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Jack White taps into Nashville on 'Lazaretto'

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Wii U 'Mario Kart' all the better with high-def action

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Refugees fleeing Mosul head to the self-ruled northern Kurdish region in Irbil, Iraq, 217 miles north of Baghdad, on Thursday.

Obama lawyers urge dismissal of Lejeune toxic-water suit

By EMERY P. DALESIO
The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Obama administration attorneys have asked a federal appeals court to dismiss a lawsuit blaming contaminated tap water at a U.S. Marine Corps base in North Carolina for birth defects, childhood cancers and other illnesses.

The Department of Justice filed a request to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta on Monday. Earlier that day, the Supreme Court ruled in another case that a group of North Carolina homeowners could not sue a nearby electroplating business they blamed for contaminating their land because state law bars any lawsuit brought more than

10 years after the contamination occurred.

Government lawyers said the high-court ruling should end the Camp Lejeune lawsuit and "judgment should be entered for the United States."

A Camp Lejeune spokeswoman did not respond to a message Wednesday seeking comment.

John Korzen, a Wake Forest University law professor representing Marine Corps families, countered the government's argument with a filing in which he said court action was necessary because judges had not decided when the pollution at Camp Lejeune ended, marking the start of the 10-year deadline.

SEE LEJEUNE ON PAGE 5



A sign is posted outside a cleanup pump and treatment center at Camp Lejeune, N.C., for treating the underground plume of trichloroethylene on the Marine base.

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“It could usher in a new era in which major strike missions are turned over to a machine. That will be difficult for many carrier aviators to swallow.”

— former Pentagon strategist Samuel D. Brannen, on a Navy plan for aircraft carrier-based drones
See story on Page 6

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ON STRIPES.COM

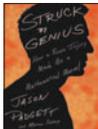
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5. House panel votes to scrap A-10 Warthog

COMING
SOON

Science and Medicine

Beating rewires man's brain, making him a savant



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MILITARY

IG: Trouble grows with poppy crop

By **DEB RIECHMANN**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Afghans are growing more opium poppies than ever before and it is threatening to wipe out gains made to help the impoverished country improve health, education and governance, the U.S. watchdog for spending in Afghanistan said Tuesday.

John Sopko, the special inspector general for Afghan reconstruction, told a House subcommittee that the narcotics trade is tainting the financial sector, stoking corruption, and helping Taliban insurgents and criminal networks. He said there already are signs that elements within the Afghan security forces are making

arrangements with rural populations to permit opium poppy growing as a way to build local patronage networks.

“The expanding cultivation and trafficking of drugs is one of the most significant factors putting the entire U.S. and international donor investment in the reconstruction of Afghanistan at risk,” he said in prepared remarks.

“Meanwhile, the United States and other donor nations assisting Afghanistan have, by and large, made counter-narcotics programming a lower strategic priority at the same time that the 2014 drawdown of U.S. and coalition forces increases the security risks in the country.”

The U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime said Afghanistan produced

nearly \$3 billion in opium plus its heroin and morphine derivatives last year — up over the \$2 billion produced the year before.

From 2002 through March of this year, the U.S. had provided more than \$7 billion for counter-narcotics efforts and agriculture stabilization programs, an important component of the U.S. strategy to curb opium poppy production.

That’s jeopardizing U.S. reconstruction programs at a time when the U.S. military is withdrawing troops, which is making it more difficult for aid workers to visit rebuilding sites and oversee programs.

“On my trips to Afghanistan in 2013 and earlier this year, no one at the [U.S.] Embassy could con-

vincingly explain to me how the U.S. government counter-narcotics efforts are making a meaningful impact on the narcotics trade or how they will have a significant impact after” the U.S.-led combat mission ends in December, Sopko said.

Sopko said his team plans to conduct a comprehensive audit to assess how U.S. taxpayer money has been spent on programs to counter narcotics trafficking and whether it’s been effective.

On his recent visits, he said, he spoke with Afghan officials about whether the country will become a successful modern state or an insurgent state.

“There is a third possibility,” he said. “A narco-criminal state.”

By **PETE YOST**
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Four former Blackwater Worldwide security guards went on trial Wednesday in the killings of 14 Iraqis and the wounding of at least 18 others.

Over the next few days, a jury of 12 residents from the District of Columbia will be chosen from a pool of 111 people to decide the guards’ fate. The trial is expected to last months.

The judge overseeing the trial, Royce Lamberth, has been a U.S. district judge for more than 25 years and he has a military background. He served as a captain in the Army’s Judge Advocate General’s Corps from 1968 to 1974, including three years at the Pentagon.

The prospective jurors filled out 26-page questionnaires that delved into whether they had any personal experience with excessive use of force by security guards; whether they would be able to follow testimony from Arabic-speaking witnesses through a translator; and whether they have strong feelings about the war in Iraq or the prosecution of American citizens for acts committed in a war zone.

In a brief proceeding, the judge instructed the prospective jurors not to read or watch anything

about the case and he specifically mentioned social media. No text messaging about the case. No Twitter.

“Just don’t do it,” he said. “Just stick to the evidence” in the courtroom.

Lamberth gave no indication to the prospective jurors that the guard who faces the most serious charge is asking that he be tried separately from the other three.

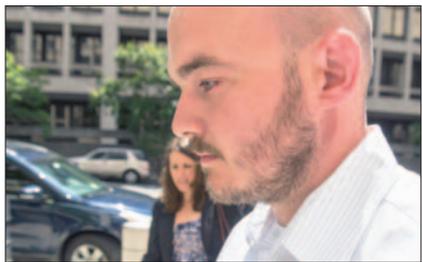
The Justice Department opposes the request by Nicholas Slatten, who is charged with first-degree murder.

Details of the request and the prosecutors’ response are sealed from public view for now. In a court filing, federal prosecutors referred to the guard’s request to sever his case.

The other three guards — Paul Slough, Evan Liberty and Dustin Heard — are charged with manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and gun charges.

Lamberth told each of the four defendants and their lawyers to stand up and be introduced. He reminded the members of the jury pool that the guards are presumed innocent and explained that they are to fill out detailed questionnaires in an effort to ensure that they can act fairly and impartially.

Some of the upcoming testi-



CUFF OWEN/AP

Former Blackwater Worldwide guard Nicholas Slatten leaves federal court in Washington on Wednesday. Slatten and three others are on trial for the killing of 14 Iraqi civilians in 2007.

mony in the case is expected to suggest animosity toward Iraqis by three of the guards. On Wednesday, the judge allowed testimony that Slatten made statements saying he wanted to kill as many Iraqis as he could as “payback for 9/11.”

“Statements as violent and specifically hostile as those alleged would undoubtedly be probative of an intent to kill,” the judge wrote in an opinion.

Lamberth also said he will

allow testimony that Slatten, Liberty and Slough fired their weapons indiscriminately, without perceivable threats to their safety.

Slatten could be sentenced to life in prison if convicted. The others face a mandatory minimum penalty of 30 years in prison if convicted of the gun charge and at least one other charge.

The shootings occurred Sept. 16, 2007, at the Nisoor Square traffic circle in Baghdad.

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| 72mth SPECIAL RATE* | \$ 650.30 |

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MILITARY

'I am the lone wolf of deadly nothingness'

Bergdahl's writings provide insight into his thoughts before he vanished in Afghanistan

By STEPHANIE MCCURMUM

The Washington Post

Before he became a Taliban prisoner, before he wrote in his journal "I am the lone wolf of deadly nothingness," before he ever joined the Army, Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl was discharged from the U.S. Coast Guard for psychological reasons, said close friends who were worried about his emotional health at the time.

The 2006 discharge and a trove of Bergdahl's writing — the handwritten journal along with other essays, stories and emails provided to The Washington Post — paint a portrait of a deeply complicated and fragile young man who was by his own account struggling to maintain his mental stability from the start of basic training until the moment in 2009 when he walked off his post in eastern Afghanistan.

"I'm worried," he wrote in one journal entry before he deployed. "The closer I get to ship day, the calmer the voices are. I'm reverting. I'm getting colder. My feelings are being flushed with the frozen logic and the training, all the unfeeling cold judgment of the darkness."

"I will not lose this mind, this world I have deep inside," he wrote a few pages later. "I will not lose this passion the beauty."

"I'm trying to write myself a letter," he wrote at another point, using his often unorthodox spelling. "I'm so tired of the blackness, but what will happen to me without it. Bloody hell why do I keep thinking of this over and over?"

"I'm going to be home before he walked away. Bergdahl sent an email to a friend. "Lines n0 t g00 d h3R3. tell u when I have a si cure line about pl-/ns," read the partially coded message, one of Bergdahl's many references to unspecified plans and dreams of walking away.

His days here remain vanished, a box containing his blue spiral-bound journal, his Apple laptop, a copy of the novel "Atlas Shrugged," military records and other items arrived at the home of his close friend Kim Harrison, whom Bergdahl designated in his Army paperwork as the person who should receive his remains.

Harrison said she decided to share the journal and computer files with The Post because she has become concerned about the portrayal of Bergdahl as a calculating deserter, which she contends is at odds with her understanding of him as a sensitive, vulnerable young man.

Bergdahl's parents declined a request for an interview about their son's writings and mental health. A military spokesman said questions could not be put to Bergdahl "at this point in his reintegration process."

Harrison and others close to Bergdahl said his writings about the events surrounding the Coast Guard discharge raise questions about his mental fitness for military service and how he was accepted into the Army in 2008. Typically, a discharge for psychological reasons would disqualify a potential recruit.

According to Coast Guard records, Bergdahl left the service with an "uncharacterized discharge" after 26 days of basic training in early 2006. The term applies to people discharged before completing 180 days of service. No reason is specified in such discharges, and a Coast Guard representative said no further information was available.

A senior Army official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the Army was aware of a prior "administrative discharge" when Bergdahl enlisted. A senior Army official, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Berg-



MATT McCLAIN/The Washington Post

This case, containing a journal, photographs and other personal items, was received by Kim Harrison, a friend of Bowe Bergdahl, after he vanished in Afghanistan in 2009.

dahl would have required a waiver to enlist under such circumstances. The official could not immediately confirm that Bergdahl received one.

With two wars raging in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008, the Army was meeting recruitment goals by issuing waivers that allowed people with criminal records, health conditions and other problems to enlist. According to a 2008 Army War College study on the subject, the Army was issuing waivers at a rate of one for every five recruits at the time.

Whatever the exact circumstances of Bergdahl's enlistment, the Coast Guard discharge came as no surprise to Harrison and other friends of Bergdahl's who grew up with him in Ketchum, Idaho, who said he was a poor fit for military service.

"He is the perfect example of a person who should not have gone" to war, said Harrison, who spoke on the condition that she be identified by her former married name because she is concerned about threats. "The only person worse would be someone with a low IQ. In my mind, they didn't care."

'Light in this darkness'

"Really, how pathetic I feel as I listen to people talk of the hell I will be heading to," he wrote in a computer file titled "my army memories." "Compared to hell of the real wars of the past, we are nothing but camping boy scouts. Hiding from children behind our heavy armored trucks and our c-wife and sand bagged operating post, we tell our selves that we are not cowards."

Mostly, the writing describes Bergdahl's own internal thoughts and struggles, from the first entry in his journal dated June 11, 2008, the month Bergdahl headed to Army basic training in Georgia, to the last email dated June 27, 2009, three days before his disappearance.

After growing up as a home-schooled kid in the rural fringe of Hailey, Idaho, Bergdahl was drawn to an artistic, free-thinking crowd in the nearby ski town of Ketchum,

where he met Harrison when he started taking ballet and fencing lessons at an arts center she ran. He started living away from home, bouncing from couch to couch, and became close friends with her son Shane and daughter Kayla.

In 2006, Bergdahl announced he was joining the Coast Guard, a decision his friends thought was unwise given his personality. Harrison said she tried to talk him out of it, but finally relented and drove him to a military office in Idaho Falls to take the Coast Guard exam.

Soon after he left Ketchum for basic training, Bergdahl sent her a dozen or so notebook pages filled with tiny writing, distributes against the rigors of military life. She was alarmed, she said. When he returned after a few weeks, he told her he had gotten out on a psychological discharge.

"He told me he faked it," she recalled. "I said, 'You don't fake a psychological discharge, you have to become unfit.' I told him that. The reality was it wasn't OK. I saw it in the letters, the way the writing was changing, the anger."

Another friend remembered having a similar conversation with Bergdahl.

"I said, 'What happened?'" this friend recalled. "He said he started to feign a psychological disorder, saying strange things to get out. I remember flat out calling him out on it — I said 'there is something else going on.' He said, 'I chose to do it.'"

"I know he believed he was in control, but I didn't," the friend said.

Chronicling his worries

Bergdahl landed in Georgia for basic training in June 2008, and began filling up the blue journal.

"A wolf, mutt, hound, dog, I've been called these from my childhood," he wrote in the first few pages. "But what good am I, my existence is that of exile. To live on the fringes of this world as a guard."

He wrote about what he described as "shallow" and "crude minds around him" and "this hell that pools so many fools, and

they are all part of the illusion."

"Bullet sponges," he wrote at one point. "This is what some of the SEALs call regular Army and other mass ground troops. Its right, the job of a soldier is to basically die."

On the final handwritten journal page, he listed story ideas, the last of which was "a story about one going-crazy-to wander the earth alone."

On a scrap of paper tucked into the journal, he wrote, "Walk us to the end of this. Walk on. And walk us out of here."

'Pulling away'

Bergdahl was sent to Fort Richardson in Alaska to finish out the year, and by March 2009 he had arrived in Paktika, Afghanistan, where his post was a football-field-size swath of sand partially surrounded with barbed wire.

As fellow soldiers have described him, Bergdahl was either a brooding, aloof figure or "a good soldier" who did what he was asked. In a file titled "throw the brain," Bergdahl wrote of his new experience "I'm at an odd place here."

On June 7, three weeks before he walked off post, Bergdahl emailed Harrison's daughter Kayla.

"If at any point in time, kim gets a call from red cross, or the mill, no matter when in a week, month, or years ... Keep her from panic and bad ideas. You know what I do, and ash I am still perfecting, actions may become ... odd. No red flags. Im good. But plans have been told to form, no time line yet ... love you! Bowe."

"I'm sure Kayla wrote back: "Exactly what kind of plans are you thinking of?" "Lines n0 t g00 d h3R3 tell u when I have a si cure line about pl-/ns," Bergdahl wrote back the next day. "There is still time yet for thinking."

"Just don't do anything stupid or pointless," Kayla wrote back.

"You know I plan better than that," Bergdahl wrote back.

In a file titled "If I've died READ" dated June 8, Bergdahl wrote about the reality of his life as a soldier and the idea of a life as a "storyteller."

"Tomorrow I may be dead. The thoughts that have come to rest in my conscious and subconscious being ... These thoughts have placed themselves in my head. In my projection ... I will try to use what little time this life gives me, to bring their beauty into the world ... This is the story teller's life."

On June 14, Bergdahl emailed Kayla again saying that he was "looking at a map of afghan" and asking if he could wire money to her or kim "to protect my money in the bank just in case things go bad."

On June 21, he emailed her again.

"I want far wile a human go to find their complete freedom ..." he wrote. "For one's freedom, do they have the right to destroy the world to gain it?"

On June 27, he sent an email to his friends titled "Who is John Galt?," a reference to the hero of Ayn Rand's novel "Atlas Shrugged," about individualism in a dystopian America.

"I will serve no bandit, nor lair, for I know John Galt, and understand ..." Bergdahl wrote. "This life is too short to serve those who compromise value, and its ethics. I am doing something wrong."

Three days later, Bergdahl walked off his post.

Several days after that, the box containing Bergdahl's journal arrived at Harrison's home.

"I was freaked out," Harrison recalled. "To me, it meant he did something stupid, or something crazy."

He is the perfect example of a person who should not have gone [to war]. The only person worse would be someone with a low IQ. ♣

Kim Harrison
friend of Bowe Bergdahl

MILITARY

Lejeune: Families cry foul over government lawyers' contention that exposure ended in '87

FROM FRONT PAGE

The court also needs to determine whether North Carolina law allows an exception to the 10-year limit for latent diseases that have a long development period within the body before they become evident, Korzen said. For example, many workers exposed to asbestos did not become aware of diseases caused by their exposure for many years, he said.

North Carolina has a "statute of repose" that ends a plaintiff's right to seek damages to property more than 10 years after the last act of contamination occurred. Only Connecticut, Kansas, Oregon and Alabama have laws that place a similar time limit on property lawsuits.

Government lawyers contend any exposure to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune ended in 1987.

President Barack Obama in 2012 signed the Camp Lejeune Veterans and Family Act to provide medical care and screening for Marines and their families, but not civilians, exposed between 1957 and 1987. The law covers 15 diseases or conditions, including

"They don't want these cases to go to court because the merits of the case are not favorable to their side. They know that they are guilty."

Jerry Ensminger
former Marine drill instructor

female infertility, miscarriage, leukemia and multiple myeloma, as well as bladder, breast, esophageal, kidney and lung cancers.

The law was passed after years of pressure by former Marines who blamed the contamination for health problems. The efforts were often met with strong resistance from the Marine Corps.

A long-anticipated study by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released in December reported a link between the tainted Camp Lejeune tap water and increased risk of serious birth defects and childhood cancers. The CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances & Disease Registry warned it was based on a small sample size and could not prove specific individuals became ill from exposure to chemicals,

which included toxins associated with degreasing solvents and gasoline.

Jerry Ensminger, a former Marine drill instructor who lost his 9-year-old daughter to leukemia in 1985, said Wednesday that he believes a trial would show the government has not fully taken responsibility for the negative health consequences of exposure to the contaminated tap water.

"They're trying every legal maneuver and technicality that they have accessible to them to ensure that it does not ever have our day in court," Ensminger said. "They don't want these cases to go to court because the merits of the case are not favorable to their side. They know that they are guilty."

Senate panel seeks to put a cap on senior officer pensions

By Tom Vanden Brook
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Pensions for senior generals and admirals would be rolled back to ensure their retirement pay doesn't exceed their active-duty salaries, according to a measure approved by a Senate panel.

In 2007, the Pentagon sought and received authority to modify the cap that determines pensions for three- and four-star generals and admirals in an effort to retain them during war. The change boosted the pensions of some senior officers by 63 percent.

The formula means that a four-star general or admiral retiring with 40 years of experience will receive a pension of \$237,144, according to the Pentagon. Base pay for active-duty top officers is \$181,501. Housing and other allowances can increase their compensation an additional third.

USA Today first reported on the change in 2012 when the Pentagon's highest pension payment of \$272,892 per year went to a retired four-star officer with 43 years' experience; his pension under the old formula would have been capped at about \$180,000.

"There has never been any indication that lifting this cap in 2007 helped with retention of senior officers — indeed, there was never any indication there was a problem," Tara Andringa, a spokeswoman for Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Carl Levin, D-Mich., said in a statement.

The proposed change is part of an effort to curb growth in per-

sonnel costs, she said. The committee looked at pay raises and commissary costs. The provision on pensions was added to ensure the senior workforce would bear its share of any cutbacks, she said.

"Cutting the special pension enhancement is a no-brainer," said Danielle Brian, executive director of the Project on Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog. "This dubious provision was enacted at the height of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan as a means of retaining senior flag officers; however, there is little evidence that it realized its intended effect. It should be revoked as soon as possible."

The committee voted to reinstate the pre-2007 formula and to grandfather in officers considering retirement, according to a Senate staff member who was not authorized to speak on the record about the issue. The change would limit pensions of its most senior officers to their level of pay, \$181,500.

The system would stay in effect until next year's end, allowing officers to keep what they have earned. Officers whose retired pay is below the cap Dec. 31 will remain below or at the cap.

The change would save the Pentagon about \$23 million over nine years, according to the Congressional Budget Office.

The committee directed the Pentagon, at the request of Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., to study the effectiveness of the bolstered pensions in keeping senior officers in the military. This year, she questioned the need for the larger

pension payments during a hearing about military compensation and the need to rein in costs.

The change was tucked into the massive National Defense Authorization Act, which the committee approved on a 25-1 vote late last month. The full Senate will vote on the bill this year.

Bergdahl served short stint in the Coast Guard

By JOHN BACON
USA Today

Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held for five years by an Islamic insurgent group in Afghanistan before the controversial barter that brought him freedom, was discharged from the Coast Guard two years before joining the Army.

"He did join in early 2006 and he did enter boot camp training," Coast Guard spokeswoman Lisa Novak confirmed to USA Today. "He left after 26 days ... with an uncharacterized discharge."

Such discharges, according to Coast Guard regulations, are issued to people who serve less than 180 days.

Novak provided no further explanation for Bergdahl's discharge.

Bergdahl, 28, was held captive by the Taliban-aligned Haqqani network in Afghanistan until his release May 31. A U.S. defense official said Thursday that Bergdahl would return to an Army base in Texas on Friday.

Five Guantanamo Bay detainees were freed in the deal, and the Obama administration has faced withering criticism, particularly on Capitol Hill.

Reports from his fellow soldiers and others that he had become disillusioned by the war and had walked away from his post before his capture added to the controversy.

Public opposition to the exchange has less to do with Bergdahl himself and more with how Obama handled the transfer, according to a USA Today/Pew Research Center poll.



Bergdahl

were growing when officials feverishly negotiated his release in return for five detainees at Guantanamo Bay.

Hagel also pointed out that Bergdahl has not been charged with any crime and the speculation and criticism of his actions are unwarranted.

"Like any American, Sgt. Bergdahl has rights, and his conduct will be judged on facts — not political hearsay, posturing, charges or innuendo. We owe that to any American and especially those who are members of our military and their families," he said.

Foes of the deal, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., say the men who were released are a threat to Americans. They add that the deal could set a bad precedent and encourage enemies of the U.S. to kidnap Americans.

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MILITARY

Will drones on carriers end need for pilots?

By W.J. HENNIGAN
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. Navy plane that carries carrier-based drones has launched a dogfight in Washington over the role of the robotic planes in combat.

The Navy has asked contractors for reconnaissance drones — essentially spy planes, with only limited ability to carry out bombing missions behind enemy lines.

But key congressional leaders want cutting-edge warplanes, stealthy drones that can attack key targets in contested areas with little more than a mouse click. If they get their way, the program, which would produce the military's first carrier-based drones, could end aviation as the Navy has known it, observers say.

"It could usher in a new era in which major strike missions are turned over to a machine," said Samuel D. Bradburn, senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies and a former Pentagon strategist. "That will be difficult for many carrier aviators to swallow."

The Navy's plans to deploy the drones within the next decade came to an abrupt halt this month when key members of Congress said the program is shortsighted. Lawmakers halted all funding until the secretary of defense can complete a top-to-bottom review.

Four of the nation's largest military weapons makers are waiting to see how the skirmish plays out: Northrop Grumman Corp., Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin Corp. and General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc. Much of these companies' drone operations are based in Southern California, and they would welcome the work at a time when defense spending on weapons is expected to shrink.

The controversy heated up when the Navy first sent classified proposals for the drone program to contractors. The industry was expecting a bold plan to build radar-evading aircraft capable of challenging bombing missions. But it was apparently not what they received.

Upon seeing the Navy's conservative request for spy planes, leaders on the House Armed Services Committee questioned whether the Navy is being too restrictive.

"I feel very strongly that we can't make a mistake on this program," said Rep. J. Randy Forbes, R-Va., chairman of a subcommittee that oversees Navy programs. "It's going to be critical for decades to come."

He believes Navy brass is hesitant to turn over strategic bombing missions in contested areas of the world, now carried out by seasoned fighter pilots — to drones.

Forbes said the Navy needs a next-generation drone that will overwhelm potential adversaries that have made multibillion-dollar investments in advanced missiles and radar detection.

Now, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel must assess the requirements before funding of the drone program resumes. Under a provision tucked into the annual defense policy bill, Hagel will either sign off on the current plans or force the Navy to move closer to the stealthy, long-range strike drone that many in Congress desire. It's a debate that has raged in Washington since the advent of drone technology: How much responsibility will be taken from pilots and given to machines?

"There's a cultural issue there," Forbes said. "We've had to have these arguments with the Pentagon before."

He recalled having to push the Air Force to buy remotely piloted Predator drones in the 1990s. The Air Force was at first reluctant, but the program was fueled by pressure from local lawmakers, such as California Republican Reps. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon and Jerry Lewis, who has since retired.

The technology is now a centerpiece in the Obama administration's national security strategy.

Although drones have been a major part of Air Force operations for more than a decade, the Navy has yet to experience such a robotic revolution.

Navy spokesman Joe Gradisher said drone aircraft, which probably would be controlled remotely from the carriers, would eventually perform many missions currently performed by manned aircraft, including bombing missions. But drones will have a secondary role.

"Unmanned enhances manned strike aircraft, but doesn't replace them as the primary strike force because of part of the carrier air wing," he said.

The dispute over carrier drones can be traced to an industry demonstration last year of a drone performing crucial maneuvers with pilotlike precision.

The X-47B, a stealthy bat-

Next generation drones

Advanced unmanned aircraft designs by four contractors are in the running for the Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike program.

X-47B UCAS

Northrop Grumman

Speed More than 500 mph
Range 2,400 miles
Altitude 40,000-plus feet
Wingspan 62.1 feet

SEA GHOST

Lockheed Martin

Concept proposal
No specifications available

PHANTOM RAY

Boeing

Speed More than 600 mph
Range 1,540 miles
Altitude 40,000 feet
Wingspan 50 feet

PREDATOR C SEA AVENGER

General Atomics

Speed 460 mph
Range 20 hours
Altitude 50,000 feet
Wingspan 66 feet

SOURCE: The companies

GRAPHIC: Javier Zarracina, Los Angeles Times

MCT



Film explores effect of war on soldiers

From wire services

The Korengal Valley in eastern Afghanistan is harsh in nature and war, a bitter and beautiful landscape that bonded a small band of soldiers whose efforts epitomized America's limitations against the antipathy and resilience of an enemy it could neither fathom nor tame.

The burden and euphoria of battle are stamped on the men in "Korengal," Sebastian Junger's new documentary on an outpost where 42 Americans were killed in their country's longest war. The film, a sequel to his 2011 Academy Award-nominated "Restrepo," rattles with camaraderie and bravado but is acutely reflective of the trauma and hidden scars soldiers endure when the adrenaline of a firefight subsides and quiet falls across the hinterlands.

"I started thinking that God hates me," said Army Sgt. Brendan O'Byrne, who has a shaved head and a reddish beard and sits in a dark room recounting his ordeal and finding little solace. "I'm not religious or anything, but I felt like there was this hate for me 'cause I did sins ... That's the terrible thing of us. You do terrible things and you have to live with them afterwards but you'd do them the same way if you had to go back. So what do you do? It's an evil, evil, evil thing inside your body. It's like ... good versus evil inside there."

"Korengal" moves beyond the sustained combat of "Restrepo" to reveal the emotional experiences of battle: "fear, killing and love," Junger said. The film peels away war's romanticism and explores the psychological consequences of sustained conflict on mind, body and soul.

The Korengal Valley is a visceral symbol in the 13-year-old war. After hundreds of billions of dollars spent in Afghanistan and more than 2,300 American lives lost, the Taliban are weakened but not defeated, corruption reigns in villages and cities, and the once Western-friendly President Hamid Karzai has turned against Washington. U.S. involvement in that battered country — as in Iraq — has been outlasted by extremists who sweep across stunning mountain passes and refuse to waver against the most powerful military in the world.

Filed in 2007-08, "Korengal" opens in Los Angeles on Friday.

winged drone built by Northrop Grumman, was catapulted off an aircraft carrier's flight deck and soared above the Atlantic before returning for a landing. The historic feat was compared to the Navy's first catapult of a manned aircraft, which occurred in 1915.

"It isn't very often you get a glimpse of the future," Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said at the time. "The operational unmanned aircraft soon to be developed have the opportunity to radically change the way presence and combat power are delivered from our aircraft carriers."

Now, there are questions about whether the Navy is going to deliver on that promise.

The cost of the program, known as Unmanned Carrier Launched Airborne Surveillance and Strike, is estimated at as much as \$5.9 billion through 2020, according to the Government Accountability Office.

Plans for the Navy's drone pro-

gram come as Congress and the Pentagon are coping with budget uncertainty and expensive weapons systems already in the works.

The Navy has spent more than a decade preparing for its latest generation of manned warplane — the controversial F-35 Joint Strike Fighter. The radar-evading jet, built by Lockheed, is scheduled to be a fixture on carrier decks when it becomes operational in 2019.

It's only about halfway through its development plan and plagued by billions of dollars in cost overruns. There has also been a string of technical problems, including a redesign of its arresting hook.

A deep-penetrating stealthy drone that could fly farther and longer could be seen as a potential challenger to the nearly \$400 billion F-35 program. The program has sweeping congressional support because it provides 127,000 direct and indirect jobs in 47 states and Puerto Rico.

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MILITARY

Survey: Distrust, fear in Texas basic training

By SIG CHRISTENSON
San Antonio Express-News

SAN ANTONIO — A survey of basic training instructors conducted during the worst sex scandal in Air Force history revealed a sharp distrust of senior commanders at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland and a widespread fear of recruits.

In occasionally bitter comments, some instructors lashed out at basic training leaders.

They talked of stressful working conditions and declining standards that had made training too easy, with recruits even saying they expected to have a harder time.

The survey, done last year and obtained this week by the San Antonio Express-News, revealed basic training remains haunted by recruit abuse and misconduct, the same issues that prompted a major makeover at Lackland.

Trainers and recruits reported that problems persist, but instructors also said changes designed to ensure that recruits couldn't be exploited by sergeants had gone too far, and many said they were sorry they had become instructors.

"I am terrified I'm going to have my career ended by a trainee that drops a comment because I hurt his feelings or they just don't like me," one instructor wrote in the survey.

"Leadership does not back us up. At all," the instructor continued. "I feel as though (basic training) is overcorrecting and it's actually making the Air Force worse."



Cecilio Ricardo/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

A group of 324th Training Squadron basic trainees perform formation and parade drills in preparation for their graduation on Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

The Rand Corp. surveyed nearly 200 training instructors anonymously last summer as part of an overhaul of basic training driven by the scandal.

Trainers said instructors often were unsupervised and even worked together to prevent misdeeds from being reported.

Problems ranged from poor officer supervision of instructors to an understaffed MTI corps that worked long hours and rarely had

a day off. Lackland officials last fall said statistics showed the makeover had worked, with no new sexual misconduct cases had been filed against instructors.

Col. Mark Camerer, commander of Lackland's 37th Training Wing, said late Wednesday that changes had corrected a lack of oversight in training, but he conceded they hadn't come without trouble.

"We've gone a long ways to fix-

ing the things that you're talking about," he said, noting that surveys in January and April had produced "vastly different" results from Rand's report.

"So, were we in a tough spot in July of last year? Yes, we were," he continued. "I need my MTIs to know we listen to them."

Rand found that more than half of the instructor corps worked more than 11 hours a day last summer, and that two thirds of

"street" MTIs — those who train recruit flights — slept five hours or less a day.

Another one-third of supervisors and other instructors also said they slept five hours or less a day.

Camerer said he was surprised to learn of the problem, but added that some instructors told him "they just didn't want to leave their flight."

He said the instructors willingly put in extra hours to ensure their flights were properly trained, but a new rule required officer approval for MTIs working more than 10 hours a day.

A number of trainers shared the belief that the rules for handling recruits had shifted so dramatically that the trainees held more power than their instructors.

"I'll give it to you in a nutshell: Trainees run this place, MTIs are afraid constantly of getting in trouble over hurting a spoiled 18-year-olds' feelings, and no one is willing to change that," one instructor wrote.

Instructors also expressed concerns about interaction of Col. Deborah Liddick, commander of the 737th Training Group, with those running the group's eight training squadrons.

One said, "It is very apparent that she does not trust anyone who is an MTI and she continues to discredit the feedback given to her on decisions made."

Other MTIs made similar comments.

Recruitment value of air shows questioned

By CARL PRINE

The Pittsburgh Tribune-Review

Flying free from federal budget cuts that grounded them last year, the Navy's Blue Angels will zoom at Mach-1 over the Latrobe, Pa., area on Sunday at the Westmoreland County Air Show.

But even at 700 mph, the Navy demigods — or other flashy military demonstration teams — can't outrun questions about their future.

Congress is debating whether those teams land enough recruits to justify multimillion-dollar costs, especially in an era of Pentagon austerity. The sequestration budget deal between Congress and the White House is expected to trim \$45 billion annually from the Defense budget, and lawmakers have slashed other noncombat programs such as ceremonial bands.

A Tribune-Review analysis of Defense spending on the Blue Angels and the Air Force's Thunderbirds puts combined annual expenses at \$70 million to \$140 million, depending on how the budgets are calculated. The budget for the Army's Golden Knights is \$303,000 this year

without personnel costs, down 25 percent since 2012.

Military officials defend the teams as time-honored institutions that work youngsters into uniforms.

Yet some experts say there's no way to track whether air shows lead to enlistments.

"We know that people who go to military air shows likely have served, or have no negative feelings about military service, and they're willing to reinforce that by taking their children to events like parades or air shows," said David Segal, a University of Maryland sociologist and armed forces expert.

"There probably is a payoff there, but we don't know what it is yet. The only way to study that would be to ask people, year after year, whether they went to an air show and whether it influenced their decisions as young adults to enlist."

The Navy and Air Force teams take turns headlining about 70 of the more than 300 air shows held annually in the United States, according to the Virginia-based International Council of Air Shows, the industry's trade organization.

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MILITARY

Sailors urged to use tuition program

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Navy hopes more sailors will take advantage of tuition assistance now that the service has dropped plans to slash the often-targeted \$86 million program.

Ernest D'Antonio, the civilian who leads the Navy's Voluntary Education program, touted the program Thursday while he was in Naples for a graduation ceremony.

"It's something that's important to sailors," D'Antonio told Stars and Stripes. "The Navy was the only service during sequestration that didn't stop TA."

Though the Navy considered scaling back the program after similar moves by the other services, Chief of Naval Operations Jonathan W. Greenert rejected

the idea for fiscal 2015 but said changes could come in the following years.

Each of the four military services offers a tuition-assistance program, which pays for servicemembers to pursue GEDs or college degrees while still in uniform. Unlike the post-Sept. 11 GI Bill, which is a lifetime benefit, tuition assistance is available only to troops who are currently serving.

The programs have long been in place, but all were sweetened early in the past decade as the services sought to attract and retain troops during the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

The Navy program now pays for 100 percent of the cost of classes, with an annual maximum of \$4,000 for 16 credits per year, or \$250 per credit. Sailors

can choose any distance class or program from schools approved by the Defense and Education departments.

Tighter budgets and the drawdown of deployed troops encouraged the services to reconsider the programs.

The Army, the Marines and the Air Force all briefly suspended their tuition assistance programs in 2013 after the automatic defense cuts known as sequestration began. The subsequent outcry from servicemembers, military advocates and Congress spurred the DOD to restore the benefit soon after. The three services later adjusted eligibility, while the Navy continued to offer a full benefit.

In March, the Navy floated an adjustment to its own program by returning to the funding for-

mula in place before 2002. Under the plan, a sailor would pay for 25 percent of the class, with the Navy picking up the remaining 75 percent.

D'Antonio, like Greenert, said a 75/25 split would force sailors to put "skin in the game," encouraging completion of degree programs. He said data suggest that completion rates were higher before 2002, when full funding of classes was offered.

About 45,000 sailors enroll in the program annually, D'Antonio said. Spending this year has been slower than normal due to the government shutdown in October, leaving more money than is typical for the summer.

"We have TA money available," D'Antonio emphasized.

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Say what?

A sample of reader comments from stripes.com



Air Force proposes fixes for nuke force

At a time when budgets are shrinking and headquarters staffs are being pared back, the Air Force wants to upgrade Global Strike Command from a three-star to a four-star billet and add 1,100 people to the organization, the service announced last week.

Readers respond:

I agree. Additional general stars is always the best way to solve discipline problems. (written in 'sarcasm' font). Good job USAF, parlaying a problem into an opportunity.

— charliemik1776

DOD as a whole now has 37 four-stars on the payroll out of 907 generals/admirals. The USAF has 11 four-stars and 287 generals. And add 1,100 people to the organization? This is grade-creep at its finest.

— efmbran

[H]aving watched the 60 Minutes segment on these folks a few weeks ago, I have to say that they serve under really lousy commo/tech conditions, unless that episode was the anomaly... That kind of absurdly poor working conditions simply wears people down...

— tiredpfc

Try working in 1970's buildings in the Weapons Storage Areas where enlisted folks use test sets that are 40 years old in buildings where the concrete falls off the ceilings. They don't whine and they don't get on 60 Minutes. And they don't cheat.

— SempliceCittadino

A friend had the job of destroying everything electronic in Silos that were being decommissioned, and described some of them as very toxic, with wiring that had crumbling insulation. Yet he explained that they had a crew just a year before, who spent long shifts exposing their bodies to god knows what.

— davidhollenshead

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

Combat aviation unit arrives in S. Korea

By ARMANDO R. LIMON
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — More than 300 combat aviation brigade soldiers arrived at Osan Air Base on Tuesday, a continuation of efforts to maintain a strong U.S. military's presence on the peninsula.

Members of the 16th Combat Aviation Brigade's 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment will replace soldiers from 4th Squadron, 6th Cavalry Regiment with a transition ceremony later this month, according to the 2nd Infantry Division.

It's the second rotation of U.S. forces from the States to come to South Korea this year. Some 800 members of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas, arrived in January for a deployment to Camps Hovey and Stanley, both north of Seoul.

That unit brought about 40 M1A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2A3 Bradleys, which will remain in Korea for follow-on rotations, Army officials said. Similarly, the Fort Winnwright, Alaska-based aviation unit that arrived this week will crew 30 OH-58D Kiowa Warrior helicopters already in-country, the 8th Army said in a statement.

"We are using the equipment being left in place by the current rotational aviation unit," said Lt. Col. Matthew F. Ketchum, 6-17th Cavalry Regiment commander. "The Regiment is fully trained and prepared to conduct real-time missions."

U.S. officials have described the rotations as a "strictly defensive" movement designed



JAe HYUNG PARK/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of the 6th Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, 16th Combat Aviation Brigade arrive at Osan Air Base, South Korea, on Tuesday.

to increase readiness and to strengthen U.S. and South Korean capabilities.

The U.S. military has maintained a force level of 28,500 in South Korea since 2008, when it halted a long-term drawdown to 25,000 troops at Seoul's request. Because such deployments are considered a temporary duty assignment and not a change of duty station, its personnel are not counted toward U.S. Forces Korea's strength capacity, 8th Army officials said in January.

In a country where the presence of U.S.

troops remains a sensitive topic and officials take pains to portray routine military exercises as nonthreatening to the North, South Korean officials also have been reluctant to address the U.S. troop levels.

During its rotation, the 6-17th will fall under the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd ID officials said.

The 4-6th Cavalry Regiment is scheduled to return to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., during the next couple of months.

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Airman gets prison, discharge in drunken-driving death

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — An airman assigned to Aviano Air Base, Italy, is headed to prison for crashing his car while driving drunk last summer and causing the death of his passenger, a fellow airman.

Airman Demarrus R. Jeffers received a prison sentence of two years and six months at a court martial before a military judge and no jury Tuesday at Aviano,

according to information provided by Capt. Lacie Jo Collins, an Aviano base spokeswoman.

Jeffers pleaded guilty to drunken driving and involuntary manslaughter.

Killed in the crash last June was Airman 1st Class Dennis A. Felton II, 21, of Cleveland. A member of the 31st Security Forces Squadron, Felton died only four months after arriving at Aviano, his first duty station. He joined the Air Force in August 2012.

Jeffers, a traffic management

journeyman assigned to the 31st Logistics Readiness Squadron, also was reduced in rank to airman basic and was given a bad-conduct discharge from the Air Force, according to information from Collins.

With a blood-alcohol concentration of at least 0.10 percent, Jeffers on June 2, 2013, was driving his vehicle about twice the posted speed limit when he veered into oncoming traffic, drove off the road and crashed, according to the charge sheet in the case. The

accident occurred about 5 a.m. off base, near the intersection of what Americans refer to as the "A-P highway" (SP-7) and Via Menozzo, not far from the base's north gate.

Felton was a passenger in the vehicle's front seat, the charge sheet says.

Hundreds of airmen and friends attended a memorial service for Felton at Aviano last June, according to an Air Force news release.

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MILITARY

Senate overwhelmingly passes VA reform

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Senate overwhelmingly passed a compromise bill Wednesday aimed at reforming the nation's troubled health care system for veterans, the latest move by lawmakers to fix a problem in the wake of a scheduling scandal.

The legislation, sponsored by Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., expands access to private treatment, increases the number of VA doctors and hospitals, and gives the department more power to fire executives.

"If it is not an emergency that we have neglected the brave men and women that have served this country, then I don't know what

an emergency is," McCain said during a speech on the Senate floor Wednesday.

The Senate passed the bill 93-2. Similar measures already have been passed with overwhelming support in the House, and now the two chambers will hold a conference to hammer out a final VA proposal to send to President Barack Obama, which could happen as early as next week.

The White House's Office of Management and Budget released a statement following the Senate vote saying it strongly supports the legislation.

More than 57,000 veterans have been waiting more than three months for VA health care at 731 hospitals and clinics across the country, according to a depart-

ment audit released Monday.

The VA attempted to conceal the wait times by falsifying records at many facilities, the VA's inspector general reported last month.

The department said this week that about 70 percent of its health care facilities used off-the-books patient waiting lists at least once, and management pressured staff in some cases to manipulate appointments to make waits appear shorter.

The VA's IG and the Department of Justice are weighing criminal charges, and The Associated Press reported Wednesday that the FBI is also investigating.

McCain and Sanders said the compromise bill passed Wednesday is not a fix-all for the VA's

deep problems.

"It is not the end of the beginning, but it is a beginning," McCain said.

Here is what the bill would do:

- Vets who cannot get appointments for timely care and live more than 40 miles from the nearest VA facility may opt for private care.

- The VA secretary would get the power to fire senior executives without pay during a two-week appeal period.

- The VA would get \$500 million for hiring doctors and nurses.
- Leases would be approved for 26 new major medical facilities in 18 states.

- Sexual assault treatment would be expanded.

- Commissions would be creat-

ed to review antiquated VA computer systems and construction programs.

On Tuesday, the House passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., allowing expanded access to veterans who live more than 40 miles from VA facilities. That distance was taken from the standard hospital service area used by military health care provider TriCare, according to McCain's staff.

The House had earlier approved a bill allowing the VA secretary wider power to fire executives, saying the measure is needed to clear out an entrenched bureaucracy responsible for the scheduling abuses.

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VA, IG warn against rushing veterans into private health care

By TOM PHILPOTT

A report by the Department of Veterans Affairs' inspector general and a separate "access audit" of appointment scheduling practices across VA health care facilities confirm systemwide abuses to distort wait times for care that have put patients at risk and have shaken confidence in how VA hospitals and clinics are staffed, managed and resourced.

Yet even as the acting IG and another senior VA official confirmed the depth of the patient wait-time scandal Monday at a hearing of the House veterans affairs committee, as well as possible criminal activity by some administrators, they cautioned elite lawmakers against sending thousands more VA patients into the private sector for health care needs.

The cautions flag haven't slowed Congress. On Tuesday, the House unanimously passed the Veterans Access to Care Act (HR 4810) from Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., the VA committee chairman. It would require VA to offer non-VA care to enrolled veterans who cannot get appointments with VA or wait longer than live more than 40 miles from VA medical facilities.

On Wednesday, the Senate voted 93-3 for similar language as part of a more comprehensive bill, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (S 2450), from Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., the VA committee chairman, and Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz.

The VA already spends 10 percent of its health care budget, about \$5 billion per year, on private sector care. In 2013, the VA authorized and reimbursed for 15.3 million non-VA outpatient visits, a 72 percent increase since 2008. Eligibility for such care is complex, however, and varies by veteran status and circumstance. Preauthorization usually is required.

In response to the appointments scandal, Congress wants the VA to experiment for two years

MILITARY UPDATE

with giving many more veterans access to non-VA care. Veterans service organizations long have feared such moves as a step toward dismantling their prized, fully integrated VA health system. Big-government critics say it will improve access to care and will save tax dollars.

At Monday's hearing, VA officials, including the acting inspector general and a health expert from the Government Accountability Office, warned against a rush of veterans into private sector care, saying it could backfire if not carefully coordinated and properly resourced.

Testifying on results of a VA flash audit of patient access and wait times, Philip Matkowsky, assistant deputy under secretary for health administrative operations, apologized on behalf of VA leaders for a "systemic and totally unacceptable lack of integrity" found in an appointment to private care at some facilities, calling it "a breach of trust" and "indefensible."

He also described a \$300 million initiative to accelerate access to care in coming months with more medical staff overtime, expansion of VA clinic hours, and more referrals to private sector providers as necessary.

Many VA facilities are believed to have manipulated wait-time data to pretend to meet internal goals for providing timely access to care, which then would qualify senior staff for performance bonuses and promotions.

Richard J. Griffin, the acting IG, testified that in addition to the Phoenix VA hospital where a whistle-blowing physician first exposed data manipulation and alleged it had led to preventable deaths, IG teams were investigating 69 other VA facilities where there was evidence of data manipulation.

Griffin described two methods used to disguise actual wait times. The most common begins with a veteran calling for an appointment "120 days out, because that's the first available" and yet that appointment gets scored as being the veteran's desired date. The facility then posts "zero waiting days," though the veteran actually waited four months.

"The other scenario is you get that appointment 120 days out. Two weeks before that appointment, it gets canceled in the system and it gets recreated," Griffin said. "The veteran is no wiser to the fact his appointment was canceled because it's been recreated for the same time and date." But the appointment log shows a wait of two weeks, not 120 days.

In Phoenix, the IG reviewed a statistically valid sample of 226 appointments for primary care. On average, patients waited 115 days for appointments. Only 16 percent were seen within the VA goal of 14 days. What the facility reported for those patients was an average wait of 24 days, with 57

percent treated within 14 days. "Those are similar to what we found," Matkowsky said of a nationwide "access audit" VA recently ran across more than 730 hospitals and clinics.

The IG report is preliminary and doesn't answer whether vets died from delays in diagnosis or treatment. That will require analysis of VA and non-VA medical records, death certificates and autopsy reports by IG clinical teams. The IG is coordinating those investigations with the FBI.

Only one confirmed death from scheduling delays was discussed at Monday's hearing. Debra A. Draper, director of health care for the Government Accountability Office, used it as a cautionary tale for lawmakers pressing to give veterans easier access to private sector care.

Last September, she said, the VA diagnosed a veteran as having two aneurysms and scheduled heart surgery. A November operation was canceled due to VA staffing issues. In December, the VA approved non-VA care, refer-

ring the patient to a local hospital. By late December, the non-VA care provider had lost the veteran's information, so the VA had to resubmit its surgery request. In February, before surgery could be performed, the veteran died.

Use of more non-VA care will expand capacity, but there are "potential pitfalls," Draper said. For example, the VA doesn't track wait times for non-VA care, so it cannot estimate what waits will be.

Griffin and Matkowsky also raised caution flags. The IG noted the value of an integrated health system to care for vets with multiple conditions. Matkowsky said transferring records with non-VA providers remains a hurdle.

"We need to ensure that there is sufficient non-VA care coordination staff in facilities," Matkowsky warned. "You can't simply feed into community [care] and assume it's going to take place. We have to coordinate that care."

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 25111, Centreville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott@Military_Update.

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NATION

Obama: Immigration plans not impossible

By JIM KUHNHENN
The Associated Press

WESTON, Mass. — Vowing not to give up on an overhaul of immigration, President Barack Obama said Wednesday that he “fundamentally rejects” the notion that House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s stunning primary election defeat means that tackling immigration legislation is now out of reach.

“It’s interesting to listen to the pundits and the analysts, and some conventional wisdom talks about how the politics of immigration reform seem impossible now,” Obama told about 40 big-dollar donors in this Boston suburb. “I fundamentally reject that and I will tell the speaker of the House he needs to reject it.”

Cantor, of Virginia, lost his Republican primary race to Dave Brat, an economics professor who was backed by the tea party. Brat labeled Cantor a supporter of amnesty for immigrants who are in the country illegally. Cantor initially backed limited legislation to help young people who came to the U.S. illegally as children and argued he was a staunch opponent of amnesty.

Josh Earnest, a White House spokesman, pointed out that Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., had

been deeply involved in passing the Senate immigration bill and still defeated a slew of primary opponents Tuesday night.

The Democratic-controlled Senate already has passed a sweeping bipartisan immigration bill that increases border security and provides a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who entered the country illegally. The Republican-controlled House, led by Speaker John Boehner, of Ohio, has yet to act in the face of stiff opposition from conservatives.

Before meeting with donors Obama delivered a commencement address at a technical school in Worcester, where he said 30 percent to 40 percent of the students were children of immigrants.

“You wouldn’t know it looking at them because they are as American as apple pie,” he told the donors. “They’re worried about whether they’re going to be able to finance their education because of their immigrant status. They wonder whether this country that they love so deeply loves them back.”

Obama joked that when he is asked what he wants for Father’s Day or Christmas on his birthday, he says the top of his list is a “loyal, rational opposition,” one with which he could negotiate and compromise.



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

President Barack Obama stands for the National Anthem during the graduation ceremony for Worcester Technical High School on Wednesday in Worcester, Mass.



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

House Majority Leader Eric Cantor, R-Va., leaves a news conference Wednesday on Capitol Hill in Washington.

For White House, little joy in defeat of Cantor

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, the White House saw House Majority Leader Eric Cantor as a chief driver of Republicans’ staunch opposition to nearly all of President Barack Obama’s agenda. Now, Cantor’s stunning primary loss seems likely to make politics even more difficult for Obama.

Rather than opening a pathway for the president, Cantor’s defeat could push Republicans more to the right and harden the House GOP’s hostility toward the White House, virtually dooming Obama’s efforts to pass a legacy-building immigration bill or other major legislation.

Robert Gibbs, a longtime Obama adviser, said any glee at

the White House over Cantor’s defeat was “quickly replaced by the reality that this is the end of anything productive getting done legislatively in Congress either this year or maybe for the next several years.”

Cantor, the No. 2 Republican in the House, was soundly defeated by his tea party-backed opponent, a little-known economics professor named David Brat, in Virginia’s GOP primary Tuesday. Despite being massively outspent by Cantor, Brat rode a wave of public anger over calls for more lenient immigration laws, reducing the prospects that already reluctant House Republicans might take up a bill this year.

The day after his defeat, Cantor announced he would serve out his term but would resign his leader-

ship post this summer, sparking a flurry of maneuvering among GOP lawmakers eager to take his spot.

Cantor threw his support behind Rep. Kevin McCarthy, of California, the House GOP whip and third-ranking leader. Rep. Pete Sessions of Texas also made clear his interest in being considered when House Republicans vote on a new majority leader on June 19.

Cantor’s surprise defeat was accompanied by a steady stream of gloating commentary from congressional Democrats and party operatives who saw the downfall of a top Republican leader as a coveted prize in this midterm election year. Yet, Brat, the winner of the race, promises to be even more uncompromising than Cantor.

Survey: Americans’ political polarization outgrows the voting booth

By JENNIFER AGIESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Political polarization in America has broken out of the voting booth.

A new survey from the Pew Research Center finds Americans are divided by ideology and partisanship not only when they cast ballots, but also in choosing where to live, where to get their news and with whom to associate.

And peaceful coexistence is increasingly difficult.

According to the poll, the share of Americans who hold across-the-board conservative or liberal views has doubled in the past decade, from 10 percent in 2004 to

21 percent today. Only 39 percent of Americans have an even mix of liberal and conservative positions, down from 49 percent 10 years ago.

The numbers of ideological purists are larger among the politically engaged than the general public, suggesting the ideological stalemates that have become more common in Washington and stateshouses around the country are likely to continue. A third of those who say they regularly vote in primaries have all-or-nothing ideological views, as do 41 percent who say they have donated money to campaigns.

Among partisans, ideological purity is now the standard.

Majorities in both parties hold either uniformly liberal (on the Democratic side) or conservative (among the GOP) views.

The shift toward ideological purity has been more visible among Republicans due to the popularity of the tea party, seen most recently this week in House Majority Leader Eric Cantor’s loss to a tea party-based challenger in Virginia, but the survey found it’s happening in nearly equal measure among Democrats.

Those differences in visibility are partly due to the Democratic hold on the White House, according to Pew Research Center Vice President Michael Dimock.

“Levels of alarm about the di-

rection of the nation, and about the ‘threat’ the other party poses to the country, are substantially higher on the right than on the left right now, and at least in part this reflects the fact that Barack Obama is in the White House,” Dimock said.

But Democrats have expressed their share of distrust in the past, he noted in an email. “Democrats felt pretty passionately about George W. Bush and the GOP in his second term,” he said.

The survey used a battery of 10 questions on issues such as regulation of business, use of the military, the environment and immigration to assess ideological leanings. Across nine of

the 10 issues tested, the views of Democrats and Republicans have grown further apart since 1994.

Those ideological shifts have been accompanied by increasing animosity across party lines, and those on opposite sides of the partisan and ideological divide are now more apt to separate themselves in their personal lives as well.

The findings are based on a telephone survey of 10,013 randomly selected adults nationwide, conducted between Jan. 23 and March 16. Results based on the full sample have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 1.1 percentage points.

NATION



PROVIDED BY THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION/AP

Samantha Barbash is escorted by law enforcement officers following her arrest Monday in New York.

Feds: NYC strippers schemed to drug, steal from rich men

By Tom Hays

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's a tawdry tale of New York City strippers on the prowl for men with money, drinks spiked with illegal synthetic drugs and runaway credit card charges at topless clubs.

Some of the men say they have little or no memory of any of it. Investigators filled in the blanks for them Wednesday by announcing the arrests of four women — all described as professional strippers — and a club manager on charges including grand larceny, assault and forgery.

The five were accused of teaming up to rip off a combined \$200,000 from a New Jersey doctor, a banker, a hedge fund executive and a real estate attorney in a credit card scam during the last four months of 2013.

None of the victims was named in court papers. A lawyer for Dr.

Zyad Younan, a cardiologist at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, identified his client as one of them.

One of the women, Karina Pascucci, and the manager, Carmine Vitolo, pleaded not guilty on Wednesday in state court in Manhattan. The other three defendants, including suspected ringleader Samantha Barbash, were arraigned Tuesday.

Barbash's attorney, Stephen Murphy, said Wednesday that his client denies the charges. Pascucci's lawyer, Patrick Parrotta, said his client is a college student with no criminal record who worked as a waitress at Scores in Manhattan but never stripped there. A lawyer for Vitolo, Murray Richman, denied charges the club manager helped set up the men.

According to Drug Enforcement Administration and New York Police Department investigators, the scheme began with the

women going on "fishing" expeditions at bars in midtown Manhattan and on Long Island to lure in victims. On follow-up dates, they secretly dosed the victim's drinks with the stimulant methylene, commonly known as "molly," or the tranquilizer ketamine.

The dazed and confused victims were driven to Scores and the RoadHouse in Queens, where their credit cards were swiped and unauthorized charges recorded, some as high as \$50,000. The clubs paid the women a fee, but the establishments were not facing criminal charges, authorities said.

The men reported waking up in their cars or in hotel rooms, wondering how they got there. Those who tried to dispute the strip club bills received texts from the strippers threatening to go public with their transgressions, authorities said.

Texas governor compares gays, alcoholics

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Texas Gov. Rick Perry, during a visit that focused primarily on economic issues, drew on a reference to alcoholism to explain his view of homosexuality.

Perry's comments to the Commonwealth Club of California came after Texas' Republican Convention on Saturday sanctioned platform language allowing Texans to seek voluntary counseling to "cure" being gay.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that in response to a question about it, Perry said he

did not know whether the therapy worked.

Perry, a former and potential future GOP presidential candidate, then was asked whether he believed homosexuality was a disorder.

The paper said that the governor responded that "whether or not you feel compelled to follow a particular lifestyle or not, you have the ability to decide not to do that."

He said, "I may have the genetic coding that I'm inclined to be an alcoholic, but I have the desire not to do that, and I look at the ho-

mosexual issue the same way."

The Texas Republican platform stand on the issue is in contrast to California and New Jersey, which previously have banned licensed professionals from providing such therapy to minors.

During the bulk of his talk, Perry held up his own state as a model for responsible energy production and economic growth in California.

Perry said he believes Texas is leading the way in achieving energy independence by producing crude oil and electricity in many forms, including solar power.

Some states roll back protections of teacher tenure

By Kimberly Heffling

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Even before a judge's scathing ruling against California's teacher tenure policies, the once-sacred protections that make it harder to fire teachers already had been weakened in many states — and even removed altogether in some places.

Florida, for example, put all teachers hired after 2011 on annual teaching contracts, which essentially did away with tenure protections.

Kansas and North Carolina also are seeking to eliminate tenure or phase it out. The nonpartisan Education Commission of the States, which highlighted the changes in a recent report, says 16 states — up from 10 in 2011 — now require the results of teacher evaluations to be used in determining whether to renew a contract.

Not all changes have stuck, and few are without a political fight.

Teacher tenure protections were established in the 20th century to protect teachers from arbitrary or discriminatory firings based on factors such as seniority, nationality or political beliefs. They spell out rules under which teachers may be dismissed after they pass a probationary period. Critics say the tenure protections make it too difficult to fire ineffective teachers.

The debate over teacher tenure comes as many states, propelled by Obama administration-led incentives, develop more meaningful teacher evaluation systems that seek to provide a more ac-

curate picture of student learning under a teacher. Using such systems, the Education Commission of the States says seven states make teachers return to probationary status if they are rated "ineffective," meaning they have no assurances their contracts will be renewed at the end of the school year.

"A good number of states have effectively done away with tenure through their new evaluation systems that include measurements of student achievement," said Michelle Ekstrom, education program director at the National Conference of State Legislatures.

On Tuesday, Superior Court Judge Rolf Treu in Los Angeles sided with nine students who sued to overturn California statutes governing teacher hiring and firing, saying they served no compelling purpose and had led to an unfair, nonsensical system that drove excellent new teachers from the classroom too soon and kept incompetent senior ones. The practices harm students in a way that "shocks the conscience" and have "a disproportionate burden on poor and minority students," the judge wrote.

While the ruling affects just California, proponents of rolling back tenure protections say the landscape is ripe for change. They predict the judge's ruling will spur a flood of new legislative action and more lawsuits. They say that too often, all K-12 teachers have to do is show up for work for a set period of time to earn tenure protection.

Suspect's friends puzzle over Ore. school shooting

By Gosia Woziacka

The Associated Press

TROUTDALE, Ore. — Jared Michael Padgett was a straight-arrow kid who had a fascination with guns, planned a career in the military and was deeply devoted to his Mormon faith, those who knew him say.

And they're all wondering why the 15-year-old took an assault rifle, a handgun and nine ammunition magazines to his high school and killed a fellow freshman, injured a teacher and took his own life.

Police said Wednesday that they have not been able to establish a link between Padgett and Emilio Hoffman, 14, who was shot dead in a locker room.

Police have not said whether they believe Padgett had a specific target when he arrived at Reyn-

olds High School in Troutdale on Tuesday morning or planned a random shooting.

Padgett was passionate about guns and had a temper, but he also seemed like a nice and normal kid, students say. "He always talked about guns," said Kaylah Ensign, a student who had a class with Padgett and was a close friend of the victim. She said Padgett could be kind and respectful but sometimes got angry.

"He helped kids, and I never would have thought he would do that," Ensign said. "And he was really neat."

Freshman Daniel DeLong, 15, said he would see Padgett in the halls but did not have any classes with him.

"Honestly, he looked like a really nice kid, like somebody you'd want to have on your side," DeLong said.

NATION



A loggerhead sea turtle peeks out from its holding tank while volunteer Jeff Rolke and Stranding Technician Marcia Thomas tend to another injured loggerhead at the Mid-Atlantic Marine Conservation Center. Below, a rescued Kemp's ridley sea turtle named Dionysis.

PHOTOS BY JAY DIEM, EASTERN SHORE NEWS/AP

Aquarium mission: Rescue, research

Virginia stranding team seeks to save marine animals, or learn from their loss

By TED SHOCKLEY

Eastern Shore (Virginia) News

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va. — The mystery began with a telephone call on an otherwise normal Wednesday to the Mid-Atlantic Marine Conservation Center, a plain building on a dead-end street near the Virginia Beach oceanfront.

A whale 30 feet in length was on a sandy shoal in the Chesapeake Bay near the state line that separates Maryland and Virginia, several hours away.

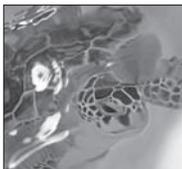
Maggie Lynott, who manages stranding responses, receives similar calls frequently. Last year, an "unusual mortality event" affected bottlenose dolphins along the East Coast, making 2013 the busiest year the Virginia Aquarium Stranding Response Team has ever had.

Of the 427 stranded dolphins the conservation center responded to in 2013, more than 28 percent were found along the hundreds of miles of coastline on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

Whale strandings are different. Unlike the dolphin strandings, which were caused by a virus, the cause of the whale's demise was less clear, and its carcass was harder to access.

"These can present pretty challenging responses," Lynott said. "Large whale response requires a lot of logistics."

The next day, center staff members and volunteers flew to Tangier Island and boated to the whale, which was deceased. Two days later, another group of staff members and volunteers arrived to collect samples



“Every stranding presents a great opportunity to learn. We don’t want them to wash up on shore, but we don’t want to have that happen in vain.”

Maggie Lynott

Stranding response manager

in an effort to learn how the animal died.

It was yet another trip for specialists to the Eastern Shore, where the center, which operates under the Virginia Aquarium, has a primary role in helping marine mammals and sea turtles in need.

While the popular aquarium is known for its 800,000 gallons of exhibits, IMAX Theater and more, the stranding team and the conservation center work behind the scenes and out in the field to protect and study marine life.

Unlike Maryland's or North Carolina's, Virginia's government is one of the few that has not created a state-supported marine stranding program.

The conservation center and stranding team rely on donations and grants to conduct their work, a lot of which historically has been focused on Northampton and Accomack counties.

"Our team is always over there," said Joan Barns, an aquarium spokeswoman.

Three of the 10 turtles being rehabilitated in the center on a recent day were

found in distress on the Eastern Shore. All are Kemp's ridley turtles, the most endangered.

Roughly once each summer during recent years, the stranding team has come to the Eastern Shore to investigate a beached whale.

Center representatives took samples of all the animals for study. One of its misunderstood missions is using the carcasses for a better understanding of the animals.

Even if the animal isn't saved, good can still come from it.

"Every stranding presents a great opportunity to learn," Lynott said. "We don't want them to wash up on shore, but we don't want to have that happen in vain."

During summer 2010, a crowd of hundreds gathered at the Cape Charles beachfront as 12 sea turtles rehabilitated at the conservation center were released into the Chesapeake Bay.

Not only was the event a success story, "it was an opportunity for us to educate the public," Barns said.

Harsh winter temperatures that hit the Eastern Shore left two sea turtles cold, stunned and beached in Northampton County late last year.

The turtles are among those being rehabilitated in large swimming pool-style tanks at the conservation center.

Some of the turtles being rehabilitated will be unable to live in the wild and will be moved to an aquarium.

The turtles that are returned to the sea are equipped with a satellite transmitter so the conservation center can study whether they adapt to their previous lifestyles. Officials can track their swim and migration patterns and find that almost all rehabilitated turtles resume their normal lifestyles.

Barns said the care and patience given to the stranded animals is a reflection on the staff, some of whom began at the conservation center during internships and were offered full-time employment later.

"It's a truly, truly dedicated group of people," Barns said.

While Barns and others acknowledge the rescues seem to make headlines, usually the animals found by the stranding team have died. Data collection takes place so researchers can form a better understanding of them.

While the research and data collection help with the ever-growing knowledge of whales like the one stranded near the state line in February, sometimes a specific cause of death remains forever a mystery.

NATION

Public art exhibit puts New York's homeless on display

By ULA ILNYTZKY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Best known for his provocative images, photographer Andres Serrano has turned his attention to putting a very public face on New York City's skyrocketing homeless population.

His stark portraits of individuals who live on the street appear in some of the very locations that his subjects often populate—a subway station, a park, a church. They're also inside 50 phone booths and bus stop shelters around Manhattan.

"I wanted to pay homage to them and put them somewhere visible where people could actually see the faces of the people you encounter on the street that you normally don't look at," Serrano said.

“Serrano captures the direct gaze of these men and women, which we too often attempt to avert our eyes from.”

Mary Brosnahan, Coalition for the Homeless

of studio-style photographs of homeless people titled "Nomads."

This time, "I wanted to record and document them the way I found them on the street," said Serrano, who shot with film for six weeks in January and February.

The native New Yorker said he had never seen more homeless people on the city's streets.

The number of people without permanent homes has skyrocketed in recent years and as of last week more than 53,000 people slept in city shelters, according to city officials, who unveiled a multimillion-dollar program to address the problem.

The most dramatic display in "Residents of New York" is at the West Fourth Street subway station in Greenwich Village, where all 35 poster-sized photographs line two corridors and the entrance. Among the many faces is that of a 27-year-old man who posed with his wife and died of liver complications two weeks after the photo was taken.

"Serrano captures the direct gaze of these men and women, which we too often attempt to avert our eyes from," said Mary Brosnahan, president and CEO of the Coalition for the Homeless.

Serrano said he got no resistance about taking the pictures, saying the homeless "were happy to be asked to be a part of something. Normally, they're ignored."



Vince Verdi walks past photos of homeless people displayed at the West 4th Street subway station in New York.

PHOTOS BY KATHY WILLENS/AP

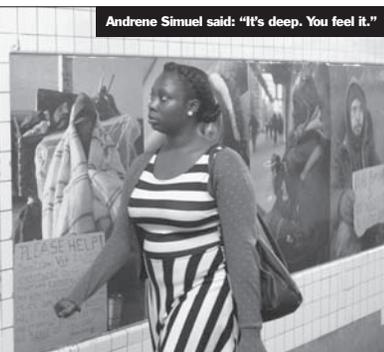


Jeremy Connolly said: "It's frightful. We spend literally billions on elections, but we don't spend money on people."



Andi Porzio pauses to look at Andres Serrano's photos.

FACES ON THE STREETS



Andreane Simuel said: "It's deep. You feel it."

WORLD

Support grows for U.S. airstrikes in Iraq

Obama says administration 'looking at all the options'

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans on Thursday said U.S. airstrikes could be used to push back al-Qaida-aligned militants threatening the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

Members of the Senate Armed Services Committee received a confidential briefing from Department of Defense Iraq and Middle East experts. Following the briefing, Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., said the situation was "chilling" and that the country was collapsing to Sunni Islamic fundamentalists bent on creating a caliphate in the Middle East.

Shock over the lightning advance of the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant, or ISIL, spread through Washington Thursday morning and by midday President Barack Obama announced that his national security team was "looking at all the options" for helping the government in Baghdad.

The ISIL was near a holy Shiite shrine in Samarra and heading south toward the capital after seizing Mosul, the second largest Iraqi city, and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit. The group also controls Fallujah, the site of one of the bloodiest battles of the U.S. war.

"There is no scenario where we can stop the bleeding in Iraq without American air power," Graham said.

Speaking outside the closed-door emergency briefing, Sen. John McCain called an ISIL victory in Iraq the gravest threat to the United States since the Cold War, and said he would consider supporting airstrikes to repel the force as one option.

"The options that we have become fewer and fewer as the startling success of the ISIL continues, so we have to act rather rapidly," McCain said.

McCain called on Obama to fire his national security team and re-staff it with former officials who took part in the Iraq War, including generals David Petraeus, James Mattis, Jack Keane, and former U.S. ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker.

"I favor putting together a team quickly and exploring all the options," he said.

The New York Times reported, citing unnamed Iraqi and American sources, that Iraq President Nouri al-Maliki secretly asked the Obama administration this week to consider deploying military air power against extremist staging areas.

But Iraq's appeals for a military response have so far been rebuffed by the White House, which has been reluctant to open a new

"The message is we are going to carefully and thoughtfully look at the options we have, none of which are good options."

Sen. Carl Levin

chapter in a conflict that Obama has insisted was over when the United States withdrew the last of its forces from Iraq in 2011.

Democrats on the Armed Services Committee called for caution Thursday on any commitment of U.S. force.

Sen. Carl Levin, R-Mich., chairman of the committee, said he was carefully considering what options are available and that action may depend on the Iraq government's commitment to securing the country.

"It's unclear how airstrikes on our part can succeed unless the Iraqi army is willing to fight, and that's uncertain given the fact that several Iraqi army divisions have melted away," Levin said in a released statement.

The lack of reconciliation between the Shiite-led government in Baghdad and Sunni groups in the country is a key problem that must be solved if U.S. military intervention is to be successful, he said.

"We got into Iraq without adequate consideration for the consequences," Levin said. "What is required now is thoughtful consideration of our options, none of which, typically for the Middle East, is obvious or easy."

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said the Iraq crisis might have been avoided if a troop presence had been negotiated before the U.S. departure from Iraq in 2011.

Obama's announced timeline for withdrawal in Afghanistan could create similar problems because it telegraphs military plans to the Taliban and is not based on conditions on the ground, she said.

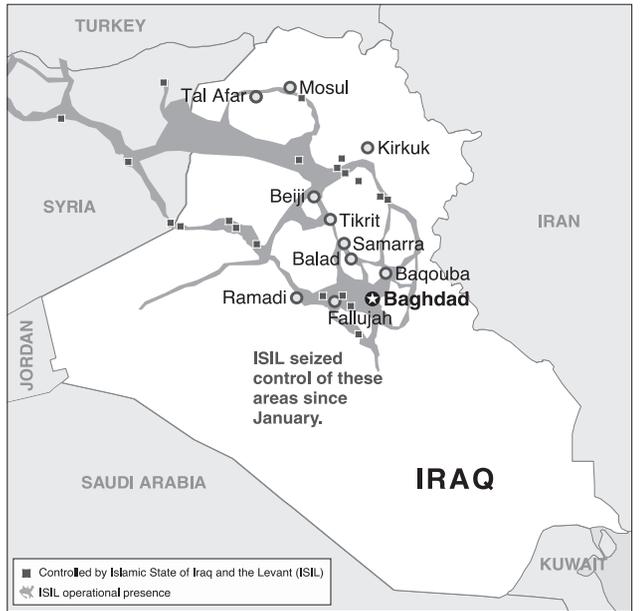
"I would hope the president would take some of the lessons we are seeing in Iraq and not repeat them in Afghanistan," Ayotte said.

About 4,500 American troops and hundreds of thousands of Iraqis died during nearly a decade of war, which the U.S. launched in 2003 to remove Hussein's regime and reduce foreign threats following the 9/11 attacks.

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Militants move across Iraq

Fighters from the militant group ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, sometimes also referred to as ISIS, have taken control of several Iraqi cities fought for and controlled by U.S. troops after the 2003 invasion.



SOURCES: The Washington Post

Mosul

Located 250 miles northwest of Baghdad, Mosul is the largest city in northern Iraq and a major commercial and transport hub. Saddam Hussein's sons, Uday and Qusay, were killed there in a freight with U.S. forces on July 22, 2003. After the fall of Baghdad, it served as an operational base for the 101st Airborne Division and other major units that rotated in and out of the country during the war. Initially seen as a success story, its situation increased. On Dec. 21, 2004, a suicide bomber wearing an Iraqi uniform detonated his explosives in the mess hall at FOB Marer in Mosul, killing 22 people including 14 U.S. soldiers, and injured more than 70. Most of the victims were from the 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division. On Nov. 10, 2004, insurgents triggered an uprising in Mosul to take pressure off comrades fighting the Americans in Fallujah. The U.S. had to re-deploy units of the 25th Infantry Division back to Mosul from the Fallujah operation to help the 1st battalion, 25th Infantry Brigade combat team. Major bases in/around Mosul: Camp Marer, Camp Courage (formerly Camp Freedom) and located at one of Saddam's palaces.

Tikrit

Located about 100 miles northwest of Baghdad, Tikrit was Saddam's hometown and was home to many of his key aides. After Baghdad fell, the hunt for Saddam focused on Tikrit, where he was captured on Dec. 13, 2003, in a hole outside the city. In June 2003, during raids throughout the city, U.S. forces captured Saddam's top aide Abdul Hamid Mahmud al-Tikriti, No. 4 on the list of most-wanted Iraqi officials. He was hanged by the Iraqis in June 2012 after being convicted of genocide. Major U.S. bases around Tikrit included FOB Danger (former Camp Marer), FOB Dagger (former Marer), FOB Specifier, which was headquarters for coalition forces in northern Iraq.

Balad

Located some 50 miles northwest of Baghdad, Balad served as a major U.S. installation that included the main air base in the country and the main hospital for treating serious battlefield wounds. In October 2006, sectarian violence erupted in the area between Sunnis and Shiites. Iraqi forces backed by U.S. troops managed to restore relative peace, but not before several days of mutual kidnappings, beatings and mortar attacks cost hundreds of lives. Most Sunnis fled the city. Major bases around Balad: Camp Anacorda (Balad Airbase)

Beiji

About 155 miles north of Baghdad, Beiji is located on the main road from Baghdad to Mosul and is home to Iraq's largest oil refinery and a major power station. It was captured with minimal resistance in 2003 but was the scene of numerous insurgent attacks following the fall of Baghdad. Riots broke out in October 2003 when residents complained of corruption by the U.S.-backed Iraqi police force. After American troops restored order but sporadic attacks including roadside bombs and car bombs persisted, Major bases near Beiji: FOB Summerland.

Baqouba

About 30 miles northeast of Baghdad and home of U.S. Camp Warhorse. Scene of heavy fighting against both Sunni and Shiite militias who competed for control of the city. Insurgent leader Abu Musa al-Zarqawi, founder of the Iraqi branch of al-Qaida, was killed in a U.S. airstrike outside Baqouba in June 2006. Four months later his successors rebranded their movement as the Islamic State of Iraq, the forerunner of the current extremist group, and declared Baqouba as their capital.

About 10,000 U.S. and Iraqi forces launched Operation Anvoshah Ripper in 2007 to regain control of the city, although sporadic car bombings continued for years.

Fallujah

Some 435 miles west of Baghdad on the Euphrates. Fell to ISIL/ISIL control in January 2014. Among the least affected areas of Iraq after the 2003 invasion, as Iraqi Army units deserted and melted into the local population. In 2004, insurgents ambushed a convoy containing four Blackwater contractors. Their charred corpses were then dragged through the streets before being hung from a bridge spanning the Euphrates River. Operation Vigilant Resolve was an abortive attempt to recapture control of the city followed in November 2004 by the successful recapture operation, Operation Phantom Fury. Reportedly 36,000 of the city's 50,000 homes were destroyed, along with 60 schools and 63 mosques.

Ramadi

A base of resistance to the U.S. occupation of Iraq be-

Nuqa An-naw/Stars and Stripes

tween 2003 and 2006, and the scene of some of the fiercest fighting. U.S. military officers believe that insurgent attacks during the battle led to the formation of the Anbar Awakening, which coalesces between tribal Shiites to maintain security in their communities. These were initially sponsored by the U.S. military.

Samarra

Located 400 miles north of Baghdad, Samarra became a flashpoint in the war because it is a mostly Sunni city that hosts the Golden Dome, one of the most revered religious sites for Shiites.

The city fell under the control of al-Qaida-linked militants in 2004 when insurgents seized Fallujah to the southwest, and Iraqi troops regained a tenuous hold in three days of fighting in October 2004. Nevertheless, Sunni militants managed to blow up the Golden Dome shrine in February 2006, triggering nearly a year of sectarian warfare between Iraqi Sunnis and Shiites that plunged the nation to the brink of civil war and prompted President George W. Bush.

With Sunni extremists now threatening the city, Shiite Iranian Muqtada al-Sadr has called for Iraqi special forces to defend religious shrines, including the reconstructed Golden Dome.

Haditha

Haditha, a Sunni city, is located on the Euphrates River about 150 miles northwest of Baghdad near Iraq's major hydroelectric dam. It was also a key station on the "fat line" through which insurgents smuggled weapons and foreign fighters from Syria during the Iraq War. U.S. forces repeatedly took the city, only to see it fall again under insurgent control after the overstretched Americans handed Haditha back to local forces. In one of those operations in August 2006, six Marine snipers were slaughtered by extremists on an observation post and two days later, a roadside bomb killed 14 Marines and their Iraqi interpreter. In November 2005, 24 Iraqi civilians, including 11 women and children, were killed by U.S. Marines after one of their unit was killed in a roadside bombing. In November 2005, 24 Iraqi civilians, including 11 women and children, were killed by U.S. Marines after one of their unit was killed in a roadside bombing. In November 2005, 24 Iraqi civilians, including 11 women and children, were killed by U.S. Marines after one of their unit was killed in a roadside bombing. In November 2005, 24 Iraqi civilians, including 11 women and children, were killed by U.S. Marines after one of their unit was killed in a roadside bombing.

SOURCES: Department of Defense, Wikipedia, The Washington Post, The U.K.'s Guardian

WORLD



A burned-out Iraqi army armored vehicle lies on a street in Mosul, northern Iraq, on Thursday.

Americans leaving Iraq as militants continue advance

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The al-Qaida-inspired group that led this week's charge in capturing two key Sunni-dominated cities in Iraq vowed Thursday to march on to Baghdad, raising fears about the Shiite-led government's ability to slow the assault following lightning gains.

Meanwhile, officials said three planeloads of Americans were being evacuated from a major Iraqi air base in Sunni territory north of Baghdad to escape potential threats from a fast-moving insurgency.

Signs emerged that the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant is backed in its campaign by former military officers and other members of ousted dictator Saddam Hussein's regime — including a force led by Izzat Ibrahim al-Douri, the late leader's former deputy who escaped the 2003 U.S.-led invasion and eluded U.S. and Iraqi forces ever since.

In the north, Kurdish security forces took over an air base and other posts abandoned by the Iraqi military in ethnically mixed Kirkuk, a senior official with the Kurdish forces said. He denied they had taken over the oil-rich city.

The evacuation of Americans means the American training mission at the air field in Balad has been grounded indefinitely, a current U.S. official and a former senior Obama administration official said.

Twelve U.S. personnel who were stationed at Balad were the first

to be evacuated. Several hundred American contractors are still waiting to leave. They have been training Iraqi forces to use fighter jets and surveillance drones.

Other U.S. contractors at a tank training ground in the city of Taji are still continuing for now.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki asked parliament this week to declare a state of emergency that would give him increased powers to run the country, but the lawmakers Thursday failed to assemble a quorum to do so.

As world leaders expressed alarm over the destabilization of large parts of the country by fighters from the militant group known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, the U.N. Security Council scheduled consultations on the crisis.

The Islamic State aims to create an Islamic emirate spanning both sides of the Iraq-Syria border. It has been able to push deep into parts of the Iraqi Sunni heartland once controlled by U.S. forces because police and military forces melted away after relatively brief clashes.

Two senior intelligence officials told The Associated Press that an armed group led by al-Douri, the Nagshabandi Army, and other Saddam-era military figures joined the Islamic State in the fight. In Saddam's hometown of Tikrit that was overrun by militants Wednesday, witnesses said fighters raised posters of Saddam and al-Douri.

The two officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the press.

Germany may boost defense budget over Russian threats

By Patrick Donahue

Bloomberg News

BERLIN — Germany may have to lift defense spending to counter future threats by Russia as Europe's biggest economy faces U.S. pressure to build up its military, an ally of Chancellor Angela Merkel says.

Henning Otte, the parliamentary defense spokesman for Merkel's Christian Democrats in the lower house, said Germany contributes its fair share to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization in missions such as Afghanistan and Kosovo. While spending levels aren't the priority now, a worsening threat could prompt a debate on diverting more to defense, he said.

"We can back these capabilities with the current defense budget," Otte said in an interview in Berlin on June 6. "Should the security situation intensify, then we would have to consider possibly increasing the defense budget."

German-led budget cutting in response to Europe's debt crisis is colliding with renewed debate in NATO on military burden-sharing. As the United States presses for more spending after Russia seized

part of Ukraine, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel upbraided allies in the 28-member alliance on June 3 for being "content" with dwindling budgets.

At 1.3 percent of gross domestic product, Germany's defense spending is lower than the 1.6 percent average among European members of the alliance in 2013. That compares with the U.S.'s 4.4 percent, according to NATO data.

As Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine in March and the crisis flared into the biggest standoff since the Cold War, lawmakers were drafting Germany's delayed 2014 budget in Berlin.

They emerged on June 6 with an agreement to cut defense spending by \$546 million as part of Merkel's effort to balance the federal budget, a pledge she made during her re-election campaign last year.

Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen, Germany's first woman in the post, unveiled a drive the same week to win career soldiers by making the military, or Bundeswehr, more attractive to families. She signaled she had no plans for lifting defense spending

as a portion of GDP, while saying spending could rise in line with economic growth.

"Having a high defense budget isn't an end in itself, rather it's how the money is being spent," von der Leyen told reporters in Berlin on June 4.

Germans have a "very nuanced" view of defense, she said in an interview with Der Spiegel magazine posted on her ministry's website. "They rightly ask why and on what we're spending money."

The 2014 cuts mostly reflect deferred outlays after a procurement review ordered by von der Leyen, who faces cost overruns and delivery delays. Projects under consideration in Germany are replacing missile-defence capability by adapting Raytheon's Patriot system and expanding the NH90 transport-helicopter fleet. Botched projects include last year's cancellation of the Euro Hawk spy drone.

Von der Leyen has expressed sympathy with U.S. demands on spending, saying that shrinking defense budgets should be brought to a halt.

N. Korean leader bashes weather service

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Many people around the world grumble about inaccurate weather forecasts, but North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is doing something about it.

Kim, the third generation of his family to rule, is using his position atop the authoritarian country to warn meteorologists against the "many incorrect forecasts" caused by old observation systems.

It remains to be seen whether Kim's field guidance trip to the state-run Hydro-Meteorological Service, reported by state media Tuesday, will lead to more accurate weather predictions. But it was a rare official acknowledgment by proud but impoverished North Korea of its struggles with outdated technology.

It's also a reflection of Kim's stated objective of improving the economy and public livelihood. Another main objective is build-

ing more nuclear weapons, which has drawn international condemnation and stern economic sanctions.

The country's frequent natural disasters, like droughts and flooding, are believed to have worsened chronic food shortages.

Kim, who took power after the December 2011 death of his father, Kim Jong Il, was said by state media to have toured forecasting, communications and

satellite rooms "to learn in detail about meteorological observation and weather forecasts."

Kim said there had been "many incorrect forecasts as the meteorological observation has not been put on a modern and scientific basis," according to the official Korean Central News Agency. He added that the country needed proper meteorological observations to protect people and property from disaster.

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WORLD

Officials: 2 US drone strikes in Pakistan

By ASIF SHAHZAD
AND REBECCA SANTANA
The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Missiles from U.S. drones slammed into militant hideouts overnight in northwestern Pakistan, killing 13 suspected insurgents and marking the resumption of the CIA-led program after a nearly six-month break, officials said Thursday.

The two separate drone strikes sparked swift condemnation by the Pakistani government. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement the strikes are a violation of Pakistani sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the first strike, which came

late Wednesday, a suspected American drone fired two missiles at a militant hideout in the North Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border, killing three militants.

Then, early Thursday a suspected U.S. missile strike targeted another militant compound in North Waziristan, killing at least 10 people, Pakistani intelligence officials said.

Pakistan's northwest, particularly North Waziristan, is home to numerous militant groups — both local and al-Qaida-linked foreign groups — who often work together, sharing fighters, money or expertise.

There was no immediate infor-

mation on the identities of those killed in the strikes but the two intelligence officials who gave information about the strike said the area is dominated by the Haqqani network, and most of those killed are believed to have belonged to the organization.

"We have also been hearing some names coming from our field agents, but we don't have any confirmation so far," said one of the officials. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

The Haqqani network is believed to carry out operations against U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan from bases in North

Waziristan and is considered one of the more lethal groups operating in Afghanistan.

Due to stricter rules on the use of drones, diplomatic sensitivities and the changing nature of the al-Qaida threat, the number of American drone strikes had dwindled. The ones Wednesday and Thursday were the first since Christmas, and even before that, the number of strikes every year had been steadily dropping.

The Pakistani government and military are believed to have supported the drone strikes to a degree in the past but in recent years have become more vocal in their opposition. The strikes are extremely controversial in Paki-

stan where many people consider them a violation of the country's sovereignty.

Meanwhile, a Pakistani court on Thursday struck down a government order barring former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, who faces treason charges, from leaving the country. The ex-president's court victory was tempered because the government can still appeal.

The ruling by the Karachi court could pave the way for the man who ruled Pakistan for nearly a decade to leave the country after an embarrassing trial that saw him become the first chief of army staff to face treason charges.

China and Japan in dispute on encounter

The Associated Press

BEIJING — China and Japan are blaming each other for a close encounter between military jets over the East China Sea.

China's Defense Ministry said Thursday that Japanese F-15 fighters followed a Chinese TU-154 plane on a regular patrol Wednesday morning and got as close as 100 feet.

It released two videos on its website purporting to show the incident, which it said had "seriously affected" the safety of the Chinese plane.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga denied on Thursday that Japanese aircraft had approached a Chinese plane and said Japan stood by the version it gave on Wednesday — that two Chinese SU27 fighters had posed a danger to Japanese aircraft by flying near them. "Chinese criticism is irrelevant," Suga said.

On Wednesday, Japan lodged a diplomatic protest with Beijing over the incident and on Thurs-



JAPAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE/AP

An undated photo released by Japan's Ministry of Defense shows a Chinese SU-27 fighter plane. China and Japan are blaming each other for a close encounter between military jets over the East China Sea.

day its Foreign Ministry summoned China's ambassador.

In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters, "China strongly opposes and protests Japan's act of ignoring the facts, shifting the blame onto the victim, aggressive slandering and hyping the so-called China threat."

Tensions between the two Asian rivals have worsened in recent years over a group of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea called Senkaku in Japanese and Diaoyu in Chinese. Japan controls the islands but China

also claims them.

The two countries have increased patrols by ships and military planes to press their conflicting territorial claims.

They had a similar incident on May 24.

"The latest incident occurred despite our strong protest and request for preventive efforts following the previous incident, and the government of Japan takes it extremely seriously," Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Aikata Saiki told reporters after meeting with Ambassador Cheng Yonghua.

British court allows secrecy during trial

By JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — Britain's appeals court ruled Thursday that a criminal trial of two terrorism suspects can be held largely in secret on national security grounds — a decision some say sets a dangerous precedent.

Three judges said the case was "exceptional," and that the core of the trial should be heard without the public present in court. Under the ruling, a small number of journalists will be allowed to attend most of the proceedings, but not to report it as it unfolds.

Prosecutors sought the secret trial on security grounds, saying they would have to abandon the case if it could not be held in private and without publicly naming the defendants. The judges expressed "grave concern" about doing both at the same time, and ordered that the names of the suspects be released.

While portions of trials have previously been held without press or public present, lawyers said the bid for an entire secret criminal trial was unprecedented in an English court.

That move was challenged

by media organizations, who claimed a partial victory in the case Thursday. The decision is final, and the trial is due to start Monday.

The defendants, previously named as AB and CD, were then identified as Erol Incedal and Mounir Rarmoul-Bouhadjar. Incedal is charged with preparing an act of terrorism, and Rarmoul-Bouhadjar with other terrorist offenses. Details of their alleged crimes have not been made public.

The judges agreed about the risk that "the administration of justice would be frustrated if the trial were to be held in open court."

Lord Justice Peter Gross, one of the judges, said that open justice was "a fundamental principle of our common law," but that a departure from open justice was justified in some circumstances.

He said exceptions to open justice must be "necessary and proportionate."

The judges said the "core" of part of the trial should be private but some sections would be held in public, including the jury swearing-in, the reading of the charges and the verdicts.

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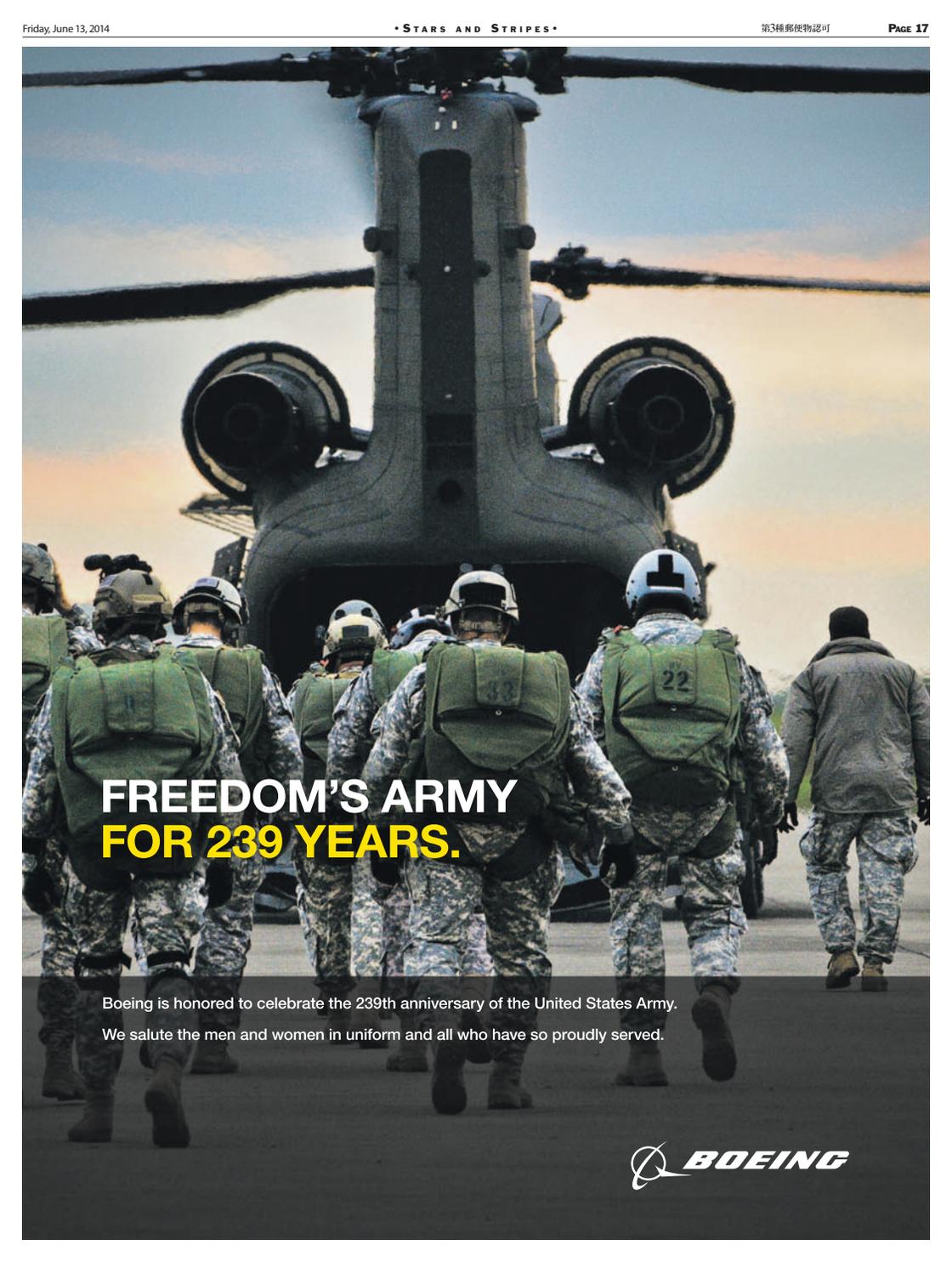
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WORLD

Tech upheaval spurs European taxi protest

Transportation workers decry threat to jobs

By LORI HINNANT AND GREGORY KATZ
The Associated Press

LONDON — Roads snarled in London, Paris and several other major European cities Wednesday as taxi drivers and train workers protested new technology they say endangers passengers and gives upstart enterprises an unfair advantage.

Drivers of London's famed black cabs refused to pick up fares and drove at a snail's pace through Trafalgar Square — creating nightmarish gridlock — and travelers in France were hobbled not only by the taxi slowdown but also by strikes on the national train network and Paris commuter lines. Madrid, Barcelona and Berlin were hit as well.

The strike action was sparked by fears about the growing upheaval in the travel and transportation industry, largely due to digital technologies that have made things easier for travelers but that have caused workers to raise concerns about safety — and the future of their jobs. These are some of the changes and the debate surrounding them:

Private car services

Services like Uber and Chauffeur Prive, the crux of Wednesday's taxi strike, allow passengers to hail rides from a mobile app. Taxi drivers, who can pay tens of thousands of dollars for their training and their medallions, complain that it's unfair and that drivers of the private services don't face the same requirements. Uber has been banned in Brussels and has come under scrutiny

in Spain, but the European Union is pushing for acceptance, saying it benefits consumers. Apparently timed for the strike, Uber released an app directed at London customers and offered free rides to some customers in Paris and half off in Berlin.

Automated subways

Subway lines are increasingly run by semiconductors, not human conductors. Two metro lines along Paris' Seine River are automated, but creating driverless systems required extensive negotiations with the unions, followed by an advertising campaign to persuade passengers of its safety, which included hiring musicians for two days to offer their interpretation of a song composed in honor of the computerization. About 40 supervisory jobs were available to the 250 drivers who worked on one of the lines.

Rent a room

Airbnb pioneered the idea of linking homeowners with travelers, allowing people to rent out rooms or entire homes for considerably less than hotel rates — especially in expensive, heavily visited cities like London, Paris and New York. The company that made a commodity of couch-surfing has come under criticism from the hotel chains that are its main competitors — they are subject to health and safety inspections that people who list their homes on Airbnb don't face. Landlords are also watching closely because subletting is often barred under leases, and city governments have filed complaints that the service could be violating local laws regulating zoning and transient housing.

Online airline tickets

Online travel booking has devastated the jobs of travel agents. Since 2000, their numbers have



SANG TAN/AP

Roads are snarled in London on Wednesday as taxi drivers stop their black cabs to protest new technology they say endangers passengers.

been cut in half in the U.S., from about 124,000 to 64,000, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. It's projected to decline by 12 percent in the next decade. It happened with hardly a protest, largely because most travel agencies — both in Europe and the U.S. — tend to be smaller, nonunionized companies. "The fact is that digital technology is changing many aspects of our lives," Neelie Kroes, the European Union vice president in charge of digital affairs, said of Wednesday's protest. "We cannot address these challenges by ignoring them, by going on strike, or by trying to ban these innovations out of existence."



THEBAULT CAMUS/AP

A yellow ribbon reading "Taxi on strike" adorns a Paris taxi taking part in a demonstration Wednesday near the Eiffel Tower.

European court: Death doesn't end benefits

BERLIN — A new European court ruling says vacation benefits are still valid after death.

The European Court of Justice ruled Thursday in the case of a German man whose widow had claimed, as his heir, that she was due payment for 140.5 days of vacation he had not taken.

From The Associated Press

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FAITH



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN S. LANDAY/MCT

Residents of the Old City of Homs, Syria, survey the damage to their homes three weeks after a truce and rebel withdrawal ended a siege by Syrian government forces.

Dutch priest aided Syrians in rebel siege

Minister killed by gunman often counseled Christians and Muslims

By JONATHAN S. LANDAY
McClatchy Washington Bureau

AND THEN there were 23. Just 23 Christians, most of them elderly, left alive in the besieged Old City of Homs when a masked gunman killed the beloved Dutch priest who'd consoled them during nearly two years of government bombardment and rebel-imposed isolation, when food supplies disappeared, when the lone doctor fell ill with cancer. Throughout it all, he counseled hope.

"I drank scotch with him almost daily," recalled George Ibrahim, 75, who'd rescued a stash of Johnnie Walker Black Label from his shop. "He'd have just one glass. Near the end, I was talking to Father Frans and he was telling me to be patient. This is going to stop. It's like he knew there would be an end to many things."

That end came in early May when the government and rebels agreed to a truce and the rebels pulled out. But the Rev. Frans van der Lugt was not there to mark the transition. He'd been gunned down 31 days earlier, April 7,

in the Jesuit monastery that he refused to abandon, even when boiled grass and leaves were all that was left to eat. Now, as life returns to the ruined heart of what's been dubbed the "capital of the revolution" against President Bashar Assad, the priest's presence runs like a bright current through the tales of privation from those who survived.

"Father Frans was neutral. He didn't back any side," said George Ghandour, 45, who helped bury van der Lugt's body only steps from the spot in the shaded courtyard where he died. "He aided everyone, Christian and Muslim, young and old. When the crisis began, five Muslim families moved into the monastery and he took care of them."

The reason for van der Lugt's slaying is unknown. The esteem in which he was held by Homs' majority Sunni Muslims makes the murder all the more perplexing to six Christian survivors of the siege interviewed by McClatchy during a two-day visit to their neighborhood of Hamadiya.

When fighting began in Homs in May 2011, there were 60,000



The grave of the Rev. Frans van der Lugt, a Jesuit priest who aided Christians and Muslims during the Syrian army siege of the Old City of Homs.

Christians living in the Old City. As the fighting raged, and the rebels lost ground in other districts, they were pushed into the Old City. Most of the Christian population fled. By June 2012, when rebels closed the exits to prevent more people from leaving, only 102 Christians remained.

The rebels and the local population lived uneasily together. Then,

late last year, as the insurgents became increasingly desperate as their food stocks dwindled, things changed. Christians began facing beatings, threats and thefts of their own meager supplies.

The only witness to van der Lugt's murder — who declined to be interviewed — told others that the lone gunman fired a single AK-47 shot into the priest's head after ordering him to sit in a plastic chair in the monastery courtyard. The killer then left without a word.

"The gunman 'insisted on seeing him but he was told that Father Frans doesn't come out before 10 a.m. Father Frans heard the voices, came out and asked what's going on,'" said Nazam Kanawati, 50, a civil engineer who arrived minutes after the slaying. "The gunman said, 'You should come with me.' Father Frans replied, 'I'm not going with you, especially when I can't see your face.'"

"The gunman said, 'Oh, you're not coming? Then sit down.' He arrived with the gun already cocked. He just shot him," Kanawati said.

Van der Lugt was the Christians' interface with the rebels, survivors said. He'd persuade the rebels to share some of the food they brought in with ammunition through their tunnels. He'd also arrange evacuations of the sick and injured and the smuggling of

medical supplies.

"He was a man of peace and because he wasn't Syrian, those people (rebels) liked to talk to him," said the Rev. Ziyad Hilal, a Jesuit colleague of van der Lugt. "He had this power to listen to others. Nobody had a problem with him before or during this situation."

Zaynat al Akhras, 65, recalls the precise date the rebels sealed the neighborhood — June 8, 2012.

"People had been going in and out," she recalled, sitting amid piles of dusty books and other belongings in the apartment she said she left only four times after that date. "We had food and everything. But after that, no food was coming in. The rebels wouldn't allow anyone out."

As the rebels' own food ran low, survivors said, the rebels began pressuring Frans to make a video appeal to Pope Francis that could be posted on the Internet.

"The rebels thought Father Frans had the power to ask the pope to send food and the food would be here the next day," said Kanawati. "But he refused. He did not want to use the Christian community or his power to get food for them. He didn't want the Christians used."

Eventually, van der Lugt agreed to make the video, but he "asked for food for everyone.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 charged over heroin taken to 1st-grade class

PA PHILADELPHIA — Authorities say a man and a woman are facing charges after a first-grader brought 11 packets of heroin to a Philadelphia school.

School officials said 20 students at Barry Elementary School in the city's Cobbs Creek section were taken to a hospital after a teacher saw a 6-year-old girl playing with one of the packets.

No injuries were reported, although police said one of the packets appeared to have been bitten and a girl was complaining of stomach pains.

Police and prosecutors said Wednesday that Christopher Troy-Jenkins White, 28, and Marie Hunter, 32, were charged with endangerment and narcotics possession.

Blast at celebratory bonfire injures 7 teens

NV HENDERSON — A drum of fuel left too close to a bonfire exploded in the desert in southern Nevada this week, injuring seven young people who gathered to celebrate a high school graduation ceremony, fire officials and a witness said.

The explosion late Monday night outside Henderson occurred after Basic High's commencement, said Maddie Anderson, a graduate of the Henderson school who was among the injured.

A boy rolled a 55-gallon barrel of diesel fuel to the edge of the blaze near an abandoned building and the container blew up a short time later, she said.

The teens were out of cellphone range, she said, and had to drive themselves to University Medical Center in nearby Las Vegas. Of five people admitted, two were discharged, two were in critical condition and one was in serious condition, hospital spokeswoman Danita Cohen said Wednesday. Two girls remained in the hospital's burn center, Anderson said.

Woman charged in trash-throwing incident

WA SEATTLE — A 28-year-old woman whose sleep was interrupted by a cancer charity run outside her Seattle apartment has been charged with assault and reckless endangerment for pelting supporters with trash, used cat litter and frozen chicken.

Any Lee was jailed briefly and has not yet entered a plea.

Charging papers say she tossed a bag of trash out her fifth-floor window onto supporters cheering the June 1 Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure.

The Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported she was loaded with a full of kitty litter full of feces, a large piece of frozen chicken that hit a 13-year-old girl and a juice bottle that nearly hit a disabled man.

EEOC: Workers forced to pray, say 'I love you'

NY MINEOLA — A federal agency said a New York health care firm forced employees

THE CENSUS

9 The number of days a kayaker journeyed into the Pacific Ocean in an attempt to reach Hawaii before he ran into trouble and had to turn around. A Coast Guard cutter crew on Tuesday rescued the 57-year-old man, who was not identified, about 60 miles southwest of Santa Barbara's Point Conception after he sent a distress call indicating equipment failure. A friend of the man said he had left Monterey, Calif., on May 30 attempting to make the 2,400-mile voyage in a kayak with a solar panel that charged all his electronic equipment. When the solar panel malfunctioned Saturday, the man turned back, but couldn't find his way.



CHRIS HUBER, RAPID CITY (S.D.) JOURNAL/AP

Leap into summer

Sarah Houghland, 15, and Hannah Wang, 16, jump off the rocks at a popular swimming spot on Battle Creek locally known as Hippie Hole near Mount Rushmore, S.D., on Tuesday.

to join prayer circles, thank God for having jobs and say "I love you" to co-workers and managers.

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a discrimination lawsuit Wednesday against United Health Programs of America and its parent company, Cost Containment Group.

The EEOC said the Long Island company required employees to practice a belief system called "Onionhead" that includes praying, discussing personal matters with colleagues and reading spiritual texts.

The agency says employees who objected were disciplined or terminated. It's asking a judge to stop the practices and ensure employees receive back pay and other compensation.

Mom talked to daughter as teen fell off cliff

AK ANCHORAGE — A Washington state teenager was on the phone with her mother as she hiked alone on a mountain in Alaska, saying she was nervous about the slippery terrain before her mother heard a

scream, and then silence. The 18-year-old had fallen 30 feet from a cliff.

Shelly LaGrou, said Tuesday that she waited, roughly 1,500 miles away in Omak, Wash., to hear her daughter's voice again.

Cherelle LaGrou came back on the phone after a while, saying she had slipped down the slope and couldn't climb back up. She was hysterical and crying, telling her mother she wasn't ready to die.

Shelly LaGrou tried to keep her daughter calm Sunday while her husband frantically called the teen's employer, Denali Princess Wilderness Lodge, which alerted Alaska State Troopers. That call set in motion a dramatic 45-minute rescue near Denali National Park.

The teen sustained only minor scratches.

Iconic arch could soon ban rope swinging

UT SALT LAKE CITY — One of southern Utah's signature towering arches could soon be closed to daredevil rope-swinging.

Federal officials are considering a ban on the stunt that has frustrated visitors marveling at Corona Arch.

The sport involves taking a running leap and swinging like a pendulum through five-story sandstone structures. It was made so popular on YouTube that state authorities banned it from commercial outfitters last year.

Dropy pants contempt charge overturned

FL TALLAHASSEE — A Florida appeals court is overturning a contempt charge placed on an Alachua County teen who was struggling with falling pants.

The 1st District Court of Appeal ruled Monday that Circuit Judge Stanley Griffis had no reason for the contempt charge. The teenager, whose name was not released, spent two days in a juvenile detention center.

Griffis ordered him to pull up his pants, but the teen told him they would not go up. That resulted in the teen's mother forcibly bringing him to a podium.

The boy then said something which prompted the bailiff to ask if something was funny.

Griffis cited the juvenile for throwing a "t tantrum" and disputing the court. The appeals court said both the record and a video do not support the charge.

Owners of recovered stolen goods sought

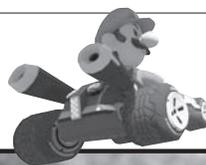
MO JACKSON — Police in a southeast Missouri town are looking for the rightful owners of a trove of goods believed to have been stolen from homes and storage units.

KFVS-TV reported the items were discovered May 29 when police executed a search warrant at a home in Jackson.

Most of the items are power tools, including chain saws, air compressors and a leaf blower. The list released by police Tuesday also includes hand tools, computer equipment, a home theater system and a cash register that had been pried open.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



'Mario Kart 8' takes the fun to YouTube
Page 26

Dynamic DUOS

Tom Cruise, Emily Blunt fight aliens, time warp in 'Edge of Tomorrow'



Teens in love battle cancer in 'The Fault in Our Stars'

Spanish beauty

Seville a blur of intoxicating sights, sounds, such as Flamenco

Travel, Page 30



Grub and gunplay

EA Shooting Bar in Tokyo has friendly fire of several kinds

After Hours, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

E3 announcements heavy on game titles

The Associated Press

A few notes from this week's Electronic Entertainment Expo, the video game industry's annual trade show in Los Angeles:

Nintendo

Nintendo is taking a cue from "Skylanders" and "Disney Infinity." The Japanese gaming giant unveiled a toy figure line Tuesday called "amiibo" that will work in tandem with its video games.

Similar to Activision's "Skylanders" and "Disney Infinity," the virtual histories of the characters will be stored on the plastic figures and transmitted through the controller for the Wii U console that features a touchscreen and near-field communication capabilities.

The first 10 figures are due out later this year. The price wasn't announced.

Sony

Sony Corp. announced Monday that it's bringing new installments of video-game franchises "Uncharted" and "LittleBigPlanet" to the PlayStation 4.

Sony also premiered "Abzu," an undersea odyssey from the creators of the award-winning "Journey" and "Entwined," a psychedelic 3-D flying game. And it showed new highlights from the steampunk thriller "The Order: 1886."

On the hardware side, the company said it will bring PlayStation TV, its video- and game-streaming device, to North

America and Europe this fall. On July 31, Sony will launch the open beta of its cloud-based PlayStation Now service, which will allow players to stream classic games from Sony's older consoles onto newer devices.

Electronic Arts

Electronic Arts surprised E3 attendees by announcing it was launching the online beta test for "Battlefield Hardline" June 9.

The upcoming first-person shooter trades the franchise's war-torn locales and military conflicts for an urban assault featuring cops and robbers in the streets of Los Angeles and Miami.

"Hardline" executive producer Steve Papoutsis said the beta test is available on a "first-come, first-served basis" for PC and Sony's PlayStation 4. The game's planned release date is Oct. 21.

Microsoft

Microsoft focused exclusively on hyping game titles coming to its Xbox One and Xbox 360 consoles on Monday.

The new Xbox One games included a fresh installment of the open-world romp "Crackdown"; a reboot of the Xbox action game "Phantom Dust"; the original dragon-centric adventure "Scalebound" from developer Platinum Games; and a sequel to the 2013 "Tomb Raider" reboot titled "Rise of the Tomb Raider"; and a "Halo" collection that will bring four prior installments of the sci-fi shooter to Microsoft's latest console.

Other upcoming games teased included the futuristic "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," driving sequel "Forza Horizon 2," original cartoony shoot-'em-up "Sunset Overdrive," cooperative fantasy "Fable Legends" and downloadable choreography game "Dance Central Spotlight."

ON THE COVER

Left: Tom Cruise and Emily Blunt relive a combat-filled day over and over in Warner Bros' "Edge of Tomorrow." Right: Ansel Elgort and Shailene Woodley are star-crossed lovers in "The Fault in Our Stars," by 20th Century Fox.

GADGET WATCH



Finally, a smartwatch that's worth your time

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The first digital notification watch I tried this year from Martian (Passport) worked great, and the latest, the Martian Notifier, (\$129) works and looks even better.

It's advertised as "a watch to make life on earth easier," and after wearing it for a week I can confirm it really does. A quick peek at your watch for an email or message is so much easier than constantly taking the iPhone out, unlocking it and scrolling for the message.

At times I thought I was in an old "Get Smart" show when talking into my watch for a hands-free call.

Your smartphone or tablet connects via Bluetooth, so you get about 30 feet of range.

Setup takes a little time, but the instructions are well explained, and there are only two buttons to use after setting the analog time. Both buttons are on the left (top and bottom) and are used to make selections and programming.

A tap of the watch glass gets rid of pestering incoming calls — which are displayed with caller ID — and email and text messages on the scrolling OLED display across the 6 o'clock area on the watch face.

After downloading the free Martian Notifier app (iOS and Android), the instructions run through the pairing and setup of many features. This includes some settings you will have to change on your smartphone itself.

Social media notifications, alarms and reminders can be sent to the watch; tapping the glass brings back the most recent notification (within the past five minutes).

Other features include using the watch for health and fitness, bank alerts, traffic reports, triggering your phone's camera shutter and even earthquake alerts.

The analog wristwatch is available in red, white and black face plates, with other colors available for an additional charge. The watch needs a microUSB charge every few days depending on usage. A separate analog watch battery is good for up to two years.

Online: martianwatches.com/notifier; \$129, optional designer bands range from \$20 to \$35

The Lifeproof fre for iPhone 5 renders the phone waterproof, not a claim everyone would risk their device to test. I took my iPhone for a little swim in a pool. The case also was paired with the Lifeproof Lifejacket Float accessory for iPhone 5, which allows the case to float.

While fully enclosed, the device still has full functionality, including the touchscreen and volume controls. Your charging port and headphone jack aren't accessible, but the device can be paired with a Bluetooth speaker while floating.

The Lifejacket is molded from soft, buoyant foam, designed with a high-visibility orange finish and includes a lanyard and wrist strap.

Lifeproof, part of the Otterbox family, makes everything to keep an iPhone, iPad, iPod or a Samsung

Galaxy (S3, S4) waterproof. The cases aren't big and bulky like many others.

Online: lifeproof.com; prices vary on devices. Lifeproof fre is currently on a special for \$59.99. LifeJacket for iPhone 5/5c/5s is \$39.99

PressReader, the app that delivers thousands of newspapers to your tablet (iOS, Android, Mac and PC) every morning, has undergone a tremendous redesign to enhance the user experience.

The new look allows a download of publications (newspapers and magazines) with just a touch of the screen. The design makes it easier to navigate your publications, or browse for new ones.

The Home Feed is a new feature that creates a daily newspaper with the top news items you can customize. Along with the country of your choice you can add specific sections (news, sports, etc.) and specific categories, such as technology.

If your hometown daily paper doesn't have its own standalone app, there's a great chance you'll find it in PressReader, which offers more than 3,500 publications from 100-plus countries, according to the website.

Once you choose the papers you want downloaded, you can get them daily or day to day. Online: pressreader.com; 99 cents and up



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for June 11:

1. "Problem," Ariana Grande (feat. Iggy Azalea)
2. "Rude," MAGIC!
3. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea (feat. Charli XCX)
4. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
5. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
6. "Wiggle," Jason Derulo (feat. Snoo Dogg)
7. "Bcom Clap," Charli XCX
8. "Summer," Calvin Harris
9. "Turn Down For What," DJ Snake & Lil Jon
10. "Happy" (from "Despicable Me 2"), Pharrell Williams

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for June 2-8:

1. Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
2. Ariana Grande, "Problem"
3. Calvin Harris, "Summer"
4. Nico & Vinz, "Am I Wrong"
5. Jason Derulo, "Wiggle (feat. Snoo Dogg)"
6. MAGIC!, "Rude"
7. Disclosure, "Latch"
8. MKTO, "Classic"
9. DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
10. Coldplay, "A Sky Full Of Stars"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for June 11:

1. "Non-Stop"
2. "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"
3. "Lone Survivor"
4. "The Dark Knight Trilogy"
5. "RoboCop"
6. "MKTO, 'Classic'"
7. "21 Jump Street"
8. "The LEGO Movie"
9. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
10. "Frozen"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine ranks the top 10 PlayStation games for June:

1. "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
2. "Wolfenstein: The New Order," Bethesda
3. "MLB 14: The Show," Sony Computer Entertainment
4. "The Walking Dead Season 2 Episode 3 — In Harm's Way," Telltale Games
5. "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," EA Sports
6. "Child of Light," Ubisoft
7. "Dark Souls II," Bandai Namco
8. "Minecraft: PlayStation 3," Mojang
9. "Luftrousers," Devolver Digital
10. "Final Fantasy X/X-2 HD Remaster," Square Enix

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for June 11:

- ANDROID
1. Spotify Music
 2. Bubble Witch 2 Saga
 3. Racing Rivals
 4. Arcane Battlegrounds
 5. Break Bricks
- Top 5 free apps for iPad for June 11:
- APPLE
1. Bubble Witch Saga 2
 2. Rival Knights
 3. BrainBanz
 4. Microsoft Word for iPad
 5. Netflix

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

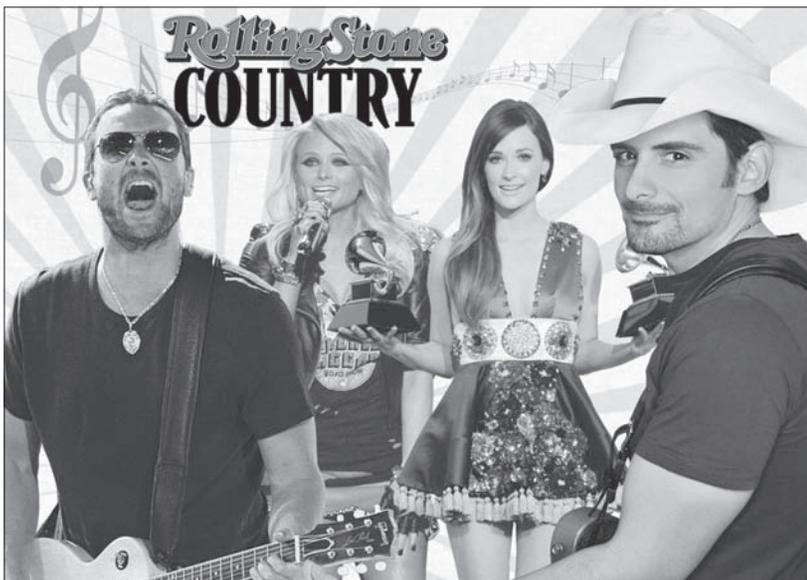
Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Rolling Stone gathers twang

Rolling Stone's online site dedicated to country music has arrived. The move is a savvy one, as a quarter of American adults consider themselves country fans, according to local media research company Scarborough. The site has a plethora of information and visuals worthy of the venerable Rolling Stone magazine's name. Along with articles and numerous photos are provocative lists, such as the '100 Greatest Country Songs,' '10 New Artists You Need to Know,' 'Country's Biggest Drug Odes' and '15 Country Stars Who Found Fame Fast.'

- Dive into the vast country entertainment troves at rollingstonecountry.com



CHURCH, LAMBERT AND PAISLEY PHOTOS AP; PAISLEY PHOTO COURTESY OF SONY MUSIC NASHVILLE; ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

Among those found at rollingstonecountry.com: From left: Eric Church, Miranda Lambert, Kacey Musgraves and Brad Paisley.

2

Latest from Jack White goes country, old-school

Former White Stripes frontman does music how he wants to. With his second solo album, "Lazaretto," that means with a bit of twang, and on a format both old and new — vinyl. His records contain secret grooves and hidden holograms, among other treats. It's a form of release almost as strange and wonderful as the man behind the music.

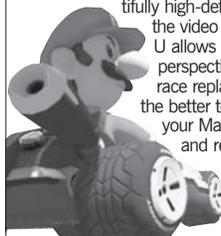
- Explainer video at tinyurl.com/whitelp
- Full "Lazaretto" review on Page 38.



3

Race to get Mario's high-def game for Wii U

Mario and his buddies are back on track and better than ever in "Mario Kart 8." This beautifully high-definition version of the video game for the Wii U allows players to adjust perspective, and even post race replays to YouTube. All the better to publicly mock your Mario-playing friends and relive your gaming exploits ad nauseam.



- Game review on Page 26.

4

'Baby Got Back' mixes with Seattle Symphony

Cultures clashed and booties shook recently when the Seattle Symphony performed "Baby Got Back" with Sir Mix-a-Lot himself. The Seattle-based rapper invited "a couple of ladies" to come up on stage, and seemed shocked when dozens of symphony-goers jumped at the chance. The song was orchestrated by composer Gabriel Prokofiev for the symphony's Sonic Evolution project, which seeks to "bridge the gap between the classical style and Seattle's rich culture of popular music."



- Watch the video at tinyurl.com/mqlsog9

WEEKEND: MOVIES

In her film career and in her everyday life,

Shailene stays true

By COLIN COVERT
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Shailene Woodley has gone from impressive newcomer to star at rocket-sled speed. She earned rave reviews for her film debut at 15 as George Clooney's bad-tempered daughter in "The Descendants." She won an acting prize at Sundance for her turn as a touchingly vulnerable smart girl in the indie hit "The Spectacular Now." She took the reins of a high-profile Hollywood franchise in "Divergent," based on the hit series of dystopian young-adult books by Veronica Roth.

Her next project puts the full weight of a serious studio film on her shoulders. She stars as Hazel, a teen with cancer who experiences her first love, in the adaptation of John Green's bestseller "The Fault in Our Stars."

Against all odds, the 22-year-old Californian seems to be keeping her head on straight. Her recent appearance on David Letterman's show became an extended teasing session as he grilled her about her high regard for organic living and herbalism, which includes eating clay. "Haven't you heard of Metamucil?" he asked. Blogs have poked fun at her wearing Vibram FiveFinger shoes to the Golden Globes, and setting the mood every morning by screaming "Exciting day! Exciting day!" Miles Teller, her co-star in "The Spectacular Now" and "Divergent," has told interviewers he's "pretty sure she lives in a tree."

While she's acquired the image of being America's favorite moonbeam, Woodley has remained authentic and serenely good-humored through it all.

"I don't say the things I say for others, I say them because it's my truth," she said recently by phone from New York City. "I try to live by two things. A,

it's none of my business what other people think about me. And B, you do you, I'm gonna do me, each and every day.

"I'm not going to position myself as being in any place to tell someone how to live their life. But if someone asks me a question, I am completely open to speaking my truth, with what works for me."

It probably helps her grounded disposition and her acting that both her parents are psychologists, she said.

"Growing up it was always, 'How does this make you feel? If this person hurt your feelings, why were your feelings hurt?' It helped me observe people, like to figure out what made them so sensitive to something that was said. What is the rhythm of their mind in getting offended by this or excited by this? Empathy and compassion were two things that were hard-core ingrained" in the household, she said.

That's one reason she's proud, in a mild all the summer blockbusters, to be in a film about recognizable humans.

"Even though there's no superpowers and whatnot, the truth of what these people are going through is so relatable."

• **Profile of John Green, author of "The Fault in Our Stars," on Page 38.**

Woodley plays Hazel, a bright girl who dislikes being reduced to a cancer diagnosis but withholds herself emotionally for fear of the pain her eventual death will cause.

"Not everyone can relate to the cancer, but we all know the feelings of being in love, being sad, grieving and being happy, celebrating life.

"It's not about cancer. It's about first love and loss. It's about appreciating moments and not taking things too seriously because nothing is guaranteed in life. When there's a finite time line on your life, you're not worrying or stressing or feeling guilty about the small things in life that most people in the world are wasting their time on."

Woodley fell in love with Green's novel. "It changed the lives of millions and millions

and millions of people," she said. She corresponded with the author to thank him for writing it and to say "it would be an honor to audition" to play his heroine. She chopped off her chestnut mane for the casting process and committed herself to the book's principle that sentimentalizing people because of their illness also dehumanizes them.

To portray a character with a terminal illness honestly, she said, "you pretend to be a normal human. Cancer doesn't define a person. For Hazel, I didn't think 'I'm playing a girl with cancer.' I thought, 'Oh, my God, I'm playing a girl who's falling in love for the first time.'"

In her latest film, based on the bestselling young adult novel "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green, Shailene Woodley plays a teen with cancer who falls in love for the first time.

JOHN MINCHILLO, INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

'Edge' takes you there — again and again

Cruise returns in action-packed alien invasion thriller



By RICK BENTLEY

The Fresno Bee

Finally, after a series of summer popcorn movies that haven't lived up to their full potential, "Edge of Tomorrow" is a film to see over and over again. The great thing is, you can do that in one screening.

"Edge" takes the familiar genre of alien invasion and gives it a "Groundhog Day" rewind element. Major William Cage (Tom Cruise), a master of public relations, is roped into being on the front lines of a battle with alien invaders where the fate of the world comes down to one big showdown.

Cage's lack of skills gets him killed minutes into the battle. But that's just the start of his story. Good thing it would have been a very short movie. Instead, Cage has picked up the head alien's ability to reset time. Each time Cage is killed, he pops back to the same moment before the invasion. Along with the help of the military's best weapon, super-soldier Rita Vrataski (Emily Blunt), who temporarily had the same time-shifting abilities, Cage uses each recurring day as a way to learn how to defeat the aliens.

Director Doug Liman does a marvelous job of creating the time loop while still managing to move the story along. He doesn't get bogged down in a complete repetition of the day but offers just enough pieces to

New on base

"Edge of Tomorrow" is at:

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

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

Online
edgeoftomorrowmovie.com

keep the movie moving. When he does spend time on one scene, it's usually a well-crafted battle sequence.

Time travel is always tricky. Once a person goes back in time, the ripple effect of what they do becomes a major concern. It's a concern that's embraced in "Edge" as the idea is that the massive number of trips back in time are designed to make changes in the future. Liman even manages to insert some humor into the time traveling through some comical moments for Cage.

Everything about the way

Liman presents this time-tripping tale is done on a grand scale. Soldiers are equipped with a massive robotic skeleton of weaponry to fight the aliens, spaghetti-like creatures with the temperament of rabid dogs.

Cruise redems himself after the slow-moving sci-fi offering "Oblivion," which also covered a short time period but seemed an eternity long. "Edge" gives him the chance to play the intense action hero that he's embraced from "Mission: Impossible" to "Jack Reacher," while still having time to show off his boyish charm (the word manish seems wrong).

The relationship between Blunt and Cruise works not because of some forced romantic element but from the comradeship that comes out of countless tours of duty together. Granted, Cage does have a few — probably thousands — of times, so their tour is technically one day. Liman stops the clock long enough for them to share some sweet moments, but never long enough to disrupt the quick tempo of the production.

There are only two weaknesses: The ending is too safe, and the 3-D offers nothing more than a reason to charge moviegoers more money. Otherwise, "Edge of Tomorrow" is the kind of film that can be enjoyed time after time.

"Edge of Tomorrow" is rated PG-13 for sci-fi action and language. Running time: 113 minutes.

The epic action of "Edge of Tomorrow," starring Tom Cruise, unfolds in a near future in which an alien race has hit Earth in an unrelenting assault, unbeatable by any military unit in the world.

DAVID JAMES, WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

A pitch-perfect Woodley anchors 'Fault in Our Stars'

By JOCELYN NOVECK

The Associated Press

Let's start with the obvious. For its core audience, "The Fault in Our Stars" is essentially critic-proof.

If you're a fan of the book by John Green, and have already shed tears at its story of teenage cancer patients learning about life, love and sex as they fight to stay alive, then you'll be a fan of this movie.

The situation becomes more nuanced, though, for those who haven't read the book. Both author and fans have pronounced the movie, directed by Josh Boone, extremely faithful to the novel, but does that make for the optimal cinematic experience? Many films have failed, after all, for adhering too strictly to the written page.

Happily, we can report that "The Fault in Our Stars" is, despite the occasional misstep in tone, largely a solid success — a film that not only manages the transition from page to screen nicely, but also navigates with skill that hugely tricky line between the touching and the trite, the moving and the maudlin.

And that latter task ain't easy. But there's one major reason that the movie succeeds in this regard. Her name is Shailene Woodley. She stars as Hazel Grace Lancaster, a 16-year-old with an easy wit — intelligent, wry and pragmatic without being overly cynical.

New on base

"The Fault in Our Stars" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

Pacific

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

Online: thefaultinourstarsmovie.com

Hazel barely survived thyroid cancer as a preteen; a flashback shows the agonizing moment when her mother (a touching Laura Dern) told her it was OK to "let go."

But Hazel didn't, and now, buoyed by an experimental drug, she's nearly taking college classes. She wears nasal tubes, which carry oxygen from the portable tank she carries with her always.

Urged by her doting parents to try a cancer support group, she reluctantly attends, and there meets Gus — better known to readers as Augustus Waters (Ansel Elgort), along with his sidekick, Isaac (Nat Wolff). Gus is

handsome — very handsome — and somewhat cocky, though clearly this is a fighting mechanism. Gus has lost a leg to cancer, but he's apparently in remission, and determined to live — not just any life, but an extraordinary one.

But what defines an extraordinary life? The movie explores this theme as it follows Hazel and Gus to Amsterdam. Their goal: to meet Hazel's favorite author, Peter Van Houten (Willem Dafoe), and ask questions about his novel, "An Imperial Affliction" — a book with which Hazel is obsessed.

The trip is by turns disappointing, inspiring, joyful and tragic. A crucial love scene is beautifully handled, with nary a false note. It's unfortunate that an earlier moment, involving a trip to Anne Frank's house, feels uncomfortable — cheesy, and, in its juxtapositions, somewhat tone-deaf. It's important to note that the scene — and the rationale behind it — is conveyed far more successfully in the book.

But that's a fairly rare misstep. And now we must inform you, dear moviegoer: About three-quarters of the way through, if not sooner, you'll start hearing sniffles, then sobs, all around you. And it's hard to imagine you too won't succumb, even a little.

"The Fault in Our Stars" is rated PG-13 for thematic elements, some sexuality and brief strong language. Running time: 125 minutes.

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THURSDAY 12:00 PM / 12:15 PM / 12:30 PM
In: Digital 3D: Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13) Thur 18:00, Fri 17:45, Mon Wed 18:00

In: 2D: Metrolifestory (PG) Thur 19:00, Sat 16:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon Wed 18:00

A Million Ways to Die in the West (R)
Thur 18:15, Fri Sun 18:00, Mon Wed 18:15

In: 2D: Metrolifestory (PG) Thur 19:00, 20:45, Fri 18:45, 20:30, 22:30, Sat 15:45, 18:45, 20:30, 22:30, Sun 15:45, 18:45, 20:30, Mon Wed 19:00, 20:45

In: 2D: Y2Me: Days of Future Past (PG-13) Thur 18:00, Fri 17:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 17:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:00, 20:00, Mon 15:00, 20:00, Tue 19:00, Wed 18:00, 20:30

The Fault in Our Stars (PG-13): Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri 19:45, 20:15, Sat & Sun 13:30, 15:15, Mon Wed 18:00, 20:30

In: 2D: Edge of Tomorrow (PG-13) Thur 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 16:30, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 15:00, 20:15, Mon Wed 16:00, 20:30

Also showing: The Amazing Spider-Man: Rise of Electro, Godzilla

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

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



NINTENDO/AP

Mario and his buddies can grimace at each other as they pass, and employ many kart combinations such as the tire-glider, in "Mario Kart 8."

Driving off the wall

'Mario Kart 8' marks a high-definition return

By SAM LANEY
Stars and Stripes

The frantic and kinetic Mario Kart experience has always been a roller coaster of emotions. For every euphoric first-place finish, there are ever more struggles against last-minute red shells, banana peels that somehow anticipated your swerve and countless green shells mindlessly ricocheting off of weird angles to ruin your day. But with each new race, a blank slate. Time to forget and forgive.

The genius of "Mario Kart 8," a visually stunning high-definition iteration of the series for the Nintendo Wii U, is that it wipes away that last part. For the first time in the series, players can record and relive everything — from the miraculous 7th-to-1st-place recovery, to the agonizing 1st-to-4th-place defeat. You can even upload the videos to YouTube straight from the game, a way to forever remind friends of your complete blue-sparks dominance with a single link. Time to race with a vengeance.

And what a beautiful revenge it is. Like "Mario Galaxy" on the Wii, it's taken a Mario title (an offshoot, but still) to really showcase what the Wii U can do graphically. Unlike games such as "Pikmin 3" or "Super Mario 3D World," the perspective isn't contained to the immediate

surroundings. In "Mario Kart 8," you can see far and wide: racers' faces turn to grimace as you pass, blimps high in the sky broadcast live streams of the race you're currently in, and track surfaces get smashed, twisted or bent as levels unfold during a race.



New tracks twist up into the sky, vibrant and highly detailed with neon colors and shiny metal surfaces. Older tracks are impressively remastered, with classics like Peach's Castle and Toad's Turpinke fully re-rendered and re-imagined with new paths and shortcuts. If all this sounds a little crazy, that's the idea. The tracks themselves are half the battle.

As wild as freeracker as the tracks are to race on, "Mario Kart 8's" major new mechanic, an anti-gravity mode, goes off like a dud. In anti-gravity areas, tires turn blue and players can glide up walls and ceilings. It sounds daunting, but the player's perspective shifts along with the twist of the track, so you don't get disoriented during the race. Many times, it's only in the replay that you even realize you drove through an anti-grav-

ity area. Once you're in one, anything you collide with actually gives a speed boost. This turns out to be a counterintuitive change, however, as players usually dodge each other because of the bevy of the items they're holding around them for defense.

Despite how fantastical these changes sound, when it comes

For the first time in the "Mario Kart" series, players can record everything. You can even upload the videos to YouTube straight from the game, a way to forever remind friends of your complete blue-sparks dominance.

to driving mechanics, "Mario Kart 8" is perhaps the safest iteration of the series. The rules are basically a mash-up of the previous two games, "Mario Kart Wii" and "Mario Kart 7." Collect coins, draft behind others and drift around corners for extra speed. The hang-glider and jump-boost system from the 3DS iteration of the game also make a comeback.

For the first time in more than a decade, players are limited to holding just one item at a time, but that is hardly a setback in a game as fast-paced as this. The few new items are very similar to old ones: a siren replaces the raccoon tail (but thankfully coun-

ters blue shells — a first for the series), a piranha plant replaces the chain chomp, and the Mario Kart 8 — an item that gives you eight swirling items at once — replaces the Mario Kart 7.

One pleasant surprise is the extent of the options away from the wheel. The game continues the kart customization of the last Mario Kart.

There are dozens, if not hundreds, of kart/bike/tire-glider combinations that change your driver's stats ever so slightly. The game also supports every conceivable control method for the Wii U — from classic controller to vanilla Wiimote, as well as off-screen gaming on the Wii U's gamepad.

The game chugs along at a decent framerate in multiplayer, and allows up to four people to play in Grand Prix mode. Online mode allows only two players, but includes a ranking system and "tournament" mode for custom racing setups. Sadly, battle mode is just as lame as it's been for the past 15 years. For some reason, Nintendo just can't recapture the magic of battle mode from the SNES or N64 versions.

Overall grade: **B**

The best change by far is the ability to record the replay generated for every race. The game will automatically create highlight reels that users can edit to focus on a particular player or type of mayhem. Better yet, players can reverse or fast-forward or slow down the action on a whim. It's a great way to mix up the action between races — or simply learn from your mistakes.

Though it takes a few minutes to upload, allowing players to share replays on YouTube is a great step forward into the social scene for a Nintendo game. Just a few weeks out, excellent Internet memes have cropped up due to this ability (just Google "Luigi death stare").

The addition of the replay is a stroke of genius akin to the Wii Sports or the 3DS' StreetPass functionality. It's just pure candy — easy to use and enjoyable to play around with.

Bottom line: B If you happened to miss out on either of the previous Mario Karts, this is a must-buy. It's the same old Mario Kart with a new shine, and that's never a bad thing.

Platform: Wii U
Online: mariokart8.nintendo.com

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Norway's Geirangerfjord inspired the kingdom of Arendelle in Disney's hit movie "Frozen."

ADVENTURES BY DISNEY/AP

DO THIS: Get 'Frozen' in Norway

The popularity of the Disney movie "Frozen" is motivating fans to visit Norway to see the landscape that inspired the animated movie setting.

Harald Hansen of Visit Norway says the number of U.S. tourists to Norway increased markedly after the film's release in November, with booked hotel nights up 37 percent for the first quarter of this year compared with the same period in 2013. He said tour operators also have seen a 40 percent sales increase this year, compared with the same period last year.

"We noticed a huge increase from the U.S. already in November and December last year, just after we started our marketing with Disney in October," Hansen said. He added that the increase in traffic is most noticeable in the fjord region, but

that there is also more interest in Oslo and Northenr Norway, where visitors can see the northern lights, a phenomenon that is also shown in the movie.

The Disney tour company Adventures by Disney (adventuresbydisney.com/Tours) is taking fans on a series of eight-day trips to Norway this year, including a visit to Geirangerfjord, which inspired the film's fantasy kingdom of Arendelle. And Disney Cruise Line (disneycruise.disney.go.com) plans a Norway itinerary for 2015.

Wilderness Travel (wildernesstravel.com), another tour company that runs trips to Norway, also has seen an uptick in interest. Even though Wilder-



DISNEY/AP

Elsa the ice queen in "Frozen."

ness Travel has no formal connection to the movie, "the film seems to be a big part of the popularity," said spokeswoman Barbara Banks. "People just hadn't seen these remarkable landscapes before. ... The movie represents the folk culture in such an engaging way, and the landscapes and architecture are so stunning, and they are all based on real places."

From The Associated Press



DOMENICO STINELLI/AP

EXPERIENCE MODERN DESIGN: Venice Biennale

A mirror wall reflects visitors during a press preview for the 14th International Architecture Exhibition of the Venice Biennale in Venice, Italy, on June 5. The event, which examines how various countries have adapted elements of modern design in the past 100 years, runs through Nov. 23.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Vintage cycling tour

Been meaning to replace your old bicycle with a new one, but haven't yet gotten around to it? You just might be in luck. The RetroRonde of Flanders, a cycling and culinary event taking place Saturday and Sunday in Belgium's Ardennes, is intended for cyclists riding bikes manufactured before 1987. Bikes with fixed gears, or single speeds made of steel, should make the grade as well.

To participate in Sunday's group rides, riders must wear a retro-stye outfit to preserve the special atmosphere of the event. Those in doubt about their look and ride can send a photo to the organizers, who will let them know whether their style is right.

Saturday's event is a warm-up for things to come. Visitors to the town of Oudenaarde will find a bicycle swap meet, a competition for the cyclist sporting the best vintage look, a festive dinner, a beer cycling contest and dancing. Participation in these events entails additional costs.

Ride day is Sunday, when cyclists from throughout Europe will pedal through the area's rolling hills along 40-, 75- or 100-km (25-, 46- or 62-mile) routes. Riders on the longer distances set off at 10:30 a.m.; 40-km riders take to the road at 11 a.m. Both groups will parade through the center of town beforehand.

Participation in the RetroRonde costs 30 euros (about \$41) on the spot, which includes insurance, a trail map, water bottle and card entitling the rider to food and drink at the control points. The event accepts a maximum of 1,000 riders, so it's wise to arrive early and check for updates from the organizers. Learn more at retroronde.be.

Like the sound of vintage biking, but you're in Italy? Monticelli Terme, south of Parma, hosts a retro ride titled La Polverosa this weekend, too. Learn all about it at lapolverosa.eu.



Karen Bradbury

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

Strawberries and wine

Pairing white wine and strawberries is a tradition that's been working for the Rheingau community of Erbach, Germany, since 1935. From that time on, this charming spot by the Rhine has celebrated the height of the spring season with a festival in honor of its local fruits, strawberries in particular.

The Erbacher Erdbeer Fest opens Friday evening and runs through Monday. While Friday's event is geared mainly toward town residents, the program for the following days always draws visitors. Highlights include concerts at 8 p.m. Saturday and 6 p.m. Sunday, along with a children's theater presentation Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Dance groups and local DJs plump up the entertainment offerings. Festgoers stand a good chance of spotting the region's politicians, or even "royalty," in the form of the strawberry queen.

A special beverage, the Erdbeerbowle, is associated with this festival. It is concocted of freshly picked, finely cut strawberries soaked in the bounty of the local Rheingau grapes. Strawberry cakes, strawberry wine and other delicacies will be available.

Please note that the town is Erbach in the Rheingau, a section of the larger town of Eltville am Rhein, not Erbach in the Odenwald. Learn more at verkehrs-verein-erbach.de/programm-erdbeerfest.html.



Courtesy of Organisatie De RetroRonde van Vlaanderen

To participate in the RetroRonde on Sunday in Flanders, Belgium, riders must wear vintage costumes.



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

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Pilgrimage to Canterbury

Canterbury Cathedral looms over the rooftops and buildings of Canterbury, England. The ancient cathedral, where Archbishop Thomas Becket was martyred in 1170, remains a major pilgrimage site and tourist attraction.

VISIT BRITAIN/AP

Chaucer's tales still draw visitors to English town

By NORM GOLDSTEIN

The Associated Press

fter nearly 1,000 years, murder in the cathedral is still luring visitors to Canterbury, England.

It was in the Canterbury Cathedral in 1170 that Archbishop Thomas Becket was viciously killed by four knights who believed they were doing the bidding of King Henry II. As a result, Becket became a martyr, and the cathedral a place of pilgrimage to his shrine.

The homicide was the subject of "Murder in the Cathedral," a verse drama by T.S. Eliot, and was more famously immortalized in Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century work, "The Canterbury Tales," told in now obsolete Middle English, which focused on one such journey in what had become an annual spring pilgrimage:

*And specially from every shires ende
Of Englande to Caunterbury they wende,
The holy blisful martir for to seke,
That hem hath holpen when that they were seeke.*

It is said that 100,000 pilgrims made their way to the cathedral in 1420, including, as the poem says in its last line, the sick (seeke), whom the shrine cured (hath holpen, or helped). Today, Canterbury Cathedral draws about one million visitors a year.

Chaucer's pilgrims made the journey on horseback; today's visitors are more likely to arrive by plane, car, train or bus from London or Dover. With its sites, shops, restaurants, pubs and tea rooms concentrated largely in its Old Town area, Canterbury is a comfortable city to walk in. It is relatively small, with a population of about 150,000.

The Stour river runs through the city and at some points is navigable for small boats. Rowboats and punts (flat-bottomed boats like gondolas) can be rented, generally with a local university student serving as oarsman and guide. Kent University and other schools contribute to a large local student population.

But by far the biggest tourist attraction is Canterbury Cathedral, founded in the year 597. (There is an entrance fee for visitors.) It is a marvelous edifice on spacious property that also houses some buildings of the King's School, a renowned secondary school.

The exterior of the cathedral, an impressive 236 feet high, reflects Romanesque, English Gothic and Gothic architectural styles, with round and pointed arches, blind arcades, and pinnacles of the 14th-cen-

tury perpendicular Gothic nave.

The Trinity Chapel was built specifically for the Shrine of St. Thomas, which stood from 1220 to 1538, when it was destroyed on orders of King Henry VIII. The floor of the current chapel has a set of inlaid marble roundels representing zodiac signs, months, virtues and vices. A lone candle marks the spot of the shrine.

UNESCO World Heritage sites in Canterbury include the cathedral, along with St. Augustine's Abbey (mostly the ruins of the monastery where St. Augustine's monks lived) and St. Martin's Church, England's oldest working parish church. Another popular tourist site is the Norman Canterbury Castle, or at least its remains. The castle was one of three original royal castles of Kent, built soon after the Battle of Hastings on the main Roman road from Dover to London. This was the route taken by William the Conqueror in 1066.

The medieval St. Margaret's Church now houses "The Canterbury Tales," an audio-visual presentation of five tales (in modern English) from Chaucer's most colorful characters, using life-sized character models: the miller, knight, nun's priest, wife of Bath and pardoner, with live guides at the start (Tabard Inn) and end (shrine of Thomas Becket).

There is, however, little other evidence of Chaucer in Canterbury, aside from this shortened retelling at "The Canterbury Tales" — and a pub by that name.

Another famous literary name with a connection to Canterbury is Christopher Marlowe, the Elizabethan poet and playwright ("Hero and Leander," "The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus") who was born in Canterbury in 1564 and attended King's School there. The city's modern theater house is named for him, and his death is noted at the clock tower of St. George's Church. Marlowe was baptized in the church, but its clock tower is all that survived German bombs in World War II. The house believed to be where the Marlowes lived for the early years of Christopher's life also was destroyed in a German air raid in 1942. In front of the present Marlowe Theatre is a 19th-century statue of a Muse (Marlowe is known as the Muses' darling) surrounded by small effigies of characters from Marlowe's plays.

All in all, Canterbury proves itself to be a charming and comfortable small city with a giant literary history.



The wife of Bath, one of the life-size character models from "The Canterbury Tales" presentation in Canterbury. The show, which takes place in St. Margaret's Church, depicts "The Canterbury Tales," stories written by Geoffrey Chaucer in the 14th century about the pilgrimage to Canterbury Cathedral.

KNOW & GO

Getting there

London's Heathrow Airport is about 60 miles northwest of Canterbury; Gatwick Airport is about an hour's drive. Canterbury is 15 miles from Dover, where ferries depart for France. The city's website is canterbury.co.uk.

Canterbury Cathedral

Open 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (closes at 5 p.m. in winter) weekdays and Saturdays, crypt 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

with last entry a half-hour before closing time. Sundays, including crypt, 12:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Adults, 10.50 pounds, children under 18, 7 pounds. Check for guided tours at canterbury-cathedral.org.

Canterbury Tales

Audiovisual presentation of "The Canterbury Tales" at St. Margaret's Church, canterburytales.org.uk. Open daily. Check website for times, which vary by month. Adults, 8.75 pounds; children 5-15, 6.75 pounds.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

The food specialty at Small Pub, northeast of Aviano, is bruschette, toasted bread with one or many toppings. At left, sausage, wurst, pepperoni and peppers combine to make a meat-lover's choice. At right, offerings are divided into pieces so a group can sample different combinations.

After Hours: Italy

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

Every business needs at least one thing that makes it distinctive, according to Cinzia Wasserman, who's been running the Small Pub a few miles northeast of Aviano, Italy, for more than two decades.

"You need to have a product that you make that is different," she says.

Small Pub, known to many locals as Bar of the Dead, does stand out in several ways.

The food specialty is bruschette, a dish most commonly associated with Venice that has spread to surrounding areas in northern Italy. A bruschetta is a piece of toasted bread with one or many toppings. While it's often on the small side and featured as an appetizer, that isn't the case at Small Pub. Customers can choose from more than 40 combinations and they receive two bruschette (pronounced *bruce-sket-tay*) that those with smaller appetites will find a challenge to finish.

Menus feature pictures of many of the combinations that should help non-Italian speakers. Most have tomatoes as a base, with ricotta cheese a regular feature. Other toppings include mushrooms, radicchio, artichokes, peppers, olives and a variety of meats.

Wasserman, gregarious and ready to help translate the menu, speaks some English. She said she's had a lot of American customers over the years, but the main group now is a book club that meets regularly.

Though the place wasn't designed as a hangout for young airmen, it would certainly fit the bill. Loud music plays from the bar, which dispenses a handful of beers and also specializes in an array of cocktails — nonalcoholic, "some alcohol" and "more alcohol." The bruschette are relatively cheap (5.50 euros to 14 euros) and are cut in pieces so a group could order a few and sample different types easily.

Small Pub has theme nights. Thursday is Latin music, Friday rock music and Saturday pop/hip-hop. Monday is pasta night. Tuesday is bikini night — "intelligent bikini, not stupid bikini," Wasserman says, indicating that things don't come close to "Girls Gone Wild."

Then, of course, there's that name. Small Pub is the official name of the place, but many locals know it as Bar of the Dead.

"I don't like that name," Wasserman says. It was coined many years ago when it was used as a hangout by members of a biker gang. The gang's long gone — and the place certainly doesn't resemble a biker bar — but the name stuck.

"If I say 'Small Pub' to someone, they don't know," Wasserman says. "But if I mention 'Bar of the Dead,' they know. So I have to keep using the name."

Whatever its name, the place has changed dramatically over the years, she said. Her mother ran it for decades, and it was known as a place for older residents to come and play cards and have a coffee. Wasserman has added rooms — so it's not really that small anymore — and an array of decor, much of it hanging from the ceiling.

harris.kent@stripes.com



SMALL PUB (BAR OF THE DEAD)

Address: 1 Via Trieste, Marsure di Aviano, Italy: It's about two miles from Aviano's only stoplight to the bar.

Turn right if heading from the flight line, drive past the Aviano Inn and continue until you enter Marsure. The bar is on the left and easy to miss.

Hours: 5:30 p.m. to 3 a.m. every day except Wednesdays, when it's closed. Bruschette served until 2:30 a.m.

Dress: Casual.

Clients: Italians.

Menu: In Italian (but with pictures).

Prices: Bruschette from 5.50 euros to 14 euros, beer on tap from 2.50 euros to 5.50 euros a glass, cocktails from 5.50 euros to 7 euros.

— Kent Harris



Small Pub's menu offers more than 40 bruschette options, including this one with tuna, olives and ricotta.



The eatery also serves large sandwiches for those who like bread on both sides of their toppings. Bring your appetite.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Andalusian fusion

Seville, Spain, offers a dizzying array of culture

By PEGGY SIJSWERDA

Special to Stars and Stripes

As sultry guitar music plays, the lights dim and two flamenco dancers appear on stage. For the next hour, my husband, Peter, and I are enthralled by the pounding of the dancers' feet accompanied by rhythmic hand-clapping, thrumming guitar and haunting songs. Fast, slow, jubilant, mournful — the dancers express varied emotions as they perform intricate steps that echo in the darkened room.

Flamenco is synonymous with the southern region of Andalusia, Spain, and just one of many unique elements of Andalusian culture. We've come to Seville, the capital of Andalusia and Spain's fourth-largest city, to learn more about the history and character of this region. Seville, we will discover, is about so much more than gorgeous cathedrals and palaces. It is also a city of pleasure, where you can while away the evening enjoying tapas on a cozy terrace as you sip sherry and watch a parade of people stroll by. Before long, we are under the city's spell.

Seville, with its strategic location near Spain's Atlantic coastline, has been the target of invasions since Roman times. In about A.D. 700, the Moors conquered Andalusia, giving the province its name and influencing its culture and architecture.

One of Seville's biggest attractions is Real Alcázar, or the Royal Fortress, built as a Moorish fort and later transformed by Spanish kings and queens into a lavish palace, used today by Spain's royal family. Known for its immense halls and picturesque gardens, the palace features a variety of architectural styles, including Mudéjar, characterized by elegant arches, intricate plasterwork and decorative tiles.

Even though it's late fall, the day we visit is sunny and



PHOTOS BY PEGGY SIJSWERDA/Special to Stars and Stripes

A spirited dancer twirls in a frenzy of flamenco dancing in Seville, Spain.

warm, perfect for relaxing in the palace's gardens, where ponds and fountains create a tranquil setting. Orange and lemon trees add color and aroma, and majestic palms and cypress trees add

drama to the landscape.

When Christians gained power in the 12th century, they built gigantic cathedrals to establish dominance over the Moorish population. A breathtaking example is the Cathedral of Seville, the third largest cathedral in Christendom, after St. Peter's in Rome and St. Paul's in London. The city fathers reportedly said their intention was to build a cathedral "so big that those who see it will think us mad."

In addition to its vast, elaborate interior, the cathedral is known for its soaring bell tower. Visitors can climb to the top for spectacular views of Seville, but when we see that the line of people waiting to climb stretches around the corner, we opt to keep our feet on the ground.

Instead, we head to another magnificent attraction in Seville, Plaza España, an architectural marvel that now serves as municipal offices. Built of bricks and tiles for the 1929 Ibero-Ameri-



We loved this dish — a mixture of warm potatoes and tuna — which we sampled at a tapas bar on a side street in Seville's historic Barrio quarter.

can Expo, the majestic building is an example of Renaissance Revival. Shaped like a crescent, it encircles a plaza featuring a sparkling fountain, a curving canal where you can rent boats, and a parade of people enjoying the beautiful weather.

From there it's a short walk to the Guadalquivir River, which snakes through Seville and on toward the Atlantic Ocean. Walking on paths along the river is a great way to enjoy the city's sights while getting some exercise. The popular Plaza de Toros, built in 1761, is also near the river. I've always been curious about bullfighting — inspired perhaps by Ernest Hemingway's passion for it — yet the cruelty of the sport makes me cringe. I figure touring the bullfighting ring and museum will

satisfy my curiosity. A museum at the Plaza de Toros features displays about the culture of bullfighting. An art gallery with oil paintings from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries depicts the evolution of the practice. One room displays clothing worn by bullfighters. The tour ends at the bullfighter's chapel, where the matadors pray before facing what our guide affectionately called the "brave bull."

An important part of Spanish culture is the gastronomy, and one way to sample the region's best delicacies is by trying tapas. Every bar and restaurant features dozens of choices, and, best of all, tapas are affordable, ranging from \$3-\$4 for a plate. One local dish we try is a stew with chickpeas and spinach. Another is a tasty combination of tuna and potatoes. The region's creamy gazpacho, which uses day-old bread, is also a must try.

One night Peter and I feast at a slow-food hot spot called Contenedor. When we arrive at 8:30 p.m., the restaurant is empty, but soon the tables begin to fill. We settle on a green salad with local ham, salmon tartare and duck with mushrooms and rice. As is the custom, we share our dishes and love every bite. But when it comes to Andalusian culture, flamenco is what most often comes to mind. Seville's Museum of Flamenco Dance is an ideal place to learn about this spirited art form, which has its roots in local folk dance and music. Peter and I make an advance reservation for the flamenco show held each evening at the museum.

Our self-guided tour takes us through the history of flamenco, and we learn about the styles, traditional costumes and famous dancers. State-of-the-art interactive galleries ensure visitors get an in-depth introduction. But the highlight of the museum visit is the flamenco show, held in an intimate cabaret setting. As we listen to the soulful guitar, melodious songs and spirited clapping, the dancers twirl in a riot of color, their shoes pounding a staccato rhythm on the wooden stage. Flamenco is an experience that captures the heart and soul of Andalusia, and one I will always associate with Seville.

Peggy Sijswerda is a freelance writer who lives in Virginia.



Boating in the canals is a popular way to enjoy Plaza España.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

KNOW & GO: SEVILLE, SPAIN

Getting there

It's about a two-hour trip by bus or train from Naval Station Rota to Seville, Spain. A high-speed train between Madrid and Seville takes a bit more than two hours. Major airlines such as

British Airways, Air France and KLM provide service to Seville's San Pablo Airport, along with budget airlines such as Ryan Air.

Food

• **Contenedor**, the slow-food restaurant we loved, is located

at Calle San Luis 50. Telephone: (+34) 954-916-333; website is contenedorcultural.com (in Spanish); email: restaurantcontenedor@gmail.com for reservations. Dinner for two, including wine, from \$60.

Accommodations

• We found a stylish apartment for \$70 per night on Airbnb.com. Our host, Guilielmus, provided lots of helpful advice, including a recommendation for where to

eat (see below). Visit airbnb.com/rooms/10966633.
 • **El Rey Moro**, a boutique hotel in the Barrio quarter, just steps from the cathedral and Real Alcazar, was once a 16th-century palatial home. Rooms start at \$150 per night; elrey.com

Information

Seville's website: vistasevilla.es/en

— Peggy Sijswerda



Peggy Sijswerda/Special to Stars and Stripes
 The Gothic-style Cathedral of Seville sits in the city's historical center. Its interior features many artworks, including the world's largest altarpiece, which is covered in gold.

Hotel Directory GERMANY

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Restaurant Directory GERMANY

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| <p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area Since 1978 China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaus: 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel: 0961-38096 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: 0931-42928</p> | <p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area Wienhaus Gastel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Sühr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel: 06134-24999 www.wienhaus-kastel.de</p> |
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| <p> KB's Country & Western Saloon Berge, 4, 92229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p> | <p> China Restaurant City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p> | <p> SMOKETRE Neussaustasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketrebbq.com</p> |
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Tokyo Tower

TOKYO TOWER ILLUMINATION: Escape from Tokyo's rainy season with a visit to Tokyo Tower's main observatory to view an illumination with a "Galaxy" theme. Event lasts through July 7; illuminated 5-9 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. weekends, main observatory open 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Five-minute walk from Akabanebashi Station on Oedo Line; 820 yen adults, 460 yen junior and senior high students, 310 yen kids to main observatory. 1,420 yen adults, 860 yen junior and senior high school students, 660 yen kids to observatory 820 feet; 03-3433-5111; www.tokyotower.co.jp/eng/secret

OFF BASE

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

Japan

LIGHTNING BUG FESTIVAL (Tokyo): June 13 & 14 and 20-22, 6-9 p.m.; Adachi Park of Living Things features fantasy world in the garden where lightning bugs fly. Guided tours are 7, 7:20, 7:40, 8 & 8:20 p.m.; 2-17-1. Hagima, Adachi-ku, five-minute walk from Hagima Naka-dori bus stop after taking a bus from Takenozuka Station to Tobu Iseoki Line.

IRIS FESTIVAL IN NISHIYAMA TOUGEN GARDEN (Ibaraki prefecture): June 13-29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 3,000 irises and paper lanterns are illuminated, along with mini-concerts June 21 after sunset; 10-minute ride from JR Hitachiota Station on Surugun Line or 10-minute ride from Naka I.C. on Hitachi Express; 0294-73-1300.

KOTAGAWA LIGHTNING BUG VIEWING (Yamanashi prefecture): June 14, 6-9:30 p.m.; see lightning bugs in the darkness at Yanagihara Shrine, lightning bug basketmaking class, local agricultural products on sale, Japanese drum performance at 8 p.m. and more; free shuttle from Michino-eki Nirasaki and Yellowhat Nirasaki or 10-minute ride from Nirasaki I.C. on Chuo Express; 0551-23-6886.

CHAGU CHAGU UMAKKO FESTIVAL (Iwate prefecture): June 14; 100 horses parade from Onikoshi Sozen to Morioka

Hachimangu Shrine 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.; 15-minute ride from Morioka I.C. on Tohoku Express; 019-601-6327; www.japan-iwate.info.

INTERNATIONAL TOKYO TOY SHOW 2014 (Tokyo): June 14, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. & June 15, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; toys from around the world at Tokyo Big Sight, three-minute walk from Kokusai Tenjijo Seimon (front exit) Station on Yurikamoe (monorail) or seven-minute walk from Kokusai Tenjijo Station on JR Rinkai Line; free; 03-3829-2513; www.toys.or.jp/toyshow.

IRIS FESTIVAL RUINS OF SANNO CASTLE PARK (Miyaagi prefecture): June 20-July 9; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; 300 varieties of iris and 200,000 irises; 20-minute ride from Tsugitate I.C. on Tohoku Express; 510 yen adults, 250 yen kids; 022-211-2822; www.miyagi-kankou.or.jp/tourist_information/en.

TOKYO WALK 2014 (Shinjuku, Roppongi areas): June 21, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; 20 km walk at 8:30 a.m., 11 km walk at 9:30 a.m., 7 km walk at 10:30 p.m. at Tokyo Metropolitan Government Office; 10-

minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station; 1,000 yen adults, 500 yen seniors in advance, 1,500 yen adults, 1,000 yen seniors at the door; 03-5256-7855.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP RUGBY MATCH (Tokyo): June 21, 2 p.m. kickoff; Japan's national team vs. Italy's national team at Prince Chichibu Rugby Stadium, five-minute walk from Gaien-mae Station on Ginzza-Line or a 15-minute walk from JR Sendagaya Station; 2,500-5,100-6,100 yen adults, 3,500 yen/pair tickets, 500 yen ages 17 & younger; Japan Rugby Football Association 03-3401-3290.

South Korea

NAMWON CHUNHYANG FESTIVAL (Seoul): Through June 17; event based on the Korean love story of Chunhyangjeon, and features events and performances celebrating Chunhyang's continual devotion to Lee Mong-yeou despite the hardships they suffered; take an express bus to Namwon and take a walk to Dong Namwon Saemaeul Geumgo; +82-2-1330.

ON BASE

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

Japan

Sounds of Summer Concert June 14 at **Atsugi**, 3-7 p.m. at the Taylor Field.

Camp Fuji has a trip to a Japan Pro Ball game on June 14 starting at 11 a.m.

Yokosuka offers a trip to see June 14, Tokyo highlights & Hello Kitty Land on June 14; \$58 adults, \$51 juniors, \$43 children, \$10 infants; on June 15, there's a Mount Fuji sightseeing & New Sanna Father's Day brunch & Miraikan, \$65 adults, \$38 juniors, \$27 children.

Father's Day Special Yokota's Officers' Club serves up a

Father's Day steak dinner on June 14 from 5-9 p.m. for \$19.95, dads get \$5 off.

Camp Zama goes Hacho Pond Hiking on June 14, 6 a.m.-5 p.m., \$35 ages 10+; or go Kamakura sightseeing on June 14, 7 a.m.-6:30 p.m., \$35 ages 12+, \$25 ages 6-11, \$20 ages 5 & younger.

Guam

Andersen Air Force Base offers a June 14, 7:45 a.m., Hike to Fonte Dam for ages 8+, \$5.

Okinawa

Camp Foster, Camp Courtney and Camp Kinser offer a sunset BBQ dinner cruise on June 14, 4 a.m.-8:30 p.m., \$63 adults, \$56 ages 6-12, \$41 ages 3-5, \$5 ages 2 & younger.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



The return of elegance

Charm restored to street in Kyoto, Japan

The Yomiuri Shinbun

Pontocho street in Kyoto, Japan, is gradually regaining its charm as an elegant entertainment area in the heart of the city.

The resurrected landscape of Pontocho has been made possible through the enforcement of rules created by local residents — known as cho-shikimoku. The regulations have done much to remove showy advertising signboards put up by local shops, bars, restaurants and other establishments — a change that has made it possible for visitors to see both sides of the street when they look down the road.

Cho-shikimoku date back to the Edo period (1603-1867). During that time, business people and leaders in their neighborhood. In 2010, Pontocho residents enforced new cho-shikimoku regulations that included a ban on smoking on the street.

Pontocho, one of Kyoto's five entertainment areas, is an alley stretching north from Shijo-dori street in the city. The road, two meters wide (about 6.5 feet), is lined with many Japanese-style luxury restaurants. In recent

years, however, Pontocho has seen a number of reasonably priced bars set up, with flashy signboards hanging from the buildings.

In 2007, the Kyoto city government imposed a total ban on the installation of rooftop signboards and blinking light fixtures. Pontocho residents combined this regulation with their own 10 rules regarding the installment of signboards. They include regulations such as:

- Protruding signboards are banned, along with flags and banners.

- Signboards must be painted in colors fitting the area's landscape, and only incandescent lights may be used.

- Signboards must not exceed two square meters (about 21 square feet).

The owners of local restaurants and others were asked to follow these rules. As a result, there has been a gradual reduction in the number of protruding signboards, a change contributing to the gradual return of elegance to Pontocho street.

"One of my customers said to me, 'Did you close your bar?' But I cooperated [in following the rules] because I wanted every visitor to feel good," a 41-year-old bar owner said. He removed a signboard from his bar two years ago.

Pontocho street in Kyoto, Japan, appears clean and welcoming in early June. Residents have enforced regulations that ban most of the advertising that used to line both sides of the street.

The Yomiuri Shinbun

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific

Inspired by Hope

Replica of President Clinton's birth home is a nearly forgotten landmark

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

Japanese architecture is so distinct that any American-style residence in the country sticks out like a sore thumb.

The simple white home abutting the golf course on the grounds of the Kanucha Bay Resort in Nago is no exception. However, it isn't the architecture alone that makes it a side-show of sorts; it's the fact that the two-story home is a replica of the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Ark.

It also happens to be a really strange day care center. Officials from the resort declined to comment on the building except to say that it was the subject of a grand opening in 2000, just as the 42nd president was preparing to leave office. It was open to the public for a while for viewing but isn't anymore.

Today, it is used for children's gatherings, study sessions and as a wood shop.

Clinton never visited the home, but he did meet the eccentric businessman who built it in his honor, Takeharu Shiraiishi.

According to ABC News, Shiraiishi and Beckie Moore, former executive director of the Clinton Birthplace Foundation, who had helped Shiraiishi plan the home, shared a brief moment with Clinton on the airport tarmac in Okinawa in 2000 as he left following his final G-8 Summit.

ABC News said at the time that the building cost approximately \$730,000 and was adorned with photos and appliances identical to those found in Hope.

"I hope that the young Japanese who come here to visit will have dreams to succeed in their lives like him," Shiraiishi told the network news program.

Today, the building is all but an afterthought, left on any resort maps. It isn't featured in any literature or pamphlets in the resort's offices. When asking about it, all one gets are perplexed stares from staff.

The tours have ceased and the tourists that once came to see the home's beginnings are one of the world's most elite power brokers are gone.

The home's stateside twin at



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

A replica of President Bill Clinton's birthplace home sits next to a golf course at the Kanucha Bay Resort in Nago, Okinawa.

117 South Hervey St. in Hope, Ark., was built in 1917 by Dr. H.M. Garrett, a former Hope mayor, according to Clinton Birthplace lead park ranger Christian Davis. It was gifted to his son, Hosea Garret, who in turn gave it to his wife as a wedding present. The couple divorced in the 1920s and put it up for rent,

perfect circumstances for Edith and Eldridge Cassidy, Clinton's maternal grandparents, who were caught in the throes of the Great Depression. They had just had their farm-house foreclosed upon, Davis said.

The Cassidys — along with daughter Virginia — began renting the home in 1938. On Aug. 19, 1946, Virginia Blythe, widowed for three months, gave birth to her first son, William Jefferson Blythe III, which is Clinton's birth name, as Julia Chester Hospital in Hope, Virginia then went back to nursing school in Louisiana, leaving her son to be reared by her parents for four years.

When she returned, they



An awning on a nearby building provides one of the only signs that a nearby American-style house is a replica of Clinton's birthplace home.

moved to Hot Springs, Ark., and young Blythe took the name of his mother's new husband, Rodger Clinton.

Hope remained in Clinton's heart for the rest of his life, Davis said. He continued to visit his grandparents in the house until his grandfather's death in 1956. He spoke of it fondly in his memoir and in speeches.

"In this house I learned to walk and talk, I learned to pray, I learned to count from the playing cards my grandparents tacked up on the kitchen windows," President Clinton said.

"In many ways, I know that all I am or ever will be came from here [Hope] ... a place and a time where ... kids like me could dream of being part of something bigger than themselves."

The home is now under the supervision of the U.S. National Park Service, where it has flourished, according to Davis.

The home in Okinawa, however, has seen better days.



The actual President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home in Hope, Ark., is well maintained by the National Park Service.

The grounds of the house remain meticulously manicured. However, the deck groans under the weight of those trying to get a peek inside. The light fixture on the porch is rotting off the wall.

A look inside the windows reveals that the appliances and photos have been removed and replaced with crates of art supplies and wooden cutouts of sea turtles. Chairs are stacked in the corner amidst eyessores. On the upper levels, the window moulding is missing or askew.

The home, once proud, is more Pee-Wee's Playhouse now than presidential, and is truly one of Okinawa's hidden oddities.

burke.matt@stripes.com
Stars and Stripes reporter Chiyo Sumida contributed to this report.



By SCHULING/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Kanucha Bay Resort (kanucha.jp/en), with its hotel, villas, restaurants and golf course, is located at 156-2 Abu, Nago-shi, Okinawa-ken, 905-2263. To get there, head north on the expressway to Nago and take 329 to 331.

TIMES

The Clinton Home is not open for tours, but visitors can view it anytime.

— Matt Burke

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



The EA Shooting Bar offers gun-themed cocktails to visitors. Above is the Glock 18, made of chocolate liquor, bourbon and cream.

After Hours: Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

In postwar Japan, gun ownership is a big deal.

It's almost impossible for average citizens to get their hands on a new gun; most are owned by police officers, members of the Yakuza or by the occasional family that has owned a weapon prior to the Firearms (and Swords) Control Law.

For men and women serving overseas who are looking to get their firing range fix, Kichijoji's EA Shooting Bar is about as good as it gets. While pairing up cocktails and machine guns might sound like a recipe for disaster, this air gun range takes every measure available to maintain a safe, enjoyable atmosphere.

Such strict gun control laws might come as a shock to servicemembers moving to Japan from the United States. But being caught with an illegal firearm

EA SHOOTING BAR

Location: Sawada Building, 2F 1-5-5, Gotenyama, Musashino-Tokyo. Access via Kichijoji Station.

Hours: 5 p.m.-1 a.m. Sunday and Monday, Wednesday and Thursday; 5 p.m.-4 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Closed Tuesdays.

Menus: English menus are available, and the staff can assist when necessary.

Price: \$15 per firearm; drinks and food start at \$10.
Contact: Phone: 0422 26 9100; web: ShootingBar-EA.JP (in Japanese).

— Eric Guzman

in Japan carries a mandatory seven-year sentence, and discharging a weapon illegally can get an offender anywhere from



The SCAR machine gun, used by U.S. Special Forces and one of the weapons available in the Call of Duty video games, can be fired at the EA Shooting Bar. It is one of dozens of air guns available.



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

The most popular cocktail at the EA Shooting Bar is the SPAS-12, a mixture of fruit juices, rum and brown sugar that is served aflame.

three years in jail to a life sentence.

But have no fear: there isn't a trace of gunpowder to be found at the EA Shooting Bar.

Still, the lifelike air guns are very comparable to their deadly counterparts, all the way down to the recoil you feel when firing.

Dozens of guns are listed on the bar's firearm menu. Everything from a .50-caliber sniper rifle to the SCAR machine gun are ready to fire upon request. The Samurai Edge, a .45-caliber pistol from the Resident Evil video games, is a crowd favorite.

While visitors are waiting for the firing lanes to open up, there are booths and a bar next to the lanes that have screens above them, allowing groups to watch each other fire at their targets as they enjoy the bar's gun-themed drinks.

Most popular with customers is the SPAS-12 cocktail, a



English menus are available, and the friendly staff can assist when necessary.

mixture of fruit juices, rum and brown sugar that is set on fire and then served.

Located 10 minutes from Kichijoji Station, the EA Shooting bar is a great way to keep weapons skills sharp or to blow off some steam after a long week.

guzman.eric@stripes.com

Burger gets yum factor from feta and turkey

By SUSAN SELASKY
Detroit Free Press

FETA TURKEY BURGERS WITH SPINACH

You can make these into mini burgers if desired. Makes 4. Prep time 10 minutes; total time: 25 minutes

Ingredients:

Burgers
1 1/4 to 1 1/2 pounds extra-lean ground turkey breast
1 teaspoon dried oregano
1/4 teaspoon minced onion
1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
1/2 teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons applesauce
1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
1/4 cup panko bread crumbs
1 1/2 cups chopped fresh spinach
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese (regular or low-fat)

For serving

4 grilled zucchini slices
4 honey wheat or your favorite hamburger buns, toasted or grilled
Romaine lettuce leaves
4 slices tomato
Tzatziki sauce, optional (see note to make your own)

Directions:

Preheat the grill to medium.

In a large bowl, combine the ground turkey breast, oregano, minced onion, black pepper and salt. Fold in the applesauce, Dijon, bread crumbs, spinach and feta. Shape into patties about 5 to 6 ounces each or smaller for mini-burgers.

Grill the patties about 6 minutes on each side or until thoroughly cooked through. The internal temperature should register 165 degrees. Grill the zucchini slices alongside the burgers, brushing them with a bit of oil and seasoning with salt and pepper before grilling. Grill the zucchini about 2 minutes per side.

On the bottom bun, place some romaine leaves, a tomato slice, grilled zucchini slices and turkey burger. Place a dollop of tzatziki sauce on top if desired.

To make your own tzatziki sauce: Mix 1/2 cup chopped cucumber with 1/2 cup plain Greek-style yogurt and 1/2 cup sour cream (or use 2/3 cup of either one), salt and pepper, garlic and fresh or dried oregano to taste.

Nutritional information: 364 calories (17 percent from fat), 7 grams fat (4 grams sat. fat), 25 grams carbohydrates, 137 mg protein, 768 mg sodium, 137 mg cholesterol, 4 grams fiber.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Hillary Clinton's 'Hard Choices' a compelling read

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

She hasn't decided yet. Or if she has, she's not telling.

But if Hillary Rodham Clinton does run for president in 2016, her new book "Hard Choices," a chronicle of her four years as secretary of state, leaves no room for doubt about how she might conduct foreign policy (pragmatically), how she will defend herself against charges that she mishandled the attack on the American compound in Beng-



hazi, Libya (robustly), and how much she regrets giving President George W. Bush carte blanche to wage war against Iraq (deeply and eternally). Other regrets: Her inability to persuade President Barack Obama to arm the Syrian rebels early on in that country's devastating civil war, failing to act more forcefully to support Iran's pro-democracy demonstrators during the Green Revolution in 2009, and wrongly believing that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who resigned after weeks of convulsive protests in Cairo's Tahrir Square, was "stable."

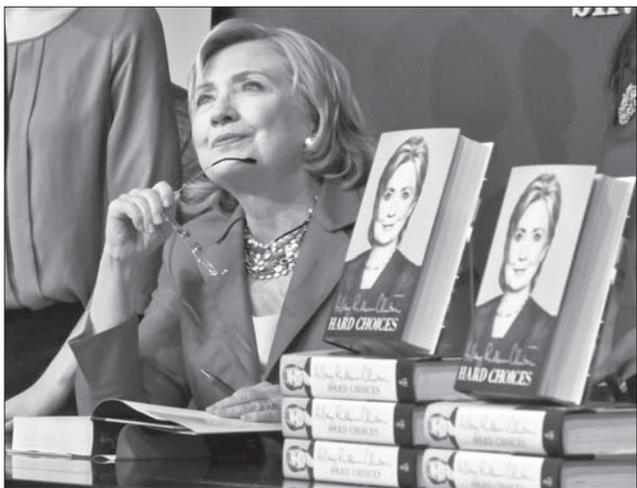
"Hard Choices" is a richly detailed and compelling chronicle of Clinton's role in the foreign initiatives and crises that defined the first term of the Obama administration — the pivot to Asia, the "reset" with Russia, the Arab Spring, the "wicked problem" of Syria — told from the point of view of a policy wonk.

"We needed a new architecture for a new world," she writes of her mission as America's diplomat in chief, "more in the spirit of Frank Gehry than formal Greek classicism."

The dichotomy between "hard power" and "soft power" would no longer do. The Clinton doctrine, if one can be said to exist, is "smart power," a way of combining all the tools at hand — diplomatic, economic, military, political, legal and cultural, to effect American goals.

In country after country during four years of relentless travel, she depicts herself as decisive and cagey with world leaders, and determined to reach beyond government officials and their choreographed diplomatic meetings to interact with everyday people who might be inspired to pursue American-style democracy after an interaction with the down-to-earth secretary of state.

Clinton is well aware of her place in history, and her potential place, as well. She is still subjected to the "persistent double standard applied to women in politics — regarding clothes, body types, and of course hairstyles! — that



"Hard Choices" is a detailed account of the challenges and crises Hillary Rodham Clinton faced during her four years as secretary of state.

you can't let derail you." And, in what might be the worst double standard of all, she knows that she is not allowed to complain about it.

"Smile and keep going," she advises, which might sound a little wimpy, but after living in the political meat grinder as long as she has — as the wife of a two-term president and an elected politician in her own right — she knows that even a twinge of anger is perceived as self-pity, and that's verboten for women.

Those who have been following Hillapalooza, aka the rollout of "Hard Choices," probably know that the chapter she devotes to the September 2012 attack on the American diplomatic compound in Benghazi was leaked to Politico more than a week before the book's publication date Tuesday.

That's as good a barometer as any that the book is a prelude to a presidential campaign.

In that chapter, destined to be the most scrutinized of her book, her well-known stubbornness and impatience with what she perceives as political gamesmanship are on vivid display. Earlier in the book, in a passage about her regrettable vote to authorize the Iraq invasion, she writes, "In our political culture, saying you made a mistake is often taken as weakness when in fact it can be a sign of growth for people and nations. That's another lesson I've learned personally and experienced as secretary of state."

Clinton's lifelong commitment to improving the lives of women and children is a thread that runs through every chapter. (Her first book, "It Takes a Village,"

focused on the importance of social infrastructure to families.)

She quietly intervened when Saudi Arabian courts upheld the marriage of an 8-year-old girl to a 50-year-old man. "Fix this on your own, and I won't say a word," she told the Saudis. A new judge approved the divorce. In a Congolese refugee camp, she learns that there is no school. "That drove me crazy," she writes.

This memoir is a valuable account of Clinton's time as America's chief diplomat. It could remain just a chronicle for students of history and politics. Or it could become a political document, used to persuade voters she's fit to be leader of the free world.

Whatever she decides about 2016, no one can say she's unprepared for the job.

Who wrote that political memoir? The pens behind the politicians

By PAUL FARHI
The Washington Post

Hillary Rodham Clinton has written a new book. Except maybe she hasn't. It depends on what the definition of "written" is.

The former first lady, U.S. senator and secretary of state had some help on her new memoir, "Hard Choices." Clinton employed a phalanx of aides and associates in producing the just-released volume. But don't expect to hear much about Clinton's "book team," as she calls those who helped her write the book, which carries her name alone on its cover.

Clinton's acknowledgment of her three-man team — Dan Schweiner, a former Senate aide and State Department aide to Clinton; Alan Grynwald, a State Department aide; and Ted Widmer, a Clinton adviser and Brown University historian — appears in just a few sentences on Page 597 of the 635-page book. Their exact contributions, however, aren't spelled out.

Such is the lot of the ghostwriter. Actually, many ghostwriters get even less credit. The ghost behind Clinton's

1996 bestseller, "It Takes a Village," wasn't credited at all. That prompted complaints from Barbara Feinman Todd, a Georgetown University lecturer and writer who reportedly labored for seven months on the book (she declined to comment).

Given how frequently politicians use ghostwriters to churn out their hagiographic campaign books, Feinman's complaint implicitly raised a question: Is it ethical to pass off the work of someone else as your own?

Ghostwriters have been channeling the thoughts of politicians, business executives, celebrities and just plain folk with little or no credit since the days of Cyrano de Bergerac, the 17th-century dramatist who, as a fictionalized character in Edmond Rostand's 1897 play, anonymously wrote poetry to help another who his beloved Roxane. The practice has been controversial.

In 1957, then-Sen. John F. Kennedy won the Pulitzer Prize for the bestselling "Profiles in Courage," a collection of stories about intrepid Americans throughout history. But questions about Kennedy's authorship lingered for decades. In 2008,

Ted Sorensen, Kennedy's longtime aide and speechwriter, set the record straight in his autobiography, "Counselor: A Life at the Edge of History." Sorensen wrote that he "did a first draft of most chapters" of "Profiles" and "helped choose the words of many of its sentences."

While its title suggests otherwise, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X" was a collaboration between the civil rights activist and journalist Alex Haley, who later wrote "Roots." Although the story was Malcolm's, Haley was the researcher, organizer and author of the classic book. Under contractual agreement, however, Haley received an "as told to" cover credit on most, but not all, editions.

Since most ghostwriters sign nondisclosure agreements that prohibit them from revealing the extent of their involvement or their remuneration, it's hard to know whether the putative author had assistance or even did any work. Given such secrecy, the author credits on many books are rarely a guide to who did the actual work.

Former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, for example, is listed as the author of "Stress Test: Reflections on

Financial Crises," a recent bestseller. But this understates the role of Time magazine journalist Michael Grunwald, who spent months whipping Geithner's narrative into readable form. Geithner calls Grunwald his "collaborator" in his acknowledgments, but Grunwald's name doesn't appear on the cover or the title page (Grunwald declined to comment).

Top ghostwriters, those contracted by publishing houses to produce, say, a celebrity best-seller, can earn as much as \$500,000 for their work, says Kevin Anderson, who runs a self-named ghostwriting firm in New York. He sees no ethical issue in permitting a client to take credit for work produced anonymously by someone else.

"A client who hires a ghostwriter is still the author of their book," Anderson says, adding, "With the exception of some research-based projects, the content, ideas and concepts for ghostwritten books come directly from the client. ... A ghostwriter is an interpreter and a translator, not an author, which is why our clients deserve full credit for authoring their books."

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Green counts his blessings and sorrows

'The Fault in Our Stars' author spends days focused on devastating topics, and he wouldn't trade it for anything

By EMILY YAHR
The Washington Post

Back in 2012, John Green didn't know that his young adult novel "The Fault in Our Stars" would become an international best-seller and later, a major motion picture. He also didn't know that he would have to spend the next 2½ years talking at length about some of the most grim subjects imaginable: Teenagers who have cancer. Kids who are dying. What it might be like to die. How people think about death.

That can take an emotional toll on anyone. That includes Green, who has become somewhat of a beloved older brother to his young fans across the world, the ones who cling to every word in his books and Tumblr posts and YouTube videos. Still, he sums up the experience like this: "It's a blessing."

Yes, he admits, the devastating topics explored in the book and the new film have been a bit of a drain on his psyche. But he wouldn't change a thing.

"The book has had such a wonderful reach that I've gotten to talk to people about it who I never imagined would read it — young people living with cancer, parents who have lost kids. That's tremendously rewarding to me," Green said, speaking by phone from Pittsburgh, where the movie was filmed. "So I'm very grateful for that, and grateful that so many people have responded to the book so generously." "Generously" is an understatement.

The novel, told from the perspective of Hazel, a highly intelligent, vry 16-year-old battling cancer, has sold 10.7 million copies internationally and spawned a fiercely devoted fan base. The movie adaptation, starring Shailene Woodley as Hazel and Ansel Elgort as her sparkling love interest Augustus, led the box office with \$48 million on its

opening weekend. Ticket agency Fandango reported the film shattered pre-sale records for a romantic drama.

The reasons Green feels blessed run parallel to the reasons he wrote the book in the first place. He was inspired by his early work as a children's chaplain at a hospital and his friendship with one of his fans — 16-year-old Esther Earl, who died of thyroid cancer almost four years ago. When the novel was published in January 2012, "The Fault in Our Stars" was a decade in the making. He often worried that the subject matter would be too dark, especially for a young-adult audience.

"I couldn't imagine that anyone would want to read it," he said. "But I just needed to write it."

And people read it — over and over, telling their family and friends they needed to read it, too. As depressing as the subject matter might be, Green punctuates the book with humor and a remarkable ability to imitate the deadpan, innocent, authentic voice of a teenager. Hazel might have a serious illness that affects her every waking moment, but she's still a 16-year-old girl: She likes reality TV — particularly "America's Next Top Model" — and reading books and meeting cute boys.

Hazel, who almost died at age 13 until she was saved by a "miracle" drug, is forced to attend a support group by her parents. While there, she meets the dreamy Augustus "Gus" Waters, an 18-year-old boy who lost his leg to osteosarcoma, and who takes her by surprise with his charm and lack of pretension. For example, why is he staring at her? As Gus says in the book, "I enjoy looking at beautiful people, and I decided a while ago not to deny myself the simpler pleasures of existence."

With some tweaks, much of the movie — directed by Josh Boone — resembles the book in tone and plot. Hazel and Augustus bond quickly and deeply, as their respective views of the world are shaped by what they have been through with their illnesses.

Mostly, though, they just fall in love. The Pittsburgh filming location doubles for Indianapolis, where Hazel and Gus live. (It's also Green's hometown.) Thanks to Gus' "wish" from a "Make-A-Wish"-like foundation, they travel to Amsterdam to meet

Hazel's idol, author Peter Van Houten, a cantankerous alcoholic portrayed by Willem Dafoe. Van Houten wrote a book about a girl with cancer that essentially has become Hazel's bible, and she's determined to get answers about the story's mysterious end.

No spoilers, although fans of the book know all too well how things progress from there. Green was on set almost every day — where, incidentally, he says he cried almost every day — and chronicled the experience across social media. He's very pleased

with the way the film turned out, especially the screenplay by Scott Neustadter and Michael H. Weber; the duo wrote the 2013 drama "The Spectacular Now," also starring Woodley.

In the weeks leading up to the film's opening, devoted young fans have been tweeting about their excitement, and waiting faithfully in line with their parents for 24 hours or longer to see special preview screenings. It's worth asking: People spend lots of time trying to crack the code of connecting to teens, so how does Green achieve this feat so effortlessly? He does so in his books, as well as with his funny, informative hit YouTube series Vlogbrothers, which he runs with his brother, Hank Green.

"I think when old people try to be hip and cool, it's just the worst... Whenever they try to come up with a social media plan that 'young people will respond to,' it gives me the shivers," said Green, 36, who's married with two children. "I think the key to being relatable to teenagers is talking to them as if they were human beings instead of as if they're cool teens or something. If you're open and authentic with teenagers, they tend to respond pretty respectfully and really intelligently."

Green criticizes Amazon.com in book dispute

By HILLEL ITALIE
The Associated Press

John Green is the latest author lashing out at Amazon.com. "What's ultimately at stake is whether Amazon is going to be able to freely and permanently bully publishers into eventual nonexistence," Green, whose "The Fault in Our Stars" tops Amazon's best-seller list, said June 2.

Green was commenting on the dispute between Amazon and Hachette Book Group, where authors include J.K. Rowling and James Patterson. Amazon has restricted sales and slowed deliveries for Hachette books, reportedly because of a disagreement over terms for e-book sales. Patterson and fellow Hachette author Malcolm Gladwell are among those who have strongly opposed Amazon's tactics.

Green, a frequent critic of bullying, is published by an imprint of Penguin Random House.

"The breadth of American literature and the quality of American literature is in no small part due to the work that publishers do, and it's very unfortunate, in my opinion, to see Amazon refuse to acknowledge the importance of that partnership," Green said.

An Amazon spokeswoman declined to comment. The Seattle-based company issued a statement last week saying that the standoff was unlikely to be resolved soon and suggesting that customers searching for Hachette works try Amazon's competitors.

Hachette said about 5,000 titles are affected.



John Green's novel, "The Fault in Our Stars," has been adapted into a feature film starring Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort.

RICHARD DREW/AP

WEEKEND: MUSIC



Jack White
Courtesy of Nastly Little Man.

JACK WHITE WITH A TWANG

Consider the wonder and magic of conjuring a song from the ether. Creating from a mix of oxygen, blood, water and energy a few minutes of something real, something melodically memorable, something as durable as the architecture surrounding us and the technology enveloping us.

"Temporary Ground," off Jack White's new solo album, "Lazaretto," is an insta-classic ode to the fleeting beauty of life, delivered through fiddle, acoustic guitar, piano, pedal steel, voice and heart. It opens with a couplet that with precision and poeticism describes the earth and the "drifting continental shelf" upon which we toil.

"On a floating lily island
Moving over slowly sideways/
Rest the temporary creatures/
Spending all their days." A meditation on impermanence, not long ago the song was a bud hidden within a spring-time branch. Now it's hard to imagine the world without it.

The same could be said of "Lazaretto," a confident, brass, inventive collection featuring songs that lock into the psyche after only a few listens, the White-produced creation is lyrically and musically challenging and filled with many fresh avenues of exploration, even as it nods to key tones and ideas from throughout the history of pre-*rap* American music.

"Lazaretto" is the closest thing to a pure Nashville record that White's ever done, accomplished in large part by harnessing the talent of a few female foils in the artist's creative life: fiddle player and vocalist Lillie Mae Rische, whose instrument adds delicate melodic texture, and background singer Ruby Amanfu, a member of the all-female band the Peacocks that often backs White on tour and on half of "Lazaretto."

On "Alone in My Home," a piano-driven ode to the allure of the hermetic life, Rische echoes White every second line, creating this beautiful counterpoint momentum pushed along by rhythm and a hard melody. "All alone in my home nobody can touch me," he sings, thematically echoing Alex Chilton's great "Big Black Car" on the numbing joys of isolation.

Each measure on "Lazaretto," in fact, could be footnoted: here an ascendant melody that kind-of-sorta sounds like the Rolling Stones' "She's So Cold," there a belting-out of "Lawdy Lawd!" stolen from Blind Willie McTell's "Broke Down Engine Blues."

The album's opening measures feel more like a "Maggot Brain"-era Funkadelic jam than a Jimmy Page-inspired rock riff.

On "Just One Drink," White alludes to unsung hero of proto-rock 'n' roll Stik McGee with the line "you bust your lip on wine spodi-odie." Echoes of Ry Cooder's wicked guitar playing for Captain Beefheart permeate "Lazaretto," while enough ivy of the Nashville sound twines around verses to confirm that the ideas of his adopted home continue to exert their influence.

"Lazaretto" is at times explosive, pensive and defiant. White sings of three different women to open, "red, blonde and brunet," celebrating and pondering single life minus any weak-kneed apologies. "I'm lonely at night, but I stay up until the break of day," he sings, bragging like Howlin' Wolf before turning inward:

"How come I gotta have these women to chase my blues away?" Later in the song he responds to would-be critics: "Well these women must be getting something/Because they come see me every night."

Such geeky academicism, though, diminishes the central success of "Lazaretto,"

which is that it's a hell of a lot of fun to listen to. The instrumental "High Ball Stepper" is a raucous work tailor-made for live performance featuring a wild White siren-scream and a stop-start rhythm suggesting the spirit of the Surfari's "Wipe Out." "That Black Bat Licorice" daringly rhymes the phrase "black castrum doloris" with "Nietzsche, Freud and Horus" to open, and then dives into a weird internal world featuring references to the Christian comic tracts of Jack Chick, a "wit of the staircase with atomic clock precision" and a closing couplet that rhymes TV detective Columbo with Walt Disney's flying elephant Dumbo.

"Want and Able" closes the record. The second part of a three-song narrative that began with the White Stripes song "Effect and Cause" from "Icky Thump," it features the artist on guitar and piano and is the sparsest of the 11 songs. Opening with the caw of crows and the hiss of a weathered I.P., the song's a part that seeks desire against action: "Like I want to see you, lie next to you/And touch you in my dreams/But that's not possible/Something simply will not let me."

It's not the best lyric on "Lazaretto," but that's relative. Out of all that mess combined, all those wildly divergent but logically connected sounds live so many sticky moments even the lesser ones will endure as part of this confident whole.

—Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times



Jack White
Lazaretto (Third Man)

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“True Detective”: Woody Harrelson and Matthew McConaughey turn in flawless performances as a pair of detectives looking into a murder case in the Louisiana bayou country that has all the elements of being a cult killing. Their investigation not only uncovers a deep, dark secret but reveals the hidden sides of both men.

The story’s told in flashbacks as Martin Hart (Harrelson) and Rust Cohle (McConaughey) talk about the case that unfolded in the mid-1990s. It’s through their recounting of the case that it becomes clear that these former partners might seem to be very different but have been drawn together by this gruesome case.

The eight-episode season that aired on HBO also features superb writing by series creator Nic Pizzolatto and an often haunting score from Academy Award-winning composer T Bone Burnett. The DVD set includes information about the development of the series, the importance of the music and never-before-seen footage from the series.



JIM BRIDGES, HBO/AP

Woody Harrelson, left, and Matthew McConaughey star in the HBO series “True Detective,” now available on DVD.

“Non-Stop”: A better name for the new Liam Neeson movie would be “Mistakes on a Plane.”

Despite a valiant effort by the cast, the script by John W. Richardson and Christopher Roach relies so heavily on people acting stupid, ignoring all logic and making absurd decisions that all it would have taken is one moment of common sense to ground the flight shortly after takeoff. No such moment comes, and the film soars through a plot that grows to preposterous heights.

No matter how good the acting, the absurdities that stack up to keep the film moving ahead finally become too much. These gaffes are so noticeable because director Jaume Collet-Serra never creates the claustrophobic feel needed to elevate the tension.

Also available on DVD:

“Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit”: CIA analyst (Chris Pine) goes into the field when a global terrorist network is about to be activated.

“The Secret Lives of Dorks”: Geek’s love life gets complicated.

“WordGirl: Monkey Business”: WordGirl fights crime and enriches vocabulary usage.

“Devil’s Knot”: Mother must deal with the true story behind murder investigation.

“Tiny Timbers”: Martin and Chris Kratt explore nature and meet with creatures from around the world.

“The Great Bear”: A boy is kidnapped by a 1,000-year-old bear the size of a mountain.

“Capital”: Drama set in the high-stakes world of global finance.

“Vendetta”: Special ops interrogation officer looks to avenge the death of his parents.

“Amen”: A look at how much was known outside of Germany about exterminations in Nazi death camps.

“Ray Donovan: The First Season”: Show-time series starring Liev Schreiber.

“Rizzoli & Isles”: Fourth season of the crime drama is available.

“Perry Mason Movie Collection”: Each of three DVDs features two TV movies.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



Eric Dane stars in the new TNT series “The Last Ship.”

COURTESY OF TNT/MCT

‘The Last Ship’ star Eric Dane on navigating life, career

By LUANNE LEE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

He’s battled some turbulent seas, but actor Eric Dane is at last in command. Professionally and personally, he’s overcome the odds, which he demonstrates as the captain of the lone Naval destroyer adrift in a world stricken by a deadly virus in TNT’s new series “The Last Ship,” premiering June 23 on AFN-Prime.

Dane confesses he harbors a “love-hate” relationship with acting. “When I love it, I love it more than anything,” he says. “And when I’m not feeling it, I have a deep disdain for it. I don’t know if I can articulate exactly why, but I think with anything there’s a balance, and you can’t have an intense amount of love for something if you don’t have the polar opposite of that for it.”

Dane struggled for several years doing roles in “Gideon’s Crossing,” “Charmed” and “X-Men: The Last Stand,” until he suddenly caused cardiac arrest at Dr. Mark Sloan in “Grey’s Anatomy.” He was signed for one episode, which turned into 140.

But Dane suffered a rough start. He lost his dad at 7. “He was a Navy man and ended up becoming an architect and interior designer. He was a troubled soul,” he says.

“He died of a gunshot wound. My grandmother thinks it was an accident. Everybody’s got a different opinion on

it. My mother raised two kids.” When asked what his mother did for a living, he shrugs, “My grandparents were OK (financially).”

Now the parent of daughters, 2½ and 4, he says he understands what Eric Dane’s father’s death had on him. “I never realized how cognizant and aware I was at the time until I had my own kids, and I see how cogent Billie is at the age of 4 and think, ‘My God, this must have been devastating at the age of 7.’ The awareness that I would’ve had at that age must’ve been devastating.”

At first, Dane had no intention of acting. “I was a water polo player in high school and my season was short, and I ended up getting roped into playing Joe Keller in ‘All My Sons.’ Dead serious. And I fell in love with it. It was, like, this is the greatest feeling ever.”

In fact, he dropped out of high school a month before graduation in San Mateo, Calif., to try his luck in L.A. “I moved down here with 400 bucks in my pocket and took about three or four acting classes a week and tried to figure out what it was about this thing that I liked so much. I don’t know if it was a result of the studying — the studying I think made things a bit more complicated for me. I think, for me, if I can cummy things down it’s easier for me to wrap my head around it, because I have a tendency to complicate things.”

Early on he did complicate things, he says. “I used to party a lot when I was a kid, and cleaned up my act when I was

26 years old and I stayed a real good boy for a real long time,” he nods.

“I got into a lot of trouble. I don’t have a (criminal) mug shot, but I used to play around with some pretty serious stuff. I’ve been in rehab a couple of times.”

Like his character on “The Last Ship,” who’s searching the globe for a vaccine, Dane was in pursuit of a cure for MRSA (Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus), when he was felled by the disease and hospitalized. Tethered to a Dilaudid drip, he became addicted to painkillers and found himself in rehab again.

“It was sort of a behavioral modification center; it wasn’t a stereotypical rehab,” he says. “It wasn’t a fancy rehab. It was rough. Friends put me there. It was a pretty interesting experience.”

Dane is married to actress Rebecca Gayheart. “The gutsiest thing I did was propose to my wife over dinner and jump in the car and fly to Vegas that night to get married,” he says.

“I didn’t want her to change her mind. Now that I’ve got her, ‘Let’s go.’ She said yes, and she’s been saying yes for the last nine years. She said, ‘Yes,’ and I said, ‘Check,’ I love that woman.”

Having his daughters has altered his perspective, he says. “Being a father changed the way I look at everything; the way I look at my work ... Every time I get maybe a little bogged down because of the process or the long hours, if I can’t do it for myself, I can fall back on, ‘I’m doing it for my kids,’ and that carries me through.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



PHOTOS BY CARLINE JEAN, (FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.) SUN SENTINEL/MCT

Cervifit creator Alan Philipson demonstrates how the device is used. Philipson developed the portable neck-strengthening device that some doctors say can make all the difference in preventing concussions and other injuries.

Don't put your neck on the line

Cervifit strengthening device aims to prevent concussions

By NICOLE BROCHU
(Fort Lauderdale, Fla.)
Sun Sentinel

Alan Philipson is tackling the problem of head injuries from a different angle — by working out the neck. Influenced by studies showing a link between concussions and neck strength, the entrepreneur has created the Cervifit, a portable device that uses small weights to build up neck muscles. Made of tough ABS plastic, the Cervifit works as a fulcrum, with a set of small, 4- and 5-pound iron weights stacked at the top.

Strapped to the head, it creates up to 40 pounds of resistance when the wearer performs a series of neck lifts and other exercises.

Among its first clients: Fort Lauderdale racecar driver Ryan Hunter-Reay, who won his first Indianapolis 500 in May. "I think it definitely has a lot of potential. With G-forces up to four times (normal weight) in an Indy car on turns, it definitely helped strengthen my neck," said Hunter-Reay, adding that he used the Cervifit to prepare for this spring's Indy season. NFL agent Jonathan Kline, based in southern Florida, said



Cervifit creator Alan Philipson, top left, helps Rodney Lamar, a football player at Northern Michigan University, use the device. In addition to neck strengthening, Cervifit, above, is also recommended for improving balance and treating head and neck pain.



he saw such potential in the Cervifit that he ordered eight devices to give to player clients, including Willie Snead, who just signed with the Cleveland Browns, and Derrick Strozler, who joined the New Orleans Saints this month. A local high school football coach ordered six for his football team after seeing one of his players — the son of Philipson's girlfriend — using a prototype during workouts, Philipson said. "The concussion issue is a huge issue in the NFL, and at all levels of football," Kline said, adding that "if my guys like it, a couple use it and achieve some level of success with it," it could catch on with "everyone who worries about concussions." Philipson created the Cervifit — now available to the general public for \$129.99 at a2fit.com — out of a long-time fascination with medical devices. A walk-on fullback for Florida State University in 1989, he suffered two concussions during his youth, he said. He began playing with the Cervifit concept as a marketing project while pursuing his master's in business administration. A fitness buff who worked as a personal trainer while making his way through school, Philipson said he realized there was no portable, affordable equipment to help those wanting to strengthen their neck muscles, outside of weight machines found in gyms. With a \$75,000 investment from Philipson's mother, the Cervifit was patented and went into

production in November, he said. "Though he has no medical training, Philipson's first flirtation with innovation came when he designed a double-curl exercise device that worked out the injured and dominant limbs simultaneously, to reduce overcompensation. Called the Aztec, the device was patented but never went to market. "I've always had an inventive side of me," said Philipson, whose father holds a number of product patents. "I think it's just in my DNA." The device is not just for football players or racecar drivers negotiating G-force turns. Two Florida doctors who advised Philipson on the Cervifit are also recommending it to patients to improve balance, prevent falls and treat head and neck pain. "For me, it's a nice, non-medical way to help patients with chronic neck pain," as well as those suffering migraines or hoping to avoid a repeat concussion, said Dr. Jeffrey Steinberg, a neurologist who helped Philipson and his company, Anatomical Architects, fine-tune the Cervifit. Biomechanics experts have long zeroed in on the neck's implication in head injuries, theorizing that girl soccer and lacrosse players suffer more concussions than boys because of inferior neck strength. Last year, a Colorado School of Public Health study bolstered that idea, finding that of 6,704 young athletes followed during the 2010-11 and 2011-12 academic years, those who suffered concussions were more likely to have a smaller neck circumference, less overall neck strength and a smaller neck-to-head ratio. The theory goes that the neck acts as a shock absorber of sorts for the head. The stronger the neck, the better it can control the head in abrupt movements and prevent the brain from sloshing around in the skull, a violent force that causes concussions. One independent expert agrees the concept "makes sense," given the body of research on concussions and neck strength. He noted, however, that there are no empirical studies that take the theory a step further to show neck-strengthening devices — or even helmets, for that matter — reduce concussions. "Strengthening the neck in contact sports is a great idea," said Dr. Evan Peck, a sports medicine physician at Cleveland Clinic Florida, declining to comment specifically on the Cervifit because he was unfamiliar with the device. "But I don't know if we can make the leap yet that it prevents concussions." Because the device is still new, extensive research has not yet been conducted on its effectiveness. One is planned in the next six months. In the meantime, it is advised that anyone using the device should be trained on its proper, safe use by an experienced professional such as a doctor or personal trainer.

The Cervifit works as a fulcrum, with a set of small, 4- and 5-pound iron weights stacked at the top. Strapped to the head, it creates up to 40 pounds of resistance when the wearer performs a series of neck lifts and other exercises.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



LAURIE SKRIVAN, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

MeVanna Roddy, of St. Louis, relies on donated diapers from a help agency as well as family and friends for her son, Byron. Because of many medications from his open-heart surgery, Byron can go through 10-15 diapers a day, putting a strain on Roddy's limited budget.

Diaper need among poor

Demand exceeds donations for parents in impoverished areas

By NANCY CAMBRIA
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

They are such a hot commodity, pharmacies and stores sometimes keep them behind glass.

They are the first line of defense against infection and disease — and are even linked to preventing depression and violence.

Desperate people will sometimes steal to get them.

No, this is not a story about illicit pills or drug abuse. It's about disposable diapers, an item the poor need desperately.

Researchers are starting to realize "diaper need" not only causes obvious health problems for children, but leads to depression in moms and poor social and developmental outcomes for the child.

It is estimated that disposable diapers can cost up to \$100 a month for one baby. On average, a newborn goes through eight to 10 diapers a day, said Melinda Ohlemiller, CEO of Nurses for Newborns.

Nurses with the organization see the diaper need firsthand with their clients but can offer minimal help. To provide diapers for their mostly poor clients, Ohlemiller said, the organization would need 8,000 to 10,000 diapers a day. But the agency can supply only about 12 diapers to established clients on an emergency basis.

One of its clients, Catalina Martinez of Overland, Mo., said she was

unable to work after having her second child. It's been difficult to afford diapers for a newborn and a toddler, and she's had to keep a diaper on her child longer than she should.

Last summer, a study in the medical journal *Pediatrics* identified "diaper need" among the poor as a growing health and psychological risk for babies and their mothers.

The study determined that as many as 30 percent of poor parents in New Haven, Conn., struggled to afford diapers for their infants. It further linked diaper need as a factor causing maternal depression, which can also lead to poor outcomes for children.

"There's just a great need ... and no one is calling attention to this," said DiAnne Mueller, CEO of Crisis Nursery, a St. Louis, Mo.-area child abuse prevention agency.

Crisis Nursery workers sometimes go door-to-door in poor neighborhoods asking people what they need. The answer is almost always the same: diapers and formula.

Some cities and regions have developed thriving diaper banks that collect and promote donated diapers and act as a clearinghouse to agencies like food pantries and community outreach centers.

According to the National Diaper Bank Network in Connecticut, about 100 established diaper banks operate nationwide. Happy Bottoms in Kansas City, Mo., for example, has distributed more than 1.5 million diapers to agencies that work with

‘Diapers are mandatory. They’re not optional. And yet families are making really hard decisions: Are we going to buy diapers or formula, or are we going to buy food?’

Melinda Ohlemiller
CEO, Nurses for Newborns

the poor. St. Louis is in the beginning stages of developing such a resource.

Nurses for Newborns and Crisis Nursery workers hear of mothers rinsing out disposable diapers and reusing them. More commonly they see horrid cases of diaper rash.

Mueller said when a baby presents with bad rashes and even staph infections, people unfairly conclude mothers are neglectful. But further questioning almost always reveals families are keeping the diapers on longer than they should because they don't have enough.

"Diapers are mandatory. They're not optional," said Ohlemiller. "And yet families are making really hard decisions: Are we going to buy diapers or formula, or are we going to buy food? That stress is putting a lot of hardships on families."

Ohlemiller said families sometimes forego toilet training on children who are not developmentally ready and fail, adding further stress in the household.

And the long-term issues of diaper needs are more chilling, said Mueller. Babies and toddlers with sore bottoms are cranky, so they cry more and bond less.

"What we see is a higher rate of child abuse," said Mueller. "The child is unable to be consoled, and the parent already has such limited resources both financially and emotionally. If the baby keeps crying and crying, it really gets to most anyone, so the risk of injury to the child is certainly much higher."

SPOUSE CALLS

Our generation gap setter solution

“How's it going, guys?" I asked my husband and son, who were out in the garage trying to breathe life into our 1966 Ford Mustang. The car has been in storage during our past few assignments, so it requires tender loving mechanical care to bring it back to the land of the living.

Father and son have been spending some bonding time over the past few weeks tinkering with the car and making a lot of trips to the auto parts store. They've taken off the fuel tank, had it cleaned, put it back in, replaced the carburetor and the battery, among other things.

On this particular Sunday afternoon, they'd hoped for real engine noises. When I came into the garage, the only sounds were clinks and clanks as my husband rummaged through his big red toolbox.

"I can't find my gopher set to set the points," he said.

If you don't know, "points" are part of an old-school — not electronic — ignition system. A gap setter is a gauge for setting the points at the correct minute distance, which has something to do with providing spark to the spark plugs. I don't know a lot about engines, but I do know this: The battery provides the initial power, the ignition system increases the power and fires up the spark plugs. There's a spark plug for each engine cylinder. When the spark meets the fuel vapor and air in those cylinders, combustion happens, and you can go shopping. My husband, Mark, knows a lot more: Like how the engine does all that stuff, and how to fix it when it won't. He's been passing along some of this knowledge to our son while they work on the car, which is why Mark is looking for the gap setter.

He began poking through a beige and green plastic tackle box full of automotive bits and pieces. I walked over and picked up a worn white matchbook from the top of the box, and said, "Use this. My dad told me that's why he put it in there."

Mark looked at me in surprise and smiled. "I wondered why that was in there. It's been in this box forever."

When I was beginning college, my dad had a talk with me. Not about boys or grades. It was about my car, another Mustang. He wanted me to be sure that I knew how to do more than put gas in it and go.

I never had any brothers, but I did have a dad who was a mechanic. A flight mechanic in his Air Force days and a car mechanic most of his life.

He taught me the major engine parts, how on my old Ford were pretty simple. He taught me to check all the fluid levels, clean or replace off the battery posts, change the oil and filter, and the spark plugs.

He also showed my sister and me how to change a tire. We learned the hard way on the side of the road on a hot summer day that he had taught us well.

Dad also gave me the beige and green plastic tackle box, filling it with tools he thought I'd need: Crescent wrench, yellow-handled adjustable pliers, screwdrivers (Phillips and regular), wire cutters, other miscellaneous tools and a matchbook advertising "Delicious Hamburgers" at a place called Jimbo's.

The location and function of points was another of Dad's lessons. He showed me how to set the points, explaining how to set the gap using a matchbook cover instead of a gauge in a pinch. He probably knew I'd never have to do that on my own, but I think he enjoyed showing me the tricks of his trade. Like I said, I didn't have brothers.

No son from Dad is ever ousted. After more than 30 years, the Jimbo's matchbook was still in the tackle box, and I still remembered why it was there. My husband used it. The spark plugs sparked, and the old engine came to life.

With Dad could have heard it. He died a few years ago, but he would have appreciated knowing that even the small gifts he bestowed are still with me. Some of the big things too. I still have the '65.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." She and her family are proud owners of three classic Mustangs. Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

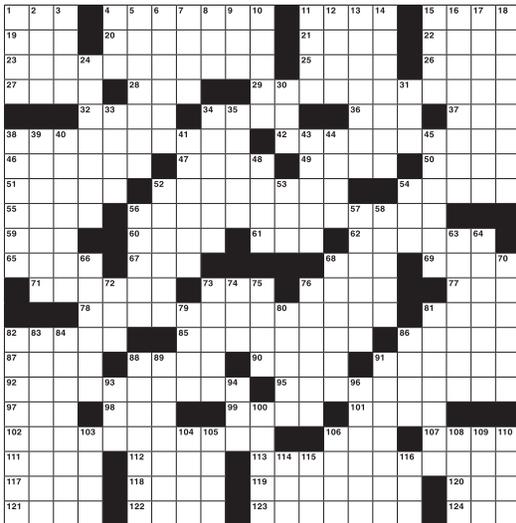
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

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BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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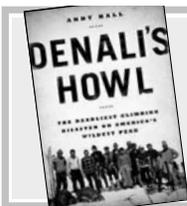
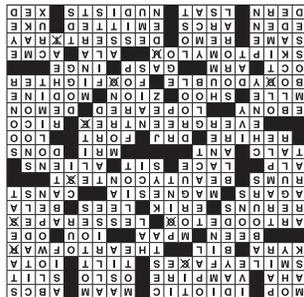
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GUNSTON STREET



'Gunston Street' is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



In 1967, twelve young men set out to climb Alaska's Mount McKinley—known as Denali—one of the world's most popular and deadly mountaineering destinations. At nearly 20,000 feet, they endured winds of up to 300 miles an hour, freezing flesh solid in minutes. Only five survived.

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FACES



OWEN SWEENEY, INVISION/AP

Singer-songwriter Jake Bugg is taking the next step in his own personal British Invasion plan this week, playing at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival in Manchester, Tenn. He sees it as an opportunity to hook the ears of potential new fans.

Catching the Bugg

Raspy-voiced Brit hopes to find new fans at Bonnaroo

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

Jake Bugg is taking the next step in his personal British Invasion plan this week, flying in to play at the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival.

Bugg has been working the crowds in America since the release of his second album, the Rick Rubin-produced "Shangri La," late last year. He wrapped up a headlining tour of sizable theaters with a rousing sold-out show at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville this year, hit "Ellen" and "American Idol," did a flyby of the South by Southwest conference in Austin, Texas, last March on his way to the West Coast to play for Jimmy Fallon.

Bonnaroo starts a small run of festivals and theaters, and later this year, he'll open a run of dates for The Black Keys.

"I just love touring the States and seeing everything," said the 20-year-old roots rock-influenced singer with the raspy voice. "But you can't tour it if you have nobody to play to, and the thing with festivals

and the like is not everybody's there to see you, so it's an opportunity to make some new fans and build your fan base."

Bugg has been using his journeys to gather ideas for a third album, and the trip to Manchester, Tenn., for this weekend's festival won't be his only trip to the area. He plans to return later this year and visit Memphis, home to many of his influences, like Stax Records.

"You go into places like that, you don't know how it's going to sound really with the thing that you do," Bugg said. "You know, I might go in there and it might not be happening, or I might go in there and really love it and just get inspired and just want to spend some time there. It's just about enjoying myself sometimes. I just want to enjoy myself and go trace back some of my musical roots and my heroes and stuff like that, and just see what happens."

This musical tourism paid off for Bugg on "Shangri La" as he collaborated with new friends in new locations. He traveled to Robert Johnson's crossroads near Clarksdale, Miss., while recording at Memphis'

Sun Studios, and he came to Nashville to plug into the mainstream country music songwriting machine on Music Row.

"Some of them write two songs a day," Bugg said. "I went to see some of those songwriters and I felt like for them it was another day in the office. You get in there and you press play and, 'Try to sing something into this,' and I'm like, 'No, pal, that song has no relevance to me.' I'm not going to sing something I don't feel like I own because I won't be able to sing it live and express it how I want."

He fled the row and found safe harbor in The Raconteurs singer-guitarist Brendan Benson's studio. He added frequent collaborator Iain Archer to the mix.

The sessions produced album standout "Kingpin" and two other strong songs.

"Jake's kind of a rare bird," Benson said. "He's so young, but he's got this kind of old-man wisdom about him in his lyrics. He just sort of seems to be channeling sometimes an old spirit ... It's a pretty strange thing to witness coming out of such a young kid's mouth."

More Brits at Bonnaroo

Jake Bugg isn't the only British star headed for the Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival this week. There's a mini-British Invasion of sorts going on through Sunday in Manchester, Tenn. — and we're not just talking about Elton John's headlining performance.

Here are five British acts we're particularly interested in seeing (and don't forget you can stream many of the performances if you're not one of the 80,000 down on the farm):

■ **The Arctic Monkeys:** Listen to any rock radio station for 30 minutes and you'll likely hear The Arctic Monkeys. The Sheffield, England, quartet began as buzzed-over darlings eight years ago and survived that experience to mature into a formidable, lasting act that's learned the art of keeping our attention.

■ **James Blake:** It will be interesting to see how London producer and singer-songwriter James Blake's minimalist sound will go over at Bonnaroo, where sound bleed gives the advantage to the raucous. Listen closely, though. Blake is one of electronic music's most interesting artists, and he earned a Grammy Award nomination for best new artist last year.

■ **Sam Smith:** Blake took a nod for best new artist last year, and you can bet neo-soul crooner Sam Smith from London will pick one up this year. The BBC's Song of 2014 winner is one of the hottest singers on vinyl this year and his star is only going to get bigger. Check him out while you can still catch him at one of Bonnaroo's more intimate stages.

■ **Disclosure:** Guy and Howard Lawrence of Grammy Award-nominated Disclosure and Smith broke through together when the Surrey sibling duo featured Smith on their breakthrough "Latch" a few years ago. Like Smith, the Lawrences have drawn attention since then and are seen as one of electronic music's most promising acts.

■ **Chvrches:** This synthpop trio from Glasgow, Scotland, makes candy confections built around singer Lauren Mayberry's wispy vocals that feel both new and comfortably familiar — if you're old enough to remember the first wave of British synthpop bands all those decades ago. Mayberry has the same star-making appeal of Smith. Here's your chance to get on board early.

— Chris Talbott/AP

Dolly Parton, Vince Gill to re-create seminal recording sessions

The Associated Press

Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Emmylou Harris, Marty Stuart, Steve Martin and more will recreate seminal recordings in country music history that helped produce pioneers such as Jimmie Rodgers and The Carter Family.

The 1927 Bristol Sessions was a project by the Victor Talking Machine Co. to record Appalachian music and attracted musicians from all over the Southeast to the city on the Tennessee-Virginia border.

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Bristol, which

is celebrating a grand opening on Aug. 2, selected Grammy-winning producer Carl Jackson to record "Orthophonic Joy: The 1927 Bristol Sessions Revisited," to be released in October.

In the spirit of the original recordings, the Birthplace of Country Music is launching a nationwide search for a new artist to record the album's final song.

Tony Awards cut 2 sound design trophies

The Tony Awards will have fewer trophies next year and Broadway's sound designers are

the ones being dropped.

The Tony Awards Administration Committee met Wednesday to determine the eligibility rules for the 2014-2015 season, and cut the categories of Best Sound Design of a Play and Best Sound Design of a Musical. That drops to 25 the number of competitive Tonys next year.

Other news

■ **Morrissey** has recovered the rest of his U.S. tour from the result of a respiratory infection that has worsened. His representative said in a statement Tuesday the

55-year-old singer wants to make a full recovery and has to withdraw from the shows.

■ A truck driver pleaded not guilty Wednesday in the fatal New Jersey Turnpike crash that also injured comedian Tracy Morgan as investigators look into what role his long commute to work played in the accident.

■ **Casey Kasem's** daughter has the authority to withhold food and fluids from her ailing father, a judge ruled Wednesday. Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Daniel S. Murphy reversed a ruling from Monday that stated that Kasem should receive food, fluids

and certain medications.

■ A coroner's office says a post-mortem examination has failed to determine what killed comedian **Rik Mayall**, a pioneer of British alternative comedy. He died suddenly on Monday at age 56.

■ **Ruby Dee**, an acclaimed actor and civil rights activist whose versatile career spanned stage, radio television and film, died on Wednesday night at age 91, according to her daughter.

■ **Martha Hyer**, an Oscar-nominated actress who starred alongside the likes of Frank Sinatra and Humphrey Bogart, has died. She was 89.

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OPINION

For Republicans, re-evaluation time

By GEORGE F. WILL

WASHINGTON

The morning after, at breakfast at the Republicans' Capitol Hill Club, Virginia Rep. Robert Goodlatte was, as befits one of Washington's grown-ups, measured in his reaction to what 36, 120 Virginia voters did the day before. It would, he says, be wise "to take a step back and a deep breath until we find out how everyone" — meaning, especially, House Republicans — "reacts to this." By "this" he indicates, with a wave of a hand, the one-word headline on Roll Call, a newspaper that covers Congress: "Stunner."

Roll Call's online article added these four words: "Can't Expect Changes Ever, anything." Of course, nothing changes everything, but the resounding and unprecedented defeat in a Republican primary of the soon-to-be former House majority leader will send ripples radiating through the House and into the Republicans' 2016 presidential nomination contest.

It is often folly to try to tickle national portents from local events. But there are few purely local political events now that elections have become increasingly nationalized in this era of inter-party and intra-party ideological combat. So, consider how the unhorsing of Cantor may strike other House Republicans.

Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, who embraces a more welcoming immigration policy than does much of the Republican nominating electorate, may construe Cantor's defeat as a discouraging omen concerning any presidential aspirations Bush might have. Cantor was damaged by the accusation that he favors "amnesty" for the more than 11 million illegal immigrants. Actually, he may have done more damage to himself by seeming to take multiple and

contradictory positions on immigration.

Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan may be weighing a probable ascent in the House leadership against the uncertainties of seeking the Republican presidential nomination. The removal of Cantor, a formidable rival for the office of speaker once John Boehner relinquishes it, may give Ryan reason to remain in Congress. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz, who hardly has an insufficiency of audacity, will be further emboldened in his presidential ambitions because tea party support helped to propel David Brat, a 49-year-old college professor, to victory over Cantor. Never mind that Brat, who speaks equably about making Washington work, seems to eschew Cruz's confrontational style.

Although the "amnesty" accusation hurt Cantor, so did his membership in Congress' leadership, and the perception that he had neglected his district. Also, he foolishly used his campaign millions to baroque Brat with absurd ads implying that because Brat is a professor, he must be a liberal.

Campaign reformers who believe money is the sovereign determinative in elections should consider the contrary evidence of Brat's \$231,000 war chest. Big ideas can have bigger consequences than cash does, and Brat resonated with tea party types primarily because his campaign vocabulary was that of constitutionally limited government — 10th Amendment conservatism.

Goodlatte, who chairs the Judiciary Committee, which processes immigration legislation, may have set a 2014 record for understatement when he said Cantor's defeat will not improve the chances of immigration reform this year. But the chances were, he says, slim anyway.

Congress will be away most of August and expects to adjourn for campaigning in

early October, at the latest. Barack Obama, Goodlatte says, continues to poison the well by threatening to use his "pen and phone" — unilateral actions — to alter immigration policy without involving Congress.

Goodlatte believes that piecemeal reform, addressing border security, high-qualifying immigrants and other matters separately — would be possible if many people, including Obama, were not holding all progress hostage to the chimera of "comprehensive" reform. Goodlatte has come to the conclusion that many people, including Obama, do not want reform but "only want the issue" of immigration for its political advantages. Goodlatte, however, will continue the Sisyphean task of pushing the immigration boulder up Capitol Hill. The subject is, for him, personal. Immigration cases were about half his practice as a lawyer before he came to Congress in 1993, and he strongly sympathizes with his former clients — people who conscientiously tried to become legal immigrants while others, ignoring legality, "would go right around them."

He does not think "anybody" among House Republicans believes we are going to deport 11 million people. And he thinks a large majority of illegal immigrants would be largely satisfied with legislation providing a pathway to a legal status short of citizenship. If, however, Cantor's defeat reinforces the perception that Republicans are simply hostile regarding immigration and immigrants, ripples from it might swamp attempts to align Republican policy with the 51 percent of Republican nation-wide, who like 62 percent of Americans, favor for the 11 million a pathway to citizenship.

George F. Will is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Democrats should nab GOP reformers' ideas

By CLIVE CROOK

Bloomberg News

The Republican Party's reformist movement — if it's big enough to be called a movement — recently published a set of policy proposals: "Room to Grow: Conservative Reforms for a Limited Government and a Thriving Middle Class." Most of the ideas in this pamphlet are good. In fact, Democrats should appropriate them.

The Republican reformers rightly emphasize job creation. Make the long-term unemployed more hireable, they say, by subsidizing their wages for a while after they return to work. Give them more information about work in other states, as well as grants or cheap loans to cover moving costs. Get rid of stupid licensing requirements. (Hairdressers need nine months of full-time training and a license?) In states that don't have them, start work-sharing programs so that employers can cope with temporary falls in demand by cutting hours rather than workers.

The reformers' ideas on relieving poverty are good, too — and equally appealing, or so you'd imagine, to open-minded Democrats. Build on the popular and successful welfare reforms of the 1990s (enacted by a Republican Congress and a Democratic president) by extending work requirements beyond Temporary Assistance for Needy Families to other parts of the safety net, such as federal housing assistance. Identify Social Security Disability Insurance to people who are actually disabled. Make

the safety net more effective by consolidating its bewildering tangle of different programs into fewer schemes or even a single "universal credit."

There's more in the same vein. Help poor families by clearing penalties for being married out of the tax and benefit systems. Increase the child credit for low-income families, especially in the year a child is born, to cover lost wages. Simplify and strengthen financial regulation by raising capital requirements for big banks. Remove regulatory barriers to innovation in education. Give students and parents more and better information about schools and colleges, and the power to act on it. Give colleges a stake in their students' success by making them repay part of defaulted loans. And so on.

It would be splendid if the Republican Party in Congress simply adopted the reformers' agenda. Conceivably, this could happen, even if it isn't very likely. Bits and pieces of the manifesto have the backing of a leading Republican politician or two. Nonetheless, the Republican Party does have a problem with "Room to Grow."

Intellectually, smarter and smaller government fit together pretty well, but for propaganda purposes, you can't prioritize both. Forced to choose, most Republicans in Congress would rather just stick it to Washington and, in Grover Norquist's memorable phrasing, get government "down to the size where we can drown it in a bathtub."

Ideally, one would hope for an alliance of centrist Democrats and pragmatic Re-

publicans to take forward what's best in reform conservatism. You only need to think about health care reform to see how unlikely that is. Obamacare began as a conservative proposal. Once a Democratic administration took it up, conservatives realized they didn't just oppose it but also despised it. Suggesting improvements, as opposed to scrapping it altogether, became a treasonous act. If Democrats were to get behind the idea of a universal safety-net credit, say, you could expect congressional Republicans to oppose it implacably.

Tactically speaking, that ought to commend it to Democrats all the more. The notion, popular on the left, that Republicans literally want to make the poor and unemployed worse off — that the party is "monomanically focused on redistributing income upward" — is a feeble excuse for failing to engage with the reformers' ideas. Better to steal the good ones, which is always worth doing, and divide and confuse your opponents at the same time.

You can also make the charge that the Republicans are bereft of ideas — opposed, in fact, to the idea of having ideas — all the more plausible. And would it kill the Democrats to bring a few of conservatism's smart reformers over to their side?

Bigger government isn't much of a slogan. For Democrats, smarter government is much better — tried and tested, too. They should be praising and plundering reform conservatism, not sneering at it.

Clive Crook is a Bloomberg View columnist and a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Taking issue with loan politics

Boston Herald

The war on "millionaires and billionaires" is back! And at a most politically convenient time for President Barack Obama, U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren and their party.

Yes, the president this week has pivoted away from irksome foreign policy issues and onto friendly domestic territory, with an issue Democrats see as a winner in the midterm elections — the high cost of student loan debt.

The president this week announced plans to expand the number of student borrowers who are allowed to cap their loan repayments at 10 percent of their income (a unilateral move for which the administration could provide no cost estimate) along with other underwhelming steps to ease the burden of student debt.

More significant, the president has endorsed passage of a bill — filed by Warren — that would allow student borrowers to refinance both their government and private student loans at lower rates.

And because there is no issue that this White House can't reduce to a stark choice between good and evil — the evil so often being those who dare to earn a hefty paycheck — well, Obama said members of Congress now cost "billions" for "millionaires," he said, "or lower student loan bills for the middle class."

Warren's refinancing bill is estimated to cost \$58 billion over 10 years, a cost that would be covered by closing those "loopholes" that allow the wealthy to pay rates that may be the same or lower than individuals who earn much less.

And while it's true that student loan debt is burdening the U.S. economy, this plan does nothing to help student borrowers find the jobs they would need to repay the money they borrowed (with knowledge of what they would cost to repay).

And even more to the point, making borrowing that much cheaper will do nothing whatsoever to bring down the high cost of a college education, which is the true driver of student loan debt.

This is nothing more than politics as official policy — the president's shout-out to Sen. John Thayer, a vulnerable Democrat, at yesterday's White House ceremony was just one of the clues — and it's a misguided policy at that.

Embrace new carbon rules

The (Rock Hill, S.C.) Herald

The Obama administration's new effort to reduce carbon emissions is an important, sensible and necessary step in reducing threat of global warming. It should serve as an example to other polluting nations around the world.

The new policy announced by the Environmental Protection Agency this month would reduce carbon dioxide emissions from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels by 2030. Ultimately, the reduction in carbon emissions would be the equivalent of taking two-thirds of the nation's cars from the roads.

Coal-burning power plants are the largest source of carbon pollution in the nation. They account for about one-third of all U.S. greenhouse emissions.

But the proposed EPA policy would not cap those emissions overnight. Instead, the policy has built-in flexibility to allow states to devise their own plans for phasing in re-



DELU NALIO CHERY/AP

A young girl overcome by tear gas is helped by her classmate during an anti-government protest in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Tuesday. A few thousand protesters demonstrated in the streets to demand the resignation of President Michel Martelly.

ductions over the next 15 years.

States will be permitted to meet the new standards in a variety of ways. They can require power plants to improve their capacity to capture carbon emissions. They can promote renewable energy sources such as wind and solar. And they can set up in-state, cap-and-trade agreements in which low-emission plants can sell credits to pollute to higher-emission plants.

Critics of the plan — including many who still refuse to accept that climate change even exists — have been quick to condemn it. They have labeled it a job-killer and a "war on coal."

But the economic harm is likely to be far less than they claim. Power companies already have factored in the cost of phasing out obsolete coal plants and developing cleaner energy sources, including the use of plentiful natural gas to run new plants.

Plus, it's hard to put a price on better health for millions of Americans.

The EPA's plan is a crucial first step in moving from a fossil-fuel-based economy to one more reliant on clean, renewable energy. It's not only something the American people should accept; it's what they should demand.

Bergdahl was worth respecting

The Miami Herald

The emerging picture of Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was exchanged for five prisoners held at the U.S. prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, indicates he's no hero, no all-American G.I. Joe, and might even be a deserter. But what no one disputes is that he was an American soldier held by the enemy, and that alone justifies the U.S. effort to bring him home.

That is what the armed forces do. It's part of an unwritten but fundamental code of solidarity in the uniformed services. No one is left behind, and no one should seek, or offer, apologies for bringing soldiers home.

The circumstances of this particular case make the prisoner exchange contentious. The initial sense of relief and joy over his return quickly vanished when it was disclosed that Pfc. Bergdahl — he was promoted to sergeant during his five-year absence, as per military protocol — apparently walked away from his post in Afghanistan voluntarily.

That is a serious violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice, if it turns out to be true.

Before rushing to judgment, however, the murky details of the Bergdahl incident must be investigated.

Already, several early claims, such as the allegation that he went in search of the Taliban forces that turned into his captors, have been debunked or questioned.

In failing to inform Congress about their release beforehand, the Obama administration ignored the law, an action the president's advisers have sought to justify by claiming that the Taliban had threatened to kill Bergdahl if it became public.

This, too, should be part of any post-exchange investigation, providing it doesn't turn into a political circus. Republicans in Congress have been so eager to turn any perceived weakness or misstep by the administration into a scandal that it's hard to take them seriously when they once again cry wolf.

Whatever an investigation turns up, it does not alter the basic facts of Bergdahl's detention, nor the fact that bringing a captured soldier back to his family was the correct decision.

Could President Barack Obama have handled it better, perhaps without the big Rose Garden announcement? Yes.

Did he make the right call? Absolutely.

Brazil paid for hosting Cup

Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

When the first World Cup 2014 match kicks off Thursday in Sao Paulo, Brazil, an estimated 1 billion people around the world will be watching. Billions more are expected to tune in for rest of the matches in new or refurbished stadiums in Rio de Janeiro and other cities around the country on which the government spent more than the equivalent of U.S. \$11 billion.

That's an astonishing amount of money, even for a growing economic power like Brazil. And for many in this South American country with a long love affair with *football*, not to mention more than his share of World Cup victories, it's just too much.

The ballooning cost of the infrastructure that will be hardly used by Brazilians has become the ignition point for a seething discontent throughout the country over corruption and lack of spending on public services. The protests began about a year ago and in the last few days have been reaching a new pitch with anti-government demonstrations, strikes and poverty activists taking their message to social media.

Brazilian officials reasoned that the stadiums can be used for the 2016 Olympic Games planned for this country, despite the data from the site of the last World Cup in South Africa that say all the hoped-for economic benefits did not materialize. They can also point to the jobs the project

brings in, plus the economic boost from an influx of millions of tourists from around the world paying for hotel, transportation, food, fun and souvenirs.

The economy is improving in Brazil, at least, according to World Bank data, and poverty rates have dropped significantly in recent years, from 24 percent in 2007 to 17 percent in 2012.

But all that to the vast majority who feel the economic boom is leaving them behind and only widening the gap between rich and poor, according to a Pew Global survey released last week.

It's a message that is resonating across the globe.

It's worth noting that no one is bashing soccer itself. This is Brazil, after all, home of the greatest player ever, Pele. The animosity is for the power structure, and offers an opportunity for fans around the world to chew over this bigger question while watching their team try to score: Who really wins when big sporting events come to town?

Help Haiti so aid not held up

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The troubled half-island of Haiti has a new problem to complicate its national life, this time over scheduling elections in the face of wrangling politicians.

Haiti, population 11 million, seems almost always to be in some kind of trouble. It also has been able, with some success, to attract international aid to help it climb out of the holes it seems to find itself in. The most recent catastrophe was the 2010 earthquake, which killed an estimated 316,000, and left its capital, Port-au-Prince, with many of its buildings ruined, and an estimated 1.5 million Haitians without housing.

That international response to the disaster included many promises of relief. Some \$9 billion was pledged. Some has been delivered; some has not. Recovery and reconstruction based on the relief has — as is normal for Haiti — presented a mixed picture. Some work has been accomplished. There has been a glitch caused by a cholera epidemic. Some of the Haitians claim that United Nations forces were responsible for introducing the disease to Haiti. That issue is still under dispute.

The current problem, holding up recovery and eventual economic development is of different sort. The current president, Michel Martelly, elected in 2011, is far overdue in setting parliamentary elections. Haiti's constitution forbids him a second consecutive term and the country's parliament is not ready to play ball with him on amending the constitution. That's one problem.

Another snarl is that two former presidents, both of whom showed themselves to be scoundrels in office, Jean-Claude Duvalier, "Baby Doc," and Jean-Bernard Aristide, a former Roman Catholic priest, were allowed to return to Haiti in recent years.

Both would also just love to be back in office. They have a great deal to offer. Opportunity to steal, and are agitating to prevent the electoral process to function until they are properly positioned to re-install themselves in the provisional presidential palace. (The actual one remains in ruins.)

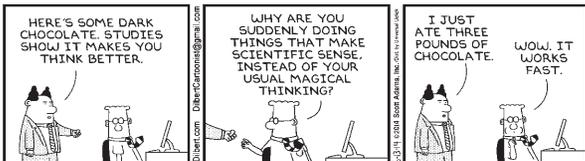
In the meantime, international aid donors are being asked to sit tight in terms of aid for reconstruction and development, arguing, probably correctly, that the political situation in the country is too unsettled for them to be able to provide aid with any assurance that it will be used honestly and well. It's hard to see what exactly any outside party can do about the current situation. The only thing that the degree that the United States, the largest single aid donor, can influence events there, the first thing that should be done is push Martelly and the Haitian Legislature hard to set elections according to a firm schedule.

The people of Haiti deserve help and the politicians shouldn't be allowed to block it.

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 Instrumental alternative
- 6 Handle roughly
- 9 Be in arrears
- 12 Worship
- 13 Foreman foe
- 14 Chap
- 15 Zellweger or Fleming
- 16 Change
- 18 Early Stephen King novel
- 20 Antiquing apparatus
- 21 Honest politician
- 23 Thither
- 24 World-weary
- 25 Pinches
- 27 Bump in a ski run
- 29 Senility
- 31 Belamy's brother in "Trading Places"
- 35 Rage
- 37 Thy
- 38 Virile
- 41 A cont.
- 43 Pos. opp.
- 44 Reed instrument
- 45 Director's call
- 47 Agree
- 49 Lance
- 52 Shack
- 53 Ring decision
- 54 Jollies
- 55 Noshed
- 56 Jam ingredient?
- 57 Attacked
- 24 Vagrant
- 26 Beauty pageant attire
- 28 Range
- 30 Sporty Pontiac
- 32 Link
- 33 Shade
- 34 Work unit
- 36 Parish leader
- 38 Chocolate coffee
- 39 Approximately
- 40 Short adventure tale
- 42 Puts on the line
- 45 "Puppy Love" singer
- 46 Mayberry moppet
- 48 List-ending abbr.
- 50 Wanted-poster abbr.
- 51 Q-U center

DOWN

- 1 Crossword clue abbr.
- 2 Praise in verse
- 3 Idea
- 4 Neighborhood
- 5 Suspicious
- 6 "Serpico" star
- 7 Lotion additive
- 8 Victory
- 9 Alpha counterpart
- 10 Merchandise
- 11 Strictly — noun
- 17 Region between hills
- 19 Shakespeare hero
- 21 Moreover
- 22 Life story, for short

Answer to Previous Puzzle

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | W | A | Y | | R | A | J | | B | R | A | M |
| L | I | M | O | | E | R | A | | R | E | B | A |
| A | P | E | R | | S | A | M | | U | S | E | R |
| S | E | X | I | S | T | | B | O | T | T | L | E |
| | | | | | C | I | A | | B | A | Y | |
| M | A | R | K | | G | O | R | I | L | L | A | S |
| A | V | E | | | E | W | E | | | | | L |
| C | A | S | C | A | D | E | S | | I | S | L | E |
| | | | | | T | H | Y | | T | W | O | |
| S | P | O | R | E | S | | R | E | D | A | C | T |
| H | E | R | O | | I | D | A | | I | G | O | R |
| I | T | E | M | | L | E | I | | D | E | L | I |
| M | A | D | E | | O | W | N | | E | D | A | M |

6-13

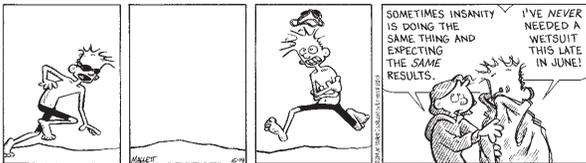
CRYPTOQUIP

B X N F Y V C Q F V A M W D V L W V
D A C Y Z G Q A V L F Q W Y X M B M V F Q
V Q F F M O Q A G W G J D L W N F
W M W O J B Y Z Q B N W J Q D

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I HEAR SEVERAL OLD-SCHOOL RUSSIAN LEADERS GOT TOGETHER AGAIN. I'D CALL IT THE SOVIET RE-UNION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals T

Frazz



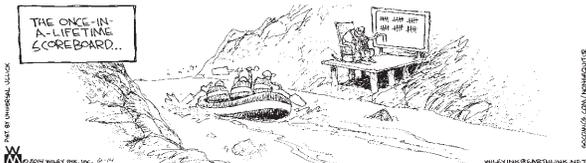
Dilbert



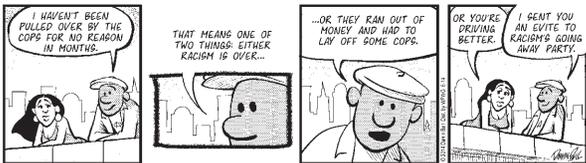
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



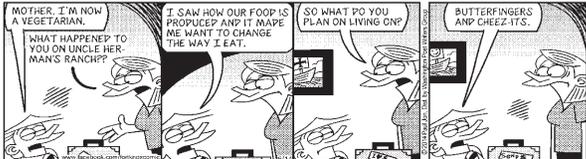
Get Fuzzy



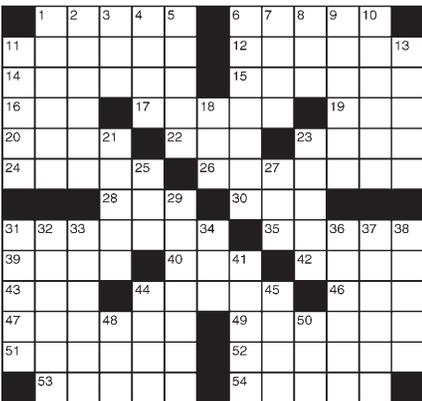
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Take to the floor
- 6 "Loves me (not)" determinat
- 11 One-dimentional
- 12 Critter
- 14 Cameron movie
- 15 Turnip look-alike
- 16 Auction action
- 17 Wanderer
- 19 Sharp turn
- 20 Pindaric pieces
- 22 Hasty escape
- 23 Recent (Pref.)
- 24 Send money
- 26 Eastern temples
- 28 Meadow
- 30 Weep loudly
- 31 Ornamental flower
- 35 Lawn
- 39 Mars' counterpart
- 40 Roulette bet
- 42 Car
- 43 Sun Yat—
- 44 "Barnaby Jones" star
- 46 Jockey Turcotte
- 47 Weakness cause
- 49 Greeting the villain
- 51 Affectionate
- 52 Stoves

DOWN

- 53 Grows
- 54 Winning
- 25 X rating?
- 27 — and Magog
- 29 Car-safety devices
- 31 — metabolism
- 32 Earlier
- 33 Swiss metropolis
- 34 DDE opponent
- 35 Morris or Flynn
- 36 Charioteer constellation
- 37 Thru rocks at
- 38 Crooner's repertoire
- 41 Winger or Messing
- 44 "— Kleine Nachtmusik"
- 45 2014 Croke role
- 48 Blend
- 50 Inseparable

Answer to Previous Puzzle



6-14

CRYPTOQUIP

B T F W I L E W B X B N B M B A Y
 A T Y F R D A Q U I B V D L W X W Y
 W Y B E W J J F W X F Q , R A C J X

V L F D G F V L F T B N F G C Q Q A M ?
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: I'D VENTURE TO SAY THAT YOUNG BROTHER AND SISTER TREES PROBABLY HAVE A SAPLING RIVALRY.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals F

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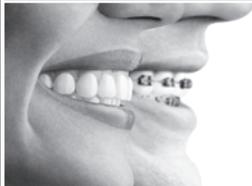
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Pro basketball

NBA Finals

(Best-of-7, x=if necessary)
Game 1 (6:00 PM ET)
 Miami 90, San Antonio 92
Game 2 (8:00 PM ET)
 Miami 95, San Antonio 90
Thursday at Miami
Sunday at San Antonio
x-Tuesday at Miami
x-Friday, June 20: at San Antonio

NWBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|------------|---|-----|------|
| Chicago | 4 | 5 | 6.25 |
| Indiana | 4 | 5 | 5.56 |
| Washington | 3 | 4 | 4.44 |
| New York | 3 | 3 | 3.33 |
| Tulsa | 3 | 3 | 3.33 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | Pct | GB |
|-------------|---|-----|------|
| Minnesota | 6 | 2 | 75.0 |
| Phoenix | 5 | 3 | 62.5 |
| San Antonio | 4 | 3 | 55.6 |
| Seattle | 4 | 3 | 55.6 |
| Tulsa | 4 | 3 | 55.6 |

Tuesday's games
 Tulsa 72, New York 57
 Phoenix 81, Washington 66
 Seattle 80, Chicago 76

Wednesday's games
 Indiana 76, Seattle 68
 Phoenix at Connecticut
 Chicago at Washington
 Minnesota at Atlanta
 Connecticut at New York
 Seattle at San Antonio
 Los Angeles at Tulsa

College baseball

World Series

AT TD Ameritrade Omaha
Omaha, Neb.
Double Elimination
1st Round
Saturday, June 14
 Game 1 — Louisville (5-15) vs. Texas (43-19)
 Game 2 — Louisville (5-15) vs. Vanderbilt (46-19)

Sunday, June 15
 Game 3 — Texas Tech (45-19) vs. TCU (47-16)
Monday, June 16
 Game 5 — Game 1 loser vs. Game 2 loser
 Game 6 — Game 1 winner vs. Game 2 winner

Tuesday, June 17
 Game 7 — Game 3 loser vs. Game 4 loser
Game 8 — Game 3 winner vs. Game 4 winner

Wednesday, June 18
 Game 9 — Game 5 winner vs. Game 6 loser
Thursday, June 19
 Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser

Friday, June 20
 Game 11 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 9 winner
Game 12 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Saturday, June 21
x-Game 13 — Game 6 winner vs. Game 7 winner
x-Game 14 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Championship Series
(Best-of-three)
 Monday, June 23: Texas Tech vs. TCU
 Tuesday, June 24: Pairings TBA
 x-Wednesday, June 25: Pairings TBA

AP spotlight

June 13 — James Rowe, who had won back-to-back Belmont State races in a jockey seat, set the record for most number of Belmont Stakes wins by a trainer, either, when he sends Prince Eric to victory.
1935 — Jim Braddock scores a 15-round unanimous decision over Max Baer in New York to win the world heavyweight title.
 Don Hogan wins the U.S. Open for the fourth time, with a six-stroke victory at the Sunnyside.

Soccer

World Cup FIRST ROUND

| GROUP A | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|----------|---|----|----|-----|
| Brazil | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Cameroon | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Croatia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Mexico | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Thursday, June 12
At Sao Paulo
 Brazil vs. Croatia
Friday, June 13
At Natal, Brazil
 Mexico vs. Cameroon
Tuesday, June 17
At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Brazil vs. Mexico

Wednesday, June 18
At Manaus, Brazil
 Croatia vs. Cameroon
Monday, June 23
At Brasilia, Brazil
 Brazil vs. Cameroon
Wednesday, June 25
 Croatia vs. Mexico

| GROUP B | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Australia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Chile | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Netherlands | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Spain | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Friday, June 13
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Spain vs. Netherlands
At Curitiba, Brazil
 Chile vs. Australia
Wednesday, June 18
At Rio de Janeiro
 Spain vs. Chile

GROUP C
Porto Alegre, Brazil
 Netherlands vs. Australia
Monday, June 23
 Spain vs. Australia
At Sao Paulo, Brazil
 Netherlands vs. Chile

| GROUP D | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Colombia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Greece | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ivory Coast | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Japan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Thursday, June 14
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Colombia vs. Greece
At Recife, Brazil
 Ivory Coast vs. Japan
Thursday, June 19
At Brasilia, Brazil
 Colombia vs. Ivory Coast
At Natal, Brazil
 Greece vs. Japan

Tuesday, June 24
At Curitiba, Brazil
 Colombia vs. Japan
At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Greece vs. Ivory Coast

| GROUP E | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Costa Rica | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Italy | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uruguay | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Uzbekistan | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Saturday, June 14
At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Uruguay vs. Costa Rica
At Manaus, Brazil
 England vs. Italy
Thursday, June 19
At Sao Paulo
 Uruguay vs. Brazil
Friday, June 20
 Costa Rica vs. Italy

Tuesday, June 24
At Natal, Brazil
 Uruguay vs. Italy
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Costa Rica vs. England, Non-Group

| GROUP F | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Ecuador | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Honduras | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Switzerland | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ukraine | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Sunday, June 15
At Brasilia, Brazil
 Switzerland vs. Ecuador
At Porto Alegre, Brazil
 France vs. Honduras
Friday, June 20
 Switzerland vs. France
At Curitiba, Brazil
 Ecuador vs. Honduras
Wednesday, June 25
 Switzerland vs. Honduras
Thursday, June 26
 Ecuador vs. France

| GROUP G | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Argentina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Bosnia-Herzegovina | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Nigeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Russia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Sunday, June 15
At Rio de Janeiro
 Argentina vs. Bosnia-Herzegovina
Monday, June 16
 Iran vs. Nigeria
Saturday, June 21
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran
Bosnia-Herzegovina, Brazil
 Argentina-Herzegovina vs. Nigeria
Wednesday, June 25
 Argentina vs. Nigeria
Thursday, June 26
 Bosnia-Herzegovina vs. Iran

| GROUP H | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Germany | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Portugal | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| United States | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Korea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Monday, June 16
At Salvador, Brazil
 Germany vs. Portugal
At Manaus, Brazil
 Ghana vs. United States
Friday, June 21
At Fortaleza, Brazil
 Germany vs. Ghana

Sunday, June 22
At Manaus, Brazil
 Portugal vs. United States
Thursday, June 26
At Recife, Brazil
 Germany vs. United States
At Brasilia, Brazil
 Portugal vs. Brazil

| GROUP I | W | L | T | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Algeria | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Belgium | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Russia | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| South Korea | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

Tuesday, June 17
At Belo Horizonte, Brazil
 Belgium vs. Algeria
At Curitiba, Brazil
 Russia vs. South Korea
Sunday, June 22
At Rio de Janeiro
 Belgium vs. Russia
At Porto Alegre, Brazil
 Algeria vs. South Korea

Thursday, June 26
At Rio de Janeiro
 Belgium vs. South Korea
At Curitiba, Brazil
 Algeria vs. Russia

MLS
EASTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|--------------|---|---|-----|----|----|
| D.C. | 6 | 5 | 4 | 32 | 21 |
| New England | 7 | 5 | 2 | 23 | 18 |
| Sporting KC | 6 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 14 |
| Chicago | 6 | 5 | 4 | 22 | 14 |
| New York | 4 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 22 |
| Columbus | 5 | 5 | 6 | 18 | 22 |
| Houston | 4 | 5 | 2 | 17 | 29 |
| Philadelphia | 4 | 5 | 2 | 17 | 18 |
| Chicago | 2 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 25 |
| Montreal | 2 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 26 |

WESTERN CONFERENCE

| W | L | T | Pts | GF | GA |
|----------------|---|---|-----|----|----|
| Seattle | 6 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 21 |
| Real Salt Lake | 6 | 2 | 7 | 25 | 21 |
| Portland | 5 | 3 | 5 | 23 | 19 |
| FC Dallas | 6 | 7 | 4 | 22 | 28 |
| Vancouver | 5 | 2 | 6 | 22 | 20 |
| San Jose | 5 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 20 |
| Los Angeles | 4 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 11 |
| San Jose | 4 | 3 | 5 | 17 | 11 |
| Chivas USA | 2 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 26 |

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Options of Kevin Pillar to Buffalo (L), recalled RHP Bobby Korecky from Buffalo.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with C Kyle Schwarber on minor league contract and assigned him to South Bend (W). Announced a two-year player development contract extension with Tennessee (SL) through the 2018 season.

COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled LHP Tyler Matzek from Colorado Springs (PCL). Options RHP Chad Bettis to Colorado Springs (PCL).

NEW YORK METS — Signed SS Milton Ramos, 3B Eudor Garcia, RHP Josh Piretti, C/Ober Moore, RHP Brad Wickel, 1B Dash Unsworth, LHP Kei Carty, RHP Sean Rodriguez, RHP Ryan Rowland-Smith, RHP Eric Manoah, C Darryl Knight, RHP Brandon Guyer, RHP Ryan Rowland-Smith, RHP Nicco Blank and RHP Alex Palstra to minor league contract.

ST. LOUIS BRUINS — Options of RHP Kevin Pillar to Buffalo (L), recalled RHP Bobby Korecky from Buffalo.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with C Kyle Schwarber on minor league contract and assigned him to South Bend (W). Announced a two-year player development contract extension with Tennessee (SL) through the 2018 season.

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COLORADO ROCKIES — Recalled LHP Tyler Matzek from Colorado Springs (PCL). Options RHP Chad Bettis to Colorado Springs (PCL).

Deals

Wednesday's transactions
BASEBALL
American League
BOSTON RED SOX — Agreed to terms with RHP Spencer Adkins, LHP Jake Sale, LHP Brian Eaton, RHP Zach Thompson, OF Louie Gehrig, SS Jake Peters, SS John Zienkowski, OF Brian Clark, OF Alex Alvarez and 2B Jake Ellwood on minor league contracts.

CLEVELAND INDIANS — Agreed to terms with RHP Jordan Carter, 2B Drake Robles and LHP David Soper on minor league contracts.

KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Agreed to terms with RHPs Todd Eaton, Corey Ray and Evan Bell; LHPs Eric Stout, Ian Tompkins, Timothy Hill, Cole Van Foster, Griffin, Eric Skoglund, Emilio Ogando and Brennan Henry; SSs Corey Spang, Mike Hill and Dawson Buter; OFs Logan Moon and Robert Hehl; 1B Joshua Banuelos and Ryan O'Heare; and C Chase Valet and Kyle Pollock on minor league contracts.

LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed LHP Tyler Skaggs on the 15-day DL, retroactive to June 10. Recalled RHP Hector Santiago from Salt Lake City.

MINNESOTA TWINS — Options of RHP Justin Morneau to Rochester (L).
NEW YORK YANKEES — Reinstated RHP Shane Bieber from the 15-day DL. Options RHP Matt Daley to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (PCL), OF Justin Morneau to Houston (A), and C Chase Valet and Kyle Pollock from the San Francisco Giants for cash considerations. Designated LHP Terry Leflore for assignment.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Options RHP Matt Thornton to Tacoma (PCL) and C Manny Pina to Detroit for a player to be named later. Options OF Sarah Fitzmaurice to the 15-day DL. Placed 1B Justin Smoak placed on 15-day DL, retroactive to June 10.

TAMPA BAY RAYS — Options C Allie Torres to the 15-day DL, recalled RHP Hanmin Son from the 15-day DL, recalled RHP Tanner Scheppers on the 15-day DL. Recalled RHP Ben Bowren from Round Rock (PCL). Agreed to terms with OFs Sarah Fitzmaurice and RHP Hector Santiago to minor league contract.

TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Options of Kevin Pillar to Buffalo (L), recalled RHP Bobby Korecky from Buffalo.

CHICAGO CUBS — Agreed to terms with C Kyle Schwarber on minor league contract and assigned him to South Bend (W). Announced a two-year player development contract extension with Tennessee (SL) through the 2018 season.

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NEW YORK METS — Signed SS Milton Ramos, 3B Eudor Garcia, RHP Josh Piretti, C/Ober Moore, RHP Brad Wickel, 1B Dash Unsworth, LHP Kei Carty, RHP Sean Rodriguez, RHP Ryan Rowland-Smith, RHP Eric Manoah, C Darryl Knight, RHP Brandon Guyer, RHP Ryan Rowland-Smith, RHP Nicco Blank and RHP Alex Palstra to minor league contract.

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Baseball

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Placed LHP Francisco Lirio on the 15-day DL. Reinstated RHP Scott Thorman on the 15-day DL. Agreed to terms with INF Tyler Fritchler, OF Ryan Spivey, RHP Tyler Eppner, Alex McRae and Eric Dorisch on minor league contracts.

SAN DIEGO PADRES — Assigned LHP Jason Lane outright to El Paso (PCL). Signed RHP Ryan Kiser, RHP RHP Ronnie Williams, 3B Julian Barzill, RHP Ryan Davis, OF Brian Clark, OF Alex Alvarez and 2B Jake Ellwood on minor league contracts.

WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Placed C Wilson Ramos on the 15-day DL. Called up C Sandy Leon from Syracuse (L).

WOMEN NATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION LOS ANGELES SPARKS — Signed G Samantha Prichard.

FOOTBALL
NFL — National Football League NFL — To Tony Scherzer announced his retirement.
ATLANTA FALCONS — Waived TE Andrew Szterba and P Matt Kelly.
NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Released OT Will Vukobrat and CB Victor Hampton. Reinstated Brandon Burton and LB Bruce Taylor.

CLEVELAND BROWNS — Signed RB Terrance West.
INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Placed DE Phillip Thomas on the 15-day DL. Released Gannon Jackson.

INDIANAPOLIS PATRIOTS — Released OL R.J. Mallett.
MOTORSPORTS
INDYCAR — Fired driver Sebastian Bourdais \$10,000 and placed him on probation for the remainder of the season for improper conduct on-track during the Firebird 300 at the Sarah Fisher Hartman Raceway \$5,000 for a technical violation on its No. 67 entry driven by Josef Newgarden. Penalties: Honda a total of 30 engine Manufacturer Championship points and 15 engine Manufacturer Championship mileage in the Nos. 14, 25 and 28 entries.

Major League Soccer
PHILADELPHIA UNION — Fired assistant manager and director Rob Varthugan.

COLLEGE
FAIRFIELD DICKINSON — Signed men's soccer coach Seth Roland to a three-year contract extension for the 2015 season.

INDIANA — Announced the resignation of receivers coach Joker Phillips. Penn State's head coach Joe Paterno is leaving the school and will transfer.

LSU — Suspended junior 5 Jalen Mills indefinitely after a suspension for a DUI charge.
MARQUETTE — Named Travis Diener director of player personnel for men's basketball.

SAN DIEGO STATE — Extended the contract of Tony Gwynn baseball coach and former MLB pitcher, manager and associate head baseball coach to executive head baseball coach and given a contract through 2017.
TANFORD — Named Patrick Jeffrey diving coach.

Stan Wawrinka (1), Switzerland, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 3-2, retired.
Henrik Matsuda, Australia, def. Lukas Lacko, Slovakia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Adrian Panatta, France, def. Shahar Pe'er, Israel, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (7).
Nicola Pietrangeli (3),

STANLEY CUP FINALS

Scoreboard



Stanley Cup finals

(Best-of-seven; x-if necessary)
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 1
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT
Los Angeles 5, N.Y. Rangers 4, 2OT
Los Angeles 3, N.Y. Rangers 0
Wednesday: N.Y. Rangers 2, Los Angeles 1

Friday: at Los Angeles
x-Monday: at N.Y. Rangers
x-Wednesday, June 18: at Los Angeles

Wednesday Rangers 2, Kings 1

Los Angeles 0 1 0-1
 N.Y. Rangers 1 1 0-2

First Period—1, N.Y. Rangers, Pouliot 5
(Moore, Brassard), 7:25

Second Period—2, N.Y. Rangers, St. Louis 8:37 (Stephan); 6:27, 3, Los Angeles, Brown 6, 8:46

Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 11-15-15—41, N.Y. Rangers 7-11-11-13

Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 0 of 2, N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3

Goalies—Los Angeles, Quick 15-10-0 (19 shots-17 saves); N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 13-10-0 (41-40)

A—18,006 (18,006); T—2:37.

Playoff leaders

| Scoring Through June 11 | | GP | G | A | PTS |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Anze Kopitar, LA | 25 | 10 | 21 | 26 | 24 |
| Jeff Carter, LA | 25 | 10 | 16 | 24 | 24 |
| Justin Williams, LA | 25 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 24 |
| Marian Gaborik, LA | 25 | 8 | 16 | 24 | 24 |
| Patrick Kane, Chi | 19 | 12 | 20 | 20 | 20 |
| Jonathan Toews, Chi | 15 | 5 | 12 | 17 | 17 |
| Brew Boggs, LA | 19 | 6 | 10 | 16 | 16 |
| Brandon Saad, Chi | 24 | 4 | 12 | 16 | 16 |
| Ryan McDonagh, NYR | 24 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 15 |
| Martin St. Louis, NYR | 24 | 8 | 7 | 15 | 15 |
| Derek Stepan, NYR | 23 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 15 |
| Ryan Getzlaf, Anh | 12 | 4 | 11 | 15 | 15 |
| Brent Seabrook, Chi | 16 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 15 |
| Dustin Brown, LA | 22 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 14 |
| Evgeni Malkin, Pit | 13 | 6 | 8 | 14 | 14 |
| PK Subban, Min | 17 | 6 | 14 | 14 | 14 |
| Zach Parise, Min | 13 | 4 | 10 | 14 | 14 |
| Marian Gaborik, LA | 25 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Tyler Tofooli, LA | 25 | 7 | 13 | 13 | 13 |
| Mats Zuccarello, NYR | 24 | 5 | 8 | 13 | 13 |
| Lars Eller, Min | 19 | 5 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Jake Muzzin, LA | 25 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Derrick Brassard, NYR | 22 | 6 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| Tanner Pearson, LA | 23 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Chris Kreider, NYR | 22 | 4 | 8 | 12 | 12 |
| Rene Bourque, Min | 17 | 8 | 3 | 11 | 11 |
| Carl Hagelin, NYR | 24 | 7 | 4 | 11 | 11 |
| Brian Richards, NYR | 24 | 6 | 11 | 11 | 11 |
| Max Pacioretty, Mtl | 17 | 5 | 6 | 11 | 11 |
| Duncan Keith, Chi | 15 | 7 | 11 | 11 | 11 |

| Goaltending | | SA | GA | GAA |
|------------------------|----|-----|----|------|
| Tuukka Rask, Bos | 12 | 348 | 25 | 1.99 |
| Henrik Lundqvist, NYR | 24 | 686 | 51 | 2.15 |
| Carey Price, Mtl | 12 | 358 | 29 | 2.58 |
| Marc-Andre Fleury, Pit | 13 | 378 | 32 | 2.40 |
| Corey Crawford, Chi | 19 | 590 | 32 | 2.53 |
| Ilya Bryzgalov, Min | 9 | 182 | 21 | 2.63 |
| Jonathan Quick, LA | 25 | 744 | 67 | 2.66 |
| Steve Miller, Ana | 6 | 132 | 27 | 2.70 |
| Semyon Varlamov, Col | 7 | 231 | 20 | 2.78 |
| Fred Anderson, Ana | 7 | 189 | 19 | 3.10 |
| Sergei Bobrovsky, Cfb | 6 | 218 | 20 | 3.17 |

Calendar

June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.
June 26 — NHL awards, Las Vegas.
June 27-28 — NHL Draft, Philadelphia.
July 1 — Free agency begins.
July 1-11 — Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification.
July 1-11 — Deadline for player-elected salary arbitration notification.
July 1-11 — Salary arbitration hearings held.
Aug. 8 — Deadline for salary arbitration decisions.

Lundqvist keeps Rangers alive

New York goalie stops 40 LA shots to avoid a sweep by Kings

By IRA PODELL
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — The champagne the Los Angeles Kings had ready for a coronation stayed in boxes. The New York Rangers suddenly have some life in the Stanley Cup finals.

Henrik Lundqvist made 40 saves and had the Madison Square Garden crowd chanting his name in the Rangers' 2-1 victory in Game 4 that kept the Kings from a sweep on Wednesday night.

Benoit Pouliot and Martin St. Louis each scored for the Rangers. Los Angeles leads the series 3-1 and will get its second shot to claim the Cup for the second time in three years on Friday at home.

"We wanted to close it out tonight and we weren't able to do it," Kings forward Anze Kopitar said. "Now we have a desperate team coming into our building."

The Los Angeles hoped to become the first team since 1998 to complete a sweep in the finals. The Rangers will try to be the second team to erase a 3-0 hole in the finals and go on to win the Cup.

The Kings had that kind of comeback in the first round against San Jose.

"It's not impossible," Lundqvist said. "Twice Los Angeles put the puck on the goal line, but couldn't get it all the way across. The last came with 1:11 left when Rangers forward Derek Stepan pushed the puck out of danger in the crease after it got behind Lundqvist."

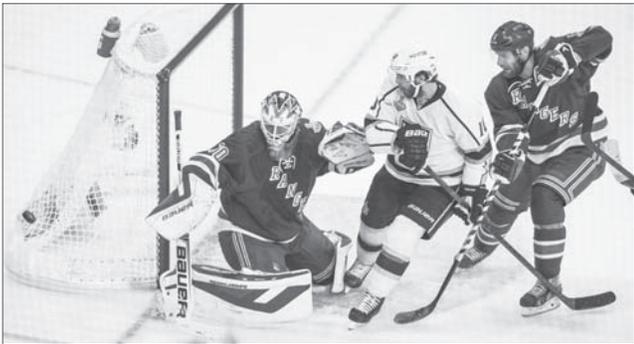
"I was just holding my breath," Rangers defenseman Dan Girardi said. "All those guys in the crease did a great job to keep it out."

Pouliot scored 7:25 into the first period and St. Louis added a goal in the second. New York squandered multiple two-goal advantages in losing the first two games in overtime in Los Angeles.

Not this time. Lundqvist and the Rangers continued their mastery of extending their seasons. New York is 11-2 in the past 13 games when facing elimination, and Lundqvist was in goal for all of them.

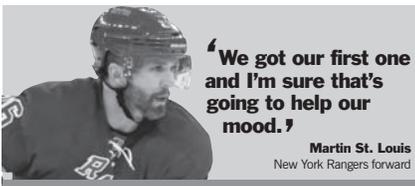
"When everything is on the line, you just have to challenge yourself the right way," Lundqvist said. "You have to be focused. One mistake and the season is over. You're definitely aware of that."

The Rangers also have won an



MARK RIGHTMIRE, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist, left, blocks a shot as Mike Richards, center, of the Los Angeles Kings and the Rangers' Dan Girardi move in front of the net during the first period of Game 4 of the Stanley Cup finals on Wednesday in New York. Lundqvist made 40 saves in the Rangers' 2-1 victory.



Martin St. Louis
 New York Rangers forward

NHL-record eight consecutive home games when facing elimination, dating to 2008, behind Lundqvist.

"We got our first one," St. Louis said, "and I'm sure that's going to help our mood." The Kings were quick to the puck all night and pressed for the tying goal in the third. They outshot the Rangers 15-1 in the frame and 41-19 overall.

"I think we sat back a little too much in the third period, but we didn't blow the lead this time," Stepan said.

Two nights after Jonathan Quick stopped 32 shots in a 3-0 victory that put the Kings on the brink of another championship, Pouliot got a puck past him.

St. Louis then put in a rebound at the left post 6:27 into the second, giving the Rangers their fifth

front of Lundqvist before touching a forehead inside the right post to make it 2-1 with 11:13 left in the second.

The Kings had a chance to get even, but the Rangers killed Dominic Moore's cross-checking penalty late in the period. Jeff Carter then got behind Girardi before being stopped on a break-away by Lundqvist.

Pouliot broke Quick's shutout streak at 123 minutes, 1 second. New York hadn't scored since Derrick Brassard's second-period goal in Game 2. Pouliot's fifth goal of the playoffs came 2 seconds after Kings defenseman Willie Mitchell finished serving a high-sticking penalty.

John Moore fired a drive from the center of the blue line that Pouliot deflected high with his stick blade into the top right corner behind Quick.

The Kings almost tied it at 1-1 with 8:11 left in the first period—seconds into a power play—when defenseman Alec Martinez's shot got behind Lundqvist and slid along the red goal line without crossing it. Rangers defenseman Anton Stralman cleared the puck away as Carter and Marian Gaborik pressured in the crease.

Video replay clearly showed that the puck didn't go over the line.



Stanley Cup finals: Game 5
 N.Y. Rangers at Los Angeles
 AFN-Sports
 2 p.m. Saturday CET
 9 p.m. Saturday JKT

two-goal lead of the series. But just like in Games 1 and 2, a two-goal deficit sparked the Kings. At the tail end of a Rangers power play, Girardi broke his stick and lost the puck to Kings captain Dustin Brown for a breakaway. Brown made several moves in

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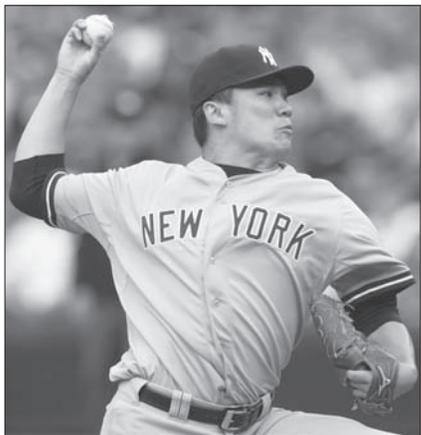
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TED S. WARREN/AP

New York Yankees starting pitcher Masahiro Tanaka throws against Seattle during the first inning of Wednesday's game in Seattle.

Tanaka fans 11, wins 10th game

By TIM BOOTH

The Associated Press

SEATTLE — Superlatives will be scarce come September if Masahiro Tanaka continues this pace.

For now, Joe Girardi and the rest of the New York Yankees are just thankful they have the Japanese right-hander pitching like one of the best in baseball.

"He's been really, really big. You look at the numbers he's put up, the wins that he has, the distances he's given us during the course of the season," Girardi said. "He's meant a lot."

Tanaka added another notch to his stellar first two months in the majors, striking out 11 and tossing a complete game Wednesday night as the New York Yankees beat the Seattle Mariners 4-2.

Tanaka became the second pitcher in baseball with 10 wins and won his fourth straight start. It was on the verge of being possibly his most impressive performance of the season before giving up a two-run homer to Robinson Cano in the ninth inning that ruined the shutout.

That only made Tanaka more determined to finish off his second complete game of the season. He struck out Kyle Seager and Logan Morrison to finish off the victory.

"Obviously I wasn't very happy about that home run, but at the end I'm pretty satisfied I was able to go all nine innings tonight," Tanaka said through a translator.

Tanaka allowed six hits, walked one and leads the AL with a 2.02 ERA. He tied for the wins lead

with Toronto's Mark Buehrle, who is 10-2. Tanaka has allowed only four earned runs in the past 29½ innings and hasn't given up more than three earned runs in any start.

That number would be less if not for Cano hitting his third homer of the season — and first at Safeco Field — in the ninth. James Jones reached on an infield single with one out and Cano hit a drive out to left-center on the first pitch.

"He was dealing. He was the same guy you see on TV," Cano said. "He put the ball where he wants. He's filthy."

Tanaka cruised from the start. It took the Japanese rookie 15 pitches to get through the first two innings and 26 pitches setting down the first nine Mariners in order.

Seattle got baserunners in the fourth when Jones and Seager singled, but the threat ended when Morrison struck out on a check swing.

It also started a strikeout binge from Tanaka. Beginning with Morrison, six of the next seven outs came via strikeout.

Tanaka struck out the side in the sixth, getting Cole Gillespie and Andy Chavez swinging before capping the inning by getting Jones looking at strike three.

Cano broke the strikeout streak at five when he grounded out to open the seventh. Seager then walked on four pitches, the first walk issued by Tanaka. But Morrison grounded into a double play and Tanaka was through seven innings on just 79 pitches.

MLB scoreboard

American League

| East Division | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Toronto | 29 | 28 | .510 |
| Baltimore | 33 | 31 | .516 |
| New York | 28 | 31 | .476 |
| Boston | 29 | 36 | .446 |
| Tampa Bay | 24 | 42 | .373 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Detroit | 33 | 28 | .541 |
| Kansas City | 33 | 32 | .508 |
| Chicago | 33 | 33 | .500 |
| Cleveland | 28 | 33 | .455 |
| Minnesota | 31 | 33 | .484 |

| West Division | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Oakland | 40 | 26 | .606 |
| Los Angeles | 35 | 31 | .529 |
| Seattle | 34 | 31 | .523 |
| Texas | 32 | 34 | .485 |
| Houston | 30 | 37 | .448 |

National League

| East Division | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Washington | 35 | 29 | .547 |
| Atlanta | 31 | 31 | .516 |
| Miami | 34 | 31 | .523 |
| New York | 29 | 31 | .483 |
| Philadelphia | 27 | 36 | .429 |

| Central Division | | | |
|------------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| Milwaukee | 39 | 27 | .591 |
| St. Louis | 34 | 32 | .515 |
| Pittsburgh | 31 | 34 | .477 |
| Cincinnati | 30 | 34 | .469 |
| Chicago | 25 | 34 | .423 |

| West Division | | | |
|---------------|----|----|------|
| Team | W | L | Pct |
| San Francisco | 42 | 24 | .636 |
| Los Angeles | 35 | 32 | .523 |
| Colorado | 30 | 35 | .462 |
| San Diego | 28 | 37 | .431 |
| Arizona | 29 | 39 | .426 |

Wednesday's games

| |
|--------------------------------|
| Minnesota 7, Toronto 2 |
| Kansas City 4, Cleveland 1 |
| Los Angeles 6, Boston 5 |
| Tampa Bay 6, St. Louis 3 |
| Toxas 6, Miami 0 |
| Houston 5, Arizona 1 |
| Oakland White Sox 8, Detroit 2 |
| Oakland 7, L.A. Angels 1 |
| N.Y. Yankees 4, Seattle 2 |
| Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 2 |
| Philadelphia 3, San Diego 0 |
| Cincinnati 4, L.A. Dodgers 0 |
| Milwaukee 3, N.Y. Mets 1 |
| Colorado 8, Atlanta 2 |
| Washington 6, San Francisco 2 |

Thursday's games

| |
|------------------------------|
| Toronto at Baltimore |
| Cleveland at Boston |
| Arizona at Houston |
| Detroit at Chicago White Sox |
| N.Y. Yankees at Seattle |
| L.A. Dodgers at Cincinnati |
| San Diego at Philadelphia |
| Atlanta at Colorado |
| Washington at San Francisco |
| Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh |
| Milwaukee at N.Y. Mets |
| Arizona at Houston |

Friday's games

| |
|---|
| Toronto (Hutchinson 4-4) at Baltimore (Ujiri 2-7) (Gibson 5-5) at Detroit (Smily 3-4) |
| Cleveland (Masterson 4-4) at Boston (Lackey 7-4) |
| L.A. Angels (Shoemaker 3-1) at Atlanta (Harmon 4-5) |
| Kansas City (Gutierrez 2-6) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 3-6) |
| Tampa Bay (Cobb 1-4) at Houston (Gray 6-2) |
| Toxas (Tepesch 2-2) at Seattle (Hernandez 8-1) |
| Washington (Arrieta 1-1) at Philadelphia (R.Hernandez 2-4) |
| Pittsburgh (Locke 0-1) at Miami (Eovaldi 4-2) |
| San Diego (Cashner 2-5) at N.Y. Mets (Colby 4-5) |
| Cincinnati (Bailey 7-3) at Milwaukee (Guzza 4-4) |
| Washington (Zimmermann 5-2) at St. Louis (Lynn 4-4) |
| Arizona (CAnderson 5-0) at L.A. Dodgers (Kerans 2-2) |

Saturday's games

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Kansas City at Chicago White Sox |
| Washington at St. Louis |
| N.Y. Yankees at Oakland |
| Seattle at Philadelphia |
| Pittsburgh at Miami |
| Detroit at N.Y. Mets |
| Chicago Cubs at Philadelphia |
| Cincinnati at Milwaukee |
| Washington at St. Louis |
| Colorado at San Francisco |
| Atlanta at Dodgers |
| L.A. Angels at Atlanta |

Calendar

July 15 — All-Star game, Minneapolis.
 July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft picks to sign.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Quicken Loans 400 at Brooklyn, Mich.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday, CET; 2 a.m. Monday, JKT.

Track: Michigan International Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Greg Biffle raced to his second straight Michigan victory, holding off Kevin Harvick after Jimmie Johnson hit the wall in the final laps.

Last week: Dale Earnhardt Jr. won at Pocono for his second victory of the year. Brad Keselowski was second.

Next race: Toyota-Save Mart 350, June 22, Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma, Calif.

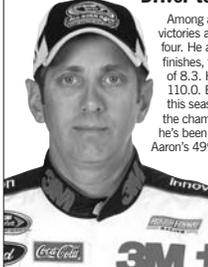
Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. Jeff Gordon | 498 |
| 2. Matt Kenseth | 482 |
| 3. Dale Earnhardt Jr. | 476 |
| 4. Jimmie Johnson | 475 |
| 5. Brad Keselowski | 448 |
| 6. Kyle Busch | 443 |
| 7. Carl Edwards | 441 |
| 8. Denny Hamlin | 418 |
| 9. Joey Logano | 418 |
| 10. Kyle Larson | 417 |
| 11. Ryan Newman | 411 |
| 12. Kevin Harvick | 403 |
| 13. Brian Vickers | 392 |
| 14. Greg Biffle | 385 |
| 15. Austin Dillon | 385 |
| 16. Clint Bowyer | 383 |
| 17. Paul Menard | 380 |
| 18. Tony Stewart | 368 |
| 19. Eric Ammirala | 366 |
| 20. AJ Allmendinger | 360 |

Driver to watch

Among active drivers, Greg Biffle has the most victories at Michigan International Speedway with four. He also has 10 top-five finishes and 14 top-10 finishes, for a series-best average running position of 8.3. He also has a series-best driver rating of 110.0. But he's still searching for his first win this season, along with a spot in the Chase for the championship it would guarantee. The closest he's been this year was a second-place finish in the Aaron's 499 at Talladega on May 4.



CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

This week: Drivin' for Linemen 200 at Madison, Ill.

Track: Gateway Motorsports Park (oval, 1.25 miles).

Race distance: 200 miles, 160 laps.

Last year: Inaugural race.

Last week: Matt Crafton raced to his second victory of the season, running the final 61 laps at Texas Motor Speedway on one tank of fuel.

Next race: UNOH 225, June 26, Kentucky Speedway, Sparta, Ky.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

Next races: Grand Prix of Houston, June 23 and 29, Streets of Houston, Houston.

Last week: Owner-driver Ed Carpenter won at Texas Motor Speedway, holding off Team Penske's Will Power in a two-lap shootout.

Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Thunder Valley Nationals at Bristol, Tenn.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 5 a.m. Monday, CET; noon Monday, JKT.

Last year: John Force raced to the first of his four 2013 victories on Roger Young's record 16th season title. Steve Torrence won in Top Fuel, and Rodger Brodgin in Pro Stock.

Last event: Australia's Richie Crampton won the Summernationals on June 1 in Englishtown, N.J., for his first Top Fuel victory. Cruz Pedregon won in Funny Car, Jeg Coughlin in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: New England Nationals, June 19-22, New England Dragway and Motorsports Park, Epping, N.H.

Online: nhra.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Austrian Grand Prix, June 22, Red Bull Ring, Spielberg, Austria.

Last week: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Canadian Grand Prix for his first F1 victory, ending Mercedes' season-opening winning streak at six.

Online: formula1.com

OTHER SERIES

World of Outlaws Sprint Car: Friday, Jackson Speedway, Jackson, Minnesota; Saturday, Knoxville Raceway, Knoxville, Iowa.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

Series capsules

by The Associated Press

COLLEGE BASEBALL

TV Schedule



Game 1

UC Irvine vs. Texas
AFN-Xtra
9 p.m. Saturday CET
4 a.m. Sunday JKT



Game 2

Louisville vs. Vanderbilt
AFN-Atlantic
2 a.m. Sunday CET
9 a.m. Sunday JKT



Game 3

TCU vs. Texas Tech
AFN-Xtra
4 p.m. Monday CET (delayed)
11 p.m. Monday JKT (delayed)



Game 4

Virginia vs. Mississippi
AFN-Xtra
2 a.m. Monday CET
9 a.m. Monday JKT

Equal opportunity sport

Teams reaching College World Series reflect competitive balance

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — The array of teams set for the College World Series beginning this week could leave the impression that college baseball has become an equal-opportunity sport.

Whether it has evolved or developed is a matter of opinion.

"I played in Omaha in 1960 and 1961 (for USC), and you could name on both hands all the schools in the country that were playing good baseball," UC Irvine coach Mike Gillespie said. "You couldn't name all the schools playing good baseball now if you had 10 sets of hands. I think that's good."

Skip Bertman, who retired as LSU's coach in 2001 after winning five national titles, isn't so sure.

"The product now is the poster sport for parity," he said. "That may make some people happy. In my opinion, it's watered down."

People in the game say scholarship reductions, roster limits and bats lacking punch account for the competitive balance. They also point to a growing number of schools, including some in cold-weather areas, spending more money on baseball.

Texas, which will be in Omaha a record 35th time, offers a nod to the days when only a handful of teams had a legitimate chance to win the national championship. The seven other teams represent relative newcomers to the college game's biggest stage.

Texas Tech will be here for the first time; Vanderbilt, UC Irvine and TCU for the second time; Louisville and Virginia for the third time; and Mississippi for the fifth time, but first since 1972.

Of the eight national seeds that started the 64-team tournament two weeks ago, only No. 3 Virginia and No. 7 TCU are left. That's the fewest to advance to the CWS



SHANNON WILSON, LUBBOCK AVANTAGE JOURNAL/AP

Texas Tech's Chris Sadberry (42) is greeted by Dominic Moreno after a victory over the College of Charleston during the Lubbock Super Regional on Saturday in Lubbock, Texas. Texas Tech won the series and earned its first trip to the College World Series.

since the tournament went to its current format in 1999.

"You don't let a team in just because of a name. You have to earn it," said Dennis Poppe, the NCAA's top administrator for the CWS from 1987 to 2013. "You still like to see the old standbys, the traditional teams. But you get a little mix of everything here. That's what makes it cool."

A major breakthrough came in 2008 when Fresno State won the national title as a No. 4 regional seed, the equivalent of a No. 13 seed in college basketball. Another came in 2012, with Stony Brook and Kent State crashing the party.

Last year, Indiana made its first CWS appearance.

Now consider that teams like Kennesaw State and College of Charleston made it through regionals this year while the top two national seeds, Oregon State and Florida, did not.

Key events in the move toward parity: the NCAA's capping baseball scholarships at 11.7 per team in 1991 and limiting rosters to 35 players in 2008. Talent once hoarded by the big baseball schools in the South and West began to spread out.

Another factor was the change in bats stemming from concern

"You don't let a team in just because of a name. You have to earn it."

Dennis Poppe
Former College World Series
top administrator

beginning in the late 1990s that the game had become too offensive. The bats were redesigned to reduce power, making dominant teams less so.

Since current bat standards went into effect in 2011, offensive numbers have hit lows not seen since the wooden-bat era. Next year, in hopes of goosing the offense, the raised-seam ball will be replaced by the flat-seam ball. Research has shown that the flat-seam ball travels farther and faster because wind resistance is decreased.

"I'm not one that has gotten as exercised as some and lament the lack of offense," UC Irvine's Gillespie said. "I don't perceive that people are running away from the game."

Bertman said he worries for the future of the college game because fans can no longer relate to year-in, year-out power programs like they can in football and basketball. Plus, he said, the style of play isn't as appealing as it once was.

"A bunch of bunting and singles and dribblers," Bertman called it.

"The base hit with a man on second and two outs should still be a big part of our game, and so should the ability to score four runs in one inning," he said. "Those things are taken away from us by this weak bat and the parity we have."

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WORLD CUP

GROUP F

Players to watch



Iran

Javad Nekounam: Long-serving Iran captain Nekounam has been a mainstay of the national team since making his international debut in 2000.

The dynamic Al-Kuwait midfielder has a habit of coming up with a goal just when his team needs it most.

Reza Ghoochannejhad: A relatively recent addition to the team — visa issues delayed the debut of the Dutch-born player — but fleet-footed Charlton forward Ghoochannejhad played an important role in Iran's successful qualification campaign, scoring three goals in his first three qualifiers.

He has now scored nine goals in 11 games.



A January move from Standard Liege to Charlton in England's second division has increased his playing time ahead of the World Cup and now the player dubbed "Gucci," who has become one of Iran's biggest stars, should arrive in Brazil ready.

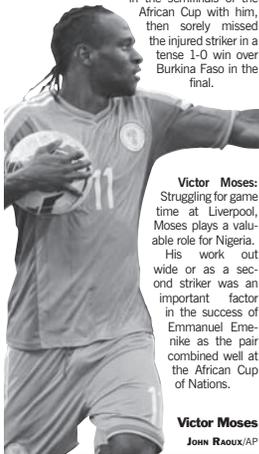
Reza Ghoochannejad
JULIO CORTAZ/AP



Nigeria

Emmanuel Emenike: The difference between Nigeria with and Nigeria without Emenike is clear.

The Super Eagles powered past Mali 4-1 in the semifinals of the African Cup with him, then sorely missed the injured striker in a tense 1-0 win over Burkina Faso in the final.



Victor Moses: Struggling for game time at Liverpool, Moses plays a valuable role for Nigeria.

His work out wide or as a second striker was an important factor in the success of Emmanuel Emenike as the pair combined well at the African Cup of Nations.

Victor Moses
JOHN RAOUX/AP



NATACHA PISARENKO/AP

Argentina's Ricardo Alvarez celebrates his goal against Slovenia at an international friendly in La Plata, Argentina on Saturday. Argentina is an overwhelming favorite to win Group F with Iran, Bosnia and Nigeria fighting to advance to the second round.

Race for second place

Argentina is the overwhelming favorite to win group

By KARL RITTER
The Associated Press

Barring a major upset at the World Cup, Argentina will finish at the top of Group F and let the other three teams compete for second place.

On paper, not much separates African champion Nigeria and Bosnia, while Iran appears to be the long shot to earn a place in the round of 16.

Here are five things to know about Group F:

1 Classic rivalry: This is Nigeria's fifth World Cup and the fourth time they have been put in the same group as Argentina.

The South Americans have won each encounter so far by a single goal, including a 1-0 victory in 2010.

Argentina also came out ahead when the two nations met in the 2008 Olympic final.

2 Argentina's weakness: Lionel Messi, Gonzalo Higuain, Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero — Argentina coach Alejandro Sabella has more attacking talent than he can fit into the lineup.

By comparison, the defense doesn't look quite as impressive.

Still, concerns about Argentina's vulnerability in the back shouldn't be exaggerated. The team conceded only 15 goals in 16 qualifying matches.

3 First-timers: Of the 32 countries in the tournament, only Bosnia is making its first World Cup appearance.

Bosnia coach Safet Susic has seen World Cup action before, though. As a player he participated in the 1982 and 1990 tournaments for Yugoslavia.

4 Iran's set pieces: Iran isn't likely to rattle its opponents with technical brilliance, but watch out for set pieces.

Of the 30 goals the Iranians scored in qualifying, nine came on corner kicks or free kicks.

5 Bosnian firepower: Bosnia also scored 30 goals in World Cup qualifying, but in only 10 matches (Iran played 16).

Manchester City striker Edin Dzeko accounted for one-third of Bosnia's tally, scoring 10 goals. Only Robin van Persie of the Netherlands scored more goals in the European qualifying groups with 11.

Players to watch



Argentina

Lionel Messi: Though immensely gifted, Messi was too young to make an impact at the 2006 World Cup. Four years later, he failed, like Argentina overall, to fulfill expectations in South Africa.

This year's World Cup in Brazil is Messi's chance to make a mark on football's greatest stage and prove to those who still have doubts about his ability.

At 26, the Barcelona maestro will be at a peak age for a footballer and he'll be surrounded by talent that won its qualifying group and is considered one of the title favorites. Even if Argentina doesn't make it all the way, watching Messi weave through opponents promises to be one of the highlights of the World Cup.

Gonzalo Higuain: Higuain's transfer from Real Madrid to Napoli appears to have done him good.

Even though he scored 121 goals over seven seasons in Madrid, Higuain never established himself as a regular starter. He has done that at Napoli, where he's become a mainstay in the attack and the team's top scorer.

Lionel Messi
EDUARDO DI BONA/AP



Bosnia

Edin Dzeko: While playing a major role in Manchester City's Premier League-winning campaign, Dzeko also managed to score 10 of Bosnia's 30 goals in

World Cup qualifying.

Dzeko, nicknamed "the Diamond" in Bosnia, has scored 26 goals in 49 international matches and will be the key man up front in an attack-minded lineup.

Miralem Pjanic: Roma attacking midfielder Pjanic provides flair in the Bosnia midfield.

Pjanic started his international career in Luxembourg following his family's move to the country shortly before the outbreak of the war in Bosnia in 1991. He had to wait two years to get permission to play for Bosnia, making his debut in 2008. He has scored eight goals in 46 appearances for Bosnia.

Edin Dzeko
JEFF ROZENSON/AP



WORLD CUP



THEMBA HADEBE/AP

A groundsman cuts the grass Wednesday at the Arena da Amazonia in Manaus, Brazil. The field is causing worry among teams.

Problems with the pitch

Patchy turf a concern in Manaus as Group D prepares to open play

By **THEMBA HADEBE** and **JORGE SAINZ**
The Associated Press

MANAUS, Brazil — Visibly dry, white stripes across the grass pitch at the Amazonian World Cup stadium have heightened concerns about the playing surface ahead of Saturday's key Group D match between Italy and England.

"Frankly, Manaus is in bad shape," Carlos Botella, head groundsman for the Royal

Verd company which is responsible for the turf at Manaus and six other World Cup stadiums, told The Associated Press in a telephone interview on Wednesday. "We've started to implement an emergency plan to try to save the field and improve it as much as possible, but I don't think it'll be in good condition," by the weekend.

Measures to improve the dry, patchy surface were in full swing Wednesday.

"Yesterday we put fertilizer, and we'll increase the fertilizing process with biostimulants and seeds to try to get the most out of the grass," Botella said.

FIFA issued a statement saying its experts were satisfied that the Manaus pitch will be ready for training and matches and that "mitigation procedures" have been in place for three months.

Royal Verd installed the drainage system and planted the grass at the \$229 million stadium and has worked with local contractors to maintain the surface.

Botella said preparing the pitch has been difficult due to access issues, recent rain and problems with algae when the grass was laid. The northwest Brazil city is in the heart of the world's biggest rainforest and reachable only by plane or boat.

"The maintenance has been complicated in Manaus. There're no roads, all the machinery and materials had to be brought by ship," he said. "There's no fertilizer, no seeds. Everything has been complicated."

The Spain-based Royal Verd is working on World Cup stadiums in Rio, Belo Horizonte, Brasilia, Fortaleza, Salvador and Recife as well as training venues for 10 national teams during the tournament.

Manaus has been in the headlines since it was selected as a World Cup host, attracting criticism initially in Brazil due to its distance from the country's other major venues. Before the World Cup draw last year, England coach Roy Hodgson upset local officials with remarks about it being "the place ideally to avoid" because of the humid and steamy weather.

Construction of the 42,000-capacity Arena da Amazonia, with its lattice roof of diamond panels that look like snake scales, was marked by three workers' deaths.

Last month, the Manaus city government declared a state of emergency as the waters of an Amazon River tributary swelled, but said it was a preventative measure to assure swift access to emergency resources and didn't expect it to flood.

"Frankly, Manaus is in bad shape. ... I don't think it will be in good condition."

Carlos Botella
head groundsman



ANTONIO CALANCI/AP

Italy coach Cesare Prandelli watches his players during a training session Friday at the Portobello training center in Mangaratiba, Brazil. Italy will play England in Manaus in its opening match.

England, Italy meet in jungle

By **CHRIS LEHOURETS**
The Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO — The heat and humidity will be a factor, and so will the poor playing surface, when the Amazonian jungle city of Manaus hosts England and Italy in its first World Cup match on Saturday.

The most exotic of Brazil's 12 host cities got one of the tournament's best games, a Group D match between two former World Cup champions. It's a match that neither team believes it can afford to lose.

With Andrea Pirlo and Mario Balotelli on one side working against Wayne Rooney and Steven Gerrard on the other, there will be plenty of superstar quality to marvel at and deflect attention from the subpar quality of the field.

Even the head groundsman at the Arena da Amazonia said the grass was "in bad shape."

But the field may not be as stifling as the heat. Temperatures are expected to be about 90 degrees, and the humidity always seems to hover around 80 percent in Manaus. The team that can run for 90 minutes under those circumstances might just be the team that leaves the jungle city with three points.

Before coming to Brazil, England spent some time in Miami to acclimatize to the hot conditions. Now that they are in South America, it's time to prepare for Pirlo.

"It's important we don't give him much time and space when we come up against him because he can influence any game," said Gerrard, the England captain. "He has got that ability."

Pirlo has been getting better with age. He's 35 now, but only two years ago the midfield maestro was instrumental in leading Italy to the European Championship final — a run that included a penalty shootout victory over England in the quarterfinals.

The World Cup in Brazil could be his last major international tournament, however.

"I'm starting to get old. It would be useless to continue," Pirlo said. "Of course, I'll always be ready if they call me back, but if I'm on the national team and I don't play that would really bother me. So it's better to stay at home."

With an abundance of talent surrounding Pirlo in Brazil, including the often uncontrollable Balotelli, some people believe that just holding the Italians to a 0-0 draw would be a huge success for England heading into later group matches against Uruguay and Costa Rica.

England coach Roy Hodgson is not one of them.

"When we get the ball we are going to go for it, we are going to attack," Hodgson said. "We are going to encourage our attacking players to do what we do. But we are also going to make it clear to them that they can't go gung-ho at any time."

Hodgson dumped old-timers like Ashley Cole and called up a younger crop of players, including Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Ross Barkley and Raheem Sterling. So even though Italy faced England only two years ago in another big match at Euro 2012, there will be plenty of new faces in Manaus.

"I do feel this squad is better. The standard from 11-23 has improved," Gerrard said. "We have better impact players this time around, and that gives me more confidence going into this game."

WORLD CUP

Germany coach Loew still seeking first title

Team in championship drought since 1996

BY NESHA STARCEVIC
The Associated Press

FRANKFURT, Germany — Joachim Loew has the best record of all Germany coaches, yet his team has not won a title in the eight years he has been in charge.

Germany's habit of stumbling at the last or next-to-last step under Loew's guidance has raised questions whether he has what it takes to lead Germany at the World Cup and perhaps win the title.

The German soccer federation thinks so — it has extended his contract through the 2016 European Championship. The early extension has removed a potential distraction before and during the tournament in Brazil, but it won't be worth the paper it's written on if Loew's team fails to live up to expectations at the World Cup.

"A dynamic, attacking and thrilling style of play is a hallmark of the national team. All this is thanks to Joachim Loew," DFB President Wolfgang Niersbach said.

While the soccer-crazy nation always expects Germany to come home as champion, more sober voices say Germany will have a hard time winning the title against such teams as Brazil and Argentina.

Loew's record of 70 wins in 102 Germany matches — a 68 percent winning percentage — along with 15 defeats, masks the fact that he's had a rather undistinguished record at club level, both as coach and player.

But since he took over from his friend Jurgen Klinsmann after the 2006 World Cup, Loew has fashioned Germany into one of the most exciting teams in the world.

The only thing missing are the titles — Germany's last came at the 1996 European Championship.

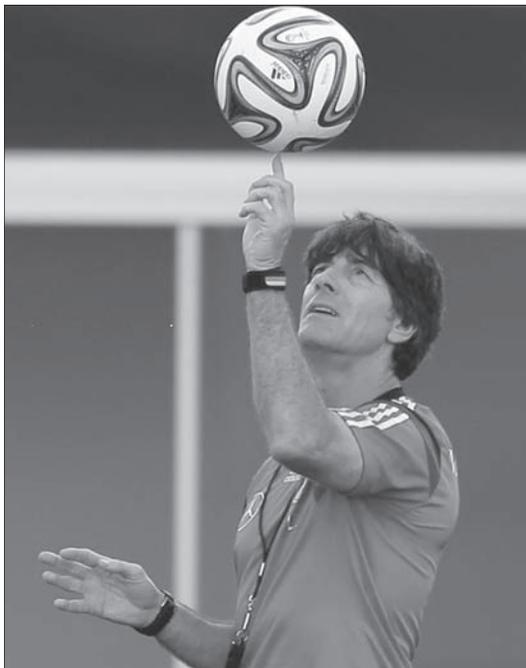
The 54-year-old Loew has transformed Germany by relying on young players who have gone through the country's youth academies. Germany started playing with flair rarely associated with the previous teams, whose trademark was discipline, hard work and physical strength. He prefers to play with one striker, but has also used "false nines."

Germany lost to Spain in the Euro 2008 final and again in the semifinals of the 2010 World Cup. As the nation expected Germany to finally beat Spain at Euro 2012, Loew's team was stunned by old nemesis Italy in the semifinals.

Loew took a lot of heat after that loss, and he took a long time to acknowledge that he had used the wrong tactics and wrong players.

He also watched helplessly from the touchline as Germany squandered a 4-0 lead against Sweden in a qualifier to settle for a 4-4 draw. Loew apparently had no reply for his team unravelling on the field.

In March, Germany was booted by its own fans after a lackluster 1-0 win over Chile while Loew fumed on the bench.



MATTHIAS SCHRAEDER/AP

Coach Joachim Loew has turned Germany into one of the most exciting teams in the world, but has failed to lead them to a single championship during his tenure.

Portugal relying on Ronaldo to lift team to final



BILL KOSTRUN/AP

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo controls the ball in the second half of Tuesday's friendly against Ireland in East Rutherford, N.J.

BY BARRY HATTON
The Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal — The question facing Portugal at the World Cup is plain: Can Cristiano Ronaldo do for his country what Diego Maradona did for Argentina at the 1986 tournament?

Argentina went to Mexico 28 years ago with a solid team, but it was Maradona who made the South Americans special as he lifted them to the World Cup title with some electrifying performances and sensational goals.

Ronaldo also sprinkles magic dust onto a Portugal team that can assemble talent from Europe's top flight but which without him lacks that extra edge.

The 2013 FIFA World Cup play-offs of the year's stupendous performances against Sweden in the World Cup play-offs were a case in point. He got all four of Portugal's goals over two legs, including a hat trick in the return leg in Sweden as the Portuguese qualified with a 4-2 aggregate win.

In those games, Ronaldo produced the kind of explosive bursts of speed and close ball skills that have made him great.

"He is a huge influence in the team and our decisive player," Portugal coach Paulo Bento said. Ronaldo goes to Brazil with an

Did you know

Cristiano Ronaldo won FIFA's Ballon d'or in 2013 after scoring 34 goals in La Liga in the 2012-13 season.

SOURCE: FIFA.com

impressive recent goal-scoring record. He was the Champions League's top scorer for the second straight season, his 17 goals setting a new record for a campaign. His goal in the final against Atletico Madrid was his 51st for Real Madrid last season. In La Liga, he found the net 31 times, making him Europe's top league leading scorer alongside Liverpool's Luis Suarez.

Calling Portugal a one-man team is uncharitable, Bento said. But subtract Ronaldo from the equation and the team can look ordinary, possessing no game-changing heavyweights.

After promising much, Manchester United winger Nani has faded in recent injury-struck seasons, while Joao Moutinho and

Raul Meireles are worthy but unspectacular midfield players. The squad also lacks a show-stopping center forward and possesses little depth.

That's a far cry from the caliber of the 1990s Golden Generation, led by 2001 world player of the year Luis Figo. But the generalizations have one thing in common: neither has won any silverware.

These days, it is hard to overstate the inspiring role Ronaldo plays for Portugal.

When an ankle injury kept Ronaldo out of his country's first two qualifying games for the 2012 European Championship, Portugal drew at home against Cyprus and lost to Norway. When he returned, Portugal racked up a five-game winning streak that put it back in contention.

In qualifying for the 2010 World Cup, Ronaldo played out of position and didn't score a single goal for his country in the campaign, which featured a run of three 0-0 draws, two of them at home, consigning Portugal to the play-offs.

After 11 years in the national team, Ronaldo is his country's all-time top scorer with 49 goals, two more than previous record-holder Paulista, who is now retired.

In Brazil, he could become the first Portuguese player to score at three different World Cups.

WORLD CUP

GROUP G

Players to watch



United States

Tim Howard: Having perhaps his best season for Everton.

The 35-year-old goalkeeper, preparing for his second World Cup as the No. 1 choice, will be counted on to blunt the attack of talented opponents such as Cristiano Ronaldo and Mario Gomez.

Clint Dempsey: Now 31, Dempsey struggled for goals for a year with Tottenham and Seattle before a spurt with the Sounders this spring. Dempsey, who replaced Carlos Bocanegra as the American captain, can be deployed as a striker in a 4-4-2 or as a withdrawn forward in a 4-2-3-1.

Michael Bradley: The son of former United States coach Bob Bradley, the 26-year-old midfielder has become the most influential player on the national team.

Will his January transfer from Roma to Toronto cause a drop in sharpness?

Jozy Altidore: Still only 24, Altidore seemed to have his breakout season in 2012-13 when he scored 31 goals in 41 matches for AZ Alkmaar in the Dutch league.

But Altidore had only two goals in 38 games this season for Sunderland, leading some to question whether he can lead the American attack.

Geoff Cameron: Spent most of the season at right back for Stoke, but Klinsmann likes him

The United States' Jozy Altidore

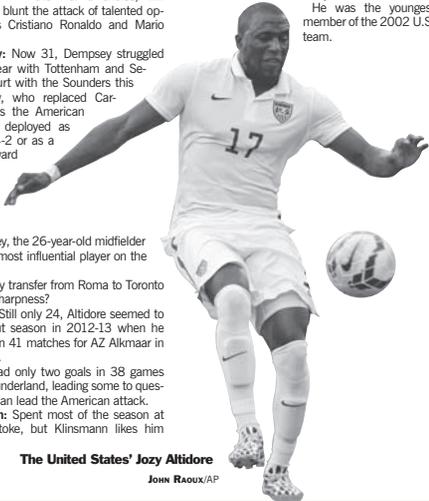
JOHN RAOUX/AP

more in the center paired with Matt Besler and Omar Gonzalez. Will be counted on to help thwart Cristiano Ronaldo.

DaMarcus Beasley: The 32-year-old defender has scored 17 goals in 115 international appearances.

A midfielder for most of his career, Beasley has been moved to left back by the national team in recent years.

He was the youngest member of the 2002 U.S. team.



Portugal

Cristiano Ronaldo: Along with Lionel Messi and Neymar, Ronaldo is one of the world-class stars expected to light up the tournament.

Since his debut at 18 in 2003, Ronaldo has grown into the Portuguese team's dominant figure. Now 29, he will arguably be at the peak of his international career in Brazil.

Ronaldo has been in deadly form in front of goal. This season, he became Portugal's all-time leading scorer and has also surpassed Real Madrid great Ferenc Puskas' mark of 242 goals for the Spanish club.

Pepe: Portugal and Brazil are bound by centuries of history, family ties and a shared language. While Brazilian talent at European clubs is a common sight, Portugal has turned to its one-time colony for the national team, too, as many Brazilian players are entitled to dual nationality.

Pepe is one of them, and has made 57 appearances since his 2007 debut. The 31-year-old Real Madrid defender is a mainstay who can also add muscle to the midfield.

William Carvalho: Defensive midfielder Carvalho is regarded as one of Portugal's promising newcomers.

Carvalho was named the Portuguese league's player of the month for three straight months between October and December. In

Portugal's William Carvalho, left

BILL KOSTROUN/AP

November, he made his first two national team appearances, coming on as a substitute in a tense playoff match against Sweden and impressing with his composure.

Carvalho, who will be 22 at the World Cup, is highly regarded for his powerful physique and heading skills, impressive reading of the game, and speed at tipping play from defense to attack.



Germany

Philipp Lahm: Captain since 2010, Lahm will be playing at his third World Cup and already has made 105 national team appearances.

The 29-year-old Lahm helped Bayern Munich sweep the Champions League, Bundesliga and German Cup last season and was a major figure as the club recaptured the championship this year.

As a defender, Lahm has been versatile, playing with equal success on the left or right



Germany's Thomas Mueller

FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP



Ghana

Michael Essien: Some Ghanaians have the feeling that Michael Essien owes them.

Often outstanding for European clubs Chelsea, Real Madrid and now AC Milan, the hard-working central midfielder has missed many of Ghana's big moments recently, including the last World Cup, because of injuries and then his sabbatical.

The 31-year-old Essien returned to the squad last year and his ability to power Ghana's World Cup

challenge from the middle of the field may be crucial to the Black Stars' hopes of reaching the latter stages.

Kevin-Prince Boateng: Having Kevin-Prince Boateng in the starting lineup has been a rare luxury for Ghana in the four years since the last World Cup.

Boateng made himself unavailable for selection in 2011 and only returned late last year for the end of the qualifying campaign for Brazil, when he was eased back into the team by Ghana coach Kwesi Appiah.

He scored in the last playoff match against Egypt and offers big-game experience from Europe's top leagues.

A German youth international from under-15 level, Boateng chose Ghana, his father's country, at senior level. His brother Jerome plays for Germany, which Ghana will face in the group stage at the World Cup.

Kwadwo Asamoah: A defender or midfielder, Kwadwo Asamoah is versatile and valuable.

Asamoah plays on the left side of defense or midfield and can also operate as a central midfielder with the ability to push forward and create and score goals.

At 25, the Juventus player already has six years of experience with Ghana and six years in Serie A. **Andre Ayew:** The son of Abedi Pele, who is still recognized as Ghana's best player ever, Andre Ayew comes from the closest thing to Ghanaian football royalty.

The 24-year-old winger has pace and skill and can also play as a second striker, but has sometimes been a troublesome figure in the Ghana setup.

Ayew was excluded from the squad for the last African Cup after failing to report for a pre-tournament training camp.

Ghana's Andre Ayew

THEMBA HADEBE/AP

WORLD CUP

Americans happy as things heat up

US says it's not fazed by steamy weather that is causing European teams concern

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

SÃO PAULO — While some World Cup teams whine about withering weather and troublesome travel, American players say: Bring it on!

European teams worry they will wilt. The United States considers cauldron-like climates a regular finishing touch, as if the Americans were a Baked Alaska flambé.

And if FIFA added a Road Warrior prize to the Golden Ball, Golden Boot and Golden Glove, the U.S. would be assured of taking home an award.

"When you talk about playing in the heat, the travel, it doesn't bother us," midfielder Michael Bradley said on Monday. "I'm not only does it not bother us, it excites us to see that now the other teams are so worried about it."

The Americans have the lengthiest first-round trek among the 32 teams at 8,800 air miles, chartering round-trip flights from Sao Paulo to Natal (1,420 each way), Manaus (1,680) and Recife (1,300).

That's quite a contrast to four years ago, where the U.S. had the shortest group-stage travel in South Africa. To reach their games, the Americans took bus rides from Irene to Rustenburg (62 miles each way), Johannesburg (24) and Pretoria (11) for a total of 194 miles. They needed to pack for a weekender only once during the first round, staying at their base hotel for the second

and third matches.

This year they'll change cities and climates repeatedly. Tuesday's training session at Sao Paulo Futebol Clube started in a 62-degree temperature with a cooling drizzle, but the Americans' games up north figure to be played in the mid-80s or higher. And extreme humidity could make each stadium feel like a sauna.

Accustomed to an August-through-May club schedule in Europe, where players use gloves and fans insulate in thermals, some soccer officials fret. No European nation has won a World Cup played in the Americas, where Brazil has taken three titles, and Argentina and Uruguay two apiece.

Before the World Cup draw in December, England coach Roy Hodgson called the Amazon rain forest city of Manaus "problematic" and said "you have a better chance if you get one of the venues where the climate is kinder."

"It's going to be incredibly humid and hot," Germany coach Joachim Loew said. "We must get used to it, in training and preparing."

The U.S. opens Monday with an evening match against Ghana in Natal. The AccuWeather forecast calls for a daytime high in the mid-80s, dropping into the 70s in the evening with a couple of showers possible.

The Americans next play in Manaus for a 6 p.m. game against Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal on June 22. The extended forecast calls for temperatures in the high-80s that day.



JULIO CORTESZ/AP

U.S. captain Clint Dempsey, left, and Matt Besler train in Sao Paulo on Wednesday. The Americans say the warm temperatures expected this week at their game sites won't hinder their play.

The U.S. completes group play against three-time champion Germany in an afternoon match in Recife, a port city, where temperatures are typically in the low-80s.

While that might be unfamiliar for natives of Munich and Mannheim, it's rather routine for the red, white and blue.

"I lived 4½ years in Houston, and that's 100 degrees every single day with humidity plus," defender Geoff Cameron said, "so if you can survive that, you can survive anything."

Europeans complained about heat during the 1970 and '86 World Cups in Mexico and were stunned by a heat wave in 1994 that turned matches into endur-

ance tests at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas and the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, Calif. Jurgen Klinsmann scored twice as defending champion Germany built a three-goal lead against South Korea, then held on for a 3-2 win.

Klinsmann, now the U.S. coach, learned from that and the February 2013 opener in the final round of World Cup qualifying, when the Americans went to Central America and wilted during the second half of a 2-1 loss.

"Dallas at 120 degrees at 12 o'clock kickoff time because of TV rights to Europe was an experience," he said. "You want to make sure that you're hydrated. You want to make sure that you're

not cramping up, similar to that experience in Honduras in San Pedro Sula."

The American players who are veterans of Major League Soccer are used to changing three time zones on coast-to-coast trips.

"That's the hope, that now something that's being talked about in a negative way with a lot of other teams is something that we can use to our advantage," Bradley maintained. "Jurgen said it best: It's going to be a World Cup of patience, of knowing how to deal with the elements, of being able to suffer at times, and so I think we're excited by it."

AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley contributed to this report.

Optimistic Ghana seeks to derail US bid again

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

MIAMI — In its final exhibition before facing the United States in the World Cup, Ghana practiced celebrating.

Captain Asamoah Gyan scored a break-away goal against South Korea and then launched into the azonto, a two-step dance popular in Ghana. Soon he was joined in the corner of the field by a cluster of teammates, their hands, hips and feet moving in impressive synchronicity.

Past World Cup matches against the United States have given Ghana plenty to celebrate. The rivalry will be renewed Monday in Brazil, and the Black Stars want to be ready.

"The United States are a very, very good team," coach James Appiah said. "It's not going to be easy. We have to make sure our players are playing their roles well. We hope to give them a very good game."

The Ghanaians have every reason to be optimistic, because they eliminated the United States from the past two World

Cups. So they'll have the azonto cued up, and other dances ready as well.

"We've got different styles — three or four," Appiah said with a smile. "The players have to decide which one they want to use, but we hope to showcase one of them during the World Cup."

Ghana defeated the United States in group play in 2006, and in the round of 16 in 2010. A 4-0 victory against South Korea in Miami on Monday suggested Ghana will again be a handful.

"Bring them on, bring them on — the United States," a reporter from Ghana shouted with a grin in the press box at halftime of the exhibition. "America, we are coming."

The victory over the U.S. team four years ago sent Ghana into the World Cup quarterfinals for the first time. Ghana was embraced as "Africa's Team" in the first World Cup on the continent and came within inches of becoming the first African squad to reach the semifinals, but lost to Uruguay in a shootout after Gyan hit the crossbar on a late penalty kick that would

have won the game.

FIFA rankings suggest Ghana is the underdog in talent-laden Group G, which also includes the No. 13-ranked United States, No. 2 Germany and No. 4 Portugal. But no one is likely to take the Black Stars lightly.

"They are a very good team, young, very good mentality," former U.S. national team coach Bora Milutinovic said after watching Ghana beat South Korea. "It will be a big challenge for all teams in this group. Everybody is very strong. It is like a small World Cup between four teams."

There's been some turnover on the Black Stars' roster since they last faced the United States. Only six starters from the game against the Americans in 2010 are on this year's squad, which includes 16 World Cup newcomers. Ghana is the youngest team in the tournament with an average age of 25 years, 6 months.

Ghana may be without striker Majeed Waris, who hurt his left thigh in Monday's friendly. An MRI exam revealed a tear. The team doctor said Tuesday he hopes Waris can return "pretty soon," but added

the striker might be left off the roster, which must be submitted by Sunday.

The squad will include Gyan and midfielder Sulley Muntari, both playing in their third World Cup, and star midfielder Michael Essien of AC Milan. Defender Jonathan Mensah and forward Kevin-Prince Boateng are also World Cup veterans. "We've got experienced players. We've got youthful players," Appiah said. "The experienced players want to leave a name before they go, and the younger ones want to make a mark."

Rising stars include 22-year-old Jordan Ayew, whose father, Abedi Pele, is considered Ghana's greatest player. Ayew scored three times Monday against South Korea after entering the game as an injury replacement.

When asked after the match to select two players likely to emerge as stars in Brazil, Appiah demurred.

"It's really difficult to pick two of my players who I think can make an impact in the World Cup," he said. "I'll choose 11 for you."

WORLD CUP



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

DaMarcus Beasley, left, and Kyle Beckerman compete for the ball during a training session in Sao Paulo on Wednesday.

Ready: Keeper, forwards seem to be only thing set for opener

FROM BACK PAGE

No. 4 Portugal and FIFA Player of the Year Cristiano Ronaldo. They close group play against three-time champion Germany, the world's second-ranked team.

"I think we are every year making another step forward," Klinsmann said.

A former star forward from Germany who won the 1990 World Cup and the 1996 European Championship, Klinsmann moved to California with his American wife after he retired as a player in 1998. While he coached Germany to the World Cup semifinals in 2006, he long was viewed as a U.S. coach in waiting, and he took over three years ago from Bob Bradley.

Klinsmann led the Americans to the title in last year's CONCACAF Gold Cup and the team's seventh straight World Cup berth. He made the controversial decision to cut 32-year-old Landon Donovan, who had five goals in three previous World Cups and is the American career leader in goals (57) and assists (58).

Defender Carlos Bocanegra was dropped in early 2013, and 31-year-old Clint Dempsey replaced him as captain.

"The confidence seems to be growing," Dempsey said. "The quality seems to be getting better. There's more competition for spots. They just keep pushing us even more to get better and better."

Tim Howard returns from 2010 as the No. 1 goalkeeper and has the experience of eight seasons as a Premier League starter with Everton.

Fabian Johnson appears to be the favorite to start at right back, with Matt Besler and Stoke's Geoff Cameron in the center, a pairing seen just once before the Americans' final three World Cup warm-ups, and the first central defensive pairing with no World

Cup experience since 1990. DaMarcus Beasley, hoping to play in his fourth World Cup, is the top candidate on the left.

Michael Bradley, son of former coach Bob Bradley, has become the center of the team in a mid-field role. Bradley and Dempsey sparked a return of players to MLS, with Bradley leaving Roma for Toronto after Dempsey's surprising decision to exit Tottenham for Seattle.

"I wasn't sure how ready I was going to be for World Cup not playing very much at Roma. That's a big reason why I'm here," Bradley said.

Based on the final tuncup before heading to Brazil, a 2-1 victory over Nigeria, Bradley would be paired with Jermaine Jones and Kyle Beckerman against Ghana.

"We know Kyle, that is his specialty to protect his teammates, to cover his teammates, to run endless miles for his team," Klinsmann said. "Jermaine in that kind of high position has more freedom to also go more forward so he kind of switch back and forth with Michael Bradley there. He knows there's somebody behind me, so if I lose the ball in my run, he's going to clean up for me. I think it worked out really well."

Kansas City's Graham Zusi and Nantes' Alejandro Bedoya head the wide midfield options, with Dempsey and Jozy Altidore up front.

The best track to the knockout phase appears to be a win against Ghana and hoping Germany wins its first two matches and starts its second string in the group-stage finale. Even with the difficult draw, the Americans are confident.

"This is what the World Cup's all about," Altidore said. "You go there to play against the best and try to show yourself. I think the boys will be excited, will be up for it."

Klinsmann's job more than coaching national team

Former German star transforming American system

By RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jurgen Klinsmann was hired to transform American football.

Not just the national team, but the nation's entire coaching structure.

With a sunny disposition and an open, chatty manner, Klinsmann had been viewed as a future United States coach when he retired as a player in 1998 and moved to California with his American wife. After coaching Germany to the World Cup semifinals in 2006, flirting with the U.S. job later that year and lasting less than a season with Bayern Munich, he finally replaced Bob Bradley when the Americans struggled in the 2011 CONCACAF Gold Cup.

"It also is vital I am involved in all the discussions with a lot of coaches out there, how we improve the grass-roots level," Klinsmann said. "I'm fascinated by that approach."

The 49-year-old Klinsmann scored 47 goals in 108 appearances for West Germany and Germany, winning the 1990 World Cup and 1996 European Championship. His club career included stretches at Stuttgart, Inter Milan, Monaco, Tottenham and Bayern Munich.

He speaks to players with the experience of playing at the highest level in Europe, and he embraces the types of statistical analysis, fitness techniques and advanced diet first employed by American coaches in other sports. He also made the controversial decision to drop career scoring leader Landon Donovan.

"He's different, but good different," United States defender DaMarcus Beasley said. "He's always full of life. He's always laughing. He's always smiling. He's very energetic, even in meetings. You can tell



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

Jurgen Klinsmann will coach the U.S. men's team through the 2018 World Cup.

that he's happy to be here, happy to be the coach of the national team. I just think his persona will kind of rub off on us and give us that fight and that passion, the same how he played when he was a player."

Klinsmann's temperament may be more suited to the United States than it is his native Germany. Former Bayern Munich president Uli Hoernes criticized Klinsmann for buying computers to prepare PowerPoint presentations of game plans for the club during the 2008-09 season.

Klinsmann already has committed to coach the United States through the 2018 World Cup. His message to his players often is simple. Despite all the high tech, the most important factor is effort.

Ghana out to make history for Africa with trip to semis

By FRANCIS KOKUTSE

The Associated Press

ACCRA, Ghana — Last time, Ghana came awfully close to being the first African team to reach the World Cup semifinals, its progress halted by a handball on the goal-line from Uruguay striker Luis Suarez and Asamoah Gyan's miss from the resulting penalty late in extra time.

Gyan is captain this time and Ghana still has the core of the side that eventually lost in a shootout at the 2010 tournament. They've set their sights on going a step further in Brazil.

Midfielders Michael Essien and Kevin-Prince Boateng, who both took extended breaks from international duty, have returned to bring the squad back to full strength.

The Ghana team left South Africa as the toast of the continent four years ago, but has struggled to live up to that promise between the World Cups, losing to Zambia and Burkina Faso in the semifinals of the 2012 and 2013 African Cup tournaments.

All that casts doubt on whether Ghana is Africa's best contender in Brazil, particularly with top-ranked African team Ivory Coast and continental champion Nigeria also in the mix.

And then there's the opposition in the group stage: Germany, Portugal and the United States.

Kwesi Appiah, a former national team captain who is coaching at his first World Cup, faces a second round of chances just to get Ghana into the second round.

"It's a tough group but if you're going out there for a competition then you have to have the ultimate ambition, which is to win it and be prepared for any team you come up against," Appiah said. "For me, once you've gone through the first games and qualified then the confidence levels increase and for that reason you have to have the mentality that you cannot be afraid of anyone."

Essien and Boateng give Ghana vital big-game experience, with Essien's form possibly the key. The AC Milan midfielder missed the 2010 tournament with injury and despite his success at club level, some critics aren't convinced he has fully delivered on his potential for his country.

Gyan is the team's leader from the front, and there's also Juventus midfielder Kwadwo Asamoah, Marseille winger Andre Ayew and young Russia-based Wakaso Mubarak, who was outstanding as an attacking midfielder in the last African Cup of Nations.

Almost all Ghana's best players play in foreign leagues, making World Cup preparations sometimes problematic. But Appiah sees the experience of the European leagues as an advantage.

"All of my players are at very good clubs so there's no reason to be cautious," Appiah said. "We're going there full of confidence."

Ghana's government pledged nearly \$10 million to help the players' preparations in Brazil, a small fortune for an African team. The financial injection and the success of 2010 mean very big things are expected this time around.

SPORTS



Lundqvist keeps Kings from clinching the Cup
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Ready or not ...



KLINSMANN PHOTO MCT; OTHERS AP; ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/Stars and Stripes

From left, U.S. coach Jurgen Klinsmann, forward Jozy Altidor, goalkeeper Tim Howard and midfielder Michael Beasley will help determine the team's fortunes in Brazil.

Klinsmann, US prepare for difficult World Cup group

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

Since returning to the World Cup in 1990 after a 40-year absence, the United States has alternated group-stage elimination with advancement to the knockout round.

Ghana finished off the Americans in the first round in 2006, then four years ago beat them in extra time in the round of 16.

This year, the Americans open the tournament against the very same team before playing Portugal and Germany in what appears to be one of the most difficult groups.

"I don't feel we're going to Brazil as any type of an underdog," United States coach Jurgen Klinsmann said during the team's California training camp. "I feel like that

A little easier?

Going by FIFA rankings, the Americans' Group G was the most difficult to come out of December's draw. But in the June rankings issued last week, it became the second-toughest, with Germany (No. 2), Portugal (No. 4), the U.S. (No. 13) and Ghana (No. 37) adding to 56. Group D was slightly lower at 53, with Uruguay (No. 7), Italy (No. 8), England (No. 10) and Costa Rica (No. 28).

From The Associated Press



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we're going to be from Day 1 incredibly competitive. And I think the players, they feel that."

Competitive is one thing. But Klinsmann created a stir this week when he said winning the Cup wasn't a realistic goal.

He was quoted by The New York Times Magazine as saying in a December interview "we cannot win this World Cup, because we are not at that level yet."

"I think for us now, talking about win-

ning a World Cup is just not realistic," the American coach said Wednesday during his first news conference in Brazil before the tournament. "First, we've got to make it through the group. So let's stay with our feet on the ground and say let's get that group first done, and then the sky is the limit."

The Americans open Monday against Ghana, the team that eliminated them from the past two World Cups, then play

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