoming atmosphere. The Wi-Fi connection and power outlets at every table are an added convenience.

MOJA in the House, which is about a 15-minute walk from Shibuya Station, is a great place to visit to quell your soul food cravings.

guzman.eric@stripes.com



The house waffle chicken, MOJA in the House's most popular menu item, pairs a fried chicken breast with crispy, golden waffles.

MOJA IN THE HOUSE

Address: COI Nishi-Aoyama Bldg. B1-2F, 1-Chome-11 Shibuya, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo.
The nearest subway station is Shibuya Station, a five-minute walk from Tower Records.
Prices: All meals are reason-

ably priced and start at \$10. English menu available upon request.

Website: cafecompany.co.jp/brands/moja (Japanese only)
Phone: 03-6418-8144

— Eric Guzman

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WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

**Various Artists**

The Amazing Spider-Man 2
Soundtrack (Columbia Records/
Madison Gate Records)

Even Oscar-winning composers can use a little help once in a while.

So it makes sense that Hans Zimmer created his own band of superhero hitmakers, including white-hot Pharrell, to work on "The Amazing Spider-Man 2" soundtrack. The 80-called Magnificent Six — which besides Pharrell includes Johnny Marr, Michael Einziger, Junkie XL, Andrew Kawczynski and Steve Mazzaro — works magic with Zimmer and helps him weave a strong musical accompaniment to the plot.

The score matches the hero's character and journey — from the playful yet ominous "The Electro Suite" to the sinister orchestral-electro hybrid "My Enemy" to "We're Best Friends," which is highlighted by its unusual tempo.

The 20-track album's crowning glory is the Pharrell co-penned "It's On Again," where Alicia Keys' warm vocals provide a stark contrast to Kendrick Lamar's growly tones. It's an energetic tune that starts off with a hard electric guitar before getting enveloped by catchy pop beats.

Phosphorescent's ballad "Song for Zula" is aided by cascades of violins, while LIZ's impish funk "That's My Man" claps itself into a jop of joy. Pharrell's earnest vocals on the slow groove "Here" lull you into a sense of emotional security, while Czarna Russell brings a classic rock sound to the proceedings on "Within the Web (First Day Jam)," just enough to inject hard edge into the album's overall pop feel.

Zimmer and the Magnificent Six's collaboration elevates the comic-book hero to heights he wouldn't get to by relying on his superpowers alone.

— Cristina Jalreau
The Associated Press

Iggy Azalea

The New Classic
(Def Jam/Grand Hustle)

The blond ambitious rapper with a killer flow from the Australian outback has finally made it, and she's not afraid to rap about it.

Iggy Azalea, 23, has been hustling to get to where she is since she first landed in Miami at 16, and the main theme of the 12-track "The New Classic" is her dream of becoming accomplished in hip-hop through hard work and unwillingness to be thwarted by bad deals, critics and industry pressures. That's especially on tracks such as "Walk the Line," "Don't Need Y'all" and the dark "Impossible Is Nothing."

"First deal changed me, robbed blind, basically raped me... studied the Carters till a deal was offered, slept cold on the floor recording," she spits on "Work," not as a complaint, but as a badge of honor.

Musically, the album leans toward a blend of pop and electro beats. The rappers of the heyday that led Azalea to this path may shake their heads at this softball version of their craft, but it's not called "The New Classic" for nothing. It's a fresher take of the rhyming arts, flipping its inherent misogyny and machismo on its head with a few disappointing exceptions (just bypass the wealth flashing "New (Expletive).") Overall, this is a women's empowerment record.

Rita Ora's velvet voice adds another layer to the anti-love slow burn of the Stargate-produced "Black Widow," a song that has a writing credit from Katy Perry, Charli XCX — from "I Love It" fame with Icona Pop — contributes to the playful electro tune "Fancy," while Azalea's mentor, T.I., gives her a hand with that whole "Change Your Life" thing.

If Azalea doesn't fall into the trap of rapping only about her designer clothes and wealth in the future, and keeps her eyes on the artsy prize, she might just become an old classic.

— Cristina Jalreau
The Associated Press

Damon Albarn

Everyday Robots
(Warner Bros.)

Twenty years after he became a Brit-pop poster boy as lead singer of Blur, Damon Albarn has released his first solo album.

He's been busy in the meantime, fronting cartoon hip-hop band Gorillaz, forming the supergroup The Good, the Bad and the Queen and even writing a couple of operas. So "Everyday Robots" is hardly the work of a novice — rather of a man in his 40s looking back with a mixture of wonder and regret.

The songs, suffused with nostalgic melancholy, blend the digital and the organic, scattering samples of speech and street sounds over electronic beats, winsome guitar and plinky piano.

Lyricaly, Albarn explores the tension between isolation and connection in the digital age, and the feelings of guilt and absolution that come with aging.

The melancholy title track sets the tone, with Albarn's vulnerable vocals laid over ragged samples and jugged violin. It's an understated number that worms its way under the skin.

"Hostiles" and "Hollow Ponds" continue the mood of languid reverie, while "You and Me" refers to Albarn's long-ago use of heroin, a drug he has said he found alluring and dangerous.

There are a couple of more up-tempo numbers in "Mr. Tembo" — an ode to an orphaned baby elephant — and "Heavy Seas of Love," a low-key singalong featuring Brian Eno and a church choir.

More typical of the bittersweet mood are "Lonely Press Play" ("If you're lonely, press play") and the lovely, delicately hopeful "Photographs (You Are Taking Now)."

"Everyday Robots" is an album of subtle pleasures.

— Jill Lawless
The Associated Press

LISTEN UP**The Black Keys — "Fever" (stream)**

The Black Keys have made a career of finding the cracks between rock's past and present, refusing to choose a side by pairing throwback riffs and howls with the stranglehold of pop's modern sensibilities. Nothing has changed with their new single "Fever," from their forthcoming LP, "Turn Blue," except the way they do it. This time, Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney drive even further from the banjos, gritty blues-rock that skyrocketed them from Akron, Ohio, and dive into a pool of dense, piercing psychedelia. — Scott Recker/PopMatters.com

Hear the song at theblackkeys.com

WEEKEND: BOOKS

'A Man Called Destruction'

A revealing look at Alex Chilton, his troubled career

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Most musicians would record their soul for a No. 1 record and go on to carry that success like a trophy. So it's a measure of the late Alex Chilton's craft and personality that he's less defined by "The Letter," the 1967 guitar-pop gem by his band the Box Tops that hit when he was 16, than by the commercial failures that came after.

Rather, he's best known as the co-founder of the Memphis band Big Star whose classic three records, released from 1972 to 1978, have grown into some of the most acclaimed of that era. Remembered for songs such as "September Gurls," "Holo-caust" and "In the Street," the latter of which served as the theme song to "That '70s Show," Chilton is a stubborn, oft-inflaming charmer in Holly Gaele Warren's "A Man Called Destruction: The Life and Music of Alex Chilton from Box Tops to Big Star to Backdoor Man."

Chilton's musical career lasted nearly 40 years, until his death in New Orleans in 2010. In that time he wrote visionary pop music in a flash with bandmates including Chris Bell, Andy Hummel and Jody Stephens before becoming so disillusioned by the business, his relationships and life—he attempted suicide on numerous occasions—that his ambivalence extended to music.

At his worst, he tore through friends, band members and women with reckless ambivalence. So far gone was he during the mixing of "Sister Lovers," for example, that his producer, Jim Dickinson, barred him from the studio, according to Warren. "The first night of the first session I watched him shoot Demerol down his throat with a syringe," said Dickinson. "That set the tone."

New book provides backstage pass to rock history

By BROOKE LEFFERTS
The Associated Press

In the new book "There Goes Gravity: A Life in Rock and Roll," there's a telling photograph of Mick Jagger whispering into the ear of journalist Lisa Robinson as she smiles mischievously. The 1975 shot perfectly illustrates why Robinson's so good at what she does: her access to big talent, the trust she gains with her subjects and her love of music.

A lifetime New Yorker and now Vanity Fair music editor, Robinson fell into writing in 1969 when she was assisting rock writer and producer Richard Robinson—got her a gig writing for a music magazine, tapping into her passion and setting her on a path as one of the first female rock journalists.

The book focuses on the music, offering few personal details, but an intimate, familiar tone. After 45 years in the business, Robin-

son is still excited by live performances, and eagerly anticipates the next moment of greatness.

"It never felt like a job; it was fun, it was new, it felt like a 'calling.' Whether I was in a private plane with Led Zepplin or the Rolling Stones... or standing in front of the beer on the floor of CBGB's—it was exactly where I wanted to be," Robinson writes.

Robinson had the good luck and timing to witness the beginnings of many bands. Armed with a coveted backstage pass and multiple old-school cassette recorders (which she still uses), she was part of hundreds of encounters. The book highlights about a dozen

acts she suggests have been the most influential. She returned to interview favorites—including David Bowie, The Clash, Patti Smith, Eminem, Jay-Z and Lady Gaga—several times, delving deeper into the souls behind the talent.

Although she admits to trading gossip as one way of endearing herself to her subjects, Robinson is protective, avoiding sordid details of the groupie sex, violence and excessive drugs that occur on tours. "I was with them to get a story, not to judge," she writes.

Even the most media-wary artists come to trust Robinson because she's more fan than a critic, able to keep secrets and industry savvy. One of the few journalists to sit down with John Lennon and Yoko Ono, she offers fascinating quotes, but her rose-colored glasses are off when describing their reclusive, self-centered life in New York.

Robinson has a knack for getting subjects to share revealing

personality traits that speak volumes. After interviewing Michael Jackson several times in his rise to stardom, she notices he has two voices: one high and soft for the public, another normal and commanding for his inner circle.

When she asks U2's Bono how he handles home life after being on tour, he answers candidly. "In a very, very, very deep place I'm secure. And on the surface, sure. But somewhere in there, I need 20,000 screaming people a night to feel normal." Tracing the evolution of U2, Robinson shows how, despite talent and good intentions, a band can lose its way in the tornado of success. In the group's '90s "Popmart" phase, they let celebrity and philanthropy get in the way of the music.

Always looking for edgy, surprising talent, Robinson started to pay more attention to rap and hip-hop, recognizing the same anger and lyrical skills as punk rock. She calls Eminem (whose lyric is the book's title) and Kanye

drummer said you were not very clean./ And I know what he means" and remain blissfully enveloped within the music alone.

Warren devotes most time to Chilton's work and life in the 1970s and 1980s, when he moved from teen pop star to wandering troubadour to drunk to visionary experimenter and rockabilly sideman to devoted astrologer. While trying to get straight in the 1980s, the artist earned a living for a time as a cab driver, dishwasher and janitor.

Gradually he returned, eventually earning a decent living through the older circuit, the licensing of his music, as a solo artist and a member of a re-formed Big Star, adapting to his role-model status for bands including R.E.M. and the Replacements.

His was a strange path, as evidenced by the cameos in "Destruction," which include the Manson family, photographer William Eggleston, the Doors, lower east side New York scenesters and protopunks, production genius Dickinson (best known as pianist on the Rolling Stones' "Wild Horses"), a coterie of first-generation rock critics (Lester Bangs included), and the Beach Boys' Brian and Carl Wilson.

The handsome Chilton's love life could be just as dramatic. It included a few devoted girlfriends, a failed first marriage and untold numbers of groupies, the volume of which, as outlined in Warren's research, suggests a man who struggled against lecherousness as well as addiction and whose gifts, coupled with an increasing disinterest with marquee fame, suffered as a result.

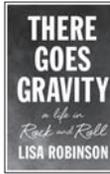
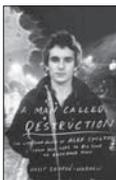
By the time he died of a heart attack in 2010, the music he created had been widely recognized. Such acclaim never seemed to satisfy him—nor did he require it to. It's a credit to Warren's unflinching tone that the Chilton of "Destruction" is a charismatic, oft-frustrating man unwilling to kowtow to anything or anyone, including his music and his legacy. You'll never hear his music the same way again.

At his best, Chilton turned that trouble and confusion into poetry and followed his curiosity despite the expectations of those who wanted his post-Big Star work to build on those ideas.

One listener to the dissonant deconstruction "Like Flies on Sherbert" confirms his disinterest in doing that. In fact, a few decades after he memorably sang of those who "stood on the stairs laughing at your airs" in "Holo-caust" and penned the mercurial love song "Stroke It Noel," he'd nearly forsaken music and was living alone in a tent in the Tennessee woods.

Warren's deep research examines the arc of Chilton's life, uncovers periods of intense focusing in famed Memphis studios, including disturbing scenes of a lover's blood on the mixing board and others of Chilton's own blood in bathtubs during suicide attempts. The writer, a former editor at Rolling Stone who has also penned books on Woodstock, Gene Autry and hilariously and honky-tonk music among others, documents failed tours and promotional campaigns, revealing the curious fate and dashed expectations of an almost-was band and its irascible lead singer.

In fact, die-hard Chilton fans face a choice: Read "A Man Called Destruction" to better understand the dramatic life of an often indifferent songwriter and his enduring work, or ignore the ugly truth behind classic lyrics such as "The



WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



The watercolor visuals are never less than gorgeous and bring a sense of wonder to "Child of Light."

Courtesy of Ubisoft

A FANTASTIC FAIRYTALE

With stunning visuals, soundtrack, 'Child of Light' satisfies gamers of all ages, levels

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

It's understandable to be a little hesitant of budget games.

Steam and mobile markets are flush with budget games that really are just cheap knock-offs of famous RPGs, free-to-play money traps and plain broken games. That's not to say inexpensive games can't be high-quality; groundbreaking games like "Braid" and "Spelunky" have proven that creative budget games can very easily end up on "Game of the Year" lists.

The most recent game that proves low-cost doesn't have to mean low-quality is a charming, \$15 role-playing game from Ubisoft Montreal called "Child of Light."

"Child of Light" is the fairytale of Aurora, a princess of Austria, who falls into an unnatural sleep. She awakes in the magical world of Lemuria, which is home to giant talking mice, morose jesters and ancient warrior clans. This strange world is brought to life with stunning watercolor visuals that make any given screenshot a veritable work of art.

The depth and detail of the painted world would make even a boring game set on its surface entertaining. I spent plenty of time exploring the nooks and crannies of Lemuria, not for the hidden potions and upgrades, but to see if I could catch a glimpse of some sun-drenched vista I had overlooked before.

The watercolors are not just a pretty background for a story, they're also used to help tell the story of Lemuria. The colors are muted and a bit darker, setting a somber tone that the plot matches perfectly. Aurora's story is not a happy one, and the game takes some fairly dark turns along the way. In that regard, it's more akin to the 2006 fantasy movie "Pan's Labyrinth" than anything put out by Disney.

A decidedly melancholic soundtrack lends to this unhappy atmosphere even more, with piano and flute compositions that set a relaxing, albeit depressing, tone. Noted French-Canadian singer-songwriter Cœur de Pirate composed the soundtrack, and her work has elevated it from background music to something to be sought out long after the game is turned off.

The game itself draws heavily from its fairytale setting. Without spoiling too much, Aurora is told by a mysterious woman that in order to awake from her real-life coma, she must bring together Lemuria's sun, moon and stars. This being a fairytale, she runs afoul of an evil queen who has her own designs for Lemuria's future.

Aurora's story is told entirely in rhyme, which is a cute device that

works at times. It's clear when the rhymes were forced, and sometimes this leads to some awkward phrasing that obscures what is being said. When it works, it lends to the atmosphere greatly; when it doesn't, it's a nuisance that had me itching for the skip button. Lemuria is explorative in two dimensions, with an emphasis on verticality.



Shortly after arriving, Aurora is given the ability to fly, which sets up some great level design that has you exploring up and down as much as left and right. The landscape is dotted with treasure chests and puzzles waiting to be solved, none of

which are exactly brain busters, but offer a fun diversion from time to time. There are also many monsters to be slain along the way, which is done with a turn-based combat system. The hook that makes this combat system work is the time gauge that dictates the flow of battle. Two of your party members will face down varying numbers of enemies. Each character gets a turn to cue an action, whether attacking, casting a spell or using a healing item. These actions can be interrupted by an enemy hitting you first and causing the action to be canceled.

It takes some getting used to, and at first the ease at which your party is able to cancel out an enemy's action, com-

Overall grade: **A+**

bined with the great amounts of healing items found everywhere, can make the game seem too easy. By the end of the game, though, the enemies are using the timing to their advantage, making every encounter equally dangerous.

Outside of combat, you'll pick up side quests, chase down bits of poetry floating on the wind and gather crystals that double as weapon and armor buffs. The side quests are pretty basic, but there are enough of them to keep the game from feeling rote. It's a basic role-playing game that offers enough simplicity for newcomers to the genre, but has enough meat to satisfy cantankerous old fans like myself.

"Child of Light" is a game that breaks all of the rules. It's inexpensive, but nothing about it feels cheap or denigrated because of the price. It's an artistic game that doesn't forget for a second that it's a game, and not a moving art installation. It's touching without being cloying and lengthy without becoming dull. If you can afford the \$15 price tag and have ever enjoyed a role-playing game in your life, this should be the next game on your wish list.

Bottom Line: A+ "Child of Light" is the early front-runner for 2014's game of the year.

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



Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc.

Kristen Bell is Veronica Mars in the movie "Veronica Mars," based on the TV show.

"Veronica Mars": The film picks up nine years after Veronica Mars (Kristen Bell) left Neptune, Calif. She's on the fast track to a job with a prestigious New York law firm. That's when she is called home to help her old high school friend, Logan Echolls (Jason Doherty), who is the prime suspect in the murder of his pop star girlfriend.

Rob Thomas creates a film that will draw in those who never saw the series. For the newbies, he provides the right amount of exposition to explain who all of the characters are — without making the production feel slow to all of the loyal fans. Because he finds that balance, the film is both a loving gift for those who adore the series and a fun and entertaining murder mystery for those who don't know Veronica Mars from Bruno Mars.

"The Rodgers & Hammerstein Blue-ray Collection": The songwriting team of Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II created some of the most iconic musicals of the 20th century. This collection features six of the 15-time Academy Award-winning movie musicals by the team.

Also included are the restorations of "The King and I," "Carousel," "Oklahoma!," "State Fair," "The Sound of Music" and "South Pacific."

Bonus materials include a singalong version of "The King and I" and more than an hour of behind-the-scenes features for "Oklahoma!"

"Blazing Saddles": The 40th anniversary edition of the comedy is being released on Blu-ray. In any form, this is a must-own for anyone who loves film comedy. The film, starring Gene Wilder and Cleavon Little, from director/writer Mel Brooks, is considered one of the top film comedies of all time.

Included in the special edition release is the featurette "Blaze of Glory: Mel Brooks' Wild, Wild West" in which Brooks reflects on his own moviemaking chutzpah and the film's cultural impact on audiences of all generations.

Also new on DVD:

"The Terminal": The Tom Hanks film on Blu-ray.

"I Love Lucy: Ultimate Season One": New Blu-ray includes the first episodes of the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz series.

"Revenge of the Nerds": Nerds are back to mark the 20th anniversary of the film's release.

"Agatha Christie's Poirot, Series 12": David Suchet plays Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot.

"Lewis Black: Old Yeller": Comedian performs in Atlantic City.

"The Andy Griffith Show": Includes restored versions of the 32 episodes in the first season.

"Little House on the Prairie: Season Two": Blu-ray includes 22 fully remastered episodes.

"The Honeymonsters: Classic 39": Blu-ray collection contains full-length episodes of the classic TV series.

"Norma Rae": The film that earned Sally Field an Oscar is being released to mark the 35th anniversary.

"Generation War": This German epic drama spans more than five years beginning in Berlin in 1941.

Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



Dive into the SHARK TANK

Reality series moguls on what it takes to make them bite

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

Perhaps the title overstates the case.

The tycoons of the ABC reality series "Shark Tank" wouldn't feed on your leg. They're not even out to eat the lunge of budding entrepreneurs who come before them in the Shark Tank (actually a stage at Los Angeles' Sony Studios, where the Sharks convene two or three times a year for mammoth taping sessions). They're just after a healthy serving of any future feast.

So each Shark must decide whether to invest his or her own cash and expertise in a given opportunity, whether it's a kiddie train ride at the mall, boneless baby-back ribs, or a pot of boiling water that can charge a cellphone. Maybe they try to outbid one another. Often they argue over whether the deal is a winner or a bust.

The show, now in its fifth season, airs Fridays stateside.

Recently, five of the Sharks (technology specialist Robert Herjavec couldn't make it) joined a reporter for a bite at a Manhattan restaurant, and they said a mouthful. Here's a boiled-down version: **"Queen of QVC" and inventor Lori Greiner:** "Why did I agree to be on the show? Because they asked!"

Fashion and branding expert Daymond John: "I did it because I wanted to diversify my portfolio, but I was only getting pitched clothing companies. People thought since I was the FUBU (urban streetwear) guy, I'd come to a meeting with gold teeth and baggy jeans and start break dancing."

Venture capitalist Kevin O'Leary: "Because each Shark has made it on

“My first concern is always: Am I gonna LOSE money? Second concern: Can I MAKE money?”

Barbara Corcoran

his own from different sectors of the economy, we bring different disciplines to the table. Any one of my fellow Sharks might see something in a deal that I don't. To be competitive, I try to see it through their eyes."

Mark Cuban, owner of AXS TV and the Dallas Mavericks: "On the show, we all have our little branding angles. Lori tries to be the guy who gives the advice. Lori tries to be the one who encourages. Daymond is the homey. Kevin is right to the point; it's all about money. And Barbara is going to be brutally honest."
Real estate mogul Barbara Corcoran: "The best advice was from (executive producer) Mark Burnett: 'What makes great TV is just to be yourself.' How freeing was that! So my first concern is always: Am I gonna LOSE money? Second concern: Can I MAKE money? A distant third: Is this good TV? And no one's in our ear saying, 'Do this, say that.' Doesn't happen."

Cuban: "It's OUR money! The producers can't tell us what to do!"

John: "I'm always amazed at how they take 15 cameras and an hourlong pitch and turn it into six to eight minutes, and

yet it plays out exactly like the pitch happened."

Cuban: "The hard part on 'Shark Tank' is finding a clever way to say no."
Corcoran: "A way you haven't used a hundred times before!"

Cuban: "One pitch, I was thinking, 'There's no way I'm interested. Now I've got to come up with a clever way to go out.' And then the guy called me Cubes. He goes, 'Hey, Cubes!' And that was all I needed: 'Cubes!' I'm out!"

O'Leary: "After you go in on a deal on 'Shark Tank,' a due-diligence period begins."

Cuban: "They'll come on and say, 'My widget costs 50 cents to make.' Then you do your due diligence and find it costs \$4 to make UNLESS you get to a billion units — THEN it gets down to 50 cents!"

Corcoran: "Out of 26 businesses, I have four that are clear winners, two that have paid me back, two that WILL pay me back. The rest? Come to my office: I have every entrepreneur in frames on my wall. The minute I realize I'm not gonna ever make money on THAT one, I flip him over to remind me not to spend more time on it. (Laughing.) It's dead to me!"

Cuban: "The real work isn't shooting the show. It's managing and dealing with the companies afterward."

Greiner: "Eighty percent of my deals are doing well. My biggest problem is the ones who don't listen when you advise them to do something."

O'Leary: "The first season, everything we saw was absolute crap. Then in season three, real deals started to show up. That was the first time I thought, 'My goodness, this really IS a platform to launch products and services!'"

"Good Morning America" co-host Lara Spencer, third from left, poses with "Shark Tank" tycoons, from left, Kevin O'Leary, Barbara Corcoran, Daymond John, Mark Cuban and Lori Greiner. The show is now in its fifth season.

LORENZO BEVILAGUA, ABC/AP

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Aging well starts young Develop healthy eating, exercise, sleep habits early on for long-term success

By **MMH WHITEFIELD**
The Miami Herald

Astrid Flaherty nimbly hops off a low platform and then swoops from side to side touching orange plastic cones.

Although she is 70 years old and a breast cancer survivor, she seems barely winded. Her secret: lifelong exercise and healthy eating.

"Exercise is the best anti-aging pill you can take," says Dawn Davis, a fitness instructor at Shula's Athletic Club in Miami Lakes, Fla.

Flaherty has discovered on her own what doctors and fitness experts are saying: People can age more successfully if they develop a healthy lifestyle when they're young that includes exercise, a healthy diet, sufficient sleep and watching their weight.

The Miami Lakes resident still hits the gym three times a week and plays tennis on Saturdays. And her diet emphasizes fresh, natural foods.

Being in good shape at her age when she was diagnosed with breast cancer in 2007. "My doctors were amazed that I was able to come back from my chemo sessions so quickly," she says.

"People need to think about the aging process throughout their lives. I know it's hard when you're 20 years old," says Dr. Sara Czaja, professor of psy-

chiatry and behavioral sciences and the scientific director of the Center on Aging at the University of Miami's Miller School of Medicine.

"It's really important to take advantage of what we know," Czaja says, "and we do know a lot about how to age healthily."

That includes staying socially engaged throughout life and being mindful at a young age of the dangers of smoking, the links between skin cancer and overexposure to the sun, and having recommended preventive screenings, Czaja says.

"A lot of chronic disease — diabetes, high-blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, obesity — may be prevented by maintaining a healthy lifestyle throughout life too," she says.

"What we're also learning more and more is the importance of engaging in physical exercise. That leads to not only better cardiovascular health but also better cognitive health," Czaja says. "There is suggested evidence that being obese can cause cognitive problems."

But the reality is that what initially motivates many people to exercise is concern about their appearance — not their health, says Rickie Ali, a fitness and wellness specialist and personal trainer at Shula's Athletic Club.

"The fitness business knows this — with the ads about six-pack abs and all that," he says. You can get lean following some of the programs now in vogue, he says, but they are not complete, and some also put people at risk of injury by trying to do too much too fast.

"My main goal for people is for them to have the fitness they need to get through their everyday activities," he says. "By default, the body gets leaner. But that is not my motivation."

Anyone who wants health for life needs to address lifestyle habits, nutrition, wellness and fitness at every phase of their lives, Ali says.

A basic mantra for anyone who wants to

age well is move, move, move.

In the 20s and early 30s, that means building strong muscles, bone density and as healthy a cardiovascular system as possible, Ali says. "It's like when you build a house. You need to build a solid foundation."

And anyone who embarks on a fitness program needs to improve their nutrition as well. "Think of food as a fuel like gas for a car," Ali says. "You might want to drive that car five days a week, but if the gas isn't there, you can't do it."

As people head toward middle age, their metabolism might slow and a more sedentary lifestyle and chronic ailments could begin to take a toll.

Ali says the exercise movements for those at mid-life are basically the same as for a younger person, but the number of repetitions and intensity might vary.

For older people, it's important to work on movements that encourage

better balance, flexibility and stability, Ali says. He might have people in this age group do balancing exercises on one leg, work on posture and alignment, and do stretches.

"If you have strong muscles and core, it's easier to stop yourself from falling and risking injury," Davis says.

Charles Eaves, 75, a retired salesman who trains with Davis, an injury nearly every day before a recurrent foot injury sidetracked him.

After he stopped running, "my resilience just wasn't there. I felt like if I fell, I would just lie there like a limp rag and wouldn't be able to get up," Eaves says.

Now after a year of three-a-week training sessions with Davis, he says the strength and flexibility he had as a runner have come back.

As people age, they need to adapt to changing realities, Czaja says. "Your life may be different, but that doesn't mean you're not aging successfully."

The good news is that even if you've never exercised or haven't worked out regularly, it's still possible to ease back into a fitness routine and find success at any age.

But it's important before beginning an exercise regime, says Ali, to get medical clearance from a doctor and let your trainer know if there are any limitations.

Dr. Anaisys Ballesteros, a family practice physician with Baptist Health Medical Group, said her key advice to younger patients is: Don't forget your annual preventive physical.

Younger people don't tend to come in until they're sick, she says. But regular preventive screenings can show them whether they are at risk for diabetes or high blood pressure when they are still young enough to modify diet, lifestyle — including controlling stress, fitness and weight, Ballesteros says.

Personal trainer Rickie Ali works with Jenny Rodriguez, top, Laura Fuentes, center, and Agnes Delgado, right, at Shula's Athletic Club in Miami Lakes, Fla. According to Ali, appearance, not health, is what motivates most people to exercise.

PHOTOS BY CW GRIFFIN, THE MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Exercise is the best anti-aging pill you can take.
Dawn Davis
fitness instructor,
Shula's Athletic Club



WEEKEND: FAMILY

MCT illustrations

Blast from the past



Ga. teen finds meaning in 1950s popularity guide

By ALICIA RANCILO
The Associated Press

Respecting or learning from one's elders isn't exactly a top priority for most teens. They're too busy texting or mastering the latest social media platform to relate to the idea that their grandparents ever battled teenage issues like acne or fitting in.

For Maya Van Wageningen, though, digging up a previous generation's teen scene actually helped her. She survived the middle-school blues thanks to "Betty Cornell's Teenage Popularity Guide," published in 1953. Her experiences following the guide led Van Wageningen to write her own book, "Popular," which has now been optioned for a movie.

Van Wageningen, 15, of Statesboro, Ga., says her father found Cornell's book in a thrift shop, way before she was born. He held onto it for years because its outdated gems like "Beautiful hair is about the most important thing a girl has," made him smile.

The guide surfaced during a clean-up effort, and her parents challenged their eighth-grade daughter to an idea: Follow the book's advice in secret and write about what happens.

Van Wageningen says she considered herself to be "one step above substitute teachers" on her school's popularity scale and worried the project would make things worse.

"It didn't seem like a good idea at all," she said. "I was terrified, because flipping through the pages you read about all teens must wear a girdle and wear pearls to school and wear pantyhose and red lipstick and stuff that I definitely wasn't comfortable doing."

Although she was used to being invisible, as she read the book she had an epiphany.

"I realized I did want friends and I did want to be liked and I did want to be accepted, and while I didn't have a clear-cut definition of popularity, I knew that it wasn't what I was. More than anything, I didn't have anything to lose, so I said, 'You know what? I'll try it for a month.'"

She began to make changes, wore pearls, dressed up and even tried a girdle.

Little things suggested by Cornell began to make sense. Before the "Popularity Guide," Van Wageningen says she'd spend five minutes on her hair. Following the book, she began to put time into her appearance.

Some reaction to her new habits was hurtful, but documenting it seemed to help.

"There were times people would say mean things, and it would make me feel really bad," confessed Van Wageningen, who was a 13-year-old eighth-grader in Brownsville, Texas, at the time. But writing about them turned them into "hilarious stories" where she was "able to laugh at these things that were genuinely hurtful at first."

"These bullies became characters, and I became a character as well and that was really empowering," Van Wageningen said, adding: "I would say, 'Well, what would I want my character to be doing right now?'"

Cornell's guide also encouraged Van Wageningen to reach out to others and be more outgoing.

As she made connections, kids began to gravitate to her. Soon she realized, "Everyone around you is like you, and they're looking for friendship, and so it's good to step up to and be that person, that kind person."

As Van Wageningen's experiment was working, her father went to work to track down Betty Cornell, now 79 and living in Audubon, Pa. The two met, and Van Wageningen discovered that Cornell still follows the principles of the book herself.

"It was wonderful to share that connection. She said it was great to have her work validated," Van Wageningen said.

Van Wageningen's experiment has just been published in a memoir called "Popular: Vintage Wisdom for a Modern Geek," geared toward seventh-graders and up. "Betty Cornell's Teenage Popularity Guide" has been re-issued as a companion book, and Cornell also wrote the foreword to "Popular."

Hollywood also likes Van Wageningen's story: She's optioned the movie rights to DreamWorks.

SPOUSE CALLS

A mother's love can never be lost

I could write a lot about my mother: That her phone calls, letters and emails have provided me advice and encouragement on everything from middle-school research papers and prom dress decisions to missing my college-aged children. She was even present at the birth of all three of our babies, even the one born in Guam.

For love, a mom can endure fifteen hours on a plane — one way, not including layovers, without complaint — to welcome a new grandchild. My mom did. She also traveled to visit us at nearly every assignment in our 20-plus-year military career, including Germany and Japan.

But there are more arduous journeys for love to endure, as well we know.

When I was 9 or 10, my mother wrote me a letter. I don't remember when she gave it to me. I just remember having it when I was a little girl. It was short, only a few sentences, telling me she loved me, was proud of me, and encouraging me to hold on to my faith.

For a long time I kept the letter in a secret compartment in the bottom of an old jewelry box. As a child, I had a habit of creating a hideout, under my bed or in a corner of the attic, depending on where we lived. The jewelry box, my favorite books and a flashlight were usually among the treasures found there.

I would take the letter out occasionally and — with the aid of the flashlight when necessary — read it and even shed tears over it, especially when one of us was angry. I knew that whatever punishment was meted out, whatever words passed between us, Mom loved me. Her words on the page reminded me.

When I was in high school, my parents' divorce precipitated a move to another house. I've made nearly 20 moves in my life as a military child and wife, but none as painful as that one.

Hurt and angry, I refused to help pack up my life for a move I bitterly resented. The treasure box was neglected, perhaps left behind in the attic, perhaps thrown away.

So the treasures and the letter were gone — and forgotten — and after the dissolution of my family, the certainty that Mom's decisions were made out of love for me was gone too. Our relationship was changed, tread-marked by the long procession of circumstances that follow a divorce like slow-moving cars follow a hearse.

Years went by before I knew exactly what I had lost.

In fact, I was a mother of three young children when one day — I can't explain why — I suddenly remembered the jewelry box and its hidden contents. With bitter clarity, I also realized when it was lost and how. I couldn't believe I had forgotten it for so long. How I wished then that I could read the letter again.

Now I'm the mother of children in their teens and 20s. My mother has written me many letters in the years since that difficult chapter of my family's history. She tells me often that she loves me, in words, deeds and transcendent flights.

I gave up the letter for lost, but rediscovered the certainty of my mother's love for me. Our relationship has been restored — not instantly, nor easily — but still miraculously.

Last year I was looking through my old journals. Behind the very last page of the very oldest volume — my life as a 13-year-old — I found the letter, yellowed by years and created from many readings. I don't know how it got there or how the old pink diary kept its secret for so long. But it did.

Like the assurance of my mother's love, the letter was not truly lost, only misplaced, waiting to be found, read and believed again.



Terri Barnes

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes. This column originally appeared May 9, 2010, and is excerpted here from the book "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life" (Eva Resa Publishing, 2014).

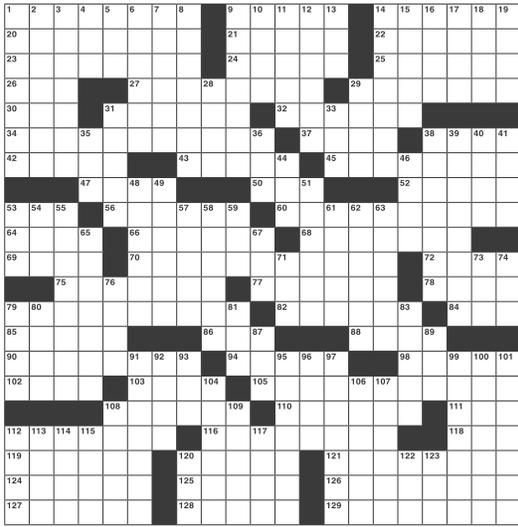
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

JOINED SIDES

BY MARY LOU GUZZO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 Like many shotguns
9 Mole
14 Back-to-back games
20 Singer Christina
21 ___ gin fizz
22 "Twelfth Night" lover
23 Oil and gasoline giant
24 Very vexed
25 Leonardo ___ a.k.a. Fibonacci
26 ___pitch softball
27 What a detective tries to reconstruct
29 "Platoon" setting
30 Sommelier's prefix
31 Flavor
32 Lozenge brand
34 "Platoon" director
37 Suckling site
38 "The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a ___" (1985 best seller)
42 Old Baby Bell based in the Big Apple
43 Assents
45 Stretch out
47 Neuter
50 Literary inits.
52 Jai alai basket
53 Water checker?
56 Going out for the afternoon?
60 The Who's "My Generation," e.g.



- 64 Pelvic parts
66 Musician's practice with four sharps
121 Some sheet fabrics
124 Nothing, in Napoli
125 Tuscany town
126 Sign-up
127 Classic London transport
128 Genetic structure
129 Source of some discrimination
31 Battle of the ___ (dogs)
33 Letter that's also a name
121 Something, in Napoli
125 Tuscany town
126 Sign-up
127 Classic London transport
128 Genetic structure
129 Source of some discrimination
41 Gang up on, as in basketball
44 "How ___"
46 "Tar Heels" state: Abbr.
48 German musical entertainment
49 Auto sponsor of Groucho Marx's "You Bet Your Life"
51 Hawk
53 Commit a chip-eating faux pas
54 King lead-in
55 Boo-boos
57 Shell seen around water
58 Formatting feature on a typewriter
59 Totality
61 Sired
62 Unfazed by
63 Better at picking things up?
65 Jock
67 Job listing inits.
71 Descent
73 Old car make that's a homophone of a modern car model
74 Relative of a twin
76 Anatomical tissue
79 Reaction of surprise
80 Ticks off
81 Need a lift?
83 Brand of power tools
87 Vet., e.g.
89 Queen's honour: Abbr.
91 Brightly colored bird
92 Country whose flag says "God is great"
22 times
93 Chess champ Mikhail
95 Part of a jazz combo
96 Precious
97 Mexican shawls: Abbr.
99 ___ Gorilla,
1960s TV cartoon character
100 First of a kind
101 Betrayed
104 Raucous bird
106 Squirrel, e.g.
107 South American land
108 Al ___
109 Swiss city on the Rhine
112 Attraction in a carbon dioxide molecule
113 Baby's boo-boo
114 Equivalent of 20 fins
115 Something clickable
117 Collette of "United States of Tara"
120 Blind shade
122 Bamboozle
123 City council rep.

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Advertisement for the book 'JOSEPH FINDER SUSPICION' by Danny Goodman. Text: 'Single dad Danny Goodman finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores and accepts a loan that brings the DEA into his life and leads to an impossible choice: indictment for accepting drug money or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment.'

Advertisement for 'WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!' from Stripes Book Club and Dutton. Text: 'Stripes Book Club and Dutton, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., are proud to offer you a chance to win one of 10 signed copies of Joseph Finder's SUSPICION. Go to stripesrewards.com/bookclub to enter and win.' Includes logos for Dutton and Stripes Book Club.

FACES



SHOWTIME/MCT

Josh Hartnett loves stepping into new challenges. His latest is his role as Ethan Chandler in the Showtime series "Penny Dreadful." Hartnett plays an American sharpshooter who finds himself adrift in Victorian London's seamy side. "He seems to be a man with a death wish," Hartnett says about his character. "And what happens in this series, no matter how dark, how messed up, it gives him reason to live."

Hartnett buys into TV with "Penny Dreadful"

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

A big reason film actors are drawn to TV is that it offers the sort of character-driven projects found less and less in a movie world tilted toward blockbusters.

That's partly why Josh Hartnett jumped into "Penny Dreadful," an eight-part series debuting May 11 on Showtime and May 17 on AFN-Spectrum. He plays a troubled American, a gun for hire, ensnared by Victorian London's dark side in the horror drama-cum-psychological study.

Hartnett also appreciated the guarantee that the project would be marketed and presented to an audience, something he's become painfully aware isn't always the case with independent films.

"I've had worthy films not get a correct release, and have people come up to me later and say how much they enjoyed the film," seen after the fact online or on DVD, he said. "It's gratifying to know that people go back and see stuff," he said. "But it would be more gratifying to be part of the cultural dialogue and [know] that [a project] had an impact when it was released."

Hartnett was in his early 20s when he made a splash in 2001 with two major Hollywood movies, "Pearl Harbor" and "Black Hawk Down," part of a varied slate for him that year that included "O," a modern take on "Othello."

"It's really exciting to have a big movie release," said Hartnett. "Everybody should be so lucky to have that experience. You feel like the whole world's focused on you for a little while, and it's overwhelming."

The actor is seeking other rewards now, those he said that have "less to do with climbing the Hollywood ladder" and more to do with personal and professional growth. "I thought if you're doing interesting work, interesting people will want to work with you. So far, I've been lucky enough to have that happen," said Hartnett, who offers carefully chosen words with a slow, low-pitched cadence.

But Hartnett's profile was reduced as some films suffered spotty or delayed releases. His starring role in "Penny Dreadful" has put him squarely back in the publicity spotlight again, he says, he led to some media confusion. "The craze that's been created over the last couple months is

Movies featuring Hartnett



'Pearl Harbor'
2001

Hartnett played Capt. Danny Walker in this World War II drama.



'Black Hawk Down'
2001

Ridley Scott directed Hartnett in this film about the 1993 Battle of Mogadishu.



'30 Days of Night'
2007

Hartnett plays a sheriff in a small town in Alaska threatened by vampires.

that I disappeared, and I was some hermit for the last few years and joined a cult or something," he said. "It's just crazy... I was doing work I thought was worthy."

But he's fine with the renewed attention. "Being 35 and not 18, I'm less susceptible to the negative aspects" — given the satisfactions of working on "Penny Dreadful."

The foremost attraction for Hartnett was working with creator-executive producer John Logan, a Tony Award-winner for "Red" and an Oscar-nominated screenwriter whose credits include "Gladiator," "Hugo" and "Skyfall," and executive producer Sam Mendes, the "American Beauty" Oscar-winning director.

The series they have wrought is an undeniable creepfest. Its title is drawn from the nickname for cheap, 19th-century publications that offered serialized tales of violence, death and general sensationalism.

Showtime's version finds explorer Sir Malcolm Murray (Timothy Dalton) and the mysterious Vanessa Ives (Eva Green) in the hunt for a monstrous killer. They recruit Hartnett's sharpshooter, Ethan Chandler, a man with a shrouded past, and Dr. Victor Frankenstein (Hrey Treadaway).

Like the actor who plays him, Ethan faces a difficult but potentially rewarding journey — albeit with much gore added. "He seems to be a man with a death wish. And what happens in this series, no matter how dark, how messed up, it gives him reason to live," Hartnett said.

Seven-part Ken Burns documentary on the Roosevelts to kick off PBS season

From wire reports

PBS said Thursday its fall season will open with a seven-viewing opportunity: a binge-part Ken Burns documentary on the Roosevelt political dynasty.

"The Roosevelts: An Intimate History," will air as two-hour episodes for seven nights beginning Sept. 14. Each episode will be repeated nightly and the show will be widely available for post-air online viewing, said Beth Hoppe, PBS chief programming executive.

"I think it's the best thing Ken's done since "The Civil War," Hoppe said. "The things it might be the best thing he's ever done." "The viewer experience is changing and we're trying to dish

this up as an epic binge," Hoppe said of the series about U.S. presidents and cousins Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt and FDR's wife, Eleanor.

The Burns family itself will be well-represented on public TV's schedule, with brother Ric Burns' "The Pilgrims" airing Nov. 25, Thanksgiving week. The "American Experience" film will examine what compelled English men and women to voyage to a new land in 1620.

PBS, whose average household rating for the season to date puts it at No. 7 among all broadcast and cable channels, won't have drama ratings champ "Downton Abbey" back on until January. But there's a full slate of fall alternatives.

Among them is "Death Comes to Pemberley," based on novelist P.D. James' sequel to Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" and starring Matthew Rhys ("The Americans") and Anna Maxwell Martin. It airs Oct. 26 and Nov. 2.

Bill Nighy will return as British spy Johnny Worrick, seen in 2011's "Page Eight," in two new stories.

'Enlisted' axed by Fox

Fox's "Dads," which came under fire for what critics and others saw as offensive humor, has been canceled, along with two other freshman comedies, "Enlisted" and "Surviving Jack."

ers on an Army base in Florida, also encountered controversy. Some military veterans maintained its early episodes lacked authenticity.

Midseason entry "Surviving Jack" starred Christopher Meloni as an ex-military man who struggles with being a good parent to his kids.

Other news

■ **Terry Crews** is going in for Cedric The Entertainer as new host of "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire." Crews, an actor, former NFL player and Old Spice pitchman, will join the weekday game show starting this fall, according to its studio, Disney-ABC Domes-

tic Television.

■ **Ken Follet** has signed on for three new novels, including a sequel to his million-selling "The Pillars of Earth." Follet has an agreement with the Berkeley/NAL Publishing Group division of Penguin Group (USA). The division's president, Leslie Gelbman, announced the deal Wednesday.

■ **Publisher Viking** announced Thursday that the Grammy-winning musician's memoir, titled "Herbie Hancock: Possibilities," has a release date of Oct. 28. The memoir will be co-written by Lisa Dickey.

■ **Kristin Cavallari** and Jay Cumar welcomed a son Wednesday named Jaxon Wyatt, her publicist confirmed.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Remember the cruel, unusual death

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
 John Panasiwicz, General Manager, Pacific
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS

Let me, for a brief moment, put on my lawyer's hat. The Eighth Amendment barring cruel and unusual punishment is not a suggestion. It is a mandate carved in stone. We do not torture, we do not cause undue suffering, and we do not stretch the bounds of humanity in the name of vengeance.

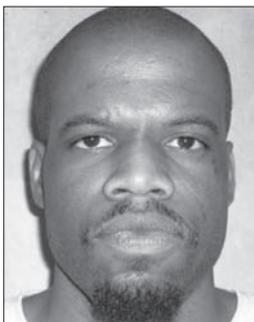
Now let me toss that hat to the side. The merits of the death penalty have been and will continue to be debated as long as justice is viewed through a personal prism. I believe that a society must impose the most draconian punishment for the most heinous crimes; otherwise, we do violence to the humanity of the victim. Others have a legitimate, heartfelt and sober belief that the government has no right to essentially "murder" one of its citizens.

This concern for process, which is important, shouldn't turn our focus away from the fundamental issue: Capital punishment is legal and constitutional; the cold-blooded murder of innocents is not.

News reports about the 43-minute execution of Clayton Lockett focus on him writhing in pain. That, of course, is horrible. Even a rabid animal elicits sympathy when it's in the final, foaming agony.

But few mentioned the reason Lockett was on that gurney in the first place with an IV strapped to his arm, the reason that his life was justifiably forfeit: Stephanie Neiman. Stephanie was shot by Lockett, who then stood by and watched his accomplices bury her alive. I'm guessing that her agony lasted a bit longer than 43 minutes.

It is obviously true that two wrongs do not make a right, but there is actually only one wrong here, and that is the fictitious exoniation of an innocent woman. The botched



OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS/AP

The botched execution of Clayton Lockett has outraged death penalty opponents.

execution of her murderer is troubling from a procedural standpoint, but it should not blind us to the true tragedy in this case.

The Lockett case is a textbook study in how pro- and anti-death-penalty activists view the issue. Opponents of capital punishment ... feel that all life ... is sacred and that society has no right to destroy it even in those cases when this would balance the scales on an "eye for an eye" basis.

Those like me, who favor the death penalty for the most violent and despicable crimes, feel that we are bound by a social contract, and that when it's broken by a act

that falls below the lowest human threshold of decency the appropriate response is execution ...

What angered me the most in the discussion about the horrific nature of Lockett's execution was the blithe and utter refusal on the part of so many to acknowledge that his suffering was infinitely shorter and, let's be honest, more deserved, than that of his tragic victim. Forty minutes of pain, of an inability to breathe with the sense of suffocation as the curtains to your earthly days close upon you is nothing compared with the fear in Stephanie Neiman's heart as she was shot and then pushed, alive, into a ditch. Imagine her pain when the dirt fell upon her head, clump by clump, and the light was forever shut out. Put yourself in her poor, battered body, stripped of dignity, of comfort, of the concerns of press types and governors and presidential press secretaries. Think of her final moments, and then consider whether half an hour of convulsions is as horrible.

That last paragraph might strike you as sadistic, and perhaps it is. But if the ability to empathize with an innocent, dying woman over the justified final reckoning of a murderer makes me a sadist, I will wear that label with no small pride.

The lawyer in me understands that we are not a nation of vigilantes, and that we must ensure that the people who are executed on our watch are truly beyond any reasonable doubt. I'm in favor of whatever measures are necessary to make that happen. What I'm not prepared to do is weep crocodile tears for a man who was the victim of a botched execution, when the only reason he was so mightily inconvenienced was because he took an innocent life.

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and a columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News.

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Obama signals disinterest in foreign policy

By TRUDY RUBIN
 As he was traveling in Asia last week, President Barack Obama let loose with a broadside against critics who say his foreign policy is too weak.

"Why is it that everybody is so eager to use military force after we've just gone through a decade of war?" he demanded at a news conference in Manila. "Many who were proponents of ... a disastrous decision to go into Iraq haven't really learned the lesson of the last decade and they've been just playing the same one over and over." His job as commander-in-chief, he added, is "to deploy military force (only) as a last resort."

There is a nutshell seems to be the core tenet of the Obama Doctrine: Whether the problem is Syria, Ukraine, Africa, or Asia, avoid the mistake that George W. Bush made by sending troops to Baghdad. But the doctrine is based on a false premise.

A more robust U.S. foreign policy needn't repeat the military adventures so blindly pursued by the previous occupant of the White House. Obama could have sent convoys of military aid to Russia, China, Iraqis and others — without American boots on the ground.

Now it's understandable that any president elected in 2008 would (or should) be chastened by the huge mess his predecessor made in Iraq. That legacy, plus the long war in Afghanistan, has consumed most Americans on further foreign adventures, and any president must consider public opinion.

So it's understandable that Obama wants to focus more on diplomacy and trade, and less on countries engaged in messy conflicts. It's also understandable that he hoped to spend more time on domestic issues, at a time when economic disparities were

growing. Unfortunately, the vagaries of history don't always deliver what a president hopes for. Iraq can't be the constant excuse for doing too little, too late on foreign policy issues that affect core U.S. interests. Yet the "no more Iraqs" mantra constantly colors the president's response on foreign policy from Syria to Ukraine.

In Manila, he scoffed at critics who said he should be assisting the Syrian opposition. Yet, in 2012, when Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Defense Secretary Leon Panetta, Joint Chiefs Chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey and CIA director David Petraeus all proposed arming and organizing vetted, moderate Syrian opposition commanders, Obama nixed it.

That was the moment when such aid might have convinced the Syrian regime and its backers in Moscow that they had to negotiate a deal. Instead, the opposition was sent only nonlethal aid ...

Obama still doesn't seem to understand the message of weakness this sent to Bashar Assad and Vladimir Putin. And, in Manila, he was still negotiating about the deal he struck with Moscow on eliminating Syria's chemical weapons, after reneging on a public pledge to strike Assad's military facilities if the Syrian leader ever used poison gas.

Never mind that 150,000 Syrians have died from conventional weapons, while Assad still retains some chemical weapons and allegedly used chlorine gas against civilians last week. Never mind that Assad looks likely to retain power in a good chunk of Syria, while the rest has become a base for Islamists and foreign jihadists who threaten the entire Mideast.

On Ukraine, the president also was bragging in Manila. "What we've done is mobilize the international community," he said.

"Russia has never been more isolated." ... There is more Washington could be done to squeeze Putin, who doesn't yet believe he is isolated. Despite U.S. urging, Europe seems unwilling to risk its economic ties to Russia by backing stronger sanctions. NATO allies in Eastern Europe and the Baltics — looking at Obama's performance — worry that he won't stand up to Putin.

The Russian leader looks poised to disrupt May 25 elections in Ukraine, and take effective control of east Ukraine with secret forces and local proxies. Yet, Obama appears unwilling to unilaterally impose further sanctions, although many European analysts say that would pressure Germany and other countries to follow suit. Nor has he put forward a strong international energy policy that could convince Moscow that Europe can wean itself off Russian gas.

In Manila, Obama seemed not to recognize that China is watching U.S. actions elsewhere. So are America's Asian allies, who have to judge whether Washington will support them if Beijing makes aggressive moves.

They couldn't have been reassured as Obama made clear his main lesson from Iraq: America should shrink its aspirations abroad. "You hit singles, you hit doubles; every once in a while we may be able to hit a home run," the president said. He seemed he put forward a strong international energy policy that could convince Moscow that Europe can wean itself off Russian gas.

That kind of approach will convince Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran that Obama can be ignored, which will create new foreign policy headaches. It signals a president who isn't really interested in the foreign policy game.

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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.

Taking a Pacific stand
The (Memphis, Tenn.)
Commercial Appeal

Slowly and gingerly, the United States is rebuilding its military presence in the Asian Pacific, and in two cases doing so at the invitation — though cloaked in diplomatic double talk — of the Philippines and Vietnam.

In 2012, the Philippines reopened to the U.S. Navy Subic Bay, a onetime major American naval base dating to the end of the Spanish-American War. That same year Vietnam reopened the huge and largely abandoned naval base at Cam Ranh Bay with the caveat that it was to be used by U.S. military aircraft vessels.

The Navy pulled out of Cam Ranh Bay at the end of the Vietnam War and was more or less forced out of Subic Bay by the Philippine government in 1991.

Meanwhile, Japan, undoubtedly with tacit U.S. approval, is abandoning a ban that has stood since the end of World War II on the export of weapons and military materiel.

The related events are, as The Associated Press put it, part of an Obama administration policy of “reasserting the U.S. role as a Pacific power after a decade of war elsewhere.” It is also a clear and growing reaction to the Chinese military buildup and its growing aggressiveness in asserting jurisdiction over disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The islands are largely uninhabited, but they give the possessor a claim on fishing rights and what are believed to be extensive oil and gas deposits. They are claimed not only by China but variously by Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea, Japan and Malaysia.

Speaking Monday in Manila, where he signed a 10-year agreement providing U.S. access to Philippine military bases, President Barack Obama said, “Our goal is not to counter China. ... Our goal is to make sure international rules and norms are respected, and that includes in the area of international disputes.”

Even so, if building up an arc of military treaties and basing-rights agreements around the South China Sea has the presumably unintended consequence of countering China, no one in Washington, Tokyo, Manila, Hanoi or Seoul will be the slightest bit dismayed.

A Benghazi smoking gun?
Savannah (Ga.) Morning News

The Obama administration — and likely 2016 presidential contender Hillary Clinton — keep wishing the Benghazi mess will vanish.

Or, failing that, they hope to spin it as a fantasy of right-wing nut jobs.

But facts are stubborn things.

Like the other case of what you never know when they'll catch up to you.

Like (last) week.

“A newly released email shows that White House officials sought to shape the way Susan E. Rice, then the ambassador to the United Nations, discussed the Middle East since that was the context for the attack on the American diplomatic mission in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012,” one major news organization reported.

Nope. That's not a report from Fox News. It's from The New York Times.

The Times reported that an email dated Sept. 14, 2012, from Benjamin J. Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, was sent to Rice ahead of her controversial



Ben Curtis/AP

South Africans protest in solidarity against the abduction of hundreds of schoolgirls in Nigeria by the Muslim extremist group Boko Haram during a march to the Nigerian Consulate in Johannesburg, South Africa, on May 8.

appearances on several Sunday morning news talk shows three days after the attacks that resulted in the slaying of four Americans, including J. Christopher Stevens, the ambassador to Libya.

The subject of the email was: “PREP CALL with Susan.” The president's lieutenant gave directions to Rice on how to discuss the tensions boiling over in parts of the Middle East. Especially pertinent are two goals:

■ “To underscore that these protests are rooted in an Internet video, and not a broader failure of policy.”

■ “To reinforce the President and Administration's strength and steadiness in dealing with difficult challenges.”

That the White House would issue such orders — to Rice and others on Obama's team — is no huge shock.

The president was running for re-election; a big part of his platform was that America was winning the war on terrorism. So it was in his political interest to play up the possibility that a third-rate video sparked the violence that left four Americans murdered.

What is surprising is that these directions were typed and emailed. That made them subject to being ferreted out, thanks to one of the best tools available to uncover facts in our democracy — the Freedom of Information Act.

Governments can run from what they do. But thanks to this splendid, nonpartisan measure, they can't hide.

Military aid for Ukraine
The Wall Street Journal

The battle for Ukraine is entering a dangerous new phase, as the Kiev government is finally making an attempt to regain control over its eastern cities from local thugs and Russian special forces. Is it too much to ask the U.S. to offer the military means to help Ukraine keep its own territory?

Vladimir Putin's campaign to destabilize and disrupt his neighbor is escalating as the May 25 date to elect a new Ukrainian government nears. The Russian strongman wants to block the vote, or disrupt it enough so he can call it illegitimate. His Russian-sponsored fighters moved this week from smaller towns in eastern Ukraine to the regional centers of Donetsk and Luhansk, taking key government installations.

The interim authorities in Kiev, which came into office after Moscow's crony and President Viktor Yanukovich fled this winter, have dithered. Acting President Oleksandr Turchynov on Wednesday said the Ukrainian state had no authority in the east, a demoralizing and questionable admission. Seizing an opening, Putin the next day told Kiev to withdraw from the east and sue for peace. The Ukrainians might as well send him the keys to the capital.

We're told the assault launched on Friday reflects a change in approach and a commitment to push back. The “restraint” shown by Kiev in Crimea and in the east — which President Barack Obama praised again on Friday — has frustrated most Ukrainians and failed to stop the Russian advance. The interim government might have faced an uprising in Kiev over its defeatist approach.

Ukraine is desperately seeking Western military help, but so far the U.S. has refused. Earlier this week in Manila, Obama tetchily addressed his Ukraine policy, saying, “Well, what else should we be doing?” He offered another rhetorical question: “Do people actually think that somehow us sending some additional arms into Ukraine could potentially deter the Russian army?”

Well, who knows?

But Obama is so worried about upsetting Putin that he refused to send even night-vision goggles, offering 300,000 meals-ready-to-eat instead. The Ukrainians are battling to free themselves of Russian domination and build a European democracy. They deserve more than Spam in a can from America.

Nigeria's stolen girls
The New York Times

Three weeks after their horrifying abduction in Nigeria, 276 of the more than 300 girls who were taken from a school by armed militants were still missing, possibly sold into slavery or married off. Nigerian security forces apparently do not know where the girls are, said the country's president, Goodluck Jonathan, who has been shockingly slow and inept at addressing this monstrous crime.

On Tuesday, the United Nations Children's Fund said Boko Haram, the ruthless Islamist group that claimed responsibility for the kidnappings, abducted more young girls from their homes in the same part of the country in the northeast over the week-end. The group, whose name roughly means “Western education is a sin,” has waged war against Nigeria for five years. Its goal is to destabilize and ultimately overthrow the government. The group's leader, Abubakar Shekau, said in a video released on Monday, “I abducted your girls. I will sell them in the market, by Allah.”

This is not the first time Boko Haram has attacked students, killing young men and kidnapping young women.

But the kidnapping of so many young girls, ages 12 to 15, has triggered outrage and ignited a rare antigovernment protest movement in Nigeria.

On Sunday, after weeks of silence, Jonathan admitted that “this is a trying time for our country,” and he said that Nigerians were justified in their anger against the government and its appeal for international help. The reaction of Jonathan's wife, Pa-

tience, was stunningly callous; according to state news media, she told one of the protest leaders, “You are playing games. Don't use schoolchildren and women for demonstrations again.”

Boko Haram's claim that it follows Islamic teachings is nonsense. A pre-eminent Islamic theological institute, Al-Azhar in Egypt, denounced the abductions, saying it “completely contradicts the teachings of Islam and its tolerant principles.” Although Boko Haram is believed to number no more than a few hundred men, Nigerian security forces have been unable to defeat them.

The kidnappings occurred just as Jonathan is about to hold the World Economic Forum in Abuja, with 6,000 troops deployed for security. That show of force may keep the delegates safe, but Nigeria's deeply troubled government cannot protect its people, attract investment and lead the country to its full potential if it cannot contain a virulent insurgency.

ACA premium increases
Las Vegas Review-Journal

Hardly a day goes by without more depressing news about the effects of the Affordable Care Act on the state and national levels. And what's likely to come next has the potential to affect far more Nevadans than did the initial rollout back in October.

Thanks to a politically expedient delay by the Obama administration, the law's employer coverage mandate doesn't take effect until 2015. However, early plan renewals already are rolling in. As reported by the Review-Journal on Sunday, the numbers are astounding, with some businesses facing premium spikes ranging from 35 percent to a whopping 120 percent, according to local insurance carriers.

Businesses can't afford to swallow the massive increases, so employees will bear the burden — especially young, healthy males.

That's because Obamacare, by design, prohibits insurers from offering lower rates to healthier groups of people and caps the allowed premium on the oldest and youngest enrollees. “It's like if there were no safe-driver discounts with State Farm,” insurance broker Frank Nolinol, of Assurance Ltd., said. “Everybody has the same rate, whether you have three DUIs or you're a (nondrinking) churchgoing Mormon.” Or, sticking with the auto analogy, it's like making the owner of a Hyundai Sonata pay the same insurance rate as the owner of Porsche 911 Cabriolet.

Of course, that assumes employees can keep their employer-based coverage.

Employees who lose their plans will, by law, be required to purchase private plans from Nevada's Health Link. The disastrous performance of the state's exchange has been well-documented — or from a company that sells Obamacare-compliant policies, or pay the penalty tax for not doing so.

Las Vegas insurance broker William Wright told Robison the premium changes for 2014 will be a disaster. The high risk of cancellation or nonrenewal this fall — more than three times the 25,000 enrollees who were affected in October, when Obamacare-compliant plans first rolled out.

All this amounts to a huge financial burden on businesses and employees. With Obamacare not only taking more money from employers and workers, but causing great harm to the economy. The Obama administration's efforts to delay the most costly and painful parts of the Affordable Care Act will result in even harsher political consequences for Democrats, who approved the law without a single Republican vote.

When employees see massive wage losses due to equally massive premium increases, or when they lose their insurance or perhaps even their job, they'll certainly understand the importance of repealing the government's ill-conceived health care law. It will give them a chance to say as much.

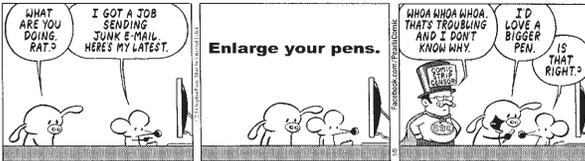
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16			17					
18			19								
20		21		22			23	24	25	26	
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38				39	40			41	42	43	44
			45				46			47	
48	49	50	51							52	
53						54				55	
56						57				58	

ACROSS

- 1 Scratch
- 4 Zodiac feline
- 7 March VIP
- 12 Altar constellation
- 13 TV alien
- 14 Fudd or Gantry
- 15 Doughnut qty.
- 16 Trial VIP
- 18 I love, to Live!
- 19 Bloodhound's clue
- 20 Sportscaster Albert
- 22 Pair
- 23 Cushiony
- 27 Picks out of a lineup
- 29 Trial VIP
- 31 Aplomb
- 34 Big name in Chicago politics
- 35 Trial VIPs

DOWN

- 58 Genetic evidence
- 26 Take a whack at
- 28 Aachen article
- 30 Fuss
- 31 Sleepwear, for short
- 32 Chic no more
- 33 Savings-plan acronym
- 36 Dalmatian's name, often
- 37 Reprint
- 40 — out of water
- 42 Needed liniment
- 43 Rose protector
- 44 Striped equine
- 45 Winter forecast
- 46 Somewhere out there
- 17 Carbon compound
- 21 Cap feature
- 23 Posh
- 25 Dopey's Olive
- 28 Doctor's due
- 48 Greek consonant
- 49 Broadway's Cariou
- 50 The whole thing
- 51 Waterfront org.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

5-9

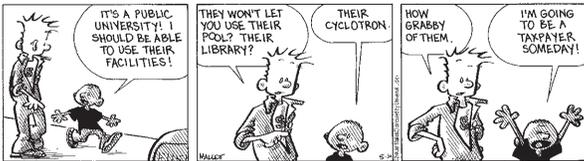
CRYPTOQUIP

V R M J Z I J R G A G X I J X V
 K V X M J Z R T B S V G A M G A C Q R V
 E Q C R T B B Q R S J V M Q X X .

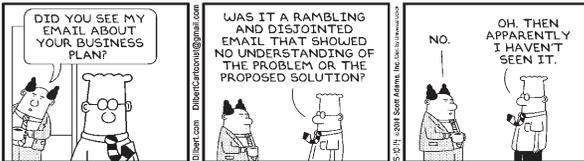
GM'BB EJ IGX XSIVCATK QSTX.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMING FROM A CERTAIN AFRICAN COUNTRY, COULD YOU CALL THAT LONG-HAIRED GOAT AN ANGOLA ANGORA?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals L

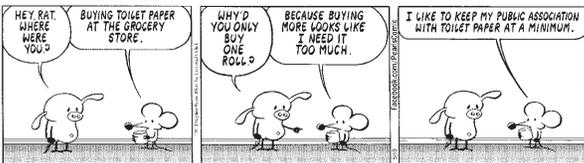
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Pearls Before Swine



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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
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15				16						17			
18				19					20				
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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 Crony
- 4 "Pow!"
- 8 Laundry
- 12 Leusian vessel?
- 13 Lotion additive
- 14 Refrigeration
- 15 Neutral color
- 16 Expense
- 17 Unaccompanied
- 18 Marksman's fancy skill
- 21 That guy's
- 22 Compete
- 23 Cart
- 26 Solifich
- 27 Satchel
- 30 From the beginning
- 31 Bear hair
- 32 Hawaiian resort area
- 33 Ill-it
- 34 Mid-May honoree
- 35 Five dozen
- 36 Mustard container
- 37 Intimate
- 38 "Prince of the City" actor
- 45 Weakling
- 46 Exchange premium
- 47 "Norma —"
- 48 Mater preceeder
- 49 Wander
- 50 Downsize
- 51 Penn or Connery

- 52 1856 Stowe novel
- 53 Auction action

- 24 Blackbird
- 25 Jewel
- 26 Wrigley product
- 27 Carton
- 28 Pismire
- 29 Firmist
- 30 Comedian Love
- 31 Brush
- 32 New Zealander
- 34 A welcome sight?
- 35 Flew without a co-pilot
- 36 Godzilla's home
- 37 Music mogul Davis
- 38 "— the night before ..."
- 39 Anger
- 40 Austen heroine
- 41 Lab assistant?
- 42 Speedy side?
- 43 Ankle-length
- 44 Progeny

DOWN

- 1 Green shot
- 2 Off in the distance
- 3 One way to approach a parking space
- 4 Come to terms with
- 5 At — for words
- 6 Snack
- 7 Squander
- 8 "— the night before ..."
- 9 Ollie's pal
- 10 "Dukes of Hazzard" boss
- 11 Comestibles
- 12 Lubricant
- 13 Bankroll

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

5-10

CRYPTOQUIP

Z M R H P M ' C P Q M R W A A B
 G U X H N U P F G A P K R B X Q K T P
 Z I P P K Z M I W Z H U W C M R J M
 J N P Z Z M T W C P J X K K P R H W R F B
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER HE FINISHES A MASTERFUL PAINTING OF A BOG FULL OF PEAT MOSS, IT'LL BE HIS SPHAGNUM OPUS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals V

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Tennis

Madrid Open

Wednesday
ATP Men's Singles (R1)
Madrid, Spain
Purse: \$5.1 million (Premier)
Surface: Clay-Outdoor
Singles

Men
Second Round
Tomas Berdych (6, Czech Republic) def. Kevin Anderson, South Africa, 6-1, 6-4.
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Igor Sijsling, Netherlands, 6-2.
Lukasz Kubot, Poland, def. Gilles Simon, France, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2.
Ernesto Gulbis, Latvia, def. Alexander Dolgoplov, Ukraine, 6-3, 6-4.
Rafael Nadal (9), Spain, def. Juan Monaco, Argentina, 6-1, 6-0.
Nicola Pietrangeli (9), United States, def. Marinko Matosevic, Australia, 7-6 (3), 6-7 (5), 7-5.
Milos Dimitic (12), Bulgaria, def. Marius Copil, Romania, 4-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7).
Feliciano Lopez, Spain, def. Mikhail Youzhny (15), Russia, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.
Carolina Garcia, Colombia, def. Jo Wills (10), France, 6-4, 6-3.
Marin Cilic, Croatia, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 6-4, 1-6, 6-2.
Andy Murray (7), Britain, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, Spain, 6-3, 6-4.

Women
Second Round
Serena Williams, United States, def. Peng Shuai, China, 6-2, 6-3.
Lucy Klineckova, Czech Republic, def. Lara Arruabarrena, Spain, 6-4, 6-4.
Caroline Garcia, Spain, def. Maria Kirilenko, Russia, walkover.
Carla Suarez Navarro (14), Spain, def. Alona Bondarenko, Ukraine, 6-2, 6-2.
Roberta Vinci, def. Caroline Wozniacki, Denmark, 6-3, 6-2.
Agnieszka Radwanska (3), Poland, def. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, 6-3, 6-4.
Sabine Lisicki (15), Germany, def. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 6-3, 6-4.
Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova, Russia, def. Jelena Jankovic (6), Serbia, 6-2, 5-7, 7-6 (2).

Doubles
First Round
Mariusz Fyrstenberg and Marcin Matkowski, Poland, def. Jamie Murray, Britain, and John Peers, Australia, 2-6, 6-3, 6-0.
Milos Ronic, Canada, and Andreas Seppi, Italy, def. Butor, United States, and Raven Klaasen, South Africa, 7-6 (7), 6-4, 1-0.

Jean-Julien Royer, Netherlands, and Horac Tecau, Romania, def. Fabio Fognini, Italy, and Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, 6-3, 1-6, 7-0.
Second Round
David Marrero and Fernando Verdasco (8), Spain, def. Tomasz Berdych, Czech Republic, and John Isner, United States, walkover.
Kevin Anderson, South Africa, and Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Michael Llodra and Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-2, 6-2.
Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Nenad Zimonjic (6), Serbia, def. Marcel Granollers and Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-4, 6-2.

Women

Carla Black, Zimbabwe, and Sania Mirza, India, def. Chang-Ching, China, Taiwan, and Chanelle Scheepers, South Africa, 6-4, 6-1.
Ryell Kops-Jones, United States, and Abigail Spears (6), United States, def. Klara Koulikova, Czech Republic, and Daniela Hantuchova, Slovakia, 6-2, 6-2.
Daniel Nestor, Canada, and Nenad Zimonjic (6), Serbia, def. Marcel Granollers and Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-4, 6-2.

Pro football

NFL calendar
May 8-10 (10 days) - NFL Draft, New York.
May 19-21 - Spring league meeting, Atlanta.
May 22-28 - Rookie symposium, Aurora, Ohio.
May 29 - Hall of Fame game, Canton, Ohio.
Sept. 4 - Regular season begins, Green Bay, Wis.
Sept. 7-8 - First full weekend of regular season.

Pro soccer

MLS						
EASTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Spokane FC	4	2	2	14	11	6
Houston	4	2	14	13	14	14
New York	4	3	2	14	9	10
New York	4	3	2	14	9	10
Columbus	3	3	3	12	10	10
D.C.	3	3	2	11	12	11
Toronto FC	1	4	5	8	10	13
Montreal	1	4	5	8	10	13
Philadelphia	0	4	6	6	12	14
Chicago	0	4	6	6	12	14

WESTERN CONFERENCE						
	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	7	2	1	22	24	14
Real Salt Lake	4	0	5	17	16	10
FC Dallas	4	4	1	16	19	17
Colorado	4	2	3	15	19	9
Colorado	4	2	3	15	9	9
Vancouver	3	2	4	13	9	9
Los Angeles	2	4	4	10	9	7
Portland	1	3	5	8	12	15
Los Jose	1	4	7	8	10	14
Chivas USA	1	5	6	9	18	18

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games
Houston, Fla. vs. FC Dallas 1
San Jose, Colo. vs. Colorado 6
Saturday's games
Sporting Kansas City at Montreal
D.C. United at Philadelphia
Chicago at New York
Vancouver at Columbus
FC Dallas at San Jose
Sunday's games
Los Angeles at Portland
Chivas USA at Colorado
Seattle FC at New England
Real Salt Lake at Houston
Los Angeles at Philadelphia
Philadelphia at Sporting Kansas City
New York at Toronto FC
Montreal at D.C. United
New England at Philadelphia
Chivas USA at Ft. Lauderdale
Los Angeles at Houston
Colorado at Real Salt Lake
San Jose at Seattle FC
Columbus at Portland
Sunday, May 18
Sporting Kansas City at Chicago

Wednesday

Sounders 2, FC Dallas 1

FC Dallas 1 0 1-1
Seattle FC 0 0 2-2
First Half - 1, FC Dallas, Michel 4 (penalty kick), 16th minute.
Second Half - 2, Seattle FC, Neagle 4 (Missed), 52nd, 3, Seattle FC, Cooper (Martins), 88th.
Yellow Cards - FC Dallas, Raul Fernandez; Seattle FC, Stefan Frei.
Goalkeepers - Michel, FC Dallas, 17th; Heintz, FC Dallas, 22nd; Evans, Seattle FC, 37th; Pappa, Seattle FC, 42nd; Perez, FC Dallas, 48th.
38-489 (32,400)

Dynamo 1, Crew 0

Columbus 2 0 0-1
Houston 2 0 1-1
First Half - None.
Second Half - 1, Houston, Bruin 6 (Davidson), 50th minute.
Goalkeepers - Columbus, Steve Klair; Houston, John Hare.
Yellow Cards - Anor, Columbus, 60th; Higuiun, Columbus, 61st; Paladini, Columbus, 89th; Cooper, Houston, 89th.

Rapids 0, Earthquakes 0

Colorado 0 0 0-0
San Jose 0 0 0-0
Goalies - Colorado, Clint Irwin; San Jose, Steve Gash.
Yellow Cards - Eloundou, Colorado, 43rd; Hernandez, San Jose, 78th.
A - 3,588 (10,526)

NWSL

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	2	0	8	6	3	3
Portland	2	0	8	6	3	3
FC Kansas City	2	1	7	8	7	9
Washington	2	1	6	7	9	9
Sky Blue FC	1	2	5	5	7	7
Western NY	1	2	3	3	2	2
Houston	1	3	3	3	5	9
Chicago	1	3	3	3	5	9

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games
Western New York 2, FC Kansas City 1
Sky Blue FC 1, Chicago 1
Saturday's game
Seattle FC at Portland
Sunday's games
Sky Blue FC at Western New York
Houston at Chicago
Washington at FC Kansas City
Wednesday, May 14
Portland at Seattle
FC Kansas City at Seattle FC
Chicago at Boston
Thursday, May 15
Houston New York at Washington
Saturday, May 18
Western New York at Washington
Houston at FC Kansas City
Chicago at Boston

College baseball

Wednesday's scores	
SOUTH	
Clemson 1, High Point 0	Louisiana State 0, Louisiana Tech 1
N. Kentucky 12, Butler 6	Virginia 8, Liberty 2
Virginia Tech 14, Northeastern 5	
MIDWEST	
Pittsburgh 10, Indiana 5	
SOUTHWEST	
Rice 6, Houston Baptist 1	
TOURNAMENTS	
American Southwest Conference	
3	Hardin-Baylor 4, Howard Payne 3
Concordia-Austin 5, Texas-Layer 4	Texas-Dallas 4, Sul Ross 5 2
Appalachian Athletic Conference	
3	Third Round
Milligan 10, Union 7, 13 innings	Milligan 3, Reinhardt 2, 10 innings
Tenn. Wesleyan 11, Bryan 7	Tenn. Wesleyan 5, Andrews 3
Mid-South Conference	
1	Champion
1	Game 1
5	Georgetown (Ky.) 3
2	Game 2
10	Georgetown (Ky.) 8, 10 innings

Auto racing

NASCAR Nationwide Series

Feb. 22 - DRIVEACOPD 300, Daytona Beach, Fla. (NASCAR) - Kyle Busch won. **March 1** - Blue Jeans Go Green 200, Atlanta, Ga. (NASCAR) - Kyle Busch won. **March 8** - Boyd Gaming 300, Las Vegas (Brad Keselowski). **March 15** - Drive to Stop Diabetes 300, Bristol, Tenn. (Kyle Busch). **April 4** - O'Reilly Auto Parts 300, Fort Worth, Texas (Chase Elliott). **April 11** - Ford EcoBoost 300, Michigan, S.C. (Chase Elliott). **April 14** - ToyotaCare 250, Richmond, Va. (Kevin Harvick). **May 3** - Aaron's 312, Talladega, Ala. (Elliott). **May 18** - Iowa 300, Iowa, Iowa. **May 19** - Dover 250, Dover, Del. (Michael Waltrip). **May 23** - Michigan 250, Brooklyn, Mich. (Timmy Linn). **May 24** - Gardner Denver 200, Elkhart, Ind. (Lewis). **June 7** - Subway Firecracker 250, Danbury, Conn. (Lewis). **June 14** - Subway Firecracker 250, Danbury, Conn. (Lewis). **July 12** - New England 200, Loudon, N.H. (Lewis). **July 19** - Chicago 300, Joliet, Ill. (Lewis). **July 26** - Indiana 250, Indianapolis, Ind. (Lewis). **July 28** - Visa IndyTech 300, Sparta, Ky. (Lewis). **Aug. 9** - Zippo 200, Watkins Glen, N.Y. (Lewis). **Aug. 16** - Nationwide Children's Hospital 250, Columbus, Ohio. **Aug. 22** - Ford City 250, Bristol, Tenn. (Lewis). **Aug. 23** - Ford City 250, Hampton, Ga. (Lewis). **Sept. 5** - Richmond 250, Richmond, Va. (Lewis). **Sept. 13** - Chicagoland 300, Joliet, Ill. (Lewis). **Sept. 20** - Visa IndyTech 300, Sparta, Ky. (Lewis). **Sept. 27** - Delaware 200, Dover, Del. (Lewis). **Oct. 4** - Kansas 300, Kansas City, Kan. (Lewis). **Oct. 11** - O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge, Fort Worth, Texas (Lewis). **Nov. 1** - O'Reilly Auto Parts Challenge, Fort Worth, Texas (Lewis). **Nov. 8** - Phoenix 200, Avondale, Ariz. (Lewis). **Nov. 15** - Ford EcoBoost 300, Home, Stone, Mo. (Lewis).

IndyCar schedule

March 16 - Honda Grand Prix of St. Petersburg, Fla. (Will Power). **March 23** - Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, Calif. (Mike Conway). **April 26** - Honda Indy Grand Prix of Alabama, Birmingham (Ryan Hunter-Reay). **May 10** - Grand Prix of Indianapolis, Indy (Will Power). **May 17** - Indianapolis 500, Indy (Will Power). **June 7** - Firestone 600, Fort Worth, Texas. **June 28** - Grand Prix of Houston (Race 1). **June 29** - Grand Prix of Houston (Race 2). **July 6** - Cocono INDOYCAR 500, Long Pond, Pa. **July 19** - Iowa Corn Indy 250, Newton, Iowa. **July 19** - Honda Indy Toronto (Race 1). **July 20** - Honda Indy Toronto (Race 2). **Aug. 3** - Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio, Ohio. **Aug. 17** - ABC Supply Wisconsin 250, Wausau, Wis. **Aug. 25** - GoPro Grand Prix of Sonoma, Calif. **Aug. 30** - MAVTV 500, Fontana, Calif. **Formula One schedule**
March 16 - Australian Grand Prix, Melbourne (Nico Rosberg). **March 23** - Chinese Grand Prix, Shanghai (Lewis Hamilton). **April 20** - Chinese Grand Prix, Shanghai (Lewis Hamilton). **May 11** - Spanish Grand Prix, Catalunya (Lewis Hamilton). **May 25** - Monaco Grand Prix, Monte Carlo.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
American League
BALTIMORE - Orioles purchased the contract of C Caleb Joseph from Norfolk (IL), Optioned INF Jamie Weeks to Norfolk.
CHICAGO WHITE SOX - Reinstated 3B Connor Gillespie from the 15-day DL. Optioned OF Jordan Danks to Charlotte (IL).
HOUSTON ASTROS - Recalled RHP Jose Zerd from Oklahoma City (PCL). Optioned RHP Josh Fields to Oklahoma City.
OAKLAND ATHLETICS - Recalled RHP Arnold Trent from Sacramento (PCL).
SEATTLE MARINERS - Recalled RHP Erasmo Ramirez from Tacoma (PCL).
TEXAS RANGERS - Purchased the contract of RHP Scott Baker from Round Rock (PCL). Optioned OF Robert Robertson to Round Rock. Transferred LHP Pedro Figueroa to the 60-day DL.
National League
CHICAGO CUBS - Placed RHP Pedro Strop on the 15-day DL. Recalled LHP Zech Roscopf from Iowa (PCL).
WASHINGTON NATIONALS - Optioned INF Jake Peterson to El Paso (PCL). Recalled RHP Hector Ambriz from El Paso.
BASKETBALL
WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION
ATLANTA DREAM - Acquired F Swin Cash for Chicago for a 2015 second-round draft pick. **FOOTBALL**
ARIZONA CARDINALS - Signed LB Larry Foer to a one-year contract.
SEATTLE SEAHAWKS - Signed QB Richard Sherman to a four-year contract extension.
WASHINGTON REDSKINS - Terminated the contract of S Taron Jackson.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS
MONTREAL ALOUETTES - Announced the retirement of O Scott Foley.
National Hockey League
DALLAS STARS - Signed Steve Lindell to a three-year, entry-level contract.
FLORIDA Panthers - Agreed to terminate the contract of goalie Grantland on an entry-level contract.
LOS ANGELES KINGS - Announced the contract of Manchester (AHL) coach Mike Baber to become the team's head coach.
PHILADELPHIA Flyers - Promoted Ron Hextall to general manager and Paul Holmgren to president.
ST. LOUIS BLUES - Signed coach Ken Hitchcock to a one-year contract extension through the 2014-15 season.

Pro baseball

Wednesday's transactions
American League
East Division
Baltimore 17 14 548 -1
New York 18 15 545 -1
Boston 17 15 545 -1
Toronto 17 17 500 1
Tampa Bay 15 19 441 3/4
Central Division
Detroit 20 9 690 -1
Chicago 16 17 516 1
Kansas City 16 17 485 6
Minnesota 15 17 469 6/9
Cleveland 15 19 441 3/4
West Division
Oakland 20 15 571 -1
Seattle 17 16 515 2
Texas 17 17 500 2/9
Los Angeles 15 19 485 3
Houston 10 24 294 9/4
National League
East Division
Miami 17 16 559 -1
Washington 19 15 559 -1
Atlanta 18 15 545 1/4
New York 17 17 485 3
Philadelphia 15 17 469 3
Central Division
Milwaukee 22 13 629 -2
St. Louis 18 17 514 4
Cincinnati 17 17 485 3
Pittsburgh 14 20 412 7/2
Chicago 15 19 441 3/4
West Division
San Francisco 21 13 618 -1
Colorado 22 12 618 1/2
Los Angeles 19 16 543 2/9
Arizona 15 19 441 3/4
Seattle 13 24 351 9/4
Wednesday's games
Los Angeles at St. Diego 0, 10 innings, 1st game
Cleveland 4, Minnesota 3
Oakland 2, Seattle 0, 2nd game
Boston at Cincinnati 3
Colorado 9, Texas 2
Chicago White Sox at Chicago Cubs 3
N.Y. Yankees 9, L.A. Angels 2
Pittsburgh 4, San Francisco 3
Cincinnati 3 at Philadelphia 0
Detroit 3, Houston 2
Baltimore at Tampa Bay
Atlanta at Texas
Milwaukee at Philadelphia
Kansas City at Seattle
Miami at St. Louis
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers
Friday's games
Houston at Boston 2-1 at Baltimore (Wagner 3-2)
Angels (Rheans 3-0) at Toronto (McGovern 2-1)
Minnesota (Pughes 3-1) at Detroit (Verlander 4-1)
Cleveland (Kubler 2-2) at Tampa Bay (Odrizicki 1-3)
Arizona (McCarthy 1-5) at Chicago White Sox (Rienzo 2-0)
N.Y. Yankees (Tanaka 4-0) at Milwaukee (Cabrera 3-1)
Washington (Fister 0-4) at Oakland (Lincecum 1-1)
Kansas City (Vargas 2-1) at Seattle (Mauer 1-0)
St. Louis (Wacha 2-3) at Pittsburgh (Liriano 0-2)
Los Angeles (Chacin 0-1) at Cincinnati (Cotto 3-2)
Chicago Cubs (Hammel 4-1) at Atlanta (Fernandez 4-1) at San Diego (Tross 3-3)
San Francisco (Bumgarner 3-3) at L.A. Dodgers (Mahoin 1-2)
Saturday, May 10
Saturday's games
Los Angeles at Toronto
Minnesota at Detroit
Houston at Baltimore
Cleveland at Tampa Bay
Boston at Texas
Kansas City at Seattle
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers
Arizona at Philadelphia
Arizona at Chicago White Sox
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta
Colorado at Cincinnati
N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee
Miami at San Diego
Washington at Oakland
Sunday's games
L.A. Angels at Toronto
Arizona at Cincinnati
Houston at Baltimore
Cleveland at Tampa Bay
Boston at Kansas City
Kansas City at Seattle
Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta
Arizona at Chicago White Sox
N.Y. Yankees at Milwaukee
Washington at Oakland
Miami at San Diego
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers
St. Louis at Pittsburgh

Lacrosse

NCAA Men's Div. I Tournament
Play-Downs
Wednesday, May 7
Bryant 9, Siena 8
New York 10, Duke 9
First Round
Saturday, May 10
Albany (NY) at Loyola (Md)
Harvard at Notre Dame
North Carolina at Maryland
North Carolina at Denver
Quarterfinals
May 11
Johns Hopkins at Virginia
Drexel at St. Johns
Air Force at Duke
Bryant at Syracuse
Quarterfinals
Saturday, May 17
Albany (N.Y.)-Loyola (Md) winner vs. Harvard-Notre Dame winner
Cornell-Maryland winner vs. Bryant-Syracuse winner
Sunday, May 18
Newark, Del.
Johns Hopkins-Virginia winner vs. Air Force-Duke winner
Drexel-Penn State winner vs. North Carolina-Denver winner
Semifinals
Saturday, May 24
Al at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Championship
Monday, May 26
Al at M&T Bank Stadium
Baltimore
Semifinal winners

HIGH SCHOOLS: DODDS EUROPE

Weekend peek

Unbeaten soccer marks on the line in finales

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

DODDS Europe soccer signs off for the regular season after this weekend's set of 10 boys and girls doubleheaders. Here's a look at the teams on the verge of taking an undefeated record into the European tournament, May 19-22 at sites around Kaiserslautern Military Community:

Boys

Lakenheath: The Lancers have developed a knack for winning close games and have been rewarded with a 4-0-1 record entering their Saturday finale against Alconbury. Lakenheath has earned three of its four wins by a single goal. Coupled with a lone non-victory — they tied SHAPE 1-1 on March 29 — those tight games should have the gritty Lancers poised for success in the gritty postseason.

Marymount: The three-time defending Division II champions were supposed to be down this year after losing their stellar senior class. That's what their competition hoped, anyway. Reality has told a different tale. The Lions have trounced all comers this season as thoroughly as ever, winning each of its four DODDS Europe games by multiple goals. Two big obstacles loom on the season's final weekend in the form of a title-game rematch with American Overseas School of Rome and a date with fellow unbeaten Naples. If neither team can corral the Lions, it's hard to imagine anyone doing it in the tournament.

Naples: A surprising April 19 tie with underdog Aviano is the only blemish on the 4-0-1 Wildcat record, which includes three wins by at least three goals. Naples has already handled AOSR; Saturday's visit to Rome represents the team's final regular-season test.

Patch: Like Lakenheath, the Panthers have shown a propensity for winning — or at least not losing — close games against well-matched opponents. The Patch perseverance was on full display the weekend of April 18 — the Panthers played Ramstein to a scoreless draw and eked out a 1-0 win over Wiesbaden a day later. Ensuing wins over Hofenhfels and Vilscek by a combined 11-0 score proved that Patch can also score a few without compromising its defense. The Panthers are idle this weekend.

Ramstein: The above-mentioned tie with Patch is the only close game the Royals have played to date. They might find another one this weekend against visiting Wiesbaden. Regardless, the Royals are a threat to further last year's European semifinal run.



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Alconbury's Samaris Batley tries to keep the ball from SHAPE's Maroline Soerenson during SHAPE's 6-4 win at Alconbury on April 26. SHAPE is 4-0-1 going into the final weekend of action before the DODDS Europe championships begin May 19. Alconbury is at Lakenheath this weekend; SHAPE travels to AFNORTH.



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Lakenheath's Chris Miles, left, vies for the ball with International School of Belgium's Adriaan Keurhorst during Lakenheath's 2-1 win May 3. Lakenheath takes on Alconbury this weekend; ISB hosts Menwith Hill.

Girls

Lakenheath: The 4-0-1 Lancers haven't seen a lot of serious DODDS Europe action this year, with a 9-0 rout of overmatched Menwith Hill and a forfeit win over understarfated International School of Brussels taking up 40 percent of their schedule. But Lakenheath has responded well to what challenges have presented themselves, beating AFNORTH and Brussels and tying SHAPE. The red flag on its schedule: the Lancers will enter the playoffs with no experience against fellow Division I teams.

Naples: If there's a team out there that can keep the Wildcat claws out of a fifth consecutive Division II European title, that team has yet to present itself. Naples has been unbeaten and unchallenged this season and faces winless Marymount on Saturday.

Ramstein: The 5-0 Royals scraped out a measure of revenge from Patch on April 18, outscoring the Panthers 4-3 in a rematch of the last three Division I European championship games. That's not enough to install Ramstein as a lock to reclaim the crown Patch took from it a year ago, but it doesn't hurt the Royals' chances either.

SHAPE: The 4-0-1 Spartans might be the Division II team with the best chance to unseat Naples. SHAPE ran through Division II and III competition and played Division I Lakenheath to a 2-2 standstill on March 29. A Saturday win over AFNORTH, another solid Division II contender, will send the Spartans to the playoffs with all kinds of confidence.

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Schedule

Soccer
Friday
Marymount at American Overseas School of Rome

Saturday
Alconbury at Lakenheath
Menwith Hill at Brussels
SHAPE at AFNORTH
Wiesbaden at Ramstein
Kaiserslautern at BFA
Ansbach at Hofenhfels
Aviano at AOSR
Vicenza at Florence
Naples at Marymount

Baseball/softball
Friday
Lakenheath at Bitburg
AFNORTH at Ramstein
Hofenhfels at Ansbach

Saturday
Lakenheath at SHAPE
AFNORTH at Bitburg
Ramstein at Patch
Kaiserslautern at Wiesbaden
Vicenza at Aviano

Track
Bamberg, Schweinfurt, Ansbach, Vilscek at Hofenhfels
Lakenheath, Alconbury, Brussels, AFNORTH, Kaiserslautern at SHAPE

Ramstein, Patch, Black Forest Academy, Frankfurt International, Baumholder, Bitburg at Wiesbaden

Aviano, Vicenza, Signonella, American Overseas School of Rome, Marymount at Naples

Game of the week

Baseball and softball: Ramstein at Patch, Saturday

Regular-season games don't get much better than this. And the teams involved plan to be at their best for it.

The Royals and Panthers meet on both diamonds this weekend in Stuttgart, with doubleheaders representing rematches of last year's DODDS Europe Division I championship games.

All four teams will get their chance to earn another title shot when this spring's European tournaments open May 22. With every team bound for the postseason, the outcomes of Saturday's games can affect only their bracket seeding and team morale.

Regardless of what is at stake, the Royals and Panthers aren't planning on holding back this weekend.

"Neither team will take its foot off the gas pedal," Ramstein baseball coach Tom Yost said. "This is the best rivalry game in all of Europe."

That point is all but indisputable, at least on the baseball diamond. The Royals and Panthers have met in the European championship game every year since DODDS Europe launched the sport back in 2009. The Royals took the championship in 2009 and 2013 while the Panthers won three straight in between.

To that end, Yost and Patch coach Drake Marbury want to see what their teams are capable of. Neither plans on withholding players

to deny their opponent a full scouting report. "Players need their playing time against the tougher competition to help them get ready for Europeans," Marbury said. "Our focus is on playing our best baseball for the tournament." Whatever happens Saturday, both coaches agree, will serve as a springboard for the European tournament.

"One of two things will happen this weekend. We will either come away with confidence or with a tremendous amount of motivation to get another shot at them," Yost said.

"We want to build the strength of our team for Europeans," Marbury said. "We will use whatever happens this weekend to better prepare for the European tournament."

On the softball diamond, meanwhile, Ramstein coach Kathy Kleha is preaching a similar message, stressing that "there is no temptation to hold back no matter who the opponent is that we face."

"Our preparation may vary," Kleha said. "The work ethic stays the same." Like the school's baseball teams, the Royals and Panthers softball teams are locked in an epic years-long struggle for supremacy.

Ramstein has won five of the past six European crowns and two consecutively, including last year's triumph over Patch. The Panthers broke up that dynasty in

2011 as they won the program's only softball championship.

This Saturday's games may well be previews of this year's European title game as well as rematches of the championship contest in 2013.

Patch and Ramstein are the only remaining undefeated softball teams in DODDS Europe, and have routed all adversaries.

The Royals are also unbeaten in baseball, while the Panthers have taken just one loss, a 2-0 defeat against Vilscek on March 29.

— Greg Broome



Follow the action

Gregory Broome has the latest on Twitter
@broomestripes

HIGH SCHOOL

Weekend peek

Kadena, Kubasaki as even as it gets

Third match will break tie; each has won 1-0

By **DAVE ORNAUER**
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Talk about a soccer season series that's as level as it gets.

Kadena's and Kubasaki's girls have played twice, with each team winning 1-0, each of those goals coming in the 73rd minute, and each coming as a result of a set piece, off a free kick.

One way or another there will be a winner in the rubber match of the series on Friday at Kubasaki's Mike Petty Stadium, the final regular-season match before the Far East Division I tournament later this month, also at Kubasaki.

Should the match be level after full time, it will be decided by penalty-kick shootout, by agreement of both coaches. That would serve two purposes: The season series gets a clear-cut winner and teams get practice on PKs. Shootouts will help decide Far East playoff matches.

Panthers coach Abe Summers says he hopes the outcome Friday is resolved far sooner than in the previous two encounters.

"I don't want to wait until the 73rd minute to figure it out and I don't want to tie and go to PKs, either," Summers said.

Dragons coach Terry Chumley says she's looking forward to a "great, competitive game from both teams, and we'll see how hard we've worked in the meantime since our last match."

The Dragons beat Kadena 1-0 on April 2 on a free kick by Sydney Johnson. The Panthers replied with a 1-0 victory on April 16 when Ericka Lunn gathered a booming free kick from Emily

Anderson and banged in a point-blank shot past a diving Kubasaki keeper Harleigh Lewis.

Kadena has fashioned its 6-3-2 record thanks mainly to defense; the Panthers have scored just 21 goals in those 11 matches.

"To have any chance of stopping the Dragons (5-2), Summers says they need to again mark up on Kubasaki's main offensive weapons, Johnson (eight goals) and Marissa Mesquita (team-leading 11).

"They have two very strong, athletic forwards," Summers said. "And if we can shut them down as we did the last time, I think we give ourselves a chance."

Aside from the presence of Anderson, the sweeper, the Panthers "pass well, they're aggressive, they play good teamwork," Chumley said.

To have a shot at taking the season series, the Dragons must keep the ball away from the middle, Chumley said. "We need to keep the ball out wide as much as possible and out of the center of the field," she said.

Kickoffs at 7 p.m. Friday, part of a weekend of district finals in Japan, Okinawa and Korea.

After going 7-1 against Kubasaki in the softball regular season, Kadena looks to make it two district best-of-three season series in a row. Games are at 5 p.m. Friday at Foster Field 2 and at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., the latter if necessary, at Ryukyū Middle School's Habu Field on Kadena Air Base.

Track and field district finals begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, the Kanto Plain finals at Yokota's Bank Field and the DODDS Korea at Humphreys' Blackhawks Field.

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Game of the week

Girls soccer: Kadena (6-3-2) vs. Kubasaki (5-2-0)

When — 7 p.m. Friday.
Where — Mike Petty Stadium, Kubasaki High School, Camp Foster, Okinawa.

What — Third and last of three regular-season meetings in the Okinawa season series between the two most decorated girls soccer programs in Far East Division I Tournament history. It's a level season series as it gets: Each team has won 1-0, each has one goal in two matches and both goals resulted from free kicks.

Players to watch — Sweeper Emily Anderson is a towering presence in the back for the Panthers. Their attack up front is fueled by senior Kristin Howard (eight goals) and freshman Ally Strauss (six), along with freshman Reiko Le-

Masters, whose big corner kicks belie her diminutive size. ... Sisters Peyton and Harleigh Lewis form a defensive tandem at sweeper and goalkeeper for the Dragons, but the two big difference makers can be found up front: Junior striker Marissa Mesquita (11 goals) and senior forward Sydney Johnson (eight with four assists). Not so solid defensively as the Panthers, but their scoring makes up for it.

Also — The visiting Panthers have won five Far East D-I titles, including three consecutive from 2004-06, while the Dragons have four to their credit, the most recent in 2012.

— Stars and Stripes

More key events

Track and field DODDS Korea finals Kanto Plain finals

DODDS Korea finals

9 a.m. Saturday at Camp Humphreys. First time the DODDS finals are being held on a high school track (at Humphreys' Blackhawks Field). Excellent showcases for Humphreys' hurdler Timi Ward, Seoul American hurdler Dale Bush and Humphreys' distance runner Nicole Castro.

Kanto Plain finals

9 a.m. Saturday at Yokota. Final showcase prior to the Far East meet later this month, also at Yokota, for Panthers record-breaking sophomore distance star Daniel Galvin and his girls counterpart, Carydial Fontanez of Nile C. Kinnick; and for throwers Niyah Lewis of Zama and Christian Sonnenberg of Yokota.

Softball

Kadena vs. Kubasaki

Okinawa best-of-three championship series, Friday at Camp Foster Field 2 and Saturday at Ryukyū Middle School's Habu Field. Kubasaki third baseman Isa Munoz's bat has come alive; she has seven RBI in the last two games against Kadena, which the teams split after the Panthers won the first six regular-season games. Kadena counters with hot-hitting infielders Malachai Danielsen and Bailey Prince.

Schedule

**Japan
Boys soccer
Saturday, May 10**
M.C. Perry at E.J. King

**Girls soccer
Saturday, May 10**
Perry at King, CAJ at Kinnick, Yokota at ASJ

**Baseball
Saturday, May 10**
Yokota at Zama, Kinnick at ASJ

**Softball
Friday, May 9**
Zama at Yokota

**Track and field
Saturday, May 10**
Kanto finals at Yokota

**South Korea
Softball
Saturday, May 10**
Humphreys at Seoul American

**Track and field
Saturday, May 10**
DODDS Korea district finals at Humphreys

**Okinawa
Boys soccer
Saturday, May 10**
Misato Kogyo at Kadena, Kubasaki vs. Misato Kogyo at Kadena

**Softball
Okinawa district softball finals
Friday, May 9**
Game 1—Kadena at Kubasaki

Saturday, May 10
Game 2—Kubasaki at Kadena
Game 3—Kubasaki at Kadena, if necessary

**Girls soccer
Friday, May 9**
Kadena at Kubasaki

**Baseball
Saturday, May 10**
Uruma Higashi at Kadena

**Guam
Track and field
Friday, May 9**
Simon Sanchez vs. Southern, Father Duenas/Academy of Our Lady vs. JFK, Guam vs. Okkodo

**Boys volleyball
Friday, May 9
Quarterfinals**
Guam at Harvest Christian, FDMS at GW, St. Paul at Okkodo, Southern at JFK

**Tuesday, May 13
Semifinals**
Girls soccer
Saturday, May 10

GW at ND, SSSHS at Okkodo, AOLG at Guam, St. Thomas at St. Paul, HCA at JFK



Dave Ornauer

Pacific sportsblog

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NFL DRAFT

Looking for his shot

Draft status uncertain for Missouri's Sam

By JIM LITKE
The Associated Press

Among the hundreds of players eligible for this year's NFL draft, one has come out and announced he's gay.

For all the dramas that will grab center stage each time a big name moves up or down the board, the fate of Michael Sam — and whether he gets a real shot to play at the next level — could wind up trumping them all.

More than a few players and front-office execs have vowed they'd play alongside anyone if he made them a better team. This could be the weekend that claim is put to the test.

Sam is under-sized (6-foot-2, 252 pounds) by NFL standards, so the skills that won him acclaim as one of the top defenders in the top-tier Southeastern Conference won't carry as much weight as it otherwise might with the league's tough-to-impress scouts. The loyalty and respect he garnered among his Missouri teammates, who dutifully kept Sam's secret throughout last season, will count as a character reference but not much more.

Because while Sam was a factor on just about every down as a defensive end in college, predicting how he'll adapt to a role in the pros as a part-time, pass-rushing linebacker and special-teams player is a roll of the dice. What's certain, on the other hand, is that he'll have a media circus in tow wherever he lands.

"I would not hesitate to use a draft pick on him," said Bill Polian, a longtime NFL executive with Buffalo, Carolina and Indianapolis and current ESPN analyst. "He's a hard-nosed football player and there's always room for one of those."

Yet even while saying he thinks Sam's problem won't be with potential teammates — "players won't have any issues with (his sexual orientation) at all" — Polian suggested that by coming out, Sam may have left some front offices skittish.

"They may not see the distraction as worthwhile," he added.

At least one current general manager believes otherwise.

"I certainly think there is an element of courage that goes along with that," said Trent Baalke of the San Francisco 49ers, whose team interviewed Sam during his pro day workout at Missouri. "That's an issue that is continually being addressed, not only in the National Football League but in society. It needs to be addressed and I'm glad that the NFL is taking an active role from the commissioner on down."

Roger Goodell greeted Sam's announcement by saying, "Good for him. He's proud of who he is and had the courage to say it. Now he wants to play football."

But Sam's agents acknowledge they're as much in the dark about his draft prospects as everyone else.

Well aware that it only takes one franchise or owner determined to make a point or drum up lots of free publicity — they've been told he could go anywhere from the end of the first round to being left off the board altogether.

The consensus among scouting services is that he'll be selected on the final day of the draft, if at all, somewhere between the fourth and sixth of the seven rounds. A few commenters on message boards have suggested it would be fitting if Sam was taken with the last pick in the last round, a dubious distinction known as "Mr. Irrelevant."

For his part, Sam has stayed out of the public eye, turning down requests for interviews since addressing his sexuality with both smarts and poise. After all, he's overcome long odds before.

Raised in a one-parent household, Sam lived in a car briefly as a youngster and with classmates several times during his high school career. He lost one brother to gun violence and two others are in prison. Just getting to the football field some days took the kind of guts that even the toughest NFL players have to admire.

All he's asking for is the chance to display that toughness one more time.

I would not hesitate to use a draft pick on him.

Bill Polian
Former NFL GM



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

With openly gay player Michael Sam (52) about to be drafted into the NFL, several members of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, including coach Marv Levy, linebacker Harry Carson and cornerback Michael Haynes, believe he will be readily accepted into the league and won't endure any discrimination.

Small: League no longer reliant solely on powerhouse programs

FROM BACK PAGE

Those sorts of oversights have prompted NFL decision makers to take their annual talent search to some unusual places.

"I was actually in Concordia this year and I wasn't the only GM, which really blew my mind when I saw a stack of business cards and saw another GM in there," Colts general manager Ryan Grigson said. "I was always taught by my old boss Charley Armer, I remember him saying years ago, 'Scout the player, not the school.'"

It's a sentiment that seems to resonate within a league no longer totally reliant on traditional powerhouses to find talent.

A year ago, Central Michigan offensive lineman Eric Fisher was selected No. 1 overall by Kansas City. This year, Buffalo linebacker Khalid Mack is projected to go in the top five, giving the once overlooked Mid-American

Conference the possibility of having top-five picks in back-to-back years.

The small-school talent pool is not drying up. Anything but.

■ Quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo has drawn comparisons to Dallas quarterback Tony Romo, a fellow Eastern Illinois alum, and isn't expected to last beyond the second round.

■ Haitian immigrant Pierre Desir, a 23-year-old cornerback, husband and father who worked in sewers between stints at two Division II schools, Washburn in Kansas and Lindenwood in Missouri, could go on the second day of the draft.

■ Short, powerful running back Terrance West ran for 2,509 yards and 41 touchdowns last season at Towson and appears to have a similar physique to Maurice Jones-Drew.

■ Offensive lineman Billy

Turner played on three straight FCS championship teams at North Dakota State.

■ Receiver Jeff Janis of Saginaw Valley State impressed scouts at the combine with a 4.42-second 40-yard dash after measuring in at 6-foot-3, 219 pounds.

■ Linebacker Johnny Millard of Cal Poly is attempting to follow in the footsteps of his father, Keith, a longtime NFL player.

Moore, a 6-5, 269-pound pass rusher who had 21 sacks over the past two seasons, and Webster, a 6-6, 252-pound defensive end, are who had 26 sacks in that span, are in the mix, too. Both were finalists for the Cliff Harris Award presented to the nation's best small-school defender.

None of these guys is surprised. "I do feel like there is a lot of talent in Division II that does get overlooked because it's Division II, unless you stand out,"

Webster said. "You have to really stand out. If you don't, you get overlooked."

It's not that teams can't find the talent. It's just that sometimes it takes a lot more work to discover it beyond the traditional BCS schools.

Getting to some campuses can be complicated, and analyzing game tape isn't always easy. While BCS schools have plenty of tape available for scouts, often from multiple angles and against other potential draft prospects, that's not always the case in the FCS, Division II and III, the NAIA, or even all of the FBS leagues.

"That's where the real grinders on your staff find players. The lazy guys, they are not sitting there at a D-III school or another school that has poor facilities and you are sitting there with a VHS tape and an actual remote control where you hit rewind," Grigson said. "I've been there before

and then it rewinds all the way to the beginning of the tape and you've got to find where you were at before. It becomes a challenge, but the guys that work for me and work for the Indianapolis Colts have that type of drive to where they will sit there painstakingly through four, five tapes."

Eventually, they're able to determine whether a Moore or a Webster can cut it in the NFL.

And more frequently, NFL decision-makers are giving guys like Moore and Webster the benefit of the doubt.

"Throughout the course of the season last year I have had over from 35-40 scouts from different teams come through," said Moore, who never played in front of a crowd bigger than 7,000. "I just stuck to the mindset that if you are good they will find you, and that is how I am fortunate enough to be here."

GOLF

Scott sets sights on No. 1

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — As much time as Adam Scott spends away from the PGA Tour, this might have been a good week to take off.

By the mathematical wonder of the world ranking, Scott could have stayed in The Bahamas this week and still moved to No. 1 in the world ranking provided three other players had an ordinary week at The Players Championship.

"See you later," Scott said with a laugh when told of the scenario. Scott would love to get to No. 1 for the first time in his career, though he's more interested in winning big tournaments. Besides, he had a chance at Bay Hill and the Masters to replace Tiger Woods at the ranking and squandered both chances.

What adds to the interest on the TPC Sawgrass is Scott has company. Henrik Stenson, Masters champion Bubba Watson and Matt Kuchar each have a mathematical chance to reach No. 1 for the first time.

"I don't think I know that," Kuchar said. "That title is a pretty impressive title. To be No. 1 in the world at anything is amazing. To have a chance to be No. 1 in the world in the game of golf, I think all of us that play have those dreams."

It's been made possible in part by Woods being on the sidelines. The Players Championship, which starts Thursday, is the second title he is unable to defend this year because of a balky back. Woods had surgery March 31 and still doesn't know when he might return.

Woods effectively has owned the No. 1 ranking for the better part of 15 years, his most recent reign dating to his victory last year in the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Other players have reached No. 1 with a caveat. Woods was going through a swing change in 2004 (though Vijay Singh helped his cause by winning nine times and a major), and he was going through another swing change and a divorce when he lost the No. 1 ranking from Oct. 2010 to March 2013.

And now he's not even playing. But the landscape is changing in golf. Woods has gone six years without a major and is hampered by injuries to his legs, arm and back in recent years. Stenson a year ago became the first player to win the FedEx Cup and Race to Dubai in the same season. Scott won the Masters and became a force in the majors.



JEFF SNIER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Adam Scott could have skipped The Players Championship this week and still moved atop the world rankings, provided three other players vying for No. 1 had ordinary weeks.

"This guy has had as much of a 'No. 1' period as anyone," Geoff Ogilvy said as he walked onto the short-game area to see Scott stick 24 tees into the ground around the cup for a putting drill. "He contends every time he tees it up. He only plays the big tournaments. After two rounds, it feels like he has a chance in every tournament."

That sounds a little like Woods, minus the outrageous number of victories.

Even so, Ogilvy remembers the time when someone else got to No. 1 — whether it was Singh in 2004 or Lee Westwood in 2010 — and the murmurs were that Woods was busy changing his swing. Now?

"He seems to be playing better every week than Tiger," Ogilvy said about Scott. "Tiger won five times last year, but you go to the majors, Scotty seems to be in contention with a chance to win more often than Tiger. If Tiger is your benchmark, he (Scott) has been a better player. Right now, whoever gets to No. 1 probably is. If Henrik wins a major and gets to No. 1, there can't be an argument."

Woods still has the nod over two years, the duration of how the ranking measures performances. In the 26 tournaments that

Woods and Scott have played, Woods has won five times. Scott has won twice) and has a 12-11-3 edge in how they finished. However, Scott has a 5-1-1 advantage in the seven majors they have played, winning one of them.

Stenson and Woods have played in 22 tournaments, with Woods having an 11-10-1 advantage (along with four wins to two for Stenson).

Here's the very least four contenders have to do for a chance at No. 1:

- Scott has to finish in the top 16.
 - Stenson has to finish in the top six.
 - Watson has to finish second alone.
 - Kuchar has to win.
- Scott has the most experience answering the questions, since it has been a mathematical possibility for more than two months. He couldn't hold a seven-shot lead at Bay Hill going into the weekend with a shot at No. 1. By now, as it was then, he cares more about winning.

"Look, I'm here to win golf tournaments," Scott said. "That's been the goal from that you can get to No. 1 in the world if you win often enough."



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Jordan Spieth hits from a bunker on the 16th hole during practice Tuesday for The Players Championship in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.

Spieth's big year still lacking first victory

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
The Associated Press

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. — Jordan Spieth is doing just about everything right this year, and it shows.

He is No. 5 in the Ryder Cup standings and No. 8 in the FedEx Cup. He was runner-up at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions and the Masters, and he at least put himself in the mix on the weekends at Pebble Beach, Torrey Pines and Riviera. He reached the quarterfinals in his debut at the Match Play Championship.

And his star power keeps rising, mainly as the 20-year-old Texan who seems to have a chance to be the "youngest" to do everything.

What gnaws at him is he is missing one thing. "Plenty of chances to win, and it's eating at me a little that I haven't taken advantage of one of them yet," Spieth said Wednesday on the eve of The Players Championship. "But I keep putting myself in position, and I believe that it will go my way here soon."

Winning hasn't been easy for anyone this year, with only Bubba Watson, Patrick Reed and Jimmy Walker winning more than once. Only three players from the top 10 in the world ranking — Watson, Matt Kuchar and Jason Day — have won this year.

The Players Championship has never really favored anyone. That might be what defines this tournament, along with the Island green for the par-3 17th hole, and the fact the purse (\$10 million) is the richest in golf.

No one has ever won back-to-back at the TPC Sawgrass, and

that won't change this year because Tiger Woods is still recovering from back surgery.

Woods last played on March 9 at Doral, and since then, seven of the nine winners on the PGA Tour have been No. 90 or lower in the world ranking.

Spieth would love to get to No. 1 at some point in his career, even though his career is only 17 months old. Remember, at this time a year ago, Spieth had just taken special temporary membership on the tour and was getting into tournaments on sponsor invitations.

He doesn't look at how far he has come in such a short time. He looks at how far he has to go.

"I'm just kind of sticking my feet in the water," said Spieth, the John Deere Classic winner last summer. "The Masters was a humbling experience, not being able to pull that off. So many of these guys have won major championships, so I know what they felt and how they overcame it and succeeded."

"I only hope to do that and get myself in positions to do that. I've set goals — I've set goals from when I was 15 years old. I still have yet to accomplish a couple of those and those could take two years and those could take two years."

"And in order for it to actually happen, I've got to keep my head down and keep moving forward and work as hard or harder than anybody."

For all he's done, Spieth has this much going against him: Only twice has someone won The Players Championship the first time competing on the Stadium Course. Hal Sutton won in 1983 and Craig Perks did it in 2002.

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AUTO RACING

In the rearview

Gordon celebrates 20th anniversary of first victory

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C.

It's been 20 years since Jeff Gordon's first career Cup victory at Charlotte Motor Speedway in the prestigious Coca-Cola 600. He was struggling to contain his emotions long before he took the checkered flag, and by the time the 22-year-old got to Victory Lane, he was weeping.

"I tried to hold it back as much as I could because I wanted to stay focused and didn't want to make any mistakes," Gordon recalled Wednesday as the speedway celebrated the anniversary at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. "It did start to take, and that chill in my spine was definitely there with taking the white flag. I got to Victory Lane, and it all just kind of erupted."

Speedway President Marcus Smith showed Gordon a highlight video of the victory that reminded

the four-time champion just what he had accomplished with the win. He became the first driver since David Pearson in 1976 to win from the pole, but had to battle Rusty Wallace throughout NASCAR's longest race of the season.

Gordon only emerged the victor after crew chief Ray Evernham gambled on taking two tires on a late pit stop and Gordon used track position to put Wallace away.

"The video reminded Gordon of what he felt that day: validation.

"Just a combination of pure joy and accomplishment, a weight being taken off your shoulders," he said. "Because that first win, you don't ever know if you are ever going to do it and then when you finally do, 'Wow, I've accomplished something that I never thought I would.' And then being able to say, 'Maybe I do belong here.'"

Gordon proved that time and again, collecting 88 victories and four Cup titles over the past two decades.

"This car is so special. This Rainbow DuPont Chevy," Smith said of the car Gordon drove the bulk of his career for Hendrick Motorsports. "The No. 24 — when it hit the track, and Jeff Gordon was driving it, this sport was never the same."

Gordon heads into Saturday night's race at Kansas Speedway leading the Sprint Cup standings, and will go for his fourth Coca-Cola 600 victory on May 25.

Despite seven top-10 finishes in 10 races this season — including second-place finishes at Texas and Richmond — Gordon is still seeking his first victory. He badly wants to get into Victory Lane soon as drivers race for one of the 16 spots in the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship field.

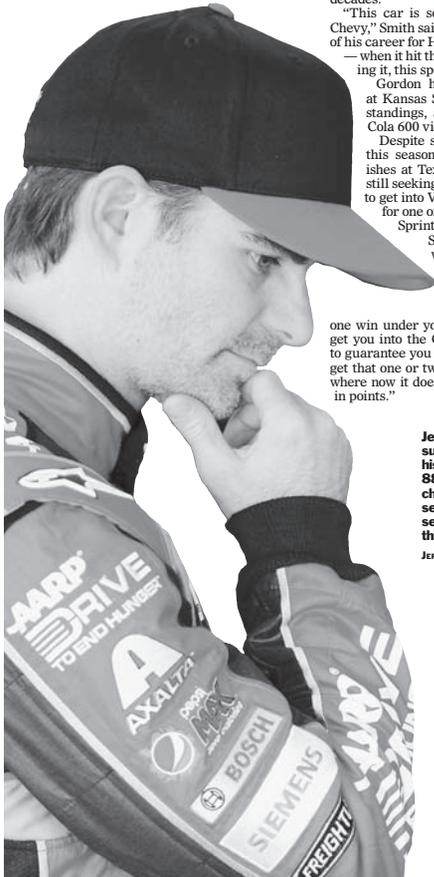
So far, eight drivers have wins with 16 races remaining in the regular season.

"I've never seen winning be so important as it has this year,"

Gordon said. "When you get that one win under your belt, I think that one win will get you into the Chase, two wins is for sure going to guarantee you a shot in the Chase, but when you get that one or two wins, it just puts you in a place where now it doesn't really matter where you're at in points."

Jeff Gordon has a lot of success to contemplate in his two-decade Cup career: 88 victories and four series championships. The current series points leader is still seeking his first victory of this season.

JEFF SINGER, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT



Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: 5-Hour Energy 400 at Kansas City, Kan.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Sunday, CET; 8:30 a.m. Japan & Korea.

Track: Kansas Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 400.5 miles, 267 laps.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to his second straight Kansas victory. Kenseth was penalized after his engine failed post-race inspection.

Last week: Denny Hamlin won at Talladega for his first victory in a points race at a restrictor-plate track. He won a drag race with Kevin Harvick on a restart with two laps remaining, and was in front when NASCAR froze the field because of debris.

Next race: NASCAR Sprint All-Star Race, May 17, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	347
2. Matt Kenseth	344
3. Kyle Busch	343
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	328
5. Carl Edwards	328
6. Joey Logano	305
7. Jimmie Johnson	304
8. Greg Biffle	300
9. Ryan Newman	299
10. Brian Vickers	297
11. Brad Keselowski	294
12. Benny Hamlin	292
13. Kyle Larson	286
14. Austin Dillon	281
15. A.J. Allmendinger	279
16. Marcos Ambrose	268
17. Paul Menard	265
18. Clint Bowyer	261
19. Kevin Harvick	258
20. Casey Kahne	252

Driver to watch



Greg Biffle shares the record for career victories at Kansas Speedway (which opened in 2001) with two, joined by Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Gordon, Tony Stewart and Matt Kenseth. Ironically, none of those drivers has won a race this season. Biffle could break through with that first win and take the Kansas record for himself in the process. His team, Roush Fenway Racing, has won four times at Kansas. In addition, he's coming off a second-place finish at Talladega last week. "I'd be super-excited to win there to start with, but to be the

first guy to win three there would be pretty neat. I love that race track," Biffle said after last week's race.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: SFP 250 at Kansas City, Kan.

Track: Kansas Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 250.5 miles, 167 laps.

Last year: Matt Crafton raced to his lone 2013 victory en route to the season title.

Last race: Crafton won the rain-delayed race at Martinsville on March 30.

Next race: North Carolina Education Lottery 200, May 16, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Indianapolis.

TV: AFN-Xtra (delayed), 5:30 a.m. Sunday, CET; 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Japan & Korea.

Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway (road course, 2.439 miles).

Race distance: 200 miles, 82 laps.

Last year: Inaugural race. **Last race:** Ryan Hunter-Reay raced to his second successive victory at Barber Motorsports Park in Birmingham, Ala., on April 27 in a rain-shortened event that finished under caution.

Next race: Indianapolis 500, May 25, Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Online: indycar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

Next race: Get To Know Newton 250, May 18, Iowa Speedway, Newton, Iowa.

Last week: Elliott Sadler raced to his first Talladega victory, winning a three-lap shootout.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Spanish Grand Prix at Barcelona.

Track: Circuit de Catalunya (road course, 2.89 miles).

Race distance: 190.8 miles, 66 laps.

Last year: Ferrari's Fernando Alonso won in front of his home fans.

Last race: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Chinese Grand Prix on April 20 for his third straight victory.

Next race: Monaco Grand Prix, May 25, Circuit de Monaco, Monte Carlo.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: NHRA Summer Nationals, May 16-18, Atlanta Dragway, Commerce, Ga.

Last week: Erica Enders-Stevens raced to her second Pro Stock victory of the season, beating Allen Johnson in the Spring Nationals in Baytown, Texas. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel, and Robert Hight topped the Funny Car field.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER SERIES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Sprint Car: Friday, Wilmot Raceway, Wilmot, Wisconsin; Saturday, Tri-State Speedway, Haubstadt, Indiana.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

Series capsules

by The Associated Press

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NHL PLAYOFFS

Out of the NHL's penalty box

Cooke returns from suspension to bring even more toughness to Wild

By RACHEL BLOUNT
Minneapolis Star Tribune

Matt Cooke said he nearly developed an ulcer watching his team in the playoffs during his seven-game suspension.

Friday, the Wild winger expects to resume a more familiar role of causing that kind of anxiety.

The Wild's Game 3 victory over Chicago on Tuesday marked the end of the Cooke's punishment for a knee-to-knee hit on Colorado defenseman Tyson Barrie in the playoffs' first round. He is eligible to return to the lineup Friday for Game 4 of the team's second-round series against the Blackhawks. As the Wild enjoyed an off day Wednesday, Cooke skated at Xcel Energy Center and coach Mike Yeo said he expects to reinsert Cooke into the lineup Friday as the Wild seeks to even the series at two games each.

The hit, and the suspension, marred Cooke's three-year quest to rehabilitate his image and clean up his play. Barrie sustained a knee injury and sat out the rest of the series as the Avalanche fell to the Wild in seven games, while Cooke was suspended by the NHL for the sixth time in his career.

Cooke acknowledged that some people will view the incident as proof he has not changed. While he can't alter that, he said, he trusts that the adjustments he has made will help him move past his latest transgression.

"People are entitled to their opinions," said Cooke, who registered one assist and six penalty minutes in three playoff games before the suspension. "It's not my job to go out and change peoples' opinions. It's my job to go out and play the way I can and be successful, helping my teammates win.

"Although this one situation happened, I still believe I'm in a good spot as far as the way I approach the game, to go out and play a physical style without being riskful. (The Bar-

rie hit) is going to be in my head, but I'm a firm believer in the work I've put in to change my approach to the game to allow me to go out and have success."

Yeo said he has not decided who will come out of the Wild lineup to make room for Cooke, nor has he settled on line combinations. Cooke hopes to help the Wild on the penalty kill and use his experience and communication skills to keep the team's emotions balanced amid the tension and tumult of the playoffs.

Though Yeo knows the hit and suspension could create some hesitation in Cooke's game, he urged Cooke to concentrate on the tough yet legal style he used to good effect throughout the season. He is counting on him to play a specific role as a strong-checking forward who can go to the net and create offense while making things difficult for opponents.

"He's got to play his game, and he's got to play it with confidence," Yeo said. "For the last several years, we've talked about how he's changed. And for the most part, before (the Barrie hit), he had not had a charging or a boarding or anything like that.

He's been able to hit clean, and I'm sure he'll be able to do the same thing."

Cooke thanked the Wild organization for standing by him throughout the suspension, saying it was "rewarding" to know it did not believe he had bad intentions.

He was particularly grateful to his teammates for advancing to the second round, allowing him the opportunity to get back into these playoffs.

"The team has played great, but it's tough to sit and watch," he said. "I pride myself on being a guy who performs and has a game built for the playoffs.

"It's the perfect scenario. Having to be up on this podium a week ago and not getting a chance to play again in the playoffs would have been a really hard thing for me."

Matt Cooke (24) was suspended for seven games for a knee-on-knee hit on Colorado's Tyson Barrie, the sixth suspension of his career.

CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Scoreboard

Second round

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Montreal 2, Boston 1

Montreal 4, Boston 3, 2OT

Boston 5, Montreal 3

Montreal 4, Boston 2

Thursday: at Montreal

Saturday: at Boston

x-Monday: at Montreal

x-Wednesday: at Boston

Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 1

N.Y. Rangers 3, Pittsburgh 2, OT

Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 0

Wednesday: Pittsburgh 4, N.Y. Rangers

Friday: at Pittsburgh

x-Sunday: at N.Y. Rangers

x-Tuesday, May 13: at Pittsburgh

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Chicago 2, Minnesota 1

Chicago 5, Minnesota 2

Chicago 4, Minnesota 1

Minnesota 4, Chicago 0

Friday: at Minnesota

Sunday: at Chicago

x-Tuesday: at Minnesota

x-Thursday: at Chicago

Los Angeles 2, Anaheim 0

Los Angeles 3, Anaheim 1, OT

Thursday: at Los Angeles

Saturday: at Los Angeles

x-Monday: at Anaheim

x-Wednesday: at Los Angeles

x-Friday, May 16: at Anaheim

Weekend TV schedule



Montreal vs. Boston
Game 4

Friday, AFN-Sports

1 p.m. CET; 8 p.m. JKT (delayed)

Game 5

Sunday, AFN-Atlantic

1 a.m. CET; 8 a.m. JKT



N.Y. Rangers vs. Pittsburgh
Game 5

Saturday, AFN-Sports (delayed)

1 p.m. CET; 8 p.m. JKT



Chicago vs. Minnesota
Game 4

Saturday, AFN-Sports (delayed)

3:30 p.m. CET; 10:30 p.m. JKT



Los Angeles vs. Anaheim
Game 3

Friday, AFN-Sports (delayed)

3:30 p.m. CET; 10:30 p.m. JKT

Game 4

Sunday, AFN-Atlantic

3 a.m. CET; 10 a.m. JKT



NHL PLAYOFFS

Canadiens' Weise getting unexpected notoriety

The Associated Press

BROSSARD, Quebec — Dale Weise is finding out what it's like to be a Montreal Canadian when they're winning in the springtime.

Some were not happy when general manager Marc Bergevin sent defenseman Raphael Diaz to Vancouver Canucks for the little-known Weise on Feb. 3.

Now the energetic fourth-line winger is becoming a playoff star.

His breakaway goal in Game 3 of a NHL Eastern Conference semifinal on Tuesday night became his second game-winner of the playoffs, as the Canadiens downed the rival Boston Bruins 4-2 to take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Weise had scored in overtime in the first game of an opening-round sweep of the Tampa Bay Lightning.

His first taste of his new-found fame came this week when he was out for a stroll with his fiancée, with 7-month-old son Hunter in a stroller.

"This car pulled over right on the sidewalk," Weise said Wednesday. "The guy was in the driver's seat and I was on the right side."

"In the middle of the green light he's reached across and he's banging on the window and yelling. My fiancée's like 'what is this guy doing?' She's freaking out, and he's giving me the thumbs-up. It was pretty outrageous."

Taking two of the first three games against favored Bruins has built a considerable buzz in Montreal, but a series in which Boston has looked overwhelming at times is far from over.

The Canadiens blew 2-0 and 3-2 leads before winning in overtime



RYAN REMIOWZ, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

Montreal Canadiens right wing Dale Weise, center, celebrates his goal with teammate center Daniel Briere, left, as Boston Bruins defenseman Andrej Meszaros looks on in Game 3 on Tuesday. The energetic fourth-liner has become a playoff star for the Canadiens, already with one game-winner in overtime against the Tampa Bay Lightning in the opening round.

in the series opener. Then they wasted a 3-1 lead by allowing four third-period goals in a 5-3 loss in Game 2 in Boston.

At home on Tuesday night, Montreal scored twice in the first period and made it 3-0 on Weise's goal

before the Bruins scored twice. Lars Eller ended the rally with a final-minute empty-net goal.

"This is such a huge rivalry," Weise said. "When they meet in the regular season it's looked at like a playoff matchup. It's such a

cool thing to be a part of."

But the Bruins can never be counted out, as they've shown repeatedly in recent seasons.

"We're a big guy that's confident, but we have guys now that are frustrated," Boston coach Claude

Julien said. "They know they will be to be better and they will be better."

"It's a 2-1 series. It's not the end of the world here. We've just got to battle back. There's no reason to panic. We haven't in the past and we're not about to panic now."

It has all combined to make it a pleasant time to be Canadian, especially for a newcomer such as Weise.

The 25-year-old had a goal and an assist for his first playoff game with more than one point and only the second of his 192-game NHL career.

He was one of three pickups ahead of the March 5 trade deadline, along with defenseman Mike Weaver and Tomas Vanek, who have been key contributors to the Canadiens' playoff run.

In his third season in Vancouver, Weise didn't play much, but landed on his feet as a regular fourth liner in Montreal. He was scratched three games in a row late in the season, but has been on a roll since then. He considered it a wakeup call.

And now he's getting star treatment from Canadiens fans, which he said never happened before, even in a hockey market such as Vancouver.

"I was in a grocery store and I was walking into an elevator and this guy wouldn't let me get on the elevator," a grinning Weise recalled of another recent incident.

"He was grabbing my shoulder, he was so excited and I jumped up."

"Then his buddy beside him said 'relax, relax' and the elevator was closing and he kept saying 'I'm sorry, I'm sorry.' I love the passionate fans. I think it's awesome."

Kings' Doughty the center of attention for Ducks

By HELENE ELLIOTT
Los Angeles Times

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. — Those aren't love taps Drew Doughty has been getting from the San Jose Sharks and Anaheim Ducks during the playoffs.

Neither team has missed a chance to put a body on the Kings' gifted defenseman, hoping to knock him off his game by slamming him into the boards or whacking at him. It's a sign of respect that they consider him important enough to harass, though the nasty, nerve-numbing slash Ducks defenseman Francois Beauchemin delivered to the back of his leg in Game 2 was a show of esteem Doughty can do without.

The Sharks and Ducks know what the rest of the NHL is learning: Doughty, though not a finalist this season for the Norris Trophy as the NHL's top defenseman, is a far more accomplished player than he was as a 20-year-old Norris finalist in 2010.

The more responsibility he gets, the more he flourishes. Instead of being the junior member of a defense pair — as he was alongside

Sean O'Donnell and, later, Rob Scuderi — Doughty this season was a mentor to less-experienced Jake Muzzin.

With veteran defensemen Willie Mitchell and Robyn Regehr injured during the playoffs and out of the lineup, Doughty has stepped up to help the Kings take a 2-0 lead in their Western Conference semifinal series against the Ducks. Game 4 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

Doughty hasn't been a finalist for the Norris again, perhaps because he hasn't equaled the 16 goals and 59 points he scored that season and voters think he has declined. But he doesn't need an award to reaffirm he's at a higher level.

"Without a doubt. Like 10 times the player I was back then," Doughty said Wednesday after the Kings practiced in El Segundo.

"That year I had my most point total. I may be better offensively now than I was back then. Just back then, our team wasn't as good and we scored more goals and our power play was better. That was the reason I got more points."

"I wouldn't trade that year in for



ALEX GALLARDO/AP

Los Angeles Kings defenseman Drew Doughty (8) jumps into the celebration of a goal by Marian Gaborik with Matt Greene (2) during overtime in Game 1 last Saturday against the Anaheim Ducks.

any of the years I've had after that. I feel I've improved as a player and have been a better leader for this team. I've played a lot better and I make a difference in every game."

That's true despite the punish-

ment he absorbs.

Doughty appeared to have a shoulder injury during the San Jose series but his ice time hasn't diminished: He played 53 minutes and 6 seconds in the Kings' series-opening 3-2 overtime victory over

the Ducks last Saturday and 26:25 in their 3-1 triumph Monday. He's averaging 27:14, up from his 25:42 regular-season average, and he has an impact at both ends.

"He's definitely more of a leader. He's more vocal. That's off the ice," center Jarret Stoll said of Doughty's progression. "On the ice he's blocking shots, he's lying down in front of pucks, he's out there killing penalties in various situations ... I think he can even get better and I think he knows that. He's a special player."

Doughty accepts the extra physicality as part of playoff hockey, though he did retain Beauchemin's uniform number for future reference.

"I know teams are going to target me. They're going to target other guys on the team too and that's just part of the game," Doughty said. "If anything, it makes you hungrier, knowing you're a target out there. It makes you want to work harder to avoid those hits and make a difference out there because when they're targeting you and you're still playing successfully, that's the most frustrating thing for them."

MLB/NBA



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Colorado's Nolan Arenado watches the flight of his two-run double off a pitch from the Texas Rangers' Colby Lewis on Wednesday in Arlington, Texas. The hit extended Arenado's hitting streak to 27 games, matching a franchise record.

Arenado extends hit streak, matches Colorado record

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — With one swing in the first inning, Nolan Arenado quickly took the drama out of whether he would match Colorado's record hitting streak and set the Rockies up for another rout over Texas. Arenado's two-run double in the first extended his hitting streak to 27 games, matching teammate Michael Cuddyer's record streak from last year. It also put Colorado ahead to stay on way to its third lopsided victory over the Rangers in as many nights, 9-2 on Wednesday.

After not getting a hit until his fifth plate appearance Tuesday night, Arenado wasted no time Wednesday. His double followed consecutive two-out hits by Troy Tulowitzki and Gonzalez.

"Nolan is one of those guys that's really locked in right now, and it was good to see him get that hit in the first at-bat," manager Walt Weiss said. "I think that kind of set the tone."

That was the first of three hits for Arenado, who is hitting .364 (39 of 107) in the streak that started a month ago Friday. His streak is the longest for anyone 23 years or younger since Albert Pujols had a 30-gamer in 2003 when he was 23.



Colorado at Cincinnati
AFN-Xtra
3 p.m. Sunday CET
10 p.m. JKT
(Tape delayed)

The streak for Arenado began April 9, a week before his 23rd birthday. According to Elias, his streak is the longest that began when a player was 22 or younger since Benito Santiago's 34-game hitting streak in 1987, which is still a major league rookie record.

"It's pretty cool, pretty cool," Arenado said. "I'm trying to stay within myself. I'm not trying to get too big, or trying to hit the home run. I'm just trying to hit the ball hard. I'm going to keep on saying that until the year is over."

Arenado is in his second year. After debuting April 28 last year, Arenado batted .267 in 133 games and became the first National League rookie third baseman to earn a Rawlings Gold Glove Award.

Wait pays off for Battier

Veteran makes most of return to Heat lineup

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

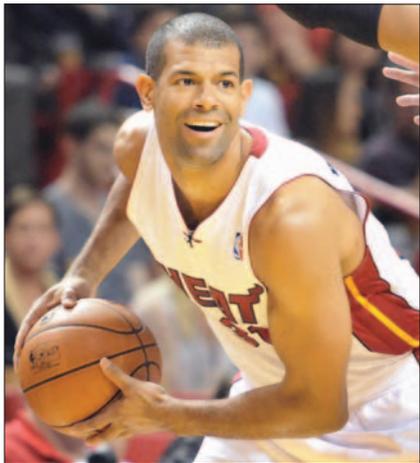
MIAMI — Shane Battier had no idea what to expect.

He'd been out of the Miami Heat lineup for the better part of two months, then back in his starting role for Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals against the Brooklyn Nets. It was only the biggest game to date in Miami's season. And the veteran acknowledged being more than a little bit nervous.

"It's sort of like having a classic car," Battier said. "I'm more like a Chevette, an old Chevette. If you don't start it up for a while, you're praying when you turn the ignition that it just turns on. That was my initial thought. But once the car started up and it was purring 'OK, I said I can drive this thing around a little bit.'"

Battier's first shot was a three-pointer, he drilled it, and before long the Heat were in the drivers' seat. They'll try to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven on Thursday night, when Battier is again expected to be back in the lineup in large part to make life as uncomfortable for Nets guard Joe Johnson as possible.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra told Battier on Monday that he was back in the rotation, yet another reminder that on a team with as much depth and as many differing weapons as Miami, anyone's number can get called at any given time. Battier played two minutes — total — in Miami's four-game sweep of Charlotte in the opening round. But this matchup dictates that the Heat need certain things defensively, so much in the same way that Spoelstra has summoned



ROBERT DUYOS, SUN SENTINEL/MCT

Miami's Shane Battier was inserted back into the starting rotation for the Heat's second-round playoff series against the Brooklyn Nets after playing just two minutes, total, in Miami's first-round sweep of the Charlotte Bobcats.

James Jones, Udonis Haslem and Rashard Lewis almost without warning in recent months, this was Battier's turn.

This is where the mantra of sacrifice the Heat always speak of comes into play. It's not just about salary. It's also about minutes. Battier believes that approach wouldn't work with a lot of teams, but knows why it does in Miami.

"Because we're old and we like championships," Battier said. "Honestly, that's the only way it works — because we're old and we like championships. You can't have a roster of guys who are under 25 in this spot. Pulled and prodded, too! You're good enough for one series and not good

enough for another. Young guys can't handle it."

It's not easy for the Heat, either. Plenty of guys in that locker room could get bigger minutes, maybe even starting roles, on other teams. Then again, none of those other teams won NBA titles in 2012 and 2013. Therein lies the tradeoff, and Battier knew that would be the deal when he famously quoted Jimmy Buffett in a series of tweets to announce that he was signing a three-year contract — the last of his playing career — with Miami before the 2011-12 season began.

"You've got to have the right guys," Spoelstra said. "He's the best. He's the best."

Clippers' Crawford wins sixth man

By BETH HARRIS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Jamal Crawford of the Los Angeles Clippers won the NBA sixth man award on Thursday, becoming the oldest recipient and the first to do so with different teams.

The 34-year-old guard also was honored as the league's best player off the bench while with the Atlanta Hawks in 2009-10. Crawford led the league's reserve players in scoring this season, averaging 18.6 points. He came off the bench in 45 of 69 games he played in, helping the Clippers to a 57-25 record, their best regular-season mark in franchise history.

The Clippers had a 31-14 record when Crawford came off the bench. The Clippers and Oklaho-



Crawford

ma City are 1-1 in their Western Conference semifinal.

"He won it because voters saw him doing other things for the team — playing defense,

running the team at the point guard position when Chris Paul was out at times," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said last week, when The Associated Press first reported Crawford won. "He's been the perfect utility player for a team. He's been awesome."

Crawford set the single-season franchise record for three-

times made with 161. That surpassed his record from last season, his first in Los Angeles, when he was runner-up for the sixth man award.

Crawford received 57 first-place votes and 421 total points from a panel of 125 sports writers and broadcasters throughout the U.S. and Canada. He joined Kevin McHale, Ricky Pierce and Detlef Schrempf as two-time winners.

Taj Gibson of Chicago finished second with 395 points, and San Antonio's Manu Ginobili was third with 138.

Crawford had his best month in January, scoring in double figures in 15 of 16 games and helping the Clippers go 12-4 that month.

He missed 13 games in March and April because of injury.

NBA PLAYOFFS

Scoreboard

Second round
(Best-of-7, x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
Miami 107, Brooklyn 94
Miami 107, Brooklyn 94
Saturday: at Brooklyn
Miami 107, Brooklyn 94
x-Wednesday: at Miami
x-Friday, May 16: at Brooklyn
x-Sunday, May 18: at Miami
Washington 102, Indiana 96
Wednesday: Indiana 86, Washington 88

Friday: at Washington
Sunday: at Washington
Tuesday: at Indiana
x-Thursday: at Washington
x-Saturday, May 17: at Indiana
WESTERN CONFERENCE
San Antonio 116, Portland 92
Thursday: at San Antonio
San Antonio 116, Portland 92
Saturday: at Portland
San Antonio 116, Portland 92
x-Wednesday: at San Antonio
x-Friday, May 16: at Portland
x-Monday, May 19: at San Antonio
L.A. Clippers 1, Oklahoma City 1
L.A. Clippers 122, Oklahoma City 105
Wednesday: Oklahoma City 112, L.A. Clippers 101

Friday: at L.A. Clippers
Sunday: at L.A. Clippers
Tuesday: at Oklahoma City
x-Thursday, May 15: at L.A. Clippers
x-Sunday, May 18: at Oklahoma City

Wednesday

Thunder 112, Clippers 101
L.A. CLIPPERS—Barnes 4-8 0-0 11, Griffin 5-13 5-6 15, Jordan 3-4 1-2 7, Paul 6-13 3-17, Redick 3-10 2-18, D.Collison 4-8 5-6 13, Crawford 2-13 2-7, Granger 0-1 0-0 0, Davis 5-7 0-0 10, Dudley 0-4 0-0 0, Green 1-2 0-3, Totals 37-83 18-33 101.

OKLAHOMA CITY—Durant 10-22 9-11 32, Ibaka 6-10 2-4 14, Perkins 3-7 2-8 8, Westbrook 13-22 3-5 31, Sefolosa 6-9 0-0 14, Jackson 2-5 0-0 4, Butler 1-5 0-0 3, Adams 3-4 0-0 6, N.Collison 0-1 0-0, Fisher 0-2 0-0 0, Landry 0-0 0-0, Totals 44-87 16-22 112.

L.A. Clippers 28 28 21 24—101
Oklahoma City 37 24 33 18—112

Three-Point Goals—L.A. Clippers 9-27 (Barnes 3-7, Redick 2-4, Paul 2-5, Green 1-2, Crawford 1-7, Granger 0-4, Dudley 0-1), Oklahoma City 8-23 (Durant 3-9, Westbrook 4-24, Sefolosa 2-5, Butler 1-3, Fisher 0-2, Jackson 0-0, Landry 0-0, Totals 16-22)

INDIANA—George 8-13 1-2 11, West 3-8 3-8, Hibbert 10-15 4-8 28, G.Hill 11-12 1-2 14, Stephenson 3-12 1-2, Mathias 3-4 0-6, Turner 0-0 0-0, Watson 2-5 0-0, Scott 0-4 0-0, Indiana 9-10 0-0, Totals 32-72 18-32 86.

Washington 23 22 19 18—82
Indiana 24 20 15 18—86

Three-Point Goals—Washington 5-21 (Beal 2-11, Ariza 2-7, Gortat 1-2, S. Wall 1-0), Indiana 4-12 (Stephenson 2-4, Watson 1-2, Hill 1-0, Turner 0-0, George 0-3), Fouled Out—None, Rebounds—Washington 50 (Gortat 11), Indiana 44 (Hibbert 9), Assists—Washington 22 (Wall 5), Indiana 17 (Stephenson 5), Total Fouls—Washington 19, Indiana 15. A.—18,165 (18,165).

Pacers 86, Wizards 82

WASHINGTON—Ariza 2-8 0-0 6, Nene 7-14 0-4, Gortat 10-15 1-2 21, Wall 2-13 2-2 6, Hill 1-11 0-0 2, S. Wall 1-2 5, Westbrook 2-4 0-0 5, Booker 1-1 0-0 2, Miller 3-6 0-0 9, Totals 36-69 16-30 82.

INDIANA—George 8-13 1-2 11, West 3-8 3-8, Hibbert 10-15 4-8 28, G.Hill 11-12 1-2 14, Stephenson 3-12 1-2, Mathias 3-4 0-6, Turner 0-0 0-0, Watson 2-5 0-0, Scott 0-4 0-0, Indiana 9-10 0-0, Totals 32-72 18-32 86.

Hibbert, Pacers hold off Wizards to tie series

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Big Roy came up with a big answer for his critics and his teammates Wednesday. He played like an All-Star when the Pacers really needed it.

After 48 hours of questions and criticism, Roy Hibbert scored a season-high 28 points, grabbed nine rebounds, blocked two shots and altered a handful of others to help the Pacers get even in the Eastern Conference semifinals with an 86-82 victory over Washington.

Hibbert sounded more relieved than redeemed.

David West always talks to me about being the person that rescues yourself when you're in

Durant delivers MVP performance

Forward hits 32, just misses triple-double as Thunder draw even with Clippers

By CLIFF BRUNT
The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — Kevin Durant stood before his adoring home crowd, proudly holding his MVP trophy above his head during a pregame ceremony.

He spent the next few hours showing how he earned it.

Durant had 32 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists, and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Los Angeles Clippers 112-101 on Wednesday night to tie their Western Conference semifinal series at one game apiece.

"We wanted to come back and respond," Durant said. "So, I think that's what fueled the team tonight. We just went out there and played extremely well and left it all out there, and came out with a good 'W.'"

During his emotional MVP acceptance speech on Tuesday, Durant called teammate Russell Westbrook an MVP-caliber player. Westbrook backed up Durant's words with 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists for his third triple-double in his past five playoff games.

"I think Russ played harder than all of us combined," Clippers guard Chris Paul said. "He was all over the place."

Thunder coach Scott Brooks took Durant out of the game with 1:21 remaining, costing him a shot at the triple-double. According to information provided to the Thunder by the Elias Sports Bureau, no pair of teammates has had triple-doubles in the same playoff game.

Serge Ibaka and Thabo Sefolosa each scored 14 points for the Thunder, who shot 51 percent from the field and outbounded the Clippers 52-36.

"It was the perfect storm," Clippers guard Jamal Crawford said. "They did everything they could to win, and they got everything they wanted tonight. That wasn't the Clippers team we've been and I'm sure we'll get back on track."



Thunder forward Kevin Durant (35) shoots over Los Angeles Clippers forward Matt Barnes in the fourth quarter of Game 2 of their Western Conference semifinal series in Oklahoma City on Wednesday. The Thunder won 112-101 to tie the best-of-7 series 1-1.

J.J. Redick scored 18 points, Paul had 17 points and 11 assists, and Blake Griffin added 15 points for the Clippers. Los Angeles made 15 of 29 three-pointers in Game 1, but just 9 of 27 in Game 2.

The Clippers will host Game 3 Friday in Los Angeles.

Durant scored 17 points in the first quarter to help the Thunder take a 37-28 lead. Paul, who scored 17 points in the first quarter of Game 1, went scoreless in the same period of Game 2 and watched most of the period from the bench with two fouls as the Thunder took control early.

Oklahoma City got an offensive boost from an unlikely source in the third quarter — Sefolosa, a

defensive stopper. He hit a mid-range jumper, then dunked after a steal by Westbrook to give the Thunder a 78-66 lead. Sefolosa dunked again, then a goal that led to a three-pointer by Westbrook and gave Oklahoma City a 90-73 advantage.

Sefolosa, who had averaged just 3.7 points in the playoffs, scored 12 points in the quarter to help the Thunder take a 94-77 lead into the fourth. Clippers coach Doc Rivers said he expected Durant and Westbrook to score, but not Sefolosa.

"We can win if they (Durant and Westbrook) both have good offensive games," Rivers said. "What we can't do is then give them that

plus everything else. And I thought that's what happened tonight."

Westbrook clinched his triple-double with 1:21 remaining when he was credited with an assist after a pass to Sefolosa, who took two dribbles on his drive to the basket.

Rivers said the Thunder were the aggressors.

"Every single possession, you have to have great focus and you have to be locked in, and today we were not," he said. "I thought it was because of all the clutter today. We're upset at the officials, we're upset at everything instead of turning our anger on the opponent and focus. Tonight we just didn't have it."



Indiana's Roy Hibbert (55) defends against Washington's John Wall (2) during Game 2 of their Eastern Conference semifinal series on Wednesday in Indianapolis. The Pacers won 86-82.

SPORTS



Wild one

Cooke's return from suspension adds toughness to Colorado | Page 60

NFL DRAFT

Role call

Small-school stars ready for big-stage spotlight

By MICHAEL MAROT
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS— Zach Moore and Larry Webster found unconventional ways to reach NFL draft weekend.

When Moore's subpar high school grades scared away big-time football schools from offering scholarships, the Chicago native enrolled at tiny Concordia University in Minnesota. Webster, the son of a former NFL player, spent three years starting on Bloomsburg's college basketball team before giving football a second shot in 2012.

League scouts still found them and next week, these two Division II stars could hear their names called out on the biggest stage of all, Radio City Music Hall.

"Not many of these people thought I would get this far," Moore said. "The knock always is the level of competition. They're always going to grill you for not facing Division I talent, but as they watch in film, they know I can play."

The scouts have increasingly found talent at smaller schools, making sure they don't miss out on the next big thing in football, even if it comes far from the spotlight.

Examples can be found everywhere.

Football Championship Subdivision alums Kurt Warner and Joe Flacco both earned Super Bowl rings after becoming starting quarterbacks, although Warner had to play in Arena Football and NFL Europe first.

Robert Mathis, who also played in the FCS, is the NFL's reigning sacks champ. Offensive lineman Jahri Evans has been to five Pro Bowls despite coming out of Bloomsburg. And three of the greatest players in NFL history — Brett Favre, the late Walter Payton and Jerry Rice — all played college ball in Mississippi, though none of the three played at an SEC school and only Favre played in the top level of college ball.

SEE SMALL ON PAGE 56

Professional scouts are increasingly finding talent at smaller Division II schools, giving hope to lesser-known but nonetheless talented players such as Bloomsburg defensive end Larry Webster (99) and Concordia defensive back Zach Moore (90) that they could be among those hearing their names called at the NFL draft.

AP PHOTOS

Inside:

■ Openly-gay pass-rusher Sam looking for a fair shot, Page 56

Westbrook nets triple-double, Durant one assist shy as OKC tops Clippers | Page 63

Multiple teams bringing undefeated records into DODDS finales | Page 54



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