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WEEKEND
EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC

THE CAPTAIN IS BACK

'Captain America' review and more
Movies, page 24-25



TRAVEL



Take a walk on the historic side in Israel's Jaffa

Page 30

BOOKS



Will HBO overtake 'Game of Thrones' series storyline?

Page 38

MLB



Braun, Peralta, Cruz bounce back after Biogenesis case

Back page

NATO eyes moving forces eastward

Alliance reviewing variety of options in effort to reassure allies, deter Russia

By JOHN VANDIVER AND SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

NATO's next move in response to the crisis in Ukraine is likely to be more of the same: more NATO fighters patrolling over the Baltics, more rotations of warships into the Black Sea and more surveillance of Russian movements around Ukraine.

Since Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula last month,

NATO has sought to reassure jittery members concerned about Moscow's suspected expansionist aims by boosting its presence in those countries that border Russia, Ukraine and Moldova, officials said.

"Essentially, what we are looking at is a package of land, air and maritime measures that would build assurance for our easternmost allies," Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO's supreme allied

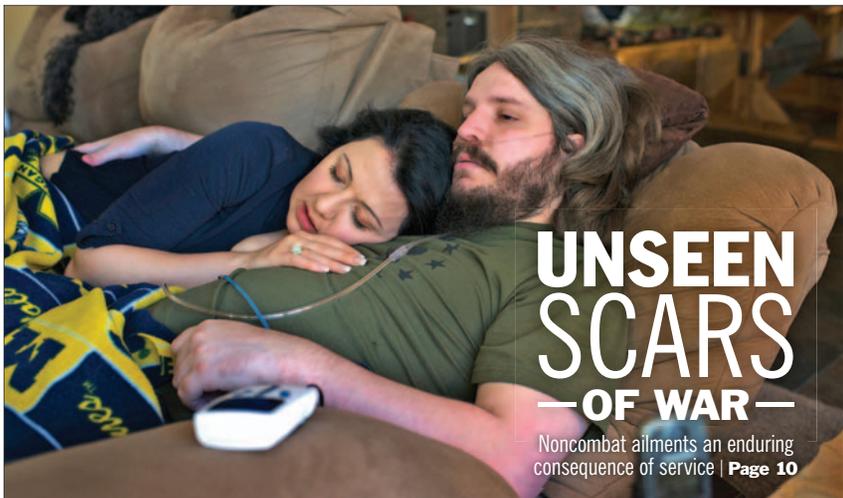
commander Europe and head of U.S. European Command, told The Associated Press in an interview Wednesday. "I'm tasked to deliver this by next week. I fully intend to deliver it early."

U.S. soldiers from the Texas-based 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division — the unit already designated as the U.S. contribution to the NATO Reaction Force — could be deployed to the region to train with allies in the east. How-

ever, such a move would be on a rotational basis rather than a permanent repositioning of an additional Army brigade in Europe, military officials said.

"Rotating them over to participate in an exercise is one of the many options on the table to reassure allies," said Col. Martin Downie, spokesman for Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

SEE NATO ON PAGE 2



UNSEEN SCARS
— OF WAR —

Noncombat ailments an enduring consequence of service | Page 10

MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Daniel Meyer, right, with wife Harmonie, rarely leaves his Las Vegas home these days. Meyer, a former staff sergeant in the Air Force, suffered lung damage that was traced to his time in Iraq, when he was ordered to shoot birds in a burning trash pit.

FORT HOOD SHOOTING » PAGE 4

A look inside the store where firearms used in 2 shootings were sold



Obama, Texas base mourn fallen soldiers at memorial service



QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"Their heroism, their courage, their bravery — that's what they're stealing."

— Lisa Pucino Haglof, who is seeking to strengthen the Stolen Valor Act after a man accused of stealing the identity of her brother, a Green Beret who died in Afghanistan, was charged with criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor

See story on Page 8

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ON STRIPES.COM

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1. Capt. William Swenson: Medal of Honor recipient rejoins Army
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5. NATO to focus on reassuring allies worried about Ukraine

COMING
SOON

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How one T. rex upended the fossil market

TODAY
IN STRIPES

American Roundup 19
Business 20
Classified 50-52
Comics 42, 46-47
Crossword 42, 46-47
Faces 43
Faith 16
Health & Fitness 40
Opinion 44-45
Quick Trips 28, 34
Sports 53-64
Weather 20
Weekend 21-42

MILITARY

Drinking episode costs general job, rank

By **ROBERT BURNS**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The two-star Air Force general fired last fall as commander of the nuclear missile corps because of alcohol-fueled misbehavior will retire in June at a lower rank, the Air Force said Thursday.

Maj. Gen. Michael Carey was commander of 20th Air Force, with responsibility for the entire fleet of 450 Minuteman 3 nuclear missiles, when he was fired last October following an official investigation of his actions while leading a U.S. government delegation to a nuclear security exercise in Russia last July.

Carey will retire as a brigadier general, one rank below major



Carey

general. He did not immediately respond to an Associated Press request for comment. Investigators determined that Carey had engaged in "inappropriate behavior," including heavy drinking, rudeness to his hosts and associating with "suspect" women, according to the investigative report made public in December.

After the Russia trip, a member of his delegation lodged a complaint about Carey's behavior. That person, described as a

female staff member in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, asserted to investigators that on the delegation's first night in Moscow, Carey was drinking and speaking loudly in a hotel lounge about how he was "saving the world" and that his forces suffer from low morale.

The investigators said Carey, whom they interviewed at length on Sept. 4, seemed to forget substantial portions of what happened in Russia. The report also said that at times he claimed up or gave testimony at odds with others in the delegation.

After being relieved of command, Carey was allowed to remain in the Air Force; he has been serving as a staff officer at Air

Force Space Command, where he has no responsibility for nuclear weapons. An Air Force spokesman, Maj. Matthew Haddon, said Carey's final duty day is Friday and he will retire June 1.

The decision to not allow him to retire in his current rank of major general was made by Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James.

Carey's firing was one of several setbacks for the nuclear force over the past year.

The Associated Press has documented serious security lapses and complaints of low morale and "rot" within the intercontinental ballistic missile force, as well as an independent assessment of "burnout" among a sampling of nuclear missile launch officers and junior security forces.

NATO: Ukrainian crisis could give alliance new lease on life

FROM FRONT PAGE

Other NATO options now under review include the deployment of aircraft to guard NATO airspace that borders Russia as well as planes capable of striking against ground forces. A more prominent naval presence in the Baltic and Black seas also could be an option for the alliance, military officials said.

As the crisis in Ukraine presses on, the U.S. and its allies in Europe are being forced to reconsider the security landscape in Europe during what many experts have described as perhaps the continent's most significant crisis in a generation.

In the short term, NATO's focus will be on ways to reassure allies and to deter any chance of Russian aggression on alliance territory — a move regarded by experts as highly unlikely. What's less clear is whether Moscow at some point will intervene in eastern Ukraine, where Russia has amassed thousands of troops along the border, rattling both Kiev and NATO.

Adm. James Stavridis, who served four years as NATO's SACRUR before retiring last year, said Breedlove's recommendations likely will focus on three core areas: posturing NATO for contingency operations, reassur-

ing allies and military cooperation with Ukraine.

Some specific steps could include activation of command-and-control centers within the NATO command structure, surveillance of Russian forces and events in Ukraine, and placing the NATO Response Force on alert, Stavridis told Stars and Stripes. Other likely actions in the region include moving aircraft, ships and troops into nations in the eastern part of the alliance, especially the Baltics and Poland, as well as conducting military exercises.

More support for Ukrainian forces could take many forms, including NATO military mentors and trainers, intelligence-sharing, the transfer of weapons and ammunition, and nonlethal assistance, such as night vision devices and communication gear, said Stavridis, who now serves as dean of the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

"I doubt they are looking seriously at boots on the ground or other combat options," he said, adding that the U.S. could be forced to take a harder look at its overall force posture in Europe in light of the crisis.

"I would guess the entire drawdown is being re-evaluated, and we may end up with three or even

four combat brigades back in Europe, as well as restoration of the combat aircraft cuts of recent years," Stavridis said.

During the next six months, U.S. European Command and U.S. authorities are likely "to look seriously at the U.S. ground and air footprint," he said. "Assuming decisions by the end of the year, effects would begin to be felt in 2015."

"If not a full-blown Cold War, we certainly look to be heading into a very frosty Cool War in the years ahead," Stavridis said.

Paradoxically, the Ukrainian crisis may help revitalize NATO and give it a new lease on life after its engagement in the long war in Afghanistan ends later this year.

Conceived originally as a bulwark against Soviet expansion in the 1940s and '50s, the alliance lost its main raison d'être with the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of its only external military threat. Since then, it has engaged in a series of military actions that had little to do with its original defensive purpose — such as the conflict in Kosovo, the bombing of Libya and anti-piracy patrols off the Somali coast — leading to widespread doubts about the future need for a trans-Atlantic military alliance.

So far, there has been no sign during the Ukraine crisis that Russia, whose defense budget is just 10 percent of NATO military spending, poses a military threat to any member nation. Still, the prospect of Russian military action in Ukraine has galvanized those in the alliance who say it represents the best reason for returning the organization to its original purpose.

NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen has said Russian actions in Ukraine threaten the post-Cold War order and pose a security threat to Europe as a whole.

On Thursday, Moscow responded, accusing Rasmussen of exploiting the crisis to justify the alliance's existence by conjuring up a nonexistent threat.

"The constant accusations against us (show) that the alliance is trying to use the crisis in Ukraine to rally its ranks in the face of an imaginary external threat to NATO members and to strengthen demand for the alliance ... in the 21st century," Russia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

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Medal of Honor recipient rejoins Army

By ADAM ASHTON

The (Tacoma, Wash.) News Tribune

Medal of Honor recipient Capt. William Swenson has rejoined the Army and has been assigned to Joint Base Lewis-McChord's 1 Corps, the corps spokesman said Wednesday.

Swenson's appointment to the corps plans office means that three of the six living military servicemembers who have received the Medal of Honor for actions of Afghanistan are now assigned to Lewis-McChord.

Swenson, Sgt. 1st Class Leroy Petry and Staff Sgt. Ty Carter are the only Medal of Honor recipients still on active duty.

The three of them were rec-

ognized last week at a ceremony in Olympia in which their names were added to the state's Medal of Honor monument. Petry and Carter wore dress uniforms to the event, while Swenson wore a civilian suit.

I Corps spokesman Col. Dave Johnson said Swenson joined the Lewis-McChord headquarters on March 14 as a captain.

Swenson, of Seattle, left the Army in 2011, two years after he repeatedly risked his life to recover the bodies of ambushed Marines and Afghan soldiers in Kumar Province. Five U.S. military servicemembers and nine of their Afghan partners lost their lives in the battle.

During the battle, Swenson coordinated combat aviation and

helicopter assets. He fought to rescue a wounded comrade, and delivered first aid under enemy fire.

He received the nation's highest military honor in an October ceremony at the White House, two years after Marine Dakota Meyer received a Medal of Honor for his role in the same battle.

A McClatchy investigation by

reporter Jonathan Landay, who was embedded with the troops during the ambush, showed that Swenson's nomination for the medal was delayed because the Army lost his paperwork.

Carter serves in Lewis-McChord's 7th Infantry Division. Petry soon is expected to retire from the 2nd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment.

Name of Marine shot at NC base released

The Associated Press

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The Marine killed in what authorities are describing as an apparently accidental shooting at a North Carolina military base has been identified as a 21-year-old Texan on sentry duty.

Lance Cpl. Mark N. Boterf, of Crowley, Texas, died after a single gunshot wound to the chest earlier in the week at the main entrance to the sprawling Camp Lejeune base, the Marine Corps said in a statement late Wednesday.

The statement from Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune added that Boterf — a member of the 2nd Radio Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group — was on temporary assignment as a Marine sentry. Boterf joined the Marine Corps in 2012 and had no deployment history, it added.

Camp Lejeune spokesman Capt. Joshua Smith said Wednesday that a Marine colleague died charged a single shot from his M4 rifle in a guard shack at the main base entrance Tuesday and remains in custody. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service is investigating.

The name of the shooter, who is male, hasn't been released. No charges have been filed at this time. There were other guards at the gate, but no one else was hurt, officials said.

On Wednesday, a Pentagon spokesman said Wednesday that the fatal shooting of a Marine on guard duty by a colleague at a North Carolina base appears to have been an accident.

Indications point to a "negligent discharge" as the cause of Tuesday's death in a guard shack at the main gate to Camp Lejeune. Department of Defense spokesman Army Col. Steven Warren told reporters.

It will take several weeks of examination to confirm that the shooting was accidental, base spokesman Nat Fahy has said in a statement.

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FORT HOOD SHOOTINGS

Community grieves again

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

FORT HOOD, Texas — The lives of the three soldiers killed in the mass shooting last week were defined by their love for the Army, and their last moments were defined by their love for their comrades, President Barack Obama said Wednesday at a memorial service in their honor.

Three thousand soldiers and families sat under a cloudless sky on the lawn in front of the III Corps headquarters building at Fort Hood, blocked from the road by shipping containers stacked three high. On the stage, three fallen soldier memorials provided a reminder of Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Carlos Lazaney-Rodriguez and Sgt. Timothy Owens, who authorities say were fatally shot by Spc. Ivan Lopez. Lopez turned the gun on himself.

Ferguson, who was engaged to be married, held a door closed as Lopez tried to push his way into an office, Obama said, saving the lives of others even as he sacrificed his own.

Owens, who helped counsel

other soldiers, was shot as he walked toward Lopez in an effort to calm him down, Obama said.

Lazaney-Rodriguez, who was just months away from retirement, was killed as he stood guard at a medical facility.

"The loss of these three soldiers is a terrible tragedy," said Gen. Ray Odierno, chief of staff of the Army. "Our job as leaders is to prepare our soldiers for the chaos of war. Yet somehow, the loss of comrades in the heat of battles is a risk we understand, and, with time, can accept."

That these losses happened on American soil makes them especially heartbreaking, Odierno said.

Soldiers can't help but feel echoes of 2009, Odierno said, when Maj. Nidal Hasan opened fire in a medical clinic at this post, killing 13 people and injuring 32 others.

Now, he said, "We must come together as an Army, as a community and as a nation, to learn from Wednesday's tragic events and support and heal one another."

The military must do more to identify the risk factors that lead to violence, he said, and to support the families and community that

is affected by it.

"We do not know why one soldier is strengthened by tough times, and another cannot see a way forward," Odierno said, "but we must and will be there for them."

Obama also called for a renewed commitment to keep troops safe, at home and abroad.

"In our open society, and at vast bases like this, we can never eliminate every risk. But as a nation, we can do more to help counsel those with mental health issues, to keep firearms out of the hands of those who are having such deep difficulties," Obama said. "As a military, we must continue to do every thing in our power to secure our facilities and spare others this pain."

Ferguson, 39, of Mulberry, Fla., served nearly 21 years in the Army and deployed to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. The avid Cowboys fan played several sports in high school, and, his fiancée told the president, the Army was his life.

Lazaney-Rodriguez, 38, of Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, came from a close-knit family, following in his father's footsteps by enlisting, Odierno said.

He was known as a meticulous



CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Mourners comfort each other Wednesday during the final roll call for soldiers killed in a shooting last week at Fort Hood, Texas.

soldier, "leading from the front, with a tough, but kind" nature, Odierno said.

Lazaney-Rodriguez served 19 years and deployed to Kuwait and Iraq.

A friend said he was "the epitome of what you would want a leader to be in the Army," Obama said.

Owens, 37, of Effingham, Ill., taught martial arts before he

joined the military and loved working on cars, according to military leaders and friends.

He served for 10 years, and deployed to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. "He would help out anybody. That's just how he was," Caycee Hauck, a friend of Owens', told reporters after the memorial.

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Small gun shop that sold weapon to Lopez is popular with soldiers

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

KILLEEN, Texas — Guns Galore, a small brick building on South Fort Hood Street, has a red-and-white awning under a sign with a rifle sight as the "O" in the store's name. The sides of the building are painted white, with signs promising 3,000 guns in stock and "1,700 plus on display."

Inside, rows of display cases are packed with carefully arranged handguns and handwritten prices, and rifles spaced inches apart reach up to the ceiling. Posters remind customers that it is illegal to buy a firearm for someone else, and remind parents that a gun store is no place for children.

Comic strips and memes are taped to the top of the counter. Behind it, a neon yellow sign warns "No idiots allowed."

This is where Spc. Ivan Lopez bought the .45-caliber Smith & Wesson he used in the April 2 mass shooting at Fort Hood. Maj. Nidal Hasan shopped at the same store in 2009, buying the FN-57 and two laser sights he used to kill 13 and injure more than 30 others at the same time, he said.

Guns Galore, which opened in 1999, is not the only place in town to buy a gun. It is popular with soldiers, and the extensive

stock means customers are likely to find what they want.

After the second rampage on the post, Ebert is wary of the media and quick to point out that the store is "not the story."

"We are a legitimate business," he said. "We follow the rules."

Buying a firearm

On Monday morning, soldiers in camouflage and older civilian men stood in the aisle nearest the counter, browsing the weapons and talking to the staff. A young soldier asked for help finding a new deer rifle, in anticipation of hunting season. A man in civilian clothes pored over the pistols.

The men working the counter greeted everyone who walked in the door, offering help and answering questions. Two soldiers in digital camouflage filled out the paperwork required by federal law to buy a gun.

The Firearms Transaction Record, a U.S. Department of Justice form, is required for all buyers. Questions include whether the buyer has been found mentally defective or insane, which means that he has completed a background check and provided information about his psychiatric, drug, alcohol and criminal history. For custom-



AP

Greg Ebert reported a transaction in 2011 that resulted in an arrest and conviction of an AWOL soldier.

ers who do not hold that license — including Lopez and Hasan — the salesman calls the FBI for a background check.

Texans can carry rifles or shotguns in plain view with no permit, but must have a permit to carry concealed handguns. Texans are not allowed to openly carry handguns.

Gun stores rely on the process to weed out those attempting to buy a weapon illegally. But they have no way of knowing if someone is being treated for mental health issues.

Ebert said he believes soldiers with mental health issues or under psychological evaluation should be flagged so that gun stores will know — after a background check — not to sell weapons to them. He said he knows there are concerns about at-

tempts to restrict individual rights, but he balanced that with a question:

Do you really want someone who is mentally unstable to have a gun?

Plot thwarted in 2011

Ebert has reported suspicious behavior in the past. In July 2011, he called authorities about Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, who, Ebert said then, wore sunglasses inside, acted aloof and didn't wait for his change or receipt.

Ebert told media at the time that Abdo bought an unusually large amount of smokeless gunpowder, three boxes of shotgun ammunition, and a magazine for a pistol.

He notified the police department, which tracked him to a local hotel. Abdo was later sentenced to life in prison for a plot to set off bombs and shoot soldiers at Fort Hood.

During Hasan's trial in August, Guns Galore owner Chad Cheade said Hasan's demeanor did not seem strange. He did make one unusual request, Cheade said: He asked the salesman to demonstrate assembling and disassembling the weapon so he could record it on his cellphone. Hasan was found guilty and sentenced to death.

On Wednesday, President Barack Obama said Americans must honor the memory of the three soldiers killed April 2 by renewing their commitment to keep troops safe, "not just in battle but on the home front, as well." That includes doing more for anyone suffering from mental illness, he said, and making sure "we never stigmatize those who have the courage to seek help."

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MILITARY

Test group given prototype cover for female sailors

Stars and Stripes

A prototype combination cover has been issued to a small test group of female sailors as part of a larger plan to redesign the female uniform to more closely match the male version.

The prototype cover resembles the male version but has a woman's head size and proportions in mind.

A test group of about 30 female sailors based in the Washington area were given the prototypes Tuesday and Wednesday and will wear them to evaluate fit and function, the Navy said in a statement. In the fall, the test will be expanded to a larger group of about 100 sailors.

After the trial period ends, the groups' feedback, as well as comments from observers, will be shared in an online survey and in focus groups.

Anyone who sees the female sailors' prototype covers and wishes to share their comments with the Navy can email their observations to usnpooler@gmail.com, the Navy statement said

Wednesday.

Late last year, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus approved a proposal to bring the dress blues worn by some enlisted women closer to those worn by men. The plan calls for a redesign of the service dress blue uniform for enlisted female sailors from seaman recruit through petty officer first class and the combination covers worn by female chief petty officers and above, according to the Navy.

"As you look out across a group of sailors, you ought to see not female and male Sailors, but sailors," Mabus said in the December announcement discussing the change.

The proposed redesign was made by Chief of Naval Personnel Vice Adm. Bill Moran, aided by an internal May 2013 uniform survey in which more than 1,000 female sailors were asked to weigh their satisfaction in wearing the male combination cover, dixie cut and winter jumper-style uniform.

news@stripes.com

USFK workers threaten strike over stagnant pay

By **ASHLEY ROWLAND**
AND **YOO KYONG CHANG**
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Thousands of South Koreans who work for the U.S. military could go on strike later this month to protest what union officials describe as stagnant wages, unstable jobs and unfair working conditions.

U.S. Forces Korea countered that it has followed appropriate procedures and pointed to its recent decision to fully fund the salaries of its Korean employees — most of whom are normally paid by South Korea — thus averting the furloughs of more than 12,000 Korean employees earlier this month.

Kim Song-yong, head of the USFK Korean Employees Union, said this week he doesn't know how many employees might take part in a strike, which would be timed to coincide with President Barack Obama's visit later this month. He wouldn't speculate how long it would last.

"We will fight until our requirements are fully satisfied and

until USFK complies with our requests," he said.

The union's 9,500 members are scheduled to vote April 14-16 on whether to strike, according to the union's website.

The National Assembly is preparing to meet in a special session this month that is expected to include a debate over a controversial defense cost-sharing agreement with the U.S.

Under the Special Measures Agreement, South Korea pays as much as 71 percent of salaries for Korean employees who work for USFK, while the U.S. pays the rest. However, the National Assembly has not ratified the latest SMA due to concerns about an increase in Seoul's contributions and a perceived lack of oversight of how USFK spends Korean-provided funds.

Had USFK not decided last month to provide full funding for their salaries, the Korean employees could have been furloughed beginning April 1.

"This decision reflects how much local national employees

are valued and demonstrates U.S. concern for maintaining force readiness to deter aggression and defend the ROK," the command said in a statement.

Choe Ung Sik, the union's general secretary, said that in addition to complaints about shortened work hours, employees want to strike because their wages have been frozen for the past three years, though they are supposed to increase this year.

"A wage freeze is the same as a wage cut," he said.

He also said plans are underway to replace some South Korean workers with U.S. civilians in violation of the Status of Forces Agreement. USFK says its staffing does not violate the SOFA.

USFK also said that because USFK's Korean workers are employed by the U.S. government, their salaries are subject to U.S. laws and regulations that include restrictions on annual raises. The command said it is evaluating pay adjustments for them.

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MILITARY

US pulls assets from Kony search

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Less than a month after sending a “limited number” of CV-22 Ospreys and refueling aircraft into central Africa to assist in the hunt for fugitive warlord Joseph Kony, the U.S. military is pulling those additional assets out of the mission, a top U.S. general said.

“In fact, they’ve just begun to move back out,” Africa Command Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters in Washington, according to a transcript of the briefing. In late March, 150 noncombat troops were sent to Uganda along with the tilt-rotor aircraft as part of an effort to bolster the effectiveness of regional forces

involved in the yearslong search for Kony and his Lord’s Resistance Army. The assets, which were on loan from U.S. Central Command, were described at the outset as temporary in nature.

Rodriguez did not rule out the return of Ospreys and other airlift capabilities to central Africa but said that it would depend on new intelligence and whether the assets were requested by the African Union regional task force, which is headed up by Uganda.

“The biggest challenge that the African Union regional task force is having is light mobility, to get after Kony and his leaders,” Rodriguez said Tuesday. “So we’ll again, support those efforts — as required,” he said.

The added aircraft and the troops that came with them were stationed in Uganda, but they were to be used in the areas of the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and South Sudan where the LRA has operated.

In 2011, President Barack Obama sent about 100 U.S. troops to several small military camps in central Africa to support regional militaries in areas such as training, intelligence gathering and operational planning.

Despite those efforts, the whereabouts of Kony remains unknown. Still, military officials say the mission has had some successes, including numerous high-level defections from the ranks of

the LRA, which today stands at only about 200 fighters.

Despite the multinational search, the LRA has proven hard to track, operating across some of Africa’s most remote territories in the vast border regions of South Sudan, the DRC and CAR. Much of the dense jungle terrain is roadless.

The number of people killed by the LRA, known for abducting children to serve as soldiers, has dropped by more than 75 percent since 2010, according to U.S. officials.

The LRA poses no direct threat to American interests but is potentially destabilizing for U.S. allies.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

VA hit on response to deaths of veterans

By LAUREN KIRKWOOD
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A House of Representatives committee blasted the Department of Veterans Affairs on Wednesday over a lack of progress and accountability in the aftermath of at least 23 preventable veteran deaths that were the result of delays in treatment at VA medical centers across the country.

One of the centers to come under heat was the William Jennings Bryan Dorn VA Medical Center in Columbia, S.C., where six patients died as a result of not receiving care they needed, according to a VA report.

In the third full House Committee on Veterans Affairs hearing on patient safety, Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the panel, along with other lawmakers, expressed frustration with the VA’s unresponsiveness to requests for information. Those included the steps the department has taken to discipline those responsible, as well as how funding meant to reduce backlogs and improve care has been spent.

In a report released Monday, the VA said it has identified 76 patients in its health care system whose care warranted an “institutional disclosure,” or a formal notification that a problem with the patient’s VA care is expected to result in death or serious injury.

Of those 76 patients, 23 died, and the deaths were primarily the result of delays in gastrointestinal care, the report said. The report did not state when the patients died.

Miller called the testimony that VA officials submitted to the committee “ridiculous.”

“It concerns me that my staff has been asking for further details on the deaths that occurred as a result of delays in care at VA medical facilities for months, and only two days before this hearing did the VA provide the information we have been asking for,” he said.

Barry Coates, an Army veteran who sought care at the Dorn VA Medical Center, testified about his experience with delays in the VA system that ultimately led to his death. He had been treated for colorectal, liver and lung cancers.

Navy returns seafaring family to port

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — The family of four with a seriously ailing 1-year-old had already struggled for days aboard their 36-foot sailboat by the time skydiving National Guardsmen answered their distress call from hundreds of miles off the Mexican coast.

“They were elated, they were ecstatic,” when the four paramedic men jumped 1,500 feet out of an aircraft into the open sea to reach them and stabilize the child, Capt. Lejon Boudreaux, combat rescue officer for the California Air National Guard, said Wednesday after the family was delivered safely to San Diego.

Eric and Charlotte Kaufman along with their daughters Cora, 3, and Lyra, 1, had been on a round-the-world cruise when Lyra’s illness forced them to call for help.

Even with the arrival of the rescuers, their ordeal on the open Pacific Ocean was hardly over.

For the next 3½ days the family and the crewmembers huddled together on the disabled boat as 8-foot waves pounded them. The boat took on water.

By the time a Navy warship reached the Rebel Heart, strong winds and rough seas kept sailors from reaching them for hours.

A helicopter pilot from the warship the USS Vandegrift said visibility was so poor he requested a flare signal to pinpoint the sailboat.

When sailors from the Vandegrift finally reached the sailboat Sunday morning, waves forced them to offload one person at a time to a pitching rescue boat. The effort took two hours.

“Stand on top of a 6-foot ladder, have a friend throw a bucket of saltwater in your face, rinse and repeat for two hours.” Boat-swin’s Mate 2nd Class Jan Matthew Gabriel said in describing the conditions.

On the rescue boat started speeding toward the frigate, Cora



COURTESY OF THE U.S. NAVY/AP

The Kaufman family disembarks from the USS Vandegrift on Wednesday at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego following their rescue at sea on Sunday.

began to laugh in amazement.

“The 3-year-old was having a ball. She thought it was the most fun thing ever and the rest of us were white-knuckled,” Lt. Junior Grade Chris Cheezum said. The sailboat had to be sunk. The family was able to save only a few of their belongings.

Despite their ordeal, the family looked like typical vacationers in a photo released by the Navy after the ship docked at Naval Air Station North Island. Father Eric was dressed in shorts and a baseball cap while lugging bags, and his wife walking behind, holding Lyra in a strap-on carrier and grasping Cora’s hand.

The Kaufmans’ decision to sail around the world with two young children drew accusations of recklessness from some observers and praise from others for their courageous spirit. Crit-

ics also urged the government to bill the family for the rescue expenses.

The Kaufmans first want to tend to Lyra and get some rest before talking publicly, Charlotte Kaufman’s sister, Sarah, English, said.

The couple sent a statement from the ship on Sunday defending their actions, saying “when we departed on this journey more than a year ago, we were then and remain today confident that we prepared as well as any sailing crew could.”

Eric Kaufman is a Coast Guard-licensed captain.

When they first set off from San Diego on their cruise, Charlotte Kaufman was pregnant with Lyra. They stopped in Mexico for the birth.

The baby had salmonella in Mexico but her pediatrician had

assured them she was over it and safe to travel when they set off again on their voyage last month, English said.

Shortly into the trip, she started showing symptoms and did not respond to antibiotics. Then the Rebel Heart lost its steering and communication abilities. The Kaufmans used a satellite phone to call the Coast Guard for help April 3.

“She wasn’t quite on death’s door yet, but a couple more days she would’ve been,” Master Sgt. Klay Bendle, one of the paramedics, said after returning to base at Moffett Airfield in Northern California.

“They were really appreciative. They were actually surprised that America would spend the effort and the time and dollars and possible lives to go and help them out,” Bendle said.

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MILITARY

Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Jungle patrol in Vietnam

The Stars and Stripes Archive Photo of the Day of the 173rd Airborne Brigade on patrol in Vietnam in 1965 struck a chord with readers on Facebook. A Stars and Stripes story about the 173rd described the jungle as "hot, sultry and dangerous; where you walk 10 yards to go forward five; where the enemy can be 30 feet away, hidden by the foliage ..."

Vietnam 1966-67 part 1968

then back again in 1970 part of 1971 total of three years and nine months. ...the rice paddies were awful; you sank to your chest at times ... the jungles were hot ... hard to breathe...dark as midnight ... but we were Brothers, Warriors willing to pay for the Price of FREEDOM.Blood ...Sweat and TEARS ... GOD BLESS THE USA.

— William Starnes Sr.

My husband Jerry Ferguson was with the 173rd Airborne and was KIA 13 June 1968 and our son, only child, was born 24 December 1968, a very bittersweet time ... His son looks just like him...

— Judy Wallace Ferguson Scofield

We should have honored our Vietnam vets with pride, not [made] them feel like they did wrong.

— Debbie Dumlur

Any war is a shame, but not those who fought it. That's called being a soldier and doing your job. God bless those who served and God hold those who never returned.

— James Stallions

I've heard vets from that war tearfully say the only sound on earth as sweet and comforting as a mother's heartbeat is that of the B52s coming over the horizon.

— DelRay Rokke

It was a scary time. ...Vietnam vets



MIKE MEALEY/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade slosh through a stream during a jungle patrol in South Vietnam in May 1965. A Stars and Stripes story about the 173rd described the jungle as "hot, sultry and dangerous; where you walk 10 yards to go forward five; where the enemy can be 30 feet away, hidden by the foliage; where you pick your feet up almost to your knees to keep from tripping on vines; where you sit down for a break only to be covered by insects, such as ants a quarter-inch long."

were met only by war protesters and jeers of "traitor." They also brought back physical and emotional scars; not even the military services acknowledged or recognized PTSD.

— Linda Denny

They were pretty much in a war like our veterans are right now, except this time people are behind them. It's the government we have the problem with.

— Mark A Parsons

It was a horrible war and a horrible homecoming and all we can do is say we are sorry.

— Robin Wolfinger Gioquindo

Find this and other archive photos: stripes.com/go/vietjungle

Sergeant sentenced in downrange jet fuel theft

GREENVILLE, N.C. — A U.S. Army sergeant from a Fort Bragg-based unit was sentenced to five years in prison for helping to steal more than 180,000 gallons of jet fuel from a military base in Afghanistan, according to the United States Attorney's office in eastern North Carolina.

During a 2012 deployment, Sgt. 1st Class James Edward Travis, of

the 4th Battalion in the 3rd Special Forces Group, paid another soldier to escort an Afghan driver with a tanker truck onto Forward Operating Base Sharana on multiple occasions, officials said. The other soldier would load fuel onto the tanker and escort the driver off the base, officials said. The stolen fuel had an estimated value of about \$422,000, the attorney's office said in a press release.

From wire reports

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MILITARY



ALEX WONG/AP

U.S. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, right, is presented with a horse as a gift Thursday by Mongolian Defense Minister Bat-Erdene Dashdenberel at the Mongolian Ministry of Defense in Ulan Bator, Mongolia.

Hagel seeks to boost ties with Mongolia

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

ULAN BATOR, Mongolia — After days of high-profile, pressure-filled meetings, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel got to horse around a bit during a short stop in Mongolia on Thursday.

Following a time-honored tradition, Mongolian Defense Minister Bat-Erdene Dashdenberel presented Hagel with a buckskin-colored horse in a ceremony in front of that country's defense ministry. Hagel, who was wrapping up a 10-day trip to the Asia-Pacific region, named the horse Shamrock.

Tradition dictates the 9-year-old gelding be named after something of importance to the recipient, Hagel said. "Shamrock was the mascot of the high school that I graduated from, St. Bonaventure in Columbus, Neb.," he said. "It was one of the most important times of my life."

Shamrock will stay in Mongolia, where he has been serving in the cavalry's honor guard battalion. No one will ever ride the horse but Hagel, officials said.

"Now you be good while I'm gone," Hagel said as he patted the stocky horse.

Hagel is the second defense

secretary in recent years to receive one of the Mongolian horses, which are bred for endurance. Then-Pentagon chief Donald Rumsfeld also got one when he visited Mongolia in October 2005.

The gift to Hagel reflected the congenial tone of the day, as the secretary and Bat-Erdene signed an agreement that calls for expanding U.S. military training and exercises with Mongolia. The agreement signed by Hagel noted that Mongolia "serves as a stabilizing influence in Asia and is seeking to modernize its military in a transparent fashion."

Landlocked with 2.8 million people spread over an area twice the size of Texas, Mongolia is dwarfed by China, but also relies on the Asian nation for much of its economy. It has worked to maintain its independence from Beijing and Moscow by increasing its ties to other world powers, including the U.S. and Japan.

Mongolian troops have been a visible and frequent force in Iraq and Afghanistan, often providing security at U.S. facilities. There are about 10,000 active-duty Mongolian troops, and to date, 9,500 have served in Iraq, in Afghanistan or on other peacekeeping missions around the world.

NCOs: Slow compensation to save forces' readiness

By TOM PHILPOTT

Military leaders lead. Politicians can lead too, of course, but usually before sticking a wet finger into the wind to learn how political winds blow.

The contrast was evident Wednesday as top enlisted leaders delivered a kind of suck-it-up-and-punch-us message to a group of nervous senators.

The armed services personnel associations wanted to know how military quality of life would be affected if Congress votes to cap the annual pay raise again, and also to dampen housing allowance increases, to allow commissary prices to jump and to raise medical fees for families and retirees.

As background to this discussion, recall how Congress lacked the will to compromise on a grand plan to address the nation's debt crisis in 2011. Instead it adopted an automatic budget cutting mechanism — sequestration — that in 2013 began to make deep, indiscriminate cuts in defense spending, putting force readiness into a tailspin.

The message Wednesday from the enlisted leader panel, and from an earlier panel of the services' three-star personnel chiefs, was this: If lawmakers won't take the harder path to repeal sequestration, but particularly those scheduled for 2016 and beyond, they should at least ensure cuts are applied in a balanced way to protect training and readiness. Regrettably, that means taking the unpopular course military leaders lay out in the fiscal 2015 budget of slowing growth in compensation programs.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Micheal P. Barrett told the subcommittee that Marines are ready to take the hits. But for gosh sakes, get on with it so there's no doubt they stay trained and ready for the next fight.

Marines aren't focused on "compensation, benefits or retirement modernization," Barrett said. They have a "bias for ac-

MILITARY UPDATE

tion" and measure quality of life by number deployments and the rigor of training.

"They want to know into whose neck do we put a boot next," Barrett said. "They want to know about what new equipment are we getting. Are we going to modernize? Just because the budget sucks, does that mean we're not going to get any more gear? Are we going to stay ahead of our competitors?"

All of that could be at risk in the current budget environment if pay raises and health benefit costs aren't kept in check, Barrett testified.

"In my 33 years, I have never seen this level of quality of life ever. We have never had it so good," he said. "And I say that,

in part, because if we don't get a hold of slowing the growth [in compensation], we will become an entitlements-based, a health care provider-based corps, and not a war-fighting organization."

He said the administration's plan to impose another 1 percent pay cap in January "makes sense because our quality of life is good."

Dampening increases to Basic Allowances for Housing the next several years, until servicemembers are paying 5 percent of off-base rental costs out of pocket, will force families to show more fiscal discipline, to adopt better spending habits and not to "be so wasteful," Barrett said.

Streamlining Tricare from three options down to one plan

will save administrative costs, he said, and cutting the commissary subsidy will encourage development of a better business model for base grocery stores.

"But in the grand scheme of things, if we don't get a hold of [personal costs], it's going to impact our war-fighting capability. It's going to impact our investment for the next challenge ... [We] might be done in Afghanistan, but the people we're fighting, they're not done with us. And we need to be more prepared for what's around the corner."

Earlier this day and in other recent hearings on the 2015 defense budget, members of armed services committee noted how sequestration required tough choices and how readiness could fall if some compensation dollars weren't used instead for training, maintenance and modernization.

Before Barrett spoke, several senators said they favored delaying any curbs on compensation until after the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission releases its report next February.

Barrett and colleagues might have swayed a few minds that waiting puts force readiness at greater risk, a point also made emphatically by Comptroller Robert Hale and other senior defense officials in recent weeks.

Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, told Barrett his response to the question on quality of life was "one of the best I've heard" as a senator.

"You were crisp and captured the essence of the dilemma. No body here wants to cut pay or do anything else" to military compensation, King said. "The problem is we're in a zero-sum world, and the testimony we had from the department two weeks ago was that this is a \$21 billion-year proposition — \$30 billion over five years — and that money will come right out of readiness if we don't make these changes."

To comment, write Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centreville, VA, or email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.



Barrett

Family fights to protect fallen soldier's memory, identity

By C. RYAN BARBER

(Hyannis, Mass.) Cape Cod Times

SAGAMORE BEACH, Mass — On the evening of Dec. 2, Lisa Pucino Haglof logged into her Facebook account to find a cryptic message in her inbox.

"This thing tried to blind me," the message read, followed by a link to an account.

Pucino Haglof did not know the sender. But after clicking on the link, she immediately recognized the man in the photographs as Army Staff Sgt. Matthew Pucino — the younger brother she had protected all her life, the Green

Beret who had died four years earlier on his third tour of duty in Afghanistan, the youngest of the three siblings.

"I said, 'What is this?' I didn't know who the person was. I clicked on the link, and obviously it was a fake Facebook page. It had Matthew's pictures on it, but I knew it wasn't him," she said.

The next month, police in a town outside Buffalo, N.Y., arrested Brandon Ashraf, 28, who was accused of criminal impersonation, a misdemeanor, in using Pucino's identity on Facebook and on dating websites.

Family members were grateful for the Cheektowaga investiga-

tion, which police said confirmed an allegation brought by Melissa Pucino, the youngest of the three siblings.

They wanted a stiffer penalty, however, for the charge of stealing a soldier's identity. But their push to change the law in honor of their fallen brother has found one obstacle in a recent Supreme Court ruling.

A law called the Stolen Valor Act makes a federal crime out of falsely claiming to have military decorations, but it is not as broad as its predecessor. In 2012, the Supreme Court struck down a 2005 version of the law on First

Amendment grounds, prompting Congress to pass a narrower version that President Barack Obama signed last year.

The latest version applies only to cases in which there is an "intent to obtain money, property or other tangible benefit." Violators could face a fine, up to a year in prison or both.

When he allegedly passed himself off as Matthew Pucino to two women on the PlentyOFFish dating website, Ashraf had no apparent financial motive, meaning the Stolen Valor Act did not apply. So the Pucino family pushed to have broader language returned to the

law.

"This is the Stolen Valor Act," Pucino Haglof said. "It doesn't say stolen money, stolen tangible items, stolen monetary values. It's talking about Matthew and every other soldier that someone has impersonated out there."

"Their heroism, their courage, their bravery — that's what they're stealing. For someone to take Matthew's identity and steal it, to the women that he's portraying himself to, they're tarnishing his name, his memories."

"It's disgraceful. And that's why it needs to be changed."

NATION

Police seeking motive in teen's school attack

By KEVIN BEGOS
AND JOE MANDAK
The Associated Press

MURRYSVILLE, Pa. — Police are still trying to determine why a 16-year-old boy stabbed 21 students and a security guard in the crowded halls of his suburban Pittsburgh high school before an assistant principal tackled him.

At least five students were critically wounded in the attack Wednesday, including a boy whose liver was pierced by a knife thrust that narrowly missed his heart and aorta, doctors said. Others also suffered deep abdominal puncture wounds.

The rampage, which came after decades in which U.S. schools geared much of their emergency planning toward mass shootings, not stabbings — set off a screaming stampede, left blood on the floor and walls, and brought teachers rushing to help the victims.

The suspect, Alex Hribal, was taken into custody and treated for

a minor hand wound, then was brought into court in shackles and a hospital gown and charged with four counts of attempted homicide and 21 counts of aggravated assault.

He was jailed without bail, and authorities said he would be prosecuted as an adult. As for what set off the attack, Murrysville Police Chief Thomas Seefeld said investigators were looking into reports of a threatening phone call between the suspect and another student the night before. Seefeld didn't specify whether the suspect received or made the call.

The FBI joined the investigation and went to the boy's house, where authorities said they planned to confiscate and search his computer.

At the brief hearing, District Attorney John Peck said that after he was seized, Hribal made comments suggesting he wanted to die.

Defense attorney Patrick



KEITH SRANOCIC/AP

Alex Hribal, the suspect in the stabbings at Franklin Regional High School near Pittsburgh, is taken from a district magistrate after he was arraigned on charges in the attack on Wednesday.

Thomassey described Hribal as a good student who got along with others, and asked for a psychiatric examination.

Thomassey told ABC's Good Morning America on Thursday that any defense he offers would likely be based on Hribal's mental health. He said he hoped to move the charges against the teenager to juvenile court, where he could be rehabilitated.

If convicted as an adult, Hribal faces likely decades in prison.

The attack unfolded in the morning just minutes before the

start of classes at 1,200-student Franklin Regional High School, in an upper-middle-class area 15 miles east of Pittsburgh.

It was over in about five minutes, during which the boy ran wildly down about 200 feet of hallway, slashing away with knives about 10 inches long, police said.

Assistant Principal Sam King finally tackled the boy and disarmed him, and a police officer who is regularly assigned to the school handcuffed him, police said. King's son told The Associated Press that his father was

treated at a hospital, though authorities said he was not knifed.

In addition to the 22 stabbed or slashed, two people suffered other injuries, authorities said. The security guard, who was wounded after intervening early in the melee, was not seriously hurt.

"There are a number of heroes in this day. Many of them are students," Gov. Tom Corbett said during a visit to the stricken town. "Students who stayed with their friends and didn't leave their friends."

Encryption flaw highlights chaotic nature of the Internet

The Washington Post

A major flaw revealed this week in widely used encryption software has highlighted one of the enduring — and terrifying — realities of the Internet: It is inherently chaotic, built by multitudes and continuously tweaked, with nobody in charge of it all.

The Heartbleed bug, which security experts first publicly re-

vealed on Monday, was a product of the online world's makeshift nature. While users see the logos of big, multimillion-dollar companies when they shop, bank and communicate over the Internet, nearly all of those companies rely on free software — often built and maintained by volunteers — to help make those services secure.

Heartbleed, security experts say, was lodged in a section of

code that had been approved two years ago by a developer that helps maintain OpenSSL, a piece of free software created in the mid-1990s and still used by companies and government agencies almost everywhere.

While the extent of the damage caused by the bug may never be known, the possibilities for data theft are enormous. At the very

least, many companies and government agencies will have to replace their encryption keys, and millions of users will have to create new passwords on sites where they are accustomed to seeing the small lock icon that symbolizes online encryption.

"This was old code," said Christopher Soghoian, principal technologist for the American Civil Liberties Union. "Everyone de-

pends on it. And I think that just everyone assumed that somebody else was dealing with it."

The flaw could allow hackers to access encrypted data online, including user names, passwords, credit card numbers and Social Security numbers.

Companies and government agencies have been scrambling for days to correct the flaw by updating software.

Sauce plant called nuisance

The Associated Press

IRVINDALE, Calif. — A Southern California city has declared the factory that produces the popular Sriracha hot sauce a public nuisance.

The Irwindale City Council's action Wednesday night gives the factory 90 days to make changes to stop the spicy odors that prompted complaints from some residents last fall. Declaring a public nuisance will allow city officials to enter the factory and make changes if the odors persist after the deadline.

The decision came despite testimony by air-quality experts that progress was being made toward a resolution. The South Coast Air Quality Management District said its inspectors have taken air samples inside the plant, and be-

lieved the information gathered should allow the factory and the city to resolve their differences.

Attorney John Tate, who represents Sriracha maker Huy Fong Foods, Inc., said the company had been working with the AQMD on its filtration system since the complaints first arose and was committed to finding long-term solutions by June 1.

He called the public nuisance declaration a demonstration of "the city flexing its muscle and thumbing Huy Fong in the eye." Irwindale sued Huy Fong Foods last October, asking a judge to halt production at the company's factory, saying residents downwind complained that fumes from the grinding of red hot chili peppers was stinging their eyes and giving them headaches and coughing fits.

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UNSEEN SCARS

SERVICE-RELATED INJURIES OUTSIDE OF COMBAT TAKING A TOLL ON VETERANS



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Army Sgt. 1st Class James Crowell does his morning stretches outside the barracks at Fort Benning, Ga., to alleviate pain from injuries suffered in a fall off a roof and a Humvee accident in Iraq as well as from wearing heavy body armor.

By RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN ■ *The Washington Post*

Army sniper James Crowell went to war 70 inches tall. He returned home an inch shorter and in constant pain, his spine compressed by the collective trauma of a rooftop fall, a Humvee accident and his heavy body armor, worn almost every day on four deployments.

Billy Birdzell spent eight years in the Marine Corps, half of them in the elite Special Operations command, "running at 8,000 rpm." Racked by insomnia and bouts of intense anger once he exited the military, he discovered that combat stress had wreaked havoc on his hormones.

Chase Villavicencio, a Marine communications specialist, tumbled off a ladder and struck his head as he sought to escape a Taliban mortar barrage in southern Afghanistan three years ago. Since then, he has been suffering from wrenching migraines, bouts of dizziness, spells of intense anger and memory loss.

Daniel Meyer, a former Air Force staff sergeant, inhaled lungful after lungful of acrid smoke as he followed orders to shoot scavenging birds inside a cavernous pit of burning trash on a base in Iraq. Now he's back home in Nevada, and his lungs are failing. He lives his days tethered to an oxygen tube.

Because their injuries were not the direct result of an enemy attack, Crowell, Birdzell, Villavicencio and Meyer were not awarded Purple Heart medals, nor do they show up in the Defense Department's tally of nearly 62,000 servicemembers wounded in action in Iraq and Afghanistan. But their ailments, and similar nonhostile injuries suffered by legions of fellow troops, have become a profound and enduring consequence of the wars.

"War is brutal on the body," said Crowell, a sergeant first class who was stationed in some of the most dangerous parts of Iraq and Afghanistan. "I'll feel it in my back for the rest of my life."

Of the 2.6 million servicemembers dispatched to fight the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, more than half say their physical or mental health is worse

than before they deployed, according to a poll conducted by The Washington Post and the Kaiser Family Foundation. But most of those health problems are not the result of gunshots, grenades and roadside bombs: Almost eight in 10 of those reporting health problems — about 1 million of them — say they were not seriously injured in combat.

Their wounds stem from the chaos and grind of modern war, the cost of saddling one's frame with a bulky armored vest and extra clips of ammunition, the failure to provide basic safety gear, the mistakes that occur when hulking vehicles are driven by sleep-deprived troops; the ear-drum-rattling blasts of gunfire and artillery.

During the entire Iraq War, which stretched for almost nine years, the military conducted more medical evacuations by air for troops who had nonhostile

wounds than those injured in combat.

The Post-Kaiser survey found a deterioration of physical health in 43 percent of veterans and worsened mental health in almost a third. Among those who served in combat jobs, the changes are even more significant: 56 percent say their physical health is worse, and nearly four in 10 say their mental health has slipped. Rates of health problems are significantly higher in those who deployed for three or more years.

The poll is roughly in line with other research on the health consequences of the wars. A 2008 Army study of soldiers in two combat brigades who deployed to Iraq for a year found that one-third had been physically injured and that almost 44 percent met the military's criteria for post-traumatic stress.

In many cases, noncombat injuries have not impeded veterans from continuing their

military careers or pursuing fulfilling civilian lives. And they recognize that their wounds can seem like mere scratches compared with those of comrades who have lost limbs or eyes or are suffering from a severe traumatic brain injury.

But their ailments nonetheless can be life-altering — chronic pain, fits of anger, sleeplessness, incessant ringing in the ears — and have added to the ongoing cost of the wars. Of those no longer serving in the military, 45 percent have sought compensation for service-related disabilities, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Thirty-seven percent of them have been deemed disabled enough to receive lifelong payments, a figure that could increase as the department works through a mountain of unprocessed claims.

Other Iraq and Afghanistan veterans may not feel the impact of their service for years. For those who fought in the last century's major wars, requests for disability care and compensation did not peak until three decades after the conflicts ended.

“
THE ARMY
PUTS
ANOTHER
10 YEARS
ON YOU,
WHETHER
YOU LIKE
IT OR NOT.

— Army Sgt.
1st Class
James Crowell

SEE SCARS ON PAGE 11

UNSEEN SCARS

Scars: Military service's physical toll manifests itself in different ways

FROM PAGE 10

The Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts may have their own unique health legacy. Thousands of troops who walked away from roadside bomb blasts, because of luck or mine-resistant trucks or both, may nonetheless have suffered moderate brain injuries that could cause long-term health consequences.

"We don't yet know the extent" of the health effects of the traumatic brain injury, said David Cifu, the VA's national director of physical medicine and rehabilitation, who is leading a large national study that aims to measure the impact of battlefield concussions over several decades. Preliminary research, he said, suggests that troops exposed to persistent stress—as tens of thousands were in both wars—may be more susceptible to lasting damage from brain injuries.

"They're more vulnerable because they never had a chance to heal," Cifu said.

Even for those who do not claim to be injured, the wars have exacted a discernible physical toll. An Army assessment found a spike in cases of high blood pressure and elevated heart rates among incoming majors at the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., most of whom are in their early 30s but have had multiple combat deployments.

"Many of them were testing a decade older than they were," said a senior Army officer who had been at the college when the tests were conducted and spoke on the condition of anonymity so he could discuss the issue candidly. "It was the stress and strain of combat."

"I used to be quite blunt with them," he said. "I told them, 'Unless you sleep better, eat better and exercise more, you're not going to have the life expectancy of an average male or female.'"

Living with a busted back

At 7:30 on a chilly Saturday morning, Jim Crowell pulled on a drab green cap, zipped up a gray windbreaker and ambled onto the empty winter-brown parade field next to his barracks at Fort Benning, Ga. With no mandatory physical training on weekends, he could have slept late in his warm room with his fellow soldiers in the chow hall. But Crowell, 32, afforded himself no dispensation.

He bent forward slowly, his fingers inching toward the ground. His back tightened. Muscles burned. Joints creaked.

If he stayed inside, if he took the day off, he'd feel a little better in the morning. A sharp pain would explode in his lower back, radiating down his leg.

"It'll take 25 percent of my day," he said as he switched to a series of bend-and-reach exercises, starting with his arms raised over his head and ending with them touching the ground. "I won't be able to focus. My attention span will be there."

The pain began almost 11 years ago, on a sweltering summer night in south Baghdad. He and a fellow soldier from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division had been skulking across rooftops, tracking insurgents through their night-vision goggles, when his Kevlar helmet was unbalanced by the weight of his scope, slid down over his face. Crowell fell backward, sliding off the roof and crashing into a garbage can in the alleyway below.

He picked himself up and kept on moving, worried that a call for help would reveal his location to insurgents.

When he got back to his base the next day, he brushed off a visit to the medical tent. He



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Former Marine Capt. Billy Birdzell, now a fundraiser for the National Rifle Association, says years of service left him suffering from bouts of anger and sleeplessness as well as a bad back and sore knees.



A LOT OF OUR PSYCHOLOGY IS A FUNCTION OF OUR BIOCHEMISTRY. IF WE NUKE OUR BIOCHEMISTRY AT WAR, HOW CAN OUR PSYCHOLOGY BE CORRECT?

— Former Marine Capt. Billy Birdzell

figured the discomfort would go away.

It did, for a while. Then, a few years later, it came raging back.

He didn't want to pop pain pills, so he cobbled together his own solution. Army regulation morning stretches mixed with yoga and tai chi poses he taught himself by watching videos on the Internet. And a few unorthodox moves.

He placed his hands behind his back and pulled them down firmly. His back cracked once, then twice.

"Feels better," he sighed. "Maybe it will lead to arthritis, but I need relief. It stood up straight."

"Feel like I'm 69½ inches tall now."

He sat down, legs apart, and crawled his fingers toward his yellow-soled New Balance sneakers. His quadriceps began to sting.

"If only it was just the roof," he said.

"That was only the beginning." A year after the roof fell, in 2004, he volunteered to join a unit heading to Ramadi, then one of the most dangerous parts of Iraq. Once again, night-vision goggles led to a battering.

He was riding in the back of an Army truck at night when the driver became disoriented by a flash of light. The truck careened into a ditch. Crowell fell backward and jammed his back on a metal pole used to mount machine guns. This time when he returned to his base, he went to see the medics.

"They said, 'Oh, you're good. You're fine.'"

Rest might have helped, but Ramadi

wasn't the place for it. He regularly had to strap on 80 pounds of gear: his flak vest, a helmet, a rifle, water and 10 magazines of ammunition because "in Ramadi, you got into firefights every day."

When he returned to the United States, a military doctor told him that he had fractured two disks in his lower back. Post-traumatic stress, fueled by the death of a platoon-mate, had fried his short-term memory and left him prone to fits of rage. Migraines sparked by blast-induced brain trauma flattened him for hours at a stretch. Counseling helped. As did sudoku puzzles. He took up sewing and spent more time pencil-sketching aircraft. But it's all for naught if he doesn't hit the field in the morning.

He twisted his back to the left, then to the right. His back popped a third time. A deep breath later, as the rising sun cast long shadows over the field, he assumed a plank pose.

"The Army puts another 10 years on you, whether you like it or not." Thirty minutes and several stretches later, he pronounced his back "as good as I'm going to get it." Not perfect. Not by far. When he sits, he has to slouch to reduce to pain. If he sits too long, his leg will fall asleep.

"Difficulty becomes the norm," he said as he walked back into the barracks. "But it could be worse."

His mind wanders to two other noncommissioned officers in the leadership course he is attending at Benning. Both lost legs in bomb blasts. He thinks of a squad-mate

in the 82nd Airborne who was struck by a rocket-propelled grenade in Baghdad.

"A lot worse."

Fixing body chemistry

As the needles slid into his ankles, Billy Birdzell stuck in a puff of air. "Wow. That was a good one."

Bob Duggan, his silver-haired acupuncture therapist in Columbia, Md., nodded and walked to Birdzell's side, brandishing two more pins. Duggan pushed one into Birdzell's left pectoral. Another into the right.

"You OK with those?" Duggan asked.

"It opens me up," Birdzell replied.

"Be peaceful."

That has been an elusive state for Birdzell. When he got out of the Marine Corps in 2009, he couldn't sleep. He felt hazy during the day. He picked fights at the slightest provocation. His mind raced with thoughts of war. His back and knees throbbled.

A VA doctor diagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder and told him to see a psychologist. Birdzell was doubtful. He had been through grueling years in the Marines, including combat deployments to Iraq. But he questioned whether the source of his anger and insomnia was rooted in more than his brain's software. Was it, he wondered, a hardware problem?

His brother urged him to have his hormone levels checked. So Birdzell spit into four vials over the course of a day and shipped them off to a lab in Colorado.

SEE PAGE 12

UNSEEN SCARS

FROM PAGE 11

The results, delivered on five faxed pages, revealed that his adrenal cortex was, as he put it, "stretched." His level of cortisol, a hormone that helps to regulate the immune system and blood sugar and is affected by stress, was abnormally low in the morning and at noon, and higher than it should be at night. Those figures, according to the lab report, helped to explain his sluggishness during the day and his inability to sleep at night.

Birdzell, then studying at the University of Virginia, took his results to a VA medical center in Richmond, Va., and asked for more tests. He said a doctor there told him that the VA would measure his levels only in the morning, not throughout the day, as he wanted. Once again, the department urged him to see a psychologist for his PTSD.

Birdzell, 34, hadn't studied biology since high school, but a few days of research on the Internet left him convinced that his cortisol levels were at least partly to blame for the symptoms the VA was calling PTSD. "It's all biochemical — a lot of our psychology is a function of our biochemistry," he said. "If we nuke our biochemistry at war, how can our psychology be correct?"

He thought about taking drugs to regulate his cortisol output but decided instead to try to rehabilitate his adrenal cortex. That required him to relax, to find internal peace after eight years of war. "I'd been running hard," he said. "I needed to rest hard."

That's how Birdzell, a show-no-weakness Marine who now works as a fundraiser for the National Rifle Association, found himself on his back, shirt open, shoes off, as Duggan, an acupuncturist who specializes in holistic health, beseeched him to spend 15 minutes meditating with pins in his feet and chest. Duggan could tell Birdzell was keyed up, even if he didn't know that his patient had sped there along the Capital Beltway, peeled into the parking lot of a nondescript office park and charged up the steps, that 15 minutes ago in the car, he had expressed regret for not killing more insurgents in Iraq.

After a quarter-hour, Duggan returned to the room, removed the pins and inserted clean ones in Birdzell's back, which had been aching since his last appointment, a pain he chalks up to his military service.

As more pins pierced the skin, Duggan asked Birdzell for a progress report on his attempts to relax, to deal with his flashes of anger and his insomnia, to ease the pressure in his back and the pain in his knees.

Transcendental meditation, he answered, for 20 minutes a day, at his desk at the NRA.

"I can find relaxation there," he said.

As Duggan took Birdzell's pulse at four points on his wrists, the former Marine told the acupuncturist about his latest hormone tests. His cortisol levels are closer to where they should be, leading the VA to remove PTSD from his list of ailments, but four other hormones analyzed by the Colorado lab, including his testosterone production, registered far lower than normal.

"It's my hardware, not my software," he told Duggan, who nodded in agreement.

Instead of medicating himself, Birdzell wants to try to relax his way to hormonal equilibrium. He spoke of "neuroplasticity" and "brain regeneration" — of trying to teach his brain to heal.

"I hope you show the way to other veterans," Duggan said.

"That's the plan," Birdzell replied. He buttoned his shirt, fastened his belt, laced up his black oxfords and headed to his car. The zen from his hourlong appointment remained with him down Interstate 95 and along the Beltway. Then he hit rush-hour traffic in Tysons Corner, Va., on his way home. A ribbon of brake lights lined Route 123.

He clenched the steering wheel and uttered an expletive. Then he caught himself.

"Calm," he said to himself. "I've got to stay calm."

Studying an injured brain

Sitting across from each other in the back of a laboratory at the VA medical center in Richmond, researcher David Cifu asked Chase Villavicencio when he had toppled off the ladder.

Villavicencio, 28, a Marine corporal, hunched over and began to count the months on his fingers.

"February, March, April," he whispered to himself as he pushed three fingers back.

"May," he said. "It was May of 2011." He raised his head with an apologetic gaze.

"Sorry," he said. "Sometimes I have to count the months."

The old Villavicencio never would have counted on his fingers. The old Villavicencio would have uttered the answer in an instant.

"Simple things take me a while now,"

he said. "I have to concentrate. It doesn't come naturally anymore."

Cifu nodded understandingly. But he still needed details. The circumstances of Villavicencio's concussion were essential to determining whether he should be included in a first-of-a-kind study of the long-term effects of mild and moderate traumatic brain injury.

"I remember hitting the ground," Villavicencio said.

"And then?" Cifu asked. "Were you awake?"

"I don't really remember."

"How long from la-la land to getting on your feet?"

"About an hour."

Villavicencio initially brushed off the fall. Others Marines in the area had been shot. "My reaction was, 'I'm alive,'" he said. "I really didn't think much of it." Then he started getting headaches. He couldn't stand bright sunlight. He developed a blurry spot in his right eye. He began to forget simple details. "All of a sudden, I sound like an idiot," he said.

He still didn't seek help.

"In the Marine Corps, there's a mentality: There's a job to do," he said. "As long as you can keep moving, you keep moving."

By last fall, however, after his forgetfulness became apparent at work — "I was making calls to the same person twice to set up appointments" — his superiors realized that he needed to get help.

They sent him to the Richmond VA, which has an inpatient program that provides rehabilitation services for those with brain injury.

As the veteran completed his story, Cifu

switched into sales mode. Villavicencio, who is in the process of receiving a medical retirement from the Marine Corps, appeared to be an ideal candidate for the study, which will track 2,000 veterans for two decades or more.

"We'd love to get you enrolled in this program," Cifu said.

He explained that participants would receive an annual brain MRI, extensive blood tests and other assessments to monitor their recovery.

"What you had was a concussion — no doubt about it," he said. "We're trying to better understand what happens to people who have concussions while at war."

Villavicencio looked intrigued. He brought with him a copy of his favorite book, Cormac McCarthy's "The Road." He used to zip through it and over, struggling to grasp the meaning.

He wonders if, one day, the words will become clearer. So does Cifu.

"We'd like to follow you for the rest of your life," the doctor said.

Coping with burned-out lungs

At half past 10 in the morning in Las Vegas, after waking from a fitful sleep, after a VA-funded home health aide has helped him out of bed and into a seated shower, after he has painstakingly pulled on a shirt and shorts, after brushing his shoulder-length gray hair and scruffy beard, Daniel Meyer guided his wheelchair to the carpeted landing in front of his bedroom door for the most complicated prosaic task of his day: heading downstairs.

SEE PAGE 13

“ IN THE MARINE CORPS, THERE'S A MENTALITY: THERE'S A JOB TO DO. AS LONG AS YOU CAN KEEP MOVING, YOU KEEP MOVING. ”

— Former Marine Cpl. Chase Villavicencio



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Medical researcher David Cifu, left, meets with Chase Villavicencio at the Veterans Affairs medical center in Richmond, Va. Cifu wants Villavicencio to be one of the veterans who will be tracked for a study on the long-term effects of traumatic brain injury.

UNSEEN SCARS

FROM PAGE 12

He slid onto a chairlift affixed to the banister. Then he pulled off a tube, connected to an always-whirring machine upstairs, that feeds oxygen into his nostrils.

Quickly, before running out of air, he reached for another oxygen tube, this one connected to a machine downstairs, and affixed it over his ears and under his nose. Then he began to glide to the ground floor, coiling the tube to keep it from getting kinked in the lift.

Once downstairs, he pulled himself into an electric wheelchair, motored to the living room, climbed onto a beige reclining sofa and leaned back. His bearded face flushed, he emitted a low sigh. "Just getting out of bed and coming down here — it's enough to tire me out," he said.

Before Iraq, Meyer, 29, would have bounded down the stairs and been out the door for a 5-mile run. Whippet thin, he worked with an elite rescue unit stationed at nearby Nellis Air Force Base, repairing electronic equipment on HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters designed to fly behind enemy lines and pick up downed airmen. It was a job that required him to "be in top physical condition."

In 2007, he was sent to Balad Air Base, a vast encampment north of Baghdad that housed thousands of U.S. troops and contractors. Food and water were trucked in, as were all sorts of sundries — bags of chips, tins of chewing tobacco, cans of near-beer — sold in a giant PX.

But none of the trash was trucked out. Instead, all of the plastic bags and cans, and everything else deemed garbage, were hauled to a giant pit, slathered with JP-8 jet fuel and set alight. A plume of thick black smoke often wafted over the base.

Six weeks after his unit arrived for a mission to conduct medical evacuations of wounded troops, commanders on the base grew alarmed that birds attracted by the piles of trash were striking low-flying aircraft. The concern filtered down the chain of command to Meyer, the most junior airman in his unit, who was ordered to report to the base maintenance office. He was handed a pellet gun — but no mask, goggles or respirator — and told to enter the smoky burn pit. His mission was to shoot as many birds as he could, for as long as he could.

It felt like hell to him. Half the pit was on fire. The other half, where he lurked for birds, was strewn with the detritus of war: medical waste from the base hospital, bloody uniforms, tires, crates that once carried boxes of ammunition.

He tried to cover his face with one hand as he aimed the gun with the other. "It didn't help," he recalled. "There was nothing I could do to keep from breathing the smoke."

When he got out 90 minutes later, his nose was bloody. He had a hacking cough. His phlegm had turned black.

A week later, he was ordered back in. And so it went, a dozen more times.

"I was the low guy on the totem pole," he said. "I sucked it up and dealt with it."

On his next deployment, to southwestern



MICHEL DU CILLE/The Washington Post

Daniel Meyer uses a chairlift to go up and down stairs at his Las Vegas home. Meyer, a former staff sergeant in the Air Force, suffered lung damage that he and medical experts trace to his time in Iraq, when he was ordered to shoot birds in a burning trash pit.



OBVIOUSLY, YOU TAKE RISKS WHEN YOU JOIN THE MILITARY, BUT YOU NEVER THINK YOUR OWN COUNTRY WOULD POISON YOU.

— Former Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel Meyer

Afghanistan, his unit was assigned to live next to a burn pit on a NATO base. Soot was everywhere. "It would snow on us, for hours, days at a time," he said.

Soon after he returned to Nevada, he began to cough up blood. It would take two years of medical tests, of struggling with military physicians for referrals to civilian experts, of skepticism and outright retribution from his superiors, who thought he was slacking off work, before he received a conclusive diagnosis of bronchiolitis obliterans. His bronchial tubes are scarring closed, making it progressively more difficult for his lungs to absorb oxygen.

To Meyer and the nonmilitary medical specialists who tested him, the cause is unambiguous: the burn pits. The doctors also believe the burn-pit exposure is responsible for a buildup of fat cells in his knees that makes it impossible for him to walk or stand upright.

"Obviously, you take risks when you join the military, but you never think your own country would poison you," he said.

Although Meyer owns a portable oxygen tank and a van with a wheelchair ramp, he spends almost every day at home, on the beige sofa, under a sign that reads, "Live Well, Laugh Often, Love Much." He

watches television, plays video games and talks to his wife, Harmonie, whom he met through Match.com shortly before his Afghanistan deployment.

His doctor doesn't want him to go out in the winter, lest he get sick. Summertime is out because one of his medications makes him sensitive to sunlight. "I'm pretty much stuck here all of the time," he said.

He and Harmonie had wanted to raise four children. But they've given up on that. He's too sick to help with kids, and she wants to focus on him. She quit her job at a law firm to fix his meals, to take him to medical appointments and to keep him amused.

"I'm not going anywhere," she said. "I can't go anywhere," he replied with a laugh.

"People think we lead this big, tragic life," she said. "It's sad, but we still have a good time."

Every few hours, he pulled himself back into his wheelchair and motored to the bathroom. Each time, he appeared winded when he returned to the sofa. "The simple act of going to the bathroom wears me out," he said.

His physicians have told him that his lungs are steadily failing and that he prob-

ably will need a double-lung transplant in five to eight years. Until then, he will have to remain connected to the oxygen tube.

"I'm not angry about it," he said. "I'd do it all over again. We saved more lives in Iraq and Afghanistan than my own life is worth."

Instead of wallowing in hostility or pity, he has set his sights on trying to raise money to install a golf simulator in his house — he wants to teach other wheelchair-bound veterans how to swing a club — and he's trying to reach out to other veterans who have been sickened by burn pits. He wants them to seek out specialized medical care and apply for a full raft of benefits from the VA.

His own ailments have led to the VA's second-highest disability rating, which entitles him to a lifetime of monthly payments that cover all of his expenses. Harmonie receives additional compensation for serving as his caregiver.

"The American people are going to have to pay our disability and medical costs for decades," he said as he prepared for the return trip up the stairs to go to bed. "It's not my fault. I did what I was asked to do. But the costs will be staggering."

MILITARY

Out in the cold

Navajo veterans struggle with suitable housing on reservation

BY CINDY CARCAMO
Los Angeles Times

FARMINGTON, N.M.

In World War II he served as a Navajo Code Talker, one of the Marines who became legendary by using their native tongue to transmit messages the enemy could not decipher. Years later, to express its appreciation, the Navajo Nation built Tom Jones Jr. a house.

These days Jones, 89, struggles to keep warm during winter because the only heat inside his house emanates from an antique wood stove in the living room. The electricity doesn't work in his bathroom and the floor has worn away, exposing plywood beneath his feet.

Jones is one of many Navajo veterans, Code Talkers as well as those who served in Afghanistan or Iraq, who live in homes that are often as ruined as those they saw in battle. Some have no electricity or running water. The hallway in Jones' home is too narrow for his wheelchair.

"My desire is a house where I can be able to get around, to have a heating system so I can sleep well and enjoy life," Jones said in the Native language of Dine, with which he spoke for the Allies through the war. "This is how I would want it."

The living conditions of Navajo veterans highlight not just the never-ending battle against poverty on the 27,000-square-mile reservation, but the failings of a tribal effort to provide housing for those who served in the military.

Nearly 9,000 veterans live on the reservation that straddles the New Mexico-Arizona border, more than half of them in what the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs says is substandard housing. For years, few funds were allocated for reservation housing for veterans, and much of what was allocated did not reach its intended targets because of mismanagement, U.S. and tribal officials say. Federal veterans' home loan guarantees cannot be used to build homes on tribal land.

"There is a huge crisis taking place in our nation at the present time," said Rick Abasta, spokesman for Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly. "If you travel through the reservation, you'll even see some families living in storage sheds due to the housing situation."

The tribe began constructing homes for veterans in the

1980s, and a \$6 million trust fund for Navajo veterans created by the tribe allowed the launch of a home-building program in 1998.

The aim was to provide houses — free of charge — to veterans in need or help them pay for home repairs. Outside the Navajo Nation, the VA provides myriad services for veterans, but a free house is unheard of.

"These veterans, they deserve housing — decent and sanitary housing — for the services that they provided this country. And that would probably go even more so with our Navajo Code Talkers," Abasta said.

It's unclear how many homes the Navajo Department of Veterans Affairs has built for veterans, in part because record-keeping problems have left tribal administrators without good data. David Nez, who heads the agency, says he believes it was in the hundreds, but in recent years the effort has been troubled with inefficiencies and money troubles, resulting in few new homes and incomplete maintenance of existing houses such as Jones'. Not one home was built last year.

In February, however, Navajo leaders signed a contract with Home Depot in Farmington to purchase building materials for veterans' housing throughout the reservation.

It's part of a \$1.9-million project, paid for by the Veterans Trust Fund, which Shelly approved in the fall. That's only enough for 75 homes. There is a long list — in the hundreds — of veterans who are waiting for housing, according to Navajo Department of Veterans Affairs officials.

There is only so much the tribe can do, Abasta said, because of limited funding. "We meet with congressmen about these issues, but most often it falls on deaf ears," he said.

Navajo veterans and their supporters say the program is run poorly.

Etta Arviso, who is lobbying to obtain better housing for several Code Talkers, said veterans told her they face too much red tape in the application process. Others are discouraged by the wait.

"Now you can see how our Navajo Code Talkers are treated," Arviso said. At Jones' house she has attached a sign out front: "Navajo Code Talker Needs a New Home."

Above the door are black scorch marks

left by a lightning strike two years ago. Navajo tradition holds that one should not live in a dwelling where lightning has struck. It could lead to bad luck, sickness or worse. Jones' wife, Alice Mae, died about a year after the lightning hit.

Jones couldn't afford to move. He still can't.

He spends most of his time in the living room, since he can't get his wheelchair through the hallway leading to his bedroom or bathroom. His caretaker or a family member has to carry him to other parts of the home.

When he was recruited into the military 73 years ago, Jones said, he was told that he would have whatever he needed after the war. He served as a corporal in the 3rd Marine Division from 1943 to 1945 — a good portion of the time on the front lines, including at Iwo Jima.

When he returned home, he said, he was able to provide for himself, at one point working in the uranium mines. When he was younger he never asked for hand-outs, he said proudly.

"I was strong," he said. "I would haul wood. I didn't have problems money-wise."

When his health took a downturn in

2007, he could no longer provide

for himself. Jones has end-stage

renal disease and undergoes

dialysis twice a week. He

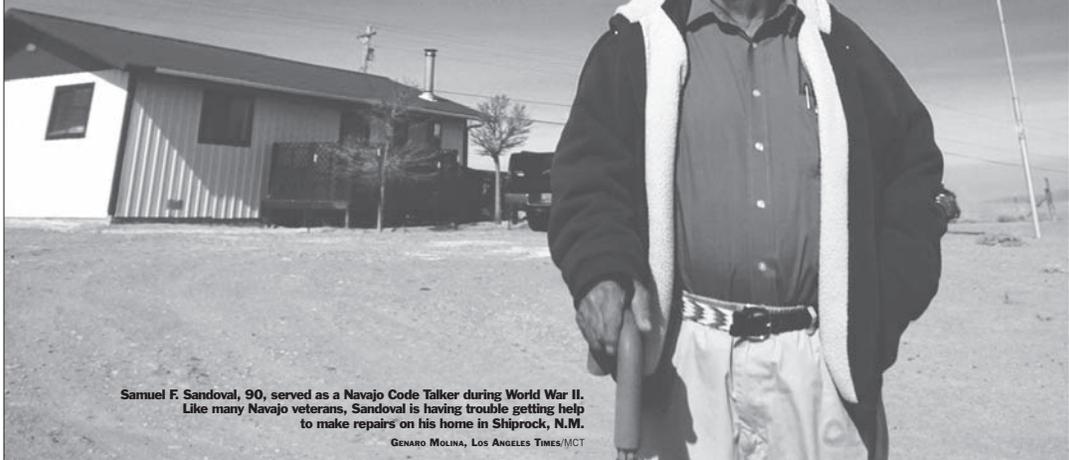
has a hard time hearing

and can barely talk. His

Marines cap emblazoned with the Stars

and Stripes seems to overwhelm his

small frame.



Samuel F. Sandoval, 90, served as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II. Like many Navajo veterans, Sandoval is having trouble getting help to make repairs on his home in Shiprock, N.M.

GENARO MOLINA, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

WORLD

Migrants risk life and limb to cross fence into Spain

The Associated Press

MELILLA, Spain — They perched atop a barbed-wire laced fence for more than seven hours, hands and feet bloodied, buffeted by chill winds whipping the cliffs of Africa's Mediterranean coast.

The 27 sub-Saharan African migrants were literally on the edge between Africa's economic misery and the long-dreamt riches of Europe. On one side of the fence was Morocco, on the other the Spanish enclave of Melilla.

Thirst, hunger and exhaustion wore the migrants down. One by one, they shakily climbed down the ladder that Spanish authorities had propped up on their side of the fence. Spanish police led the Africans back to Morocco — and into the hands of their waiting Moroccan counterparts.

The men are part of a spring migration offensive from Africa to Europe, with record numbers of desperate people risking death in their quest for a better life. They use perilous routes such as Mediterranean Sea crossings on rickety boats to the Italian island of Lampedusa or treks through desert, jungle and mountain that culminate in attempts to scale fences erected to keep them out of Melilla and Spain's other North African enclave, Ceuta.

Official data for 2013 is not yet available from Spain — but already in the first three months of this year, the number of migrants making it into Melilla has surpassed the estimated 1,000 who got in last year. On March 18 alone, a record 500 people made it over, while weeks before the Mo-

roccans blocked another 700 migrants — numbers unheard of in the past.

The increasing pressure of African immigration is felt across Europe, with the U.N. reporting a 300 percent rise in migrants this spring attempting boat crossings to Lampedusa.

Italy picked up some 4,000 migrants at sea in days, the government said Wednesday. This year, 15,000 migrants have already been rescued by Italy, with another 300,000 waiting in Libya to board dangerously unsafe smuggling boats.

For the Melilla migrants, most of whom spent at least two years traveling from their destitute homes in central and west Africa to get here, the climb-down will be a temporary setback. In weeks,

they will likely be back, trying once more to enter Europe.

Spain has sounded the alarm on illegal migration, with Prime

Minister Mariano Rajoy asking last week for "greater commitment" to deal with the pressure on Ceuta and Melilla.

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FAITH

BY RHEA YABLON KENNEDY
Special to The Washington Post

It seems as if every Passover tradition now carries a modern zing. Jews who don't eat rice during the eight-day holiday, which starts at sundown Monday, can serve quinoa, the trendy un-grain. An orange and tomato added to the Seder plate of symbolic foods acknowledge current struggles for freedom. The plate itself now comes in every form you can imagine — even in the shape of moon craters.

This is all part of one of the oldest and best-known Jewish holidays, commemorating the Israelites' exodus from ancient Egypt, led by the humble and heroic Moses. The Seder plates I've grown up with create a culinary mosaic of the holiday's key elements: karpas, a fresh herb to represent spring, usually parsley; maror, the "bitter herb" God told the Israelites to eat on Passover, often represented as horseradish root; charoset, a rendition of the mortar the slaves used in Egypt, a spiced fruit salad; a roasted egg, another symbol of spring; and a roasted lamb shank bone to acknowledge the lamb that God told Israelite families to sacrifice. (I've seen that last one appear in the form of a chicken neck or a roasted beet.) Some Seders also feature hazeret, a mild bitter vegetable usually represented by romaine lettuce.

The other staple of the Seder table is matzo, the crisped, unleavened flatbread that echoes the last loaves the Israelites formed — but never had a chance to bake — as they fled. Both tradition and the oft-repeated commandment in the Bible to eat unleavened bread make matzo a must.

Maybe it's the simplicity of those foods that has made the Passover table a palette for innovation — and is the reason I hadn't thought up a single twist that hadn't already been done.

I couldn't figure out anything different that is, until I read about chef and food scholar Moshe Basson. The owner of Eucalyptus, a restaurant just outside the Old City in Jerusalem, uses wild chichory for bitter herbs, just as he says the Israelites ate at ancient Seders. That turned on a light bulb: Go back to basics.

"I believe in the importance of preserving food traditions as well as [sharing them] with each other," Basson said. The menu at his restaurant, now in its third decade, embodies that philosophy. Diners can order heaping dishes featuring indigenous ingredients with names such as Jacob & Esau's Biblical Red Lentil Stew — a riff on the soup that cost one twin his birthright.

I researched "Passover recipes based on the Torah" and found, among other things, a savory dish of leafy greens that could pass as maror. How could I have missed that? Any tradition that replaces the sinus-clearing horseradish root with a dish that's one glazed pecan shy of a gourmet salad is appealing. So I made it. For this year's commemoration of the Israelites' escape from slavery, I would try Passover by the book. Well, make that the scroll.

The Torah's Book of Exodus, Chapter 12, offers one description of the instructions for Passover fare: "The Lord said to

Back-to-basics SEDER

Passover, with a strictly biblical flavor



PHOTOS BY DEB LINDSEY/The Washington Post

Roasted rack of lamb with barbecue rub features lamb, an important component of Seder plates in some — but definitely not all — Jewish households.



From left: Maror salad, made from ingredients available in Egypt and Israel during the first Seder; Karaites Matzo, a less-flat version of the traditional unleavened flatbread.

Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt. [Each household] shall eat [lamb] roasted over the fire, with unleavened bread and with bitter herbs" (Jewish Publication Society translation).

Remy Pessah, of Mountain View, Calif., follows those words and long-standing family traditions each year at Passover time. Born in Egypt, the 66-year-old chemical engineer-turned-fiber artist was raised with Karaite Judaism. ("Karaite" is a form of the

Hebrew word "kara'im," or "followers of Scripture.") She joined the Karaite community in the San Francisco Bay area, which by some estimates includes more than 200 families. Pessah's Seder table reflects this Jewish movement that takes its cues directly from the Tanach: the Torah, Prophets and additional texts known as Writings.

"Our Seder is pretty much different from the rabbinical Seders," Pessah said. "The way we



read the Haggadah, the preparation of the Haggadah, the whole atmosphere."

It indeed differs, both in terms of the Haggadah, the book of readings that tells the Passover story and guides the Seder, and the meal. There are no Four Questions at a Karaite Seder. There is no fruity charoset and no wine — the latter is a fermented product. Instead, Pessah serves homemade grape juice. The rabbinical Seders that Pes-

sah referred to are what most observant American Jews know as the standard. Those Seders are based largely on the ancient rabbis' redaction of the Tanach. That redaction is called the Oral Torah. The Karaites see the Oral Torah an interpretation rather than hard-and-fast rules.

Some of the several thousand Karaites in the United States, especially those far from the Bay Area enclave, practice a mixture of Karaite and rabbinical traditions. The biggest Karaite community resides in Israel, and another pocket lives in Turkey.

Pessah's Passover meals reflect the strong thread of food culture woven into Karaite tradition. Jews from Ashkenazi rabbinical movements, which include Conservative and Reform, tend to avoid serving lamb on Passover because it too closely resembles the paschal lamb sacrifice, a practice that ceased with the destruction of the holy Temple. But grilled lamb is an important part of Pessah's Passovers, filling her home with aromas from childhood.

"That's the first thing you would smell, definitely," she said. "That and... za'atar, that is mixed with garlic and parsley. We use it with the matzo. We also make homemade jam for the holiday."

Biblical and mouthwatering. Sign me up.

I decided to test a few Karaite recipes, starting with the flatbread so central to the holiday.

"Making your own matzo is a wonderful way for any family to experience the holiday," said Shawn Lichaa, the co-author of "As It Is Written: A Brief Case for Karaism" and founder of the Karaite blog A Blue Thread. He adds sunflower oil, salt and coriander to the flour and water that make up most of the kosher-certified matzo sold at the grocery store.

Another alternative to the boxed matzo is Ethiopian kita, a soft, yeastless flatbread similar to a crepe. Ethiopian Jewish tradition, which also closely adheres to literal biblical rules, turns to this bread during Passover.

But I wanted to understand, on a technical level: Why not the standby store-bought flatbread?

"Because it tastes like cardboard," Lichaa said.

Karaites can jettison the packaged matzo because the rules that were followed in order to certify, say, a Streit's box of matzo as kosher for Passover came from the Oral Torah. Those rules include that a mashgiach (a rabbi specially trained in kosher law) must supervise the processing of the wheat from field to production facility and oversee that the baking of the matzo took no longer than 18 minutes.

Religious implications aside, the Karaite recipes blew me away. The maror was tangy and fresh, while the Karaite version of matzo — not so flat, by the way — had a satisfying, savory crunch. While observant rabbinic Jews seek only kosher for Passover matzo for the holiday, the Karaite recipe is worth considering for the rest of the year.

I plan to make at least a few batches and to try my hand at kita.

Possible fifth signal picked up in plane hunt

BY NICK PERRY
AND KRISTEN GELINEAU
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — An Australian air Thursday detected what may be the fifth signal coming from a man-made device deep in the Indian Ocean, adding to hopes that searchers will soon pinpoint the object's location and send down a robotic vehicle to confirm if it is a black box from the missing Malaysian jet.

The Australian air force P-3 Orion, which has been dropping sonar buoys into the water near where four earlier sounds were heard, picked up a "possible signal" that may be from a man-made source, said Angus Houston, who is coordinating the search of Australia's west coast.

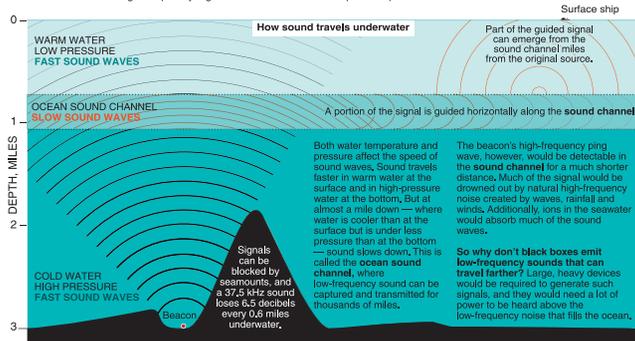
"The acoustic data will require further analysis overnight," Houston said in a statement.

If confirmed, the signal would add further narrow the hunt for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, which vanished on March 8 while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people aboard.

The Australian ship Ocean Shield picked up two underwater sounds on Tuesday, and two sounds it detected Saturday were determined to be consistent with the pings emitted from a plane's flight recorders, or "black boxes."

A ping's distorted journey

A black box emits high-frequency signals that can create a complicated pattern of sound waves under the surface.



SOURCES: Timothy F. Duda, Ocean Acoustics and Signals Lab, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution PATTERSON CLARK, GENE THORP AND RICHARD JOHNSON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Australian air force has been dropping sonar buoys to better pinpoint the location of the sounds detected by the Ocean Shield in a search zone that is now the size of the city of Los Angeles. Royal Australian Navy Commo-

dore Peter Leavy said each buoy is dangling a hydrophone listening device about 1,000 feet below the surface. Each buoy transmits its data via radio back to the plane.

The underwater search zone is currently a 500-square-mile patch

of the ocean floor, and narrowing the area as much as possible is crucial before an unmanned submarine can be sent to create a sonar map of a potential debris field on the seabed.

The Bluefin 21 sub takes six

times longer to cover the same area than the pinger locator towed by the Ocean Shield, and it would take the vehicle about six weeks to two months to canvass the current underwater search zone. That's why the acoustic equipment is still being used to hone in on a more precise location, U.S. Navy Capt. Mark Matthews said.

The search for floating debris on the ocean surface was narrowed Thursday to its smallest size yet — 22,300 square miles, or about one-quarter the size it was a few days ago. Fourteen planes and 13 ships were looking for floating debris about 1,400 miles north-west of Perth.

A "large number of objects" were spotted on Wednesday, but the few that had been retrieved by search vessels were not believed to be related to the missing plane, the search coordination center said.

An Australian government briefing document circulated among international agencies involved in the search on Thursday said it was likely that the acoustic pingers would continue to transmit at decreasing strength for up to 10 more days, depending on conditions.

Once there is no hope left of the Ocean Shield's equipment picking up any more sounds, the Bluefin sub will be deployed.

Lawmaker feels heat after video surfaces

The Associated Press

MONROE, La. — A top aide to a Louisiana congressman videotaped kissing a married woman who is not his wife was one of the few people with access to the leaked security footage that exposed the dalliance.

Pressure has mounted on Republican Vance McAllister since the Monday disclosure of grainy video footage from his district headquarters. McAllister, a conservative who highlights his Christian faith and family devotion, has found few defenders among the Republican establishment he beat to win the job in a surprise special election result last year.

A written statement from

McAllister's office on Wednesday offered no answers to questions about his political future or private life that have arisen since a weekly newspaper, the Ouachita Citizen, released videotape of him kissing a woman identified as Melissa Peacock. Peacock resigned Monday from the congressional payroll.

The statement said McAllister "is focused on earning back the trust of those he has disappointed" and wants "privacy for his family during this difficult period." Separately, the congressman was quoted by the Monroe News-Star as saying that he plans to seek a full term in November. Qualifying for the Nov. 4 primary takes place in late August.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Video released Monday appears to show Rep. Vance McAllister, shown in November, kissing a woman who is not his wife.

It's not known publicly how the footage made its way to the local newspaper, which said the clip was captured Dec. 23, about a month after McAllister took office.

Recent incidents lead to Secret Service staff swap

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Secret Service has reassigned agents from its special operations division, including the top agent there, after a pair of embarrassing incidents earlier this year.

The division has also changed the rules about when agents are allowed to drink before duty and on presidential trips.

Secret Service spokesman Edwin Donovan said the division's special agent in charge, Dan Donahue, was reassigned to another division.

The Washington Post first reported the changes Tuesday night.

The Secret Service says that in addition to transferring agents from special operations division,

anyone assigned to the unit is barred from drinking within 12 hours of starting a shift. They also are not allowed to drink within 24 hours of a president's arrival on a trip.

For now the new alcohol rules about drinking pertain only to the special operations division.

Three agents were sent home from the Netherlands last month after one was found intoxicated in a hotel before President Barack Obama arrived to meet with foreign officials.

It was the latest embarrassing incident for the Secret Service, which faced scrutiny from the White House and Congress after a prostitution scandal in South America two years ago.

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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

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WORLD

In China, jar of French mountain air nets \$860



LIANG KEGANG/AP

Beijing artist Liang Kegang collects fresh air in the commune of Forcalquier in Provence, France, on March 29.

By DIDI TANG
The Associated Press

BEIJING — Beijing artist Liang Kegang returned from a business trip in southern France with well-rested lungs and a small item of protest against his home city's choking pollution: a glass jar of clean, Provence air.

He put it up for auction before a group of about 100 Chinese artists and collectors late last month, and it fetched 5,250 yuan (\$860).

"Air should be the most valuable commodity, free to breathe for any vagrant or beggar," Liang said in an interview. "This is my way to question China's foul air and express my dissatisfaction."

Liang's work is part of a gust of recent artistic protest — and entrepreneurial gimmickry — reflecting widespread dissatisfaction over air quality in China, where cities often are immersed days on end in harmful pollutants at levels many times what is considered safe by the World Health Organization. The chronic problem has spurred brisk markets for dust masks and home air purifiers.

China's senior leaders have pledged to clean the air, partly in response to a citizenry increasingly vocal about environmental issues. But it is a daunting task that must be balanced with demands for economic development and employment crucial to maintaining stability.

In February, 20 artists wearing dust masks lay on the ground and played dead in front of an altar at the Temple of Heaven park in a performance art protest in Beijing.

In March, independent artists in the southern city of Changsha held a mock funeral for what they

imagined would be the death of the city's last citizen because of smog.

"If smog cannot be effectively cleaned up, what it will leave us is death and cities of death," artist Shao Jiajun said.

Liang's contribution is a short, ordinary glass preserves jar with a rubber seal and a flip-top. It has three small, handwritten paper labels: one with the name and coordinates of the French village, Forcalquier, where he closed the jar; one saying "Air in Provence, France" in French; and one with his signature in Chinese and the date — March 29.

The auction closed the night of March 30, and Chengdu-based artist and entrepreneur Li Yongzheng was the highest bidder.

"I have always been appreciative of Kegang's conceptual art, and this piece was very timely," Li said in a telephone interview. "This past year, whether it was Beijing, Chengdu or most Chinese cities, air pollution has been a serious problem. This piece of work really suits the occasion."

Liang is not the only one to make money from China's air-pollution angst. Entrepreneurs also see the potential, and so do tourism officials in parts of the country where skies are clear.

Chinese President Xi Jinping joked to Guizhou province delegates during last month's National People's Congress that the scenic southwestern province could put its air up for sale.

Days later, the province's tourism bureau announced plans to sell canned air as souvenirs for tourists. "Canned air will force us to stay committed to environmental protection," provincial tourism director Fu Yingchun said recently.

In central Henan province, local tourism authorities promoting a resort scooped up mountain air and gave away bags of it in downtown Zhengzhou, the provincial capital. City dwellers greedily inhaled the air, and some said they planned to visit the mountain resort to get more than a lungful.

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Nigerian girl forced to marry poisons groom

KANO, Nigeria — Police say a child bride forced into marriage in Nigeria prepared a poisoned meal that killed her groom and three of his friends.

They quote Wasila Umaru, 14, as saying she used rat poison in the food because she was forced to marry a man she did not love.

The couple were married last week. The 35-year-old groom had invited a dozen friends to celebrate at his village 60 miles from the north Nigerian city of Kano during the weekend.

Child marriage is common in Nigeria and especially in the mainly Muslim north.

Assistant police superintendent Musa Magaji Majia said Thursday that the teenage suspect is cooperating with police and probably will be charged with culpable homicide.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Jury makes man forfeit house in pot grow

AK ANCHORAGE — A federal jury has forced a Palmer man to turn his home over to the government because he used it for a marijuana grow operation.

The U.S. attorney's office said Loren Kent Dodds, 48, was convicted in U.S. District Court in Anchorage of manufacturing marijuana.

Prosecutors said in a news release that he turned the lower level of his home into a hydroponic grow operation, complete with motorized lights on timers. Authorities said he also stole electricity to power the operation.

Dodds had two prior convictions for growing marijuana at the same location, in 1994 and 2008. He was still on probation for the 2008 case when authorities last year found more than 600 marijuana plants in the house.

Police link some of 13 highway shootings

MO KANSAS CITY — Kansas City police have developed information that links some of the 13 recent shootings on area highways and roadways, they said Tuesday.

Investigators won't say how many they've linked or whether they used suspect descriptions, ballistic comparisons or other means to link them.

Police discussed several additional similar shootings at a briefing Tuesday morning but don't have enough information to add those incidents to the possible pattern of 13 identified by police analysts over the weekend, said police spokesman Capt. Tye Grant, who attended the briefing.

The shootings started March 8 and apparently accelerated recently with at least one shooting reported each day from last Wednesday until Sunday night.

All of the shootings occurred just before exit ramps or road splits, with the shooter apparently firing at the last moment before veering off in a different direction from the victim.

Three victims have been wounded, with two hit in the leg and one in the arm. Police have recovered at least five bullets from victims' vehicles and one from a victim's arm.

Mall shopper wearing bandana asked to go

MI GRANDVILLE — A shopping mall in western Michigan has apologized after a 26-year-old man was asked to remove a bandana or leave the mall.

Christopher Leach told The Grand Rapids Press he often wears a bandana or hat to keep his hair out of his face. Leach, who served in the U.S. Marines from 2006 to 2010, said he was taken aback last week after a security guard approached him and a friend.

Leach left Rivertown Crossings Mall Grandville Tuesday. Randy Zimmerman, the mall's senior general manager, issued

THE CENSUS

4 The number of Smart Cars that were flipped on their sides or roofs in an apparent vandalism spree Monday in two San Francisco neighborhoods. Police said they didn't know whether the incidents were a prank or another episode in escalating tensions among some residents who blame the tech industry for rising rents and cost of living. The light-weight cars all had shattered windows and some body damage, according to Officer Gordon Shry, a police spokesman who said the culprits would face felony vandalism charges. He added that police were looking for multiple people wearing black hooded sweatshirts who were in the area at the time of the vandalism.



PHOTOS BY ERIC RISBERG/AP

Batkid throws out first pitch

Batkid Miles Scott, second from right and inset, walks to the mound with San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain to throw the ceremonial first pitch before a home opener between the Giants and the Arizona Diamondbacks in San Francisco on Tuesday. In November, Miles, a Northern California boy with leukemia, fought villains and rescued a damsel in distress as a caped crusader through the Greater Bay Area Make-A-Wish Foundation.

a statement saying the mall "regrets that this incident occurred." Zimmerman said the business that handles security is investigating.

Leach, who lives in the western Michigan community of Wyoming, said he wants people to be aware of their rights and "stand up for themselves."

Police: Boy, 9, steals car to avoid school

FL MIAMI — A 9-year-old Miami Gardens boy was arrested and charged with aggravated assault and grand theft auto Tuesday after stealing his mother's car because he didn't want to go to school.

Miami Gardens police spokesman Michael Wright said that before taking off with the car keys about 8:15 Tuesday morning, the child threw a brick at his mother and grandmother.

"He took his mom's keys," Wright said. "He didn't want to go to school today."

The child's name and school he attends have not been released. According to Wright, the child took the car, then drove around for about 45 minutes before pulling over when police caught up to him.

Lawsuit: Stripper did show at nursing home

NY WEST BABYLON — An 85-year-old nursing home patient was the victim of "disgraceful sexual perversion" when a male stripper gyrated in front of her against her will at the suburban New York facility, an attorney for the woman's family said Tuesday.

John Ray, the attorney for Bernice Youngblood and her family, displayed a picture of a man in white briefs dancing in front of the woman at East Neck Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in September 2012.

The photo, which Ray said Youngblood's son found during a visit to his mother, shows the woman putting money into the dancer's waistband.

Ray said Youngblood had been urged to participate and did so against her will. The family has filed suit against the nursing home seeking unspecified damages.

Ray said Youngblood, who had worked as a health aide for the elderly, had her dignity taken away when "nursing home employees subjected her to this disgraceful sexual perversion."

Howard Fensterman, an attorney representing the facility, said

a 16-member resident committee had requested the September 2012 performance and the nursing home paid the \$250 fee.

Hang gliders land unexpectedly in park

CA ARCADIA — Two hang gliders made unplanned landings in the parking lot of a Southern California horse track after being caught in unpredictable winds.

The pair were met by Arcadia police upon touching down Monday afternoon on the grounds of Santa Anita Park, the Daily News reported.

Jeff Chipman and Ron Keinawners, licensed advanced hang gliders, took off from Sylmar about 1:30 p.m. and made a stop at Mount Wilson in Angeles National Forest.

After heading east again for Crestline in the San Bernardino Mountains, they realized the wind was not being cooperative. They didn't reach their planned height of 10,000 feet.

After careful consideration, the men decided to land in the lot at Santa Anita Park.

Chipman said he eyed the direction three large flags on top of the park's main grandstand were



PHOTOS BY ERIC RISBERG/AP

blowing and used them to navigate to a safe landing spot.

They were questioned by police but not cited.

State's highway deaths drop to lowest level

PA HARRISBURG — Pennsylvania transportation officials said the number of highway deaths in the state dropped to 1,208 last year.

PennDOT said Tuesday that represents the lowest figure since highway fatality records began to be collected in 1928.

Officials said there were declines from the previous year in the number of people who did not wear seat belts, the number of speed-related fatalities and the number of single-vehicle crashes in which the operator drove off the roadway.

Highway deaths in which a driver had been drinking fell from 377 in 2012 to 342 in 2013.

Deaths involving drivers over age 75, distracted drivers and head-on or opposite direction sideswipe crashes all experienced increases last year.

PennDOT says it has spent \$50 million in the past five years on safety improvements.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

US auto recalls on pace to set record

By Tom Krisher
and Dee-Ann Durbin
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Big U.S. recalls by General Motors and Toyota have put the auto industry on a record pace as companies try to avoid bad publicity and punishment from an increasingly aggressive government.

On Wednesday, Toyota announced it was recalling nearly 1.8 million vehicles in the U.S. to fix a spate of problems, including

air bags that might not inflate. It's part of a worldwide recall of 6.4 million cars and trucks.

So far this year, automakers have recalled about 9 million vehicles in the U.S. If that pace continues, the nation would break the record of 30.8 million recalled vehicles set in 2004.

Most of the recalls are from Toyota and General Motors, two automakers that are under government scrutiny and facing bad publicity and allegations that they

concealed safety issues.

Toyota's latest recalls were announced before the company even developed specific repairs. They come two weeks after the Justice Department skewered the Japanese automaker for covering up problems that caused unintended acceleration in some cars starting in 2009. Toyota agreed to pay \$1.2 billion to settle that case, but federal prosecutors can resurrect a wire fraud charge if the company fails to comply with the

terms of the settlement.

Toyota's actions come as rival GM recalls 2.6 million small cars for defective ignition switches the company links to at least 13 deaths. Of those, 2.2 million are in the U.S. As that crisis unfolded, GM announced recalls of another 3.4 million U.S. vehicles.

GM is facing a Justice Department investigation, and last week its new CEO was grilled by Congress over its handling of the ignition recalls.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Military rates
Euro costs (April 11)	\$1.4223
Dollar buys (April 11)	€0.7031
British pound (April 11)	\$1.72
Japanese yen (April 11)	99.00
South Korean won (April 11)	1,008.00

	Commercial rates
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6768/0.5964
Canada (dollar)	1.0909
China (Yuan)	6.2150
Denmark (Krone)	5.3831
Egypt (Pound)	6.9773
Euro	\$1.3869/0.7210
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7553
Hungary (Forint)	220.04
Israel (Shekel)	3.4679
Japan (Yen)	101.75
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2812
Norway (Krone)	5.9236
Philippines (Peso)	44.35
Poland (Zloty)	31.00
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2477
South Korea (Won)	1,026.25
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8781
Thailand (Baht)	32.25
Turkey (New Lira)	0.0088

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

MARKET WATCH

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INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	50/34
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.57

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.63	\$4.06	\$4.16	\$4.19
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Netherlands	--	\$4.82	\$5.04	\$5.07
Change in price	--	+7.0 cents	+6.4 cents	+2.7 cents
U.K.	--	\$3.94	\$4.10	\$4.13
Change in price	--	+2.6 cents	+2.4 cents	-1.6 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.82	--
Change in price	--	--	no change	--
Turkey	--	--	\$4.45	\$4.06*
Change in price	--	--	no change	-1.6 cents
Italy	--	--	\$4.29	--
Change in price	\$3.36	--	no change	--

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Okinawa	\$3.58	--	--	\$3.94
Change in price	+2.0 cents	--	--	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.88	\$4.19	\$4.29	\$4.29
Change in price	+2.0 cents	--	+2.0 cents	-2.0 cents
Guam	\$3.84**	\$4.01	\$4.12*	--
Change in price	+2.0 cents*	+3.0 cents	+3.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of April 12-18

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	76	50	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	62	38	Pcldy	Louisville	67	54	Rain	Pocatello	71	39	Cir	Sioux City	74	43	Pcldy
Arlene, Tex	87	58 <td>Cir</td> <td>Cheyenne</td> <td>70</td> <td>37 <td>Cir</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>87</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>83</td> <td>51</td> <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>59</td> <td>40</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>71</td> <td>41</td> <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Cheyenne	70	37 <td>Cir</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>87</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>83</td> <td>51</td> <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>59</td> <td>40</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>71</td> <td>41</td> <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cir	Fresno	87	59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>83</td> <td>51</td> <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>59</td> <td>40</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>71</td> <td>41</td> <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy	Lubbock	83	51	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	59	40	Cir	Sioux Falls	71	41	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	56	43	Cldy	Chicago	63	40	Pcldy	Goodland	75	42	Cir	Macon	78	45	Cir	Portland, Ore.	63	43	Cir	South Bend	62	36	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	62	42	Pcldy	Cincinnati	62	51	Rain	Grand Junction	74	42	Cir	Madison	66	36	Pcldy	Providence	61	44	Cir	Spartanburg	63	42	Pcldy
Albuquerque	79	48	Pcldy	Cleveland	51	38	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	62	36	Pcldy	Medford	78	45	Cir	Pueblo	77	40	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	68	43	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	64	50	Cldy	Colorado Springs	73	40	Cir	Great Falls	62	38	Cir	Memphis	77	59	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	77	48	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	72	53	Pcldy
Amarillo	80	48	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	81	48	Cir	Green Bay	61	35	Pcldy	Miami Beach	81	70	Pcldy	Rapid City	71	36	Cir	St. Louis	72	36	Pcldy
Anchorage	40	16	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	78	49	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	75	48	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	94	59	Pcldy	Reino	78	46	Cir	Tallahassee	79	43	Pcldy
Asheville	74	41	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	60	49	Rain	Hartford	69	49	Cir	Milwaukee	65	49	Cir	Richmond	78	51	Pcldy	Tampa	82	60	Pcldy
Atlanta	75	50	Cir	Concord, N.H.	62	37	Pcldy	Hartford Springfield	63	44	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	65	42	Cir	Roanoke	76	48	Cir	Tucson	92	60	Pcldy
Atlantic City	67	50	Cir	Corpus Christi	80	65	Pcldy	Helena	66	38	Cir	Missoula	63	33	Cir	Rochester	58	40	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	85	49	Pcldy
Austin	80	50	Pcldy	Dallas	79	59	Pcldy	Honolulu	93	68	Cir	Mobile	68	49	Cir	Rockford	65	38	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	85	49	Pcldy
Baltimore	70	51	Rain	Dayton	60	47	Cldy	Houston	80	60	Cir	Montgomery	78	49	Pcldy	Sacramento	80	53	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	68	52	Cir
Baton Rouge	80	53	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	78	58	Cir	Huntsville	76	51	Cir	Nashville	75	53	Cir	St. Louis	70	49	Cir	Tulsa	78	50	Pcldy
Biloxi	67	38	Pcldy	Denver	67	43	Cir	Indianapolis	64	47	Cir	New Orleans	77	59	Cir	St. Petersburg	81	64	Cir	Waco	78	60	Pcldy
Birmingham	75	49	Pcldy	Des Moines	71	44	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	78	51	Pcldy	New York City	65	50	Rain	St. Thomas	86	77	Cir	Washington	71	53	Rain
Bismarck	65	30	Pcldy	Detroit	61	38	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	78	51	Pcldy	Newark	65	49	Cir	Salem, Ore.	64	40	Cir	W. Palm Beach	80	68	Pcldy
Boise	71	49	Cir	Duluth	54	33	Cldy	Juneau	44	29	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	74	52	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	77	51	Cir	Wichita	77	49	Pcldy
Boston	61	45	Cldy	El Paso	88	61	Cir	Kansas City	71	46	Pcldy	North Platte	74	37	Cir	San Angelo	91	58	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	85	49	Pcldy
Bridgport	60	45	Rain	Elkins	65	48	Rain	Key West	81	71	Cir	Oklahoma City	82	56	Pcldy	San Antonio	86	60	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	85	49	Pcldy
Brownsville	82	67	Pcldy	Erie	39	35	Pcldy	Knoxville	75	49	Pcldy	Omaha	73	44	Cir	San Diego	72	60	Cir	Wichita Falls	85	49	Pcldy
Buffalo	56	38	Pcldy	Eugene	64	38	Cir	Lake Charles	77	60	Pcldy	Orlando	82	58	Pcldy	San Francisco	66	52	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	68	52	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	58	38	Pcldy	Evansville	67	53	Rain	Lansing	63	36	Pcldy	Paducah	70	55	Cir	San Jose	72	51	Cir	Youngstown	57	42	Cir
Caribou, Maine	50	35	Pcldy	Fairbanks	39	5	Cir	Las Vegas	88	67	Cir	Pendleton	69	39	Pcldy	Santa Fe	76	37	Cir				
Casper, Wyo.	68	34	Cir	Fargo	50	33	Pcldy	Lexington	66	52	Rain	Pesac	66	52	Rain	St. Marie	47	28	Cir				
Charleston, S.C.	77	52	Cir	Flagstaff	69	34	Cir	Lincoln	73	43	Pcldy	Philadelphia	69	52	Cir	Savannah	79	52	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	70	50	Rain	Flint	65	34	Pcldy	Little Rock	75	55	Cir	Phoenix	96	71	Pcldy	Seattle	61	45	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	78	49	Cir	Fort Smith	81	55	Pcldy	Los Angeles	73	56	Cir	Pittsburgh	62	46	Rain	Shreveport	78	57	Pcldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 101, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 7, Mount Washington, N.H.

WEEKEND THROWBACK THRILLER

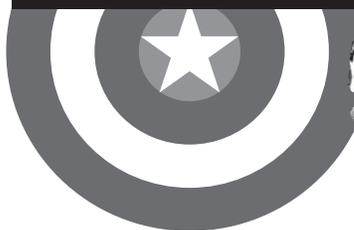
Mindy Kaling responds to her critics

Page 39



'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' recalls political consciousness of some great 1970s films

Page 24; Review on Page 25



Gaining traction

Once a rebellious activity, Parkour has become a full-on fitness craze

Health & fitness, Page 40

Smart shooter

Get the early scoop on 'Sniper Elite 3'

Video games, Page 26



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



PHILADELPHIA DAILY NEWS/MCT

Some folks just can't let go of last century's electronics.

An ode to all the stuff you just can't give up

By JONATHAN TAKIFF
Philadelphia Daily News

Are you a compulsive gadget hoarder?

You do have items gathering dust because you've lost interest or shelved them for a newer, better version?

Spring is here, and it's a good time to consider letting go of the good — especially if you've already replaced it with the new. I know it's not easy.

The used electronics website uSell.com estimates that 68 percent of U.S. residents qualify as gadget hoarders for "keeping a device for more than two years without using it."

But some gizmos have enduring sentimental or historic value. Take, please, (but not away) these treasures I've just dug up (and not traded). Each has a story. Some of my stuff:

• **Nikkormat 35mm SLR camera:** As a photo-taking youth, I coveted an all-mechanical, manually focused Nikon single lens reflex film camera. This sibling, equally sturdy and sharp shooting, was bought cheaper in Montego Bay, Jamaica, circa 1978.

Today, this weighty thing is never used. You can't beat a good

digital camera or sharp-shooting smartphone for portability, instant gratification and low cost of use.

• **Walkman TPS-L2 Cassette Player and TC-55 Tape recorder:** When the first cassette-based Walkman headphone stereo player was delivered to then-Daily News editor Gil Spencer, he brought it to my desk, saying, "I don't have a clue what this is, but maybe you can write about it."

This began my career as a tech columnist, and my love affair with tiny, high-performance electronics.

• **Motorola RAZR V3 Flip Phone:** In the early 2000s, it was the coolest, slimmest cellphone. Moto sold 130 million of 'em. Still a thing of industrial-design beauty. And doesn't take up much drawer space.

• **ColecoVision Video Game System and Samsung GXE-L395 TV:** The first game system to achieve arcade-quality, cartoon-smooth and fast imagery, this spiffy, early-1980s game system came packed with Nintendo's "Donkey Kong," knocking Atari and Mattel for a loop and giving Nintendo big ambitions. Coleco's downfall was trying to adapt the game console into a full computer.

GADGET WATCH

MacWorld expo yields trove of treasures

By GREGG ELLMAN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Trolling the aisles at the annual MacWorld/iWorld expo show recently, I came across a lot of cool products, which I'll have more in-depth reviews of later this year. For now, here's a sneak peek at some cool, new or different items that caught my attention.

The Slate (\$98) was my unofficial winner of coolest new product. It's a 100 percent American-made lap desk constructed from polished bamboo, with the smooth feel of glass.

The desk weighs 3.4 ounces and has a rubber trackpad for a mouse. There also are slots to hold a smartphone in place along with holes built into the structure to let your computer breathe and stay cool.

Slate also showed off its **SlatePro TechDesk** (\$498), which utilizes the same craftsmanship. It has multiple display docks for your mobile devices and also features a filing rack, a pen dock and a recessed cup holder.

Online: iskelter.com

The Pocket Tripod is the size of a credit card with the thickness of about two and made of ABS bendable plastic. You can fold it to create a hands-free dock for your device, and when you're done, just put the flattened card back in your wallet.

It works in both horizontal and portrait mode. Details: \$26.95, pocket-tripod.com

The app **Everypost** can help you post a message, and a photo, to just about any social media simultaneously. This includes Twitter, Facebook, Google Plus, mail, Dropbox and others.

Create and compose your content, use filters and even customize for each network.

Online: itunes.com, play.google.com; Free for iOS and Android

Kirk H & J's new wireless charger, the Inpoifi, is built to charge Apple and Samsung devices.

The company designed the charger to emit zero radiation. Using it is as simple as putting your smartphone down on your desk.

Online: kirkhj.com; \$135.64 at Amazon.com for wireless charger, battery pack for iPhone 5/5s

Scosche's Magic Mount system is one of the better hands-free contraptions I've seen.

Three models are available; the surface and mobile are adhesive, while the window mount uses a suction cup. A thin plate attaches to the back of your phone for attaching to the magnetic mount.

Online: scosche.com; surface \$14.99, mobile \$19.99 and the window mount \$24.99



ISKELTER/MCT

The **SlatePro TechDesk** has multiple display docks for mobile devices and also features a filing rack, pen dock and recessed cup holder.

Blue Microphones showed off the **Mikey Digital Lightning**, which is expected to be released in May. It features a Lightning connection for iOS devices and can flip and rotate for recording in any direction.

There are three gain settings for proper recording and will allow CD-quality audio recording for a wireless device to pair with video recording. It connects directly to your iPhone or iPad and works with virtually any audio or video application.



BLU MICROPHONES/MCT

The **Mikey Digital Lightning** features a Lightning connection for iOS devices and can flip and rotate for recording in any direction. Online: bluemic.com; \$99

The pocket-sized **Flash Magiestick** from PowerRocks features a 3,000mAh battery for charging wireless devices along with a flashlight.

It includes a single USB and a Micro USB port to charge multiple mobile devices, including smart phones, at the same time.

You'll get more than 500 charges for the battery itself, and the company was proud to point out that they have less than 1 percent defective and return rate.

Online: powerrockusa.com; \$49.99, available in many colors

ON THE COVER: Chris Evans is Captain America in "The Winter Soldier."

DISNEY-MARVEL PHOTO; ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on iTunes for April 9:

1. "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
2. "Divergent" (Deluxe Edition), Various Artists
3. "She Looks So Perfect," 5 Seconds of Summer
4. "Spring Break 6... Like We Ain't Ever," Luke Bryan
5. "Supermodel," Foster the People
6. "G.I.R." (Phonetic Williams)
7. "Frozen" (Deluxe Edition) (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
8. "Lift Your Spirits" Aloe Blacc
9. "Bad Blood," Bastille
10. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

Top streamed tracks on Spotify from Mar. 31-April 6:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. John Legend, "All of Me"
3. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Various Artists, "Let It Go"
6. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"
7. Beyonce, "Drunk In Love"
8. The Chasmakers, "#SELFIE — Original Mix"
9. Lorde, "Team"
10. Pharrell Williams, "Happy (from Despicable Me 2)"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for April 9:

1. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"
2. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
3. "Frozen"
4. "Blue Jasmine"
5. "August: Osage County"
6. "Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues"
7. "The Pirate Fairy"
8. "American Hustle"
9. "The Machine"
10. "Grudge Match"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Top 10 PlayStation 3 games for April:

1. "Dark Souls II," Namco Bandai
2. "South Park: The Stick of Truth," Ubisoft
3. "Luftrausers," Vlambeer
4. "The Last of Us: Left Behind," Sony Computer Entertainment
5. "Strider," Capcom
6. "The Walking Dead: A House Divided," Telltale Games
7. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Square Enix
8. "Lego The Video Game Movie," Warner Bros. Interactive
9. "Atelier Escha & Logy: Alchemists of the Dusk Sky," Tecmo Koei
10. "Metal Gear Solid: Ground Zeroes," Konami

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for April 9:

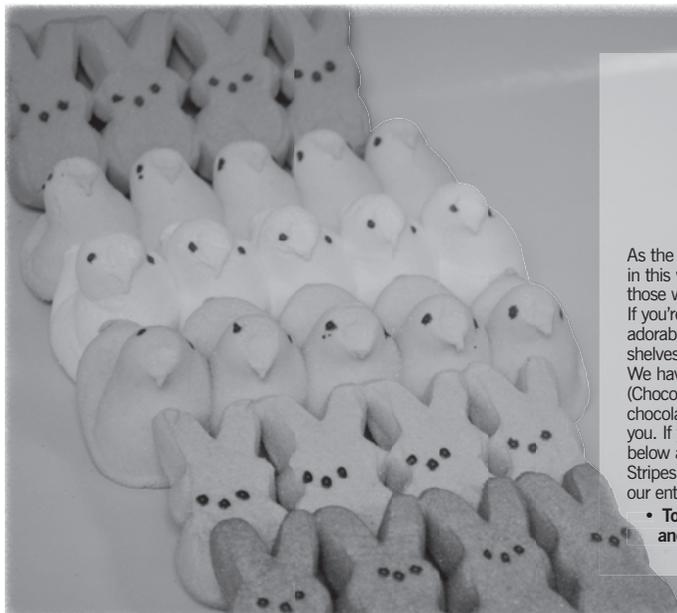
- ANDROID
1. Threest
 2. Link Bubble Pro
 3. Sumatori Dreams
 4. NBA 2K14
 5. Facets
- Top 5 paid apps for April 9:
- APPLE
1. Monument Valley
 2. Minescraft — Pocket Edition
 3. FIT: Faster Than Light
 4. Wild Kratts World Adventure
 5. Notability

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



1

Time for Peeps

As the old saying goes, there are two types of people in this world — those who can't stand Peeps, and those who can't imagine spring without them.

If you're in the latter category, rejoice! It's time for the adorable sugary marshmallow treats to grace AAFES shelves, and your Easter basket.

We have some samples of the latest Peeps (Chocolate mousse! Chocolate coated! Inside a chocolate egg!), and we'd love to share them with you. If you're interested, email us at the address below and tell us your favorite page in Stars and Stripes. If yours is one of the names we draw from our entries, we'll send you some Peepy-licious prizes.

- To enter, email kiracofe.danielle@stripes.com and put "Peeps" in the subject line

DANIELLE L. KIRACOFE/Stars and Stripes

Those ever-popular Peeps are popping up all over. Tell us your favorite page in Stars and Stripes, and if we draw your name, we'll pop some Peeps in the mail for you.

2

2014 MTV Movie Awards

The summer movie season kicked off early this year with "Captain America." Get into the popcorn-flick spirit by watching the 2014 MTV Movie Awards on Monday night. Conan O'Brien is hosting, and it wouldn't be an awards show these days without a bevy of musical appearances. Performers include Eminem, Rihanna and Ellie Goulding.

- Watch the 2014 MTV Movie Awards on Monday night on AFN-Spectrum



3

Season premiere of 'Game of Thrones'

Fans, your patience and devotion pay off in Sunday's wee hours as AFN airs the Season 4 premiere of "Game of Thrones." This season is sure to hold more surprises, and at least one wedding. "Thrones" fans know better than most how unexpected and treacherous weddings can be.



- Watch the "Game of Thrones" season premiere Sunday on AFN-Spectrum
- Read about the battle brewing among "Thrones" book, TV fans on Page 38

4

Marvel-ous anniversary

Marvel Comics, launched in 1939, is celebrating its 75th anniversary with an online timeline. The creators plan to add more online goodies for fans throughout the year.

- Visit Marvel.com/75



WEEKEND: MOVIES



'Captain America: The Winter Soldier' taps the current paranoid political zeitgeist for the latest superhero outing

BY FRANK LOVECE
Newsday

After repelling the alien invasion of New York in "The Avengers," Thor returned to Asgard; Tony Stark (Iron Man) and Bruce Banner (the Hulk) drove off to go play in a lab somewhere; and Steve Rogers, aka Captain America, left to begin a quiet life in an apartment in Washington, D.C. — doubtlessly having turned down lucrative book offers and speaking engagements as an unseemly cashing-in of a legacy people died to give him.

So when Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson), director of the espionage agency S.H.I.E.L.D., enlists his help to rescue a hijacked government ship, it's something to do and a chance to do good. He couldn't have imagined that he and agent Natasha Romanoff, the Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson), were being thrown into a web of intrigue evoking such 1970s political thrillers as "Three Days of the Condor," "The Conversation" and "The Parallax View" — some of the inspirations for "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," the latest installment of the Marvel cinematic universe with Chris Evans reprising his role as Rogers.

The notion of a superhero political thriller might seem jarring to those who haven't followed comics' auterist blossoming over the past generation, but the filmmakers were merely tuning into the zeitgeist.

"We were all reading the articles that were coming out questioning drone strikes, preemptive strikes, civil liberties — Obama talking about who they would kill, y'know?" says Anthony Russo, co-director with his brother and filmmaking partner, Joe. "We wanted to put all of that into the film because it would be a contrast to Cap's greatest-generation (way of thinking)."

Indeed, says Christopher Markus, who with Stephen McFeely wrote both "Captain America" movies and is doing a third, "The Snowden (NSA revelations) didn't come along until May of 2013, and by that time we were six weeks into shooting. This kind of thing has been in the public consciousness since... well, since Watergate," the impetus for those classic '70s political thrillers, says Markus. "Though as far as I know, we don't have the ability to kill 20 million (perceived future threats) at a time," as posits the movie's central crisis, one complicated by an enigmatic Russian assassin, the Winter Soldier (Sebastian Stan).

"Nick's the kind of guy who deals with necessary evils," says Jackson, who reprises his Marvel Studios role as Fury. "So for him, having the gun pointed at us," he says metaphorically, "is as important as having the gun pointed at the enemy."

The idea of a surveillance state — embodied in the movie by three airborne aircraft carriers set to watch over the country like security cameras into the soul — "is not a foreign concept to me," Jackson says. As a college student, he was active in the Civil Rights movement and knows well the FBI's wiretapping of Martin Luther King Jr., so "I'm not as surprised as the American public seemed to be last year when they realized the NSA was listening to their phone calls," he says. "It was kind of like, 'You didn't know that?'"

Joining the movie universe is Anthony Mackie ("The Hurt Locker") as Sam Wilson, a post-traumatic stress disorder counselor whom Rogers befriends. He's also a former military pilot in a classified project situated between real-life wingsuits and the Iron Man armor, who finds himself again donning the Falcon project's winged, jet-powered exoskeleton, becoming in the process the Marvel movies' newest superhero.

'You get automatic '70s conspiracy-film gravitas when you hire Robert Redford.'

Christopher Markus
co-writer of both
"Captain America" movies

America for who he is," Mackie muses. "He doesn't want anything from him, he doesn't ask him for anything. The first thing he does is, he tries to help him. So I think when you see that, it endears you to Sam, and when you see Cap being a superhero, struggling with his life, it endears you to Cap as well."

Also new is Robert Redford as a senior S.H.I.E.L.D. official. "You get automatic '70s conspiracy-film gravitas when you hire Robert Redford," says Markus of the legendary star who's no stranger to the political thriller landscape ("Three Days of the Condor," "All the President's Men"). The role wasn't originally written with him in mind, Markus says, "because that's not the kind of thing you ever imagine is possible: 'Oh, yeah, we'll get Robert Redford.' ... No way. When we found out it was Redford, we rewrote it with him in mind, because that's a whole persona you want to use."

And his iconic continuity from the days of '70s political thrillers hammers home that the surveillance fears of that era have, well, come true. "I'm not naive enough to think that we don't need some of this stuff," says co-writer McFeely. "I don't pretend to know where that line of transparency should be. But when Dianne Feinstein has to go on the floor of the Senate and call out the CIA, something's wrong. We're dumb screenwriters — we don't have the answer. But it was nice to be able to ask some of the questions in the context of a superhero story."

Films with trust issues

The writers and directors of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" said they found inspiration from these classic 1970s political thrillers that came in the wake of Watergate:

- "The Conversation"** 1974
Audio-surveillance expert Gene Hackman inadvertently records plans involving murder and an apparent government-agency director (Robert Duvall) in this Francis Ford Coppola classic.
- "The Parallax View"** 1974
Reporter Warren Beatty discovers a corporation devoted to political assassination with "lone gunman" patsies.
- "Three Days of the Condor"** 1975
After his field-office co-workers are assassinated, CIA analyst Robert Redford must elude a conspiracy reaching to the agency's top echelon.
- "All the President's Men"** 1976
This Oscar-winner was based on the actual events that led reporters Bob Woodward (Redford) and Carl Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman) to expose the Watergate conspiracy.
- "Marathon Man"** 1976
Nazi war criminal Laurence Olivier tortures PhD candidate Dustin Hoffman, whose brother (Roy Scheider) works for a shadowy government-agency called The Division.

Additionally, says co-screenwriter Christopher Markus, inspiration also included "a little of The Manchurian Candidate" just in that kind of mental state" of a brainwashed character.

Above: Robert Redford, left, is a high-ranking S.H.I.E.L.D. official, and Samuel L. Jackson returns as Nick Fury, in "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." The screenwriters said they rewrote Redford's role with him in mind after he was cast.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Captain in charge

'Winter Soldier' raises the bar for comic-book films

BY COLIN COVERT

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

You wouldn't think that there was much more to do with movies set in the Marvel comics universe.

You'd be wrong. "Captain America: The Winter Soldier" takes a flying leap off the basic premise of superhero movies and sails away in unexpected, crowd-pleasing directions. The gripping, stylishly made film delivers mechanically perfect shocks and much more.

This outing is an irresistible blend of Washington conspiracy thriller and exuberant adventure. Taking its tone from the paranoid political mysteries of the 1970s, it's a whirlwind of power struggles and deception twisty enough to keep audiences guessing.

The theme is trust earned and lost. The U.S. spy agency S.H.I.E.L.D. battles shadowy adversaries with an agenda for destruction. The organization's charismatic director, Alexander Pierce (Robert Redford), is about to launch a new defense system designed to preemptively eliminate threats.

"That's not freedom. That's fear," says Chris Evans' Steve Rogers/Captain America, who has a healthy suspicion of the military-industrial-surveillance complex. After all, the WWII supersoldier served under the similarly skeptical Gen. Eisenhower before going in a 60-year deep freeze.

Screenwriters Christopher

New on base

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" is playing at:

Europe
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hofenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella and Vicenza.

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

Online: marvel.com/captainamerica#/home

Markus and Stephen McFeely craft a suspense plot that's generally logical, and fill it with plausible, strongly defined characters. Without becoming pretentious, they make a serious point or two about the security-vs.-liberty debate.

As before, Captain America is an old-school, unambiguous hero, an officer and a gentleman. He's literally a museum piece in our rarely compromised modern world of drone warfare and 24/7 data dredging. He visits the Smithsonian Institution's "Captain America" display, lingering over images of long-lost Peggy Carter (Hayley Atwell) and Buckey Bantz (Sebastian Stan). Evans acts his grief and isolation with utter sincerity.

When he's not in his lonely apartment, he's in a daredevil's rut. He leads rescue missions but can't relate to his S.H.I.E.L.D. teammates. It's reached the point where Black Widow (Scarlett Johansson) feeds him dating advice while they wallow villains.

The film pits the duo against the mysterious and legendary mercenary the Winter Soldier, who leads a horrendous assassination attempt against Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson, at long last playing a key role in the story). Their chase through heavy traffic is a nonstop bacchanal of urgent destruction.

There's plenty of THWONK! — the satisfying sound of Cap's shield hammering an evildoer's cranium. There's also a sense the tentacles of S.H.I.E.L.D.'s nemesis, HYDRA, are sunk so deep in the system that nothing short of chemotherapy will offer a cure. Cap is fighting not just to foil terrorists but to defend his own values. It's the perfect film for these anxious times.

Directors Anthony Russo and Joe Russo (of NBC's "Community") show a gift for ambitious, large-scale filmmaking. They channel their expert comic timing into designing energized, exciting action sequences. The film exists in a realistic world of practical stunts delivered with visual snap. No matter how brain-frazzling the fight, there's a three-dimensional dynamic to the combat. Their compositions are far from the flat, shallow images of comic-book panels.

The directors don't skimp on attention to performance and



Marvel-Disney

Captain America (Chris Evans) must battle a villain more ambiguous and personal than before in 'Captain America: The Winter Soldier.'

characterization. Redford is superb as the ambiguous Pierce, who could be his "Three Days of the Condor" CIA man 30 years on. He's a savior one minute and a sardonic, ruthless hard-ass the next, his gaze asserting authority while implying just-pals equality. Anthony Mackie brings enormous presence and warmth to his role as Sam, a veteran who can relate to Cap's alienation.

The Russos also salt in some cunning humor. Cap keeps a

list of modern subjects he needs to research in pocket notebook — he's an analog guy. On his tally is "I Love Lucy," Berlin Wall (up & down), Thai food and Nirvana (band).

Smartly self-aware, grandiose without being overblown, "The Winter Soldier" is a crackler-jack summer blockbuster, three months early.

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" is rated PG-13 for violence, gunplay and action. Running time: 136 minutes.

Duo dares to defy film relationship tropes

BY GINA MCINTYRE

Los Angeles Times

When it comes to the superhero spy game, an easy facility with falsehood can get you far. Which helps explain the unlikely friendship that develops between Chris Evans' unfailingly forthright patriotic hero and Scarlett Johansson's ethically dubious operative in Marvel's latest comic book adventure, "Captain America: The Winter Soldier."

"She made a life based on lies and deceit and malleable morality, and Cap couldn't lie if he tried to," said Evans.

"These aren't two characters that you would necessarily know had so much in common," Johansson agreed. "They're deceptively similar. They're having this huge identity crisis. ... 'What do I want? Why do I want it? What do I need from someone else?' We started to say, 'Maybe they see the reflection in one another.'"

Vulnerability is a rare luxury for characters who essentially seem indestructible, but the scenes in which Cap and Black Widow let down their guard and flirt with the idea of taking their friendship in a less platonic



ETHAN MILLER/Getty Images

"Captain America: The Winter Soldier" is the fourth movie in which Chris Evans and Scarlett Johansson have co-starred.

direction were the most satisfying for the actors, longtime friends offscreen.

"It's nice for Chris and I to get to do dramatic work together," Johansson said. "We work well together, I think, and admire one another as actors, and we're used to being able to throw the ball back and forth because we've done that in the past in other films that

we've done. We're also older actors now and more comfortable taking our time. You can wait for the emotion to come and let the moment happen."

Evans and Johansson first appeared on screen together 10 years ago in the high school heist film "The Perfect Score," about seniors out to steal the answers to the SAT. They also both appeared in 2007's "The Nanny Diaries."

It was Johansson who originated her current Marvel persona first, in 2010's "Iron Man 2," while Evans arrived in 2011 in the World War II-era "Captain America: The First Avenger."

"It's not really defined," Evans said of the Cap-Widow relationship in "The Winter Soldier." "I think that's what makes it more dynamic. It's what makes it more similar to life. Not every single male and female bond is going to be rooted in romance. Sometimes movies make things too perfect."

"But the chemistry is there, which is important," Johansson added. "Just because they're not romantically involved doesn't mean that they're not still attracted to each other as people. I like that the door is open a little bit."

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

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Targeting your brain

'Sniper Elite 3' aiming to be a 'thinking person's shooter'

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

Sniper Elite V2" was somewhat of a cult hit on the PC when it launched in 2012, garnering a dedicated fan base through excellent word of mouth, despite a somewhat harsh official critical reception.

The series is a slower-paced World War II shooter that fills the niche that "Call of Duty" and "Battlefield" have left behind as those franchises moved into warfare in the modern era.

On July 1, 505 Games and Rebellion will launch the next entry in the series, appropriately titled "Sniper Elite 3," in North American markets for the PC, Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360 and PS3.

We wanted to see what changes are in store, so we got in touch with Tim Jones, Rebellion's head of creative development, for the scoop.

Stars and Stripes: Tell me about the design philosophy behind Sniper Elite 3.

Jones: We want to give the player the sense of what it feels like to be a World War II sniper. This means bringing attention to detail in the sniping ballistics — having to take account of bullet drop over long distances as gravity takes effect on your shot, adjusting for the effect of crosswinds, controlling your breathing and heart rate too.

It's about observation. You can't just run into battle with guns blazing — that's a sure-fire way to get yourself killed in a hurry. You have to stay out of sight and use your binoculars to plan your next move. Once you commit to taking your shot, if anyone is left alive to hear your gunshot, you'll have to relocate or risk being found. It's a thinking person's shooter.

Tactical choice is at the core of everything. The player must have the volition to choose how they approach any situation; which path they take; whether to kill or not; play stealthily and silently, or ruthlessly and efficiently.

Of course the most important thing is ensuring this all feels great to play. With Sniper Elite V2, we hit an important sweet spot between the satisfaction of simulation and making the sniping mechanics accessible to new players and rewarding to master. Sniper Elite 3 builds on this phi-

losophy by empowering players to make more choices about what they do before they even shoot.

What lessons did you learn from the success of V2, and how are they influencing this sequel?

There were a few areas we wanted to improve upon, so we tapped into the fan community of the game to listen closely to their feedback. They wanted larger environments, less linear gameplay and more opportunities for stealth and tactical choice. They also wanted more convincing behavior from the enemy AI. We have worked very hard to address all of these areas to deliver something that's really going to knock people's socks off.

What went into the decision to base this game on the North African campaign?

We wanted environments that could support our mantra of more tactical choice. We also wanted to go somewhere that really contrasted with what people saw in the ruins of Berlin in Sniper Elite V2. The environments of North Africa are much more varied than most people think — from canyons to oases and ancient cities. They immediately feel more organic than the urban settings of Europe and were a great match for the breadth of level and gameplay design we were really after.

People also forget how crucial the North African campaign of



Courtesy of Rebellion Entertainment

"Sniper Elite 3" is a shooter set in World War II that tries to strike a balance between the satisfaction of simulation and making the sniping mechanics accessible to new players and rewarding to master.

World War II was — especially as it was the first time America faced Axis forces on the ground. It was here that Britain's own Long Range Desert Group carried out numerous daring missions. These guys were actually the beginnings of the UK elite special forces division: the SAS. It seemed a natural fit for our hero, Karl Fairburne.

How are the multiplayer modes different from each other?

There's a wide variety of multiplayer modes. You can play through all the missions of the campaign cooperatively with two players, which opens up all kinds of tactical opportunities. There are also survival missions in which you must work together to survive against progressively more challenging waves of enemies. The popular Overwatch mode is returning in which the two players are physically separated but must work together to achieve objectives — one player in the thick of it on the ground, being covered by a sniper from an elevated position.

Then there's adversarial multiplayer, which has a number of associated modes — Free-for-all, Team Deathwatch, Distance King in which longest shots are rewarded, and No Cross, in which the two opposing teams cannot enter each other's territory. We've also introduced a mechanic to encourage players

not to camp too much by rewarding them for successfully relocating after a kill.

This co-op mode seems pretty unique. Can you talk about it?

It makes a huge difference if one of the players is able to tag enemies for the other to then know their location.

The Sniper Elite series is also known for its traps and distractions, and these really come into their own when one player can lure the enemy into traps set by the other as they work together and play cat and mouse with the remaining enemies.

What are some of the things the new AI is capable of doing?

The AI work in squads. They will communicate in a more realistic fashion, so just because one enemy has spotted you doesn't mean everyone else will immediately know where you are.

But if you don't take him down quickly enough, he will raise the alarm and you'll be in trouble.

The rank of the enemies makes a difference too. Officers can see farther and boost the aggression and senses of their squad. It makes sense to take out officers first. Of course, you have to observe the enemy closely before engaging if you want to spot the ranks and take advantage of them. The AI have a full set of senses: sight, hearing and touch. You must account for this and take advantage of cover, move si-

lently and stay in the shadows if you can. AI will react to corpses they find and raise the alarm, so you should hide your kills if you want to stay undetected.

How much are you adhering to history with the setting, weapon set, etc?

Most of the locations in the game are based on real-world locations and battles in the North African campaign of World War II, although obviously the levels mainly take inspiration from the source matter. Fun level design is the most important thing!

We've been careful to keep the weapons consistent with what would have been used at the time by the countries that were involved.

You've mentioned the feel of the weapons. Can you expand a bit on that?

It's important to us that the weapons feel authentic. The sniper rifles of World War II were simple but elegant mechanical devices. In fact, sniper rifles have changed surprisingly little since World War II. There was no computer assisted aiming or targeting. It was all down to the skill of the shooter.

"Sniper Elite 3" will be released on July 1 in North America on Xbox One, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, PlayStation 3 and PC.

Many more staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

BE BOWED BY WAX:
Easter candy flanks
Katy Perry waxwork

If there was any doubt that Easter is a superb candy holiday, Madame Tussauds in London unveiled a candy-covered waxwork of American recording artist Katy Perry last week to prove it. Its candy-themed backdrop includes giant cupcakes, Gummy Bears, Easter eggs, lollipops, candy canes and other sweet treats. Visitors can enjoy free candy while they admire the display.

The figure, dressed in a colorful outfit from the "I Kissed A Girl" singer's California Girls concert, will be displayed over the Easter school holidays.

"Katy's amazing wax figure is paying us a visit from Madame Tussauds Sydney, and as it's Easter, we thought we'd pay tribute to some of the singer's famous confectionery-themed performances," said Nicole Fenner, the museum's publicity manager. "We wanted to create something suitably fantastical, and this candy-themed set is the perfect backdrop for her breathtaking outfit, which has been created especially for Madame Tussauds by Katy's own costumers. We know guests will love joining Katy in her special Easter candy land."

The museum's website is madametussauds.com/london.



JOHN PHILLIPS, INVISION/AP

A wax figure of singer Katy Perry stands amid a candy wonderland with an Easter theme at Madame Tussauds wax museum in London.

GO MONUMENTAL:
Rome library exhibit

A second-century statue from the facade of the Celsus Library in Ephesus is part of the exhibition "The Infinite Library" inside Rome's Colosseum through Oct. 5. The show documents the evolution of books and reading in the Greek-Roman world.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Art fair in Cologne

Admire art at an outing to ART COLOGNE 2014, in the city of the same name, through the weekend. The 48th edition of this international art market serves as a showcase for classic modern, postwar and contemporary art.

The fair dates to 1967, when neighboring Bonn served as the de facto capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. The industrial area and economic stronghold known as the Rhineland grew to be the center of the West German art world. Even today, many businesses and industries, along with art collectors, call the area home.

Through Sunday, over 200 galleries from 25 countries will show and sell modern and contemporary art, including paintings, works on paper, photography, video, sculptures and graphics. Artists are both established names and promising newcomers. Collectors and art enthusiasts attend to gain insight into current trends in art and the art market.

ART COLOGNE opens at noon on all days, remaining open until 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and closing at 6 p.m. Sunday. A single-day ticket costs 25 euros (about \$34.50), while 35 euros buys a two-day



Karen Bradbury

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

ticket.

The fair is located at Koelnmesse GmbH, Messeplatz 1. Learn more at artcologne.com.

Events from the inside

Ever want to attend an event, but are put off by having no one to go with? Consider volunteering.

A huge variety of events, from marathons and film festivals to multiday rock shows, function on the power of individuals who volunteer time and effort purely for the chance to be part of something.

Although it would help to know the language of the country in which the event is held, organizers are often happy to have the services of English speakers, too. If you have expertise in a cer-

tain area, or are fluent in other languages, your efforts would be particularly sought after.

Events also require a lot of pure muscle, from set-up and escorting VIPs. While you won't get rich, you'll often get a pass to events across the board, and it's a great way to meet people with similar interests.

Organizers prefer to line up their helpers early, so check out an event's official website, and there's a good chance you'll find a link to instructions on volunteering.

If not, and if your heart's really set on being there, drop an email to the contact address or just call. Things could work out beautifully for both of you.

Air races in Croatia

The Mediterranean gem of a town known as Rovinj, Croatia, hosts The Red Bull Air Race World Championships this weekend. The series returns following a three-year break in which organizers shored up safety measures and revamped its concept.

This race above the skies of the Istrian Peninsula is the second in a series of eight races on three continents. Defending world champion Paul Bonhomme will take on 11 other pilots in the competition that involves

navigating a tricky aerial slalom course of trillions referred to as "air gates" while racing against the clock. Different styles of flying are required to pass through the variously designed gates.

Participating pilots hail from Australia, Canada, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, the United States and elsewhere. A side program of show flights accompanies the races. The newly introduced Challengers Cup is a stepping stone competition conceived to give up-and-coming pilots valuable racing experience.

The event kicks off with training and qualification events from 11 a.m. Saturday. On race day, Sunday, flying begins at 1 p.m., with the winners ceremony scheduled just after 5 p.m.

A wide range of ticket options and hospitality packages are available for Sunday and the weekend. A "Zone B" general admission weekend pass is available online and goes for 26 euros (about \$35.75) per person. This zone is standing room only. Children ages 10 and younger enjoy free access to this area.

Can't make it to Croatia on such short notice? Other European cities to host the race series include Gdynia, Poland, July 26-27, and Ascot, England, Aug. 16-17.

See redbullairrace.com.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Fossils and fascinations

Trieste, Italy, museum preserves creatures past and present

By JASON DUHR
Stars and Stripes

Head east on the autostrade from Aviano Air Base and watch the mountains sink into the landscape as you near the Adriatic Sea to spend a day in the city of Trieste, Italy.

The city boasts more than a dozen museums and tourist attractions, ranging from the City Sea Museum, which houses an exhibition of model ships dating to medieval times and showcases ships from Christopher Columbus' voyage in 1492, to the Trieste Botanical Gardens, which offers nearly 2½ acres that could excite any amateur botanist.

A fascination with fossils guided me to the City Museum of Natural History.

Visitors can stand in the shadows of a towering skeleton of an African elephant, then view the remains of an equally impressive hippopotamus nearby.

The museum occupies two floors and displays part of its collection of 2 million specimens. Originally built in the center of Trieste in 1846 as a private collection, the museum held artifacts considered to be of international importance.

The museum today is a bit far from the town center. It holds numerous pieces from the original museum, including microscopes with slides and cabinets containing preserved insects, plants and animals.

Expansions are underway, and once completed, visitors will be able to enjoy more of this robust collection. The first is set to be finished in late spring, with an unveiling ceremony scheduled for June 1. The addition will hold an exhibit of more than a dozen sea creatures, including an approximately 18-foot female great white shark.

One current attraction that shouldn't go unmentioned is Antonio, a 99-percent complete hadrosaurid, or duck-billed



PHOTOS BY JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

The massive skeleton of a finback whale dominates a display area at the City Museum of Natural History in Trieste, Italy.

dinosaur. Still encased in stone, Antonio lived some 70 million years ago.

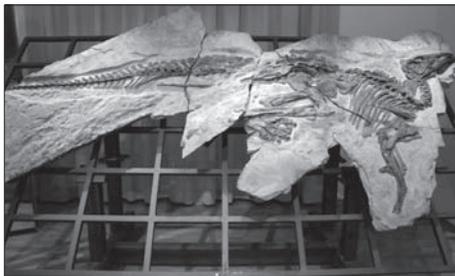
This visually stimulating museum offers additional perks: A library contains more than 30,000 books, some dating to the mid-1600s. The books, in English and other languages, can be viewed in the museum's study room on the third floor.

Through the museum's Nature Desk, visitors can email questions and pictures of plants and animals to staff for identification.

There also are interactive activities that give visitors the opportunity to feel, smell and hear different aspects of nature.

Placards next to most of the exhibits offer Italian and English descriptions.

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A hadrosaurid, or duck-billed dinosaur, named Antonio lies in stone at the museum. It is considered the most complete dinosaur fossil in Europe.



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The museum is located at Via Dei Tominz 4, Trieste, Italy. Visitors can park along the one-way street on either side, except where signs prohibit parking.

TIMES

Hours are 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., with ticket sales ending at 1 p.m. Thursdays through Tuesdays; closed Wednesdays.

COSTS

Admission costs 3 euros per person; free for children under 6.

FOOD

The museum doesn't offer food, so drive toward the marina along Riva del Mandracchio and Riva Tommaso Gulli to discover restaurants offering everything from pizza to Chinese food.

INFORMATION

Website: In Italian only, museostoriatrieste.it. Email the Nature Desk at: sport-clonature@comune.trieste.it.

— Jason Duhr



One of the many displays depicts animals scavenging a garbage bag for food.



This skeleton on display offers a close look at the bone structure of a hippopotamus.



A painting of an African elephant helps visitors to visually flesh out a towering skeleton presented next to it.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



KATHLEEN GALLIGAN/Detroit Free Press

The five knives every cook should have, from top: serrated, chefs, carving, boning and paring.

Cut time and effort with the right knife

By SUSAN SELASKY
Detroit Free Press

Do you know what it is to julienne? Can you chiffonade? We won't mince words: These terms describe how food should be cut. And the key to doing so correctly is using the right knife.

There are lots of knives out there, many with niche uses. Home cooks will have a handful they're likely to use most often. Here are five knives every cook should have in the kitchen (prices will vary from \$10 at a mass retailer to more than \$100 at specialty stores):

Serrated knife

This is best used for cutting breads and other baked goods like cakes. It has a long blade with a serrated edge. It also works like a charm for cutting fruits and vegetables that have a firm skin but a soft inside. The serrated edge cuts through the skin without harming the inside.

• **Tip:** Use it in a sawing motion; there's no need to apply pressure.

Chef's knife

This is considered the most important, go-to and versatile knife to have in the kitchen. It comes in several lengths, but an 8-inch is a good standard size to have. The blade is wide at the heel end (near the handle) and tapers to a point. A common style of chef's knife for home use is the Santoku. The blade is usually shorter and has a row of grooves near the sharp edge. Use a chef's knife to chop, slice and dice just about anything.

• **Tip:** Place your thumb and forefinger on the blade at the heel end for greatest control. Use the tip for delicate work, the center for general slicing

and the heavier heel end for slicing foods that require more pressure such as celery.

Slider or carving knife

This knife is best used for cutting big pieces of meat like a roast or whole turkey. The blade is typically 8 to 10 inches long, but its width can vary. A wider blade allows you to slice the meat and then use it as a serving tool. The thinner the blade, the easier it is to get thin slices.

• **Tip:** Don't use a sawing motion. Instead, place the tip on the food to be cut and draw the knife toward you using downward pressure.

Boning knife

It's used for deboning chicken and meats, trimming pieces of meat and removing silver skin, sinew or pieces of fat. A boning knife has a thin blade about ½ inch to 1 inch wide and 5 to 6 inches long. It narrows at the tip. The narrow tip is what makes it easier to get closer to the bone.

• **Tip:** Keep practicing and you will debone a whole chicken in no time. The blade is flexible, so grip the handle firmly, but you also can allow your index finger to rest on the side of the knife to guide it.

Paring knife

Use this for small, intricate or detailed work, such as peeling thin-skinned fruits and vegetables or trimming them. The blades are thin and short, about 2 to 4 inches long. Use a paring knife for anything you cut while holding it in the air or in your hand. That includes peeling, paring, coring and pitting or removing the tops of strawberries, or any small slicing jobs.

• **Tip:** To peel fruit, slip the tip of the knife under the skin and peel in long strips.

After Hours: Germany

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

If you're a vegetarian, there's not much you can sink your teeth into at Weberstübchen, a German restaurant on the outskirts of Ramstein-Miesenbach, near Ramstein Air Base.

If you're a carnivore, the only problem you'll have is deciding what kind and cut of meat to devour — and how much.

Thomas Walter, who runs the restaurant with his partner, Chris, is a butcher by trade and the three main types of meat prepared in the kitchen have their own section in the menu, each taking up almost a full page.

For those who prefer beef, there are 10 selections of rump or rib-eye steak, including the "XXL" versions for the 400-Fred Flintstones of the world — 400-gram slabs of either cut cooked to order.

Pork rivals the beef choices with a variety of steaks and schnitzel available, from "hot chili steak," a spicy pork steak, to Parmesanschnitzel, a breaded and fried schnitzel, oven-baked and served with Bolognese sauce and cheese.

What I wanted is available only on Friday nights: the salmon steak in a Riesling-dill cream sauce, served with rice and vegetables. I opted for pork's white meat cousin and ordered a turkey steak. It was tender, thick and basted in a garlicky marinade. I chose the "potato chips" for a side. The thinly cut potato disks were a nice change from french fries.

I was perfectly satisfied, or at least I thought. But upon further review of the menu and after talking with customers who came in after we ordered, I realized I missed an opportunity to try something a bit more exciting than plain of turkey steak. The turkey steak Mediterranean — oven-baked white turkey meat with tomatoes and mozzarella cheese; the turkey goulash with spicy noodles or penne pasta; and the homemade Pfälzer sausage all sounded enticing.

Walter used his training in the meat department to make Weberstübchen "the butcher's restaurant," his nickname for the place he and Chris have transformed into a family-friendly, cozy, meat- and beer-lovers' haven.

Though the food is German, Americans will find it as welcoming and comfortable as any family-style restaurant in the States. The menu is in German and English, and Walter, who speaks English well, makes a point of getting to know his customers on a first-name basis. His clientele, he said, is about 80 percent American.

Many customers are regulars. Weberstübchen's "fan club" is up to 78 members, with 16 of these earning the proud status of giant German beer mug owners, courtesy of Walter.



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

One of the signature dishes at Weberstübchen is a big slab of beef steak in special house gravy with mushrooms.

WEBERSTÜBCHEN

Address: Am Lanzenschuch 3, 66877 Ramstein-Miesenbach, Germany.

Hours: 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tuesdays to Saturdays; 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sundays; closed Mondays.

Prices: Appetizers start at 4.50 euros (about \$6.20); salads from 9.50 euros to 14.50 euros; entrees start at 7.50

euros and go up to 24.50 euros.

Dress: Casual.

Clientele: Mostly Americans, some Germans.

Menu: In German and English.

Information: Telephone: (+49) (0) 6371-8383370; email: info@weberstuebchen.com. On Facebook, Weberstübchen. — Jennifer H. Svan

Throughout the year, Weberstübchen has special events, such as a buffet with Santa Claus on the German St. Nikolaus holiday in December. On Sundays throughout spring and summer, Weberstübchen will do an outdoor barbecue, Walter said.

The grill is fired up about noon, he said.

"My philosophy — I want people to have a nice time and enjoy the food and the rest comes by itself. I guess," Walter said. "If they like it, they come back."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com



Though meat dominates the menu at Weberstübchen, some lighter fare, such as this salad with tuna, onions and pasta, is also available.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Strolling through antiquity



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A view of old Jaffa and its harbor. It was here that many Jews arrived in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, in what was then Palestine. Now incorporated into Tel Aviv, Jaffa is one of the oldest towns in the region.

Israel's Jaffa offers port-city views and a melting pot of cultures

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

A stroll through Jaffa is a walk from the present to the past and back again. Incorporated into Tel Aviv in 1950, Jaffa is one of the oldest cities in Israel, indeed in the whole region.

Jaffa, or Yafo as it is called in Hebrew, is ancient. Mentioned in the Bible as Joppa, the city has been ruled by, under siege from or inhabited by Egyptians, Jews, Romans, Arabs, Crusaders, Turks, British and Israelis. Today, Jaffa is a mix of Jews, Muslims and Christians.

More photos of Jaffa's ancient beauty at stripes.com/go/jaffa



A good place to start a hike through Jaffa is at the Clock Tower, on a square at the foot of a hill that old Jaffa climbs. Built in the beginning of the 20th century by Turkish sultan Abdul Hamid II, it has clock faces on all four sides.

Start walking up the hill along Yefet Street, take a right down any one of the lanes and get lost in the ancient city.

At the top of the hill is a large, green oasis in a sometimes-hot and dusty town — Jaffa Park.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



The Jaffa clock tower was built at the beginning of the 20th century during the reign of the Turkish sultan Abdul Hamid II and has a clock face on all four sides. It is a good place to start or end your exploration of the ancient city.



Tourists explore one of old Jaffa's many narrow staircase alleyways that lead from the old town to the port.



Artsy graffito adorns a metal door in Jaffa.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



The catch of the day sits at a fishmonger in Jaffa's port.

FROM PAGE 30

Check out the Wishing Bridge that spans a crevice in the park and the Statue of Faith, a sculpture with scenes from the Bible carved on it. Here also is an archaeological excavation of Egyptian artifacts. A gate found here dates to the 13th century B.C., affirming Jaffa's antiquity.

Also nearby, note the old Ottoman-era cannon pointing out to sea. From here, there is also a great view of modern Tel Aviv and the Mediterranean below.

The Antiquities Museum of Tel Aviv-Jaffa is also in the park and worth a visit if you have time.

Rising above you nearby is the Franciscan Church of St. Peter. This model was completed in 1894, but many others stood here before it.

The Zodiac Fountain, as its name suggests, is a water-sprouting piece of art featuring the signs of the zodiac represented by conical figures.

From here, follow signs through narrow alleys, passing art galleries, jewelry shops and souvenir stores, to Jaffa's port.

Now used mostly by pleasure and fishing boats, it was here in the late 19th and early 20th



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Biblical scenes carved on Jaffa's "Gate of Faith" draw picture-takers.

centuries that Jewish settlers began arriving in what was then Palestine.

Today the port features cafes, bars, restaurants and shops, including a fishmonger where you can buy the catch of the day. This is as good a place also to enjoy coffee or a drink.

On a cliff above the port stands the Jaffa lighthouse, first built in the 19th century and rebuilt in the first half of the 20th century. It was used until 1966.

After enjoying the port, stroll along the seawall back toward town.

Looking out to sea, notice a group of rocks with one of them flying the Israeli flag. This is Andromeda's Rock of Greek mythology fame, where Perseus saves a king's daughter, Andromeda, from a sea monster.

Also take a look back up the hill where a minaret of the Sea Mosque and the steeple of the Franciscan Church of St. Peter



NOGA AM-RAW/Stars and Stripes

KNOW & GO

- **Jaffa's flea market** is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays; closed Saturdays.
- **Dr. Shakshuka** is at 3 Beit Eshel. Hours are 8 a.m. to midnight Sundays through Thursdays; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fridays; and until midnight on Saturday after Shabbat, or the Sabbath, which is around nightfall.

— Michael Abrams

the cooks prepare *shakshuka*, poached eggs in a spicy tomato, onion and pepper sauce.

If the doctor is full, there are many other good places, from restaurants to holes in the wall, that offer delicious local food, like hummus, *shawarma* and falafel.

Abrams.mike@stripes.com

share the Jaffa sky.

Back near your starting point, cross Yefet, head into the streets on that side of town and you will stumble across Shuk Hapishpishim, the Jaffa flea market. As the saying goes, one man's junk is another's treasure, and there might not be a place where it is

truer than at this covered and open-air market.

Now if the sightseeing and shopping have made you hungry, stop at one of Jaffa's popular eating locales, Dr. Shakshuka, and try the specialty with the same name. Here you can watch

Restaurant Directory

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p>Since 1978</p> <p>Peiping Restaurant Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nihilstr. 8, 92673 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33860 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peiping-weiden.de</p>	<p>Garimish-Partenkirchen</p> <p>Open Wed-Mon. Noon-11pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08921-97499 www.restorante-la-mama-garimish.de Zugspitzstrasse 27/83667 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Brauhaus Grotel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhl Ring 37 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-grotel.de</p>
<p>Glutschaufel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel: 09645/60 29 00 www.glutschaufel.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK</p> <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inn. Saucha Gärtner Enterwiesstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>PAPPEL HAUS</p> <p>Steinernstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>PALLAS GREEK SPECIALITIES</p> <p>Pallas Greek Specialities Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 621</p>	<p>EFENDI "Kebab"</p> <p>Enjoy the taste of Turkey Riesnerstrasse 18 67655 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/EfendiKebab</p>	<p>okinii</p> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 06111-2383808</p>
<p>Hotel Am See Kirchenbühmcher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamsee@usa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situated on the shore of the Ruffelweiher</p>	<p>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch 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>Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admanal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen www.pullmanhotels.com Overnight the beautiful city park, close to Kelt's & Back Bars. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p>Hotel de France "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's 'faunstrasse'" Tel +49 (0)611-95 97 30 www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>	<p>SMOKETRE Nessastrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketreibebq.com</p>
<p>HOTEL AGAT Nassastrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau Tel. 06122-4022 Email: info@hotel-agat.de</p>	<p>Book now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on manriott.com via your Hill. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</p>	<p>Café Tempation "reservations recommended" Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/DP area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-tempation.de www.cafe-tempation.de</p>
<p>Chillax Airport City Mall - Terminal 1 Frankfurt International Airport Tel. 069-6902432 www.chillax-portbars.com</p>	<p>Frankfurt area</p> <p>Saytouna Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Josephine</p>

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

OFF BASE

BRIGHT VIEWS: Moss phlox festivals

More than 800,000 moss phlox plants bloom in bright purple around Motosuko Lake within view of Mount Fuji at Motosuko Lake Resort in Japan. The festival in Yamanashi prefecture is April 19 to June 1. Other festivals in Japan include Country Farm Tokyo German Village Moss Phlox Plant Festival in Chiba prefecture through mid-April; Hitsujiyama Moss Phlox Plant Festival in Saitama prefecture mid-April to mid-May; and Sagami River Moss Phlox Plant Festival in Kanagawa prefecture through April 20.

Photo courtesy of Fuji Moss Phlox Festival



CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS

The Japan Meteorological Agency predicts cherry blossom trees will begin blooming April 24 in Aomori, Japan. For a forecast for Japan: tinyurl.com/intosakura. For more events in Japan and South Korea: stripes.com/bloom

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SAND AND SEA: Okinawa beaches

Many beaches in Okinawa have opening events this month. For a list: stripes.com/military-life

RIDES AND FLOWERS: Everland Resort Tulip Festival, South Korea

This theme park in Yongin, Gyeonggi province, has more than 40 rides and attractions, a racing track and a safari — and through April 27, it will feature flourishing tulips. For more: everland.com.



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

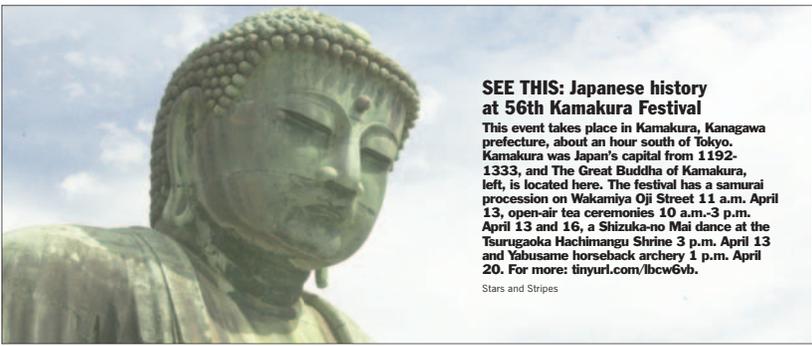


EASTER EVENTS

Japan

- **Atsugi** MWR is holding an Easter Eggstravaganza 10 a.m. to noon April 19. It will be at Ranger Park or, if it's raining, Ranger Gym.
- **Yokosuka** Single Sailor Liberty Program has an Easter dinner at 4:30 p.m. April 20. Yokosuka Tours has a trip to Edo Tokyo Museum and New Sanno Hotel's Easter brunch on April 20.
- Enjoy an Easter buffet on April 20 at **Yokota** Air Base Enlisted Club. Tama Hills Recreation area is holding a festival 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 20, with an Easter egg hunt at 12:30 p.m.

MCT



SEE THIS: Japanese history at 56th Kamakura Festival

This event takes place in Kamakura, Kanagawa prefecture, about an hour south of Tokyo. Kamakura was Japan's capital from 1192-1333, and The Great Buddha of Kamakura, left, is located here. The festival has a samurai procession on Wakamiya Oji Street 11 a.m. April 13, open-air tea ceremonies 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 13 and 16, a Shizuka-no Mai dance at the Tsurugaoka Hachimangu Shrine 5 p.m. April 13 and Yabusame horseback archery 1 p.m. April 20. For more: tinyurl.com/lbcw6vb.

Stars and Stripes

OFF BASE

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

Japan

- Register by April 21 at Halsey or Ranger gyms for an April 26 duathlon at Cinema 77 from **Atsugi** Athletics. ITT Tours has a Mount Takao hike on April 26 and an overnight Hiroshima tour May 24.
- Enjoy Ikego Paintball Paradise with **Yokosuka**

Single Sailor Liberty Program on April 19. See a sumo tournament and get brunch at the New Sanno on May 18 with Yokosuka Tours.

- Sign up by April 15 for a scuba diving PADI open-water certification course during May with **Camp Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service.

Okinawa

Visit battle sites May 2 and 29 or see whales and

Naha on May 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23 & 29 with **Camp Foster** Tours.

- See comic *Sinbad* at Rockers NCO Club at 8 p.m. April 27 at **Kadena**. For more: tinyurl.com/kwty8th. Have lunch at Thai in the Sky with Kadena ITT on April 16. ITT also has a class Cooking 101: Okinawa Soba on April 22.

To see your events here: SSPEDTlibrary@stripes.com.



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

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



Connecting cultures

Gallery documents U.S. military presence on Okinawa

By **CHIYOMI SUMIDA**
Stars and Stripes

A history gallery in Okinawa City connects visitors with American servicemembers who once lived on the island and underwent the difficult times of post-World War II and the Vietnam War.

The Okinawa Gallery of Culture and History stands in a quiet back street of the city's shopping alleys outside Kadena Air Base's Gate 2. Items on display include historic documents, rare photographs, daily necessities, children's toys and many other reminders of those eras.

Okinawa City, formerly called Koza, emerged shortly after the Battle of Okinawa ended. It rapidly grew and prospered as the neighboring air base was expanded and military operations on the island were increased as the war in Vietnam intensified. More than any other towns on the island, Koza's history is deeply integrated with that military presence.

The exhibition rooms are in two buildings located near each other, Histreet and Histreet II. At the original gallery, visitors are greeted by a framed document of Japan's surrender of the Nansei islands, including Okinawa and the Amami, to the United States on Sept. 7, 1945. Panels of photographs show a signing ceremony that took place on what is now Kadena Air Base.

Behind a segment of barbed-wire fence, a common piece of scenery in the city, sits a church organ that once lifted the hearts of many children in a refugee camp on the war-torn island.

Toward the end corner of the gallery is a replica of a typical downtown bar frequented by

U.S. servicemembers about half a century ago. Besides a collection of empty liquor and soft drink bottles, the bar contains one-dollar notes thumbtacked to the wall behind the counter, a popular practice at watering holes in those days. The bills bear scrawled messages and signatures of servicemembers apparently ready to be deployed to Vietnam.

A man from Sharon, Pa., wrote "Tom luvs Merissa forever."

Above it, Lance Cpl. Gonzales demonstrated his Latino pride saying "This is for La Raza." Others affirmed their friendship by writing their names on a greenback.

In the back of the bar is a corner that displays photographs of two major events that shook the island in the early '70s.

The Koza riot that occurred in December 1970 was a violent protest against the military's occupation of the island. About 5,000 residents joined in the riot, in which nearly 80 American-owned vehicles parked along a street near the air base were overturned and set afire.

Operation Red Hat was a code name for a U.S. military mission in 1971 to transfer lethal gas from Okinawa to Johnston Atoll in the Pacific, causing the evacuation of about 5,000 residents who lived near the roads where shipping trailers passed through.

Aside from the social and political upheaval, people continued to work toward a normal life, using scrap materials from military bases to create household items. A curved pot with a handle was made out of a fragment of an airplane. An empty Coke bottle was cut in half, the bottom used as a glass and the top as part of a wind chime.

At the second gallery, one of the newly added display items is military currency donated by an American who served on Okinawa in the early '50s, when military members had to exchange their dollars with notes issued by the military for use off base.

A visit to this little history museum is like visiting Okinawa in the '50s through the '70s, and a walk in footsteps left by U.S. servicemembers who came through those turbulent times.

sumida.chiyomi@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY CHIYOMI SUMIDA/Stars and Stripes

Asaka Sone, a staffer at the Okinawa Gallery of Culture and History, Histreet and Histreet II, shows a pot made of a scrap duralumin. The lightweight, strong metal came in handy to people who lost everything in World War II.



Before being deployed to Vietnam, U.S. servicemembers wrote on dollar bills that were posted in Okinawan bars. Histreet displays many samples.



In post-World War II Okinawa, Americans had to exchange their dollars for military issued notes like these to use off base.



Items on display at the history gallery are relics from the days when both Americans and Okinawans experienced hardship.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

From Kadena Air Base, take the Gate 2 Street and turn left at a covered shopping alley, two streets before reaching the Goya Intersection. Follow the alley until the roof cover ends and continue; the Okinawa Gallery of Culture and History, Histreet, is on the left side of the street.

TIMES

Open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. (closed noon-1 p.m.)
Tuesday through Saturday.
Closed Mondays, Japanese holidays and Dec. 28 through Jan. 3.

COSTS

Admission is free.

FOOD

There are a number of small restaurants on the street, as well as in the adjacent Park Avenue shopping area.

INFORMATION

Website (in Japanese)
city.okinawa.okinawa.jp/site/view/cateview.jsp?cateid=153. Phone: 098-929-2922.

— Chiyomi Sumida



A license indicating that U.S. military personnel were allowed to frequent an Okinawan establishment was vital to local businesses.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

Located a 10-minute walk from Shibuya station in Tokyo, Napolimania offers some of Tokyo's best Italian food at a great price. The pizza, shown above, is perfect for two guests who want to split a pie.

After Hours: Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

Finding a good Italian restaurant in Tokyo is no small task. Chain restaurants like Saizeriya pepper the city, and local interpretations of Italian cuisine leave much to be desired, as they're usually little more than dine-and-dash spaghetti parlors.

Then you have Napolimania. Located 10 minutes of walking distance from Shibuya between Shibuya and Omotesando stations, Napolimania is as authentic an Italian restaurant as you'll find in Tokyo, run by a pair of Italians who are very, very passionate about making the dining experience one to remember.

The food menu offers something for everyone, with chicken, seafood, pork and vegetarian options available all day, along with the pizzas the eatery is known for.

The restaurant seats close to 20, but there is a second location within walking distance to accommodate larger parties and overflow.

Appetizers at Napolimania are a treat. The pumpkin and pepper

NAPOLIMANIA

Address: 2-7-13
Telephone: 03 3499 4466
Hours: 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,
5:30 p.m.-10:30 p.m., daily.
Access: A 10-minute walk from exit B1 Tokyo Metro; also a 10-minute walk from Shibuya Ekimiya Masuzaka exit.
Web: Napolimania.co.jp.



Fresh produce stars in Napolimania's appetizers such as mozzarella and tomatoes.

spread and the mozzarella and tomato dish options contain some of the freshest produce the city has to offer.

The potato-based gnocchi gorgonzola *e nochi primi* is surprisingly flavorful; the gnocchi, both fluffy and light on the tongue, seems to melt in your mouth and blend in with the hearty cheeses before you get the chance to chew, while the crumbled walnuts sprinkled throughout add a much-appreciated crunch to the dish.

The wine menu is a mile long, and the ever-friendly waitstaff, who are fluent in English, Japanese and Italian, are ready and eager to help you pair your meals

with the perfect palliative upon request.

Menu items run anywhere from 1,000 yen to 2,600 yen, making this location a perfect spot for a great dinner that won't break the bank when the tab comes.

Napolimania is open from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., then it closes for three hours to change menus and prepare dinner options. It reopens at 5:30 p.m., and closes for the night at 10:30.

guzman.eric@stripes.com

South Koreans crave stinky fermented fish

By FOSTER KLUG
The Associated Press

The aroma of one of South Korea's most popular delicacies is regularly compared to rotting garbage and filthy bathrooms. And that's by fans.

The unusual dish is typically made by taking dozens of fresh skate, a cartilage-rich fish that looks like a stingray, stacking them up in a walk-in refrigerator and waiting. Up to a month in some cases.

"You know when it's done by the smell," said Kang Han-joo, co-owner of a seafood store in the fish market of Mokpo, a port city on the southwestern tip of the Korean Peninsula, a region that's considered the food's spiritual home. As Kang spoke, he sliced small, stinking, glistening dark-pink fish steaks with a large knife and laid them in plastic foam boxes for shipment to customers around South Korea.

The smell of the fish, called *hongoe* in Korean and usually eaten uncooked, is unmistakable. A profound, pungent stink of ammonia radiates from it. First-timers often squeeze their eyes shut as they chew. Tears stream down their cheeks. The throat constricts when swallowing.

Americans are still getting used to gentler fermented Asian foods — spicy Korean kimchi and Japanese miso, for example — yet many South Koreans claim a love, an addiction even, for this extreme form of fermentation. Restaurants specializing in the fish can be found throughout the country.

"Some people start to crave it as soon as they smell the ammonia," said Shin Jin-woo, a seafood store worker in Mokpo. "There's no need to advertise how intense the smell is. Everyone already knows."

Shops in Mokpo ferment the fish and ship the results to restaurants and *hongoe* fans around South Korea.



AP

Skate, called "hongoe" in Korea, looks like a stingray. After many days of fermentation, its ammonia smell is unmistakable.

The vast majority of the more than 11,000 tons of *hongoe* consumed in the country comes not from South Korean-caught fish but from cheaper frozen imports. Shop owners thaw and clean the

There's no need to advertise how intense the smell is. Everyone already knows.

Shin Jinwoo
Mokpo seafood store worker

imported fish, which can cost up to five times less than the local version, and place it in refrigerators to ferment.

Hongoe emerged in the days before refrigeration, when fish that could keep for a long time without rotting was prized. Someone discovered that skate didn't spoil as easily as other fish, and a dish was born.

Learning to love, or at least tolerate, what many consider the smelliest fish in Asia takes perseverance. Fans commonly say that if you try it four times, you'll be hooked. Nonfans might be mystified by how anyone could meet that threshold.

"It's a freaking punch in the face," said Joe McPherson, the founder of ZenKimchi, a Korean food blog, and an eventual devotee of the fish. "Like everyone else, I gagged the first time."

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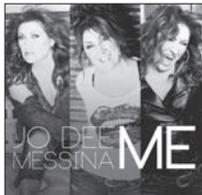
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WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Jo Dee Messina

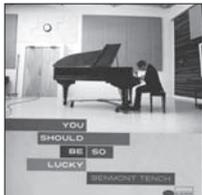
Me (Dreambound/Entertainment One)

Jo Dee Messina opens her new album, "Me," with a song title that declares she's "Not Dead Yet." The veteran country singer proved it when fans rallied behind her Kickstarter campaign, helping her raise more than \$100,000 to record the album.

Messina's declaration that she's still alive and well comes across clearly on this playfully vibrant album. "Me" repeatedly sings of second stages in life — and, by proxy, in careers, too. Messina, 43, continually addresses the value of experience in her songs, as well as in co-writing seven songs and in co-producing the album with Julian King.

The ballads slow things down in tempo and quality. But whenever the beat kicks in, so does Messina's entertaining style. "Me" proves that Messina's fans are right to think she still has plenty to offer.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press



Benmont Tench

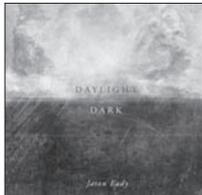
You Should Be So Lucky (Blue Note)

A charter member of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, keyboardist Benmont Tench is also an in-demand session player, someone widely respected as a musician's musician. So it's no surprise that the 60-year-old's solo debut features a lot of friends — Petty, Don Was, Ringo Starr, Ryan Adams, the duo of Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, and, behind the board, storied producer Glyn Johns.

Like the sideman extraordinaire himself, these accompanists (and others) don't draw attention to themselves but instead help create a work that is unmistakably Benmont Tench — warm, organic, mostly laid-back and never flashy.

Two diverse instrumentals highlight Tench's range: the languidly moody, string-accented "Ecor Rouge" and the Professor Longhair-inspired "Wobbles."

— Nick Cristiano
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Jason Eady

Daylight and Dark (Thirty Tigers)

On the best country album of the year so far, the alcohol begins flowing right away, and fittingly, it's the hard stuff. Jason Eady starts "Daylight and Dark" with the terrific barroom honky-tonker "OK Whiskey." That's followed shortly by "Temptation" and then a really killer drinking song, "One, Two ... Many."

That concludes the portion of the track listing headed "Causes." What follows are "Consequences," and Eady's take on them is as unsparring as the music is uncompromising, hard-core country. In other words, this isn't a Luke Bryan record.

The "Recovery" portion doesn't sound much cheerier. The bonus track, "A Memory Now," concludes things on a brighter note, framing the biting lyrical kiss-off in a jaunty two-step with guest vocalists Hayes Carll and Evan Felker.

— Nick Cristiano
The Philadelphia Inquirer



Tokyo Police Club

Forcefield (Mom + Pop)

Tokyo Police Club's first release, the 2006 EP "A Lesson in Crime," consisted of seven Strokes-like songs totaling about 16 minutes. "Argentina (Parts I, II, III)," the first track on "Forcefield," the Canadian band's third album, is more than half that length. It opens with a propulsive burst of electric guitars, but it strives to be a big, layered anthem. The rest of the songs, hovering around three minutes, concentrate on high-gloss, overstuffed pop-rock. "Forcefield" is catchier and more energetic than 2010's "Champ," but producers Doug Boehm (Dr. Dog) and TPC bassist and vocalist David Monk seem as if they could not resist tweaking everything with Auto-Tune, keyboard filigree, digital reverb, and compression. Even on the power-pop tracks, the result is often airless and exhausting.

— Steve Klinger
The Philadelphia Inquirer



ROCKING TO THE END



Daltrey helps another distinctive British rocker go out in style

By JILL LAWLESS

The Associated Press

Wilko Johnson, former guitarist of rabble-rousing 1970s British rockers Dr. Feelgood, is enjoying a bitersweet late-career surge.

Johnson's jagged playing and menacing stare helped give Dr. Feelgood's bluesy rock an infectious, raucous energy. The band was briefly a sensation and foreshadowed punk's anarchic spirit.

Then the group imploded and Johnson spent years as a cult hero, cherished by a tight coterie of fans.

Last year Johnson was diagnosed with incurable pancreatic cancer, vowing to rock until the end, he set out on a farewell tour.

And finally the world is taking notice. There have been sold-out shows, a slot at this summer's Glastonbury Festival and now an album with Roger Daltrey, lead singer of The Who.

Inspired by a shared love of early British rockers like Johnny Kidd and the Pirates, "Going Back Home" is deliberately rough-edged and retro — even the label, Chess Records, is a

heritage brand resurrected for the release.

Recorded in a week with producer Dave Eringa and Johnson's touring band, its 11 tracks include 10 Johnson compositions, from the Feelgood days through his solo career.

The title track sets the tone of robust, rocking R&B. Daltrey grows lustily over Johnson's choppy riffs and it's spiced with lashings of dirty harmonica from Steve Weston and galumphing piano from ex-Style Council keyboardist Mick Talbot.

Songs like "Keep it Out of Sight" and "All Through the City" have a swaggering energy and raw yearning. "Some Kind of Hero" is a meaty slice of the blues on the evergreen topic of a cheatin' woman, but the lyrical bravado is laced with British self-deprecation: "I wish I was some kind of hero."

The album's rough-hewn quality is less of an asset on a ballad like "Turned 21" or a cover of Bob Dylan's "Can You Please Crawl Out Your Window."

"Going Back Home" is not going to win awards for innovation, but it's feisty fun and a rousing testament to a distinctive figure in British rock history.

Above: Roger Daltrey, left, lead singer of The Who, teams up with former Dr. Feelgood guitarist Wilko Johnson, who has been enjoying a bittersweet resurgence since a terminal cancer diagnosis.

Courtesy of Universal Music Group

WEEKEND: MUSIC

The road goes on forever

On latest reissue, John's best album sounds better than ever

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

It's time to dig yet again into the Elton John archives. Ten years have passed since the release of the "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road 30th Anniversary Deluxe Edition." Happily, the four-CD, one-DVD set to commemorate the album's 40th anniversary is more than mere record label recycling. Included are a CD of "GBYBR" songs covered by contemporary artists, two discs of a 1973 concert with John and his band in top form, a handsome 100-page hardcover book and a DVD of a long-out-of-print 1973 documentary by the British filmmaker Bryan Forbes.

The artists performing the covers are younger than the original album, a testament to its durability. Best is English singer Ed Sheeran, who transforms "Candle in the Wind" into strummy folk, and Irish musician Imelda May, who applies rockably zeal to "Your Sister Can't Twist (But She Can Rock 'n Roll)." Alas, Fall Out Boy reduces "Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)" into a peppy rally, and an R&B/rap remake of "Bennie and the Jets" by Grammy winner Miguel and Wale never takes off.

John's original album has been remastered yet again and sounds



Elton John

Goodbye Yellow Brick Road
40th Anniversary Super Deluxe Edition
(Universal Music Enterprises)

better than ever. The loud-to-soft contrasts are remarkable for a pop record, rewarding owners of quality headphones or loudspeakers. Dee Murray's underrated bass work, Nigel Olsson's angelic high harmonies and Davey Johnstone's seven guitar parts on "Saturday Night" can be appreciated as never before.

Like the dynamic range, the range of material remains impressive. A musical sponge from childhood,

John was at his prolific peak when the two-disc LP, 17-song set was written and recorded in a span of just two weeks. Bernie Taupin's cinematic lyrics become Technicolor tunes, and "GBYBR" is an unsurpassed distillation of rock's golden era spanning both sides of the Atlantic. John draws on the Beatles and the Stones, the Beach Boys and the Band, Bob Marley, "Soul Train," Jerry Lee Lewis and Liberace, and makes it all his own. It helps that he's in the best voice of his career.

The lyrics are surprisingly dark, given the sunny melodies, and by the end of what used to be Side 3 we have a dead bootlegger, a dead lesbian and a dead Marilyn Monroe. The album is a funeral for one friend after another, and much more. It's electric music, solid walls of sound, cocky, campy, lovely, naughty, silly and, 40 years later, still fun. Comic book characters never grow dull. Can't wait for the "50th Anniversary Super Duper Deluxe Edition."

Courtesy of Universal Music Group

'GBYBR':
The next
generation

How's this for your 67th birthday?

Elton John celebrated his with the release of the 40th-anniversary edition of his classic album "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road." The new four-disc edition features covers of John hits including "Bennie and the Jets" by R&B star Miguel and "Candle in the Wind" from singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran.

Contemporary country acts Zac Brown Band and Hunter Hayes, Irish musician Imelda May and singer John Grant are also featured. But here's the yellow brick road for Sheeran, Fall Out Boy, Emeli Sande, and the Band Perry, who talk about tackling songs from one of music's most celebrated singers.

— Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press



Right:
Ed Sheeran

Far right:
Emeli Sande

Ed Sheeran

"Candle in the Wind"
Ed Sheeran knew responsibility came with covering "Candle in the Wind," which the pop icon wrote in honor of Marilyn Monroe, and years later, rewrote in tribute to Princess Diana.

"That's when I got a little bit hesitant, but only for a second because that song holds so much meaning to England and Britain and the world after the Diana thing," the English singer said. "I didn't really know how I was going to tackle that and cover that because obviously you don't want to outdo that song."

Sheeran, 23, said he decided to "capture the heart of it and just do it" instead of trying to achieve perfection.

His version is softer, with a singer-songwriter vibe. Sheeran, who has written for One Direction and with Taylor Swift,

among others, said watching John's prolific career has

helped guide him. "Consistency is key," the Grammy-nominated performer said. "Almost be careful what you put out there and make it the best you can do."

Fall Out Boy

"Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)"
When Elton John asked Fall Out Boy to appear on the rerelease of "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road," Patrick Stump had a request: appear on FOB's album.

John did. "I'm like, 'Sure, I would love to record for him, but does he want to record for us? And he said yes, which kind of blew my mind,'" the bandleader said. "And I was kind of bluffing."

The English musician appears on the title track of FOB's "Save Rock and Roll." The rock band returned the favor with a cover of "Saturday Night's Alright (For Fighting)" — although that wasn't their initial pick of John classics.

"My favorite track on that album without question is 'Bennie and the Jets.' At the time when we were asked, they hadn't really solidified pretty much anyone, except Miguel had already done that track, so I was like, 'Ugh,'" Stump recalled. "But I heard it and it's amazing. Miguel killed it, so I'm happy to relinquish it to him."

Emeli Sande

"All the Girls Love Alice"
Scottish-born Emeli Sande says remaking "All the Girls Love Alice" helped her become a better songwriter and influenced how she's approaching songs that will appear on her anticipated sophomore album.

"When you take on a classic song, you're forced to bring it down and try to look at why it is classic, why is it something that's stood the test of time, so it was definitely inspiring for me," she said. "It has inspired me to pay attention and to really set the bar quite high for what's a good song, what's a bad song."

Sande said she appreciated John reaching out to her via email and, like John, she's hoping to fill a void in pop music. "I felt like that art in storytelling isn't really in pop anymore, and I miss it," she said. "It was nice to have something to get your teeth into and be able to break down like that."

Sande, 27, whose "Our Version of Events" was the No. 1 album of 2012 in the U.K., said she chose to record "Alice" because it was "musically interesting and lyrically different." She also said she wanted to impress John.



The Band Perry

"Grey Seal"
The Band Perry is really a family affair.

The sibling trio, who cover Elton John's "Grey Seal," said their parents introduced them to the piano-playing veteran.

"Our parents are kind of like our very first radio," Kimberly Perry said. "They had a massive vinyl collection, and our parents were both big fans of Elton John."

The Band Perry brought their country flavor to their version of the John jam, adding a banjo throughout as a tip of "our hats to our country roots," Perry said.

The group, which also includes brothers Neil and Reid, said covering the dramatic song made them feel like actors in a movie.

"We really tried to get in Elton's head a little bit," she said. "The lyrics of 'Grey Seal' are extremely eclectic ... it's something of a legend, but apparently Elton and Bernie (Taupin) were inspired by a high school teacher."

Perry said they are grateful for the opportunity.

"He actually called Neil on his cellphone to say 'thank you' and was just appreciative. And we're like, 'We're the appreciative ones. You're a hero,'" she said.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

By BARRY SCHWARTZ

Special to The Washington Post

With the fourth season of HBO's "Game of Thrones" underway, the power dynamics have once again started to shift. Make no mistake, my ladies and lords, war is coming to Westeros.

A savage internecine struggle is being fought between two rival factions: dorks who watch "Game of Thrones" and dorks who read "A Song of Ice and Fire," George R.R. Martin's as-yet-unfinished fantasy saga upon which the HBO series is based. Whatever peaceful overlap may still exist between the two camps, well, that is almost assuredly going to end.

In this battle for dominion of the realm, no segment of the audience wields more power than those who have read the books. Because if you read the books, you know that ...

[SPOILER ALERT!]

Gotcha! See? We could spoil everything for you. We simply choose not to. Every day you don't know what happens to Arya is a day we've given you solely out of our benevolent mercy.

Can you comprehend the restraint this requires? It's so much harder to not spoil it for you than it is for you to avoid spoilers. The way you search our faces, secretly hoping we'll betray our better nature and reveal what's going to happen with a smirk.

"Are they all going to die?" you ask, and we think to ourselves, "Well, it is called 'The Red Wedding,' so ..." but all we offer you is an expressionless shrug.

Because snitches get stitches — but spoilers? There's a special black cell beneath the Red Keep for them, and that's the unspoken, unwritten agreement book readers and viewers have shared these past three seasons: You guys get to enjoy your little show and we get to take perverse pleasure in watching you cry. It's adorable, really. You haven't even met any of the main characters yet.

J. Daniel Ford, 33, is a political strategist living in Los Angeles. He's been reading (and re-reading) "A Song of Ice and Fire" since 1996. He's a true Maester. You can check his credentials.

"I have first-edition hardcovers of every book," Ford says. "I picked up the first book the day it came out in paperback. I happened to be working at a book store. I was stocking shelves when I decided to read it and fell in love. I was 15 years old." You must be a remarkably patient person.

"I wouldn't say I've been patient. I've been driving me insane! I've invested more than half my life to this story. My only real desire is for it to be finished before I'm 40."

Ford says he's a fan of "Game of Thrones." According to Ford, the best part is watching the show with people who haven't



Photos courtesy of HBO

'Game of Thrones' pits readers against viewers



With the fourth season of the HBO series "Game of Thrones" underway, fans of George R.R. Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" collection of fantasy novels, on which the show is based, worry that the power dynamics have started to shift, that the show is catching up to the books.

read the books.

"I hate spoilers for myself," says Ford, "so when people egg me for information, I don't give it to them."

How benevolently merciful of you.

"Some people I watched the Red Wedding with might disagree." Still, with only five of the saga's planned seven books completed, it's become increasingly apparent that HBO's production speed is threatening to surpass Martin's notoriously unhurried writing process. The coming season will even dramatize events found in the most recently published volume, "A Dance with Dragons."

In this month's issue of Vanity Fair, when asked if the show is catching up to the books, Martin responded, "They are.

Yes. It's alarming." Dark wings, dark words.

Earlier this month, with promotion intensifying for the premiere, a cryptic post promising future surprises on Martin's website ignited rampant speculation that a release date announcement for the saga's forthcoming sixth volume, "The Winds of Winter," was imminent. Martin collaborator Elio Garcia would later quell these rumors, confirming that "the book is not yet done, and no firm release date can be given until that time." A sample chapter was released last week, though Martin again offered little encouragement a complete next installment will be arriving soon.

Ideally, Martin will complete the final two books of the saga in a timely manner, but



to paraphrase Benjen Stark, nothing someone says after the word "ideally" really counts. We stand on the precipice of doom. Like, Doom-of-Valyria-doom. Martin's detailed plan to prevent the show from catching up to the source material is neither detailed nor a plan. If "The Winds of Winter" has no release date in sight and its supposed final volume, "A Dream of Spring," remains only a gleam in his eye, devoted fans from both ends of Martin's universe face the distinct possibility that HBO might finish his story for him.

For an adaptation to outpace its source material in medias res is a truly postmodern conundrum. It feels unprecedented, doesn't it? Could devoted readers ultimately be the ones who face spoiling? And

by people who only watch the show?

"Game of Thrones" executive producers David Benioff and Dan Weiss have confirmed a recent visit to Martin's home in New Mexico to lay the groundwork for future seasons, including the final season of the show.

So basically, they know how it ends. So basically, all the spoilers. So basically, this has all been an elaborate scheme by two book readers hell-bent on spoiling everything for themselves even if it means spoiling it for everyone.

Michael Craft, 27, is an independent game developer from Shawnee, Okla. He's been reading "A Song of Ice and Fire" since 2002, when he was a sophomore in high school.

"If the ending of a series I've been reading for over a decade gets spoiled before I crack that final page and read the words myself, that would be a really big bummer," Craft says. "Honestly, if and when it happens, I will have to just go on a media blackout. I will have to remain vigilant against spoilers and soldier on waiting for those books. I just can't learn the ending from a TV show. I just can't."

Save for some minor complaints, readers have generally agreed that "Game of Thrones" renders "A Song of Ice and Fire" beautifully, offering as faithful an interpretation as one could hope for given the immense challenges presented by its source material. The next few years, however, could present a much different narrative, one not unlike the story itself, with Benioff and Weiss as usurpers to the throne and Martin as the cuckolded, exiled beggar king.

"I have a lot of faith in George R.R. Martin," Ford says. "I find it very hard to believe he would allow himself to be backed into this type of corner. They need to use the books to push the show and the show to push the books. Regardless of how we get it, what matters to me is that it's consistently his vision."

And that's why we can't let this to happen. For when the audience is divided against itself — readers against readers — and when "A Song of Ice and Fire" becomes the novelization of HBO's "Game of Thrones," the realm will bleed.

Perhaps the fault lies with Martin for licensing his creative property and revealing his endgame to producers. Still, you can't help but feel sorry for him. The tale grew in the telling, as they say. That its conclusion could be determined by fan-fiction feels like injustice.

I will answer injustice with justice, for George R.R. Martin and the Danny Fords and Michael Crafts of the world. Today, on the Isle of Faces in sight of the Green Men, we sign here a pact between readers and watchers. We haven't spoiled anything for you, don't let them spoil anything for us.

Or winter is coming for us all.

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug”: Bilbo Baggins continues his journey with the wizard Gandalf and 13 dwarves. The film is an exercise in excess. If one long, lingering shot of dwarves and a hobbit making their way across the rolling vistas of Middle-earth is good, 50 is grand. If a battle with a dozen giant spiders is creepy fun entertainment, then a dozen dozen spiders is grandiose. There’s not a single shot, line of dialogue or special effect that doesn’t show signs of director Peter Jackson’s unbridled style of filmmaking. Jackson stages each of these major encounters with a bold and broad canvas. The forests are a lumbered maze that provides many dark and sinister hiding places for spiders and elves. Then the action moves to the film’s most heart-stopping encounter as the heroes escape from the elves and orcs using wooden barrels to travel down a fast-moving river.

“August: Osage County”: An emotionally brutal look at one of the most dysfunctional families on film in years. It is a powerful and engaging story that shows the flaws that make families so interesting. It features solid direction by John Wells, a tough task considering the kind of collection of stars you normally only see gathered at the Oscars. It starts with A-listers like Meryl Streep and Julia Roberts, who treat every scene together like a heavyweight fight where both combatants refuse to give an inch. Sometimes less is more. They both should pay attention to the kind of work Margo Martindale does. She can deliver the same emotional punch without the performance ever looking labored or forced.



THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY/AF

Julianne Nicholson, left, Meryl Streep and Margo Martindale star in “August: Osage County,” which is out on DVD.

“Grudge Match”: The boxing-movie genre gets pounded in this film starring Sylvester Stallone and Robert De Niro, stars of some of the biggest boxing movies ever made. If it had committed to a full-scale parody, it would have been a knockout. Instead, the movie drifts between comedy and drama, which deals the overall concept a heavy blow. When “Grudge Match” pokes fun at the fight film genre, it lands some comic blows. It eventually loses the battle on points, though, when the more serious storylines get in the way.

“Holy Ghost People”: Southern Gothic thriller about a teen searching for her sister in the Appalachian Mountains.

“Earthflight”: David Tennant narrates the six-part series that takes viewers over the planet’s most incredible landscapes.

“Extreme Bears”: Natural history special.

“Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones”: Spinoff of the “Paranormal” films.

“Snake and Mongoose”: True story of the rivalry between Don “The Snake” Prudhomme and Tom “The Mongoose” McEwen.

“Holliston: The Complete Second Season”: Horror comedy TV series featuring Kane Hodder, Danielle Harris and Bailee Madison.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



FOX

The cast of “The Mindy Project” includes, from left to right, Beth Grant, Zoe Jarman, Ike Barinholtz, Mindy Kaling, Ed Weeks and Chris Messina. Kaling has been criticized for the lack of diversity on her show. “I look at shows on TV, and this is going to sound defensive, but I’m just going to say it: I’m a ... Indian woman who has her own ... network television show,” Kaling says. “[N]o one asks any of the shows I adore — and I won’t name them because they’re my friends — why no leads on their shows are women of color, and I’m the one that gets lobbied about these things.”

On diversity, Mindy Kaling finds herself held to higher standard

By GREG BRAXTON
Los Angeles Times

When “The Mindy Project” premiered on Fox in fall 2012, it was widely hailed as a breakthrough in the diversity of mainstream television. Its star, Mindy Kaling, who plays a romantically challenged obstetrician in a New York hospital, became the first woman of color to create, helm and star in a successful sitcom on a major network.

But even as the broadcast networks overall are showcasing more minority actors in scripted programming than ever, Kaling is facing mounting criticism that her own sitcom isn’t diverse enough. Critics and other observers have pointed out that the popular Indian-American actress and executive producer with 2.8 million Twitter followers has surrounded her fictional self with a mostly white cast.

Unlike many past and present medical shows on network television — a list that includes “Grey’s Anatomy,” “Scrubs,” “House” and even “ER” — “The Mindy Project” does not feature a strong multi-ethnic ensemble. In addition to Kaling’s character, the only other minority regular cast member is Xosha Roquemore, who joined the show late in the first season as a sassy nurse.

The percolating issue came to a head at the South by Southwest conference

in Texas where questions about her casting choices provoked an obscenity-laced response.

“I look at shows on TV, and this is going to sound defensive, but I’m just going to say it: I’m a ... Indian woman who has her own ... network television show,” Kaling said during the session. “I have four series regulars that are women on my show, and no one asks any of the shows I adore — and I won’t name them because they’re my friends — why no leads on their shows are women of color, and I’m the one that gets lobbied about these things.”

Drawing even closer scrutiny have been Kaling’s on-screen boyfriends and lovers — all white. The show, which has been picked up for a third season, has not dodged the subject. In fact, characters have made fun of Kaling’s Dr. Mindy Lahiri for her lighter-skinned preferences.

“I think it’s too bad that a small minority of people are fixated on the men who are in bed with me,” said Kaling in a recent interview with the Los Angeles Times. “I think that’s a bit specific and weird.”

But Kaling said she understood that diversity on “The Mindy Project” has become a hot topic — one that has affected her deeply. “Ultimately, this is a compliment to the bar that people have set for me,” she said. “And that expectation is not one that my peers

face. And I have to accept that.

“The fact is, I am so proud to be an Asian American and part of the Asian-America community,” she added. “My connection with that community is so strong. It struck me that the show is being characterized as not celebrating that richness. I take that more personally than other things.”

Kaling’s ethnicity is a key source of humor on the series, and jokes about race and stereotypes are frequent. In an early episode of the first season, her character was thrilled about going out with her colleagues to a club frequented by NBA players. “Black guys love me!” she declared.

“My writing staff and I have been determined to create what is a totally original character,” she said. “We’ve been focused on creating a girl you’ve never seen before. We’re also very determined to show diverse talent. We think that’s important.”

But some say Kaling is being unfairly singled out and held to a higher standard because of her ethnic background. Shows with predominantly white casts are rarely asked about including multi-ethnic characters.

Kaling said she is listening and is determined to press on with her show. “I have a great job, a great life and a great responsibility, like Spider-Man,” she said, smiling. “I have to do more, and that’s fine. I’m excited about it.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

‘It’s almost a way of life’

Parkour makes transition from YouTube fad to fitness craze

By RODRIQUE NGOWI

The Associated Press

The spirited sport known as parkour that treats the world as one big obstacle course is gaining traction outside of the urban enthusiasts whose YouTube-worthy acrobatics spread its popularity.

Once the domain of the outdoor anti-athlete, it’s becoming the go-to sport for people who just want a good workout.

Jessamyn Hodge, 32, from South Boston, recently prepped for her first parkour class at a high school gym in suburban Brookline, Mass. She was hoping to learn the kind of wall-scaling, fence-vaulting, obstacle-conquering moves she’d already seen in online videos shared by her rock-climbing friends.

“It’s like dancing at high speed,” she said. “It reminds me of being a kid again, like monkeying around on anything and everything, clambering about, generally having fun while getting around.”

Parkour, developed in France in the 1980s, borrows elements from martial arts, gymnastics, rock climbing and other athletic fields to enable participants to turn obstacles like park benches, trees, guardrails, and buildings into tools they can use to nimbly propel themselves forward.

Parkour’s developers were influenced by military training principles. Since then, some of the sport’s most spectacular moves have been featured in movie sequences, video games and advertisements. One of the most recognizable is a chase scene in the 2006 James Bond movie “Casino Royale.”

Beginners who want to hit the ground running have the option of classes like those offered by Parkour Generations, a business with affiliates in California, Pennsylvania, Texas and Wisconsin, and that offers instruction in other countries, including Thailand, Singapore and Brazil.

Classes include a warm-up,



PHOTOS BY CHARLES KRUPA/AP

Above: Jessamyn Hodge leaps over a railing during a Parkour training class in Brookline, Mass. Parkour was once the outdoor activity of rebels, but is now appreciated for its fitness elements.

Right: Michael Chung, of Brookline, finds his way over a balance beam while running an obstacle course.

technical drills to learn the basics of safety and vaulting to teach and reinforce parkour techniques. At the Brookline class, instructors set up metal bars they called scaffolding and vault boxes in the gym, teaching students how to walk on or hurtle over balance beams and lift, leap or weave their way through whatever else was in their path. Both newcomers and advanced learners trained together, but those with more experience were given more challenging training.

Instructor Blake Evtitt said

many of the new students he sees view parkour as a functional way to get fit. But parkour offers more than flashy stunts — it’s a way for people to test their physical and mental limits.

“It’s almost a way of life,” said Evtitt, a director of the U.S. branch of Parkour Generations.

Class attendee Julio Sepulveda said parkour is very accessible because learners don’t need access to fancy, expensive gear to get into it. They can simply walk to a nearby park and use the existing environment to practice.



Pollen makes spring workouts tricky for asthma, allergy sufferers

By MARY MEEHAN

Lexington Herald-Leader

Spring has sprung, and in addition to welcoming the beauty and warmth of the season, many folks face — though maybe not with eager anticipation — seasonal allergies. And for some, allergies and asthma go hand in hand. More than 50 percent of the 20 million Americans with asthma have allergic asthma, according to the Allergy and Asthma Foundation of America. More than 2.5 million children under age 18 suffer from allergic asthma.

Many of the symptoms of allergic and non-allergic asthma are the same — coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath or rapid breathing and chest tight-

ness. But allergic asthma is triggered by inhaled allergens such as dust mites, pet dander, pollen or mold.

Dr. Jamshed Kanga, chief of the division of pediatric pulmonology at the University of Kentucky, said “when you look at Kentucky almost everyone has seasonal allergies.”

But some people might not realize they are suffering from allergic asthma, he said. Most people associate asthma with wheezing and asthma attacks, but a persistent cough is often the most prevalent symptom of allergic asthma. Allergic asthma can also be misdiagnosed as bronchitis, he said.

Determining the cause of breathing trouble in children can also be difficult. Today’s kids don’t run and play as they

once did so what may look at first like asthma may be lack of conditioning, he said.

But if parents are concerned about their child, they should talk to the coach or teacher who can identify whether the child is having out-of-the-ordinary challenges.

If you have breathing troubles, which make exercising more difficult, it can be easy to avoid exercise, said Dr. Tracie Overbeck, of Allergy Partners of Central Kentucky. But your lungs need to be worked just like the rest of your body, she said. People with allergic asthma need to take a few extra steps to prepare for exercise. A debilitating asthma attack is very rare if people take their asthma medication regularly and take some precautions

when exercising, said Kanga.

First, Overbeck suggested, ask your doctor to help you get a baseline of your breathing. That way you can note changes in symptoms as you exercise.

Then, she said, it’s important to warm up your lungs just as you warm up your body. Take 10 minutes to warm up before exercising, she said, taking slow deep breaths, breathing in through your nose and out through your mouth.

Ask your doctor about prescribing an inhaler for asthma, Kanga said, and use it about 15 minutes before you begin to exercise.

Overbeck discovered her asthma in college while playing soccer. But, she said, asthma “doesn’t have to be a limiting thing.”

WEEKEND: FAMILY

Modeling grace

Effort puts kids with disabilities in ads

BY COLLEEN MASTONY
Chicago Tribune

Katie Driscoll never wanted anyone's pity. And so, when her daughter, Grace, was born with Down syndrome, Driscoll picked up a camera. She wanted to show the world what she saw when she looked at her daughter.

Day by day, taking photos of Grace turned into taking photos of other children with disabilities. There were kids with cerebral palsy. And kids with dwarfism.

As Driscoll looked through the lens of her camera, she couldn't help but think that these children were just as beautiful as other kids. Why, she wondered, is it so rare to see them appear in advertisements for toys or clothing?

Two years ago, the 39-year-old mother of six began posting photos of children with disabilities to a website she called ChangingTheFaceOfBeauty.org. And then she sat down at her kitchen table and emailed companies, asking them to consider including one of the children in an advertisement.

Take a look for yourself, Driscoll wrote, in her pitch. These kids are gorgeous.

Driscoll's studio was once the garage of her Palos Park, Ill., home. Then she persuaded her husband to move his lawn mower to a shed, and now the room has white walls, hardwood floors and professional lights hanging from the ceiling.

Driscoll presses a button on a remote. Pop music fills the room.

She dances with Grace, age 4, in her arms. Grace begins to laugh.

Soon Grace is sitting next to another model, 4-year-old Molly Doyle. Grace sways to the music. Little Molly grins.

This is the moment.

Driscoll flips her camera.

Click, click, click.

"When you are working with children who have different abilities," she says later, "you have to wait until they get comfortable. And that's when it happens."

It's the moment, she says, "you see the light in their eyes."

Nearly five years ago, a doctor stood before Driscoll and explained that an ultrasound had picked up several markers for Down syndrome. Driscoll was 20 weeks pregnant and a busy mother of five boys.

"I didn't really even know what Down syndrome was," she said.

She read articles online, she said, "trying to find resources that would tell me my baby was going to be OK." She met with parents of children with Down syndrome. But her biggest comfort was her husband, Tom. Late at night, when she whispered her fears, Tom Driscoll told her: "This child is going to teach us a lot more than we will ever teach this child."

After baby Grace was born, Driscoll posted pictures on her blog of Grace in outfits from small



ANTONIO PEREZ, CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Katie Driscoll shows her daughter, Grace, 4, who has Down syndrome, photos taken of her at her Palos Park, Ill., home studio for "Lemon Loves Lime" children's clothing designer.

online boutiques. Those boutiques would, in turn, sometimes repost the pictures to their own websites.

Before long, parents of children with disabilities were sending heartfelt emails to say how touched they were to see Grace in an advertisement.

Steve English, a friend who has a son with a disability, began urging Driscoll to do more. "I started to say to her, 'We need to take this further,'" he said. "Why aren't these kids like this in the mainstream media?"

Driscoll was among many parents who cheered for Nordstrom when in 2011 the retailer ran an ad featuring a boy with Down syndrome. She was equally heartened when Target followed suit with one picturing the same child the following year. She hoped the trend would catch on. But the buzz died down, and she recalled, "nothing changed."

And so, in spring 2012, Driscoll and English launched a Facebook page and her ChangingTheFaceOfBeauty.org website. The goal: to create an online gallery where advertisers could see children with disabilities and consider casting

them in a campaign.

To collect as many images as possible, Driscoll asked parents to send professional photographs of their children. If the parents couldn't afford a photographer, Driscoll and English found one willing to donate the time.

Photos poured in from families as far away as Australia and the Netherlands. Within a few months, the effort was being praised by Maria Shriver, whose mother, Eunice Kennedy Shriver, founded the Special Olympics in 1968.

Driscoll kept sending emails to different companies — always attaching photos of the children. Slowly, she began to get responses.

Now, two years after she launched her campaign, Driscoll has landed modeling gigs for two dozen children and adults with disabilities.

"These kids have so many extraordinary challenges. ... The modeling is something that is fun and cool and unique," said Denise Scott, mother of Abby, 8, who recently graded the cover of Chicago Special Parent magazine.

"People have pretty traditional notions of what beauty is," Scott said. "Something as simple as a walker or a brace can distract them from seeing the actual person. It takes a person like Katie to see beyond that. It's amazing what she is doing for these kids."

Driscoll's models have appeared in ads for Los Angeles-based Little Maven, San Diego-based Infantino toys and St. Louis-based Sweet Pea clothing, among many others.

Driscoll's email address is Katie@changingthefaceofbeauty.org

SPOUSE CALLS

Collector seeks out more wartime letters

Andrew Carroll began collecting American wartime letters in 1998. Soon they filled his Washington, D.C., apartment, then a storage unit.

Now the letters — about 100,000 of them — have a new home address at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. The university created the Center for American War Letters especially to house the collection Carroll donated.

The letters from war have found a home on the home front. Sounds like a happy ending, Carroll agrees it's happy, but not an ending. He's still looking for letters written by military members and their families to add to the collection. "I've been doing this for 15 years, but now that Chapman is involved we are just getting started," Carroll said.

In addition to collecting correspondence, Carroll has published selected letters from his collection in several books, including "War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from American Wars," and "Grace Under Fire: Letters of Faith in Times of War."

Traveling across the U.S. on a speaking tour this spring and summer, Carroll plans to research his next book and seek out more letters for the collection. With the Center for American War Letters in place, his request has changed.

"I used to tell people, please don't send originals, because I'm not a professional archivist," he said. "Now we have the best archive to protect these letters. Photocopies and scans are still great, but we hope that people will consider contributing their originals."

He said families have been very generous with their letters and told the story of a military wife who contributed a letter from her husband, who died in Vietnam.

"He wrote a beautiful letter to her late one night about how he didn't want to get close to the men in his platoon ... because he couldn't bear the thought of losing a friend. Losing a man would be bad enough," Carroll said.

"Yet he writes in this letter how they showed him pictures of their kids and their girlfriends and how he can't help but come to like these guys. ... Three days after he wrote the letter he stepped on a land mine and died soon after. This was the last letter he wrote to his wife, and she gave us the original," he said.

"People are sending us Civil War letters by their ancestors. We acquired an American Revolutionary letter — an original. Now we have originals, from every war in America's history."

His quest for letters is not limited to old-fashioned mail, though. The Center For American War Letters welcomes all kinds of wartime correspondence.

"I don't want people to think that this generation or their correspondences are not as significant. They're absolutely as irreplaceable as what's been written in previous wars. So before that hard drive collapses or gets deleted somehow, we hope people will forward them to us or print them out and send them to make sure that this generation is remembered and honored just as much as those in the past."

The significance of the letters and the stories they will have little to do with the rank or position of the writer. "Veterans and their families are so modest," Carroll said. "They think, 'I was a just a young PFC or lieutenant, who cares what my perspective was? I wasn't a general or the president.' But these men and women on the front lines, these are the voices we want to preserve most of all. Truly no one can tell their stories better than they can. That's why we do feel a sense of urgency about this project."

Carroll and Chapman University want to preserve the letters for their historic value, for scholarly study and for exhibition to the general public.

"We want scholars to be able to benefit from these, but also every day people to really better understand the sacrifices these troops and their families make — in their own words," Carroll said.

Military members or families who have letters to donate can mail them to:

Mail to:
Andrew Carroll
PO Box 53250
Washington, DC 20009
or email warletters@chapman.edu

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@stripes.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls



Terri Barnes

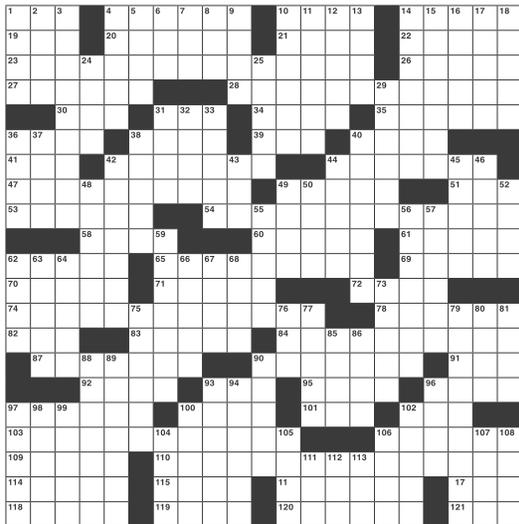
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

AT TIMES

BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
- 1 Improvisational music
- 4 Brick color
- 10 Bibliographical abbr.
- 14 Indigenous people known for their tattoos
- 19 NPR journalist Shapiro
- 20 1986 girl's-name song by Boston
- 21 "Catch-22" profiler Minderbinder
- 22 DuPont trademark of 1941
- 23 Clumsy pharmacist, at times?
- 26 Easily misled
- 27 String section members
- 28 Dressage rider, at times?
- 30 Smidgen
- 31 Suffix with social
- 34 ___ suit
- 35 Maintain
- 36 Grant for a filmmaker?
- 38 Indonesian tourist haven
- 39 London ___ (British Ferris wheel)
- 40 Reminiscent of
- 41 Tucked away
- 42 Some supplies for Hershey's
- 44 Overzealous sorts
- 47 Old-fashioned barber, at times?
- 49 Missile launched at Goliath
- 51 National Book Mo.
- 53 Circus performer Kelly
- 54 Inexperienced shucker, at times?
- 58 Low pair
- 60 Out of fashion
- 61 Subject of a van Gogh series
- 62 Software user's shortcut
- 65 No-limit Texas hold'em player, at times?
- 69 People may be down on them
- 70 TWA competitor
- 71 Dual-sport athlete Sanders
- 72 Answers that may anger
- 74 Farmer, at times?
- 78 Unfettered
- 82 Knowledge
- 83 "Shall we proceed?"
- 84 Sleeping sunbather, at times?
- 87 Buyer's final figure
- 90 Spirits in Scandinavia
- 91 New Haven alum
- 93 Stanford rival, informally
- 95 Job everyone wants
- 96 Sound at a horror film
- 97 Florentine dynasty name
- 100 "Cut that out!"
- 101 West African vegetable
- 102 Double-handed cooking vessel
- 103 Dieter, at times?
- 106 Fall stopper
- 109 French : merci :: German : ___
- 110 Person getting out of a tub, at times?
- 114 Transpire
- 115 Memo opener
- 116 Detestable
- 117 Something that may be amalgamated
- 118 Manual parts?
- 119 Giants or Titans
- 120 Porcelain purchase, perhaps
- 121 As matters stand
- 14 Snowboard relative
- 15 Polluted Asian lake
- 16 Periodic color
- 17 Vehicle on Mars
- 18 Lifesless
- 24 "Goodness me!"
- 25 Exudes
- 29 Less humble
- 31 One of four in "As I Was Going to St. Ives"
- 32 Problematic roomie
- 33 Sal of "Rebel Without a Cause"
- 36 Lunch spot
- 37 Thing that might decay
- 38 Bearded comic strip bully
- 40 Old cavalryman
- 42 Illustrations, e.g.
- 43 In need of spicing up, say
- 44 ___ -- ___ -- ___
- 45 News analyst Roberts
- 46 Word on a clapperboard
- 48 Like some measuring units
- 49 Right away
- 50 It's got problems
- 52 Valery's "very"
- 55 Disburse
- 56 Goes to court?
- 57 Offensive line striker
- 59 Melancholy
- 62 Flood residue
- 63 Ghostly
- 64 "The Ipcress File" star, 1965



- 66 ___ c'est moi!
- 67 Told stories
- 68 Way too thin
- 73 Not a single thing?
- 75 Blue
- 76 Diminish
- 77 Opposite of smooth
- 79 Take by surprise
- 80 Mud ___ (bottom-dwelling fish)
- 81 Total bore
- 85 Slurpee flavor
- 86 Supermodel Heidi
- 88 Dress in fancy duds
- 89 Long-eared dogs, informally
- 90 Reshape
- 93 Fuerza Democrática Nicaragüense member
- 94 It's played in ballparks
- 96 Viscous substance
- 97 PC platform of old
- 98 Ratify
- 99 The Harlem Shake or the Dougie
- 100 One of the Allman Brothers
- 102 Flick site?
- 104 Expiration notice
- 105 Fundamental part
- 106 Modelist's need
- 107 Julio-Claudian dynasty ruler
- 108 Attracted
- 111 Horatian ___
- 112 Hamm of soccer
- 113 Signal that replaced "COD"

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit http://gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES



Colbert to take over 'Late Show'

Los Angeles Times

Comedian Stephen Colbert will be the next host of "The Late Show."

"Simply being a guest on David Letterman's show has been a highlight of my career," Colbert said in a press release Thursday. "I never dreamed that I would

follow in his footsteps, though everyone in late night follows Dave's lead."

CBS said "The Colbert Report" star will take over hosting duties for the long-running late-night talk franchise when Letterman retires in 2015.

Colbert and the network have

reached a five-year agreement, the broadcaster said.

Letterman, who has hosted the show for 21 years, announced his retirement last week.

CBS did not give any details on the creative direction of the show since Colbert, 49, takes over, nor did it say where the series will be

produced.

"Stephen Colbert is one of the most inventive and respected forces on television," CBS Corp. Chief Executive Leslie Moonves said in a statement.

Colbert has hosted his satirical Comedy Central show since 2005.

Hollywood, NFL team up to make 'Draft Day'

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times

In its ascent up the mountain of American popular culture, the NFL has studiously protected its brand, turning down many Hollywood offers to collaborate and limiting the extent of the partnerships it has forged.

So much for all that. The NFL's famously cautious mindset goes the way of leather helmets with the release of "Draft Day," a film from, by and about professional football. The movie thrusts the league into the world of big-time movies and sets a new standard for cooperation between a professional sports entity and entertainment-world heavyweights.

Directed by comedy veteran Ivan Reitman and starring sports-movie fixture Kevin Costner, "Draft Day" blurs the ideas of movie plot and league showcase to such an extent that many viewers may be unable to separate the two. NFL personalities such as Ray Lewis, Jim Brown, broadcaster Rich Eisen and even commissioner Roger Goodell populate the fictional film, which locates scenes at various team facilities and sets and shoots its climax at the annual springtime draft of college players at Radio City Music Hall.

By doing this, "Draft Day" — based on a script from newcomers Rajiv Joseph and Scott Rothman — offers a level of behind-the-scenes authenticity rarely attempted in a scripted film about American pro sports. But as critics will point out, that also means the film can veer into infomercial territory and scrub out foot-

ball's less savory and more controversial aspects.

Unlike most sports dramas, "Draft Day" takes the action off the field and into the war room as it follows Costner's fictitious Sonny Weaver, the Cleveland Browns general manager, as he weaves and deals in the pressure-cooker hours leading up to the big event. After mortgaging the team's future in a trade with the Seattle Seahawks for the top overall pick, Weaver must grapple with questions about the player he should select and manage the delicate politics of coach, owner and players.

"This is one man's story on a particularly complicated day when both personal and professional things are coming at him very fast," Reitman said. "And it's about the effect of a draft on hundreds of kids looking to fulfill a lifelong dream who must also meet the expectations of a lot of people."

That kind of stress isn't foreign to the NFL, either.

In an office at the league's sleek midtown headquarters, Tracy Perlmutter recounted the decision to go in on the movie. The NFL vice president for marketing and entertainment and its point person on "Draft Day," Perlmutter and her fellow executives decided to move well beyond the occasional placement deal so it could serve a larger strategy.

Even with the NFL's ratings the envy of rival leagues — playoff games can top 50 million viewers — it is looking for new avenues of growth. This coming season it will expand to Thursday night games on CBS. And it continues to try to fuel even more interest in the draft, formerly an

inside-the-Beltway affair centering on arcane physical attributes but now a hotbed of analysis and drama that is covered in breathless detail on ESPN. "We believe this movie elevates the brand, it elevates the (draft) time period and it opens us up to new fans," Perlmutter said.

Outgoing and possessing a keen sense of the NFL's appeal, Perlmutter kept a watchful eye on "Draft Day." The raw footage known as dailies was sent to her from the Ohio set, and she would watch it, sometimes passing along material and questions to different league divisions for their response, sometimes coming back with questions herself. Much of this was done, as she puts it, "just to get the facts right" — such as the way trades or picks were made, which Reitman was eager to learn.

But there was also scrutiny for other reasons. In a more fraught moment, Perlmutter and the league nixed a moment in which Seahawks fans can be seen, after a questionable draft move, expressing their displeasure. "We had what I thought was a pretty funny bit where this one player looks out the window and sees he's being burned in effigy. And they just didn't want that," Costner said in an interview during CinemaCon in Las Vegas last month. "And I thought, 'Come on.'"

Perlmutter nodded knowingly when asked and allowed a small smile. "Yes, Kevin called me. I understood where he was coming from, but we just couldn't have that in the movie." (For his part, Reitman said he thought "it would have gotten a big laugh" but "they were worried and it was a small change, so we said OK.")



Summit Entertainment

Dennis Leary, Frank Langella and Kevin Costner star in the movie "Draft Day." Costner plays Sonny Weaver, the Cleveland Browns general manager, in the movie about the annual NFL draft.



ROLLING STONE/AP

The cover of the April 24 issue of Rolling Stone features actress Julia Louis-Dreyfus. The misplaced John Hancock on her lower back has caused a stir.

Rolling Stone flubs Constitution tattoo

The Associated Press

Julia Louis-Dreyfus better hope her latest tattoo is a temporary one.

The cover image of next month's Rolling Stone magazine featuring the "Veep" star depicts a nude Louis-Dreyfus with a tattoo of the U.S. Constitution signed by John Hancock across her back. The problem is that Hancock signed the Declaration of Independence, not the Constitution. Louis-Dreyfus jokingly blamed the blunder on Mike McClintock, the fictional "Veep" character played by Matt Walsh who serves as communications director to Louis-Dreyfus' Vice President Selina Meyer on the HBO comedy series.

The National Constitution Center in Philadelphia mocked the flub by tweeting a photo of the cover alongside such founding fathers as George Washington and Benjamin Franklin in Signers' Hall with the words, "Thanks for the shoutout but no Hancock here."

Rolling Stone spokeswoman Melissa Bruno said the Declaration of Independence is on the other side of Louis-Dreyfus' body, but they couldn't fit in the signatures.

Big Sean calls off engagement

Rapper Big Sean and actress Naya Rivera are no longer engaged.

A spokeswoman for the rapper announced Wednesday that he has canceled plans to marry the "Glee" star. Publicist Tracy Nguyen said Sean hopes the two can continue to work through their issues privately. Rivera, 27, and Sean, 26, whose real name is Sean Anderson, announced their engagement in October. Messages left for Rivera's representatives were not immediately returned.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

A recourse to budgetary inaction

By GEORGE F. WILL

From the Goldwater Institute, the fertile frontal lobe of the conservative movement's brain, comes an innovative idea that is gaining traction in Alaska, Arizona and Georgia, and its advocated may bring to pass 45 other states' legislatures. It would use the Constitution's Article V to move the nation back toward the limited government the Constitution's Framers thought their document guaranteed.

The Compact for America is the innovation of the Goldwater Institute's Nick Dranias, who proposes a constitutional convention carefully called under Article V to enact a balanced-budget amendment written precisely enough to preclude evasion by the political class. This class has powerful and permanent incentives for deficit spending, which delivers immediate benefits to constituents while deferring a significant portion of the benefits' costs. Here's what the compact's amendment would stipulate:

Total federal government outlays shall not exceed receipts unless the excess of outlays is financed exclusively by debt which initially shall be limited to 15 percent of outstanding debt on the date the amendment is ratified. Congress may increase the authorized debt only if a majority of state legislatures approve an unconditional, single-subject measure proposing the amount of such increase. Whenever outstanding debt exceeds 98 percent of the set limit, the president shall designate for impoundment specific expenditures sufficient to keep debt below the authorized level. The impoundment shall occur in 30 days unless Congress designates an alternative impoundment of the same or greater amount. Any bill for a net increase in federal revenue tax shall require a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress — except for a bill that reduces or eliminates an existing tax exemption, deduction or credit, or that "provides for a new end user sales tax which would completely replace every existing income tax levied by" the U.S. government.

Now, leave aside questions about this tax policy, or about the wisdom of constitutionalizing any tax policy. Do you believe a balanced-budget amendment is a required response to the nature of today's politics and governance, now that courts neglect to



do their duty in enforcing Congress' adherence to the Constitution's enumeration of its powers? If so, the compact's amendment is remarkably resistant to evasion.

Congress, which relishes deficit spending, would not, unilaterally and unprompted, send this amendment to the states for ratification. Hence the Goldwater Institute's recourse to Article V.

It provides, in the same sentence, two amendment procedures, one of which has never been used — the calling of a convention by two-thirds of the state legislatures. Many prudent people, however, would closely confine a convention. State legislatures can form a compact — a cooperative agreement — to call a convention for the codified, one-item agenda of ratifying the balanced-budget amendment precisely stipulated in advance.

The Constitution's Article I, Section 10 says, "No state shall, without the consent of Congress ... enter into any agreement or compact with another state." But court precedent makes clear that states do not need congressional consent for compacts that exercise state power without displac-

ing federal power, such as the constitutionally stipulated power to apply for an Article V convention. States can join the Goldwater Institute's compact without waiting for Congress' approval.

Article V says Congress has no discretion — it "shall" call a convention "on the application of the legislatures of two thirds of the several states." A convention called in accordance with the institute's compact would adopt its limited agenda with the force of federal and state law, any deviation from which would render the convention — which is limited to a 24-hour session — void. The compact designates as the sole delegates to the convention the governors of participating states, officials who will not run the political risk of wrecking the convention by ignoring the law.

In the 85th and final of the Federalist Papers written to persuade Americans wary of centralized power to ratify the Constitution, Alexander Hamilton said: "We may safely rely on the disposition of the state legislatures to erect barriers against the encroachments of the national authority."

States would be the prime movers of, and would be substantially empowered by, the institute's amendment-by-compact plan. Members of this nascent movement to use Article V have a name: Fivers.

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For the Internet, it's the next logical step

By JOHN CARY SIMS

There's a reason we all love to "reply" to emails we receive, while striving to avoid an inappropriate "reply all." Internet addresses can be so messy, and even the tiniest error misdirects our communication. Soon the Internet addressing challenge will be even more difficult, as "Top Level Domains" mushroom from a handful of familiar ones (.com, .org, .gov, .uk) to a flock of hundreds, many written in unfamiliar alphabets.

But typographical challenges are not what have been troubling me would lately. The major excitement came a few weeks ago when the Commerce Department announced that the United States will soon relinquish its oversight of the Internet itself.

There is no reason to view the contemplated Internet revisions as any threat to the interests of the U.S. or the openness or efficiency of the Internet. Far from being a bombshell, the plan announced by the Commerce Department is simply the logical continuation of a process that has been underway for a long time. Yes, the U.S. created the Internet and nurtured its growth, but the U.S. has not exercised unilateral control, or attempted to, even amid dramatic changes

in the Internet and worldwide battles over the right of oppressed people to access it.

As a practical matter Internet management was spun off in 1998 to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN. That's the nonprofit organization that assures all Internet addresses are unique and coordinates the complicated technical standards needed to keep the Internet efficient, secure and reliable. ICANN carries out these vital functions under a contract with the Commerce Department that expires in 2015.

The Commerce Department has now announced that in the future ICANN will report, not to it, but to some other entity. The exact details remain to be worked out, and the Commerce Department has indicated that the transition will not take place until an appropriate institution is ready to take over. While the structure of the new oversight body remains to be developed, governments that would like to exercise greater control over the Internet will be disappointed if they think the U.S. will agree to intergovernmental control. The Internet has grown and thrived precisely because it is not directly controlled by or dependent on the diplomatic and bureaucratic processes that

so often hobble the United Nations and international bodies like it.

While critics see the coming change in formal Internet governance as a slight to U.S. pride and a wound to the nation's power, in reality, the Internet is and long has been internationalized. If the policy preferences of the U.S. could have been imposed on ICANN, the controversial "xxx" Top Level Domains for porn sites probably would not have been approved, and the proliferation of other TLDs would be slower because of concerns about possible copyright infringement, criminal activity and consumer fraud.

Sen. John D. Rockefeller, D-W.Va., chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, is correct when he describes the planned change in formal governance not as a radical implementation of U.S. power, but rather as a change that will "preserve and advance the current multi-stakeholder model of global Internet governance."

John Cary Sims is a professor of law at the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law. He has written and lectured on the national of National Security Law & Policy and currently serves as a senior editor. He wrote this for The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee.

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.

Deny radical Iranian's visa Savannah (Ga.) Morning News

In 1979, Hamid Abtulebi was among the Iranian radicals who illegally seized the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and held 52 Americans for 444 days.

Today, he wants a U.S. visa so he can enter this country and serve as Iran's ambassador to the United Nations.

This request is an insult to America. President Barack Obama shouldn't just deny it. He should send back Abtulebi's application form in tiny little pieces.

Many younger Americans weren't alive when Iranian demonstrators burst through the doors at the American embassy and took everyone inside hostage. President Jimmy Carter correctly called these captives "victims of terrorism and anarchy." Some were beaten and tortured. Others were forced to undergo mock executions or play Russian roulette.

Not surprisingly, Abtulebi argues he was an interpreter and negotiator. Not someone who had a pistol or rifle in his hand.

But there's no difference between these roles. He was a terrorist who was part of this criminal mob. He has no business in this country.

This week, a bipartisan group of 29 U.S. senators sent Obama a letter, urging that the State Department reject Abtulebi's request. It included liberals like Chuck Schumer, of New York, and conservatives like Ted Cruz, of Texas. Georgia senators Johnny Isakson and Saxby Chambliss have signed it as well. ...

None of the hostage-takers is welcome on American soil. They are goons, not diplomats.

Abtulebi's selection as Iran's envoy to the U.N. is an obvious slap in this country's face. Obama must return the favor.

Keep spy out of Mideast talks The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

The release of convicted spy Jonathan Pollard seemingly comes up in the context of every round of Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in the mistaken belief that freeing a man who is quite simply a traitor to his country will make Israel more amenable to a U.S. view of how those talks should evolve.

Secretary of State John Kerry recently floated the possibility of Pollard's release. The idea was that freeing Pollard would somehow keep the talks, which are preliminary talks about holding more talks, going. But before the issue could be sent to the White House for the necessary presidential approval, the preliminary negotiations fell apart on their own.

That made it increasingly unlikely that the parties would come up with anything substantive before the April 29 deadline to decide whether to pursue further talks.

Pollard, 59, was a civilian analyst for the U.S. Navy when he began spying for Israel. He was arrested in 1987, and his wife sought asylum at the Israeli embassy in Washington. Israel at first disavowed him, but he became something of a national hero in that country and was awarded Israeli citizenship in 1995.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has asked — at every meeting with a U.S. president going back to Ronald Reagan — that his spy be released. Each one has said no.



MOLLY RILEY/AP

Senate Intelligence Committee Chair Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., speaks after a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington on April 3 as the panel voted to approve declassifying part of a secret report on Bush-era CIA interrogations of terrorism suspects.

Pollard is eligible for parole next year, but there's no guarantee he'll get it. If he must be released, it should be as a reward for specific, concrete accomplishments that benefit both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian talks, not as an inducement for two sides who don't much want to work with each other to keep on talking.

Exposing the CIA's 'dark side' Los Angeles Times

More than a year after it approved a report critical of the CIA's interrogation and detention policies, the Senate Intelligence Committee has voted to make a portion of the document public. It's now up to President Barack Obama to ensure that the agency doesn't mount a rear-guard attempt to censor or sanitize the committee's findings in the name of national security.

Thanks to news reports and a report by the CIA's inspector general, Americans long have been aware of both the broad outlines and some abhorrent details of the Bush administration's mistreatment of suspected terrorists after 9/11. We know that suspects were transported for questioning to "black sites" abroad, and that two suspected Al Qaeda operatives, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed and Abu Zubaydah, were subjected to waterboarding. We have read the memos in which Bush administration lawyers used contorted reasoning to justify torture.

But the Intelligence Committee's 6,200-word report, based on a review of millions of pages of documents, contains additional accounts of abuse, including (according to a Washington Post report) the alleged repeated dunking of a terrorism suspect in tanks of ice water at a site in Afghanistan. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., the Intelligence Committee chairwoman who aggressively has sought its declassification, said the report "exposes brutality that stands in stark contrast to our values as a nation."

More important, those who have read the report say it concludes that waterboarding and other "enhanced interrogation techniques" yielded little valuable intelligence that couldn't have been obtained by other means.

Last week the committee voted to declassify the report's 480-page executive summary along with 20 findings and conclusions, but that represents only the beginning of the disclosure process. The

executive branch will now determine which portions of the document must be redacted to protect sensitive national security information.

The Central Intelligence Agency has promised that it will do its part to ensure that the declassification review proceeds "expeditiously." But the agency complained that a previous version of the report contained serious errors — a charge echoed by the committee's Republican vice chair — and it has a vested interest in suppressing information that would sully its reputation. That is why the president, who has sent mixed signals about the importance of confronting the abuses of the past, must take thorough and timely declassification of this report a personal priority.

Legacies of Rwanda genocide The New York Times

On Monday, Rwanda commemorated the victims of a genocide unleashed 20 years ago by Hutu extremists in power then. More than 800,000 people, mostly Tutsi men, women and children, were systematically hunted down and brutally murdered over a period of just 100 days. The world stood by and let the blood bath happen.

Over the past two decades, Rwanda has done an impressive job of rebuilding its institutions and economy. To bring perpetrators of the genocide to justice, the United Nations has conducted more than 70 tribunal cases, Rwanda's courts have tried up to 20,000 individuals, and the country's Gacaca courts have handled some 1.2 million additional cases. Incredibly, Tutsis and Hutus, survivors and former killers, now live side by side. The government of President Paul Kagame has transformed Rwanda into an island of order and relative prosperity in a poor and politically volatile region.

Despite this, the genocide has left a legacy of unanswered questions and uncorrected failures. It is time to face them. The international community cannot hide behind euphemisms. The reluctance to use the word "genocide" because of the moral horror it carries and the intervention it demands does not change realities on the ground.

It did not spare the United States accusations of shameful paralysis during the Rwandan genocide, and it will not protect the international community from the judgment of history for mass murder now

or in the future. Recognizing the need to respond appropriately to such situations, President Barack Obama created the Atrocities Prevention Board in 2012. But as events in the Central African Republic, Syria and Sudan make clear, the United Nations, regional organizations and allied countries also need to set up international contingency plans to deal with mass atrocities.

It is time for France to open its records to public examination. France had close relations to the Hutu-dominated government that planned and incited the genocide. A lack of clarity about France's role has poisoned its relationship with the Kagame government and hampers France's actions in Mali and the Central African Republic.

Kagame must also be held accountable for abuses in Rwanda and outside its borders, where he has gone after critics in Uganda, Kenya, South Africa and Europe. Civil and political rights in Rwanda are severely restricted. Dissidents and opposition political leaders are subject to harassment, detention and torture. Several have disappeared or been killed.

Addressing the poisonous legacies of Rwanda's genocide is the only way to avert future tragedy, and it is the best way to honor Rwanda's dead.

Give Mideast talks a rest Chicago Tribune

Secretary of State John Kerry sounds frustrated and exhausted. No wonder. He has shuttled time and again to the Middle East to meet a self-imposed late April deadline for a "framework" that could lead to an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal.

But talks are on the verge of collapse. Let them.

"There are limits to the amount of time and effort that the United States can spend if the parties themselves are unwilling to take constructive steps in order to be able to move forward," Kerry told reporters last week. We're at those limits.

Kerry's warning came after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu balked at releasing Palestinian prisoners because, he said, the Palestinians hadn't agreed to extend the negotiation deadline past the end of this month.

And after the Palestinians moved to join 15 international conventions and agreements, defying Israel and the U.S.

And of late the U.S. foolishly debated the possibility of releasing convicted spy Jonathan Pollard in a transparently desperate bid to keep the Israelis at the table.

Last week, Kerry said the peace process needs a "reality check." We'd say it also needs the U.S. to substitute tough love for denial of the obvious. What would happen if Kerry told the Israelis and Palestinians, Call us when you're ready to make the serious compromises necessary for a deal. Otherwise, we have pressing issues elsewhere in the world.

Secretary Kerry, let's say exactly that. Everyone knows the broad outlines of a deal — the necessary land swaps and security arrangements. And everyone knows the formidable obstacles. The Palestinians have yielded to the Israeli single political banner, with Fatah and Hamas jockeying for advantage. Hamas terrorists rule Gaza and could veto a peace deal with violence.

The U.S. may find a way to hold the parties at the table beyond the latest deadline. But that just means another deadline will arise... likely to be broken. The U.S. can't broker a peace deal because of strong motivation from both sides to surmount formidable, historic hurdles.

The U.S. has devoted enough energy to trying, at least for now. Whether it's a quest for peace in the region, or for history's warm smile, or for ultimate credibility as diplomats, American presidents and secretaries of state have been mesmerized, and ultimately searching for this elusive goal. Time to step back.

Frazz



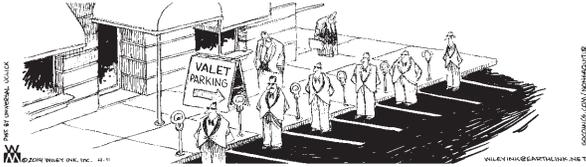
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19								
20			21		22				23	24	25	26
				27	28			29	30			
31	32	33						34				
35					36			37				
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51								52	
53						54					55	
56						57					58	

ACROSS

- 1 Cistern
- 4 Cambridge sch.
- 7 Having a BAC of zero
- 12 "— Blue?"
- 13 Expert
- 14 Jack
- 15 Lemon
- 16 Brought up
- 18 Work with
- 19 Concerning
- 20 Londoner's letters
- 22 Bobby of hockey
- 23 Cruise vessel
- 27 Opposite of bellum
- 29 Incite
- 31 Visitor from Venus?
- 34 Classroom array
- 35 Mourn
- 37 Solifidy
- 38 "Zounds!"
- 39 Honest politician?
- 41 Woman
- 45 Leaves at the altar
- 47 Fib
- 48 Kreskin, for one
- 52 Eggs
- 53 Hunter in the sky
- 54 Pigs' digs
- 55 Yon maiden
- 56 "Inferno" author
- 57 Fenway squad, familiarly
- 58 Pompous one

DOWN

- 1 Capital of Liechtenstein
- 2 Entertain
- 3 — over (helped temporarily)
- 4 First word, perhaps
- 5 Old-style fridge
- 6 Saxophone range
- 7 Revue segment
- 8 Yoko of music
- 9 Prohibit
- 10 Enos' granny
- 11 Roulette bet
- 17 Sod
- 21 Race
- 23 Bloodhound's clue
- 24 Cock and bull?
- 25 Squid squirt
- 26 Score units (Abbr.)
- 28 Raggedy one
- 30 Rhythmic tribute
- 31 Hearty quaff
- 32 Trail the pack
- 33 "— Little Teapot"
- 36 Cow's fly swatter?
- 37 Reaches
- 40 Ecstasy
- 42 Wahine's welcome
- 43 Seedy bars
- 44 Quite some time
- 45 Tarzan's mate
- 46 Charon's river
- 48 Chic, in the 1960s
- 49 Historic time
- 50 Dianist Anais
- 51 Youngster

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-11

CRYPTOQUIP

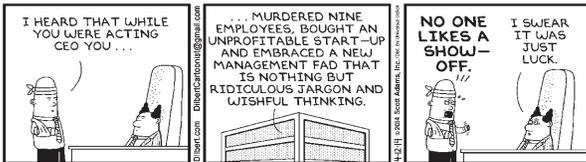
B GUNOK'RJ JLZUFJK PJBLH
 DMMBHLJK ATJ VODMMBV
 LURJO "NOFMMJM," PNA B
 GDML'A HBRJL ATJ ZUFVJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I PURCHASED THAT PRICEY SPACE HEATER FOR YOUR WINTER COMFORT. DON'T SAY I DIDN'T WARM YOU!
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals S

Frazz



Dilbert



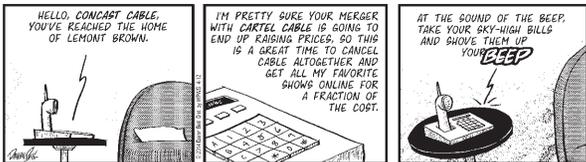
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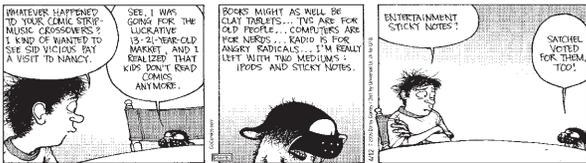
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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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				21						22			
23	24	25				26				27	28	29	
30						31				32			
33						34				35			
						36				37			
38	39	40							41		42	43	44
45									46			47	
48									49			50	
51									52			53	

ACROSS

- 1 One end of the spectrum
- 4 "— that special!"
- 8 Counterfeit
- 12 Lemieux milieu
- 13 Approach
- 14 Anti-fur grp.
- 15 Man-mouse link
- 16 — good example
- 17 Out of control
- 18 Changed direction quickly
- 21 Summer coolers, for short
- 22 Jane's "Glee" role
- 23 Throwing-games ring?
- 26 Fine, to NASA
- 27 A mere handful
- 30 Kazakhstan river
- 31 Shade source
- 32 Angel
- 33 Sontar
- 34 Try the tea
- 35 Get stuck (in)
- 36 Gunpowder container
- 37 Vast expanse
- 38 Classic New Orleans neighborhood
- 45 California city
- 46 Nip partner
- 47 Altar affirmative
- 48 Hertz rival
- 49 Take on

DOWN

- 1 Laugh-a-minute
- 2 Letter
- 3 Teige opener
- 4 Bug
- 5 Navel orange's lack
- 6 Peacekeeping org.
- 7 Hinged window over a door
- 8 "Maltese Falcon" hero
- 9 Engine type
- 10 Tiny bit
- 11 Create
- 19 Apprehend
- 20 Diving bird
- 23 On the — vive woman
- 24 Website addr.
- 25 Acorn prowerder
- 26 Jungfrau, e.g.
- 27 Craze
- 28 Early bird?
- 29 Infinitesimal
- 31 Pizza slices, often
- 32 Bellow
- 34 Moment
- 35 Wasn't watertight
- 36 Peacekeeping org.
- 37 Bolivian city
- 38 Cellulite
- 39 Wander
- 40 Fix the wording
- 41 Witticism
- 42 Needing overtime
- 43 Advantage
- 44 Leeway

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

4-12

CRYPTOQUIP

Y E A U W ' I V R V B K V C R Y D Y S P
 C S R N V C I K U F Y D U Q C O
 F W K Y Q , Y H ' K B I U X C X O A
 Q U F Y S P E I U F H N V K Y S P I C A K .
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 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals I

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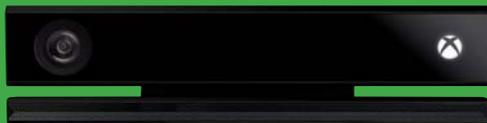
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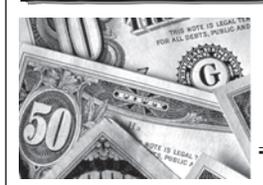
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BOSTON RED SOX - Activated LHP **Craig Breslow** from the 15-day DL. **Optio**ned RHP **Brandon Worken** (R) to Pawtucket.
CLEVELAND INDIANS - **Optio**ned RHP **Vinnie Pestano** to Columbus (L). **Re**called RHP **Trevor Bauer** and RHP **Chen-Chang Lee** from Columbus.
KANSAS CITY ROYALS - **Optio**ned RHP **Lowell Thomas** from the 15-day DL. **Re**called **2B Johnny Giavotella** from Omaha (L). **Optio**ned LHP **Bonnie Joseph** and RHP **Aaron Brooks** to Omaha.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS - Placed OF **Josh Hamilton** on the 15-day DL. **Re**called OF **J.B. Shukert** from Salt Lake (PCL).
MINNESOTA TWINS - Placed OF **Newswold Arica** on the 15-day DL, retroactive to April 5.
NEW YORK YANKEES - **Optio**ned C **Antonio Brown** from Buffalo (L). **Re**called RHP **Shane Greene** from Scranton/Wilkes-Barre.
SEATTLE MARINERS - **Re**called LHP **Lucas Luetge** from Tacoma (PCL). Placed **OF** **Jose Rodriguez** (R) to Tacoma.
TEXAS RANGERS - **Pu**rchased the contract of INF **Kevin Koussamifon** from Round Rock (PCL).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS - **Re**called RHP **Neil Weaver** from Buffalo (L). **Optio**ned RHP **Marcus Valdes** to Buffalo.
MINOR LEAGUE
ATLANTA BRAVES - **Optio**ned RHP **Pedro Martinez** (L).
COLORADO ROCKIES - **Re**called INF **Josh Rutledge** from Colorado Springs (PCL). **Optio**ned RHP **Wilson Lopez** to Colorado Springs.
LOS ANGELES DODGERS - **Re**instated RHP **Josh Beckett** from the 15-day DL. **Re**called OF **Jose Dominguez** to Burbank (PCL).
MIAMI MARLINS - Placed RHP **Jacob deGrom** on the 15-day DL. **Re**called RHP **Arquimedes Camereno** from New Orleans (PCL).
BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
GREEN STATE WARRIORS - **Sig**ned C **Hilton Armstrong** for the remainder of the season. **INDIANA PACERS** - **Sig**ned RHP **Corey Daniels** from Irving and **Grant Valley** (NBADL).
FOOTBALL
National Football League
BOSTON BRUINS - **Sig**ned R/F Ryan Strome from Providence (R).
BUFFALO BILLS - **Sig**ned P **Jake Demuth** from Houston (R).
CAROLINA PANTHERS - **Re** signed DT **Tommy Rankin** from Houston (R).
NEW YORK JETS - **Re** signed LB **Garrett McIntyre**.
SAN DIEGO CHARGERS - **Ag**reed to terms with **OT** **Rich Ohrmberger** on a one-year contract.
Hockey
National Hockey League
NEW YORK ISLANDERS - **Re** called IF **John Sundstrom** from Bridgeport (AHL).
MAY - **Gr**ant Linton (R) recalled. **C** **Gusters** Gudlevskis from Syracuse.
VANCOUVER CANUCKS - **N**amed Trevor Linden president of hockey operations.
KANSAS - **COLLEGE** - **Sig**ned freshman C **Joel Embiid** will enter the NBA Draft.

USA Today Men's Top 25

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5	Arizona	(1)	33	67	5
6	Michigan	(1)	30	70	15
7	Wichita State (1)	35-1	583	2	2
8	Villanova	(1)	29	67	11
9	Louisville	(1)	31	54	3
10	Virginia	(1)	30	53	4
11	Lowell State	29-8	457	11	11
12	San Diego State	21-1	453	11	11
13	Illinois	(1)	27	66	21
14	Kansas	25-10	341	10	10
15	UCLA	28	297	6	6
16	Duke	29	316	6	6
17	Dartmouth	28-6	242	12	12
18	Yale	26	216	26	26
19	Creighton	27	217	10	10
20	North Carolina	24-10	156	18	18
22	Cincinnati	27	176	14	14
23	Tennessee	24-12	124	16	16
24	Stanford	23-13	104	16	16
25	St. Louis	27	101	25	25

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6	Baylor	32	649	6
7	North Carolina	31	649	6
8	Tennessee	29	566	3
9	Arizona	29	566	3
10	Texas A&M	27	516	14
11	Kentucky	26-9	471	11
12	West Virginia	30-5	463	7
13	Duke	28	394	10
14	Stanford	28	394	10
15	Oklahoma State	29	335	18
16	DePaul	29	313	21
17	Michigan State	28	293	19
18	Brigham Young	28	203	NR
19	Arizona State	27	193	NR
20	California	22	152	22
21	Mt. State	22	152	22
22	Gonzaga	25	119	16
23	Michigan State	23	110	NR
24	North Carolina	21	93	NR
25	Oregon State	24	57	24

Other receiving votes:

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AP spotlight

1936 - The Detroit Red Wings win the NHL's first Stanley Cup, 3-1 victory over the Montreal Maple Leafs.

1965 - Jack Nicklaus shoots a record 27 on the 18th hole to win the 13th major by nine strokes over Arnold Palmer at the PGA Championship.

1966 - Jack Nicklaus wins his third Masters and becomes the first to win in consecutive years as he beats 70 at a 198-hole playoff to beat Tommy Jacobs and Lee Trevino.

1982 - Craig Stadler beats Dan Pohl in a 198-hole death playoff to win the Masters.

1989 - Spain's Saver Ballesteros wins the Masters by four shots over Tom Kite and Ben Crenshaw.

1989 - Ron Fexlous scores his second career goal and becomes the first goalie to score in a playoff game, leading the Philadelphia Flyers beat the Washington Capitals 5-3.

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College basketball

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College basketball

Wednesday's scores

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AUTO RACING



RALPH LAUER/AP

Under NASCAR's new system, Team Penske drivers Joey Logano, left, and Brad Keselowski have already qualified for the Chase for the Championship. This year, drivers who win a race automatically qualify for NASCAR's playoff. Logano won Monday, while Keselowski won a race last month.

NASCAR notebook

Team Penske can look toward Chase after win

By Jenna Fryer
The Associated Press

As he chased Joey Logano around Texas Motor Speedway, more than a few people wondered if Brad Keselowski was letting off the gas just a little bit to help his teammate to a win.

A flurry of late activity cleared Keselowski of any potential wrongdoing.

As Logano closed in on the white flag that would have wrapped up the win, a late caution sent the field to pit road. Keselowski was penalized for speeding — he was 0.8 mph over in one of the zones on pit road — and it proved he was doing everything in his power to win Monday's race.

"I definitely wasn't (laying back)," Keselowski said. "I was 105 percent, so that's why got a 1 speeding penalty. I broke the rule the other way."

NASCAR last September demanded drivers give 100 percent at all times in a mandate to prevent them from aiding teammates. The penalty Keselowski had to serve contributed to his 15th-place finish, and Logano went on to win his first race of the season.

"We're in it for wins. We're not in it for finishing second. Second or 15th is the same to us," Keselowski said. "I sped and ended up

15th. It had to be really close. If it would have worked out, I might have been able to win the race from it. It's just part of racing."

Now no one can accuse Team Penske of playing unfairly, and both drivers have a clear conscience as they prepare for the Chase for the Sprint Cup championship. Keselowski got his win at Las Vegas in March, and under NASCAR's new win-and-you're-in format, Team Penske should be assured of two spots in the 16-driver Chase field.

No VIP: Chase Elliott became the second youngest winner in Nationwide Series history at Texas Motor Speedway, then had to return home to Georgia to go back to school.

There was no special treatment for Elliott, who is wrapping up his senior year of high school at Kings Ridge Christian School in Atlanta.

"It was a typical Monday morning," Elliott said. "Nobody likes Mondays, whether you're in school or having to go to work." Elliott, who won Friday night in his sixth career start, is roughly four months older than Joey Logano was when he won his first career Nationwide race in 2008 at 18 years, 21 days.

The victory officially announced the arrival of the son of 1988 Cup champion Bill Elliott, who won the Most Popular Driver

award a record 16 times before he removed his name from the ballot. As Chase Elliott celebrated the win, six-time champion Jimmie Johnson visited him in Victory Lane. Kyle Busch and Kevin Harvick stopped by his car to offer congratulations, and Jeff Gordon, Brad Keselowski, Kasey Kahne and Denny Hamlin tweeted to him.

"Those guys just taking a couple seconds to shake my hand along the way, that was one of the coolest things I've ever experienced ever," Elliott said.

Andretti addition: Roger Griffiths, who recently left his position as technical director for Honda Performance Development, has joined Andretti Autosport as the new director of motorsport development.

Griffiths will work with all areas of Andretti racing competition, including the IndyCar Series, its ladder system, Formula E and Rallycross.

"I'm very excited to have Roger join the team," said Andretti. "A man with his knowledge, talent and experience will be a huge addition for not just Andretti Autosport, but also for (Rallycross) and Andretti Formula E."

Griffiths has worked in many different series, including Formula 1, IndyCar, American Le Mans Series, European Le Mans Series and Super Touring Cars.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Southern 500 at Darlington, S.C.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 12:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 7:30 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Darlington Raceway (oval, 1.366 miles).

Race distance: 501.3 miles, 367 laps.

Last year: Matt Kenseth raced to the third of his career-high seven victories.

Last week: Joey Logano won the rain-delayed race at Texas on Monday, passing Jeff Gordon on the last lap in a green-white-checked finish.

Fast fact: The record for the most races at the start of the season without a repeat winner is 10 in 2000.

Next race: Toyota Owners 400, April 26, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: www.nascar.com
— The Associated Press

Driver standings

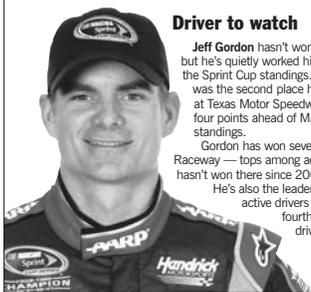
1. Jeff Gordon	259
2. Matt Kenseth	255
3. Carl Edwards	247
4. Joey Logano	235
5. Kyle Busch	231
6. Jimmie Johnson	228
7. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	228
8. Brad Keselowski	218
9. Brian Vickers	205
10. Paul Menard	203
11. Ryan Newman	202
12. Austin Dillon	202
13. Denny Hamlin	197
14. Tony Stewart	189
15. Greg Biffle	188
16. Kyle Larson	187
17. Clint Bowyer	187
18. Marcos Ambrose	186
19. Kasey Kahne	178
20. AJ Allmendinger	173

Driver to watch

Jeff Gordon hasn't won a race this season, but he's quietly worked his way to the top of the Sprint Cup standings. His top finish so far was the second place he earned last week at Texas Motor Speedway, which put him four points ahead of Matt Kenseth in the standings.

Gordon has won seven times at Darlington Raceway — tops among active drivers — but hasn't won there since 2007.

He's also the leader in laps led among active drivers with 1,736 and fourth-best among all drivers.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: VFW Sport Clips Help A Hero 200 at Darlington, S.C.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2 a.m. Saturday CET; 9 a.m. Saturday JKT.

Track: Darlington Raceway (oval, 1.366 miles).

Race distance: 200.8 miles, 147 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the fifth of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Chase Elliott won at Texas as his first series victory.

Online: www.nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Grand Prix of Long Beach at Long Beach, Calif.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m. Monday CET; noon Monday JKT.

Track: Streets of Long Beach (street course, 1.968 miles).

Race distance: 157.4 miles, 80 laps.

Last year: Takuma Sato became the first Japanese winner in IndyCar history.

Last race: Team Penske's Will Power opened the season with a victory in St. Petersburg, Fla., on March 30.

Online: www.indycar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: North Carolina Education Lottery 200, May 16, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Last race: Defending series champion Matt Crafton won the rain-delayed race at Martinsville.

Online: www.nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Chinese Grand Prix, April 20, Shanghai International Circuit, Shanghai.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won in Bahrain for his second straight victory, beating Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg by a second.

Online: www.formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Four-Wide Nationals at Concord, N.C.

TV: AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m. Monday CET; 9 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: zMAX Dragway.

Last year: Matt Hagan won Funny Car. Spencer Massey won Top Fuel, Mike Edwards in Pro Stock and Hector Arana Jr. in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Alexis DeJoria won Funny Car in Las Vegas on March 30. Other winners were Erica Enders-Stevens (Pro Stock) and Tony Schumacher (Top Fuel).

Online: www.nhra.com

OTHER RACES

WORLD OF OUTLAWS

Sprint Car: Friday, Kings Speedway, Hanford, Calif.; Saturday, Peris Auto Speedway, Perris, Calif. Late Model: Friday, Duck River Raceway Park, Wheel, Tenn.; Saturday, Tazewell Speedway, Tazewell, Tenn. www.worldofoutlaws.com

TUDDOR UNITED SPORTSCAR CHAMPIONSHIP

Tequila Patron Sports Car Showcase at Long Beach, Saturday, Streets of Long Beach, Long Beach, Calif. www.insa.com

SOCCER

Howard's play shouldn't give US reason to worry

American among top goalkeepers in Premier League

By BRETT MARTEL
The Associated Press

If Tim Howard maintains the standard he's been setting in England, goalkeeping will be the least of the U.S. team's worries during the World Cup.

Howard has 12 shutouts in 32 Premier League games for Everton this season following the Toffees' 3-0 victory over Arsenal last weekend, tied for third with Tottenham's Hugo Lloris and trailing only Chelsea's Petr Cech (15) and the Gunners' Wojciech Szczesny (13).

Thanks to sound defending and strong ball possession by Everton, Howard wasn't particularly busy against the Gunners, but rose impressively to the challenges he faced.

It started in the first half with Lukas Podolski's powerful, knuckling volley from the top of the 18-yard box, which Howard pushed over the crossbar with a well-timed leap and outstretched arm. In the second half, Howard pounced off of his line to smother Olivier Giroud's attempt to turn in a loose ball from 6 yards out.

Howard also got just enough of Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's 25-yard drive to send the ball deflecting off the crossbar.

Howard, who moved from mostly a backup role at Manchester United to a starting job at Everton for the 2006-07 season, delivered high compliments to his entire team in his post-game comments.

"That was certainly one of our signature performances since I've been here at Everton," Howard said. "The way we controlled the game, scored the goals and kept it clean at the back — I thought it was a brilliant performance."

The victory lifted fifth-place Everton within a point of Arsenal for the Premier League's fourth and final berth in next season's Champions League.

Elsewhere in England: Jozy Altidore, with just two goals in 35 games for Sunderland this season did not dress for Monday's 5-1 loss at Tottenham but instead started for Sunderland's under-21 team in a 3-0 win at the Stadium of Light. Altidore's ninth-minute shot following a high ball sailed just past the post.

Goals abroad: American forward Aron Johannsson is keeping up his prolific scoring pace with

Dutch Eredivisie club AZ Alkmaar. Johannsson scored his 26th goal on Sunday and added an assist in AZ's 2-2 tie at Roda JC.

Meanwhile, U.S. midfielder Alejandro Bedoya scored his fifth goal for Nantes on a header in a Ligue 1 match against Monaco.

Home front: Clint Dempsey is putting his ineffectual loan stint with Fulham behind him and producing goals en masse with Seattle early in the Major League Soccer season.

Dempsey had a hat trick on Saturday, including two late goals — one on a penalty kick — as the Sounders rallied from a two-goal deficit for a 4-4 tie at rival Portland.

Midfielder Michael Bradley, whose sturdy and often clever midfield play has helped Toronto FC to a 3-1 start, also scored his first goal of the MLS season last weekend.

He beat Columbus goalkeeper Steve Clark from a sharp angle in a 2-0 victory over the Crew.

Landon Donovan assisted on two goals in the Los Angeles Galaxy's 3-0 win over Chivas USA. The 32-year-old attacker is expected to be among 30 players selected by U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann for his preliminary roster, which must be submitted to FIFA by May 13, the day before the Americans open their training camp. Final 23-man rosters are due by June 2.

Goalkeeper Tim Howard, who plays in England's Premier League when he's not playing for the U.S. national team, has 12 shutouts in 32 games for Everton this season.

HECTOR GABINO, EL NUEVO HERALD/MCT



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NBA



TOM LYNN/AP

The Pacers' Chris Copeland reacts after sinking the game-winning shot against the Bucks on Wednesday in Milwaukee. Indiana will face rival Miami on Friday with the inside track for a No. 1 seed up for grabs.

Playoff update

Good Wednesday for Vogel, Pacers

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

A look at where things stand in the NBA playoff picture, with seven days remaining in the regular season:

East update

Frank Vogel had a good Wednesday.

Indiana's coach gave his starters a day off, watched his backups beat Milwaukee, and climbed back atop the Eastern Conference standings. Next stop: Miami, which lost at Memphis and is now a half-game behind the Pacers. The East rivals play Friday night in Miami with the winner getting the inside track to the No. 1 seed on that side of the bracket.

Toronto and Chicago stayed tied in the race for No. 3 with victories, Charlotte passed Washington for No. 6 by topping the Wizards, Cleveland was eliminated by Atlanta's win over Boston, Brooklyn essentially locked itself into No. 5 with its loss at Orlando, and New York's chances got bleaker when the Hawks won.

"It's an empty feeling now that your chances are done. You think about things you could have done, you should have done."

Kyrie Irving

Cavs guard, after Cleveland was eliminated from postseason contention on Wednesday

West update

Oklahoma City and the Los Angeles Clippers will almost certainly enter the playoffs seeded No. 2 and No. 3 in some order, meaning they'll be on track to meet each other in the Western Conference semifinals. And the way those clubs went at each other Wednesday served as a reminder that such a series could be outstanding.

The race for No. 4 got tighter, with Portland within 1 1/2 games of Houston. The Trail Blazers held on at the buzzer to beat Sacramento, while the Rockets lost to Denver. Memphis bolstered its hopes of making the playoffs by beating Miami, but the Grizzlies are still ninth — Phoenix remains a game up in the race for No. 8, thanks to its win over New Orleans.

Current bracket

First-round matchups if the season ended Wednesday...

East: Indiana-Atlanta, Miami-Washington, Toronto-Charlotte, Chicago-Brooklyn.

West: San Antonio-Phoenix, Oklahoma City-Dallas, Clippers-Golden State, Houston-Portland.



AP

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-Indiana	54	25	.684	—
y-Miami	53	25	.679	1/2
x-Toronto	46	32	.590	7 1/2
x-Chicago	46	32	.590	7 1/2
x-Brooklyn	43	35	.551	10 1/2
x-Charlotte	40	38	.513	13 1/2
x-Washington	40	38	.513	13 1/2
Atlanta	35	43	.449	18 1/2
New York	33	45	.423	20 1/2
Cleveland	32	47	.405	22
Detroit	29	50	.367	25
Boston	22	57	.285	30 1/2
Orlando	23	55	.295	30 1/2
Philadelphia	17	61	.218	36 1/2
Milwaukee	14	64	.179	39 1/2

Western Conference

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-San Antonio	60	18	.769	—
y-Oklahoma City	57	21	.731	—
L.A. Clippers	55	24	.696	3 1/2
x-Houston	52	26	.667	8
x-Portland	51	28	.646	9 1/2
Golden State	48	29	.623	11 1/2
Dallas	48	31	.608	12 1/2
Phoenix	47	31	.603	13
Memphis	46	32	.590	14
Minnesota	39	39	.500	21
Denver	34	44	.438	26
New Orleans	32	46	.410	28
Sacramento	27	52	.342	33 1/2
L.A. Lakers	25	53	.321	35
Utah	24	54	.308	36

- x-clinched playoff spot
- x-clinched division
- Wednesday's games**
- Orlando 115, Brooklyn 111
- Charlotte 94, Washington 88, OT
- Cleveland 122, Detroit 110
- Toronto 125, Philadelphia 114
- Atlanta 105, Boston 97
- Chicago 102, Minnesota 87
- Indiana 104, Milwaukee 102
- Memphis 107, Miami 116
- Phoenix 94, New Orleans 88
- Denver 123, Houston 116
- Portland 100, Sacramento 99
- Oklahoma City 107, L.A. Clippers 101
- Thursday's games**
- San Antonio at Dallas
- Denver at Golden State
- Friday's games**
- Washington at Orlando
- New York at Toronto
- Atlanta at Brooklyn
- Charlotte at Boston
- Indiana at Miami
- Detroit at Chicago
- Houston at Minnesota
- New Orleans at Oklahoma City
- Philadelphia at Memphis
- Cleveland at Milwaukee
- Phoenix at San Antonio
- Portland at Utah
- Golden State at L.A. Lakers
- Saturday's games**
- Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
- Milwaukee at Washington
- Philadelphia at Charlotte
- Boston at Cleveland
- Miami at Atlanta
- New Orleans at Houston
- Phoenix at Dallas
- Utah at Denver

Calendar

- April 16 — Last day of regular season.
- April 19 — Playoffs begin
- May 20 — Draft lottery.
- June 5 — NBA Finals begin.
- June 16 — Draft entry withdrawal deadline.
- June 26 — NBA Draft.

Noel, Philadelphia staying the course

By MARC NARDUCCI
The Philadelphia Inquirer

76ers center Nerlens Noel reflected Tuesday on his trying rookie season on the sideline, one that he says made him stronger.

In his first comments to Philadelphia-area reporters since Sept. 27, Noel discussed the frustration of dealing with the knee injury that forced him to miss the season. He also talked about his progress since his surgery in March 2013 to repair a torn left anterior cruciate ligament.

"I am very encouraged," Noel said after practice at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine. "Through the past year since I had my injury, I have pushed myself through thick and thin and I had some struggles and I just stayed with it."

The Sixers acquired Noel in a draft-day trade with the New Orleans Pelicans. He was the No. 6 overall selection and many felt he would have been the top pick had he not been injured.

"I worked my butt off to get where I am at now and definitely feel confident I am at my best point and have increased my vertical leap," he said. "And I am just building up my body through this past year."

Sixers coach Brett Brown said Noel's work in practice remains limited.

"We really haven't seen him participate in any full practice and most of it has been by design," Brown said. "The times we have seen him in half-court or

playing a lot of one-on-one, I have been on record as saying that his athleticism and all that type of stuff is endless."

The Sixers have only five games left and while they won't say Noel won't play at all, it doesn't seem likely to happen.

"I think the later it gets the more unlikely it is," Brown said.

When Noel tweeted "4-4-14" last month, he said that was his way of saying he wanted to play in last Friday's game in Boston on April 4.

"It was definitely a goal of mine to come back and be cleared by the Sixers by then and I was not, so that is that," he said.

Noel says he would still like to see action this year, but understands why the Sixers have taken a cautious approach to his comeback.

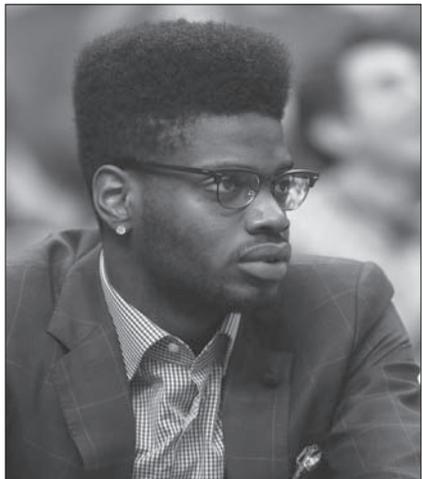
"Obviously I do want to play," he said. "The nights on the sideline, I really want to get out there and show my ability to play ball and it's been tough."

"You see how driven and competitive he is," Brown said. "He is a young man who hasn't played in a long time and he loves playing and that is a priceless quality, to truly love the game."

The Sixers are expected to compete in at least one summer league and Noel says he can't wait to get into a game.

He also said there are no physical limitations.

"I am 100 percent," he said. "I have increased my vertical leap over three inches since I got hurt."



MATT SLOCUM/AP

Sitting out his entire rookie season hasn't been easy on the 76ers' Nerlens Noel, who insists he is "100 percent" healthy. Philadelphia has taken a cautious approach to Noel's comeback after undergoing surgery to repair his left ACL last March, however, and has no plans to rush him back to the court this season.

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
z-Boston	79	53	18	8	114	254	171
x-Montreal	80	45	27	8	98	214	202
x-Tampa Bay	80	42	29	8	95	232	211

Metropolitan Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
y-Pittsburgh	80	51	24	5	107	244	200
x-N.Y. Rangers	80	44	31	5	93	216	191
x-Philadelphia	79	41	29	9	91	225	222

Wild Card

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Detroit	80	38	17	15	91	218	228
x-Columbus	80	42	31	7	91	226	211

Washington 79 36 30 13 85 226 237
 New Jersey 79 34 29 16 84 191 201
 Toronto 80 34 8 84 229 251
 Ottawa 79 34 31 14 82 230 262
 Carolina 79 34 34 11 73 197 219
 N.Y. Islanders 79 31 37 11 73 216 262
 Florida 80 44 8 64 190 263
 Buffalo 79 21 49 9 51 152 238

Western Conference

Central Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-St. Louis	79	52	20	7	111	246	181
x-Columbo	79	51	7	109	245	210	
x-Chicago	80	46	19	15	107	262	209

Pacific Division

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Anaheim	80	52	20	8	112	259	204
x-San Jose	80	49	22	9	107	241	197
x-Los Angeles	80	45	28	7	97	200	170

Wild Card

GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
x-Minnesota	80	46	16	12	96	200	197
Dallas	80	39	30	11	89	231	226

Phoenix 79 36 28 15 87 212 225
 Nashville 79 35 32 12 82 200 234
 Vancouver 79 35 33 11 81 187 213
 Winnipeg 80 35 35 10 80 220 233
 Calgary 80 35 35 7 77 205 231
 Edmonton 80 32 43 9 65 198 265

Note: Top three teams from each division and the next two teams from each conference with the most points qualify for the playoffs. Two points are awarded for a win, one point for overtime loss, x-clinched playoff spot, y-clinched division, z-clinched conference.

- Tuesday's games**
- Minnesota 4, Boston 3, SO
 - Dallas 3, Nashville 2, SO
 - Detroit 4, Buffalo 2
 - Ottawa 4, N.Y. Islanders 1
 - N.Y. Rangers 4, Carolina 1
 - Columbus 4, Phoenix 3, OT
 - Tampa Bay 3, Toronto 0
 - Philadelphia 4, Florida 2
 - Washington 4, St. Louis 1
 - Colorado 4, Edmonton
- Wednesday's games**
- Pittsburgh 4, Detroit 3, SO
 - Calgary 4, Los Angeles 3, SO
 - Chicago 3, Montreal 2, OT
 - Philadelphia 3, Dallas 1
 - Anaheim 5, San Jose 2
- Thursday's games**
- Buffalo 4, N.Y. Rangers
 - Washington at Carolina
 - N.Y. Islanders at Montreal
 - New Jersey at Ottawa
 - Philadelphia at Tampa Bay
 - Toronto at Florida
 - Phoenix at Nashville
 - St. Louis at Minnesota
 - Boston at Winnipeg
 - Los Angeles at Edmonton
 - Colorado at Vancouver
- Friday's games**
- Chicago at Washington
 - Carolina at Detroit
 - Columbus at Tampa Bay
 - N.Y. Islanders at New Jersey
 - St. Louis at Dallas
 - Calgary at Calgary
 - Colorado at San Jose
- Saturday's games**
- Buffalo at Boston
 - Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
 - Chicago at Pittsburgh
 - Toronto at Ottawa
 - Columbus at Montreal
 - Chicago at Nashville
 - San Jose at Phoenix
 - Vancouver at Edmonton
 - Anaheim at Los Angeles
- Sunday's Games**
- Detroit at St. Louis
 - Boston at New Jersey
 - Philadelphia at Philadelphia
 - Tampa Bay at Washington
 - N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo
 - Chicago at Pittsburgh
 - Nashville at Minnesota
 - Carolina at Anaheim
 - Calgary at Vancouver
 - Dallas at Phoenix
 - Edmonton at San Jose

Stars, Coyotes race to wild finish

Final playoff spot could come down to last game with new format

By DAVE CAMPBELL
 The Associated Press

The NHL has gone wild. Well, for the postseason format at least.

While the change, driven by division realignment, to the qualification and seeding system was slight, the final week of the regular season has slanted a little differently than in the past.

Loosely following what other leagues — the NFL and MLB — have done for decades now, the NHL has added wild cards to the playoff pool. Postseason qualification is the same in that eight teams from each conference are included, but it has led to essentially two separate races. Competition for the top three spots in each division is on, with the leftovers jockeying for two wild cards in each conference.

The Minnesota Wild locked up the first one in the West on Tuesday, leaving the Dallas Stars and Phoenix Coyotes to scrap for the last spot.

Dallas lost 3-1 to Columbus on Wednesday night and leads idle Phoenix by two points. The Stars and Coyotes play on Sunday night to finish the regular season.

"Ideally, you'd probably like to have it wrapped up," Stars defenseman Alex Goligoski said. "It's good to have these intense games where you need to win and get points, and you need to play a certain way because that's the way the playoffs are going to be. We've just got to keep grinding away."

Detroit and Columbus both won on Wednesday to clinch the Eastern Conference wild cards.

Also the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Montreal Canadiens are locked into a first-round playoff matchup.

The Red Wings sealed their spot by recording a point in a 4-3 shootout loss at Pittsburgh. It's the NHL-best 23rd consecutive playoff appearance for the Red Wings, who played much of the season without several key players due to injuries.

The Blue Jackets set a franchise record with 42 wins, beating the previous mark from their only other playoff season in 2008-09.

In the West, the Anaheim Ducks clinched their second straight Pacific Division title with a 5-2 victory over the San Jose Sharks on Wednesday night.

The Sharks are locked into a



VENON BRYANT, DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Dallas Stars goalie Kari Lehtonen, left, stops a shot from Phoenix Coyotes right wing Shane Doan during a Feb. 8 game in Dallas. The Stars and Coyotes meet in Glendale, Ariz., on Sunday in a game that could determine the final playoff qualifier under the NHL's new wild-card system.

first-round playoff rematch with the Los Angeles Kings, who eliminated them in a bruising seven-game series in the second round last spring. The California rivals are meeting in the postseason for the third time in four years.

As has been the case for the past 35 years, the Stanley Cup playoff bracket will again include 16 teams. But here's the twist: The top three teams in each division make up the first 12 teams, with the remaining four spots filled by the next two highest finishers in each conference based on regular-season record regardless of division.

It is possible for one division in each conference to send five teams to the playoffs while the other sends just three, which will be the case if Dallas beats out Phoenix. In the first round, the division winner with the best record in each conference will be matched against the wild-card team with

the lesser record. The top wild-card team will play the other division winner.

The teams finishing second and third in each division also will meet within the bracket headed by their respective division winners. First-round winners within each bracket play one another in the second round to determine the four participants in the conference finals.

Home-ice advantage through the first two rounds goes to the team that placed higher in the regular-season standings. In the conference finals and Stanley Cup finals, home-ice advantage goes to the team that had the better regular-season record regardless of how the teams finished in their respective divisions.

Got all that?
 "To be honest with you, I'm not sure I even fully understand it yet, either," Blue Jackets defenseman Jack Johnson said. "You

just have to make the playoffs. It doesn't matter who you play."

Though the Wild became the NHL's first wild-card team, they would have benefited more from the old system. They have a chance to finish with more points than West foe Los Angeles, but since the Kings will be third in the Pacific Division they're guaranteed one of the top six slots.

Right wing Jason Pominville acknowledged earlier this season he was confused why the Wild weren't listed ahead of the Kings in the standings until the format was fully explained to him.

But the Wild weren't about to quibble.

"More importantly it's about getting in, and we like the way we've been playing lately," left wing Zach Parise said.

Associated press writers Larry Lee in Detroit and Rusty Miller in Columbus, Ohio, and freelance writer Larry Bump in Dallas contributed to this report.

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MLB



PAUL BEATY/AP

Minnesota's Josh Willingham, left, slides into home plate safely in front of Chicago White Sox catcher Tyler Flowers on Thursday. Some managers have complained about confusion over the implementation of baseball's new rule against catchers blocking home plate. MLB intends to clarify the rule.

Collision rule confusion?

Astros' Porter says clarification needed on plate-blocking

By Ian Harrison
The Associated Press

TORONTO — Major League Baseball's rule on home plate collisions is causing some confusion.

Houston Astros manager Bo Porter had a telephone conversation Wednesday with Hall of Fame manager Tony La Russa, currently a special assistant to baseball commissioner Bud Selig. Porter said La Russa told him the league intends to clarify its rule on blocking the plate, and how such calls are challenged and reviewed.

"My understanding is there will be a memo coming out that will bring some more clarity to it," Porter said before the Astros played the Blue Jays on Wednesday.

day night.

MLB spokesman Michael Teven said he wasn't aware of any plans for a new memo.

Porter telephoned La Russa after Astros outfielder L.J. Hoes was called out at the plate on an infield grounder in the eighth inning of Tuesday's 5-2 loss.

That made him the second manager in four days to pick up the phone after a call at home plate.

On Saturday, Yankees manager Joe Girardi spoke to Joe Torre, an MLB executive vice president, over his concern there was "confusion to the rule." New York's Francisco Cervelli was called out trying to score against Toronto, even though Blue Jays catcher Josh Thole was straddling the

plate before receiving the ball.

"I believe this is going to be the toughest overall for (umpires) to get right all the time," Girardi said after Saturday's 4-0 loss to Toronto. "To me, it's a vague interpretation of what blocking home plate is and I think it needs to be in writing."

In January, baseball adopted a new rule on plate collisions on an experimental basis for this year. Under the rule, catchers are prevented from blocking a runner's path to the plate unless they have possession of the ball.

"It's a rule that was ... agreed to late, and I don't know if everything has been completely ironed out," Girardi said Sunday.

Fall: Drug policy violators finding home crowds more forgiving than those on road

FROM BACK PAGE

Cruz, Ryan Braun and Jhonny Peralta each served hefty suspensions in 2013 for violations of baseball's drug agreement following the sport's investigation of Biogenesis of America, a now-defunct rejuvenation clinic. At home games, it seems all is forgiven. On the road, opposing fans won't let them forget.

Braun responded to jeering Philadelphia fans Tuesday by hitting three homers and driving in seven runs.

"All I can do is focus on things I can control," Braun said.

Aided by the support of his new teammates, Cruz easily made the transition into the next stage of his career after leaving the Texas Rangers for Baltimore.

"It was a hard decision. You had a chance to be in one place for a long time," Cruz said. "But I made the right call. I'm happy I made it."

Braun, who stayed with Milwaukee after a 65-game suspension, was cheered by Brewers fans at the home opener and jeered later that week in Boston. Peralta, now with St. Louis after serving a 50-game suspension with Detroit, heard boos in Cincinnati and Pittsburgh before getting a warm reception from Cardinals fans in his home debut Monday.

"When we're playing Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, fans are going to talk no matter what," Peralta said. "But I don't try to pay attention to people when they say a lot of stuff. I try to play the game and try to forget about the past."

That's what's great about baseball, Cruz said.

"What you do in the past is over, whether you have good or bad moments," he said.

On his way to hitting a major league-leading 53 home runs last year, Orioles first baseman Chris Davis openly criticized those who use

performance-enhancing drugs. But he welcomed Cruz to Baltimore and is one of his most vocal supporters.

"Obviously, when a guy tests positive, you're not happy about it. But at the same time, there has to be some point in time when we forgive and move on," Davis said. "The biggest thing to remember is: How did he handle it? Did he try to run away from it? Or did he stand up and say: 'I'm going to serve my suspension. I'm going to come back and rebound from it.'"

After explaining that he used a banned substance to treat a gastrointestinal infection in 2012, Cruz accepted the suspension with the words, "I made an error in judgment that I deeply regret, and I accept full responsibility for that error."

"They supported not only him, but what he stands for," Davis said. "The guy plays hard. He has a good time. He's going to give you everything he's got. I think the fans appreciate that, and seeing them get behind him was pretty awesome."

Cruz was cheered again when he honored in Baltimore's second game. He received no reaction, positive or negative, during the Orioles' opening road series in Detroit.

Peralta was batting .074 through Tuesday, but Cardinals fans are treating him as one of their own.

"The fans here, they're pretty good with me," he said. "What's happened is in the past and I'm trying to put this away and trying to focus on 2014."

As with Cruz and the Orioles, Peralta and the Cardinals made peace with his teammates soon after his arrival.

"Everybody around here had their conversations, and he had the ones he needed to have around here," St. Louis manager Mike Matheny said. "After that, we just moved forward."

Scoreboard

American League					Wednesday's games				
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB	Oakland 7, Minnesota 4, 11 innings		Kansas City 7, Tampa Bay 3	
Toronto	5	2	0	.556	—	Boston 4, Texas 2	Baltimore 5, N.Y. Yankees 4		Toronto 7, Houston 3
Tampa Bay	4	5	5	.444	1/2	L.A. Angels 2, Seattle 0	Cincinnati 2, San Diego 0, 1st game		Cincinnati 4, St. Louis 0
Baltimore	4	4	5	.444	1	Colorado 10, Chicago White Sox 4	San Diego 2, Cleveland 1, 2nd game		Washington 10, Miami 7
New York	3	5	5	.444	1	Washington 10, Miami 7	Milwaukee 9, Philadelphia 4		Atlanta 4, N.Y. Mets 3
Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB	Chicago Cubs 7, Pittsburgh 5	Detroit 7, L.A. Dodgers 6, 10 innings		Arizona 7, San Francisco 3
Detroit	5	2	7	.414	—	Arizona 7, San Francisco 3	Thursday's games		Oakland at Minnesota
Cleveland	5	4	4	.556	—	Oakland at Toronto	Boston at N.Y. Yankees		Houston at Houston
Kansas City	4	4	5	.500	1/2	Cleveland at Chicago White Sox	Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs		Milwaukee at Philadelphia
Chicago	4	4	5	.444	2	N.Y. Mets at Atlanta	Arizona at San Francisco		Friday's games
Minnesota	3	5	5	.375	2 1/2	Boston (Lester 0-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Sabathia 1-1)	Toronto (Gowan 0-1) at Baltimore (B. Norris 0-1)		Houston (Feldman 2-0) at Texas (Darvish 1-0)
West Division		W	L	Pct	GB	Cleveland (Carrasco 0-1) at Chicago White Sox (Sale 2-0)	Kansas City (B. Chen 0-0) at Minnesota (Gutierrez 2-0)		Oakland (Milone 0-0) at Seattle (Fermandez 2-0)
Oakland	5	3	3	.625	—	Oakland (Milone 0-0) at Seattle (Fermandez 2-0)	Miami (Fernandez 2-0) at Philadelphia (Burrnett 0-1)		Tampa Bay (Price 1-0) at Cincinnati
Seattle	5	3	3	.625	—				
Los Angeles	4	4	4	.500	1/2				
Texas	3	6	3	.333	2 1/2				
Houston	3	6	3	.333	2 1/2				

National League					
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	6	2	0	.750	—
Atlanta	5	3	2	.625	1/2
Miami	3	5	3	.375	1 1/2
New York	3	5	3	.375	3
Philadelphia	3	5	3	.375	3
Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	6	2	2	.750	—
Pittsburgh	5	3	2	.625	1/2
St. Louis	5	4	4	.556	1 1/2
Chicago	3	5	3	.375	3
Cincinnati	3	6	3	.333	3 1/2
West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	3	3	3	.500	—
Los Angeles	6	4	2	.600	1/2
San Diego	3	4	3	.429	1 1/2
Arizona	3	6	3	.333	3
Arizona	3	8	2	.273	4



St. Louis Cardinals shortstop Jhonny Peralta.
Gene J. Puskar/AP

Calendar

May 14-15 — Owners meetings, New York

June 5 — Amateur draft, Philadelphia

July 15 — All-Star game, Minneapolis

July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft picks to sign

July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Double duty no sweat for two-way stars

Kentucky's Reed among few who excel on the mound and at the plate

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

Kentucky's A.J. Reed has beaten opponents with mammoth home runs. He's also silenced them with a well-placed breaking ball.

The 6-foot-4, 235-pound left-hander is one of the few two-way stars in college baseball this season, hitting .373 with a Southeastern Conference-leading 12 homers. On the mound, he has a 6-1 record and 1.93 ERA as the team's Friday night pitcher.

Reed's coach Gary Henderson said there's one main reason there aren't more two-way stars in the college game: It's really hard to do.

Reed is one of just seven players in NCAA Division I who have hit a home run and earned the win on the mound in the same game this season. Reed and Pepperdine's Aaron Brown are the only ones to do it twice.

"It's all about finding ways to help you win," Reed said. "I've been doing this for a few years now at the SEC level, and you learn a few things about it. You've got to take care of your body because it's a long season. You've also got to learn to separate the two mentally and not let a bad at-bat carry over to the mound or vice versa."

Two-way players have long been a part of the college game. Dave Winfield — who starred at Minnesota in the early 1970s before a Hall of Fame career in the big leagues — is one of the most prominent examples. Winfield was actually drafted by four major professional leagues,

but chose a career in baseball.

The Southeastern Conference has had a few over the last few decades, including Florida's Brad Wilkerson, Auburn's Tim Hudson and Tennessee's Todd Helton. All went on to have varying degrees of success in the major leagues. Hudson still pitches with the San Francisco Giants.

Auburn freshman Keegan Thompson could be the next Reed, though he's having much more success on the mound this season, with a 5-1 record and a team-leading 1.71 ERA. He's batting .227.

But two-way players remain fairly rare — especially those who have a big impact in the lineup and in the starting rotation.

The College Baseball Hall of Fame created the John Olerud Award in 2010 to honor the nation's best two-way player. Olerud — who had more than 2,200 hits in a 17-year MLB career — was a standout pitcher

and hitter at Washington State in the late 1980s.

Gonzaga's Marco Gonzalez won the award last season. He was a 1st round draft pick by the St. Louis Cardinals as a left-handed pitcher in June.

Henderson said several players coming out of high school want to pitch and hit, but when they realize how hard it is to do one of those things well at the college level — let alone both — it's much easier to specialize.

"When you get to college baseball, there's almost always some level of failure," Henderson said. "Guys are trying to earn a spot in the starting lineup or a spot in the rotation and when the other side of the game is

and really turn into a special player," Henderson said. "All the credit goes to A.J. He's the one who has done it."

Pepperdine's Brown is another who has had a great season while pulling double duty. The 6-foot-1, 222-pound left-hander is batting .336 with four homers and has a 6-1 record with a 2.45 ERA on the mound. He usually plays center field when he's not pitching.

"Physically, you've just got to be a specimen to pull it off," Pepperdine coach Steve Rodriguez said. "Aaron Brown is a big, strong, durable guy and we just try to monitor what he does. You want him to be aggressive, but also take care of himself."

Reed's prodigious power and left-handed arm have attracted plenty of professional scouts. He said he's constantly asked whether he prefers pitching or hitting.

His answer? Both. "Honestly, it doesn't matter to me which one I do," Reed said. "When I do finally concentrate on one of the other, I'm sure I'll improve. But right now I'm having a lot of fun doing both. That's the way I look at it."

destroying you mentally, it's tough. It takes a lot of talent — a special player."

Reed had some success pitching and hitting during his first two seasons, but has improved dramatically this spring.

Henderson said Reed made a big commitment to changing his body — dropping about 25 pounds in the offseason — and now he's better able to handle the grind of a 56-game regular season. Reed plays first base or is the designated hitter when he's not pitching.

"It's gratifying to see a guy take control of his body and his career

Did you know

Dave Winfield is the only person to be drafted by four pro leagues. He was drafted by the San Diego Padres (MLB), Atlanta Hawks (NBA), Utah Stars (ABA) and Minnesota Vikings (NFL) in 1973 after his collegiate career at the University of Minnesota.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

By the numbers

1.93

Earned-run average for Kentucky pitcher A.J. Reed, to go along with a 6-1 record.

.373

A.J. Reed's batting average this season for the Wildcats, which leads the team.

12

Number of home runs hit by A.J. Reed this season, which leads the SEC.

BRUCE
NEWMAN,
THE OXFORD
EAGLE/AP

SOURCE: The Associated Press

COLLEGES

Vikes' Peterson: College athletes should get paid

By Jon Krawczynski
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Former NFL MVP Adrian Peterson advocated for college athletes on Wednesday, saying they deserved to be paid for the millions of dollars they bring to school coffers and took aim at NBA commissioner Adam Silver's stated desire to require college players to spend two years in school before declaring for the draft.

Peterson said he felt a kinship with Texas A&M quarterback Johnny Manziel as a fellow high-profile athlete who generated significant revenues while he was in school at Oklahoma.

"When I was in college, I know personally, as far as jersey sales and ticket sales, I helped make that university a lot of money," Peterson said during a conference call to promote Hyperice, a recovery icing device that he endorses. "Johnny Manziel helped make Texas A&M so much money. You're talking about championship games that he was able to lead those guys to. You're talking about jersey sales that he don't see a dime of."

Peterson has stated his opinion that college athletes should be paid before, but never so forcefully.

"I feel like as much money as universities make, I feel that some of that money should be given down to the players as well because we are the ones that are making this university money," Peterson said. "These bowl games? Without the players, how much money do they make?"



CARLOS GONZALEZ, MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE/MCT

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson said Wednesday that college athletes deserve to be paid for the millions of dollars in revenue they bring into their universities.

None.

"Without the players how much money do they make? They make no money without the players."

And he didn't stop with college football. The NBA is giving serious consideration to requiring college players to stay in school for two years rather than the "one-and-done" requirements the league has right now.

"I hear that they're trying to make basketball players go two years to college," the 2012 MVP said, unprompted. "Wow, I wonder why? Just think about it. Imagine if LeBron James would've had to go to college for two years. How much money would that college have made off of LeBron James? They would've made so much money off LeBron James."

Peterson is still recovering from surgery to repair a groin injury that bothered him for much of last season. He downplayed the injury while he was playing last season, but admitted on Wednesday that it was more serious than he let on.

"I wasn't able to cut and be as elusive as I needed to be," Peterson said. "But just being the competitor that I am, I don't come out and say that. I just go out and try to get it done no matter what."

"I still feel like I was putting myself in too much of harm's way. I felt like I didn't really have the lateral movement, but I was still going to be able to kind of get outside the tackle box and get up field fast enough to prevent different situations that could possibly put me in a bad predicament."

Peterson finished the season with 1,266 yards and 10 touchdowns in 14 games, a very good year by most standards. But he was coming off 2,000-yard season and was hoping to be the first running back to break that barrier twice in a career. That pursuit was slowed when he injured his groin on Nov. 3. The foot injury came on Dec. 8 and he missed two of the final three games.

Peterson had surgery after the season and said Wednesday he wasn't yet ready to join the Vikings' offseason conditioning program, which started on Monday under new coach Mike Zimmer.

"Right now, the most important thing is getting healthy," Peterson said. "That's what I'm doing. I'm rehabbing. I'm working out, still, trying to get the body back to where it needs to be."

Peterson said he was looking forward to joining his teammates in the program once his body is deemed ready.

"I can't sit here and say I'm back right now," Peterson said. "But I'm not far off at all."



SAM RICHIE/MCT

Michigan head coach John Beilein talks with his team, including guard Spike Albrecht, left, and guard Nik Stauskas. Stauskas is among several Wolverines' who might opt to enter the NBA draft.

Beilein helping Michigan players weigh their options

By Noah Trister
The Associated Press

ANN ARBOR, Mich. — John Beilein has become increasingly familiar with the process of helping players decide whether to leave school early for the NBA, so the Michigan coach is always prepared for questions that come his way this time of year.

But one query seemed to strike a nerve Wednesday. During Beilein's news conference to wrap up the season, he was asked about the possibility that some of his players might have had their draft projections dip after returning to school this season.

"You hope during the course of their education, they're looking at things from a much broader perspective than some guy that's in his cellar projecting the NBA draft, and still living with his mother — nothing wrong with still living with your mother," Beilein said. "We try to really say, 'OK, this is what the NBA says and this is what you should look at.'"

After winning the Big Ten title and reaching the NCAA quarterfinals, the Wolverines now await word on what next season's roster will look like. Three sophomores — Nik Stauskas, Mitch McGary and Glenn Robinson III — are candidates to jump to the NBA, but the decisions for at least a couple of them are looking fairly complex.

Stauskas may be the most likely departure after winning Big Ten player of the year honors. McGary and Robinson both considered leaving last year as freshmen, and it's not clear what they'll do this time. Robinson played well toward

'A reason to go to the NBA is, 'I am ready to go to the NBA.''

John Beilein
Michigan basketball coach

the end of the 2013-14 season, but he shot only 49 percent from the field as a sophomore after posting a 57-percent mark as a freshman. It's hard to say where his NBA stock is at this point.

McGary had a terrific NCAA tournament in 2013 and was expected to be one of the nation's top players this season, but he played only eight games because of a back injury.

Beilein said the 6-foot-10 McGary is progressing well, health-wise.

"I had a good workout with him yesterday," he said. "He did individual with me yesterday for 20 minutes, and it was very good."

As Michigan has become one of the Big Ten's top teams under Beilein, the program has had several players leave early for the NBA, including Manny Harris, Darius Morris, Trey Burke and Tim Hardaway Jr.

"As we go through the process, we will continue giving as much information as it comes in from the NBA advisory council and from other people involved in professional basketball," Beilein said. "It's something that we're comfortable with navigating through... There is a lot of emotion in it, and we try to help them make that decision."

Beilein obviously wants players to focus more on feedback from the advisory council than what

they might read online about their draft status.

"We always hear this all the time — reasons for people to go the NBA: 'I've always dreamt of going to the NBA,'" Beilein said. "That is not a reason to go to the NBA. A reason to go to the NBA is, 'I am ready to go to the NBA.'"

Beilein wonders whether scenarios like these will change in the near future — perhaps via new rules. NCAA president Mark Emmert said during his annual news conference Sunday that he opposes the rule established by the NBA and its union that requires players to be at least one year removed from high school before declaring for the NBA draft.

"That restriction leads to players showing up at college for only one season and then leaving."

Kentucky coach John Calipari has said he favors a two-year period before players can declare for the draft.

"I think everyone's looking at this situation and knows it's not perfect," Beilein said. "I don't know this, but I've got my ear to the ground like all of you have your ears to the ground, that there's going to be a lot of discussion in this next year about — is there a better model for us to go forward?"

"I think everybody agrees there is, but how do we go about it?"

MASTERS

Green jacket revered by golfers — usually

Augusta expects winners' respect for prize

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — The green jacket is one of the most revered symbols in all of sports, right up there with an Olympic gold medal and the Stanley Cup.

Yet, even with the strict sense of decorum that is afforded the prized garment awarded every Masters champion, it occasionally winds up in spots no one would ever expect.

Like underneath a garbage bag, or in Ohio.

Yep, an authentic green jacket is on display at a country club in suburban Cleveland — a long, long way from Augusta National.

"Believe me, when we're showing off the club to a prospective member," Michael Kernicki, the head golf professional at Canterbury Golf Club, said by phone Wednesday, "and we take them into the Henry Picard Lounge, they're like, 'Did I see that right? You've got a green jacket?'"

Indeed they do, thanks to the descendants of the 1938 Masters champion. Picard's family donated it to the club when he was designing a room to honor the Hall of Famer, who also served as its longtime pro.

Rest assured, the folks at Canterbury recognize what a special item they have.

Each Masters champion gets to keep his jacket for a year, but Augusta National expects it to be treated with an ample level of respect during its 365 days away from the club.

Just ask 2007 winner Zach Johnson, who committed a couple of faux pas during his tenure as champion.

First, not realizing until after his victory that he could take the jacket with him, he wasn't pre-

pared to transport it. "I have no garment bag," Johnson recalled. "I'm going to New York at 6 a.m., so I covered it up with a trash bag. I didn't want to say, 'Hey, look at the green jacket, me, Mr. Cocky Man.'"

Uh, not good. Then, during media appearances in Times Square, Johnson slipped on the green jacket while wearing a pair of jeans. Apparently, that didn't go over well back in Augusta, either.

"That's a no-no on the bag, a no-no on the jeans," Johnson said, noting that when Trevor Immelman won the Masters the following year, he received "this nice, embroidered garment bag" — and, no doubt, a not-so-gentle nudge from the powers-that-be to wear the jacket with a proper pair of trousers.

The green jacket accompanied Immelman during appearances in China and Japan, where he was amazed by the excitement it generated. In hindsight, he wishes he had taken it to more places, shown it to more people.

"It's a cherished part of our sport, like an Olympic gold medal or the Stanley Cup or the World Cup in soccer," the South African said. "Not many people get to see it."

But, in keeping with the stuffy traditions of Augusta, the green jacket does not take part in the sort of gaily revelry we come to expect from Lord Stanley's choice or even the claret jug, the historic trophy that goes to the winner of the British Open. Both those awards have turned up at some pretty wild parties, even at the bottom of a swimming pool.

When Stewart Cink won the British Open, he tweeted a picture the next morning showing the jug



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

In 2007, when Zach Johnson (left) received the Masters green jacket from 2006 champion Phil Mickelson, Johnson didn't have a garment bag to take the jacket with him, so in a breach of etiquette he covered it with a garbage bag. He later wore the jacket with jeans, another no-no with Augusta National.

next to a regular glass, jokingly asking which he should use to swig some orange juice. If he ever wins the Masters, we're guessing he's not going to pose the green jacket alongside a Georgia Tech jersey and ask which he should wear to the grocery store.

"I was told to wear the green jacket in golf-oriented events — my foundation, charity, corporate events, golf clubs," Johnson said. "Wearing it to Chick-fil-A? Ain't going to happen."

Augusta National zealously guards its pomp and circumstance more than perhaps any other sports entity, so it's not surprising that only a handful of green jackets wound up beyond

its gates on a permanent basis.

One belonged to Gary Player, who won the first of three Masters titles in 1961, took the jacket home to South Africa, and never brought it back. But he promised Masters chairman Clifford Roberts to never wear it in public, a promise that probably wasn't that tough to keep for someone who prefers wearing black from head to toe.

Picard won his green jacket during the Masters' formative years, before the custom of returning it began. He apparently stored it at home, and his family hung on to it after his death in 1997. Then, when Canterbury was undergoing a renovation six

years ago, the call went out for memorabilia belonging to Picard, the club's pro from 1939-62.

"As I was told," said Kernicki, the latest to hold the job, "the chairman of our heritage foundation asked by chance, 'Hey, I know back in the day you could keep your Augusta jacket. Do you have his jacket?' The family said, 'Yep, we have the jacket.' So naturally we asked, 'Can we have the jacket?' And they said, 'Sure.' It was a simple as that."

Now, it's the star attraction in the Henry Picard Lounge.

"It's a grand room," Kernicki said. "We have a Masters party in there every year. In fact, it's happening in that room tonight."

'What a stupid I am' and other memorable rulings

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Players come from all over the world to compete in the Masters, and so do rules officials.

And times, they have their hands full. From incorrect scorecards to free drops to wrong drops, the Rules of Golf can get as much attention as a yardage book.

Arnold Palmer refers to a "little solemn dumper" when he looks back on the first of his four Masters victories. He was involved in a ruling on the 12th green that led him to play two chip shots because he felt he was right. And the rules committee eventually sided with him.

Vijay Singh once summoned an official to the 12th green to complain about the size of the spike marks belonging to Phil Mickelson in 2005, and while the officials deemed the 8-millimeter spikes within the rules, the two champions exchanged words in the Champions Locker Room that day.

Here are five notable rulings at the Masters:

5 Piled for removal: Ernie Els was in the mix at the Masters in 2004 when he hooked his tee shot on the 11th hole in the third round deep into the woods. He

appeared to have no shot with all the branches and debris around the ball.

He called for a ruling to seek relief, believing the debris from a storm had been piled for removal. Jon Brendle from the PGA Tour denied his request. The best option appeared to be for Els to declare it unplayable and return to the tee. Instead, he asked for a second opinion. Will Nicholson, chair of the rules committee, was summoned.

He declared it "piled for removal," and Els was given a free drop. He got out of the woods and reduced the damage to a bogey. Els eventually finished one shot behind when Phil Mickelson made birdie on the last hole.

4 Practice putting: Dow Finsterwald had finished the eighth hole of the second round in the 1950 Masters when he set his ball on the green for a practice putt. Billy Casper told him practice putting was not allowed.

Finsterwald told Casper he had taken practice putts in the first round. An official showed him the back of the scorecard that listed local rules, one of them banning practice putting.

The committee decided to apply a two-shot penalty to his score in the first round, turning a 69 into a 71 instead of being tied with Arnold Palmer, he was two shots behind. Finsterwald fin-

ished third, two shots behind Palmer.

3 Tiger's drop: Tiger Woods was poised to take the lead in the second round of the 2013 Masters when his wedge took dead aim for the flag on the par-5 15th. It was too perfect, striking the flagstick and bouncing back into the water, a terrible break. Woods chose to drop behind his previous spot, telling reporters later that he purposely dropped 2 yards farther back to avoid hitting the pin. He salvaged bogey.

A former rules official, David Eger, saw the drop and identified it as wrong. Woods was to drop it as near as possible to the previous spot. He alerted officials at the course, but no one talked to Woods before he signed for a 71.

Once it was reviewed, Woods was assessed the two-shot penalty and had a 73. Augusta National said it was a committee error for not stopping him to talk about the drop before he signed his card. Woods tied for fourth.

2 Palmer's chip: Arnold Palmer hit his tee shot behind the green at the par-3 12th hole in the final round of the 1958 Masters. He felt his ball was imbedded and that he was entitled to free relief. The rules official, Arthur Lacey, declined.

Palmer argued the point and said he would play

two balls — the original, and one after taking relief. He made double bogey with imbedded ball, returned to the spot and made par with the second ball. Three holes later, officials approached Palmer and said he was entitled to relief and that the par would count.

He went on to win his first Masters by one shot over Doug Ford and Fred Hawkins.

1 A 'stupid' mistake: A player who signs for a score that is lower than what he made is disqualified. If he signs for a score that is higher than what he made, the score on the card stands. It was the latter that cost Roberto De Vicenzo a shot at winning the 1968 Masters.

He took a one-shot lead over Bob Goaly with a birdie on the 17th hole, but then the Argentine made bogey on the final hole to fall into a tie and set up a playoff. One problem: Tommy Aaron, who was keeping De Vicenzo's card, put him down for a 4 on the 17th hole. De Vicenzo signed the card, and that's when the error was discovered.

Under Rule 6-6d, he had to accept the par 4 instead of the birdie 3. His 65 became a 66. He finished one shot behind. Goaly won.

Ted tried to De Vicenzo uttering perhaps the most famous comment regarding a ruling: "What a stupid I am."

MASTERS

Celebrating a few key anniversaries

75 years ago (1939): Ralph Guldahl technically became the first winner of The Masters because the name of the tournament was changed in 1939 from the Augusta National Invitation Tournament. The opening round was postponed by rain, leading to a 36-hole Sunday. Guldahl, a runner-up at Augusta each of the previous two years, had a 33 on the back nine and closed with a 69 for a one-shot win over Sam Snead. Guldahl finished at 279, the first sub-280 performance in a 72-hole major.

50 years ago (1964): The fourth and final Masters that Arnold Palmer won was by far his easiest. After one-shot victories in 1958 and 1960, and a playoff win over Gary Player in 1962, Palmer went wire-to-wire (including a tie in the first round) to win by six shots. Three rounds in the 60s gave him a five-shot lead over Bruce Devlin, and Palmer closed out victory with a 70. He won by six shots over Dave Marr and defending champion Jack Nicklaus. Palmer set the record with four green jackets, which Nicklaus surpassed with his fifth win in 1975. It was the last major Palmer won.

25 years ago (1989): Nick Faldo rallied from five shots back in the final round with a 7-under 65 to force a playoff, which he won on the second extra hole against Scott Hoch. Faldo had to return Sunday morning due to rain and wrap up a 77 in the third round. He switched putters before returning for the final round, and he paid off. In the playoff, Faldo hit into a bunker on No. 10 and made bogey. Hoch had a chance to win with a par, but he famously missed the 3-foot putt. On they went to No. 11, where Faldo won the first of his three green jackets by holing a 25-foot birdie putt.

20 years ago (1994): Jose Maria Olazabal had 14 wins in Europe and a successful partnership with Seve Ballesteros in the Ryder Cup. He came into his own at Augusta National, closing with a 3-under 69 for a two-shot victory over Tom Lehman. Olazabal was tied for the lead when his second shot to the par-5 15th narrowly stayed up, and he holed a 30-foot eagle putt from the fringe. For the week, the Spaniard had 30 one-putt greens, chipped in twice and saved par all six times he was in the bunker. He was the sixth European winner in seven years.

10 years ago (2004): Finally, Phil Mickelson won his first major championship when he made an 18-foot birdie putt on the final hole to end a tense duel with Ernie Els. Mickelson made five birdies on the last seven holes for a 31 on the back nine and closed with a 3-under 69. Els closed with a 67, narrowly missing a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole. The South African was on the putting green preparing for a playoff when he heard the enormous roar as Mickelson's winning birdie putt. Until that day, Mickelson had been 0-for-42 as a professional in the majors. He went on to win majors each of the next two years.

— Doug Ferguson, The Associated Press



PHILAN M. EBENHACK/AP

Tiger Woods, left, and Arnold Palmer share a laugh during the trophy presentation after Woods won the Arnold Palmer Invitational on March 25, 2013 in Orlando, Fla. Fifty years ago, Arnold Palmer won the Masters for the fourth and final time.

Inevitable comparisons

Reflecting on Palmer's career brings questions about Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Arnold Palmer never had an easy time winning majors until the last one.

This is the 50th anniversary of Palmer going wire to wire in the 1964 Masters to win by six shots, giving him a record four green jackets. It was his seventh major, significant because it tied him with some of the greats in the game: Harry Vardon, Bobby Jones, Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead. Two more and he could have tied Ben Hogan. Four more majors would have put him alongside Walter Hagen.

Palmer was only 34. He was the King. He was on a roll, winning roughly one of every three majors.

“He never won another one. “What, of course you never think you’re going to be at your last stop,” Palmer said last week. “But it was great. I suppose that psychologically I had accomplished maybe more than I even realized by winning the Masters and walking up the 18th hole comfortably. That was something that was truly great for me.”

Tiger Woods was 32 when he won his last major.

Through all these years, Woods has only been linked with Jack Nicklaus when the conversation turns to the majors. They are the only players to win the career Grand Slam three times over. The endless chatter

is whether Woods will break the Nicklaus benchmark of 18 majors.

Is it even remotely possible that Woods already has won his last major?

Woods captured his 14th major in the 2008 U.S. Open at Torrey Pines. That was six years ago, and so much has happened since, on and off the golf course. The knee surgery. The collapse of his marriage and change in his appeal. Another swing change under a third coach. More injuries.

Woods has won 14 times, two Jack Nicklaus awards as PGA Tour player of the year and one FedEx Cup title since his last major. He is still No. 1, not only in the world ranking but in the eyes of his peers.

Speculation about his future in the majors is fueled by this being the golden anniversary of Palmer's last major at Augusta National, and the fact Woods isn't here. He had surgery last week on his back to relieve a pinched nerve that has been bothering him.

What made it tougher on Palmer, more than anything, was the arrival of Nicklaus.

There is no one like Nicklaus — other than Woods, of course — in today's game. Rory McIlroy is the best player in golf when he puts his game all the way back together. But that would be comparing a 24-year-old McIlroy with a 38-year-old Woods who will be coming off the disabled list this summer for the second time in three years.



ROBERT DUYOS, SUN SENTINEL/MCT

The arrival of Rory McIlroy on the scene could make it even more difficult for Tiger Woods to win more majors.

MASTERS

Heartache common at Augusta

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — With rare exception, no other major championship infligts as much emotional pain as Augusta National. The perks of winning include a lifetime exemption to the Masters and a spot in the most exclusive locker room in golf.

The scars of finishing second linger because players return to the same course year after year.

Think back 10 years ago. Everyone remembers Phil Mickelson's birdie curling into the cup, and Lefty leading with legs splayed to celebrate his first major.

Equally compelling was the image of Ernie Els on the putting green preparing for a playoff. He turned toward the 18th green when he heard the gallery erupt in cheers for the winner, and then Els hung his head, scooped up his golf balls and walked quietly away.

Tom Weiskopf was runner-up four times, the most of anyone who never wore a green jacket, including 1975 when Jack Nicklaus held that 45-foot birdie putt on the 16th.

Later, while working as a TV analyst, Weiskopf was asked what Nicklaus was thinking. "If I knew what he was thinking, I would have won this championship," he said.

Here are the five most heartbreaking losses at the Masters:

5 Ken Venturi: Venturi isn't the only 5-hole leader at the Masters to shoot 80 in the final round, which he did in 1956 in what remains the closest an amateur ever came to winning a green jacket. He three-putted six times to finish one shot behind Jack Burke Jr., who rallied from a record eight shots behind to win. Venturi later said if he had to win, he would have stayed an amateur forever.

He was a pro in 1958, the leading money winner on tour and one of the favorites. Venturi finished two shots behind Arnold Palmer in the Masters known for Palmer playing two balls beyond the 12th green while successfully appealing a ruling. And then in 1960, Venturi was in the clubhouse at 5-under 283. Palmer birdied the last two holes to beat him by one shot. Venturi, who died last year, had to settle for a lone U.S. Open title.

4 Scott Hoch: Hoch was never a regular contender at the Masters, though his one close call ranks among the most famous missed putts at Augusta National.

Often overlooked is a short par putt Hoch missed on the 17th hole in regulation in 1989. He made par on the final hole to finish at 69 and a sudden-death playoff with Nick Faldo. The playoff began on the 10th hole, with an advantage immediately to Hoch when Faldo struggled to make a bogey.

Hoch had two putts for a green jacket. He rolled his birdie putt by the cup — some references say 2 feet, others 3 feet, but it was just over tap-in range. Hoch studied it from both sides, backed off — and then missed it, flipping his putter in the air. Faldo won with a birdie on the next hole.

3 Ed Snead: Snead had three PGA Tour wins and had never finished better than 18th in the 15 majors he played. But he looked like a world-beater at Augusta



GERRY MELENDEZ, THE STATE/MCT

Greg Norman is synonymous with Masters heartbreak. The Aussie finished second four times in the tournament, including in 1996 when he set a major record by blowing a six-shot lead in the final round.

National in 1979 when he took a five-shot lead into the final round.

Snead still led by three shots with three holes to play when one of the greatest collapses at the Masters unfolded. He closed with three bogeys for a 76 to slip into a sudden-death playoff — the first at the Masters — with Tom Watson and Masters rookie Fuzzy Zoeller. They all made par on No. 10, and Zoeller won with a birdie on the 11th.

"Ed Snead needs one par in three holes to win the Masters, and we never heard from him again," Gary Player said recently.

2 Roberto De Vicenzo: One year after the Argentine captured the British Open, De Vicenzo was on the cusp of winning the 1968 Masters until he made a bogey on the 18th hole to fall into a tie with Bob Goaly.

The bogey turned out to be the least of his problems. He still closed with a 65, only that's not what was on the scorecard kept by Tommy Aaron. The birdie 3 that De Vicenzo made on the 17th to take the lead had been entered as a 4, and De Vicenzo signed his card. Under the Rules of Golf, if a score on the card is lower than what a player made, the penalty is disqualification. If the score is higher, it stands. The 65 became a 66. Instead of a playoff, he was a runner-up.

That led to one of the most famous lines in golf from De Vicenzo: "What a stupid I am."

1 Greg Norman: No other player symbolizes heartbreak at Augusta National than the Shark. His best opportunity was in 1996, when Norman set a major championship record by blowing a six-shot lead in the final round to Nick Faldo. Ten years earlier, Norman ran off four straight birdies late in the round to tie Jack Nicklaus, only to hit 4-iron on the 18th fairway into the gallery to make bogey.

But the most crushing blow was in 1987.

At the previous major, the 1986 PGA Championship, Norman lost on the final hole when Bob Tway holed out from a bunker. At the Masters, he had the upper hand on the second hole of a playoff against Larry Mize, who had missed the green at No. 11 well to the right. Mize chipped across the 11th green, and it was picking up speed when it ramed into the pin and dropped for birdie.

First-rate outings

Day, Fuzzy among five of the best Masters debuts

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

AUGUSTA, Ga. — Billy Horschel won the Zurich Classic two weeks after the Masters last year, and thus became first on the list of players who earned their first trip to Augusta National. He just had no idea how long the list would grow. Derek Ernst won at Quail Hollow. Harris English won in Memphis.

Throw in the six amateurs, and then cap it off with Matt Jones being the last man in by winning the Shell Houston Open. The final tally is a record 24 players who will be making their debut at the Masters this year.

This is the 78th Masters, and only three players have won on their maiden voyage around this pristine golf course. Horton Smith won the first one in 1934. Gene Sarazen won the following year. It then took 45 years to get another Masters rookie in a green jacket — Fuzzy Zoeller in 1979.

There hasn't been another one since, although the odds have never been better. Nearly 25 percent of the field is at the Masters for the first time.

Smith gets overlooked as a "Masters rookie," and rightly so. All 72 players were rookies that year.

Here are the best five performances by players at Augusta National for the first time:

5 Jason Day: He qualified for his first Masters by winning the Byron Nelson

Championship for his first PGA Tour victory. The 23-year-old Australian was loaded with far more talent than victories to show for it, but he took a liking to a course that had never produced a champion from Down Under.

Day shot an 8-under 64 in the second round to get within two shots of the lead, and the only reason he didn't get more attention was because 21-year-old Rory McIlroy was ahead of him. And they played in the same group, along with 22-year-old Rickie Fowler.

This was in 2011, the year McIlroy lost a four-shot lead with an 80 in the final round. Day hung around to the very end, and when he finished with a birdie for a 68, he was tied for the clubhouse lead with Adam Scott. Behind them was Charl Schwartzel, who took the outright lead with a birdie on the 17th and rolled in his fourth straight birdie on the final hole for a two-shot win. Day went home with a silver medal as a runner-up in his debut.

4 Huston, we have a problem: John Huston became known as the most feared player in golf — on Tuesday in money games with the pros. He won seven times on the PGA Tour, the first win coming in 1990 that made him eligible for his first Masters.

He opened with a 66, leaving him two shots behind Mike Donald. And while he followed with a 74 in the second round, he still trailed by only two shots. Huston had a 68 in the third round to stay within two shots of former Masters champion Raymond Floyd. Better yet, he was in the final group, giving him an excellent chance to become the first Masters rookie to win since Zoeller.

Alas, Huston fell back with a 75 on the final round. The winner came from back in the pack — Nick Faldo made up four shots on Floyd with six holes to play, and then won on the second extra hole when Floyd hit into the water on No. 11. Huston tied for third in his debut. He played the Masters 12 more times and never had a higher finish.

3 Pohl's close call: Dan Pohl made an inauspicious debut in 1982 when he opened with a par of 75. That would have missed the cut at most other Masters, but not this one. Conditions were tough by rain the opening two days, leading to the highest cut (10-over 154) in Masters history. He was still six shots behind.

Pohl, the longest hitter on tour, followed with a 67 on Saturday on the strength of back-to-back eagles on the 13th and 14th holes, though he still was six shots out of the lead. And even with the low score of the final round — another 67 — it didn't appear to do much good. Craig Stadler was six

shots ahead going to the back nine until the Walrus started dropping shots. Stadler wound up with a 73, and suddenly Pohl was in a sudden-death playoff.

It didn't last long. Pohl missed a 6-foot par putt on the first playoff hole at No. 10, and Stadler made par to win. Pohl had to settle for silver.

2 The shot heard 'round the world: Gene Sarazen hit the shot that put the Masters on the map and won at Augusta National in his first try. But being a "rookie" at the Masters wasn't that big of a deal. The Augusta National Invitation Tournament was only in its second year. Sarazen missed the inaugural event, and this "rookie" had already won six majors, the first of them 13 years earlier. Still, what he did that day cannot be overlooked and will not be forgotten. Trailing by three shots, he hit 4-wood into the hole for an albatross on the par-5 15th hole to force a playoff with Craig Wood. In the only 36-hole playoff in Masters history, Sarazen shot even-par 144 to win by five.

He remains the only player to complete the career Grand Slam at Augusta National.

1 Fuzzy's first major: Zoeller whistled his way into the record books as the last major champion to win a sudden-death playoff. The Masters went away from the traditional 18-hole playoff in 1979, and it turned out to be memorable.

Much like Pohl, Zoeller was never really in the picture until someone's misfortune on the back nine. Zoeller was six shots behind going into the last round and closed with a 70. It looked like it would be a good debut at the Masters, nothing more. That was before Ed Snead, who had a three-shot lead with three holes to play, finished with three bogeys.

That led to a three-man playoff among Snead, Zoeller and former Masters champion Tom Watson. On the second playoff hole, Zoeller knocked in a birdie putt and leapt into the air to celebrate.

Was it a big deal for a Masters rookie to win?

"They didn't bring up until the next year," Zoeller said.



Jason Day

JEFF SINEA,
CHARLOTTE
OBSERVER/MCT

SPORTS



Major similarity?

Palmer's career could serve as warning to Woods | **Page 62**

MLB

After the fall

Braun, Cruz, Peralta try to move on from Biogenesis case

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Nelson Cruz was branded a cheater and punished accordingly. As he waited to be introduced on his first opening day in Baltimore, the former All-Star wondered how Orioles fans would react in the aftermath of the 50-game suspension he received last year for using performance-enhancing drugs.

"As a new player, you don't know what to expect," Cruz said. "You hope for the best."

He couldn't have asked for more. The sellout crowd collectively yelled, "Cruuuuuuz!" as the slugger ran across the orange carpet, and after Cruz hit the tiebreaking home run to propel Baltimore past the defending champion Boston Red Sox, the chant was even louder.

"It was very, very nice to have that kind of reception," Cruz said.

SEE FALL ON PAGE 58



Orioles OF
Nelson Cruz

PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Inside:

■ Managers seeking clarification from MLB on new plate-blocking rule, Page 58

Brewers outfielder
Ryan Braun

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

Vikings' Peterson: College athletes should be paid | **Page 60**

US goalkeeper Howard's play shouldn't be cause for concern | **Page 55**

