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WEEKEND EDITION
EUROPE & PACIFIC

MOVIES



‘Monuments Men’ preserves WWII treasure hunt story

Pages 24-25

MUSIC



Eric Church lets dual personalities soar on new album

Page 37

MLB



Braves' Johnson not resting on last season's success

Back page



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

Pedestrians use umbrellas as they walk through falling snow in the Chinatown neighborhood of New York on Thursday. Snow and sleet blanketed the East Coast from North Carolina to New England a day after sleet, snow and ice bombarded the Southeast.

WINTER WALLOP

Storm packs punch along East Coast | Page 12

Afghanistan releases 65 prisoners

‘Dangerous insurgents’ freed Thursday despite international objections

By HEATH DRUZIN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — The Afghan government released 65 prisoners the U.S. deems “dangerous insurgents” Thursday, outraging its international military allies and further straining relations with Washington.

It is the latest chapter in a long-running dispute between Kabul and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force over the fate of prisoners captured on the battlefield by international forces and held at a military prison at Bagram Air Field, north of Kabul. U.S. military officials have said those being released are responsible for the deaths

‘This decision, which appears to have been made based on political calculations and without regard for due process before the Afghan courts, is a major step backwards for the rule of law in Afghanistan.’

Anders Fogh Rasmussen
NATO secretary-general

of scores of international and Afghan troops, as well as civilians.

“It remains the position of (U.S. Forces-Afghanistan) that violent criminals who harm Afghans and threaten the peace and security of Afghanistan should face justice in the

Afghan courts, where a fair and transparent trial would determine their guilt or innocence,” read a statement released by U.S. military command late Wednesday.

SEE PRISONERS ON PAGE 2

In DODDS-Europe, ‘flipped classrooms’ flourish

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — It’s not a typical math class.

The 30 students in the Ramstein High School blended classroom are in different grades, working toward credit in different courses — Algebra I, Geometry and Algebra II.

In one corner, students take a quiz. Others watch an online instructional math video. Some finish homework packets, raise their hands with questions or collaborate with each other.

There are no classroom lectures.

The teacher, Mike Brust, never sits down. For 90 minutes, he

moves from one student and topic to the next, grading quizzes, checking work, discussing homework problems, answering questions.

The room is buzzing with energy — and chatter.

“Not only are they on different topics, but they’re on different subjects,” Brust said during a recent class. “I have a lot more

gray hair than I used to. It’s pretty crazy.”

Welcome to “flipped mastery,” an innovative approach to learning that a group of Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe teachers in Germany are using to help more students succeed in math.

SEE FLIPPED ON PAGE 4

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“We, in my family, thought of him as the ‘cleanup man.’ Instead, he gets in office and he soiled it more.”

— Raineelle Smith, a New Orleans resident who said she had voted for former Mayor Ray Nagin, who was convicted Wednesday on 20 criminal counts

See story on Page 9

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ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

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2. U.S troops killed in insider attack in east Afghanistan
3. 2nd Cavalry Regiment remembers warrant officer killed in Afghanistan
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5. Mother searches for answers in Okinawa Marine's death

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MIDEAST

Afghan women rally to protest violence

The Associated Press

KABUL — Afghan women marched in Kabul on Thursday to protest violence against women and a new draft law that activists say will severely limit justice for victims of domestic abuse.

Afghanistan's parliament recently passed a new criminal procedure code that would ban people from testifying against their own relatives. The legislation — awaiting signature from President Hamid Karzai — has prompted statements of concern from human rights organizations, the U.S. European Union and others.

Legal experts say the law would

seriously curb prosecutions involving violence against women, where relatives are often the only witnesses.

About 100 women marched through Kabul on Thursday, chanting “no more violence” and “justice, justice.” Afghan women's rights activist Laila Jafari said the women were urging parliament and law enforcement agencies to better understand the problems facing Afghan women.

The march was organized as part of a global campaign called “One Billion Rising for Justice” and served as a timely opportunity for the women to speak out against the controversial new legislation.



MARTIN KOZ/Special to Stars and Stripes

Love is a battlefield

Sandbags form a heart-shaped barrier around a mortar tube at Combat Outpost Zornat in eastern Afghanistan's Paktia province in July.

Prisoners: US claims release violates Afghan agreement

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Afghan government took custody of the prisoners nearly one year ago, when the U.S. military handed over Bagram's Parwan Prison after a bitter dispute with Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who said foreign control of the prison violated Afghan sovereignty.

The U.S. has claimed the release violates an agreement the Afghan government made to gain control of the prison, wherein they guaranteed the prisoners would not be released without facing trial. Karzai has defended the release, saying there was not enough evidence to hold the prisoners.

NATO's top official also expressed concern over the Afghan decision to release the 65 detainees.

“This decision, which appears to have been made based on political calculations and without regard for due process before the Afghan courts, is a major step backwards for the rule of law in Afghanistan, and poses serious security concerns,” NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen said in a statement.

The House Armed Services Committee chairman, Rep. Howard “Buck” McKeon, released a statement late Wednesday calling

the prisoner release a “direct contravention” of the agreement.

“I am, frankly, appalled by the Karzai Government's complete lack of respect for our troops, men and women who are fighting to keep Afghanistan standing,” McKeon said.

The issue has been simmering for weeks, and the number of prisoners to be released has been a moving target, with back and forth statements from U.S. government and military officials as well as the Afghan government.

Abdul Shakoor Dadras, head of the Afghan Review Board, which was tasked with reviewing the prisoners' cases, said there was no evidence to hold the prisoners and that their continued detention would have been illegal under Afghan law.

“These prisoners are released after deep reviews and investigations,” he said in a telephone interview Thursday.

Calls to Karzai spokesmen went unanswered Thursday.

Ahead of the release, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan issued a statement to the media detailing some of the alleged crimes committed by prisoners slated to be freed as well as the evidence they claimed to have submitted to Afghan authorities. According to the statement, among those being freed are:

■ **Mohammad Wali**, apprehended in Helmand province in May 2013. He is a suspected Taliban explosives expert who reportedly placed IEDs targeting Afghan National Security Forces and coalition forces. He was biometrically linked to two IED incidents, plus a latent fingerprint match to another IED in Helmand province. Wali's personal property tested positive for multiple types of explosives in a residue test after his capture.

■ **Nek Mohammad**, captured in Kandahar province in May 2013. He is accused of facilitating rocket attacks against Afghan and coalition forces. He was apprehended with several 107mm artillery shells, mortar rounds and improvised explosive components, including at least 25 pounds of homemade explosives.

■ **Mohammadullah** was apprehended in Paktia province in May 2013. He is believed to be a Haqqani network IED specialist who builds and places IEDs. Mohammadullah was biometrically linked to an IED and tested positive for four types of explosives in a residue test. He was captured with his Haqqani commander, Ehsanullah.

■ **Ehsanullah**, captured in Paktia province in May 2013, is a suspected Haqqani network commander who plans IED operations

and attacks against ANSF and coalition forces. He was biometrically matched to a radio-controlled IED and tested positive for two types of explosives in a residue test.

The prisoner release flap comes amid the larger disagreement between Karzai and his international allies over the signing of a security agreement that would pave the way for a small contingent of foreign troops to stay in Afghanistan after the Dec. 31 deadline for all international combat troops to leave the country. If it is signed, there would likely be a force of roughly 10,000 foreign troops left in the country for training, advising and counterterrorism missions, but so far Karzai has said his successor must sign it.

Karzai is barred by the constitution from running for another term and will be replaced after Afghanistan's presidential election in April, though it could be months before his successor is known if the election goes to a second round. Washington has said that waiting until after the election is settled may not leave enough time to plan deployments.

Zubair Babakarkhalil and Stars and Stripes editor Patrick Dickson contribute to this report. Write to us at druzin.health@stars.com or [Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes](https://twitter.com/Druzin_Stripes)



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MILITARY

Congress clears bill ending military pension cuts

By DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congress voted Wednesday to restore full cost-of-living pension increases for younger military retirees, completing a bipartisan capitulation to veterans groups that rose up against a modest cut when it was enacted less than two months ago.

The Senate voted 95-3 for the measure, one day after the House approved it, 326-90. The White House said President Barack Obama would sign it.

The overwhelming support the bill enjoyed, including backing by many prominent deficit hawks, reflected the clout that veterans groups enjoy, particularly in an election year.

Sen. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., who opposed the cut when it was first passed, said the legislation restores the benefits "and protects the budget savings achieved by the latest budget deal."

The bill's existence also underscored the chronic difficulty that lawmakers face when they try to restrain government benefit programs, which have largely escaped the impact of trillions of dollars in deficit cuts over the last three years.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., "Year after year members of Congress simply refuse to stick by the budget discipline that we said we'd stick to. Exhibit one is before us today," said Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., who cast one of the three votes against the measure's passage. Sens. Tom Carper, D-Del., and Dan Coats, R-Ind., also opposed the bill.

Under legislation that passed in December, annual cost-of-living increases for veterans age 62 and younger would have been held to 1 percentage point below the rate of inflation. The change would have begun in 2015.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars welcomed the reversal with a statement: "The world will remain a very dangerous and unpredictable place even after America ends its involvement in Afghanistan, and future military retirees will be required to serve just as long and perhaps sacrifice even more than their predecessors."

Pentagon officials have said that reducing their personnel expenses is a top priority in view of budget cutbacks, and a commission is expected to make recommendations later this year on reining in costs.

Yet even lawmakers most familiar with the Pentagon's budget said the cut enacted in December was a mistake.

"It was wrong to do it the way it was done. ... There wasn't any hearing or anything," said Sen.

John McCain, R-Ariz., of the agreement reached by Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. "They just decided it was a way to save money. That's not the proper way to do it."

The savings to the government from the reduction was pegged at \$7 billion over a decade, but critics said it would cost individual veterans tens of thousands of dol-

lars over their lifetime.

The pensions go to veterans who retire after 20 years of service, regardless of their age. According to the Pentagon, nearly 2 million retirees are currently eligible, about 840,000 of them under age 62. For a sergeant first class who leaves the service at age 42 after two decades in uniform, the bill passed in December

would have meant an estimated \$72,000 in reduced pension payments from the government.

The bill, headed by the White House, would apply only to those already in the service. Newcomers to the military would still have their cost-of-living increases held below the rate of inflation when they begin retiring in two decades or more.

In agreeing to approve the House-passed bill, Senate Democrats backed off their insistence that the cost of restoring the full pension be allowed to add to the government's deficit.

Instead, the measure offsets the price tag by extending previously approved cuts elsewhere in the budget for another year, until 2024.

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EUROPE

Flipped: Teaching method aims to put more responsibility in students' hands

FROM FRONT PAGE

Flipped learning is a growing trend in U.S. military and state-side classrooms. Students watch their teachers' video lectures at home and do their "homework" in class.

The idea is to free up class time for active learning. It allows the teacher to provide individualized instruction as students work through problems.

Built into the flipped classroom is the concept of mastery learning.

Instead of progressing through the curriculum in unison, turning in the same daily homework and testing on the same day, students in a "flipped mastery" class work at their own pace, completing a segment or topic in days or weeks.

Students may progress from one chapter or unit to the next only after passing a "mastery check." If they can't do quadratic equations, for example, they can't move on to radicals.

The method puts the responsibility for learning squarely on the students' shoulders, say the math teachers who piloted the "flipped mastery" program for DODDS-Europe.

"If you don't want to learn it, that's OK, but you are not moving on," said Spencer Bean, a "flipped mastery" math instructor at Ramstein. "So you're going to learn it and pass, or you're not going to learn it and fail. It's so black and white. It's on them."

Brust said that's made a huge difference for students.

"We've got way more motivated learners than in the past," he said. Before, kids resisted coming in for extra help during lunch or before or after school. "We just couldn't get them in, no matter what we did," Brust said. "Now they want to come in."

A fateful bus ride

Two of the educators who have adopted "flipped mastery" earned prestigious awards for their traditional math teaching.

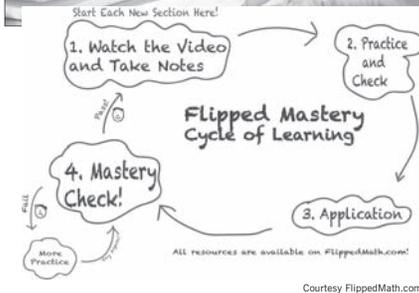
In 2010, Baumholder High School teacher Tim Kelly received them in, no matter what the presidential award for mathematics and science teaching, the nation's highest honor.

While in Washington to attend the award ceremony, he shared a bus ride with Aaron Sams, a fellow award recipient and a rural Colorado chemistry teacher. Sams and his colleague, Jonathan Bergmann, wrote about their efforts to "flip" their classroom and use mastery learning—or what they called "flipped mastery"—in their book "Flip Your Classroom:



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Spencer Renne, left, discusses his worksheet with teacher Mike Brust in his "flipped mastery" algebra and geometry class at Ramstein High School in Germany.



Watch a video about "flipped mastery" education at stripes.com/go/flipped

instruction and assessment.

"Flipped mastery" math seems to be working well. "I've seen some absolute great teaching going on, and I've seen kids excited about math," Greene said. She said education is about "trying different strategies to engage kids and increase their learning."

The Algebras' collaboration enabled them to flip more quickly than if they were working alone, with their classes sharing videos and materials. Each unit takes from 60 to 80 hours to complete, a process that includes recording and uploading a series of 12- to 15-minute video lectures and putting together hundreds of packets of practice problems, answer keys and corrective assignments for each lesson, as well as "mastery checks" and tests.

Everything is available on the Algebras' website, flippedmath.com, except the assessments, which are aligned to Department of Defense Education Activity standards, Kelly said.

After flipping Algebra I, they've since done the same for geometry and are finalizing Algebra II. Along the way they picked up Bean, the fourth Algebro, who this year teaches flipped mastery Algebra II at Ramstein and is beginning to flip pre-calculus classes with Brust.

Bean, who used to teach across the hall from Kelly at Baumholder, earned the presidential award in math and science in 2011. He initially had strong doubts about the merits of "flipped mastery" math. "I just don't see this working for

the kids who already struggle," he remembered thinking at the time. "How are they possibly going to be motivated to do anything?"

But he was curious. He would frequently observe Kelly's room, and he talked to his daughter, who was in Kelly's class.

"I couldn't believe these kids, who I knew in that community for a long time—and a lot of kids who were very difficult to motivate, behind grade level, and they were for the first time working hard at doing it," he said.

He was reluctant to revamp his teaching methods, especially on the heels of winning a prestigious teaching award. "I thought I was doing good stuff. ... I didn't want to switch, but this blows away the things I was doing in the past."

Since rolling out "flipped mastery" math, Kelly and his colleagues have seen more A's and B's and far fewer D's and F's.

After the first year of flipping, the Algebras compared their first semester of "flipped mastery" math with the same first semester a year ago of traditional math. Brust, Sullivan and Kelly had 77 D's and F's out of 265 students at the end of first semester traditional math during the 2010-11 school year. The number of D's and F's dropped to 29 at the end of the first full semester of flipping in 2011-12.

"Among all of us, no one failed first semester last year," Brust said. "We had kids fail second semester because they were so far behind. But in the past we always would have kids fail the first semester, and therefore they can't go on to the second semester so they ... miss an entire year of mathematics credit."

SEE FLIPPED ON PAGE 5

Reach Every Student in Every Class Every Day."

"I had never heard of it before," Kelly said.

He was intrigued. On returning to Baumholder, he talked it over with Brust and Kaiserlautern High School math teacher Corey Sullivan. "At first we just kind of dismissed it as a crazy idea: 'Our kids won't do homework. What makes you think they're going to watch your video at home?'" Kelly said the concept of pre-recorded lectures.

They also figured there was nothing to lose.

"It was a big jump, just because it was new and unknown," Brust said. "We were frustrated with our results" using more traditional methods.

Students were continuing to fall through the cracks.

"We tried lots of things—we tried project-based learning; we tried cooperative groups," Kelly said. "The bottom line is, we would get students that were not prepared. They come to your classroom ... they don't know things they should know already. Then we expect them to learn algebra at a higher level. It just wasn't happening; they weren't doing the work. They were confused."

The 'Algebras'

What sold the teachers on "flipped mastery" was the "mastery."

"That's the key component that actually drives it, they have to master it or they cannot move on," Kelly said. "And that takes a lot of my student doesn't do homework away. You have to do the work or you're just stagnant."

Kelly, Brust and Sullivan—who call themselves the "Algebras"—divided up the first units in Algebra I and hunkered down over spring break in 2011 to prepare a pilot program in "flipped mastery" math during the fourth quarter at their respective schools.

The administration at Baumholder was supportive, Kelly said. "It kind of helps a little if you win a presidential award," Kelly said. "You can go, 'Listen, I want to do this.' We made sure that if something wasn't right, we were really quick to fix it."

The approach also has been widely accepted by the DODDS-Europe leaders.

"We're always excited about educational innovation, especially one that works well for kids," said Terry Greene, DODDS-Europe deputy director for curriculum,

EUROPE

Flipped: Students risk falling behind in 'mastery' approach if they lack discipline, teachers say

FROM PAGE 4

While D's and F's for traditional classes are permanent, that's not the case with flipped math. If a student fails first semester but makes up the work in the spring, a grade change is entered to reflect the work.

A failure in second semester can be made up in summer school or by finishing the work in the fall of the following school year.

After failing a semester of geometry in traditional math last year at Kaiserslautern High School, Ramstein junior Mackenzie Van Wert, 17, has pulled up her grade in Brust's flipped math class this school year, where she's repeating geometry.

"My grade is a ton better because I'm able to learn at my own pace and it's a lot better teaching method, I think," she said.

She likes that she can watch the videos if she doesn't understand something. "If teachers are teaching in front of a board, you can't really play that back," she said.

"I would say it has given me a lot more confidence, has made me realize that math is something that I'm not incapable of doing," she said.

Freshman Cade Martinez, new to Baumholder this year, said he prefers flipped math over traditional math "because it better allows me to find where I have trouble at home and actually get

help with it at school."

When Kathy Zdumich's daughter, Elise, signed up to take flipped Algebra I last year at Baumholder as an eighth-grader, she was worried that the class would be self-taught with little teacher interaction.

"It proved just the opposite," she said. "Mr. Kelly was always there to help students and give them one-on-one attention."

The "flipped mastery" math teachers keep a minimal pacing calendar, with dates by which students should take unit tests. They're not forced to take those tests if they're not ready. But if they don't, their grades will temporarily dip, since a "zero" gets marked down for any missed test dates. The grade will go back up once the student takes the test.

Those zeroes are sometimes harder on the parents, Kelly said. "Sometimes parents will argue, 'Why is my kid getting a zero? I thought this was at your own pace?'"

"When you catch up, you get full credit," Kelly said.

Not for everyone

Ramstein math teacher LaShea Udoaka implemented a "modified flip" for her Algebra I classes.

She uses video lectures and daily mastery checks, but the class progresses together for the most part, she said, with test dates



"If they want to move ahead, they can; they can't be behind."

LaShea Udoaka

Ramstein High School math teacher

mandatory.

"If they want to move ahead, they can; they can't be behind," she said.

She agrees that traditional math instruction wasn't working for a majority of students. "You have to have interaction," she said.

But she's also not convinced that "flipped mastery" is the best method of learning for everyone.

"Flipped mastery is great if the student is disciplined enough to say, 'OK, I'm going to do a section a week ... I'm going to take three mastery checks a week to keep myself moving.'"

Students who aren't self-motivated need other options, she said.

"I will believe that flipped works better when we don't have the issues that we have at the end of every semester, where you have kids that are so far behind they're probably not going to finish ... and that happens."

"We don't know what to do with the kids who are still on Unit 3 and they should be on Unit 6."

Ramstein junior Jarrett Bloss, 16, a student in Bean's Algebra II class, said he's more of a fan of traditional math. He was struggling

to make up about two units after falling behind.

"You learn a lot, because if you don't pass it the first time, you have to redo it," he said. "But if you are lazy, like I am, you tend to get behind," sometimes so far that it can be discouraging.

With traditional instruction, you don't have a choice but "to get it done by a certain time," he said.

Students who fall behind in "flipped mastery" have the opportunity to pull up their grades, but it may mean extra work. DODEA now requires students to earn four credits of high school-level math to graduate. "Flipped mastery" math students who take more than a year to finish a course will have to double up or enroll in summer school, teachers say.

Not just in math

At Baumholder, Heidi Kretz is implementing "flipped mastery" grammar study in her 10th-grade language arts and world literature classes.

"I flipped last school year in the second semester, but at that time I started very small," Kretz said. "I

used podcasts, a grammar handbook and other Web sources."

"This year, I've begun the process of changing all units over into mini-lesson videos that I created."

Different teaching approaches she had tried didn't work.

"The students who 'got it' were bored, and the students who struggled continued to struggle," she said. "At the end of each unit, pass or fail, all moved on."

"What is most appealing to me is that, with a progressive mastery approach ... each student is responsible to master the material before moving on."

It's not easy, though, because of the time commitment, she said.

"Creating videos, handouts, mastery checks and corrective assignments takes an inordinate amount of time," Kretz said. "Teachers need to be sold on the benefits of mastery learning to make this work. They need to be aware that this approach is more time-intensive than traditional learning."

The "flipped mastery" math teachers said that despite the many extra hours involved in implementing a progressive mastery approach to learning, they would never go back to traditional instruction.

Students "learn when they're ready," Brust said. "There's no wasted time in class. You are working on what you need."

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MILITARY

Review of Air Force's ICBM force underway

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A major examination of the Air Force's scandal-ridden intercontinental ballistic missile force kicked off Wednesday, the commander of Air Force Global Strike Command said.

A 65-member team composed of Air Force, Navy and civilian experts is en route to Minot Air Force Base, N.D., to begin a bottom-up review of the ICBM force and look for ways to improve it. Missiles, ICBM support personnel, nuclear bomber crewmembers, Global Strike Command personnel, sailors from the Navy nuclear enterprise and outside business consultants from Executive Leadership Group Inc. will be part of the team.

They will talk to junior officers and enlisted personnel at all three ICBM bases to discuss their concerns and determine what the Air Force should do to address them, Lt. Gen. Stephen Wilson told an audience at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank in Washington. The group will also seek input from servicemembers' families, Wilson said.

The review was triggered by embarrassing revelations about the Air Force's ICBM arm. In January, 92 nuclear missile launch officers at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont. were implicated in a cheating scandal related to monthly proficiency tests. That same month, 11 servicemembers throughout the Air Force's nuclear enterprise were implicated in an illegal narcotics investigation.

The team will focus on things that detract from mission effectiveness and morale of airmen.

"We're going to look at culture and determine do we have an integrity issue and what are those obstacles that we need to overcome in terms of mission and manning and resources and those other things we may have out there," Wilson said.

"The work they're going to accomplish I think will touch every aspect of the ICBM mission, and I think we'll have the opportunity to shape that for the next generation."

The group will brief Wilson on their findings at the end of the month.

Air Force leaders have said that those involved in the scandals will be held accountable, and senior officers might be held re-

sponsible as well.

When asked if the Air Force still had confidence in the commander of the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom, Col. Robert Stanley, Wilson demurred, saying it was premature to comment on any the status of any particular individual.

Stanley was nominated for the rank of brigadier general last month, before the scandals broke.

The Air Force and Navy are also conducting a broader 60-day review of the entire U.S. nuclear enterprise which was mandated by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel in the wake of the scandals. The Air Force has been directed to present an action plan to address the problems examined in the review.

Neither Wilson nor Air Force Secretary Deborah James, who also spoke at the event, would provide any insights into preliminary findings.

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1st Lt. Michael C. Behenna is flanked by his attorneys at Camp Speicher, Iraq in September 2008. Behenna, who was convicted of killing an Iraqi prisoner, has been granted parole.

GI who killed a prisoner in Iraq is granted parole

The Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY — A former U.S. Army lieutenant convicted of killing an Iraqi prisoner has been granted parole, the Army said Wednesday.

Former 1st Lt. Michael Behenna was granted parole after serving five years of a 15-year sentence for his 2009 conviction on a charge of unpremeditated murder in a combat zone.

The Army Clemency and Parole Board denied Behenna's request for clemency, but granted him parole, according to Col. David Patterson. He said the decision was based on factors "including a strong parole plan with family and community support."

Behenna's parents, Scott and Vicki Behenna, of Edmond, previously have said their son would work on a cattle ranch and take classes at Oklahoma State University.

There was no dispute that Behenna was supposed to take the Iraqi prisoner home but instead took him to a secluded railroad culvert, he stripped him naked and shot him twice after interrogating him at gunpoint about an April 2008 roadside bombing that killed two men under Behenna's command.

Behenna said he acted in self-defense when the man reached for Behenna's handgun. The Army argued he could not claim self-defense because he was conducting an unauthorized interrogation at gunpoint.

Senate bill would upgrade records of discharged gay troops

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

SASENO NAVAL BASE, Japan — A bill that would upgrade the service records of gay, lesbian and bisexual troops discharged due to sexual orientation and open the door to veterans benefits has been introduced in the Senate and referred to the Armed Services Committee for review, officials said.

The Restore Honor to Service Members Act was introduced Jan. 30 by Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. The bill mirrors one introduced in the House in June by Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., and Rep. Mark Pocan, D-Wis.

Pocan has said the House bill has the bipartisan support of 140 members. However, it has yet to move forward.

"The repeal of 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' was a watershed moment, ending institutionalized discrimination that unjustly targeted gay and lesbian members of the military," Schatz said in a statement from his office. "Yet thousands of former service members still bear the scars of that discrimination, with their military records tarnished with discharges other than honorable and marks on their records that compromise

their right to privacy.

"Many of these brave men and women that served our country are currently barred from benefits that they earned and are entitled to, and in the most egregious cases they are prevented from legally calling themselves a veteran. This needs to be corrected now."

Roughly 114,000 servicemembers were discharged because of sexual orientation between World War II and the repeal of "don't ask, don't tell" in September 2011, officials have stated. Many of those servicemembers, depending on the discharge classification and the state in which they lived, were treated as felons and precluded from voting and collecting unemployment and veterans' benefits, such as health

care and disability. Many were also discriminated against when applying for jobs and housing.

A lot has changed since the repeal of the 1993 law that banned gays and lesbians from serving openly in the military. Gay and lesbian servicemembers have been able to serve openly, marching in gay pride parades and having same-sex wedding ceremonies in on-base chapels. They have also seen benefits extended to their partners.

Organizations that represent LGBT servicemembers and veterans have applauded efforts to bring the bill to President Barack Obama's desk.

"LGBT veterans who served and sacrificed in silence during World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, as well as those who served

before and during 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' in the Gulf War, Iraq, and Afghanistan, deserve to see their service recognized and honored at long last," Denny Meyer, spokesman for American Veterans for Equal Rights, the national LGBT veterans service organization, said in the statement.

Should it pass, the bill would instill the repeal into law. All servicemembers who were discharged because of their sexual orientation would then receive a "timely, consistent and transparent" review, and those who served honorably would see their records upgraded. That would open the door to benefits.

Any indication of sexual orientation would be struck from service records, and consensual relations between same-sex cou-

ples would be decriminalized — bringing military law in line with Supreme Court rulings.

"We need to right discriminatory discharges for our veterans immediately," Gillibrand said in the statement. "A clean, honorable record is long overdue for veterans who were discharged solely because of who they love. Our veterans served our country courageously and with dignity and we must act to give them the appropriate recognition they deserve."

It is now up to Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., and others on the committee, including Gillibrand, to call for a hearing, Pocan spokesman David Kolosov said.

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PACIFIC



ERIK SLAVIN/Stars and Stripes

Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine talks with reporters on Thursday.

Okinawa mayor is ready to fight Marine relocation

BY ERIK SLAVIN
Stars and Stripes

TOKYO — The mayor of a small city in Okinawa took his case to the world media Thursday in Tokyo, portraying the plan to build a Marine base there as one that fosters destruction of an ecological paradise and undermines democratic values.

Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine vowed to fight the relocation of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to his city's rural Henoko district, which is one of the first steps in a major realignment of thousands of U.S. servicemembers in the Pacific.

Inamine faces an uphill battle. The United States considers the agreement to move the base final, and even Inamine said Thursday that the Japanese government "has not swayed in its resolve" to build it.

He indicated he plans to combat the plan with a mix of world appeals and local red tape, according to several of his comments.

"There are management areas where the mayor of Nago has certain authority and rights," Inamine said at a news conference. "I will be upfront about this. If different people come to me and say, 'We need permission for something,' if the premise is that they are going forward with this construction, then I will be uncooperative."

The two governments first talked in 1996 about moving Futenma from what was once a rural area but is now urbanized. A helicopter crash in 2004 at a nearby college intensified Okinawan protests to move the base off the island entirely.

Moving the helicopter base off the island would separate the Marines based in Okinawa from their transportation. The U.S. considers the island strategically significant because of its proximity to Taiwan and Southeast Asia. It is also within reach of the Korean Peninsula by air if additional forces were needed there quickly.

Inamine disputed that reasoning Thursday, saying that basing more than half of U.S. service-

members in Japan on the island of 1.4 million people was more about NIMBY — short for Not in My Backyard — on the part of mainland Japanese.

"Deterrence, geographical advantage, sense of self — all of these arguments just no longer work," Inamine said. "I simply think it's a political decision. No one else in Japan wants these facilities."

Inamine spoke for about 40 minutes with foreign and Japanese reporters, followed by about an hour of questions. He distributed color brochures featuring underwater photos that make the waters off Henoko look like a wonderland of coral and marine life.

The material also included locations of the military's helicopter crashes over several years and a timeline of the Futenma issue, which began with the 1995 rape of an Okinawan girl by three U.S. servicemembers.

"If they try to force this issue in Okinawa, then they will invite criticism from all over the world," Inamine said.

Inamine said the national government's continued resolve to build the base amounts to a repudiation of democratic values. However, he said he would continue to lobby U.S. officials.

He met with the U.S. ambassador to Japan, Caroline Kennedy, during her trip to the island last week, and said he planned to visit Washington sometime after April. Inamine said he did most of the talking during the meeting with Kennedy and she listened intently to his viewpoints.

"She expressed a great deal of interest in the environmental issues," he said.

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Obama's Asia trip in April to include S. Korea

BY ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — President Barack Obama will visit South Korea during his trip to Asia in late April, a period that traditionally has involved heightened tension on the peninsula as the two countries wrap up their annual spring training exercises.

The White House announced Wednesday that the president will visit Japan, South Korea, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Obama will meet here with South Korean President Park Geun-hye to "review recent developments in North Korea and our combined efforts to promote denuclearization, and discuss our ongoing implementation of the Korea-United States FTA," according to a White House statement.

Although the exact dates of Obama's trip haven't been announced, it will either coincide with or follow the annual Ford Eagle joint field training exercise,

scheduled for Feb. 24-April 18.

Last year's spring drills, which included the Key Resolve command post exercise, prompted a monthlong barrage of threats from North Korea, including a vow to turn Seoul and Washington into a "sea of fire" and a declaration voiding the armistice that effectively ended the Korean War.

During the exercises, the U.S. took the unusual step of flaunting its military hardware, including a nuclear attack submarine and B-2 stealth bombers.

North Korea has called for the U.S. and South Korea to halt this year's exercises.

Whether Obama would bypass South Korea on his Asia trip has been a source of rampant speculation in Seoul, particularly because a stop in Japan was on the president's itinerary.

Tensions between Tokyo and Seoul have escalated in recent months over unresolved historical and territorial grievances, and a no-show from Obama would have

been viewed as a diplomatic snub and a sign that the U.S. places greater value on its relationship with Japan.

The president will meet with top leaders from each country on his itinerary and will discuss diplomatic and economic issues. In Japan, Obama and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade pact, as well as a range of regional and global diplomatic issues.

Obama's Asia trip will follow a visit to the region by Secretary of State John Kerry.

Kerry's Feb. 13-18 trip is to include stops in Beijing, Seoul, Abu Dhabi and Jakarta.

Kerry was scheduled to meet Thursday with South Korean officials in Seoul, and the diplomats were expected to discuss issues such as North Korea and the on-going tensions between Tokyo and Seoul.

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Yokota commander to be replaced Friday

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Aircraft maintainers at Yokota Air Base, Japan will welcome a new leader Friday, three months after their old commander was relieved of duty.

374th Airlift Wing public affairs officer Capt. Ray Geoffroy said by email Tuesday that Col. Kevin Sampels was relieved as commander of the 374th Maintenance Group in November due to "lack of confidence in his ability to lead."

The Maintenance Group consists of three squadrons that maintain C-130H, UH1N, and C-12J aircraft assigned to the Air Force's only airlift wing in the Pacific theater, according to information posted on Yokota's website.

Sampels, a dual-qualified aircraft maintenance and logistics readiness officer commissioned through Officer Training School in November 1990, was relieved following an investigation, Geoffroy said.

"No criminal charges were filed," he said. "Due to privacy act restrictions involving admin-

istrative actions, I cannot discuss specifics."

Geoffroy said the 374th has not recently failed safety inspections or experienced significant safety incidents other than a fatal on-base motorcycle accident in January.

Sampels is no longer stationed at Yokota, he said, adding that privacy considerations meant he could not identify his new assignment.

Col. Steven P. James will assume command of the 374th Maintenance Group on Friday, Geoffroy said.

From staff reports.

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MILITARY

Married Marines paired on deployment to Afghanistan

By JENNIFER HLAID
Stars and Stripes



Sgt. Frances Johnson and Sgt. Andrew Johnson.

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — It all started with a bulldog.

Sgt. Frances Johnson, then a lance corporal working in the public affairs office at Marine Recruit Depot San Diego, was tasked with taking care of the new mascot, Pfc. Belleau Wood. The puppy needed obedience training, so Johnson headed over to the recruit depot's kennels.

As luck would have it, the Marine who was supposed to help Johnson with the training was busy. So, Sgt. Andrew Johnson, a military dog handler, volunteered to do it.

Now, less than four years later, Frances Johnson and Drew Johnson are married and deployed together to Helmand province as part of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan. Frances serves as the media chief for the unit, while Drew is the IED detector dogs program manager.

At first, Frances said, the couple were rarely able to see each other — just the occasional meal together in the chow hall. "It was frustrating," she said.

After a month in Afghanistan, the Johnsons have been approved to live together.

stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif., was planning to get out of the Marine Corps and had told his supervisor he was looking for contracting work, while Frances had gotten orders to deploy to Afghanistan from her unit at nearby Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

Then, Drew's supervisor told him there was a job available for a staff noncommissioned officer at Camp Leatherneck, and he could use Drew's name in for it. And so, Drew, said, it was just "sheer luck" that he got to go on his third deployment with his wife.

The couple's 2-year-old son, Noah, is living with Frances' mother in Denver while the two serve their yearlong tour, but they have been able to make video calls home every few days, they said.

Frances said she is planning to send a world map home so Noah can have a better idea of where Mommy and Daddy are, though they've already told him they are so far away that it's time for them to go to bed when it's morning where he is.

He was having a hard time getting off the calls at first, they said, but now he likes saying "night night" and telling his parents that it's time for them to go to bed, Frances said.

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US military officials in Bahrain take precautions on protest anniversary

By HENDRICK SIMOES
Stars and Stripes

MANAMA, Bahrain — U.S. military officials here took precautions Thursday to ensure the safety of U.S. personnel in anticipation of increased political unrest this weekend.

The tiny island kingdom, home to the U.S. Navy 5th Fleet, has been the site of sporadic demonstrations since February 2011, when the country experienced massive protests by citizens demanding political and economic reform. Since then, the country has experienced an uptick in protests and violence around the Feb. 14 anniversary of that movement.

The Department of Defense Dependents Schools-operated Bahrain School was closed Thursday as a "prudent action," according to Navy officials. U.S. Navy 5th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. Jason Salata said the decision was based mostly on concerns over increased traffic and more police checkpoints throughout Bahrain.

"Closing the school today was one such prudent action," Salata said. "Other actions are up to individual leaders to adhere to guidance released by the Navy and the U.S. Embassy."

Earlier in the week, the U.S. Embassy issued a reminder to

citizens about increased protests, attempts to disrupt traffic and potential clashes with police for several weeks after the anniversary.

While 5th Fleet and base operations were running as normal, according to officials, some tenant units cut hours to allow workers to go home early.

A sign at the base post office informed customers of an early closing time Thursday for "safety reasons." Navy Federal had a sign notifying clients that it would be closing early Friday. Other units were making it an early day in connection with the upcoming three-day weekend in Bahrain which begins Friday.

According to Bahrain's Ministry of the Interior, there was vandalism in some villages Thursday morning that included burning tires and makeshift roadblocks.

A tweet on the ministry's Twitter page said police forces responded and restored order in the various incidents.

Police also responded to a morning attack on a school bus with Molotov cocktails. Police evacuated the bus and no injuries were reported. A video posted on the Ministry of Interior's YouTube page shows the incident.

"We encourage all personnel to stay current on their knowledge

of local events through the use of social media, local radio and newspapers, as well as official command and U.S. Embassy information releases," Salata said.

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Mail volume prompted hold on some packages to Italy

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Concerns over the volume of incoming mail for U.S. military personnel in Italy spurred customs agents in Rome to put a hold on some mail for two days last month, an Italian customs official and a Navy base commander said Thursday.

Although the hold was soon lifted, Italian and American officials continue to discuss possible changes to the system under which parcels and other airmail are delivered via Rome — and whether they would mesh with basing agreements between the two sides.

The official, who works for the Italian customs agency, said the issue is concerned about the larger volume of packages for individuals from online shopping.

He said customs agents were trying to "redefine the procedures" of distributing packages, but he emphasized they would not levy taxes or customs duties against them, as Navy officials say they were initially warned. Such fees are prohibited by basing agreements, said the customs official, who declined to be named because of the sensitivity of the issue.

The hold on American mail began abruptly in January as holiday packages were still arriving, according to Navy officials. Only packages entering the Rome airport, which feeds the military mail system for Navy bases in Naples and Sigonella, Sicily, were affected. Packages continued to enter the Army and Air Force system in Milan, another entry point.

The customs official said the number and nature of the packages received in Rome caused "chaos" in the Rome system.

Navy mail officials in Naples said Christmas is always a heavy period for mail. The number of packages this past holiday season was roughly the same as the year before, a base spokeswoman said.

Customs officials agreed to

resume processing the packages after meeting with Navy representatives, but they said the volume made it harder for them to police for violations, said Capt. Scott Gray, commander of the Navy base in Naples. They continued to hold 27 packages.

Gray said he was given guidelines by the agency that referred to prohibited items as well as value-added taxes and customs duties that could be applied to any item worth more than 22 euros, or about \$30. The bases passed that information on to their personnel.

U.S. Embassy officials became involved in the discussion, as it relates to basing agreements between the two countries, Gray said. Customs officials recently released the 27 packages being held, without charge.

Gray, who is not directly involved in the ongoing discussions, said he believes the issue now is how to reassure customs officials that the Navy is policing incoming items and is informing personnel what can and cannot be shipped.

Some items in the customs guidelines are already prohibited by military mail rules. Others, such as "footwear" and "apparel and sewn clothing," likely account for a significant portion of online orders by U.S. personnel.

Also prohibited under the guidelines is a hodgepodge of very specific or obscure items, including "typewriter ribbon" and "roasted ground coffee."

Gray said that for now things are back to normal as embassy officials work toward a long-term solution.

"Everybody's being reasonable," he said. "We're resolving some interpretation issues and we think some of these issues will be resolved in the medium term."

"The mail has continued to flow, and no fees or customs duties are being applied."

Cristina Woods contributed to this report.
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NATION

Insurance sign-ups meet monthly goal in January

By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR AND KEVIN VINEYS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — While states are having varying success getting people to sign up, January marked the first time since new health insurance markets opened last fall that a national monthly enrollment target was met.

The administration said Wednesday about 1 million people signed up for private insurance under the new health care law in January, extending a turnaround from early days when a dysfunctional website frustrated consumers.

An Associated Press analysis found that most states are still lagging when it comes to sign-ups under the law, and their success in getting those sign-ups could help determine whether the White House reaches its unofficial goal of having 7 million signed up by the end of March. Nearly 3.3 million people signed up from Oct. 1 through Feb. 1.

About a dozen states are now ahead in getting sign-ups.

Connecticut is the nation's top performer, signing up more than twice the number of residents it had been projected to enroll by the end of January. Massachusetts,

which pioneered the approach Obama took in his law, is at the bottom of the list, having met only 5 percent of its target.

Six Republican-led states — Florida, Idaho, Maine, Michigan, North Carolina and Wisconsin — are on pace or better. Residents are signing up despite strong political opposition to the health care law in some of those states.

"It's very, very encouraging news," Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said. "We're seeing a healthy growth in enrollment."

Officials are unable to say how many of those who signed up were previously uninsured — the ultimate test of the health care overhaul. And they don't know how many have sealed the deal by paying their premiums.

The numbers showed an uptick in the number of young adults signing up, now 25 percent of the total. Officials expect a last-minute surge of 18- to 34-year-olds before the end of open enrollment on March 31. Their premiums are needed to help with the cost of care for older adults.

Overall, 4 in 5 of those signing up were eligible for financial assistance with their premiums or out-of-pocket expenses.

New Orleans ex-mayor: from reformer to convict

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Sixteen years after he burst onto the New Orleans political scene as a charming, reform-minded businessman vowing to clean up city government, former Mayor Ray Nagin walked out of a federal courthouse as the glum embodiment of how far a politician can fall.

Nagin was convicted Wednesday on 20 criminal counts stemming from his two terms as New Orleans mayor from 2002 to 2010, including the recovery that followed Hurricane Katrina in 2005. He is scheduled for sentencing June 11 — his 58th birthday.

Nagin was a cable company executive and a political newcomer when he succeeded Marc Morial in 2002. Soon after taking office, he announced a crackdown on municipal corruption, starting with the city's vehicle safety inspection stations and issuing permits to nonlegible taxi drivers.

Federal prosecutors said his own corrupt acts began during his first term, continued through the Katrina catastrophe and flourished in his second term.

"We, in my family, thought of him as the 'cleanup man,'" said Rainelle Smith, 64, a New Orleans resident who said she had voted for Nagin. "Instead, he gets in office and he soiled it more."

"The heat got hot during the storm," said Jason Roland, 32, a former New Jersey resident who moved to New Orleans a few years after Katrina for a teaching job. "He couldn't handle that, so he said, 'Forget the people, I'm going to line my own pockets.' It's a disgrace."

"It was a just verdict, fair trial, so no excuses there," he said.

Nagin is perhaps best remembered for his impassioned pleas for help after the levees broke during Hurricane Katrina, and his city descended into chaos. He was convicted of accepting bribes in exchange for helping businessmen secure millions of dollars in city work.

The federal jury found Nagin guilty of 20 of 21 counts. He sat quietly at the defense table after the verdict was read. His wife, Seletha, cried quietly as she sat behind him.

Before the verdict, Nagin, 57, said outside the New Orleans courtroom: "I've been at peace with this for a long time. I'm good." Later, as a crowd of reporters and photographers swarmed him outside the courthouse, he was heard to say, "I maintain my innocence." His attorney said there would be an appeal.

U.S. District Judge Helen Bergeron ordered that bail for Nagin, now a Dallas resident, be modified to provide for "additional conditions of electronic monitoring and home confinement" pending sentencing.

Nagin, a Democrat, was indicted in January 2013 on charges he accepted hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes — money, free vacation trips and truckloads of free granite for his family business — from businessmen who wanted work from the city or Nagin's support for various projects.

Nagin had vehemently denied it all during several hours of testimony that spanned two days of trial.

The only not-guilty verdict came on one count of bribery.



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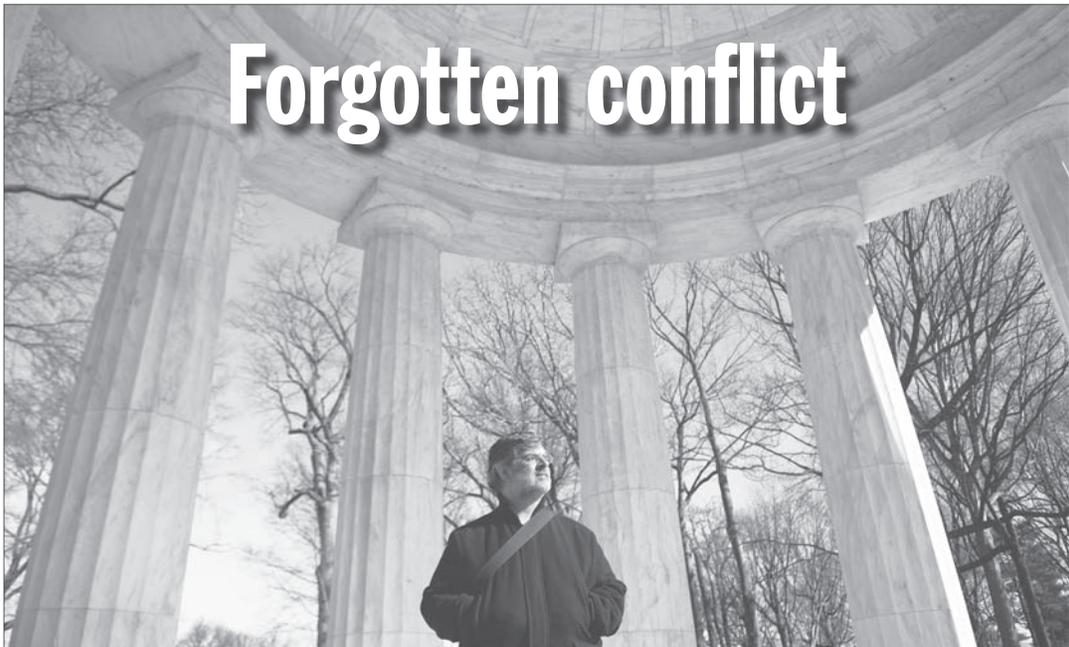
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NATION

Forgotten conflict



ASTRID RIECKEN/For The Washington Post

Mark Revitch, who is building an online database of every U.S. memorial to World War I, stands at the D.C. War Memorial in Washington on Jan. 31.

Historian building database of memorials to often-overlooked World War I

By MICHAEL E. RUANE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — On Nov. 14, 1921, President Warren G. Harding and Army Gen. John Pershing set the cornerstone for Washington's colossal National Victory Memorial, at 6th Street and what is now Constitution Avenue.

World War I had just ended, and the huge edifice was planned, in part, to honor the sacrifice of Americans in "the Great War." There were to be stars representing each of the nation's war dead on the ceiling and an 11,000-seat auditorium inside.

After the foundation and a long set of stone steps were built, the project stalled. Money dried up. The war faded from memory. And the enterprise was scrapped.

With this year's start of the centennial of World War I (1914-18), Mark Levitch, a Washington art historian, has been scouring the country for memorials to the war that was to end all wars.

He has searched the Internet and has taken to the road in hopes of assembling, with the help of the public, a database of the war's forgotten monuments. He calls it the World War I Memorial Inventory Project.

He has found about 2,000 so far, including one mass-produced statue that was sold by a savvy sculptor at least 140 times to small towns across the country.

An estimated 5 million Americans served, and more than 100,000 died in the war.

Some memorials have been damaged, vandalized or stolen. Others have been torn down or are crumbling from neglect. Others remain moving tributes to the men and women who went off to the war.

Levitch estimates that there may be 10,000 World War I memorials in the United States.

He's also found records of monuments that came and went — fabulous but temporary victory arches in New York and in Washington, the latter a block from the White House.

He has learned of a few, like the giant victory building, that never got off the ground.

"In our country, we give most attention to World War II and the Civil War," he said in a recent interview. "World War I is very much overlooked."

Americans came late to the conflict. Even though the sprawling Meuse-Argonne Offensive in 1918 was probably the largest and bloodiest battle in American history, killing more than 25,000 Americans, scholars say it is barely remembered today.

The Civil War's Battle of Gettysburg, which claimed about 7,000 lives from both sides, and World War II's Battle of the Bulge,

which killed about 19,000 Americans, are much more famous.

At the time, World War I "was remembered ... as a momentous occasion for the United States," Levitch said. "It represented the ushering in of the American century ... [and] it made the U.S. a world power."

An estimated 5 million Americans served, and more than 100,000 died, many of them in the trenches and shell holes of France.

The United States didn't join its allies, primarily Britain, France and Russia, in the struggle against Germany and Austria-Hungary until April 1917. But large U.S. forces arrived at a crucial moment and played a major role in the victory.

Levitch, who lives in Washington's DuPont Circle area, is an author and a student of World War I who works as a contract writer at the National Gallery of Art.

He said that although the nation's monuments to World War I often go unnoticed, "they're everywhere."

"Many of them are very modest, simple honor rolls; and some of them are grandiose, by the greatest architects and sculptors of the day," he said.

The recently restored D.C. War Memorial was created in part by architect Nathan Wyeth, who designed the Oval Office in the White House.

The gilded figure atop the towering 1st Division Monument, south of the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington, was sculpted by Daniel Chester French, who also worked on the Lincoln Memorial.

Then there was E.M. "Dick" Viquesney.

The little-known Indiana sculptor and monument salesman created the plain, metal statue of a charging soldier called the "Spirit of the American Doughboy" that today exists in towns all over the country.

The statue was mass-produced in the years after the war and was marketed to communities that did not have money for huge monuments, Levitch said.

Viquesney sent out brochures promoting his statue and providing a nine-point fundraising plan, complete with testimonials. "No community is too small or too poor to have its own doughboy memorial," his sales pitch went.

As a result, his "doughboys" exist in 39 states, according to a website, the E.M. Viquesney Doughboy Database.

Levitch said he first got the idea to catalogue World War I monuments in 2009 when he was unable to track down one that the French

were said to have given the United States. It was supposed to be in Arlington National Cemetery.

His survey does not include tombs, such as that of the Unknowns in Arlington or the beautiful National Cathedral tomb of the aviator Norman Prince.

"It's a tricky distinction," he wrote in an email. "Otherwise, it would be hard to exclude the tombstones of U.S. WWI fatalities from the inventory."

Washington has a forest of Civil War monuments, but there are also such World War I tributes as a haunting statue outside the Red Cross building honoring nurse Jane A. Delano and the 296 nurses who died during the war.

Elsewhere, New York City's old Polo Grounds sports stadium had a plaque honoring a baseball player, Eddie Grant, who joined the Army and was killed in battle in 1918.

Kansas City, Mo., has the soaring Liberty Memorial, home of the National World War I Museum. It's the most impressive such memorial in the country, Levitch said.

And tiny Kimball, W.Va., has the elegant Kimball World War I Memorial, a building dedicated to the service of blacks.

"Every one has a story," Levitch said. "And they're often great. There are narratives everywhere."

NATION

NM proposes sale of national historic landmark

By SUSAN MONTROYA BRYAN
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — A Western outpost made famous by the Buffalo Soldiers and the U.S. military's campaign to capture Geronimo is up for sale, one of a number of landmarks nationwide facing the wrecking ball amid tight budgets and a shift in Washington about what history is worth saving.

Abandoned now, Fort Bayard has become a drain on New Mexico's coffers, and the state is desperate for ideas as historic preservation has lost funding under the Obama administration.

"It's not good. We see this as a much larger comment on how we as a country want to tell our story and reflect our priorities," said Beth Wiedower, a senior field officer for the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

With most large-scale preservation efforts, it's not hard for the cost to outweigh sentimentalism. It's no different in south-western New Mexico, where the community is split over whether some of Fort Bayard's buildings need to be leveled to make way for fresh economic development.

"Some are pretty adamant about preserving the whole property, and then there are others who ask why tax dollars are being spent to maintain it," said Rep. Rudy Martinez. "Those are the questions coming up. Who's right? Who's wrong? We don't know."

Historic preservation was championed during the Clinton and Bush years, first with Hillary Clinton's founding of the Save America's Treasures program and later through Laura Bush's support for a program focused on preserving the country's cultural and natural heritage.

Funds dry up

However, the Obama administration pointed to the two programs for elimination in 2010, saying the benefits were unclear.

In the last three years, Congress helped bring an end to Save America's Treasures, which had leveraged some \$377 million of private and government funding for hundreds of projects, including the restoration of the flag that inspired "The Star-Spangled Banner" and Rosa Parks's bus.

Also, the grants awarded annually by the National Park Service for historic preservation are a fraction of what they once were, leaving communities with little other than a patchwork of tax credits to entice developers to give historic properties a second chance.

"The grand hasn't disappeared," said Barbara Pahl, who works with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in Colorado. "It's just the money that's available to help address it has."

The trust gets dozens of applications each year for its list of endangered historic places, from the home to turn in Astrodome into a convention center. Many said the money could be better spent on other projects.

In Texas, voters rejected a referendum last fall that would have authorized millions of dollars to turn the Astrodome into a convention center. Many said the money could be better spent on other projects.

At Fort Bayard, the hospital's hallways have been empty for a few years, the officers' quarters are locked up and the parking garages are quiet.

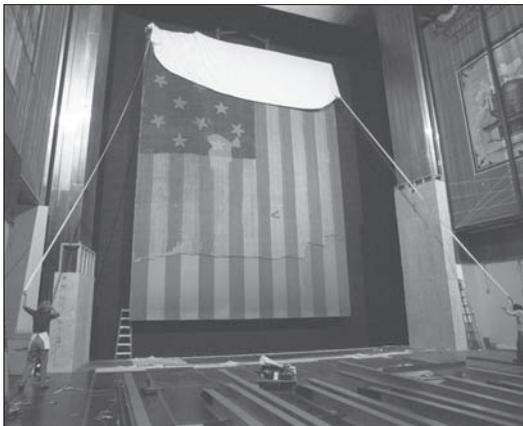
The fort has no asking price, but New



A group of 6th Cavalry officers, including Lt. John J. Pershing (fourth from left in the first row), and their families are shown at Fort Bayard, N.M., in 1886.

AP photos

Selling history



Workers at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington cover the flag that inspired "The Star Spangled Banner" prior to the flag's restoration, which was financed through the Save America's Treasures program.

Mexico General Services Secretary Ed Burckle is taking offers for the national historic landmark. Ads have been placed in the Wall Street Journal and New Mexico's largest newspaper.

With only four proposals submitted, Burckle said bids to demolish the old hospital will go out soon. Leaving it standing would have saved taxpayers more than \$4 million in demolition costs, but he said getting rid of it will improve the prospects for selling the entire property.

Historic significance

Standing at the Gila Wilderness' gateway, Fort Bayard was established in 1866 by the Army to protect miners and other settlers from the Apache. It was one of many outposts west of the Mississippi es-

tablished by the all-black Buffalo Soldier regiments tasked with battling Native American tribes.

With the capture of Geronimo in the 1880s, the Apache threat subsided and the fort transitioned to a research center and hospital for tuberculosis patients. During World War II, it was home to German prisoners of war.

The state estimates the 145,000-square-foot hospital costs about \$100,000 annually to maintain. The officers' quarters, historic theater and other buildings also are in need of repair.

"We understand that right now, it may not look as if it's got any real dollar value to the state, but it definitely has some historical significance," said Scott Terry, head of the Silver City/Grant County Chamber of



The empty Delta Air Lines Terminal 3 at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport was put on the 2013 list of Endangered Historic Places. The unique flying-saucer-shaped Worldport Terminal, built by Pan Am in 1960, was a symbol of the jet age.

Commerce.

A study commissioned by the state includes a long list of opportunities for Fort Bayard: a treatment center for veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder, a workforce development center, a business and industrial park and mixed housing.

Others have suggested it as a place for homeless veterans, a private military academy and even a ghost hunting hot spot.

State officials know the challenges of trying to sell a campus as complex as Fort Bayard, with its rich history and more than 400 acres. Aside from the tens of millions of dollars it would take to bring Fort Bayard's buildings up to code, there's the location.

"We're not kind of off the beaten path. We are off the beaten path," Terry said of Silver City, a town of about 11,000.

Fort Bayard is not alone when it comes to remoteness. Other historic properties in rural areas of Colorado and South Dakota are on the chopping block, but experts say finding new uses can result in an economic boon for communities that are struggling to attract new businesses and jobs.

"It's not just about saving a historic place or a landscape for the sake of saving it. It's very important to tell our story and to connect with our past," Wiedower said.

NATION



'Oh, not again'

KATIE CURRID, THE (STAUNTON, VA.) NEWS LEADER/AP

Ronald Shifflett walks with a shovel on Beverley Street in Staunton, Va., on Thursday after a snowstorm led to the accumulation of more than a foot of snow.

Another winter storm wreaking havoc along the East Coast after slamming South

By RON TOPT
AND MARK SCOLFORD
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — The latest storm to roll off nature's assembly line this bustling winter spread heavy snow and sleet along the Northeast corridor Thursday, while utility crews in the ice-enrusted South labored to restore power to hundreds of thousands of shivering residents.

The sloppy weather shuttered schools and businesses, made driving scary, grounded more than 6,000 flights on Thursday alone and created more back-breaking work for people along the East Coast, where shoveling out has become a weekly chore — sometimes a twice-weekly one. "Snow has become a four-letter word," said Tom McGargle, chairman of the Delaware County Council, in suburban Philadelphia.

Baltimore awoke to 15 inches of snow. Washington, D.C., had at least 11, and federal offices and the city's two main airports were closed.

Philadelphia had nearly 9 inches, making it the fourth 6-inch snowstorm of the season — the first time that has happened in the city's history. New York City had at least 8 inches. New England was receiving much smaller amounts. Parts of New Jersey had over 11 inches.

In New Cumberland, Pa., Ran-

dal Delvernois had to take a rest after shoveling his driveway. His snow blower had conked out.

"Every time it snows, it's like, oh, not again," he said. "I didn't get this much snow when I lived in Colorado. It's warmer at the Olympics than it is here. That's ridiculous."

At least 17 deaths, most of them in traffic accidents, were blamed on the storm as it made its way across the South and up the coast.

The victims included a truck driver in Ashburn, Va., who was working to clear snowy roads. He had pulled off the road and was standing behind his vehicle when he was hit by a dump truck.

Across the South, the storm left in its wake a world of ice-enrusted trees and driveways and snapped branches and power lines. About 750,000 homes and businesses were left without power in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Alabama, with scattered outages reported in the mid-Atlantic.

More than 200,000 households and businesses in the Atlanta area alone were waiting for the electricity to come back on. Temperatures were expected to drop below freezing again overnight.

In North Carolina, where the storm caused huge traffic jams in the Raleigh area on Wednesday as people left work and rushed to get home in the middle of the day, National Guardsmen in high-



CLEM MURRAY, THE PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER/AP

A plow train heads south on Route 202 between Dilworthtown Road and Route 1 in Birmingham Township, Pa., on Thursday. The latest winter storm spread heavy snow and sleet over the mid-Atlantic and the Northeast on Thursday.

riding Humvees patrolled the snowy roads, looking for stranded motorists.

Some roads around Raleigh remained clogged with abandoned vehicles Thursday morning. City crews were working to tow the vehicles to safe areas where their owners could recover them.

By late Thursday morning, parts of northern Georgia had over 9 inches of snow, while North Carolina ranged from 6 inches in cities to up to 15 inches in mountainous areas. Parts of Virginia, Maryland and Pennsylvania were reporting 15 to 18 inches.



ALLEN G. BREED/AP

A piece of police tape flutters from the mirror of a car abandoned on U.S. 1 in Raleigh, N.C., on Thursday.

WORLD



JOSEPH NAIN/AP

F-16 jets of Singapore Air Force aerobatics team the Black Knights perform a maneuver during the Singapore Airshow on Wednesday.

Restrictions limit business for drone makers

By KELVIN CHAN
The Associated Press

SINGAPORE — Military brass shopping at Asia's biggest defense expo this week have drones high on their to-buy list. But for U.S. manufacturers including General Atomics, which makes the Predator hunter-killer, there's one problem: They can sell to only a few countries because of tight export restrictions.

The controls give rival drone makers from countries such as Israel and China a chance to win more business in the growing global market for unmanned aerial vehicles, which one group forecasts to more than double in the next decade.

U.S. arms makers have been lobbying the government for several years to loosen the restrictions so they can sell their systems to more countries. They fear their established market is shrinking as domestic defense spending is squeezed and the U.S. military withdraws from Iraq and Afghanistan.

American aerospace companies are showing off the latest missiles, attack helicopters and fighter jets at the Singapore Airshow but they may find foreign rivals have the upper hand in cutting more deals for drones, also known as unmanned aerial vehicles.

"There are countries like Israel and China that have weapons-capable aircraft and they can sell, so it definitely hampers us with business not just in this region but around the world because we cannot compete," said Billy Gilliland, president of systems integration at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

The company's Predator and Reaper are among the world's most widely deployed

"There are countries like Israel and China that have weapons-capable aircraft and they can sell, so it definitely hampers us with business not just in this region but around the world because we cannot compete."

Billy Gilliland
president of systems integration at General Atomics Aeronautical Systems Inc.

drones. They can loiter in the air for long periods to give their operators more time to verify targets before firing precision-guided warheads.

Exports of drones are tightly controlled by an agreement signed by members of a group called the Missile Technology Control Regime, which includes the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan. The group has since expanded to 34 countries but Israel and China aren't members. The 1987 agreement was originally intended to curb the spread of ballistic missiles. Present-day concern about spreading advanced weaponized drone technology to countries or groups hostile to the U.S. is a factor in keeping the American restrictions in place.

Officials at companies such as Northrop Grumman, which makes the high-altitude Global Hawk, argue the restrictions hurt competitiveness in a market that Teal Group Co. forecasts to expand to \$11.6 billion in 2023 from \$5.2 billion last year.

At the same time, human rights groups and some U.S. politicians have been increasingly critical of drone strikes for killing civilians.

Israeli drone makers, including Elbit Systems Ltd. and Israel Aviation Industries Ltd., or IAI, had big displays at the Singapore Airshow.

IAI unveiled its Superheron drone, an upgraded version of its popular Heron. The company has sold drones to 20 countries, including Brazil and Turkey.

To compete for export business, General Atomics launched a drone model last year called the Predator XP that can't be armed. Gilliland said his company has been pitching for business to countries "all over the Pacific Rim." Only Britain, Holland and Italy have been allowed to buy the missile-ready version, the latter two only recently.

The XP has had a lukewarm reception because foreign militaries want the version that can carry out an airstrike.

The list price for a Predator XP system, including three aircraft, three ground stations and spare parts, is about \$50 million to \$60 million. So far only the United Arab Emirates has bought it. A Predator that can carry weapons is "substantially" more expensive, Gilliland said, though he declined to give a figure.

Shelling, airstrikes kill 51 in Syria

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — At least 51 people, including 13 rebels, died in a single day of Syrian government airstrikes and shelling of opposition-controlled districts of Aleppo, activists said Thursday as international mediators were trying to salvage faltering peace negotiations in Geneva.

The Britain-based Observatory for Human Rights said most of the victims were killed by airstrikes and barrel bombs dumped on eight rebel-held districts of the northern city Wednesday.

The rest died from artillery shelling, sniper fire and in clashes between forces loyal to President Bashar Assad and rebels fighting to overthrow him.

The bombings in Aleppo, Syria's largest city, are part of a campaign by Assad's forces to wrest control of neighborhoods that were seized by rebels in mid-2012.

The Observatory has been documenting Syria's conflict since its start in March 2011 through a network of activists on the ground.

It released its report on the latest Aleppo casualties Thursday, ahead of a trilateral meeting between senior U.S. and Russian officials and U.N. mediator Lakhdar Brahimi and Syrian government and opposition representatives in Geneva.

The Observatory said at least 4,959 people have died in Syria in the three-week period since Jan. 22, when the government and opposition delegates sat down for the first round of face-to-face meetings in Geneva.

Belgium extends euthanasia to children

BRUSSELS — Belgian lawmakers have voted overwhelmingly to extend the country's euthanasia law to children under 18.

The 86-44 vote Thursday in the House of Representatives, with 12 abstentions, followed approval by the Senate last December.

The law empowers children with terminal ailments who are in great pain to request to be put to death if their parents agree and a psychiatrist or psychologist find they are conscious of what their choice signifies. The law was opposed by some Belgian pediatricians and the country's leading Roman Catholic cleric.

The law will go into effect when signed by Belgium's monarch, King Philippe. The king was not expected to oppose the measure.

From The Associated Press

UK to Scotland: Back independence, lose the pound

The Associated Press

LONDON — Scotland has been warned that if it votes to leave the United Kingdom later this year, it walks away from the pound.

That's the hard-line message presented Thursday by U.K. Treasury chief George Osborne, who ruled out a currency union in a speech in the Scottish capital of Edinburgh.

The pound would not be an asset divided up after a "messy divorce," he said. The other major U.K. parties have supported that

"If Scotland walks away from the U.K., it walks away from the U.K. pound."

U.K. Treasury chief George Osborne

view.

"The pound isn't an asset to be divided up between the two countries after breakup as if it were a CD collection," he said. "The value of the pound doesn't lie in the paper and ink that's used to print it."

A key plank of the strategy presented by independence leaders is that Scotland would share the pound if they win the Sept. 18 referendum. Osborne ruled that out, arguing that the value of the pound lies in the "entire monetary system underpinning it."

Why, he asked, should the remaining U.K. members — England, Wales and Northern Ireland — shoulder the risk of a currency union should Scotland vote to break away?

"If Scotland walks away from the U.K., it walks away from the U.K. pound," he said.

On Wednesday, Deputy First Minister Nikola Sturgeon described advance word of Osborne's remarks as a bullying tactic. Scotland has had its own Parliament since 1999 and makes its own laws in many areas.

FAITH

Spirited summit a healer in Haiti

The Associated Press

BOIS-NEUF, Haiti — The Christian pilgrims crowded onto a barren mountainside in central Haiti by the thousands, seeking favors and spiritual renewal.

Organized by Our Lady of Fatima Bible Center, the three-day summit was among the largest of its kind in the Caribbean nation in recent years.

Although the center is Roman Catholic, the event had an evangelical feel, and some elements of Voodoo.

The gathering in the village of Bois-Neuf was called "Prayer, Penance and Conversion," and participants came with hopes of a better life for themselves or others.

Some brought their passports in hopes that their prayers might help them secure a visa to leave impoverished Haiti. Others held aloft photos of sick family members in hopes that their prayers would cure them.

Amid the prayers, priests threaded the crowd splashing pilgrims with holy water, a gesture aimed at expelling malevolent spirits. A few people fell to the ground, shrieking as the priests prayed for bad spirits to leave their bodies.

Elsewhere, women carried baskets of fruit and vegetables on their heads as offerings.

The Jan. 12, 2010, earthquake in Haiti that killed tens of thousands of people and displaced 1.5 million others was on the minds of many at the gathering, and cited as a chief reason to have faith in God.

"If we don't convert, we will have another Jan. 12, 2010 — but



worse," the Rev. Jules Campion, director and founder of the center, told his congregation. "If we don't convert, Port-au-Prince won't be destroyed — it will disappear completely. You must convert!"



Clockwise from top: Christian pilgrims, one wearing a rosary, hold hands at a procession organized by Our Lady of Fatima Bible Center in Bois-Neuf, Haiti, during a three-day summit that was among the largest of its kind in the Caribbean nation in recent years; the Rev. Jules Campion leads the procession of pilgrims carrying a statue of Our Lady of Fatima; Campion douses a pilgrim in holy water; a priest removes a malevolent spirit from an attendee after she was splashed with holy water.

PHOTOS BY DIEU NALIO CHERY/AP

NATION



PHOTOS BY MEL MELCON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Above: A Border Patrol agent joins Glenn Weyant for a duet. Right: Glenn Weyant holds up a bass bow, one of his "instruments of mass percussion" that he uses to turn the border fence into a musical instrument, in Sasabe, Ariz.



Wall of sound

Tucson musician transforms border fence into an instrument of change

By CINDY CARCAMO
Los Angeles Times

SASABE, Ariz. — On a windy day in southern Arizona's remote borderlands, Glenn Weyant had everything he needed to make music — a cello bow, a mallet and the miles-long fence dividing the United States and Mexico.

His method, like his music, was improvisational and low-tech. He inserted electronic equipment into an Altoids tin, turning it into a microphone. Weyant filled the tin with magnets and pressed it against the fence a few inches off the ground. Wires attached to the tin led to an amp and several effects pedals — the kind electric guitarists use — which allow him to manipulate sounds.

Desert scrub, mesquite and sun-bleached rocks would serve as his audience; sometimes they do double duty as instruments.

"Nobody thought of the border wall as possibly anything other than something to separate people," he said. "I transform it. I play it."

For eight years, Weyant has tapped, banged and stroked the fence to produce haunting, sometimes ethereal, sounds in a region he has called the "de facto militarized zone." Compositions can last a minute — or more than half an hour.

"I'm a border deconstructionist," said Weyant, 50, a Tucson resident. "I want to deconstruct preconceived notions. What I'm saying is you don't need to be afraid of the wall. You have not-

ing to fear."

Weyant moved to Tucson 19 years ago when much of the border fence in southern Arizona was barbed wire. It seemed forbidden. He didn't know whether he could even touch it.

"Am I allowed?" Weyant recalled wondering. Though people tend to stay away from the fence — at least on the northern side — it's not against the law to touch it.

The New Jersey native had been drawn to unusual sounds his whole life — as a boy he enjoyed listening to the hypnotic pattern of his grandfather's electric fan. One day in 2005 — a time of growing concern about illegal immigration and terrorism — he decided that he wanted to hear what sounds the fence could make.

"It was a symbol of fear and loathing," Weyant said. "I wanted to transform it into something else ... an instrument so that people on both sides can have open dialogue and communication." He experimented with drum-

sticks, mallets, violin bows and cello bows. Sometimes he'd use sticks found on the ground.

In Nogales, he played a fence made of repurposed helicopter landing pads, sometimes creating a staccato sound. He'd capture the noise from birds landing on top of the fence, and the sounds of cars and people passing through the port of entry.

In Sasabe, he created a delicate raspy sound when he put a violin or cello bow on rusty mattress wires ranchers had stretched between fence posts to keep their cattle from straying into Mexico.

The results, he said, were beautiful.

Weyant is more interested in creating effects than melodies. His recordings can sound like wind chimes or have the flutelike breathiness created by blowing across a bottle top. Other sounds resemble moans, whistles and clicks and suggest whale songs or the ambient noise on a New Age relaxation tape.

"Some people describe it as nails on a chalkboard," he said. "It can elicit a repulsion, fear, erness. It can be ethereal. It's something that can be expansive."

People who have stumbled across Weyant sometimes looked on from afar, unsure of what he's doing. Others have approached him and stayed for a private concert.

"Making the inhumane humane and human," one person

commented on a YouTube video of Weyant making music. "Bravo. Beautiful. Inspiring." In this recording, Weyant rarely touched the wall and mostly amplified the sound the wind created blowing across rocks and through the fence.

At one point, Weyant augmented the sound by playing a cello while wearing a zebra-head mask. His methods often defy explanation. He once employed a moose call, blowing into the whistle-like contraption while standing next to the fence.

For the most part, Border Patrol agents have left him alone.

"I'm a white male playing the border wall," Weyant said. "I'm aware of my privileged status."

Some agents have greeted him with friendly curiosity.

"Why are you playing a wall?" one asked.

Another radioed his superiors: "There's a guy playing the wall. Is he allowed to do that?"

A few agents have warned him about people on the southern side of the fence.

"They, you know they throw rocks," one told him.

"Usually, when you play in a venue, you don't have people with guns watching you and one guy telling you that people on the other side want to hurt you," Weyant said.

Still, he's never had any dangerous run-ins with people on either side of the fence.

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NATION

Being *the* CHANGE

Matt West views a computer screen at Nauset Regional High School in North Eastham, Mass.

MERRILY CASSIDY, CAPE COD (MASS.) TIMES/AP

Massachusetts teen tries to wean peers off violent video games

By K.C. MYERS

Cape Cod (Mass.) Times

EASTHAM, Mass. — In an effort to keep children younger than himself away from violent video games, Nauset (Mass.) Regional High School freshman Matt West has started a club to design and market nonviolent games.

West, 15, of Orleans, Mass., acknowledges he plays some of the games on Common Sense Media's most violent video game list, all of which are rated M — "mature" for ages 17 and older.

But, he said, 15 is a lot older than 9, the age at which he has seen young siblings of his friends begin playing "Grand Theft Auto," which is set in a city of prostitutes and drug dealers and features profanity, sex and lots of opportunities to shoot, run over and blow up your enemy.

West is the only student in an Outer Cape group targeting violence called Be the Change. It is made up of police officers, Nauset school staff and representatives of nonprofit agencies such as Child and Family Services of the Lower Cape. The Be the Change committee formed soon after the December 2012 school

shootings in Newtown, Conn.

Be the Change is sponsoring parent education forums to bring the murky reality of violent video games to light.

West became involved when as a youth representative on Together We Can, he attended a Be the Change meeting and was struck by what he heard: Extreme media violence consumption is linked to reduced function in the part of the brain that regulates decision-making and weighing consequences, according to brain research done by Indiana University.

The average American child is inundated by media, watching some type of screen an average of 6.5 hours a day, according to Lowell Monke, a founder of the nonprofit organization Alliance for Childhood.

Also, American children are 17 times more likely to die from guns than children in the next 25 highest-income countries combined, according to the Children's Defense Fund.

As a therapist who treats children, Sue Landers, co-leader of the Be the Change committee, has no doubt violent video

games can be addictive and destructive.

She recently made a home visit to an emotionally disturbed boy, age 12, who was addicted to the video game series "Call of Duty," which Common Sense Media lists as one of the 10 most violent video games on the market today.

The boy's grandmother, who is raising him, said the boy "would rather pee on himself" than stop the game, Landers said.

The mechanics

The "hands-on learning" of pressing the button or pulling a trigger is an extremely powerful method of teaching, Landers said.

Such exposure to constant murders without consequences desensitizes children to violence and reduces empathy, she said.

Gun manufacturers are often used as consultants during video game production to make sure the weapons in the game are realistic, Landers said. The gun manufacturers also have links to their products on the game websites, according to "Joystick Warriors."

"When kids know what I carry in my cruiser, that's bad," said Eastham police Sgt. Gus Schnitzer. "But they do. They know its name, how to load it and how to use it."

All that said, West says he likes video games. He plays "Saints Row IV" because of the beautiful cars, the planes and buildings. And he enjoys playing with his friends online.

Yet he is concerned — and so are some of his game-loving friends — to think of younger children watching scenes of sex or the killing of children, for example.

He thinks it may be possible to create games with realistic, well-rendered scenes of cities, cars and homes that will fascinate gamers but don't include all the violence.

Not computer-savvy himself, West said he hopes to get help from teenage programming wizards at Nauset High, Staples and elsewhere.

When he tells other teenagers about his idea, West said, "They are mad until I explain, 'You may like the games, but think about your younger brother or sister playing with them.'"

“They (other teenagers) are mad, until I explain, ‘You may like the games, but think about your younger brother or sister playing with them.’”

Matt West

NATION

Facebook barrels ahead on its 10th anniversary

By BARBARA ORTUTAY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — It has been 10 years since a Harvard sophomore named Mark Zuckerberg created a website called Thefacebook.com to let his classmates find their friends online.

They did. And in the decade since, so have more than 1 billion people, not just American college students but also farmers in India, activists in Egypt and pop stars in South Korea.

Facebook has transformed how much of the world communicates. Zuckerberg's insistence that people use real identities, not quirky screen names, helped blur, if not erase entirely, the divide between our online and offline worlds. Long-lost friends are no longer lost. They are on Facebook.

From its roots as a website with no ads, no business plan and a hacker ethic, Facebook has grown into a company worth \$150 billion, with 6,337 employees and sprawling headquarters in the heart of Silicon Valley. Born in the age of desktop computers, three years before the iPhone's debut, Facebook is now mainly accessed on mobile devices. Many of those mobile users never had PCs.

"People often ask if I always knew that Facebook would become what it is today. No way," Zuckerberg wrote — where else — on his Facebook page Feb. 4. "I remember getting pizza with my friends one night in college shortly after opening Facebook. I told them I was excited to help connect our school community, but one day someone needed to connect the whole world."

Facebook has had plenty of stumbles along the way, from privacy concerns to user protests when Facebook introduced new features, not to mention a rocky public stock debut in 2012. Even its origin was the subject of a lawsuit and a Hollywood movie.

So far, Facebook has trudged on.

As Facebook enters its second decade, the company faces a new set of challenges in reaching the



TATAN SYUFLANA/AP

An Indonesian youth browses his Facebook page last June at an Internet cafe in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Connecting the world

next billion users, the billion after that, and the one after that, including the majority of the world without Internet access. It must also keep the existing set interested even as younger, hipper rivals emerge and try to lure them away.

There are 1.23 billion Facebook users today, or roughly 17 percent of the world's population. Although that's far from connecting the whole world, Facebook is here to stay. It's reached critical mass.

"One of the things Facebook has been good at is that it's very easy to use and understand," said Paul Levinson, professor of communications and media studies at Fordham University. "It's a much friendlier system than any email system."

Javier Oliván joined Facebook Inc. as vice president of growth and analytics in 2007. It was a different time. Myspace was the dominant online hangout with 200 million members. Facebook had 30 million.

Facebook's user base had been

accelerating steadily. Oliván said, as it expanded from Harvard's campus to other colleges, then high schools and, in 2006, anyone older than 13.

Users in the U.K. and other English-speaking countries then began signing up.

About 2007, growth plateaued. "The thinking at the time was (that) we'll never have 100 million users," Oliván said. "That's when the growth team was created."

If Facebook was going to connect the world, as its mission states, it couldn't be an English-only service. Facebook turned to its users to help translate the site. A Spanish version came in 2008, followed by dozens of others. Growth accelerated again, and volunteer translators are still adding new tongues, whether that's its native African languages or pirate slang.

Facebook got its 100 million users by August 2008 and half a billion two years later. By 2012, a billion people were logging in to Facebook at least once per month.



PAUL SAKUMA/AP

Mark Zuckerberg smiles at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, Calif., in 2007. On Feb. 4, Facebook celebrated 10 years since Zuckerberg created the website that became Facebook.

Beyond language, another hurdle was mobile. The iPhone came along in 2007, and Facebook's iPhone app soon followed. But the app was slow and buggy, fueling concerns that it wouldn't be able to transform into a "mobile-first" company, as it wanted to be.

About the time of its initial public offering of stock, potential investors fretted about its ability to make money from mobile ads.

That's no longer an issue. Facebook's stock is trading near record highs. The majority of the company's

advertising revenue now comes from mobile, rather than Web ads.

On any given day, 81 percent of Facebook's users are outside the U.S. and Canada.

"My day is not complete without checking my Facebook account," said Syaiful Anwar, 47, a restaurant owner in Pekanbaru on Indonesia's Sumatra island. "To find out what is happening in this world, to bring together my friends and relatives (is) now just a click (of a) mouse away."

"ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!"

February							March							April						
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NATION

Native American, 'culturally homeless'

Documentation, gambling profits factor into tribes' disenrollment efforts

By GOSIA WOZNIAK
The Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Mia Prickett's ancestor was a leader of the Cascade Indians along the Columbia River and was one of the chiefs who signed an 1855 treaty that helped establish the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde in Oregon.

The Grand Ronde now wants to disenroll Prickett and 79 relatives, and possibly hundreds of other tribal members, because they no longer satisfy new enrollment requirements.

Prickett's family is fighting the effort, part of what some experts have dubbed the "disenrollment epidemic" — a rising number of dramatic clashes over tribal belonging that are sweeping through more than a dozen states, from California to Michigan.

"In my entire life, I have always known I was an Indian," Prickett said. "I have always known my family's history, and I am so proud of that."

She said her ancestor chief Tumult was unjustly accused of participating in a revolt and was executed by the U.S. Army — and hence didn't make it onto the tribe's roll, which is now a membership requirement.

The prospect of losing her membership is "gut-wrenching," Prickett said.

"It's like coming home one day and having the keys taken from you," she said. "You're culturally homeless."

The enrollment battles come at a time when many tribes — long poverty-stricken and oppressed by government policies — are finally coming into their own, gaining wealth and building infrastructure with revenues from Indian casinos.

Critics of disenrollment say the rising tide of tribal expulsions is due to greed over increased gambling profits, along with political infighting and old family and personal feuds.

At the core of the problem, tribes and experts agree, is a debate over identity — over who is "Indian enough" to be a tribal member.

"It ultimately comes down to the question of how we define what it means to be Native today," said David Wilkins, a political science professor at the University of Minnesota and a member of North Carolina's Lumbee Tribe. "As tribes who suffered gendered policies, boarding-school laws and now out-marriage try to recover their identity in the 20th century, some are more fractured, and they appear to lack the kind of common elements that lead to true cohesion."

Wilkins, who has tracked the recent increase in disenrollment across the nation, said tribes have kicked out thousands of people.

Historically, ceremonies and



DON RYAN/AP

Mia Prickett displays a collection of family photos while holding her Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde enrollment card and a notice of potential disenrollment from the tribe in Portland, Ore., on Jan. 16.

prayers — not disenrollment — were used to resolve conflicts because tribes essentially are family-based, and "you don't cast out your relatives," Wilkins said. Banishment was used in rare, egregious situations to cast out tribal members who committed crimes such as murder or incest.

Most tribes have based their membership criteria on blood quantum or on descent from someone named on a tribe's census rolls or treaty records — old documents that can be flawed.

There are 566 federally recognized tribes and determining membership has long been considered a hallmark of tribal sovereignty. A 1978 U.S. Supreme Court ruling reaffirmed that policy when it said the federal government should stay out of most tribal membership disputes.

Mass disenrollment battles started in the 1990s, just as Indian casinos were establishing a foothold. Since then, Indian gambling revenues have skyrocketed from \$5.4 billion in 1995 to a record \$2.9 billion in 2012, according to the National Indian Gaming Commission.

Tribes have used the money to build housing, schools and roads, and to fund tribal health care and scholarships. They also have distributed casino profits to individ-

ual tribal members.

Of the nearly 240 tribes that run more than 420 gambling establishments across 28 states, half distribute a regular per-capita payout to their members. The payout amounts vary from tribe to tribe. Membership reductions lead to increases in the payments — though tribes deny money is a factor in disenrollment and say they're simply trying to strengthen the integrity of their membership.

Disputes over money come on top of other issues for tribes. Native Americans have one of the highest rates of interracial marriage in the U.S. — leading some tribes in recent years to eliminate or reduce their blood quantum requirements. Also, many Native Americans don't live on reserva-

tions, speak native languages or "look" Native American, making others question their bloodline claims.

Across the nation, disenrollment has played out in dramatic, emotional ways that left communities reeling and cast-out members stripped of their payouts, health benefits, fishing rights, pensions and scholarships.

In Central California, the Pictayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians has disenrolled hundreds. Last year, the dispute over banishments became so heated that sheriff's deputies were called to break up a violent skirmish between two tribal factions that left several people injured.

In Washington, after the Nooksack Tribal Council voted to disenroll 306 members, citing

documentation errors, those affected sued in tribal and federal courts. They say the tribe, which has two casinos but gives no member payouts, was racially motivated because the families being cast out are part Filipino. The Nooksack Court of Appeals declined to stop the disenrollments.

In Michigan, where Saginaw Chippewa membership grievance over the tribe started giving out yearly per-capita casino payments that peaked at \$100,000, a recent decline in gambling profits led to disenrollment battles targeting hundreds.

The Grand Ronde, which runs Oregon's most profitable Indian gambling operation, also saw a membership boost after the casino was built in 1995, from about 3,400 members to more than 5,000 today. The tribe has since tightened membership requirements twice, and annual per-capita payments decreased from about \$5,000 to just more than \$3,000.

Some members recently were cast out for being enrolled in two tribes, officials said, which is prohibited. For Prickett's relatives, who were tribal members before the casino was built, the reasons were unclear.

Prickett and most of her relatives do not live on the reservation. In fact, only about 10 percent of Grand Ronde members do. Rather, they live on ancestral lands. The tribe has even used the family's ties to the river to fight another tribe's casino there.

Grand Ronde spokeswoman Siobhan Taylor said the tribe's membership pushed for an enrollment audit, with the goal of strengthening its "family tree." She declined to say how many people were tabbed for disenrollment.

Prickett's family said they have been told that up to 1,000 could be cast out, and have filed an ethics complaint before the tribal court. They said the process has been devastating for a family active in tribal arts and events, and in teaching the language Chinuk Wawa.

"I have made a commitment to both our language and our tribe," said Eric Bernardo, one of only seven Chinuk Wawa teachers who also faces disenrollment. "And no matter what some people in the tribe decide, I will continue to honor that commitment."

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 women get back lost wedding dresses

FL ST. PETERSBURG — Two Tampa Bay area women are now back in possession of their own wedding dresses nine years after a mix-up got them switched.

The Tampa Bay Times reported Wednesday that Marie Keeney was planning a ceremony to renew her vows with her husband of nine years. The planning came to a halt last year when she took the wedding dress out of the storage box and realized it wasn't hers.

Keeney, 45, contacted the dry cleaners that did the preservation, which found Keeney's dress and shipped it back.

An invoice that was also found showed that the other dress belonged to a Katherine Stephenson. The Times tracked down Stephenson living 3 miles from Keeney. Stephenson had long accepted that her dress had been lost. She picked it up last week.

Most Kissed Man an honored valentine

AL GREENSBORO — The Alabama Historical Commission is using Valentine's Day to celebrate a war hero who became known as "America's Most Kissed Man."

Li. Richmond Pearson Hobson was one of eight men who attempted to sink the USS Merrimac in 1898 to block Cuba's Santiago Harbor during the Spanish-American War.

Hobson and others were captured in the effort. After their release, the Navy sent the young, handsome war hero on a national tour, where women flocked to see the "Hero of the Merrimac." Newspaper accounts say one public kiss led to another until he reportedly kissed as many as 500 women at one stop.

The stories about "America's Most Kissed Man" grew and one account estimated he had kissed 10,000 women. The Historical Commission said he soon had a candy named after him called "Hobson Kisses."

UI professor hopes site helps with decisions

IL URBANA — Life is full of difficult decisions: What should I study in college? What should I have for dinner? Would life be better in a warmer, sunnier place?

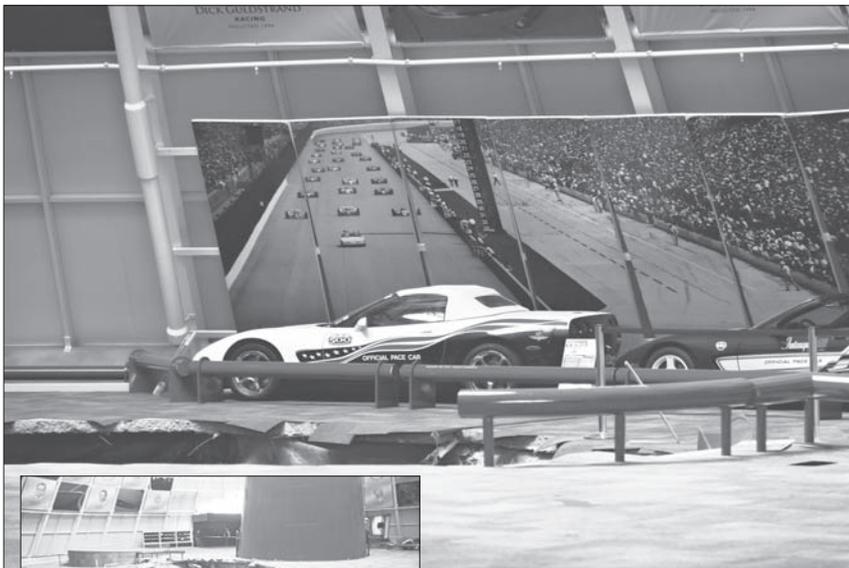
A University of Illinois professor has created a website he hopes can help.

Ali Abbas said he created the website Ahoona.com for people to ask for help from other users for any kind of decision. Access is free and so far there are about 10,000 registered users.

Users can ask for feedback. They also can use what Abbas calls a decision wizard and get advice on whether they're headed toward a good decision. There is also a database of other similar decisions made by Ahoona users.

Gay teen achieves Eagle Scout milestone

MD CHEVY CHASE — A 17-year-old coming quickly to the Boy Scouts of Amer-



AP photos



Sinkhole swallows Corvettes

A sinkhole collapsed part of the National Corvette Museum in Bowling Green, Ky., on Wednesday, damaging eight cars but not shutting down the building. Museum spokeswoman Katie Frassinelli said six of the cars were owned by the museum and two — a 1993 ZR-1 Spyder and a 2009 ZR1 Blue Devil — were on loan from General Motors.

THE CENSUS

30

The number of years since Yuengling's Ice Cream was in production. Beer drinkers up and down the East Coast know Yuengling's as a 185-year-old Pennsylvania brewery. But Yuengling used to make ice cream, too, starting in 1920 at the dawn of Prohibition. Now Yuengling's Ice Cream is back, available in Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, Delaware and New Jersey. This incarnation of Yuengling's Ice Cream is a separate company with no connection to the brewery. It says it has no plans to produce beer-flavored ice cream.



ica after years of turmoil and debate over its membership policy, with an openly gay 17-year-old in Maryland achieving the highest rank of Eagle Scout.

On Monday night, Boy Scout Troop 52, one of the nation's oldest, formed a circle and gave Pascal Tessier sustained applause and some handshakes and pats on the back. His achievement comes just weeks after the organization lifted its ban on gay youth.

For Tessier, it represents six years of work, 27 merit badges and projects in service, leadership and outdoor skills. He put all that at risk to advocate publicly against the Scouts ban on gays.

House panel passes 'Merry Christmas' bill

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — It was Christmas in February for members of an Oklahoma House committee Monday.

The House Common Education Committee approved by a 15-1 vote legislation saying that public school students, teachers and

other staff members can greet each other with such traditional phrases as "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hanukkah" and "Happy Holidays."

The committee passed the measure in spite of federal court rulings and U.S. Department of Education guidelines that say public schools already have the right to erect holiday displays with religious themes under certain circumstances and that students and teachers can greet each other with "Merry Christmas."

Uplifting messages to patients etched in snow

MN MINNEAPOLIS — Huge messages left in the snow on the frozen Mississippi River are giving patients at St. Cloud Hospital a lift.

At ground level, the patted-down snow doesn't look like much. But from the hospital windows above, the messages are quite clear. The latest are the words "love" and "believe," along with a peace symbol. Each time there's fresh snow,

there's a new message.

Nurse Mary Habiger has seen a man and woman in snowshoes stamping out the messages. She said the mystery man and woman seem well organized and plan their messages in advance.

Beauty queen bags buck during bow hunt

MO KANSAS CITY — Miss Kansas traded evening gowns for camouflage when she went out on a deer bow hunt in southeast Kansas.

Theresa Vail joined a December hunt in the Pratt area organized by the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, JB Outfitters and Realtree Outdoors, which taped the hunt for a television show, The Kansas City Star reported. "I like to hunt, and I'm not going to hide that. A woman can enjoy being out there bow hunting just as much as a man can," said Vail, who was also the first Miss America contestant to reveal her tattoos during the national pageant's swimsuit competition.

Vail got her shot at an 8-point buck in the final hour on the third day.

Man says he called 911 from bed of stolen truck

CO DENVER — A Lake-wood man who left his pickup running in his driveway — only to see it stolen — says he caught up with the vehicle, jumped into the bed and called 911 as the thief drove away.

Thomas Garcia told The Denver Post he started his truck, then returned to his garage no more than 20 feet away to put on his work boots. He looked up when he heard the engine rev and saw the truck backing out of the driveway.

Garcia said he was shoeless when he jumped into the bed and called 911. For the next several minutes, he said, he updated police on his location.

Police said the thief crashed the truck in west Denver before they arrived, and the driver fled.

From wire reports

**Pretty,
useful**



Frankfurt museum
showcases
household art

Quick Trips, Page 28

Beauty and isolation

Time irrelevant
on Thailand's
Railay peninsula

Pacific travel, Page 34



WEEKEND



FOR ART'S SAKE

• Meet the real
Monuments Men

Page 24

• With his new film,
'The Monuments Men,'
Clooney continues
to resurrect an older era

Page 25

• Visit the real places
where looted art
was stored

Page 29

WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



This bird has flown

Alternatives for Flappy Bird addicts

HAYLEY TSUKAYAMA
The Washington Post

Flappy Bird has hit its last pipe. The mobile game became a surprise hit last year after being downloaded millions of times and bringing in as much as \$50,000 in ad revenue a day.

But on Monday, the app's developer, Dong Nguyen, made good on a promise to take down the app.

Nguyen said on Twitter that the free game has been a success but that it "also ruins my simple life. So now I hate it."

So what is this game, exactly? The goal of Flappy Bird is to keep a small, very non-aerodynamic bird airborne by tapping on your smartphone screen. Tapping on the screen lifts the bird up. Players also have to avoid pairs of closely spaced pipes that pay homage to classic Mario Brothers titles.

The game is no longer available, but if you're just looking for something to fill the void Flappy Bird has left in your heart, there are plenty of options out there:

Ironpants: Rather than a bird, you are a superhero with a heavy costume, and rather than pipes you must avoid wooden boxes. If anything, it might be a little harder, since the towers are more spaced out — meaning you really can't plan your flight path. But it has the same infinite scrolling layout and provides the same hair-raising frustration. Free, for iOS and Android.

Copter Classic: When Flappy

Bird started to gain popularity, plenty of people pointed out that the elements of its gameplay are similar to classic helicopter games. There are a lot of free versions of copter games, on both Apple's App Store and Google Play, with the same basic layout. In these games, you're a helicopter trying to avoid obstacles that will turn your aircraft into a smoking mess. There are a variety of these games in both app stores, but see *Copter Classic* by Classic Games for iOS or *Copter Classic* by Team 5 Soft for Android.

Fly Birdie: Fly Birdie also shares many of the elements of Flappy Bird, namely that players control a bird that has to avoid pipes. Unlike Flappy Bird, this game is pretty easy. The pipes are really spaced out, so there's really no challenge in clearing them. And there's no sudden-death element — you can crash your bird up to three times before dying. Free, for iOS.

Piou Piou vs. Cactus: The developer of Piou Piou actually accused Nguyen of ripping off his game, noting the similarity between the bird protagonists. But the games actually have some notable differences, aside from the fact that you're flying around cacti rather than pipes in this game. Piou Piou is also more forgiving — you can run into really as many of the spiky obstacles as you want as long as you don't get trapped and pushed off the edge of the ever-accelerating screen. You also don't drop immediately if you stop tapping. Free, for Android.

ON THE COVER: George Clooney, shown on set, co-wrote, directed and starred in "The Monuments Men."

Columbia Pictures

GADGET WATCH

Grill monitoring device goes compact

By GREGG ELLMAN

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The iGrillmini from iDevices is a slimmed-down version of the iGrill, an app-enabled Bluetooth meat thermometer. It measures an inch and a half rounded and sits in a rubber base that can be angled for easy viewing. A smart LED on top indicates when it's paired with a smartphone or tablet via Bluetooth and flashes a ring of different colors for different temperature ranges.

The hardware works with a free iOS app and Bluetooth 4 technology, giving you a range of up to 150 feet. The app displays the temperature of your meat as it cooks and allows you to set alarms and custom temperatures along with a minimum and maximum temperature range required, depending on what's cooking. It has recipes and if for some reason you wish to share your cooking information on social media, there's a direct connection for that as well.

Using the iGrillmini is simple; just plug one end of the included thermometer probe into whatever is being cooked, the other into the iGrillmini. Then watch the temperature until the meat needs to be flipped. The probe is attached to a 4-foot fireproof cable, which you can wind up for storage on the included probe wrap. It runs off a quarter-sized CR2032 battery (included), which should be good for about 150 hours of cooking.

Online: idevicesinc.com/igrill, \$39.99



MCT

The iGrillmini from iDevices is a slimmed-down version of the iGrill, an app-enabled Bluetooth meat thermometer. The iGrillmini intelligently knows when you're not close enough to view its Smart LED and will go into a power save mode until you come back into range.

a call on an Android phone. In a recent email, the company pointed out that "The 'uncensored' nature is appealing as well, leading to many ringtone scripts that cannot be printed here."

For the politically correct calls, there's the Ringtone Director Presidential Edition to create talking ringtones using both President Obama or President (W) Bush's voices. Ringtones Euro is loaded with more than a dozen European voices, including French, German, Italian, Russian and Spanish. In addition to iOS, the app is available for Android, BlackBerry and Windows Phone devices.

Online: ringtonedirector.com; 99 cents each, the Presidential Edition is free until Feb. 21

Happy Plugs 18-carat solid gold headphones

are created for those who like luxury. I haven't tested them — they do cost \$14,500, after all, and they're custom made.

The functional jewelry takes five weeks to produce and is individually handcrafted by a Swedish goldsmith in Stockholm. The earplugs are formed by pouring 25 grams of solid gold into a mold.

Your slick 'phones also include an in-line mic for hands-free calling and music controls along with speakers for both ears. A 3.5mm connection at the cord's end makes them compatible with most portable devices. Plus, you even get a user manual — making it well worth the splurge.

Online: happyplugs.com

No Tie's Ringtone Director app lets users create a ringtone to broadcast whatever you type in, from more than 50 text-to-speech voices.

MCT

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on iTunes for Feb. 12:

1. "The Outsiders," Eric Church
2. "Love Death Immortality," The Glitch Mob
3. "Frozen" (Original Soundtrack)
4. "Between the Bars (EP)," The Civil Wars
5. "NOW That's What I Call Music, Vol. 49," Various Artists
6. "Crosses," Crosses
7. "Acoustic at the Ryman (Live)" (Bonus Track Version), Band of Horses
8. "Love, Marriage & Divorce," Toni Braxton & Babyface
9. "The Hitlist," Oriskany
10. "Sunshine & Whiskey," Frankie Ballard

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for Feb. 3-9:

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty — feat. 2 Chainz"
3. A Great Big World, "Say Something"
4. Pitbull, "Timber"
5. Beyonce, "Drunk In Love"
6. Bastille, "Pompeii"
7. Passenger, "Let Her Go"
8. Lorde, "Team"
9. Lorde, "Royals"
10. OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Feb. 12:

1. "Ender's Game"
2. "Gravity"
3. "Dallas Buyers Club"
4. "The Counselor" (Unrated Extended Cut)
5. "Now You See Me"
6. "Escape Plan"
7. "Captain Phillips"
8. "About Time"
9. "Last Vegas"
10. "Jackass Presents: Bad Grandpa" (Unrated)

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine rank the top 10 PlayStation 4 definitive games for February:

1. "Tomb Raider: Definitive Edition," Square Enix
2. "Ryman Legends," Ubisoft
3. "Zen Pinball 2," Zen Studios
4. "Need For Speed: Rivals," Electronic Arts
5. "FIFA 14," EA Sports
6. "Battlefield 4," Electronic Arts
7. "NBA 2K14," 2K Games
8. "Resogun," Sony Computer Entertainment
9. "Call of Duty: Ghosts," Activision
10. "Killzone: Shadow Fall," Sony Computer Entertainment

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Feb. 12:

- ANDROID
1. Marvel Run Jump Smash!
 2. Lumos — Icon Pack
 3. Talon for Twitter
 4. Final Fantasy X-2
 5. Red Bouncing Ball Spikes

Top 5 paid apps for Feb. 12:

- APPLE
1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 2. Threes!
 3. Hide N Seek : MC Mini Game With Worldwide Multiplayer
 4. Angry Birds Star Wars II
 5. The Room Two

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

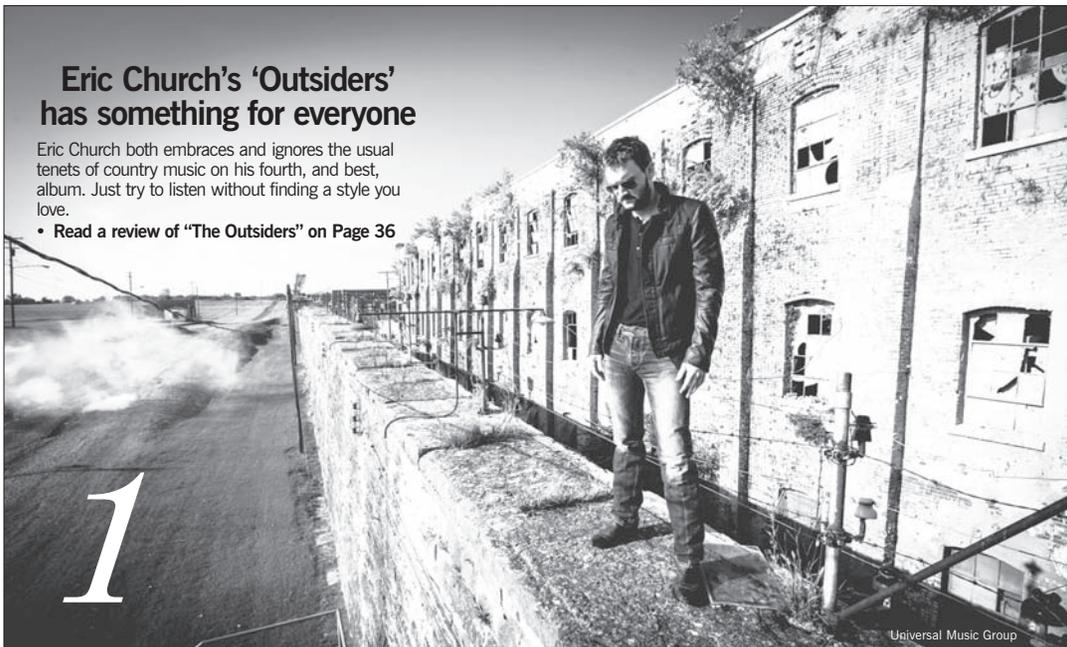
CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

Eric Church's 'Outsiders' has something for everyone

Eric Church both embraces and ignores the usual tenets of country music on his fourth, and best, album. Just try to listen without finding a style you love.

• Read a review of "The Outsiders" on Page 36



Universal Music Group

2

Jimmy Fallon's back! Did you miss him?

After a 10-day hiatus, Jimmy Fallon returns to late night. He's officially taking over "The Tonight Show" from Jay Leno on Feb. 18 on AFN-Prime. Watch him jam with the Muppets to end his "Late Show" run.

• tinyurl.com/mfnno5s



3

The Beatles invade AFN

It's now been 50 years and a few days since the Beatles first performed on "The Ed Sullivan Show," but don't let that discourage you from watching this excellent television special. "The Night That Changed America: A GRAMMY salute to the Beatles" seeks to give some insight into the band's explosion into the American consciousness. The program will include archival footage from that landmark appearance, and will also feature today's top artists covering songs by the Fab Four.

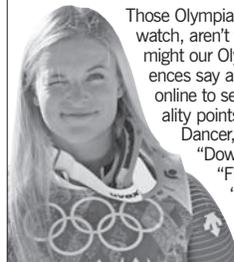
• "The Night That Changed America" airs Feb. 17 on AFN-Prime

4

See what your Olympic viewing says about you

Those Olympians are fun to watch, aren't they? But what might our Olympic preferences say about us? Go online to see if your personality points more to "Ice Dancer," "Ski Jumper," "Downhill Skier," "Figure Skater" or "Snowboarder."

• Go to tinyurl.com/olycrush



WEEKEND: MOVIES

The Monuments Men found and restituted almost 5 million art and cultural objects — paintings, drawings, sculpture and religious objects — many stolen by Adolf Hitler and the Nazis, according to the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art.

THE REAL MONUMENTS MEN

The Associated Press

The characters in the new George Clooney film “The Monuments Men” were inspired by real people who worked to save cultural treasures across Europe during World War II. Filmmakers fictionalized some of the characters, but the Dallas-based Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art, founded by Robert Edsel, who wrote the book the movie is based on, matched some of the cast with the real people.

Monuments Men James Romier, left, and Sgt. Antonio Valim examine art that was stolen from the Rothschild collection in France and recovered in Germany in 1945. In “The Monuments Men,” Matt Damon plays a character inspired by Romier.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION/AP



AND THE ACTORS WHO PLAY THEM



■ George Clooney, left, plays Frank Stokes, inspired by George Stout, a Harvard art conservationist who had served in World War I. Edsel said it was Stout's idea to create the group that eventually became the Monuments Men. “Every time they would find discoveries, the word went out to find Stout because he was such an even, steady hand. And he was methodical and he was calm,” Edsel said. Stout left Europe in July 1945 and was sent to Japan in October, where he volunteered his services as a Monuments Man there. He later resumed his position as head of the conservation department at Harvard's Fogg Art Museum. In 1947, he became director of the Worcester Art Museum in Massachusetts. In 1955, he became director of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston, where he remained until 1970. He died in 1978 at the age of 80.



■ John Goodman, left, portrays Walter Garfield, inspired by sculptor Walker Hancock. After the war he returned to his post as head of the sculpture department at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, where he remained until 1967. He also continued to create sculptures, including a bust of President George H.W. Bush for the rotunda of the Capitol. He died in 1998 at the age of 96.



■ Cate Blanchett plays Claire Simone, inspired by Rose Valland, a French art expert who managed to secretly record where artworks stolen by the Nazis in France were being shipped. During the German occupation of Paris, the Nazis used the Jeu de Paume museum as headquarters for their art-looting operation. The Germans kept Valland on, but unbeknownst to them, she spoke German. She died in 1980 at the age of 81.



■ Bob Balaban, right, portrays Preston Switz, a character based on Lincoln Kirstein. Before the war, Kirstein co-founded the School of American Ballet. After the war, he co-founded what became the New York City Ballet and served as its general director until 1989. He died in 1996 at age 88.



■ Matt Damon plays James Granger, inspired by museum director James Romier. After graduating from Harvard, he went to work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Largely responsible for developing the Met's medieval collections, he became curator of the building that housed them, known as the Cloisters, when it opened in 1938. He became Cloisters director after the war in 1949, and became director of the museum in 1955, a position he held until his death in 1966 at age 60 from a heart attack.



■ Dimitri Leonidas, left, portrays Sam Epstein, inspired by Harry Ettlinger, one of a handful of Monuments Men still living. He fled Nazi Germany with his family the day after his bar mitzvah in 1938 and returned to Europe in 1945 with the U.S. Army. Ettlinger volunteered to be a Monuments Man when he learned they needed someone who spoke German. His first assignment was to help interview Adolf Hitler's personal photographer. After the war, Ettlinger earned master's degrees in mechanical engineering and business administration and went on to be deputy program director of a company that produced guidance systems for submarine-launched nuclear weapons.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLUMBIA PICTURES/AP

‘Monuments Men’ pulls A-team cast

By MARCELA ISAZA
The Associated Press

When a leading Hollywood actor decides to make a movie, casting usually becomes as easy as dialing some of your closest A-list buddies.

At least that's the way it worked for George Clooney on the new World War II drama, “The Monuments Men.”

“Well, they are friends so that part is easy,” Clooney said in a recent joint interview with the cast. “But you know the truth is, they wouldn't do it if they didn't like the screenplay... I mean, I flew to Australia for one day to hand Cate [Blanchett] the script.”

The beginning of the film has an “Ocean's 11” feel to it when Clooney's character starts to assemble an A-team of old friends. But this time, they're the good guys.

“The Monuments Men” — also starring Blanchett, Matt Damon, John Goodman and Bill Murray, to name a few — is based on the true story of an Allied platoon whose mission was to rescue artworks from the Nazis. The film is adapted from Robert Edsel's book “The Monuments Men: Allied Heroes, Nazi Thieves and the Greatest Treasure Hunt in History.”

Blanchett admitted she was unfamiliar with the works of the Monuments Men until she received the hand-delivered script from Clooney, who also directed and was co-writer.

“I knew that work had gone missing and that the Nazis had collected art and stolen art and destroyed art,” said Blanchett.

Bill Murray was happy to finally work on a big film again. “Yeah, I got teased for a while (by George Clooney). He told me the whole story and then he would say, ‘Can you please pass the salad?’ Then like nine months later through a friend I got to ask Bill if he wants to be in the job.”

Murray wasn't the only one who was pranked by Clooney. His father, Nick Clooney, received the final and biggest prank of all.

“Well, I screened the movie for him in Italy,” said George Clooney. “My father plays me at the end of the film and walks off into this beautiful church with this beautiful light and it goes to black and normally that would be like the first credit that comes up and instead I put, ‘In Loving Memory of Nick Clooney.’ He said, ‘What the hell are you doing?’ I said, ‘Well, you know, it's a long time before the movie comes out so you never know.’ I didn't leave it in the film but he thought it was very funny and he is going to get me back.”

The movie originally had a planned release date of Dec. 18 but was pushed to early 2014 and right out of Hollywood's prestigious awards season. “This year was especially crowded with Oscar contenders. So was there too much competition?”

“We just didn't finish it,” Clooney said. “We had a lot of work to do. It's a bigger film. You know, we started shooting this movie in March of last year, so we were going to have to flip it around in nine months... and we just didn't make it.”

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Raiders of the lost art

'The Monuments Men' inspired by an earlier era of war movies

By ANN HORNBADY
The Washington Post

“The Monuments Men,” a film that George Clooney co-wrote, directed and stars in, continues his long-standing — even heroic — effort to preserve a certain kind of movie in the American filmmaking canon. From the film he’s directed (“Confessions of a Dangerous Mind,” “Good Night, and Good Luck,” “Leatherheads,” “The Ides of March”) to many he’s starred in, Clooney has evinced a fealty for the classical, even old-fashioned kind of film that, we’re so often depressingly reminded, Hollywood doesn’t make anymore.

With “The Monuments Men,” Clooney looks to the grammar of World War II thrillers, caper comedies and standard-sterling uplift to tell the story of the U.S. Army’s Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives program, wherein a group of art historians, architects and artists sought to save and preserve artworks looted by the Nazis during the war. Rather than a ragtag team of misfits and rejects, these were gentlemen and scholars tasked with preventing Adolf Hitler from amassing the

New on base

“The Monuments Men” is playing at these facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

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

Online: monumentsmen.com

masterpieces of Western art for his planned Pührer Museum; as the war came to a close, their mission shifted to saving those works from destruction — or confiscation by the Soviet army, which intended to abscond with them as early reparations.

It’s a pip of a story, and Clooney cuts a dashing, Gable-esque figure as the group’s leader, Frank Stokes (based on real-life Monuments Man George Stout), who rounds up a group of



CLAUDETTE BARIS, COLUMBIA PICTURES/AP

“The Monuments Men” tells the true story of an Allied squad, including art historians and museum directors, who were tasked with rescuing artwork stolen by the Nazis during World War II.

bookish, out-of-shape academics and professionals, sends them to basic training and sets them loose amid the wreckage of Normandy, St. Lo and the Bulge. “The Monuments Men,” which Clooney wrote with producing partner Grant Heslov, starts out with funeral solemnity — gunshots accompanying close-ups of a fine 15th-century painting turn out to be nails being struck while the Ghent Altarpiece is dismantled and spirited away for safekeeping. But soon enough the mood turns jaunty, as Stokes’ men fan out across the charred countryside to save what Stokes calls, in one of several why-we-fight speeches, “our culture and way of life.”

These tonal shifts bevel the rest of “The Monuments Men,” which despite its absorbing story never quite hits its stride either as a stylish wartime thriller or

jocular lark.

Clooney has assembled his own cast of men who are monuments: John Goodman, Matt Damon, Bill Murray, Bob Balaban, Hugh Bonneville and “The Artist’s” Jean Dujardin play the team members, with an assist from Cate Blanchett as a woman working in Paris’ Jeu de Paume museum. The group’s most poignant figure, a Jewish soldier from New Jersey who harbors a special connection to a particular Rembrandt painting, is played by the least well-known cast member, Dimitri Leonidis. (His character is based on former infantryman Harry Etlingner, who also appears in the book by Robert Edsel from which “The Monuments Men” was adapted.) All too soon, this promising ensemble breaks into dyads that go their separate ways, resulting in a film that often feels like an

anthology of small buddy comedies that never quite jell. (Murray and Balaban come closest to developing genuine chemistry, especially during an affecting moment set to the melancholy “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.”) Just when one team begins to get a scheme off the ground, the film shifts gear and locale to check in with someone else, sometimes introducing a note of grim comedy.

But lest the audience be tempted to think “The Monuments Men” is going the way of “The Dirty Dozen” and its rough-and-tumble peers, Clooney is always on hand to deliver yet another stirring sermon on art-with-a-capital-A and why it’s not just important, but worth risking life and limb for.

“Monuments Men” is rated PG-13 for images of smoking and wartime violence. Running time: 119 minutes.

A new — and somewhat improved — ‘RoboCop’

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

The reboot of “RoboCop” uses the basic blueprint from the 1987 movie starring Peter Weller. It’s been modified and updated to create a sleeker design, but it is not as intellectually cutting-edge.

Big business has become the new go-to villain now that the Russians aren’t as scary, making the film less of a cautionary tale about how machines are taking over our lives and more focused on the evils of corporate America.

Just like the original, the new “RoboCop” focuses on Alex Murphy (Joel Kinnaman), a first-rate cop who becomes the target of one of the top criminals in near-future Detroit. An explosive attack leaves Murphy with little more than his brain and right hand worth saving. Fortunately for him, Raymond Sellars (Michael Keaton) has been trying to come up with a way to get the public and politicians to get on board with his new robot peacekeepers. The chief complaint is that robots are too

New on base

“RoboCop” is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Sigonella.

Pacific

Atsugi, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet Theater and Negishi.

Online: robocop.com

analytical in their thinking. That’s when Sellars comes up with the plan to have his chief robot expert, Dr. Dennett Norton (Gary Oldman), put the few remaining parts of Murphy into a robot body to create the perfect union of a machine’s abilities with a human’s thinking.

In the original film, Murphy’s past was a blank, returning in only spits and spurts of images. His emotional struggles came out of trying to recapture the world that helped define his humanity. The new Murphy remembers his family and his struggle is more

of how to be a husband and father when most of your body has a limited warranty.

Because the new RoboCop has more memory of past life, the performance by Kinnaman has more emotional impact than Weller’s work. But Weller sold the idea of a manbot far more convincingly because he wasn’t saddled with sentimental situations.

Both films offer plenty of action, with the new version having a slight edge just because of the technology that’s available to create massive battle sequences. What the new “RoboCop” loses in its message, it makes up with first-rate fights.

The new “RoboCop” shows we have the technology to build a sleeker, faster and more powerful version of the original film. But it comes at a price — the new movie isn’t as crisp when it comes to its political and social messages.

If you are looking for action, the new version is perfect for you. If you want a “RoboCop” with more depth, find the original on DVD.

“RoboCop” is rated PG-13 for disturbing images, language and drug use. Running time: 110 minutes.

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RoboCop (PG-13) - Thur 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Fri 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 18:30, 20:30, Mon 14:30, 15:45, 18:15, 20:30, Tue & Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:30

In 2D: The Lego Movie (PG) - Thur 18:15, 20:30, Fri 16:30, 18:00, 20:15, Sat & Sun 14:30, 16:30, 18:30, 20:15, Mon 15:30, 18:30, 20:30, Tue 18:15, 20:30, Wed 18:15

Monuments Men (PG-13) - Wed 18:00

Winter's Tale (PG-13) - Thur 18:15, 20:30, Fri 15:30, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30, Sat 15:45, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 15:45, 20:15, 22:30

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WEEKEND: MOVIES



No brooding hero here

Arnett makes Batman funny in 'The Lego Movie'

By RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Will Arnett is certain he had the easiest job of any of the voice talent who worked on "The Lego Movie" because he takes on the most recognizable character: a pint-sized Batman.

Asked about the inspiration, Arnett says he read the Old Testament repeatedly. After getting the desired laugh, he offers a more serious answer. The voice started during the first meetings with "The Lego Movie" directors Phil Lord and Christopher Miller.

"We came up with the idea of looking at all of the Batmans who have come before — back to the Batman before the original dinosaurs — and trying to see what would make us laugh," Arnett says. "The first couple of (recording) sessions we spent a lot of time finding that voice and what was working and what wasn't working."

The fun of playing the role for Arnett was getting to change the rules when giving voice to the traditionally dark and brooding character and creating a version of Batman that doesn't follow a typical path. What Arnett and the directors decided was that the more

serious Batman tried to take himself, the funnier the character became.

One of the ways they made Batman funnier was to have Arnett sing a "Batman" song. Arnett sarcastically says it was "a treat" to do because he doesn't have what's considered a traditional singing voice.

Arnett, who is chiefly known for his on-screen work — from "Arrested Development" to his current CBS comedy series, "The Millers" — has plenty of voice-work experience. Along with "The Lego Movie," he's the voice of the squirrel Surly in the film "The Nut Job." He's also been a voice talent in "The Simpsons," "The Cleveland Show," "The Secret World of Arrietty," "Despicable Me," "Sit Down, Shut Up," "Monsters vs. Aliens: Mutant Pumpkins from Outer Space" and "Ratatouille." Arnett also has a new animated series in the works for Netflix.

Voice work helped Arnett pay the bills when he was starting out. Now, it's become what Arnett calls "a fancy second job," he looks forward to.

"It's such a fun world. I love doing voice work because it's such a fun process," Arnett says. "I

like it because you can go and in a different world."

The worlds couldn't be much different with the two movies now in theaters, where he goes from self-centered squirrel to self-confident superhero. And both voice jobs are much different than the work he's doing

on the CBS sitcom "The Millers," where he plays a newly single television reporter whose mother (Margo Martindale) moves in with him.

The comic chemistry between Arnett and Martindale has helped make "The Millers" a top-rated new comedy. Arnett says the series just happened to have the right cast and writing to give him a hit.

Not only does voice work help pay the bills, but being in "The Lego Movie" has won him some added adulation from his 3-year-old son. "He keeps calling it 'The Lego/Batman Movie,'" Arnett says.

Will Arnett provides the voice of an overconfident Batman Lego figurine in "The Lego Movie."

DAN STEINBERG, INVISION/AP

'Lego Movie' hilariously subversive

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

If the Looney Toons team had played with plastic blocks that snap together, "The Lego Movie" is the kind of surreal subversion they might have made. Their Looney heirs, the guys behind the original "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (Phil Lord and Christopher Miller), have turned a 90-minute exercise in product placement into a trippy clarion call for creativity — for not following "the instructions" of these hideously simple Danish building blocks.

The story is a riff on "Trom," an alternate world out of sight of our own whose denizens lead an assault on conformity. The characters, ranging from a blind wizard (Morgan Freeman) and "master builder" ninja (Elizabeth Banks) to Batman (a growling Will Arnett), an evil overlord

New on base

"The Lego Movie" is playing at these military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwohr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunssum.

Pacific

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

Online: thelegomovie.com

named President Business (Will Ferrell) and his Bad Cop (Liam Neeson) henchman, make the case that it's those who can im-

provise, invent and see the world differently who are "the special."

Mild-mannered Emmet (Chris Pratt) is just another yellow-faced Lego construction worker who is a model citizen in a planned society. He follows the rules.

Emmet stumbles on to an object of prophecy, "the piece of resistance." That must mean he's the chosen one, "the special." So Wyldestyle (Banks) tries to help him get that "piece" to where it can stop President (actually Lord) Business from destroying the many Lego universes, from Bricksville to the Old West to Middle Zealand.

Jerky computer animation vividly mimics the shiny look and tactile feel of Lego blocks. The movie shows off these blocks as "the Original Transformers," clickable into a wild variety of shapes, from cities to saloons, sailing ships to the plastic sea they sail on.

Slapstick violence befalls the



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Emmet, voiced by Chris Pratt, left, sets out on an epic quest to save the world with help from Wyldestyle, voiced by Elizabeth Banks, center, and Batman, voiced by Will Arnett, in "The Lego Movie."

clueless Emmet and those who help him, "master builders" honored for their crazy-quilt Lego designs, making cars, motorcycles, stagecoaches and spaceships on the fly to aid in their escape.

Out to stop them at every turn is the furious and sadistic Good Cop/Bad Cop, a two-faced police Lego, both voiced by Neeson.

The animation is a plastic-coated blur at times. Many of the

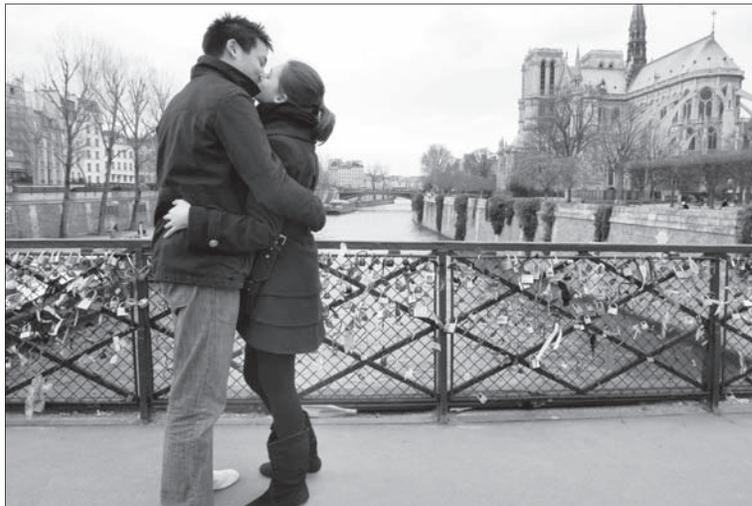
jokes will fly over the heads of the intended audience, and the sermonizing about being creative gets repetitive. But from its slapstick physics to its theology ("The Man Upstairs"), "The Lego Movie" amuses and never fails to leave viewers — especially adults — dazzled at the demented audacity of it all.

"The Lego Movie" is rated PG for mild action and rude humor. Running time: 91 minutes.

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Couples from around the world have attached "love locks" illustrated with their initials to the Pont des Arts before throwing the key into the River Seine. However, the French government considers the padlocks an eyesore and says they damage the bridge's fences and parapets. Above, a couple locks lips on the bridge as Notre Dame provides a romantic backdrop.

DO THIS:

Lock lips in Paris

The City of Light is known for romance. Even if you're not in Paris on this Valentine's Day, you can plan ahead for a romantic getaway with your sweetheart on a special occasion in the future.

Here are some romantic spots to hit:

- **The Pont des Arts:** The bridge offers panoramic views of the Louvre, Île de la Cité and Notre Dame. It is one of the city's most popular "love lock" bridges, where couples attach locks bearing their initials, then throw the keys to the locks into the Seine below. The French government discourages this practice, however, saying the locks could cause the bridge's fences to fall into the river and onto boats passing below. It also considers the locks to be an eyesore.

- **The Pont-Neuf:** Legend has it that couples who kiss under "bridge of lovers" and wish for eternal love will have their wish granted.

- **Trocadero Gardens:** Snuggle up to a magnificent view of the Eiffel Tower at the top of the hour when it comes to life for 10 minutes, and engage in a passionate kiss.

- **Le Mur Des Je T'aime (Wall of Love):** Gaze at a mural that features the words "I Love You" inscribed in more than 300 languages.

- **The Tuileries Gardens:** Located outside of the famous Louvre, the gardens have been a rendezvous point for lovers throughout history. Today, you can hold hands at a Tuileries outdoor cafe and take a romantic stroll through the gardens that lead to the Champs-Élysées.

- **Luxembourg Palace and Gardens:** Napoleon and Josephine strolled the gardens, so why not you? Enjoy beautiful statues, fountains and flowerbeds.

Find more romantic ideas by searching "romance" at <http://en.parisinfo.com>.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Festival time in France

Southern France wakes up early from its mild winters with an assortment of festivals, from low-key to exuberant.

Party people will feel at home in Nice this weekend, when the first flurry of public carnival activity takes place. The Nice Carnival takes on a new theme each year; this year, the "King of Gastronomy" is feted with a nod to the city's authentic culinary traditions. There's also a traditional "guest of honor," and in celebration of 60 years as Nice's twin city, Nuremberg, Germany, takes pride of place.

On the next three weekends, Nice holds its carnival, flower and light parades. The carnival processions offer 18 floats and more than one thousand dancers and musicians. The parades take place both day and night at the Place Masséna. For the evening parades, the floats are creatively illuminated.

Flower parades wind along the oceanfront's Promenade des Anglais, and include "flower battles," in which spring blooms are tossed to spectators.

On Saturday, the first flower parade will begin at 2:30 p.m., followed by a parade of lights at 9 p.m. Entry to each parade costs 10 euros (about \$13.50) for



Karen Bradbury

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

standing room only, or 25 euros for a seat. If you dress up in an elaborate costume, entry to the light parade will be free.

Learn more about Nice's carnival at nicecarnaval.com.

On Sunday in Nice, athletic types will be lacing up their running shoes to take part in the second annual "Rock 'n' Roll Nice 10 Miles of Carnival" run.

The event begins at 9:15 a.m. from the Promenade des Anglais and ends at the Place Masséna. It's possible to register as late as Saturday at the runners expo; the 35-euro fee includes a technical T-shirt, swag bag, finisher's medal, and the entertainment and finish-line festival that's come to characterize the "Rock 'n' Roll" running series.

Racers are encouraged to

run in fancy dress, with prizes awarded for the best costumes across several categories. A valid medical health certificate is required of all race participants.

Learn more at <http://fr.competitor.com/nice/event-information>.

Carnival isn't the only fest taking place along the French Riviera. The coastal city of Menton, just minutes from Italy's border, celebrates citrus from Saturday through March 5 during its annual Lemon Festival.

Building around this year's theme of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea," massive floats and decorations, some rising more than 30 feet, will take over the Bièves Gardens and the surrounding streets. The event website notes some 145 tons of citrus fruits are required in the creation of the displays.

Adult entry to the gardens costs 10 euros; ages 6-14 pay 5 euros, and ages 5 and younger enter free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. On Sundays and Thursdays, the gardens stay open late and are bathed in lights; higher entry fees apply.

A highlight event is always the fruit parade, the first one of which sets off on Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Adult entry to the public viewing area costs 10 euros for standing room only; kids 6-14



Tons of citrus fruits are used to create all kinds of things during the Lemon Festival in Menton, southern France.

pay half that, and those younger than 5 get in free.

Learn more and plan at fete-du-citron.com.

There's yet another fest underway along the Riviera, this one in Mandelieu-la Napoule, a commune just southwest of Cannes. Here a 10-day-long celebration features the delicate and aromatic yellow blossoms known as mimosa.

On Saturday, a night parade leaves the Place de Capitou at 6:30, followed by music and

street entertainment. Entry is free. Sunday's parade will be a much bigger affair, with floats and musicians providing some two hours of entertainment.

The parade begins at 2:30 p.m. Adult entry costs 13 euros, ages 5-16 pay 11 euros and those 4 and under enter for free. Other activities include a walk along the Tanneron Massif, the site of Europe's largest mimosa forest, or coach excursions to a perfume factory.

Learn more at mandelieu.com.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Museum Angewandte Kunst, or Applied Arts Museum, in Frankfurt, Germany, is housed in a modern glass-and-concrete structure in Metzler Park in the Sachsenhausen section of the city. The museum introduced a new concept of temporary exhibits following a renovation in April.



By SCHULLING/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The Museum Angewandte Kunst is in Frankfurt's Sachsenhausen district on the south bank of the Main River at Schaumainkai 17. The best place to park is at Parkhaus Alt-Sachsenhausen at Walter-Kolb-Strasse 16. The museum is about a two-block walk.

TIMES

10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday; closed on Mondays.

COSTS

Admission is 9 euros (about \$12.40) for adults, 4.50 euros for children. Kids 6 and under are free. Admission is free on the last Saturday of the month. Parking at the Alt-Sachsenhausen garage is 1 euro per hour, probably the cheapest in Frankfurt.

FOOD

There is a third-floor bistro that offers sandwiches, cakes and drinks all day and hot food, such as pasta, for lunch at reasonable prices. Next door, on the museum grounds is Restaurant Emma Metzler, one of Frankfurt's top culinary addresses (expensive).

INFORMATION

The German-only website: museumangewandtekunst.de

—Michael Abrams

Catch it while you can

Exhibits change often at Frankfurt's Applied Arts Museum

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

The arts encompass a variety of forms: painting, sculpture, music, literature, architecture — and the applied arts. What are applied arts? Think everything from the design of your smartphone and Chippendale chairs, to flatware and jewelry; basically, anything designed to be used.

To find out exactly what applied arts are, we recently visited the Museum Angewandte Kunst, or Applied Arts Museum, in Frankfurt, Germany. Housed in a glass-and-concrete building that is, in itself, a work of art, the museum reopened with a new concept last April after a renovation.

Before the makeover, the museum was full of permanent exhibits from its vast collection, with temporary exhibits thrown in. Now, the museum features ever-changing temporary exhibits, some from its collection and others from outside sources.

The new concept has its ups and downs. You can visit the museum more often for the various exhibits, but if you missed one, oops, too bad.

The exhibits are spread out over three floors. The ground floor exhibit, "Less but Better — Design in Frankfurt 1925 to 1985," features items designed in Frankfurt. Of note is a wall-mounted stereo set and everyday household items — shaver, radio, coffee machine,

juicer — made by Braun, a local company. The exhibit runs, unfortunately, only until Feb. 22.

If you think globalization is something new, check out "1607: From the Early Days of Globalization," on the second floor. This exhibit features 16th- and 17th-century items from around the world, transported from continent to continent by ship. It features, among other things, Chinese porcelain, a tankard from Bohemia, an owl-shaped vessel from Silesia, a suitcase from Germany and a dagger from India. The exhibit closes April 27.

The exhibit on the top floor highlights items from the museum's depot. Called "Eating and Drinking — About Soup," it is about just that. On display are soup bowls and utensils from across the globe and through the millennium. You can see an 18th-century turkey-shaped tureen from Germany, 20th-century art deco bowls from Austria and earthenware bowls from about 1800 B.C. from China, all on exhibit until May 11.

Attached to the museum is the 19th-century Villa Metzler. Nine of its rooms feature furniture from different periods.

Among upcoming exhibits at the museum are the 3rd Nordic Fashion Biennale (March 22-June 22), Tokyo Arts Directors Club Award 2013 (April 10-Aug. 17), and Elementary Parts: From the Collections (opens May 10).

abrams.mike@stripes.com



Above: Furniture and a poster for a Jimi Hendrix concert are among the objects decorating the "Frankfurt Room" at the museum. The room features objects designed in Frankfurt.

Below: An 18th-century turkey soup tureen from the Höchst porcelain factory is part of a temporary exhibit of soup bowls through the ages.



Left: A visitor checks out a display of soup bowls and utensils; right: Items that might be found in a 17th-century ship's cabin are displayed in an exhibit called "1607: From the Early Days of Globalization." The exhibit runs through May 11.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Priceless places



"Mad" King Ludwig's idyllic Neuschwanstein Castle in the Bavarian Alps was the Nazis' hideaway for about 21,000 items stolen from French collectors and records of the looting.

Historic tale set in real-life locations

By JAMIE STENGL
The Associated Press

From a fairy-tale castle in the Bavarian Alps to a serene Michelangelo sculpture of Mary and Jesus tucked away in a Belgian church, sites and works of art across Europe can give travelers a glimpse of the heroic work done by the group depicted in the new movie "The Monuments Men."

The group's mission was to save cultural treasures during World War II. And just like the group's previously unusual accomplishments, many of the places and objects they saved have been "hidden in plain sight" for decades, said Robert Edsel, the Dallas-based author of the book "The Monuments Men," which inspired the movie.

Edsel talked about a few of the many places and artworks in Europe tied to the work of the 350 men and women from Allied countries, most of them already established as architects, artists, curators and museum directors when they reported for duty. Eventually, they returned more than five million cultural items stolen by the Nazis as part of a systematic looting operation.

Belgium and Austria

Visitors to the canal-lined, storybook town of Bruges, Belgium, may look in awe at Michelangelo's marble sculpture "Madonna and Child" in the Church of Our Lady, but few know of its harrowing wartime journey. Taken from the church

by German officers in 1944, the sculpture was discovered by Monuments Men on a dirty mattress in a salt mine near Altaussee in Austria.

In Ghent, not far from Bruges, visitors at Saint Bavo Cathedral can gaze at another work that was discovered by Monuments Men at the Altaussee mine: the Ghent Altarpiece. Made of panels painted by Jan van Eyck in 1432, the famous work was taken by the Belgians to France in 1940 for safekeeping. But in 1942 it was taken by the Germans.

Tourists can also visit the Altaussee salt mine where those works — along with 6,600 paintings, 140 sculptures and other pieces — filled more than 100 tunnels. The art stored in the Austrian mine about 45 minutes from Salzburg housed treasures Adolf Hitler wanted to one day fill his planned museum in Linz, Austria.

A mad king's castle

"Mad" King Ludwig's Neuschwanstein Castle, nestled in Germany's Bavarian Alps with dramatic turrets rising into the sky, was the Nazis' hideaway for about 21,000 items stolen from French collectors and records of the looting.

Monuments Man John Davis Skilton arrived in the German town of Würzburg in hopes of saving the Giovanni Battista Tiepolo's ceiling fresco "Allegory of the Planets and Continents." The fresco in the Residenz palace dating to the 1750s was in peril. The roof above the fresco

ceiling burned off during Allied bombings, leaving it exposed to the elements.

Edsel said Skilton set to figuring out how to get a roof built over the fresco as soon as possible. "He sees how precarious it is, so he finds lumber, which was no easy feat," said Edsel. "When you go walk through the palace Residenz, in the last room that you're in, there's a small shrine to John Skilton," he said.

Paris

When the Nazis took over the Jeu de Paume museum in Paris, making it the headquarters of their looting operation, French art expert Rose Valland was allowed to stay. But Valland, who, unbeknownst to the Nazis, spoke German, kept track of where the artworks — most of it stolen from Jewish families in France — were being sent. She passed that information along to Monuments Man James Romirer after the liberation of Paris, directing him to Germany's Neuschwanstein Castle. Today, a small plaque on the southwest corner of the Jeu de Paume, located near the Place de la Concorde, recognizes her bravery.

To see a work of art with a history that encapsulates the Nazi looting machine, Edsel says, gaze upon Jan Vermeer's painting "The Astronomer" at the Louvre.

"If we could take it off the wall, it would have a Nazi inventory code on the back," he said.

"That one picture is stolen from the Rothschilds, goes to the Jeu de Paume. It's selected for Hitler's museum. ... It ends up in



Courtesy of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art of Dallas

Monuments Man James Romirer, with note pad, supervises American GIs carrying paintings down the steps of Neuschwanstein castle in Schwangau, southern Germany, in May 1945.



Courtesy of the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art of Dallas

Monuments Man George Stout, second from right, leads a team removing Michelangelo's Brugges Madonna from the salt mine in Altaussee, Austria, on July 10, 1945.



Courtesy of National Archives and Records Administration

George Stout, third from left, helps move the central panel of the Ghent Altarpiece in Altaussee, Austria, in July 1945.

the salt mine at Altaussee, found by the Monuments officers, returned with all these other things to France, returned to the Rothschilds, donated to the Louvre," he said.

Florence and Pisa

In Italy, Florence's bridges today offer a look at cultural treasures that didn't survive the war. Except for the Ponte Vecchio, the city's famous covered bridge, other bridges over the Arno were destroyed by the Nazis as they made their retreat out of Italy in 1944. Pictures from the war show people walking across the rubble that was once the bridges. Edsel says the

now rebuilt bridges are "part of the altered legacy that we live with today."

Monuments Man Deane Keller's work to restore the heavily damaged Camposanto building in Pisa meant so much to him that he was buried there after his 1992 death. During the war, frescos in the ancient cemetery located near the city's Leaning Tower were damaged by a fire during a fight for the city. Keller worked with a team to salvage and save what they could.

For more information on art preservation in World War II, visit the Monuments Men Foundation for the Preservation of Art at monumentsmenfoundation.org

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



At Edelweiss in Weiden, Germany, the blood orange salad atop the peanut stracciatella tiramisu is an interesting twist on a classic dessert.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

The flavors were vibrant in this calf fillet with vegetable blinis and a quenelle of garlic cream on the starter menu at Edelweiss. Edelweiss chefs craft dishes inspired by coastal Italian and rural French cuisine.

After Hours: Germany

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

The adage “You get what you pay for” is generally sound advice, especially when it comes to food.

It isn't that all great food must be expensive, but when it comes to food as art, having chefs who can marry culinary artistry with technical execution is going to cost a few euros. But that doesn't mean you can't find fantastic food at a reasonable price. At Edelweiss in Weiden, Germany, this basic concept is a focal point, and the chefs work within those boundaries to create some great dishes.

Using a small, focused menu, Edelweiss chefs have been able to craft dishes that take inspiration from coastal Italian and rural French cuisine. Items such

EDELWEISS

Location: 37 Unterer Markt, Weiden, Germany

Hours: Daily hours are noon to 2 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Breakfast is served daily from 8:30 a.m. to noon; Sunday brunch runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Food: Coastal Italian and rural French.

Dress: Casual, but avoid wearing ripped jeans and T-shirts.

Costs: Starters begin at 9.90 euros; main dishes range from 11.90 euros to 26.90 euros; desserts cost from 4.90 euros to 7.90 euros.

Information: Menu is in English and German. Call for reservations: (+49) (0) 961-38818283 or visit edelweiss-weiden.de.

— Michael S. Darnell

as nero tortellini with lobster sauce and prosecco foam reside on the menu next to dishes of German-raised lamb.

This variety, combined with the relatively small menu — two starters, seven main courses, five salads and a handful of desserts

— has given the chefs the ability to, well, play with their food. Interesting additions to generally dull dishes such as the glass noodles to the calamari and the various *espuma* and foams woven throughout the menu raise the experience of dining at Edelweiss. Even fodies combating culinary ennui will find interesting combinations here — one of the more daring is a beef fillet that takes a deconstructed, high-end approach to barbecue.

Finding beef in Germany is often hit or miss, and in less-than-talented hands, it's easy to ruin. At Edelweiss, the filet, ordered medium-rare, came out perfectly cooked and, more importantly, properly cleaned of all gristle. The mushroom ragout underneath the steak was less impressive — a bit overcooked and oversalted. But the truffled potato pancake was simply perfect — caramelization, seasoning and just enough truffle, neither overpowering nor underwhelming. The Edelweiss chefs absolutely nailed it.

The starter was more of a

mixed bag. I chose the herbed calf fillet with vegetable blini and arugula salad. A side quenelle of garlic cream was an interesting addition and most welcome. The filet was thin-sliced, served cold atop the hot blinis, which rested on the salad, resulting in all three being lukewarm. The dish was good — the flavors were vibrant, but with a slight adjustment to the presentation it would be spectacular.

The desserts were also highly experimental. A fried apple slice with wedges of white chocolate parfait and a vanilla *sabayon* was simple but sublime. The tiramisu was fantastic, but clashed with the blood orange supremes served with it.

Of special note was the wait staff, who were open to a series of questions and handled an extremely busy floor with exceptional professionalism and care.



Edelweiss is located in the central shopping area of Weiden, Germany.

Even with drinks, a robust starter, two main dishes, two desserts and an *amuse bouche* of sweetened red cabbage and carrot, the meal was 67 euros (about \$92.50). It's not the cheapest place in Weiden, but given the quality and culinary expertise, it was a bargain.

darnell.michael@stripes.com



The filet of beef, accompanied with truffled potato pancake, is the centerpiece of the Edelweiss menu and is well worth the price.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Wise travelers bring home a bit of culture

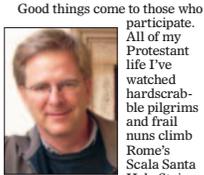
With each trip I take, I make it a point to bring home cultural souvenirs — gold nuggets of experiences I'll remember all my life. Whether it's sitting and talking with a Muslim at the Great Mosque of Granada in Spain, waving a flag at an Irish hurling match, or getting knacked with Germans at a spa in Baden-Baden, it's experiences like these that give each trip that extra sparkle.

Whenever I'm in Turkey, I make it a point to see a whirling dervish. This is not a performance, but rather a religious ritual done by the Mevlevi, followers of a 13th-century Muslim mystic named Rumi. Dervishes whirl while praying in a meditative trance.

One night, while walking through Istanbul, I came upon a big patio filled with tourists enjoying a single dervish whirling on an elevated platform. My immediate reaction was negative, as I frown on dervishes doing their whirl for tourists, who have no idea what's going on. I prefer to see the real deal at a place like the Galata Dervish Monastery or the Foundation of Mevlana. But on that night, I put aside my attitude and simply enjoyed the beauty of his performance in the Istanbul night.

In Barcelona, it's a joy to join in the sordid dances to celebrate Catalan culture. Locals of all ages seem to spontaneously appear in the cathedral square.

Everyone is welcome. Participants form a circle, hold hands, then raise their arms-slow-motion, Zorba the Greek-style, as they hop and sway gracefully to the music of the band.



Rick Steves

Good things come to those who participate. All of my Protestant life I've watched hardscrabble pilgrims and frail nuns climb Rome's Scala Santa Holy Stairs on their knees. I had always observed the stair-climbing pilgrims as though they were in a parallel universe. But one day, I picked up the little pilgrim's primer explaining what holy thoughts to ponder on each step, knelt down, and — one by one — began climbing. Knees on stone, I experienced each step. In my pain, the art that engulfed the staircase snapped into action. And, while my knees would never agree, the experience was beautiful.

Of course, not every experience has to be spiritual. Some are just plain fun. Whenever I'm in the British countryside, I enjoy a taste of farm culture. And for me, nothing beats a good sheepdog show. I recently saw my favorite ever, at Leault Working Sheepdogs in the Scottish Highlands.

As I stepped onto the farm, a dozen eager border collies scampered to greet those who'd arrived for the demonstration. Then came the shepherd, to whom the dogs were clearly devoted. He proceeded to sit us down in a natural little amphitheater in the turf and explain all

about his work. With shouts and whistles, each dog followed individual commands and showed an impressive mastery over the sheep. Then, with good, old-fashioned shears, we each got our chance to shear a sheep.

To me, a tourist visits all the big sights, sees spectacles on

stage, and returns home un-changed with a suitcase full of knickknacks. A true traveler engages with the culture and comes home enriched.

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

Restaurant Directory

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p>Since 1978</p> <p>China Restaurant Peking</p> <p>Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nikolaistr. 8, 92627 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33096 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Frankfurt area</p> <p>Chillers</p> <p>Airport City Mall - Terminal 1 Frankfurt International Airport</p> <p>Tel. 069-69023432 www.chillers-sportsbars.com</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Benjamin's Gastel</p> <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Sahr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.benhaus-castel.de</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

READY TO RUN? Try the Tokyo Marathon

About 36,000 runners are expected at this event on Feb. 23, which includes a 42.195-km wheelchair race and a 10-km race. Races start at Tokyo Metropolitan Building in Shinjuku. For more: www.tokyo42195.org/2014en.



Photos courtesy of Tokyo Marathon Foundation

PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVALS

KOGANEI PARK PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Feb. 15-23; guided tours 11:30 a.m., 1:30 & 2:30 p.m. and open-air tea service 11 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

MITO KAIRAKUEN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Ibaraki prefecture): Feb. 20-March 31, 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; tea ceremony Sun.; illumination until 9 p.m. March 7-23; free; tinyurl.com/anywzsr.

NARITA PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Chiba prefecture): Feb. 22-March 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; tea services and more; Naritasan Koen and Naritasan Shinshoji Temple; tinyurl.com/qbd49v.

KOISHIKAWA KORAKUEN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through March 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 120 plum trees; tinyurl.com/cdsgz5.

YUSHIMA TENJIN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL: Through March 9; tea service (500 yen) 11 a.m. Feb. 16, 23 & March 2 & 3; free.

ATAMI PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL: Through March 9; at Atami Baien Koen in Atami city.

TANOURA PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture): Through March 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tanoura Umenosato; free.

When will the cherry blossoms bloom in Japan? Visit tinyurl.com/jntosakura

Weight Loss & Cosmetic Surgery

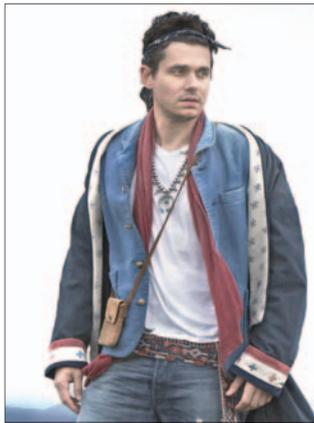
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CONCERTS

- Japan
JOHN MAYER: Tokyo, May 3, 5 p.m., Budokan, 8,000-9,000 yen; Udo 03-3402-5999.
NINE INCH NAILS: Tokyo, Feb. 28, 7 p.m., Studio Coast, 9,000 yen standing; Creativevman Productions 03-3499-6669.
ALICE IN CHAINS: Yokohama, March 9, 6 p.m., Yokohama Bay Hall; Tokyo, March 10, 7 p.m., Studio Coast, 7,000 yen; Creativevman Productions 03-3499-6669.
BOB DYLAN: Tokyo, March 31, 7 p.m., April 1, 7 p.m., April 3 & 4, 7 p.m., April 7 & 8, 7 p.m., DiverCity, 13,000 yen 1st floorstanding; Udo 03-3402-5999.

- South Korea
BRUNO MARS: Seoul, April 8, 8 p.m., Olympic Park Gymnastics Gymnasium, 99,000-165,000 won; tinyurl.com/3e6rwh.
JEFF BECK: Seoul, April 27, 6 p.m., Olympic Park Gymnastics Gymnasium, 88,000-110,000-132,000-154,000 won; tinyurl.com/3e6rwh.

Courtesy of Columbia Records

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

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



AP

Mount Fuji rises behind Tokyo Tower in Tokyo. Learn more about the mountain on a Feb. 23 tour that includes stops at Fuji Peace Park and the Fuji Visitor Center with Yokosuka's Tours. For more, check out tinyurl.com/kg4srxld.

ON BASE

Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

Visit Universal Studios Japan with **Atsugi** ITT Tours on Feb. 22. Get ready to rock with **Yokosuka's** Single Sailor Liberty Program's Guitar Hero showdown Feb. 25 — or join in an air hockey tournament Feb. 27. Ski and snowboard at Madarao Kogen with **Zama's** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service on Feb. 22.

Guam

Take a WWII tour with **Andersen** Outdoor Recreation on Feb. 22.

Okinawa

See Shuri Castle and Naha city with **Foster** Tours on Feb. 23.

To see your events here: 5SPEDTlibrary@stripes.com.

Travel: It's good for your health

By **JOSH NOEL**
Chicago Tribune

The report doesn't undertake any added science but simply synthesizes previous studies, and the involvement of an insurance company might be cause for skepticism, but a recently issued white paper reaches a conclusion always worth repeating: Travel is good for you.

The benefits are both mental and physical, the result of "physical activity, cognitive stimulation and social engagement," according to the study, commissioned by the U.S. Travel Association, the Global Commission on Aging and the Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies.

The report quotes previous studies concluding that women who vacation twice a year have a significantly reduced chance of heart attacks or coronary death. Similarly, "men who did not take an annual vacation were shown to have a 20 percent higher risk of death and about a 30 percent greater risk of death from heart disease," the report says.

Even accounting for the obvious likelihood that people who can afford travel also have access to better health care, researchers concluded that "vacationing is a restorative behavior with an independent positive effect on health."

Paul Nussbaum, a clinical neuropsychologist and adjunct professor of

neurological surgery at the University of Pittsburgh, said the mental benefits are clear and can help stave off such diseases as Alzheimer's.

"When you expose your brain to an environment that's novel and complex or new and difficult, the brain literally reacts," he explained. Those new and challenging situations cause the brain to sprout dendrites — dangling extensions — which Nussbaum said grow the brain's capacity.

"Your brain literally begins to look like a jungle," Nussbaum said.

Brain growth certainly isn't confined to travel — it can just as well be had by playing tennis, picking up a new hobby or going to the symphony — but travel is an ideal method.

"Travel by definition is dropping your brain into a place that's novel and complex," he said. "You're stunned a little bit, and your brain reacts by being engaged, and you begin to process on a deep level."

Even the stress that comes with travel and being thrown out of routines can be helpful. "Some stress, some anxiety is good because it positions the brains to be more attentive and more engaged," he said.

Engaging the brain through travel doesn't need to be as dramatic as climbing a mountain in Asia or strolling the rainy streets of a medieval European capital; it can be as simple as a weekend road trip or going home from work by a different route.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



Timeless in Thailand

PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Life moves at a snail's pace on this tropical peninsula

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

Railay peninsula in southwest Thailand is not the land before time, it is the land without it.

Snuggled between Ao Nang and Krabi town in Krabi province on the shores of the Andaman Sea, Railay is a tropical paradise like no other, complete with turquoise waters that gently lap pristine shores and towering limestone cliffs that have essentially cut the community off from

the outside world.

It's an affordable exotic hideaway, easily accessible from anywhere in Asia, featuring some of the best climbing in the world, beaches dotted with cozy island-flavored bars, fresh seafood and some of the friendliest locals in southeast Asia, making it a top destination for escaping the cold winter months.

The locals who operate the resorts, bars and restaurants there have developed a unique lifestyle through isolation and catering to mostly Australian and European backpackers on holiday.

Life moves very slowly through self-indulgence; however, it stops short of the hedonism found in Phuket and Koh Phangan, which only adds to Railay's charm.

The Freedom Railay offers harks back to the days of pirates at New Providence. Just make sure you bring a watch, because asking what time it is can be a fool's errand.

"I don't even know what day it is," said a bartender nicknamed "T" at the Jamaica-inspired beach bar called Why Not? on east Railay. Then came the suggestion to have another tall,

Above: West Railay features quaint island bars.

fruit-garnished *caipirinha* or piña colada. "Why not, right?"

Why not, indeed. The easiest way to reach Railay is to fly into Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, then take public transportation to Don Mueang International Airport, a former U.S. Air Force hub during the Vietnam War. From Don Mueang, fly to Krabi province in the south.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FROM PAGE 34

Once you touch down at the airport in Krabi, you can take a taxi to Ao Nang. You will know you have reached Ao Nang by the fleet of tuk tuks that zips through the crowded streets and throngs of tourists standing in line to take small Thai fishing boats with car engines crudely strapped to their backs to one of the many outlying islands.

Buy a ticket to Railay and then get in line yourself at the water's edge. A short boat ride later, you're there, marveling at the magnificence of the surrounding cliffs.

Railay's two sides offer varied experiences. West Railay features the second most beautiful beach on the peninsula and several high-end resorts and restaurants. East Railay is on the water as well but has no usable beach, as it has been taken over by mangroves.

The east side is where the majority of bars and quaint restaurants are located. This includes the "happy boat," which is basically a large barge covered in flashing lights that has pulled up to the sidewalk and is serving the fruity island concoctions of your dreams. There is also an old-style Thai boat that functions as a party boat and gives sunset tours.

The top beach on Railay is for the traveler to find. To locate it, you must pass through caves and thwart monkeys hell bent on stealing the corn on the cob right out of your hand. It is situated by the peninsula's most exclusive resorts and restaurants and features picturesque rock faces for climbing, caves and a slew of monkeys munching away on the vegetation over the beach and private villas.

Railay is a lovers' paradise or a good time for anyone trying to get some rest and relaxation away from it all. Here, you will find the company of great folks from Canada, Japan, New Zealand, England and Germany. The only things to do on Railay are

going to the beach, swimming, kayaking, getting a massage, shooting at Railay's gun range and eating, drinking and making merry.

Railay isn't without drawbacks, however: Sewage and garbage removal are problems on the peninsula, so toilets back up and showers often don't drain. Garbage litters the east Railay mangroves.

All supplies to Railay come by boat or tractor at low tide, so selection is limited. If there is something you want, it's best to bring it with you.

Despite the fact that it's easy to get caught up in the Railay lifestyle, there is plenty to do nearby. Before leaving Ao Nang for Railay, it is best to go to one of the tour companies on the water and rent a speed boat for a day. It's well worth it at about \$500. The Thai fishing boats are cheaper but take far longer across the sea. You can see more on a speed boat and feel a bit more like rap mogul Jay Z in the process.

The speed boat will meet you at the specified time on Railay's west beach. After you wade out and climb aboard, the crew will take your party to remote locales such as Bamboo Island, Phi Phi Don and Phi Phi Leh, which features Maya Bay, the site where Danny Boyle's film "The Beach," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, was filmed. Locals complained that the beach was transformed by the production. However, the 2004 tsunami returned it to its natural beauty.

Here you will jump off the back of the boat into tropical green waters surrounded by cliffs in one of Phi Phi Leh's many bays and coves. You will sip coconuts and look out on Maya Bay, eat pineapple and watermelon provided by the crew and drink the local beers (that you must bring on the boat, of course) while hanging onto your hat as the boat bounces between islands.



The sun sets at Railay's top beach in January. Railay is a peninsula in southwestern Thailand, located on the Andaman Sea near Phuket. It's a remote tropical paradise where time slows to a crawl.

MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Back on Railay, you can unwind at Why Not? and enjoy a cold beverage, good friends and good times. As you enter the bar, its staff shouts, "Welcome home!"

Their smiles are infectious. They invite you to play a game of Thai Jenga that seems impossible. The tower of stacked Jenga

blocks collapses on the bar. Time to order another drink.

"Happy times, happy times!" the owner shouts with a mischievous grin as backpackers filter in.

Railay would be the community in "The Beach" if it allowed a couple hundred tourists at a time. It's getting more and more

commercial as the years go by, locals say, so it's best to visit now, before it has lost its character.

Every day in paradise is a celebration, every day a party, and on Railay, every man, woman and child is welcome to join in on the happy times.

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WEEKEND: MUSIC

**Broken Bells, from left:
James Mercer and Brian Burton.**

JAMES MINCHIN/Courtesy of Nasty Little Man



Finding their groove

Broken Bells fuses melody, strong beats on second album, 'After the Disco'

Broken Bells

After the Disco (Columbia)

The debut from Broken Bells — the high-profile duo of James Mercer from indie-rock darlings The Shins, and in-demand producer Brian Burton (aka Danger Mouse), currently nominated for an Oscar for his work with U2 — was an interesting combination of their disparate musical styles.

On their follow-up, "After the Disco," however, Broken Bells has built an identity all its own that combines Mercer's knack for melody and Danger Mouse's love of strong beats and clever production.

The single "Holding On for Life" seems to



capture this new vibe best, with the jangling guitars and Mercer's falsetto that is reminiscent of Barry Gibb balancing against layers of synthesizer riffs and, of course, a deep groove.

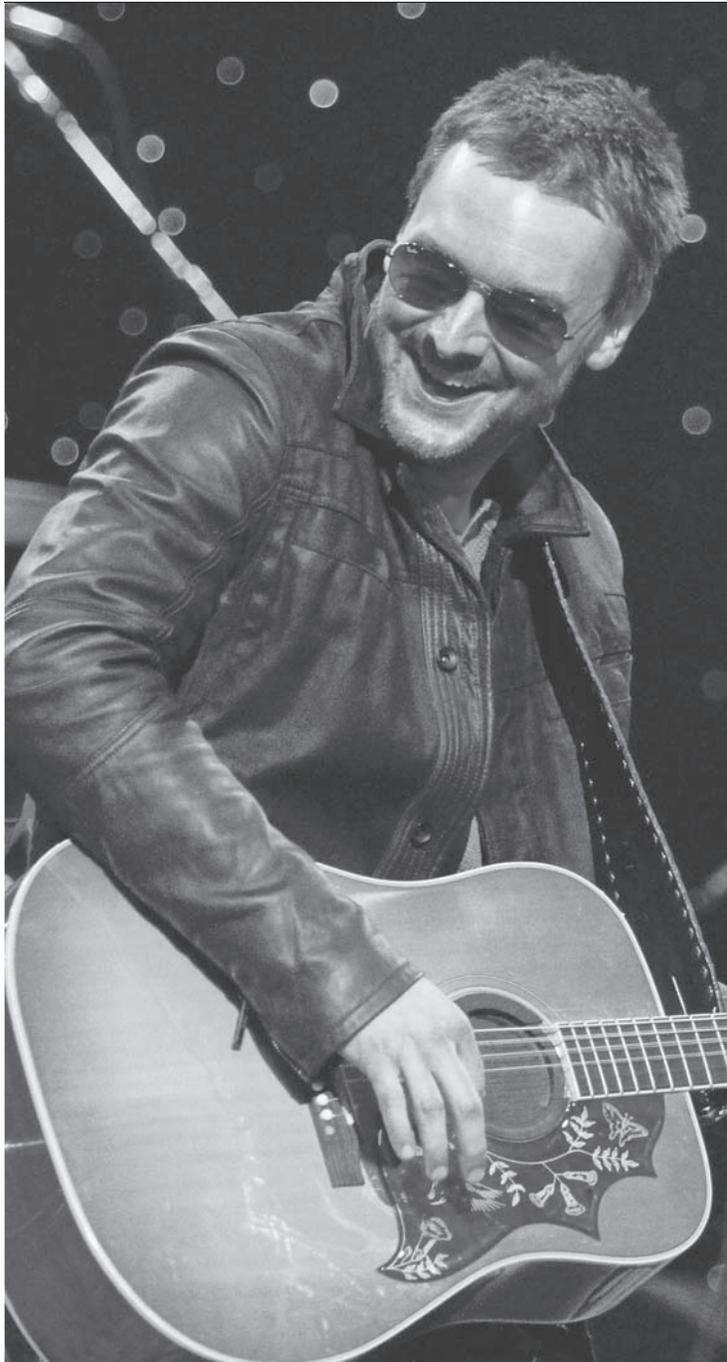
While most of the album is designed to be the chillout that people put on to relax after a night of dancing, with pretty, acoustic-driven numbers like the haunting "Leave It Alone" and the charming, guitar-driven "Control," they still

include some potent floor-fillers. The title track is a thrilling slice of electro-pop paired with a bass groove dripping with Roxy Music cool and stacks of sampled vocals that add to the fun. "Medicine" works equally well, as it tries to offer enough icy, electronic beats and "Let's Dance"-era David Bowie references to distract from the lyrics outlining the world's issues.

Danger Mouse talks about how Broken Bells has become his priority, how his production works and his other projects like Gnarls Barkley have become secondary. That attention shows on "After the Disco," and it's sure to make Broken Bells a major success.

— Glenn Gamboa
Newsday

WEEKEND: MUSIC



TWIN PEAKS

Church brings out his rock, country personas on career-best album

Eric Church

The Outsiders (EMI Nashville)

Eric Church is developing separate and distinct personalities that seem to wrestle each other in a glorious battle royal on his fourth and best album, "The Outsiders."

There's that guy Chief, with the hat and sunglasses and the love of rock 'n' roll, whiskey, stubborn streaks and fistfights. Then there's the version of Church who wins (or loses) the girl, stirs moments of universal reverie and tickles the

funny bone with program director-wooting hits that appeal to country music's bedrock fan base.

Both are at their best on "The Outsiders," one-upping each other with songs that embrace the breadth and history of country music while ignoring those conventions to explore far afield. Managing this trick requires a delicate touch, and Church and producer Jay Joyce push the limits while maintaining a balance that leaves a little something for everyone.

Don't like the heavy rock riffs and leather jacket-clad message of the Black Sabbath-leaning title song? Well, there's the tear-jerker ballad "A Man Who Was Gonna Die Young."

Tired of the paint-by-numbers party songs that flood radio? His answer is "Cold One," which offers a twist on a tired theme. Need a couples song for you and your new country gal? Try "Talladega," which somehow turns auto racing into an epic love poem. "Give Me Back My Hometown" is straight-up nostalgia. If that's not your thing, there's the rock-informed "Dark Side," "That's Damn Rock & Roll" and "The Joint" to go with your shot and beer back.

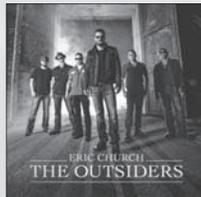
Tempo-shifting "Roller Coaster Ride" and funky country "Broke Record" use sonic interpretations of Church's lyrics to rev up things. The organ on "Like a Wrecking Ball" and the trumpet at the end of "The Joint" are delightful moments that show Church is confident that his listeners are his to command. He even tries his hand at spoken-word noir on "Devil, Devil!" The album is full of flourishes like these that aren't necessary but show a restless creativity that requires repeated listening.

"The Outsiders" is the rare album that invites debate, and asks us to take sides. In this case, pick freely. You can't lose.

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press

Eric Church honors country music while pushing more into rock territory on "The Outsiders."

DAN HARR, INVISION/AP



WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

'Fable' showing its age

'Anniversary' edition still fun, but suffering from dated look, long load times

By BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

In updating the original "Fable," Lionhead Studios has polished the graphics, improved the controls and added new features. However, there's no mistaking that "Fable Anniversary" dates from a previous generation of games.

The tale of the first hero of Albion was originally developed for the first Xbox back in 2004. It offered a medieval adventure filled with Orc-like hobbess, undead warriors, trolls, bandits and mystical doorways. The graphics and the basic gameplay were in line with other games of the day. However,

"Fable" also offered an alignment system that monitored all of your decisions and determined whether you were naughty or nice. The results determined what spells were available to you, how people reacted to your presence and even what you looked like — complete with halo or horns.



The second and third editions of the franchise appeared on the Xbox 360, which boasts far sharper graphics and much more processing power. As a result, developers improved the graphics, tweaked the controls, created an open world and expanded many gameplay elements.

"Fable Anniversary" does a good job of bringing some of that improved experience to the old game.

For me, the most satisfying change was the switch to the new-style controls. These have been streamlined, mapping most battle-related activities to the buttons on the right side of the control-



Microsoft photos

"Fable Anniversary" makes some improvements, such as switching to new-style controls and adding visual detail.

ler rather than a combination of different buttons and triggers. However, if you played the original game and really want to re-create the experience, you can switch to the cumbersome old control system.

The graphics also are noticeably improved. There's much more detail and texture to characters and settings. And if you have a tablet with the Xbox SmartGlass app, you can take a peek at renderings from the original game to see how things have changed. However, neither the renderings nor the animations approach the quality of the graphics available in most games now available for the 360.

Other improvements to the game include an enhanced system for saving your progress and the addition of Xbox achievements, which didn't exist when the original game was released. In addition, the SmartGlass app provides a map of Albion and hints for finding treasure.

Next to the graphics, the biggest reminder that "Fable Anniversary" is a game from an earlier era is the limited scope of each setting. In most modern role-playing games, you can run from one end of the world to the other without encountering a loading screen, unless you enter a building, cave or important town. In "Fable," there are several small towns that you can roam at will, but walking from one end of the map to the other requires pass-

ing through a large number of interconnected areas, each requiring a wait while the scenery loads. Fortunately, there's an abundance of magical teleportation devices that can be unlocked and used to make long-distance travel quicker.

Combat involves a combination of melee weapons, bows and magic spells. Ideally, you can launch an arrow or two at a distant foe, launch a fireball or bolt of lightning as he approaches and then finish him off with a sword stroke. The new control layout makes such tactics much easier. Enemies use a variety of attacks and tactics, so encounters remain fresh and interesting.

Another major part of the game involves social interactions.

The most important aspect of this is gaining renown as a hero. Certain quests can be undertaken only after gaining enough fame. This requires completing tasks and showing off the trophies associated with your exploits. Villagers will ooh and ahh as you lift high the head of a giant wasp or hand of a zombie. If you win over enough citizens, your renown score will rise. You also might get a discount in the local shops.

You can also win over villagers by giving them gifts or performing "expressions" that you have gained during your travels. For example, you can pump your arm in a manly manner, flirt, dance or emit a burst of flatulence.

Overall grade: **B-**

Each villager seems to have different preferences and reacts differently to each expression. Eventually, one might find you appealing enough to marry.

I discovered that if you are a hero with a good — rather than evil — background and show off lots of trophies, you'll soon find entire villages filled with admirers, who are identified by large hearts floating over their heads. You'll also be pursued by flocks of women nagging you for a wedding ring — even if you're already married to another woman in the same village.

The story and side quests are much less involved than those in the "Fable" sequels, but they are still interesting. Gamers who didn't jump into the series until it landed on the Xbox 360 might find it worthwhile to learn more about the history of Albion and many of the characters who are mentioned in later adventures.

Bottom line: B — "Fable Anniversary" is definitely fun and the updates help, but it still feels a little dated.

Platform: Xbox 360
Online: www.lionhead.com/games/fable-anniversary



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

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Ender’s Game”: Adults have figured out that youngsters have a better aptitude for the kind of high-tech battles that are going to be waged. The trick is to find the gamer who has the skill and the strategy to lead a pre-emptive strike on the buggers. They are said to have weapons of mass destruction, and it’s better if Earth strikes first. The script by director Gavin Hood and Orson Scott Card spends more time on preparation than participation. What should have been the huge emotional moment ends up flat because of the way the story is built. If “Ender’s Game” was a Saturday morning TV series, like “Power Rangers,” it would have been fine.

“Mike Tyson: Undisputed Truth”: When Mike Tyson was pounding opponents into messes in the boxing ring, it was those on the other end of his gloves feeling the pain. In this one-man show directed by Spike Lee, it’s Tyson who reveals all of the pain in his life. And his truthful recounting is compelling. Tyson pulls no punches as he talks about everything from his broken family upbringing to how family has changed his life. He shows both a funny and tender side recounting the events that made him one of the greatest heavyweight champions and also one of the most notorious figures in sports history. It’s obvious very quickly that Tyson’s not an actor, but the rawness of his performance is well suited for such a soul-searching production and adds to the emotional power of his words.

“G.B.F.”: A Gay Best Friend is the latest high school fad and no school queen bee is completely worthy of being worshipped until she has one. The only problem is that in this high school no one has come out. That changes when Tanner (Michael Willett) is outed. He becomes the focus of high school girls who are convinced having Tanner as a friend will make them a lock to win the Prom Queen title. Director Darren Stein continues his assault on the high school practice of selecting a prom queen. His 1999 production, “Jawbreaker,” is a dark comedy about what happens when the prom queen gets accidentally killed. “G.B.F.” would have benefited from a little of the black humor that made “Jawbreaker” work.



NBCUNIVERSAL/AP

The men show off in the recent DVD release “The Best Man Holiday.”

Also new on DVD on Feb. 11: “The Best Man Holiday”: College friends get together during the Christmas holidays.

“Grace Unplugged”: Teen’s faith and family ties are put to the test when her dreams start to come true.

“Afternoon Delight”: A bored woman finds an unexpected friendship in an unlikely place.

“Sherlock: Season Three”: Modern take on the classic detective series.

“Festival Express”: Concert film featuring The Band, Grateful Dead.

“Diana”: Naomi Watts plays the Princess of Wales.

“Austenland”: A woman finds herself in a Jane Austen world.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CBS

Hamish Linklater (left), James Wolk, Robin Williams, Sarah Michelle Gellar and Amanda Setton gear up for a game on an episode of “The Crazy Ones.” The sitcom premiered last fall and is the second most popular show of the season.

Robin Williams tones it down on TV show ‘The Crazy Ones’

BY NEAL JUSTIN

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The first thing you notice on the set of “The Crazy Ones” isn’t the vintage pinball machine, the toy guitar or the life-size Rock ‘Em Sock ‘Em Robot. It’s a caricature above the fake elevator doors, featuring the face of the show’s megastar.

“It’s like being on drugs again,” said Robin Williams as he stared at the painting last month during a break from shooting. “The first day I walked in and saw that I went, ‘Oh, OK. No pressure.’”

The expectations were indeed high when CBS announced Williams’ return to prime-time TV, where he emerged as a major talent 35 years ago on “Mork & Mindy.” That sitcom once ranked as high as No. 3 in viewership, but viewers eventually got exhausted by Williams’ manic persona — the court jester headed to the guillotine if he doesn’t keep the king roaring with laughter. It was canceled after four seasons.

So there was every reason to believe that “The Crazy Ones” would come across as “Crazy Robin,” with Williams sucking up all the oxygen from anyone who dares to share a scene with him.

When a TV series is built around a gifted comic, there’s always a danger that it could wind up more like an audition reel than a reliable sitcom.

But “The Crazy Ones” has avoided that trap and developed into a warm, well-balanced workplace come one that is the second most popular new show of the season, just behind its Thursday night companion, “The Millers.”

“The pressure’s off, thank God. This isn’t a Robin Williams vehicle. It’s a bus, and there are other people on the bus.”

—Robin Williams

No one has benefited more than former “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” star Sarah Michelle Gellar, who brings an engaging mix of frigidness and vulnerability to her role as Williams’ TV daughter and business partner in a Chicago ad agency.

“I think we always knew we were just lucky to be in his presence and to get to play off him,” Gellar said. “But I think automatically it sort of gelled that we were a team.”

Not that Williams is always on his best behavior. He has a tendency to slip into cartoon voices and borrow liberally from the Ministry of Silly Walks. The bloopers at the end of every episode confirm he can’t help trying to crack up castmates.

Creator David E. Kelley said it was daunting to imagine writing for one of

the quickest minds in entertainment, but he also knew he was hiring a well-trained actor who won an Academy Award for “Good Will Hunting” without leaving on a single impersonation.

“The idea of me trying to supply the architecture for comedy is like handing me the keys to a NASCAR race car and saying, ‘Go compete.’ I felt totally ill-equipped,” said Kelley, whose previous credits include “Ally McBeal.” “But I responded to the dramatic actor as well as the comedic one. My sense of the series, at least conceptually, was that the nucleus was the father-daughter relationship, which was not always going to rely on comedy. There were performers who were tender moments, and for that I needed true actors.”

Rounding out the cast are Hamish Linklater (“The New Adventures of Old Christine”), James Wolk (“Mad Men”) and Amanda Setton (“The Mindy Project”), veteran performers on an equal footing with Williams. Wolk, who plays the office Lohanio, said he knew it was going to be a legitimate ensemble from the very first episode, when he and Williams joined guest star Kelly Clarkson in a recording studio for a raunchy jingle. “Good actors always bring the people around them up,” he said. “He just makes it easy. I can fall and he’ll catch me.”

It isn’t just generosity that keeps Williams from stealing the show. He turns 63 in July and has a history of heart problems. Revising Mork just isn’t an option. “The pressure’s off, thank God,” he said. “This isn’t a Robin Williams vehicle. It’s a bus, and there are other people on the bus.”



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WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

High-intensity interval training is a HIIT

Fat-burning workout alternates between intense bursts of activity, periods of rest

By EDWARD M. EVELD
The Kansas City Star

Nicole Lindemann, a business owner, wife and mom, speaks the truth: "Basically, I'm like everyone else in the world — we're not getting any younger or any better in shape."

So, resolutionsaries, time to bust a move. But how, exactly?

The 38-year-old Lindemann didn't know that the American College of Sports Medicine named "high-intensity interval training" as the top global trend for 2014 when she signed up for just such an exercise class a few weeks ago.

That's HIIT, or just say "hit."

If the term brings anything to mind, it's probably the image of those cabals of impossibly fit-looking folks sweating it out on TV commercials. They're hawking such hard-core workouts as CrossFit and P90X, which are types of high-intensity training.

No doubt the popularity of these well-marketed programs shot HIIT to the top of the ACSM's trend watch, accompanied with warnings from fitness experts that extreme regimens can be injury-inducing and "aren't for everybody."

There's actually nothing new about intense interval training, which goes back at least to the 1930s and Partlek, the famed Swedish program. And it can be done in a measured way that provides big exercise benefits without big injury risks, says Kri Chay, a certified trainer and owner of Urban HIIT FITT in Lee's Summit, Mo.

The latest science backs him up on this. The central idea couldn't be simpler: Go hard. Then go easier or rest. Repeat.

"It's the notion of alternating relatively intense exercise with periods of recovery," said Martin Gibala, a kinesiology professor at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, who has studied the topic for 10 years. "And it can be properly scaled for different levels of fitness."

The benefits are impressive, Gibala said, and they can be achieved in about half the time of continuous moderate-intensity exercise. That's a big deal because lack of time continues to be the No. 1 barrier people cite to getting regular exercise, he says.

Lindemann is a newbie in Chay's first-of-its-year, six-week session. She wasn't interested in becoming an ultra-exerciser. She's busy enough with her 7-year-old daughter and her business, Kidz First Therapy, which provides occupational therapy for children with special needs.

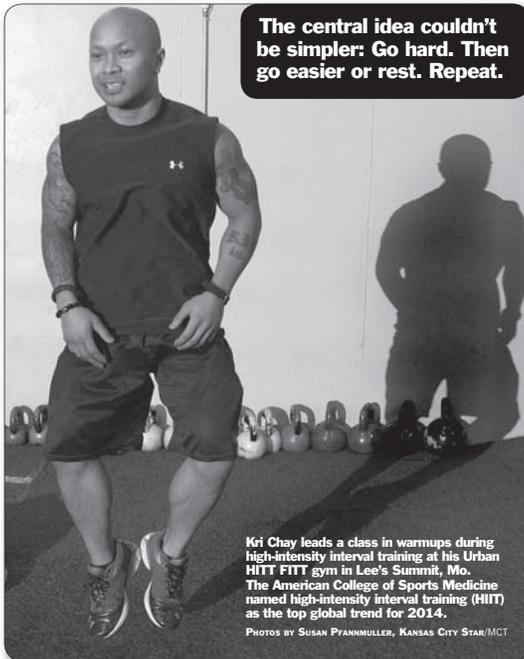
But she does want to be healthier, in better shape and to look better in her clothes.

At the start of a recent class, Chay pointed to a dry-erase board with the session's 10 exercises, the set on the left for newbies and on the right for veterans.

Participants — 14 women and four men with a range of body shapes — were to hit each exercise for 40 seconds, with a 20-second break to move to the next station. With music blasting, they were to cycle through the 10-exercise regimen three times. A buzzer marked the end of each 40-second interval and a bell sounded for the start of the next.

There were dumbbells, kettlebells, hanging rings and other equipment at the stations, set up for various types of lifting and bodyweight, or calisthenic-style, exercises.

Chay circulated, helping with proper



The central idea couldn't be simpler: Go hard. Then go easier or rest. Repeat.

Kri Chay leads a class in warmups during high-intensity interval training at his Urban HIIT FITT gym in Lee's Summit, Mo. The American College of Sports Medicine named high-intensity interval training (HIIT) as the top global trend for 2014.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN PFANNMULLER, KANSAS CITY STAR/MCT



Benefits of high-intensity interval training include improved fat burning and reduced blood-sugar levels. The workout can be adjusted to suit different levels of fitness.

form and sometimes offering modifications of some exercises. A woman with a bad ankle needed an alternative at one of the stations.

"I like to incorporate upper and lower body, push and pull," Chay said. "They choose their level, and I modify the program if someone needs it, even on the fly, in the middle of class."

Lindemann likes the variety, and she thinks there's a psychic advantage to the intervals.

"It makes me push harder because I know the duration isn't that long," she said.

In fact, that "short-term goal" of the intense interval has been shown to be a plus for exercisers, not to mention that

the on-off method, even repeated, helps to fight boredom, said Micah Zuhl, a clinical assistant professor at Central Michigan University's School of Health Sciences.

Interval training is being used in rehabilitation clinics, he said, even with cardiac patients, which was unheard of just a few years ago.

Zuhl said intervals can be adapted to many types of full-body workouts, with or without equipment, and is used in swimming, biking and running, including on cardio machines.

"What's really hot right now is sprint training," he said, interspersing sprints, rests and jogs of various lengths.

There are no set guidelines on interval length, Zuhl said, although research is showing the best benefits when the high-intensity portion is set at 30 seconds to two minutes. In studies, the "go easier" or rest period is often twice as long. So, for example, 30 seconds of high-intensity effort would be followed by one minute of recovery.

How intense should the high-intensity be?

"There's no free lunch," Gibala said. "If the time-efficiency aspect is attractive to you, then you're going to have to go hard with these intervals."

One approach, especially when starting out, he said, is to "get out of your comfort zone" for the go-hard interval. If you're running outdoors, for instance, resolve to pick up the pace from one streetlight pole to the next, then back off.

As always, talk to your doctor before trying a new exercise program. A certified personal trainer can help you determine proper intensity, Gibala said.

Heart-rate targets are a more exact way to determine exertion, but those also are variable from person to person, he said.

First, figure the average maximum heart rate for someone your age — subtract your age from 220. Then shoot for a heart rate about 85 percent of that number during the high-intensity intervals.

If you're 40, the average maximum is 180, so the target would be 153 beats per minute.

Gibala said many of his studies have used exercise bikes with a protocol of one minute of intense effort followed by one minute of recovery, repeated 10 times per session. Participants performed three of these 20-minute sessions over a week.

"We've shown benefits for people with Type 2 diabetes in just two weeks," said Gibala, noting that this was a total commitment of one hour a week. "Their blood-sugar levels are markedly reduced."

Mike Bracko, an exercise physiologist and ACSM program planner, said it isn't well-understood why HIIT produces such time-efficient results. Of course, the exerciser is working harder during the intense bursts than in any similar periods of continuous exercise.

But the physiological benefits might also be a result of both ramping up and down the intensity, he said, and from the "after-burn." It's known that people burn calories longer after interval training than after continuous or endurance training.

Some advocates are so sold on interval training they recommend jettisoning continuous styles of exercise. But Gibala and others say that's unnecessary. They suggest limiting HIIT sessions to two or three a week, alternating on other days with continuous or steady-state exercising, including strength training and cardio.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



CW GRIFFIN, THE MIAMI HERALD/MCT

Johanna Evers, 6, has her teeth checked by Dr. Rosie Roldan, director of the Pediatric Dental Center at the Miami Children's Hospital Dental in Doral, Fla. Prevention is key in maintaining good dental health, says Roldan.

Open wide with pride

Practice oral hygiene early, often for good overall health

By INA PAIVA CORDLE
The Miami Herald

Johanna Evers, 6, has a routine each morning and night: She brushes her teeth, flosses and rinses with fluoridated mouthwash.

She also has been visiting a dentist for twice-yearly cleanings since she was 2.

"I'm thinking of my daughter's future," said her mother, Brigitt McKeon, 43. "I want her to be able to carry it on when she gets older and has her own family."

Dental hygiene is a vital part of overall health, dentists and doctors say. According to the Surgeon General's Report on Oral Health in America, oral diseases and disorders affect health and wellbeing throughout one's life.

In fact, a research study — in which doctors at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine participated — has linked periodontal (gum) disease to a heightened risk of heart attack and stroke. Other research has linked poor dental health to Alzheimer's disease.

It all points to the importance of brushing, flossing and visiting a dentist regularly, starting in infancy. "Cavities can happen as early as nine months of age," said Dr. Rosie Roldan, director of the Pediatric Dental Center at Miami Children's Hospital and director of its pediatric dental residency program. "The teeth start erupting at six months, so they haven't been in the mouth three months before we can start seeing cavities."

Roldan advises parents to bring their children to the dentist beginning at 12 months, and every six months after that. Parents should also ensure that their children's teeth

DENTAL FACTS

According to National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research's "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General":

Tooth decay is the single most common chronic childhood disease — five times more common than asthma and seven times more common than hay fever.

More than 50 percent of 5- to 9-year-old children have at least one cavity or filling, and that proportion increases to 78 percent among 17-year-olds. Nevertheless, these figures represent improvements in the oral health of children compared with a generation ago.

The social impact of oral diseases in children is substantial. More than 51 million school hours are lost each year to dental-related illness. Poor children suffer nearly 12 times more restricted-activity days than children from higher-income families. Pain and suffering due to untreated diseases can lead to problems in eating, speaking and attending to learning.

Professional care is necessary for maintaining oral health, yet 25 percent of poor children have not seen a dentist before entering kindergarten.

are brushed twice a day, as soon as the first tooth appears. That creates a habit, so children grow up to not be resistant to brushing.

"Prevention is key," Roldan said. "We want to see them early, teach about properly brushing teeth and give fluoride supplementation to get fluoride incorporated into the teeth, if needed."

When very young children develop dental problems, they can wind up in the operating room. Roldan said her center sees 700 patients in the operating room for dental work each year. The majority are under 4.

Children can even require root canals and extractions.

In the worst case, when problems are left untreated, an abscess, or accumulation of pus, can result. The pus can migrate and move to the brain or eyes, leading to a periorbital (eye) infection, or a brain abscess, which can be potentially fatal.

For adults, health risks associated with oral health are particularly significant.

Researchers from the University of Central Lancashire in the United Kingdom last year found that people with poor oral hygiene or gum disease could be at higher risk of developing Alzheimer's, compared with those who have healthy teeth.

The researchers discovered the presence of a bacterium called Porphyromonas gingivalis in the brains of patients who had dementia when they were alive. The bacteria are usually associated with chronic periodontal disease.

Having healthy gums can also be good for your heart.

Researchers at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine have found that periodontal disease is associated with greater thickness of the arterial wall. That means possibly greater risk of atherosclerosis and greater risk of heart disease and stroke, said Dr. Tatjana Rundek, professor of Neurology and vice chair, Clinical Translational Research in Neurology, at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

Rundek said that researchers also found that as gum health improves, atherosclerosis also improves. Atherosclerosis, or the narrowing of arteries through buildup of plaque, is a major risk factor for heart disease, stroke or death.

SPOUSE CALLS

\$14 for a dozen roses? Priceless.

The sign said "One dozen Roses — Only \$6 for Valentine's Day delivery." What was an 11-year-old to think?

He figured he had more than enough. Quite a few bills and coins rustled and rattled in the jar he used for his savings, left over from cash sent by grandparents for his birthday and Christmas. He knew he had way more than six dollars.

He probably spread the money out on his bed, counting it carefully before putting it all in his jeans pocket.

It's likely his mom thought he was off to play with the neighborhood boys when he hopped on his bike and headed down the street.

The flower shop wasn't too far away. He didn't even have to cross a big street to get there. He only had to follow the residential streets for a couple of blocks, then cut across on the dirt road that came up behind the shopping center.

His mom sometimes let him go that far anyway, he reasoned, to skateboard in the parking lot or buy candy and a Coke at the convenience store. Maybe she wouldn't mind — if she found out.

He parked his bike and went inside.

The lady behind the counter took his order for a dozen roses, and he gave her the address for the delivery. Good thing he remembered it.

But when she told him the price, he was stunned. It was almost ten times what he expected.

"The sign says it's only \$6," he said.

The lady smiled — possibly trying not to laugh — and explained to him that was only the delivery charge.

"Well, this is all I have," he said, fishing in his pocket and piling the collection of crumpled bills and loose change on the counter. It added up to just a bit more than \$14.

She looked at the money and then back at the boy's serious, freckled face. The blue eyes behind his wire-rimmed glasses might have been a little shiny.

"Who are these roses for?" she asked.

"My mom," he said. Maybe he thought about it, but he didn't tell the lady that he wanted to be sure his mom got flowers on Valentine's Day, even though his dad was deployed to somewhere he wasn't allowed to talk about.

"Well, I think that's enough to buy a dozen roses today," she said.

Perhaps her eyes got a little bright too, when a smile of relief sneaked across his face. He thanked her and signed the card. Then he got on his bike and rode back home.

On Valentine's Day, when the vase full of big red blooms arrived, he had to reveal some of the story to his astounded and delighted mother, who asked "How?" and "When?" and then "How much?" between hugs, kisses, laughter and even a few tears.

Later, a dozen more roses arrived, ordered long distance by his father. Lucky woman — apparently the thoughtful apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

By the time the week was over, his mom had retold the story to everyone she knew and some people she didn't. Embarrassed by all the attention, to this day he's not eager to repeat it.

So some of this story is guesswork. I was not in the flower shop that day. I've tried to interview those who saw it firsthand, but they are somewhat reticent.

The boy, now an adult, says some of the details are a little fuzzy for him.

A few weeks after that memorable delivery in 2002, I visited the flower shop to find out who sold my sweet son a dozen roses, arrived, including delivery, for fourteen dollars and change.

But no one knew — or was telling.

This column first appeared in Stars and Stripes on Feb. 8, 2011. It is now part of an upcoming book by Terri Barnes, "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life," (Elva Resa Publishing) available March 1.

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes. Contact her at spousecalls@ststripes.com or at ststripes.com/gp/spousecalls.



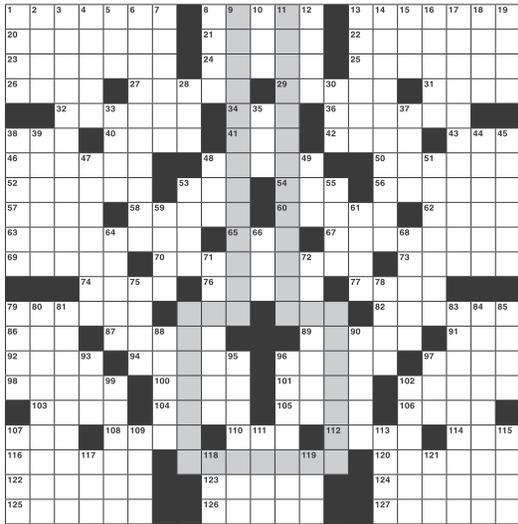
Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

IT WAS 50 YEARS AGO By CHARLES M. DEBER / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
1 Cellphones, in Britain
8 Alone
13 Down, in Dresden
20 A debater takes it
21 Jazz count?
22 In that direction
23 One favoring a strong central government
24 Vista
25 Turns in
26 Film terrier
27 Bar order, with "the"
29 Sadness
31 Narrow cut
32 Move in an ungainly way
34 Mine, in Madrid
36 Cherished by
38 Literary inits.
40 It's below the humerus
41 Trig. function
42 "Let ___"
43 ___ deferenes
46 Dweller on the Red Sea
48 Less than right
50 Crème de la crème
52 1996-2001 show featuring home videos
53 Actress Gardner
54 The People's Champion
56 "The Battleship Potemkin" locale
57 An O'Neill
58 More appropriate
60 Houston sch.
62 Followers of exes
63 Detour, e.g.
65 Coal distillate
67 Announcer's aid
69 Plural French word that spells its singular English form in reverse
70 Much of the audience for 6-Down's show on 2/9/64
73 Trounces
74 "When ___ younger, so much younger ..." ("Help!" lyric)
76 More modern, in Munich
77 Relative of a convertible
79 Part of a train from a refinery
83 Servant, e.g.
86 "Why ___ so shy when ...?" ("It's Only Love" lyric)
87 Snack chip
89 Nest on a cliff
91 Author Umberto
92 Dave Clark ___
94 "___ the time ..."
96 Playwright Fugard
99 General ___ chicken
99 Attractive legs, in slang
"Chick"
100 "Tuck!"
101 Actor Hemsworth of "The Hunger Games"
102 Bold
103 Stuck, after "in"
104 Queen who fell for Zeus' swan song
105 It may be a plot
106 Lone-Star State sch.
107 500 letters?
108 Cause of the witch's demise in "Hansel and Gretel"
110 '60s war zone
112 Rice-A-___
114 Fraternity chapter
116 Big to-do
120 They're played at an conservatory
122 Undermines, as support
123 Living in a swing state?
124 Kind of jacket with pockets on the chest
125 Tilted
126 Oxford's St. ___ College
127 City on the Seine upstream from Paris
DOWN
1 A majority
2 Aware of
3 Craze caused by this puzzle's subjects
4 Schoolyard rejoinder
5 Card count in Caesar's Palace?
6 Host for this puzzle's subjects on 2/9/64
7 Places atop of Israel
9 With 11-Down, subjects of this puzzle
10 Enzyme suffix
11 See 9-Down
12 Rampage
13 Way to go
14 Nickname for this puzzle's subjects
15 Free
16 Bikini blast, informally
17 Song sung by this puzzle's subjects on 6-Down's show on 2/9/64
18 Big rig
19 Lead-in to while
28 ___ creek
30 Dictator Amin
33 Broadway's ___Fontanne Theater
35 Promise of payment
37 Frist's successor as Senate majority leader
38 One of the six counties of Northern Ireland
39 Escort to the door
44 Yes
45 Balanced conditions
47 Band material
48 Park, e.g., in N.Y.C.
49 Wallach of "The Misfits"
51 Subtitle for "Star Wars Episode IV," with "A"
53 Just so, after "to"
55 Bakeshop worker
59 Free throw
59s, e.g.
61 One team in the N.B.A. All-Star Game, with "the"
64 City on the Nile
66 Junior Olympics org.
68 Certain NASA launch
71 Had a ball at 72 Unpredictable
75 Composer Khachaturian
78 Slave
79 Apes
80 Apes
81 Where this puzzle's subjects got their start
83 Song sung by this puzzle's subjects on 6-Down's show on 9/12/65
84 Earth's habitable parts
85 Darnlike
88 Common monthly expense
90 Ladies' man
93 Prey for a dingo
95 Molly formerly on "S.N.L."
96 Like some dessert orders
97 King in 1922 news
99 Hot
102 Instrument depicted by the shaded squares in this grid
107 1965 and 1966 concert site for this puzzle's subjects
109 Sweeping
111 Soon
113 Ba domestic
115 Medical suffix
117 Calendar keeper, for short
118 Medical suffix
119 The "S" of CBS: Abbr.
121 Sci-fi sighting

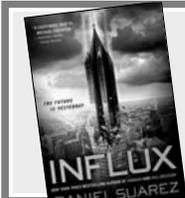


GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES

TV funnyman Sid Caesar dies

By LYNN ELBER
The Associated Press

Sid Caesar, the prodigiously talented pioneer of TV comedy who paired with Inogene Coca in sketches that became classics and who inspired a generation of famous writers, died early Wednesday. He was 91.

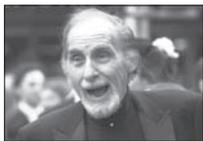
Caesar died at his home in the Los Angeles area after a brief illness, family spokesman Eddy Friedfield said.

In his two most important shows, "Your Show of Shows," 1950-54, and "Caesar's Hour," 1954-57, Caesar displayed remarkable skill in pantomime, satire, mimicry, dialect and sketch comedy. And he gathered a stable of young writers who went on to worldwide fame in their own right — including Neil Simon and Woody Allen.

"The one great star that television created and who created television was Sid Caesar," said critic Joel Siegel on the TV documentary "Hail to Caesar: The Golden Age of Comedy," which first aired in 2001.

While best known for his TV shows, which have been revived on DVD in recent years, he also had success on Broadway and occasional appearances.

If the typical funnyman was tubby or short and scrawny, Caesar was tall and powerful, with a clown's loose limbs and rubbery face, and a trademark mole on his left cheek. But Caesar never went in for clowning or jokes. He wasn't interested. He insisted that the laughs come from the everyday. "Real life is the true comedy," he said in a 2001 interview with The Associated Press. "Then everybody knows what you're talking about."



Sid Caesar



Warner Bros. Pictures

The computer-animated adventure "The Lego Movie" made \$69 million in its first weekend — and the studio behind it is planning a sequel. "If nothing else, people will see the success of 'The Lego Movie' and say, 'Hey, we can do that, too,'" said Lutz Muller, chief executive of Klosters Trading Corp. "But it will take more than just the wish to sell toys to make it a successful movie."

Toymakers look to build on success of Lego flick

By DANIEL MILLER
Los Angeles Times

The \$69-million opening of "The Lego Movie" last weekend has Hollywood film studios scanning the aisles of toy stores for the next hit.

In recent years, several film series based on action figures and other children's products have found major box-office success. Among those have been pictures based on the Transformers and G.I. Joe toy lines.

Although films based on toys aren't guaranteed hits, movie studios are attracted to such properties because of their massive built-in and often pre-sold audiences. Toy-centered films that find success also can unlock lucrative ancillary revenue streams, including more toys and related merchandise.

Movies based on the Ouija board game and the Hot Wheels toy car line are among the latest crop seeking that kind of success. Other beloved toys, including the Candy Land and Monopoly board games, also could be turned into films.

Warner Bros. has already begun developing a sequel to "Lego."

"If nothing else, people will see the success of 'The Lego Movie' and say, 'Hey, we can do that, too,'" said Lutz Muller, chief executive of Klosters Trading Corp., a consumer products consulting firm in Williston, Vt. "But it

will take more than just the wish to sell toys to make it a successful movie."

Indeed, there have been toy-based film missteps such as the 2012 flop "Battleship," which was born out of the high-profile partnership of Universal Pictures and Hasbro. A 1985 adaptation of the board game "Clue" also bombed.

Entertainment attorney Schuyler Moore, who represented the producers of "Goal," a film trilogy largely financed by Adidas and featured the company's apparel, believes that the adaptation of toys into movies is part of a broader trend of companies entering the "content business" in earnest. "They key is whether the product works for a film," said Moore, a partner at Strock & Strock & Lavan.

In 2008, Hasbro Inc. in Pawtucket, R.I., one of the largest toy makers in the world, inked a deal with Universal Pictures to make at least four movies based on the toy company's products. But several projects were shelved, including a film based on the Stretch Armstrong action figure. Though the companies continue to work together — they are making the Ouija project — Muller said "Battleship" is a cautionary tale to toy makers should heed.

"The toy companies will do everything in their power to make sure (a film) sells as many toys as possible, and if they do that, it will take away from the attractiveness of the movie itself," Muller said. "I would not take

the success of Lego as a template for predictions because Lego ... didn't just use "The Lego Movie" to promote Lego."

Though there have been disappointments, toy-based films are proven commodities at the box office. Each of the three "Transformers" films has grossed at least \$700 million worldwide. Both of the "G.I. Joe" pictures crossed the \$300-million mark. Those two franchises are based on properties controlled by Hasbro.

"There used to be a stigma around creating movies based on products," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for entertainment analytics firm Rentrak. "I think people are realizing that movies can come from virtually anywhere, and as long as the movies have some measure of quality then the stigma goes away."

Paramount's next "Transformers" picture, "Transformers: Age of Extinction," stars Mark Wahlberg and is scheduled to come out June 27. Universal Pictures' Ouija project, which Platinum Dunes and Blumhouse Pictures are producing, is slated for release Oct. 24. Universal will distribute Legendary Pictures' upcoming film based on the Hot Wheels die-cast toy cars.

Sony Pictures Entertainment, meanwhile, is developing a film based on Mattel's Masters of the Universe toy franchise, which includes the He-Man and Skeletor characters.

Celebrity chef Paula Deen cooks up comeback deal

The Associated Press

Paula Deen has found a key ingredient to bringing some sizzle back to her career — a cash infusion worth at least \$75 million from a private investment firm.

The Savannah, Ga.-based celebrity cook announced Wednesday that she's launched an umbrella company that will oversee her restaurants, cookbooks, product endorsements and other remaining slices of her media empire. The new company, called Paula Deen Ventures, said private-equity firm Najafi Cos. is investing \$75 million to \$100 million to help Deen make a comeback.

Deen's fortunes took a dive last year after comments she made under oath during proceedings in a lawsuit, namely that she had used racial slurs in the past, became public. The Food Network dropped Deen, as did pork producer Smithfield

Foods, book publisher Ballantine and several other companies that paid her to endorse their products.

In a statement, Deen praised the partnership with Phoenix-based Najafi and the decision to name Steven Nanulla, who has worked with Deen for the past two years, to serve as CEO of Paula Deen Ventures. "I know this is the right decision to lead my team, as we continue to share quality products with my fans — whose love and support have built my brands," Deen said.

Jahm Najafi, CEO of the Najafi Companies, said his firm has great respect for Deen's past success and is confident its investment will pay off.

US rappers banned from NZ

New Zealand immigration authorities Thursday banned Los Angeles rappers Odd Future from entering the country after de-

ciding they pose a threat to public order.

The group was due to play an open-air concert with headline act Eminem on Saturday in Auckland.

Border Operations Manager Karen Urwin said authorities decided to decline visas to six group members after becoming aware of a 2011 incident in Boston in which some witnesses claimed group members incited fans to attack police officers. "It's not a decision we take lightly and not one that happens often," Urwin said.

Group member Tyler, The Creator vented his frustration on Twitter on Thursday.

"They said we were 'terrorist threats and bad for the society' or whatever. Sick," he wrote. He later tweeted, "I love NZ tho."

The hip-hop group, which is also known as Odd Future Wolf Gang Kill Them All, is known for its anarchic style and lyrics that canvas drugs, killing and rape.



AP

Chef Paula Deen has launched a new umbrella company for her cooking empire.

Other news

■ TV host Seth Meyers has scored a powerful guest for his first episode of "Late Night": Vice President Joe Biden. The vice president's office says Biden will appear on the show during the Feb. 24 premiere.

■ The sixth and final season of "Star Wars: The Clone Wars" will be shown exclusively to Netflix subscribers in the U.S. and Canada beginning March 7 as part of a licensing deal announced Thursday.

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OPINION

After the song, why all the discord?

By MICHAEL SMERCONISH
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Bob Dylan took the Pepsi challenge and won.

On any other Super Bowl Sunday, there'd have been controversy over Dylan's concession of beer manufacturing to Germany and phone assembly to Asia (as he asked that we let Chrysler build your car). But Dylan's surrender of American exceptionalism in a commercial escaped controversy because of the kerfuffle that surrounded Coca-Cola's multilingual singalong. No matter that the song was "America the Beautiful"; the fact that it was presented in seven languages was six too many for some.

The reaction was immediate and, in some instances, vicious. CBS in Coke's hometown of Atlanta reported that the company's Facebook page became an electronic town square. There, a Minnesota-based church announced that it was throwing away all of its Coke products because "Mexicans singing the national anthem is an abomination." Another user said that "it's not bigotry to demand that we have a unified language," and if we don't, "we are no better than the third-world cesspool dwellers that refuse to lift themselves."

Videos of the commercial posted on YouTube also drew protests, including one observation that it was "sung by a bunch of foreigners." Time magazine reported that another blogger said, "We speak ENGLISH here, IDIOTS." Glenn Beck, fresh off a mea culpa tour, noted that the purpose was to "divide people."

No, the purpose was to sell product by striking a multinational chord on the eve of the Sochi Winter Olympics. Common sense dictates that before spending somewhere around \$4 million per 30 seconds to air an ad that was seen by 11.5 million people — the largest in American television history — Coke would have run it by a few focus groups to ensure it received the intended reaction. I suspect the "great" Americans who were offended by it are a distinct and endangered minority who weren't the targeted audience.

Reaction to the 60 seconds is a sign of the times. Consider that 43 years ago, the iconic American brand brought us "I'd Like to Buy the World a Coke," an ad that featured a few dozen singers in native garb who — in English — offered a song that was so well-received it spawned a commercial hit. Where the recent Super Bowl commercial focused on America, the predecessor was globally oriented. But that alone doesn't account for its hostile reception in certain quarters. Much has changed since 1971.



SUZANNE BAKER, SUN-TIMES MEDIA/AP

High school sophomore Sushmitha Suresh, of Aurora, Ill., sang a portion of "America the Beautiful" in Hindi in a Coca-Cola commercial that debuted during the Super Bowl.

Quick flashback: Richard Nixon was in the White House. The Baltimore Colts beat the Dallas Cowboys in the Super Bowl, 16-13, on a Jim O'Brien field goal. Evel Knievel jumped 19 cars in California. The Weather Underground exploded a bomb in a men's room at the U.S. Capitol. Joe Frazer defeated Muhammad Ali at Madison Square Garden. Charles Manson was sentenced to death. Stamps were 8 cents; gas was 40 cents a gallon. The voting age was lowered to 18. Walt Disney World opened in Orlando, Fla. There was a prison riot in Attica, N.Y. Led Zeppelin released its fourth album, featuring "Stairway to Heaven." And Archie Bunker debuted in "All in the Family."

Rob Reiner's "Meathead" character may have been smarter than Carroll O'Connor's Archie, but he never won the jousts in the Queens home they shared. And where whites were 80 percent of the American population, according to the 1970 census (which did not delineate Hispanics), Lionel Jefferson — Meathead's black contemporary — was a foil, never a threat. Politically, it was an Archie Bunker world, as evidenced by Nixon's 1972 clobbering of Democrat George McGovern in 49 of 50 states.

So, when a few dozen singers gathered on an Italian hillside to sing about Coke wanting worldwide distribution, it was more cute than a cause for alarm. But now the numbers have changed.

Six years ago, Pew Research launched its Population Prediction, noting: "If current trends continue, the popula-

tion of the United States will rise to 438 million in 2050, from 296 million in 2005, and 82 percent of the increase will be due to immigrants arriving from 2005 to 2050 and their U.S.-born descendants. ... The non-Hispanic white population will increase more slowly than other racial and ethnic groups; whites will become a minority (47 percent) by 2050."

Never mind that the very first image of this year's Coke commercial resembled Ronald Reagan on horseback. The ad was received by some as an in-your-face reminder of changing demographics, rather than, as intended, a reflection of the melting pot that makes the nation unique. I doubt that a similar version with a unified language would have been received much better.

A release coinciding with the airing of the commercial read in part:

"For 127 years, Coca-Cola has been proud to be a part of bringing friends and families together while memories are made," said Katie Bayne, president, North America Brands, Coca-Cola North America. "With 'It's Beautiful,' we are simply showing that America is beautiful, and Coke is for everyone."

Singing "America the Beautiful" in different languages poses no threat to our way of life. No one comes here to change our country. If their intent was to change our country to be more like the one they've escaped, I suspect they'd choose the easier alternative and stay home.

Michael Smerconish writes for The Philadelphia Inquirer.

500 years later, Spain wants its Jews back

By JOSHUA KEATING
Slate

The Financial Times reports that Spain is considering a new change to its citizenship law, one that would allow the descendants of Jews expelled from the country during the Spanish inquisition to obtain citizenship.

Until now the descendants of Jews expelled from Spain during the 15th century — known as Sephardic Jews — could claim Spanish citizenship only after living in the country for two years, and then only if they renounced their previous nationality.

The new bill, which is still to be approved by the Spanish parliament, will allow the estimated 3.5m Sephardic Jews who are alive today to claim Spanish nationality without having to give up their current passport.

While the biggest community of Sephardic Jews lives in Israel, other communities also exist in Latin America, Turkey, the US and other parts of Europe. The proposed offer of Spanish citizenship would also apply to them.

The law would be pretty unusual. A number of countries have laws to encourage members of their diasporas to return to the motherland. Ireland, for instance, will grant citizenship to people with Irish grandparents, though not — as Bill Clinton seems to believe — to anyone of "Irish descent." Israel's law of return will give citizenship to Jews from any country. Armenia passed laws in 2007 to grant dual citizenship to ethnic Armenians born in other countries.

But the Spanish law would apply to people who were expelled from the country, and not recently but five centuries ago. There are already questions about how

the Federation of Jewish Communities in Spain, which will vet the prospective returnees, will determine eligibility.

Part of this may be Spain looking to address one of the darkest periods of its history, but it's also worth noting that people are leaving the country in record numbers these days. As many as 700,000 people — roughly 1.5 percent of the population — may have departed for other countries since 2008.

Allowing Sephardic Jews to return may be one way of attracting new citizens without risking an anti-immigrant backlash. Some might tell me that, given the current political climate, the descendants of Muslims expelled during the Inquisition might have a longer wait.

Joshua Keating is a staff writer at Slate focusing on international news, social science and related topics. He was previously an editor at Foreign Policy magazine.

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.

The recovery is still too slow
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Job creation figures for January, released Feb. 7, continue to present a depressing picture of prospects for the U.S. economy. A pallid total of 113,000 jobs were created in January, on the heels of an even weaker 74,000 in December. The unemployment rate dropped from 6.7 percent to 6.6 percent, which is good, but it reflects more people dropping out of the labor force in the face of dim prospects.

Those new jobs do not even cover the number of new entries into the job market each month. At that rate of increase it would take years just to get back to pre-2008, pre-recession levels of employment.

Congress has not extended emergency jobless benefits, due mostly to Republican opposition. If there were any truth to some of the looney arguments in Washington for extending the benefits to end on Dec. 28 — namely that such aid discourages the unemployed from seeking work — then more people should have been driven into the job market in January. But they were not.

Meanwhile, nothing elsewhere offers much in the way of prospects for improvement of the U.S. economy. Foreign markets, in particular the “Fragile Five” — Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa and Russia — have all seen investment banks retreat as the Federal Reserve reduces its program of quantitative easing. And Puerto Rico, a U.S. territory, has seen its bond rating fall to junk status.

Hope in the spring (next month, officially) always reigns supreme, but it's hard to be hopeful based on this unpromising situation.

Keystone XL has passed tests
Chicago Tribune

The U.S. State Department finally has given the Keystone XL pipeline an unexpectedly “green” light. In a Jan. 31 report, the agency found the pipeline wouldn't cause significant environmental damage. It wouldn't promote more oil extraction. It wouldn't increase demand at U.S. refineries. And, contrary to the claims of many opponents of the long-proposed pipeline, its construction actually would lead to fewer greenhouse gas emissions than the likely alternatives for moving oil.

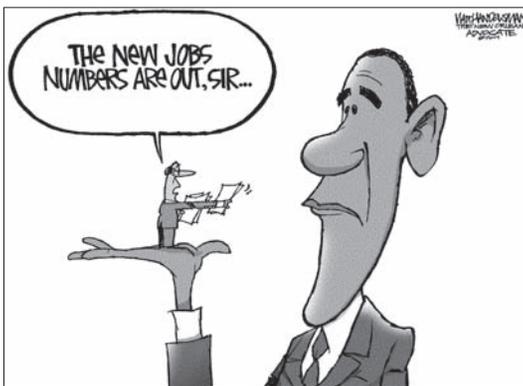
The State Department didn't formally approve the project, but it did give direct answers to the key environmental concerns that are present before the media. It means you get a stall on the project last June.

No, the pipeline would not be the environmental horror that the opponents allege. Yes, it would have a significant economic impact. It would create lots of jobs.

There are no more excuses for delaying this project. It's the work of McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions, which represent 3 million skilled craftsmen. “The time to construct this pipeline is now.”

Yes, now. The Obama administration should promptly approve Keystone XL — and boast about the environmental and economic benefits that it does now move. To review how we got to the gridlock that has stymied this project:

Keystone XL would link the rich oil sands of inland Canada to U.S. refineries and ports at the Gulf of Mexico. That is, the pipeline would be a safer and more reliable way to move oil from one part of North America to another — all that now moves primarily by barge, rail and truck.



Yet the Keystone XL project remains in limbo five years after its backers first sought the necessary approval from Washington. There's speculation that Democratic congressional leaders, for whom the proposal spells trouble no matter how the administration rules, will press Obama to keep a decision on ice until after the November midterm elections. The pipeline plan divides two Democratic constituencies: labor unions that want the job creation, and environmental groups opposed to further development of fossil fuel resources. These groups see thwarting Keystone XL as a step toward faster development of renewable fuel sources. Trouble is, no matter what Washington decides, Canada will extract this oil and consumers somewhere will use it; the question is whether it goes to U.S. refineries or to markets in China or elsewhere.

Republicans have pushed for approval — House Speaker John Boehner said the president's stall amounted to “economic malpractice.” But some of the president's allies have also stepped up the pressure for approval, including Democratic Sens. Heidi Heitkamp, of North Dakota, and Claire McCaskill, of Missouri. ...

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper has been pressing for years for U.S. approval of the \$5.4 billion pipeline. With the project, Canadian energy resources can be put to use more efficiently. Without it, Canada will work around the U.S., expanding its access to ports on its Atlantic and Pacific coasts. More oil will be transported by methods that carry a higher risk of accidents — witness the carnage last summer when a train loaded with oil exploded in the Canadian city of Lac-Mégantic, killing 47 people.

What's most striking in the State Department report appears deep in the fourth of its 11 volumes, under the heading Greenhouse Gas Impacts. Three scenarios if the pipeline isn't built.

■ If the oil instead moves to refineries by rail and tanker, greenhouse gas emissions would be 27.8 percent higher.

■ If the oil is transported by train to existing pipelines, emissions would be 39.7 percent higher.

■ If the oil goes to the Gulf solely by train, emissions would be 41.8 percent higher.

The obvious conclusion: The Obama administration should strike a blow for environmentalism and approve the Keystone XL project.

ObamaCare's warts on display
The Wall Street Journal

“ObamaCare” is useful shorthand for the Affordable Care Act not least because the law increasingly means whatever President Barack Obama says it does on any given day. His latest lawless rewrite ar-

rived Monday as the White House decided to delay the law's employer mandate for another year and in some cases maybe forever.

ObamaCare requires businesses with 50 or more workers to offer health insurance to their workers or pay a penalty, but last summer the Treasury offered a yearlong delay until 2015 despite having no statutory authorization. Like the individual mandate, the employer decree is central to ObamaCare's claim of universal coverage, but employers said the new labor costs — and the onerous reporting and tax-enforcement rules — would damage job creation and the economy.

Liberals insisted that such arguments were false if not beneath contempt, but then all of a sudden the White House implicitly endorsed the other side. Now the new delay arrives amid a furious debate about jobs after a damning Congressional Budget Office report last week, only this time with liberals celebrating ObamaCare's supposed benefits to the job market.

Well, which is it? Either ObamaCare is ushering in a worker's paradise — in which case by the White House's own logic exempting businesses from its ministrations is harming employees — or the mandate really is leading business to cut back on hiring and hours, and shifting workers to part time, as the evidence in the real economy suggests.

Under the new Treasury rule, firms with 50 to 99 full-time workers are free from the mandate until 2016. And firms with 100 or more workers now also only need cover 70 percent of full-time workers in 2015 and 95 percent in 2016 and after, not the 100 percent specified in the law.

The new rule also relaxes the mandate for certain occupations and industries that were at particular risk for disruption, like volunteer firefighters, teachers, adjunct faculty members and seasonal employees. Oh, and the Treasury also notes that, “As these limited transition rules take effect, we will consider whether it is necessary to further extend any of them beyond 2015.” So the law may be suspended indefinitely if the White House feels like it.

By now ObamaCare's proliferating delays, exemptions and administrative retrofits are too numerous to count, most of them of dubious legality. The text of the Affordable Care Act specifically says when the mandate must take effect — “after December 31, 2013.” — and does not give the White House the authority to change the terms. Changing an unambiguous statutory mandate requires the approval of Congress, but then this president has often decided the law is whatever he says it is. His administration's cavalier notions about law enforcement are especially notable here for their bias for corporations

over people. The White House has refused to suspend the individual insurance mandate, despite the harm caused to millions who are losing their previous coverage.

Liberals say the law isn't harming jobs or economic growth, but everything this White House does screams the opposite.

End ban on Cuban research
Tampa (Fla.) Tribune

Florida is the only state in the nation that prohibits its university professors and students from collaborating with researchers and educators in Cuba.

The destructive law hurts Florida's scientists without penalizing Cuba.

As the Tribune's Paul Guzzo reports, a Florida Senate bill adopted in 2006 forbids the use of any money connected to a state university to be used for travel to nations on the U.S. list of state sponsors of terrorism, which includes Cuba.

The island nation is a socialist dictatorship but hardly a serious threat to the United States.

Yet the legislation treats the neighboring nation as though this were the Cold War era.

The law doesn't just handicap researchers. It also prevents Florida students from pursuing education opportunities in Cuba. Students from across the nation — or those from private institutions — can participate in studies in Cuba. Only students at Florida's schools are kept from interacting with Cubans.

This punishes Floridians, not the Cuban government.

Lawmakers should revisit the issue and see that Florida's sanctions against the free exchange of ideas and research is a policy more appropriate for a totalitarian state, not a democracy.

Gay rights take many forms
The Seattle Times

Legal and social recognition for gays and lesbians and their families is a work in progress across all aspects of civil and community life in America.

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder announced Saturday that same-sex couples will be treated equally by the Department of Justice. Another step forward.

Holder, putting affirmative actions behind a 2013 Supreme Court ruling about federal benefits, said same-sex couples and heterosexual couples will have the same rights and options on everything from tax filings to bankruptcy proceedings.

More clarifications are coming on equal treatment in the criminal justice system and that labyrinth — from not having to testify against a spouse to prison visits. As the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force noted about Holder's decisions on recognizing same-sex couples in Justice Department services, “This is very good news for the advancement of equality.”

Progress takes all forms. The legalization of same-sex marriage from Washington state to Minnesota and Rhode Island, among others, frames the broad change under way.

Change of attitudes about gays and lesbians and same-sex couples is the norm, not a novelty, for all aspects of American life. From religious venues to other nearly sacred elements of the culture, such as professional football.

A University of Missouri football player who NFL potential announced he was gay before the draft. It is incumbent on the National Football League to acknowledge the breadth and wealth of talent available to sustain the game. Be open and honest about something that has been a reality forever.

America is a better place the more it acknowledges love and equality, and makes progress in equal treatment from matrimony to the halls of justice and the locker room.

Frazz



Dilbert



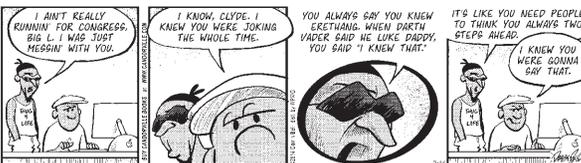
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
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38					39	40			41	42	43	44
					45				46			
48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

ACROSS

- 1 Edge
- 4 "Certainly"
- 7 Postpone
- 12 Blackjack component
- 13 In the manner of
- 14 Nome dome home
- 15 Invitation
- 16 Supreme
- 18 Quilters' gathering
- 19 Extra
- 20 Persian Gulf land
- 22 The lady
- 23 Pith helmet
- 25 Guitar's cousin
- 29 Slept soundly?
- 31 Check recipient
- 34 "Fidelio," e.g.
- 35 Stop container
- 37 Underwear with underwire
- 38 Pinnacle
- 39 "Caught ya!"
- 41 Speed along
- 45 Unaccompanied
- 47 Work with
- 48 Cougar
- 52 Small songbird
- 53 Startle
- 54 D.C. address
- 55 "Holy cow!"
- 56 The same
- 57 Historic time
- 58 Bobby of hockey

DOWN

- 28 St. Bernard's load
- 30 Neither mate
- 31 Bake sale org.
- 32 Joan of —
- 33 Kipper precursor
- 36 Head light?
- 37 Flag
- 40 Hugh Laurie TV series
- 42 Expenditure
- 43 Wickerwork willow
- 44 Poetic rhythm
- 45 Bullets, et al.
- 46 Sicilian spouter
- 48 Scoundrel
- 49 Foreman foe
- 50 Sylvester, to Twety
- 51 Museum stuff

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	O	T	F	L	E	A	P	A	I	N
E	W	E	L	O	S	T	I	N	D	O
T	E	A	H	O	U	S	E	T	E	E
S	O	W	E	A	T	A	W	A	Y	
M	U	P	P	E	T	M	O	P		
E	G	O	R	O	B	P	A	T	H	S
A	L	O	E	M	A	Y	T	E	A	L
D	Y	N	E	S	G	E	L	A	L	A
L	E	E	S	U	P	P	L	Y		
I	R	E	L	A	N	D	M	I	A	
S	A	R	I	T	E	A	B	E	R	R
L	U	R	K	E	L	B	E	T	O	
E	L	S	E	R	E	A	R	Y	E	N

2-14

CRYPTOQUIP

Y S J C O R S U Q O R W E Z Z T E T A ' W
 R V S Z Z W D C W J Q I Y E A E A F
 H Q G T M Q G I J Q G G S J W Z U , H E Z Z
 U Q O G S M E P W D S V G S M E P ?
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: YOU APPEAR TO BE OBSESSED WITH THAT PALE, DELICATE COLOR. YOU SHOULDN'T DWELL ON THE PASTEL.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals D

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			
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			36				37			
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		

- ACROSS**
- 1 Comedian Margaret
 - 4 Flop on Broadway
 - 8 Pronto, on a memo
 - 12 Height of fashion?
 - 13 Eye layer
 - 14 Concern
 - 15 Rage
 - 16 "Why not?"
 - 17 Incite
 - 18 Focus
 - 21 Pay stub abbr.
 - 22 "All the Things You —"
 - 23 Continental coinage
 - 26 Parsons of "The Big Bang Theory"
 - 27 "See ya"
 - 30 Forehead
 - 31 Calendar abbr.
 - 32 Greets the villain
 - 33 Luncheonette order
 - 34 Evergreen type
 - 35 Online annoyance
 - 36 Candy in a dispenser
 - 37 HINI, for instance
 - 38 Leo or Libra
 - 45 Geometry find
 - 46 Channel marker
 - 47 U.S. spy org.
 - 48 Authentic
 - 49 Beige
 - 50 Shade provider
 - 51 Senior facility?
- DOWN**
- 1 Stylish
 - 2 Medal earner
 - 3 Portent
 - 4 Clientele, perhaps
 - 5 Pizzeria fixtures
 - 6 Vegan's no-no
 - 7 Its capital is Manama
 - 8 Less than 90 degrees
 - 9 Bollywood costume treat
 - 10 Best Picture of 2012
 - 11 Hammerhead part
 - 19 Grub
 - 20 Prepare for battle
 - 23 Recede
 - 24 Web address
 - 25 Deteriorate
 - 26 Mandible
 - 27 Jazz style
 - 28 Thee
 - 29 Kreskin's claim
 - 31 Bette Davis film
 - 32 Ring match
 - 33 Still
 - 34 Overemphasize
 - 35 Sacred song
 - 36 Plant life
 - 37 Hallmark offering
 - 39 Black-and-white treat
 - 40 Approach
 - 41 Time founder
 - 42 Henry
 - 42 On the rocks
 - 43 Unctuous
 - 44 Appellation

Answer to Previous Puzzle

R	I	M	Y	E	S	D	E	F	E	R
A	C	E	A	L	A	I	G	L	O	O
B	I	D	P	A	R	A	M	O	U	N
B	E	E	S	P	A	R	E	T	O	P
I	R	A	Q	S	H	E	T	O	P	I
			U	K	E	S	N	O	R	E
P	A	Y	E	E	O	P	E	R	A	
T	R	O	U	G	H	B	R	A		
A	C	M	E	A	H	A	Z	O	O	M
			A	L	O	N	E	U	S	E
C	A	T	A	M	O	N	E	T	I	T
A	L	A	R	M	S	E	N	G	E	E
D	I	T	T	O	E	R	A	O	R	R

2-15 CRYPTOQUIP

V IJM X CFNUB XRJX V UB

NUBFZXEKKBH GQZBOK JX

XRVZ OEMIRBNM ZCFBJH.

VXZ NMOQ J TOEX KBOVMT.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE YOU STILL DIDN'T SPELL THAT COMBINING WORD FORM CORRECTLY, WILL YOU REFIX THE PREFIX?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

HOMeward BOUND

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STARS AND STRIPES

MLB

Yankees' Jeter retiring after season

Popular shortstop says he'll walk away 'with absolutely no regrets'

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter says he will retire after this season "with absolutely no regrets," ending one of the greatest careers in the history of baseball's most storied franchise.

The 39-year-old New York captain posted a long letter on his Facebook page Wednesday saying that 2014 will be his final year.

A 13-time All-Star who has led the Yankees to five World Series championships, Jeter was limited to 17 games last season while trying to recover from a broken left ankle sustained during the 2012 playoffs.

"I know it in my heart. The 2014 season will be my last year playing professional baseball," he wrote.

"I have gotten the very most out of my life playing baseball, and I have absolutely no regrets," he said.

Jeter was the last link to the powerful Yankees teams that won three straight World Series crowns from 1998-2000. Long-time teammates Mariano Rivera and Andy Pettitte retired after last year.

"Derek Jeter is Mr. Yankee of his era," Yankees co-chairman Hank Steinbrenner told The Associated Press. "He was the face of one of the greatest teams ever."

But Jeter's joyride hit a big speed bump recently.

"Last year was a tough one for me. As I suffered through a bunch of injuries, I realized that some of the things that always came easily to me and were always fun had started to become a struggle," Jeter wrote. "The one

thing I always said to myself was that when baseball started to feel more like a job, it would be time to move forward."

"So really it was months ago when I realized that this season would likely be my last. As I came to this conclusion and shared it with my friends and family, they all told me to hold off saying anything until I was absolutely 100 percent sure," he wrote.

"And the thing is, I could not be more sure," he wrote.

Jeter hit just 190 with one homer and seven RBIs last season.

His agent, Casey Close, said Jeter wanted to declare his intentions before the Yankees start spring training later this week so that his future status wouldn't be a distraction.

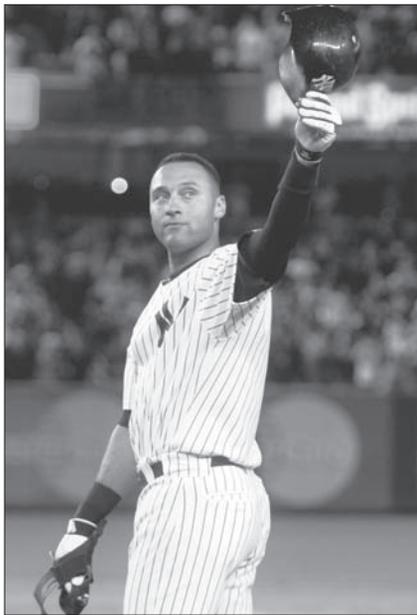
"I'm excited for him. It's kind of nice to see him go out on his own terms," Los Angeles Dodgers manager Don Mattingly said. Mattingly finished up his All-Star career with the Yankees in 1995, the same season Jeter made his big league debut.

"I saw him when he first showed for spring training. I always think about spring training when I think about him, just because he was this 17-year-old kid right out of high school who looked out of place. He was skinny, but he was tough. He was winning since the day he got there," Mattingly said.

Jeter is the Yankees' career hits leader with 3,316. He is a lifetime .312 hitter in 19 seasons, with 256 home runs and 1,261 RBIs.

Jeter has scored 1,876 runs and stolen 348 bases. He also is a five-time Gold Glove winner.

Plus, No. 2 is defined by so much more than his numbers. His backhanded flip in the playoffs,



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter waves to the crowd after hitting a single to break Lou Gehrig's Yankees career hits record on Sept. 11, 2009. Jeter is retiring after this season.

his diving catch into the stands, his speech to close old Yankee Stadium and his home run for career hit No. 3,000.

An October presence for so many years — he's a career .321 hitter in seven World Series — he also became Mr. November in 2001. His winning, 10th-inning

homer came shortly after midnight in a Game 4 that began on Halloween.

"Just as DiMaggio represented his era, Mantle represented his era and Ruth represented his era. And Reggie represented the 70s teams," Steinbrenner said.

Jeter was the AL Rookie of the

Career statistics

		Regular season				
Year Team	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1995 NYY	48	5	12	0	7	.250
1996 NYY	582	104	163	10	73	.274
1997 NYY	654	116	190	10	70	.291
1998 NYY	626	127	203	19	84	.324
1999 NYY	627	134	219	6	83	.349
2000 NYY	593	119	201	15	73	.339
2001 NYY	614	110	191	21	74	.311
2002 NYY	644	124	191	18	75	.297
2003 NYY	482	87	156	10	52	.324
2004 NYY	643	111	188	23	78	.292
2005 NYY	654	122	202	19	70	.309
2006 NYY	623	118	214	14	87	.343
2007 NYY	639	102	206	12	73	.322
2008 NYY	596	88	179	11	69	.306
2009 NYY	634	107	212	18	66	.334
2010 NYY	663	111	179	10	67	.270
2011 NYY	546	84	162	6	63	.293
2012 NYY	683	99	216	15	58	.316
2013 NYY	63	8	12	0	1	.190
Totals	10614	1876	3316	256	1261	.312
		Division series				
Year Opp.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1996 Tex	17	2	7	0	1	.412
1997 Cle	6	0	2	0	2	.333
1998 Tex	9	0	1	0	0	.111
1999 Tex	21	3	5	0	0	.455
2000 Oak	19	1	4	0	2	.211
2001 Oak	18	2	8	0	1	.444
2002 Ana	16	8	8	2	3	.500
2003 Min	14	2	6	1	1	.429
2004 Min	19	3	8	0	4	.421
2005 LAA	21	4	7	2	5	.333
2006 Det	16	4	8	1	1	.500
2007 Cle	17	2	0	0	2	.176
2009 Min	10	4	4	1	2	.400
2010 Min	14	0	4	0	1	.286
2011 Det	24	6	6	0	2	.250
2012 Bal	22	8	8	2	3	.364
Totals	268	47	92	10	28	.343
		League championship series				
Year Opp.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1996 Bal	24	5	10	1	1	.417
1998 Cle	25	5	5	0	2	.200
1999 Bos	20	3	7	1	3	.350
2000 Sea	22	6	7	0	5	.318
2001 Sea	17	7	7	0	1	.412
2003 Bos	30	3	7	1	2	.233
2004 Bos	30	6	8	0	7	.267
2009 LAA	27	5	7	2	3	.259
2010 Tex	26	6	6	1	1	.231
2012 Det	9	0	1	0	0	.111
Totals	226	32	58	7	24	.257
		World Series				
Year Opp.	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	AVG
1996 Fla	20	6	5	0	1	.250
1998 SD	17	4	6	0	1	.353
1999 Atl	17	4	6	0	1	.353
2000 NYM	22	6	9	2	4	.409
2001 Ari	27	3	4	1	1	.148
2003 Fla	26	9	0	2	3	.346
2009 Phi	27	5	11	0	1	.407
Totals	156	32	50	3	9	.321

— The Associated Press

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HIGH SCHOOLS

DODDS Pacific basketball

Pool-play to seed teams in Far East tournaments

Kubasaki boys, ASIJ girls among favorites for championships

By **DAVE ORNAUER**
Stars and Stripes

A bone of contention for many entering last year's Far East high school basketball tournaments was the seeding process. Pool-play games had been eliminated and a straight double-elimination format introduced, with seeding done by tournament directors and approved by the DODDS Pacific area office.

DODDS has reversed course this year, restoring pool-play to help seed teams for the elimination playoffs later in the week.

"It seemed to make sense" to restore pool play, DODDS Pacific athletics coordinator Don Hobbs said.

"We can squeeze them into the time allotted. It guarantees teams at least two or three games before bracket play. It's a good decision and the tournament directors thought it would be done."

Coach Jon Fick of host Kubasaki, seeded No. 1 last year but fifth at the tournament, welcomed the return of pool play.

"We get to see what everybody

has the first two days of the tournament," Fick said. "Nobody has seen each other. We'll have to play it out and see where everybody ends up."

Observers point to Kubasaki as one of a handful of tournament favorites, to include Korea regular-season champion Seoul American, reigning champion American School In Japan, Yokota, Kadena and Faith Academy of the Philippines.

On the girls side, ASIJ, which just missed ending its 21-year title drought last year, enters the D-I tourney at Camp Zama as a prohibitive favorite. Several coaches have said it's the best balanced Mustang team they've seen.

"If you can handle their presses, keep them off the offensive glass and take away points in transition, then maybe you have a chance. Or maybe not," said Yokota girls coach Tim Pujol. His Panthers lost 50-24 on Jan. 29 to ASIJ.

Daegu's boys and girls teams raised the most eyebrows before last year's Far East Division II tournaments. They were seeded

No. 1; the boys were eliminated in two games on the first day and the girls were ousted on the second day after three games.

But the boys rebounded to win the Korea postseason tournament this year and the girls won the regular-season title and just missed in the tournament final against Seoul American. Daegu athletics director Ken Walter said if things fall into place, the Warriors' teams have a shot.

"Last year, the boys fell in love with the immediate three-pointer," Walter said. "This year, they're playing a more balanced game. They need to play ball."

As for the girls, they also featured good balance, but a sudden transfer by center Auburn Hood left a void in the paint. Still, they're "solid," Walter said, with Lari Robertson and Rachel Wyche having played together since middle school.

"They have to continue to do what they've been doing. They have to go out and play and shoot the ball," Walter said.

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MYLISSA MACLIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Daegu's Tre Johnson tries to drive around Seoul American's Shawn Home to the basket during the championship game in the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference Blue Division boys basketball tournament earlier this month. Both teams are hoping to fare well in their respective Far East tournaments next week.

DODDS Europe weekend peek

Teams gear up for playoffs as regular season ends

By **GREGORY BROOME**
Stars and Stripes

The final weekend of the regular season, just a few tantalizing days before the early February European championship tournament, can feel like the long and uneventful wait for a thrilling theme-park ride. Whatever happens this weekend will soon be forgotten, swept up in the avalanche of triumphs, heartbreaks and endless momentum swings that are bound to follow.

But history shows that the final weekend of the regular season, however inconsequential it might seem, can reveal a lot about the tournament it precedes.

Last season, many of the teams that would go on to celebrate European championships were active and victorious in the weekend prior to the postseason.

Boys Division I champion Patch was tuning up for its title run with two convincing wins over Schweinfurt, then a formidable Division II squad. Boys Division III champ Bamberg was busy spoiling the historic final regular-season games played by Division I school Heidelberg. Baumholder, the team Bamberg eventually



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein's Isaac Moreno gets a shot off against Wiesbaden's Kelsey Thomas in a January game. The Warriors look to complete a perfect regular season against Kaiserslautern on Friday.

beat for the title, notched consecutive wins over divisional rival Brussels over the same two days, foreshadowing its European semifinal victory over Brussels just under a week later.

A similar trend unfolded on the girls side of the schedule.

Soon-to-be Division I champion Kaiserslautern dispatched

Black Forest Academy twice in the season's final weekend, while runner-up Wiesbaden blew out Ramstein twice to prepare for the tournament. Division III winner Brussels took two games from Baumholder and Division II runner-up Ansbach earned a win over Division I Vilsack.

So what teams might set the

stage for championship runs this weekend?

The undefeated SHAPE boys can keep their momentum intact with wins over Brussels. On the flip side, the favored defending champion Brussels girls would benefit from a quality win over SHAPE.

Wiesbaden and Kaiserslautern face off Friday; both schools' boys

and girls teams are legit title contenders, and would love to enter the tournament on a win streak.

The Patch boys, meanwhile, are entering a doubleheader against a dangerous and steadily improving Vilsack squad that has spent the season striving in vain to crack the top tier of Division I contenders.

A Vilsack upset bid could nudge the Panthers' leash and send the Falcons' confidence soaring.

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Schedule

Wrestling

Friday and Saturday
European championship at Wiesbaden

Basketball

Friday
Alconbury at Lakenheath
Brussels at SHAPE
Black Forest Academy at Bittburg
Wiesbaden at Kaiserslautern
Schweinfurt at Ansbach
Patch at Vilsack
Marymount at AOSR

Saturday
Alconbury at Lakenheath
AFNORTH at SHAPE
Black Forest Academy at Bittburg
Baumholder at Kaiserslautern
Hohenfels at Ansbach
Patch at Vilsack
Marymount at AOSR

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Pick 6: Underrated players

BY JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

By now, even the most casual college basketball fans have heard about Doug McDermott, Jabari Parker and Marcus Smart. They were touted as some of the best players in the game before the season and have lived up to the billing.

But what about Antoine Mason? He's the nation's scoring leader, yet goes largely unnoticed

outside of the Northeast because he plays at Niagara.

Mason is not alone in his relative obscurity. With the depths and breadth of talent in college basketball, there are talented players across the country, many who go unnoticed outside their conferences or regions.

With that in mind, we're going to recognize a few, knowing there are plenty more out there:



JULIO CORTEZ/AP

1 Mason, Niagara: He's the son of former New York Knicks power forward Anthony Mason, yet plays a vastly different game than his pops. The fourth-year junior leads the nation in scoring at 26.3 points per game and is second nationally in fouls drawn per game at 8.4 per game, according to Kenpom.com.



KARL MAASDAM/AP

2 Roberto Nelson, Oregon State: The 6-foot-4 guard has a quick release, can shoot from range and has a knack for getting off shots over bigger players at the rim. Nelson is the Pac-12's leading scorer and 11th nationally with 23.5 points per game while shooting 41 percent from three-point range. He also averages 3.7 assists and 3.2 rebounds.



BROYD SCHMIDT/AP

3 Markel Brown, Oklahoma State: A 6-3 senior, Brown can light it up from long range in a hurry and is a regular on the highlight shows with his variety of rim-rattling dunks. Brown is averaging 16.7 points per game, hitting 47 percent from the floor and 37 percent from beyond the three-point arc.



JAY LAPRETE/AP

4 Roy Devyn Marble, Iowa: The athletic 6-6 senior guard has put himself in position to become Iowa's first Big Ten player of the year. Marble leads the Hawkeyes in scoring at 16.5 points per game and is a lockdown defensive player who often guards the opposing team's best perimeter player.



BEN MARGOT/AP

5 Aaric Murray, Texas Southern: A powerful 6-10, 245 pounds, Murray's been an unstoppable force in the SWAC, scoring 23.8 points per game — fourth nationally — while shooting 48 percent from the floor, grabbing 8.2 rebounds and blocking 2.3 shots per game. Murray had 48 points against Temple, the most ever scored against the Owls.



ROBERT SUTTON/AP

6 Trevor Releford, Alabama: A superb two-way player, Releford leads the Crimson Tide in scoring at 18.7 points and assists, with 67, while grabbing 3.4 rebounds as a 6-foot guard. Releford is shooting 50 percent from the floor, including 39 percent from three, and is Alabama's go-to player in crunch time. He averages nearly 34 minutes per game.

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MLB

Back in the swing

Athletics left fielder Cespedes puts 2013's struggles in past, prepares for new season

By JANIE McCauley
The Associated Press

With a shortened swing and newfound swagger after his most rigorous offseason of training yet that helped him pack on 15 pounds of muscle, Yoenis Cespedes wants to forget the frustrations of last year.

While the slugging left fielder has turned his attention to making better, more consistent contact, he still plans to regularly clear the fences for the Oakland Athletics — and the reigning Home Run Derby champion hopes that means hitting more than the 26 long balls he had last season.

“Possibly, I’ll have a little less power. If a home run went 430 feet, it will go 410 feet,” Cespedes said with a chuckle. “But maybe I can do it more often.”

As Cespedes looks back on what he considered a subpar second season in the majors, he points to not being “strong in mind” dealing with the ups and downs.

He became an unlikely Home Run Derby winner at the All-Star Game while celebrating his family’s long-awaited arrival to the Bay Area, but dealt with injuries and a notable decline in batting average.

“I think I should have been stronger mentally,” Cespedes said. “As an athlete, when things aren’t going your way, you have to be strong-minded. Maybe that was one of the reasons I didn’t do so well last year.”

So motivated was Cespedes, he took his offseason training up a notch. Not in volume, but rather the intensity in which he worked out in South Florida.

The 28-year-old Cuban defector has two seasons remaining on the \$36 million, four-year contract he signed in February 2012, but Cespedes indicated he is eager to lock up a long-term deal and even consider spending his career with a club he helped win improbable back-to-back AL West crowns.

“You’re always going to have highs and lows. Last year I got into this low and just couldn’t recover the whole season. In 2012, I had highs and lows,” Cespedes said.

He plans to better deal with those moments. The A’s are pleased with that growth.

“Obviously, there’s some toughness there, you see a guy that shows up in the big games and gets inspired by the big stage,” manager Bob Melvin said. “Sometimes it’s tougher on guys with that kind of talent to go through some struggles and there maybe needs to be, in his mind, some more fight to get through that. I think that’s maturity.”

Cespedes’ batting average dropped to .240 last season after he hit .292 with 23 homers and 82 RBIs as a rookie, but he still hit 26 homers and drove in 80 runs in 2013.

He acknowledges pitchers caught on to him a little bit last year. He began to make strides again in September when he focused on making contact.

“My first year, they didn’t know me as well and pitched me one way and the second year they knew me a lot better and I was not capable

of making the adjustments I needed to do,” he said. “I’m looking forward to making those adjustments.”

He has already made one: Cespedes said he is weighing in at 225 pounds, 15 higher than his listed playing weight last year.

“The thing that resonates with me is talking about shortening his stroke some, and he has done that at times and has had success with it,” Melvin said.

Cespedes has taken consecutive AL division series losses to the Tigers personally. He expects himself to do more, and he is already calling for the A’s to get back to the playoffs in a division featuring big-name new faces such as Robinson Cano in Seattle and Prince Fielder transplanted to Texas.

“I don’t know if we’re the favorite,” he said, “but the A’s are going to be in the playoffs again.”

‘As an athlete, when things aren’t going your way, you have to be strong-minded. Maybe that was one of the reasons I didn’t do so well last year.’

Yoenis Cespedes
On dealing with adversity in his second season



BEN MARCOT/AP

Encore: Johnson’s season helped the Braves through first year without Chipper Jones

FROM BACK PAGE

Johnson enjoyed a consistent season, hitting .330 before the All-Star break and .311 after the break. He didn’t hit below .273 in any month and finished with 12 homers and 68 RBIs in 142 games.

“I’m really proud of how last year went,” he said. “It’s something that I’ll never forget. ... It was definitely something that I don’t want to forget, but it’s a new season so you’ve got to move on quick. If you don’t, this game will leave you behind quick.”

Johnson’s solid season was important for the Braves in their first season following Chipper Jones’ retirement.

“Chris did a great job,” said general

manager Frank Wren. “He settled in and gave us quality at-bats all year long. I think it was nice to see because that was a big spot to fill.”

Johnson said the idea of replacing Jones “was tough at first.”

“The guy is a god around here,” he said. “Playing well definitely helped that. I think I did a good job, and it helped also coming into camp platooning with Juan. It wasn’t all on me.”

Playing with Houston and Arizona in 2012, Johnson hit .281 and set career highs with 15 homers and 76 RBIs. He said Braves batting coaches Greg Walker and Scott Fletcher helped him boost his aver-

age, even if that meant a slight reduction in his power numbers.

“I just think the coaching staff over here helped me realize what kind of player I want to be, what kind of hitter that I should be,” Johnson said. “I shouldn’t be a guy that’s going out there trying to hit 30 home runs. I need to take my hits going the other way, definitely going to right field. So that’s the guy I want to be. I want to be around 300 and if those other power numbers come, that’s fine.”

Johnson had more success swinging at pitches in 2013 than at the snow which shut down Atlanta last month. Johnson from Naples, Fla., said he was not prepared to

battle the frozen precipitation.

“It was nuts,” he said. “Our driveway is really steep. It was full of ice and snow. I’m from Florida. I don’t have a shovel or anything. I went out there with a broom. That didn’t work.”

It’s no wonder Johnson was smiling Friday as he watched workers load boxes from the Braves clubhouse on an equipment truck headed to spring training.

Braves pitchers and catchers reported for spring training on Thursday. Other players report on Feb. 18.

“It just got real,” he said. “It’s exciting. Today is a big day. I’m going home right now and start packing.”

NBA

With new commissioner, NBA enters Silver Age

After 22 years under David Stern, the new boss is ready to chart league's path

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

HIS name is already on the ball. Now Adam Silver can put his stamp on the NBA.

On All-Star Saturday in New Orleans, Silver will deliver his first state of the league news conference as commissioner, a chance to tell a worldwide viewing audience how he plans to make the NBA bigger and better than it was under David Stern.

Don't expect anything major.

After working so closely with Stern during his 22 years at the league, Silver's fingerprints were already all over the \$5.5 billion business long before he became in charge of it this month.

"I'm not coming in with a five-point plan," Silver told The Associated Press during an interview in his office at NBA headquarters. "I'm not an outsider coming into the league. I've been part of this league for a long time and if there was something that I thought should've been done markedly different than the way it's done now, I think David and I would have pushed each other to do it."

"My priority is the game and that's what I'll be telling people next Saturday."

He has been at the NBA since 1992, overseeing the league's entertainment empire, helping negotiate collective bargaining agreements, and on Feb. 1, he replaced Stern. He is liked by owners and respected by players, all believing Silver is the person to continue the massive growth the league saw under Stern.

"He's someone who has the same kind of feel that we have, in the sense of how can we make this pie bigger? How can we make this game bigger?" Miami Heat All-Star Dwyane Wade said.

"He's going to be a good commissioner. I believe. Strong in what he believes in. He was in the



JOSE LUIS VILLEGAS, SACRAMENTO BEE/MCT

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver, center, walks with Sacramento Kings majority owner Vivek Ranadive to a press conference during halftime at Sleep Train Arena in Sacramento, Calif., on Wednesday.

(CBA) meetings as well, so we know what kind of guy he is and we respect him."

While the NBA's international growth is frequently considered Stern's greatest achievement, Silver seems focused on

boosting the game's popularity in the United States.

Silver, 51, has always been ahead of the curve when it comes to basketball.

He attended Duke University in the early 1980s before the Blue Devils became a powerhouse, when nobody camped out outside Cameron Indoor Stadium because you could just get into games with a student ID. He moved to Chicago to attend law school and began going to games with friends in the early days of Michael Jordan, before the Bulls became the biggest thing in basketball.

Now Silver is following one of American sports' greatest commissioners.

Former NBA Commissioner David Stern, left, was concerned with growing the league internationally, but new Commissioner Adam Silver is focused on boosting the game's popularity in the U.S.

GEORGE BRIDGES/MCT

‘He’s going to be a good commissioner, I believe. Strong in what he believes in. He was in the (CBA) meetings as well, so we know what kind of guy he is and we respect him.’

Dwyane Wade
Miami Heat guard

and I don't see him having much difficulty shifting into the role of commissioner," former NBA Players Association executive director Billy Hunter said.

But Silver, designated as Stern's successor in October 2012, knows that doesn't mean it will always be easy.

"I didn't have the same appreciation for what he was going through on a daily basis as the commissioner until I really thought about, 'What if that were I and I had to make that decision?'" Silver said. "And it's very different being sort of the voice in the ear of the guy making the decision as opposed to the guy making the decision."

Nonetheless, he believes the league is in a good place and ready to grow. He met with executives from Facebook and Twitter while visiting Sacramento and

Golden State during his first week as commissioner, seeking ways to bring the NBA to a larger audience than ever.

"To me," Silver said, "the game is fantastic. The challenge is to use these new technologies and platforms to help more fans discover the game."



OLYMPICS

Men's hockey roundup

US opens tournament with rout of Slovakia

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — With just one game to prepare for its Olympic showdown with Russia, the United States men's hockey team decided to cram an entire tournament's worth of hard work and highlights into one spectacular opener.

Paul Stastny scored twice during a six-goal barrage in the second period, and the Americans got off to a roaring start in Sochi with a 7-1 victory over Slovakia in preliminary-round play Thursday.

Ryan Kesler, David Backes, Phil Kessel and Dustin Brown also scored as the U.S. battered Slovakia for six consecutive goals in a 13:51 span, turning what was expected to be a tough matchup into a laughter with their relentless offense.

"I guess you never really expect to beat a team like that 7-1, and you never do it in a tournament like this," captain Zach Parise said. "We just jumped on the chances we had, moved the puck well and used our speed."

Although the goal celebrations declined from elation to excitement to sheepishness while the score skyrocketed, the Americans answered any lingering questions about their offensive abilities and their aptitude on the big Olympic ice by decimating a Slovak roster studded with NHL players.

"You have to do a lot of skating out there on the big ice, but I think we handled it all right," said Kessel, who led the U.S. with two goals and an assist.

Jonathan Quick made 22 saves in his Olympic debut for the U.S., which hopes to improve on its silver-medal finish in Vancouver despite a roster that isn't thought to have the offensive power of Canada, Russia or Sweden.

In their only warmup for Saturday's game against Alex Ovechkin and the host Russians, the Americans had more than enough potency to leave Slovakia's two goalies battered.

"For the first time on the big ice for most of us, I thought we did pretty well," Stastny said. "Our strengths are our puck possession and our speed, and we were really able to use both of them. All four lines just kind of clicked, and so did our D-men."

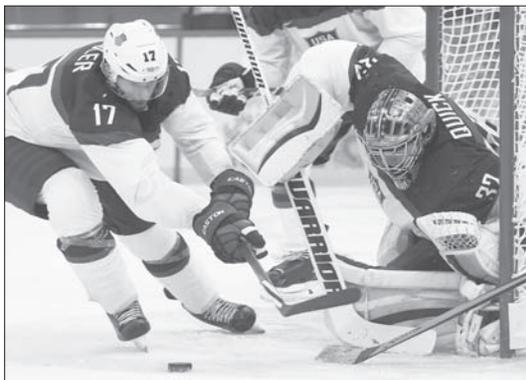
Jaroslav Halak stopped 20 shots before getting pulled when Stastny tipped home Kevin Shattenkirk's pass to put the Americans up 5-1 with their fourth goal in 12:04. Peter Budaj replaced Halak, but Kessel and Brown piled on goals in the next 1:47.

Tomas Tatar scored for Slovakia, which traveled to Sochi without high-scoring Marian Gaborik and veteran defenseman Lubomir Visnovsky due to injury. Nobody anticipated such a defensive collapse by a talented roster anchored by Stanley Cup-winning defenseman Zdeno Chara.

Slovakia's last two Olympic appearances have been humiliations: The Slovaks flew a third-period lead and lost to Finland in the bronze medal game in Vancouver, depriving them of their nation's first Olympic hockey medals.

"We're going to be better," said Tatar, the Detroit Red Wings' young forward. "We had a solid first period and then tied it. We've just got to play way better in our defensive zone. I think we're going to be ready to play the next game. We have a lot of talent in our locker room, and we're going to sort it out."

Russia 5, Slovakia 2: Alex Ovechkin had a goal and an assist in a breathtaking start and the Russians went on to win their



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

USA forward Ryan Kesler and goaltender Jonathan Quick defend against a shot by Slovakia during the third period Thursday in Sochi, Russia. The U.S. won its preliminary round opener 7-1. They play Russia, led by Alex Ovechkin, next.

Sochi opener.

Ovechkin scored 1:17 after the puck dropped with a wrist shot that made the crowd roar. The superstar made the flag-waving fans gasp in awe 2:37 later with a drop pass to set up Evgeni Malkin's goal that gave Russia a 2-0 lead.

The Slovenians were respectable for two-plus periods in their first Olympic hockey game ever.

Ziga Jeglic had two goals in the second period — one before Evgeni Malkin scored and one after — to pull Slovenia within a score of a talented team.

Russia created a cushion in the first half of the third period when Valeri Nichushkin and Anton Belov.

When the game was over, the team that its treated like rock stars in its country raised their sticks and got a standing ovation.

Slovenia has only one NHL player, Los Angeles Kings forward Anze Kopitar, whose father is the team's coach. Jeglic plays professionally in Germany.

Russia, meanwhile, has 16 players from the NHL.

Finland 8, Austria 4: Jarkko Immonen and Mikael Granlund scored two goals apiece as Finland opened preliminary-round play with a victory over Austria.

Jussi Jokinen and Petri Kontiola each had a goal and an assist for the Finns, who put 52 shots on beleaguered Austria goalie Bernhard Starkbaum despite playing the final two periods without captain Teemu Selanne.

The 43-year-old Finnish Flash had an assist in the first period of his record-equating sixth Olympics before settling out with an upper-body injury. Selanne should be fine for the Finns' next game, team spokesman Janne Lahti said.

Michael Grabner scored three goals in his Olympic debut for Austria. The New York Islanders forward scored 36 seconds into the first period, and Austria had two early leads before Finland took control.

Pushenko retires, drops out of Games

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Evgeni Pushenko's Olympics are over. His competitive career, too.

The Russian star retired Thursday just after he withdrew from the men's event at the Sochi Olympics for medical reasons.

The 31-year-old Pushenko is the only modern-era figure skater to win medals in four Olympics. He helped Russia win the team gold over the weekend.

"I think it's God saying, 'Evgeni, enough, enough with skating,'" said Pushenko, who originally was hurt in a training session Wednesday. "Age, it's OK. But I have 12 surgeries. I'd like to be healthy."

In warmups before the short program, he fell on a triple axel and said it felt "like a knife in my back." He skated toward his coaches while bent over, then tried to loosen up by skating around the Iceberg rink some more.

He then attempted another axel and botched it, shook his head

and consulted with coach Alexei Mishin. When Pushenko's name was announced to the crowd seconds later — to loud applause — he skated to the event referee and withdrew.

Before the latest injury, Pushenko said he planned to go out in style.

"I said to myself, 'Evgeni, you must skate. It's two more days, short and long program,'" the 2006 Olympic gold medalist said. He also won Olympic silver in 2002 and 2010.

Before leaving the ice, he held up both hands to the crowd as if to say he was sorry, and took a small bow.

He was Russia's only man in the competition, so the host country will have no finisher in the event.

Pushenko finished second at the Russian national championships and didn't appear headed for Sochi at all. He was added to the Russian roster late last month after a trial run-through in front



IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

Russia's Evgeni Pushenko leaves the ice after pulling out of the men's short program figure skating competition Thursday for medical reasons.

of federation officials convinced them he was the country's best men's option.

"That decision paid off when he finished second in the team short program and first in the free skate, helping Russia to its first gold of the Sochi Games.

"Some people say we had this plan from the very beginning, but we did not," he said. "We were going to go to the end. If I really wished to withdraw after the team event, I would have."

Worker hit by bobsled breaks both his legs

By Tom Withers
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — An Olympic track worker struck by a bobsled broke both legs and may have a concussion, IOC officials said Thursday.

The worker was on the track when he was hit by a forerunning sled near the finish line at the Sanki Sliding Center, just before the start of Thursday's two-man bobsled training.

"We still do not know why he was in this zone and exactly what happened," IOC President Thomas Bach said in a visit to The Associated Press office in Sochi.

Bach added that the worker "may be" has a concussion. Later, IOC spokesman Mark Adams told the AP: "I understand he is conscious and talking and has two broken legs."

Sochi organizers said the unidentified man was taken by helicopter to a hospital, but gave no other information about his injuries. Officials said the crash took place just before the finish line,

which would suggest that the sled likely had not yet started to brake.

"According to standard procedure, a warning signal was given ahead of the forerunners' bob beginning its run on the track," Sochi organizers said in a statement. "The reasons for the icemaker's presence on the track after the warning signal are currently being determined."

Also, officials said the huge team relay event scheduled to make its Olympic debut on Thursday will take place as scheduled.

Forerunning sleds are used before training and competition sessions to assess track conditions and make sure the facility is safe for racing. Also, people in the vicinity of the track are almost always alerted that a sled is in the track through public-address announcements, though it was unclear why the worker struck was unaware the session was beginning.

It's also unclear why the worker was on the track when the sled came out the final curve and approached the finish line.

OLYMPICS

Scoreboard

Medals count

At Sochi, Russia
Through Thursday, Feb. 13
(35 of 98 events)

Nation	G	S	B	Total
Norway	4	3	5	12
Netherlands	4	2	6	12
United States	3	4	11	18
Russia	4	7	2	13
Germany	4	7	2	13
Canada	4	4	1	9
Austria	1	4	0	5
Sweden	0	4	1	5
Switzerland	2	0	4	6
France	2	0	2	4
Slovenia	1	1	2	4
China	2	1	0	3
Czech Republic	0	2	1	3
Italy	0	2	1	3
Japan	0	2	1	3
Poland	0	0	2	2
Latvia	0	0	2	2
South Korea	1	0	1	2

Freestyle skiing

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Men's Slopestyle
Final

Final Ranking

5. Joss Christensen, Park City, Utah, (95.80; 83.50; 85.80)

2. Gus Kenworthy, Telluride, Calif., (101.80; 95.60)

3. Nick Goepfer, Lawrenceburg, Ind., (92.40; 61.80; 52.40)

4. Andreas Hastved, Norway, (89.60; 91.80; 91.80)

4. James Woods, Britain, (86.60; 78.40) 86.60

6. Henrik Harlaut, Sweden, (83.80; 84.40; 84.40)

7. Aleksander Aurdal, Norway, (70.00; 81.80)

8. Russell Henshaw, Australia, (80.40; 28.80)

9. Bobby Brown, Breckenridge, Colo., (29.20; 78.40) 78.40

10. Oystein Bråten, Norway, (66.40; 65.80) 66.40

Speedskating

Thursday
At Sochi, Russia
Women's 500
Final B

1. Zhang Hong, China, 1:14.02.

2. Ireena Sauerbrey, Netherlands, 1:14.69.

3. Margot Boer, Netherlands, 1:14.50.

4. Olga Fatkulina, Russia, 1:15.08.

5. Lotte van Beek, Netherlands, 1:15.10.

5. Marrit Leenstra, Netherlands, 1:15.15.

7. Heather Richardson, High Point, N.C., 1:15.23.

8. Brittany Bowe, Ocala, Fla., 1:15.47.

9. Other U.S.

3. Sugar Todd, Milwaukee, 1:19.13.

3. Kelly Gunnig, Lorain, Ohio, 1:19.43.

Short track

Thursday
At Sochi, Russia
Women's 500
Final B

1. Liu Qijun, China, 1:14.88.

2. Fan Xing, China, 1:14.29.

3. Polina Gerasimova, Ter Moss, Netherlands, 44.31.

4. Marianne St-Gelais, Canada, 44.359.

Final A

1. Li Jianrou, China, 45.263.

2. Arianna Fontana, Italy, 51.250.

3. Park Seung-Hi, South Korea, 54.207.

NK. Elise Christie, Britain, PEN.

Luge

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Team Relay

1. Germany 3 (Nadine Gelsenberger, Felix Loch, Tobias Wendl, Tobias Arlt), 2:45.649.

2. Russia 1 (Tatjana Ivanova, Al'bert Demchenko, Alexander Denishev, Vladislav Antonov), 2:46.679.

3. Latvia 1 (Eliza Turina, Martins Rubenis, Andris Šķeris, Juris Šķeris), 2:47.295.

5. Canada 1 (Alex Gough, Sam Edney, Tristan Walker, Justin Smith), 2:47.589.

5. Italy 1 (Sandra Gasparini, Armin Zoeggeler, Christian Oberstötzl, Patrick Riederer), 2:47.420.

6. United States 1 (Erin Hamlin, Remon Soni, Chris Mazdzer, Saranok Lako-Ny, Christian Niccum, Woodville, W. Jayson Tombar, Bernick, Pa.), 2:47.555.

7. Austria 1 (Miriam Kastunger, Wolfgang Kindl, Andreas Linger, Wolfgang Langer), 2:48.477.

8. Poland 1 (Natalia Wołoszczyn, Maciej Kuroszki, Patryk Poreba, Karol Mikulajczyk), 2:49.753.

Biathlon

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Men's 20km
(Penalties in parentheses)

1. Martin Fourcade, France, 49:31.7
Erik Lesser, Germany, 49:43.9 (0/1)

3. Evgeniy Garanichev, Russia, 50:06.2 (1)

4. Simon Eder, Austria, 50:09.5 (1)

5. Dominik Landertinger, Austria, 50:12.0 (1)

6. Jean Guillaume Beatrix, France, 50:15.5 (1)

7. Emil Hegle Svendsen, Norway, 50:30.3 (1).

8. Lowell Bailey, Lake Placid, N.Y., 50:57.4 (1).

Other U.S. Finishers

44. Tim Burke, Paul Smiths, N.Y., 54:21.2 (4).

50. Russell Currier, Stockholm, Maine, 55:07.4 (5).

83. Leif Nordgren, Marine on St. Croix, Minn., 58:47.6 (6).

Cross-country skiing

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Women's 10km
1. Justyna Kowalczyk, Poland, 28:17.8.

2. Charlotte Kalla, Sweden, 28:36.2.

3. Therese Johaug, Norway, 28:46.1.

4. Aino-Kaisa Saariainen, Finland, 28:48.1.

5. Marit Bjørgen, Norway, 28:51.2.

U.S. Finishers

18. Sadie Bjornsen, Wintrop, Wash., 31:19.7.

22. Sophie Caldwell, Peru, UT, 32:54.4.

34. Ida Sargent, Barton, Vt., 31:15.1.

35. Holly Brooks, Anchorage, Alaska, 31:19.1.

Figure skating

Men's Short Program
Thursday
At Sochi, Russia

1. Yuzuru Hanyu, Japan, 101.45 (Q).

2. Patrick Chan, Canada, 97.52 (Q).

3. Javier Fernández, Spain, 86.98 (Q).

4. Daisuke Takahashi, Japan, 86.40 (Q).

5. Peter Liebers, Germany, 86.04 (Q).

6. Jason Brown, United States, 86.00 (Q).

7. Brian Joubert, France, 85.84 (Q).

8. Yan Han, China, 85.66 (Q).

9. Denis Ten, Kazakhstan, 84.06 (Q).

10. Alexander Majorov, Sweden, 83.81 (Q).

11. Tatsuki Machida, Japan, 83.48 (Q).

12. Michal Březina, Czech Republic, 81.95 (Q).

13. Tomas Verner, Czech Republic, 81.09 (Q).

14. Florent Amodeo, France, 75.58 (Q).

15. Jeremy Abbott, United States, 72.00 (Q).

16. Jorik Hendrickx, Belgium, 72.52 (Q).

17. Kevin Reynolds, Canada, 68.76 (Q).

18. Misha Ge, Uzbekistan, 68.07 (Q).

19. Michael Christian Martinez, Philippines, 64.81 (Q).

20. Abzal Rakimgaliyev, Kazakhstan, 64.18 (Q).

21. Yakov Godorozha, Ukraine, 62.65 (Q).

22. Alexei Bechenko, Israel, 62.44 (Q).

23. Viktor Romanovskiy, Estonia, 61.65 (Q).

24. Zoltan Kelemen, Romania, 60.01 (Q).

25. Javier Raya, Spain, 59.76.

26. Viktor Pfeifer, Austria, 56.60.

27. Paul Bonifacio Parkinson, Italy, 56.30.

28. Liam Firus, Canada, 55.04.

29. Brendan Kerry, Australia, 47.12.

NK. Evgenii Plushenko, Russia, WD.

Country

China 4-0

Britain 4-1

Switzerland 3-1

Norway 3-1

Canada 2-3

United States 1-3

Switzerland 1-4

Germany 1-4

Wednesday, Feb. 12
United States 9, Denmark 5
Norway 8, Germany 5
China 5, Switzerland 4
China 11, Germany 7
Britain 4, Switzerland 2
Russia 2, Austria 2
Denmark 8, Sweden 5

Thursday, Feb. 13
Russia 7, Switzerland 6
Canada 7, Denmark 6
Sweden 5, Norway 4
Britain 5, United States 2

Friday, Feb. 14
Sweden vs. Canada
United States vs. Germany
China vs. Norway
Britain vs. Denmark
Russia vs. United States
China vs. Norway
Switzerland vs. Germany

Saturday, Feb. 15
Sweden vs. Germany
Denmark vs. Switzerland
Russia vs. Germany
Canada vs. China

Skeleton

Thursday
At Krasnaya Polyana, Russia
Tough Two Runs

1. Elizabeth Yarnold, Britain, 1:56.89.

2. Noelle Pikus-Pace, United States, 1:57.33.

3. Elena Nikitina, Russia, 1:57.44.

4. Katie Uhlaender, United States, 1:57.58.

5. Olga Potylitsina, Russia, 1:57.75.

6. Maria Orlova, Russia, 1:57.99.

7. Anja Huber, Germany, 1:58.30.

8. Sarah Reid, Canada, 1:58.31.

9. Sophia Griebel, Germany, 1:58.63.

10. Marion Teho, Germany, 1:58.67.

Women's hockey

Preliminary Round
Group A

Country	W	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Canada	3	0	0	9	11	2
United States	1	0	0	6	14	4
Finland	0	0	1	2	9	9
Switzerland	0	2	0	1	1	3

Group B

Country	W	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Russia	3	0	0	9	9	3
Sweden	2	1	0	6	6	3
Germany	0	2	0	3	5	8
Japan	0	3	0	0	1	7

Wednesday, Feb. 12
Finland 4, Switzerland 2, OT
Germany 3, United States 2

Thursday, Feb. 13
Germany 4, Japan 0
Russia 3, Sweden 1

Saturday, Feb. 15
Quarterfinals

Finland vs. Sweden
Switzerland vs. Russia

Men's hockey

Preliminary Round
Group A

Country	W	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
United States	1	0	0	3	7	1
Russia	1	0	0	3	5	2
Slovenia	1	0	0	3	5	2
Slovakia	0	1	0	0	1	7

Group B

Country	W	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Finland	1	0	0	3	8	4
Canada	1	0	0	3	3	1
Norway	1	0	0	3	1	3
Austria	0	1	0	0	4	8

Group C

Country	W	OTW	OTL	Pts	GF	GA
Sweden	1	0	0	3	4	2
Switzerland	1	0	0	3	1	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	1
Czech Republic	0	1	0	0	2	4

Wednesday, Feb. 12
Sweden 4, Czech Republic 2
Switzerland 1, Latvia 0

Thursday, Feb. 13
Finland 8, Austria 4
Russia 5, Slovenia 2
United States 7, Slovakia 1
Canada 5, Norway 1

Friday, Feb. 14
Czech Republic vs. Latvia
Switzerland vs. Switzerland
Canada vs. Austria
Norway vs. Finland
Sweden vs. Sweden
United States vs. Russia
Switzerland vs. Czech Republic
Sweden vs. Latvia

Sunday, Feb. 16
Austria vs. Latvia
Russia vs. Slovakia
Slovenia vs. United States
Finland vs. Canada

Curling

Men

W-1 4-0

4-1

3-1

3-1

2-3

1-3

1-4

1-4

0-5

Wednesday, Feb. 12
United States 9, Denmark 5
Norway 8, Germany 5
China 5, Switzerland 4
China 11, Germany 7
Britain 4, Switzerland 2
Russia 2, Austria 2
Denmark 8, Sweden 5

Thursday, Feb. 13
Russia 7, Switzerland 6
Canada 7, Denmark 6
Sweden 5, Norway 4
Britain 5, United States 2

Friday, Feb. 14
Sweden vs. Canada
United States vs. Germany
China vs. Norway
Britain vs. Denmark
Russia vs. United States
China vs. Norway
Switzerland vs. Germany

Saturday, Feb. 15
Sweden vs. Germany
Denmark vs. Switzerland
Russia vs. Germany
Canada vs. China

Women

Country

Canada 5-1

Sweden 4-0

Switzerland 4-2

South Korea 2-2

China 2-2

Japan 2-2

United States 2-3

Denmark 1-4

Thursday, Feb. 12
United States 4, Russia 4
Canada vs. Switzerland
Sweden 7, South Korea 4
Canada 9, Britain 6

Friday, Feb. 13
Canada 8, Denmark 5
Britain 8, China 7
Canada 8, Switzerland 8
Sweden 7, Denmark 6
South Korea 8, Russia 4
Canada 8, Switzerland 8
United States 8, Japan 6

Friday, Feb. 14
South Korea vs. Japan
United States vs. Denmark
Russia vs. Switzerland

Saturday, Feb. 15
Canada vs. Japan
China vs. Sweden
Britain vs. South Korea
United States vs. Sweden
Canada vs. Russia
Britain vs. Switzerland
Denmark vs. China



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Gold medalist China's Zang Hong, right, and Canada's Christine Nesbitt compete in the women's 1,000-meter speedskating race on Thursday at the Adler Arena Skating Center in Sochi, Russia.

Medals roundup

Zhang pulls stunner to win 1,000 gold

The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Zhang Hong put up an early time that no one could beat, giving China its first gold medal ever in speedskating with a stunning victory in the women's 1,000 meters Thursday.

Zhang, who had not done much on the World Cup circuit this season, skated in the seventh of 18 pairs based on her midrange results. But she posted a remarkable time of 1 minute, 14.02 seconds, breaking the track record and just missing the Olympic mark set by Chris Wittay at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

The Dutch ran their speedskating medal haul to 12. Ireen Sauerbrey won silver in 1:14.69, while Margot Boer earned bronze in 1:14.90.

American Heather Richardson was briefly in third place, but wound up seventh in 1:15.23. Brittany Bowe went in the next-to-last group and faded badly over the final lap, winding up eighth in 1:15.47.

Luge

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Men's gold. Women's gold. Doubles gold. And now, team relay gold.

Dominant again, Germany won the inaugural Olympic luge team relay on Thursday, with three already-golden champions joining forces to celebrate one more time at the Sochi Games.

Felix Loch, Natalie Geisenberger and the doubles team of Tobias Wendl and Tobias Arlt finished their runs in 2 minutes, 45.649 seconds, good enough to beat Russia for the gold by 1.030 seconds. Latvia won the bronze.

It's the 31st luge gold medal for Germany, going back when the nation was split into east and west. All other nations have 13.

Thursday, Feb. 13
United States 8, Russia 4
Canada 9, Switzerland 4
Sweden 7, South Korea 4
Canada 9, Britain 6

Friday, Feb. 14
Canada 8, Denmark 5
Britain 8, China 7
Canada 8, Switzerland 8
Sweden 7, Denmark 6
South Korea 8, Russia 4
Canada 8, Switzerland 8
United States 8, Japan 6

Saturday, Feb. 15
Canada vs. Japan
China vs. Sweden
Britain vs. South Korea
United States vs. Sweden
Canada vs. Russia
Britain vs. Switzerland
Denmark vs. China

the women's 500 meters Thursday, winning its fourth consecutive title after she was the only skater who didn't fall in the final.

She and one of her coaches cried tears of joy after China joined South Korea as the only countries to win the same short track event four Olympics in a row.

Cross-country skiing

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Poland's Justyna Kowalczyk ignored the pain in her injured foot and the warm weather beating down on the women's cross-country skiers Thursday to win Olympic gold in the 10-kilometer classical-style race.

As her rivals tired, Kowalczyk showed exactly why this is her signature event, powering forward toward the finish line to finish in 28 minutes, 17.8 seconds. Silver medalist Charlotte Kalla of Sweden was 18.4 seconds back, while Norway's Therese Johaug took bronze, 28.3 seconds behind.

Biathlon

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — France's Martin Fourcade won his second biathlon gold medal of the Sochi Olympics on Thursday, overcoming on a penalty minute to win the men's 20-kilometer individual race.

He also won the 12.5K pursuit on Monday, finished in 49 minutes, 31.7 seconds after missing one target in his second shooting.

Erik Lesser of Germany shot cleanly throughout and came 12.2 seconds behind to take silver for his first individual medal at a major championship. Yevgeny Garanichev of Russia earned bronze, finishing 34.5 off the lead after faulting once in his final shooting.

The 2010 gold medalist, Emil Hegle Svendsen of Norway, shot clean in the first two rounds, but missed his 12th target and finished seventh, 58.6 seconds behind Fourcade.

OLYMPICS

Warming up to Sochi



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Oksana Kharitonova lies on the grass while posing for a photograph with friends on a sunny warm Wednesday at the Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia. As temperatures reached 63 degrees on Wednesday, visitors jumped into the Black Sea and napped outdoors. Organizers said the temperatures are expected, but pose challenges for outdoor venues.

Visitors enjoying opportunities to soak up the sun during Winter Games

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

SOCHI, Russia — Forget the parkas and stocking hats. Sunscreen and shades are the must-have items at the Sochi “Winter” Games.

The temperature soared to 63 degrees on Wednesday, prompting Olympic visitors to grab a nap on a bench outside a venue or hit the nearby beach for some impromptu sunbathing and even a dip in the Black Sea.

“I think it should always be like this,” said Yuri Valyeyev, a resident of Bryansk, between Sochi and Moscow, who came here to work construction during the Olympics. “We are glad that it is held in Russia. Being a Russian I am very glad because everywhere in Russia is cold and here is warm.”

And the heat just keeps on coming.

Forecasts called for highs of 63 on Thursday and Friday and 61 on Saturday before a gradual cool down to the low 50s on Sunday. While the warm temperatures are making life difficult for the skiers and snowboarders on the mountain in Krasnaya Polyana, they have provided a welcome relief to Russians, Canadians, Americans and other visitors who have endured harsh winters back home.



SERGEI GRITS/AP

Slippers check the surface of the halfpipe before the start of the women's snowboard halfpipe qualifying Wednesday at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Warm temperatures have made course conditions challenging for snowboarders and skiers competing in the Sochi Games.

Just a few hundred yards from Olympic Park, visitors shed their clothes and lounged on the rocky shores of the Black Sea. Fishermen cast their lines into the water and Valyeyev jumped right in.

“The water, you can bear it,” Valyeyev said with a shrug of his

shoulders. “And it’s normal for a Russian man.”

For Russian President Vladimir Putin and the Russian Olympic Committee, bringing the games to the subtropical climes of Sochi was as much an investment in the long-term prospects for this re-

sort village as it was for any immediate payoff that the influx of visitors and money would bring. They saw it as an opportunity to establish Sochi as an attractive vacation destination for visitors from all over the world, and from the rest of Russia, in particular.

Seeing lush green grass blanket the mountain cluster of events rather than billowy snow may not be advantageous in the short run. But it could get others thinking about heading to Sochi when they need to break from another long, hard winter.

In Moscow, it was 35 degrees on Thursday and has been brutally cold for much of the season. It was 24 in New York on a day that another nasty storm was spreading across the Southeastern United States. And Sochi was considerably warmer than two cities it beat out for the Games — Pyeongchang, South Korea (28) and Salzburg, Austria (40).

“Yes, the weather is absolutely gorgeous, which is, of course, challenging,” Sochi 2014 spokeswoman Aleksandra Kosterina said. But, she added: “Nothing we are not prepared for.”

They have been storing snow on the mountain to use in case the existing pack melts too low, but Kosterina said on Wednesday they have yet to tap into it. And snow isn’t the only precious

commodity up there. Officials have been using salt to firm up the soft, slushy snow on several of the courses, and the technique’s effectiveness on the halfpipe on Tuesday night has created a minor feeding frenzy on the mountain’s salt reserves.

“All other disciplines now want to have this salt because they see what is doable in the halfpipe,” said Guenter Hujara, men’s Alpine race referee.

But Hujara warned Alpine coaches not to overuse the supply on their warm-up courses, instead saving it for the competition runs as the week goes on.

Back in the coastal cluster, where the arena events like hockey, curling, speedskating and figure skating take place, the Canadian women’s hockey team wore shorts and short sleeves while warming up outside before a game against the Americans. Those famous Sochi stray dogs sprawled out on the boardwalk as palm trees swayed in the warm breeze and Moscow resident Alexei Shabanov, on the beach in a T-shirt and shorts, chuckled at the motto for the Sochi Games — “Hot. Cool. Yours.”

“One can drive just one hour to ski and to freeze,” Shabanov said through an interpreter, “and come back to get warm on the beach.”

OLYMPICS

'It's a bummer'

Biggest US stars struggling in first week of Sochi Games

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

WHAT A stunning sight: Shani Davis gliding around the speed-skating oval, head down in defeat, staring glumly at the ice.

For the U.S. Olympic team, it's becoming more and more common.

One after another, some of the biggest American stars have wiped out in sunny Sochi.

From Bode Miller and Julia Mancuso to Shaun White and Sarah Hendrickson, this is hardly shaping up as an Olympics to remember for the U.S. team.

Davis was just the latest to falter, finishing eighth Wednesday in the 1,000 meters, a race he won at the last two Winter Games.

He was hoping to become the first male speedskater to pull off a three-peat. He didn't come close, fading badly after a quicker-than-expected start.

"I have to live with this for the rest of my life," Davis said. "I can't let it get me down, because I have other races to skate, but I'm pretty sad about it."

He's got plenty of company. Miller faltered in the men's downhill. Mancuso, after getting a surprise bronze in the super combined, failed to medal in the women's downhill, her best discipline. White dropped out of one event and joined Davis in failing

to even win a medal in another, the halfpipe, he owned at the last two games. Hendrickson never had a chance after undergoing major knee surgery six months ago.

"It's a bummer," White said of his defeat.

He could've been speaking for much of the American team after five full days of competition.

The U.S., which led the overall medals table at the 2010 Vancouver Games with 37, was fourth in the standings with nine as of Wednesday, trailing Norway, Canada and the Netherlands.

'My performance was not the best, but I kind of expected it.'

Sarah Hendrickson, U.S. ski jumper

bronze for Kelly Clark in the halfpipe on Wednesday night.

But they are hardly household names back home.

Not like White, Davis and Miller.

Scott Blackmun, CEO of the U.S. Olympic Committee, said it's far too early to push the panic button.

"Whenever we start predicting medals, we get way off track," he told The Associated Press. "Our

job is to make sure the athletes are prepared. What we can control is: Are they ready to compete? I can unequivocally say we're ready to compete. And don't forget there's almost two full weeks left."

Clearly, though, things haven't gone according to the best-laid plans.

On Wednesday, the U.S. women's hockey team lost to bitter rival Canada 3-2 in a tense preview of the expected gold-medal match. The defeat didn't matter all that much in the grand scheme — the countries will likely meet again in the final — but it seemed to fit the theme of yet another American squad coming up short, for whatever reason.

In the women's downhill, Mancuso settled for a disappointing eighth-place finish, and no one else was even close for the Americans. Just last season, every member of the women's speed team had a podium finish.

In cross-country skiing, usually an afterthought for the Americans, Kikkan Randall was thought to be a serious medal contender in the women's freestyle sprint. She didn't even get out of her quarter-final heat Tuesday, passed by no less than three skiers on the final straight.

"Just to come in the Games as a gold-medal contender was incredible," Randall said. "I wish I would have been able to fight for that in a few more rounds."

The curlers were struggling, too. The women lost their first



GERO BRELOER/AP

U.S. skier Julia Mancuso reacts after finishing her run in the women's downhill on Wednesday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

four matches and likely needed to win their remaining five round-robin games to have any shot at qualifying for the semifinals. The men were 1-2 after beating Denmark 9-5 on Wednesday, keeping alive their hopes of advancing.

"We are going to stay upbeat whatever happens," U.S. women's skip Erika Brown said. "We worked really hard to be here. We are doing our best out there and we'll keep fighting."

In the new sport of women's ski jumping, the Americans would've been heavy favorites for gold if Hendrickson had been healthy. But the 19-year-old world champion had surgery on her right knee in August, and it was apparent after her first training jump that she had not fully recovered.

She wound up 21st out of 30 starters, her only consolation having the honor of jumping first in the historic final.

"My performance was not the best," she said, "but I kind of expected it."

At least Hendrickson made it to Sochi.

Two of the most notable U.S. Olympians were left at home.

Skier Lindsey Vonn — THE face of the pre-Olympic marketing push in the States — and defending men's figure skating champion Evan Lysacek were unable to compete in Sochi because of injuries.

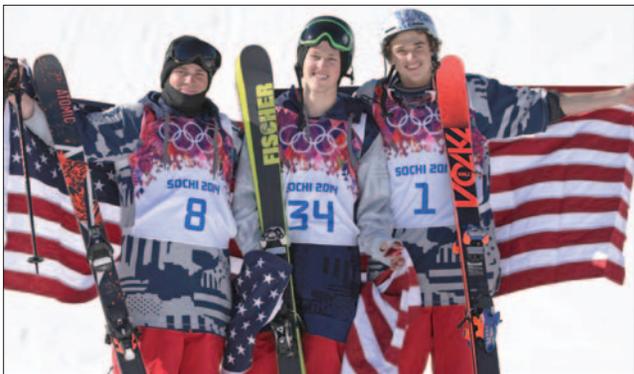
AP Sports Writers Stephen Wilson, Dennis Passa, Mattias Karen, Steve Douglas, Andre Dampf, Beth Harris and Jimmy Golen contributed to this report.



JAE C. HONG, LEFT, AND PAVEL GOLOVKIN, RIGHT/AP

Two-time defending gold medalists Shaun White, left, and Shani Davis, right, both failed to medal in events in which they were expected to be the athletes to beat.

OLYMPICS



GENO BREILOER/AP

U.S. men's ski slopestyle medalists Gus Kenworthy (silver, left), Joss Christensen (gold, center), and Nicholas Goepfer (bronze) celebrate on the podium Thursday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. It was just the third time in Winter Games history that the U.S. swept an event.

US sweeps slopestyle skiing

By Will Graves
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Don't worry, Team USA. The shredder kids have your back.

Americans Joss Christensen, Gus Kenworthy and Nick Goepfer swept the podium in men's slopestyle skiing Thursday, putting on a spectacular show to boost America's lagging medal count and provide the U.S. team with a jolt from a mountain whose vibe is more spring break than Winter Olympics.

"I am shocked," Christensen said. "I am stoked to be up here with my friends. America, we did it."

With style and dominance to spare.

The podium sweep was just the third for the U.S. in Winter Olympic history, joining men's figure skating in 1956 and men's halfpipe snowboarding in 2002. All four U.S. gold medals in Sochi have come at Rosa Khutor Extreme Park, and Thursday's haul came 15 hours after Kaitlyn Farrington and Kelly Clark grabbed gold and bronze in women's halfpipe snowboarding.

"It's crazy," Goepfer said. "I think it's going to give the U.S. a lot more confidence and it's going to get a lot of people really excited."

The Americans were certainly fired up.

Goepfer and Kenworthy raised Christensen on their shoulders following what amounted to a victory lap during Christensen's last run down the mountain. The good friends wore flags as capes in the giddy aftermath of their victory in the sport's Olympic debut.

Christensen was the last slopestyle skier named to the Olympic team, getting the nod over, among others, former world champion Tom Wallisch. The 22-year-old from Park City, Utah, was easily the best on a sun-splashed day where the weather was so warm that teammate Bobby Brown — who finished ninth — wore only a T-shirt in the finals.

It's that kind of easy, breezy attitude that permeates a sport predicated on having a good time and testing the limits of what is possible. Nobody is closer to that limit than a U.S. team that has clearly separated itself from the rest of the world.

"It's the kind of thing you don't even let yourself think about," U.S. coach Skogon Sprang said of the medal sweep. "I still don't believe it happened."

To be honest, neither could Christensen. He came to Russia hoping to find a spot on the podium. Instead, he owned it, throwing down four practically flawless runs over the series of rails and jumps that are the equivalent of a skier's playground.

Christensen's three off-axis jumps at the end of his first qualifying run totaled 10 full spins in the span of 11 seconds — all coming while he skied over the ramp backward. His first run in the finals won the



SERGEI GRITS/AP

American Joss Christensen, 22, scored a 95.80 on his first run in the slopestyle skiing finals to win the gold medal.

gold, and his second would have been good enough to win silver.

"I can't believe we made it," Christensen said. "It's been a long journey."

A painful one, too. Christensen lost his father J.D. in August and got the news while training in New Zealand. The last six months have been a mix of grieving and renewed focus for a skier whose lengthy list of injuries includes a pair of broken wrists and microfracture surgery in his knee.

It all slowed Christensen, but didn't stop him.

"I hope I made my father proud," he said. "Through all the injuries I've had, he's always supported me and never said stop. I hope he's looking down and smiling. Did it for him."

Christensen's first run in the finals produced a 95.80, giving the rest of the 12-man field a target to beat. None could top the kid with the floppy blonde hair and easy smile that seems to embody a sport that often looks like it's just a bunch of guys taking turns showing off.

Kenworthy, from Telluride, Colo., was already planning to head back home with a family of strag dogs that call the streets of Sochi home. Now they'll have some company — a silver medal. He raised his arms over his head after his second finals run and laughed when his score of 93.60 was revealed.

Goepfer, the gold medal favorite from Lawrenceburg, Ind., dropped a 92.40 during his first finals run but couldn't top it in the second. He smacked his skis against the second rail feature, ending his chance of leapfrogging Christensen.

"I feel amazing," he said. "I think today was the best display of skiing we have ever seen in our sport, so I am so happy."

Super-combined to test Ligety, Miller

By Howard Frenrich
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Bode Miller is the defending Olympic champion in the super-combined. American teammate Ted Ligety was the 2006 Olympic gold medalist, is the reigning world champion and is tied for this season's World Cup lead in the event.

So one might have expected them to merit a mention when U.S. men's head coach Sasha Reierick began discussing who he expects to perform well at the Sochi Games in the super-combined, which adds the times of one downhill run in the morning and one slalom run in the afternoon.

Croatia's Ivica Kostelic, whose father Ante set the slalom course, "is going to be strong," Reierick began. Then he mentioned another Croatian, Natko Zrnčić-Dim.

The next name off Reierick's lips after Thursday's last official training session on the downhill course was France's Thomas Mermillod-Blondin, a guy he noted "hasn't been on the podium yet really recently, but [is] skiing really well." Then came another Frenchman, Alexis Pinturault, who "of course" must be included, Reierick said.

Adding to the growing list, Reierick continued: "Some of the downhill guys that are light on their feet, quick on their feet, that can make decent slalom turns — the course setting suits them." That describes racers such as Carlo Janka of Croatia, and Peter Fill of Italy.

When it was pointed out that he'd yet to make mention of his own top two entrants, Miller and Ligety, Reierick replied, "I'm telling you who the competition is," and then skied off to go oversee slalom practice on a nearby hill.

With temperatures topping 50 degrees this week, Friday's downhill start was pushed up to 10 a.m., one hour earlier than originally scheduled, in a bid to get going before sunshine softens the snow. The slalom is scheduled for 5½ hours later.

Miller was third fastest in downhill training Thursday, trailing Ondrej Bank of the Czech Republic and Dominik Paris of Italy. Downhill gold medalist Matthias

Mayer was fourth, with Kostelic — the silver medalist behind Ligety and Miller at the last two Olympics — sixth. Ligety was 11th, Pinturault was 12th, and Norway's Aksel Lund Svindal was among 16 racers who sat out.

After dominating training before last weekend's downhill race but then finishing eighth behind Mayer, Miller is hoping he'll be able to do well enough in that portion of Friday's race to make up for what he'll lose in the second leg.

But he figures that'll be tough. "Right now the downhill is so easy and so basic there's nothing challenging about it, really," said Miller, already the owner of a U.S.-record five Olympic medals. "There's no way to put any time on the slalom guys. Everyone just skis normal and everyone is within a second and a half or so."

Paris agreed.

He laughed at the idea of hoping for a 5-second lead after the downhill leg and added: "The slalom is so tough here that luck will count for a lot."

Like others, he's aware that Ante Kostelic is known for setting courses that are different from the World Cup fare.

On Thursday morning, Reierick skied down the slalom slope that will be used for the super-combined and noticed that the seemingly random placing of gates removes much rhythm.

"It's a course that's obviously intended to trap guys, to knock people out. There's no place on the course where you can really look for speed. So you have to ski smart from top to bottom," Reierick said. "His obvious strategy is to knock out as many guys as possible to hope for a medal for Ivica."

Ligety, meanwhile, is counting on a strong slalom showing.

And he's certainly confident that he can produce on race day, four years after having a disappointing-for-him Winter Games.

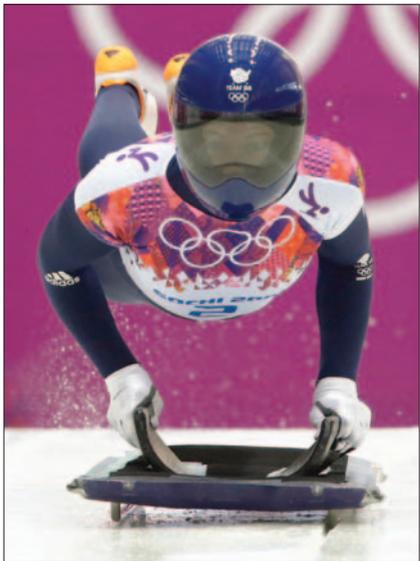
"I want to be able to try to get on the podium or win. I think that's well within my grasp, if I ski well," Ligety said. "I think the downhill's gotten better every run and I feel more and more comfortable. So I think hopefully tomorrow I can piece together a good run and then have a good run of slalom, as well, and hopefully that equals something metallic around my neck."



LUCA BRUNO/AP

Croatia's Ivica Kostelic makes a jump during men's downhill combined training Thursday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia.

OLYMPICS



DITA ALANGARA, ABOVE, AND NATASHA PISARENKO, BELOW/AP

Above: Great Britain's Elizabeth Yarnold starts her first run during the women's skeleton competition Thursday in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia. Below: Noelle Pikus-Pace of the United States waves to supporters in the finish area after her first run. Yarnold and Pikus-Pace hold the top two spots after two of four runs.



Women's skeleton

Yarnold, Pikus-Pace hold top 2 spots after 2 runs

By TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

KRASNAYA POLYANA, Russia — Lizzy Yarnold is feeling no pressure, not even as an Olympic rookie leading midway through the women's skeleton competition.

And Noelle Pikus-Pace knows that will make Yarnold even tougher to catch.

Yarnold and Pikus-Pace held the top spots after Thursday's opening two runs at the Sanki Sliding Center, a predictable result since they combined to win every World Cup race this season. Yarnold's time was 1 minute, 56.89 seconds, putting her 0.44 seconds ahead of Pikus-Pace entering Friday's final two heats.

"It's a pretty big margin, to be honest with you," Pikus-Pace said. "Anything's possible. Of course it's doable. But it's a pretty big margin and Lizzy laid down two solid runs today and it shows."

That wasn't necessarily a concession speech.

But if Pikus-Pace's career is to end with Olympic gold, she might need Yarnold to make a mistake or two along the way. And Yarnold — the World Cup champion this season — hardly sounded like someone who's going to be overwhelmed by gold-medal pressure.

"I was just totally in my zone," Yarnold said.

If she stays there, Britain will get its second straight gold medal in the event. Amy Williams won at Vancouver in 2010 before retiring; she's now Yarnold's landlord, renting her apartment to her possible successor as Olympic champion.

Pikus-Pace, of Eagle Mountain, Utah, posted a combined time of 1:57.33, 0.11 seconds ahead of Russia's Elena Nikitina, who was a slightly surprising third. Katie Uhlaender of Breckenridge, Colo., was fourth, just 0.14 seconds behind Nikitina in the race for bronze, and a quarter-second behind Pikus-Pace.

"With her weight and her push it's going to be tough to catch her," Uhlaender said of Yarnold.

So the stage is set for two drama-laden final runs Friday night.

Retirement is looming for Pikus-Pace; she won't compete again after these Olympics, and is in the Sochi Games primarily because she finished one-tenth of a second away from a bronze in Vancouver four years ago. And if that wasn't enough, injuries kept her from two days of training this week, meaning she was still learning nuances about the track during competition Thursday.

Nikitina will have the support of the home crowd, plus the

home-ice advantage from having far more practice runs than any international slider.

And Uhlaender is in a great spot to more than salvage a frustrating season, one derailed before it began after she suffered a concussion in preseason training.

Still, they all are trying to catch Yarnold, who's two runs away from taking over as the skeleton ice queen.

"I haven't been thinking about other people's expectations at all," Yarnold said. "I think I have such high expectations for myself."

Pikus-Pace and Yarnold were the first two sliders down the track in the opening heat, and for a while it seemed like everyone else was waging a separate com-

petition for the bronze. Pikus-Pace opened with a run of 58.68 seconds, Yarnold followed with a 58.43 clocking, and none of the next nine sliders could come close to matching their times.

Nikitina changed that in a hurry. She posted a first-run time of 58.48 seconds, passing Pikus-Pace and putting pressure on Yarnold.

Home-ice advantage clearly was paying off. It was the first time Nikitina posted a better head-to-head time than Pikus-Pace in their last 20 competition runs together.

"I feel responsibility," Nikitina said. "There are so many spectators and fans. I do not want to fail them."

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SPORTS



Man on a mission
Cespedes eager to improve upon 2013 season | **Page 56**

MLB

Ready for an encore

Braves third baseman Chris Johnson isn't resting on his success

BY CHARLES ODUM
The Associated Press

ATLANTA
Chris Johnson is taking the same approach to the 2014 season he used one year ago, when he was fighting for a starting job.

Don't try telling Johnson he's a lock to start at third base for the Atlanta Braves after finishing second in the National League in hitting in 2013. Johnson is determined to work even harder this off-season to prove he deserves the job.

Hard work paid off last season, when Johnson hit .321, finishing second in the NL to Colorado's Michael Cuddyer. Johnson said he doesn't dare change that successful approach, so he was back at Turner Field last Friday, just as he had been every day of the informal pitchers' camp for the past two weeks.

"I'm really superstitious so I'm trying not to make it any different," Johnson said. "I'm trying to come into camp trying to win a job. That's my mentality, just because I want to continue to progress and have a real good year. I'm trying everything to keep my mind on the same path as last offseason, so that's why I'm here."

"I'm trying to stay on that path as much as possible." One year ago, Johnson was expected to share playing time with Juan Francisco. Johnson quickly won the job outright, and Francisco was traded to Milwaukee on June 3.

SEE ENCORE ON PAGE 56

Although he's the Atlanta Braves' starter at third, Chris Johnson is applying the same work ethic he used last season when he was expected to platoon.

DAVID GOLDMAN/AP



Slopestyle sweep

Christensen strikes gold as shredders from the US ski to 1-2-3 finish | **Page 62**



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