

WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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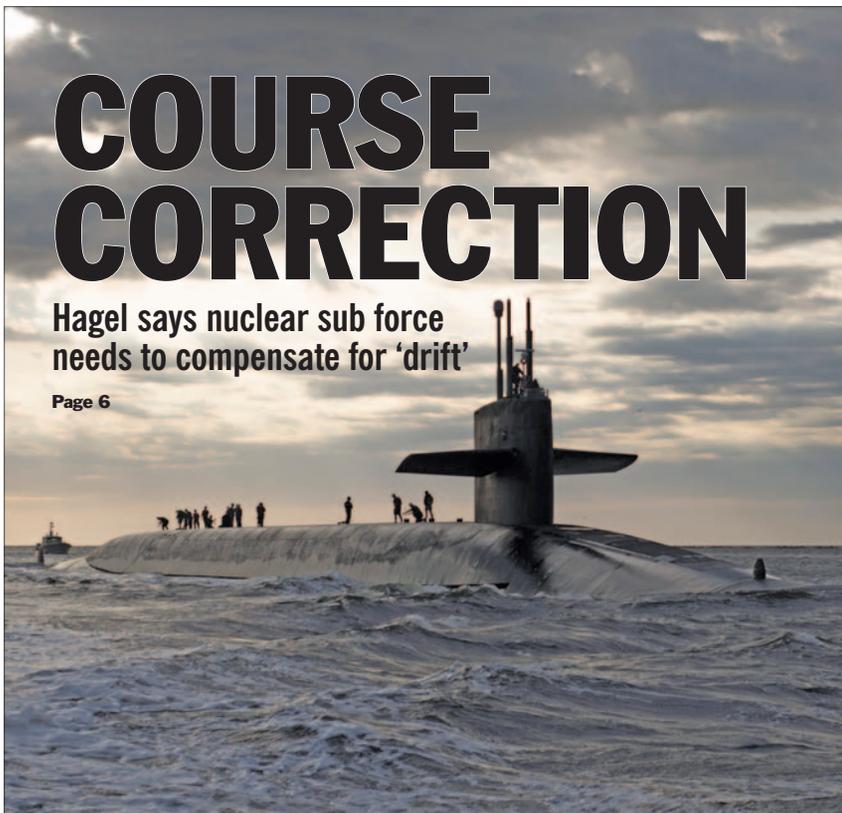


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COURSE CORRECTION

Hagel says nuclear sub force needs to compensate for 'drift'

Page 6



JAMES KIMBER/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The Ohio-class ballistic missile submarine USS Rhode Island returns to base in March 2013. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel visited the Ohio-class USS Tennessee on Wednesday, vowing more money and attention for the nuclear submarine force to correct a "drift" in mission.

Vet suicides called 'horrible human costs' of VA dysfunction

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Iraq War veteran Daniel Somers tried desperately to get VA mental health care for years before committing suicide last summer. Despite his diagnosed post-traumatic stress and brain in-

jury, Howard and Jean Somers told House lawmakers Thursday, again and again their son was met with "uncaring, insensitive and adversarial" staff in the Department of Veterans Affairs, which is mired in a nationwide scandal over deep dysfunction and records manipulation in its health care system.

ONLINE: More coverage of suicide in the military
stripes.com/suicide



The couple and other family members of veterans who have recently taken their own lives testified Thursday before the House Veterans' Affairs Com-

mittee on the shortcomings of the VA and its suicide prevention efforts.

The stories of tragedy came as Committee Chairman Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., prepared to introduce new legislation aimed at fixing the problems.

SEE SUICIDE ON PAGE 6

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I knew I wanted to name my kids after New York. I love New York."

— Kimberly Tite, who along with husband Brock named their 3-year-old daughter Brooklyn and 1-year-old son Bronx, even though they've never visited New York and know it only through TV and rap lyrics

See story on Page 18

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IRAQ IN CRISIS

Hagel: Militant group a threat to US

By JON HARPER Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, Ga. — Islamic militants who have taken control over parts of Iraq and Syria pose a direct threat to the United States, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel said Wednesday.

"This country should not make any mistake on this, nor anyone in Congress: This is a threat to our country," he told troops at a town hall meeting here.

"This is a force that is sophisticated, it's dynamic, it's strong, it's organized, it's well-financed, it's competent ... and it is a threat

to our allies all over the Middle East, it's a threat to Europe ... and it's a threat to us."

The insurgent group, which refers to itself as the Islamic State, has said it wants to rule over much of the Middle East. Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs, told lawmakers last month that the militants did not pose a direct threat to the U.S. homeland but could at some point if left unchecked.

Hagel seemed to suggest that the threat had materialized sooner.

"When I talk about protecting American lives in America, I also said 'protecting our interests,'

he said. "And [the Islamic State] may not appear to be an imminent threat to the United States. It is a threat to the United States. It is ... a clear threat to our partners in that area, and it is imminent."

Hagel said the group is creating instability throughout the Middle East, but he did not elaborate why it poses a threat to the homeland.

Attorney General Eric Holder has suggested that some Europeans and Americans who are fighting with the militants could return to their home countries and carry out attacks.

The Pentagon has deployed about 650 troops to Iraq in recent weeks as the security situa-

tion has deteriorated. The Obama administration is considering airstrikes against Islamic State fighters in Iraq, and the U.S. military has teams of advisers on the ground assessing the situation and gathering intelligence.

Hagel was noncommittal about additional steps the U.S. might take, including the use of air power.

"We are getting daily assessments," he said. "And the finality of those assessments will be completed in the next few days, and we'll have a further context of what recommendations they'll make."

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Iraq's Kurds say they will boycott Cabinet meetings

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Kurds on Thursday said their politicians will stay away from Cabinet meetings and called on Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki to step down, blaming him for the failure to stop the offensive by Sunni insurgents, in a further sign of the deteriorating relationship between the Shiite leader and the Kurds.

The boycott of Cabinet meetings was in protest against comments a day earlier by al-Maliki, who accused the largely autonomous Kurdish region in northern Iraq of harboring the Sunni militants who have overrun much of the country. The prime minister provided no evidence, and the Kurds denied the allegations.

Deputy Prime Minister Roz Nouri Shawez, the highest-level Kurdish official in the government, told reporters Thursday that "such statements are meant to hide the big security fiasco by blaming others, and we announce our boycott of Cabinet meetings."

Kurds also hold the Cabinet posts for foreign affairs, trade, health and immigration and displacement.

The move is largely symbolic because the government has continued operating in the past when the Sunni bloc fully withdrew its ministers from the Cabinet. But it underlines the deepening split between al-Maliki and the Kurds.

The presidency of the Kurdish self-rule region said al-Maliki "has become hysterical and has lost his balance."

"He is doing everything he can to justify his failures and put the blame on others for these failures," the Kurdish region's presidency said in a statement posted on its website late Wednesday. It accused al-Maliki of destroy-



People inspect the site of a car bomb attack Thursday on cars lined up at a gas station in the oil-rich city of Kirkuk in northern Iraq.

ing the country, and demanded that the step down.

Al-Maliki's rivals and even some former allies accuse the prime minister of helping fuel the current crisis by failing to promote reconciliation with the country's minority Sunnis, who complain of being treated as second-class citizens.

Al-Maliki, whose State of Law bloc won the

most seats in April elections, has refused to heed calls to step aside, and instead has vowed to pursue a third consecutive term.

That has led to political deadlock as lawmakers attempt to form a new government that can hold the country together as it confronts the Sunni militants who have seized control of much of northern and western Iraq.

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MILITARY



An OH-58 Kiowa helicopter takes off near the Texarkana Regional Airport in Arkansas.

Report: Pentagon paid \$8,124 for a \$445 part

By TONY CAPACCIO AND
JONATHAN D. SALANT
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon paid Textron's Bell Helicopter unit \$8,123.50 each for gears that should have cost \$445.06, according to a report by the Defense Department's inspector general.

The bevel gears that were marked up 18-fold were part of \$9 million in excess payments by taxpayers cited by the watchdog office.

This is the latest case in which the inspector general said Pentagon agencies allowed contractors to overcharge for parts. For decades, the Defense Department has periodically been the subject of ridicule from lawmakers, and even late-night comedians, after reports of inflated prices for items such as a coffee pot and a toilet seat.

In the Bell case, the inspector general recommended that the Defense Logistics Agency seek to recoup the excess money and analyze prices to ensure taxpayers aren't further overcharged. Otherwise, the excess payments may increase by an additional \$2.6 million under Bell's noncompetitive contract, the report found.

"The contracting officer did not sufficiently determine whether prices were fair and reasonable," according to the July 3 report, signed by Jacqueline Wicecarver, assistant inspector general for

acquisition. The report, obtained by Bloomberg News, was labeled "For Official Use Only."

Bell Helicopter "does not agree with the findings or recommendations," Andy Woodward, a spokesman for the unit of Providence, Rhode Island-based Textron, said in a statement.

"Bell Helicopter has fully complied with all applicable regulations, and continues to adhere to its policy, which ensures that the U.S. Government consistently receives the best price on commercial items acquired for its use," he said.

The alleged overcharges were incurred on Bell's 2012 sole-source, \$128 million contract to support Navy and Marine Corps H-1 and Army OH-58 Kiowa helicopters. The contract is in place until February 2017.

"Prices were not sufficiently determined fair and reasonable because the contracting officer did not perform an adequate analysis when procuring sole-source parts, accepting the company's pricing 'in a noncompetitive environment,' the inspector general's report found.

The agency "potentially overpaid Bell Helicopter Textron about \$9 million out of \$13.4 million on 33 of 35 sole-source spare parts" reviewed, Wicecarver wrote.

Auditors for the inspector general calculated the potential over-

payments based on cost data that Bell Helicopter provided under an administrative subpoena, according to the report.

In response to the inspector general's recommendation that the Defense Logistics Agency pursue options including a voluntary refund from Bell, Matthew Beebe, the agency's director of acquisition, told auditors that "Bell has consistently refused to provide cost data for commercial parts" it sells the Pentagon.

Agency officials do "not believe they have the ability to obtain cost data," the report said.

In June 2013, the Defense Logistics Agency asked Boeing Co., based on another audit, to refund \$13.7 million for what it called excessive prices for spare parts, including a \$10 aluminum sleeve for which the Pentagon paid \$2,286.

Chicago-based Boeing this year agreed to provide the agency with \$3.2 million in parts to settle the case.

The Bell audit found that the Defense Department paid the company \$2,355.85 for a round inner cap—an "inflated unit price that should have been \$297.08." In another case "Bell proposed and DLA accepted a unit price of \$492.17" for a \$51.67 pin.

Bell Helicopter also charged the agency \$295.57 apiece for one-inch bushings the inspector general determined should have cost an average \$25.72 each.

Littoral ships' survival capability questioned

By TONY CAPACCIO
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The Navy's \$23 billion littoral combat ship is less able to survive an attack than other U.S. warships, according to the Pentagon's top weapons tester.

Revised standards adopted for the vessel intended to operate in shallow coastal waters "continue to accept the risk the crew would need to abandon ship under circumstances that would not necessitate that action" on other vessels, Michael Gilmore, the Defense Department's director of operational testing and evaluation, said in a letter to Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

Gilmore, rebutting the Navy's contention that he's mistating the ship's requirements, said they are "significantly different" from those for other ships that may face enemy forces. His stance adds to previous questions about the future of the vessel being built in two versions by Lockheed Martin and Austal.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel said in February that he was limiting purchases to 32 vessels, instead of the 52 originally planned, until the Navy developed alternatives for a more survivable ship. He has called for a more "capable and lethal" option that could include an upgraded Littoral combat ship or a different design. Recommendations from defense contractors are due by the end of this month.

About \$12 billion has been appropriated by Congress so far for 20 vessels.

In addition to \$23 billion to build the ships, the Navy would spend \$7.2 billion to buy mission modules that are supposed to be swapped out for mine-hunting, surface warfare and anti-submarine missions.

Gilmore offered his observations about the littoral combat ship's survivability in the June 26 letter to McCain, who is critical of the program. The senator sponsored a provision in this year's defense budget that mandated a Navy and test office report on the ship.

Gilmore also submitted a report of dated June 26 outlining the

ship's evolution and the status of its warfighting equipment.

The letter to McCain was intended to rebut material the Navy submitted to lawmakers on June 6. It said Gilmore's office "inaccurately defines LCS capabilities" and "mischaracterizes the requirements to which LCS was designed" and its capabilities.

The LCS, "for military and survivability features, was constructed in accordance with Navy specifications and standards comparable to all surface combatants," the service said.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Jonathan Greenert said in a June 6 letter transmitting the service's congressionally mandated report on the ship that its survivability depended on a "total-ship concept."

The design will allow the vessel to "continue to perform its primary mission, exit the battle area under its own power or conduct an orderly abandon ship," depending on circumstances, Greenert said. "In short, LCS is a survivable ship," Greenert wrote Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, R-N.J., who heads the House Appropriations defense subcommittee. "Speed, maneuverability and modern weaponry aid LCS in avoiding a hit in the first place."

"If hit, LCS was designed to minimize vulnerability" and "with modern automated damage control systems" it will be able to "recover from casualties and withdraw to fight again," Greenert said.

The Navy also outlined the five-year record of equipment failures for the USS Freedom built by Bethesda, Md.-based Lockheed and the USS Independence built by Henderson, Australia-based Austal. It said the number of reports for each ship "is on average consistent with other surface combatants in the fleet," the Navy said.

Gilmore wrote McCain that the Freedom and Independence were built to a standard for vessels such as patrol and logistics ships that are "not expected to be survivable in a hostile combat environment and are not intended to be employed in a manner that puts them in harm's way."



Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Littoral combat ships the USS Freedom, rear, and the USS Independence maneuver during an exercise off the coast of Southern California.

EUROPE

Lakenheath patients air concerns in survey

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF LAKENHEATH, England — A doctor with the 48th Medical Group complained of “whining” patients. Doctors don’t communicate among themselves. Doctors are overly conservative in treating ailments.

Those are some of the complaints patients made about their medical care at a Tuesday town hall meeting on RAF Lakenheath, England. Officials hosted the meeting as part of a survey of seven military hospitals to gather data for Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel’s 90-day review of the health care system. The 48th Medical Group is the only overseas facility in the survey.

Not all comments about the medical group, which oversees care for more than 35,000 pa-

tients in England and Norway, were negative. Some of the 50-odd people who attended the meeting said they were happy with the timeliness of the care they received, the ease with which referrals could be gotten and the willingness of officials to explain prescribed treatment. The overall attitude during the meeting was mixed, some participants told a Stars and Stripes reporter, who attended the town hall but was not permitted to report during it.

Master Sgt. Chris Valgardson, with the 48th Communications Squadron, has received mixed quality of care from the medical group. When he first came to Lakenheath, he had “the best doctor in my life,” Valgardson said, but that doctor changed stations. He said he then fell under the care of doctors who did not seem to care

“They just didn’t care. The attitude of the doctors was, ‘if it wasn’t bleeding, then you’re wasting my time.’”

Master Sgt. Chris Valgardson

about his well-being.

“They just didn’t care,” Valgardson told Stars and Stripes after the meeting. The attitude of the doctors was, “if it wasn’t bleeding, then you’re wasting my time.”

But Valgardson said his care has improved and that his current doctor now is pushing for him to get treatments for issues

that were passed over during the period of what he described as poor care.

The other hospitals under review are Madigan Army Medical Center in Washington state; Naval Medical Center San Diego in California; U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Clinic in Colorado; Winn Army Community Hospital in Georgia; Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia; and Naval Health Clinic Patuxent River in Maryland. About 550 people have attended the patient town hall meetings, according to the Defense Department.

A request to speak to an official from the medical group was declined by Lakenheath public affairs, which cited the ongoing review.

Officials with the military-wide health care review are not releasing any information from the

hospitals they have visited before the 90-day deadline Hagel set at the end of May, said Maj. James Brindle, a Defense Department spokesman who handles health care matters.

Hagel ordered the review to focus on access to care, quality and safety, but information about how officials are assessing each hospital in those areas was not available.

The visits to the seven hospitals are scheduled to conclude this week after officials return to Naval Medical Center San Diego on Friday for a second town hall meeting open to patients. No patients attended the first town hall meeting, a spokesman for the medical center said, noting a problem in publicizing the event.

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Col. Mary Martin takes over as commander of USAG Wiesbaden

By ERIC A. BROWN
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — The reins of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden changed hands Thursday in a ceremony held at Clay Kaserne.

Col. Mary L. Martin, who previously served as the deputy director of Technology and Business Architecture Integration with the Army GI in Washington, assumed command of the U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden from Col. David H. Carstens.

Kathleen Marin, European regional director of Installation Management Command and presiding official of the ceremony, spoke of Wiesbaden Army Airfield’s rich history and its involvement in the Berlin Airlift 66 years ago, when Germany’s future was threatened by the spread of communist oppression.

“Yet here we are today in a unified Germany, a prosperous Wiesbaden, and a thriving military community made possible by a firm commitment to German-American cooperation,” Marin said.

Carstens oversaw exponential growth since taking command of the garrison in January 2012. The transformation included the completion of U.S. Army in Europe’s move from Heidelberg and into its 285,000-square-foot Mission Command Center, and the adjacent \$125 million consolidated intelligence center, scheduled to open in early 2016.

“Most important, Dave focused on serving people,” Martin said. “People turn housing units into homes and communities; people turn classrooms into places of inspiration; people help turn a move to Germany into an opportunity.”

In his post-command speech, Carstens cited a lengthy list of garrison accomplishments, but



Col. David H. Carstens embraces his wife, Aida, on Thursday after relinquishing command of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden.

ily,” he said.

Carstens, who will remain in Wiesbaden, will serve as the U.S. Army in Europe inspector general.

Martin, who is no stranger to Germany, served in Wiesbaden as the deputy personnel strength manager for the 1st Armored Division in 2006-09.

“I’m happy to be back in Wiesbaden,” Martin said in her welcome speech before attempting the same in German.

“That’s my last Deutsch for this briefing,” Martin joked.

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PHOTOS BY ERIC A. BROWN/Stars and Stripes

Col. Mary L. Martin salutes after assuming command of U.S. Army Garrison Wiesbaden on Thursday at Clay Kaserne.

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MILITARY

Digital streaming better for Navy bases in Japan

By JAMES KIMBER
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Geographic restrictions have kept many servicemembers from using the Internet to watch their favorite TV shows while posted overseas. The commander of Naval Forces Japan decided to change that for sailors posted in the country, seeing it as a growing quality-of-life issue.

Following Misawa Air Base's lead, all Navy bases and base housing communities under the CNFJ umbrella—including Navy bases in Yokosuka, Atsugi, Sasebo, Okinawa and Diego Garcia—are a longer subject to such restrictions from digital streaming companies.

"Unlocking" such sites, as it's commonly called, allows overseas servicemembers and their families to access U.S.-based streaming content without paying for a Virtual Private Network or a Domain Name Service proxy.

Rear Adm. Terry Kraft recognized how wider Internet access has become a major issue for today's servicemembers. AFN's TV offerings have expanded in recent years but still are just a fraction of what anyone in the U.S. can access.

"It's important to deliver the best of the Internet to our sailors," Kraft said. "When you come to Japan, we want our sailors to have a consistent experience as they have in the U.S."

After Misawa's successful conversion, CNFJ formed a focus group — called the Stream Team — to ask the community about the base's Internet services. Based on the initial feedback, more than 1,000 sailors and their families get their entertainment, communicate with loved ones and receive education online, which is what led Kraft to ask his Stream Team to have the restrictions lifted at all his bases.

"We're not stopping at lifting geographic restrictions; we also want to look into how we're delivering Internet on our bases," Kraft said. "We're looking at where we are establishing Wi-Fi hot spots, is it consistent from base to base, are we getting the bandwidth they require, whether it's in a public spot or through a private connection."

Having geographic restrictions lifted alleviates the need for base residents to subscribe to VPN services, getting the bandwidth extensions, which can open up users' computers to malware and data collection. Aside from saving a few dollars and increasing security, this also frees up network bandwidth and maximizes the full speed for which they are paying.

Petty Officer 1st Class De-Shawn Oliver, a customer of the Navy Exchange-contracted Internet service provider Ameri-cable, says his family loves being able to easily access digital media in the Yokosuka home.

"I watch Netflix at home and on iPad, Xbox, whatever I'm using," Oliver said. "It's still kinda slow, so I'd like to see stronger Internet. They should really boost the speed."

Word of the lifted geographic restrictions hasn't quite made its way around Yokosuka, though. Seaman Thomas Taylor, who learned of it early last week, hoped his gadgets would work just as they did in the States.

"I've had a Netflix account for years but I haven't been able to use it since I've been out here," said Taylor, an avid gamer who uses his Internet access to download updates and stream entertainment. "This would be great because I use it when I get home today."

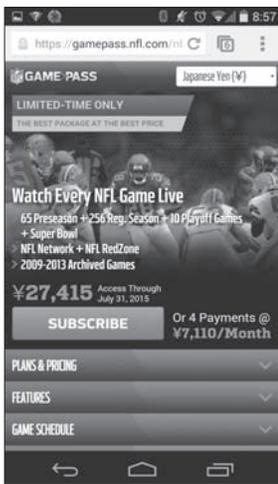
The unlocking benefits only base residents. Those who live off base still fall under the digital rights agreements between each company and the government of Japan. Additionally, anyone who lives on base and uses an alternative Internet technology like WiMAX instead of an Exchange-contracted Internet service provider or a public hot spot on base would not be able to log in directly to Netflix without extra effort.

Airman 1st Class Zachary Garten — from the 374th Maintenance Squadron at Yokota Air Base, where the geographic restrictions remain — will stick to his WiMAX service. Garten is a heavy Internet user, saying he could use 100 gigabytes of data in a week, which would put him on pace to exceed the monthly bandwidth cap set by the Exchange contracted Internet service provider four to five times over. He also has unlimited data in his single most important usage need.

According to Garten, his WiMAX provider has speeds comparable to the Internet service contracted through his local Exchange, Allied Telesis, but is significantly cheaper and provides unlimited bandwidth.

Tech Sgt. David Schnabel, of the 730th Air Mobility Squadron in Yokota, would also like to see unlimited data usage at a competitive price. "Better still if they offered Internet service comparable to what the local nationals have just over the fence," he said.

Servicemembers who live off base and their Japanese neighbors typically have Internet speeds that are three to five times as fast with unlimited bandwidth for about half the price.



This screenshot shows NFL-owned GamePass after being redirected from the NFL's U.S.-based GameRewind at the fleet recreation center food court on Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, last month. Because of the process requiring each site to authorize permission to have the geographic restrictions removed, sites like GameRewind may redirect overseas users to more expensive subscriptions.

"I understand Allied Telesis is contracted and on-base utilities are not easily changed, but at the end of the day I don't care about contractual obligations," Schnabel said.

According to Julie Mitchell, a spokeswoman for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the bandwidth caps are necessary to "ensure all customers receive the same high-quality level of service and affect only a small percentage of customers."

Exchange-contracted telecommunications companies, like

Allied Telesis, provide U.S. television, telephone and Internet services in Japan with the convenience of native English-speaking customer service, contract-free service and multiple payment options, many conveniences not offered by their off-base counterparts. Additionally, the Exchange is looking to improve Internet service, but neither AAFES nor Allied Telesis could elaborate.

Stars and Stripes reporter Trevor Anderson contributed to this report. kimber.james@stars.com Twitter: @jameskimber

Jurors hear sniper say Ventura's name deleted

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A military sniper whose memoir sparked a lawsuit from former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura admitted before his death that he removed Ventura's name from the book because he was afraid of being sued, jurors in Ventura's defamation lawsuit heard Wednesday.

Ventura claims "American Sniper" author Chris Kyle — a former Navy SEAL who was fatally shot last year at a Texas gun range, invented a story in his best-selling autobiography about decking Ventura outside a California bar in 2006. Kyle had said Ventura made loud disparaging comments about SEALs while Kyle was attending a wake for a fellow SEAL killed in battle.

Kyle gave a video deposition in November 2012 that jurors saw Wednesday. Near the start, Kyle told Ventura's attorney, David Bradley Olson, that he wasn't concerned about the lawsuit. Asked why, he replied, "You can't defeat the truth."

But later on Kyle, who's regarded as the deadliest sniper in U.S. military history, acknowledged he was indeed afraid of being sued. He said his co-authors, Jim DeFelice and Scott McEwen, included Ventura's name in early drafts of the subchapter on the alleged incident — even calling him Jesse "The Body" Ventura, his name from his pro wrestling days.

He said it took some work to persuade them that Ventura's name should come out. The three-page passage ultimately referred to Ventura as "Scruff Face."

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Hagel promises to focus help on Navy sub force

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

NAVAL SUBMARINE BASE KINGS BAY, Ga. — Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel promised Wednesday that more money and attention will be paid to the Navy's nuclear submarine force to correct for recent "drift" in the mission.

"I think over the years we've let our focus on the nuclear deterrence aspect of our national security drift a little," Hagel told sailors, Marines and Coast-guardsmen at a town hall meeting here.

"That's somewhat understandable when we understand that for 13 years, this country has been at war in long, large land-mass wars. And because of that, priority has been put on those wars [in] funding, leadership, attention. So we need to get back and pay attention here and prioritize the importance of the nuclear enterprise."

Kings Bay, the Navy's main ballistic missile submarine base on the East Coast, is home to six Ohio-class SSBNs, also known as boomers, each capable of launching 192 nuclear warheads.

Defense Department plans call for replacing all 14 boomers across the fleet with 12 modern vessels in the coming decades. Design work for the so-called Ohio Replacement is scheduled to begin in fiscal 2017. Construction of the first Ohio Replacement boat is scheduled for 2021, with a planned first patrol to start in 2031, according to the U.S. Naval Institute website.

"We have every commitment to the projections to bring on that new class of submarines. We need a new generation of Ohio-class submarines, and we're going to prioritize that" in the budget, Hagel said.

The Ohio Replacement will be expensive, however, with the first boat costing an estimated \$12.4 billion, according to the DOD. And officials have cast doubt on whether the Navy would be able to fully execute its shipbuilding plan if sequestration budget cuts are not lifted by Congress in the coming years.

Hagel acknowledged the budget problems but insisted that Pentagon leaders "are continuing to be committed to a new generation of Ohio-class submarines."

Hagel said two separate reviews of the overall nuclear force — one internal and one conducted by outside experts — have been completed. He ordered the reviews earlier this year in the wake of cheating, drug and poor performance scandals involving

Air Force personnel who were part of the nuclear enterprise.

The nuclear arm of the Navy had its own cheating scandal shortly afterward when answers to a written qualification propulsion exam were allegedly shared among some instructors at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command near Charleston, S.C. The staff members accused of cheating were required to pass the test in order to qualify to instruct students on the training reactors.

The recently completed reviews focused mainly on management and personnel problems within the nuclear force.

"I've been briefed on the reviews. I'm in the process now working with our leaders to decide which recommendations we're going to go forward with [to] strengthen the health of the nuclear workforce, strengthen the nuclear enterprise, [and] assure all of you that you're going to have the resources you need to do your job," Hagel told the troops.

The Pentagon chief later declined to discuss any of the findings or recommendations with reporters, saying decisions will be announced in the coming weeks.

Hagel also emphasized another important change within the nuclear enterprise: the integration of women into the Navy's submarine force.

The Navy began integrating submarine crews in 2011 after the Navy officially changed the policy that had prohibited women from serving aboard submarines. More than 60 female officers now serve aboard 14 crews across the submarine community. Currently, women serve only aboard ballistic missile and guided missile submarines.

While touring the USS Tennessee at Kings Bay, Hagel held a roundtable discussion with 14 of them to talk about their experiences.

"The Navy has really broken through on so much of this," Hagel said afterward.

Thus far, female officers have been restricted to serving aboard Ohio-class submarines, and there are no enlisted sailors on any of the underwater vessels. According to the Navy, plans call for female officers to start integrating into the Virginia-class attack submarine fleet in October, and enlisted women will be allowed to serve on submarines beginning in 2016.

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CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Howard and Jean Somers, whose son committed suicide last year, testify before the House Veterans' Affairs Committee at the Capitol in Washington on Thursday.

Suicide: Families testify of VA system failures before loved ones took lives

FROM FRONT PAGE

A bill set to be unveiled by Miller and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of American would require:

- Review of discharges for PTSD and traumatic brain injury.
- Mental health services in VA networks to be listed on centralized websites.
- New efforts to recruit VA psychiatrists.
- Annual outside reviews of mental health care and suicide prevention programs.

■ A Government Accountability Office report on the transition of care for PTSD and TBI between active service and the VA.

The proposal comes on the heels of a major reform effort underway in Congress that has been spearheaded by Miller and Sens. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., and John McCain, R-Ariz. So far, it is aimed at expanding access to general care, but progress has been held up by concerns over an estimated \$50 billion annual price tag.

The stories of suicides that could have been averted with better care are part of the "horrible human costs of VA dysfunction," said Miller, whose committee has also held hearings on patient scheduling abuses and widespread department employee bonuses despite access problems throughout the health care system.

Somers, an Army sergeant who did four combat tours as a Humvee turret gunner, once went to a VA hospital emergency room in Phoenix in the grip of a panic attack and was coldly turned away, Howard Somers testified during the committee probe into department suicide prevention.

"The fact is he went into the corner, he laid down on the floor and he was crying. There was no effort made to see if he could be admitted to another facility," Somers said. "He was told, 'You can stay there and when you feel better, you can drive yourself home.'"



Renschler

A series of similar experiences just became too overwhelming and finally led Daniel Somers to collapse "under the weight of his own despair," his parents said.

Suicide has become an epidemic among those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan — an estimated 22 commit suicide each day — but the testimony before the House pointed to a mental health treatment system that has some of the same general treatment problems uncovered in the past two months at hundreds of VA hospital and clinics across the country.

Tens of thousands of veterans at more than 700 facilities in the United States wait months for care and VA staff often manipulated records to cover up the delayed treatment, a series of audits have shown.

Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder often wait until a crisis point just to approach VA hospitals in hopes of eventually getting treatment, said Josh Renschler, an Army infantry sergeant who was medically retired after suffering from a mortar blast in Iraq.

Those lucky enough to get an initial appointment within a couple of weeks are often then scheduled for another assessment — a de facto "second intake process" — that can require months more waiting, said Renschler, who now works with a nonprofit group in Washington state that assists servicemembers and veterans.

Once veterans do get into the VA health care and suicide prevention system, they are passed from office to office for disjointed treatment that is frustrating and inefficient at judging the full scope of a patient's mental health problems, he said during testimony.

"No one's getting the full picture, so it's likely that nobody is going to see that my life is slipping out of control," Renschler said.

At a Washington state VA facility, the department tried an interdisciplinary approach as part of a pilot program, he said. The program brought together a spectrum of VA mental health providers into a shared office and brought down waits for care, but it was discontinued due to high costs and a lack of funding.

Rep. Beto O'Rourke, D-Texas, who sits on the committee, said he wanted to re-examine the approach as a potential solution to problems with suicide prevention.

The tragic stories of suicide victims should be a powerful incentive to push through some type of reform, O'Rourke said.

"I hope it will force us and this administration and this country to treat this issue with the respect that it deserves" he said.

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MILITARY

Tricare to restore coverage for genetic tests

By TOM PHILPOTT

The Defense Health Agency, relying on medical laboratory experts and existing authority to conduct medical "demonstrations," will restore Tricare coverage this month for up to 40 genetic tests used in patient care.

Many of the laboratory-developed tests — also called molecular pathology tests — are viewed as medically necessary. But Tricare had stopped reimbursing for more than 100 such tests in January 2013, believing it lacked authority to pay for them when such tests are ordered by civilian physicians delivering care through Tricare provider networks.

Military treatment facilities have continued to order and pay for such tests routinely, which created a disparity of coverage between military direct care and purchased-care contracts. Senior DHA officials acknowledged the coverage gap last February and vowed to close it.

"The first step to do so will occur July 18 when 30 to 40 genetic tests, those "most commonly performed" across U.S. medicine, will become reimbursable again under Tricare as part of a three-year medical demonstration project, said Army Maj. Gen. Richard W. Thomas, chief medical officer

and director of health care operations for the DHA.

Among genetic tests to be restored to Tricare coverage is one that determines if a woman who is pregnant, or desires to become pregnant, carries a genetic marker for cystic fibrosis. That marker would indicate increased risk that a newborn would have CF.

Tricare stopped paying for this and many more laboratory-developed tests, or LDTs, after the American Medical Association changed its procedural codes for such lab work and clarified that the tests are "medical devices."

Tricare, in turn, concluded that under current support contracts, it cannot pay for medical devices if not certified as safe and effective by the Federal Drug Administration. Because the FDA doesn't review or approve genetic tests, Tricare officials decided they had to stop coverage.

Civilian physicians continued to order such tests, but after December 2012, Tricare quietly began denying payments. At a time, many affected laboratories absorbed the costs. But for some of the more costly tests ordered, Tricare patients began receiving unexpected bills.

In a phone interview, Thomas said that the DHA earlier this year formed its own panel of experts,

MILITARY UPDATE

the Joint Lab Working Group, and began conducting a review of safety and effectiveness of genetic tests. It used forensic science and other criteria to screen LDTs. One factor was whether major health insurance companies covered the tests, Thomas said.

Restored Tricare coverage for up to 40 LDTs will occur under what DHA calls its Non-FDA-Approved Laboratory Test Demonstration Project, described in the June 18 Federal Register. A full list of genetic tests to be approved for Tricare hasn't been released.

Coverage will be retroactive to Jan. 1, 2013, so laboratories and patients will be able to apply for reimbursement for newly cleared tests that they had paid for back to that date, Thomas said. The DHA already has reimbursed affected laboratories \$3.5 million, mostly for prenatal CF testing the past 18 months.

During the demonstration, the DHA would like to see Congress pass legislation to give it permanent genetic test review authority.

The Senate Armed Services Committee's version of the fiscal 2015 defense authorization bill contains such language, so it could be enacted into law by year's end.

Besides closing its coverage gap, the DHA plans to use the demonstration to better manage for military medicine the recent "explosion" in genetic testing, Thomas said. It will seek to hold down costs by using military labs with genetic testing capability when possible. Such labs now operate at military medical centers in Texas, Mississippi and Washington state.

The DHA also wants to impose more "discipline and clarity" on use of such testing, whether by military health care providers or network civilian doctors.

"We've got to be flexible enough in our system that we can address these tests and certainly offer them, as appropriate, if they have proven clinical merit, are efficacious and safe," Thomas said.

Prenatal cystic fibrosis testing is a good example. For now, DHA will extend coverage, acknowledging that such tests are recommended by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists). During the demonstration, military patient outcomes will be studied to determine if CF testing provides real medical benefits or

simply adds to the cost of care.

DHA officials had argued earlier this year that awareness that a fetus is at higher risk of cystic fibrosis usually has no impact on management of labor, delivery or neonatal care. Also, they noted that at birth infants are tested for a host of health conditions immediately, including CF.

Thomas described guidelines from the ACOG as "deliberately opaque" on the benefits of prenatal CF screening. Yet because the ACOG strongly recommends such screening, CF tests have become a "standard of practice" though not yet "a standard of care," Thomas said.

Karen Ruedisuel, a health care advocate for the National Military Family Association, said the group is pleased to see Tricare restore coverage for some genetic tests, particularly prenatal cystic fibrosis screening, which represents the "bulk of genetic test details" by Tricare since early 2013.

But the NMFA, wants to learn why the DHA panel did not clear for restored Tricare coverage more than 60 other genetic tests, she said.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 21111, Centreville, Va. 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or Twitter: Tom Philpott @MilitaryUpdate.



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TERM DATES 11 Aug-12 Oct 2014 REGISTRATION DATES 21 Jul-10 Aug 2014

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IR 6601 Wknd 6/8	Research Methods in International Relations 20-21 Sep, 4-5 Oct Dr. Campbell Core Requirement	IR 5551 Wknd 2/5	Survey of International Relations 23-24 Aug, 13-14 Sep Dr. Sherrill Core Requirement	IR 6610 Wknd 2/5	International Organizations 23-24 Aug, 13-14 Sep Dr. Howe Regional Affairs Requirement Elective for Other Concentrations	IR 6601 Wknd 1/4	Research Methods in International Relations 16-17 Aug, 6-7 Sep Dr. Campbell Core Requirement
IR 6645 Wknd 1/5	Asia in World Affairs 16-17 Aug, 13-14 Sep Dr. Dallao Asian Regional Affairs Elective Elective for Other Concentrations	IR 6631 Wknd 6/8	Intercultural Relations 20-21 Sep, 4-5 Oct Dr. Pinkston Regional Affairs Requirement Elective for Other Concentrations	IR 6635 Wknd 1/7	National Security Policy 16-17 Aug, 27-28 Sep Dr. Sherrill National Security Affairs Elective Elective for Other Concentrations	IR 6645 Wknd 6/8	Asia in World Affairs 20-21 Sep, 4-5 Oct Dr. Keum Asian Regional Affairs Elective Elective for Other Concentrations
IR 6655 Wknd 2/7	International Conflict Management 23-24 Aug, 27-28 Sep Dr. Maass Elective for All Concentrations			IR 6652 T/Th	Theory and Ideology in International Relations Dr. Campbell Core Requirement		
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MILITARY

Army brass defend troubled intel system

By **KEN DILANIAN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When Gen. John Campbell, the Army's vice chief of staff, appeared last year at a budget hearing on Capitol Hill, he cited his son's experiences as a soldier in Afghanistan to answer a senator's tough questions about a troubled intelligence technology system.

This week, after an inquiry by The Associated Press, the Army acknowledged that Campbell misspoke about his son's unit, omitting some key facts as he sought to defend a \$4 billion system that critics say had not worked as promised.

As the pick to lead U.S. forces in Afghanistan, pending confirmation, Campbell may get another chance to discuss the Distributed Common Ground System, known as DCGS-A. The network of crash-prone software, sensors and databases was supposed to allow troops to process and integrate intelligence from a variety of sources, from electronic intercepts to overhead imagery to spy reports.

The need is greater than ever, since gathering and making sense of intelligence in Afghanistan will remain a priority even as U.S. troops draw down.

Army leaders, including Campbell and his boss, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno, have circled their wagons around the DCGS-A despite a series of independent government reports that have pointed to significant weaknesses.

When Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., a member of the House Armed Services Committee, visited troops in eastern Afghanistan last year, "DCGS was shut down in the corner, piled with books and papers," he said.

Equally troubling to critics is how the Army has made it difficult for commanders to use an off-the-shelf commercial product that soldiers say is more workable and user-friendly than the DCGS-A, even though the commercial system has been embraced by the Marines, special operations forces, the CIA and other government agencies.

"DCGS folks promised a solution three years ago, and they

have yet to deliver," said Col. Peter Newell, who retired last year after heading the Army's Rapid Equipping Force.

Army officials acknowledge problems with the DCGS-A. In a statement, spokesman Matthew Bourke said the Army is working to improve the system in its next generation, which is being put out for bids next year.

The DCGS-A was developed a decade ago, but the spotlight on its shortcomings grew brighter in 2010, when Lt. Gen. Michael Flynn, then the top military intelligence officer in Afghanistan, said in a memo that "intelligence analysts in theater currently do not have the tools required to fully analyze the tremendous amounts of information currently available." Flynn made an urgent request for a "theater-wide, Web-based analytical platform" that sounded a lot like a product offered by a Silicon Valley startup called Palantir, which grew out of antiraid technology developed by PayPal and was valued in December at \$9 billion.

Yet over the last four years, records show, Army leaders have

made it difficult for some commanders to purchase Palantir.

Army units that have managed to obtain Palantir report that it has saved lives in Afghanistan by helping to map insurgent activity and bomb networks in ways the Army system could not. It is also far cheaper: A 2013 Government Accountability Office report estimated that the Pentagon had spent about \$35 million in recent years to equip the Marines and some Army units with Palantir, compared with \$4 billion for the DCGS-A.

Palantir can merge disparate data sets — cellphone calls, fingerprint and DNA records, photos, bomb incident reports — and array them on a map in seconds. The DCGS-A's workstations employ a mapping program that is much more difficult to master, in a system that does not allow seamless data fusion. When soldiers update a file in Palantir, that file becomes visible to every Army Palantir user, which often is not the case across the DCGS-A network.

Last April, Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., confronted

Campbell with the DCGS-A's litany of troubles, including that the Army's testing lab in 2012 found the system "not operationally effective, not operationally suitable and not survivable."

Campbell said Palantir does only a small portion of what the DCGS-A is supposed to do, though he acknowledged that it is easier to work with. The Army's system, he said, "saves lives" and has access to more intelligence than Palantir's software does.

He added: "My son is a soldier in the 82nd. He's a specialist. He deployed to Afghanistan." Campbell said his son was in "one of the units that asked for DCGS — or his brigade did, not himself."

Emails obtained by the AP show, however, that the younger Campbell's unit — the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team — found the Army system unusable. The equipment failed after six men died in two roadside bombs in April and May 2012.

In a statement, the Army said Campbell "misspoke," and meant to say that his son's unit had requested Palantir, not the DCGS-A.

Pick to lead mission encouraged by Afghan troops

By **CHRIS CARROLL**
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senators on Thursday pressed nominees to top military posts on how to avoid a repeat of the recent Iraq debacle — where a U.S.-trained militia collapsed in the face of a smaller insurgent force — in Afghanistan as the war there draws to a close.

Army Gen. John Campbell, who likely will become the final commander of U.S. and NATO combat troops in Afghanistan, and Army Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel, tapped to run U.S. Special Operations Command, both said Afghan forces were gaining capability. That could be seen in their effective security operations during Afghan presidential voting earlier this year, Campbell said.

But both promised senators they'd speak up if President Barack Obama administration's timelines for removal of U.S. troops from the country prove unworkable.

Obama announced earlier this year plans to maintain a force of fewer than 10,000 U.S. troops in Afghanistan after the official end of combat operations in December. By the end of 2016, the only remaining troops would be those manning the U.S. Embassy in Kabul.

Angus King, an independent senator from Maine, questioned how the Obama administration can be sure that Afghan forces will be ready.

"It strikes me that rather than an arbitrary date for leaving Afghanistan, it should be based on conditions on the field," King said.



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

From left, Adm. William E. Gortney, Gen. John Campbell and Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Votel listen during their Senate Armed Services Committee confirmation hearing Thursday in Washington.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said both of Afghanistan's leading presidential candidates have told him they're worried about basing troop levels on dates rather than conditions.

McCain said Afghan forces are unlikely to gain necessary capabilities in the areas of logistics, intelligence and aviation by 2017. Inadequate support, he suggested, could lead to an Iraqi-style collapse, where the Sunni insurgents last month sent the Iraqi

army scurrying across broad sections of Iraq.

"One year ago the president of the United States would look at the nightmare in Iraq today and the ability that we could have had to provide some stability there, and perhaps re-evaluate his decision [in Afghanistan] — not for American combat troops but for the much-needed capabilities of support and counterterrorism that we can provide, which they simply do not have," he said.

Campbell said counterterrorism operations in Afghanistan were critical.

"I believe the CT piece, if you want to just boil it down to simplistic terms, is it protects the homeland," he said.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., questioned how the Obama administration could announce plans for a normal embassy military presence of perhaps 1,000 troops if counterterrorism is crucial.

"How do we do that based on a

Kabul operation only, and how do we do that with 1,000 troops, and which part of that 1,000 people will fulfil the important mission to protect the homeland?" she said.

Campbell and Votel responded that military leaders would have to assess the situation as it develops in coming years, and potentially make recommendations on modified force levels later.

"I don't think I can answer that question accurately right now," Votel said. "I think it really depends on the situation as it evolves."

Campbell praised the overall progress of Afghan forces, and said the contenders to be the next Afghan president are eager to work with the United States.

"Everything I see, sir, is good news," he said of the developing political situation in Afghanistan, in answer to a question from Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga. "I'm looking forward to getting over there, and I think we're on a positive path right now."

Senators also questioned Adm. William E. Gortney, nominated to command U.S. Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Defense Command, on topics including missile defense and cyberwar.

"I think the greatest threat that we have is the cyberthreat, to our critical infrastructure, to our power grid, to our banking system," Gortney said. "And the job at NORTHCOM is to handle the physical consequences of that particular threat."

NATION



MOHAMMAD HANNON/AP

Libyan military guards check a burned U.S. facility in Benghazi, Libya, on Sept. 14, 2012, after a deadly attack three days before.

Commanders suggest a 2nd group in Benghazi attacks

By DONNA CASSATA
AND BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Newly revealed testimony from top military commanders involved in the U.S. response to the Benghazi attacks suggests that the perpetrators of a second, dawn assault on a CIA complex probably were different from those who penetrated the U.S. diplomatic mission the evening before and set it ablaze, killing Ambassador Chris Stevens and another American.

The second attack, which killed two security contractors, showed clear military training, retired Gen. Carter Ham told Congress in closed-door testimony released late Wednesday. It probably was the work of a new team of militants, seizing on reports of violence at the diplomatic mission the night before and hitting the Americans while they were most vulnerable.

The testimony, which The Associated Press was able to read

ahead of its release, could clarify for the first time the Sept. 11, 2012, events that have stirred bitter recriminations in the U.S., including Republican-led congressional investigations and campaign-season denunciations of the Obama administration, which made initially inaccurate statements about the attacks. The testimony underscores a key detail that sometimes has been lost in the debate: that the attacks were two distinct events over two days on two different buildings, perhaps by unrelated groups.

The U.S. government still has not fully characterized the first attack in which, according to Ham and eight other military officers, men who seemed familiar with the lightly protected diplomatic compound breached it and set it on fire. Killing Stevens and communications specialist Sean Smith. A disorganized mob of looters then overran the facility.

In testimony on two House panels earlier this year, the officers

said that commanders didn't have the information they needed to understand the nature of the attack, that they were unaware of the extent of the U.S. presence in Benghazi at the time and they were convinced erroneously for a time that they were facing a hostage crisis without the ability to move military assets into place that would be of any use.

The testimony reveals how little information the military had on which to base an urgent response.

Two House panels — the Armed Services and Oversight and Government Reform committees — conducted interviews with the nine officers on separate days from Jan. 1 to April.

Four Americans died in Benghazi, including Stevens. To this day, despite the investigation, it's not clear if the violence resulted from a well-planned, multiphase military-type assault or from a loosely connected, escalating chain of events.

In IRS email affair, lawyer revises remarks

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Lois Lerner's attorney on Wednesday revised recent comments he made suggesting that his client, the former Internal Revenue Service official at the center of the agency's targeting controversy, did not send any of her emails, a fact that would put her in violation of federal record-keeping laws.

The Federal Records Act requires the preservation of official emails. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen testified last month before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee that IRS officials generally print hard copies of important messages,

for lack of a better system.

Koskinen indicated that Lerner followed agency protocol, saying, "She had hard-copy records."

A Politico article last month quoted Lerner's attorney, William Taylor, saying the former official didn't print emails because she didn't know she had to do so.

"If somebody is supposed to keep archived copies, that's the IT department's or her staff's responsibility," Taylor told Politico. "If she didn't [print] something, it wasn't because she tried to conceal anything."

Taylor said in a statement Wednesday that the remarks are "not entirely accurate, probably due to a misunderstanding."

He told The Washington Post, however, that he was not misquoted in the report.

Instead, Taylor said he meant to indicate that Lerner printed out some, but not all, of her emails. "During [Lerner's] tenure as director of Exempt Organizations, she did print out some emails, although not every one of the thousands she sent and received," he said in his statement.

Politico on Wednesday published an email that Taylor sent to the news organization before it published his comments last month. "Did she print out official records and file them?" Taylor asked. "Answer: No, and she did not think it was required."

Obama seeking to shift debate on border crisis

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — President Barack Obama was putting pressure on Republicans to help solve America's worsening immigration crisis, looking to shift the political debate after coming under attack for visiting the border during a trip to Texas.

Obama turned to one of his chief critics, Texas Gov. Rick Perry, a potential Republican presidential candidate in 2016, to try to make his point on how to respond to a flood of young migrants crossing the border.

Following a meeting with Perry in Dallas on Wednesday, the president suggested there was little difference between Perry's calls for additional assistance at the border and the nearly \$4 billion request Obama sent to Congress this week to help deal with thousands of unaccompanied child immigrants who have overwhelmed the Border Patrol in Texas. He also made a public appeal for Perry to wield his influence with Texas' Republican-heavy congressional delegation to press them to back the emergency spending package.

"The only question at this point is why wouldn't the Texas delegation or any of the other Republicans who are concerned about this not want to put this on a fast track and get this on my desk so I can sign it and we can start get-

ting to work?" Obama said. He argued that opposition to the urgent spending request would be part of a pattern of obstructionism from Republicans who have also resisted moving forward on a comprehensive immigration bill.

The current problem at the border comes at a time when the White House was seeking to cement an upper hand on the issue of immigration, particularly with Hispanic voters, who are increasingly crucial to electoral success in presidential elections. After House Republicans made clear they had no plans to take up comprehensive legislation this year, Obama vowed to move forward with executive actions that would make needed changes to the nation's broken immigration system.

The border crisis has given Republicans fresh fodder to challenge that approach. Republican lawmakers have blamed Obama's 2012 decision to defer deportations for some young people in the U.S. illegally for fueling rumors in Central America that unaccompanied minors who arrive at the border would be allowed to stay.

Indeed, some of the 57,000 children who have come to the border appear to be under that impression, though many are also fleeing violence in Central America. The White House has said most of the children are unlikely to qualify for humanitarian relief that would allow them to stay.

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NATION

Report: Chinese hackers hit OPM

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Chinese hackers broke into the computer networks of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management earlier this year with the intention of accessing the files of tens of thousands of federal employees who had applied for top-secret security clearances, according to The New York Times.

Senior U.S. officials say the hackers gained access to some of the agency's databases in March before the threat was detected and blocked, the Times reported in an article posted on its website Wednesday night. How far the hackers penetrated the agency's systems was not yet clear, the newspaper said.

Accusations of hacking by China and counterclaims of such activity by the U.S. government have strained U.S.-Chinese relations. Chinese hacking has been a major theme of U.S.-China discussions this week in Beijing, though both sides have publicly steered clear of the controversy.

Secretary of State John Kerry was asked about the Times report after he wrapped up his meetings in Beijing on Thursday. "At this point in time, it does not appear to have compromised any sensitive

material," he said. "I'm not going to get into any specifics of the ongoing investigation."

A Chinese government spokesman on Thursday reiterated Beijing's oft-stated position that it is "resolutely opposed" to Internet hacking and said there were parties who wanted to make China look like a cybersecurity threat.

"Some of the American media and cybersecurity firms are making constant efforts to smear China and create the so-called China cyberthreat," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said at a regular briefing. "They have never been able to present sufficient evidence. We are deeply convinced that such reports and commentaries are irresponsible and are not worth refuting."

In May, the Justice Department filed a 31-count indictment against five Chinese military officials operating under hacker aliases and accused them of penetrating computer networks of a half-dozen steel companies and makers of solar and nuclear technology to gain a competitive advantage. The Chinese government denied the allegations and suspended a working group on cyber rules that was to be part of the annual Strategic and Economic Dialogue this week.

Police: High-end hooker left Google exec to die

The Associated Press

SANTA CRUZ, Calif. — A Silicon Valley success story turned sordid this week with the arrest of an upscale prostitute who allegedly left a Google executive dying on his yacht after shooting him up with a deadly hit of heroin.

Forrest Hayes, 51, was found dead by the captain of his 50-foot yacht Escape last November. At the time, a simple obituary described him as a beloved husband and father of five who enjoyed spending time with his family and on his boat.

On Wednesday, that got a lot more complicated as Alix Tichelman, 26, stood handcuffed and mumbling in red jail scrubs facing manslaughter charges for her role in Hayes' death, as well as drug and prostitution charges. She is being held on \$1.5 million bail.

Surveillance footage from the yacht shows everything, police said, from when she came aboard until after Hayes collapsed. That's when Tichelman picked up her clothes, the heroin and needles, casually stepping over Hayes as he lay dying. She swallowed the last of a glass of wine, lowered a blind and walked back on the dock to shore, police said.

Santa Cruz Deputy Police Chief Steve Clark told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Hayes had hired Tichelman before, and that their Nov. 23 encounter "was a mutually consensual encounter including the introduction of the heroin."

Clark said it appears this might not have been the first time she left someone in trouble without calling police or trying to help. Without elaborating, he said his agency is cooperating with police in a different state on a similar case.

Hayes' widow has not spoken publicly and a blog created in his memory was deleted Tuesday. On the website, friends and co-workers were seemingly unaware of how he died.

The fondly described their time together, Christmas parties on his boat, traveling to China for Apple and most recently at Google, where they said he was involved in the Glass eyewear projects.

"He had life wired, he really liked his job, was spending a lot more time with his family, cruising around in his boat," a friend wrote in December. "I am really grateful that Forrest's last moments were happy ones."



BRETT COOMER, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

Houston surrounds a shooting suspect Wednesday in Spring, Texas. After hours of waiting and negotiations, the man — suspected in the slayings of six people, including four children — emerged from his car and was arrested.

Gunman kills 6 from one family

The Associated Press

SPRING, Texas — A gunman charged Thursday in the killing of four children and their parents was dressed as a delivery man when he arrived at the suburban Houston home where the family was shot to death, officials said.

Ronald Lee Haskell, 33, is charged with multiple counts of capital murder in the killings Wednesday evening, Harris County Precinct 4 Constable Ron Hickman said early Thursday. He also is accused of critically wounding a 15-year-old girl in the shooting rampage.

"I have not personally in 40 years shared in a tragedy in one family that is this horrific," Hickman said.

Documents introduced during a preliminary court hearing Thursday show the 15-year-old girl attempted to close the door to the home after telling Haskell her parents weren't home, according to a report by KPRC-TV in Houston. But he kicked in the door.

Haskell was estranged from a woman related to the couple, Hickman said. Authorities said

earlier that Haskell's wife lives in another state.

The children killed were two boys ages 4 and 14, plus two girls ages 7 and 9. Their parents were Kate and Stephen Stay, according to court documents. The father, a real estate agent, was 39 and the mother was 33, according to Harris County Sheriff's Deputy Thomas Gilliland.

Haskell "gathered up the children that were here and awaited the arrival of the parents," Hickman told reporters outside the home Thursday. "Sometime later the victims were shot in the residence."

Hickman said Haskell "came in the guise of a FedEx driver wearing a FedEx shirt."

Federal Express said in a statement that Haskell had "formerly provided service" for the company, but has not done so since January.

Hickman said that after Haskell left the home the injured teenage girl — also a daughter of the murdered couple — contacted authorities telling them the shooter was en route to shoot other family members.

Law enforcement personnel

located Haskell's car and a low-speed chase ensued, ending in a cul-de-sac, Hickman said. A standoff then lasted more than three hours before Haskell exited the car, sank to his knees and surrendered.

Online jail records did not list an attorney for Haskell.

At one point during the standoff tactical officers used a large armored vehicle to ram the front of his car, disabling it. Another armored vehicle was used to ram the rear of the car, preventing any chance of escape.

The sheriff's department said precinct deputy constables were called to the house about 6 p.m. Wednesday and found the parents and three children dead. Another child later died at a hospital.

Gilliland said the teenager was in "very critical condition" at Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston late Wednesday night.

Gilliland described Haskell after the standoff as "cool as a cucumber." He said that when he and other officers first approached, Haskell was "just sitting in his car looking out at us."

Federal agencies estimate \$100B in overpayments

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Tax credits for families that don't qualify, Medicare payments for treatments that might not be necessary, Unemployment benefits for people who are secretly working, Federal agencies reported making \$100 billion in payments last year to people who may not have been entitled to receive them.

Congressional investigators say the figure could be even higher.

"The amounts here are absolutely staggering," said Rep. John Mica, R-Fla. "It's over \$100 billion

each of the last five years. That's a staggering half a trillion dollars in improper payments."

Mica chairs the House Oversight government operations subcommittee, which held a hearing on improper payments Wednesday.

Federal agencies are required to estimate the amount of improper payments they issue annually. They include overpayments, underpayments, payments to the wrong recipient and payments that were made without proper documentation.

Some improper payments are

the result of fraud, while others are unintentional.

In 2013, federal agencies made \$97 billion in overpayments, according to agency estimates. Underpayments totaled \$9 billion. That adds up to \$106 billion in improper payments, or 3.5 percent of payments made.

The largest sources of improper payments are government health care programs, according to agency estimates. Medicare's various health insurance programs for accounted for \$50 billion in improper payments in the 2013 budget year.

NATION

Gun control fight could mar plan to aid Dems

By Ed O'KEEFE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — This was going to be a quiet week in the U.S. Senate, one during which the majority Democrats would take the opportunity to help a colleague facing a tough re-election race.

But what was supposed to be an innocuous election-year proposal, designed to draw considerable bipartisan support, has become the first big fight over gun control in Washington in more than a year — reopening old wounds for the very Democrats it was supposed to help.

The measure would expand

access to hunting and fishing on federal lands. Sen. Kay Hagan, D-N.C., is the lead sponsor. She faces one of the most challenging re-elections this year, so she persuaded 45 other senators — including 26 Republicans — to back the bill, making it one of the most popular legislative proposals debated by the Senate this year.

Even in a badly fractured chamber where bipartisan agreement is rare, passage of the Hagan bill should be a slam dunk.

But it's now caught up in something else entirely. Both gun rights proponents and gun control advocates are now looking at the bill as a way to score political

points by adding amendments.

"I want this debate. I want an opportunity to raise important issues about gun violence and gun safety in America," Sen. Richard Durbin, D-Ill., said Wednesday. He is seeking to stiffen penalties for illegal straw purchasers, people who buy guns for others who plan to use the firearms to commit crimes.

On the other side, Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., wants to overturn Washington's ban on large-capacity magazines and assault weapons and to allow gun owners to carry firearms into post offices and other federal buildings and sites.

This political gun fight comes

about 15 months after a bipartisan gun control measure was defeated in April 2013 despite the December 2012 mass shooting at an elementary school in Newtown, Conn., that drew national outrage and calls for new legislation.

As the fighting continues, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., began using procedural steps Wednesday to advance the hunting-and-fishing bill, leaving open a slim possibility that Democrats and Republicans will agree to votes on gun-related amendments and pass the bill. If such an agreement can't be reached, the measure could be quickly blocked and defeated.

If Reid opens the door to gun-

related amendments, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla., wants to amend the bill to limit when veterans would be restricted from owning firearms because of mental illness. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, wants to expand the right to interstate transport and the sale of ammunition and firearms — proposals that are similar to language included in the bipartisan gun control measure that failed last year.

The other GOP proposals probably would spell trouble for Hagan and the other Democrats facing re-election. In the past few years, several of them have been the arbiters of whether gun legislation passes or fails in the Senate.



CHRIS DUNN, YORK (Pa.) DAILY RECORD/AP

Storms spread damage in Pa.

Saul Ridolfi, 76, stands between his tree-damaged living room and kitchen on Wednesday in New Freedom, Pa. Ridolfi said he and his wife, Lucille, were in the living room Tuesday when they saw a severe-storm warning on television and immediately retreated to their basement. Forecasters have confirmed that at least two tornadoes hit different parts of Pennsylvania on Tuesday.

Report: NSA tracked email accounts of leading US Muslims

By BRIAN BENETT
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The National Security Agency and the FBI tracked email accounts of five Muslim American leaders between 2006 and 2008, according to an NSA spreadsheet of email addresses disclosed by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

The spreadsheet, which lists email addresses and dates, does not indicate how much, if any, surveillance took place. Because the spreadsheet stops in spring 2008, it also does not indicate whether any such surveillance continued after the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act was amended that year, in part to restrict the George W. Bush administration's use of wiretaps, or after President Barack Obama took office in January 2009.

Parts of the document were published by the Intercept, an online news site.

The spreadsheet lists 7,485 email addresses as being moni-

tored between 2002 and 2008, of which 202 were labeled as belonging to "U.S. persons," meaning citizens or legal residents.

The Intercept report focused on five of them: Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, or CAIR, a leading national Muslim civil rights organization; Faisal Gill, a lawyer who served in the Department of Homeland Security under Bush and later ran for public office in Virginia as a Republican; Asim Ghafoor, a defense attorney who has taken on terrorism-related cases; Hooshang Amirahmadi, an international relations professor at Rutgers University; and Agha Saeed, who has lectured in political science at California State University, East Bay, taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and served as chairman of the American Muslim Alliance.

The five men told the Intercept that they believe they were targeted in part because of their Muslim backgrounds.

Police want graphic photos of teen boy in sexting case

By MATTHEW BARAKAT
The Associated Press

McLEAN, Va. — A U.S. teenager is fighting efforts by police who want to take photos of him in a sexually aroused state to try to prove a sexting case against him.

Prosecutors in Virginia told a judge they need photos of the 17-year-old's erect penis to compare against photos he is accused of sending to his 15-year-old girlfriend at the time. The teen has been charged in juvenile court with possessing and manufacturing child pornography related to images of himself he's accused of

creating. The teen's lawyers are fighting a search warrant allowing the photographs in court. A hearing is scheduled for next week.

Defense lawyer Jessica Foster said she is unaware of any cases in which police have pursued similar photographs, particularly of minors.

"This is crazy," she said. "Nobody's even heard of something like this. ... The charges are excessive, and the means by which they are seeking evidence are outrageous."

The teen's appointed advocate, Carlos Flores Laboy, said his un-

derstanding is that police plan to do some sort of computer analysis of the photos to try to prove a similarity to the explicit photo found on the girl's phone.

He said the search warrant vividly demonstrates the importance of defending individuals' constitutional rights against invasions of privacy.

"Doing this to an adult would be traumatic. We're talking about a 17-year-old child," he said.

The lawyers said police have told them they plan to obtain the photo by taking the teen to a hospital and injecting him with a chemical that would cause an

erection. The teen's aunt and legal guardian has sent the teen out of state for now so the warrant can't be executed.

"He's overwhelmed," she said. "He's scared. He doesn't want to be in Virginia because police could theoretically show up at any time to try to take the photographs."

The Associated Press isn't naming the teen or his aunt in accordance with a policy of not identifying juvenile suspects.

Police have been pursuing the case since January, the aunt said, when the girlfriend's mother dis-

covered the explicit content.

Police and prosecutors did not return calls Wednesday afternoon seeking comment.

The Manassas City Police later posted a statement on its website saying that it is not their policy "to authorize invasive search procedures of suspects in cases of this nature and no such procedures have been conducted in this case."

The statement added that police were contacted by the mother of the 15-year-old girl "who was sent pornographic videos" by the 17-year-old "after repeatedly being told to stop."

WORLD

Israel pounds Hamas targets

By ARON HELLER AND NAJIB JOBAIN
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israel dramatically escalated its aerial assault targeting hundreds of Hamas sites in the Gaza Strip Thursday as Palestinians reported the strikes also hit a home and a beachside cafe, raising the total number of people killed in this week's offensive to at least 85. Israel's missile defense system also once again intercepted rockets fired by militants at the country's heartland.

Military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner said Israel struck more than 320 Hamas targets overnight, focusing on underground tunnel networks and rocket launching sites. In all, the military has struck 750 sites since the offensive began on Tuesday.

Israel has mobilized 20,000 reservists for a possible ground operation into Gaza, but for the time remains focused on maximizing its air campaign, Lerner said. A ground invasion could lead to heavier civilian casualties on the Palestinian side and put Israeli ground forces in danger.

Neither side is showing any sign of halting their heated fighting since an eight-day battle in late 2012. Israel says that Hamas must cease rocket fire from Gaza for Israel to consider a truce. Militants have fired hundreds of rockets, striking across the length of Israel and disrupting life across the country.

No Israelis have been seriously harmed as the "Iron Dome" defense system has intercepted at least 70 of the projectiles destined for major cities. The system is designed to intercept rockets headed toward populated areas, while allowing others to fall in open areas.

"The ground option needs to be the last option and only if it is absolutely necessary. It is a carefully designed plan of action," Lerner said.

The Israeli security Cabinet met to discuss its next moves.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon said the operation



Smoke rises Thursday following an Israeli strike on Gaza, seen from the Israel-Gaza Border. Israel escalated its aerial assault in Gaza on Thursday, hitting hundreds of Hamas targets.

LEFTIS PITARAKIS/AP

was going according to plan, with Israel targeting various Hamas interests.

"The military's successes so far have been very significant," he said. "We will continue until they understand that this escalation is not beneficial to them and that we will not tolerate rocket fire toward our towns and cities."

Palestinian medical officials said one strike early Thursday struck a home in the southern Gaza city of Khan Younis, killing eight members of the Al Haj family. Tractors cleared away large piles of debris from the demolished building as one man laid atop a mattress and blankets that remained.

An earlier strike killed eight people who were at a Gaza beach cafe watching the World Cup semifinal match between Argentina and the Netherlands, Mahmoud Sawali said, adding at least two of his brothers were among the dead.

The Israeli military said it was investigating both incidents. It also said it struck a car in Gaza carrying three Islamic Jihad militants involved in firing rockets. The militant group confirmed that its men were killed in the strike. Hamas officials said that the Palestinian side of its border crossing with Israel had also been destroyed in Israeli airstrikes.

The Health Ministry in Gaza has reported 85 deaths, including 22 on Thursday. It says about half were women and children though the exact breakdown could not immediately be confirmed.

Israel accuses militants of de-



A Palestinian inspects a house belonging to a senior Hamas official that was damaged Thursday in a strike in Beit Lahiyah in the northern Gaza Strip.

ADEL HANA/AP

liberately endangering civilians by using homes and other civilian buildings for cover. The military has also directly targeted the offices and homes of known militants that it says are used as command centers.

The military says it contacts the families first to ask civilians to evacuate before striking.

Hamas is firing rockets from "within houses and streets and neighborhoods which are populated with civilians ... exposing these civilians to retaliation and to

backfire," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor said.

After an overnight lull, militants resumed their barrage toward central and southern Israel. Remnants of a long-range rocket fired from Gaza landed in a gas station in south Tel Aviv after being shot down by the Iron Dome.

Besides firing toward Israel's two largest cities of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Hamas also launched a rocket that reached the town of Zichron Yaakov, more than 60 miles north of Gaza.

Germany expels US official in spy flap

By FRANK JORDANS
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany took the dramatic step Thursday of asking the top U.S. intelligence official in Berlin to leave the country, following two suspected cases of American spying and the year-long spat over eavesdropping by the National Security Agency.

The move reflects growing impatience in Germany at what is perceived as U.S. nonchalance about being caught spying on a close ally.

"The representative of the U.S. intelligence services at the United States Embassy has been asked to leave Germany," government spokesman Steffen Seibert said in a statement.

"The request occurred against the backdrop of the ongoing investigation by federal prosecutors as well as the questions that were posed months ago about the activities of U.S. intelligence agencies in Germany," he added. "The government takes the matter very seriously."

Seibert said Germany continues to seek "close and trusting" cooperation with its Western partners, "especially the United States."

The U.S. government declined to comment directly on the decision. But White House spokeswoman Caitlin Hayden said the security and intelligence relationship with Germany was very important to the United States.

"It keeps Germans and Americans safe. It is essential that cooperation continue in all areas and we will continue to be in touch with the German government in appropriate channels," she said.

Shortly before the decision was announced, Chancellor Angela Merkel told reporters that Germany and the United States had "very different approaches" to the role of intelligence agencies.

In separate cases over the past 10 days, one man has been arrested and an investigation against another has been launched on suspicion that they worked for foreign intelligence. German media have reported that the men are suspected of passing secrets to the U.S.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said the scope of the cases and who was involved are not yet clear, but talks are taking place with the United States at various levels.

"If the situation remains what we know now, the information reaped by this suspected espionage is laughable," de Maiziere said in a statement. "However, the price we pay for it is already disproportionate and serious."

Officials blame US for drone strike that killed 6 in Pakistan

The Associated Press

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan — A suspected American drone fired two missiles at a compound in a troubled Pakistani tribal region on Thursday, killing six militants, two intelligence officials said.

The strike happened in Datta Khel in North Waziristan, where the Pakistan army last month launched a much-awaited operation against local and foreign militants who

the region to carry out attacks in Pakistan, the officials said.

The identity of the slain men was not immediately known and the officials said they were still trying to get details.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

U.S. drone strikes are a serious source of tension between Washington and Islamabad.

The Pakistani government regularly denounces the strikes as a violation of the country's sovereignty.

Thursday's strike took place in the same region where the Pakistan army on June 15 launched a major offensive against Pakistani Taliban, al-Qaida and other militants. Datta Khel is about 30 miles west of Miran Shah, the main town in North Waziristan bordering Afghanistan.

WORLD

Argentina's Horse whisperer

Gaicho tames with nuzzles, gentle coaxing, instead of whips

By KACEY CHERRY
The Associated Press

THIS IS THE GAUCHO OF SAN ANTONIO DE ARECO, ARGENTINA. There is no whip in sight, no shouting or loud jabs. Not even a firm hand on the reins. Yet Martin Tatta somehow persuades his beloved Milonga to join him in acrobatic feats, from handstands to other poses that even the most understanding horses rarely display.

Through soft touches, gentle coaxing and a few tender nuzzles, it seems Tatta can sway his steeds to do just about anything.

In San Antonio de Areco, a bastion of Argentine gaucho culture outside the capital of Buenos Aires, Tatta, 33, is known as "the horse whisperer."

"For me, it's something natural," Tatta told The Associated Press. "No one taught me. I taught myself."

Eleven years ago, the horse trainer's way of "breaking" horses without aggression caught the attention of a local rancher, who encouraged Tatta to perform for tourists. Since then, he's traveled the world displaying the special skill he has with horses.

Tatta insists anyone could do this, if they were to be patient and gentle enough.

But veteran horseman Alberto Nally, who at 70 is one of the most experienced gauchos in the community, said no other gaucho has such a gentle touch.

"It hardly looks like he's even trying or doing anything — that's why it's special," Nally said. "I've seen other trainers using their reins and pulling the horse's head back and forth, but Martin, no. He is steady and soft when he works with them. He has a gift. He was born with it." Gauchos are Argentina's version of the North American cowboy. They are distinctive for their wardrobe of beret-styled hats, silver belts and leather chaps, or their habit of drinking the region's traditional tea, yerba mate.

Tatta shows that when "breaking" or taming a wild horse, "it doesn't have to be done through this harsh or brutal force," said Andrea Vigil, who directs the town's historic gaucho museum. "Instead, it's the opposite: It can be done in a warm and intimate way that gets slightly stricter. And then, well, you saw — you can accomplish incredible things."

"It's not a fight with the animal," Tatta said. "No, it's all very serene and peaceful." "There were these visitors that came and watched me, and after I had finished, they began to cry. And she said to me 'Martin, what you do, I can't believe it.' And I said to her, 'Ma'am, please don't cry. Are you OK? Why are you crying?' And she goes, 'You don't understand what you convey when you interact with those animals.'"



PHOTOS BY NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Martin Tatta, a self-taught trainer from San Antonio de Areco, Argentina, has been showcasing his unique bond with horses through performances for 11 years.

“
It hardly looks like he's even trying or doing anything — that's why it's special.”

—Alberto Nally
veteran gaucho



FAITH



MARIJANE FALEFA PORTER/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey W. Talley, commander of U.S. Army Reserve Command, thanks Sgt. Zoe, a support dog, for his service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in New Windsor, N.Y., on Feb. 9. Zoe is accompanied by Chaplain Karen Hallett.

The chaplain with the dog

From Afghanistan to Texas, Maj. Karen Hallett puts a canine in service to forming bonds

By DAVID BURGE
El Paso (Texas) Times

S he is known simply as the “chaplain with the dog” to the many soldiers she has served with at Fort Bliss and Afghanistan and even to the people she meets in the El Paso community.

Chaplain Maj. Karen Hallett has a sidekick she is seen almost everywhere with — her dog, Sgt. Zoe, a psychiatric service dog who is trained to help people dealing with post-traumatic stress.

Hallett, 49, from Vernon, N.J., has had Sgt. Zoe since February 2012 and uses her as a way to break down barriers and provide additional support to the soldiers in her unit and around the Army.

Her dog can often be seen in the doorway of her office at West Fort Bliss, beckoning visitors.

“Here is how it works,” Hallett said. “Someone comes by. Zoe is laying out in the hallway. She’s cute. They stop. They pet her. I have a chance to say, ‘Hey, how are you doing? What’s going on?’”

“Very often, they will come in and sit down and talk about whatever. It opens a door that wouldn’t be open to me normally.

“I almost can’t get work done in my office, which is what we want as a chaplain,” she told the El Paso Times. “We want people to stop by.”

Hallett, a nondenominational Christian chaplain, has been the brigade chaplain for 402nd Field Artillery Brigade, First Army, Division West at Fort Bliss since

April 2013.

Before that, she served as the brigade chaplain for the 411th Engineer Brigade, a reserve unit out of New York state. While with the 411th, she deployed to Afghanistan and brought the dog with her.

Zoe, an adorable black Labrador, was a huge hit with the troops in Afghanistan — at Bagram Airfield and anywhere else the pair traveled.

“It was a phenomenal experience,” Hallett said. “I can’t tell you the number of ways she impacted my ministry there. I would literally get calls and emails from people: ‘Are you the chaplain with the dog and can you come over to our unit?’”

Hallett said she has hundreds of stories of how Sgt. Zoe has helped reach soldiers.

They were flying back to Bagram in Afghanistan and the flight crew for the airplane they were on wanted a photo with the dog when they landed.

“The pilot is standing there and we’re chatting,” Hallett said. “Everyone has gotten off the plane. That couple of minutes turned into a two-hour counseling for the pilot who was devastated because his mar-

riage was falling apart.”

If not for her dog, she would have never had the chance to break the ice with that pilot who needed her help, Hallett said.

At Fort Bliss, Hallett is responsible for providing religious support to about 400 soldiers and their families who are part of the 402nd Field Artillery Brigade. The brigade runs the Mobilization Training Center at Fort Bliss and is responsible for training National Guard and Reservists before they deploy.

The brigade also does the in-processing work for these troops when they return from deployments. Counting those soldiers, Hallett can be responsible for the spiritual needs of up to 4,000 troops, depending on the time of year.

Chaplain Lt. Col. Karen Meeker, the 1st Armored Division chaplain at Fort Bliss, said the installation is blessed to have both Hallett and Sgt. Zoe.

“Zoe, a constant companion by the side of Chaplain Hallett, expresses the love and care of God for soldiers,” Meeker said. “There is nothing like the loyalty and affection of a friendly dog like Zoe to make anybody feel a little better.”

Hallett got the idea for incorporating a dog into her ministry during her first deployment to Afghanistan in 2010-11 when she went as a chaplain in support of the 101st Airborne Division “Air Assault.”

Bagram Airfield had a detachment of mine dogs that would be brought out for base functions like fun runs, Hallett said. She saw how the soldiers, who were so far away from their families, flocked to the dogs.

That gave her the inspiration to bring

a dog with her when she returned to Afghanistan with her next unit, the 411th Engineer Brigade.

Her brigade commander then, Brig. Gen. David Weeks, told her that whatever she felt she needed for the deployment, to go and get it.

So Hallett contacted Puppies Behind Bars, a nonprofit organization out of New York City, which uses inmates to train psychiatric service dogs.

Puppies Behind Bars gave Hallett a dog to take to Afghanistan and incorporate into her ministry. “They thought it was a great idea for a chaplain to have a dog,” she said.

Hallett has a different background than many Army chaplains. She is a 1988 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy and served as a commissioned ordnance officer from 1988 to 1992. She then left the Army and took what she described as an “18-year corporate break.”

During that time, she ran her own business, building and managing cellphone towers. She was also involved as a minister at various churches including being an associate pastor from 1998 to 2006 at Glenwood Baptist Church in New Jersey. She then went to seminary and graduated from Bethel Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., with a master of divinity in 2008.

She commissioned into the Chaplain Corps in 2009 and began her second stint in the Army.

“Being an Army chaplain is a good fit for me,” Hallett said. “I’m a very hands-on minister. I just can’t stand church committees.

“For me, being active in the Army was a much better way to go.”

‘There is nothing like the loyalty and affection of a friendly dog like Zoe to make anybody feel a little better.’

Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Karen Meeker
1st Armored Division

WORLD

2 gored in 4th running of bulls in Spain festival

The Associated Press

PAMPLONA, Spain — A fighting bull gored two Spaniards and tossed several others into the air in a frantic fourth running of the bulls Thursday at Spain's San Fermin festival in Pamplona.

A Navarra regional government statement said the two men were gored in the leg and another five people were taken to Pamplona hospitals for minor injuries sustained in the 8 a.m. dash Thursday.

The gorings were caused by a lone bull that raced ahead of the pack, raising panic among the hundreds of screaming runners along the 930-yard course from a holding pen to Pamplona's bull ring.

The morning runs are the highlight of the nine-day street-partying festival, which was immortalized in Ernest Hemingway's 1926 novel "The Sun Also Rises" and attracts thousands of foreign tourists.

Dozens of people are injured each year in the runs, most of them in falls.

Fifteen people have died from gorings since record-keeping began in 1924.

Four Spaniards and one American have been gored so far in this year's festival but only one, a Spaniard, was said to be in serious condition.

The six bulls used in each run are invariably killed in afternoon bullfights in the ring.



ANDRES KUDACIK/AP

Fighting bulls run after revelers Thursday during the running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, Spain

Body of climber missing 32 years discovered

PARIS — The body of a French climber who disappeared into a snowstorm in 1982 has been discovered on the slopes of Mont Blanc.

Patrice Hyvert was a 23-year-old aspiring guide when he went for a solo ascent on March 1, 1982. Upon learning of the snowstorm, his father called for a rescue team but searchers were blocked by weather.

Capt. Patrice Ribes of the Chamonix rescue service said Thursday that climbers found Hyvert's body on July 3, his identification papers intact.

Hyvert's father said he wished the body had remained missing. "My hope was to die before he was found, because he was in his place. He loved the mountain so much," Gerard Hyvert told RTL radio.

Ribes said 160 people remain missing on Mont Blanc, Western Europe's highest peak.

From The Associated Press



Kyodo News/AP

Japan landslides kill 2

Firefighters examine damage Thursday from a landslide caused by rainfall, in Nagano prefecture, Japan. A storm caused floods and landslides, killing two people, including a 12-year-old boy.



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WORLD

The Fukushima stigma

Disgraced nuclear workers quit Japan utility

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Stigma, pay cuts, and risk of radiation exposure are among the reasons why 3,000 employees have left the utility at the center of Japan's 2011 nuclear disaster. Now there's an additional factor: better paying jobs in the fuel-good solar energy industry.

Engineers and other employees at TEPCO, or Tokyo Electric Power Co., were once typical of Japan's corporate culture, which is famous for prizing loyalty to a single company and lifetime employment with it. But the March 2011 tsunami that swamped the coastal Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, sending three reactors into meltdown, changed that.

TEPCO was widely criticized for being inadequately prepared for a tsunami despite Japan's long history of being hit by giant waves and for its confused response to the disaster. The public turned hostile toward the nuclear industry and TEPCO, or "Tob-den," as the Japanese say it, became a dirty word.

to the challenges of the ongoing work at Fukushima Dai-ichi to keep meltdowns under control, remove the fuel cores and safely decommission the reactors, which is expected to take decades.

The factors pushing workers out have piled up. The financial strain of the disaster has led to brutal salary cuts while ongoing problems at Fukushima, such as substantial leaks of irradiated water, have reinforced the image of a bumbling and irresponsible organization.

‘No one is going to work there, if they can help it.’

Akihiro Yoshikawa former TEPCO employee,

who quit TEPCO in 2012. After leaving he started a campaign called "Appreciate Fukushima Workers," trying to counter what he calls the "giant social stigma" attached to working at the Fukushima plant.

Many of the workers were also victims of the nuclear disaster, as residents of the area, and lost their homes to no-go zones, adding to personal hardships. They also worry about the health effects of radiation on their children.

The Fukushima stigma is such that some employees hide the fact they work at the plant. They

even worry they will be turned away at restaurants or that their children will be bullied at school after a government report documented dozens of cases of discrimination.

While TEPCO is out of favor with the public, the skills and experience of its employees that span the gamut of engineers, project managers, maintenance workers and construction and financial professionals, are not.

Energy industry experience is in particular demand as the development of solar and other green energy business is pushed along in Japan by generous government subsidies.

Currently the government pays solar plants 31 cents per kilowatt hour of energy. The so-called tariff for solar power varies by states and cities in the U.S., but they are as low as several cents. In Germany, it's about 15 cents.

Sean Travers, Japan president of EarthStream, a London-based recruitment company that specializes in energy jobs, has been scrambling to woo TEPCO employees as foreign companies do more clean energy business in Japan.

"TEPCO employees are very well trained and have excellent knowledge of how the Japanese energy sector works, making them very attractive," he said. "Two top executives at U.S. solar companies doing business in Japan, First Solar director Karl Brutsaert and SunPower Japan director Takashi Sugihara, said they have interviewed former



Employees of Tokyo Electric Power Co. install an underground wall during a feasibility test at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan, in March.

TEPCO employees for possible posts.

Besides their experience, knowledge of how the utility industry works and their contacts, with both private industry and government bureaucracy, are prized assets.

"It's about the human network and the TEPCO employees have all the contacts," said Travers, who says he has recruited about 20 people from TEPCO and is hoping to get more.

Yoshikawa, the former TEPCO maintenance worker, said he has received several offers for green-energy jobs that paid far better than his salary at TEPCO of \$30,000 a year.

Since September 2012, all TEPCO managers have had their salaries slashed by 30 percent, while workers in non-management positions had their pay reduced 20 percent.

But last year, TEPCO doled out \$1,000 bonuses to 5,000 managers as an incentive to stay on.

In another effort to prevent the loss of qualified personnel, TEPCO is reducing the pay cuts to 7 percent from this month, but just for those involved in decommissioning the Fukushima plant.

The departures, however, have not been arrested, partly because of ongoing financial pressure.

TEPCO was bailed out by the government after the disaster. Compensating the thousands of people forced to evacuate from the vicinity of the plant is expected to weigh on the company for years.

"We need people for decommissioning," TEPCO spokesman Kohji Sasakibara said. "But we have caused a disaster, affecting not only Japan but the whole world. And so we must work harder to gain public understanding."

Given such dire conditions, it's inevitable that TEPCO workers are looking to build careers elsewhere, according to Naoyuki Takaki, professor of nuclear engineering at Tokyo City University.

“ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!”

July							August							September						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
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NATION

Disabled's voting rights debated

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — At a time when election officials are struggling to persuade more Americans to vote, advocates for the disabled say thousands of people with autism spectrum disorder, cerebral palsy and other intellectual or developmental disabilities have been systematically denied that basic right in the nation's largest county.

A Voting Rights Act complaint to be filed Thursday with the U.S. Justice Department goes to a politically delicate subject that states have grappled with over the years: Where is the line to disqualify someone from the voting booth because of a cognitive or developmental impairment?

The complaint by the Disability and Abuse Project argues that intellectual and developmental disabilities, including conditions such as Down syndrome, are not automatic barriers to participating in elections. It seeks a sweeping review of voting eligibility in Los Angeles County in such cases, arguing that thousands of people with those disabilities have lost the right to vote during the last decade.

"We want these past injustices to be corrected, and we want the judges and court-appointed attorneys to protect, not violate, the rights of people with developmental disabilities," Thomas F. Coleman, the group's legal director, said.

At issue in the California case is access to the ballot box for adults who enter so-called limited conservatorships, legal arrangements in which parents or guardians assume the right to make certain decisions for people who lack the ability to manage their financial and medical af-

All but about a dozen states have some type of law limiting voting rights for individuals based on competence. How those laws are enforced varies widely, advocates say.

airs. In the course of taking that step in court, voting rights are routinely voided, according to the advocacy group.

California has more than 40,000 such cases, and those covered by the arrangements usually live with their families or in group homes. A recent sample of 61 cases by the advocacy group in Los Angeles County found that 90 percent of the people covered by limited conservatorships had been disqualified from voting.

The complaint says judges in Los Angeles Superior Court use literacy tests to determine if adults in limited conservatorships should have voting rights, a violation of the federal Voting Rights Act. It also says that judges and court-appointed attorneys violate federal laws that allow people with disabilities to have assistance to complete voter-registration forms and cast ballots.

"Autism is a broad spectrum, and there can be low skills and there can be high skills," Teresa Thompson, whose son has autism and whose case helped prompt the complaint, said in a videotaped statement. "But what I ob-

served was that people tend to just dismiss it as though they have no skills."

Los Angeles Superior Court spokeswoman Mary Eckhardt Hearn said she had not seen the complaint and declined comment.

The complaint could trigger an investigation by the Justice Department. It also asks Superior Court to rescind thousands of voter-disqualification notices it has issued in those cases over a decade.

For years, advocates brought attention to the obstacles to voting faced by the physically disabled. More recently, the focus has shifted to the mentally or developmentally disabled, who advocates say have long been stigmatized in the voting process.

All but about a dozen states have some type of law limiting voting rights for individuals based on competence. How those laws are enforced varies widely, advocates say.

A 2007 report for the American Bar Association concluded that "excluding the broad and indefinite category of persons with mental incapacities is not consistent with either the constitutional right to vote... or the current understanding of mental capacity."

The California complaint could create a testing ground for such cases. State election law says a person is considered mentally incompetent and disqualified from voting if he or she cannot complete a voter-registration form, which the complaint argues is an illegal literacy test.

"This is a constant struggle to make sure everyone can vote privately and independently, regardless of disability," said Curtis Decker, executive director of the National Disability Rights Network.

Dems seek Hobby Lobby remedy law

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats vowed Wednesday to bypass the Supreme Court decision in the Hobby Lobby case, unveiling new legislation that would require all employers to pay for contraception as part of the health care mandates included in the Affordable Care Act.

The legislation comes a week after the high court ruled that many private companies — including plaintiff Hobby Lobby craft stores — were within their rights to seek an exemption from the contraception mandate if they cite a religious objection to providing health plans that include some kinds of birth control.

The ruling outraged Democrats and women's groups, who vowed to seek legislation that would require all employers to cover contraception.

The legislation, being introduced by Democrats in both the Senate and the House, would require all employers to abide by the contraception mandate included in the Affordable Care Act — even if they claim religious objections. It would include an exemption for houses of worship and an accommodation for religious nonprofits.

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NATION



David and Victoria Beckham's son Brooklyn, below, and model-actress Brooklyn Decker, right, are among those credited with fueling the rise in popularity of the borough-inspired name.

AP photos



BROOKLYN

Naming kids after borough is a hit — everywhere except NY

By MICHAEL R. SISAK
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maybe it's the ultimate sign that New York City's up-and-coming borough has finally arrived. Brooklyn is now one of the nation's most popular baby names.

Over the past two decades, Brooklyn as a name for girls has surged from No. 912 to the top 30 in each of the last three years. Some credit soccer star David Beckham and his wife, Victoria, for naming their son Brooklyn. Some cite model and actress Brooklyn Decker. Others point to "Girls" and the many other TV shows and movies that tap into the borough's gritty, cool vibe.

But one thing is clear: Of the 41 states where Brooklyn is now the most popular girl's name beginning with B, New York is not among them. Real Brooklynites say naming your child Brooklyn is strictly for out-of-towners.

"It's almost like a magical place far away that doesn't exist to them," says parent Heath Farnsworth-Williams. "For us, Brooklyn is home, and we'd have a hard time trying to make the identity of our home coexist with the

6,600

The number girls born in the U.S. in 2013 who were named Brooklyn, making it the 28th most popular girl's name.

identity of our child."

More than 6,600 girls born in the U.S. in 2013 were named Brooklyn, making it the 28th most popular girls name ahead of stalwarts Samantha, Allison and Sarah, according to recently released Social Security Administration data.

Brooklyn beat out such place names as Savannah (No. 37) and London (No. 85), but trailed Madison (No. 9) and Charlotte (No. 11). Brooklyn as a boy's name is still rare, having never cracked the top 1,000.

Brooklyn Presta says her parents in Kansas were thinking unique, not New York, when they named her. Now 26 and living in Brooklyn, Presta says she often gets questions about whether she changed her name to fit her chosen borough.

"It's kind of crazy to be Brooklyn in Brooklyn," Presta says.

The popularity of the Brooklyn name parallels the renaissance of the borough of 2.6 million, with the gentrification of its leafy brownstone neighborhoods, a thriving arts scene and the return of big-league sports with the Brooklyn Nets.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, seeking to capitalize on that spirit of cool, recently pitched Brooklyn as potential host for the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

"There's no greater way to show admiration for a borough than to name your child after it," says Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams. "You don't see too many people calling their children Manhattan or the Bronx."

Kimberly and Brock Tite, of Marion, Ill., are that rare exception. Even though they've never visited New York and know it only through TV and rap lyrics, they named their 3-year-old daughter Brooklyn and 1-year-old son Bronx.

"I knew I wanted to name my kids after New York," Kimberly Tite says. "I love New York."

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Man charged in dinosaur footprint theft in court

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man accused of stealing a priceless fossilized dinosaur footprint that's never been recovered is set to be in court for a change-of-plea hearing.

Jared Ehlers, 35, of Moab, pleaded not guilty in April to charges of theft and damage to government property and destroying paleontological resources.

After that hearing, Ehlers' attorney, Tara Isaacson, said her client felt terrible about the mistake he made.

Bureau of Land Management paleontologists say the print is from the Jurassic Period and up to 190 million years old. It comes from a large meat-eating dinosaur that is likely an ancestor to dinosaurs like Allosaurus.

Prosecutors said Ehlers pried up the fossil Feb. 17 in the Sand Flats Recreation Area near Moab and got rid of it March 3.

Artist says police pulled weapon over a mix-up

NM SANTA FE — A well-known American Indian artist said police in New Mexico pulled a rifle on him after his dog pooped in his SUV and a woman mistook his cleanup efforts for a burglary.

Pueblo painter Mateo Romero told The Associated Press that a Santa Fe officer pointed a weapon at him during the bizarre misunderstanding Monday.

According to a police report, the officer pulled out a rifle and detained Romero after Maria Markus reported a burglary in progress at her home. Romero said he parked in her private driveway after his Shih Tzu relieved himself inside his SUV and Romero sought to clean the mess.

Romero said Markus spotted him in her driveway, boxed him in with her vehicle and called 911. He said Markus refused to talk to him before police arrived.

Teen dies after jumping on iPhone thief's car

CA SANTA ANA — A 15-year-old Southern California girl died of her injuries after she jumped onto the speeding car of a robber who snatched her iPhone, and detectives are asking for the public's help in finding two suspects.

Rubi Rubio briefly fell onto the trunk of the car before falling off and hitting her head July 3 in Santa Ana, Police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna told the Orange County Register.

"According to witnesses, the vehicle was swerving in an attempt to get her off," Bertagna said.

Rubio, a student at Godinez Fundamental High School, died from her injuries Saturday while surrounded by her family at a hospital, the newspaper said.

Investigators said the man took the phone from the teen while she was walking her 7-year-old sister home from school. He ran to the car, which was driven by another person, with Rubio giving chase.

The iPhone was later found by a resident not far from the scene.

THE CENSUS

35

The number of pizzas a Frontier Airlines pilot bought for passengers when the Denver-bound plane was stuck on the runway a couple of hours after being diverted to Cheyenne, Wyo. Cheyenne Domino's Pizza manager Andrew Ritchie said he got a call Monday night from pilot Gerhard Bradner who said he needed to feed 160 people — fast. Ritchie and his crew made about 35 pizzas and delivered them within 30 minutes to the airport, where they handed them off to Frontier flight attendants. The plane left Cheyenne shortly after the pizzas arrived.



DANIEL HEARS, THE DETROIT NEWS/AP

Mudder and daughter

Jody Thomas and her daughter, Kailyn, 3, float in the mud pit at the annual Wayne County Parks Mud Day at Hines Park-Nankin Mills Area in Westland, Mich., on Tuesday, Kailyn's birthday.

Lawyers fired over Facebook remarks

FL FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Two Broward County assistant public defenders were fired Tuesday for Facebook comments calling Palestinians "cockroaches" and "filthy swine."

Bruce Ratcoff and Gary Sheres both lost their jobs, as outrage built after the Sun Sentinel published an article including the Facebook comments a week ago, Public Defender Howard Finkelstein said.

The remarks from the two men's personal Facebook accounts last week were posted under an item about Palestinians allegedly celebrating the kidnapping and murder of three Israeli teen boys. The killings were blamed on the Islamic militant group Hamas.

"They are the filthy swine they don't eat," Sheres posted.

Sheres said later that he was only labeling as "filthy swine" the Palestinians who murder people or celebrate murders. Ratcoff said he hadn't written the comments at all, that someone had accessed his Facebook account and posted under his name.

Man's draft notice arrives 102 years late

PA KENNERDELL — A Pennsylvania woman said her late father has received notice to register for the nation's military draft — some 102 years too late.

Martha Weaver, now in her 80s, told The (Oil City) Derrick that the Selective Service System notice arrived Saturday in Rockland Township, Venango County.

Her father's name was Fred Minnick, though the notice misspelled the last name "Minnick" and warns that failure to register is "punishable by a fine and imprisonment."

Her father was born on June 12, 1894, which means he would have turned 18 in 1912.

Weaver suspects the confusion was spawned by the incorrect birth date on the form, which lists the birth year as 1994.

Farmer loses phone, returned 8 months later

OK TULSA — An Oklahoma farmer's iPhone

that was lost when it fell into a grain elevator has been returned to him unscathed after it was found in Japan.

Kevin Whitney lost the phone in October when it slipped out of his shirt pocket as he was unloading grain from a truck into a silo in Chickasha. The load traveled to a depot in Convent, La., and then loaded onto a ship bound for the island of Hokkaido, Japan.

A worker at the Japanese facility phoned a counterpart in Louisiana, who then called Whitney in late May asking if he lost an iPhone.

NYPD: Drone came within 800 feet of helo

NY NEW YORK — Police have arrested two people for operating a drone over the George Washington Bridge that came within 800 feet of a police helicopter.

They said the helicopter pilot spotted the small unmanned aircraft near the bridge at 12:21 a.m. Monday. The drone continued to circle the bridge, forcing the chopper to change course to avoid it.

The pilot notified the 34th Precinct after observing the drone

land on a parked vehicle.

When police arrived, they recovered two drones with remote controls. Police arrested Wilkins Mendoza and Remy Castro, both of Manhattan, on reckless endangerment charges.

3 human skulls found in Goodwill donations

WA SEATTLE — Three human skulls turned up last month among the donations to a Goodwill store in Bellevue.

Employees at the store found the skulls in a donation bin. Two were placed in boxes, and one was wrapped in a striped scarf. Once workers realized the skulls were human, they reported the find to the King County Medical Examiner's Office.

"We get a lot of unusual donations," Goodwill spokeswoman Katherine Boury said. "We get people's ashes in the urn. We get people's gold teeth. And on a more positive note, last year we had someone bring in a Louis Vuitton trunk, but this is the first human skull I can remember."

From wire reports

WEEKEND



Berry where she hasn't gone before — TV

Page 39



The simians of summer

Humans no longer have the upper hand in 'Dawn of the Planet of the Apes'

Pages 24-25

A walk in the woods

Outdoor oasis in Germany a great place to take family

Quick Trips, Page 28



From Kyoto to Tokyo

11-day trek follows ancient highway over mountain pass

Pacific travel, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

Secret of karaoke: Confidence is key

By **HEATHER SCHROERING**
Chicago Tribune

Josh Robertson's first karaoke experience was a disaster. He took the stage and hit the first line of David Bowie's "Golden Years." Nailed it. Drawing a blank on the second line, he looked to the television where the lyrics appear, and the screen was black. His golden moment ended in boos.

"When I walked on, I think I unplugged the TV from the wall," Robertson said, 15 years later. System, aka DJ Hammerteez, 39, has some advice for first-time performers. And if you think you can't sing, he's got suggestions for you, too:

Come prepared. Choose a few songs that are within your vocal range beforehand and listen to them to familiarize yourself. Even if you think you know a song, some could be harder to perform than expected.

"The hardest thing to deal with is to watch somebody turn around while you're running karaoke, and they look at you with this look of helplessness," Robertson said.

When selecting a song, shorter tracks are better to keep the crowd engaged. Some genres don't translate well. Avoid hip-hop and rap songs, "unless you know it backwards and forwards ... because you're basically the whole song, and there's no time to take a breath," he said. Heavy metal, hardcore punk and screamo also fall into that category. "It's hard to see that violent aggression come across when you don't have a band behind you, and you're just a dude who just got off work."

Keep it light. Nothing sucks the energy out of the room more than when the performer is crying over an ex. Robertson suggests staying away from serious songs, angry breakup songs, pre-song dedications to the deceased or someone who isn't in the room, and wedding toasts. "It's hard to have karaoke and a therapy session at the same time," he said. "You don't go to a restaurant full of strangers and tell everyone your worst problems, so you can't lay all of your problems on a karaoke audience."

There's safety in numbers, so bringing backup singers doesn't hurt. Robertson says no more than three people on stage at a time.

Be confident. "If they can't hit a note, but they can do it with conviction and enjoy themselves, that's all that matters," Robertson said. Sing into the microphone, and if you mess it up, keep going. Don't walk off in defeat.

Have fun. Taking yourself too seriously sets you up for failure. Remember, karaoke is a social event. "For me, it has to be fun," Robertson said. "Fun doesn't mean I just saw the best singer I've ever seen in my life. There's just as much fun in messing up as there is in nailing a song perfectly. That's the perspective that you have to take."

THE SACRAMENTO
BEE/MCT

ON THE COVER: Caesar the ape is back, and this time his kind are the top species, in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

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BEE/MCT

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TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX FILM CORPORATION/AP

GADGET WATCH

Microlab speaker system rocks on a bass level

By **GREGG ELLMAN**
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Making the right choice for a wireless speaker system can be mind-numbing with the endless choices. Look — or listen — no further than the Microlab FC60BT.

Before I opened the Microlab sound system, I read the press release, which describes it as an "audio wireless Bluetooth/NFC 2.1 Subwoofer Speaker System, featuring Microlab's patented HC2D technology, a powerful subwoofer, and two advanced stereo satellite SQ speakers without enclosures for crystal clear sound without harmonic distortions or vibrations that often happen when speakers are enclosed."

I can't say any better, but to translate that into something understandable, this system rocks the house.

All I had to do to get this baby in working condition was get it in the house (which wasn't easy, since the box weighed more than 50 pounds), open it up and turn it on.

The system consists of a white acrylic subwoofer and two futuristic-looking, see-through stereo speakers.

The 8-inch subwoofer with a built-in amplifier gives you just the right amount of bass.

Your audio source connects via Bluetooth 4.0, or if you are near field communication-compatible, there's also a direct connection option with a 3.5 mm port.

Microlab is a company that specializes in achieving incredible audio with no distortion. In this case, that proved true even with 105 watts of power at head-banging levels.

This is achieved with the patented HC2D technology, which means it's made for the highest clarity possible at any distance.

A 360-degree remote control is included and works from anywhere in the room to change tunes, volume and the bass level.

I'll also add, while the sound is amazing, the system looks great.

Online: microlab.com; \$449

The Wicked Audio Divvy is an audio splitter designed so two people can listen to the same audio with each having an independent volume control.

It's pocket-sized, it will work with most devices, and there's no setup. Just plug in the single 3.5 mm end into a headphone port and start listening at your comfortable volume levels.

There no batteries or recharging; it works on its own from the output of your audio source.

Online: wickedaudio.com; \$99.99



The MOS Reach Power Everywhere AC/USB extension, though still in the Kickstarter stage, caught my attention. The product is great, and its funding goal of \$50,000 had almost been doubled by press time, ensuring its success.

Power is something we all need for our computers, printers, smartphones, tablets and other devices, and this device comes to the rescue.

Just because there's a power outlet in your room or cubicle doesn't mean it's accessible. The MOS Reach is cleverly designed to not be obstructed by furniture with a right-angle plug to fit into any standard AC outlet.

The plug is attached to a 3-foot cable, which ends with a power supply made of ABS/polycarbonate. It has a standard three-prong AC plug and two high-powered USB ports.

The sides of the power supply have two built-in super-powered neodymium magnets on each side to hold the connecting end of many USB charging cables.

With the help of adhesives, the power supply box can be secured on walls, desks or the floor.

Online: mosorganizer.com. The regular Kickstarter price is \$30 and the expected retail price will be \$45 for an estimated fall launch.



The MOS Reach is cleverly designed to not be obstructed by furniture. Its right-angle plug fits into any standard AC outlet.

ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for July 9:

1. "1000 Forms of Fear," Sia
2. "3 AM," The EP, Jacob Whitesides
3. "x," (deluxe edition), Ed Sheeran
4. "In the Lonely Hour" (Deluxe Version), Sam Smith
5. "Don't Kill the Magic," MAAJICI
6. "Reckoner of Souls" (deluxe version), Judas Priest
7. "Frozen" (original motion picture soundtrack), various artists
8. "Somewhere Under Wonderland" (deluxe version), Counting Crow
9. "5 Seconds of Summer" (bonus track version), 5 Seconds of Summer
10. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from June 30/July 6:

1. "Rude," MAAJICI
2. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
3. "Problem," Ariana Grande
4. "Summer," Calvin Harris
5. "Am I Wrong," Jico & Vinn
6. "Latch," Disclosure
7. "Wiggle" (feat. Snoop Dogg), Jason Derulo
8. "Maps," Maroon 5
9. "Classic," MKTO
10. "Wasted," Tiesto

— Compiled by Spotify

ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 9:

1. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
2. "Bad Words"
3. "Rio 2"
4. "The LEGO Movie"
5. "Lone Survivor"
6. "The Grand Budapest Hotel"
8. "Heaven Is for Real"
9. "300: Rise of an Empire"
10. "Non-Stop"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 games for July:

1. Mario Kart 8, Wii U
2. Shovel Knight, Wii U, PC, 3DS
3. Transistor, PS4, PC
4. Wolfenstein: The New Order, PS4, Xbox One, PC
5. Watch Dogs, PS4, Xbox One, PS3, 360, PC
6. Ultra Street Fighter IV, PS3, 360, PC
7. Etrian Odyssey, PS4, Xbox One
8. EA Sports UFC, PS4, Xbox One
9. Another World: 20th Anniversary Edition, Xbox One, Wii U, PC, 3DS, iOS
10. Kero Blaster, PC, iOS

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for July 9:

- ANDROID
1. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
 2. Transformers Age of Extinction
 3. Sick Death
 4. Angry Birds Epic
 5. The Walking Dead: Season Two
- Top 5 free apps for July 9:
- APPLE
1. Guess the Emoji
 2. No One Dies Today!
 3. Fit Fat
 4. Kim Kardashian: Hollywood
 5. Watercolor

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

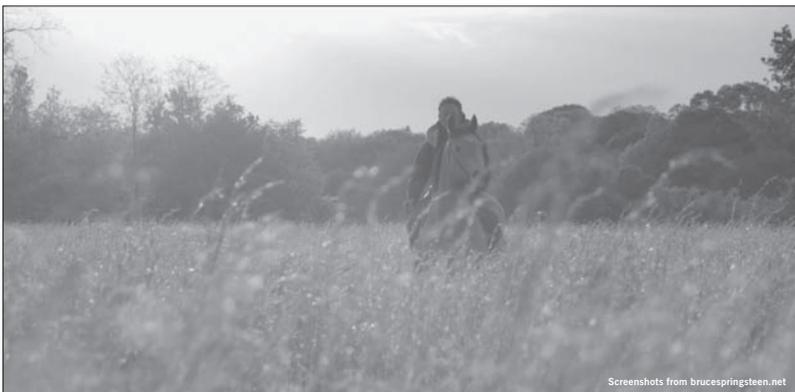
1

Watch The Boss' directorial debut

As promised, Bruce Springsteen introduced the short film "Hunter of Invisible Game" on his website this week. The 10-minute Western-style film, which Springsteen co-directed with cinematographer Thom Zimmy, is essentially six minutes of accompaniment that segues nicely into the music video to his song of the same name, from the "High Hopes" album. In the film, Springsteen, who seems to be flashing back to happily married days in his past, is an apocalyptic drifter who befriends a young boy.

On his website, Springsteen, 64, says the world tour he's been on for the past two-plus years has been a "life-changer," but that he's still got some surprises in store for his many fans. Stay tuned.

- **Watch the video and read more at bruce.springsteen.net**

Screenshots from bruce.springsteen.net

2

'Extant' gives Berry a juicy TV role

Academy Award-winning actress Halle Berry says she's excited about her television debut as an astronaut who returns from space somehow pregnant. Critics are certainly enthused about the 13-episode miniseries. One thing's for sure — summer programming is hotter than it used to be.

- **"Extant" airs Thursdays on AFN-Prime.**



3

Thicke tries to win back wife, fans with 'Paula'

Robin Thicke had a very successful year in 2013, vaulting up the music and video charts with his racy single "Blurred Lines," but his personal life got pretty messy. His latest album, "Paula," is, on the face of it, an attempt to convince his longtime lady love, actress Paula Patton, to return to his side. Regardless of her (not publicly known) reaction, fans of his older, R&B-influenced grooves should be pleased.

- **Review of "Paula" on Page 36.**

4

There's something about Mary ... Poppins

This weekend, AFN has a treat in store that's better than a spoonful of sugar. On Saturday night, "Saving Mr. Banks" airs on AFN-Movie, then Sunday afternoon, "Mary Poppins" — 50 years young — will be on AFN-Family. Don't miss a minute of banister-sliding, penguin-dancing fun.



WEEKEND: MOVIES

Keri Russell goes 'Ape' over new movie role

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Keri Russell has been working most of her life, but she can't remember a time when acting was more fun thanks to her work on the FX series "The Americans" and in the big summer blockbuster "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

"I am enjoying acting more now. I feel more comfortable now with acting than I ever have," Russell says. "It's really interesting. I love 'The Americans'; it's so bizarre and weird. And, it was so special to get to work with ('Apes' director Matt Reeves) again. I just feel like things are getting better. I hope things keep getting better with age."

Russell, who is 38, seems like she should be older because she started working when she was 15 on "The All New Mickey Mouse Club." She made waves at age 21 as star of the college drama "Felicity," which was co-created by Reeves and J.J. Abrams.

It wasn't the special effects and big battles that attracted Russell to "Dawn." She was more interested in the human drama that she knew Reeves would bring to the story, such as her character being a member of the medical community that couldn't stop the

epidemic that wiped out most of the world's human population. Russell's character also deals with the death of her daughter and trying to connect with the son of the man she loves.

"That's what I think is special about this movie. It's the combination of Matt's sensibility with an action movie like this."

Russell says. "Matt told me he wanted to make a movie about these people and intimate moments. There are heavy-duty action scenes, but the film also has a lot to say about our own tendencies and capacities for empathy for communities that are not our own."

Russell is always happy to find stories that deal with family relationships.

"The loudest and most profound relationship you are in is usually with your family — either your parents or your kids. Both the cable show and the film have these strong relationships," Russell says.

She loves that a central theme in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is the compassion that must be maintained even in the darkest and most difficult battles for survival.

"When we meet these characters, they have lost everything. So there's this tremendous sense of loss in all of the individuals. But, to have been able to stay alive means they have a strength, a pretty tough person to get through all of this," she says.

"When it comes to the roles I like to do, it all comes down to the material. I don't care if it's a TV show, movie of the week, whatever. I just wanted to be moved by it. I want to feel something."

In "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes," Keri Russell plays Ellie, a former nurse with the CDC and deeply determined caregiver.

ANOV KROPA,
INVISION/AP

... There are heavy-duty action scenes, but the film also has a lot to say about our own tendencies and capacities for empathy for communities that are not our own.

Authentic look helps 'Planet of the Apes' evolve

By NOELENE CLARK
Los Angeles Times

A troop of men in skin-tight motion-capture suits paraded across a movie set inside a Manhattan Beach studio on a late October morning. A grid of more than 50 cameras recorded their movements as they grunted and screeched their way toward a gray platform where Andy Serkis crouched. The 49-year-old actor snarled and flared his nostrils, retching the white markers painted on his face.

Anyone watching the scene unfold on the bank of computer monitors tended by the Weta Digital visual effects team, however, would have seen not weirdly attired actors but a tribe of chimpanzees scampering by. "Good. OK, that's keen retching, and let's do one more even more territorial," called out director Matt Reeves as he worked on "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes." "Just a little harder, a little louder."

When it comes to helming the sequel to 2011's breakout hit "Rise of the Planet of the Apes," Reeves' mission is to raise the stakes for the next installment in the Fox franchise.

Set 10 years after the earlier movie, a re-boot of the sci-fi franchise inspired by Pierre Boulle's 1963 novel that brought in more than \$480 million at the worldwide box office, the new film posits a world in which apes have now developed their own civilization and human sightings are rare.

Several survivors — including Jason Clarke's Malcolm, a single father and former architect; Keri Russell's Ellie, a nurse; and Gary Oldman's Dreyfus, the leader of the human colony in the ruins of San Francisco — seek to restore electrical power to San Francisco. There, they come into conflict with the rapidly expanding tribe of apes, led by Serkis' Caesar, the orphaned offspring of a laboratory chimp who has evolved into the leader of his own expanding tribe.

"Caesar's created a society in which there is complete equality between orangutans and chimpanzees and gorillas," Serkis said. "There are a set of beliefs that they've collectively imposed, and there are strict tenets of what they should and shouldn't do. He's an egalitarian leader."

"It's an eye-point-of-view movie," added Reeves. "The apes are still coming into being,

so it has a kind of majestic but also primitive, tribal aspect to it. ... Once you kind of get into that world, then all of a sudden you realize, 'Oh, there are some humans left.' The story really is about who will inherit the Earth. This is the one moment where it could have been "Planet of the Humans and the Apes."

To immerse audiences in the ape-centric world, Reeves pushed performance-capture technology to new terrain. Traditionally, motion-capture movies are filmed in a studio on a stage called a "volume," with actors' performances digitally enhanced by animators and visual effects technicians. "Dawn," however, was filmed almost entirely on location, with cast and crew trudging through the sweltering humidity of New Orleans and the freezing forests of Vancouver, Canada.

"We're in the woods; we're not creating the woods," Reeves said. "It was crazy hard, but what's going to be cool about the aesthetic is that you're going to feel very grounded in the real world, so just the one fantasy is that they're intelligent apes. No one has done that yet to the level that we did, so it should have a really distinctive feel and look."

Evolution of 'Planet of the Apes'

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is the latest big-screen version of the tale of man vs. apes based on the 1963 French novel "La Planète des singes" by Pierre Boulle. Since the first film in 1968, there have been several film and TV offerings based on the "Apes" tale.

Here's a look at the history of the "Apes."



"Planet of the Apes" 1968

Charlton Heston stars in this first look at a world ruled by "dirty" apes.



"Beneath the Planet of the Apes" 1970

Crew of second spacehip finds mutating underground. James Franciscus stars.



"Escape from the Planet of the Apes" 1971

Three apes travel back to 1973. The ape evolution begins.



"Conquest of the Planet of the Apes" 1972

Apes being used as slaves in the early '80s stage a revolt. Rody McDowall stars.



"Battle for the Planet of the Apes" 1973

The tale of efforts to cultivate peace between the apes and humans is told in flashback from the year 2670.



"Planet of the Apes" 1974

Only 14 episodes of this CBS series based on the first film air. Ron Harper and McDowall star.



"Return to the Planet of the Apes" 1975

The 13 animated episodes show the apes living in a modern society.



"Planet of the Apes" 2001

Tim Burton directs this new take on the planet. Rick Mark Wahlberg against the apes.



"Rise of the Planet of the Apes" 2011

First offering in the series robot shows how the apes begin to evolve into what will become the ruling species. James Franco stars.



"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" 2014

Showdown between apes and humans is the beginning of the war that will change the planet. Gary Oldman, Keri Russell star.

WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Apes' a compelling, if predictable, sci-fi epic

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is an action-packed epic, a modern sci-fi allegory rendered in broad, lush strokes by the latest state of the computer animator's art.

Yes, you will believe a chimp can talk, ride a horse and fire a machine gun. These evolved animated apes have fur with feeling, expressive faces, fangs and eyes that show them well on their way to being human. "Dawn" illustrates the accelerating pace of improvements to CGI — with performances built around motion-capture-suited actors Andy Serkis and Toby Kebbell among others — in sequences so dazzling your jaw will drop.

It's all in service of an utterly conventional story, however, one you'll be three steps ahead of even if you have no memories of the '70s "Apes" movie ("Battle for the Planet of the Apes") this is largely based on. If you've ever seen a cavalry-vs.-Indians Western, a war movie built around pacifist efforts that ask "Can't we all just get along?," you'll see this genre piece's plot twists coming.

In a brisk opening credits sequence, we see the world's collapse post-"Rise of the Planet of the Apes." "The Simian Flu" felled much of the human race, snippets of newscasts from around the world tell us. Few survived.

Meanwhile, the first scientifically evolved ape, Caesar (Serkis), has led his tribe into the Muir Woods, where they've built a village, mastered fire, SSL (simian sign language) and horseback riding, isolated and

New on base

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is playing at:

Europe
Mildenhall, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hofenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

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

Online: dawnofapes.com

safe from human interference. Then some humans, led by the curious and compassionate Malcolm (Jason Clarke), encounter the colony. Caesar strikes a pose at the head of his legions, and the humans, even though they're armed to the teeth, tremble. The Ape in Chief doesn't stutter when he issues an order to the intruders.

"Go!"
Of course, the humans have need of something within ape territory. Dreyfus (Gary Oldman) is ready to arm the troops and invade. But Malcolm, his Centers for Disease Control girlfriend (Keri Russell) and sketch-pad-happy son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) are given a couple of days to work out a treaty, get the electrical power back on and save humans and apes from what is sure to be a bloody war.

Director Matt Reeves ("Cloverfield") and his team make



A growing nation of genetically evolved apes led by Caesar (Andy Serkis, left) is threatened by a band of human survivors, including Malcolm (Jason Clarke, right), in "Dawn of the Planet of the Apes."

good use of 3-D space as we see apes swinging through real trees in the Muir Woods, and by power lines through digitally rendered ruins of San Francisco, including the Golden Gate Bridge.

They get less use out of the cast, with Clarke playing a cardboard cutout, Russell given nothing to do and Oldman's character watered down to the point where he's no challenge to Malcolm's overly trusting pacifism. Hints of the family they've lost, the tribe they carry, are just that — hints.

There are advocates of violence in both camps, and the paranoid have a point. Trust-

ing the other side could lead to human or simian extinction.

Make your own Middle Eastern, race relations/racism allegories here, because the script leaves plenty of room for those interpretations. Wary foes stare each other down as they, and we, wait for some hothead's miscalculation (or calculation) to ignite a war.

There isn't much time for humor, but a few moments have apes mocking human behavior. And if you're not a little amused by the sight of a chimp, on horseback, firing two assault rifles, as he gallops into battle, you're

taking this too seriously. It's hard to know whom to root for, which was always the problem of these movies. Yeah, we're obligated to hope humanity doesn't go extinct, even if we brought this down on ourselves.

But the apes in "Dawn" are awfully darned appealing, learning the hard way that ape lesson of Stanley Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" — that murder and treachery are the traits that make us, and them, most human.

"Dawn of the Planet of the Apes" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action, and brief strong language. Running time: 126 minutes.

'Deliver Us from Evil' mostly delivers

By JOHN DEFORE

The Hollywood Reporter

A serial-killer mystery in which the culprit turns out to be one of Satan's minions, Scott Derrickson's "Deliver Us from Evil" adapts the detective genre to an exorcism that is very serious about the prospect of demonic possession. Though based on claims made by real-life NYPD officer-turned-paranormal investigator Ralph Sarchie (played here by Eric Bana), the picture is stolen by a fictional character — a composite religious figure, played with a predictable level of smolder by "Carols" star Edgar Ramirez.

Sarchie, a cop who carries the South Bronx with partner Butler (Joel McHale), is proud of an internal "radar" that steers him away from mundane radio calls and toward the juicy cases. But an incident in which a deranged mother threw her toddler into the Bronx Zoo's lion pit is juicier than usual, with a mysterious, blood-stained bystander disrupting the investigation before vanishing. Still, Sarchie is ready to write the mother off as a garden-variety psycho even when a Jesuit priest, Ramirez's Mendoza, shows up to insist on a more complicated explanation.

Only after other crimes prove to share both tangible connections (tracing to three Ma-

New on base

"Deliver Us from Evil" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe
Mildenhall, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hofenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

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

Online: sonypictures.com/movies/deliverusfromevil

rines who had a disturbing encounter during the Iraq war) and supernatural overtones does Sarchie admit there might be something to this chain-smoking, whiskey-drinking priest's claim.

Enjoyably, this particular case isn't limited to one spirit-controlled victim terrorizing his family and friends. "Poltergeist-y" aftereffects haunt the places and people he has visited — even Sarchie, who is plagued by shock-cut hallucinations and whose house has become

a very scary place for his young daughter: (Olivia Man, playing Sarchie's wife, tries to comfort the poor girl, but the film ratchets up her bump-in-the-night terror.)

The investigation yields some appreciably icky encounters with putrefying corpses and deranged prisoners, which is good considering the sometimes flimsy cop-movie stuff that surrounds the scares. Bulked-up McHale, who acquires himself well in action scenes, gets the kind of jadedly quippy dialogue one can easily imagine him parodying on "Community"; Munn's part could have been scripted by cut-and-pasting any of a hundred other neglected-policeman's-wife characters.

While the supernatural side of the film suffers a flaw or two, its central conflict works. Ramirez, shaggy enough to be the Serpico of exorcists but exuding calm wisdom instead of obsessive determination, makes faith look cool. His seriousness enables the movie's desire to dig into the mechanics of the climactic exorcism. Derrickson's FX crew careens along the dividing line between excitement and silly bombast, conjuring hurricane-like forces and gory transformations while the holy man attempts to rescue an innocent mortal from his otherworldly tormentors.

"Deliver Us from Evil" is rated R for bloody violence, grisly images and language. Running time: 118 minutes.

BROADWAY KINO
MOVIE MAGIC

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THURSDAY JULY 10, 2014
In Digital 3D: Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13): Thu 16:00, 19:00, Fri 15:30, 18:30, Sat 15:30, 18:15, 21:30, Sun 15:00, 18:15, Mon 8, Tue 16:00, 19:00, Wed 20:00
In Digital 3D: How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG): Thu 8, Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 18:00

FRIDAY JULY 11, 2014
22 Jump Street (R): Thu 16:00, 20:30, Fri 16:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 18:00, 20:15, Mon 16:00, 20:30, Tue 20:30, Wed 16:00, 20:30
Gozintol (PG-13): Sat 22:30
Malesident (PG): Sat & Sun 13:30
Tammy (R): Thu 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Fri 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 16:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 18:00, 20:15, Mon 18:00, 20:30, Tue 16:00, 20:30, Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:30
In 2D: How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG): Thu 10:00, 20:30, Fri 16:00, 20:15, Sat & Sun 15:45, 20:15, Mon & Tue 16:00, 20:30, Wed 16:00
In 2D: Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13): Thu 17:00, 20:00, Fri 17:00, 20:15, Sat 13:30, 16:45, 20:00, Sun 13:30, 16:30, 19:30, Mon & Tue 16:00, 20:30, Wed 16:00, 20:30
X-Men: Days of Future Past (PG-13): Fri 22:30

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WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Lack of leading ladies haunts game industry

By DERRIK J. LANG ■ *The Associated Press*

Where the ladies at? At last month's Electronic Entertainment Expo, video game developers hyped upcoming titles featuring super-soldiers, assassins, bank robbers and secret

agents. They all had one thing in common: They're men. The continued lack of female protagonists in games shown off at E3 highlighted an issue that continues to loom over the video game industry. Why is it still such a dude fest?

"It's boring that we're continuing to have this conversation," said Belinda Van Sickle, president and CEO of the advocacy group Women in Games International. "I started in the industry 17 years ago and it seems like we're having the same conversation with the same responses from industry insiders, gamers and the media. It needs to be more substantive."

While there were a few notable exceptions at this year's E3 — like thrill-seeker Lara Croft in "Rise of the Tomb Raider" and sci-fi survivor Amanda Ripley in "Alien: Isolation" — male characters still far outnumber female protagonists in video games.

Everyone has a different answer as to why the issue persists.

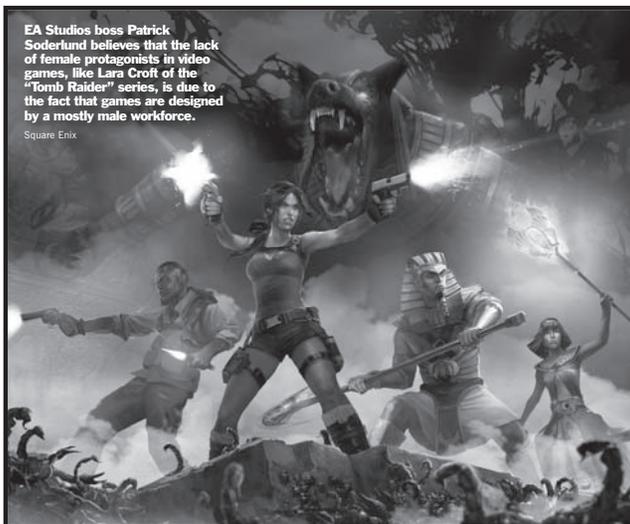
"The more women we have playing games, the more we will be able to have a balance between women and men in the games," said Yves Guillemot, CEO of Ubisoft.

Ubisoft came under the most fire at E3 after revealing that the playable characters in the co-op modes of both its historical adventure "Assassin's Creed: Unity" and shoot-'em-up "Far Cry 4" would all be men. Despite the fact previous installments of those series featured female avatars, the developers cited technical limitations for the lack of girl power.

"Any character you create requires extra resources, gender aside," explained Eric Hirschberg, CEO of Activision Publishing. "Any character that has a different look, voice, mechanics or way of moving, requires more work ... "But that's not a reason not to do something. We create lots of different characters with lots of different movements."

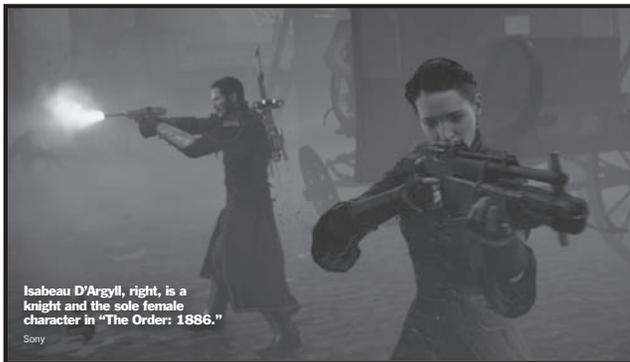
He noted Activision's "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," the latest installment in the military shooter franchise, will feature a vital female character in the single-player campaign, as well as the return of playable female avatars in the multiplayer mode.

In addition to technical issues, the reasons given for gender imbalance in the game world can include psychology, financial justifications and perhaps sexism.



EA Studios boss Patrick Soderlund believes that the lack of female protagonists in video games, like Lara Croft of the "Tomb Raider" series, is due to the fact that games are designed by a mostly male workforce.

Square Enix



Isabeau D'Argyll, right, is a knight and the sole female character in "The Order: 1886."

Sony



"Alien: Isolation" follows Amanda Ripley as she investigates her mother's disappearance.

Sega

Yet such excuses don't hold up when one considers the state of the industry: audiences for games are changing; the latest generation of consoles is more powerful than before; games have ballooned into a \$21 billion business.

"Our industry is strongest when it appeals to the broadest possible audience," said Michael Gallagher, president and CEO of the Entertainment Software Association, which organizes the E3 trade show. "The clearest path to appealing to the world as an audience is to make sure you're diverse in your game creators. That's the path we're committed to at ESA."

Many in the industry believe the problem stems from the game-makers themselves, who are mostly men. Van Sickle of Women in Games International said that 12 to 18 percent of the industry is women and many game developers and publishers have problems finding and retaining female employees. Van Sickle said change is happening, but it's slow going.

"My thesis is that it's a male-dominated business," said Patrick Soderlund, executive vice president at EA Studios. "I'm not sure that flies, but I think it overall may have something to do with it — that boys tend to design for boys and women for women. I'm just happy that we have a game with a female heroine, the parkour-style adventure game "Mirror's Edge."

When female characters did appear in games promoted at this year's show, many were part of a team, such as trapper Maggie in the monster hunting game "Evolve" and knight Isabeau in "The Order: 1886," a moody adventure game that finds the Knights of the Round Table battling supernatural forces.

"Developers have a tendency to paint female characters in very specific, stereotypical lights," said "The Order" creative director Ru Weerasuriya. "We wanted someone who was grounded in reality, but in actuality is sometimes a better knight than the others. There's no reason why that shouldn't be the case in games. That's the case in the real world, right?"

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Actors promote the new version of "Cats" coming to London.

LEFT: PIRAKIS/AP

TICKETS SELLING NOW: Rapping 'CATS' coming to London's West End

"Cats" is coming back to London — and now the felines rap. Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical returns to the West End in December in a revamped production with a hip-hop flavor. Based on T.S. Eliot's whimsical "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats," the musical opened in London in 1981, running for 21 years there and 18 years on Broadway. The show is set on the night that the Jellicle cats meet at the Jellicle Ball to hear their leader, Old Deuteronomy, discuss who will qualify

for the afterlife. The songs are likely to ignite "Memories." However, Lloyd Webber says he has tweaked the production, which has been performed in more than 30 countries, to make the character Tum Tum Tigger a rapping street cat. The show will run at London's Palladium for 12 weeks beginning Dec. 6. Tickets are available for sale starting at 17.50 pounds (about \$30) for a child's ticket in the upper circle and going up to 75 pounds for an orchestra stalls seat. Find details at <http://palladium.londontheatres.co.uk>.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Knights in Bavaria

Watching brave knights battle in a medieval atmosphere is an outing with appeal to both young and old. Catch the Kaltenberg Rittersturnier (Kaltenberg Knights' Tournament), billed as the world's largest show of its kind, on various dates over the next three weekends. The event's backdrop is the Kaltenberg Castle, built in 1290 in Upper Bavaria, about 25 miles west of Munich.

Much more than knights games takes place there. More than 1,000 official costumed reenactors play craftsmen, dancers, market people, jesters and other entertainers. Many visitors also get into the act by dressing up. Entertainment will include medieval-style rock concerts, acts by wandering performers and the chance to get tipsy on mead or nosh on meat roasted on a spit.

After milling about to get in the spirit of the times, guests will flock to the main arena to watch a performance involving a prince, a princess and the evil Black Knight. This year's performance is titled "The Magic Ring." The storyline varies slightly from year to year, but it's not so much the plot that keeps viewers enthralled as the tricks thrown in — stunt riding on Andalusian horses, sword-fighting and jousting, with light and sound effects adding to the drama — if not the authenticity — of the event.

The Knights Tournament arena show premieres at 8 p.m. July 11. The performance also will feature a large display of fireworks set to music. Other evening shows take place July 12, 19 and 25. Afternoon arena shows are offered at 3:30 on July 13, 20 and 27. These are followed by a special children's tournament. On July 26, the arena performance will take place at 6 p.m.

July 18 is Gauklernacht, or Jesters' Night, when the usual arena show changes to become a display of colorful performances by acrobats, musicians, dancers,



Karen Bradbury

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

fire breathers and the like, both on stage and in the midst of the spectators.

Tickets are available online. Adult tickets range from 23 to 63 euros (about \$31-\$86). Children under age 6 have free entry to the show when sitting on a parent's lap; however, organizers caution that skittish kids and those under age 3 might find the

shows frightening. Tickets for ages 6-14 sell for 5 euros off the adult price. Sundays are family days, when family members enjoy 15 percent off the entry price. Entry on Jesters Night costs 27 euros. Tickets for all performances also can be purchased at the door while supply lasts.

Entry to the marketplace is only possible in connection with the performances.

The nearest town to Kaltenberg Schloss is Geltendorf. Visit the website at low.ritterturnier.de/en.

Brussels folk and jazz

Green spaces near urban environments are often used for wonderful things, and this rule holds true more than ever through the weekend, when the Brosella Folk and Jazz Festival takes over the green open-air theater of Ossegheem park, not far from

Brussels' Atonium. Brosella, the offshoot of a folk festival dating to 1977, honors tradition but also offers open-minded listeners contemporary interpretations of the two genres of music. The program July 12 will focus on folk, while July 13 is the day for jazz lovers. On both days, performances by seven acts on two stages kick off at 3 p.m., with the final concert beginning at 11 p.m. Performers hail from around the world and perform in many languages.

An area dedicated to children will offer not only music but also theater, hand- and face-painting, craft workshops and shows.

Visitors are encouraged to support the festival by buying a friendship bracelet for 5 euros (\$6.80). Those with a bracelet receive a one-euro discount on the purchase of beverages at the bar. Children get bracelets for free.

Learn more about the per-

forming artists and practical details at brosella.be.

Stuttgart's light festival

The trees are purple and the grass is red, but that doesn't mean someone's slipped something funny into your drink. Rather, you're in Höhenpark Killesberg, one of Stuttgart's urban parks, July 12 for the city's annual Lichterfest, or Festival of Lights.

The festival termed "Night of 100,000 Lights" was first held in 1939. This year's edition, anticipated to delight some 30,000 visitors from toddlers to seniors, will offer illuminated landmarks, light shows, live music, tasty treats and activities for the kiddies, including face-painting, jumping castles, clowns, magic shows and more.

The park opens at 4 p.m. Things to do include wandering through a "magical" illuminated forest or catching one of four light and sound shows there; listening to bands; watching a fashion show; or just enjoying a picnic (bring a blanket, but leave any breakable containers and alcoholic beverages at home.)

The finale, a light show and fireworks set to music, begins at 10:15 p.m. and lasts for about half an hour. The park closes at 1 a.m.

Tickets to the Volkswagen Lichterfest 2014 can be purchased in advance at the city's usual ticket outlets, at the Canstatter Wasen on fest day or at the park's entry. Adult tickets at the gate cost 18 euros (\$24.50); a family ticket good for two adults and two children under age 15 goes for 39 euros; the charge for ages 7 through 18 is 15 euros; children up to age 6 enter for free. Advance tickets are offered at a slight discount.

Tickets to the fest entitle the bearer to free use of the local VVS public transportation network to get to and from the festival.

Find more details at lichterfest-stuttgart.de.



Courtesy of Kaltenberg Knights Tournament

Knights will perform feats of derring-do this weekend at the Kaltenberg Rittersturnier (Kaltenberg Knights Tournament) at Kaltenberg Castle, about 25 miles west of Munich.

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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

A walk in the park

Woodsy German oasis will keep kids occupied

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

It feels like summer vacation only just started, but that old familiar refrain is already starting to sound: "I'm bored."

The kids are rambunctious. The garrison playground isn't cutting it anymore. Nor are any of the other usual destinations. You need someplace new to break up the monotony.

If you're in search of something to shake the kids out of the summer doldrums, head about 30 miles northeast of Stuttgart, Germany, to the small town of Welzheim and the outdoor oasis called Eins+Alles, or One and All.

The park is a place where you can easily spend a day exploring the many walking trails, taking in the fresh countryside air while under the cover of forest shade. By the end of it all, the little ones will be too wiped to whine. Best of all, the park is void of any unpleasant honky-tonk distraction I've come to expect at so many kid-focused venues. There are no tacky, touristy things for sale. No cotton candy, junk food or other cheap frills. It's all about the outdoors.

Eins+Alles is operated by Christopherus Leben, an organization that works with people with assorted mental disabilities and aims to help them integrate into society. Many of the employees at the facility are from the organization, working in the coffee shop and on the park's grounds.

Though you will mostly encounter German families at the park, the atmosphere is friendly and all inclusive.

Near the entrance there is a restaurant and coffee shop where beans are roasted on site. There's also a nice playground and various animals to check out. Llamas, sheep and rabbits give the place a farm-like feel.

However, the main attraction is the Wander Weg, or wandering way, which takes you on a long walk through the woods with assorted activity stations along the journey.

There are all sorts of simple activities, such as a barefoot path, where you feel textures ranging from pine cones and



PHOTOS BY JOHN VANDIVER/Stars and Stripes

It's easy to spend several hours meandering through the forest on the Wander Weg (Wandering Way) at Eins+Alles in Welzheim, Germany.



Along the way, you'll encounter various works of art made out of wood, such as this sculpture.



Llamas as well as sheep and rabbits are among the gentle animals on hand, giving the park a farm-like feel.



There are various activity stations in the woods where children (and adults) can explore. This barefoot walking path allows visitors to feel textures, such as pine cones, rocks and in this case glass that has been dulled of sharp edges.



NOVA AMI-RW/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

ADDRESS

Laufenmühle 8, Welzheim

TIMES

Open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. April to October; Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. November to Dec. 21 and in February (closed January); Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in March.

COSTS

Four euros for ages 3-6, six euros for ages 6 to 17 and eight euros for adults.

FOOD

Dishes cost between 8 and 12 euros at the restaurant on site.

INFORMATION

Phone: (+49) (0) 7182-800710. Website: eins-und-alles.de

— John Vandiver

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

After Hours: Germany

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The German city of Frankfurt-am-Main carries the nickname "Mainhattan," a reference to the Manhattan-style skyline that sets it apart from most other major European cities. But that's not all the city has in common with NYC. Turns out you can also get a pretty good bagel there.

Right in the heart of downtown, roughly equidistant from the city's bustling Hauptbahnhof, its historic Roemerplatz and the banks of the glittering Main, you'll find an outpost of the small German chain restaurant Bagel Brothers. If business or pleasure takes you to or through Frankfurt, it's worth stopping in.

My family and I did just that on a recent excursion to Frankfurt, one of our favorite short-range destinations from our home in Kaiserslautern. We found the shiny, modern facade of Bagel Brothers occupying a gritty corner on Kaiserstrasse, just a few blocks north of the river. Having reviewed the restaurant's selection online, we entered with high expectations.

We weren't disappointed. Instead, we were overwhelmed with choices.

Though the restaurant had steady business, the two friendly men at the counter were happy to indulge our indecisiveness as we fine-tuned our orders. Finally, the four of us each managed to assemble a lunch from the vast menu of bagels and pastries available.

I had a "everything" bagel with sliced turkey and Gouda cheese with a walnut-topped brownie on the side. My sweet-toothed son went for a plain bagel smeared with Nutella and a donut filled and topped with chocolate icing. Mom and daughter selected a matching menu of a toasted onion bagel with cream cheese and a choco-



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

A breakfast spread featuring bagels, muffins, brownies, coffee and bottled fruit juice occupies a table at Bagel Brothers in Frankfurt am Main, Germany.

late muffin, complemented by a frothy caramel *macchiato*.

As we nibbled on our own lunches and sampled each other's choices, it became apparent that there was nothing on our overflowing table that wasn't good. The toasted bagels were perfectly crispy, the untoasted pleasantly chewy. My everything bagel was coated with

flavorful granules of, well, everything, but didn't overwhelm the turkey and cheese slapped between. The sweet stuff was equally well-executed. And my wife said the coffee was among the best she's had in Europe, and she's evaluating from a sophisticated frame of reference.

Despite the impressive spread of food we'd collected, our bill came to just 28 euros, a third of which was absorbed by the typically expensive drinks. The rest was remarkably affordable; we even took home a half-dozen bagels for breakfast the next day

for just another four euros.

We talked, laughed and ate at our window-side booth, watching tourists and locals walk purposefully by en route to unknown corners of Frankfurt am Main, a remarkable place that we admire more with each visit. Focus on the skyline and the bagels, and you could delude yourself into thinking you were sitting in a New York deli. But this city, and this restaurant, deserves to be appreciated on its own terms.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes

BAGEL BROTHERS

Location: Kaiserstrasse 49, Frankfurt am Main.
Directions: From Kaiserslautern, take Autobahn 63 north and follow signs to Frankfurt, a path that will take you on Autobahns 60, 67 and 3 and right past the Frankfurt Airport. Just after the airport, take exit 49 onto highway B43, merge left onto B43 and cross over the Main River into downtown. You'll soon see the Hauptbahnhof on your left; you can take the guaranteed parking there and walk to the restaurant or turn right down Kaiserstrasse and take a shot at street parking.
Hours: Open 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Fri-

day; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Costs: Bagels start at 80 cents for a plain bagel, with discounts for a half-dozen or dozen. Bagel sandwiches, including varieties such as turkey, tuna salad, chicken fajita and even a bagel burger, run from three to four euros. Salads range from about two to four euros. Pastries and sweets are about two euros apiece.

Information: Call at 069-976-92185 or email at frankfurt@bagelbrothers.com. The chain's website is bagelbrothers.de; click the drop-down menu at left to select the Frankfurt location.

— Gregory Broome



Bagel Brothers serves high-quality bagels, pastries and coffee in the heart of downtown Frankfurt.

Greek twist makes pasta salad tasty

By SUSAN SELASKY
Detroit Free Press

An outdoor cookout or potluck is not complete without a pasta salad. It's the go-to salad that goes a long way. And it's the type of salad into which just about anything goes.

Today's Greek Pasta Salad uses *cavatappi* pasta, a short S-shaped pasta tube that resembles a corkscrew. Most all of the time spent on this recipe is in prepping the vegetables.

The dressing gets extra flavor from some feta cheese whipped in. You can use the dressing on a mixed-greens salad, too.

Greek Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

Salad:

- 2 packages (16 ounces each) *cavatappi* pasta or elbow *macaroni*
- 2 pints grape tomatoes, washed, halved
- 1 jar (7 ounces) *kalamata* olive pieces in brine, drained
- 10 ounces feta cheese (half regular and half reduced fat *fat free*), crumbled
- 1 large red onion, peeled, diced
- 1 hothouse cucumber, seeded, diced
- 1 large bunch of radishes, washed, ends removed, thinly sliced

1 cup chopped flat leaf parsley

Dressing:

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup red wine vinegar
- 2 cloves garlic, peeled
- 4 ounces *fat free*, reduced fat or regular feta cheese, crumbled
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon all purpose seasoning

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup olive oil

Directions:

To make salad: Cook the pasta according to package directions. Drain and rinse with cold water. Spread the pasta out on a baking sheet to dry for 30 to 45 minutes.

Meanwhile, prepare all the remaining salad ingredients and place them in a large serving bowl. Add the pasta and toss together.

To make dressing: In a blender or food processor, place the red wine vinegar, garlic, feta cheese, oregano, sugar, salt, pepper and seasoning blend. Pulse to chop up the garlic and cheese. With the machine running, slowly and in a steady stream, add the olive oil and process until emulsified. Taste and adjust seasonings as needed. The dressing should be salty enough from the feta cheese; do not over salt.

Pour the dressing over the salad. Toss to thoroughly combine and serve. Or you can make both the salad and the dressing a day in advance and combine just before serving.

Makes 48 half-cup servings, 157 calories each.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Spain in the cycle saddle

As a novice rider on Mallorca, your eyes will thank you but your rear may not

By DAVID CAWLEY

Special to Stars and Stripes

Whatever your level or ambition, the off-season is the perfect time for hikers and cyclists to visit the Calvia region of Mallorca, Spain.

For decades, Mallorca's warm summer months, sandy beaches and full-on nightlife have made it a famed and popular vacation playground.

Less well-known is that the island also has a strong cycling pedigree and is an annual training destination for Tour de France riders. Both the U.S. Postal Service team and Britain's Team Sky regularly take to the region's Tramuntana Mountains for winter training.

For those who haven't perched on a saddle for years, the Calvia region is also a great place to get reacquainted with bicycling on less-punishing courses.

Visitors like me who don't know a Cannondale from a Penny Farthing can find routes more suited to their fitness levels and interests. With this in mind, bike rental centers have been set up at many local hotels. Various shapes, sizes and styles are available. All are of top-notch quality, with some carrying a purchase price of upward of 3,000 euros (about \$4,220). Fortunately, rental prices start at 18 euros per half-day, and with a guide — as we opted for — the cost comes in at a reasonable 25 euros each for a group of four.

Our guide for the next two days is Juan Carlos. Lean, quietly self-assured and charming, he assesses us for bike size and fitness before instructing us on basic braking and gear techniques.

There's a choice of road and rough-terrain routes, depending on the amount of time booked — half a day, a full day or longer. We even buy and squeeze into branded cycling jerseys.

Despite our now sleek cycling attire, we're clearly not in any state to join the pro racing routes through the nearby Tramuntana Mountains. Carlos instead suggests a more forgiving 20-kilometer, low-level route.

We head west through affluent suburban avenues lined with striking, contemporary villas, and before long we're weaving through pine forests on relatively flat, dusty tracks.

Quickly assessing our low stamina and proficiency levels — more a wobbling, panting straggle than a finely tuned peloton — Carlos diplomatically makes regular stops along the way to point out flora and historical sights.

Through the trees we free-wheel down and out into the sunshine of the secluded sandy cove and nudist beach



PHOTOS BY DAVID CAWLEY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Following the boardwalk past the beaches of resort town Palma Nova provides a relaxing and less taxing cycling route on Mallorca. The Spanish island has a strong cycling pedigree and is an annual training destination for Tour de France riders.



Views from the coastal cycling trail over the picturesque and secluded sandy cove and nudist beach at El Mago.

of El Mago. Eyes averted from slumbering heaps of hairy pink man flesh, we follow the rocky coastal path clinging to the bay and on to the next isolated and picturesque bay of Portals Vells. On the sandy terrace of the Es Repos beach cafe, we snack like yellow-jerseyed champions on cold beers, olives and Manchego cheese.

The following day we're back on the bikes, though with much less enthusiasm. We're all suffering from acute saddle soreness — despite some self-indulgent time in the hotel spa. Understandably, it's an ailment the hotel masseuse was not willing to treat. The saddle now feels more like a spiky 2-by-4 plank than a high-tech, ergonomic leather accessory, and with another

four hours of cycling booked, the sympathetic Juan Carlos offers us a gentler ride east along Palma Nova's boardwalk.

A completely different landscape from the previous day, this is a 10-km round-trip on smooth cycling paths through one of Mallorca's modern tourist hot spots. To the right we skirt Mallorca's tourist beaches; to the left are the bars and clubs that, come dusk, fire up the neon and crank up the beats for another cocktail and shot-fueled all-nighter.

Our destination is the marina of Puerto Portals, where we sit on a swanky cafe/bar terrace sipping *cafe con leche* and eavesdropping on private yacht crews planning sailing routes for their rich employers.

That evening we head in-

land by car to the whitewashed hillside town of Calvia for dinner at the rustic restaurant Meson Ca'n Torrat, owned and run by a former pro bullfighter: The candlelight, dark wood and toredor memorabilia set an intimate scene for the Spanish, English and German diners who, like us, head here to take on the hearty signature dish of fire-roasted suckling pig.

For those less inclined to take to the saddle, there are walking trails. High in the mountains is a network of remote, marked trails. Route GR221 is one. A six-hour, dry riverbed hike winds past abandoned dry-stone vine terraces, ancient settlements and a once rather stately hacienda.

Here we discovered park ranger and rugged man of the mountains Biel Salom. Through a gap-toothed mouth set on a craggy, wind-burned face, he talks of his passion for the 365-day-a-year job, which includes single-handedly looking after 14 million square meters of nature reserve and taking care of once-

abandoned donkeys. The latter he now employs as eco-friendly grass and weed trimmers.

Whether hiking, cycling or both, the best times to visit Mallorca are between February and May and between October to November, when the temperatures range between 59 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit and the landscape is greener and less dusty. March, when the many almond trees are in full, riotous pink blossom, is especially rewarding. Not only is the weather cooler, but hotels and flights also tend to be cheaper. Plus there's less traffic.

For Juan Carlos, the Calvia region of Mallorca is one of the best cycling destinations in Europe, whatever your level of fitness. And when it all gets too much and the uncompromisingly hard bike saddle becomes something to dread, there are always the spas, beaches and nightlife to help ease the pain.

David Cawley is a U.K. freelance journalist who specializes in travel and history.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



DAVID CAWLEY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Mallorca's cycling paths can take riders through pine forests, such as this one near Palma Nova, past a beach popular with nudists and along the island's picturesque bays.

KNOW & GO: MALLORCA

Getting there

Air Berlin (airberlin.com) has flights to Mallorca from Berlin, Düsseldorf and Munich, while Condor (condor.com) flies from Frankfurt, Hamburg, Cologne and Leipzig. Jet2 (jet2.com) has flights from a choice of U.K. airports. From Palma airport it's a 20-minute drive to the resorts of Palma Nova and Magaluf.

Where to stay

Viva Palma Nova is just one of a number of modern, family hotels with a bike station and spa, and it's only a couple of minutes'

walk from Palma Nova's beach and nightlife. Phone (+34) (0) 9716 81251; website hotels.viva.com/en/viva-palmanova.

Dining

Besides the Restaurant Meson Ca'n Torrat, we tried and tested Restaurant Las Olas, a popular lunch spot for local patas, seafood and paella set right on the bay of Santa Ponsa.

More information

For accommodation, cycling and hiking routes, go to visitcalvia.com. For information on Mallorca, see visitmallorca.com.



Hotel Directory GERMANY

<p>Hotel Am See Kirchenhubacher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-402403 www.hotelamsee.de • hotelamseeusa.net FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited on the shore of the RüdWeilher</p>	<p>Glutschaufel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 09645/602900 www.glutschaufel.de</p>
<p>CityHotel Pension Am Schoenberg 18 • 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390</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: (0824) 9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>
<p>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel: 0711-7300 • Email: h5425@accor.com www.pullmanhotels.com Near the beautiful city park, close to Killy & Fatch Bars. A perfect place for overnight stays as well as conferences and parties.</p>	<p>Hotel de France "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Taunusstraße" Tel +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcome@hoteldefrance.de www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p> <p>Book now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on Marriott.com via your Mil. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 201 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</p>

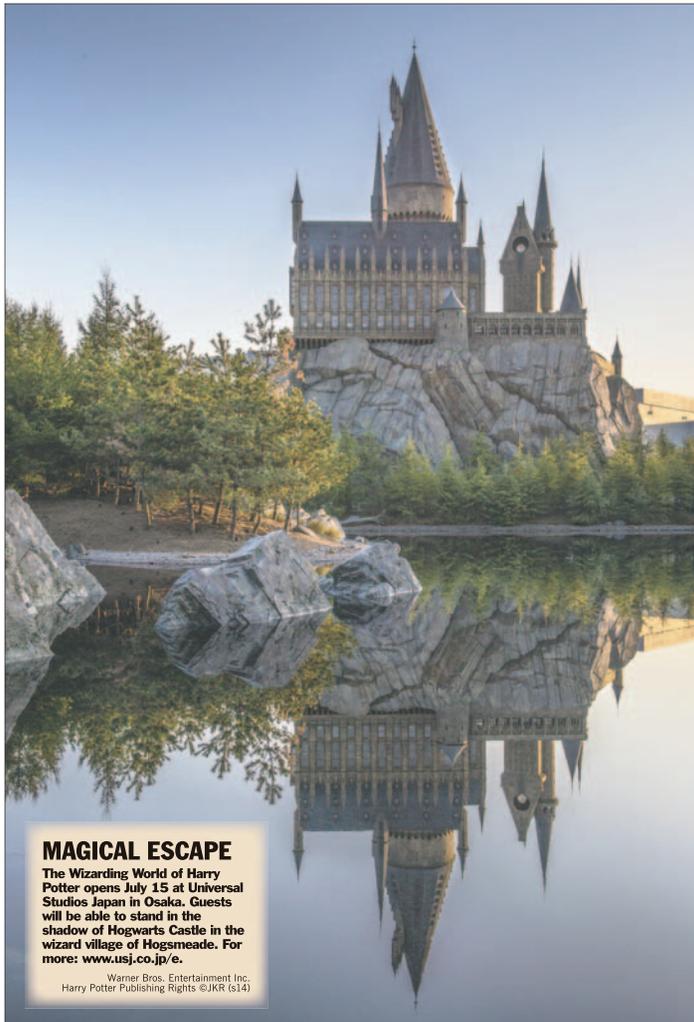
Restaurant Directory GERMANY

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nihilstr. 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631-42828</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Brauhaus Castel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhr Ring 27 55253 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.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>Trattoria Da Salvatore Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p>PAPPEL HAUS Steinmetzstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>PALLAS GREEK SPECIALITIES Pallas Greek Specialities Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p>China Restaurant China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>Okinii Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2383808</p>
<p>KB's Western Saloon Bergstr. 4, 92229 Vilseck 09662-701481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<p>Minges The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in Ktown. Am Warmfelde 3 • 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!</p>	<p>Villa im Tal Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Garmisch-Partenkirchen Leipziger Open Wed-Mon: Noon-11pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel: 08931-97486 www.restaurant-leipziger-mama-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 80667 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Saytouna Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>SMOKETRIPE Nassaustasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketripetbq.com</p>
<p>Kaiserslautern area Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seewog Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 06371 9522955 Fax: 06371 9522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<p>ENCHILADA - PISO MEXICO Enchilada - Restaurant By Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3, 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbadenenchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>Café Temptation *reservations recommended Walter-Hallein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OPX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>
<p>Gabriel Ristorantino Original Mediterranean Küche Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriel-restaurant.de</p>	<p>Stuttgart Kashmir Authentic Indian Cuisine Esslinger Str 11 Phone 0711-99763816 Leinberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-903232</p>	<p>Stuttgart Kashmir Authentic Indian Cuisine Esslinger Str 11 Phone 0711-99763816 Leinberger Str. 97 Phone 07152-903232</p>

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



MAGICAL ESCAPE

The Wizarding World of Harry Potter opens July 15 at Universal Studios Japan in Osaka. Guests will be able to stand in the shadow of Hogwarts Castle in the wizard village of Hogsmeade. For more: www.usj.co.jp/e.

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Harry Potter Publishing Rights ©JKR (s14)



AP

GET DIRTY: Mud festival in South Korea

The Boryeong Mud Festival at Daecheon swimming beach in South Chungcheon province is July 18 to 27. The event includes mud wrestling, mud sliding and swimming in the mud. For more: www.mudfestival.or.kr.



WARM TIMES: Sawara Summer Festival

This 300-year-old festival in Katori city, Chiba prefecture, Japan, July 11-13, features 10 floats decorated with giant dolls departing from Yasaka Shrine, a 10-minute walk from Sawara Station on JR Narita-Line.



BLOOMING: Iris festival in Japan

Now through July 21, enjoy the Iris Festival in Towada, Aomori prefecture, Japan. There are 200,000 irises at Iris Garden of Risoukyo. For more: www.risoukyo.com.

ON BASE

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

Japan

Atsugi ITT Tours has a trip on July 19 to Kurobe Dam & Matsumoto Castle. Go to Fuji-Q Highland with Camp **Fuji** MCCS Trips and Recreation

on July 13. On July 20, **Yokosuka** Tours has a trip for Mount Fuji sightseeing and another to have brunch at the New Sanno and a visit to the Edo Tokyo Museum. Enjoy paintball at **Yokota** Air Base's Tama Hills Recreation Area on July 19. The Central Japan Bodybuilding & Figure Championships are July 26 at Taiyo Community Center. Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure

Travel Service at Camp **Zama** has a deep-sea fishing trip and a trip to Fuji-Q Highland set for July 20.

Okinawa

Tours for Camps **Foster**, **Courtney** and **Kinsler** has a trip on July 28 for Karama snorkeling. **Kadena** ITT has Mount Fuji tours set for July 17-

21, July 31-Aug. 4, Aug. 7-11 & 14-18.

Guam

Take windsurfing lessons on July 26 with Outdoor Recreation on **Andersen** Air Force Base. To see your events here: SPEDITlibrary@stripes.com.



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

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FIREWORKS

Japan

KURIHAMA PERRY FESTIVAL FIREWORKS (Kanagawa prefecture): July 12, 7:20-8:10 p.m.; 3,500 fireworks at Kurihama Beach.

HUIS TEN BOSCH FIREWORKS CHAMPIONSHIPS (Nagasaki prefecture): July 12 & 20, 8:40-9 p.m.; 2,000 yen viewing plus entry fee, english.huisitenbosch.co.jp.

ADACHI FIREWORKS (Tokyo): July 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; beside the Arakawa River.

IWAKUNI PORT FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Yamaguchi prefecture): July 19, 8-9 p.m.; get off at Shinko bus stop after taking a bus from JR Iwakuni Station bound for Otake or 20-minute ride from Iwakuni I.C. on Sanyo Express.

TOWADA LAKE FIREWORKS (Aomori prefecture): July 19 & 20, 8-9 p.m.; 2,000 fireworks at Yasuoya Pier.

KATSUSHIKA FIREWORKS (Tokyo): July 22, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; 12,000 fireworks at Katsushika Shibamata Ball Park; 2,000 yen.

KAMAKURA FIREWORKS (Kanagawa prefecture): July 23, 7:20-8:10 p.m.; 2,500 fireworks at Yagohama and Zama-kuza beaches.

IRUMA BASE FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Saitama prefecture): July 23, 8:30-9 p.m.; at JASDF Iruma Base.

HAYAMA BEACH FIREWORKS (Kanagawa prefecture): July 24, 7:30-8:15 p.m.; Maoride Kaigan Beach and Ishiki Kaigan Beach Breakwater.

HACHIOJI FIREWORKS (western Tokyo): July 26, 7:40-8:15 p.m.; 3,000 fireworks at Hachioji Shimin Kyujo ball park.

MOKA FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Tochigi prefecture): July 26, 7:20-9 p.m.; beside the Kinogawa River near Iagaharabashi bridge.

SHOWA KINEN PARK FIREWORKS (western Tokyo): July 26, 7:20-8:30 p.m.;

about 5,000 fireworks in the Open Field at Showa Kinen Park.

URAYASU CITY FIREWORKS (Chiba prefecture): July 26, 7:30-8:30 p.m.; about 6,500 fireworks at Urayasu City Sogo Undo Koen.

NAGASAKI PORT FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Nagasaki prefecture): July 26 & 27, 8:30 p.m.; 8,000 fireworks at Nagasaki Mizubeno-mori Koen and Nagasaki Port.

ASAMUSHI ONSEN FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Aomori prefecture): Aug. 1, 7-8:40 p.m.; 4,000 fireworks at Asamushi Kaigan Koen.

LAKE SAGAMI FIREWORKS (Kanagawa prefecture): Aug. 1, 7:30-8:50 p.m.; at the lakeside of Sagami; 1,000-2,000 yen adults with designated seats, 4,000 yen for four designated seats; 042-684-2633.

AGEO FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Saitama prefecture): Aug. 2, 7 p.m.; 13,000 fireworks near the Riverside Phoenix Golf Club course.

NIKKO FIREWORKS FESTIVAL (Tochigi prefecture): Aug. 2, 7-8:30 p.m.; 5,000 fireworks at Nikko Segawa-chiku Daiyagawa Green Park.

Okinawa

OCEAN EXPO PARK OKINAWA SUMMER FESTIVAL 2014: July 19; 10,000 fireworks 8-9 p.m. at the Emerald Beach, plus a concert 4 p.m.; Motobu, Kunikida-gun.

URASOE TEDAKO FESTIVAL: July 19 & 20; more than 1,000 fireworks 8:40-9 p.m. at Urasoe Athletic Park, along with taiko drum, eisa dance, hani dragon race and more.

NAGO FIREWORKS: July 26 & 27, 8-8:15 p.m.; about 1,000 fireworks at Nago Port.

YONABAMU FIREWORKS 2014: July 27, 8:45-9 p.m.; finale of the Yonabaru Giant Tug-Of-War Festival at Gotoyama Youth Square (Saisi-hon Hiroba).



Courtesy of Sumida Ward Office Sightseeing Association

The Sumida River Fireworks, 7-8:30 p.m. July 27 in Tokyo, is one of the most famous displays in Japan and features 20,000 fireworks. It drew a crowd of about 950,000 last year. For more: sumidagawa-hanabi.com.

For wine-focused trip, this site can uncork resources

Why settle on wine tasting for just a day or two when there are wine-centric hotels, tours and experiences around the world from which to choose?

Name: Winerist.com
What it does: This website pours on the inspiration — and the resources — you need to handcraft your own wine-focused trip without resorting to packaged tours.

What's hot: Your options run deep. Had enough of the Napa Valley or France? Pack your bags and head to wineries in Argentina, Croatia, Romania or Georgia, the oldest wine-producing region in the world. It's a Britain-based website, so it's no surprise that there are extensive European options. I was drawn to the wine hotels section, which featured accommodations in captivating settings. Don't miss ogling the Chateau d'Artigny in France's Loire Valley, the Casvas Wine Lodge in Mendoza, Argentina, or the Morfes Luxury Residence on the Greek island of Santorini.

What's not: It's not for wine enthusiasts who are looking for wineries in the U.S. Napa Valley and Sonoma barely get a mention, so don't expect to see other wine-producing areas of the United States.

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



The ancient, forgotten way

PHOTOS BY PETER MANDEL/For the Washington Post

From Kyoto to Tokyo, a path trod by shogun and samurai draws modern feet

By PETER MANDEL

Special to The Washington Post

The moon in Japan is not like the moon Americans see. There is no man in there, for one thing. No man, no horn, no cow.

It's nighttime in Kyoto, and Shima Enomoto, one of my guides, is pointing up at the sky. "Can you see it?" she asks. "Rabbit making a rice cake." She laughs. "Almost a cartoon."

"Maybe it will take some time," I say, looking above rows of buildings, trees with buds about to unwrap, and signs that flash their avenue colors into fire. "Tomorrow we'll be on the road," I say. "I'll look again."

It's only day one of my trip, and already life feels strange. It could be jet lag, but the idea of walking through fields and over mountains and ending up in Tokyo doesn't strike me as realistic. But this is the plan.

Walk Japan, the tour company I'm here with, specializes in ambitious treks, and I've signed up for one of its longer routes:

the 11-day Nakasendo Way tour. My group will follow the path of an ancient and largely forgotten highway known as the Nakasendo. Starting in Kyoto, we'll walk the more scenic, better-preserved parts of the trail through Hikone.

Sekigahara, Magome, Tsumago and Narai before ending up in downtown Tokyo. We've been told to be ready to hike from six to 16 miles each day along a mix of lanes, gravel tracks, forest paths and cobblestoned roadway.

Dating back to the 7th century, Japan's Nakasendo was once a path for shogun,

pilgrims and samurai — not to mention average travelers like us — who, according to my brochure, wore out pair after pair of straw sandals on the rolling terrain.

Studded with Shinto shrines

and statues of deities charged with watching over those on the road, the Nakasendo reached the peak of its usefulness and romance during Japan's Edo Period (1603-1868), before steam trains and paved roads changed

the pace of travel. This was a stable time for Japan, under Tokugawa rule. Arts like haiku, woodblock printing, bonsai and kabuki theater flourished in the larger cities. Since the Nakasendo linked two of the biggest cities, speeding commerce and messages, it was at the heart of this Japanese golden age.

One of the most exciting parts of the

walk for me is the chance to spend some nights at wayside inns known as *ryokan* or, when simpler, as *minshuku*.

Sure enough, after trudging through bamboo forests during our first day on the road, we turn in at Masuya Inn in the village of Sekigahara — a *minshuku* that, we're told, has been in business for more than eight centuries. Guest rooms at the inn are carved out by sliding panels made of wood and rice paper, and beneath our not-very-cushiony futons are floors that have been spread with woven matting. No shoes are allowed indoors, and there are plastic slippers for use only in the bathrooms.

Staying here helps us immerse ourselves in being part of a group. As will be the case on other nights, we dine at the inn, slipping on robes called *yukata* and curling our tired legs beneath the knee-high communal table. One by one, we take turns in the Japanese-style bath, lowering ourselves into a cedar-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



Above: Hikers on Japan's Nakasendo Way pass one of the many wooden signs designating the ancient and largely forgotten highway from Kyoto to Tokyo. Top: Girls walk uphill on the stone-paved main street of one of the small villages along the route.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FROM PAGE 34

edged tureen of steaming water and wallowing there until our road-tight muscles uncoil.

There are nine in our group, including Naomi Addyman, a British guide who grew up in Japan; Enomoto, a guide-in-training; and Logan Wong, one of four walkers from Singapore.

We're on the road after breakfast the next day, taking advantage of a hazy early spring sun. Plum blossoms are just starting to come out (no cherry yet), and there are puffs of mistletoe in some trees. The path is grassy and mostly level this close to Kyoto, winding through rice paddies and around modest farms.

Carol Behm, a professor from Canberra, Australia, points out a patch of violets and yellow kumquat flowers, and someone thinks they see a snake.

"It's a stick," I say.

"No, it's not," Addyman says. "It's a snake. But it's not a dangerous one."

Every now and then, the road leads us into tunnels of shade created by cedar and cypress, and at one point, we stop at a sign with a picture of an angry-looking predator. Next to it is a small steel cup. "Ring bell against bear," translates Enomoto with a nervous laugh.

Wong gives it a pull, and the sound reverberates, bouncing back from hills up ahead. "Not to worry," Addyman says. "These are Japanese bears. They're very shy." According to Addyman, the sign makers should be more worried about the wild boar out here.

But as we begin to climb, no one seems concerned about becoming a snack for animals. Our focus is on learning to pick out the three Japanese characters carved into stone and wooden road signs that designate our route. The first symbol looks like a bird built out of bamboo; the second like the prongs of a pitchfork; and the third like Noah's Ark. Or more like half an ark.

"Meadow. Mountain. Way," deciphers Addyman. "That's the Nakasendo — literally translated."

Each day of the walk, the road seems slightly steeper, and mountains wearing caps of white step up to dominate the view. It might be because we're working harder, but eating is on everyone's mind. Meals at our inns have been like edible galleries, with a main exhibit (usually a hot pot) and interesting mini-plates presenting forest mushrooms, sashimi or squares of tofu on the side.

"Wish there was a convenience store near here," someone complains as we're picking our way around paving stones that were laid to make the path more predictable for tired feet and hoooves.

"No hope, no hope," Wong says. "But Naomi says there's a Boss Coffee machine in the next village. Or it might be the one after."

"Only in Japan," adds Tracey Yeh, a banker from Singapore.

"It's vending and more vending to follow. They inspect us as we trudge up ever steeper slopes. They know what will happen:

Since it is only April, we will



Left: A "minshuku," or wayside inn, displays a traditional hat and straw sandals of the kind that ancient pilgrims wore out while walking the Nakasendo Way in Japan.

flavor. "Want some?" she asks. We pool what we've got.

Wong breaks open a box of Pocky-brand snack sticks. "Rum and raisin," he grins. No one has any rice cakes, but one of the guides offers the group some deep-fried eel bones in a cellophane pack. To cleanse our palates, there are Kit Kats laced with wasabi. We march on.

We reach the top of a pass, where everyone takes a break and where our guides point out a poem, a sad one, that's been inscribed in stone. The author, we're told, was Princess Kazunomiya, who traveled the Nakasendo in the mid-1800s, when she was forced to leave Kyoto for Edo to become the shogun's wife.

"Why compose it here?" Wong asks.

"Well," Enomoto says, "this is about the point where views back to Kyoto are lost."

From this point on, travelers would have turned their thoughts to Edo (now Tokyo). I try this, too. It works until we make it to a town called Okute.

Here, there is a kind of shrine.

It's not like those we've passed so far: Most have been small and tidy, with well-made torii gates and statues, sometimes, of Jizo Bodhisattva, guardian of travelers. This is a massive. Most have had a sacred rope, a *shimenawa*, strung across the entrance. This one is hung with twisted branches and leaves.

It's a tree — a giant cedar. So old, at 1,300 years, that it is thought of as a Shinto deity. The tree is watching, we are sure, as we slide our daypacks back onto our shoulders and return to the path. Other roadside gods observe our progress in the days to follow. They inspect us as we trudge up ever steeper slopes. They know what will happen: Since it is only April, we will

walk in snow.

In a couple of the higher passes, we do. Everyone in the group seems delighted. Australians and Singaporeans scoop snowballs and study the structure of a half-melted patch that decorates the trail.

"It's like Christmas Day," someone says. "Christmas in Japan."

As for me, I'm grouching the second I see white. As a New Englander, I'm in search of spring.

When others are using walking sticks like ski poles, I'm chopping at the snow. Chopping and stomping. Trying to make it go away.

As we begin to descend, roadside deities regard us from their pedestals and temples — maybe approving, maybe grieving just a bit. Our tour, and the Nakasendo itself, ends in Tokyo.

From the outskirts of the city, we board a train and log some miles sitting down. There's a sense of throwing off a load. And, maybe a little, of guilt. Once in

the glass-box city center, we exchange our path for crosswalks. We trace the last few miles on foot.

Our goal, as modern pilgrims is Tokyo's Nihonbashi bridge. And almost without realizing it, we are there.

Once called Edo Bridge,

the Nihonbashi was tapped as the eastern end of the Nakasendo during the 17th century. Nowadays, it's still a touchstone. Japanese road signs to Tokyo calculate their distance not from the city limits, but from the Nihonbashi.

The bridge doesn't look like a woodblock print. It looks like a contemporary span. Above it is a highway humming with cars. But the cherries are out here. Blossoms spin and fly like confetti when the wind kicks up. Side-walks, even gutters, look celebratory. Corners of buildings collect drifts of petals. Cars are dusted white or pink.

Out come cameras and, from the bottom of someone's pack, a

single package of Pocky that we somehow missed.

"Have we done it?!" asks Yeh.

"We have," Addyman confirms.

Later that evening, to try to remember it, I make it back to the bridge. I find myself standing underneath a cherry tree that's only steps from where the Nakasendo ends. Its canopy is not like the cedar's. Much more delicate. Like straw for sandals.

Through the branches, I see a streetlight. No, it's rounder, whiter than that: It's the moon. I think of Shima Enomoto. But she has gone.

"Can you see it?" she would ask. I wouldn't want to tell her. Eleven days from Kyoto, I have looked again. And what I find in the downtown Tokyo moon is not a rabbit making a rice cake.

It's a line through lunar plains and mountains. A path that might have snow or paving stones or shrines, for all I know.

The moon of Japan shows a road.



Below: Along the Nakasendo Way tour, white-capped mountains often dominate the view, but the trail winds through villages as well. Here, hikers are silhouetted in a small shelter as they look at mountains near Nagano.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

First-half report: Music streaming more than selling

By Randy Lewis
Los Angeles Times

One brutal truth emerges from Nielsen SoundScan's report on trends in the music industry for the first half of 2014: Today's consumers are far more interested in seeing and hearing pop music than buying it.

Album sales dropped nearly 15 percent compared with the same period last year, and overall music consumption, which combines sales and streaming activity, dropped 3.3 percent, according to figures released by the sales and streaming monitoring service.

But taken individually, on-demand streaming of music and videos showed a combined increase of 42 percent during the first half of this year, with video streaming up 35 percent and audio streaming jumping more than 50 percent compared with 2013.

"With on-demand streams surpassing 70 billion streams in the first six months of 2014, streaming continues to be an increasingly significant portion of the music industry," Nielsen Entertainment senior vice president David Bakula said in a statement. "Streaming's 42 percent year-over-year growth and vinyl LPs' 40 percent increase over last year's record-setting pace shows interest in buying and consuming music continues to be robust, with two very distinct segments of the industry expanding substantially."

VINYL STILL SURGING

The only area in which sales increased was those of vinyl albums, which still represent a tiny portion of the overall music business. The continuing resurgence of consumer interest in vinyl was reflected in the 40.4 percent increase in units, from 2.9 million in the first half of 2013 to 4 million so far this year. That's just 3 percent of total album sales of 120.9 million units during 2014, combining CDs, cassettes, LPs and digital albums. The best-selling vinyl title of the year to date is Jack White's "Lazaretto," which sold 49,100 12-inch discs.



ONLY ONE MILLION SELLER

Little else in the report gives those in the music business much to celebrate. Just one album, the runaway hit "Frozen" soundtrack, has sold more than 1 million copies during the first half of this year. "Frozen" has logged 2.7 million copies during the calendar year, and just pushed past the 3 million units mark overall in North America since its Nov. 25 release. In second place is Beyoncé's "Beyoncé," another 2013 release. The album has tallied just over 700,000 copies sold in the year's first six months. Five of the Top 10 sellers have not reached gold status of 500,000 copies.

'HAPPY' IS STILL HUGE

Among digital songs, it's no surprise that the biggest seller is Pharrell Williams' ubiquitous "Happy," which sold 5.6 million downloads. "Frozen" is also the best-selling digital album, with just over 1 million downloads in 2014.



STREAM ON

Streaming numbers are considerably more robust. "Dark Horse," the Katy Perry single featuring Juicy J, racked up more than 65 million audio streams and almost 123 million video streams. Four other songs scored more than 50 million audio streams apiece: John Legend's "All of Me" (59.4), Williams' "Happy" (54.2), Bastille's "Pompeii" (50.7) and Jason Derulo featuring 2 Chainz' "Talk Dirty" (50.1). Idina Menzel's performance of "Let It Go" from "Frozen" was the top video, logging 93.5 million streams.

Crazy enough to work

Thicke just might win back wife, old fans with new album

It's easy to fall in line with the crowd that believes Robin Thicke's attempt to win back his wife by calling his new album "Paula" is desperate and ridiculous.

In some ways it is. But if we're judging strictly on the music — and not on the over-the-top, awkward and somewhat creepy public pleas by Thicke everywhere from the BET Awards to the Billboard Music Awards — Paula Patton might want to reconsider.

The 14-track "Paula," where Thicke spills his feelings, confesses his sins and insists he's a changed man, is a return to Thicke's R&B roots. It is also a reminder that he was a talented, Grammy-winning singer-songwriter pre-"Blurred Lines" hysteria.

The sexy number



Robin Thicke

Paula (Interscope)

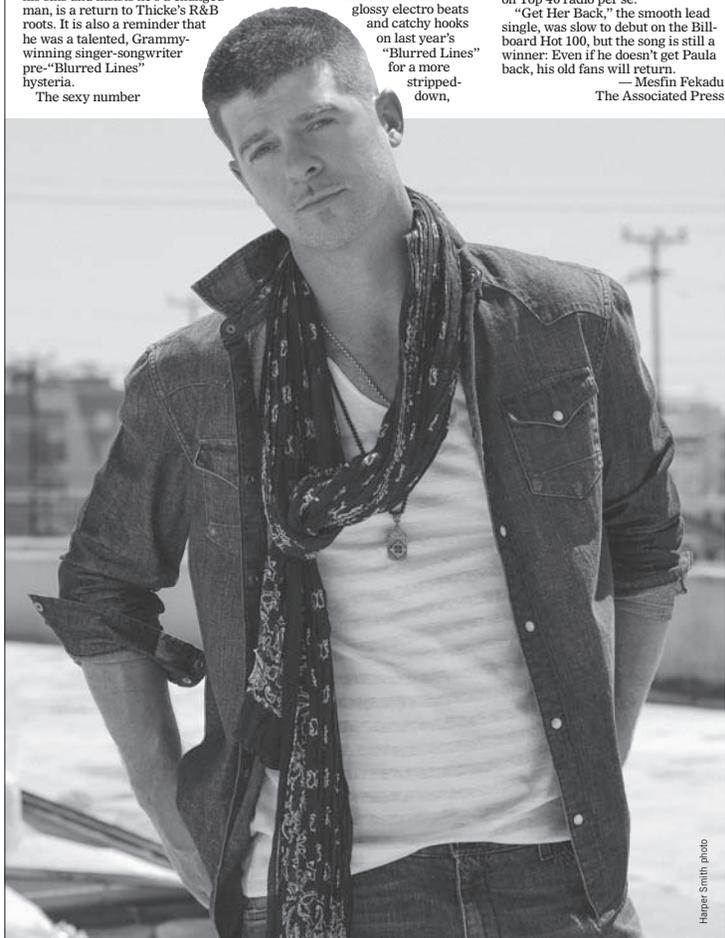
"You're My Fantasy" helps the album start on the right foot, and the piano mixed with Thicke's aching voice on "Still Madly Crazy" is impeccable.

"Lock the Door" is dramatic and theatrical, while the horn-heavy "Love Can Grow Back" is a winner. Thicke ditched the glossy electro beats and catchy hooks on last year's "Blurred Lines" for a more stripped-down,

acoustic and simple sound on "Paula" — a much better fit for the 37-year-old crooner.

"Blurred Lines" made Thicke an international star and helped him tap into a younger audience that constantly streams music, buys digital tracks and can determine today and tomorrow's next pop star. But the song has also been a bit of a curse: It has pigeon-holed Thicke, propelled him to one-hit-wonder status (despite having success in the past) and alienated the singer from the R&B fans who help him reach platinum status. And the tracks on "Paula" don't sound like songs that will play on Top 40 radio per se. "Get Her Back," the smooth lead single, was slow to debut on the Billboard Hot 100, but the song is still a winner. Even if he doesn't get Paula back, his old fans will return.

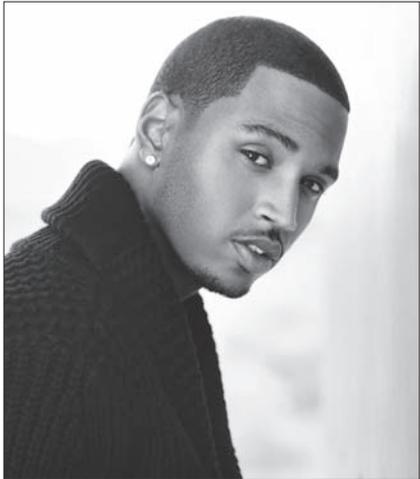
—Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press



Harper Smith photo

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS



Courtesy of Atlantic Records

Tired of Robin Thicke? Try the latest from Trey Songz, above.

Trey Songz

Trigga (Songbook/Atlantic)

The awkward interviews. The harsh reviews. The Twitter Q&A in which he was asked why he continues "to be such a creep."

Last week wasn't great for Robin Thicke, the R&B star whose new album "Paula" — about his attempt to win back his estranged wife, Paula Patton — sold only 24,000 units in its debut week in the U.S. (Thicke's previous record, "Blurred Lines," debuted with 177,000.)

But as the old saying goes — well, sort of — a sinking ship lifts all the other boats floating in the same body of water.

So here comes Trey Songz, reportedly headed toward No. 1 with the strongest album of his career. A soul-music journeyman known for his imaginative sex jams, Songz has established himself in the R&B world. Yet he's never quite broken through to a mainstream audience, something he might finally be poised to do.

If that's the case, he hasn't cleaned up his act. "Trigga," the singer's sixth studio album, is delightfully raunchy, with bedroom talk that ranges from the efficient to straightforward to the impressively elaborate.

"Cake" lands in the middle — it's an etymological inquiry wrapped in a transparent desert-related metaphor. "They say you can't have cake and eat it too," he sings, "But ain't that what you supposed to do?" Elsewhere he details his predilection for women from other countries ("Foreign") and admires the sight of a lover "cooking naked, eggs and some bacon" ("All We Do"). In "Touchin, Lovin'" he outlines a seduction, moving through the actions advertised in the song's title before borrowing an unprintable — and



far more blunt — phrase from the Notorious B.I.G.

Even at his crudest, though, Songz remains likable, a function of his pleading tenor as well as his savvy presentation. In "Change Your Mind," he takes up his reputation as the love-'em-and-leave-'em type, telling a woman, "Saying I'm bad for you, that's fine/Sometimes bad is a good time." And he invites Justin Bieber to join him for a remix of "Foreign," which in a surely intended consequence makes Songz sound like the picture of cosmopolitan suavity.

"Just got back from Africa, I swear I saw 'bout 50,000 queens," he sings. And Bieber? "Shout out Miami," offers the teen-pop star, "for having so many foreign babes."

"Trigga" matches Songz's sense of sophistication with immersive production, as in "SmartPhones," a shimmering electro-soul track overlaid with gorgeous multi-tracked harmonies.

Like all of "Trigga," it's recommended to R&B fans skeeved out by "Paula" — including (perhaps in particular) Patton herself.

— Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

Phish

Fuego (ATO Records)

For a band that made its name on being able to interact with one another while playing live, Phish has had a hard time translating that collaborative interplay in the studio.

They succeed on "Fuego," the Vermont quartet's first studio release in five years. It's a fun, spirited, rocking record that has a cohesiveness largely lacking on Phish releases in recent years.

It actually sounds like they're having fun — together.

On the nine-minute title track and opener "Fuego," band members trade lead vocals and harmonize on a driving tune with



Phish at its musical best, even though the lyrics are largely nonsensical.

"Sing Monica" and "Devotion to a Dream" bounce along with the catchiest of Phish songs.

"Wombat" is a weird stinker in most respects, but so what? It sounds like they were having a blast recording it, especially the references to "Barney Neibor," or as they call it on the song — the Phish TV show starring Abe Vigoda (for those who don't recall, his character was named Fish).

The most intriguing song on the 10-track set, "The Line," focuses on the story of University of Memphis basketball player Darius Washington, Jr., as he steps to the line to take three free throws to decide the 2005 Conference USA tournament.

It's quirky and rocks at the same time. But that's Phish. That's "Fuego."

— Scott Bauer
The Associated Press



Peter Yano/Courtesy of The Fun Star

The members of jam band Phish — from left: Mike Gordon, Trey Anastasio, Jon Fishman and Page McConnell — get back to doing what they do best on their new album, "Fuego."

Sia

1000 Forms of Fear (RCA)

Since Sia's last album, 2010's top-notch "We Are Born," the performer has written songs for Beyoncé, Rihanna and Katy Perry, co-starred on hits with David Guetta and Flo Rida, and achieved her first solo U.S. success with the Top 20 hit "Chandelier."

America's finally caught on to the ultra-talented Sia, and the Australian singer-songwriter stretches her boundaries even further on her sixth release, "1000 Forms of Fear."

Sia's album contains some of the eerie but addictive material she's known for. "Big Girls



Cry" builds from a soft verse to a memorable chorus, and she repeats that song's refrain on the downtempo ballad, "Straight for the Knife," another highlight. "Eye of the Needle" is just one more example of her musical

pro prowess.

Sia is heartbroken on the album, and she has mastered how to tell her story on the 14-track set. But the singer isn't also down: The anthem "Chandelier" is one of the year's best pop songs, where Sia's scratchy and loud voice shines. The dance jam sounds like a tune Sia could have given to Rihanna or another contemporary pop act — but thankfully she didn't.

Other songs on "1000 Forms of Fear" are similar to the material Sia has crafted for others, from Christina Aguilera to Kylie Minogue to Britney Spears. But luckily the singer saves the best songs for herself.

— Mesfin Fekadu
The Associated Press

WEEKEND: BOOKS

'Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me'

Author mimics lifestyles of celebrities to find happiness

By Brooke Lefferts
The Associated Press

Author and celebrity-watcher Rachel Bertsche spent nearly a year emulating the lifestyles of several famous female stars, seeking contentment, productivity and better manners.

Her new book, "Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me: The Pursuit of Happiness, One Celebrity at a Time," is "The Happiness Project" meets People magazine.

Most celebrities have devotees as well as haters, and this book — like the A-listers it covers — will likely face both. Some will hate it as a fun, thought-provoking, self-improvement memoir, while critics might call it self-indulgent and shallow.

There might be some readers who find the idea of living like celebrities questionable, but Bertsche — a journalist and former editor at Oprah Winfrey's magazine — creates a voice that is self-deprecating and relatable. She knows her target female audience, and her research and writing skills make it an easy read.

Throughout the book, Bertsche asks why women (including herself) are fascinated by celebrities and often see them as role models. Each of the eight chapters focuses on one celebrity's particular assets and expertise, in an area the author would like to tackle to lift her self-esteem.

"A complete overhaul is too overwhelming. You don't always know where to start. Comparing yourself to others isn't necessarily the healthiest method of self-improvement but if it's impetus to get started, is that so wrong?" Bertsche asks.

Bertsche is thoughtful about her goals in the project, honest about her successes and failures, and reflective about the results. She studies Jennifer Aniston's eating habits and exercise regimens to feel better about her body, looks to Sarah Jessica Parker for fashion

tips and envies Beyoncé's ability to work, parent and love gracefully.

Taking cues from stars' lifestyles posed challenges. It's easy to complain that stars have more money and access, but Bertsche gets creative by bartering baby-sitting and copy writing for a gym membership, and modifying recipes and clothing choices to save money.

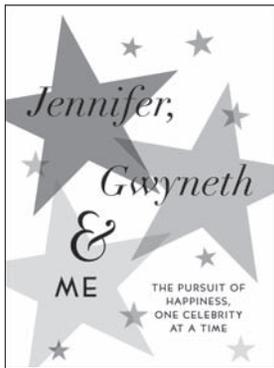
Bertsche's experiment also suggests that even the fabulous are flawed. When trying to follow Gwyneth Paltrow's food rules and cooking techniques, Bertsche points out the unrealistic amount of time and money the actress' habits require, and fails her seven-day detox cleanse after two days of drinking a smoothie that tastes like "sweet earwax."

Bertsche offers some valuable tips — from how to create a signature style to how to nail Tina Fey's work ethic (hint: boycott social media and always carry a notebook). But the chapters on simulating the spark in Jennifer Garner's marriage to Ben Affleck, and following Julia Roberts' way of meditating to get more Zen, seem like guesswork.

The book would have more teeth if Bertsche had been able to interview any of the celebrities she writes about to get their take on whether their choices and routines actually lead to happiness. Instead, she relies on Google searches, magazine interviews and many assumptions for information.

Woven into the narrative of her celebrity makeover, Bertsche shares intimate details, including her determination to get pregnant despite fertility problems. Although she knows she has much to be thankful for in her life, her candor about her professional and personal disappointments adds another layer to her story.

At the beginning of the book, she's been laid off, and distracted by her desire for a baby, zapped of energy and motivation. "I had all the time in the world but I wasn't get-



ting anything done," she says.

Following the celebrity formulas gives her structure and accountability, leading to "enthusiasm, drive and purpose." By the end, she's exercising regularly, eating healthy food, working more efficiently, dressing better and meditating — making her feel accomplished, and maybe a few inches closer to Aniston's famously coveted arms.

Bertsche says her efforts have made her feel like a better version of herself. Sure, it took a little navel gazing and celebrity worship to get there, but maybe that's what self-help for the selfie generation looks like. If you've ever had a celebrity girl crush, stick "Jennifer, Gwyneth & Me" in your beach bag. Bertsche is your people.

'Fathers' is an angry take on changing world

By Henry C. Jackson
The Associated Press

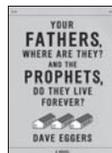
Dave Eggers is angry. A writer both beloved and criticized for his distinctly sentimental bursts appears to be seething, worried about crumbling institutions, lost privacy, diminished intimacy and humanity in general.

At least, that's the impression left after digesting Eggers' new, characteristically inventive novel, "Your Fathers, Where Are They? And the Prophets, Do They Live Forever?" "Fathers" comes

on the heels of two recent Eggers novels that have edged around the idea that something is fundamentally broken in American society. "Fathers" is a screaming, bleating cry for us to fix it. It's a frothing, angry, mournful meditation on what is slipping away as America plows on into the 21st century.

Thomas is a youngish man who has been badly shaken by what he sees is a society he feels has failed him. Thomas feels wronged, and he is struggling to understand why institutions big and small — NASA, the police, his mother — have failed him and crumbled all around him. Things have gotten quite desperate: As the novel begins, Thomas has kidnapped an astronaut, Kev, and chained him to a post on an abandoned military base some 500 miles in California. Thomas' goal, if he is to be believed, is not to hurt Kev or anyone else but to ask some important questions; to figure out this mess.

Eggers' decision to make "Fathers" a continuous dialogue is an interesting one. It intensifies the already manic qualities of his protagonist, Thomas, and makes for a lightning-quick read. But it has its shortcomings, so so that the dialogue makes exposition difficult to execute without having it feel heavily stage-managed. Some of the dialogue doesn't really ring true, doesn't feel all that real. It adds to the feeling that the point of this novel seems to be that it has an important point to make and not so much to tell a story. The plot is almost an appendage, albeit a compelling and at times suspenseful one.



Sink your teeth into page-turner 'The Quick'

By Joy Tipping
The Dallas Morning News

Two summers ago, I struggled to write a review of Gillian Flynn's "Gone Girl," an aston-

ishingly good book that is virtually impossible to discuss without giving away its biggest, most enjoyable twist. Now along comes England's Lauren Owen with her accomplished debut, "The Quick," and I face the same problem.

I suspect the novel's game-changing 100-pages-in-revelation will get out rather... er, quickly. This book thoroughly deserves the huge attention it's going to get, though, so you may not be able to avoid the spoiler. Consider yourself warned.

"The Quick" centers on close-knit siblings James Norbury and his older sister, Charlotte. As the book opens, the socially awk-

ward James, a would-be writer, heads to London after finishing his degree at Oxford. Poor spinner Charlotte, feeling deserted, remains behind on their family's decrepit country estate.

During James' last days at Oxford, he overhears a pair of lovers in the library involved in a whispered tryst. His poet's imagination takes over: "Another kiss," Owen writes, describing James' eavesdropping entrance. "He would be fair also, James thought — barely older than she, innocents both, that Daphnis and Chloe in a grave green forest of books. The lovers, as he has seen them in many different names and guises, in many stories and songs."

He's brought out of his romantic reverie by the girl's sneeze, makes a noise himself and gets caught. "You may as well come out," he says to her brother, but for justice and a semblance of sanity.

It's a rare pleasure to see Charlotte blossom from timidly terrified to kick-but heroine. Early on, she thinks, "Mrs. Chimes was had warned her about London. Take the wrong

direction, choose the wrong side of Regent Street, and one was lost. The streets would soil one's shoes and stain one's skirts; there were pickpockets and foreigners and Irish dynamites and who knew what else." Indeed, toward the end of the book, though, Charlotte barges straight into the heart of darkness, risking death (and worse) for the sake of her brother and others.

Charlotte and James form the heart of the book, but Owen spins marvelous venous and arterial characters around them: among them a love interest for Charlotte, a female rope walker turned demon-hunting vigilante and a nonchalantly evil dude with the evocative name Augustus Mould, aka Dr. Knufe. He would give Stephen King nightmares.

"The Quick" is that rare book that reviewers and readers love for: both plot- and character-driven, a stay-up-all-night-reading romp of more than 500 pages that you'll desperately wish was double that. This is elegant, witty, force-of-nature writing, and Lauren Owen should have a long and illustrious career ahead of her.



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Bad Words”: It’s time to break out the thesaurus to find enough adjectives to describe this comedy, which has an adult (Jason Bateman) competing in a spelling bee for elementary school students. We’ll go with this: The film is splendidous. Bateman also shows great skill as a director as he mixes in light moments to keep the movie from collapsing into a black hole of comedy. His pacing is just right to make the stagnant world of a spelling bee come across as exciting. He also allows the supporting cast to shine. For a novice director, Bateman shows tremendous courage by selecting this as his feature film debut. When a film wades so deep into political incorrectness, there is a good chance of getting in over your head. Bateman, though, has a knack for good storytelling and making it OK to laugh at the most improper situations.



FOCUS FEATURES/AP

Jason Bateman stars as Guy Trilby in the comedy “Bad Words,” now on DVD.

“LeWeek-End”: This senior citizen answer to “Before Midnight” follows an aging married couple who make a weekend trip to Paris to look for the love and passion that brought them together 30 years ago. Life has taken its toll on their romance, and now the pair seek signs of emotional sanity in a world that’s rapidly deteriorating. Nick (Jim Broadbent) adores Meg (Lindsay Duncan) and wants to show her through the trip. Instead, the couple reveal how they feel about each other, their future and their place as parents. Director Roger Michell shows complete trust in Broadbent and Duncan, who give the script by Hanif Kureishi the emotional spark needed to hold the audience’s attention. Broadbent and Duncan are so good that they make the tale of love and marriage feel timeless.

Also out on DVD:

“The Soul Man: The Complete First Season”

“Rigor Mortis”: Suicidal actor awakens dark spirits.

“Prisoners of War: Season One”: Three Israeli soldiers held captive for 17 years try to rebuild their lives.

“Jodorowsky’s Dune”: A look at Alejandro Jodorowsky’s doomed attempt to film Frank Herbert’s “Dune.”

“Wings: Sky Force Heroes”: Ace (Josh Duhamel) is a heroic pilot seeking redemption in this animated offering.

“The Raid 2”: Cop goes undercover to work with a powerful criminal.
“Lake Placid”: The horror film starring Bill Pullman is now on Blu-ray.

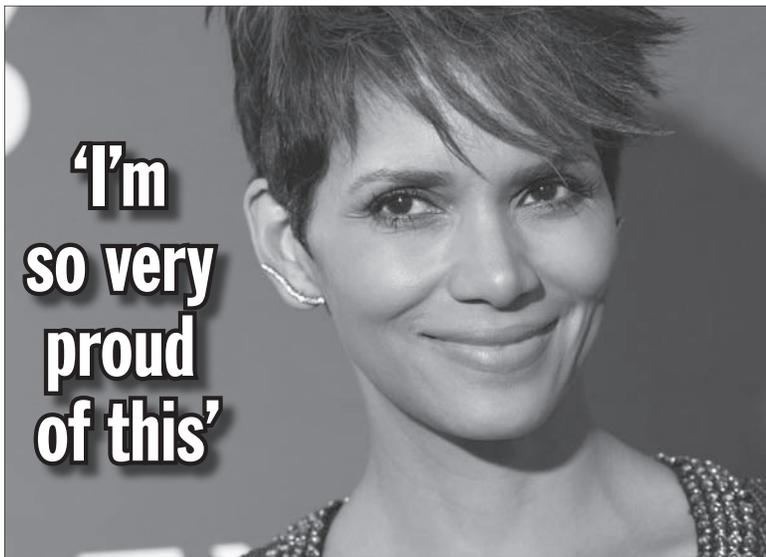
“Walker, Texas Ranger: One Riot One Ranger”: Two-hour premiere episode that launched the Chuck Norris series.

“Kid Cannabiz”: Lives of losers are changed when they start trafficking marijuana.

“Stage Fright”: Young actress learns that auditions can be deadly.

“Don Peyote”: Mid-life crisis sends a stoner on the drug trip of a lifetime.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

Halle Berry attended the June premiere of the series, “Extant,” in Los Angeles. Berry plays an astronaut who returns from a solo mission only to discover that, while in flight, she was somehow impregnated. “Extant” airs Thursdays on AFN-Prime.

Halle Berry stars on sci-fi TV series ‘Extant’

By GREG BRAXTON
Los Angeles Times

For at least an hour, one of the biggest stars on the planet was the center of attention at the premiere of TV drama “Extant” at the California Science Center in Los Angeles. Hundreds of invited guests sampling appetizers and wine inside the center’s Samuel Oschin Pavilion seemed awe-struck as the pavilion’s permanent exhibit, the Space Shuttle Endeavor, loomed above them, giving the event a heightened atmosphere.

But even the grandeur of the five-story-high Endeavor paled when Halle Berry finally appeared. Clutching the hand of her husband, French actor Olivier Martinez, and trailed by an entourage of friends and colleagues, Berry, decked out in a luminous green dress, moved through the throng with the assurance and grace that has landed her in the top ranks of Hollywood’s glamorous actresses.

Few looking on would have imagined that beneath her apparent calm she was a mass of bubbling anxiety at this crucial juncture in her career.

“I was more nervous at that premiere than I’ve ever been at any other premiere in my life,” Berry recalled recently. “I found it hard to breathe that whole night. It was nice to hear the audience respond to the pilot — they seemed to like it. But it was very hard for me. I felt like they were watching something that wasn’t quite finished.”

Sitting in her trailer a few weeks later at the lot of Culver Studios in Culver City, Calif., she was noticeably more relaxed, though she admitted to being nervous about the launch of CBS’ high-stakes entry into TV’s highly competitive summer season, which used to be relegated to reruns and second-tier reality shows. Broadcast networks, unwill-

ing to cede the TV landscape to new fare on cable, are now enticing viewers with prestige projects featuring A-list talent.

“Extant” certainly qualifies. The futuristic drama stars Berry as astronaut Molly Woods, whose life is turned upside down when she returns home from a yearlong solo mission to discover she is inexplicably pregnant. It pairs Berry’s cover-girl beauty and Oscar cred with the blockbuster pedigree of executive producer Steven Spielberg.

Like “E.T.,” “Close Encounters of the Third Kind,” “A.I.” and other Spielberg films, the series tackles many of his favored themes including space travel, alienation, strained family dynamics and the creation of artificial intelligences. While Woods grapples with her troubled family dynamic, an investigation is undertaken by the International Space Exploration Agency into Woods’ mission. Not everyone is who they appear to be.

CBS Entertainment President Nina Tassler said the network had “very high expectations” for “Extant,” hoping the series at least measures up to the breakthrough of last summer’s “Under the Dome.” “Dome,” which attracted a weekly average viewership of nearly 14 million, also has Spielberg attached as an executive producer. The network made an immediate order for 13 episodes of “Extant” after hearing the pitch, bypassing the usual pilot process.

But for Berry, the show represents greater, more personal stakes. Although the 47-year-old actress has dabbled in TV before, most notably in her Emmy-winning performance in 1999 as actress Dorothy Dandridge in HBO’s “Introducing Dorothy Dandridge,” the drama marks her first leading role in a regular series. The project comes more than a decade after she made history for her searing performance in 2002’s “Mon-

ster’s Ball” as the love-starved wife of an executed prisoner — becoming the first and only African-American actress to win an Oscar in a leading role.

The years since that milestone have been a mix of ups and downs, professionally and personally. There were hits: “Die Another Day,” and the X-Men franchise. But other films failed to impress audiences or critics.

Attracting more notice and tabloid headlines is her off-screen life: a divorce, a romance, breakup and messy custody battle with model Gabriel Aubry, the father of her first child, and her relationship with Martinez, the father of her second child. Berry made it clear she sees “Extant” as the start of an era.

“I’m so very proud of this,” she said.

“When I started out, I wasn’t even able to dream about the position that I’m in now. I’m going into my second half, and it’s very empowering. It’s very tangible that I have more control, and it’s really exciting.” Even after several hours on the set, Berry appeared fresh, displaying an upbeat, warm demeanor.
On the show, the revelation of Woods’ mysterious pregnancy puts more pressure on her already strained relationship with her husband, John (Goran Visnjic of “ER”), and their son, Ethan (Pierce Gagnon), an android boy created by John.

Executive producer Mickey Fisher, who came up with the concept and wrote the original script, said that although “Extant” is fueled by thriller elements, the core of the show is based on how humans connect and don’t connect: “We want to explore what it means to be human, what it means to survive.” Fellow executive producer Greg Walker added, “The show is very much rooted in family — that’s what keeps the story grounded.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Stroke can strike at any age

Incidents increasing among adolescents, young adults

By GRACIE BONDS STAPLES
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

After a fun night out with her girlfriends late last year, Bianca Cooper arrived home with a “killer” headache.

That wasn’t all that unusual, but she soon started to lose feeling on her left side and was unable to walk. She knew something wasn’t right. She called her girlfriend.

“I think I’m having a stroke,” she told her.

Cooper was 29 and as far as she knew was healthy and strong as an axletree.

Her experience, however, is a powerful reminder that strokes are increasingly occurring in young people. In fact, Georgia Hospital Association figures show that roughly the same number of people under 65 as over 65 experienced strokes each year.

Doctors at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta say the trend, while in some respects is surprising, is visible among the patients they treat: The number of young stroke patients aged 15-40 admitted to the Shepherd Center has tripled in the past eight years.

The center’s rehabilitation program for younger patients takes a more aggressive approach than general stroke programs, which typically treat older patients. Shepherd patients participate in more hours of therapy and training, and the intensity level of the therapy is greater.

“Stroke is typically thought of as something that affects older people, but more and more young people are having them and we see that time and again reflected in the patients we admit,” said Dr. Ford Vox, a staff physician at Shepherd. “Here, the average age of patients in our stroke program is 31.”

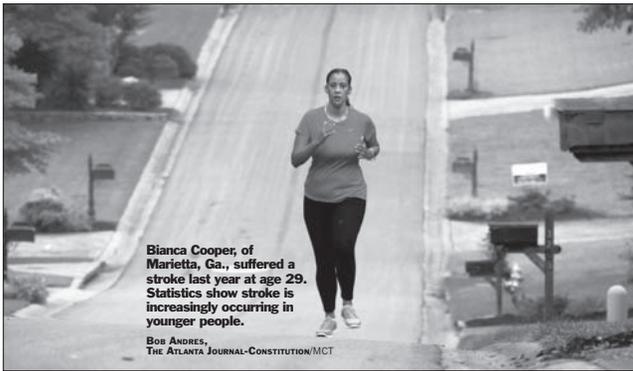
Vox attributes much of the increase to Americans’ sedentary lifestyles.

“This would not have happened 30 years ago,” he said. “We’re eating more processed foods, more salts and reaping the fruits of that. Problems that used to develop in older adults such as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, we’re now seeing in people as young as 14.”

Vox, who specializes in brain injury rehabilitation medicine, said the main driver of these strokes is hypertension, and any point above normal — 120 over 80 — significantly increases the risk for stroke.

While there is some debate about how vigorously hypertension should be treated, Vox maintains doctors should err on the side of aggressively.

Same with diabetes and obesity, both of which, he said, suggest problems with patients’ vascular system. “For instance, Vox said, diabetics, which people think of simply



Bianca Cooper, of Marietta, Ga., suffered a stroke last year at age 29. Statistics show stroke is increasingly occurring in younger people.

BOB ANDRES, THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/MCT

What to watch for

If you observe these signs, call 911 immediately.

Face. The smile is not equal on one side droops.

Arms. The person cannot raise both arms equally.

Speech. There might be sudden slurring of speech or inability to talk and swallow.

Time. The time lost is brain lost. Think “Brain Attack” like heart attack.

Symptoms

- Sudden severe headache
- Confusion
- Numbness or weakness on one side of the face, arms or legs
- Loss of balance or trouble walking
- Trouble seeing

— Source: Shepherd Center

Resources

Brain Injury Peer Visitor Association: braininjurypeer-visitor.org

National Stroke Association: stroke.org

American Stroke Association: strokeassociation.com

The Brain Attack Coalition: stroke-site.org

National Aphasia Association: aphasia.org

National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, ninds.nih.gov

as elevated sugar, damages the body’s cardiovascular system.

Still, there are plenty of strokes that can’t be prevented, such as a carotid artery dissection, which can occur spontaneously or because of trauma to the body.

“Everybody wants to know why it happens, but we don’t always have an answer for that,” Vox said. “We have seen many cases of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, which in some cases is due to a patient’s blood clotting too easily. It can also occur in patients who don’t have that problem.”

A stroke is typically defined as either ischemic or hemorrhagic, Vox said. Ischemic strokes, caused by a blockage in an artery, are by far the more common type, causing more than 80 percent of all strokes. Hemorrhagic strokes are caused by a tear in the artery’s wall that produces bleeding into or around the brain.

Cooper never saw hers coming, and neither did Wes Varda.

One moment he was hitting the snooze button on his alarm clock, Varda said, “and the next thing I knew I was in ICU.”

That was in December 2008. He was 31. He worked out three or four times a week. He didn’t smoke or drink.

‘Stroke is typically thought of as something that affects older people, but more and more young people are having them. ... Here, the average age of patients in our stroke program is 31.’

Dr. Ford Vox
Shepherd Center

“I was in great shape.” he said.

After the stroke, caused by a hole in his heart, Varda said he had to relearn everything. How to walk and talk. How to feed himself. And even what a stroke was.

“I knew the word, but that’s about all,” he said.

After months of intensive therapy at Shepherd, Varda, now 37, is back at work as a construction services buyer, living on his own and driving. Every Monday for the past five years, he has come back to Shepherd, where he volunteers.

Seeing the patients, he says, has made him realize how lucky he is.

“I didn’t know how devastating it could be,” he said. “Now I see it all the time. I see the struggles.”

The consequences of a stroke, the type of functions affected, and the severity, Vox said, depend on where in the brain it has occurred and how much brain tissue has been lost or damaged.

“Two people can have a stroke in the same part of the brain, and one can lose more brain tissue,” he said for instance.

In addition, he said, one medical problem can cascade into many, including pneumonia and muscle wasting, which impacts both a patient’s length of stay in a hospital and his rehabilitation process.

Doctors told Cooper she had had a massive hemorrhage on her brain. Her entire left side was paralyzed.

After a week at Kennestone Hospital, she was transferred to the Shepherd Center.

Six months later, she said, “I still have deficits but I’m pretty sure-footed. I still have balance issues, but I can walk. I don’t drop anymore.”

The fact that she could have a stroke at age 29, Cooper said, is still shocking. “I knew it could happen, but you hear about them more in older people,” she said.

7 habits of highly fit people

By KIMBERLY GARRISON
Philadelphia Daily News

Everybody knows that in order to accomplish something, you must set a goal. It doesn’t matter if the goal is to lose 10 pounds, to eat healthier or to work out consistently.

Although we probably all agree that goal-setting is necessary, the real problem is not setting the goal, but sticking with it. Talk is cheap, and if you really want to achieve your goals, fitness or otherwise, you really need a plan.

To help you get it right, here are my seven habits of highly fit people:

1. Set a goal. You must set quantifiable fitness and health goals. For example, if your cholesterol is 250, give yourself the goal of getting it down to 200 by your next checkup. Take concrete steps, like limiting or eliminating your consumption of high-cholesterol foods. If weight loss is also a goal, commit to a number and figure out how many weeks or months it will take you to safely reach your goal.

2. Write it down. Write down every single thing you would like to accomplish to improve your health, diet and workouts. You are far more likely to reach your goals if you write them down.

3. Avoid portion distortion. Many people mistakenly think that working out is a license to eat not only whatever they want, but also unlimited quantities. Nothing could be further from the truth. With or without exercise, if you consume more calories than you burn each day you will gain weight.

4. Make fitness a priority. If you plan to get fit, you must make fitness a priority and plan a daily date for a workout. Also, I’ll let you in on another little secret: You’re more likely to get it in if you do it in the morning. The later it gets in the day, the more likely you’ll blow off your workout routine.

5. Follow the Boy Scouts. “Be Prepared.” Preparation is 90 percent of your success. Prepare the night before, pack your lunch, and leave your gym bag at the front door.

6. Exercise effectively. If you are not getting the results you want, then it is likely time to increase either the speed, length or the intensity of your training program, and/or to shake up your diet.

7. Set realistic goals. Don’t expect to lose 50 pounds in five weeks or expect to look like an elite athlete after only four weeks of training. Focus on the tangibles, like preparing healthy meals, getting stronger, increasing stamina, getting more muscle and losing body fat.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Clockwise from top: Hannah Miller, 12 months, follows along with her mother; Stephanie Miller, during a Stroller Boot Camp class at Klyde Warren Park in Dallas; Siena Neri, 3, and Thea Neri, 11 months, practice yoga while their mother, Lara Neri (background, right) exercises with other moms; Moms, with babies in tow, attend a boot camp class.

PHOTOS BY LARA SOLT, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT



From burpees to burpings

By LIZZIE JOHNSON
The Dallas Morning News

Before they start lunging and squatting and crunching, the 19 women tend to their babies. They hand them plastic cups filled with Cheerios and fruit. They adjust the sun visors on their identical black strollers and rock hesitant infants back and forth.

Then, they run.

Stroller wheels squeak as the line of moms and babies zips across the grass and onto the pavement, a blur of neon-colored Spandex, strollers and faint baby gurgles. The women make a lap of Klyde Warren Park in Dallas and come huffing back to the starting point, immediately launching into a set of burpees.

"These ladies are a lot tougher than they let on," personal trainer and wellness coach Zac Mudd says. "Most of them have some kind of exercise experience. They'll come in CrossFit and 5K T-shirts. But it's easy to fall into a slump, to get out of the rhythm of being healthy. Their schedule has been dedicated to taking care of a baby."

The Stroller Boot Camp, sponsored by the YMCA, is a place where babies are welcome and strollers are used as a piece of exercise equipment, just like yoga mats and resistance bands.

During a phase of a new mom's life when everything is alien and different — her schedule, body and social groups — the weekly Tuesday morning class is a safe place. Moms

can focus on active recovery and connect with women going through similar life milestones.

"Everyone is looking for the same goal, looking to get their abs back and get in shape," YMCA wellness coordinator Shelli Cheyney says. "Some of the moms are a little bit depressed because they want to get back to the way they were before the baby. They can find someone who is going through the same thing that they are."

When Lara Neri, 40, came to Stroller Boot Camp for the first time six months ago, she was the only mom in attendance.

Neri continued to make the trip every Tuesday with her dog and her two little ones, ranging in age from 6 months to 8 years.

As summer neared, attendance at the camp doubled, then quadrupled. Now, about 20 moms attend class every week.

"It's great because you can find something to do with your kids while you exercise," Neri says.

"I've tried workout videos, and they never work. The baby won't allow it. The second you get it started, they want to be picked up. Traditional gym environments can also be tough. The second your baby starts crying, you get pulled out of class." Laura Loft, 28, a first-time mom of 2-year-old Laney, recently attended her first boot camp class.

In the middle of a vigorous leg-set set, Lott leans over to hand an apple to Laney, docilely watching from her stroller. Another mom wheels her baby off to the sidewalk, pulling

'Boot camps' for new moms fit baby into exercise routine

out an Elmo diaper and changing him on the grass.

"I mean, look around," Lott says. "We have a community of moms going through a similar leg of life. It's great to be here because of the adult interaction. It helps us find resources and tools, and it's nice to chat with each other."

The weekly boot camp helps women find structure and create a schedule, to find out they aren't alone, Neri says.

"It helps combat that feeling you get where you are alone on an island watching the rest of the world move by," she says. "It's important for emotional and mental health. The endorphins help me cope. Postpartum depression and anxiety can hit you hard. It is so important for moms to exercise, and not just for physical health."

A cocktail of postpartum hormones and sleep deprivation can leave a mom feeling listless, isolated and zombie-like.

Up to 70 percent of women experience baby blues in the weeks and months after giving birth, according to medical experts. Women are also likely to develop negative feelings about their post-baby body.

"It's all about becoming more confident, getting on a schedule and getting support," said Dr. Sheila Chutani, an OB/GYN at Texas Presbyterian Hospital Dallas. "It is very important for them to connect with other women. I have had a couple of moms who had no support systems and experienced more signs of depression."

SPOUSE CALLS

Caregivers behind wounded warriors

Jessica Allen doesn't hesitate to speak her mind, and her mind is often on those who, like her, are caregivers for wounded warriors.

"They are totally neglected and totally ignored," she said of caregivers. Allen's husband, Chaz, lost both legs and his right elbow to a bomb in Afghanistan in 2011. Doctors were able to save his arm, but the bones of his elbow had to be fused, she explained. He was medically retired from the Army in 2013.

"I can't tell you how many times I've been with my husband, standing behind his wheelchair, and people don't even look at me; won't even acknowledge me when I'm standing right there," she said.

"It's a hard job."

And it's not her only job. Allen home-schools the couple's two daughters, aged 9 and 11, runs her own tax business and is an advocate for caregivers and wounded warrior families like hers.

From their home in Fort Campbell, Ky., she serves as the director of the family caregiver program for Yellow Ribbon Fund, a Maryland-based organization that supports the families of wounded warriors.

She reaches out to local caregivers through activities and respite programs and also fields phone calls and questions from wounded warrior families nationwide.

"What I do is find families just like mine and offer help," Allen said of her position with Yellow Ribbon Fund. "Sometimes that's answering questions about the Department of Veterans Affairs, helping people calm down and navigate life as a caregiver for a wounded warrior. I spend way too much time on the phone," she said, laughing.

She's heard her share of horror stories about lost paperwork, delayed care and poor treatment.

"When I talk to families who say, 'You're not going to believe this,' I say, 'Try me.' That's kind of sad."

Families and caregivers can become disoriented when their servicemember leaves the military and moves to the VA system.

"If your paperwork is not right, trying to get it straightened out can be overwhelming," she said. "Families need counselors and advisers to guide them through the process."

Still, Allen said she has been pleased overall with her husband's care from the military and VA systems. Talking to her, it's hard to believe she'd settle for anything less. She emphasizes the need for caregivers to know who to ask, what to ask and how to ask for it.

"I always encourage them to contact the VA caregiver coordinator. That's their job. That's what they're supposed to do." Other resources Allen suggests include the Army Wounded Warrior Program, Federal Recovery Coordination Teams at the VA and nonprofits like Yellow Ribbon Fund.

Allen is also one of about 100 caregivers nationwide selected as an Elizabeth Dole Fellow by Caring For Military Families, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. The fellowship program was created to bring attention to the challenges of caregivers.

She agrees with Dole's description of caregivers as "hidden heroes" and doesn't have much patience for those who don't understand how essential a caregiver is in the life of an injured veteran.

"These are people with missing legs. How can we overlook the people who take care of them?" she asked. "People see a guy standing on his prosthetic legs and think, 'That's it, he's all done!' End of story."

But it's never that simple with an injury that is life-altering for an entire family.

Allen said she is glad to be a part of the Dole Foundation's initiative to raise awareness about the sacrifices of the families of wounded warriors and hopes the initiative will consolidate resources and simplify the journey for many families.

"I hope I'm serving our country in a different way," she said. "I'm not as heroic as my husband, but it's good to have someone say, 'You're doing a good job.'"

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at strips.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

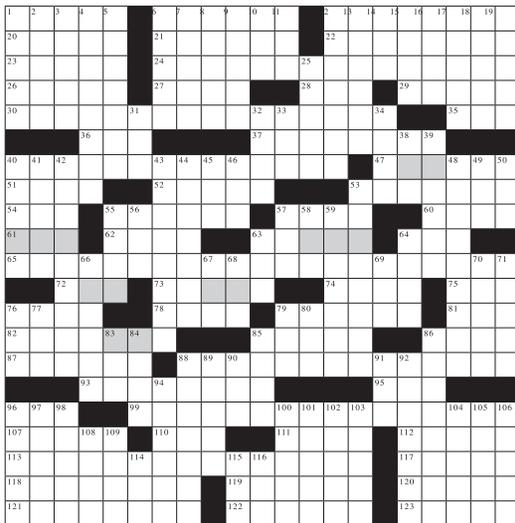
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

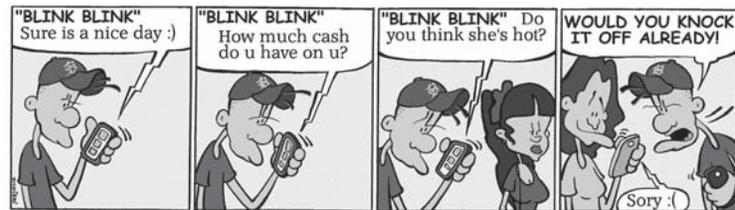
OH, SAY ...

BY DANIEL C. BRYANT / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ.

- A CROSSWORD
1 Serving edges
6 Husband one's energy, say
12 General servant
20 Salle de bain fixture
21 Enunciate slowly
22 Get to
23 First U.S. multimillionaire
24 Lawyer who wrote 65-Across
26 Land's end?
27 Throw up
28 Sound of expiration
29 Skiing destination
Val d' ___
30 Year 24-Across wrote 65-Across
35 Any knight
36 Jan. 1 till now
37 Crayola color akin to fern
40 What the music to 65-Across was, originally
47 Some American Indian homes
51 As it happens
52 Better to a rapper, worse to a patient
53 Herbal Essences shampoo company
54 Standoffish
55 Fixed things?
57 James Douglas Muir ___ (TV host's birth name)
60 Looking up
61 Sun: Sp.
62 Ancient walkway
63 Four-time N.B.A. All-Star P.U.
64 Farm female
65 This puzzle's theme, whose first notes are indicated by shaded squares
72 Cactus, to Sartre, for many years
73 Blood-related
74 Sports org., founded in 1906
75 Book-jacket staple
76 It's bound to be turned
78 Beginner for a while?
79 Star in the Summer Triangle
81 "I should ___ die with pity, / To see another thus": Shak.
82 Country whose national currency is the U.S. dollar
83 French evenings
86 "Essays of ___"
87 What the curious may do
88 Performer who gave a memorable rendition of 65-Across in 1991
93 Setting of James Clavell's "Gai-Jin"
95 G.O.P. org.
96 Gator's tail?
99 Mission that
24-Across was on when he wrote 65-Across
107 He prosphesied the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
110 N.Y.C. subway ints.
111 Cloth for a man of the cloth?
112 "The Tempest"
113 Where 24-Across was inspired to write 65-Across
117 It handles letters
118 Later
119 Best Actor nominee for "Venus," 2006
120 Vanilla
121 Lined
122 Symbols of change
123 Gossip
DOWN
1 Demcan
2 They're thrown in decalions
3 It may have a pet name
4 Greenhorn
5 Overlapping fugue month
6 Long arm
7 "America's most innovative insurance company" prior to its bankruptcy in 2001
8 Locale for this puzzle's shaded squares
9 Sidekick of TV and film
10 Where Michael Jordan played college ball: Abbr.
11 Louvre pyramid designer
12 Bit of spawn
13 Sagittarius, with "the"
14 ___ Magnon
15 New World monkey
16 Giant Mel and Pirate Ed
17 Film units
18 Birth places?
19 ___ Wolfsheim, gambler in "The Great Gatsby"
25 Old Nick
31 M.S. managers
32 Initialism in a Beatles title
33 Old car company based in Lansing, Mich.
34 Oscar-winning Patricia
38 Author LeShan
39 Wrinkle-free, say
40 Second-rate
41 Big copier maker
42 Penn station?
43 Their, singularly
44 Crowd-
45 Last: Abbr.
46 Waaaa ___
48 High level in karate
49 Counterpart of Aurora
50 Winking, maybe
53 Money in hand
55 Italian province or its capital
56 "Come ___?" (Italian greeting)
57 Tarry
58 Immigrant's subj.
59 "Stay out"
63 Health supplement co.
64 River of western Germany
66 Like mascara in the rain
67 Some natl. leaders
68 River isle
69 Political writer
Matt
70 Farm refrain
71 Farrow of MSNBC
76 Oomph
77 See 79-Down
79 Get an ___ (77-Down)
80 Bit of flimflam
83 God: It.
84 Peeling potatoes, perhaps
85 Title name in a 2000 Eminem hit
86 Salad green
88 Sounded like a fan
89 Speed
90 Texter's qualification
91 "The Hobbit" figure
92 Blue
94 Player in orange and black
96 Scope
97 Princess played by Naomi Watts
98 Brilliance
100 Flynn of old film
101 Metal worker?
102 Menace named after an African river
103 City whose name was the source of the word "sherry"
104 Jewish month
105 "See?"
106 Justice Kagan
108 Periodic table abbr.
109 Sunshine cracker
114 "O Sole ___"
115 Brick transporter
116 Absorbed

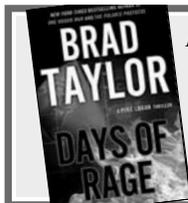


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RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



In this latest Pike Logan thriller, the Taskforce must stop their most devastating threat yet. Intent on embroiling the U.S. in a political quagmire, Russia passes a potential weapon of mass destruction to an extreme Islamic sect—and the thriller's heart-thumping suspense has only just begun.

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FACES

'Game of Thrones' plays to win

Fantasy series earns leading 19 Emmy nods

BY LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

The fantasy saga "Game of Thrones," defying the Emmy Awards' grudging respect for genre fare, emerged as the leader in the nominations announced Thursday with 19 bids, including best drama series.

Other top nominees included a pair of ambitious miniseries, " Fargo," with 18 bids, and "American Horror Story: Coven," with 17. The AIDS drama "The Normal Heart" received 16 nominations, including best TV movie. The meth kingpin drama "Breaking Bad" got 16 bids for its final season.

The 66th Primetime Emmy Awards ceremony will have big-screen star power to spare. This year's Academy Awards best-actor winner Matthew McConaughey ("Dallas Buyers Club") and nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor ("12 Years a Slave") are both nominees for TV projects, as is past Oscar winner Julia Roberts.

In the competitive best-drama series category, "Game of Thrones" will compete with "Breaking Bad," "Downton Abbey," "House of Cards," "Mad Men" and "True Detective."



HBO/AP

"Game of Thrones" was nominated for a best drama Emmy.

The awards

The 66th Primetime Emmy Awards will be Aug. 25. Seth Meyers will host the event.

Whether "Game of Thrones" can take home the top trophy is another question: Only one genre series, "Lost," has ever captured it, according to Tom O'Neil, author of "The Emmys" and organizer of the Gold Derby awards site.

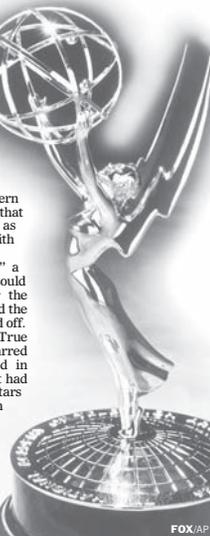
Netflix's "House of Cards," which made a breakthrough last year as the first online series nominated for a major award, has the chance again to grab Emmy gold. "Orange Is the New Black," also from Net-

flix, leaped that barrier on the flip side this time around with a bid for best comedy series, along with a nod for star Taylor Schilling.

Also competing for best comedy honors are "The Big Bang Theory," "Louie," "Silicon Valley," "Veep" and "Modern Family," a four-time winner that has the chance to tie "Frasier" as the all-time winning sitcom with one more award.

"Orange Is the New Black," a prison-set hybrid dramedy, could have been entered in either the drama or comedy category, and the decision to go for the latter paid off.

Another category-buster is "True Detective," the drama that starved McConaughey. It was entered in the series category although it had a close-ended story and its stars have indicated they don't plan on returning. But the crime anthology qualifies as a series because of the "created by" credit given to Nic Pizzolatto by the Writers Guild of America, said John Leverage, the TV academy's senior vice president for awards.



FOX/AP

Beiber pleads no contest in case

After pleading no contest Wednesday to throwing eggs at his former neighbor's home in Calabasas, Calif., Justin Bieber is "glad to get this matter resolved and behind him," a representative said.

Under a plea deal reached with the Los Angeles County district attorney's office, the pop star pleaded no contest to misdemeanor vandalism in the incident and was ordered to pay \$80,900 in restitution. Authorities said the damage totaled \$20,000, which would have qualified him for a felony.

Outside court, prosecutor Alan Yochelson described Bieber's behavior in the incident as "extremely immature."

Bieber, who did not appear in court, also was ordered to serve two years' probation, complete a 12-week anger-management program and five days of community service and stay away from his former neighbor, Jeffrey Schwartz, and his family for two years.

The restitution amount was ordered after Yochelson said Schwartz and his family spent a large amount of money to repair their "dream home."

Bieber was charged earlier Wednesday on the misdemeanor vandalism count after he threw eggs at the home on Jan. 9.

His attorney, Shawn Holley, declined to comment about the plea deal. But a representative issued a statement Wednesday evening saying Bieber was "glad to get this matter resolved and behind him. He will continue to move forward focusing on his career and his music."

Lifetime orders 'Clan of the Cave Bear' pilot

The Lifetime TV channel says it has ordered a drama pilot based on the best-selling works of the author of "The Clan of the Cave Bear." Lifetime said Wednesday that the project's executive producers include filmmakers Ron Howard and Brian Grazer.

The pilot is titled "The Clan of the Cave Bear." Lifetime says the TV project is aimed at a potential 2015 launch.

From wire reports

Select nominees for the Emmy Awards



'This list of nominees [for comedy actress] would also be the list for the best dinner party in history.'

Lena Dunham

Emmy nominee for actress in a comedy

Drama series

"Breaking Bad" (AMC)
"Downton Abbey" (PBS)
"Game of Thrones" (HBO)
"House of Cards" (Netflix)
"Mad Men" (AMC)
"True Detective" (HBO)

Comedy series

"The Big Bang Theory" (CBS)
"Louie" (FX)
"Modern Family" (ABC)
"Orange Is the New Black" (Netflix)
"Silicon Valley" (HBO)
"Veep" (HBO)

Miniseries

"American Horror Story: Coven" (FX)
"Bonnie and Clyde" (A&E)
" Fargo" (FX)
"Luther" (BBC America)
"Treme" (HBO)
"The White Queen" (BBC America)

Actor in a drama

Bryan Cranston ("Breaking Bad")
Jeff Daniels ("The Newsroom")
Jon Hamm ("Mad Men")
Woody Harelson ("True Detective")
Matthew McConaughey ("True Detective")
Kevin Spacey ("House of Cards")

Actress in a drama

Lizzy Caplan ("Masters of Sex")
Claire Danes ("Homeland")
Michelle Dockery ("Downton Abbey")
Julianne Margulies ("The Good Wife")
Kerry Washington ("Scandal")
Robin Wright ("House of Cards")

Actor in a comedy

Louis C.K. ("Louie")
Don Cheadle ("House of Lies")
Ricky Gervais ("Derek")
Matt LeBlanc ("Episodes")
William H. Macy ("Shameless")
Jim Parsons ("The Big Bang Theory")

Actress in a comedy

Lena Dunham ("Girls")
Edie Falco ("Nurse Jackie")
Julia Louis-Dreyfus ("Veep")
Melissa McCarthy ("Mike & Molly")
Amy Poehler ("Parks and Recreation")
Taylor Schilling ("Orange Is the New Black")

Actor in a miniseries or a movie

Chiwetel Ejiofor ("Dancing on the Edge")
Martin Freeman ("Fargo")
Billy Bob Thornton ("Fargo")
Idris Elba ("Luther")

Actress in a miniseries or a movie

Jessica Lange ("American Horror Story: Coven")
Sarah Paulson ("American Horror Story: Coven")
Helena Bonham Carter ("Burton and Taylor")

Minnie Driver ("Return to Zero")
Kristen Wiig ("The Spoils of Babylon")
Cicely Tyson ("The Trip to Bountiful")

Reality-Competition Program

"The Amazing Race" (CBS)
"Dancing With the Stars" (ABC)
"Project Runway" (Lifetime)
"So You Think You Can Dance" (FOX)
"Top Chef" (Bravo)
"The Voice" (NBC)

Variety Series

"The Colbert Report" (Comedy Central)
"The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" (Comedy Central)
"Jimmy Kimmel Live" (ABC)
"Real Time With Bill Maher" (HBO)
"Saturday Night Live" (NBC)
"The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon" (NBC)
— Los Angeles Times

Full list of nominees at emmys.com



'I'm crazy grateful that the TV Academy has acknowledged our show in these ways.'

Kerry Washington

Nominee for actress in a drama. Co-stars Joe Morton and Kate Burton were also nominated.



SHIZUO KAMAYAKI/AP

Godzilla in Japan

Actor Ken Watanabe poses for photographers at the Tokyo premiere of his movie "Godzilla" on July 10. The movie, which opened in the U.S. in May and has already made more than \$485 million globally, opens in Japan on July 25.

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96358-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96358-5002.

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OPINION

I watched Israeli police beat my cousin

By TAMARA ESSAYYAD

The scene opens with two masked men kneeling over what looks like a rice sack, one man holding it down, the other man repeatedly raising his right fist and pounding it. The fistied man stands up, giving us a clearer view, and begins stomping on the figure. Then it moves and we see a head and small body writhe in pain. The rice sack is a person. Long after the figure goes limp, the men continue the assault.

The unmovable rice sack was my cousin, 15-year-old Palestinian-American Tarek Abu Khdeir, from Tampa, Fla. The two masked men are Israeli police officers.

Videos and pictures of Tarek hit international mainstream and social media within hours — perhaps because he is tied to the brutal revenge kidnapping and murder of his cousin, 16-year-old Mohammed Abu Khdeir, or perhaps because he is an American. Tarek's family, who live in communities across the United States and in Jerusalem, was lucky. Calls from journalists about what high school he goes to and what his hobbies are) helped get him released from an Israeli jail and sent to a hospital.

The problem is that Tarek is not alone. This week's violent attacks on two teenage boys, and an entire Jerusalem village, are not outliers. This is how Israeli security forces work, both inside and outside the Palestinian Territory. State-sanctioned Israeli brutality toward local Palestinian populations is a regular occurrence in Israel and the West Bank. As a result of the disappearance of three Israeli teens hitchhiking in the West Bank (they were later murdered), Israel's response was to kill six Palestinians, arrest some 700, invade 1,600 homes, schools and

Palestinian children are the only children in the world required to ensure the security of their occupier.

businesses and bomb more than 30 sites.

Though the Israeli authorities, with security coordination from the Palestinian Authority, had rampaged through the West Bank in search of suspects, rhetoric still oozed from Israeli government statements and calls for revenge flooded social media. Those calls for unencumbered violence sent a clear message to settlers and other Israelis who called for "Death to the Arabs" that lynch mobs targeting Palestinians were and are acceptable. Message received: One group kidnapped a teenage Palestinian boy, beat him to within an inch of death and then set his body on fire.

If you drive through Jerusalem neighborhoods or occupied Jerusalem today, Arabic graffiti covers the walls warning against Israeli attacks: "Beware of child kidnappers." "Hide your children." From family reports, many of the individuals sent to the hospital or arrested as a result of funeral processions for Mohammed were under age 18. And now there's the video of Tarek's 15-year-old limp body being dragged away by grown men, hiding their faces behind a mask for (one can only hope) shame of being identified.

Is one child's life more valuable in the eyes of humanity than another's? According to the statistics and the silence of the international community (including and especially the United States), the ongoing and systematic attacks, night raids and arbitrary arrest of Palestinian children indicate the answer is yes.

Defense for Children International-Palestine, a children's rights organization that documents and reports human rights violations against children worldwide, has documented the killing of more than 1,400 Palestinian children by Israeli soldiers and settlers since 2000. That translates to the killing of one Palestinian child at the hands of Israelis every three days for the past 13 years. In addition, there are 214 children in Israeli detention, 32 of whom are between 12 and 15. Human rights groups estimate that in the past five years, some 2,500 Palestinian children have been detained by Israel, some as young as 5.

Imagine sending your son or daughter to the corner store, only to have him or her hunted by violent fundamentalists systematically attacking a local ethnic population. This is Trayvon Martin, en masse.

Israeli children are not subject to night raids by masked men with automatic weapons, nor are they required to always carry documents attesting to their identity and residency. There is no such thing as separate but equal schools, neighborhoods or roads — they are inherently separate and unequal. The Palestinian child's reality is a gruesome one punctuated by constant control by arbitrary Israeli directives and the whims of teenage soldiers just out of high school themselves.

Palestinian children are simply that — children — and are the only children in the world required to ensure the security of their occupier. The U.S. government, the provider of more than \$3 billion in military aid to Israel every year, should be more assertive in standing up for the rights of those children.

Tamara Essayyad is a Palestinian-American attorney and advocacy commentator based in Washington. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

Men really need to stop calling women crazy

By HARRIS O'MALLEY

A thought experiment: Imagine how people might react if Taylor Swift released an album made up entirely of songs about wishing she could get back together with one of her exes.

We'd hear things like: "She can't let go. She's clingy. She's irrational. She's crazy." Men would have a field day comparing her to their own "crazy" exes.

Yet when Robin Thicke released "Paula" — a plea for reconciliation with his ex-wife Paula Patton disguised as an LP — he was called incoherent, obsessed, heartfelt and, in particular, creepy.

But you didn't hear him calling him "crazy" — even though he used it as the title of one of his tracks.

No, "crazy" is typically held in reserve for women's behavior. Men might be obsessed, driven, confused or upset. But we don't get called "crazy" — at least not the way men reflexively label women as such.

"Crazy" is one of the five deadly words guys use to shame women into compliance. The others: Fat. Ugly. Slutty. Bitchy. They sum up the supposedly worst things a woman can be.

"Crazy" is such a convenient word for men, perpetuating our sense of superiority. Men are logical; women are emotional. Emotion is the antithesis of logic. When women are too emotional, we say they are being irrational. Crazy. Wrong.

Women hear it all the time from men.

"You're overreacting," we tell them. "Don't worry about it so much, you're over-thinking it." "Don't be so sensitive." "Don't be crazy." It's a form of gaslighting — telling women that their feelings are just wrong, that they don't have the right to feel the way that they do. Minimizing somebody else's feelings is a way of controlling them. If they no longer trust their own feelings and instincts, they come to rely on someone else to tell them how they're supposed to feel.

Small wonder that abusers love to use this c-word. It's a way of delegitimizing a woman's authority over her own life.

Most men (#notallmen, #irony) aren't abusers, but far too many of us reflexively call women crazy without thinking about it. We talk about how "crazy girl sex" is the best sex while we also warn men "don't stick it in the crazy." "How I Met Your Mother" warned us to watch out for "the crazy eyes" and how to process women on the "Crazy/Hot" scale. When we talk about why we broke up with our exes, we say, "She got crazy," and our guy friends nod sagely as if that explains everything.

Except what we're really saying is: "She was upset, and I didn't want her to be."

Many men are socialized to be disconnected from our emotions — the only small feelings we're supposed to show are stoic silence or anger. We're taught that to be emotional is to be feminine. As a result, we barely have a handle on our own emotions — meaning that we're especially ill-equipped at dealing with someone else's.

That's where "crazy" comes in. It's the

all-purpose argument ender. Your girlfriend is upset that you didn't call when you were going to be late? She's being irrational. She wants you to spend time with her instead of out with the guys again? She's being clingy. Your wife doesn't like the long hours you're spending with your attractive co-worker? She's being oversensitive.

As soon as the "crazy" card is in play, women are put on the defensive. It derails the discussion from what she's saying to how she's saying it. We insist that someone can't be emotional and rational at the same time, so she has to prove that she's not being irrational. Anything she says to the contrary can just be used as evidence against her.

More often than not, I suspect, most men don't realize what we're saying when we call a woman crazy. Not only does it stigmatize people who have legitimate mental health issues, but it tells women that they don't understand their own emotions, that their very real concerns and issues are secondary to men's comfort. And it absolves men from having to take responsibility for how we make other feel.

In the professional world, we've had debates over labels like "bossy" and "brusque," so often used to describe women, not men. In our interpersonal relationships and conversations, "crazy" is the adjective that needs to go.

Harris O'Malley is a dating coach who provides advice for his blog Page One Dr. Nerdlove, the Dr. Nerdlove podcast and The Good Men Project. This column first appeared in the Washington Post.

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.

Obama's statesmanship deficit Orange County (Calif.) Register

How the mighty have fallen. In a recent poll by Quimpiac University, a plurality of voters declared President Barack Obama the worst man to hold the highest office in the land since World War II.

That's a decidedly ingenuous distinction considering the failings — real or perceived — of several of the presidents that preceded Obama.

George W. Bush steered the nation into two separate wars, producing nearly 5,300 U.S. combat deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq and costing American taxpayers more than \$4 trillion. Bill Clinton disgraced himself by having an adulterous affair with a White House intern young enough to be his daughter, which contributed to his dishonor of being the second president in U.S. history to be impeached. Jimmy Carter is remembered for his ineptness in securing the release of 52 American diplomats and others held hostage 444 days by the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran, and for presiding over the worst economy since the Great Depression. Richard Nixon was brought down by the Watergate scandal, becoming the first president to lack of statesmanship.

Yet none of those former presidents is held in as low esteem as the current occupant of the Oval Office.

Indeed, 53 percent of those surveyed disapproved of Obama's job performance; 54 percent say his administration is incompetent and lacks a sense of statesmanship. Better off plurality said the country would be better off if Mitt Romney was in the White House.

So what explains the precipitous decline in the president's standing? Well, we think it attributable in no small part to Obama's almost total lack of statesmanship.

Yes, we understand the president's frustration that his second-term agenda hasn't gotten much traction on Capitol Hill, where the House is in the hands of Republicans. But it's almost as if Obama expected the House GOP to rubber-stamp his proposals as House Democrats did during 2009-10, when they passed the so-called American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and so-called Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act with next to no Republican support. Now Obama finds he needs the support of at least some members of the loyal opposition to get legislation passed — a condition that the president has not bargained with House Republican leaders.

Instead, he has tried to bend House Republicans to his will by demagoguing those who differ with him on such policies as climate change — as he did during his presidential campaign — and by threatening commencement speech — and by threatening to bypass the duly elected representatives of more than half the electorate by issuing executive orders and directives.

Bush, Clinton, Carter, Nixon and other of Obama's predecessors may have left some presidential traits to be desired. Undoubtedly, none were less statesmanlike than the nation's current chief executive.

Jobs growth is encouraging The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

Unemployment in the United States fell in June to 6.1 percent from 6.3 percent in May, the lowest rate since the fall of 2008. That's when financial giant Lehman Brothers collapsed, taking with it in house-of-cards fashion other Wall Street firms and a



ARIEL SCHULTZ/AP



HATEM MOUSSA/AP

Left: Residents look at damage caused by a rocket fired by Palestinians from inside the Gaza Strip after it hit in Netivot, southern Israel, on Thursday. Right: Palestinians inspect the rubble of a house after it was hit by an Israeli missile in Gaza City on Thursday.

good chunk of the auto industry, along with a lot of other luckless companies.

That prompted an unprecedented government bailout that pumped billions of dollars into banks and businesses and continues even to this day, in much-diminished form, through the Federal Reserve's bond buying program. Now, thanks to the robust economic recovery, that program may be nearing its end.

The economy added 288,000 jobs last month and 2.5 million jobs in the last 12, the fastest annual growth since 2006. According to The Associated Press, the 200,000-plus monthly job gains over the past five months have been the best stretch since the 1990s tech boom — although we must hope this growth comes to a better ending than the subsequent tech bust.

Job gains were spread across every industry — factories, retailers, financial firms, restaurants and bars all added substantial firms to their payrolls. And employment got a boost from another surprising quarter — government hiring, which began to tail off in 2007 and began shedding employees every year from 2009 to 2013. Public-sector hiring has increased by 54,000 jobs so far this year, good news for hollowed-out local and state governments. ...

There are two anomalies that are perhaps cause for worry. Wage growth has remained at an anemic 2 percent a year during the recovery, well below the historical average of 3.5 percent. The U.S. economy depends heavily on consumer spending and 2 percent a year is not going to do much to help that. ... The other anomaly is that workforce participation — the number of Americans working or actively looking for work — is stuck at a low of just over 62 percent. The problem is no longer purely economic; the jobs are there, and employers are hiring. It might be structural: workers stuck in the wrong place or with the wrong skills. Or it could be societal: older workers who lost their jobs and are content to scrape along until retirement age and Social Security or desperate workers who are willing to work off the books. ...

A booming economy solves all kinds of problems and ultimately these may be two of them.

Must learn about al-Baghdadi Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

For years, it seemed that we all knew everything we needed to know about Osama bin Laden, including, importantly, what he looked like. We want to know what our foe looks like.

And, at least in simple terms, we understood Osama's goal was to punish the U.S. and other Westerners (and their values) for representing what he perceived as a threat to his religious, cultural and political beliefs.

But until recently we knew next to nothing

about the man behind today's most dangerous threat to global peace, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of the Islamic State. His organization claims to have recruited fighters from Britain, France, Germany and other European countries, as well as the United States, the Arab world and the Caucasus. This is no longer a local group with a grudge.

Al-Baghdadi, who last week called on all the world's Muslims to pledge their allegiance to him, is not yet a household name. There are few photographs of him, so it was big news last weekend when a video purportedly showing him leading prayers in Mosul surfaced. Iraq security forces are analyzing the tapes.

Al-Baghdadi may be a shadowy figure. But given the way the Islamic State is developing its path — everything the U.S. and its allies tried, at such a high cost, to create in Iraq, namely a well-functioning democracy with well-trained and disciplined security forces — surely his name should become as familiar as that of any previous international terrorist leader.

Al-Baghdadi preached and taught at various mosques and apparently led several smaller militant groups before he was promoted to a more prominent role in the Islamic State, the Guardian reported.

And by now, while there remains a certain mystique surrounding him, as the Guardian notes, there is "no mystery about what [al-Baghdadi] wants."

It is his belief that all Muslims should live under one Islamic state ruled by sharia law, and he believes he made the first step toward that by declaring the creation of a caliphate spanning Syria and Iraq. ...

In a very real sense, al-Baghdadi is a more dangerous threat to American and European security than even bin Laden was because, for all the evil he represented, bin Laden never ruled over a broad geographic area the way al-Baghdadi will if his merciless mission is not repelled. ... We'd better get to know him a lot better than we do now.

Iran's hand in Gaza weapons The Wall Street Journal

More than 200 Palestinian rockets have descended on Israel in recent days, triggering an Israeli counteroffensive. But as the drama plays out in the Gaza Strip and southern Israel, it's worth noting the role Iran — now under new and allegedly moderate leadership — has played in this latest spasm of violence.

In March, Israeli naval commandos interdicted a Panamanian-flagged ship, the Kios C, off the Sudanese coast in the Red Sea. The ship's cargo contained 40 M-302 surface-to-surface rockets, 181 mortar shells and some 400,000 rounds of 7.62 caliber ammunition — all concealed under

bags of Iranian cement. The weapons were almost certainly intended for Iran's terrorist clients in Gaza.

Tehran denies any role in the shipment. But a recent classified report from the U.N. Security Council's Sanctions Committee effectively confirms it, and we've seen the pertinent portions. ... The panel concluded: "The shipment of arms and related material found aboard the Kios C is a violation of Iran's obligations under paragraph 5 of resolution 1747," referring to an embargo on Iranian arms transfers imposed by the Security Council in 2007.

The Obama administration and some of its European allies are openly contemplating a partnership with the Iranian regime to help stabilize the Middle East and deter groups like the Islamic State. The U.N. report is a fresh reminder, if one were needed, that the Islamic Republic abets the very terrorism and instability it is now being enlisted to stop.

Killing children is a new low Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The Israeli-Palestinian situation is approaching the point where the United States and other countries must ask how long can this destructive course continue before intervention is needed.

Talks between the Israelis and Palestinians were underway, launched by President Barack Obama in his first year in office, then halted on the basis of different views on Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank. The talks were resumed in his second term with a burst of energy from new Secretary of State John Kerry, then torpedoed again by the participants a few months ago. ...

Things are getting really nasty now. Three Israeli teenagers, including one with dual U.S. citizenship, were kidnapped and murdered in the West Bank. Although the killers have yet to be caught or identified, some Israelis assume and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claims they were identified with Hamas. A Palestinian teenager was subsequently captured and burned alive, and three Israeli suspects confessed to the crime on Monday. Netanyahu has promised they will face "the fullest extent of the law."

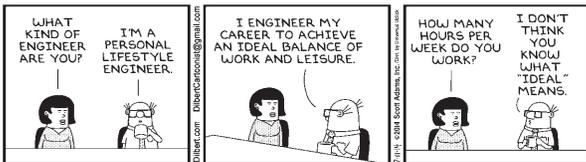
The killings of the Israeli and Palestinian teenagers has been followed by, most recently, 20 rocket attacks on Israel from Gaza, and Israeli airstrikes on Gaza. Matters are at a sorry state when two teenagers are reduced to killing each other's children. ...

For now, Washington is deploring the killing, but not stepping up an effort to relaunch the talks. The risk is that the situation will deteriorate into a third intifada, extended violent street confrontation between the Israeli and Palestinians, as began in 1987 and 2000.

Frazz



Dilbert



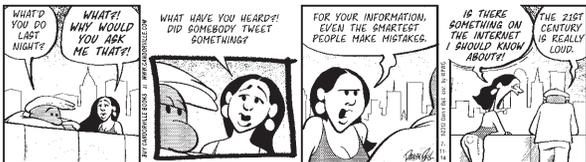
Pearls Before Swine



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			

ACROSS

- 1 Twangy
- 6 Nabokov heroine
- 9 Occupation
- 12 Island farewell
- 13 Calendar abbr.
- 14 Unlock, in verse
- 15 Hair-related
- 16 Singer aka Sasha Fierce
- 18 Old counter?
- 20 Twosome
- 21 Sailors' org.
- 23 "Mayday!"
- 24 Engages in banter
- 25 Diana who played Emma Peel
- 27 Rid of wood
- 29 Chicken serving
- 31 Routes
- 35 Grates
- 37 Break suddenly
- 38 Like 60 percent of world population
- 41 Good name, slangily
- 43 Man-mouse link
- 44 Flash Gordon foe
- 45 Sickly gray-green
- 47 Daughter of 16-Across
- 49 New York island
- 52 Part of UNLV
- 53 Middling grade
- 54 Representative
- 55 Language suffix
- 56 Conclude

DOWN

- 2 Mandible
- 26 Parking space
- 28 Art prop
- 30 — Diego
- 32 Maiden name of 16-Across
- 33 Listener
- 34 Hot tub
- 36 Appealed to God
- 38 Saunter
- 39 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
- 40 Occupied
- 42 Fold
- 45 Swedish man's name
- 46 Gymnast Korbut
- 48 Lemieux milieu
- 50 Passbook abbr.
- 51 Pigs' digs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

7-11

CRYPTOQUIP

A X I P H J K Y L I M H P N W Y D
O W M J K M M D C S W Y A E D J E U Q
W P N X I G Z W L I G , H U S H I M

"Z W P O N H Y I P W G Q H !"
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THE ARMED CAVALRYMEN ARE OFFERING THEIR SERVICES AT NO CHARGE. I'D SAY THEY'RE FREE LANCERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals Y

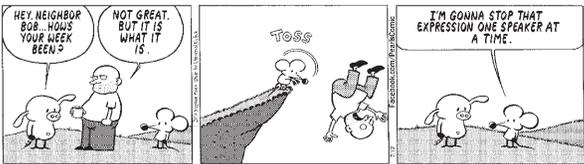
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



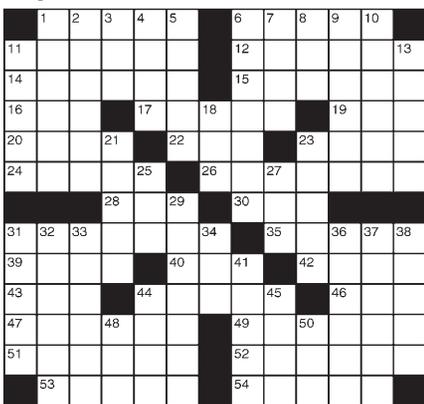
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Utah city
- 6 Fischer's game
- 11 Lowered in temperature
- 12 List
- 14 Claim
- 15 Gene variant
- 16 Zero
- 17 Expiate
- 19 Churchill gesture
- 20 Thing
- 22 — Lanka
- 23 Transmit
- 24 Antitoxin
- 26 1971 Woody Allen movie
- 28 Agt.
- 30 Young fellow
- 31 Half a Faulkner title

DOWN

- 1 Courteous
- 2 Paint applicator
- 3 Flamenco cheer
- 4 Old Chevy subcompact
- 5 "Waiting for Lefty" writer
- 6 Skull-related
- 7 Pit
- 8 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)
- 9 Aerosmith's Tyler
- 10 Venus' sister
- 11 — Major (Sirius' constellation)
- 13 Marsh flora
- 18 Sphere
- 21 Wall art
- 23 Nasser's successor
- 25 Blank or Brooks
- 27 Apprehend
- 29 Wall art
- 31 As cross as —
- 32 Voter's slip
- 33 Tar
- 34 — jong
- 36 Great with a gesture
- 37 Got a goal
- 38 Playful water critter
- 41 Uses an old phone
- 44 Paradise
- 45 Hoofbeat sound
- 48 Actress Thurman
- 50 Whopper

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-12

CRYPTOQUIP

KJQAQ DNJWI D MAYEJK'E
 NNDIIQA IJ EIJM WEXKF
 ZAYIDXK ZJLLAA DHXIXOAE:

"IJ BDQL-DKH-BDQL KJI."
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I BUMPED INTO MY GOOD BUDDY FROM WAY BACK ON THE SLOPES, I CRIED "LONG TIME NO SKI!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals T

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Pick the plan that fits you best!



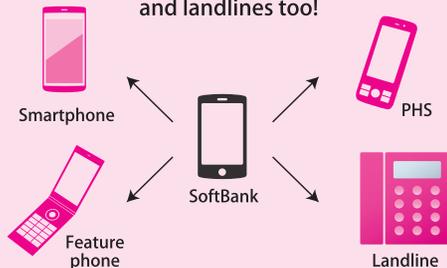
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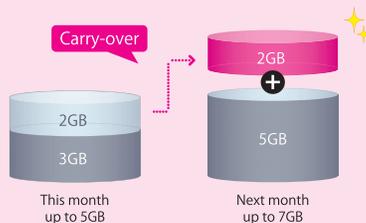


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<Services that cannot be used together> Data Sharing Option for Family, U25 Bonus

U25 Bonus

For users under the age of 26,

[Application] required

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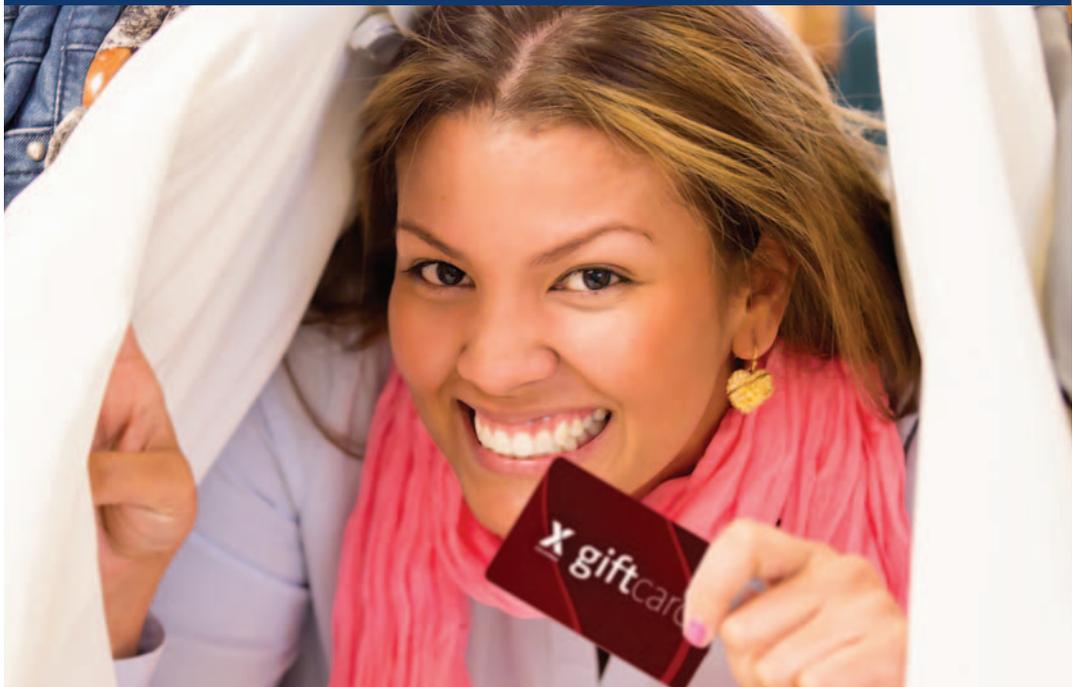
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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Recipe for sales: Add fiber, cinnamon

By Candice Choi
The Associated Press

NEW YORK—General Mills hopes a pinch of cinnamon and a dash of fiber will be a recipe for stronger sales.

The Minneapolis-based company is doing things like adding more cinnamon to its Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal and rolling out fiber-packed "better for you" cookies to boost the performance of its brands, which include Pillsbury dough, Betty Crocker bak-

ing mixes and Progress soups.

General Mills executives sat down with The Associated Press this week to discuss those and other ways the company is trying to boost sales, which was essentially flat in the last fiscal year.

The company, which last month announced a cost-cutting plan that will include a review of its manufacturing plants, is working to adapt its offerings as it grapples with the changing eating habits of Americans.

The surging popularity of Greek yogurt in recent years, for instance, blindsided the company's Yoplait yogurts. And the move toward foods that people think are fresher has hurt Hamburger Helper, which last year was renamed "Helper" in a nod to people who prefer chicken.

General Mills is entering the cookie aisle for the first time with a "better-for-you" cookie. Its new Fiber One cookie has 5 grams of fiber and 120 calories. A

Pepperidge Farm chocolate chip cookie, by contrast, has no fiber and 140 calories.

General Mills also is adding more cinnamon to Cinnamon Toast Crunch cereal and reformulating Trix cereal to make it taste better. The tweaks will be broadcast in TV ads this summer.

"What consumers often need is a reminder to come back and try brands they've always loved," said Sen O'Grady, senior vice president of sales at General Mills.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 11)	\$1,3990
Dollar buys (July 11)	€0.7148
British pound (July 11)	\$1.75
Japanese yen (July 11)	99.00
South Korean won (July 11)	987.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7122/\$1.5841
Canada (dollar)	1.0670
China (Yuan)	6.2066
Denmark (Krone)	5.4822
Egypt (Pound)	7.1515
Euro	\$1.3600/\$1.7353
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7501
Hungary (Forint)	228.30
Israel (Shekel)	3.4300
Japan (Yen)	101.22
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2824
Norway (Krone)	6.1673
Philippines (Peso)	43.43
Poland (Zloty)	3.1005
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2426
South Korea (Won)	1,015.95
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8927
Thailand (Bath)	32.18
Turkey (New Lira)	1,1285

(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 to one pound, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.981	\$4.152	\$4.218	\$4.216
Change in price	-3.6 cents	-2.3 cents	-2.1 cents	-0.7 cents
Netherlands	--	\$5.110	\$5.405	\$5.113
Change in price	--	-7.1 cents	-7.2 cents	-1.2 cents
U.K.	--	\$4.206	\$4.288	\$4.186
Change in price	--	-4.1 cents	-2.1 cents	-0.7 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.264	--
Change in price	--	--	-2.1 cents	--
Guam	--	\$4.188	\$4.396	\$4.343
Change in price	--	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.682	\$5.042*
Change in price	--	--	+0.8 cents	+7.3 cents
Italy	\$4.088	--	\$4.203	--
Change in price	\$4.088	--	--	--

*Diesel EFD **Mildgrade For the week of July 11-17

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.039	--	\$3.899
Change in price	--	-2.0 cents	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.689	--	--	\$3.899
Change in price	no change	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.899	--	\$4.139	\$4.039
Change in price	-2.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.789**	\$3.969	\$4.129	--
Change in price	-3.0 cents	-2.0 cents	-2.0 cents	--

*Diesel EFD **Mildgrade For the week of July 11-17

MARKET WATCH

July 9, 2014	
Dow Jones Industrials	+78.99
16,985.61	
Nasdaq composite	+27.57
4,419.03	
Standard & Poor's 500	+9.12
1,972.83	
Russell 2000	+1.66

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	89	67	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	81	58	Clr	Louisville	88	65	Clr	Pocatello	92	59	Cldy	Sioux City	85	69	Cldy
Ablene, Tex	95	72	Pcldy	Cheyenne	80	58	Cldy	Fresno	97	67	Clr	Lubbock	92	67	Clr	Portland, Maine	77	55	Clr	Sioux Falls	85	69	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	80	57	Clr	Chicago	80	62	Cldy	Goodland	94	65	Pcldy	Macon	91	70	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	91	60	Cldy	South Bend	80	57	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	85	57	Clr	Cincinnati	83	61	Pcldy	Grand Junction	92	67	Cldy	Madison	77	61	Cldy	Providence	82	66	Clr	Spokane	93	61	Clr
Albuquerque	92	69	Pcldy	Cleveland	78	58	Clr	Grand Rapids	80	58	Clr	Medford	93	68	Pcldy	Pueblo	95	64	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	80	63	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	85	61	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	88	62	Pcldy	Great Falls	84	56	Pcldy	Memphis	91	70	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	86	69	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	89	69	Cldy
Amarillo	92	67	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	91	71	Cldy	Green Bay	78	58	Cldy	Miami Beach	88	78	Pcldy	Rain	80	66	Clr	Syracuse	86	64	Pcldy
Anchorage	65	54	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	92	72	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	86	66	Pcldy	Midland-Odesa	91	71	Pcldy	Reno	92	65	Clr	Tallahassee	94	73	Rain
Asheville	82	61	Pcldy	Columbia, Ohio	82	59	Clr	Harrisburg	85	63	Pcldy	Milwaukee	85	68	Pcldy	Richmond	86	69	Cldy	Tampa	91	77	Rain
Atlanta	84	66	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	81	62	Pcldy	Hartford	85	64	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	78	67	Clr	Rochester	78	53	Cldy	Tucson	99	79	Pcldy
Atlantic City	84	66	Cldy	Corpus Christi	93	78	Cldy	Havana	88	57	Pcldy	Missoula	91	53	Cldy	Rochester	78	53	Cldy	Yonkers	86	64	Pcldy
Austin	85	62	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	99	79	Pcldy	Honolulu	88	75	Clr	Mobile	72	72	Cldy	Rockford	78	60	Cldy	Yonkers	86	64	Pcldy
Baltimore	85	69	Pcldy	Dayton	81	58	Clr	Houston	95	76	Pcldy	Montgomery	94	71	Pcldy	Sacramento	87	59	Clr	Tucson	99	79	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	92	73	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	88	76	Pcldy	Huntsville	91	67	Pcldy	Nashville	90	66	Clr	St. Louis	85	68	Cldy	Tulsa	97	75	Clr
Birmingham	87	60	Pcldy	Denver	80	63	Pcldy	Indianapolis	83	61	Pcldy	New Orleans	91	76	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	90	78	Rain	Tulsa	97	75	Clr
Bismarck	83	63	Cldy	Detroit	80	60	Clr	Jackson, Miss.	95	68	Pcldy	New York City	85	69	Pcldy	St. Thomas	91	80	Clr	Waco	97	74	Pcldy
Boise	82	67	Clr	Des Moines	84	66	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	Newark	85	68	Clr	Salem, Ore.	86	64	Cldy	Washington	86	69	Cldy
Boston	80	65	Pcldy	El Paso	96	75	Pcldy	Key West	90	48	Clr	Newark	85	68	Clr	Salt Lake City	94	71	Clr	W. Palm Beach	87	77	Clr
Bridgport	83	65	Pcldy	Elkins	82	55	Pcldy	Key West	91	82	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	98	73	Pcldy	San Antonio	95	74	Pcldy	Wichita	96	72	Clr
Brownsville	91	78	Cldy	Erie	77	57	Clr	Knoxville	88	66	Pcldy	Omaha	86	69	Cldy	San Diego	76	67	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	100	75	Clr
Buffalo	78	56	Clr	Fairburn	87	56	Cldy	Lake Charles	92	75	Pcldy	Orlando	91	75	Cldy	San Francisco	71	57	Clr	Wilkes-Barre	83	56	Clr
Burlington, Vt.	79	53	Clr	Fargo	86	61	Pcldy	Lansing	79	56	Pcldy	Paducah	88	63	Pcldy	San Jose	78	58	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	87	66	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	78	50	Clr	Fairbanks	76	56	Cldy	Las Vegas	104	83	Pcldy	Pendleton	96	60	Clr	San Jose	78	58	Clr	Yonkers	86	64	Pcldy
Casper	92	56	Pcldy	Fargo	85	63	Pcldy	Lexington	86	63	Clr	Peoria	80	63	Clr	St. Marie	74	49	Pcldy	Youngstown	80	54	Clr
Charleston, S.C.	90	74	Cldy	Flagstaff	80	53	Cldy	Lincoln	90	70	Pcldy	Philadelphia	87	68	Pcldy	Savannah	91	74	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	86	59	Clr	Flint	81	54	Clr	Little Rock	93	72	Cldy	Phoenix	106	86	Clr	Seattle	87	60	Clr				
Charlotte, N.C.	87	70	Cldy	Fort Smith	94	73	Clr	Los Angeles	82	68	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	82	59	Clr	Shreveport	95	74	Pcldy				

The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 24 Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

NFL

Mannings' camp has carved out niche

Passing academy can help boost counselors dreaming of going pro

By JOHN N. MITCHELL
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Shortly after Andrew Luck returned from the Manning Passing Academy in Louisiana in the summer of 2010, Stanford coach Jim Harbaugh had a few questions for his highly coveted quarterback.

Harbaugh believed that Luck, considered the highest-rated quarterback prospect since Peyton Manning was drafted No. 1 in 1998, was capable of identifying traits that made quarterbacks successful.

Cris Carter, the Hall of Fame receiver who has worked at the Manning camp as a counselor, recalled the conversation between Harbaugh and Luck.

"Were there any quarterbacks there, maybe someone flying under the radar that I should know about?" Harbaugh asked. "Did you see anyone there who had a little something extra?"

Luck, also there as a counselor, processed the question and replied with the name of another counselor he had befriended.

"Yeah, the kid from Nevada, Kaepernick is his name," Luck said.

Harbaugh, who left Stanford to become the head coach of the San Francisco 49ers after that season, picked Colin Kaepernick a few months later with the 36th overall pick in the 2011 NFL Draft. Last month, the 49ers bestowed on Kaepernick a contract extension that could be worth as much as \$126 million.

"The rest, as they say, is history," Carter said.

While not a blue-chip high school camp — some participants this year will come from Canada, France and Guam, and all received a slot on a first-come, first-served basis — the Manning Passing Academy has carved out

a niche as a summer meeting place for many involved in the administration, coaching, and playing of high school, college, and professional football.

In other words, if you are involved in the game, Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, La. — which has a population of more than 14,000 — is a good place to be in mid-July.

Temple sophomore quarterback P.J. Walker, who started the last seven games of the 2013 season for the Owls, will be among the 40 or so college quarterbacks working as a counselor this summer at the camp, which began Thursday and wraps up Sunday.

Walker will work alongside notable quarterbacks such as Florida State's Jameis Winston, Oregon's Marcus Mariota, Utah's Brett Hundley and Baylor's Bryce Petty, among others. They will shoulder-to-shoulder alongside brothers Peyton and Eli Manning as counselors to approximately 1,200 high school campers for four days.

"It's a great opportunity for me," Walker said. "I want to go there and be like a sponge. I want to learn as much as I can from the Manning family and transition it back here."

"If I had the opportunity to go to a Lynn Swann passing academy when I was a young player," said Carter, referring to the acrobatic Hall of Fame receiver, "I would have signed up for that. If you ever have the opportunity to spend time around great ones that have done it before, no matter how long or short your time is with them, you have to take advantage of it."

Carter, who began his career with the Eagles when they selected him in the 1987 supplemental draft, does not believe that just matriculating through the Manning camp can benefit a player

“The college players have ample time to spend with the Mannings and pick their brains about playing the position. Find out what their habits are, how they prepare, and put it to use for yourself.”

Chris Carter

Hall of Fame receiver who has worked at the Manning Passing Academy



MICHAEL BRYANT, PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/MCT

Temple sophomore P.J. Walker, left, will be among the 40 or so college quarterbacks working as a counselor this weekend at the Manning Passing Academy, alongside brothers Peyton and Eli Manning and approximately 1,200 high school campers.

like Walker, who is trying to take his game to the next level.

"They won't just sprinkle pixie dust on you and make you better," Carter said. "In fact, there's no guarantee that you leave a better player. But you can certainly come away with something."

"It's an instructional camp for the campers above everything else," Carter said. "But the college players have ample time to spend with the Mannings and pick their brains about playing the position. Find out what their habits are, how they prepare, and put it to use for yourself."

Walker is at the camp because Mark Ingram, vice president of athletic development at Temple and a onetime teammate of Peyton Manning's at Tennessee, recommended Walker to Manning's father, Archie, after last season.

"I was in English class and my phone rang," Walker said. "I didn't answer it, but I called back later, and it was Archie. I was shocked. It's an honor to go. It's big."

Temple coach Matt Rhule was an assistant offensive line coach for the New York Giants in 2012. When Rhule talks with Walker, he often mentions how much Giants quarterback Eli Manning is a stickler for preparation.

"Now I'll get the chance to see it up close," Walker said. "I will be watching closely and paying

attention."

Archie Manning, the No. 2 overall pick by the New Orleans Saints in 1972, said that he and his sons feel "indebted" to the counselors who work the camp. As part of that indebtedness, they make sure the collegians have complete access to the Mannings.

"Seventy-five percent of the camp is coaching the campers," Archie Manning said. "But the other 25 percent is committed to meetings, private meetings, cookouts, and spending time with the guys. We look at it as they have made the sacrifice to be with us, not the other way around. You want them to take back with them more than they came with."

But as Carter said, not every person who attends the camp ultimately succeeds.

Former Wyoming dual-threat quarterback Brett Smith — a counselor last summer who worked alongside Alabama's A.J. McCarron, Louisiana State's Zach Mettenberger and Michigan's Devin Gardner — made himself available for the NFL Draft last spring after his junior year. He was viewed as one of the top dual-threat quarterbacks in the nation before last season.

Smith passed for more yards (3,375 to 2,832) and two more touchdowns (29 to 27) than he had a year earlier. But his yards

per attempt dropped from 8.60 to 7.23, he threw five more interceptions (six to 11), his passer rating fell from 157.6 to 139.2, and he was not drafted. Signed as a free agent by the Buccaneers, he was released before training camp.

A dual-threat quarterback, Walker, listed at 6-foot-1 and 200 pounds, showed he can be a dynamic player as the Owls struggled in their first season in the American Athletic Conference. Temple went 2-10, losing six of its games by nine or fewer points. But Walker gives the Owls hope.

A scout from an NFC South team, speaking anonymously, assessed where Walker was in his development.

"When I first saw him play, the player that he reminded me of most is Tyrod Taylor," the scout said, referring to the Baltimore Ravens' third-string quarterback, who played at Virginia Tech.

"He shows anticipation, and he's got good accuracy," the scout continued. "He seems to be able to throw the long ball pretty well. I'm excited about him."

Walker established Temple freshman records in passing yards (2,084) and touchdowns (20) while starting just seven games last year.

"I need to push all of my numbers up," Walker said.

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NHL



CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Before being traded to Dallas, Jason Spezza played his entire career with Ottawa.

Spezza says there's a reason he's a Star

Center believes he'll have shot at Stanley Cup

By GERRY FRALEY

The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Jason Spezza knows a thing or two about pressure.

The 31-year-old center was interviewed as a star of tomorrow by ESPN The Magazine at age 15. His decision on his junior team made him a hated man in his hometown of Mississauga, Ontario. And he has spent more than a decade as the centerpiece of an Ottawa Senators team with designs on winning the Stanley Cup.

"I've had a lot of attention my whole life, so I'm pretty used to it," said Spezza, who was traded to the Dallas Stars on July 1. "I grew up in the Toronto area, (and) I've played for a Canadian team my whole life. That's just how life goes for me."

And while some in Canada might view Spezza's engineered departure as a need to escape from the spotlight, the talented center said that's not the case. Spezza said he asked for a trade from Ottawa because he saw where the franchise was heading and he wanted to best use his leverage to get on a team that could win a Stanley Cup.

"All he talks about is winning the Stanley Cup, and he really believes he'll have that chance in Dallas," said Jason's father, Rino. "He doesn't want less pressure. He's never wanted less pressure. He wants to be where he has the best chance to win."

Spezza has had two back surgeries, most recently in 2013. Yet he is a dependable player as far as health goes, and he works hard to make sure of that.

It was a trait his dad valued highly, and one that has stuck with Spezza. As much as his 6-3, 216-pound frame allows him to play a certain way, his size-13 feet and loping stride don't make him the quickest of starters on skates. So he works at it.

"I work on a lot of things, but I would say skating is probably the area where I dedicate the most time," he said. "You always want to get better. I really believe that. You always hear that nobody puts any more pressure on me than I do, but I think that's true. I'm always trying to be a better player the next year."

'He's smart, he's talented, he's dedicated, he wants to win. He really wants to win.'

Lindy Ruff

Dallas Stars coach

Stars coach Lindy Ruff saw that dedication when he coached Spezza in the World Championships.

"You get to spend some time together in those tournaments, so I was able to get to know him," Ruff said. "He's smart, he's talented, he's dedicated, he wants to win. He really wants to win."

Spezza wants to better his situation, and he didn't see that happening in Ottawa. He could have played out the season and become an unrestricted free agent, but he said that would have just delayed his pursuit of the Stanley Cup another year. While he still has the ability to refuse any contract extensions, Spezza said he is here for a reason.

"This didn't just happen by chance," he said. "While I certainly couldn't pick the team or make the trade, I had enough power to steer things in the right direction. I want to be here, I like it here, it's the kind of team I wanted to go to, a team that has a bright future."

Boyle happy with decision to go east

By IRA PODELL

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — If Dan Boyle's time on ice goes as smoothly as his introductory conference call with the New York media, he and the Rangers will be quite happy with this free-agent signing.

Less than a week after the veteran defenseman officially parted ways with the rebuilding San Jose Sharks and agreed to a two-year, \$9 million deal with a full no-movement clause with the Rangers, he discussed his decision to come to New York.

After the 15-minute chat ended, the soon-to-be 38-year-old Boyle, seemed quite pleased with the session.

"That's easy. Perfect," he said Monday.

Boyle knew after the Sharks were eliminated in the first round of the playoffs by Los Angeles — the team that beat the Rangers in the Stanley Cup finals — he wasn't going back to San Jose. Earlier in June, the Sharks traded his negotiating rights to the Islanders for a draft pick, but Boyle had his sights set on the another team in the New York metropolitan area.

He even took less money to join the Eastern Conference champions.

"That's where I wanted to go. That is the simplest way I can put it," he said. "Once I found out I was done in San Jose, that's the

Salary arbitration list

NEW YORK — Players who filed for salary arbitration. Hearings will be held in Toronto from July 20 to August 4, 2014.

Arizona Coyotes — Brandon McMillan.
Boston Bruins — Matt Bartkowski.
Calgary Flames — Joe Colborne.
Dallas Stars — Cameron Gaunce, Antoine Rousseau.
Florida Panthers — Jimmy Hayes.
Los Angeles Kings — Dwight King.
Minnesota Wild — Justin Fontaine.
Montreal Canadiens — Lars Eller, P.K. Subban.
Nashville Predators — Mattias Ekholm.
New York Islanders — Kevin Poulin.
New York Rangers — Derick Brassard, Chris Kreider, Mats Zuccarello.
Ottawa Senators — Derek Grant.
Pittsburgh Penguins — Nick Spaling.
San Jose Sharks — Jason Demers.
Toronto Maple Leafs — Cody Franson, James Reimer.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

team that kind of jumped out. That's the team that I've always been curious about.

"I've played in Florida and California — two non-traditional hockey markets. Those places were great, but I just wanted to experience something different. An Original Six team. You can make more money elsewhere, but at the end of the day you've got to be happy."

Boyle's signing on July 1 softened the blow the Rangers sustained when defenseman Anton Stralman and forwards Brian

Boyle and Benoit Pouliot found richer deals elsewhere.

The 16-season NHL veteran joins a defense corps that already features stalwarts Ryan McDonagh, Marc Staal and Dan Girardi. Boyle's right-handed shot and ability to run the power play from the point are key qualities he brings to the club looking for its first championship since 1994.

He will be counted on to replace forward Brad Richards as power-play quarterback. Richards, Boyle's former teammate with Tampa Bay, had his contract bought out by the Rangers last month.

"I enjoy the pressure," Boyle said. "You have to be prepared for that, and I have already been forewarned. I have been in pressure situations before with the Stanley Cup finals and Olympic gold-medal games. I actually thrive on it."

Despite his age and an early season concussion that forced him to miss seven games and plagued him for three months, Boyle led the Sharks in ice time and topped the club's defensemen with 12 goals and 36 points. His goal total was his highest since the 2009-10 season.

"I'm not looking to go out as a guy playing in and out, playing a few minutes," Boyle said. "I am going in to make a difference. I am one of those guys that wants the puck, that wants to make plays."



JOSIE LEPE, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS/MCT

Dan Boyle signed with the New York Rangers when free agency began on July 1, agreeing to a two-year, \$9 million deal.

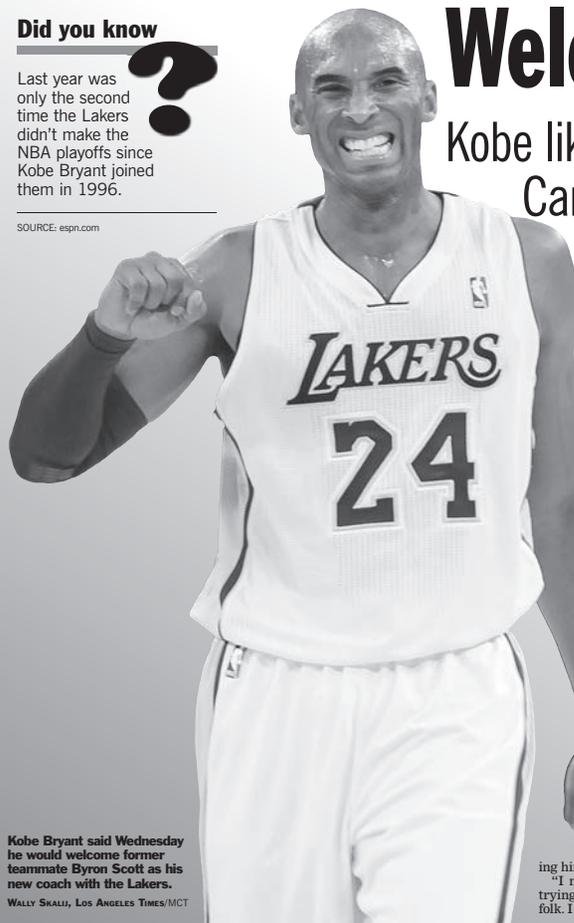
NBA

Did you know



Last year was only the second time the Lakers didn't make the NBA playoffs since Kobe Bryant joined them in 1996.

SOURCE: espn.com



Kobe Bryant said Wednesday he would welcome former teammate Byron Scott as his new coach with the Lakers.

WALLY SKALII, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Welcome changes

Kobe likes idea of Scott as coach, Carmelo as Lakers teammate

By SEAN LEWIS
The Associated Press

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. Kobe Bryant feels great, would welcome Byron Scott as coach of the Los Angeles Lakers, would love to play alongside free agent Carmelo Anthony and is pleased with the moves of the team's front office so far.

At least that's how the All-Star guard presented things at the University of California Santa Barbara on Wednesday, where Bryant is hosting his annual youth basketball camp.

But for anybody hoping for definitive answers, Bryant had nothing to offer.

"Obviously it's a hot topic of conversation in terms where everybody is going to go," he said. "Everybody is here to read tea leaves. I don't have much to tell you. I don't have any information you guys don't already know."

Bryant addressed a throng of reporters during a wide-ranging conversation delayed by about an hour as he watched the end of the World Cup semifinal match between Argentina and the Netherlands elsewhere.

He teased reporters asking him for his thoughts on the game.

"I missed it," he deadpanned. "I was trying to rush over here to get to you fine folk. I didn't get a chance to catch the end.

Who won?"

His joke fooled nobody, as he had moments earlier tweeted his excitement for an Argentina-Germany final, followed shortly after by another tweet that expressed his boredom at a by-now all-too-familiar line of questions. The tweet included the hashtags "differwrittersamequestion" and "yawn."

The 15-year NBA veteran didn't hide his sentiments about the possibility of playing alongside Anthony, the Knicks free agent and his two-time Olympic teammate.

"I would love to play with him," Bryant said. "We've really clicked since 2008. I would love to see that."

Bryant said he would also welcome his former teammate, Scott, as his next coach.

"He was my rookie mentor when I first came in the league, so I had to do things like get him doughnuts and run errands for him, things like that," he said. "We've had a tremendously close relationship throughout the years."

In terms of grading the performance of the Lakers front office this offseason, Bryant suggested that he was pleased, but that he would not be happy with another rebuilding year.

"I've never had patience; I'm not going to start now," he said. "But you do what you have to do as an organization. God forbid we end up with absolutely nothing, it's not for a lack of effort. That's something I would be extremely proud of. We put forth the effort and gave it our best shot. What can you do? You just go from there and do your best and try to win."

"I've never had patience; I'm not going to start now," he said. "But you do what you have to do as an organization. God forbid we end up with absolutely nothing, it's not for a lack of effort. That's something I would be extremely proud of. We put forth the effort and gave it our best shot. What can you do? You just go from there and do your best and try to win."

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JEAN-CHRISTOPHE BOTTI/Keystone/AP

International Olympic Committee President German Thomas Bach said Wednesday that Brazilian Olympic organizers are benefiting from the successful hosting of the World Cup and showing "great dynamism" to overcome the delays that have plagued the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

IOC praises Brazil's efforts to overcome Games delays

President Bach says progress being made for 2016

BY STEPHEN WILSON
The Associated Press

LAUSANNE, Switzerland — Brazilian Olympic organizers are benefiting from the successful hosting of the World Cup and showing "great dynamism" to overcome the delays that have plagued the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro, IOC President Thomas Bach said Wednesday.

A day after Brazil's humbling 7-1 loss to Germany in the World Cup semifinals, Bach also said he is confident Brazilians will get over their "day of mourning" and fully embrace the first Olympics to be held in South America.

Bach and the IOC executive board received an update from Rio organizers, whose preparations have been dogged by severe construction holdups. In April, the International Olympic Committee enacted emergency measures to get the Games on track, assigning a senior troubleshooter to work with local organizers and setting up a special task force.

Since then, Bach said, the Brazilians have heeded the message. "We can really see there is a great dynamism in their preparations," he said at the close of his three-day board meeting. "In particular, the city of Rio and the mayor and the governor have taken action on the government side and are making progress with regard to different venues."

However, Bach again warned that Rio is facing extremely tight deadlines.

"We have to stay vigilant and

there is still no time to lose," he said. "But you really feel the determination and the enthusiasm of the organizing committee and their partners."

Bach cited the start of construction last week on the Deodoro site, a complex for 11 Olympic sports, as well as progress on the main media center and anti-doping lab.

"It's now about the venues," he said. "We need to keep this dynamism. It's about getting the venues ready in time for the test events."

Bach was flying later Wednesday to Rio, where he will attend Sunday's World Cup final. On Friday, he will meet with Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff to discuss the Olympic preparations.

"We are very confident we will have a great Games in Rio and the sports-loving Brazilians will with all their enthusiasm will be wonderful hosts," Bach said.

Brazil's World Cup preparations were marred by severe delays, with some stadiums finished at the last minute. But the tournament has run smoothly without major organizational problems.

"We're very happy that many of the concerns which were mentioned before this World Cup did not turn into reality," Bach said.

"With billions of dollars being spent on the World Cup and Olympics, there have been concerns that both events could be the target of massive protests. However, Bach said Rio organizers presented figures showing strong public support.

"The World Cup and the organization and the atmosphere is

clearly supporting the organization of the Olympic Games," Bach said.

He dismissed suggestions that the host nation's humiliating defeat to Germany on Tuesday night would spoil Brazil's enthusiasm and goodwill for the Olympics.

"I can fully understand that today maybe in Brazil there will be this day of mourning," said Bach, who watched the match on a big screen at a Lausanne hotel, sitting next to Rio organizing head Carlos Nuzman. "But the Brazilians are very optimistic people and they know that after each defeat there is a new victory waiting for you. I'm sure they will grasp this opportunity."

On a separate issue, Bach said the IOC is reviewing its ticketing system for Rio in the wake of a scandal involving the illegal resale of hospitality tickets at the World Cup. Four companies were implicated and an executive of the MATCH group, which has the rights for the World Cup hospitality program, was arrested for questioning.

Several Olympic officials were accused of selling their tickets on the black market before the 2012 London Games, prompting the IOC to tighten its rules.

"We will take the necessary decisions if any are needed," Bach said. "We have a system in place. This system has been improved after London but it's under constant monitoring because it has to be adapted to the national legislation in the host country."

Burgess struggling to live up to potential

BY CLARK SPENCER
The Miami Herald

Mike Burgess has bounced around in the minors, from Hagerstown to Corpus Christi, for eight seasons. Burgess, a former first-round draft pick with big power and big promise that remains unfulfilled, might not ever make it to the top.

He's 25 — and still blasting away in the low minors. But even if Burgess doesn't make it, he'll always have one claim to fame. He once beat Giancarlo Stanton in a Home Run Derby.

"It ain't no pride thing with me," Burgess said, downplaying his feat. "I just had fun with it, putting on a show for the fans."

While anticipation is building for Stanton's trip to the All-Star Game and Monday's Home Run Derby, Burgess is with his fourth organization, trying to work his way up from the minors. This season finds him in the Baltimore Orioles' farm system with the Frederick (Md.) Keys of the Class A Carolina League.

But in June of 2008, he and Stanton shared the spotlight on the same stage — and it was Burgess who shined brightest. Burgess bested Stanton and several other future stars, including Freddie Freeman, in the South Atlantic League's Home Run Derby in Greensboro, N.C.

"They put on some show," said Manny Colon, who was working in player development for the Marlins at the time and is now the team's traveling secretary. "The place was sold out."

Stanton that season was just starting to make a name for himself, hitting 39 home runs for Class A Greensboro. But Burgess, a left-handed hitter with a stocky build, possessed considerable pop of his own.

When they squared off in the Home Run Derby, Burgess began tagging balls over the right field wall while Stanton was going in the other direction.

"Guys were hitting balls pretty

far," Burgess recalled. "Stanton was going over the lights in left field and I was going over the netting, and onto the street, in right. It was something to remember."

Said Colon: "You could tell that both of those guys were different just by the sound off both guys' bats. It sounds different. Burgess beat him because he got into a rhythm. He was putting on a show, too. He was cranking."

Despite hitting nine home runs during his round, Stanton failed to make it to the finals, where Burgess knocked off then-Yankees prospect Jesus Montero to win the Home Run Derby title.

These days, Stanton is crushing the ball in the big leagues. Folks are already buzzing about Stanton's presence in the upcoming Derby.

ESPN baseball columnist Buster Olney said when he heard that Stanton had agreed to participate, "I felt like this was like George Washington in 1788 agreeing to be the first president of the United States. There should be bells going off all over New England, because if you're going to have a Home Run Derby in major-league baseball, this is the guy you want in there."

Burgess, meanwhile, remains stuck in the minors, still chasing his dream.

"The last two years, I really haven't had the seasons I wanted," Burgess said. "But I just keep playing and trying to be consistent. I know I've got the tools to play in the big leagues with those guys. I know it's there."

Burgess won't be watching when Stanton takes part in his first Home Run Derby since the two clashed in 2008. Burgess' team, the Keys, are down to face the Potomac Nationals in Woodbridge, Va., that night.

But Burgess doesn't think Stanton will lose this time.

"I don't know if it's going to happen again," he said. "I don't think [anybody's] going to beat him. I've got him winning the Home Run Derby."



MATT YORK/AP

In June of 2008, Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton shared the spotlight at the South Atlantic League's Home Run Derby with Mike Burgess, who bested Stanton and several other rising stars for the title. But while Stanton prepares for the MLB All-Star Home Run Derby, Burgess — a former first-round draft pick — is still toiling away in the minors.

AUTO RACING

Around the track

JRM credits turnaround to Hendrick alliance

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

JCHARLOTTE, N.C. — Just four years ago, JR Motorsports shuffled 10 different drivers through its No. 88 Chevrolet. The organization won just one Nationwide Series race and followed that with a winless 2011 season.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. knew something had to change with his team.

The overhaul began in 2012, mostly behind the scenes. There were hirings and firings — Earnhardt had to let go both his uncle and his cousin — and JRM finally began to utilize its resources at Hendrick Motorsports. Tough decisions were made, but the result is that JRM is now a Nationwide Series powerhouse.

JR Motorsports heads into Saturday's race at New Hampshire coming off back-to-back wins, Kevin Harvick at Kentucky and Kasey Kahne at Daytona. JRM has an organization-best six wins this season and Regan Smith's second-place finish last week to Kahne moved him back into the Nationwide Series points lead. Chase Elliott is third in the standings.

"The difference, Earnhardt said, is Hendrick Motorsports. ... The line of communication to HMS is so important, and we just let that deteriorate over the years to where there was no back and forth and no interest," Earnhardt said. "We weren't an asset to them, we weren't doing anything to help them, we couldn't communicate back and forth. The people we've got now really have that line of communication pulling back and forth to where we obviously get a ton from it."

Earnhardt credits JRM additions Ryan Pemberton and Greg Ives. Pemberton went to JRM in late 2012 as competition director, and Ives, race engineer at Hendrick for five of Jimmie Johnson's

championships, joined in 2013 as crew chief for Smith.

The result was two wins for Smith, who finished third in the final standings.

This season, Pemberton is still competition director and also Smith's crew chief. Ives is now crew chief for rookie Elliott, who has two wins and is 15 points out of the lead.

"The best part about it, I guess, is people," Earnhardt said. "We're grooming guys that HMS has high interest in, that they are recruiting through their ranks. It's a system that is really profitable for both companies, just moving people around and getting people experience in the right spots, without having them leave."

Earnhardt often gets all the glory for a team that is also owned by his sister, Kelley, and Rick Hendrick.

He doesn't want his sister overlooked for her role in rebuilding the organization, which had nine total wins before Pemberton came aboard and had nine victories since.

"She really is the one pulling the levers and steering the ship and making the major decisions that really affect the company as a whole," he said. "She doesn't talk about nuts and bolts, but she's definitely involved in personnel, personalities, who would work well where, what people's responsibilities should be."

Gilliland at Irwindale: Three generations of Gillillands will race against each other at Irwindale (Calif.) Speedway on July 19.

Butch Gilliland, former NASCAR K&N West Series champion, will dust off his old racing uniform to take on his son and grandson in the 75-lap Super Late Model Series race.

David Gilliland, driver for Front Row Motorsports in the Sprint Cup Series, earned his first asphalt win at Irwindale and developed his racing skills at the



TERRY RENNA/AP

Dale Earnhardt Jr., left, takes a photo with NASCAR Nationwide Series winner and JR Motorsports driver Kasey Kahne at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Friday.

track.

Fourteen-year-old Todd Gilliland is in his first full season of stock-car racing and picked up his first win in May at Ace Speedway in Altamahaw, N.C.

The idea to have the three Gillillands compete against each other came when the Irwindale half-mile oval re-opened last year after being shuttered in 2012.

"When Irwindale shut down, I was bummed that Todd would never be able to race there," said David. "I think Irwindale Speedway was a key part of my learning to race and, to me, it's one of the nicest if not the nicest race-track I've ever raced on. Now that it's reopened, I was trying to do everything I could to get him to race there."

The race falls on the last off weekend of the season for the Sprint Cup Series.

Victory Junction: The camp will celebrate its 10th year and hosting more than 20,000 campers this weekend with Sprint Cup Series teams at New Hampshire.

Victory Junction will distribute 40-year decals to the teams for Sunday's race. The camp was the dream of the late Adam Petty, grandson of Richard Petty, and son of Victory Junction founder Kyle Petty.

Adam was killed in an accident at New Hampshire in 2000.

Electric drive: Environmental activist Leliana Munter will bring attention to renewable energy by leaving Sunday from Charlotte, N.C., and driving her electric car

to Chicagoland Speedway for next week's ARCA race.

Munter, who has raced at Daytona and Talladega this season, will make her first stop in the Tesla Model S in Washington. She and others from The Solutions Project plan to meet Monday with policy makers to discuss renewable energy.

Munter also will host meetings in Bethesda, Md., and Chicago, and wants fans to join her at each Tesla Supercharger stop.

"Getting off oil by driving electric cars and using solar to power the electric grid helps America reduce our dependence on foreign oil and secure our energy independence," she said. "That's a win-win for the environment and national security."



JOHN RAOUX/AP

Aric Almirola got a congratulatory dinner with "The King" Richard Petty after earning Petty's iconic No. 43 race car its first victory in 15 years, a span of 544 races.

Almirola: Congrats from Petty was special

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — Aric Almirola waited two days to experience one of the highlights of his first victory in NASCAR's premier series.

It came during a dinner Tuesday night when he finally saw car owner Richard Petty, whose famed No. 43 racer Almirola put in Victory Lane on Sunday at Daytona International Raceway. It was the iconic car's first victory in 15 years and a span of 544 races.

"When he walked up to me, he gave me a hug and he told me he was proud of me," Almirola said Wednesday, reflecting on his meeting with Petty. "To have Richard Petty come up and tell you he's proud of you, and knowing that you got his No. 43 car back to Victory Lane, is really special.

"I'll take that with me for the rest of my life."

Petty, also known as "The King," is a seven-time series champion who won a record 200

races. Almirola said Petty deserves a lot of credit for making his victory possible.

"The reality is that from 1999 and even before 1999, through that time period and over the last 15 years, Richard Petty Motorsports has not been a race team that was really capable of winning races all the time," Almirola said. "They were doing all they could to just get to the race track."

It was Petty, he said, who finally realized the team could no longer keep its operation in his hometown of Randleman, N.C., but had to move to the Charlotte area, where most teams have shops.

"That was the start of them basically re-making the race team," said Almirola, in his third year with RPM. He was contending for a victory at Kansas last season, running side by side with Jimmie Johnson, and dueling Carl Edwards at Bristol this year, but a blown right tire ruined both runs.

The breakthrough victory came on the 20th anniversary of Petty's 200th victory, and while some fans and other drivers grumbled

that the race was called too soon after several rain delays, Almirola isn't apologizing.

"The only way that that would affect me would be if I rode around in 35th all day and everybody wrecked in front of me and I wrestled my way through it and got handed the win," he said. "We were capable of winning with or without that happening."

Conventional wisdom this season suggests that Almirola can now count on a spot in the Chase for the championship because he won a race, but the driver isn't taking that for granted just yet.

Only eight races remain before the 16-driver field is set in the final regular-season race at Richmond International Raceway, and 11 drivers have already won races. If six non-winners thus far win in the coming weeks, there will be more race winners than spots in the playoffs.

It's unlikely, but possible. "We've got to get through the next couple of weeks and make sure," Almirola said.

AUTO RACING



RON SANDERS/AP

Kasey Kahne, front left, Paul Menard (27) and Reed Sorenson (36) were among the cars that crashed because of wet conditions during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Coke Zero 400 at Daytona International Speedway in Daytona Beach, Fla., on Sunday. After lengthy delays, the race was called off.

NASCAR made right call to pull plug at Daytona

When the sky opened for a third time during the rain-rescheduled race at Daytona, and teams pulled out car covers to wait out the weather, it seemed the right time for NASCAR to pull the plug on the Coke Zero 400 out of its misery.

The entire weekend was plagued by rain. Cars never got near the track for the scheduled Saturday start. When the race finally did begin Sunday — delayed, because of rain on the pace laps — it went a whopping six laps before the cars went back to pit road for another 25-minute delay.

Then, the on-track carnage: a 16-car crash seconds before a scheduled competition caution, and a 26-car crash before another shower. A total of six drivers managed to avoid accidents, leaving just 17 cars on the lead lap.

It would have been comical if it wasn't such a disastrous day for one of the biggest events on the NASCAR schedule. So pulling the plug seemed like such a logical decision when the track was soaked through shortly before 3 p.m.

Drivers — especially those who were lined up behind winner Arie Almirola when the race was called with 48 laps remaining — thought otherwise.

And so did the fans.

Using social media to vent their frustration, fans blasted NASCAR for calling the race so early. Daytona International Speedway has lights, and many claimed they were willing to hang in there until they saw one driver take the checkered flag.

They were rebuffed of that right when NASCAR threw in the towel, they argued, and a race

is not complete until someone crosses the finish line.

"I know a lot of the fans tuned into the TV and stuck around at the race track waiting to see a finish," said second-place finisher Brian Vickers. "I was expecting them to wait a little bit longer knowing that we have lights here and it was going to be a night race anyway."

Those fans have a point. But when posting from their living room with the race on the television, it doesn't really apply.

Weather has wreaked havoc on four events this season, including the water-logged Daytona 500, which needed a stoppage of more than six hours. Then came Bristol a month later, and that race needed two stoppages of more than five hours. Both times, there were fans that stuck around for the finish. And both times, the television window

was stretched, but NASCAR's partners worked with the series to keep the events on TV.

Texas in April was just like Daytona on Saturday. It rained hard all day, and the cars never got on the track. So NASCAR came back the next day, a Monday, and got the race completed under a sunny sky. Some fans stayed, some left, but the television audience was appeased.

Daytona was entirely different. It was a long holiday weekend with the party scheduled for Saturday night's main event. Rain had caused a wreck in the Nationwide Series' shortened qualifying session, and the race was delayed on Friday night by more rain.

When Saturday night racing for the Sprint Cup Series was scrapped, NASCAR and track officials picked an early start for Sunday to create the largest possible window to run the race to completion. But the final shower that spoiled it showed no signs of letting up until at least 8 p.m. It would likely take two hours to dry the track when it did finally stop.

NASCAR had to make a decision and not stretching Sunday into a 12-plus hour day was the right call — it was a case of damned if they do, damned if they don't.

"We looked at forecasts and the potential of a few more hours of rain, we decided we were past halfway and just called the race," NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said. We felt that it was in the best interest of fans, getting done and going home and competitors

was an opportunity to get a good race in."

For those working concession stands, or security or ushers, it was another very long day. Same for the crews, who have few places to go to wait out the weather. So they crowd under covered pit stands or jam into the team hauler and numbly pass the time.

NASCAR knew holding everyone was unfair, especially since the next wait could have been up to seven hours. The series had to set a stopping point to give fans some closure — not the fans at home, who were warm and dry, but those sitting in slick metal grandstands wearing garbage bags to shield themselves from the rain.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Camping World RV Sales 301 at Loudon, N.H.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday Central; European Times, 2 a.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1,058 miles).
Race distance: 318.46 miles, 300 laps.

Last year: Brian Vickers raced to his third career victory.
Last week: Arie Almirola won the rain-delayed and rain-shortened race at Daytona, putting Richard Petty's famed No. 43 in Victory Lane for the first time since 1999.

Next race: Brickyard 400, July 27, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	651
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	624
3. Jimmie Johnson	596
4. Brad Keselowski	586
5. Matt Kenseth	580
6. Joey Logano	546
7. Carl Edwards	543
8. Ryan Newman	534
9. Kyle Busch	524
10. Paul Menard	516
11. Kevin Harvick	514
12. Clint Bowyer	509
13. Austin Dillon	494
14. Denny Hamlin	493
15. Greg Biffle	490
16. Brian Vickers	484
17. Kyle Larson	482
18. Kasey Kahne	482
19. Marcos Ambrose	472
20. Tony Stewart	465

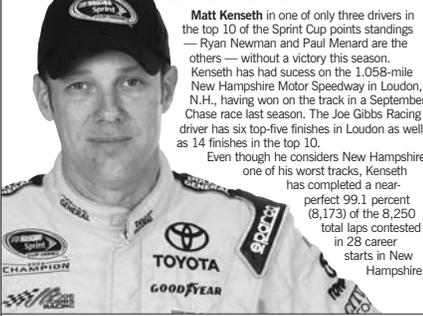
Driver to watch

Matt Kenseth is one of only three drivers in the top 10 of the Sprint Cup points standings — Ryan Newman and Paul Menard are the others — without a victory this season.

Kenseth has had success on the 1.058-mile New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., having won on the track in a September Chase race last season. The Joe Gibbs Racing driver has six top-five finishes in Loudon as well as 14 finishes in the top 10.

Even though he considers New Hampshire one of his worst tracks, Kenseth

has completed a near-perfect 99.1 percent (8,173) of the 8,250 total laps contested in 28 career starts in New Hampshire.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Sta-Green 200 at Loudon, N.H.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9:30 p.m. Saturday CET; 4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: New Hampshire Motor Speedway (oval, 1,058 miles).

Distance: 211.6 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the seventh of his 12 2013 victories, holding off Joe Gibbs Racing teammate Brian Vickers.

Last week: Kasey Kahne won at Daytona, edging JR Motorsports teammate Regan Smith at the finish line.

Next race: EnjoyIllinois.com 300, July 19, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

Newton, Iowa.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2 p.m. Sunday CET; 9 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Distance: 262.5 miles, 300 laps.

Last year: James Hinchcliff raced to the third of his three 2013 victories, dominating for Andretti Autosport's fourth straight win at the track.

Last week: Team Penske's Juan Pablo Montoya won at Pocono for his first victory in his return to open-wheel racing after seven years in NASCAR.

Next race: Honda Indy Toronto, July 19 and 20, Streets of Toronto, Toronto. Online: indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: German Grand Prix, July 20, Hockenheimring, Hockenheim, Germany.

Last week: Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix for his fifth victory of the year and Mercedes' eighth in the first nine races of the season.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Mile-High NHRA Nationals, July 18-20, Bandimere Speedway, Morrison, Colorado.

Last week: John Force raced to his 140th victory, beating Ron Capps in the Funny Car final in Norwalk, Ohio. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel, Eric Enders-Stevens in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Online: nhra.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: American Ethanol 200 at Newton, Iowa

TV: AFN-Xtra, 9:30 p.m. Saturday CET; 4:30 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Iowa Speedway (oval, 0.875 miles).

Distance: 175 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Timothy Peters beat 17-year-old Erik Jones by 0.225 seconds.

Last race: Kyle Busch made 15-for-5 this season, holding off Kyle Busch Motorsports teammate Darrell Wallace Jr. on June 26 at Kentucky.

Next race: Mudsummer Classic, July 23, Eldora Speedway, Rossburg, Ohio. Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Iowa Com Indy 300 at

WORLD CUP

Merkel heading to Rio for tournament final

German chancellor making 2nd trip to Brazil

By GEIR MOULSON
The Associated Press

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel will travel to the World Cup final in Brazil, giving Germany's most prominent fan perhaps her best chance yet to watch the team lift a trophy after eight years of very public support.

Merkel has become a frequent sight at Germany matches since the country hosted the World Cup in 2006, a few months after she took office — and a regular visitor to the team's dressing room. Tuesday's stunning 7-1 demolition of Brazil put Germany into the final for the first time since 2002, setting the scene for Merkel's second appearance at this World Cup.

"I think it almost deserves the name 'historic,' and now I can only say that I wish the team lots of strength and concentration for the task that remains ahead," Merkel said Wednesday. The government said she will travel with President Joachim Gauck to Rio de Janeiro for Sunday's final against Argentina.

A manipulated image of Rio's iconic Christ the Redeemer statue replaced by a pantsuit-clad Merkel, arms aloft in celebration, started circulating on social media as Germany took apart the Brazilian team.

Merkel's celebrations appear to have helped endear the 59-year-old chancellor, who otherwise is rarely given to public displays of emotion, to German voters over the years.

She already crossed the Atlantic to watch

Germany's opening 4-0 defeat of Portugal last month, posing for selfies with some of the players and for a group photo in the dressing room.

Ahead of that trip, she said that she doesn't talk to coach Joachim Loew about strategy, but has discussed with him the fact that "our national team is an ambassador for Germany, particularly now at this World Cup."

"On the other hand, of course, I am also a fan, like millions of other people," she said.

The head of the Forsa polling agency, Manfred Guellner, attributed a small subsequent uptick in her conservative party's ratings to Merkel's trip.

"The chancellor is showing once again ... that she takes people and their interests seriously and is celebrating with them," Guellner told Stern magazine. By going to the match and posing with the team, "she chimed with the majority's attitude to life," he added.

Midfielder Sami Khedira said before Merkel attended Germany's quarterfinal against Greece at the 2012 European Championship that "she seems to bring us luck." Germany won 4-2, though it then lost to Italy — without the chancellor in attendance — in the semifinal.

"We think it's great that she made this journey," Loew said after Merkel visited last month. "We're always glad when she comes to the dressing room."



GERO BRELOER/AP

In this 2010 file photo German Chancellor Angela Merkel celebrates next to South African President Jacob Zuma, left, during Germany's World Cup quarterfinal against Argentina in Cape Town, South Africa. Merkel will attend Sunday's World Cup final in Brazil — giving Germany's most prominent fan perhaps her best chance yet to watch the team lift a trophy.

Brazil's World Cup dream turned to nightmare

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — It wasn't just a bad dream.

Brazilians woke up Wednesday to dreadful headlines describing the shame and humiliation of their soccer team's historic 7-1 defeat to Germany in a World Cup semifinal.

One of the country's leading soccer publications, Placar, stated simply: "A day to forget."

"It was the most shameful performance of all time," said Almir Rogelio, 32, who was looking at the doomsday headlines at a newsstand in central Sao Paulo. "I honestly woke up and didn't even want to remember what happened."

During Tuesday's slaughter, Germany scored faster than fans could fathom. Within minutes of kickoff, tears smudged children's faces, turning little cheeks to streaky messes of yellow and green face paint.

Dreams of a sixth championship shattered in the first half hour of the game when Germany was already leading by a numbing 5-0. Many fans in the Belo Horizonte stadium left by half-time when it became clear Brazil was being routed at home. Some tore up their tickets and gave the thumbs down to TV cameras.

In Sao Paulo, where thousands gathered to watch the match in the neighborhood of Vila Madale-



DARIO LOPEZ-MILLS/AP

Passenger buses torched Tuesday after Brazil's 7-1 semifinal loss to Germany sit in Sao Paulo on Wednesday. At least 20 passenger buses were burned in the country's biggest city.

na, a man clung to a street pole and cried loudly, as another fan nearby banged his head against a bar table.

"It was a tragedy. Sad, very sad, the greatest defeat in all the history of the Brazilian national team," wrote Tostao, one of Brazil's forwards on its 1970 World Cup championship team and now a sports columnist for the Folha

de S. Paulo newspaper.

Most heartbreaking for many Brazilians was suffering the country's worst Cup defeat in its own backyard, as it hosted the tournament for the first time in 64 years.

"It was embarrassing. They have some nerve with the Brazilian people. We deserved so much better," said Manuel Alves, 58,

as he stood on a main business avenue in Sao Paulo. "The worst was all the money spent, having so many other problems that need to be fixed."

Brazil spent more than \$13 billion preparing for the tournament, and the high cost ignited angry protests against the World Cup during the past year. Demonstrators have complained about

so much being spent while the nation suffers from woeful public services.

After the loss, many Brazilians returned to questioning whether holding the event was worth it, a bad omen for President Dilma Rousseff. She is campaigning for a re-election bid in October that many think could be made tougher by the soccer team's poor showing.

There were also reports of violence breaking out right after the game with many buses being torched in Sao Paulo — but it wasn't clear if the vandalism was linked to the Cup loss. At least one store selling electronics and household appliances was looted, but there were no immediate reports of injuries.

Although few thought Brazil's humiliating loss would spark renewed mass protests, it is sure to put a severely sour taste back into the mouths of the nation's fans. Many say the loss to Germany was such a shock that it has actually closed the wound inflicted when Uruguay beat Brazil 2-1 in the 1950 World Cup championship match in Rio de Janeiro.

"We feel so lost, like a dog that falls out of a truck," said accountant Joao Bosco as he sipped beer at a Sao Paulo diner. "We'll remember this humiliation. It will play in our minds over and over again, forever."

WORLD CUP



Germany vs. Argentina: How they compare

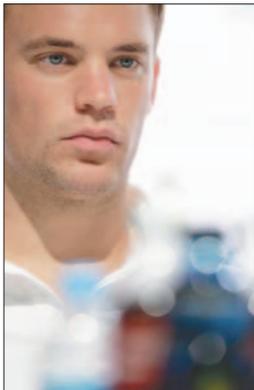
BY MATTIAS KAREN
The Associated Press

The best player in the world goes up against the ultimate team machine, on the world's biggest stage. When Lionel Messi's Argentina takes on Germany in Sunday's World Cup final, it looks at first glance like a meeting between brilliant individual scoring talent and the tight discipline of a collective unit.

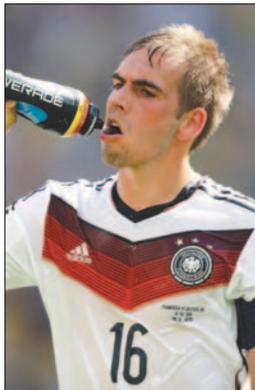
But this game will be about much more than that.

Argentina has shown that it can play just as tactically as the Germans, eking out narrow victories and doing whatever is needed to win. Germany, meanwhile, has put on two of the most explosive displays of the tournament — beating Portugal 4-0 in its opening game and then demolishing host Brazil 7-1 in the semifinals.

Add in the rich history between these two teams — who faced each other in two straight World Cup finals in 1986 and 1990, winning one each — and it's anyone's guess who will come out on top at the Maracana Stadium. Here is a look at how the two finalists compare:



MATTIAS SCHRADER/AP



FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP



MATTIAS SCHRADER/AP



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

GOALKEEPERS:

Manuel Neuer's reputation as one of the best goalkeepers in the world has only grown in Brazil, where he has been one of Germany's best players throughout the tournament, especially in the knockout rounds. Aside from being a first-class shot stopper, the Bayern Munich goalkeeper showed his versatility by repeatedly rushing out to help the defense in the second-round win over Algeria. He then made key saves to deny Karim Benzema an equalizer for France in the quarterfinals, and a number of impressive stops against Brazil.

Sergio Romero has answered most skeptics who questioned whether he was good enough to play for a top team in a World Cup. Romero was only a backup for his club Monaco this past season, but came through big in the penalty shootout against the Netherlands with two saves to send his team into the final. He has kept three straight clean sheets in the knockout rounds, but will face his greatest challenge yet against the clinical Germans.

Advantage: Germany

DEFENSE:

Germany's defense has improved vastly since coach Joachim Loew took captain Philip Lahm out of midfield and put him back in his favored position as right back after an erratic display against Algeria in the second round. Mats Hummels has been a steady anchor in central defense, and Germany had little trouble neutralizing the explosive attacks of both France and Brazil. Whether they can deal with Messi is another matter.

Argentina's defense was seen as its main weakness going into the World Cup, but the team has now gone 330 minutes without conceding a goal in the knockout rounds — including two extra time periods. The back four, which includes Manchester City duo Pablo Zabaleta and Martin Demichelis, made Dutch strikers Arjen Robben and Robin van Persie look plain ordinary.

Advantage: Germany

MIDFIELD:

This is Germany's biggest strength, a unit without weakness that plays together as a well-oiled machine. Bastian Schweinsteiger and Sami Khedira shore things up defensively while Toni Kroos and Mesut Ozil direct most of the attacks going forward. Germany's ruthless display against Brazil was orchestrated by the clinical efficiency of its midfield, and a similar display on Sunday might just be too much for Argentina to handle as well.

The Argentines, meanwhile, are hoping that Angel Di Maria will recover from a thigh injury to play in the final. Di Maria's pace and ability to take on defenders on the wing was sorely missed against the Netherlands, when his team struggled to find ways forward. Defensive midfielder Javier Mascherano was one of the best players on the pitch against the Netherlands and is the key to keeping Germany in check.

Advantage: Germany

ATTACK:

Germany has the highest-scoring player in World Cup history in Miroslav Klose. But Argentina has Messi, and two other top forwards to boot. While Messi hasn't scored in the three knockout games, his four goals in the group stage reminded everyone of why he's a four-time world player of the year. Even with Sergio Agüero and Gonzalo Higuain on the team, Messi has always been the key to Argentina's success — and never more so than in the biggest game of his career. For Argentina to have a chance, Messi will have to create goals — either for himself or for his teammates.

Germany isn't bad up front either: Klose netted his 16th career World Cup goal against Brazil, and his teammate Thomas Müller already has 10 in just two tournaments.

Advantage: Argentina

WORLD CUP



ANDRE PENNER/AP

Brazil's Dante, left, tries to stop the attack of Germany's Miroslav Klose during Tuesday's semifinal match at the Mineirão Stadium in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. Germany uses Klose, a true striker, when they move away from their "false nine" system of attack.

Taking it to another level

Germans incorporate improved form of Spain's 'tiki-taka' into their attack

BY NESHA STARCEVIC
The Associated Press

PORTO SEGURO, Brazil — Germany has taken the "tiki-taka" passing game so intrinsically used by Spain to another level at the World Cup in Brazil, by adding ruthless efficiency to the possession philosophy.

Germany is one win from capturing its fourth World Cup title following the astonishing 7-1 demolition of host Brazil in the semifinals.

Spain beat Germany at two major tournaments and coach Joachim Loew was so impressed by the Spanish game that he has taken over many aspects and, of course, added some of his own flourishes.

Germany likes possession, just as Spain did, but Loew's team avoids endless wide passing and prefers to push forward at every occasion.

When Germany wins the ball in its half, Loew wants his players to pass it quickly forward, hoping to outnumber the opposing defense.

The result is that Germany creates many chances and scores plenty of goals.

Spain's minimalists scored eight goals in winning the 2010 World Cup — Germany already has 17 here, with one match remaining to play.

Spain beat Germany in the final of the 2008 European Championship and again in the semifinals of the 2010 World Cup.

But while Spain's game was based on endless possession and passing until an occasional chance was created, Loew's lineup is happy to attack and take risks.

"We want possession but that is only one factor in our game," Loew said earlier in the tournament. "We want to keep the ball low, we want to avoid long and high balls and we want quick transition. We need to improve our efficiency."

It worked perfectly against Brazil, as the historic result illustrates.

It may help that six of Germany's field players come from Bayern Munich, which has been coached by Pep Guardiola for one season. Guardiola was the mastermind of "tiki-taka" and won 14 titles in four seasons in charge of Barcelona, including two Champions League crowns. Barcelona inspired Spain's game that brought two European championships and a World Cup title.

Loew also adopted the notion of a "false nine" system without a true striker, another idea borrowed from Spain. But when Germany had some trouble in earlier matches in the tournament in Brazil, Loew did not hesitate to revert to starting Miroslav Klose, the only true striker on his team.

Klose has scored two goals in Brazil and became the top scorer in World Cup history when he netted against Brazil for his 16th goal in four tournaments.

Germany's talented midfielders rotate positions constantly, they are always on

Brazil must try to shift its focus

BY TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

BELO HORIZONTE, Brazil — Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari and his players are trying to put the devastating semifinal loss to Germany behind them as quickly as possible, turning their focus to the farewell match at their home World Cup.

Scolari on Wednesday said they have to find a way to move on, and the team already has a new objective: win the third-place game Saturday to give fans some reason to celebrate.

"Life goes on, we need to look forward to our next goal, and our next goal is to win the match for third place," Scolari said. "We have to play it. It has become our main goal."

The veteran coach said he knows the 7-1 result against Germany is going to hurt forever, but stressed that a "bad loss" can't erase what he considered was an otherwise good campaign by the national team.

Scolari said it was his job to ensure the players get past "this horrible feeling" that overwhelmed them after the loss to Germany.

"The players' lives won't end because of this loss. It happened and from now on they will continue being the players that they are," Scolari said. "They will continue playing for Brazil and we will continue to be one of the best teams in the world. Probably many of these players will play for Brazil in 2018."

Only a few fans were waiting for the national team at its training camp outside Rio de Janeiro early Tuesday, including one who carried a banner reading "Shame." Some fans booed as the bus carrying the squad left Rio's airport.

Scolari said it's important to put into perspective Tuesday's loss, the team's worst in its 100-year history, matching the margin of a 6-0 defeat to Uruguay in 1920.

"Because of the score and the high number of goals, we know the loss will go down in history," Scolari said. "But it also has to go down in history that it's the first time since 2002 that we made it to the semifinals. Our work wasn't bad, it was just a bad loss."

Scolari blamed a "six-minute disaster" in which Germany scored four goals in the first half.

The 2002 World Cup-winning coach returned to the command of the Brazilian national squad late in 2012. In 28 matches, he has won 19, drew six and lost three.

Scolari is not expected to remain as Brazil coach, but he said that any decision about his future won't be made until after the tournament.



Third place
Brazil vs.
Netherlands
AFN-Sports
9:30 p.m.
Saturday CET
4:30 a.m.
Sunday JKT



Scoreboard

Semifinals	
Tuesday, July 8	At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Germany 7, Brazil 1	At Sao Paulo
Wednesday, July 9	
Argentina 0, Netherlands 0	Argentina advanced 4-2 on penalty kicks
Third place	
Saturday, July 12	At Brasilia, Brazil
Brazil vs. Netherlands	
Championship	
Sunday, July 13	At Rio de Janeiro
Germany vs. Argentina	

the move and any is capable of scoring. Thomas Mueller has been the most prolific with five goals so far, either playing as a winger with Klose in the lineup or as forward when Klose is on the bench.

Sami Khedira and Toni Kroos shined against Brazil, with the latter scoring twice and playing a role in the first four German goals, while Khedira netted once in his best match of the tournament. But they are also not shy to defend.

Germany has shown it can win even when it doesn't have more time of possession — France had as much as Germany and lost 1-0 in the quarterfinals. Brazil had 51 percent, with the known outcome.

Still, Germany tops the tournament in completed passes at 3,421, nearly three times the average. Philipp Lahm with 458 passes and Kroos with 443 lead the tournament. Spain completed 4,773 passes in winning the 2010 title.

SPORTS



And finally ...

ARGENTINA VS. GERMANY



Argentina's
Lionel Messi
Victor R. CANANO/AP



How the last teams
standing match up in all
phases of the game, Page 62



Championship
Argentina vs. Germany
AFN-Sports
8:30 p.m. Sunday CET
3:30 a.m. Monday JKT



Germany's
Manuel Neuer
MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

