

## WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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Hit-maker Pharrell takes the lead on 'G I R L'

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Gunplay, parkour and giant robots light up 'Titanfall'

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'300' sequel: Pretty, but a less thrilling epic

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### COLLEGE HOOPS



NCAA selection committee faces complex choices

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# Marines to test female combat roles

## Task force will evaluate performance in ground units

By JENNIFER HLAD  
*Stars and Stripes*

The Marine Corps will open new combat jobs to women, allow women to volunteer for combat specialty training previously closed to them and create a co-ed experimental task force to evaluate how female Marines perform as part of a ground combat unit, Marine officials said.

The task force will be made up of

about 460 Marines, and roughly one quarter will be women, said Capt. Maureen Krebs, a Marine spokeswoman. The task force will look like a small battalion landing team with attachments such as artillery, tanks and amphibious assault vehicles — similar to the ground combat portion of a Marine Expeditionary Unit, but about half the size.

SEE COMBAT ON PAGE 3



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

The Marine Corps is putting together an experimental task force to assess female performance in ground combat arms specialties.

# What happened to Flight 370?

As conflicting evidence and conspiracy theories pile up, investigators appear no closer to finding missing Malaysia Airlines jet | **Page 11**

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

“We can track our cars and our kids’ cellphones, but there is no way of tracking planes as they fly around the world.”

— Don Tomas, president and chief executive of Aeron, which is developing a satellite-based surveillance system, on the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370

See story on Page 11

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

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2. Pentagon officials: We need more base closures
3. Air Force to eliminate nearly 500 aircraft in 25 states, DC and overseas
4. 151 Navy personnel disqualified from positions of trust
5. Senators: DOD ordered \$754 million in unnecessary parts last year

# COMING SOON

Shifting Gears



Chrysler: Donated Vipers must be destroyed

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# MILITARY

# Romanians take US-led NCO course

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL  
*Stars and Stripes*

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Forty-two Romanian soldiers are scheduled to graduate March 18 from a U.S.-led noncommissioned officer training course, the first of its kind led by Americans on Romanian soil.

The Romanian troops finished off an 18-day Warrior’s Training Course at the Infantry and Mountain Troop Training Center in Fagaras, Romania. Five U.S. Army NCOs from the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy at USAG Grafenwöhr took the group through the leadership course. The Americans make up a mobile training team that travels across Europe and Africa in an effort to standardize NCO leadership skills among American forces and allies.

“We give them our way of doing things, our best practices and how we do business,” said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Don Anderson, first sergeant of the NCO academy. “We have the best military in the world, so why wouldn’t you want the best to train you?”

The NCO training is one of the smaller training exercises American forces are conducting with Romania, which shares hundreds of miles of border with Ukraine, a country now in turmoil since the ousting of its president. Recently, the USS Truxtun, a U.S. Navy destroyer, went to the Black Sea to take part in exercises with Romanian and Bulgarian naval forces, while NATO leads reconnaissance flights through Romanian airspace to keep an eye on the situation in Ukraine. Many of the 42 Romanian NCOs who are in the course are part of their infantry special forces battalion.

Anderson said that recent developments in the area didn’t



JASON BEATTIE/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A Mobile Training Team from the U.S. Army’s 7th Army Noncommissioned Officers Academy in Grafenwöhr, Germany, instructs members of the Romanian army with its Warrior Leader Course at the Romanian Infantry and Mountain Troop Training Center.

influence the training his troops provided and that his mobile team of instructors has been asked by several nations to assist in NCO training. However, it was the first time Romanian forces had requested the help of the 7th NCO Academy in training their NCOs directly.

The mobile training team led the Romanian troops through classroom-heavy leadership courses and hands-on training

involving war tactics, drill-and-ceremony and physical training instruction.

“Fitness is important to them,” Anderson said. “Matter of fact, they take our physical training directives and perfect them. These guys are perfectionists.”

Several of the Romanian corporals agreed with Anderson’s assessment, adding that they want to spread among their ranks the American attitude on NCO

leadership.

“The most significant thing we learned is the importance of always trying to improve ourselves and our soldiers,” Romanian Cpl. Lucian Deac said. “Everyone has room for improvement and by continuing to learn and grow is the only way for our army to become more disciplined and proficient.”

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# \$10K reward offered in Lakenheath equipment theft case

*Stars and Stripes*

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Officials at RAF Lakenheath are offering a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of thieves who stole military gear, including helmets, vests and sleeping bags.

A Thursday post on the base’s Facebook page stated that the Office of Special Investigations is seeking information about the theft of interceptor body armor kits, advanced combat helmets, modular sleeping systems and extreme cold weather boots from

building 1068 at Lakenheath.

A sign on the building describes it as the 48th Logistics Readiness Squadron “Mobility Readiness Spares Packages.”

A spokesman for Lakenheath wrote in an email that “mobility readiness items are equipment

items issued for a variety of deployments or training events.”

OSI is offering up to \$10,000 for information leading to apprehensions and convictions. Lakenheath’s OSI detachment can be reached at 01638-54-7257.

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## MILITARY

# Combat: Marines to open MOS schools to females

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The Camp Lejeune, N.C.-based unit will replicate the predeployment training cycle that other ground combat units go through, and will help the Marine Corps evaluate whether women are capable of doing the jobs and physically demanding tasks inherent in the training, Krebs said.

The unit will be made up of volunteers, and there will be jobs available in a variety of specialties, Krebs said. A forthcoming Marine administrative message will outline how many male and female volunteers are needed for different jobs.

Women will be able to volunteer for positions in their current military occupational specialties or for jobs in specialties that are now closed to women, Krebs said. The women who volunteer for specialties in which they are not trained must go through the entry-level training school for the job before joining the unit.

Both sexes will have to meet a physical standard that has not yet been finalized in order to qualify for the unit, Krebs said. The unit is expected to stand up this fall, and will be evaluated until roughly summer 2015, though Marine officials may use the data gathered to open additional jobs to women before then.

"It's going to be an incremental process," she said.

The Marine Corps has been assessing the performance of female Marines at entry-level training and did a study of male and female Marines last summer to determine how men and women perform some of the most physically demanding tasks associated with the military specialties that are currently closed to women.

The Corps also announced it will open military occupational specialty, or MOS, schools to female volunteers, though the women will not be given those specialties if they graduate. Forty women already have graduated from the Corps' enlisted infantry training school, and 14 have attempted the notoriously difficult Infantry Officer Course. Only one made it past the combat endurance course that begins the course, but she was injured in the second week of training. All of the women who volunteered for those



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

**Female Marine infantry students hike during patrol week near Camp Geiger, N.C., in October 2013.**

training courses, whether they graduate or not, are given other MOS's.

However, the commandant, Gen. James Amos, also had decided to open 11 specialties to women that were open only to men. Three specialties in the artillery field, six in the ground ordnance maintenance field and two in the low-altitude air defense field will be opened, leaving 20 of the Corps' 335 primary military occupational specialties closed to women.

In January 2013, then-Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta announced that the Pentagon would lift the "combat exclusion policy" that had barred women from combat units and jobs. The services have until January 2016 to open all

jobs to women or submit a request for an "exception to policy" for any positions they believe must remain male-only.

The Marine Corps in 2012 opened about 20 battalions to female officers and staff noncommissioned officers, allowing women who already held certain jobs to do those jobs in previously male-only battalions. Krebs said the idea is similar to how the Navy has gone about integrating submarines: putting officers and senior enlisted leaders in first, so junior troops will have role models and mentors of their own gender available when they arrive.

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# VA: Troop cuts not accounted for in budget

Stars and Stripes

Lawmakers fear that the Veterans Affairs department might not be asking for enough money to meet its needs, the National Journal reported Thursday.

The VA is seeking \$163.9 billion — a 6.5 percent increase over fiscal 2014 — but faces complaints of deficient veterans health centers, long claims backlogs, and questionable treatment for Iraq and Afghanistan vets who are readily prescribed drugs to deal with serious post-traumatic stress disorder.

At a Veterans Affairs Committee hearing Wednesday on its fiscal 2015 budget request, senators from both parties took turns raising worries that the VA is not equipped to handle the veterans' needs back in their states, particularly when the wind-down of the Afghanistan War is sending a growing influx of servicemembers into the VA system, the Journal wrote.

"As I understand it, the VA anticipates seeing an increase of approximately 100,000 new patients in the coming

year," said committee chairman Bernie Sanders, I-Vt. "But I am concerned whether the 3 percent increase in medical care that is in the budget will be sufficient to care for these new users, existing users, will span veterans' services, and keep pace with all of the issues we have here. Is that enough money? It sounds to me like it's not."

VA Secretary Eric Shinseki told the panel that the VA tried to ask for what it anticipates needing for 2015, but he admitted that the request was put together before the Defense Department announced its latest plans to reduce troop size.

"This budget request is prior to that plan being provided," Shinseki said. "We believe we have, in this budget, anticipated what our needs will be in 2015, but this again will depend on what the downsizing plan entails."

Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., complained about the VA's pace on capital improvement projects, the Journal noted. Because an Omaha project was far down on the waiting list, he said it

could take years for veterans to receive the access they need.

"What I'm looking at, all these projects, a pretty rough estimate is that \$23 billion is necessary to address what is on the waiting list," Johanns said. "How can we best put a process in place to address what you are dealing with, and what we are dealing with? It's a lot of money; it would be very hard to come up with that."

Shinseki said that in the budget environment, the VA is trying to prioritize projects appropriately to provide for veterans' safety and security and to maintain existing facilities. The VA has requested \$561.8 million for major construction in its fiscal 2015 budget.

Johanns questioned whether spending hundreds of millions of dollars to maintain old facilities was actually cost-productive.

"All these millions we are putting into these facilities across the country," Johanns said. "I just hope we are not chasing good money with bad money."

# Drop: More bases must be shuttered

By JENNIFER HLAID  
Stars and Stripes

Each military branch has excess capacity and needs another round of base realignment and closure, defense officials told a House panel Wednesday.

Appearing before the House Appropriations Committee's Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee, officials noted varying amounts of excess capacity on U.S. bases, and sought help.

"The bottom line is we need another round of BRAC," said Kathleen Ferguson, acting assistant secretary of the Air Force for installations, environment and logistics.

John Conger, acting deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, said he knows the last round of BRAC, in 2005, left "a bad taste" in the mouths of many in Congress, but that this would be different. The key reason that one cost so much was that "we were willing to accept recommendations that did not save money," he said.

The 2005 round of BRAC was actually more like two concurrent rounds — one for transformation and one for efficiency, Conger said.

Another, the BRAC cost about \$35 billion, and \$29 billion of that was for the transformation piece, which resulted in only about \$1 billion in yearly savings, Conger said. The efficiency piece cost \$6 billion and resulted in recurring savings of \$3 billion each year, he said.

Now, the military is requesting just the "efficiency" piece, Conger said.

"We don't want to be wasting money on unneeded facilities," he said.

The Army has an average of 18 percent excess capacity at U.S. bases, according to a recent facility capacity analysis, and end-strength reductions will increase that excess capacity even more, said Katherine Hammack, assistant secretary of the Army for installations, energy and environment.

The Air Force does not have a recent capacity analysis, but had 24 percent excess capacity in 2004, Ferguson said. The last round of BRAC helped with only a very small portion of that extra space, and the Air Force has reduced active-duty end strength by nearly 8 percent since then, she said, so officials know there is plenty of excess that could be closed.

The Navy also doesn't have a recent analysis, but does know they have some excess capacity and supports a new round of BRAC, said Dennis McGinn, assistant secretary of the Navy for energy, installations and environment.

Still, members of the committee noted their displeasure with the 2005 BRAC process, and worried that the Pentagon is not budgeting enough for military construction in fiscal 2015.

The military construction request for fiscal 2015 is \$6.6 billion, about 40 percent lower than the request for fiscal 2014.

"I haven't seen requests this low for a long, long time," said Rep. Sanford Bishop, D-Ga., the ranking member of the committee.

Conger, Ferguson, Hammack and McGinn said the smaller request is the result of efforts to meet the requirements of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. They said the services are willing to take a risk in cutting facilities maintenance so they can use more funding to support war fighters.

But Rep. John Culberson, the Texas Republican who serves as the subcommittee's chairman, called the low number "shocking," and said he does not want troops and their families to be neglected.

"We love you and we want to help," he said, adding that the committee would try to find a way to fund maintenance and construction programs.

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MILITARY

# New military sex assault review is sought

By Tom Vanden Brook  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — A member of the House Armed Services Committee late Tuesday called on Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel to direct the Air Force, Marine Corps and Navy to re-examine troops in sensitive posts in light of an Army report that disqualified 588 soldiers serving as sexual assault counselors, recruiters and instructors.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., urged Hagel in a letter to make public the results of the services' new review.

USA Today recently reported the Army's action, which included seeking dismissal from the service of 79 soldiers while reassigning more than 500 others. In all, the Army examined the records of more than 20,000 soldiers.

The Army has not provided details on the offenses the soldiers committed, divulging only that their misdeeds ranged from sexual and child abuse to reckless driving.

"I know you share my concern that tolerating this behavior in servicemembers that occupy positions of trust is a betrayal of our troops," she wrote.

Hagel has discussed with the other services whether they should to examine the criteria the Army used in scrubbing its ranks and follow suit, according to his spokesman, Rear Adm. John Kirby.

"Secretary Hagel appreciates Rep. Speier's concern over this important issue, and he shares her desire that we continue to hold ourselves and our people to the highest standard of conduct, especially when it comes to the crime of sexual assault," Kirby said. "That's why he issued guidance to the services to review people in positions of trust in the first place."

Last May, a Pentagon survey on unwanted sexual contact in the ranks sparked concern about the issue within the military and in Capitol Hill. The report estimated that 26,000 troops had experienced unwanted sexual contact in 2012, a one-third increase compared with 2010.

After the report's release, Hagel called on the services to conduct the review of troops in positions of trust.

Since then, a wide-ranging set of reforms has been enacted by Congress to increase prosecution of the crimes and to bolster protection for victims.

Speier noted that the other services had disqualified only a handful of troops. Speier said the results of the initial review indicated the Army applied more stringent guidelines than the other services.

One service interpreted the directive so narrowly that it appeared only to check a civilian sexual predator registry, she wrote.

**"I know you share my concern that tolerating this behavior in servicemembers that occupy positions of trust is a betrayal of our troops."**

Rep. Jackie Speier  
California Democrat

## Navy disqualifies 151 after probe

By Jon Harper  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy disqualified 151 sailors and civilians last year from positions of trust following a service-led review that focused on sexual-assault prevention, a Navy spokesman told Stars and Stripes.

In May 2013, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel directed the services to conduct a review of their recruiters, sexual assault response coordinators and victims' advocates to make sure they were suitable for those positions. The directive came in the wake of several high-profile sexual assault scandals that highlighted the larger problem of sexual assault plaguing the military.

About 5,400 incidents of sexual assault or unwanted sexual contact were reported within the U.S. military last fiscal year, the Pentagon disclosed last month, a 60 percent increase from 2012. Only a fraction of sexual assault incidents are actually reported, officials say.

The Navy's initial review covered 10,000 people.

"What we came back with was a number of five Navy [people] that didn't meet the standards that were necessary to serve in those positions," Lt. Cmdr. Chris Servello said.

The probe was soon expanded to include everyone involved in the Navy's sexual assault prevention and response program, including NCIS investigators who deal with sexual assault cases, as well as trainers who conduct sexual assault training

at the unit level and at school houses. The review ultimately covered about 20,000 sailors and civilians.

"[The expanded review was] what we thought was in the spirit of what the secretary of defense was asking," Servello said. The probe revealed that 151 personnel didn't meet the standards required. The "vast majority" of those either didn't receive the requisite training or certification, or the requisite training and certification wasn't documented properly, according to Servello. The Navy is pursuing "remediation" and trying to get those people certified and properly trained so that they can resume their duties, he said. Others were permanently barred from those positions.

"There were folks that ... just didn't meet the standards that we were comfortable with to have them serve in these important positions, either as their primary job or as an add-on responsibility," Servello said. "They were removed from those positions."

Those people were re-assigned, or in some cases, the added responsibility of participating in the command sexual assault prevention and response program was removed from their duties, Servello said. The Navy was unable to provide a statistical breakdown for numbers of individuals temporarily or permanently disqualified.

Of the 151, Servello is not aware of any that have been accused of sexual assault, nor is he aware of any criminal investigations that have been launched as

a result of the review. He didn't know how Navy personnel were able to get into those positions of trust without the proper qualifications.

The review was completed last summer, and remediations and removals of personnel began as soon as the deficiencies were discovered, according to Servello.

Asked why this information was only now coming to light long after it had been reported to Hagel, Servello said: "I don't have a good answer for you. Really it was because you started asking these questions, and so we as spokesmen started digging in and finding [this information] over the last couple days."

The disqualifications were first reported Wednesday in USA Today.

Other services conducted their own reviews, with widely different results. In February, the Army announced it had suspended 588 out of about 20,000 personnel that were reviewed for a range of missteps, including sexual assault.

"To date, 79 are pending separation from the Army," Col. David H. Patterson Jr. said at the time.

An Air Force spokeswoman said two personnel from the service have been disqualified from positions of trust. She did not provide additional details.

Thus far, the Marine Corps hasn't disqualified anyone in the wake of their review.

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## A wounded soldier's inspiring story is told in a new documentary film

The Miami Herald

When Travis Mills stepped on a land mine while on active duty in Afghanistan, losing his arms and legs, all he could think about was whether he would ever see his wife and 7-month-old daughter again.

Today, nearly two years later, his family is by his side as the now-retired U.S. Army staff sergeant of the 82nd Airborne shares his story of courage and unimaginable physical and emotional challenges through a new documentary film, "Travis: A Soldier's Story."

Mills, 26, and his family have participated in a number of community events to shine a light on his inspirational story and the plight of wounded warriors. He was honored at a recent Miami Heat game and attended a reception with Miami Mayor Tomas Regalado, and was honored by more government leaders.

Perhaps closest to his heart was the opportunity to tandem jump with the U.S. Army's Gold-

en Knights Parachute Team at Hapstead Air Reserve Base. Mills interacted with members of the military and media and joked about his "movie star" status before turning serious, reflecting on that life-changing day — April 10, 2012 — during his third tour of duty and what came after.

"It was a normal day of duty, then I stepped on one of these buried presents," said Mills, whose daughter's name, Chloe Lynn, is tattooed on his upper arm. "I am not a sob story. It's going to get

better — that's my motto."

Mills, who spent about a year and a half at Walter Reed Army Medical Hospital, is just one of five quadruple-amputees from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to survive such extensive injuries. Nearly 52,000 service men and women have been wounded in operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001, according to the Congressional Research Service released this month.

In addition to the physical wounds, there were 153,000 new

cases of post-traumatic stress disorder in the same time period, and another 288,000 experienced a traumatic brain injury while on deployment, according to the Congressional report.

Katie Norris, producer of Mills' documentary movie for her Dallas nonprofit Fotonalanthropy, said she reached out to Mills after coming across a Facebook picture.

"I had never seen anyone with such a smile, and he underwent so many injuries," she said.



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Retired U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Travis Mills appears in the movie "Travis: A Soldier's Story."

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## MILITARY

# Navy is flush with tuition cash

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — While other services' tuition programs are turning troops away, the Navy has more tuition assistance cash than it can use, Navy officials said this month.

As of Feb. 28, the Navy had disbursed \$37 million of \$86 million allotted for fiscal 2014 — about \$5 million less than at the same time last year — because of a decrease in enrollment, according to Susan Henson, spokeswoman for the Navy's Center for Personal and Professional Development. Navy officials blamed the drop in enrollment on the government shutdown in October and uncertainty with the federal budget.

The Navy was the only branch of the four services that didn't make significant changes to its tuition assistance program for fiscal 2014.

Navy officials said they believe all of the money allocated for tuition assistance will be spent by the end of the fiscal year.

More than 25,000 sailors have received funds so far this fiscal year, 3,000 fewer than in the same time frame last year and 4,000 fewer than in fiscal 2012, Henson said.

Navy officials said money allocated by the Defense Department for education benefits will be lost if unused.

The Navy plans its quarterly allocation of tuition assistance funds around the times that colleges typically start classes to ensure the most funds are available at

**'It has been said that 'having skin in the game' provides added incentive to stay focused and aligned with their education plans.'**

**Lt. Cmdr. Chris Servello**, spokesman for chief of naval personnel

ed guidance to the fleet."

Tuition assistance has come under assault in the past 12 months following the DOD sequestration and the government shutdown in October.

In March 2013, the Army, Marines and Air Force temporarily shut down their

the right times. Officials say most requests for financial help are received in the first and second quarters of each fiscal year.

The Navy is seeking \$66 million for tuition assistance for next fiscal year, Navy officials said.

Under the proposed plan, sailors will have to pay 25 percent of their tuition bills, similar to the tuition assistance program before 2003.

"It has been said that 'having skin in the game' provides added incentive to stay focused and aligned with their education plans," said Lt. Cmdr. Chris Servello, spokesman for the chief of naval personnel. "Once a final decision is made, we will provide updated

tuition assistance programs following the first round of defense budget cuts. The Navy chose to keep its program running.

In many ways, the Army, Air Force and Marines made it more difficult for troops to get cash for college, including limiting the number of classes a servicemember could take, or giving assistance only to troops getting good grades in college.

"We can't comment on the policies of the other services," Henson said in an email. The "Navy has kept its commitment to Sailors to fund voluntary education programs that serve as a conduit for developing them personally and professionally."

However, all four branches halted the program for three weeks in October after Congress' failure to pass an emergency spending measure led to a partial government shutdown.

The Marine Corps added a host of restrictions to its tuition assistance program for fiscal 2014, limiting the number of Marines eligible for subsidized college courses. The move resulted in a 75 percent decrease from the number of Marines enrolled in the first quarter of fiscal 2013.

Air Force officials have made some changes to their tuition assistance policy as well. Their first-quarter enrollment numbers dropped 33 percent on last year's.

Starting Jan. 1, the Army instituted eligibility restrictions and caps on semester hours.

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# Rule revision bolsters fleet

The (Norfolk) Virginian-Pilot

With a few strokes on a keyboard, the Navy's top brass avoids shrinking its 280-ship fleet next year by simply reclassifying a couple of hospital ships and its small patrol craft deployed overseas.

The changes, quietly noted in the Defense Department's 2015 budget proposal released last week, add the dozen vessels to the battle force and help make up for the planned retirement of 10 frigates, a submarine and other ships.

The Navy's proposed 2015 budget, part of a \$496 billion defense spending plan, also calls for adding eight new ships to the fleet. Under what it calls "revised counting rules," the Navy calculates, it will have 283 ships next year. If the dozen existing ships aren't transferred to the battle force, the fleet drops to 271 ships.

The number of ships in the Navy's fleet can shift slightly from year to year as new vessels come on line and others are taken out of service.

The size of the fleet is a particularly sensitive issue on Capitol Hill and in the Pentagon, where elected and military leaders are wrestling with tighter budgets and defense hawks warn that a smaller Navy endangers national security.

Asked about changes to the count, Navy Secretary Ray Mabus said in a statement Tuesday, "We periodically assess the rules of how we count ships, and these changes better reflect the demands of our combatant commanders and the current mission requirements of our Navy's battle force."

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MILITARY

**‘Dismissing this claim as required by technical limitations in no way diminishes Lt. Conner’s exemplary service and sacrifice.’**

U.S. District Judge Thomas B. Russell

# War hero denied Medal of Honor on a technicality

By **BRETT BARROQUERE**  
The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — Lt. Garlin Murl Conner led the U.S. Army as the second-most decorated soldier during World War II, earning four Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars, seven Purple Hearts and the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions during 28 straight months in combat.

But despite backing from congressmen, senators, military veterans and historians, he never received the Medal of Honor, the nation’s highest military distinction, awarded for life-risking acts of valor above and beyond the call of duty.

Now a federal judge in Kentucky has ended his widow’s 17-year quest to see that her husband received the medal.

Russell, in an 11-page opinion issued last Tuesday, said a technicality will prevent Pauline Conner of Albany, Ky., from continuing her campaign on behalf of her husband, who died in 1998. Russell concluded that Pauline Conner waited too long to present new evidence to the U.S. Army Board of Correction of Military Records, which rejected her bid to alter her husband’s record.

Russell praised Conner’s “extraordinary courage and patriotic service,” but said there was nothing he could do for the family.

“Dismissing this claim as required by technical limitations in no way diminishes Lt. Conner’s exemplary service and sacrifice,” Russell wrote.

Richard Chilton, a former Green Beret and amateur military historian who has researched Conner’s service, said Conner deserves the Medal of Honor. Chilton pledged to get resolutions from lawmakers and veterans groups in all 50 states in an attempt to get Congress to act on Conner’s behalf.

“I want to make sure they can’t walk away from this,” Chilton said Wednesday. “He’s a man worthy of this.”

Conner served with the 3rd Infantry Division, which fought in France and Europe in 1945. The Army in 2001 named Eagle Base in Bosnia-Herzegovina after Conner, who died in 1998 in Clinton County, Ky., where he lived after his fighting days and served 17 years as president of the Clinton County Farm Bureau. Conner’s citation for the Distinguished Service Cross states that



Lt. Garlin Murl Conner

on Jan. 24, 1945, near Houssen, France, he slipped away from a military hospital with a hip wound to rejoin his unit rather than return home and unreeled a telephone wire, plunged into a shallow ditch in front of the battle line and directed multiple rounds of fire for three hours as German troops continued their offensive, sometimes getting within 5 yards of Conner’s position.

The board first rejected Conner’s application in 1997 on its merits and turned away an appeal in June 2006, saying at the time no new evidence warranted a hearing or a new decoration despite more than a dozen letters of support for Conner.

While the Army Board for Correction of Military Records has upgraded other recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross to a Medal of Honor, the action is rare. As of 2012, the last year available, 178 Distinguished Service Crosses had been elevated to Medal of Honor status out of 13,000 issued since 1917.

The military can also conduct a review at the behest of Congress.

Conner’s commander in World War II, retired Maj. Gen. Lloyd B. Ramsey, filed an affidavit saying Conner’s work, while injured, provided valuable intelligence.

“There is no doubt that Lt. Conner should have been awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions,” Ramsey wrote. “One of the most disappointing regrets of my career is not having the Medal of Honor awarded to the most outstanding soldier I’ve ever had the privilege of commanding.”

# Varied symptoms complicate Gulf War illness designation

By **KELLY KENNEDY**  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Gulf War veterans have such a wide array of symptoms and exposures that researchers and clinicians should not apply one definition to everyone, and should instead “select one based on their needs,” according to a report from the Institute of Medicine released Wednesday.

The Department of Veterans Affairs should also continue to call the string of symptoms “Gulf War illness,” rather than chronic multisymptom illness as proposed because chronic multisymptom illness, or CMI, “is not specific to the population and its unique experience,” the report finds.

“The wide variation in symptoms has complicated efforts to determine whether a distinctive illness exists, as many symptoms of CMI overlap with those of other diseases and conditions, such as fibromyalgia and chronic fatigue syndrome,” the committee found.

Advocates for those suffering from Gulf War illness say the latest report ignores earlier research and reflects the VA’s bias against coming to terms with the illness 23 years after the end of the war.

“The conclusions of the report show that it was a waste of money,” said Jim Binns, chair of the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans’ Ill-

nesses. “The committee never had the expertise or the process to do a case definition. It’s good they didn’t do one.”

Binns called the bulk of the report “a slanted view of Gulf War research totally inconsistent with the science of the past decade.” He cited a previous report from the Institute of Medicine, as well as from his committee.

Binns said the IOM’s charge from the VA did not “provide for the rigorous data analysis and development of new data nor for the use of a panel of experts in the illness itself that are universally recognized as the keys to developing a case definition for an illness.”

Jennifer Walsh, a spokesperson for IOM, said the committee reviewed animal studies, but did not use animal or exposure studies in the report because it decided it would not look at the cause or origination of Gulf War illness.

The VA released a statement in response to the report and Binns’ statement. “The Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes and respects the service, dedication and many challenges faced by Veterans of the 1990-1991 Gulf War, and is committed to continuing improvements in care and services for Gulf War Veterans,” it read. “While IOM concluded there was insufficient evidence to develop a new case definition, VA agrees with their assessment that CMI

is an important cause of disability and health issues for veterans as a result of their service during the 1990-1991 Gulf War.”

The IOM did find that fatigue, pain and neurocognitive issues had been reported in all of the studies that they reviewed.

About one-fourth of the war’s 700,000 veterans developed symptoms that include chronic headaches, widespread pain, memory and concentration problems, persistent fatigue, gastrointestinal problems, skin abnormalities and mood disturbances.

Gulf War veterans had feared the multisymptom label would cause them to be lumped in with veterans of other wars who have returned with perplexing symptoms. But recent research has shown with MRIs that some Gulf War veterans have damage to the brain that could explain their symptoms. Other recent studies have shown damage to the autonomic nervous system.

IOM researchers did not look at the possibility of environmental toxins, such as sarin gas, anti-nerve-agent pills, or insect repellent, which some scientists believe hold the key to the disease.

The Institute of Medicine is an independent, nonprofit research arm of the National Academies, an umbrella research organization that includes academies for science and engineering.

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MILITARY

# Bible verse touches off a debate at AF academy

*The Associated Press*

DENVER — A Bible verse on the door of an Air Force Academy cadet's dorm room has touched off a constitutional debate.

Mike Weinstein, director of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, said Wednesday that the message on a whiteboard amounted to a cadet in a position of authority forcing an opinion on subordinates. Weinstein says he received complaints from cadets, and might file a lawsuit to ensure church-state separation on campus.

The academy says the issue was resolved earlier this week when cadets decided to erase the message.

Mike Berry, of the Liberty Institute, says the right to post such messages is a matter of religious freedom. Berry's institute says it fights to defend religious liberty, and Berry says he plans to take up the matter with the academy.



# A coin for Kermit

*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Touting them as "heroes" who are just as "strong and brave" as their parents, Michelle Obama is praising military children who often have to balance homework and caring for siblings with frequent changes of address.

The first lady spoke Wednesday at a White House screening for military families of the Disney movie "Muppets Most Wanted." She was joined by Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and film star Kermit the Frog, who said the children were "just as tough" as their parents.

The screening was a part of Joining Forces, a nationwide effort Obama and Jill Biden started in 2011 to rally the nation around veterans, active-duty service-members and their families.

**"From the senior military officer to the senior muppet," says Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, as he gives his military challenge coin to Kermit the Frog.**

JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

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## NATION

# White House keeps records out of CIA probe

By JONATHAN S. LANDAY,  
ALI WATKINS and MARISA TAYLOR  
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The White House has been withholding for five years more than 9,000 top-secret documents sought by the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for its investigation into the now-defunct CIA detention and interrogation program, even though President Barack Obama hasn't exercised a claim of executive privilege.

In contrast to public assertions that it supports the committee's work, the White House has ignored or rejected offers in multiple meetings and in letters to find ways for the committee to review the records, a McClatchy investigation has found.

The significance of the materials

couldn't be learned. But the administration's refusal to turn them over or to agree to any compromise raises questions about what they would reveal about the CIA's use of waterboarding and other harsh interrogation techniques on suspected terrorists in secret overseas prisons.

The dispute indicates that the White House is more involved than it has acknowledged in the unprecedented power struggle between the committee and the CIA, which has triggered charges that the agency searched the panel's computers without authorization and has led to requests to the Justice Department for criminal investigations of CIA personnel and Senate aides.

"These documents certainly raise the specter that the White House has been involved in stonewalling the investigation,"

said Elizabeth Goitein, the co-director of the Brennan Center for Justice's Liberty and National Security Program at the New York University Law School.

The committee and the CIA declined to comment.

In a statement to McClatchy, the White House confirmed that "a small percentage" of the 6.2 million pages of documents provided to the committee were "set aside because they raise executive branch confidentiality interests."

The White House also said that it had worked closely with the committee "to ensure access to the information necessary to review the CIA's former program."

Speaking to reporters earlier during a White House event, Obama said that the administration has worked with the com-

mittee to ensure that its study is "well informed" and that he was committed to seeing the report declassified once a final version is completed. He said it wouldn't be proper for him to comment directly on the battle between the CIA and the committee, except to say that CIA Director John Brennan had referred the issues to the "appropriate authorities and they are looking into it."

The Democrat-controlled committee largely has kept silent about the tussle with the White House, even as some members have decried what they contend has been the CIA's refusal to surrender key materials on the agency's use under the George W. Bush administration of interrogation methods denounced by the panel chairwoman as "un-American" and "brutal."

## Obama strengthening rules for overtime pay

By JIM KUHNHEHN  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama is seeking changes in overtime rules that will make millions of workers eligible for time-and-a-half pay for their extra work.

Obama signed a presidential memorandum Thursday directing the Labor Department to propose rules that expand the number of employees who benefit from overtime pay.

The rules would be aimed at salaried workers who make more than \$455 per week and those who are ineligible for overtime because they are designated as managers or even though their supervisory duties are minimal.

The rules do not require congressional action but could take more than a year to implement.

Obama has put a focus this year on increasing worker pay, including a call for Congress to increase the federal minimum hourly wage from \$7.25 to \$10.10.

He also issued an executive order requiring federal contractors to abide by the higher minimum wage.

In his memorandum, Obama directs the Labor Department to recommend new regulations that could increase the salary threshold for overtime eligibility and to change the definition of what constitutes a supervisor.

Obama's attention to overtime dovetails with his emphasis on correcting wage disparities, a theme that he has said will be central to the remainder of his presidential term. It also serves his political ends during a mid-term election year, giving him a populist issue along with his calls for a higher minimum wage and better pay for women.

The salary-per-week limit separating those who get overtime and those who don't was increased to \$455 in 2004 during the Bush administration. At the time, it hadn't been increased since the mid-1970s.

## Victims' kin: Declassify key portion of 9/11 report

By CHRIS MONDIS  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

WASHINGTON — Family members of victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks joined three members of Congress on Wednesday in calling on the Obama administration to declassify portions of a congressional investigation that addresses allegations of possible Saudi government support of the hijackers.

The report, released by a joint panel of the House and Senate intelligence committees in December 2002, contains 28 redacted pages that family members and victims say would shed new light on the hijackings. At the time the

report was released, the Bush administration classified the material, but numerous sources reported it dealt with the Saudis.

In all, nearly 3,000 people were killed in the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and the crash in Shanksville, including the 19 hijackers, 15 of whom were Saudis.

The small group was joined at a news conference at the Cannon House office building attended by Reps. Walter B. Jones, R-N.C., Stephen Lynch, D-Mass., and Thomas Massie, R-Ky., who are calling for passage of a House resolution requesting that the Obama administration make the information public.



JONATHAN BIRD, THE (FREMONT, OHIO) NEWS-MESSENGER/AP

## 3 killed in pileups on Ohio Turnpike

Truck drivers talk at the scene of an accident on the Ohio Turnpike northeast of Clyde, Ohio. A series of crashes involving at least 50 vehicles Wednesday killed three people and seriously injured a state trooper on a snowy two-mile stretch of the Ohio Turnpike. A flurry of accidents injured between Toledo and Cleveland blocked the toll road in both directions beginning in the early afternoon.

## Holder backs changes in drug sentencing

By ERIC TUCKER  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Attorney General Eric Holder on Thursday endorsed a proposal that would result in shorter prison sentences for many nonviolent drug traffickers, saying the change would rein in runaway federal prison costs and create a fairer criminal justice system.

Holder's backing for a U.S. Sentencing Commission proposal to lower the guideline penalties is part of a broader Justice Department effort to lessen punishment for nonviolent drug dealers. He has been pressing to ease long mandatory sentences and has called for greater discretion for judges in sentencing.

"This overreliance on incarceration is not just financially unsustainable, it comes with human and moral costs that are

impossible to calculate," Holder said in an appearance before the Sentencing Commission, an independent agency that establishes sentencing policies.

The harshest penalties, he said, should be reserved for "dangerous and violent drug traffickers."

Holder directed prosecutors in August to stop charging many nonviolent drug defendants with offenses that carry mandatory minimum sentences. He has also said he also wants to divert people convicted of low-level offenses to drug-treatment and community-service programs and to expand a prison program to allow the release of some elderly, nonviolent offenders.

Holder last year asked the commission to consider reductions in the sentencing guidelines for nonviolent drug crimes. The commission responded with a proposal

in January that would tie many drug offenses to shorter sentencing ranges.

The effect, the Justice Department says, would be to reduce by 11 months the average sentence of a drug trafficking offender and would trim the federal prison population by roughly 6,550 inmates during the next five years. About 70 percent of drug trafficking offenders would be affected by the change.

The commission was not expected to vote on the proposed change until at least April, but Holder planned to instruct prosecutors in the meantime not to oppose sentencing recommendations in line with the newly proposed ranges.

A national association of prosecutors is opposing the proposal, arguing that the majority of federal prisoners "have been very bad actors for a long time."

## NATION



MARK LENNIHAN/AP

An excavator removes debris from the site of a building explosion Thursday in New York. Rescuers on Thursday pulled four additional bodies from the rubble of two New York City apartment buildings that were destroyed in an explosion Wednesday.

## 4 bodies found in NY rubble

By VERENA DOBNIK

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Rescuers working amid gusty winds, cold temperatures and billowing smoke pulled four additional bodies overnight from the rubble of two Manhattan apartment buildings, and the death toll rose Thursday to at least seven from a gas leak-triggered explosion that reduced the area to a pile of smashed bricks, splinters and mangled metal.

The explosion Wednesday morning in East Harlem injured more than 60 people, with searchers still trying to locate at least five others a day later. Crews used generator-powered floodlights and thermal imaging cameras to identify heat

spots — bodies or pockets of fire — at the site on Park Avenue and 116th Street. Police guarding the scene wore surgical masks and neighborhood residents covered faces with scarfs amid the thick, acrid air.

"This is a difficult job, a challenging job," Fire Department spokesman Jim Long said. He said it was "a very terrible and traumatic scene."

Firefighters perched on surrounding rooftops Thursday morning, dousing the still-smoldering debris from above, drawing huge clouds of thick smoke that swirled over Park Avenue and wafted through the neighborhood.

Construction equipment with iron jaws picked up the smolder-

ing debris, first depositing it on the pavement, then hoisting it onto trucks that hauled it away. The debris was a wrecked collection of what were once apartment buildings, from structural beams and wood to pieces of windows and residents' belongings.

Searches of the street were completed Wednesday evening and no victims had been found there, city officials said. Workers initially were hampered from fully accessing the building space because of a sinkhole caused by a subsurface water main break. The weather also posed a challenge, with temperatures dropping into the 20s and rain falling, but workers remained at the site.

## Driver plows into crowd at SXSW

By CHRIS TALBOTT

The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — A suspected drunk driver fleeing police crashed through barricades set up for a major festival in Texas on Thursday, killing two people and injuring 23 others on a crowded street.

The crash stunned revelers at the annual South By Southwest music, film and interactive gathering that draws tens of thousands to Austin each year, and where NSA leaker Edward Snowden had spoken via live video conference from Moscow three days earlier.

The two people who died were on a moped that the motorist hit about 12:30 a.m. as he tried to evade a pursuing police officer, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo told reporters at a news conference.

The driver also struck pedestrians in front of a club that was emptying and hit a cab before crashing, jumping out of his car and trying to run, Acevedo said. A pursuing officer shocked him

with a stun gun and took him into custody.

Two of people who were hurt have serious, life-threatening head injuries, according to Dr. Christopher Ziebell, the emergency department director at the University Medical Center-Brackenridge. He said three other patients are in serious condition, but are expected to recover.

Ziebell said the driver was treated for minor injuries before he was released into police custody.

The man, whose name was not released, faces two counts of capital murder and 23 counts of aggravated assault with a vehicle, the chief said.

The street was full of concertgoers just minutes before the crash, but officials had cleared the street because it was a fire lane. Acevedo did not identify the driver or the victims and asked witnesses and those who may have taken video to contact police rather than post it to the Internet. He said all the injured were taken to area hospitals.



JAY JANNER, AUSTIN (TEXAS) AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP

Bystanders tend to a man who was struck by a vehicle on Red River Street in downtown Austin, Texas, during SXSW on Wednesday.

## Maryland police offer more information on mall shooter

From wire reports

WASHINGTON — He spent months searching the Internet for mass murder, focusing on the massacre at Columbine, learning how to assemble and fire a shotgun, and how to build a bomb. At the same time, Darton Marcus Aguilar sought out clues to mental illness and joined a chat room filled with people contemplating suicide in their search for a way out.

The 19-year-old from College Park, Md., kept all of that private, right up to Saturday, Jan. 25, when at 11:14 a.m. he stood in a dressing room at the Mall in Columbia and snapped a photo of himself holding a Mossberg 12-gauge. He uploaded the image to a blog on Tumblr, adding a note.

A moment later, Aguilar

stepped out of the dressing room at Zumiez, a store popular with the skate and snowboarding sets, and randomly killed two clerks before firing on other patrons, wounding one and sending hundreds racing for cover. Then he took his own life.

"He knew he was sick," Howard County Police Chief William McMahon said at a news conference Wednesday, detailing findings of a six-week investigation and revealing a timeline of that day.

McMahon said detectives found no evidence that Aguilar knew the people he killed — Brianna Benlo, 21, of College Park and Tyler Johnson, 25, of Mount Airy, Md. Police also said it was pure coincidence that Aguilar and Benlo lived just blocks apart.

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# UKRAINE UNREST

# Senate panel advances sanctions on Russia

By **BRADLEY KLAPPER**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Senate panel on Wednesday advanced what could become some of the most significant U.S. sanctions on Russia since the end of the Cold War in a bid to pressure President Vladimir Putin to pull Russian troops out of Crimea.

By a 14-3 vote, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee passed a bill authorizing \$1 billion in loan guarantees to Ukraine's new government and allowing the Obama administration to impose economic penalties on Russian officials responsible for the military intervention or culpable of gross corruption.

The bill stopped short of going after Russian banks or energy companies as some legislators proposed, giving Secretary of State John Kerry more leeway ahead of diplomatic talks with his Russian counterpart in Europe later this week.

All Democrats supported the measure. Republican objections concerned how the U.S. will pay for the loan guarantees and U.S. approval for expanding the lending capacity of the International Monetary Fund. House Republicans, who are pushing their own Ukraine aid legislation, also voiced their opposition to the IMP



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP

President Barack Obama talks with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk at the White House on Wednesday.

provisions.  
"Putin has miscalculated by playing a game of Russian roulette with the international community, but we refuse to blink and will never accept this violation of international law," said Sen. Bob Menendez, a Democrat and the

chairman of the Foreign Relations panel, who introduced the legislation.

Sen. Jim Inhofe and Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon, the top Republicans on Congress' armed services committees, both vowed to oppose the bill if it comes to the

Senate or House floors because the bill cancels \$157 million in spending for Air Force, Army and missile defense funds, according to political magazine The Hill. Another \$157 million is cut out of State Department development assistance accounts and from the

Export-Import Bank.  
"You don't need an advanced degree in international relations to understand that the trillion dollars this President has cut from our military has emboldened international bullies like Vladimir Putin," McKeon said in a statement.

The vote coincided with a strong show of support by President Barack Obama for Ukraine's new and embattled pro-Western government. Sitting side-by-side in the Oval Office with Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Obama expressed hope a Russian-backed referendum on Crimea's future planned for this weekend could still be halted. If the vote occurs, he vowed not to recognize the result.

The Senate bill condemns Russia's "unjustified military intervention" in Crimea and instructs the president to target with visa bans and asset freezes "any person ... for ordering, controlling or otherwise directing" acts that undermine Ukraine's sovereignty.

At the behest of Sen. John McCain, a Republican, the panel voted to expand Obama's sanctions authorization to target Russian government officials complicit in gross corruption in Ukraine, in Russia or anywhere else.

## US Army exercises discretion on training

By **NANCY MONTGOMERY**  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Atlas Vision is canceled. But Rapid Trident is still a go.

The status of two annual U.S. Army Europe military exercises that were scheduled for July — one in Russia, one in western Ukraine — is being affected differently by the situation in Ukraine, which has been described as the land of crisis since the end of the Cold War. That the U.S. and its allies chose to go ahead with the exercise in Ukraine while canceling the one in Russia demonstrates Western support for Kiev in its confrontation with Moscow.

On March 3, the Pentagon announced that all exercises, bilateral meetings, port visits and planning conferences with Russia were off.

Air Force Lt. Col. David Westover, a spokesman, said the U.S. European Command has been in the planning stages for Atlas Vision 2014, which was to take place in July in Chelyabinsk, in northeastern Russia, and focus on joint peacekeeping operations. Because of the crisis, "all planning for this exercise has been suspended," he said. "Exercise planning will continue until we



TARAS GREN/Ukrainian Ministry of Defense

A Ukrainian paratrooper prepares to land during a casualty evacuation demonstration at Exercise Rapid Trident 2013 in Yavoriv, Ukraine.

TRIDENT 2014 — a large, USAEUR-led multinational exercise scheduled for July — is ongoing, he said.

That exercise, in Lviv, near Ukraine's border with Poland, is to "promote regional stability and security, strengthen partnership capacity, and foster trust while improving interoperability between USAEUR, the land forces of Ukraine, and other (NATO and partner) nations," according to the USAEUR website.

In addition to USAEUR troops, Rapid Trident 2014 will include units from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Canada, Georgia, Germany, Moldova, Poland, Romania, the United Kingdom and Ukraine, Westover said. It will feature a combined U.S. and Ukrainian battalion headquarters practicing a peacekeeping operation, he said. "Exercise planning will continue until we

are told otherwise."

Last year's exercise lasted two weeks and included about 1,300 troops. It focused on "airborne and air-mobile infantry operations," according to a report on the Rapid Trident website.

In the meantime, the crisis in Ukraine shows few signs of a quick resolution. Russian troops are occupying the Crimean Peninsula, and a disputed referendum there will decide whether the region will secede from Ukraine and eventually join with Russia.

Westover said if relations were normalized between the West and Russia, Atlas Vision might or might not be rescheduled.

"Obviously, without proper prior planning, conducting an exercise of this nature becomes difficult and jeopardizes our ability to participate," he said.

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## US warns Russia of 'cost' for treatment of Ukraine

By **ANNE GERAN**  
and **KAREN DEYOUNG**  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Wednesday that the United States and its allies "will be forced to apply a cost" to Russia if it does not back down from "violations of international law and its encroachments on Ukraine."

With Ukraine's interim prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, by his side at the White House in the Oval Office, Obama said he and the international community reject what he called a "slapdash referendum" to be held Sunday in the Russian-occupied Ukrainian region of Crimea.  
"We will never surrender," Yatsenyuk said. "Ukraine is and will be a part of the Western world," he added, noting that his government expects to sign an association agreement with the European Union by the end of next week.

Obama's meeting with Yatsenyuk, a symbolic show of strong U.S. support for Ukraine, came as Secretary of State John Kerry prepared to meet with Russia's top diplomat in London on Friday in a last-ditch diplomatic effort to head off the deepening confrontation with Moscow.

"There's another path available" for Russia, "and we hope that President [Vladimir] Putin is willing to seize that path," Obama said. "But if he does not, I'm very confident that the international community will stand strongly

behind the Ukrainian government in preserving its unity and integrity."

Even as they continued to offer Russia a diplomatic exit, officials made clear that they doubt Putin intends to take it. Instead, both the administration and leading Western governments were closely coordinating sanctions they plan to impose as early as Monday, immediately after the Crimea referendum.

"Almost a week ago, we said that if [the Western effort] wasn't successful within a few days, we'd have to consider a second stage of sanctions," German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday during a visit to Poland. The E.U. has already imposed visa bans on some former Ukrainian officials.

"Six days have gone by since then, and we have to recognize ... that we haven't made any progress," Merkel said, according to the German news service Deutsche Welle. Both the E.U. and the administration plan to freeze assets of Ukrainian and Russian "individuals and entities" deemed responsible for political upheaval and corruption in Ukraine.

Yatsenyuk said Ukraine plans to pursue punitive moves in Crimea, such as cutting off water or electricity, no matter the outcome of the referendum. "Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine," he said during a speech at the Atlantic Council after his meeting with Obama. "This is our territory, and they are our citizens."

WORLD

# Report: Missing jetliner veered far off course

By BARBARA DEMICK  
Los Angeles Times

BEIJING — The mystery of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 deepened amid allegations that the airplane flew for hours more than originally thought and might have traveled more than 1,000 miles away from where search-and-rescue teams are looking.

Citing U.S. national security sources, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday that government personnel were pursuing the possibility that the plane was commandeered "with the intention of using it later for another purpose." The newspaper also said that data transmitted by an expanded monitoring system to Rolls-Royce Plc, the engine manufacturer, suggested that the plane flew for up to five hours in total after its takeoff from Kuala Lumpur at 12:21 a.m. Saturday morning.

Malaysian officials at a press conference Thursday denied the story and said the last engine data was transmitted at 1:07 a.m., about 20 minutes before the aircraft disappeared from civilian radar screens. Nevertheless, the Malaysian officials said they expanded the search system to operation into India and the surrounding waters, the Bay of Bengal, Andaman Sea and Arabian Sea. If in fact the Boeing 777 flew for five hours from Kuala Lumpur, it could have traveled 2,200 nautical miles, as

far as the India-Pakistan border. The latest twist only added to the frustration in a 12-nation search-and-rescue operation that now involves more than 80 ships, aircraft and satellites searching through much of Southeast Asia. "The plane vanished in thin air," Malaysia's acting transportation minister, Hishammuddin Hussein, said at the press conference late Thursday in Kuala Lumpur. "We have looked at every lead and, in most cases — I believe all the cases we pursued — I we have not found anything positive." Malaysian rescue planes Thursday rushed to a location over the Gulf of Thailand, roughly halfway between Kuala Lumpur and Ho Chi Minh City, where a Chinese satellite detected three large floating objects. However, no sign of the plane or the debris was discovered in the search and Hishammuddin said that the release of the satellite photos by a Chinese defense agency had been "a mistake."

Until now, the search effort has focused on the Gulf of Thailand, the original flight path of the missing plane. Malaysian officials have conceded the plane might have made a turn because their military radar detected an unidentified aircraft over the Strait of Malacca, off the west coast of the Malay Peninsula, about 330 miles off course. Malaysian military officials said it is unclear

## Losses at sea especially hard to investigate

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 highlights the challenge of gathering crash data at sea.



Boeing 777-200, missing since March 8

### Timeline

- A. March 8 Flight MH370 departs Kuala Lumpur at 12:41 a.m. local time; 239 aboard.
- B. An hour later Plane's transponder stops signaling; thought to have made sharp turn to west; no radio calls received.
- C. 2:15 a.m.
- D. 2:40 a.m. local time Malaysian military radar tracks signals of unidentified aircraft over western end of Malacca Strait.
- E. March 12 Chinese government releases satellite imagery dating from March 9 they say may show floating debris; later says images were released by accident and not related to Flight MH370.

### Mystery of the missing flight



Water depths ▶ 5,000 feet 1,000 feet 250 feet  
SOURCE: ESRI, Delorme, GEBCO, Geonames.org, NAVTEQ, NOAA, NRCAN, Aviation Safety Network, Reuters, New York Daily News, Boeing, Airbus, AP, National Transportation Safety Board, the airlines

GRAPHIC: Robert Dorrell MCT

whether the unidentified craft was the missing Flight 370.

Among the various hypotheses under investigation are that the pilots attempted to turn back to Kuala Lumpur or find another airport, that they passed out from lack of oxygen after a technical malfunction or sabotage while the airplane kept heading west.

Or alternatively that there was a hijacking attempt by a passenger or one of the crew.

Satellite imagery taken of the area that might detect no flash of light that would indicate a midair explosion.

Rolls-Royce declined to release details about the investigation, except to confirm that its engines do automatically transmit data to a monitoring center in the British city of Derby. The information is transmitted at roughly 30-minute intervals.

"The last transmission of en-

gine data was at 1:07 a.m. It did not go on longer," said Malaysia Airlines Chief Executive Ahmad Jaufari Yahya, flatly denying the Wall Street Journal report.

"We can trace our cars and our kids' cellphones, but there is no way of tracking planes as they fly around the world," said Don Tomas, president and chief executive of Aeron, which is developing a satellite-based surveillance system.

# Multiple navies join in search for plane in Southeast Asia

By ERIC TALMADGE  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Nearly every navy with a presence in Southeast Asia is involved in the extensive search for the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 that disappeared early Saturday. Here are some details on the key responders and their capabilities:

### United States

The U.S. Navy is easily the biggest and best-equipped Navy in the Pacific and was fast to participate. Two San Diego-based destroyers have been searching areas designated by the Malaysian government. The USS Kidd searched the southwest section of the Gulf of Thailand before heading to the Strait of Malacca as of Thursday, according to 7th Fleet spokesman Cmdr. William Marks. The USS Pickens searched the northeast area, between Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam before heading to Singapore for maintenance.

The Kadd's two HM-60R Seahawk helicopters flew sorties from dusk to dusk in search of debris. They can search a 400- to 600-square-nautical mile area during a typical 3½-hour sortie, depending on sea and weather conditions and the size of object they're trying to find. Its onboard sensors can detect small objects in the water, in addition to the crew using binoculars or the

naked eye.

The Seahawks also have forward-looking infrared cameras for night use.

A Navy P-3C Orion aircraft has been searching over both the Strait of Malacca and the Gulf of Thailand. The P-3C can search for extended periods and cover 1,000 to 1,500 square miles every hour. Onboard sensors allow the crew to clearly detect small debris in the water.

### China

Four Chinese naval vessels are joining the effort. The Jingtangshan is the largest in the Chinese navy and has a large flight deck capable of launching several helicopters. An air force plane was dispatched to search for signals from the flight's black box.

The People's Liberation Army Newspaper, run by the ruling party's military commission, said Beijing also sent four helicopters and four civilian search vessels. The Kunlunshan — another amphibious landing ship with two helicopters — arrived at the designated area in the Gulf of Thailand early Thursday morning.

China plans to expand the scope of its search in the northwest toward the Gulf of Thailand and to cover 5,000 square nautical miles in the Gulf of Thailand, the military newspaper said.

"That is equivalent to a medium-sized city, and we must be meticulous in our work because of the higher demands to conduct the search in such a vast area," Liu Zhonghu, captain of the Jingtangshan, told the newspaper.

On state-run China Central Television, PLA navy officers said the helicopters took off from the Jianggangshan and Kunlunshan to search, the ships were using underwater sonar and robots to detect the plane, and the crews have been surveying the sea.

### The Philippines and Vietnam

Despite its meager resources, the Philippine military immediately dispatched search-and-rescue vessels and aircraft into the South China Sea southwest of Manila within hours of the plane being reported missing Saturday.

The Philippines' largest and newest naval vessel, the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, a former U.S. Coast Guard cutter, was deployed on Wednesday to replace two smaller patrol boats that returned to port for refueling and resupply, said 1st Lt. Cherry Tindog, spokeswoman for the military's Western Command.

She said an air force Fokker 27 that searched on Saturday and Sunday was replaced by a navy Islander on Monday. A C-130 was deployed on Tuesday. The navy

Islander and the Gregorio del Pilar were both searching on Thursday.

Tindog also said all fishermen and fishing boats in the area have been advised to help in the search.

Meanwhile, in Hanoi, Lt. Gen. Vo Van Tuan, deputy chief of staff of Vietnam's People's Army, told The Associated Press that Vietnam has dispatched for the first time a helicopter to scour jungles of U Minh in southern Vietnam after the massive sea search found no clues. He said the searches by helicopter will be widened to other jungles in the south central region.

### More on the way

Japan, which has been increasing its effort to participate in regional humanitarian missions, said it will deploy two C-130 transport planes and two P-3C aircraft to the area. A spokesman for Japan's Defense Ministry on Thursday said the transport aircraft are already on site and the P-3Cs will be deployed as soon as possible unless the situation changes.

Neighbors Indonesia, Singapore and Brunei have already provided ships, and Singapore is planning to add more aircraft. Thailand has contributed helicopters, while Australia has offered two P-3C aircraft and India is reportedly mobilizing coast guard vessels.

## WORLD

# UN: 100K have fled Darfur strife in 6 weeks

By EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Approximately 100,000 people have fled their homes in Sudan's Darfur region because of an upsurge of violence in the past six weeks, the U.N. peacekeeping chief said Wednesday.

Herve Ladsous said that adds

to the nearly 2 million people displaced by the Darfur conflict, including 400,000 last year.

Darfur has been gripped by bloodshed since 2003 when rebels took up arms against the government in Khartoum, accusing it of discrimination and neglect.

Ladsous told reporters after a closed meeting of the U.N. Security Council that he pre-

sented members with a proposal to improve the performance of the joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, whose primary role is protecting civilians.

U.S. Ambassador Samantha Power urged the peacekeepers to be more "aggressive and steadfast" in protecting civilians and facilitating the delivery of hu-

manitarian aid.

Ladsous blamed the latest violence on community strife, tribal warfare, competition for resources, a lack of money, and the return of men who went to the Central African Republic as mercenaries.

Last Saturday, the AU-U.N. mediator for Darfur completed talks with the leaders of two of Darfur's

rebel groups, seeking a solution to the conflict.

Power noted that the government of Sudan said in January it was prepared to lead a political dialogue, including all sides in the political spectrum as well as armed groups that have renounced violence. She urged all armed groups to end their attacks and to join the political dialogue.

## Masked gunmen in Cairo kill soldier in attack on Army bus

By HAMZA HENDAWI

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Masked gunmen opened fire on an army bus in Cairo on Thursday, killing one soldier and wounding three in a rare attack on troops in the Egyptian capital, security officials and a military spokesman said.

The bus, which belongs to the army's military police, was driving through the capital's Amriyah district when it was targeted, the security officials said. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media, did not say who was responsible for the attack, which broke the hallmarks of Islamic militants.

The armed forces spokesman, Col. Ahmed Mohammed Ali, blamed the Muslim Brotherhood — the country's leading Islamist group from which ousted President Mohammed Morsi hails — for the early morning attack.

Witnesses speaking to the private CBC news network said the attack was carried out by four gunmen on two motorbikes, who sprayed the bus with gunfire as they approached it from opposite directions.

In the eight months since Morsi's ouster by the military after just one year in office, militants have targeted the army and police forces in Cairo and elsewhere in the country, often using motorbikes or suicide bombers. Attacks in Cairo mostly have targeted policemen.

The most high-profile assaults so far include an attempted assassination on the Egyptian interior minister in September in Cairo and an attack on the Egyptian capital's police headquarters in January, which killed at least five people and caused extensive damage to the nearby Islamic Museum. The interior minister, Mohammed Ibrahim, escaped unharmed but one bystander was killed and more than 20 people were wounded in the bombing.

Most of the deadly bombings have been claimed by a radical, al-Qaida-inspired group called Ansar Beit al-Maqdis, or Champions of Jerusalem.

The militants also are waging

a full-fledged insurgency in the northern part of the strategic Sinai Peninsula, a vast desert area bordering the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip and Israel.

Egypt's military-backed interim government has accused the Brotherhood — which rose to power following the ouster of longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak — of orchestrating much of the violence and has declared it a terrorist organization. The Brotherhood denies the charges, insisting it is pursuing peaceful means to reinstate Morsi.

The authorities have cracked down on the Brotherhood since Morsi's ouster following mass protests against his rule, but have put forward little evidence linking the group to the attacks. At least 2,000 have been killed in the crackdown and many more are in jail, including Morsi and most of the Brotherhood's top leaders.

In a separate development on Thursday, the former chief of staff of the Egyptian armed forces, Gen. Sami Anan, declared that he would not run for president as the public had anticipated.

The announcement leaves a leftist politician as the only serious candidate to run against the nation's military chief, Field Marshal Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, in the vote, expected in April.

"I have taken the decision not to be a candidate in the presidential election and that is in the higher interests of the nation and out of the realization of the dangers surrounding it," Anan, the former army chief of staff, told a news conference.

Anan played a key role in running Egypt when army generals took power for nearly 17 months after Mubarak was toppled in a popular uprising in 2011. Morsi retired him in 2012, only to be ousted himself nearly a year later by el-Sissi.

Anan's announcement has no impact on the race because he is not thought to have significant popular support. The vote is widely expected to be a landslide win by el-Sissi, who has yet to formally announce whether he will run. Still, Anan's decision projects an image of the military as unanimously behind el-Sissi.



ADIEL HANA/AP

Palestinians walk past graffiti of rockets and an exploded Israeli tank Thursday in Gaza City in the northern Gaza Strip.

## Israel: Gaza militants fire more rockets

By IBRAHIM BARZAK

The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza militants resumed rocket fire toward Israel on Thursday, striking the outskirts of two major cities a day after launching the largest barrage since an eight-day Israeli offensive in late 2012. Israel has responded with a series of airstrikes on militant targets.

Despite the exchanges, there were signs the two days of fighting could subside. Islamic Jihad, the Palestinian group responsible for the rocket fire, said it had agreed through Egyptian mediation to halt its attacks if Israel agreed to a truce as well.

"After the Egyptian brothers initiated contacts with us in the past few hours, we agreed to restore the calm," said Khaled al-Batch, the group's leader in Gaza. "As long as the occupation (Israel) honors the calm, we will honor the calm and instructions are being given right now to al-Quds brigades, our military wing, about this understanding."

There was no immediate comment from Israel or Egypt, which has mediated similar truces in the past. As he spoke, the Israeli military announced it had carried out more airstrikes on "seven terror sites" in southern Gaza in re-

taliation for the rocket fire earlier in the day. In all, it said some 65 rockets had been fired into Israel during the past two days.

"Since yesterday, there has been a substantial deterioration in the safety of the residents in southern Israel. We have responded and will continue to do so in order to eliminate threats as they develop," said Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, a military spokesman.

The early morning rocket attacks from Gaza set off air-raid sirens in the southern cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon. The rockets landed in open areas, but flew deeper into Israel than Wednesday's attacks, which hit southern Israeli border towns. There have been no casualties in the latest flare-up.

Gaza militant groups said they resumed their rocket fire in response to what they say are Israeli violations of a cease-fire, including an airstrike that killed three Islamic Jihad militants earlier this week.

Both sides largely have observed a cease-fire that ended the Israeli offensive against rocket launchers in November 2012, in which Israel and Gaza militants engaged in eight days of heavy fighting.

In Wednesday's attacks, Gaza militants fired more than 40 rockets

at Israel in two hours Wednesday. Israel responded swiftly with dozens of airstrikes against militant targets in Gaza. The rocket attacks come during a visit to Israel by British Prime Minister David Cameron, who condemned the attacks.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was to convene his security Cabinet to discuss a further Israeli response, though the expectations were that tensions would calm down in a matter of days rather than spiral into a larger conflagration.

"Our policy in the south is clear," Netanyahu said Thursday. "We harm those who try to harm us and respond fiercely to any attack. The terrorist groups in Gaza need to understand that they are dealing with a very determined government and a very strong army."

The Iranian-backed Islamic Jihad has taken responsibility for the rocket fire, saying it was meant to avenge the deaths of three of its members killed in Tuesday's airstrike while firing mortars toward Israel.

Gaza's ruling Hamas movement has not been involved in the latest fighting. But Israeli leaders say they hold the Islamic militant group responsible because it rules the coastal Palestinian territory.

## WORLD

# Court confirms death sentence in India gang rape

The Associated Press

**NEW DELHI** — A New Delhi court on Thursday confirmed the death penalty imposed by a lower court for four men convicted for the gang rape and murder of a young woman on a moving bus in 2012.

A special, fast-track court had sentenced the men in September, saying their crime was one of the rarest of rare cases that warranted the death penalty.

The Delhi High Court dismissed the appeals filed by the men and said it "affirmed" the sentence given by the lower court.

The 23-year-old medical student and a friend were returning home from a movie when the men tricked them into boarding a bus they were joy-riding. They beat the friend into submission, held the woman down and took turns raping her. They also penetrated her with a rod, causing severe internal injuries that led to her death two weeks after the December 2012 attack.

The brutality of the crime unleashed a wave of public anger over the treatment of Indian women and a long-unspoken epidemic of sexual violence in the country.

All six men involved in the attack were arrested soon after the attack.

Police say one of the men hanged himself in prison. Another man — an 18-year-old who was a juvenile at the time of the attack — was convicted and ordered to serve three years in a reform home.

A defense lawyer said the men would appeal Thursday's decision in the Supreme Court.

"These men have been falsely implicated," A.P. Singh, a lawyer who has represented the four men at various times during the trial, told reporters.

The nationwide outcry following the gang rape led the federal government to rush legislation increasing prison terms for rapists and criminalizing voyeurism, stalking, acid attacks and the trafficking of women.

# 1 dead after ship strikes fishing boat in Philippines

The Associated Press

**MANILA, Philippines** — A cargo ship slammed into a small fishing boat in Manila Bay, causing the fishing boat to sink and leaving one of its 23 crewmembers dead and 10 others missing, Philippine authorities said Thursday.

The incident occurred late Wednesday off Cavite province, south of Manila, coast guard spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Armand Ballo said.

Searchers recovered the body of one member of the fishing boat's crew, Ballo said. Ten crewmembers were missing, while the other 12 were rescued by another fishing vessel.

Cavite Gov. Jonvic Remulla told ANC Television that the 45-foot-

long, wooden-hulled fishing boat sank immediately after being hit. Ballo said the cargo ship was still unidentified, but that the coast guard would check harbor records to determine which ships were in the area at the time. The cargo ship was carrying steel containers, according to rescued crewmembers from the fishing boat.

There have been several deadly collisions in the bay's busy shipping lanes during the past decade, including one between a ferry and a fishing vessel on Christmas Eve in 2009 that killed at least three people and left 24 missing. In May 2003, a collision between a wooden boat and a much larger, steel-hulled ferry killed 46 people.

# China belatedly reports 31 dead in tunnel blast

**BEIJING** — The death toll from a little-reported road explosion was disclosed Thursday to be a much higher 31 nearly two weeks after the blast shook a highway tunnel in northwestern China.

The city government of Jincheng in Shaanxi province said a team assembled by the State Council to investigate the blast met Thursday in the city to brief officials on the latest developments. It said another nine people were missing.

The city statement came minutes after China concluded its annual meeting of its ceremonial congress in Beijing, raising questions if the case had been purposely given little attention to avoid disruption to the convention.

The crash March 1 involved more than 40 vehicles, including those carrying hazardous materials, and a fire burned for three days. The scant news coverage largely ceased March 5, the day when China's ceremonial legislative body — the National People's Congress — opened its annual meeting in Beijing.

From The Associated Press



SHAKIL ADIL/AP

Pakistani police officers escort suspected criminals arrested recently in an operation in Karachi.

# Police under attack in Pakistan's largest city

By REBECCA SANTANA

The Associated Press

**KARACHI, Pakistan** — From his home off a dirt road cluttered with trash in Pakistan's teeming city of Karachi, policeman Didar Ahmed's son showed the blood-stained jacket his father was wearing when gunmen cut him and three colleagues down in a hail of bullets last month.

Ahmed's brother, Gulzar, looked at the bullet-riddled jacket with a blank stare. He recalled how days before his brother's death, they had talked about the rising dangers of police work as officers increasingly come under attack by criminal gangs and militants from the Pakistani Taliban.

"He was sitting here and told me, 'The situation in the city is deteriorating so if something happens to me, you take care of my kids and family,'" Gulzar said.

Ahmed was one of 44 police officers killed during the first two months of the year in Pakistan's largest city, a particularly violent start to the year for the police. The force already was reeling from 166 officers killed last year — roughly one every other day and a four-fold increase from just five years earlier.

Being a police officer has never been especially easy in this sprawling metropolis on the southern coast, where the population has surged from roughly 10 million in 1998 to some 18 million to 21 million today — so much that an exact count has proven elusive to authorities.

Recent figures suggest the profession has become even more perilous — in large part because the Pakistani Taliban and affilia-

ted militant groups have gained a foothold here, police and analysts say. Police Chief Shahid Hayat said they are responsible for roughly 60 percent of the recent police killings.

Much of the focus on militancy in Pakistan since the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States has been on the vast northwest tribal regions bordering Afghanistan, where the army is fighting militants. But as fighters increasingly move into settled areas of the country such as Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in the north, and Karachi in the south, it has put immense strain on law enforcement agencies that generally are less well-funded and less well-trained than the army.

"It's a big concern," Hayat said of the killings. He was brought in last September to oversee a new campaign to bring down the violence plaguing the city. Karachi's problems are extensive: extortion, kidnapping for ransom, targeted assassinations and car theft, to name a few. Newly elected Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, acutely aware of the city's importance to the country's economy, ordered paramilitary Rangers and police to bring order to it.

Police have been killed on their way to and from work. Ahmed's family said he would put on his uniform at the station house so people wouldn't know his profession. Grenades have been lobbed at police stations and vehicles. In two of the most shocking attacks, the man dubbed the city's "toughest cop," Chaudhry Aslam, was killed in a bombing claimed by the Pakistani Taliban in January, followed by a roadside bomb that killed 13 police officers in

February.

To be sure, the Pakistani Taliban are not the only driver of the violence in the city. Karachi has been a cauldron of ethnic and political tension for decades. Political parties there have militant wings, gangs make money through drug trafficking, land grabbing and other forms of crime, and sectarian groups target the city's Shiite Muslim minority. Just Wednesday, at least 15 people were killed in a gangland shootout and six police were wounded.

Samina Ahmed, from the International Crisis Group, said it's not necessarily that the jihadi threat has grown, but that state control increasingly has withered in Karachi and other cities, allowing criminality and militancy to thrive.

"Large parts of Karachi can't be policed effectively because the police don't have the means — either the bodies or the technology," she said. "It's a megacity, and megacities require efficient law enforcement and that is what Karachi lacks. So is it that the jihad threat can't be tackled or is it that the state isn't trying to tackle it seriously enough?"

Religious militants have long had a presence in the city, but it was generally used by them as a place to seek medical treatment, to raise money through bank robberies or to recruit at the city's massive network of religious schools. The combination of Pakistani military operations in the northwest starting in 2009, along with American drone strikes, drove many militants to seek shelter here among the city's large Pashtun population.

## FAITH



PHOTOS BY DOMENICO STINELLIS/AP

Friar Stefano Tamburo, head of the Franciscan convent of St. Francesco a Ripa, touches a stone believed to be used by St. Francis of Assisi as a pillow when visiting the convent in Rome. The friars who run the church are launching a Kickstarter campaign to raise funds to restore the tiny cell where St. Francis stayed.

# Saving St. Francis

Franciscans kick-start fundraising effort to restore Roman cell where saint stayed

By NICOLE WINFIELD  
The Associated Press

ROME — Pope Francis's namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, founded his order of mendicant friars in the 13th century after receiving a calling from God to "rebuild my church." Some 800 years later, St. Francis's followers are rebuilding his church in the ancient tradition of door-to-door begging that St. Francis championed — but with a very modern twist.

With interest in things Franciscan at an all-time high, the friars who run the San Francesco a Ripa church in Rome's Trastevere neighborhood have launched a Kickstarter online fundraising campaign to try to raise \$125,000 for the restoration of the tiny cell where St. Francis stayed when he came to Rome to see the popes starting in 1209, The Associated Press has learned.

Rather than ask for funding from the Italian government, which owns the church and is responsible for its upkeep, the friars decided on this more democratic crowd-funding initiative, thinking it more in keeping with the Franciscan tradition of seeking alms for just what they need, spreading the faith as they beg and making sure the poor are the priority.

"It seemed important to us, very Franciscan even, to say that today perhaps public money should be devoted to more urgent things, more important things like social issues that are affecting Italy and Europe at large," said the Rev. Stefano Tamburo, 43, the guardian of the sanctuary who is spearheading the campaign. "So like the friars in the past would go asking



This cell of the convent of San Francesco a Ripa is where St. Francis of Assisi was believed to live when visiting Rome.

## Background on St. Francis

St. Francis was born to a wealthy cloth merchant in the Umbrian hill town of Assisi in the early 1180s. After falling ill and apparently having a prophetic dream, he cast aside his worldly wealth — literally stripped himself of his clothes — and decided to devote himself to the poor and to rebuilding a church that had fallen into spiritual ruin with priests more bent on luxurious living than saving souls.

Francis proposed a radically new way of living religious life that he believed was closer to what Jesus and his apostles lived — not as cloistered monks or parish priests on career paths but as itinerant and mendicant preachers, ministering to the urban poor and sick and relying exclusively on the charity of others to get by.

— Nicole Winfield

The project "St. Francis in Rome: The Restoration" is at <http://tinyurl.com/lqhybp>



for a piece of bread, today we are going to ask for a dollar, a euro, so we can make this place as it was in the time of St. Francis."

The Franciscan renovation calls for a thorough cleaning of the plaster walls of the tiny cell where St. Francis stayed above the sacristy. The walls have been caked in centuries of candle wax and soot and are crumbling in places. In addition, the friars want to restore a bug-infested Baroque reliquary over the spot where St. Francis slept and install new electric and air ventilation systems to better accommodate the throngs of pilgrims who have been flocking to the sanctuary ever since the first pope named after Francis was elected a year ago.

"We've seen a significant increase in pilgrims, but also Romans who maybe didn't know about this place," Tamburo told the AP on a recent rainy Friday inside the cell. "We want to provide a high-quality service, not just open the doors but explain how Francis lived in this place, and how this place can speak to us about St. Francis today."

As one might expect, the cell is terrifically bare, with the most important connection to the saint a slab of rock where he purportedly laid his head at night. Within the confines of the sanctuary though are some very Franciscan services on offer: The friars are currently housing more than a dozen young homeless men, most of them migrants, doing what both the saint and the pope asked of the faithful.

WORLD

# Endangered tiger cub triplets born in London

The Associated Press

LONDON — At London Zoo, good news has come in threes.

The zoo said Thursday that 5-year-old Sumatran tiger Melati has given birth to triplets, a little more than a year after the endangered tiger lost a 3-week-old cub.

London Zoo said the three cubs — whose sexes are not yet known — arrived early on Feb. 3.

The cubs' first moments have been captured on hidden cameras and zookeepers are monitoring the three around the clock.

Teague Stubbington, a zookeeper, said the cubs have hit several milestones including opening their eyes and taking tentative first steps, and that their personalities are starting to emerge. Stubbington revealed that one has earned the nickname "Trouble" for being first to explore its den and waking the other two cubs.

Sumatran tigers are listed as critically endangered on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Animals.



Sumatran tigress Melati rests with her as-yet-unsexed triplet cubs on Feb. 10, a week after the triplets were born at London Zoo following a 106-day pregnancy. LONDON ZOO/AP

## Battle continues over where to bury Richard III

The Associated Press

LONDON — Distant relatives of England's King Richard III are launching their High Court battle over where to rebury the 15th-century monarch's remains.

The remains of Richard — who was killed in battle in 1485 — were

found in a Leicester parking lot.

The government has given Leicester Cathedral in central England permission to rebury the king, but his relatives want him buried in the northern England city of York. The relatives — under the name the Plantagenet Alliance — are bringing legal action

that begins Thursday at the High Court against the government and the University of Leicester.

They claim that the government did not consult widely enough — or consider the wishes of Richard or his descendant — on where the monarch should be reburied.

From The Associated Press

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# WORLD

# US ex-nuclear chief: Japan plant's lesson is phase out

By YURI KAGEYAMA  
The Associated Press

TOKYO — As radiation spewed from Japan's nuclear disaster three years ago, the top U.S. atomic energy regulator issued a 50-mile evacuation warning for any Americans in the area, a response some found extreme.

Gregory Jaczko, who stepped down as chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in 2012, still believes he was right, and said the events at the Fukushima Dai-Ichi plant show that nuclear power should be phased out in Japan and worldwide.

"The lesson has to be: This kind of accident is unacceptable to society. And that's not me saying it. That's society saying that," he said in an interview this week in Tokyo, where he is giving lectures and is speaking on panels marking the third anniversary of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami that overwhelmed the Fukushima plant.

Now a lecturer at Princeton University, Jaczko, 43, has become a hit on the speaking circuit in Japan, where all 48 nuclear

plants remain offline as the country debates what role nuclear power should play in its future.

The government is pushing forward with a plan to restart several reactors after safety checks, despite continuing public opposition. Nuclear regulators announced Thursday they are beginning the final approval process for the restarting of two reactors at a plant on the southernmost main island of Kyushu.

Jaczko said he had always been concerned about nuclear safety. But so much unfolded at Fukushima that experts were unprepared for that it changed his view, and that of the Japanese public, on nuclear power.

Chernobyl and Three Mile Island were major accidents, but for Jaczko, Fukushima definitively undermined industry assumptions such as that multiple accidents were unlikely or hydrogen leaks would be controlled.

Three of the reactors at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant had melted down, and two had hydrogen explosions. The idea that a plant wouldn't be under control three or four days after an accident was

unthinkable before Fukushima, he said.

"We have defined safety measures against the things that we kind of know. An accident is going to be something that we didn't predict," he said.

During the Fukushima crisis, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff discussed possible evacuation zones of between 20 and 50 miles, and given the uncertainty, opted for 50 miles, he said. A 50-mile evacuation has never been adopted as a standard for disaster scenarios in the U.S.

Jaczko said it was luck the wind blew in a direction that sent much of the radiation out to sea.

His resignation from the NRC, three years into his five-year term as chairman, followed complaints about his management style. He said he could no longer support the licensing of reactors in the U.S. after Fukushima.

Yotaro Hatamura, an honorary professor at the University of Tokyo who took part in a government investigation of Fukushima, said the right decision on nuclear power can't be made without addressing the what-if scenarios of



COURTESY OF TOKYO ELECTRIC POWER Co./AP

Smoke rises from the Unit 3 reactor of the tsunami-damaged Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in Okuma town, Fukushima prefecture, northeastern Japan, on March 21, 2011.

accidents. "A true debate is needed, but all we're getting is: Are you for or against nuclear power?" he said, sitting with Jaczko on a recent panel at the Japan Press Center.



EUGENE HOSHKO/AP

The skyline of the Lujiazui Financial District is obscured by heavy smog in December in Shanghai.

# Panasonic workers paid for bad China air

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese electronics maker Panasonic Corp. is compensating employees for living with air pollution in China.

The payment for what the company described as the "PM2.5 problem," referring to tiny particles in the air that at sufficient quantities reduce visibility and

increase health risks, is part of a package negotiated annually for employees in China who belong to the Panasonic union.

Chinese cities such as Beijing and Shanghai have become notorious for noxious air, but pollution pay is still relatively rare among global companies.

The company on Thursday did not disclose the amount of the

payments, which start in April, or give a number for those eligible.

Panasonic employs about 70,000 people in China and was among the first Japanese companies to expand aggressively there.

It said the compensation is offered to union members, but not to locally hired staff.

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WORLD

# New Syria law opens elections

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syria's parliament unanimously approved a new election law Thursday allowing multiple candidates to run for president, opening the door — at least in theory — to other potential contenders besides President Bashar Assad.

The vote comes nearly four months before Assad's seven-year term as president officially expires. Syrian officials say the presidential elections will be held on time and Assad has suggested he would run again, though he hasn't confirmed whether he'll seek re-election.

The poll must be held between 60 and 90 days before Assad's term ends on July 17.

Syria has been ruled by the Baath Party since it seized power in a 1963 coup. Past presidential elections under Assad and his late father, Hafez Assad, were de-facto referendums with an Assad as the sole candidate.

The country held a referendum in March 2012 on a new constitution that allowed for a multiparty political system in Syria and multiple presidential candidates.

That referendum, held amid an escalating civil war, was part of gestures of reform meant to defuse the unrest. The opposition dismissed it as an attempt at superficial reforms that do nothing to break the president's hold on power.

The bill adopted Thursday says only candidates who lived in Syria for 10 consecutive years prior to nomination can run for president. It also stipulates that candidates should be born to Syrian parents and must not have any nationality.

State television broadcast the vote live, but the parliament speaker did not say how many lawmakers voted for the bill.

Khalid Saleh, a member of the main Western-backed opposition group, the Syrian National Coalition, said any notion that Assad may run for re-election demonstrates "the uttermost disregard for the blood" of the thousands of Syrians killed.

He said in a statement that the election law adopted by parliament was "illegitimate" and said the group "strongly rejects participation of opposition members as candidates against Assad in the presidential elections, as this would imply recognition by us of the legitimacy of his presence in the elections."

The opposition has categorically refused the notion of presidential elections being held in Syria under the current circumstances. The coalition has called on Assad to step down in favor of a transitional governing body that would administer the country until free presidential and parliament elections can be held.

The Syrian conflict, now entering its fourth year, has killed more than 140,000 people, sent more than 2.5 million fleeing for neighboring countries and destroyed entire blocks in opposition-held areas of the country.

# 2 dead in clashes after Turkish teen's funeral

The Associated Press

ISTANBUL — Turkey's leader on Thursday criticized protests being held regarding the death of a teenager who was wounded by police as an attempt to create chaos and influence upcoming elections.

The 15-year-old boy, Berkin Elvan, died Tuesday, nine months after being hit by a police tear gas canister during widespread anti-government protests and slipping into a coma. He was injured while walking to a bakery to buy bread and was not taking part in the protests.

On Wednesday clashes broke out in Istanbul and several other cities after tens of thousands of people joined a funeral procession in Istanbul for Elvan, who has become a symbol of civilian resistance in Turkey. Officials say at least two people died.

Turkey will hold local elections on March 30, and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has acknowledged that the results will serve as a referendum on his rule.

Speaking at an election rally in the southern city of Mersin on Thursday, he condemned the protests regarding Elvan.

"These people are fakes. They have nothing to do with democracy or freedom," he said. "They foresee the result of the elections and think, 'Can we get results



EMRAN GUREL/AP

Demonstrators clash with riot police in Istanbul, Turkey, on Wednesday following the funeral of Berkin Elvan, who had been in a coma after a police tear-gas canister struck him in the head last year.

through chaos?"

On Wednesday night, police used tear gas and water cannons to disperse crowds trying to reach a main Istanbul square, and the Istanbul governor's office said a 22-year-old man died and two other people were wounded in fighting

between pro- and anti-government youths.

The fatality, Burak Can Karamanoglu, was shot in the head, according to a preliminary autopsy report cited by the state-run Anadolu Agency.

On Thursday, about 2,000

people converged in an Istanbul neighborhood to protest Karamanoglu's death.

In the eastern city of Tunceli, the governor said a police officer died of a heart attack during clashes with anti-government protesters Wednesday.

3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL

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NATION

# THE SHAME GAME

The Internet scores a hit with dogs' guilty 'confessions'

By SUE MANNING  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The next time you start shaking your finger and shouting "Shame on you!" because your dog chewed up your favorite fuzzy slippers, just remember that no matter how guilty your dog looks, it doesn't know what your rant is about.

Behaviorists insist dogs lack shame. The guilty look — head lowered, ears back, eyes droopy — is a reaction to the tan-tered. "Just get over it and remind yourself not to put temptation in the way next time," said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and executive director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists.

But scientific findings have not put a dent in the popularity of online dog shaming sites such as dogshaming.com and shameyourpet.com or videos like those posted on youtube.com/trackrockcandy. In the photos and videos, dogs wear humorous written "confessions" and often are surrounded by the remnants of their misdeeds.

There is no question that in some photos, they look guilty of eating, drinking, chewing, licking or destroying something they shouldn't have.

Dogshaming.com was the first and is among the most popular sites. Since Pascale Lemire started it in August 2012, it has received more than 58 million page views and more than 65,000 submissions.

"I don't think dogs actually feel shame," Lemire

said. "I think they know how to placate us with this sad puppy-dog look that makes us think they're ashamed of what they've done. My guess is that about something, but I don't know what, but he seems to calm down when I give him the sad face, so let's try that again."

Another dog owner helped get celebrities into the trend. In late 2011, Jeremy Lakaszcyck, of Boston, started putting shaming videos of his lemon beagle, Maymo, on YouTube. Four months later, Ellen DeGeneres ran one of them on her show and comedian Ricky Gervais tweeted it. The popularity of the videos soared, Lakaszcyck said.

Maymo has a naturally sad or guilty face and senses something is wrong if Lakaszcyck speaks in a stern voice.

"Maymo can sit for quite a while looking sad because he's a ham. It's natural, and he knows a treat is coming. His tail usually wags through the wait. It's like he's happy on one end and sad on the other," he said.



I WAS TRYING TO  
MAKE SANDWICHES  
BUT THEN I REALIZED  
I DONT KNOW HOW

Jeremy Lakaszcyck's lemon beagle, Maymo, has become a "dog shaming" star thanks to his naturally sad or guilty face.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEREMY LAKASZCYCK/AP

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# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police say bank robber left car keys in bank

**NJ** LAKEWOOD — Authorities say a would-be bank robber was captured after he left the keys to his getaway vehicle inside the bank.

Lakewood police say Donald Van Arsdale, 48, of Jackson was arrested Tuesday afternoon, shortly after he tried to make off with roughly \$2,000 from a Hudson City Savings Bank branch. He fled the bank on foot after realizing he didn't have his keys, and was captured a short time later after police spotted him a few blocks away.

Authorities say Van Arsdale dropped the money and some personal belongings when he fled from police. The vehicle that authorities believe Van Arsdale was driving was found in the bank parking lot. The keys to the vehicle were found inside the bank building.

## University president backs Sex Week event

**TN** NASHVILLE — University of Tennessee President Joe DiPietro is urging lawmakers not to pursue legislation that would penalize the school over its student-run Sex Week.

In a letter this week to Senate Education Chairwoman Dolores Gresham and Senate Government Operations Chairman Mike Bell, DiPietro argued that First Amendment protections prevent the school from ending the event that has raised the hackles of GOP leaders in the Legislature.

DiPietro said he is growing concerned that "the attention focused on this matter by the General Assembly is quickly reaching a point that will cause greater harm and damage to the long-term interests of the University than any programming that may occur as result of Sex Week."

The weeklong event organized by students features seminars and speakers on issues that organizers describe as an "academically-informed conversation about sex, sexuality, and relationships with the purpose of educating the University of Tennessee student body."

## City to lower meters too tall for short people

**NV** RENO — The city of Reno was dispatching crews Wednesday to lower new parking meters that are too tall for short people.

It's the latest setback in the Biggest Little City's parking meter woes that cost city coffers \$600,000 in lost parking ticket revenue when new kiosks didn't work properly.

The city this month installed new "smart meters" that accept both credit cards and coins at an expense of \$391,000. But there's a problem: Short people can't see the screens that show how much time they've purchased, the Reno Gazette-Journal reported.

The city will cut down the parking meter posts so the top button is no higher than 48 inches, which meets ADA requirements.

## THE CENSUS

# 22

The weight in pounds of a pet cat that an Oregon couple said trapped them in their bedroom after attacking their baby. Lee Palmer, of Prineville, Ore., said Lex, a 4-year-old part-Himalayan, attacked his 7-month-old child Sunday after the baby pulled its tail, leaving the child with a few scratches on the forehead. On a 911 call, Palmer told the dispatcher that he kicked the cat "in the rear" to protect his child. Palmer said Lex then "just went off over the edge" — leading him and his girlfriend to barricade themselves, their baby and the family dog in the bedroom for safety. Lex was subdued by first responders. The Palmers say they're not giving up on their pet and are getting it medical attention and therapy.



MARK BUGNASKI, KALAMAZOO (MICH.) GAZETTE-MLIVE MEDIA GROUP/AP

## Plowing through an endless winter

A snowplow arrives to clear driveways during a snowstorm Wednesday on Duke Street in Kalamazoo, Mich.

## Mail shooter said to be fascinated by Columbine

**MD** MARIOTTSVILLE — The gunman who fatally shot two people at a Maryland mall in January before killing himself appeared obsessed with mass murder and may have fixated on the 1999 Columbine High School shooting, even dressing like one of the shooters, police said Wednesday.

Howard County Police Chief William J. McMahon said during a news conference that investigators found no indication that Darion Aguilar, 19, knew the victims of his Jan. 25 shooting at The Mall in Columbia.

Investigators found thousands of searches on Aguilar's computer related to mass murder, school shootings, guns and explosives. Aguilar showed "a particular fascination with the Columbine shooting," McMahon said. He also looked up websites for people with mental health problems.

## \$600K is taken from safe at mega-church

**TX** HOUSTON — Authorities are investigating

after \$600,000 in checks and cash was stolen from a safe at Pastor Joel Osteen's Houston mega-church, which has one of the largest congregations in the country.

Police spokesman Kesse Smith said Tuesday \$200,000 in cash and \$400,000 in checks were stolen from a safe sometime between 2:30 p.m. Sunday and 8:30 a.m. Monday.

The theft was reported Monday morning by a church employee and an off-duty sheriff's deputy who provides security at the facility. No arrests have been made, Smith said.

In a statement issued Monday, Lakewood Church said the money and checks taken, as well as some envelopes with written credit card information, were limited to funds given during last weekend's Saturday and Sunday services.

## Salmon may travel to ocean by truck

**CA** SACRAMENTO — Wildlife officials said they will consider a plan to move millions of hatchery-raised salmon by tanker trucks to the ocean if the Sacramento River and its tributaries prove inhospitable due to the drought.

Officials fear the rivers could become too shallow and warm, affecting food supply and making salmon easier to catch by predators, the Sacramento Bee reported.

State and federal officials said Monday they were watching conditions and would be ready to implement the plan next month, barring heavy rains.

Salmon are usually released in April and May from the Coleman National Fish Hatchery on Battle Creek, a tributary of the river.

## City weighs removing ban on spitting

**MI** GRAND RAPIDS, — A ban on spitting in public in Grand Rapids could soon be off the books.

The Grand Rapids Press reported the City Commission plans to consider deleting the word "expectorate" from a list of prohibited public acts that includes urination and defecation.

City Attorney Catherine Mish wrote in a memo that language was added to the code in an era when the use of chewing tobacco was prevalent and spittoons were common. She said the code's language "did not disappear as

quickly as the spittoon."

Mish said she contacted local health officials, who told her spitting doesn't pose as much of a threat as it might have in the past.

Mish has been scouring city code to find archaic rules, including one recently on being willfully annoying.

## Dog credited with saving owner in fire

**RI** EAST PROVIDENCE — Officials said a dog may have saved its owner's life by waking him up during an early morning fire in East Providence, R.I.

Firefighters told WPRI-TV that the 50-year-old man may not have survived if his dog, Liberty, hadn't started licking his face as his mattress burned. Authorities said there were no working smoke alarms in the home.

Officials said the man was sleeping when his laptop computer apparently overheated and started a fire about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday. Firefighters said the man suffered minor burns.

The man's name hasn't been released. The dog wasn't hurt.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Starbucks adding digital tips via app

By Candice Choi  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Starbucks will soon let customers leave tips with its mobile payment app, which raises the question — how often do people tip their baristas?

The coffee chain says the mobile tipping option, which it announced more than a year ago, will be available on its updated app for iPhones starting March 19. The rollout comes as the com-

pany's app has surged in popularity, with roughly one out of every 10 purchases now made with a mobile device.

After paying with the app, Starbucks says customers will be able to leave a tip of 50 cents, \$1 or \$2 anywhere within two hours of the transaction. The tipping option will be available only at the 7,000 of the roughly 11,000 Starbucks locations in the U.S. that are owned by the company.

The move puts a spotlight on

what can be a sensitive topic for customers, workers and even Starbucks, which has faced lawsuits over how it divvies up the contents of tip jars among workers. Some customers are happy to tip for friendly service, knowing that baristas don't earn that much. Others say that they already fork over enough money and shouldn't be made to feel like they should throw money into a tip jar as well.

Zee Lemke, who has worked as a Starbucks barista in Wisconsin

for more than three years, said most customers nevertheless leave a tip of some sort. She said tips generally add between \$1.50 and \$2 to her hourly pay of \$9.05.

"It varies a lot from store to store, even in the same city," said Lemke, 30. At the drive-thru location where she works, for instance, she said, tips go down when it's cold out and people are less likely to reach out and put money in the tip box that hangs off a ledge.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 14)	\$1.4330
Dollar buys (March 14)	€0.6983
British pound (March 14)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (March 14)	100.00
South Korean won (March 14)	1,040.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6699/0.5983
Canada (dollar)	1.1063
China (Yuan)	6.1363
Denmark (Krone)	5.3504
Egypt (Pound)	6.9627
Euro	\$1.3949/0.7169
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7556
Hungary (Forint)	223.50
Israel (Shekel)	3.4627
Japan (Yen)	102.63
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2811
Norway (Krone)	1.06785
Philippines (Peso)	44.59
Poland (Zloty)	3.103
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7504
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2644
South Korea (Won)	1,067.85
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8715
Thailand (Bath)	32.31
Turkey (New Lira)	2.2218

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

MARKET WATCH

March 12, 2014	
<b>Dow Jones Industrials</b>	<b>-11.17</b>
	16,340.08
<b>Nasdaq composite</b>	<b>+16.14</b>
	4,323.33
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's 500</b>	<b>+0.57</b>
	1,868.20
<b>Russell 2000</b>	<b>+4.32</b>
	1,191.37

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.08
3-month bill	0.05
30-year bond	3.67

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.749	\$4.072	\$4.259	\$4.259
Change in price	+3.3 cents	+2.3 cents	+0.5 cents	+0.5 cents
Netherlands	...	...	...	...
Change in price	...	...	...	...
U.K.	...	...	...	...
Change in price	...	...	...	...
Azores	...	...	...	...
Change in price	...	...	...	...
Turkey	...	...	...	...
Change in price	...	...	...	...
U.S.	\$3.899	...	...	...
Change in price	no change	...	...	...

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	\$3.669	...	...	\$4.610
Change in price	...	...	...	...
Okinawa	\$3.509	...	...	\$4.009
Change in price	+4.0 cents	...	...	+1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.769	...	...	\$4.089
Change in price	+4.0 cents	...	...	+1.0 cents
Guam	\$3.759**	\$3.919	\$4.079	...
Change in price	+3.0 cents	+2.0 cents	+2.0 cents	...

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Mildgrade  
For the week of March 15-21

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	63	32	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	48	23	Pcldy	Louisville	60	32	Pcldy	Pocatello	55	37	Pcldy	Sioux City	56	35	Cir
Ablene, Tex	75	44	Cir	Cheyenne	52	27	Cir	Wayne	75	47	Cir	Lubbock	72	38	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	53	32	Cir	Sioux Falls	50	32	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	49	15	Pcldy	Chicago	49	34	Pcldy	Goodland	59	30	Cir	Macon	68	30	Cir	Portland, Ore.	55	43	Rain	South Bend	46	26	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	36	4	Cir	Cincinnati	57	29	Pcldy	Grand Junction	56	31	Cir	Madison	47	34	Pcldy	Providence	37	13	Fz	Toledo	52	36	Rain
Albuquerque	59	41	Cir	Cleveland	47	15	Pcldy	Grand Rapids	41	23	Cir	Medford	62	40	Cir	Pueblo	57	32	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	60	39	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	45	12	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	53	29	Pcldy	Great Falls	50	29	Cir	Memphis	68	43	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	57	26	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	66	42	Cir
Amarillo	68	39	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	64	28	Cir	Green Bay	43	28	Cir	Miami Beach	76	54	Pcldy	Rapid City	56	39	Pcldy	Tallahassee	70	33	Cir
Anchorage	45	31	Snow	Columbus, Ga.	68	33	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	58	26	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	79	40	Pcldy	Reino	66	31	Pcldy	Tampa	73	46	Cir
Asheville	60	24	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	56	24	Pcldy	Harrisburg	52	18	Pcldy	Milwaukee	48	32	Pcldy	Richmond	57	23	Cir	Tampa Bay	73	46	Cir
Atlanta	63	35	Cir	Concord, N.H.	33	2	Cir	Hartford Spfld	67	31	Cir	Mpls-St Paul	43	32	Pcldy	Roanoke	54	26	Pcldy	Toledo	55	23	Pcldy
Atlantic City	44	18	Cir	Corpus Christi	73	52	Cir	Helena	50	27	Cir	Missoula	48	27	Cir	Rochester	48	12	Cir	Topeka	62	45	Pcldy
Austin	68	45	Cir	Dallas-Ft Worth	67	44	Cir	Honolulu	92	69	Pcldy	Mobile	67	39	Cir	Rockford	47	33	Pcldy	Tulsa	71	46	Cir
Baltimore	55	18	Pcldy	Dayton	55	27	Pcldy	Houston	69	46	Cir	Montgomery	68	36	Cir	San Antonio	73	45	Cir	Tulsa	71	46	Cir
Baton Rouge	68	41	Pcldy	Denver	71	44	Pcldy	Indianapolis	65	34	Pcldy	Nashville	66	34	Pcldy	St Louis	64	39	Pcldy	Tupelo	67	36	Cir
Birmingham	65	36	Pcldy	Des Moines	55	38	Cir	Jacksonville	69	38	Cir	New York City	42	17	Pcldy	St. Peterburg	72	53	Cir	Washington	56	22	Cir
Bismarck	42	30	Cir	Detroit	44	20	Pcldy	Jacksonville, Fla.	67	31	Cir	Newark	44	17	Pcldy	Salem, Ore.	58	43	Rain	Wash. Post Beach	75	51	Pcldy
Boise	57	37	Cir	Duluth	40	29	Cir	Janeau	41	34	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	52	26	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	61	39	Pcldy	Wichita	65	41	Pcldy
Boston	36	13	Pcldy	El Paso	71	49	Cir	Kansas City	60	42	Cir	North Platte	60	27	Cir	San Jose	76	42	Cir	Wichita Falls	74	43	Pcldy
Bridgport	57	13	Pcldy	Elkins	56	17	Pcldy	Key West	76	64	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	71	44	Cir	San Jose	71	48	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	42	12	Cir
Brownsville	78	57	Cir	Erie	44	13	Snow	Knoxville	62	32	Pcldy	Omaha	59	37	Cir	San Diego	70	55	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	47	19	Cir
Buffalo	46	14	Cir	Eugene	57	41	Cir	Lake Charles	66	41	Pcldy	Orlando	75	45	Cir	San Francisco	67	48	Cir	Yakima	59	36	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	43	23	Cir	Evansville	62	35	Pcldy	Lansing	41	19	Pcldy	Paducah	62	38	Pcldy	San Jose	73	46	Cir	Yonkers	48	13	Cir
Caribou, Maine	23	-3	Cir	Fairbanks	37	12	Cir	Las Vegas	73	51	Pcldy	Pendleton	58	40	Rain	Santa Fe	56	34	Rain				
Casper, Wyo.	53	23	Cir	Fargo	59	27	Pcldy	Lexington	59	27	Pcldy	Pesora	56	27	Pcldy	St. Marie	56	33	Snow				
Charleston, S.C.	64	31	Cir	Flagstaff	53	32	Cir	Lincoln	60	37	Cir	Philadelphia	47	20	Pcldy	Savannah	66	33	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	61	27	Pcldy	Flint	42	21	Cir	Little Rock	68	42	Cir	Phoenix	79	55	Cir	Seattle	55	46	Rain				
Charlotte, N.C.	62	29	Cir	Fort Smith	70	40	Cir	Los Angeles	76	54	Cir	Pittsburgh	52	18	Cir	Shreveport	68	41	Pcldy				

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

National Temperature Extremes  
Hi: Wed., 88, Pompano Beach, Fla., and  
Miami  
Low: Wed., 15, Crane Lake, Minn.

# WEEKEND



Pharrell album  
should make  
fans happy  
Page 37



## Make time for tulips

Keukenhof  
celebrating  
65 years of  
being Europe's  
go-to garden

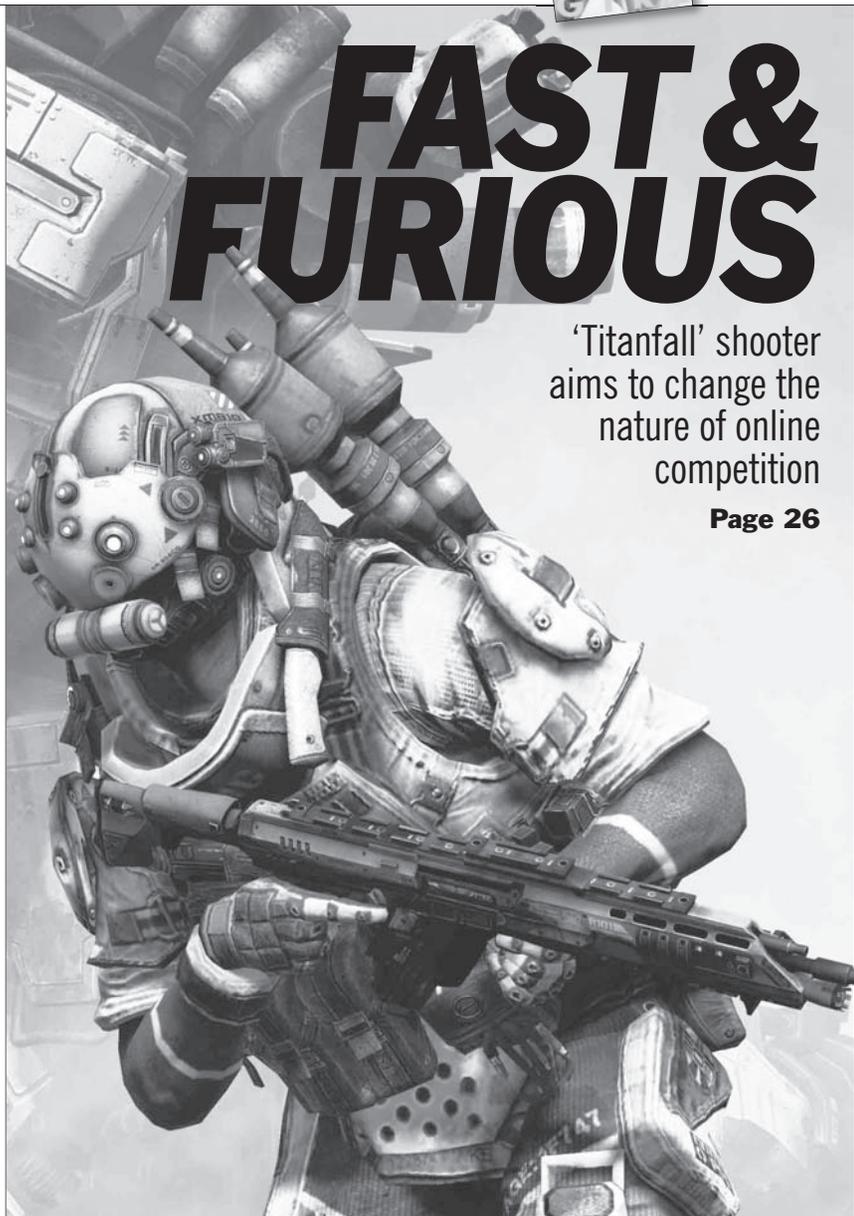
Europe travel, Page 30



## Get ready for blooms

Cherry blossom  
season is on  
the horizon in  
Japan, Korea

Pacific travel, Page 32



# FAST & FURIOUS

'Titanfall' shooter  
aims to change the  
nature of online  
competition

Page 26

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Marvel is launching an all-ages Infinite Comics series, "Marvel Universe Ultimate Spider-Man." The Infinite format will be available in digital form only, and is aimed at audiences of animated TV shows.

## Marvel expands Infinite line with 'Ultimate Spider-Man'

By MATT MOORE

The Associated Press

Two years after launching its Infinite line of digital comics, Marvel Entertainment said it intends to expand the line's offerings with its first all-ages titles as it moves to attract younger readers familiar with characters like Spider-Man from animated television shows.

Announced Sunday at the annual South by Southwest event in Austin, Texas, Marvel editor-in-chief Axel Alonso and Kristin Vincent, the vice president of its digital products, called the new "Marvel Universe Ultimate Spider-Man" digital title the publisher's first for kids in the Infinite format.

"We're trying to reach the next generation of comics fans," Vincent said. "These stories resonate with kids."

By taking tales from the television series of the same name, the publisher hopes the digital comics will find an audience in kids who are more used to reading on a tablet than traditional paper.

"The storytelling just lends itself naturally to a tablet — images replace the other images,"

she said, adding that while it's not animation, the pages and story are bright, vivid and redolent of what kids see on television.

With the Infinite format — a digital-only medium that features stories and art native to digital readers — Alonso believes kids will get their first hands-on experience with comics in a way more akin to what they've experienced with TV.

"It will excite them and it's in a format they understand," he said of the title, which is due out later this year and will eventually be available in more than 10 languages around the globe.

Like the ongoing TV series on Disney XD, the Infinite series will focus on Peter Parker and his adventures as Spider-Man. It will also feature other teenage heroes, including Iron Fist, Power Man, White Tiger and Nova.

"This is going to be the first time that our Infinite Comics format will feature Spider-Man and the team of young heroes. It's a very diverse, multi-ethnic cast with very different power sets," Alonso said. "All of them are going to appeal to very different types of kids."

## GADGET WATCH

# Jawbone ERA headset light, comfortable

By GREGG ELLMAN  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Jawbone's new ERA Bluetooth headset has to be one of the lightest available and works flawlessly right out of the box: The internal Lithium-ion battery will give you about four hours of use for calls, music, podcasts or hands-free smartphone commands. It charges with a micro-USB connection or can be purchased with a charging case to double the amount of talk time.

Overall, the performance was great on both ends of the phone calls I made to test it. Using Siri on my iPhone was no problem using the ERA's multi-function button. Callers heard me loud and clear, and that's a credit to the Military-grade NoiseAssassin technology in the headset designed to eliminate background noise. Included with the headset (1.83 by 0.83 by 0.51 inches and 0.21 ounces) are four different sized ear-buds (1 left, 3 right) to ensure you get the right fit.

They don't look like your standard tips; instead they are designed with the natural contour of your ear for the comfort and stability. Once you get the right fit, it stays in place until you remove it and there's no need for an ear loop, which is a good thing since there isn't one in the box.

The Jawbone app (App store and Google Play) lets you customize your headset to what works best for you and lets you see the remaining battery level. The ERA can be paired with two devices simultaneously.

Online: Jawbone.com; \$99.99 for the headset or \$129.99 with the charging case

The IN1 multi-tool utility case joins the ranks of the more innovative smartphone cases.



The IN1 is a smartphone case that holds tiny utility tools.

The case gives you a built-in mini-tool kit. Included are screwdrivers (Phillips and regular), tweezers, scissors, a nail file, toothpick and even a pair of pens (red and blue). They won't work on heavy construction but are described by the company as being "helpful with everyday tasks," such as tightening eyeglass screws or removing lettuce from your teeth.

The case itself effectively protects the phone and gives you full access to all controls. It includes a built-in stand for hands-free use.

Online: incase.com; available in black, clear and white. As for the tools, you choose those colors from a choice of white, black, blue, green, orange and pink

The Griffin Merchant Case plus Square Reader keeps track of the small device for you. Generally, using credit cards with the Square



GRIFFIN TECHNOLOGY/MCT



Reader on a smartphone is pretty common, but misplacing or losing the tiny 1-inch square device is also common. Square has combined the device and built-in storage from Griffin Technology. The silicone protective case is now available for the

iPhone 5/5s with a non-slip finish and extra protective corners in the event of accidental drops or bumps.

What makes the case unique is a slot in the back of the case to store the reader when it's not in use. All your phone's controls and touch-screen are fully accessible when the case is on.

Online: griffintechology.com; \$19.99

The Loop is an anti-tangling device designed to keep earbuds from getting in a tangled ball that most people have experienced when storing them in a pocket.

There's not a lot to it; just wind your headphones on and wind them off.

It's done by inserting the 3.5mm headphone jack into the hole in the center of the Loop and winding the cord. The only real requirement is to wind it in the direction the slots are to ensure the earbuds lock on and you can get it off easily.

Online: ipocketloop.com; \$5.95 each or 3-pack for \$16.99, available in 10 colors

ON THE COVER: Gamers can expect incredible action and accessible gameplay in Electronic Arts/Respawn Entertainment's new "Titanfall."

Courtesy of Electronic Arts

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for March 12:

1. "Spring Break 6 ... Like We Ain't Ever," Luke Bryan
2. "Lift Your Spirit," Aloe Blacc
3. "Stereolithic," 311
4. "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
5. "G I R L," Pharrell Williams
6. "Slow Me Down," Sara Evans
7. "Ghost Stories," Coldplay
8. "Morning Phase," Beck
9. "The Truth" (Deluxe Edition), Ledisi
10. "She Looks So Perfect," 5 Seconds of Summer

— Compiled by MCT

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from Mar. 3-9:

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

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for March 12:

1. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
2. "12 Years a Slave"
3. "Dallas Buyers Club"
4. "Gravity"
5. "American Hustle"
6. "Homefront"
7. "Annapolis 2: The Legend Continues"
8. "Thor: The Dark World"
9. "Out of the Furnace"
10. "Captain Phillips"



— Compiled by MCT

## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine rates the top 10 Xbox 360 games for March:

1. "Dark Souls II," Namco Bandai
2. "Strider," Capcom
3. "The Walking Dead Season 2: Episode 2 — A House Divided," Telltale Games
4. "South Park: The Stick of Truth," Ubisoft
5. "Thief," Square Enix
6. "The Lego Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.
7. "Earth Defense Force 2025," D3 Publisher
8. "World of Tanks," Wargaming
9. "Fable Anniversary," Microsoft
10. "Lightning Returns: Final Fantasy XIII," Square Enix

— Compiled by MCT

## APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for March 12:

ANDROID

1. Card Wars — Adventure Time
2. The Room Two
3. SpongeBob Moves In
4. Out There
5. Mikey Shorts

Top 5 paid apps for March 12:

APPLE

1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
2. Calling All Mixels
3. Block Fortress: War
4. Bridge Constructor
5. Card Wars — Adventure Time

— Compiled by MCT

## WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

## See music's future, courtesy of Neil Young

Neil Young loves quality sound and he's willing to pay for it. It seems others are, too.

Young easily doubled his goal when fans contributed nearly \$2 million in 24 hours to a Kickstarter campaign to fund his high-quality service, PonoMusic. After initially targeting audiophiles who remember warm sound, Young hopes to eventually draw younger listeners as he tries to right what he considers wrong decisions made over the years when production moved from analog to digital.

"Life has been good to me, but this has drained me right to the nub,"

Young said with a smile. "So it's really good to see this happen because now all my guys are going to get paid. That's my happiest moment. Now we can keep going."

The 68-year-old rock 'n' roll pioneer gave a keynote address Tuesday during South By Southwest. He and PonoMusic CEO John Hamm explained why quality sound is important in the age of the MP3.

They've created a standalone multi-format player for the service, which won't work on cellphones, and have made high-end digital masters of more than 2,000 albums available for purchase in an online store. The triangularly shaped player will retail for \$399. Hamm said the service is aimed at people who remember what quality sound was like before compression and other changes meant for ease of use erased the depth listeners could hear on vinyl records. Hamm noted the popularity of turntables among hip 20-somethings and thinks they may too one day migrate to the Pono player.

"We're really happy with this movement," Hamm said. "It's shocking how many people have been waiting for better music."

— The Associated Press



• Watch Neil Young explain the Pono player at [tinyurl.com/orpjj58](http://tinyurl.com/orpjj58)

JAY JANNER,  
AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN/AP



2

## Latest DVD releases touch on music, books

This week's best bets for DVD rentals are "Inside Llewyn Davis," a week in the life of a folk singer in 1961. Bonus: co-starring Justin Timberlake! "The Book Thief," also out on DVD, is a fictional account of a preteen girl who tries to escape the horrors of reality in Nazi Germany by reading banned books.

• More new DVD releases on Page 39



3

## '300': Rise of a sequel

If you're in the mood for action and buff guys battling to the death, head to the theater for "300: Rise of an Empire." Just tell yourself the actors' six-packs are computer-generated special effects as you munch your popcorn.

• Movie reviews on Pages 24, 25



4

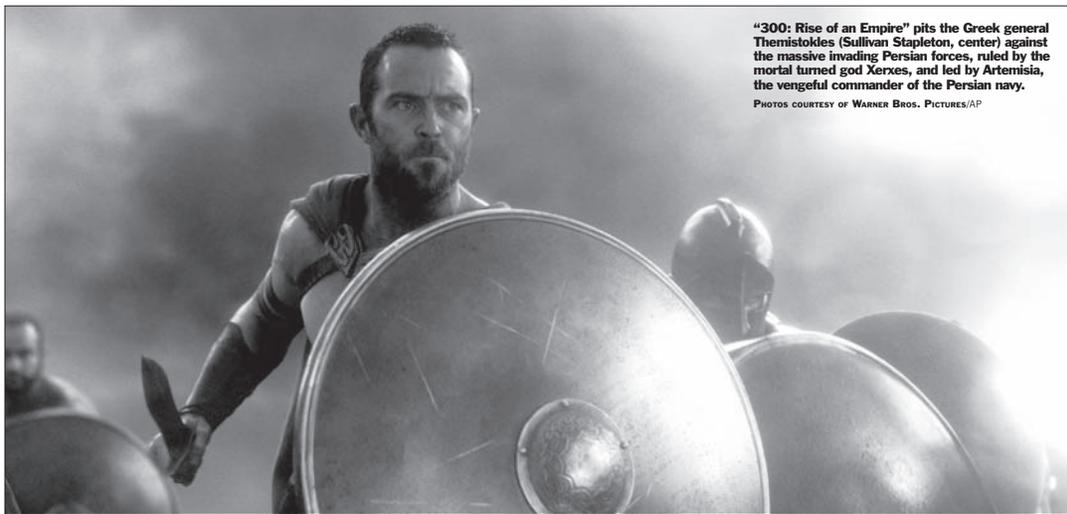
## Don't miss Obama's Funny or Die moment

President Obama's web appearance with actor Zach Galifianakis on Tuesday was unexpected and hilarious. Obama visited the offbeat web show "Between Two Ferns" on Funny or Die to plug the Affordable Health Care Act. While there, he went toe to toe with the actor, even getting in a shot about the third "Hangover" movie.

• Watch at [funnyordie.com](http://funnyordie.com)



# WEEKEND: MOVIES



**“300: Rise of an Empire” pits the Greek general Themistokles (Sullivan Stapleton, center) against the massive invading Persian forces, ruled by the mortal turned god Xerxes, and led by Artemisia, the vengeful commander of the Persian navy.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

## Prettier, but less thrilling

### ‘300’ sequel lacks heroic proportions, poetry of original film

BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**K**ing Leonidas slipped into legend at the Battle of Thermopylae, martyred with 300 Spartans for the sake of Western Civilization and Spartan glory.

“Go, tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that here, obedient to their laws, we lie.”

So it was too much to hope that someone with Gerard Butler’s charismatic, bellowing swagger would be around for the sequel, “300: Rise of an Empire.” His Leonidas and his oiled-down eight-pack are sorely missed, as are the quotable quatrains of that famous fight, the Spartan trash talk that sings through the ages. So many Persian arrows will rain on them that they will “blot out the sun?”

“Then we shall fight in the shade.”

There’s nothing that moving in “Rise of an Empire,” a more visually stunning but less thrilling epic with bloodier slow-motion swordfights, this time at sea. It lacks the heroic proportions and poetry of “300,” mainly thanks to a less impressive cast and a murky, forgettable script.

Sullivan Stapleton (“Gangster Squad”) is Themistokles, the Greek general who took the oracle’s prophecy that Greece could only be saved “by a wall of wood” (i.e., ships) to heart and fought the enormous Persian fleet at Artemisium and Salamis. That prophecy, by the way, isn’t shown — a clever and quotably theatrical moment discarded as Queen Gorgo (Lena Headey) relates this



**Lena Headey, left, with Sullivan Stapleton, reprises her role as Queen Gorgo in “300: Rise of an Empire.”**

oral history. The movie opens at the end of Thermopylae, flashes back to the earlier Battle of Marathon, then flashes forward to the fictive present as Themistokles rallies the city states and prepares for battle at sea as Leonidas marches to his fate at Thermopylae.

The Persian fleet is led by the she-devil Artemisia, played by one-time Bond babe Eva Green, a seductive swordfighter in jet-black hair. Egyptian eye makeup and ancient Persian fishnet stockings. She purrs about “the ecstasy of steel” and demands of her admirals, “Is it too much to ask for victory?”

It is. The clever Greeks foil her and crush her huge war galleys

at every turn. Things get so bad that Artemisia summons Themistokles for a mid-Aegean parlay. And things turn so hot and heavy there that Themistokles has to teach her a little Latin — *coitus interruptus*.

Director Noam Murro did the college professor romance “Smart People,” in no way a recommendation for directing a red-blooded digital epic of an ancient sea battle. Zack Snyder, who directed the original film, had a hand in the tin-eared script. It’s not graphic novel creator Frank Miller’s fault that Thermopylae, the basis for his “300” book, made for more elegiac history than Salamis.

But the design — a sea of grays

and whites covered with heaving digital black ships and black sails and Persians clad in black battling Greeks in tiny brown boats — is stunning, an improvement over 2006’s “300.” And the action never disappoints.

It’s a pity this colorless cast doesn’t hold a candle to the Butler/Headey/Michael Fassbender/David Wenham crew of the original, and that the writers couldn’t conjure up thrilling speeches to match the original.

Go, tell the Spartans, stranger passing by, that these pretenders spoiled their franchise, and here their movie lies.

“300: Rise of an Empire” is rated R for violence, a sex scene, nudity and some language. Running time: 102 minutes.

#### New on base

“300: Rise of an Empire” is playing at the following:

- Europe**  
Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Wiesbaden, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.
- Pacific**  
[page 23]  
Atsugi, Misawa, Village, Fleet, Yokota Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadema, Yungas South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

**Online:** 300themovie.com

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**THUR MAR 13 - WED MAR 19**  
In-Digital 3D: Need for Speed (PG-13) - Fri 17:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 17:45, Mon - Wed 18:00

In-Digital 3D: 300: Rise of an Empire (R) - Thur 18:00, Fri & Sat 16:00, 22:30, Sun 18:00, Mon - Wed 18:00

Mr. Peabody & Sherman (PG) - Thur & Fri 16:00, 18:00, Sat & Sun 13:30, 15:45, Mon 16:00, 18:00, Tue 16:00, Wed 16:00, 18:00

Non-Stop (PG-13) - Thur 18:30, 20:30, Fri & Sat 20:15, 22:30, Sun 20:15, Mon - Wed 18:30, 20:30

In 2D: Need for Speed (PG-13) - Fri 15:45, 20:00, 22:30, Sat 15:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 15:30, 20:00, Mon - Wed 18:00, 20:30

Also showing: The Lego Movie, The Monuments Men

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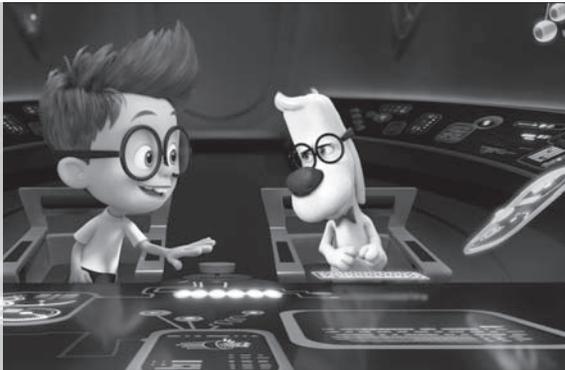


## WEEKEND: MOVIES



Mr. Peabody, the most accomplished dog in the world, and his mischievous boy, Sherman, use their time machine to go on the most outrageous adventures known to man or dog. After Sherman misuses the time machine, Mr. Peabody must come to the rescue before events of the past, present and future are forever altered in "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

Photos courtesy of DreamWorks Animation/AP



# A dog and his boy

## Mr. Peabody time-travels to 21st century for new film

BY REBECCA KEEGAN  
Los Angeles Times

**M**r. Peabody, who first attained fame in the series of wryly humorous, six-minute shorts wedged between "Rocky & Bullwinkle" and "Dudley Do-Right" cartoons, is staging a career comeback in the new DreamWorks Animation movie "Mr. Peabody & Sherman."

Mr. Peabody's second act has come with some cosmetic changes as well as personal growth. That it's happening at all is thanks largely to the persistence of his two-legged collaborators, notably director Rob Minkoff and Tiffany Ward, the daughter of one of his creators, Jay Ward.

In the original cartoon as well as the new film, Mr. Peabody is a Nobel laureate, a master inventor and a great dinner party host. But Minkoff and writer Craig Wright have added some emotional depth to Peabody's relationship with his adopted human son, Sherman.

Voiced by "Modern Family's" Ty Burrell, Mr. Peabody has trouble expressing his feelings when Sherman (Max Charles) goes off to school. When a classmate (Ariel Winter) engages in some species-ist bullying, Sherman takes his father's time-travel device for a dangerous joyride to impress her.

With stops in ancient Greece, Renaissance Italy and revolutionary France, the film preserves many of

the chief conventions of the series, including Peabody's reliance on verbal humor.

"The adventurous thing was always going to be a part of it," said Minkoff, who directed "The Lion King" and "Stuart Little" movies. "The question was, 'What were we going to do to flesh out the story? How were we going to treat this as a more dimensional thing?' The show was six minutes, the setup was super clear: a dog and his boy. Peabody says he built the time machine because a growing boy needs to get out, and living in Manhattan is tough. So it was, 'What do they do when they're not time traveling? What's the other side of the coin?'"

In 1958, Jay Ward, an entrepreneurial California real estate agent with a creative itch, persuaded General Mills to sponsor a cartoon series built around a moose and a squirrel, and enlisted United Productions of America writer and producer Bill Scott to help him.

"They were thinking all they'd need was five minutes or so," Tiffany Ward said. "After they signed the deal, they realized it's a half-hour show." To fill out the time, Jay Ward and Scott would have to add other serials, and cartoonist Ted Key suggested one about a boy with a time-travel belt and a dog.

"Dad switched it around," Tiffany Ward said, "and said, 'Let's make the genius the dog.'"

For many kids of the 1960s and '70s, including Minkoff, 51, "Peabody's Im-

probable History" was an entertaining entry point to the social sciences.

"I loved the fact that Peabody was a teacher and that he would take Sherman on these incredible adventures to meet these crazy characters," Minkoff said. "And I got introduced to these historical figures. As a kid, you're like, 'This must be important.' And you can laugh at the silliness of it. And then, of course, later you're learning about those figures in class, and it was good to have a little connection to it."

As part of "The Rocky and Bullwinkle Show," Peabody and Sherman have lived on in syndication on cable. Since her father's death in 1989, Tiffany Ward has developed his characters on behalf of Jay Ward Productions in other media with uneven results. There was the 1997 live-action box office hit "George of the Jungle" for Disney and the 2000 dud "The Adventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle" for Universal.

"I've always looked at everything from his perspective or how he would handle it," Ward said. "Dad wanted theatrical movies, but he was very reclusive and wasn't out there marketing. One of his rules was that his characters could never be seen with other characters, but one of my visions was to be in theme parks. You have to get it down to the next generation and have the interactive part. I haven't done anything he wouldn't be really proud of, but there were a few changes."

## 'Mr. Peabody' still has history lessons for Sherman, all

By ROGER MOORE  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**W**ith "Mr. Peabody & Sherman," DreamWorks Animation sets its "Wayback Machine" to the early 1960s and charmingly revives one of the most popular features of the old "Rocky & Bullwinkle Show" — the one about a dog, and his boy.

This winning, witty and warm cartoon captures the flavor, the tone and some of the snappy pace of the TV shorts that began with the droll voice of Bill Scott intoning, "Peabody here, my boy, Sherman ..."

Mr. Peabody is a Nobel Prize-winning pooch who "invented the first-bump, auto-tune and Zumba," and then adopted Sherman. He's given the boy, now 7, a head start on school by taking the kid time-traveling. The Wayback Machine has, we can see from the photos decorating their apartment walls, allowed Sherman to meet everyone from Gandhi to Einstein, Leonardo to the Wright Brothers. He's given Van Gogh painting suggestions, caught a Jackie Robinson home run and short-circuited Ben Franklin.

"Where are we going today, Mr. Peabody?"

"Not where, Sherman. When."

As long as Sherman keeps this a secret, nobody will be the wiser as to why he knows, for a fact, that George Washington never chopped down a cherry tree. Of course, Sherman can't keep a secret — not even from the mean girl, Penny, who bullies him.

And that's when the trouble starts. Actually, the first "when" is ancient Egypt. Then they check in on Leonardo Da Vinci and try to make Mona Lisa crack a smile. The movie also drops in on The Trojan War.

Fans of the old Jay Ward TV show might take longer in adjusting to the new voices — Ty Burrell of "Modern Family" is a droll-though Peabody, Max Charles ("The Neighbors") is Sherman. But the witty wordplay and the pull-out-all-stops supporting cast start to pay off.

Pastrik Warburton is WAY over the top as the Greek King Agamemnon, Stanley Tucci's fractured Italian makes him the perfect Leonardo, Mel Brooks is Einstein, and so on.

The movie takes a while to find its footing, but then the laughs come fast and furious.

The animated details of this Rob Minkoff ("The Lion King") comedy are a 3-D feast for the eyes. The canvas wings of a Da Vinci figure ripple in the breeze, and when Peabody entertains Penny's parents (Leslie Mann, Stephen Colbert) with a little Jimi Hendrix, he even plays Jimi's Fender upside down.

Things drag, here and there. But kids will dig the slapstick and the talking dog and giggle at what flies out of the Sphinx's but, or drops from the rear end of the Trojan Horse. Adults will be tickled at the usual DreamWorks parade of one-liners, running gags and puns, and feel a little sentimental, especially if you're old enough to know the true lesson these characters taught us on TV — the "moral of the story," as they used to say:

"Every dog should have a boy."

"Mr. Peabody & Sherman" is rated PG for some mild action and brief rude humor. Running time: 88 minutes.

### New on base

"Mr. Peabody & Sherman" is playing at the following military facilities:

#### Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwohr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilsbiburg, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

#### Pacific

Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Kadena, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Henry and Osan.

Online: mrpeabodyandsherman.com



Check movie listings for base theaters at [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

# WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

By **BRIAN BOWERS**  
Stars and Stripes

At first glance, “Titanfall” is both amazing and intimidating. The fast-paced action mixes gunplay, parkour, giant robots and a multitude of explosions in a wild flurry of activity that’s far more exhilarating than the typical shooter fare. But it also might seem a bit overwhelming — like the sort of game that could be mastered only by the most overly caffeinated joystick junky. Fortunately, the game offers the best of both of these worlds: incredible action and accessible gameplay.

The sci-fi shooter was developed for Electronic Arts by Respawn Entertainment, a company formed by developers who helped create “Call of Duty.” The game is currently available for the Xbox One and PC and will be available at the end of the month for Xbox 360.

“Titanfall” is set on the frontier of known space, where the Interstellar Manufacturing Corp. doesn’t hesitate to use force to get things done. The company’s methods raise the hackles of some of the region’s settlers, who decide to form a militia to stand up to IMC.

The game sidesteps single-player action altogether and tells its story through a multiplayer campaign. Unfortunately, the storyline isn’t much more than a thin thread that gives the barest of details about the conflict and its heroes. Each mission starts with a quick voiceover and cutscene and contains snippets of dialogue that advance the narrative. But once the shooting starts, you’d be hard-pressed to tell the difference between a campaign mission and a regular multiplayer match.

But concerns about the storyline are likely to be forgotten once the action begins.

In both the campaign and in the regular multiplayer mode, missions feature six-on-six competition in a variety of deathmatch and capture-the-flag formats. In addition to player characters, each side is provided with a handful of computer-controlled soldiers who provide more targets and minor challenges without the chaos that would ensue if additional players were involved.

Each player can fight in two modes: as an agile infantryman or as the pilot of a large mechanized Titan. It’s this blend of playing styles, plus an innovative movement system and well-designed maps that set “Titanfall” apart from other shooters.

Matches begin with players being dropped onto the battlefield as foot soldiers known as “pilots,” since they also pilot Titans.

While most of these troops look like they could inhabit almost any sci-fi shooter, there’s one key difference: the jetpack. This gadget enables pilots to sprint along vertical surfaces, leap atop buildings and com-



Photos courtesy of Electronic Arts

In the online multiplayer sci-fi shooter “Titanfall,” players can fight in two modes: as an agile infantryman or the pilot of a large mechanized Titan.



## Rise of the giants

‘Titanfall’ brings big action to the Xbox One

plete enormous double-jumps that carry them great distances. First-time viewers might suspect that these actions are difficult to execute, but a smooth and efficient control system makes them a breeze to pull off.

And with a little practice, you can execute some pretty impressive maneuvers. For example, I was watching as a friend leaped atop an enemy Titan, trying to take out the pilot. As his vehicle took damage, the enemy decided to eject, a move that also propelled my friend skyward. In midair, my friend spun around and blasted his foe before he hit the ground. Definitely cool.

The maps have been designed to take advantage of the pilots’ abilities, offering plenty of buildings with multiple floors and many access points.

All of this creates a game of maneuver on a variety of vertical and horizontal planes that is as fun to watch as it is to play.

While the Titans aren’t as agile as foot soldiers, they’re a bit of the lumbering mechs of bygone games. Titans can run, crouch and dodge almost as well as the soldiers in a typical shooter.

Titans generally aren’t available until a game is a few minutes old. After you take out an enemy or two, you’ll be informed that your Titan will soon be available. You can reduce your wait time by eliminating more enemies.

When you climb down a Titan, the mech will come roaring down from orbit and land at the designated spot with a satisfying thud. It remains cocooned in a force field for several seconds so you have time to climb aboard



and get your bearings. Then, it’s time to fight.

Fights between Titans are massive brawls featuring chain guns, cannons, electrical weapons, giant grenades and missiles. Mechs also can use force shields to catch ordinance in flight and hurl it back at their assailants. If things get close and personal, the battle might even involve fisticuffs — which often ends with one Titan pilot being pulled from his mech and hurled across the

battlefield by the victor.

When piloting a mech, your main targets will probably be other Titans, but you’re sure to spend almost as much time blasting and stomping foot soldiers.

While the little people might be squishy, they still present a lot of danger: Foot soldiers can chip away at your mech with a Side-winder gun, interfere with your vision by using electromagnetic-pulse grenades or deal a crippling blow with a rocket. However,

Overall grade: **A**

the biggest danger is having an enemy climb onto your Titan and start unloading his weapon into your electronics. Your only options are to exit your mech and shoot the offender or unleash a cloud of “electric smoke,” which can fry him. However, the second option is available only if you decide to equip it at the expense of the force shield that can catch enemy ordinance.

Although these elements elevate “Titanfall” above other shooters, developers didn’t forget to spend time on providing an excellent arsenal for those on the ground.

On foot, you are equipped with a primary weapon, a pistol and an anti-Titan weapon. Primary weapons include shotguns, submachine guns, assault rifles, sniper rifles and something known as a smart pistol. Most of these weapons could come straight out of almost any shooter. On the other hand, smart pistols are a bit unusual. As you aim down the barrel, they will lock on to any enemies who appear in the sights. When you squeeze the trigger, it will fire a round for each lock. Computer-controlled characters require just one lock, but player characters require three. The need to gain three locks on players and the weapon’s limited range keep it from feeling overpowered.

In fact, all of the weapons seemed to be well-balanced — even after being equipped with scopes, silencers and other attachments that can be unlocked by gaining experience. I never felt like someone gained a cheap kill on me — something that I could never say about a “Call of Duty” game.

The graphics are sharp, detailed and vibrant, which makes the frenzied combat easy to follow. The character renderings and animations are very lifelike and appealing. And the settings — ranging from cities to weird planets inhabited by dragon-like creatures — are packed with the kind of texture and detail that make them look realistic.

Aside from the thin storyline, my only gripe about “Titanfall” concerns the matchmaking system. In some games, a side can be left with only four or five members instead of six. This is rare in regular matches but was relatively common in campaign missions. This leaves that side at a tremendous disadvantage. When I was on the short end, I would have happily waited a little longer for each side to fill out.

The game gets a Mature rating because of violence and blood, but it’s pretty tame compared to most of the other shooters out there.

**Bottom line:** A “Titanfall” is one of the most innovative and entertaining shooters to arrive on the scene in years.

**Platforms:** Xbox One, Xbox 360 (in late March), PC  
**Online:** titanfall.com

## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



## GO GREEN:

## St. Patrick's Day in Dublin

The St. Patrick's Festival roars into Dublin on Friday through Monday, when the city celebrates the best of Irish and international talent. For the first time, the festival has a three-year theme, "Past, Present and Future," with this year focusing on the past.

Regular events, such as the Festival Céilí, Treasure Hunt and Big Day Out, return to this year's program. For the third year, the cultural program "I Love My City" offers locals and visitors a chance to experience artists from a variety of disciplines, including poetry, dance, visual art, filmmaking, history, literature, music and theater, performing in historical locations.

The Céilí, a unique outdoor celebration of traditional Irish dance, will kick things off at 4:30 p.m. Friday at St. Stephen's Green.

The Treasure Hunt at 10 a.m. Saturday takes hunters on a free, fun-filled trail winding through a collection of Dublin's landmark buildings and venues.

The Big Day Out on Sunday focuses on family fun with street performances, theaters, Irish-language events, workshops, fun zones, children's events, music and open-air shows.

On Monday at noon, the main event of the festival, the St. Patrick's Festival Parade, starts its tour of the city at Parnell Square with the theme "Let's Make History."

Plan a visit at [stpatricksfestival.ie](http://stpatricksfestival.ie).

In a celebratory mood, Irish and non-Irish alike descend on Dublin for the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival.

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Stuttgart museum night

Culture buffs in the Stuttgart, Germany, area will want to head to the city Saturday night as a variety of public spaces open their doors to late-night visitors for the Langen Nacht der Museen, or Long Night of Museums.

About 90 museums, art galleries, artists' studios, archives, historical buildings and industrial landmarks will participate. Each site will host a tour, workshop, concert or other activity.

Classic autos will course through the city between the Schloßplatz and auto museums; tours are available through rooms usually off-limits to the public at the Neues Schloss; and the long-shuttered bunker hotel on Marktplatz will reveal how guests there once lived. A dance night at the Mercedes-Benz Museum carries on until 4 a.m.

Free hop-on, hop-off shuttle buses will ferry visitors between sites, with six routes offered.

Event hours are 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. About 10 venues will offer special activities for children, including handicraft workshops.

The family-friendly program kicks off at 3 p.m.

An adult ticket bracelet, which costs 17 euros, entitles the holder to bring along one child free of charge; additional children ages 6-14 pay 6 euros each. There is no charge for ages 5 and younger.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at [stripes.com/travel/europe-travel](http://stripes.com/travel/europe-travel)

work throughout the night.

Find the program at [lange-nacht.de](http://lange-nacht.de).

## Eggs at Eltville

A visit to the International Rheingau Easter Egg market in Eltville, Germany, provides not only the opportunity to check out an array of sumptuously decorated eggs, but also the chance to discover the Eberbach Monastery, tucked into the rolling hills north of the Rhine River. Eberbach Monastery might be familiar to movie buffs as the location of the 1986 film "The Name of the Rose" starring Sean Connery.

On Saturday and Sunday, the market will host more than 75 exhibitors from some 15 countries showing their egggy, spring-themed wares. Creative kids can try egg painting in their own special room. Thirsty guests can enjoy a glass of wine from the re-

gion's vintners or indulge in the beloved German afternoon snack tradition of coffee and cake.

Adults pay 5 euros for entry; those up to age 12 enter for free. The market opens at 11 a.m. Saturday and at 10 a.m. Sunday and runs until 6 p.m. both days. To avoid the massive headache of parking, organizers suggest taking a bus that departs hourly from the Eltville am Rhein train station starting at 8:59 a.m. The bus returns to the station hourly at 39 minutes past the hour.

## Vineyards at night

While Bad Dürkheim's famed autumn Wurstmarkt puts it firmly on many a tourist's radar, the compact spa city is worth a visit throughout the year, all the more so on Friday and Saturday, as it hosts two evenings wine-lovers and hikers are bound to enjoy: Weinbergnacht.

Described as the largest and most colorful open air wine-tasting of the Palatinate region, a three-mile path will take walkers through inventively illuminated vineyards. En route, 24 wine-makers across 13 stopping points will present top vintages, with more than 70 wines to choose from.

The event is organized around the concept of sampling a wide assortment of the area's best wines. Participants buy a "wine pass" containing 15 mini-vouchers that may be exchanged for a .05-liter sample. Wines are served only in the official event glass included with the purchase



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

**A Sorbian artist at a past Rheingau Easter Egg Market uses wax to decorate an egg with traditional Sorbian patterns. The Sorbs are a Slavic minority living in eastern Germany near the border with Poland.**

of the pass. Those who fall in love with a certain Sekt or wine may turn in another voucher for a top-up of the same. The stands also will offer crepes, bratwurst, soups and other treats. Kids are welcome, and they get their own glass, which will be filled with a free non-alcoholic beverage.

Organizers strongly suggest starting the tour at station No. 1, the Stadtgärtnerei, and exercising caution along the route by using flashlights and headlamps

to navigate the darker stretches.

Wine passes will be for sale at the north end of the centrally located Wurstmarktplatz and will cost 19 euros. Hours are 6 to 11 p.m. Friday and 5 to 11 p.m. Sunday.

For more information, see [tinyurl.com/lpgg7v5a](http://tinyurl.com/lpgg7v5a).

## Pink blossom peeping

As spring progresses, Bad Dürkheim could also serve as the starting point for a scenic drive along the German Wine Road. From there, a 50-mile marked route meandering toward the French border is referred to as the Mandelpfad, or Almond Path. In the weeks to come, day trippers will delight at the sight of tender pink spring blossoms, visible even before the first big bursts of green come out to brighten the tired landscape.

A well-timed afternoon outing would allow for viewing the spring blooms, perhaps best enjoyed by a stroll through one of the groves. Returning home in the evening, one can view the area's landmarks, including castles, public buildings and churches, illuminated in cheery shades of pink. About 20 sites will keep the lights on for visitors through April 27.

Plan an outing by visiting [mandelbluete-pfad.de](http://mandelbluete-pfad.de). Although the site is in German, a downloadable brochure indicates the route, locations of the almond groves and the sites to be lit up in a grey glow.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

# Shop American style

Mall east of Aviano welcomes shoppers every day of the week

By KENT HARRIS  
Stars and Stripes

**I**t ain't the Mall of America. But Tiare Shopping, the largest retail complex in northeastern Italy, is no slouch when it comes to shopping options, either.

More than 170 shops will be featured in the mall just off the A4 autostrada in the town of Villesse, about an hour's drive east of Aviano Air Base, if all the retail spaces become occupied. There are more than 4,000 parking spaces. And one of the anchor tenants — Ikea — is almost a mall in itself.

There's a bit of an American feel as well. Architecturally, it's similar to a host of American malls. McDonald's occupies a spot at the edge of the food court. Foot Locker is represented. So is Game Stop. It's very American in its business hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week.

Signs in English are sprinkled throughout. Of course, the English signs aren't there necessarily to attract American customers. The borders of Slovenia and Croatia, many of whose residents speak English when visiting Italy, are closer than the U.S. Air Force base. And it's not hard to spot license plates from those countries during a typical visit. The Austrian border is about as close as Aviano. The mall hopes to attract 6 million visitors a year from within Italy and without.

Ikea, the furniture and home decor giant, is about as international as it gets. The H&M clothing store is also well known to many on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean. There is a host of popular Italian chains. MediaWorld, Scarpe&Scarpe, the UCI cinemas and the Ipercoop supermarket hold prominent places. But there are several smaller outlets, ranging from Alcott to Zuiki, that might not be so well-known. About 90 percent of the retail space is occupied or reserved for businesses who have signed leases.

Ikea, which opened at the site as a stand-alone store in 2009 before the mall made its debut in December, has the largest presence. A company that works closely with the Swedish home furnishings giant — Inter Ikea Centre Group — owns the mall, which is reported to be the first in Italy to incorporate an Ikea store. Other malls housing an Ikea store are under construction, including one near Brescia, west of Vicenza.

Retail shops take up two floors of Tiare Shopping, which offers a ground-floor parking garage. Another parking level, below ground, is still under construction.

More than 30 clothing stores make up the largest chunk of



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

**Tiare Shopping near Villesse, Italy, features a ground-floor parking garage, two stories of shops and several spacious public areas. Shoppers are never far from a restroom.**



NOVA AMEDIA/Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Tiare Shopping is in Villesse, Italy, off the A4 autostrada between Mestre and Trieste. Take the exit for the A34 (Villesse/Gorizia). Follow the brown and yellow signs for *centro commerciale* from there. There's a toll of 5.30 euros from Portogruaro to the exit.

### TIMES

The mall is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Ikea is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Movies (in Italian) start at 2 p.m.

### COSTS

It's free to park and walk around the mall. Getting food or merchandise from the businesses will, of course, cost you.

### FOOD

There are about two dozen options, from snacks to sit-down meals. One good choice is Roadhouse Grill, a chain that features American-style food (steaks and burgers) with an Italian twist. It offers large portions at fairly reasonable prices.

McDonald's is across the aisle.

There are multiple smaller places in the food court offering various specialties. Ikea has its own restaurant.

### INFORMATION

There's an information desk located in one of the public areas on the ground floor near the main entrance (on the far side of the mall from Ikea). English is spoken.

There's also a website (in Italian) where potential customers can sign up for a mail newsletter and get more information about special upcoming events: tiareshopping.com, in Italian.

— Kent Harris



**The Tiare Shopping complex is the largest mall in northeastern Italy and is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week. It offers more than 4,000 parking spaces and another parking level is being built.**



**A red logo featuring a smiling shopping bag grabs attention on the top of the shopping center.**

retail space, though restaurants aren't too far behind. There are more than 20, mostly located in the food court next to the seven-screen cinemas (which, unfortunately for English speakers, show movies only in Italian). Roadhouse Grill, a chain that offers an Italian take on American cuisine, sits across the hallway from McDonald's.

Much of the mall's literature focuses on making the visit a family experience. There are several play areas indoors and outdoors for younger kids. Ikea has its own area for child care. There's a toy store, pet shop and other venues for those a bit older. And, speaking of pet stores, several dogs on leashes were spotted during a recent visit. They had plenty of room to walk while their larger friends added packages and lightened their wallets.

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**Much of the mall's literature focuses on making the visit a family experience. There are several play areas indoors and outdoors for younger kids. Ikea has its own area for child care. Some shoppers even bring the family dog on a leash.**

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe

## After Hours: Germany

BY MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

**O**n television, stories about Africa tend to highlight whatever new tragedy is unfolding there.

But I'd like to shine a spotlight on one of the continent's better features: East African cuisine.

Safari, a new restaurant in Kaiserslautern, serves up a range of Eritrean and Ethiopian dishes that are welcome diversions from the Continental, Asian and knockoff American fare that are the city's bread and butter.

With the restaurant's signature dish — the Safari — spicy chicken, beef, lamb and lentils come in heaps. The ingredients are fresh, the meat tender and the flavors rich without beating the taste buds into submission.

It's hard to describe the food because it doesn't have any Western or Asian peers to which it can be easily compared. Many of the meat dishes can probably be classified as curry-seasoned stews, while one of the appetizers, the *sambosa*, is a close cousin to the Indian *samosa*.

Added to the joy of the food is the novelty of eating it the traditional way. Diners who are new to East African cuisine get a quick lesson in eating with their hands using *injera* — a sort of spongy crepe-like flatbread — as an edible utensil. After the short class is over, it's time to dig in.

Eating can be a little bit messy, but don't worry. Finishing school graduates and others who prefer to eat with forks and knives still have that option.

Those who want to wander a little farther off the beaten path, though, can try an African-inspired beer, served in a gourd.

While it's possible to get individual portions, the best things on Safari's menu are its platters.

The platter for two comes with two entrees; the platter for three, three; the platter for four — yup, there's a pattern here: four entrees. That's where the menu maxes out. Just to point out the obvious, though, for those who like variety, it pays to dine with friends.

Like the *injera*, the platters present an enjoyable novelty — eating from a communal plate. For some, this can spark a horde of anxieties. Will I come off looking like a pig? What if I forget the sharing lessons I got in kindergarten? If I don't jam it down quickly, will I get enough to eat? Rest assured, it'll be hard to go home hungry.

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Twitter: @mattmillham



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Patrons at the Safari Restaurant in Kaiserslautern, Germany, dig into the Safari, a platter for four featuring a spicy beef stew, cubed lamb with onions and herbs, a succulent chicken stew and lentils and vegetables in Eritrean spices, all served and eaten with "injera," an East African flatbread.



Stripes reporter Heath Druzin drinks a Dju Dju-brand palm lager beer. Inspired by Africa, the beer is brewed in Belgium for a German company.



The *sambosa* is a pastry filled with vegetables and chicken or lamb, similar to an Indian *samosa*.

## Potatoes go green for St. Paddy's

BY ELIZABETH KARMIEL  
The Associated Press

**S**t. Patrick's Day is a great excuse for an all-day party in cold and dreary March. I've created various recipes to help get in the mood. This year I decided to focus on a staple of the Irish diet, the potato. And in honor of the saint, I made it a naturally "green" recipe.

I make these potatoes all year because it's one of those simple recipes that everyone asks for. You set the potatoes on a rack set over a baking sheet in the oven so the heat circulates around them, crisping them perfectly.

They come out crunchy on the outside and soft and silky inside. They get even better when tossed in a green herb and garlic sauce.

ROASTED 'GREEN'  
POTATOES

## Ingredients

24 small red potatoes, halved  
2 tablespoons olive oil  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
For the sauce:  
4 cups lightly packed chopped curly parsley (1 to 2 bunches)  
2 cups fresh basil (or blend of fresh herbs)  
3 to 5 cloves garlic, minced  
1 teaspoon kosher salt  
½ teaspoon ground black pepper  
½ teaspoon red pepper flakes  
2 tablespoons minced shallot or onion  
¼ cup olive oil  
¼ cup lemon juice

## Directions

Heat the oven to 350 F. Place the potatoes in a large bowl or large zip-close plastic bag. Drizzle with olive oil and toss to coat. Sprinkle with salt and toss again to coat evenly.

Set a wire rack over a rimmed baking sheet and place the potatoes on the rack. Cook for 40 to 50 minutes, or until the potato skins are lightly puffed and the insides are tender. You do not need to turn the potatoes during cooking.

Meanwhile, prepare the sauce. In a blender or food processor, combine all ingredients and pulse until chopped well but not liquefied. For a blender, it's best to start with the liquid ingredients and end with the parsley.

As soon as the potatoes are done, transfer them to a large serving bowl. Drizzle the sauce, about ¼ cup at a time, over the potatoes and toss well to coat. Serve immediately or refrigerate and serve later.

Makes six servings. 140 calories per serving of potatoes; 100 calories per 2 tablespoons of sauce.

## SAFARI

Location: Humboldt Strasse 31-35, Kaiserslautern, Germany.  
Hours: 4 p.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Friday; 4:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. Saturday and Sunday.  
Food: Eritrean and Ethiopian.  
Dress: Casual.  
Costs: Appetizers from 3 euros; vegetarian entrees from 6.50 euros; meat entrees from 9.50 euros; multiperson platters from 9 euros per person.  
— Matt Millham

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Tall, red tulips at Keukenhof gardens in Lisse, Netherlands, appear to be reaching toward the sun during a past spring.



Vibrant colors and picture-perfect blossoms draw photographers to the Willem Alexander Pavilion at Keukenhof annually.

# A blooming spectacle

Keukenhof gardens to open for 65th colorful year in Lisse, Netherlands



A climb up Keukenhof's old windmill offers a good view of the park and of the tulip fields outside of the gardens.

BY MICHAEL ABRAMS  
Stars and Stripes

**W**hen 40 bulb growers from the Lisse area of the Netherlands got together in 1949 to hold a flower exhibit at what was once a 15th-century hunting estate, they probably didn't know that they were creating one of Holland's biggest attractions.

When Keukenhof opens its gates for the 65th time on March 20, it will be just that — an annual attraction that draws about 800,000 visitors.

The only things more numerous than the people at Keukenhof will be the stars of the show, the flowers.

Today's nearly 90 bulb growers have planted more than 7 million tulips, daffodils, crocuses and hyacinths in the nearly 80 acres of blooming gardens and exhibit halls.

Tulips first arrived in Holland from Constantinople — today's Istanbul — in 1593. Brought by the Austrian botanist Carolus Clusius, the bulbs were expensive and only the rich could afford them for their gardens.

But in the 17th century, a "tulip mania" swept across Holland as people speculated in tulips. Thousands of Dutch guilders were spent on a single bulb.

When, in 1637, the bubble burst on the tulip bulb market, fortunes were lost and the tulip became just another flower.

Today, Holland is the largest producer of tulips and other bulb flowers, such as narcissus, hyacinths and gladioluses. The country exports more than 2 billion bulbs each year, with most of



At the entrance to Keukenhof, girls dressed in 15th-century costumes sell booklets with a map of the park.

them going to the U.S., followed by Japan and Germany.

Keukenhof, which means kitchen garden, belonged to the countess of Holland, Jacoba van Beieren, and it was where she and her court would hunt and gather herbs for her kitchen.

In the 1830s, German landscaper J.D. Zocher designed a park here that is the basis for the modern-day Keukenhof. Visitors to today's gardens can spend hours walking the paths that crisscross the gardens, past

ponds, fountains, sculptures and the flowerbeds bursting in red, yellow, blue, pink, violet and white.

A climb up Keukenhof's old windmill offers a good view of the park and of the blooming tulip fields outside of the gardens.

Keukenhof's theme for this year is Holland, and nothing, except perhaps windmills and canals, symbolizes the country more than the tulip.

abrams.mike@stripes.com

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# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Europe



Keukenhof's Beatrix Pavilion plays host annually to flowers as vibrant as this fuchsia orchid photographed during a past visit.

## KNOW & GO: KEUKENHOF

• **Address:** Stationsweg 166a, 2161 AM Lisse, Netherlands. The park is on the outskirts of Lisse, Netherlands, between The Hague and Amsterdam.

• **From The Hague,** take A44 toward Amsterdam, exit at Sassenheim and take N208 toward Lisse. From Amsterdam, take A4 toward The Hague and exit at N207 toward Lisse. Signs will direct you to Keukenhof.

• **Bus 197** leaves Amsterdam from the Leidseplein/MU, seumplein to Schiphol Airport. There are direct buses to Keukenhof from Schiphol Airport (bus 858). From Leiden Central Station, take bus 854 to Keukenhof.

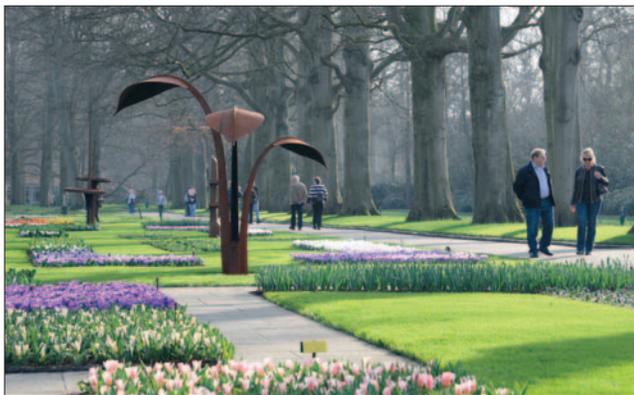
• **Times:** March 20 to May 18, daily from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Ticket office closes at 6 p.m.

• **Costs:** 15 euros for adults and 7.50 euros for ages 4 to 11. Parking costs 6 euros. Admission and parking tickets can be purchased in advance online.

• **Food:** There are restaurants and snack stands on the grounds. The prices, while not exactly cheap, are not unreasonable. You also can bring food and eat outside on the benches and tables spread throughout the park.

• **More information:** Dogs are allowed on the grounds but not in the flower pavilions and restaurants. Bikes can be rented at Keukenhof for tours through the bulb fields. The annual Flower Parade from Noordwijk to Haarlem takes place May 3. It starts at 9:30 a.m. and passes Keukenhof around 3:35 p.m. Website: [keukenhof.nl](http://keukenhof.nl). Buy tickets online to avoid standing in line.

— Michael Abrams



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

In addition to its flowers, Keukenhof in Lisse, Netherlands, is known for its outdoor art collection.

<p><b>Hotel Directory</b></p>	<p>Hotel Votter's Sportkristall Schloßstr. 32, 5710 Kaprun, Austria Tel.: +43 (0) 6547/7134-0 <a href="http://hotel-sport-kristall.at">hotel-sport-kristall.at</a> • <a href="http://www.sport-kristall.at">www.sport-kristall.at</a></p>
<p><b>Hotel Am See</b> Kirchenbühmcher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel.: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 <a href="http://www.hotelamsee.de">www.hotelamsee.de</a> • <a href="http://hotelamsee.usa.net">hotelamsee.usa.net</a> FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situated on the shore of the Ruffwehner</p>	<p>Glutschaufel Hotel &amp; Restaurant International Hotel &amp; Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 09645/602900 <a href="http://www.glutschaufel.de">www.glutschaufel.de</a></p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



People enjoy the blooming cherry blossoms in Yokohama, Japan, in March 2013. There are many places to see the bloom in Japan.

IN BLOOM: CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS

As of March 12, the Japan Meteorological Agency predicts cherry blossom trees will begin blooming March 30 in Tokyo. For a forecast for the bloom in Japan: tinyurl.com/jntosakura.

The following are places to celebrate the flowers:

Japan

RIKUGIEN GARDEN (Tokyo): March 20-April 6, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; famous for drooping cherry trees, which are illuminated after sunset during the bloom; Subway Nanboku Line, Komagome Station; 300 yen; tinyurl.com/ork4d4s.

SUMIDA RIVER CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Tokyo): March 20-April 14, about 1,000 trees along the Sumida River; five-minute walk from Asakusa Station on Ginza Line or seven-minute walk from Hanjo Azumabashi Station on Toei Asakusa Line; 03-5608-6951.

MIDTOWN BLOSSOM 2014 (Tokyo): March 20-April 20; see the 150 cherry blossom trees from an open-air terrace at Tokyo Midtown Garden, and trees are illuminated 5-11 p.m.; Roppongi Station on Hibiya Line or three-minute walk from Nogizaka Station on Chiyoda Line; tinyurl.com/p0d4rp.

UENO PARK (Tokyo): March 21-April 6, until 8 p.m.; 1,200 cherry trees; two-minute walk from Ueno Station on Metro Ginza and Hibiya Lines; 03-3828-5644; tinyurl.com/owf2xm.

TOSHIMAEN AMUSEMENT PARK (Tokyo): March 21-April 6, until 9 p.m.; 800 cherry trees; 500 yen after 3 p.m., free April 4 & 5, 1,000 yen adults and 500 yen kids for tide ticket after 3 p.m. during the week; Seibu Ikebukuro Line, Toshimaen Station; 03-3990-0884.

SHINJUKU GYOEN (Tokyo): March 25-April 24, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; 144-acre park in Shinjuku, a famous bloom viewing spot; 10-minute walk from JR Shinjuku Station; 200 yen; 03-3350-0151; tinyurl.com/nzg2mj.

IF YOU GO

- For a history of hanami — the Japanese tradition of cherry blossom viewing: japantravelinfo.com/heritage/bf\_cherry.php.
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CHIDORIGAFUCHI (Tokyo): March 28-April 6; Chidorigafuchi, the northeastern moat of the Imperial Palace and it is illuminated 6:30-10 p.m. during the festival; Subway Tozai Line, Kudanshita Station; 03-5211-4185.

YASUKUNI SHRINE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Tokyo): March 28-April 6; 800 trees here; five-minute walk from Subway Tozai Line, Kudanshita Station; 03-3261-8326; www.yasukuni.or.jp/english/index.html.

SANKEIEN GARDEN (Yokohama): March 29-April 6, 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; 10-minute bus ride from JR Negishi Line; 500 yen; tinyurl.com/7Bceez.

TSUKAYAMA PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Yokosuka): March 24-April 8; about 1,000 cherry blossom trees with a view of Yokosuka Port; 25-minute walk from Keitoku Line,

Itsumi or Anjinzuka Station; 046-822-2575.

GONGENDO PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Saitama prefecture): March 26-April 10; 1,000 trees along a roughly half-mile-long dike; 30-minute walk from Saito Station on Toho Nikko Line or a 20-minute drive from Kuki IC on Tohoku Express; 0480-43-1111 ext. 538.

HAMURA FLOWER AND WATER FESTIVAL (Tokyo area): March 27-April 13; about 500 trees along the Tama River, illuminated 6-8 p.m.; JR One Line, Hamura Station; 042-555-6211.

KINUGASA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Yokosuka): March 27-April 7; 2,000 trees, which are also illuminated in evening; Kinugasa-yama Park, 25-minute walk from JR Kinugasa Station; 046-853-1611.

FUSSA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

(Yokota area): March 29-April 6; along the bank of Tama River, 15-minute walk from JR Utsunomiya Station; 042-551-1511.

KOMATSUGAWA 1,000 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Tokyo): March 30, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; event with 1,000 trees along the Arakawa River has live performances, food booths and free pony ride at Komatsugawa Park, five-minute walk from Higashi-Oshima Station on Toei Shinjuku Line; 03-5662-5543.

ODAWARA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture): Late March until early April; about 320 trees, which are also illuminated 6-9 p.m. during the bloom; 10-minute walk from JR Odawara Station; 0465-33-1521.

TOKYO SUMMERLAND CHERRY BLOSSOM VIEWING: March 31-April 13, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; 1,500 trees, along with food booths at Family Park; free admission and free parking; www.summerland.co.jp/english/index.html.

YASUKUNI SHRINE CHERRY BLOSSOM NIGHT VIEW NOH PERFORMANCE (Tokyo): April 1-3, 6-40 p.m.; at Yasukuni Shrine Noh-gakudo or Shinjuku Buncho Center if rain; 3,000-5,000-8,000-11,500 yen; Cherry Blossoms Night View Concert Jimkyokuo 03-5215-2890.

YAMATAKA JINDAI CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Yamanashi prefecture): April 1-22, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; a tree here is believed to be 1,800-2,000 years old and the best time to view it is April 5-12; Hokuto city, 0551-42-1351.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33

ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!

Calendar table showing availability for March, April, and May. Legend: Available (blue square), Not Available (white square).

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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

## FROM PAGE 32

**MOUNT YOSHINO CHERRY BLOSSOM (Nara prefecture):** Early April through late April; Mount Yoshino is known as the best cherry blossom site in Japan with 20,000 trees; 75-minute ride from Nagoya Station by Kintetsu Super Express or nearly two-hour ride from Kyoto Station by Kintetsu Super Express; [tinyurl.com/msc6c6vd](http://tinyurl.com/msc6c6vd).

**TAKADA PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Niigata prefecture):** April 4-20; more than 4,000 trees in bloom are illuminated by 3,000 Bonbon-handled paper lanterns sunset 11 p.m.; JR Takada Station on Shinetsu Line.

**TAKIYAMA PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Tokyo):** April 5; 5,000 trees on hilly terrain and traditional live performances, open-air tea services and sweet drink made from fermented rice April 5 (April 6 if rain April 5); Takatsuki-cho, Hachioji city; 042-691-5215.

**1,000 CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL AT TONERI PARK (Tokyo):** April 5 & 6; 1,000 trees in bloom, along with fireworks at 7-30 p.m. April 5; one-minute walk from Toneri Koen Station on Nippori-Toneri Line; 03-3880-5853.

**SHIROISHI CASTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Miyagi prefecture):** April 5-30; about 300 cherry trees at Masuoka Koen, with a night illumination around the castle with 350 paper lanterns until 9 p.m.; 10-minute walk from JR Shirosishi Station or 10-minute ride from Shirosishi I.C. on Tohoku Express; 0224-24-3030.

**NEODANI USUZUMI CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Gifu prefecture):** April 8-15; 8 a.m.-9 p.m.; Usuzumi cherry tree, believed to be 1,500 years old, illuminated until 9 p.m.; Motosu city; 15-minute walk from Tarumi Station on Tarumi Line or 80-minute ride from Gifu Hamamachi I.C.; 500 yen/parking; 058-323-7756.

**SHIROISHI RIVER CHERRY BLOSSOM**



NORIO MURAO/AP

Mount Yoshino in Nara prefecture, Japan, is known as the best cherry blossom viewing site in Japan and has 20,000 trees. The Shimo Senbon area there encompasses the base of the mountain around Yoshino Station and part of the town.

**FESTIVAL (Miyagi prefecture):** April 10-25; one of the best known sites to view the bloom, featuring 1,000 cherry trees along Shirosishi River dike, illuminated 6-10 p.m. during the event; three-minute walk from Ogawara Station on JR Tohoku Line; 0224-53-2141.

**AOBAYAMA PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Miyagi prefecture):** April 10-30; 480 trees; 10-minute drive from Sendai Miyagi IC or eight-minute bus ride to Hakubutsukan Kokusai Sentou-mae bus stop from JR Sendai Station; 022-225-7211.

**MIHARU TAKIZAKURA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Fukushima prefecture):** April 12-20; Miharu Takizakura [cherry blossom waterfall] — a cherry tree believed to be more than 1,000 years old — is illuminated 6-9 p.m.; Miharu town, shuttle buses from JR Miharu Station and nearby

parking lots or a 20-minute ride from JR Miharu Station or 20-minute ride from Funahiki Miharu I.C. on Ban-etsu Express; 300 yen; 0247-62-3690.

**KITAKAMI CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Iwate prefecture):** April 15-May 6; about 100,000 trees at Tensohchi Park and along River Kitakami are illuminated sunset-9 p.m.; Kitakami city, 20-minute walk from JR Kitakami Station; 0197-65-0300.

**KAKUNODATE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Akita prefecture):** Mid-April through early May; 162 weeping cherry trees around samurai district in Kakunodate town and the River Hinokiniagawa; 3942 Kamisugawata, Kakunodate town, Senboku city; JR Kakunodate Station on Akita Shinkansen from Morioka; [tinyurl.com/d5Apr9h](http://tinyurl.com/d5Apr9h).

Shinkansen from Morioka; [tinyurl.com/d5Apr9h](http://tinyurl.com/d5Apr9h).

**MATSUMOTO CASTLE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Nagano prefecture):** festival starts three days after trees bloom in mid-April and features night illumination, koto and gagaku (traditional Japanese music instruments) and flute performances, open-air tea services and free admission to Matsumoto Castle during the festival; [tinyurl.com/c7crb4](http://tinyurl.com/c7crb4).

**HIROSAKI PARK CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Aomori prefecture):** April 23-May 6; about 2,500 trees around Hirotsaki Castle and moat bloom and are illuminated sunset-10 p.m.; 20-minute bus ride from JR Hirotsaki Station; 300 yen admission 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 0172-33-3131.

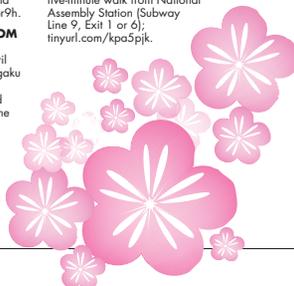
## South Korea

**HWAGAE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (South Gyeongsang province):** March 29-April 8; Gyeongsangnam-do Hadong-gun Hwagae-myeon Uinsuri <http://bit.ly/xgEvr> and [tinyurl.com/m5Pr6bs](http://tinyurl.com/m5Pr6bs).

**CHINHAEE CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (South Gyeongsang province):** April 1-10; celebration started as a memorial in 1952 to remember Admiral Yi Sun-shin, a 16th century Korean military leader, then the community added the cherry blossoms celebration about 10 years later; +82-2-1330.

**JEJU CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL:** April 4-6; Jeju's king cherry trees bloom in Seogwipo's downtown area (Jeju Citizen Welfare Town) and surrounding Jeju Sports Complex, take Bus 500 and get off at New Jeju Rotary; free; +82-2-1330.

**YEUIDO HANGANG SPRING FLOWER FESTIVAL (Seoul):** April 12-18; Seoul's best location to see cherry blossoms on Yeouido Island when the road behind the National Assembly buildings is lined with hundreds of cherry trees; five-minute walk from National Assembly Station (Subway Line 9, Exit 1 or 6); [tinyurl.com/kpa5pjk](http://tinyurl.com/kpa5pjk).



For events, concerts and activities, go to [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)

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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS



# A taste for the bizarre

Tokyo theme park offers unusual food and bewildering fun

By **TREVOR ANDERSEN**  
Stars and Stripes

**W**eird. There's no other way to explain Namjatown, a food-themed amusement park in Tokyo.

The attraction is tucked away inside the Sunshine City shopping complex in Ikebukuro, and for the location, it's surprisingly large.

Visiting Namjatown feels similar to walking through a giant haunted house; except instead of using monsters and ghoulish creatures to scare you, they serve you things like beef tongue ice cream.

Oh, there are ghosts, too.

The Grudge Inn, the ghostly part of the park, is based on Japanese folklore. Here, you

can run around trying to take photos of ghosts with rented ghost-hunting equipment. The equipment looks like it came out of a Ghostbusters movie and it makes noise to let you know when you're near enough to a ghost for a photo. As far as I know

the ghosts were imaginary, but I couldn't be sure. Along the walls are little statues of spiders with human faces that will visit you in your nightmares.

I brought along a Japanese friend to translate and help me understand what was happening. He was of no help at Namjatown.

The tiny but delicious dumplings at Gyoza Stadium, along with a pint of beer, made the crazy go down easier.

Then we made our way to Ice Cream City, where we ate several bizarre flavors of ice cream including miso ramen and whiskey. The whiskey was delicious and



PHOTOS BY TREVOR ANDERSEN/Stars and Stripes

Even a Japanese translator could not understand the "Explosive Mosquito Killing Mission" ride.



**Ice Cream City offers ice cream in odd flavors. Here, the flavors are sea salt, miso ramen, avocado, garlic, whiskey and rum raisin.**



**There are plenty of activities for children at Namco Namjatown. Here, a child roasts fake meat over a fake fire.**



**"Spiders" with human faces could march into your nightmares.**

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Namco Namjatown is located in the Sunshine City shopping complex in east Ikebukuro, Toshima, Tokyo, Japan. The park is an eight-minute walk from Tokyo's Higashi-Ikebukuro station, a three-minute walk from the Ikebukuro station and a four-minute walk from the Higashi-Ikebukuro-4-chome station. Address: 170-0013 Tokyo, Toshima, Higashikebukuro.

### TIMES

Open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily year round, final admission 9 p.m., last food orders at 9 p.m.

### COSTS

Entry costs 500 yen for adults (junior high students and older) and 300 yen for ages 4 to elementary school students. A Namja Passport, or ticket offering mostly free attractions, costs 2,900 yen for adults and 2,300 yen for children. Food prices start at 1,000 yen for dumplings and 1,000 yen for a beer.

### FOOD

Specialties from Japanese restaurants ranging from dumplings at Gyoza Stadium to ice cream at Ice Cream City flavored with, "the park's brochure puts it, "animal and other motifs." There is also a market that offers food to buy and take home.

### INFORMATION

Phone: 03-5950-0765. The park's website is namja.jp, in Japanese. For information in English, see namco.co.jp/tp/namja/pdf/english\_guide.pdf.

— Trevor Andersen

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# WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY JAMES KIMBER/Stars and Stripes



"Natto rori," a fermented soybean roll, and "kyuri rori," a cucumber roll, are common children's sushi choices in Japan.

Like most modern sushi train restaurants in Japan, Hamazushi offers an illustrated touchscreen menu in case nothing on the conveyor belt appeals.

## After Hours: Japan

BY JAMES KIMBER  
Stars and Stripes

One of the manliest skills anyone can have is the ability to catch his own dinner.

But if a baiting a hook and sitting in a boat for a couple of hours isn't your thing, you can still catch your dinner at one of Japan's many sushi trains.

*Kaiten zushi* — literally meaning conveyor belt sushi but more affectionately known in English as a sushi train — offers a fast food alternative to the dish nearly everyone immediately thinks of when asked about Japanese cuisine.

The concept is simple: The chef assembles each bite-size roll on a small plate, places the plate on a conveyor belt and off it goes winding through the restaurant until someone's inner huntsman tracks it and catches it. After the meal, an attendant will come by, count the plates and total the bill.

There are dozens of well-recognized sushi train chain restaurants and thousands more small, family-owned places throughout Japan. Though sushi is the obvious draw, anything from fried chicken to apple pie can find itself rolling down the belt, making it easy for even the pickiest of eaters to find something to eat.

Among one of the least expensive sushi train chains is Hamazushi. There are 120 locations



With 120 locations in Japan, Hamazushi is easy to find near American bases.

dotting Japan, meaning there's probably at least one near every American military base. The one I went to is in Akishima, about a 10-minute drive outside Yokota Air Base's east gate.

Weekdays are the cheapest days to visit Hamazushi, with each plate running about 90 yen, or roughly 88 cents. On the weekends, Hamazushi raises the price of each plate, but only by 10 yen.

With each plate holding one or two pieces of sushi or the occasional bowl of edamame, the price of each person's meal is only limited to how much one can eat. Or how thick the wallet is that day.

More important than the price, sushi trains allow guests to be as adventurous or conservative as they want. Tuna, salmon and shrimp pass by just as frequently as squid, *natto* (a fermented soy-



"Namahirasu," or raw baby sardines, are commonly eaten in Japan, but might be considered adventuresome fare by American diners.

bean salad with a pungent smell) and pickled eggplant.

Another major advantage of the sushi train for those who don't speak Japanese or aren't comfortable with it yet; there is no need to converse with the staff. Instead, the food comes to you. For those who do use the menu to order a specific plate, the menus are often touchscreen and require no human interaction. This doesn't mean you won't ever see a whole, raw baby squid trucking by at one-half kilometer per hour, but it does mean that plate won't end up in front of you by accident.

Kimber.james@stripes.com  
Twitter: @james\_kimber

### HAMAZUSHI

Serves: Conveyor belt sushi, ramen, fried chicken and other typical Japanese fast foods.

Location: We visited Akishima City, Tsutsuzigaoka 2-8-45, but there are 119 more around Japan. See <http://tinyurl.com/q4b92x8> (in Japanese only).

Dress: Casual. Price: 90 to 100-yen per plate, budget about 1,500-yen per adult or 500-yen for young children.

Website: [hamazushi.com](http://hamazushi.com) (in Japanese only)

— James Kimber



A garnished whole raw squid sushi called "sugata yarika" passes by a table at Hamazushi in Akishima. Even guests who don't understand Japanese need no translation at a conveyor belt sushi restaurant.

**BEST IN PACAF**  
2009,  
2010,  
2011,  
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# WEEKEND: MUSIC

## NEW ALBUMS

### Drive-By Truckers

English Oceans (ATO)

The often-prolific roots rockers Drive-By Truckers took a four-year break from the studio before recording "English Oceans," and the stockpile of songs pays off throughout the band's 12th album.

Stripping away the R&B influences and musical explorations of their past few albums, DBT focuses on guitars and a garage-band stomp on the new album — which also adds to the collection's consistency.

The band has always shared song-writing chores between singer-guitarists Patterson Hood and Mike Cooley, usually augmented by contributions by other band members (most notably oontime bandmate Jason Isbell in the early 2000s). This time out, Cooley is an equal partner, and he and Hood are the only songwriters — another beneficial change.

The album's opening guitar chords recall an old Replacements riff and would've fit nicely on the Rolling Stones' "Exile On Main Street." It's a



strong kickoff to the rawest rocking Truckers album since their early days. But it's the storytelling that gives the band a special dimension. The colorful twists of "Till He's Dead Or Rises" and "Primer Coat," the desperation of "Hanging On" and the poignant "Grand Canyon" show that this veteran band can still equal the high points of its past.

— Michael McCall  
The Associated Press

Below: Drive-By Truckers, from left, Jay Gonzalez, Matt Patton, Patterson Hood, Mike Cooley and Brad Morgan.

DAVID MCCLISTER/Courtesy of Drive-By Truckers



### St. Vincent

St. Vincent (Loma Vista)

Annie Clark got her start as a guitarist in the large ensembles of the Polyphonic Spree and Sufjan Stevens before launching her solo career as St. Vincent. She's an inventive, often noisy, guitar player, but on her fourth record, her guitar often takes a secondary role to heavy electronic grooves. It's an album full of disruptions, lyrical and musical. Even relatively quiet songs get

upended: "Huey Newton" starts as a softly sung, beautiful keyboard ballad and then shifts, abruptly, to a distorted, heavy-metal guitar trudge punctuated with angry screams.

Clark's last project, "Love This Giant" was a collaboration with David Byrne. "Rattlesnake" and "Digital Witness" possess the playful, artful mix of groove and noise of Talking Heads' "Remain In Light." But mostly, "St. Vincent" is brash, bold, and deliberately uneasy.

— Steve Kleing  
The Philadelphia Inquirer



### Rick Ross

Mastermind  
(Maybach Music Group/Def Jam)

All of the songs on Rick Ross' sixth album are built with strong production and the rapper's normal shoot-from-the-hip approach. However, the performer is unable to move the needle on "Mastermind" like he did on previous releases, including 2012's top-notch "God Forgives, I Don't."

Ross' 16-track set doesn't transcend his message as a man of growth, wanting to expect more out of life than money, women and luxury cars. It comes as a surprise since the album was co-executive produced by Diddy, who has helped mold albums for the Notorious B.I.G., Jay-Z, the Lox, Mary J. Blige and others.

The Miami rapper is certainly not a bore. Ross taps some of the top beat makers in hip-hop from Kanye West, Scott Storch, the Weeknd and production group J.U.S.T.I.C.E. League for his latest effort. Some songs entertain with introductions: Diddy is full of himself — in a serious tone — on "Nobody," comedian Katt Williams is silly when he talks about staying in a home with 109 rooms on "Supreme," and Ross boasts about having more than \$92 million in his bank account on "Drug Dealers Dream."

Ross upholds his gangster mentality with gunshots ringing on several songs such as "Rich Is Gangsta," "Walkin' On Air," featuring Meek Mill, and "Mafia Music III," with Sizzla and Mavado. The production work by Mike Will Made-It (Miley Cyrus, Juicy J) is superb on "War Ready" featuring Young Jeezy — a rapper with whom Ross once had a beef.

The West and Big Sean-assisted "Sanctified" is one of the album's best tracks, as each rapper talks about how the fast-paced lifestyle has impacted them. Ross also raps about beating the odds as a young man on "Thug Cry," which co-stars Lil Wayne. While these are bright spots, most of "Mastermind" is Ross middling.

— Jonathan Landrum Jr.  
The Associated Press



### Aloe Blacc

Lift Your Spirit (Interscope)

Aloe Blacc is no overnight sensation.

The co-writer and voice behind Avicii's "Wake Me Up," the most-played song in Spotify history with more than 200 million streams since its release last year, is a 35-year-old former business consultant from California with two other albums to his name.

So why on Earth is his new album, "Lift Your Spirit," so stunningly uneven?

Obviously, Blacc can write a hit, following "Wake Me Up's" success with his own smash, "The Man," which twists a bit of Elton John's "Your Song" into something soulful and grand. He is clever enough to craft a sleek slice of '60s soul in the lush throwback "Red Velvet Seat," which positions him as a possible heir to Bruno Mars' throne.

Unfortunately, "Lift Your Spirit" also features clunkers that are so bad they're actually shocking. "Here Today" is so lazy it's hard to believe he ever played it in public, much less included it on an album, with its chorus of "We're here today (hey!) gone tomorrow! Lead the way, never follow!" sung blandly over a vague pop backdrop. "Chasing" squanders an interesting mix of glitchy dance beats and '50s bubble gum pop on a chorus of "Girls, girls, girls chasing the boys, boys, boys chasing the money... Don't chase the money." Even his personal thanksgiving song, "Owe It All," sounds cobbled together and unbelievable, opening with the immortal question, "Where would I be without the pillow on my bed?"

Blacc has plenty of potential, but he maddeningly wastes a lot of it on "Lift Your Spirit."

— Glenn Gamboa  
Newsday

Aloe Blacc turns in an uneven effort on "Lift Your Spirit."

Courtesy of Universal Music Group



## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## Pharrell's phavorites

By MESFIN FEKADU  
The Associated Press

**W**ho hasn't Pharrell produced for? The hitmaker's Rolodex includes pop heavyweights from Beyoncé to Justin Timberlake, maestros like Hans Zimmer and Heitor Pereira, and wildcards such as Daft Punk and Scissor Sisters.

The 40-year-old said his diverse background heavily aided the making of "G I R L," his funky new album.

"I wanted to work with all cultures and all kinds of people so it could teach me more about my own craft," said Pharrell, who has produced songs on his own, but many as part of the Neptunes with Chad Hugo. "All of the artists we were blessed to work with that didn't look like us, that didn't sound like us or didn't dance like us, all of that was the very reason I was able to make this album."

Pharrell won nonclassical producer of the year at the Grammy Awards in January, thanks to his work on Robin Thicke's "Blurred Lines" and Daft Punk's "Get Lucky." And now he's back on top of the Billboard Hot 100 chart with "Happy," which was nominated for an Academy Award.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Pharrell breaks down his favorite five songs he's produced.

## 1

**Usher, "U Don't Have to Call" from "8701" (2001):** Solely written by Pharrell, "U Don't Have to Call" was another hit in Usher's epic run as pop's leading man in the early 2000s. "He's just a maestro ... his voice is unmatched ... he surpasses what most people think he can do," Pharrell said. "I just love when we're able to do colorful black music. There's nothing like that. I love all kinds of music and all genres, but obviously just colorful black music is a good feeling for me personally ... We were even able to squeeze in two bridges, which is a rarity for pop radio."

## 2

**Jay Z featuring Pharrell, "So Ambitious" from "The Blackprint 3" (2009):** Pharrell's first success with Jay Z came when "I Just Wanna Love U (Give It 2 Me)" burst on the scene in 2000, and since the two have collaborated non-stop. "He just continues to get better — it's like fine wine," Pharrell said of the rap veteran. "He's something else. When you talk to him, you see purple. He's wisdom."

## 3

**Pharrell featuring Daft Punk, "Gust of Wind" from "G I R L" (2014):** Pharrell says creating "Gust of Wind" was like designing a room in your house where some of the accent pieces don't quite fit. So robots came to the rescue. "A song tells you what it needs, where it goes, or what melody is missing, or if there could be more ... with 'Gust of Wind,' it felt good and I loved the song, but I was like, 'Man, you know this just feels perfect for the robots to get on the chorus and harmonize with me,'" he said. "I played it for them and instantly, you know, they're robots and they just got right to it. There was no lag time."

## 4

**Missy Elliott, "On & On" from "The Cookbook" (2005):** "That's one of my favorite hip-hop beats I've done of all time because it's so unorthodox," Pharrell said. "It's Missy, so you're working with a person that's genius. She morphs into anything. Her spirit is super-colorful and larger than life. And she knows how to tap into another zone."

## 5

**N.E.R.D., "Life As a Fish" and "Inside of Clouds" from "Nothing" (2010):** "That was an ode to awareness and the value of awareness," he said of the reflective groove "Life As a Fish." He adds that "Inside of Clouds" is about "the appreciation for water and what it means to our own biosphere."

## Hats off to Pharrell's 'G I R L'

Singer hits the right notes on new album

By CRISTINA JALERU  
The Associated Press

**O**n the heels of two monster hits where he was the co-star — the Daft Punk jaunty funk jam "Get Lucky" and the much vilified yet utterly catchy "Blurred Lines" with Robin Thicke — Pharrell is taking the lead with the relentless, Oscar-nominated "Happy," which appears on the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack. The cheerful tune is also on his second studio album,

"G I R L," released March 3.

The 10-track set is an ode to the female form and spirit, peppered with sexy vibes and brash come-ons. A definite change from his raspy, more alternative first album, which wasn't particularly successful, "G I R L" proves Pharrell — a member of N.E.R.D. and the hit-making Neptunes — is a true, and exceptional, frontman.

Cynics will dismiss the album as a shameless attempt to derail the accusations of misogyny leveled at "Blurred Lines."

After all, Pharrell is cheeky and sexy, and his lyrics sometimes blur the lines between playful seduction and outright possession. "Ain't no sense in you roaming around, if I can't have you nobody can," he says in "Hunter," but maybe that's his way of saying he can't help it if the ladies find him attractive and he reciprocates. After all, this is the entire ethos of the album: love in its purest form, love at the first frisson, love settled on a cloud, love of the flesh.

The record's tempo matches the upbeat "Happy," and it deploys killer hooks. The sound is eclectic, ranging from dramatic violins in the Daft Punk-assisted "Gust of Wind" to Motown disco beats in "Hunter" and tribal drums in "Lost Queen." Persistent echoes of Michael Jackson-style sound lurk on the album, from the sultry "Gush" to the deliciously head-bopping "Marilyn Monroe" to the Justin Timberlake-featured "Brand New."

A definite homage to women is the female empowerment ballad "Know Who You Are," where Pharrell sings with piano queen Alicia Keys. He croons on the mellow reggae tune, "I know who you are and I know what you're feeling." No doubt about where he stands on gender equality there.



WEEKEND: BOOKS

# A near-perfect murder in Paris

‘Little Demon in the City of Lights’ riveting true story of hypnosis and homicide in 1889

By MAUREEN MCCARTHY  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

**P**aris 1889. The city preened beneath its new Eiffel Tower as the world flocked to the Exposition Universelle.

Visitors were mesmerized, which was fitting because the city was about to see the world's first test case of murder by hypnosis.

“Little Demon in the City of Light” tells the riveting story of two misfits who almost got away with murder. When they didn't, their trial became its own exposition, matching the latest breakthroughs in criminology with some of the greatest names of the age.

Steven Levingston's “Little Demon” focuses on a single murder case, but what a case it was. It unfolded at a time when forensic science was just beginning and hypnotism was in its heyday. Its characters could have come from fiction.

Enter Gabrielle Bompard, a pretty 21-

year-old wild child whose family sends her off to Paris at a time when decent women did not travel alone. Before long she is in league with Michel Eyraud, a ne'er-do-well twice her age. Soon, a railliff is dead, his body is missing, and so are they.

This is not a whodunit but a will-they-get-away-with-it.

At first it seems they will. The body isn't found for weeks and remains unidentified for months. How it gets identified in an age before fingerprinting is a story in itself.

With no suspect and amid hounding by the press, Chief Inspector Goron takes the extreme step of displaying the bloody trunk that the body was transported in. Parisians throng to see it, so many that vendors sell miniature trunks as souvenirs. Newspapers could not write enough about the spectacle.

The gambit works. The publicity reaches people who link Bompard and Eyraud to the trunk. Photos of Bompard and

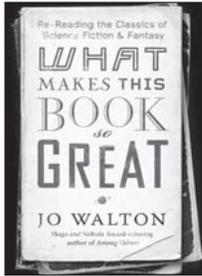
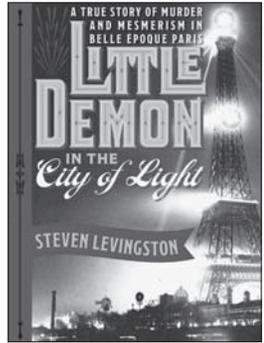
breathless news reports go international, and within a year the two are on trial. The guillotine awaits.

Her defense: He hypnotized her.

We might smirk now, but at that time the eminent Dr. Jean-Martin Charcot was conducting public hypnoses of “hysterical” women (as seen in the recent films “Augustine” and “A Dangerous Method”). Two competing schools were debating whether a hypnotized person could be made to do anything — even commit murder.

The furor builds as Paris prepares for the trial. Courtroom seats are sold by scalpers. Even famed writer Emil Zola weighs in, revealing that his sympathy for the accused does not extend to “la petite demon.”

Levingston, nonfiction book editor for The Washington Post, said he originally wrote this as an academic study, but decided it was too compelling for that. He's right, and readers are well-served by his reimagining of this amazing true story.



**What Makes This Book So Great**

Jo Walton

What makes Jo Walton's new book, “What Makes This Book So Great,” so great indeed is that it champions adults reading for pleasure, and Jo Walton's case rereading for pleasure.

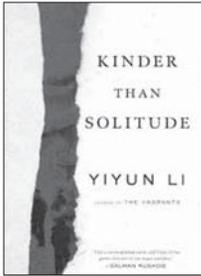
“I am talking about books because I love books,” she writes. “I'm not standing on a mountain peak holding them at arm's length and issuing Olympian pronouncements about them.

I'm reading them in the bath and shouting with excitement because I have noticed something that is really really cool.”

What makes her book so great is that she's a pretty terrific writer herself. The author of multiple fantasy and alternate-history novels, Walton has won both the Hugo and Nebula Awards for “Among Others” (2012), one of the most bookish great science fiction and fantasy, or SF/F, novels ever.

— Jim Higgins

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



**Kinder Than Solitude**

Yiyun Li

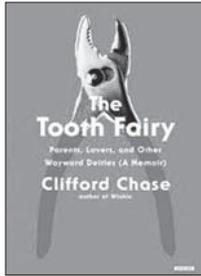
“Kinder Than Solitude” opens in Beijing, as Boyang is making funeral arrangements for Shaoai, a family friend who has just died after a chemical poisoning 21 years earlier left her physically and cognitively disabled. Was Shaoai trying to kill herself, or was she killed by Ruyu, the timid, depressed orphan girl adopted into the family? And how much was that depression stoked by Moran, another friend?

Boyang is a cynical manizer who feels that “this world, like many people in it, inevitably treats a man better when he has little kindness to spare for it.”

Ruyu lives in the Bay Area as a housekeeper for a wealthy woman whose neuroses over the slightest problems give Ruyu herself an “exemption from participating in life.” In Massachusetts, Moran is a workaday chemist who strives to “keep her life in just-so order,” “a savage routine that cleansed her life to sterility.”

Yet this is not a woe-is-them tale: Yiyun Li doesn't pass judgment on her characters for their hyper-austere responses to a childhood calamity.

— Mark Athitakis  
Newsday



**The Tooth Fairy**

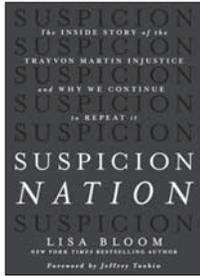
Clifford Chase

“I write this in the hope that aphorism-like statements, when added to one another, might accrue to make some larger statement that will placate despair,” Clifford Chase writes at the beginning of “The Tooth Fairy,” a memoir in reflections.

Most of his fragments, confessions and observations are only a few lines long. Some are merely odd, random asides, while others are more affecting. He tosses out excerpts from his journals, amusing and disturbing scenes from dreams, and obsesses over interactions with therapists, friends, his difficult parents and romantic partners.

Throughout, Chase is haunted by his sexuality. In his college years in California, he tries desperately to summon romantic feelings for women — but hadn't kissed a girl since he was 14 and had never had sex. Shy, intellectual and introverted, Chase finds an on-and-off girlfriend, all the while harboring a desire for men. “The odd nature of the closet,” he writes, “the open secret, not to others but to oneself.”

— Carmela Ciuraru  
Newsday



**Suspicion Nation**

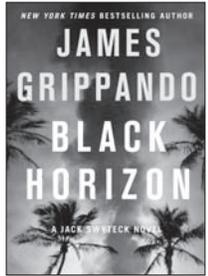
Lisa Bloom

“The subtitle of legal pundit Lisa Bloom's new book, “Suspicion Nation,” is a bit misleading when it claims to be “the inside story” of the killing of Trayvon Martin and the trial that followed.

There are few, if any, behind-the-scenes revelations in “Suspicion Nation.” Anyone who followed the 2013 trial of shooter George Zimmerman will be familiar with Bloom's account of the case. And in a divided United States, millions followed the story obsessively, joining competing pro-Trayvon and pro-Zimmerman Greek choruses on social media.

At its best, “Suspicion Nation” is a thorough evisceration of the amateurish job done by the Florida prosecutors who tried Zimmerman. At its worst, it's like turning on the TV and listening to yet another annoying television pundit make sport of a human tragedy. Bloom is, in fact, a television pundit, as well as being the daughter of high-profile lawyer Gloria Allred.

— Hector Tobar  
Los Angeles Times



**Black Horizon**

James Grippando

In “Black Horizon,” Grippando explores a disaster that has affected Florida in the past — a devastating oil spill — and creates an intriguing political spin by showing how this could affect relations between the United States and Cuba. But Grippando also lades a love story and the ever-reliable theme of greed to give his 11th Jack Swyteck novel an even more solid plot.

Grippando has become a master at taking “ripped from the headlines” events — in this case the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill — and turning them into involving thrillers that, somehow, do not succumb to sensationalism. Grippando achieves this by continuing to focus on characters, especially showing new sides of Jack. Crisp dialogue and an insider's view of Florida elevate “Black Horizon,” as do the evocative scenes set in Cuba.

— Oline H. Cogdill  
Sun Sentinel

## WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

## NEW ON DVD

“**The Book Thief**”: A young girl escapes from the horrors of war through books. Geoffrey Rush stars. Director Brian Percival started with a solid story based on the book by Markus Zusak. It’s an examination of the battle between the thirst for knowledge and the dependency on ignorance that helped the Nazi party spread. War is a ghoulish specter that enters and leaves the lives of a family, but it is always waiting just outside along with the character of Death, who narrates the story. These external forces are catalysts for events in the lives of these people, but the focus is always the connection they make and embrace no matter what’s going on in the outside world.



CBS Films/AP

From left, Oscar Isaac, Justin Timberlake and Adam Driver star in the recent DVD release “**Inside Llewyn Davis**.”

“**Inside Llewyn Davis**”: A look at a week in the life of a folk singer as he navigates the Greenwich Village folk scene of 1961. Because it takes such an unorthodox path, the film is not going to be pleasing to all audiences. It must be treated like the lyrics of a folk song: Look at it with the knowledge that some things are up to personal interpretations. If you find the right rhythm, the film is a cinematic composition that keeps on entertaining.

“**Out of the Furnace**”: Scott Cooper’s film is the story of two brothers who through outside circumstances end up committing life-changing actions. While what they do is intriguing, it’s how Cooper looks at the forces that shape their lives that makes the movie so compelling. The film is set in an economically depressed area of steel country in Pennsylvania. Hope — like the factory that once made this a thriving community — has all but shut down. This leaves those still clinging to the promises of a brighter future looking for a solution. “Out of the Furnace” is a masterfully crafted tale of people and a place pushed to the edge where their only hope seems to be an abyss of despair.

“**Armistice**”: The script was written by Sylvester Stallone, but it comes across like it was penned by Rocky Balboa. Jason Statham, the best screen mumber since Stallone, plays Phil Broker, a former DEA agent who has moved to the creepy, sleazy town of Rayville, La.

“**Beyond Outrage**”: Crackdown on organized crime ignites underworld power struggle.

“**Enemies Closer**”: Tom Everett Scott plays a man who must battle for his life.

“**Siberia**”: Fictional reality show set in Siberia.

“**Armistice**”: Marine is forced to fight for his life against inhuman opponents.

“**101st: A-Company**”: Raid on a Nazi fortress where attempts are being made to raise a demon army.

“**Talks About Nothing**”: Features philosophical discussions with celebrities, scientists, writers and today’s leading thinkers on the concept of nothing.

“**Hazmat**”: When a prank goes wrong, a group of friends must fight for their lives.

“**Dirty Jobs Down Under**”: Mike Rowe looks for dirty jobs in Australia.

“**100 Years of Wright Field**”: Chronicles the history of Wright Field.  
— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CBS/AP

Beau Bridges, left, Will Arnett and Margo Martindale star in the sitcom “**The Millers**.” It’s the No. 1 new comedy this season.

## WELL-TIMED

TV show ‘**The Millers**’ benefits from airing after ‘**Big Bang Theory**’

By NEAL JUSTIN  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

A few minutes before rehearsal for “**The Millers**,” the season’s No. 1 new comedy, Will Arnett was spotted taking a smoke break with the episode’s special guest star: Tommy Chong.

A 1970s staple best known for stoner bits may seem like an odd intruder on a mainstream sitcom with characters whose idea of cutting loose is having a second glass of Zinfandel after a meatloaf dinner. But, in many ways, his appearance fits snugly into the show’s formula, which appears to be that there is no formula.

The series, which revolves around a recently separated couple (Beau Bridges and Margo Martindale) who move in with different adult children (Arnett and Jayma Mays), has an everything-and-the-kitchen-sink philosophy, which means that the dialogue transitions from smart zingers to bathroom humor at the drop of a whoopee cushion.

The approach threatens to give viewers a severe case of whiplash, but if you find yourself groaning over a 60-something mother unable to control her flatulence, you can be pretty certain you’ll be chuckling a few minutes later at her clever ability to manipulate her son/roommate.

“There’s a lot of serious stuff going on these days, and we’re kind of silly,” said Bridges, heaping praise on show creator Greg Garcia and resident director James Burrows, the Steven Spielberg of the sitcom world. “They know how to do their jobs. There’s lots of confidence all around.”

How ‘**The Millers**’ is put together

The laughs on “**The Millers**” might seem to come easy, but the process leading up to the final product can be quite an endurance test. Star Will Arnett went over details of a typical week that’s anything but typical. “You really do have to be on your toes,” he explained last month.

**Monday:** The cast goes through a table read, a standard practice for TV shows in which everyone sits in a square and goes over the dialogue with scripts in hand. When the actors are done, the behind-the-scenes team evaluates what worked and starts rewriting the material that fell short.

**Tuesday:** The cast is given what is largely new material. They go through the dialogue on set with scripts in hand and the director starts blocking scenes. About 11 p.m., the performers get yet another rewritten script at home via email.

**Wednesday:** Network and studio executives stop by to see a rehearsal and offer their thoughts.

**Thursday:** Camera crews shoot exterior shots, followed by yet another run-through inside.

**Friday:** The bulk of the show is taped in front of a live audience.

Time slot, time slot, time slot.

The new sitcom has the good fortune of immediately following “**The Big Bang Theory**,” a show that benefited from debuting between “**How I Met Your Mother**” and “**Two and a Half Men**” before establishing itself as TV’s most popular sitcom.

“**Big Bang**” has been a huge help to us, because they’ve gotten people to sample us,” Garcia said. “I’d love it if the network keeps us behind them for five or six years before letting us fly out on our own.”

Garcia knows all too well about the perils of leaving the nest too soon. His NBC series “**My Name is Earl**” premiered in 2005 on Thursdays, the same night as “**Will & Grace**,” “**The Office**” and “**ER**.” The next year, it was put in the lead-off position — and almost immediately began to lose viewers. It was canceled after four seasons.

“**Raising Hope**,” which he also created, debuted after “**Glee**” in 2010, when that show was a pop-culture phenomenon for Fox. The very next season, “**Hope**” was forced to lead off Wednesday night programming, a position it clearly wasn’t ready to handle. It’s still on the air, but on Friday nights, otherwise known in the business as the “graveyard shift.”

Garcia sounded confident that CBS would keep his latest offering “protected” for longer, especially since the network owns the show.

“Look, I trust them very much. I’ve never been happier with a studio or a network,” he said. “But I understand people have to move things around. I’m absolutely fine with whatever they think is best.”

But knowledge of craft isn’t why “**The Millers**” is a hit. The main reason for their success?

## WEEKEND: HEALTH &amp; FITNESS

BY LESLIE BARKER  
The Dallas Morning News

**E**very die-hard fitness fanatic cheers the benefits of eating right and exercising: Reduced risk of disease! Increased energy! A better sense of mental, physical, emotional self!

But there is a caveat to all that rah-rah: You can overdo it. While that won't necessarily negate what you're doing, it can make your lifestyle less effective than you might think.

To help you stop, we asked a couple of experts for specifics on how too much of a good thing can be bad for you. Megan Lyons recently opened a health-coaching company in Dallas. Kathy Dieringer is a board member of the Dallas-based National Athletic Trainers' Association.

### Working out hard every day

**The reason:** "Our bodies need rest," Lyons says, "and performing high-intensity exercise every single day does not allow adequate time for muscle repair and recovery."

**Adds Dieringer:** "Rest between exercising is just as important as the exercise itself. If you don't allow your body to rest and recover between bouts, it will break down eventually."

**The solution:** If you must do something every day, make sure it's lower intensity, like a non-power walk or stretching, Lyons says.

Vary the intensity of your workouts, says Dieringer, owner of D&D Sports Med in Denton, Sanger and Aubrey, Texas. Take a few days off if you show such signs of overtraining as insomnia, restlessness, continued soreness, burnout or irritability. If you're injured, take time to heal.

"Moderation is tough, especially in those individuals who are high achievers and believe they must work every day," Dieringer says. "I'd encourage everyone to keep a training log so they can look back on what they've been doing and objectively analyze their workout regimen."

### Swearing by only one exercise or routine

**The reason:** In addition to the boredom factor, doing the same workout over and over increases your risk of overuse injury, Lyons says.

Additionally, "you'll neglect other muscles. This often leads to muscle imbalances, which can cause or exacerbate injuries."

**The solution:** Try a new class, or exercise with a friend who does a workout you don't.

### Believing that pain equals gain

**The reason:** Being sore is one thing; pain is another. Pain often signals an injury, which means you'll have to stop working out for a while.

**The solution:** Your body lets you know when it's time to rest and time to move, Dieringer says, so listen to it.

"Pushing through soreness is OK, as long as we're sure that's what it is, but you should not try to push through pain," she says. "Any type of soreness or discomfort that doesn't go away with rest and proper care after a few days should not be pushed through."

At that point, seek professional help, she says.

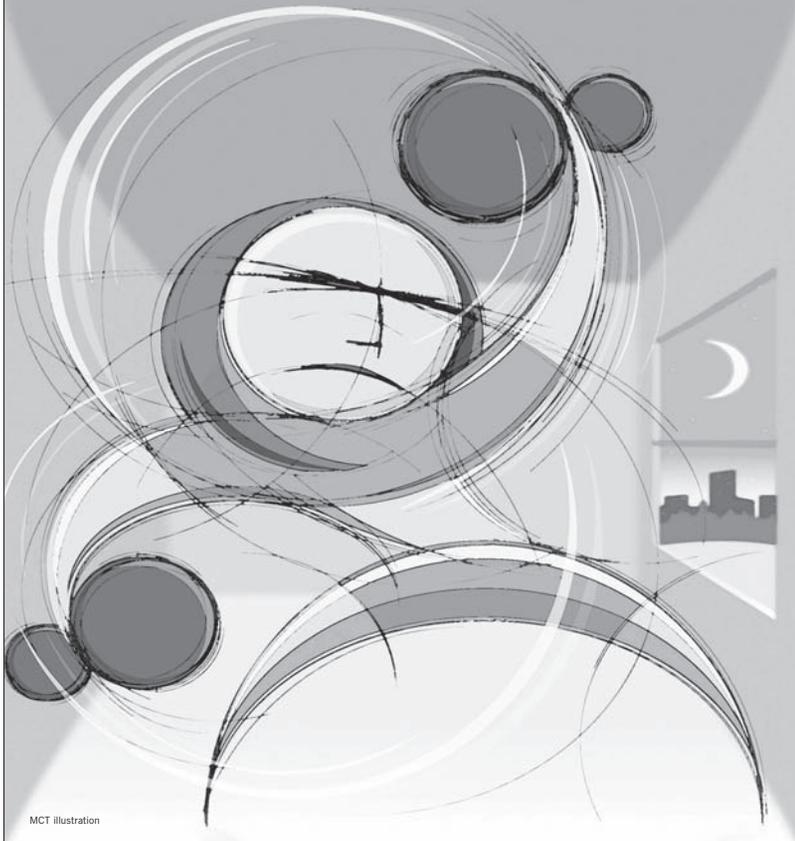
### Loading up on sports drinks and energy bars

**The reason:** You probably don't need these, which are geared for athletes exercising "under intense conditions for prolonged time periods," Lyons says. They contain excess sugar that can quickly add up and even counteract the workout.

In other words, you might be eating

# 7 ways your healthy lifestyle probably needs to change

## Too much exercise, dieting might be counterproductive



MCT illustration

more than you're burning off.

**The solution:** Refuel with carb-heavy gels and drinks only when your workout lasts longer than an hour, or 30 minutes "in incredibly hot conditions," she says.

### Thinking gluten-free is a panacea

**The reason:** Gluten-free items are trendy but fall prey to what Lyons calls the "halo effect." That is, "causing us to assume anything labeled gluten-free is automatically healthy."

In many instances, they have "fewer nutrients, more calories and more sugar than the real thing," she says.

**The solution:** Unless your body has a true intolerance for gluten, you're better off choosing whole grains and whole-grain products without that gluten-free label, she says.

### Overdoing diet products

**The reason:** Many are overly processed and contain additives and preservatives our bodies don't recognize as food, Lyons says.

"Even when a product is marketed as

healthy or diet, the calories still add up," she says. Unfortunately, many of us think of these as "free food."

**The solution:** Choose a whole-food option such as a piece of fruit or a vegetable-based salad, she says.

### Sticking with tried-and-true

**The reason:** Doing what we've always done or what we were taught as young athletes isn't necessarily valid, Dieringer says.

**The solution:** Do your research; seek advice from experts, not from fads.

## WEEKEND: FAMILY

## Childless



MCT illustration

## millennials

## More young adults choosing career, travel over kids

BY JASMINE MAKI  
Grand Forks (N.D.) Herald

With graduation just around the corner, Becki DeGeest, of Moorhead, Minn., might not know what is in store for her future as she endlessly applies for various jobs in cities around the world. But she knows one thing that's not in her future: children. "It's not in the plan, anyway," she said.

Even as a young teenager, DeGeest said, she was never really interested in having children. While her childhood friends fantasized about settling down in their hometowns and raising their own families, DeGeest said, she just wanted to get out. Thoughts of a successful career, endless travels and a life of adventure filled her mind. Kids were never a part of that picture.

"I love kids, but I've never really seen myself having kids," she said, adding that it doesn't mean she won't get married.

DeGeest, now 22, has been dating Peter Lonnquist, of Moorhead, for 3½ years, and they've often talked of their future together. They've even thought about the possibility of children and discussed their favorite baby names.

"Those conversations do pop up," she said. But, neither of them views children as part of the plan.

They're not alone. A recent study conducted by Stewart Friedman at the University of Pennsylvania showed that the number of recent

grads planning to have children dropped 30 percent from 1992 to 2012. Whether it's because of financial situations, career choices or the desire to travel, more people are opting out of having children.

"For me, it's the traveling and career aspect of it," DeGeest said. "For Peter, finance definitely plays a role."

DeGeest is applying for jobs in New York City, Los Angeles and London. She said she'd never raise children in a big city. She said she also wants to travel more, and it'd be difficult with kids.

DeGeest said she is more focused on advancing her career than growing a family. Others might have a different reason for the same decision.

David Flynn, University of North Dakota professor of economics, said there are many factors that play a part in the decision to have kids, and if so, how many. Some of those factors include the size of one's own family, one's religious upbringing and one's career path.

Flynn said people who come from big families with four or more children often tend to have more children of their own. The same goes for people raised in a religious family.

On the other hand, women who are more career-oriented might opt out because they feel having a child might interrupt their desired career path, Flynn said. This is a decision women have that men don't necessarily face.

"Depending on what industry you're in, that may or may not matter," he said. "For instance, the

nursing and teaching professions are, generally speaking, more amenable to the maternity-type leave." Alternatively, he said, someone with a business career might view having a child as a negative choice that might curb or slow advancement opportunities.

Economic factors play a big role in the decision as well, Flynn said, because having a child represents an ongoing financial commitment for a number of years.

"With the long time span of commitment that it has, it does sometimes make people uncertain of how to evaluate and assess that situation," he said.

Many are finding that the easiest solution is to simply not have kids, while others are waiting until they're more financially stable or established in their careers.

The national average age at first birth has increased from 21.4 in 1970 to 25.6 years today, according to the National Center for Health Statistics. Some are planning to wait even longer than that. College freshman Raini Stanek, of East Grand Forks, Minn., said she thinks 28 or 29 would be a good age to start having kids.

"You have to live your life first, experience life before you give life," she said.

Stanek said she believes the change of mindset when it comes to having children is because of increased opportunities.

"We have a lot more opportunities than our parents had, so we have more things to go see and experience," she said.

## SPOUSE CALLS

## Compromise at Lent — and all year long

Compromise and understanding are essential to any marriage. These elements take on new meaning in military marriages, when deployment and other absences complicate the division of parenting and marital roles. Other events in military life, like frequent house-hunting, require another level of accommodation.

Randi Cairns, a New Jersey National Guard spouse, and the founder of Home Front Hearts, wrote to me about compromise in her interfaith marriage. That compromise takes on a new dimension during the season of Lent. Randi is Jewish and her husband, Ian, is Christian.

Lent is the season of preparation before Easter, when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Christ. For forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter — not including Sundays — some Christians observe a period of repentance and spiritual discipline. This often includes giving up a food, such as chocolate or bread; or an activity, like television programs or social media.

Mardi Gras, Fasching and other similar celebrations are traditionally the last hurrah of indulgence before the beginning of Lent. I don't know whether Randi and her husband celebrate Mardi Gras, but Ian is apparently pretty serious about Lent. Randi is serious about family mealtime and baking hamantaschen for Purim. These traditional cookies celebrate the Jewish festival of Esther, which occurs this weekend.

Randi's message is about the compromise that takes place in her household this time of year and how it applies all year long. Here's what she wrote:

It always happens about this time of year. My husband flashes me one of those melt-your-heart-fabulous smiles and then prefaces the next sentence with, "Don't be mad at me honey, but ..." Sometimes I just beg him not to utter whatever the next sentence might be. But if I'm mindful of the season, I realize I'm about to receive this year's "Lent directive."

I love that we make this interfaith marriage work. I love that he's a man of conviction. The whole, "Let's ban an entire food group for longer than Noah's flood," not so much. But I'm a team player, and so I take notes.

There have admittedly been a few mishaps on my part. Like the year he gave up sugar, and I lovingly made two batches of hamantaschen during Lent — I'm enjoying the irony of that sentence even as I type it. I made one batch with sugar and one with Splenda so my husband could enjoy this year traditionally while abstaining from sugar. Did you know that Splenda is derived from sugar and thus not allowed? Yeah, me neither.

Then there was the year of the bread confusion. Pizza is not bread. Treat it like I claim the latter two are "flat," or unleavened, when it comes time to make Passover rulings. My husband? Yeah, he doesn't buy that argument either.

This year he announced (drum roll please) "No flour." Insert expletives here. I'm secretly convinced he likes to up the ante each year just to find my breaking point.

"You know there's flour in, like, e-v-e-r-y-t-h-i-n-g, right honey?" I say sweetly (through clenched jaw) while I cross off beef stew, pasta and pizza from the next week's meal plan.

He's not worried. His Jewish wife is. How am I going to pull this off in a house where no one else is living under "the ban," but I refuse to cook separate meals for separate folks? It's a matter of principle. I believe that family meals are just that — the shared eating of a single meal together.

It occurred to me that observing Lent for our interfaith family requires a special kind of mindfulness. Sometimes you have friends to remind you to drop the hot dog on Friday. Or a wife who is willing to renegotiate the family dietary rules for a higher purpose. But with or without a team — and always opt for the "with" if given a choice — there's something wonderful to be said for a practice that requires you to pause and examine your choices.

I'm thinking about giving up sarcasm for Lent — but only after I press "send."

Terri Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@stripes.com.



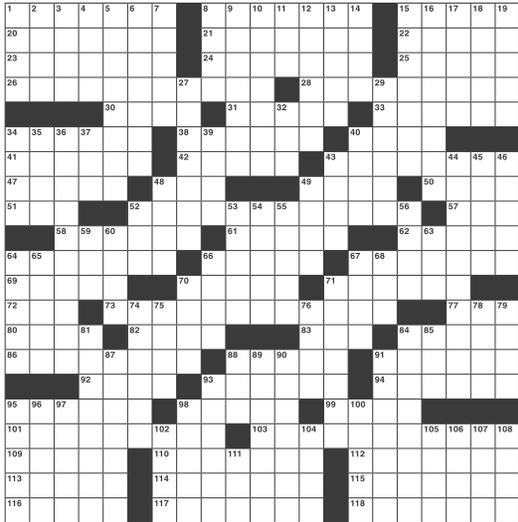
Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

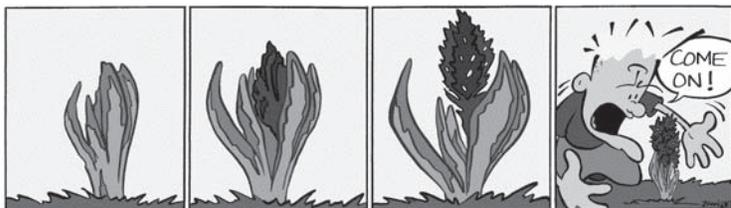
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

NOSY NONSENSE By BRENDAN EMMETT QUIGLEY / Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS
1 Top off, as someone's drink
8 Isolated hill surrounded by lava
15 Shine
20 Lubrication point
21 Snapping things
22 Avoiding the rush, say
23 She "speaks things in doubt, / That carry but half sense"
24 They're not accented in music
25 Unimaginative
26 One unsatisfied with a "She loves me, she loves me not" result?
28 Picky little dog?
30 Faint trace
31 A lot
33 Neglect
34 Detests
38 Game equipment
40 Haitian couple
41 Bandleader's cry
42 Called off
43 Lay atop
47 "L'Adiesienne" composer
48 It's not much
49 Lake (Australia's lowest point)
50 Audition winner's part, maybe
51 Peep
52 Business transactions free from government regulation?
57 Spanish bear
58 Vanquish
61 Narrow land projections into the sea
62 Floors
64 Billet-doux recipient
66 Hands, informally
67 Orbit rival
69 Coat style
70 Bank run
71 Change structurally
72 It's nothing at all
73 Carefree dairy product?
77 "Really!"
80 Radiohead head
82 Modest response to a compliment
83 French 101 pronoun
84 It covers Hector's death
86 Continental-free trade group
88 Block, as a stream
91 Likes lots
93 Bright red
94 One's spinning
95 Optimally
98 It's often heard at a ballpark
99 Reconstruction-era cartoonist
101 Optimistic theater audience?
103 Marvel from Idaho's largest city?
109 Soot
110 Kind of seat
112 Strange shooting
113 It's bigger than a family
114 Slalom, for one
115 Winston's home in "1984"
116 Snapchat demographic
117 Nuts
118 In words
DOWN
1 Kind of pyramid
2 TV's Kelly
3 Educ. book category
4 "Wind" (song from "Dirty Dancing")
5 Sunday reading
6 Supporter of the %
7 Advances on
8 Missile name
9 Got to the point?
10 Eagerly adopt
11 Polish leader?
12 Developers' expanes
13 Profanities
14 Canadian business often connected to a Tim Hortons
15 Makes bail, e.g.
16 Talking points?
17 "Un Ballo in Maschera" aria
18 Some chorus members
19 "Like hell!"
20 Mollify
29 "Hold your horses"
32 Boosted, as an ego
34 Heels, for short?
35 Tiny indicator
36 Barely remembered season?
37 "Listen up, Lucia!"
39 Hoosier capital, informally
40 Detective writer Earl Biggers
43 Some loaves
44 Sports score most likely to be on the highlight reel?
45 Actress (Elizabeth with older twins)
46 Fagin's end
48 Pulled tight
49 Defib team
52 Post office workers, for short?
53 CBS series that, oddly, was filmed in L.A.
54 Sen. McConnell
56 "Downton Abbey" maid
59 Museum decoration
60 "Sherlock" channel, affectionately, with "the"
63 Bread box?
64 "De Monarchia" writer
65 He discusses divine providence in Job
66 Labyrinthine
67 An Amaz Busy travel day, maybe
70 Cheeky
71 Goes back into business
73 Venice's oldest bridge
75 "Fumes" is a form of it
76 Birds with inflatable neck sacs
78 "I Hamlet" (Paul Rudnick play)
79 Fumes may produce one
81 Financiers
84 Brand of gloves and slippers
85 Blitzed
87 Concertgoers who are into the hits?
88 Rice paper?: Abbr.
89 Desert steed
90 One of the Balearic Islands
91 County seat of Suffolk, England
93 Stuttgart sort
95 Specialized talk
96 2014 Baseball Hall of Fame inductee
97 The Beatles' "P.S. I Love You," e.g.
100 "The Two Pots" storyteller
102 College up the coast from L.A.
104 March time
105 Certain tourney overseer
106 TV spots
107 City near Presque Isle State Park
108 Like some tea leaves
111 Sports



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## FACES

# Geek streak

## TV comedy 'The Big Bang Theory' renewed for three more seasons

By YVONNE VILLARREAL  
Los Angeles Times

Here's an announcement written in the stars: CBS has renewed "The Big Bang Theory" for an additional three years, taking it into the 2016-2017 season.

It's the second time the series has scored a three-season renewal. And one doesn't need to be a science nerd to understand how the power behind the comedy's ratings plays into its life extension.

The Thursday series is TV's top-rated comedy among adults 18-49. The series, currently in its seventh season, is averaging a hefty 19.8 million viewers per

week and a whopping 6.1 among the 18-49 demo.

"Comedy is a big part of our schedule, and 'The Big Bang Theory' is the biggest comedy force on television," said Nina Tassler, chairman, CBS Entertainment, in a statement. "This multi-year deal further strengthens our network's position for future seasons and marks another chapter in the great partnership CBS enjoys with (show producer) Warner Bros. Television for delivering audiences the best in comedy. We're proud to work with and showcase the incredible talents of (executive producers) Chuck Lorre, Steve Molaro and this amazing cast every week."



With a three-season renewal from CBS, watchers will have the men of "The Big Bang Theory" — from left, Simon Helberg, Jim Parsons, Johnny Galecki and Kunal Nayyar — around through the 2016-2017 television season. The show is averaging 19.8 million viewers a week.

## 'Jeopardy!' champ Chu unseated after 12-day run

By FRAZIER MOORE  
The Associated Press

"Jeopardy!" champ Arthur Chu, who won big money while taking heat for his renegade style, has been defeated.

Chu finished in third place with zero dollars on Wednesday's edition of the syndicated quiz show. He had reigned for 12 days. His total winnings were \$297,200.

"A great run," summed up host Alex Trebek.

Chu was unseated by Diana Pelouquin of Ann Arbor, Mich., who led for the day with \$15,700.

Chu had struggled for most of the show when, in Final Jeopardy, he risked, and lost, his entire day's bankroll — \$6,400 — on the question: "He was the last monarch who had not previously been Prince of Wales."

Only Pelouquin had the correct response: George VI.

The 30-year-old Chu, a resident of Broadview Heights, Ohio, has described himself on Twitter as "mad genius, comedian, actor and freelance voiceover artist."

He applied a "mad genius" approach to "Jeopardy!" brinkmanship. He ditched the time-honored practice of polishing off each category's questions one by one. Instead, he took a hopscotch approach to his category choices, which tended to keep his opponents off-kilter. He also concluded that the bottom rows of the game board are most likely to contain the hidden Daily Doubles, and he played accordingly.

Chu's strategy fueled indignation from "Jeopardy!" traditionalists, who contended that such an aggressive style was somehow unsportsmanlike and exhibited a lack of respect for the game.



## 'Fifty Shades of Grey' mom says lead actor is 'such a sweet guy'

By ALICIA RANCILLO  
The Associated Press

Since being cast in the film adaptation of "Fifty Shades of Grey," Jamie Dornan, who plays the S&M-loving billionaire Christian Grey, has largely stayed out of the public eye.

Aside from being spotted on the streets of Vancouver, British Columbia, while filming the movie, the 31-year-old Dornan hasn't walked any red carpets or really talked about the role.

He did tweet on Jan. 1 from his official account, "looking forward to 2015," which hinted at the film's scheduled release next February.

This aura of mystery surrounding Dornan is a good thing, says Marcia Gay Harden, who plays his character's mother in the film. "I think the point is to have somebody mysterious because if you have somebody with too much pedigree to them ...

you can't stop thinking about the pedigree. You just can't. It's almost impossible in a film to do that. ... I think that would be very hard to do for that role, so I think it's good that he's a bit of a mystery."

Dornan had a recurring role on the TV show "Once Upon a Time" and starred in the Irish TV drama series "The Fall" as a serial killer who targets women.

So, what can she share about him? "He's beautiful. He's chiseled beauty and the camera eats it up. He's an Irish boy. ... A U.K.-based actor who has done a bit of film. He just had a baby (with wife Amelia Warner). ... He's a sweet guy. He does surfing. He sings little Irish ditties occasionally," she said.

As for playing the mom of such a sexually charged character, the 54-year-old Harden says her scenes were more PG-rated. "If you are not in the red play group of pain and pleasure with some naked flesh in your face and a sex toy in your hand, the experience of shooting the movie is most like doing any other movie. I'm the mom. I'm momma Grey," she joked.

It's good the actor playing Christian Grey in "Fifty Shades of Grey" has kept a low profile, says co-star Marcia Gay Harden.

AP

## Nick launching sports awards show; yes, stars will be slimed

The Associated Press

Nickelodeon is looking to slime some athletes. The network said Thursday it is starting a sports awards show modeled after its popular Kids' Choice Awards honoring the highs and lows in entertainment.

"Kids' Choice Sports 2014," with former football star and daytime talk-show host Michael Strahan as executive producer and host, is planned for July 17 in Los Angeles.

Nick viewers will vote on their favorite teams, players and sports moments — some serious, some not so serious. As always, some

of the stars will get "slimed," or covered in the bright green gunk that gets a young audience laughing.

The Kids' Choice Awards, to be held March 29 with Mark Wahlberg as host, is annually one of the network's most popular programs.

### Other news

Officials across much of the Muslim world said Thursday that the upcoming big-budget film "Noah" featuring Russell Crowe as the ark-building prophet will not be shown in local theaters because it could offend view-

ers. The decision comes after the film sparked controversy among conservative Christians in the U.S., which prompted Paramount Pictures to add a disclaimer to its marketing material saying that "artistic license has been taken" in telling the story.

The pioneers of hip-hop are hoping to create a museum in the Bronx in New York dedicated to the genre. Organizers say it would be called the Universal Hip Hop Museum. Afrika Bambaataa says the museum would look at the historical and cultural roots of hip-hop and the contributions made by break dancers and disc jockeys.

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Ernie Gates

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# OPINION

## Cut active-duty numbers and watch out

By JAY AMBROSE  
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

**L**et's shrivel our military and rescue ourselves from debt, say some. They are confused. They should note for starters that this is the second decade of the 21st century, a far distance from the days when military spending took up as much as half the budget. It's 18 percent now, a dwarf next to the budgetary Goliath it used to be. The Goliath today is entitlement programs.

Many people don't get that — it's not getting clear the Obama administration gets that — but the old news is that military spending came down significantly after the Soviet Union waved goodbye. Remember how economically jovial the Clinton years were? One reason was major military reductions in federal spending.

Today, however, you could start substituting pea shooters for drones as part of a transformation-to-tiny military budget and still witness bloat in overall spending over time as baby boomers retire and Medicare, Social Security and other programs usher us to a continent-shaking debt calamity.

Never mind, says the administration as it proposes something as simple as a pea-shooter initiative that includes the hacking of Army manpower to the lowest levels seen since before World War II. The president frets little about the entitlement threat, instead giving us another entitlement, something a third of Americans say has already made their lives worse despite

**When you run across liberals or libertarians telling you that we can cut military spending enormously, ask them about strategy.**

his legally dubious delays of its imposed tribulations. I speak of Obamacare. I speak of gross negligence.

The confusion about military spending does not end with faulty awareness of what's big and small in dollar distributions. It extends to the point of not knowing how dangerous the world still is or what kinds of strategies might make a difference.

You see, there's Russia, and there's Vladimir Putin, and while he is not exactly another Soviet premier, he is tap dancing in that direction. There's China playing bullying games with Japan and still making threats about Taiwan as it enlarges its military in another great leap forward. There's the nuclear-armed North Korea headed by someone whose less-than-reassuring character attributes appear to be murderousness and wackiness. We haven't even mentioned Africa or the Middle East or jihadism yet, and when you put it all together, it's not as if there's nothing that may need deterring, no possibility of ag-

gression requiring response.

No big deal, retort some, observing how our military is larger than the next 10 largest militaries without getting that it's not a helpful idea to make this a fairer fight if it comes to that. We want to win decisively with as little loss as possible and we want to keep it from coming to that by scaring possible aggressors to shivers and shakes. Not only that, but the challenges to us come from every possible direction, meaning our forces could be spread here, there and yonder fighting many enemies, some of them plenty powerful in plenty of ways.

Yes, it's true that any bureaucracy will have waste, that priorities and needs change, that readjustments are forever needed and that sometimes some savings are involved. But when you run across liberals or libertarians telling you that we can cut military spending enormously, ask them about strategy.

I asked a libertarian that once after a debate had arrived at a question-and-answer period, and he snarled that I was expecting him to say all we had to do was have weapons and troops on our shore lines. No. I was looking for an analysis equal to his opponent's intricate illustrations of what might achieve what where. As best I understood by the time this person had quit rambling in search of an answer was that he thought would just have weapons and troops on our shore lines.

I am sorry. It won't do.

Jay Ambrose is a McClatchy-Tribune columnist.

## If Putin succeeds, parts of Russia might secede

By DAVID IGNATIUS

**I**T'S STILL possible to imagine a fuzzy, face-saving compromise in Ukraine: Crimea would have a new, quasi-autonomous administrative status bestowed by Moscow and Kiev. The problem is that few analysts think Russian President Vladimir Putin will swallow this diplomatic pill.

Secretary of State John Kerry will make one more try, suing his Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in London on Friday; Kerry hasn't ruled out traveling on to see Putin himself. But that's unlikely to stop the planned referendum this Sunday in which Crimeans are almost certain to vote to break away from Ukraine.

What happens next, if Putin doesn't take Kerry's "offer"?" That's quite literally a guessing game among the Obama administration. Officials can't be sure how the Russian leader will move; they hope the West will stay united in imposing punitive sanctions, but that unity can't be guaranteed. Above all, U.S. officials are assessing whether the Ukraine crisis will mean a real breach in U.S.-Russian relations — one that could lead to joint diplomatic efforts over Syria and Iran — or whether common interests can prevail.

You hear two strains of opinion about Putin from administration officials and other foreign policy analysts. For simplicity's sake, let's summarize these two views as "Putin is strong" and "Putin is weak."

Those who see the Russian leader playing a strong hand argue that he has been reading such a military intervention for more than a decade. He invaded Georgia

in 2008 and faced little Western opposition. He has now used military force to protect Russia's interests in Ukraine and, perhaps, other neighboring states — prompting talk of sanctions but no serious military response. He has shown that a dictator's bullying tactics can be successful.

The alternative view of a weak Putin begins with the fundamentals: Russia is in political, economic and social decline. Putin's abrasive tactics, far from intimidating Ukraine, led its people to depose Russian-backed President Viktor Yanukovich last month and form a new government. By his truculent behavior, Putin has driven Russia's neighbors closer to NATO. A weak Putin, in this view, has stumbled into the very situation he most fears.

My guess is that Putin will be a winner only in the short run. The negatives for Russia have probably increased because of the events of the past month. Russia has likely lost most of Ukraine as a buffer state, and it may lose even more as a consolation prize. The world simply isn't moving Russia's way.

A small sign of Putin's long-term problem is that both China and Japan have pulled back from Moscow, thanks to the China adventure. China fears that the demagogue's moves could be used as a model for Tibet; Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who had been warming to Putin, has shown solidarity with America and Europe.

Will the Ukraine crisis prove a major turning point, tipping the world toward a new cold war? Despite the obvious dangers of confrontation, many analysts say that's unlikely. Should Crimeans endorse independence as expected, the Russian war-

rent may up the ante by voting to annex the region. But what may follow is a period in which the region's status is legally undefined, and the U.S. continues to seek a compromise between Kiev and Moscow. Putin could disrupt that by encouraging unrest in Russian-speaking cities of eastern Ukraine, such as Donetsk and Kharkiv — and threatening further intervention. But that risky course is unlikely.

U.S. officials also doubt that Russia will sabotage the chemical-weapons disposal agreement in Syria or the P5+1 negotiations to limit Iran's nuclear program. Putin has a personal stake in both, and they are symbols of Russia's influence. If Putin were to scuttle such diplomacy, it would deepen Russia's isolation.

It's also possible that the careful about the domestic consequences of his Crimea putsch. Yes, it has brought him popularity in Russia as a tough, nationalist leader. But it may also encourage secessionists in Dagestan, Chechnya and other potential breakaway regions.

The Ukraine showdown, in a sense, has been a confrontation, as Kerry argues, between a 19th-century style world view and a 21st-century approach. Putin's moves on the ground have been decisive, with immediate impact. The U.S.-led response has been collective, deliberative and slower to emerge. The world was impressed initially by the "shock and awe" of America's military intervention in Iraq in 2003. One thing on which Putin and President Barack Obama can agree is that the benefits of that military intervention didn't last.

David Ignatius is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

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## OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors are not necessarily affiliated with the associated press and other statewide syndicates.

### Stolen passports pose threat Boston Herald

It is apparently the dirty little secret of international airline travel that more than 1 billion times a year passengers board planes without ever having their passports checked against Interpol's database of 40 million lost or stolen passports.

Even as investigators searched for the Malaysia Airlines flight that disappeared out of the sky after leaving Kuala Lumpur, the tale of two men who boarded the jet with stolen passports was raising even more speculation about its fate. That the two men, ages 19 and 29, were Iranian, traveling together and traveling light, hasn't calmed any nerves.

But even if the two turn out to be simply unfortunate travelers — along with the other 237 souls on board — there is now no longer denying the security lapses that are a part of hopping a flight from most locations around the globe.

Only a relative handful of countries — the United States, Britain, the United Arab Emirates — both to check passengers' passports against the Interpol database.

Interpol Secretary General Ronald Noble said his agency has long asked why countries would "wait for a tragedy to put prudent security measures in place at borders and boarding gates."

Fighting terrorism isn't the only reason for making those cross-checks either. There really is no good reason to be traveling with a stolen passport, nor is there? That's why smugglers, money launderers, criminals of all sorts.

The other takeaway from this disaster is the revelation that Thailand is apparently the stolen passport capital of the world, where gangs of thieves have been known to go room to room at less-secure hotels.

It is time to get up to travelers to vote with their feet and their travel dollars for nations and airlines that put security first.

### CIA overstepped on documents Newsday

In a stunning public eruption of bad blood, Senate Intelligence Committee Chairwoman Dianne Feinstein blasted the CIA on Tuesday for clandestinely removing certain documents about the agency's activities from her committee's computers.

The documents were among 6.2 million pages the CIA had provided to the committee for its investigation of the agency's detention program in which terrorism suspects were subjected to enhanced use of interrogation techniques later discredited as torture.

CIA officials said they searched the computers to uncover how the committee gained access to the agency's internal review of the detention program. But snootiness was subject to public enhancement as the agency's activities from her committee's computers.

There is no acceptable reason for the CIA to surreptitiously interfere with a congressional investigation of its operations. Such oversight is an important congressional responsibility. It's absolutely essential when the agency in question operates in secrecy.

When the committee launched its probe in 2009, the CIA provided the documents via computers in Virginia. In December 2012, the committee completed a 6,300-page report that, while not public, is reportedly scathingly critical of the CIA. The agency disputed many of the committee's assertions in a written response. But that



response was at odds with the findings of the CIA's own internal investigation of the program that had been summarized for then-Director Leon Panetta.

Feinstein, D-Calif., said the "Panetta review," which agreed with the Senate committee's findings, was among the documents the CIA removed from the panel's computers. She accused the CIA of breaking federal laws that bar it from conducting domestic searches, undermining the separation of powers and attempting to intimidate her committee.

If crimes were committed, perpetrators should be prosecuted. And if Feinstein's account is verified, heads should roll at the CIA.

### Gillibrand bill was a better fix The Dallas Morning News

There is no doubt, as Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., told colleagues last week, that members of Congress trust the military chain of command. The problem, she pointed out, is that victims of sexual assault do not.

The Department of Defense found that in 2012, there were an estimated 26,000 sexual assaults in the military — but only 3,374 were reported. Fewer than 10 percent of those — 302 — were prosecuted.

Such abysmal numbers led Gillibrand to write a bill placing responsibility for sexual assault cases in the hands of seasoned prosecutors rather than military commanders. And they were enough to persuade a majority of Gillibrand's colleagues to support her bill last week, including both Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., as well as tea party firebrand Ted Cruz, R-Texas. But a majority wasn't enough. Gillibrand's bill was defeated on a procedural vote when it fell five votes short of a filibuster-proof majority.

In its place, the Senate unanimously passed a much tamer bill by Sen. Claire McCaskill, D-Mo., that would get rid of the "good soldier" defense that allows the positive service record of an accused to be taken into account.

The shameful defeat of Gillibrand's bill was sandwiched between two news stories that illustrated how insidious and far-reaching sexual assaults have become in the military.

Just hours before the vote, the armed services newspaper Stars and Stripes revealed the suspension of the Army's top sexual assault prosecutor amid allegations that he had, in 2011, groped and kissed a lawyer who worked for him. At a sexual assault legal conference.

The day after the vote, the trial of Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair opened in Fort Bragg, N.C. Sinclair — himself once a key link in the chain of command — is accused of twice forcing a captain to engage in oral sex after she tried to break off a secret

three-year affair. Sinclair, who is facing a forcible sodomy charge, is also accused of grabbing the captain's genitalia against her will and having sex with her in public.

Opponents of the measure, such as McCaskill, Karl Levin, D-Mich.; and Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. — all members of the Senate Armed Services Committee — as well as the DOD, worried that Gillibrand's bill would undermine commanders' authority. And they say, there's no proof that taking sexual assault cases out of commanders' hands would discourage retaliation or promote more reporting.

The proof, it would seem, is in the numbers. Given the military's categorical failure in dealing with sexual assaults, anything that seriously shakes up the military justice system would have been an improvement.

### Economy still underperforming Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

February's job creation figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics last week underline the continuing pathetic state of the American job market.

New jobs for the month numbered a middling 175,000, but the three-month average including January and normally vigorous December activity was a pale 121,000. The unemployment rate was 6.7 percent, masking a 205,000-person increase in long-term joblessness among Americans, a number now standing at 3.8 million. Wild-eyed optimists, perhaps seeking to jack up the stock market, proposed that the February figure would have been higher if the weather had been better in parts of the country.

It is clear that drastic action needs to be taken if the situation of high unemployment, lowering quality of jobs and low, stagnant pay is no longer to persist in an economy that has been in recession since 2008.

President Barack Obama's cheerleading on the subject, or Democratic efforts to blame it on the Republicans, or vice versa, should be of no satisfaction to Americans. Whether the Federal Reserve Bank continues to hand lollipops or tapers them, in the form of quantitative easing to America's banks to fatten their uninvested reserves or to increase the bonuses they pay the rich people who run them, is also of no major interest to Americans who want to work, or who want to be paid a living wage for the work they do.

These latest job figures support a contention that serious action needs to be taken by federal and state legislators and legislators to tackle the problem. The fact that many of them will be bus-y this year pursuing money from the non-job-creators to finance their re-elections serves as a clear message to taxpayers to turn them out of office in the primaries and in November, and on their far-inadequate performance in the face of an employment crisis.

### Let US export natural gas Charleston (W.Va.) Daily Mail

Right now, Europe would love nothing more than to stop Vladimir Putin from re-assembling the old Evil Empire of the Soviet Union. But Putin has Europe cornered this winter. Russia supplies 36 percent of the natural gas consumed by Germans.

Twelve other European countries are even more dependent, with the three Baltic states and Finland receiving all of their natural gas from Mother Russia. It is difficult to stand up to someone when you are shivering from the cold.

West Virginia can help. The U.S. Energy Information Agency estimates that West Virginia and its neighbors are sitting on 141 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in the Marcellus shale formation. Surely some natural gas from West Virginia and other sources in the U.S. can be sold and shipped to Europe to end the Russian monopoly.

But federal law restricts exports of natural gas, as House Speaker John Boehner pointed out in a column in The Wall Street Journal.

"These policies have amounted to our nation imposing economic sanctions on itself — sentencing consumers in the U.S. and abroad to higher prices and slower growth while ceding the international energy marketplace to countries such as Russia, Venezuela and Iran," Boehner wrote.

Boehner called upon President Barack Obama to approve the Keystone pipeline, lift his restrictions on oil and gas from federal lands and expedite applications to export liquefied natural gas.

Ending the Russian monopoly on natural gas throughout central and eastern Europe would allow those nations to be truly independent of Putin and Russia. Sales of natural gas from the U.S. to Europe would hurt Moscow in the pocketbook as half of Russian tax revenues come from oil and gas exports. The soft power of exporting energy would be far more effective than the current timid diplomacy displayed by Europe and Washington.

The drill, baby, drill — and make the world a safer and more peaceful place.

### Border Patrol priority is safety The Arizona Republic

The U.S. Border Patrol, kicking and screaming, last week announced clarifications in its use-of-force policies.

They are small changes, just a statement of common sense. That they have to be said — and first by press reports — is a pressure from Congress and the press — says much about the need for greater oversight and restraint at this agency.

Border Patrol Chief Michael Fisher told agents to stop jumping in front of vehicles they're trying to stop. He said they can no longer fire at the tires of vehicles fleeing from agents. "And if someone starts throwing rocks at them, agents should move out of range instead of immediately shooting.

Recommendations to this effect were blacked out of a congressionally requested report into 19 deaths, only to later be revealed by press reports. That's an indication that enough pressure driven by disturbing truths can bring change even to this recalcitrant agency.

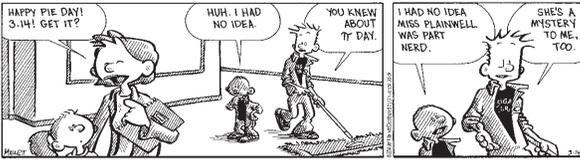
Had those policies been in force, Jose Antonio Elena Rodriguez might be alive today. He's the 16-year-old boy shot in the back while on release down a street in Nogales, Sonora. Border Patrol agents firing through the fence hit him multiple times.

Pressure needs to continue on the agency to fully reveal its use-of-force policies, as all other police agencies do. The Border Patrol needs to be pressed to acknowledge how often and release down a street in Nogales, Sonora. Border Patrol agents firing through the fence hit him multiple times.

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Frazz



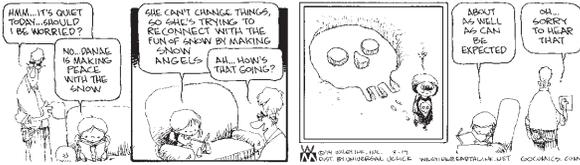
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



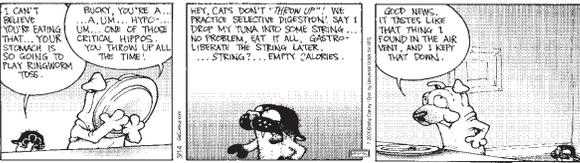
Non Sequitur



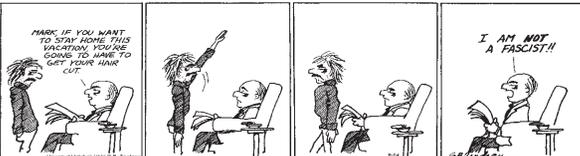
Candorville



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							
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27	28		29	30						
31	32	33				34				
35				36		37				
38				39	40		41	42	43	44
			45				46			47
48	49	50	51							52
53						54				55
56						57				58

ACROSS

- 1 NHL Hall of Famer Neely
- 4 "Erie Canal" mule
- 7 Impetuous
- 12 In the manner of
- 13 La-la lead-in
- 14 Two under par
- 15 Fond du —, WI
- 16 Amuse
- 18 "— Believer"
- 19 Paris subway
- 20 Chicks and ducks
- 22 vast expanse
- 23 Ache
- 27 Surprise cries
- 29 Hit
- 31 Grammarian's concern
- 34 Lubricated
- 35 Sandwich meat
- 37 "Oh yeah?" — who?"

DOWN

- 1 Nev. neighbor
- 2 Memorabile mission
- 3 Showy parrot
- 4 Goblet feature
- 5 "Gunsmoke" star
- 6 Starbucks offering
- 7 Medal earner
- 8 Chow down
- 9 Khan title
- 10 Roman 551
- 11 Longing
- 17 Geological periods
- 21 Boston airport
- 23 Award
- 24 Be under the weather
- 25 Eisenhower
- 26 Homer's neighbor
- 28 Height of fashion?
- 30 Stocking stuffer?
- 31 Dos Passos trilogy pianist
- 33 Hearty brew
- 36 Press
- 37 Calm
- 40 Totally lacking
- 42 Keglers' mecca
- 43 Strainer
- 44 Largest of the 48
- 45 Penny
- 46 Deuce topper
- 48 Male swan
- 49 "Entourage" role
- 50 Disencumber
- 51 "The Raven" writer

Answer to Previous Puzzle

H	E	S	J	A	V	A	J	I	M	I
O	V	A	A	G	A	R	E	P	I	C
V	A	G	A	B	O	N	D	Z	O	N
	A	R	B	S	O	M	E	D	A	Y
S	U	M	M	E	R		R	U	B	
O	N	O	R	E	D		D	E	P	O
B	I	R	D		F	O	G	L	A	M
S	T	E	E	P	W	A	D	G	E	M
	B	A	R		D	E	L	A	N	O
S	Q	U	A	R	E	D		P	I	N
A	U	N	T		M	A	G	A	Z	I
R	I	D	E		A	V	E	R	N	I
A	D	O	S		P	E	L	T	I	N

3-14

CRYPTOQUIP

QWKJ SWK WIZZYRDJK DS  
 LKD FKNAXYLWKF DXX SWK  
 LWYG'L LDYX LIGGAZSKZL.  
 YS QDL NDLS FKLSZIRSYAJ.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ACTRESS TYSON HAD LIVED ON A BIG ITALIAN ISLAND, SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN CICELY FROM SICILY.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals L

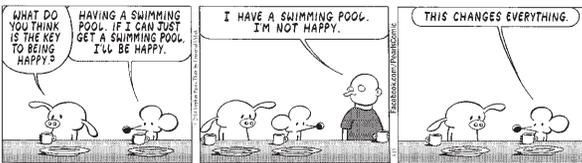
Frazz



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				
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38	39	40				41			42	43	44
45					46				47		
48					49				50		
51					52				53		

#### ACROSS

- 1 Half pint
- 4 Hot tubs
- 8 Pepsi rival
- 12 Consumed
- 13 Yoopers' st.
- 15 Potential syrup
- 16 Daughter of Elizabeth
- 17 Take out of context?
- 18 1980 Brooke Shields movie
- 21 Jungfrau, for one
- 22 Recline
- 23 Unisex casualwear
- 26 Hit hard
- 27 Honest politician
- 30 Eager
- 31 Elmer, to bugs
- 32 Overly proper one
- 33 Enraged
- 34 Dispensable treat
- 35 Cajun stew
- 36 In favor of
- 37 Old letter opener
- 38 Beyonce and Jay-Z's child
- 45 Highway division
- 46 "— the Mood for Love"
- 47 Chopper
- 48 "Metamorphoses" poet
- 49 Highlander
- 50 Art medium

#### DOWN

- 1 Group on stage
- 2 Hexagonal state
- 3 LePew of cartoons
- 4 Rap legend Biggie
- 5 Centerfold, e.g.
- 6 Dermatology subject
- 7 Defeat decisively
- 8 Mooch
- 9 Sandwich treat
- 10 Narc's measure
- 11 Paradise
- 12 Musical group
- 20 Intend
- 23 Toast topper
- 24 Moorwalk acronym
- 25 Help
- 26 Peri's "Frasier" role
- 27 Get ready to rumble
- 28 Clothes protector
- 29 Swelled head
- 31 Muslim ascetic
- 32 Contented sound
- 34 Luau dish
- 35 New York squad
- 36 Nourishes
- 37 Offspring
- 38 Amorphous mass
- 39 Volcanic flow
- 40 Troop group
- 41 Village People hit
- 42 New Mexico art colony
- 43 Way out
- 44 Depend (on)

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

C	A	M	S	A	L	H	E	A	D	Y	
A	L	A	T	R	A	E	A	G	L	E	
L	A	C	E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N
F	O	W	L	S	E	A	P	A	I	N	
		O	H	S	S	T	R	I	K	E	
U	S	A	G	E	O	I	L	E	D		
S	A	L	A	M	I	S	E	Z			
A	M	E	N	R	O	E	E	A	S	T	
				C	O	U	R	T	L	I	E
C	A	R	P	E	N	T	E	R	L	E	X
O	R	I	O	N	O	N	E	E	V	A	
B	I	D	E	T	F	E	Y	E	S		

#### 3-15 CRYPTOQUIP

MIJ HPXHMRA IHQ OHUWJQ  
RS BJPJAHG JEMAH ORLSQB.  
BR BRKJRSJ JEUGHXKJQ.

"MIJ OXGRM MIXUWJSB!"  
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN THE HURRICANE AT SEA DEMOLISHED ALL THE SHIP'S SAIL SUPPORTERS, IT WAS MAST DESTRUCTION.  
Today's Cryptquip Clue: R equals O

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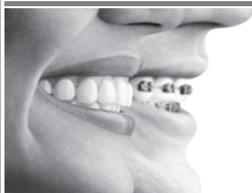
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Announcements 040

SCAM FADS

Classifieds scam can target both sellers and buyers with classified advertisements. Beware of the common red flags. Some of the latest Scam fads are:
- Vehicles buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using paypal.
- People paying Free Dog different breeds for adoption.

Announcements 040

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Events 041

FREE Pancake Breakfast! The Knights of Columbus Timothy J. Maude Council #10262 will give a FREE Pancake Breakfast on 30 March 2014 at the ACS Cafeteria on Hansenberg from 10:00 to 1400 hours. The Pancake Breakfast is FREE to everyone, bring your appetite and come on out and enjoy some good food and fellowship! 314-537-3139 joseph.e.bleasby.civ@mail.mil

Automotive 140

Audi, A4 Avant 5-Line 17 \$2500. Audi A4 S-Line 17 \$ 5200 r/m. Used with a few scratches. Car was totaled with current tires on it and now I have these tires sitting in my garage. Write tires on them and save. Durac suspension 205-65-17 but they won't pass inspection. Needed to be replaced this summer, but no longer have to make it to the end of the month in front of me. Thanks. Email: jay@bawauto.com or request: Jay 0151-5783361

Automotive 140

Chevrolet, Camaro, 1996 2000, 1950 171 from a 96 228. This was going to go into my 82 Ford, but I no longer have the car so selling my stockpile. I have everything for the fuel injection pump, intake, wiring harness, fuel control, 1500 carburator which is what I was going to use. I have a stock trim for 1500, or with everything to go carburetor to 1500. I will also include EFI stuff. 0162072@bawauto.com

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BMW, 157 Rims, 1989 100.0m. I am selling a BMW alloy rims 157. The rims are in fair condition. Good for BMW wheels. I can provide more info or photos. ec829y@gmail.com

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Automotive 140

Automotive 140

BMW, M3 Convertible, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6 M3. New car condition. 15000.0m. Chevrolet, 2008. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, 2008. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

Cadillac, DeVille, 1986 2000, 1950 171 from a 96 228. This was going to go into my 82 Ford, but I no longer have the car so selling my stockpile. I have everything for the fuel injection pump, intake, wiring harness, fuel control, 1500 carburator which is what I was going to use. I have a stock trim for 1500, or with everything to go carburetor to 1500. I will also include EFI stuff. 0162072@bawauto.com

Automotive 140

Chevrolet, Camaro, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, 2008. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Audi, A4 Sedan, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Audi, A4 Sedan, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, Camaro, 1989 2000, 1950 171 from a 96 228. This was going to go into my 82 Ford, but I no longer have the car so selling my stockpile. I have everything for the fuel injection pump, intake, wiring harness, fuel control, 1500 carburator which is what I was going to use. I have a stock trim for 1500, or with everything to go carburetor to 1500. I will also include EFI stuff. 0162072@bawauto.com

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

BMW, 320D, 2007 201000.0m. New car condition. V6. BMW, 320D, 2007 201000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

BMW, 328i Convertible, Hardtop, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. BMW, 328i Convertible, Hardtop, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

BMW, 528i Kombi Wagon, 2005 201000.0m. New car condition. V6. BMW, 528i Kombi Wagon, 2005 201000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

BMW, M3 Convertible, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. BMW, M3 Convertible, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, Camaro, 1989 2000, 1950 171 from a 96 228. This was going to go into my 82 Ford, but I no longer have the car so selling my stockpile. I have everything for the fuel injection pump, intake, wiring harness, fuel control, 1500 carburator which is what I was going to use. I have a stock trim for 1500, or with everything to go carburetor to 1500. I will also include EFI stuff. 0162072@bawauto.com

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, 2000 Limited, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Chevrolet, Dodge Grand Caravan, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, Dodge Grand Caravan, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

Chevrolet, Town and Country, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Chevrolet, Town and Country, 2005 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Automotive 140

Cadillac, DeVille, 1986 2000, 1950 171 from a 96 228. This was going to go into my 82 Ford, but I no longer have the car so selling my stockpile. I have everything for the fuel injection pump, intake, wiring harness, fuel control, 1500 carburator which is what I was going to use. I have a stock trim for 1500, or with everything to go carburetor to 1500. I will also include EFI stuff. 0162072@bawauto.com

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Autos For Sale -Germany 142

Fiat 5 speed 200, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6. Fiat 5 speed 200, 2011 2012. 15000.0m. New car condition. V6.

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Motorcycles 164

Harley-Davidson -SOFTAIL CUSTOM FXSTC. 2012 \$3000.0m. New car condition. V6. Harley-Davidson -SOFTAIL CUSTOM FXSTC. 2012 \$3000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Motorcycles 164

Harley-Davidson -SOFTAIL CUSTOM FXSTC. 2012 \$3000.0m. New car condition. V6. Harley-Davidson -SOFTAIL CUSTOM FXSTC. 2012 \$3000.0m. New car condition. V6.

Motorcycles 164

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Motorcycles 164

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NBA

Scoreboard

**Eastern Conference**

**Atlantic Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	16	27	37.1	—
Brooklyn	33	30	52.4	3
New York	26	40	39.4	11½
Boston	22	43	33.8	15
Philadelphia	12	49	23.4	21½

**Southeast Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
xMiami	44	18	71.0	—
Washington	33	31	51.6	12
Charlotte	31	34	47.7	14½
Atlanta	27	35	43.5	17
Orlando	19	47	28.8	27

**Central Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
xIndiana	47	17	73.4	—
Cleveland	48	16	75.0	—
Detroit	25	40	38.5	22½
Cleveland	27	37	42.1	24½
Milwaukee	13	51	20.3	34

**Western Conference**

**Southwest Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	44	16	73.1	—
Houston	40	20	68.8	4
Memphis	38	26	59.4	10
Dallas	27	37	42.1	20
New Orleans	16	38	40.6	22

**Northwest Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Oklahoma City	47	17	73.4	—
Portland	32	23	58.4	5½
Minnesota	32	31	50.8	14½
Denver	27	36	43.0	19
Utah	22	43	33.8	25½

**Pacific Division**

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	36	20	69.7	—
Golden State	41	25	62.1	5
Phoenix	36	26	57.7	9
Sacramento	23	42	35.4	22½
L.A. Lakers	12	42	28.3	34

**Wednesday's games**

Detroit 120, Orlando 112  
 Sacramento 115, Philadelphia 98  
 Charlotte 98, Washington 85  
 Brooklyn 96, Miami 89  
 Toronto 101, Detroit 87  
 New York 116, Boston 92  
 Memphis 90, New Orleans 88  
 Dallas 100, Utah 101  
 San Antonio 103, Portland 90  
 Cleveland 110, Phoenix 101  
 L.A. Clippers 111, Golden State 98

**Thursday's games**

Houston at Chicago  
 Milwaukee at Atlanta  
 L.A. Lakers at Oklahoma City

**Friday's games**

Washington at Orlando  
 Indiana at Philadelphia  
 Memphis at Toronto  
 Minnesota at Charlotte  
 Phoenix at Boston  
 Denver at Miami  
 Portland at New Orleans  
 L.A. Lakers at San Antonio  
 L.A. Clippers at Utah  
 Cleveland at Golden State

**Saturday's games**

Milwaukee at New York  
 Brooklyn at Washington  
 Denver at Atlanta  
 Indiana at Detroit  
 Memphis at Philadelphia  
 Sacramento at Chicago

# Silver doesn't see teams 'tanking'

By JIMMY GOLEN  
 The Associated Press

BOSTON — You call it "tanking." NBA Commissioner Adam Silver calls it "rebuilding."

That's what the league's new boss said Wednesday when asked whether the NBA needed to do more to discourage teams from pinning their hopes on the draft lottery. Limiting the definition of tanking — at one point referring to it as "the T-word" — to intentionally losing individual games, Silver says he doesn't think it exists.

"The coaches and players, or some subset of that group, trying to lose, I don't think that's going on anywhere in the NBA," he told reporters after a speech to the Chief Executives' Club of Boston at a downtown hotel. "And I would take action immediately if I thought it was."

Silver didn't rule out changes that would eliminate the perception that teams aren't trying to win.

"We have a system in place that encourages teams to rebuild," he said after the talk sponsored by Boston College in the hometown of the Celtics, who are among the league's rebuilding teams. "They are responding to the incentives that are built into the system. If the incentives aren't right, we have to change them."

The year's draft is expected to be stocked with superstars like Andrewiggins and Jabari Parker, giving teams the hope that they will land a franchise player to lead them out of the lottery.

So when the Celtics traded away Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce — and even let coach Doc Rivers walk — they could at least hope that help would be coming soon. Same for the Philadelphia 76ers, who after trading away Spencer Hawes and former No. 2 overall pick Evan Turner in February lost 18 games in a row heading into Thursday.

Silver noted that winning the draft lottery

is no guarantee of getting back to the playoffs. And he added that having the worst record only gives a team a one-in-four chance of landing the first pick (though this year, with a deeper draft of potential superstars, the team with the worst record would be guaranteed the chance to pick one of them).

Silver said that as long as the players and coaches on the floor are trying to win games, he doesn't have a problem with organizations trying to rebuild. Asked if fans were getting their money's worth for season's worth of games in which their team was hoping to lose, he said fans are usually patient if they think the lottery will pay off.

"Fans want to be part of a vision," Silver said.

Also Wednesday, Silver repeated his goal of changing the "one-and-done" rule that allows college players to enter the NBA after one NCAA season; he would prefer an age limit of 20 years-old. Another option would be for the NCAA to allow players to sign with an agent and be drafted but remain in school.

Silver said he would like to work with USA Basketball and the NCAA on keeping players in college longer, which would help athletes develop into better basketball players. It would also help the NCAA.

Such a change would have to be bargained with the NBA players' union. Because the union leadership is in flux, Silver all-but ruled out a change for next year.

In what he called the first formal address of his term as commissioner, Silver joked that a month or so ago he wouldn't be allowed into a group limited to CEOs. Several questions from the group were answered by him noting that he's only been on the job six weeks.

But the new commissioner — just the fifth in NBA history — clearly entered office with a list of goals. On other topics, Silver said:

■ The NBA schedule is too compact to play regular-season games in Europe, or to consider putting an expansion franchise there. The league would probably not expand to the con-



CHARLES KRUPA/AP

**NBA commissioner Adam Silver gestures during a speech Wednesday in Boston. Silver commented on some teams with losing records "tanking" towards the end of a season as an effort to rebuild through the NBA draft.**

tinued until it was ready for a whole division of European teams, he said.

■ He has been pleased with the way Jason Collins has been received after joining the Brooklyn Nets and becoming the first openly gay player in a major U.S. sport. Silver said Collins has reported no incidents. "I like the way that, shortly after he joined the team, he became just another player," Silver said.

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# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## Baseball preview

# Kubasaki 'excited' to be favorites

## D-I champs loaded with experience

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — It was as improbable a championship as Randy Toor and Kubasaki's baseball team could have reasonably expected.

With almost all observers saying everybody else was playing for second place behind prohibitive favorite American School in Japan, the Dragons stunned the Mustangs 1-0 in the semifinals last May, en route to their second Far East Division I Tournament title in four years.

There'll be no such surprises this season, Toor, the Dragons' ninth-year coach, acknowledged. His senior-laden troupe, well-stocked with both veteran and young arms, now assumes the D-I favorites label and the virtual bull's-eyes that go with it.

"I think they wouldn't have it any other way, everybody coming after them," Toor said. "They've been through it all. Practices are still intense. They're excited."

The pieces are certainly in place for the Dragons to make a run at a ninth straight Okinawa series win, as well as trying to make it three D-I titles since the inaugural Far East tournament in

2010.

Pitcher-shortstop Tommy Warren, catcher Shoichiro Vivras, second baseman Jaren Blessett and left-handed workhorse Angelo Bourdony are each three-year Dragons veterans. Junior Renton Poole — who outdueled ASIJ's Justin Novak in that semifinal upset — ranks as the staff ace.

Backing that leadership group is a pair of sophomore hurlers, Victor Belloc and Justin LeBlanc, each of whom saw plenty of innings in 2013.

If there's a question mark with Kubasaki, it may be depth, Toor said. "We'll be OK if we keep everybody healthy," he said, adding that while fatigue shouldn't be a factor since the players have worked out on their own, "injuries we have to avoid."

Toor says he and his charges know they'll get a challenge from Kadena, a three-time Far East D-I runner-up, and its triad of seniors Dominic Shea and Cody Prince and junior Justin Sego. The Panthers went back to the future, bringing back 2011 Panthers coach David Compton.

Another potential menace is Seoul American, with the McDonald brothers (Alex, Blake and Chase) and their father and



ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki left-hander Angelo Bourdony is one of four three-year starters returning to a team that's won two Far East Division I Tournament titles since 2010 and eight straight Okinawa district titles.

coach, Joel. And the Dragons get fire-tested right away when they visit ASIJ and St. Mary's this weekend.

"Great way to start the season," Toor said.

In Division II, two-time Far East champion Edgrem must overcome the loss of its entire rotation. But assistant coach Steven Bennett says freshman Kyle

Peterson and sophomore Khal- em Shabazz, the Eagles' football quarterback, have shown promise early.

Other youngsters such as Jackson Edmonds and J.P. Krussick and baseball newcomer Dorion Dillon are expected to make contributions, while meshing with upperclassmen such as senior Izzy Leon, who has been instru-

mental in recruiting and mentoring young players, Bennett said.

The dean of DODDS Pacific coaches, Tom Allensworth, is back for a 16th season with D-II runner-up Zama. The Trojans also feature a mix of veterans and youth in seniors Christian Venzauskas and Saad Almomary and sophomore Keyil Sasano.

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## Softball preview

# Kadena, Kinnick could meet again in D-I final

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — The memory gnaws at Kelli Wilson and Kadena's softball team's veterans.

One timing away from a 1-0 win over Kinnick in the Far East Division I Tournament final last May, the Panthers saw their title hopes evaporate in a two-run Red Devils rally.

"We think about it every day, but not in the context that we lost by a run, but that it should have been ours and we want to bring it home," said Wilson, the third-year Kadena coach.

It would have been Kadena's second straight D-I title and third in four years, on top of the Panthers' winning their 10th Okinawa series in 11 seasons.

Instead, Kinnick, after three straight DODDS Japan championships and two near-misses in the D-I tournament, finally broke through for that 2-1 triumph last May 23.

And the two teams seem to have the components to keep up their in-season success and perhaps meet again in the next D-I final on May 21.

"We should be competitive," said Kinnick coach Katrina Kemper, who brings back, among other veterans, the difference-maker for the Red Devils last sea-

**"We think about it every day, but not in the context that we lost by a run, but that it should have been ours and we want to bring it home."**

Kelli Wilson  
Kadena softball coach

shortstop.

Several Panthers play year-round on the Lady Ambassadors club team and "will see significant playing time" for Kadena as well, Wilson said.

Seoul American, with its solid contingent of pitchers including senior Julia Ring, also might challenge, but the Falcons are limited to playing the three DODDS Korea Division II teams, coach Julian Harden said.

Among the Division II teams, Daegu's Warriors appear primed for a run at a second straight Far East title, after rallying to beat E. J. King 15-10 in the final.

A core of five veterans, including seniors Christina Henry (pitcher, outfield), Rachel Wyche (catcher) and Kaylah Black (shortstop, outfield), have returned and are working to develop the team's younger players, new coach Marti Gross said. "All of the players are improving and ready to compete" for the D-II and DODDS Korea titles, Gross said.

Cobras coach McKinzy Best returns seven seniors, including pitcher Deanna Austin, but his four senior starters are playing new positions, Best said. Zama, champion in 2012, must replace its entire pitching staff and most of its infield, coach Adele Collins said.

ornaue.dave@stripes.com



CHIHARU GOMEZ/Special to Stars and Stripes

Senior right-hander Kelly Osterbrink, shown pitching in Kinnick's 2-1 Far East Division I Tournament title-clinching win over Kadena last year, will be the cornerstone of the Red Devils' pitching staff in 2014.

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## Baseball team capsules

### Division I

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Seventh place.  
**Coach:** Steve Brown, second season.  
**Key performers:** Alex McDonald, Jr.; Blake McDonald; Sean McDonald; Matt Miller; Charlie Dillon, Jr.; Matt O'Neal, Jr.; Jess Cabella, Jr.; Jared Kowal.  
**Outlook:** Reloading-contending. Plenty of potential for a deep run in the D-I title the Falcons won in Breaqu in 2012. Six strong arms for assistant and former head coach Bob Heckerl to work with. Core of former All-Far East players in Alex McDonald, Kent and Miyagi.

### Kadena

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Sixth after three runner-up finishes.  
**Coach:** Clayton Robinson, second season.  
**Key performers:** Cody Simpson, C-P; Dominic Sheehan, C-P; Nathan Sato, C-P.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Going back to the future in bringing back momentum. Who was the team's third coach, they've had six in 11 seasons. Great depth on the mound in veterans Prince, Shea and Sego, but the rest is a work in progress. Compton said.

### Kubasaki

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Defending champions.  
**Coach:** Randy Toor, ninth season.  
**Key performers:** Tommy Warren, Sr., P-SS-3B; Angelo Beldorcy, Sr., LF-1B-P; Shoichiro Vivas, Sr.; Jaren Blessett, Sr., 2B-3B-SS; Brenton Poole, Jr., RF-P; Victor Bellard, Sr., P; Justin LeBlanc, Sr., RF-P.  
**Outlook:** Contending. Not much to be surprised as they were last year in stunning highly favored American School in Japan 1-0 in the D-I semifinals, but they still struggle and veteran-led depth may be an issue. Toor said. Poole is the ace of a solid pitching rotation.

### Yokota

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fifth place.  
**Coach:** Steven Ferch, Shannon Laliberte, second seasons.  
**Key performers:** Leo Austin, Jr., P-SS-3B; Jacob Mansberger, Sr., CF-P; Sotai Silvermirth, C; Clay Brown, Jr., RF-P; AJL Tsukao, Sr., 1B; Marcus Hensgang, Sr., 2B.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding-reloading. Same coaches at the helm for two straight years for first time in six years. Only three players who saw significant innings return. Almost half the roster is comprised of freshmen with little diamond experience. Jonathan Mansberger isn't playing this season to concentrate on his golf game.

### Kinnick

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fourth place.  
**Coach:** Brad Stark, second season.  
**Key performers:** Daniel Ross, P; Dion Williams, Sr., SS; Bradley Burt, Sr., UT; Chris McDonald, Jr., 1B; Matt Ross, Jr., 2B.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Will be competitive, but the Red Devils could struggle. FC of Kinnick among the usual favorites, Kubasaki, ASU and St. Mary's.

### Division II

### Edgren

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Champion.  
**Coach:** Brett Lehner, sixth season (assisted by Steven Bennett).  
**Key performers:** Izzy Leou, Sr., IF-P; Will Appel, Jr., 1B; Isaac Victorino, Jr., RF; Josh Sulzer, Sr.; Dorion Dillon, Sr.; Jackson Edmonds, So., P; Kiraheim Shabazz, So., P; J.P. Krustick, Jr., CF; Kyle Peterson, Jr., P.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Like most Eagles spring teams, development is hindered by snow, which keeps the practice fields at Misawa Air Base soaked in until early April. The team came out of two straight banners despite those handicaps. The Eagles lost to the Red Devils in the D-I title game, but are hopeful Shabazz and Peterson can fill the gap.

### Zama

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Runner-up.  
**Coach:** Tom Allensworth, 16th season (assisted by Steven Venzlaukas).  
**Key performers:** Christian Venzlaukas, Sr., P-SS; Saad Almorony, Sr., 2B-1B; Kei'yl Sasano, So., P-SS; Lance Miner, Sr., P.  
**Outlook:** Reloading-contending at the D-II level. The team's Pacific basin participation returns after a four-season hiatus. Good blend of veterans and youth. Almorony and Miner have been together more, having played the game most of his life. Venzlaukas and Almorony will form a solid leadership pair



KAYLA BODWIN/Special to Stars and Stripes

**Kei'yl Sasano, a sophomore pitcher-infielder, joins seniors Saad Almorony and Christian Venzlaukas in providing leadership and experience for Zama's baseball team that finished second in the Far East Division II Tournament last May.**

and will play vital infield and pitching roles.

### E.J. King

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fourth place.  
**Coaches** — Billy Clites, second season (coached in 2012).  
**Key performers:** Brandon Jones, SS; Tyler Hick, Jr., C; James Truluck, Jr., P-SS; Tyler Lanson, Jr., OF.  
**Outlook:** Still building. Clites says the team has just eight players and he's scrambling to find more to fill the roster. Assistant principal Hank Lefebvre said the team may have to fold if it can't find numbers. Good batting and fielding among the eight Clites does have. Hicks, Lanson and Jones are strong bats. Truluck sports a solid glove in the infield.

### Perry

**Coach:** Frank Macias, second season.  
**Key performers:** Eric Cox, Sr., 1B; Austin Macias, Sr., SS; Billy Esgrin, C; Cullen Waugh, Jr., C-P.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. In the team's third year of existence since it folded back in 2004. Very young team. 14 of the 18 players are either freshmen or sophomores. Much will depend on how quickly Macias' youthful charges pick up on the game.

### Daegu

**Coach:** Michael Downes, sixth season.  
**Key performers:** Chris Walker, Sr., P-1B; Tyler Pak, So., 2B-P; Lynvon Michom, So., CF-P; Tre Johnson, So., P-SS; LF; Jonathan Evans, So., C-OF.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding-reloading. Early to tell; team still sorting out positions in advance of this week-end's openers.

### Osan

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Third place.  
**Coach:** Ronnie Holley, first season.  
**Key performers:** Andrew Lowe, Sr., 1B; Jacob Brazau, Sr., CF; Ryan Brazill, Sr., Mike Hardin, Jr., P; Jon Lamagna, Sr., C; Alex Smith, Sr., RF; Brandon Perez, Jr., 2B; Jared Wood, Jr., LF.  
**Outlook:** Hoping to contend at Far East D-I despite the school size being halved over the summer. Holley is team's fifth coach in six seasons.

### Humphrey

**Coach:** Stanley Marynowski.  
**Key performers:** Upper classmen, Alex Fisher, C-C-P; Chase Burnett, SS; Braxton Long, 3B; Mac Ramos, 1B.  
**Outlook:** Just starting up, first-year program. Many players have little to no baseball experience. Sport must compete with other teams that are also seeking competitive athletes. Marynowski hoping to find leadership among his upper classmen and pitching prospects who can throw into the later innings.

## Softball team capsules

### Division I

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Sixth place.  
**Coach:** Y. Giambo, second season.  
**Key performers:** Deja Martinez, Sr., P-2B; Courtney Saw, Sr., UT; Anyssa Torres, Sr., OF; Kyla Austin, So., SS.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Panthers won three games last season, but a solid core of players returns at key spots and Yokota does have some new, raw talent. Giambo says 11 players work hard and will scrap all season.

### Kinnick

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Champions.  
**Coach:** Katrina Kemper, fourth season.  
**Key performers:** Lucy Santoyo, Jr., P; Beverly Smithers, Sr., SS; Tenley Getschman, So., 3B; Jane Smithers, Jr., 2B; Isabella Murgo, So., 3B; Jade Soriano, Sr., OF.  
**Outlook:** Loading-contending. Plenty of veteran blood back from a team that broke through and won its first D-I title after two near-misses, plus some youth with Pitching depth may be an issue.

### Kubasaki

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fourth place.  
**Coach:** Stephanie Davis, fourth season.  
**Key performers:** Lucy Santoyo, Jr., Mindy Washam, So., SS; Allie Powers, Jr., CF; Julie Mathis, Jr., SS; Kaitiana Weber, Sr., OF; Kyla Austin, Jr.; Jillian Abafe, Sr., 2B; Isabella Murgo, So., 3B; Jade Martinez, Sr., UT; Leigh Trumble, Sr., 1B; Alysa Ruiz, P-3B.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding, but things aren't as bleak as they seem even though 11 of last year's team transferred, graduated or didn't come back out. Kiewit will make a solid addition behind the plate. Washam should be solid at the top corner and should be a force at leadoff. Ruiz could develop into a solid second pitching option behind Santoyo, as might newcomers Raven Ast, Kaelyn Albino or Jasmine Alberta.

### Kadena

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Runner-up.  
**Coach:** Kelli Wilson, third season.  
**Key performers:** Courtney Tomas, Sr., 2B; Jordan Foster, Sr., OF; Peyton Lettman, Sr., P-1B; Bailey Prince, So., P-UT; Asia Abdul, So., C; Alicia Vaughan, Jr., UT; Jasmine Braswell, Jr., 3B (out last season); Briana Wilson, CF; Bryana Alexander, CF; Macalán Danielsen, P-SS; Alexis Sparrow, So., CF (out last season); Victoria Segio, UT.  
**Outlook:** Contending. A strong veteran core and youthful players who've played the game elsewhere and will see significant playing time. And the Panthers are playing with purpose. Wilson said, trying to atone for the 2-1 loss to Kinnick in the D-I title game.

### Seoul American

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fifth place.  
**Coach:** Julian Harden, 20th season.  
**Key performers:** Julia Ring, Sr., P-OF; Mariah Brozman, Sr.; Jlyne Rhodes, Jr., OF; Abbie Heckerl, Sr., 1B; Rachel Wertz, Jr., 2B; Kayla Fointno, Jr., RF; Alexis Harrod, So., LF.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Falcons only have six players returning and, for the first time since becoming a fast pitch program six years ago, will not play Korean teams to prepare for Far East. Hardden said, in effect, playing a Division II schedule, with no other DODDS D-I programs in Korea.

### Division II

### Osan

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fifth place.  
**Coach:** Betty Brazill, first season (assisted by Lance Faras, Eddie Austria and Brian Becker).  
**Key performers:** Ashley Becker, Sr.; Alexis Thornton, Sr.; Tyler Rostetter, Sr.; India Perez, Jr., CF.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Many new faces. 10 total, with many having never played softball before. Also hindered by the fact that half the student body moved 10 miles south to Humphreys, which opened this year. Austria's daughters Gabby and Tyarah are also new to Osan, but have played the sport before.

### Daegu

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Champions.  
**Coach:** Matt Gross, first season.  
**Key performers:** Rachel Wyche, Sr., C; Christina Henry, Jr., OF; Rheaann Wyche, So., 1B; OF; Aaliyah Scott, So., 3B-1B; Kayla Black, Sr., SS-OF.  
**Outlook:** Contending. Helped by what she calls a "community of coaches," volunteer assistants helping develop and fine-tune the play-

ers' skills set. Solid core returning from last year's championship team, but not doing it again.

### Humphreys

**Coach:** Ashley Gooan.  
**Key performers:** Emily Cox, P; Shaylene Castro, C (each played for Osan last year); Selene Castro, P-SS; Rylee Wilson, SS; Antonia Shabazz, LF; Wilson, OF.  
**Outlook:** Just starting up. Four upperclassmen out of 16 players, building from the ground up, but starting in a good place with experience on the mound and behind the plate.

### 2013 Far East Tournament finish:

**Runner-up.**  
**Coach:** McKinley Best, third season.  
**Key performers:** Deanna Austin, Sr., P; Avery Anttonen, Sr., 2B; Leann White, Sr.; 1B; Katie Sparks, Sr.; LF; Momo Brette, Sr., CF; Thea Bohemno, Sr., RF; Nandea Stennis, Sr., C; Shiona Lanken, Fr., 3B; Jaelyn Launtes, Fr., SS.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Seven seniors do return, but four of them are playing new positions. Gohms must replace the graduated Yasmine Weddle and Tara Long.

### Edgren

**2013 Far East Tournament finish:** Fourth place.  
**Coach:** Sarah Richardson, sixth season.  
**Key performers:** Ashley Bravo, Sr., P-SS; Ashley Robinson, Sr.; Natasha Weiner, Jr., C-SS; Raine Taylor, Jr., C-1B; Sabrina Perez, Jr., LF; Arielle Cortez, So., 3B-P; Niyia Wilson, So., CF; Mikayla House, Fr.; Natalie Rodden, Fr.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Plenty of potential, but the Eagles must always wait for the snow to melt and share time with the other sports in the same facilities before they can get outdoors and practice on real fields. "I'll make it work," Richardson said.

### 2013 Far East Tournament finish:

**Third place.**  
**Coach:** Adele Collins, second season.  
**Key performers:** Kiaray Oquendo, Sr., SS; Felicia Salcido, So., 1B-P; Erica Howie, Jr., OF; Dorni Watkins, Sr., CF; Heather Hurley, Jr., P; Alexandra Chantreza, Jr., C; Shaina Staley, Fr., 3B.  
**Outlook:** Rebuilding. Trojans must replace their entire starting pitching core and most of the infield.

### Perry

**Coach:** Kevin Peterson, second season.  
**Key performers:** Mandolin Peterson, Sr., SS; Tilara Blanco, So., C; Samantha Gilbert, Jr., RF; Tenacity Clayton, Jr., 2B-C; Saiy Gomez, Sr., 1B-P; Monica Grant, Jr., CF-1B; Laina Gullitory, So., P-3B; Madison Robertson, Jr., LF; Heidi Thomas, Jr., 2B-C; Catherine Taylor, Jr., 1B-OF; Alaina McIntyre, Jr., 1B-OF; Lydia Kuzak, Fr., OF.  
**Outlook:** Still in the building stages, just the second season since the program got off the ground. Peterson said he really likes the team that he calls the "Five Alive," Peterson, Blanco, Clayton, Gomez and Gilbert, who helped bring Samual softball back as a club before DODDS took over the program in 2013. Still, many Samual are new to the sport.

**Felicia Salcido, a junior pitcher-first baseman, may play a vital role for Zama's softball team, which has to replace its entire pitching staff and most of its infield, according to coach Adele Collins.**

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# SCOREBOARD

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## Pro hockey

### NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
Atlantic Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Boston	65	43	17	8	91	208	144			
Toronto	66	24	37	4	74	172	165			
Montreal	67	25	37	7	77	167	170			
Philadelphia	66	24	37	7	75	186	171			
Detroit	66	29	23	13	77	183	183			
Carolina	65	28	29	12	68	185	173			
Florida	66	24	34	7	55	207	199			
Buffalo	66	23	37	6	58	129	192			

Metsropolitan Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Pittsburgh	66	44	17	4	92	206	195			
N.Y. Rangers	66	34	26	7	74	172	165			
Columbus	66	34	26	5	73	179	179			
Washington	66	29	31	6	69	184	199			
New Jersey	66	29	29	13	63	163	168			
Ottawa	66	22	39	10	59	183	181			
Washington	67	28	29	9	63	202	202			
Dallas	65	28	28	9	63	185	185			
N.Y. Islanders	66	23	39	19	58	128	228			

WESTERN CONFERENCE										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
S. Louis	66	44	14	7	95	213	147			
Chicago	66	37	24	4	74	172	165			
Columbus	66	38	14	10	90	225	175			
Minnesota	66	34	22	10	67	151	161			
St. Louis	66	32	23	10	74	188	181			
Winnipeg	67	30	28	9	69	184	194			
Colorado	66	28	31	7	66	160	193			

Pacific Division										
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA				
Anaheim	66	42	16	7	93	210	157			
San Jose	66	42	17	7	91	205	159			
Los Angeles	66	38	22	5	82	139	139			
Phoenix	66	24	37	7	59	184	189			
Vancouver	66	30	28	10	70	169	183			
San Jose	66	24	36	10	64	188	181			
Edmonton	66	23	35	8	56	166	215			

Points for overtime loss. **Wednesday's games**  
 Vancouver at Winnipeg 7:30  
 Boston at Montreal 1:00  
 Chicago at Calgary 7:00  
 Phoenix at Boston  
 Buffalo at Columbus  
 New Jersey at Tampa Bay  
 Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
 St. Louis at Los Angeles  
 San Jose at N.Y. Islanders  
 Vancouver at Washington  
 Nashville at Chicago  
 New York at Winnipeg  
 Calgary at Dallas  
 Anaheim at Philadelphia

**Thursday's games**  
 Carolina at Boston  
 Pittsburgh at Philadelphia  
 Ottawa at Montreal  
 Pittsburgh at Tampa Bay  
 Buffalo at N.Y. Islanders  
 St. Louis at Philadelphia  
 Calgary at Phoenix  
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
 Vancouver at Florida

**Friday's games**  
 Toronto at Washington  
 Montreal at Carolina  
 San Jose at N.Y. Rangers  
 Dallas at Chicago  
 Dallas at Buffalo

**Saturday's games**  
 Montreal at Pittsburgh  
 Dallas at Winnipeg  
 Dallas at Chicago

**Sunday's games**  
 Philadelphia at Pittsburgh  
 Vancouver at Florida  
 Toronto at Washington  
 Montreal at Carolina  
 San Jose at N.Y. Rangers  
 Dallas at Chicago  
 Dallas at Buffalo

**BNP Paribas Open**  
**Wednesday**  
 At the Wells Fargo Center  
 Indian Wells, Calif.  
**Purse: \$6.17 million (Masters 1000)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**

**Men**  
**Fourth Round**  
 Milos Raonic (1) Canada, def. Andy Murray (2) Great Britain, 6-2, 6-4, 6-2  
 Alexander Dolgoplov (28) Ukraine, def. Daniel Braccini (11) Italy, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2  
 Ernests Gulbis (20) Latvia, def. Robert Bautista Agut (Spain), 7-6(4), 6-2, 6-2  
 Nicolas Pietrangeli (12) South Africa, def. Stanjias Wawrinka (3), Switzerland, 7-6(4), 6-3, 6-4

**Women**  
**Fourth Round**  
 John Isner (12) United States, def. Fernando Verdasco (Spain), 7-6(3), 3-6, 6-3  
 Roger Federer (7), Switzerland, def. Tommy Haas (11), Germany, 6-4, 6-4, 6-2  
 Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Feliciano Lopez (Spain), 6-3, 7-6(4)  
 Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Marin Cilic (Croatia), 7-6(3), 6-3, 6-4

**Women**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Simona Halep (6), Romania, def. Casey Dellacqua (Australia), 6-2, 6-6, 6-4  
 Agnieszka Radwanska (2), Poland, def. Jelena Jankovic (7), Serbia, 7-5, 2-6, 6-4

## College basketball

### Wednesday's women's scores

**TOURNAMENTS**  
**Big West Conference**  
 UC Irvine 52, Long Beach St. 49  
 UC Hawaii 60, Davis State 47

**Conference USA**  
**Second Round**  
 FIU 87, East Carolina 77  
 Louisville Tech 64, Charlotte 55  
 Old Dominion 75, UTSA 68  
 UAB 79, Marshall 63

**American League**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Green Bay 72, Valparaiso 55  
 Chicago 71, Cleveland 51, St. 72  
 Wright State 73, Milwaukee 64  
 Youngstown St. 68, Oakland 64

**Mid-American Conference**  
**Second Round**  
 Ball St. 61, N. Illinois 47  
 Toledo 72, W. Michigan 61

**Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Hampton 71, Howard 55  
 NC Central 67, Bethune-Cookman 46

**Northwest Conference**  
**Semifinals**  
 Robert Morris 72, Bryant 67  
 St. Francis (Pa.), 68, Mount St. Mary's 62

**Southeastern Athletic Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Southern 60, Alabama 56  
 Souths 62, Grambling St. 74  
 North Carolina 68, South Carolina 68

**First Round**  
 Arkansas 78, Georgia St. 44  
 UALR 66, Troy 54  
 W. Kentucky 67, Louisiana-Lafayette 61

**Western Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
 Idaho 84, Idaho State 83  
 New Mexico State 86, Texas-Pan American 81

**Big Sky Conference**  
 Idaho 84, Idaho State 83  
 New Mexico State 86, Texas-Pan American 81

**Big West Conference**  
 UC Irvine 52, Long Beach St. 49  
 UC Hawaii 60, Davis State 47

**Big West Conference**  
 UC Irvine 52, Long Beach St. 49  
 UC Hawaii 60, Davis State 47

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 UC Irvine 52, Long Beach St. 49  
 UC Hawaii 60, Davis State 47

**Big 12 Conference**  
**First Round**  
 Baylor 76, TCU 68  
 Oklahoma St. 80, Texas Tech 62

**Big East Conference**  
**First Round**  
 DePaul 60, Georgetown 56  
 Seton Hall 51, Butler 50

**Conference USA**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Charlotte 80, IAB 70  
 Old Dominion 75, UTSA 68  
 Tulane 66, North Texas 61  
 UTEP 77, East Carolina 68

**Mid-American Conference**  
**Second Round**  
 Ohio 63, Miami (OH) 48  
 E. Michigan 53, N. Illinois 48

**Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Coppin St. 63, Hampton 57  
 NC Central 92, Howard 46

**Mountain West Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Boise St. 83, San Jose St. 52  
 Oregon 88, Oregon St. 74

**Pacific-12 Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Fresno St. 61, Air Force 59  
 Utah St. 73, Colorado St. 69

**Southwest Athletic Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Colorado 59, Southern Cal 56  
 Oregon 88, Oregon St. 74

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**Southwest Athletic Conference**  
**Quarterfinals**  
 Colorado 59, Southern Cal 56  
 Oregon 88, Oregon St. 74

## Deals

### Wednesday's transactions

**BASEBALL**  
**American League**  
**Trade Deadline**  
 Assigned  
 RHP Brock Holtzinger, LHP Eduardo Rodriguez and INF Ivan De Jesus to minor league camp.

**CHICAGO WHITE SOX** - Options LHP Chris Leonard (R) and OFs Jared Mitchell and Tracy Thompson to Toronto. LHP Jhonny Peralta to Oakland. RHPs Deunte Heath and Omar Poveda, LHP Scott Snodgrass and OF Kenny Walker to Los Angeles.

**CLEVELAND INDIANS** - Options RHP Nick Taylor and OF Slade Heathcott to Oakland. RHPs Aguilar and Jose Ramirez and OF Carlos Montiel to Columbus (IL) and INF Eric Gonzalez to Carolina (Cinco). Reassigned INFs Francisco Lindor and Joey Wendle, SS Jake Lowery and Roberto Perez, OF Tyler Naughton and C/INF Tony Wolters to minor league camp.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** - Options LHP Nick Taylor and OF Slade Heathcott to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL) and C Gary Sanchez to Trenton (FL).

**SEATTLE MARINERS** - Named Roy Howell manager of Tacoma (PCL). Reassigned RHPs Adam Lind and RHPs Nate Adcock and Armando Rodriguez and INF Rounqee Odor to minor league camp. Options RHPs Wilmer Flores and Ben Rowen to Round Rock (PCL) and RHP Luis Castillo and OF Luis Sardinas to Frisco (TX).

**National League**  
**ATLANTA BRAVES** - Agreed to terms with pitcher Ervin Santana on a one-year contract.

**MIAMI MARLINS** - Options RHP Michael Bourn and OF Kyle Jensen to New Orleans (PCL) and LHP Grant Dayton, RHPs Angel Sanchez and Jose Irena, C J. Realmuto and OF Brent Kays to Jacksonville (FL). Reassigned RHP Anthony DeSclafani, SSin Sanchez and Colby Susser, LHP Justin Nicolino and INF Avery Williams to minor league camp.

**SAN FRANCISCO GIANTS** - Options LHP Adolis Kirkcaldy and OFs Jhonny OF Gary Brown and 1B Angel Villalona to Frisco (TX). RHP Kendry Flores and RHP Hunter Strickland to San Jose (Cal).

**REASSIGNED** RHP Mason Tobin, C Andrew Heaney and RHP Mitch Leary to Frisco. LHP and 3B Chris Dominguez to their minor league camp.

**WASHINGTON NATIONALS** - Options LHP and 3B Bryce Harper to Frisco (TX). Reassigned RHP AJ Cole to minor league camp.

**BASKETBALL**  
**National Basketball Association**  
**CAVALIERS** - Signed C Jeffery P. Shane Edwards to 10-day contract.  
**PHOENIX SUNS** - Signed F Jarvis Varnado.  
**Women's National Basketball Association**

**CONNECTICUT SUN** - Traded G Kara Lawson to Washington Wizards for Ezequiel Ajean to Atlanta, Atlanta def. G Alex Bynum to Phoenix.

**FOOTBALL**  
**Arizona Football League**  
**Arizona Cardinals** - Signed OT Jared Veldheer to a five-year contract; C-G Matt Bortone to a two-year contract; QB Jonathan Dwyer to a one-year contract; WR Travis Marcus Benard to a one-year contract.

**BALTIMORE RAVENS** - Agreed to terms with RB Marcus Benard to a one-year contract and WR Jacoby Jones on a five-year contract and WR Jacoby Jones on a five-year contract.

**BUFFALO BILLS** - Signed OL Chris Williams to a one-year contract with CB Corey Graham and LB Keith Rivers.

**CHICAGO BEARS** - Agreed to terms with RB Matt Jones on a one-year contract and RB Matt Jones on a one-year contract.

**CLEVELAND BROWNS** - Released QB Brandon Weeden and Jason Campbell.

**Boxing**  
**March 15**  
 At Coliseo Ruben Rodriguez, Bayamon, Puerto Rico  
 Deontay Wilder vs. Malik Scott, 10 heavyweights; Juan Manuel Lopez vs. Daniel Jacobs, 10 heavyweights; WBO International junior lightweight title  
 At Sands Casino Resort, Bethlehem, Pa.  
 Amir Khan vs. Gennadiy Golovkin, 12, IBF heavyweight eliminator; Isaac Chibemba vs. Denis Grachev, 10, two heavyweights; Ronald Lee vs. Kermit Cintron, 10, welterweights.</

## GOLF

# What's ailing Tiger these days?

## Health more and more of a factor for Woods

By DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

One lesson Jack Nicklaus imparted on Tiger Woods a decade ago in South Africa was to always be part of the conversation. They were talking that day about rivalries.

The problem now for Woods is it's hard to have any conversation about him without mentioning his health. The biggest rival for Woods at age 38 might be a body that by his own account appears to be breaking down.

Woods was a big part of the conversation in back-to-back weeks on the Florida swing, and it had little to do with this golf.

He withdrew from the Honda Classic after 13 holes in the final round with lower back pain and what he said were spasms. He showed up three days later at Doral to walk a practice round on the new Blue Monster with wedges and a putter. He shot 73 in the wind on Friday (a very good score), and he shot 66 on Saturday (a great score) to get within three shots of the lead. And then his back flared up and he had the worst Sunday score (78) of his professional career.

His year is starting to sound like one big soap opera.

Was he working out too much in the off-season? Was he playing too little? Should he have played Doral? Will he be at Bay Hill next week? Just how bad is his back? Is rest and treatment enough? What kind of shape will he be in when he gets to Augusta National?

And the question that has yet to be asked — should he even play the Masters? No other player from his generation has spoken more to the media than Woods.

Few have given up so little.

Part of that — most of that — is his desire to keep what he considers private matters just that. And that includes his health.

Consider a sampling of Woods' injuries in recent years.

■ At The Barclays in 2012, he said he felt a twinge in his lower back the morning of the second round and showed great discomfort around Bethpage Black. "Must have slept funny on it. Soft beds at the hotel," he said.

■ The next year at the same tournament, he played only nine holes of the pro-am, and then chipped and putted on the back nine. "My neck and back are a little stiff... after a soft bed," he said. "And just one of those things, sleeping in hotels and I didn't want to push it."

■ By the end of the week, he dropped to his knees after one shot on the back nine from what he said were back spasms. Woods said it was unrelated to the tightness he felt in his back two weeks earlier in the final round of the PGA Championship. He showed up at Boston the next week, thankful for the Friday start of the Deutsche Bank Championship.

■ He played with a left elbow injury in the U.S.

Open last summer at Merion. He said he injured it "playing golf" at The Players Championship, and that he would still play even if it were not the U.S. Open. But he wound up missing the AT&T National two weeks later to rest up for the British Open.

It's painfully clear (no pun intended) that Woods does not want to divulge details about injuries.

Asked on Sunday at Doral if it could be something more than back spasms, Woods replied: "Well, it is back spasms, so we've done all the protocols."

That was followed by a simple question: Have you had an MRI? "As I've said, we've done all the protocols."

At times, it can be hard to ignore one part of Hank Haney's book, "The Big Miss," when talking about

Woods' fascination with injuries. Haney, his coach for six years, said Woods could have worsened the condition of his knee with heavy workouts and Navy SEAL activities.

"But Tiger preferred that people see his injuries related to his sport, so that he could wear them as an athletic badge of honor," Haney wrote. "To him, injuries were a way of being accepted into the fraternity of superstars who played more physical sports than golf. For example, a couple of times when I knew he'd just gotten off the phone with Derek Jeter, I'd asked what they had talked about. Both times Tiger said the conversation was about injuries they were each dealing with."

**“To him, injuries were a way of being accepted into the fraternity of superstars who played more physical sports than golf.”**

**Hank Haney**  
in *The Big Miss*,  
his book about  
Tiger Woods

It's easy to connect dots with scores and injuries, especially when the bad back on the last two Sundays followed rounds of 65 and 66. But that would be ignoring the 2008 U.S. Open he won in 91 holes on a left leg so badly damaged that it required season-ending surgery two days later.

Even with eight wins over the last two years, his future remains muddled by recurring injuries. How bad are they? Does he need to take more time off? Can he afford to take more time off? How much longer will he be stuck on 14 majors? Will he ever break the record 18 majors won by Nicklaus?

Woods is not playing this week. Consider it a commercial break.

### Did you know

Tiger Woods last won a major tournament in 2008, when he won his 14th major at the U.S. Open at Torrey Pines.

SOURCE: Tigerwoods.com

**Tiger Woods follows his shot from the fifth tee during the third round of the Cadillac Championship on March 8 in Doral, Fla.**

LYNNE SLADKY/AP



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NFL

# Cut by Bucs, Revis signs on with Patriots

## DE Ware lands 3-year, \$30M deal with Broncos, WR Decker goes to Jets on Day 2 of free agency

The Associated Press

Cornerback Darrelle Revis and the New England Patriots have reached agreement on a contract, according to league sources.

While Revis' deal has a cash value of \$12 million this year, first reported by ESPN, the sides added a second year to the pact. The second year is worth \$20 million, a sum so large it makes it unlikely the Patriots would pay it, thus making Revis an unrestricted free agent again in 2015.

The second year helps the team spread the salary-cap charges for Revis over two seasons instead of taking one \$12 million cap hit in 2014. It also eliminates the chance he could be given the franchise tag by the Patriots in 2015.

Revis still needs to pass a physical and sign his contract. Once he does, it will continue Revis' reign as the NFL's highest-paid cornerback and give the Patriots the player they needed to replace cornerback Aqib Talib, who unexpectedly bolted for the Denver Broncos on Tuesday.

The Buccaneers released the five-time Pro Bowl cornerback after being unable to trade him and his \$16 million salary. The team saved the team a \$1.5 million bonus that Revis would have been due if he remained on the roster.

Former Dallas Cowboys defensive end Demarcus Ware also found work with another team in less than 24 hours after being released, signing a \$30 million, three-year contract from the Denver Broncos.

Not quite keeping pace with the nonstop nature of Day 1 of free agency, Day 2 did include Eric Decker bolting Denver to sign with the New York Jets; receiver Golden Tate leaving the Super Bowl champion Seahawks to play alongside All-Pro Calvin Johnson with the Lions; and



BOB LEVERONE/AP

**Darrelle Revis signed a two-year, \$32 million contract with the New England Patriots after being released by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Wednesday. Revis was cut just one season after the Bucs traded a first-round draft pick and another conditional pick to the New York Jets for the cornerback. Tampa Bay signed Revis to a six-year, \$96 million deal, but with no guaranteed money.**

the Browns cutting two quarterbacks, Brandon Weeden and Jason Campbell.

The Revis move saved the Bucs a \$1.5 million bonus that would have been due if he remained on the roster with his \$16 million salary. It also freed up room under the cap for a roster overhaul under new coach LVine Smith and general manager Jason Licht.

With Broncos executive John Elway showing the same ability to close a deal that he did during his Hall of Fame career as a quarterback — and used two years ago to lure Peyton Manning to Denver — Ware's first team visit resulted in a deal that includes \$20 million in guaranteed money.

"It's a perfect fit for me," Ware said at a news conference. He'll pair with linebacker Von Miller to give AFC champion Denver a pair of quarterback chasers. Elway has been busy upgrading the defense during the first two days of the NFL's free-agency period, adding cornerback Aqib Talib from the Patriots and safety

T.J. Ward on Tuesday. "Their mentality is a 'now' mentality," Ware said about the Broncos. "Not looking forward to next season or the season after that. The time is now."

The 31-year-old Ware had 117 sacks and went to seven Pro Bowls in nine seasons with the Cowboys. He had a career-low six sacks last season, when he missed time with a thigh injury, then had offseason elbow surgery.

The Cowboys made another move to clear cap space Wednesday, jettisoning receiver Miles Austin, as expected, saving about \$5.5 million. Austin's release is effective June 1. And they signed free agent defensive lineman Terrill McClain and Jeremy Mincey.

Decker spent Wednesday at the Jets' facility and had dinner with a contingent of team officials, including coach Rex Ryan. He gives quarterback Geno Smith and the offense a sorely needed playmaker and No. 1-type wide receiver. The 6-foot-3, 214-pound Decker, who'll be 27 on Saturday, set career highs last season catch-

ing passes from Peyton Manning with 87 catches and 1,288 yards receiving to go along with 11 touchdowns. He had 85 receptions for 1,064 yards and a career-best 13 TDs in 2012.

Tampa Bay added a quarterback Wednesday by agreeing to a two-year contract with Josh McCown, a backup who got a chance to start five games last season for the Bears in place of an injured Jay Cutler.

In Thursday's moves:

■ Steve Smith, the Carolina Panthers all-time leading receiver, has been released by the team. Smith, who turns 35 in May, ranks 19th all-time in the NFL in receptions.

■ The Philadelphia Eagles acquired Darren Sproles from the New Orleans Saints for a fifth-round draft pick. The move was followed by the Eagles agreeing to a two-year deal with former Dolphins cornerback Nolan Carroll. The Saints get the second of Philadelphia's two fifth-round picks in May. It previously belonged to the

New England Patriots.

In other news Wednesday:

■ Chris Clemons was released by the Seahawks. Clemons was due to make \$7.5 million in base salary next season. He is the fourth member of Seattle's defense to be released or sign with another club as a free agent. Seattle then agreed with former Jaguars receiver Taylor Price on a one-year deal, but lost guard Breno Giacomini to the Jets. New York also re-signed backup defensive lineman Leger Douzable to a one-year deal.

■ Offensive lineman Rodger Saffold failed his physical and won't sign a contract with Oakland after failing a physical. The Raiders agreed to a five-year, \$42.5 million deal with Saffold on Tuesday.

■ Cornerback Corey Graham's agent said the player agreed to a four-year contract with the Bills, leaving the Ravens.

■ Returner-receiver Jacoby Jones agreed to a four-year contract to stay with the Ravens.

■ Linebacker Jon Beason agreed to stay with the Giants, who also re-signed kicker Josh Brown and safety Stevene Brown.

■ Cornerback Eric Wright re-signed with the 49ers.

■ Offensive lineman David Stewart was waived by the Titans after failing a physical. Tennessee also signed former Steelers defensive lineman Al Woods to a multiyear deal.

■ Saints running back Pierre Thomas agreed to a two-year contract extension.

■ Miami defensive tackle Randy Starks signed a \$12 million, two-year contract.

■ Tight end David Johnson joined the Chargers from Pittsburgh, which he re-signed safety Willie Green, long snapper Greg Warren and offensive lineman Cody Wallace.

■ Former Seahawks safety Chris Maragos and former Texans linebacker Bryan Braman joined the Eagles.

■ Linebacker Dekoda Watson left the Bucs for the Jaguars.

■ Former Rams guard Chris Williams left St. Louis for Buffalo.

# Sharper returns to LA court amid rape charges

BY ANTHONY MCCARTNEY  
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Former NFL All-Pro safety Darren Sharper returns to court Thursday for a hearing that will determine whether he's released on bail amid new charges that he drugged and sexually assaulted two women last year in Arizona.

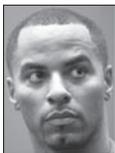
The athlete has been in a Los Angeles jail since Feb. 27, when he turned himself in on an arrest warrant issued by Louisiana authorities on similar charges. Los Angeles Superior Court

Judge Renee Korn said last week that she could not hold Sharper indefinitely unless he was charged in New Orleans, which has not yet happened.

The indictment in Tempe, Ariz., will give Los Angeles prosecutors another opportunity to argue that Sharper should remain in custody, despite being freed on \$1 million after pleading not guilty to charges he drugged and raped two women in Los Angeles County. District Attorney spokeswoman Jane Robison declined comment on how prosecutors would treat the new charge in court Thurs-

day, but prosecutors have said they case handled before any others.

In addition to the accusations in Arizona, California and Louisiana, Sharper remains under investigation that he drugged and raped women in Nevada and Florida. His attorneys



Sharper

have said they expect the former player to be exonerated in the Los Angeles case.

"We know that Darren will vigorously deny the allegations," Sharper's Arizona attorney Skip Donau said Wednesday. "We are hopeful of vindication."

In a bail motion filed last month, an investigator described a pattern in which the former football star met women at clubs or parties and lured them to a hotel room, where they were allegedly drugged and raped.

The New Orleans warrant shows that police learned from

witnesses that Sharper and an associate had acknowledged having nonconsensual sex with two women. Sharper's attorneys say he never made such statements.

Sharper, who selected All-Pro six times, and made the Pro Bowl five times. He played in two Super Bowls, one with the Green Bay Packers as a rookie after the 1997 season and won the championship with the New Orleans Saints in 2010.

He retired after the 2010 season and was working as an analyst for the NFL Network before being fired recently.

# AUTO RACING

## Around the track

### SPRINT CUP

**This week:** Food City 500 at Bristol, Tenn.  
**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 6 p.m. Sunday, CET; 2 a.m. Monday, Japan and Korea.  
**Track:** Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).

**Race distance:** 500 laps, 266.5 miles.  
**Last year:** Kasey Kahne held off Kyle Busch after a bumper-banging battle with Brad Keselowski.

**Last week:** Keselowski surged ahead on the final lap at Las Vegas when Dale Earnhardt Jr. ran out of fuel. Keselowski also won the Nationwide race for his first weekend sweep.

**Next race:** Auto Club 400, March 23, Auto Club Speedway, Fontana, Calif.

**Fast facts:** Earnhardt has finished in the top two of all three races this year.

**Online:** nascar.com  
 — The Associated Press

### Driver standings

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	133
2. Brad Keselowski	132
3. Jimmie Johnson	117
4. Joey Logano	116
5. Jeff Gordon	115
6. Carl Edwards	105
7. Matt Kenseth	105
8. Denny Hamlin	101
9. Ryan Newman	97
10. Kyle Busch	95
11. Jamie McMurray	93
12. Greg Biffle	86
13. Austin Dillon	84
14. Kevin Harvick	83
15. Kasey Kahne	83
16. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.	80
17. Casey Mears	80
18. Paul Menard	76
19. Marcos Ambrose	69
20. Brian Vickers	64

### Driver to watch

**Matt Kenseth** had a strong season in 2013, winning seven times and finishing second in the Chase to six-time Cup champion Jimmie Johnson.

He opened the 2014 season with two top-10 finishes in his first three races, taking sixth in the season-opening Daytona 500 and 10th in last week's Kobalt 400 at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway. He also had a 12th-place finish in the Profit on CNBC 500 at Phoenix International Raceway.

Kenseth should be comfortable on this week's track in Bristol, having won there in August in the Irwin Tools Night Race.



### NATIONWIDE SERIES

**This week:** Drive to Stop Diabetes 300 at Bristol, Tenn.  
**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Saturday, CET; 3 a.m. Sunday, Japan and Korea.

**Track:** Bristol Motor Speedway (oval, 0.533 miles).

**Race distance:** 300 laps, 159.9 miles.  
**Last year:** Kyle Busch raced to the second of his 12 series wins in 2013.

He also won the August race at the track for his record sixth Bristol victory.

**Last week:** Brad Keselowski won at Las Vegas, overcoming electrical trouble and holding off Busch. Keselowski also won the Sprint Cup race.

**Fast facts:** Busch won the rain-shortened Phoenix race two weeks ago for his series-record 64th victory.

— Regan Smith won the season-opening race at Daytona. ... Cale Conley is attempting to make his first national series start, driving the No. 33 Richard Childress Racing Chevrolet.

**Online:** nascar.com  
 — The Associated Press

### CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

**Next race:** Kroger 250, March 29, Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, Va.

**Last race:** Kyle Busch won at Daytona on Feb. 21 to become the first driver to win Truck, ARCA, Nationwide and Sprint Cup races at the track.

**Online:** nascar.com  
 — The Associated Press

### NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

**This week:** NHRA Gatornationals at Gainesville, Fla.

**Track:** Auto Plus Raceway At Gainesville.

**Last year:** Antron Brown beat Clay Millican in the Top Fuel final round. Johnny Gray topped the Funny Car field, Allen Johnson won in Pro Stock and Hector Arana Jr. in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

**Last event:** Alexis DeJoria raced to her first career Funny Car victory Feb. 23 in Chandler, Ariz. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Allen Johnson topped the Pro Stock field.

**Fast facts:** On Feb. 9 in the Winter-nationals in Pomona, Calif., 64-year-old John Force beat Matt Hagan in the Funny Car final with a record time of 3.965 seconds at 323.58 mph. Force won his record 16th season title last year and has a record 139 event victories.

**Next event:** SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals, March 28-30, The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway, Las Vegas.  
**Online:** nhra.com  
 — The Associated Press

### FORMULA ONE

**This week:** Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne.

**Track:** Albert Park (road course, 3.3 miles).

**Race distance:** 191.12 miles, 58 laps.

**Last year:** Lotus' Kimi Raikkonen won the season-opening race for his 20th F1 victory. Ferrari's Fernando Alonso was second, and Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel finished third.

**Next race:** Malaysian Grand Prix, March 30, Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.  
**Online:** formula1.com  
 — The Associated Press

# Formula 1 gets a shakeup

## Radical redesign of cars signals promise of a new era

By CHRIS LINES

The Associated Press

**F**or jaded Formula One fans weary of Sebastian Vettel's dominance, an overdue shake-up is coming.

A switch to six-cylinder turbo engines has forced a radical redesign of the cars, with the aim of making the series more relevant to the car industry and tempting major automakers back to F1.

While such changes tend to ultimately benefit the big teams, who have more resources to put into design and trouble-shooting, the change could see some of the major players struggle early.

How the teams adjust to the technical challenges will be the major theme of the season, with juicy subplots such as how Fernando Alonso and Kimi Raikkonen manage what could be a combustible relationship as teammates at Ferrari.

Off the track, there are also major issues, most notably the future of the series' commercial boss with 83-year-old Bernie Ecclestone facing bribery charges in Germany. Many eyes are also on Michael Schumacher, who remains in a coma in a French hospital months after he suffered head injuries in a skiing accident.

Preseason testing has raised some eyebrows, with Vettel — who will be aiming for his fifth straight drivers' championship and his Red Bull team struggling with technical problems, while Felipe Massa at his new team Williams is the unlikely name at the top of the timesheets.

It will be tough to bet against Red Bull and designer Adrian Newey coming up with solutions to the preseason glitches, but Vettel knew the restricted running in preseason put his team at a disadvantage for the season-opening Australian Grand Prix on Sunday.

**‘We have a strong package, but I don’t feel we are guaranteed to be the guys ahead.’**

**Lewis Hamilton**  
 Team Mercedes  
 Formula One driver



“We haven’t done enough laps, the speed is not there compared to some other teams,” said Vettel, who last season matched Schumacher’s record of 13 victories in a year and equaled the nine straight wins of Alberto Ascari. “There’s no reason to paint everything black. Everyone is motivated to get out of it, get going and find out where we are.”

If Red Bull is off the pace in Australia and the early races, it will have plenty of opportunities to catch up in the 19-race season. The Russian GP in October is new to the schedule, while the Austrian GP returns in June. The Korean GP has been dropped, while the Indian GP is off this year and might return in 2015.

Red Bull’s preseason struggles have been primarily caused by Renault’s teething problems with the new V6 engine and associated parts of the power train. That has also impacted the other Renault-supplied teams: Lotus, Toro Rosso and Caterham.

The trouble for Renault is the engines have been set for the season ahead, with no major changes allowed, so there is a fear the problems will be difficult if not impossible to resolve.

The Mercedes-powered teams have flourished in preseason, with the eponymous factory team a clear favorite for the early races to build on the second-place finish in 2013, while Williams and Force India have looked strong, less so McLaren. The Mercedes teams did roughly twice as many laps in preseason testing than the Renault or Ferrari-powered cars.

Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton, who will sport the No. 44 on his car as F1 switches to personally chosen numbers instead of the previous season’s finishing order, was playing down his favorite status for Melbourne.

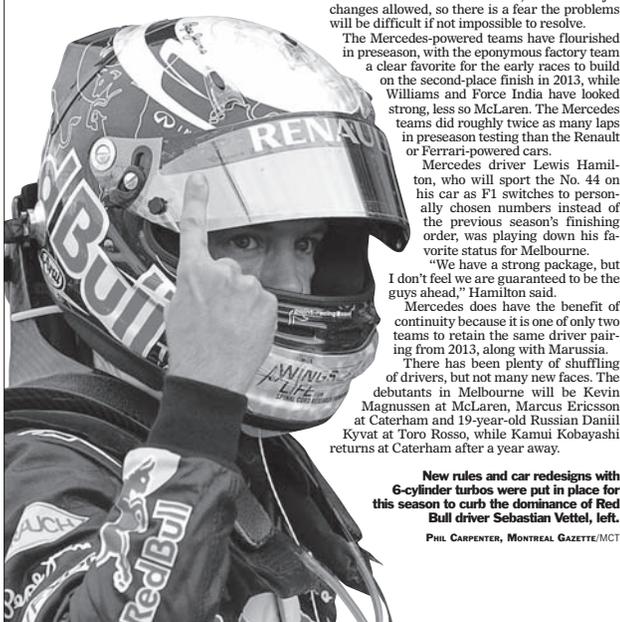
“We have a strong package, but I don’t feel we are guaranteed to be the guys ahead,” Hamilton said.

Mercedes does have the benefit of continuity because it is one of only two teams to retain the same driver pairing from 2013, along with Marussia.

There has been plenty of shuffling of drivers, but not many new faces. The debutants in Melbourne will be Kevin Magnussen at McLaren, Marcus Ericsson at Caterham and 19-year-old Russian Daniil Kvyat at Toro Rosso, while Kamui Kobayashi returns at Caterham after a year away.

**New rules and car redesigns with 6-cylinder turbos were put in place for this season to curb the dominance of Red Bull driver Sebastian Vettel, left.**

PHIL CARPENTER, MONTREAL GAZETTE/MCT



# COLLEGE BASKETBALL



JULIE JACOBSON/AP

BYU players react to a 75-64 loss to Gonzaga in the West Coast Conference tournament title game.

## Waiting is the hardest part

BYU failed to lock up bid; others face similar plight this weekend

BY JOHN MARSHALL  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Brigham Young put itself in the NCAA tournament conversation with a strong schedule and a good finish to the season.

But after failing to get the West Coast Conference's automatic bid, now all the Cougars can do is wait. "I think we should find ourselves in that tournament," BYU guard Tyler Haws said. "This has been a challenging season, but I feel like our guys have come together and done enough to get in."

BYU (23-11) picked up some solid wins with one of the nation's toughest schedules, knocking off Stanford on the road, Texas and Gonzaga. The Cougars pass the playing-well-at-the-end test, too, winning 10 of their final 11 games, including two in the WCC tournament.

But by coming up short in the WCC title game with a 75-64 loss to Gonzaga, BYU has to sit around for several days before waiting to see if the NCAA selection committee believes its résumé holds up.

The Cougars certainly have the support of Gonzaga coach Mark Few after playing the Zags three times this season.

"There's not a question in my mind they're an NCAA tournament team," Few said. "The thing that always makes me laugh is the thought that those middling teams from the football conferences, I don't think they could fare any better than what BYU has done here. They're a very, very good team and I expect to see them pop up on Selection Sunday."

As the conference tournaments get going, here's six more teams that will be sweating out Sunday if they fail to win their league's automatic bid:

**Clemson (19-11, 10-8 ACC):** The Tigers seemed to be in good position for an at-large bid with a victory over Duke on their résumé and a solid run at the end of the conference season. That changed with an 83-78 overtime loss to Pittsburgh in the regular-season finale, a game Clemson led by five in the closing seconds.

Now, the Tigers will likely need a run in the ACC tournament to get an invite. Clemson, picked 14th out of 15 ACC teams when the season began, opens Thursday against Georgia Tech.

**Minnesota (19-12, 8-10 Big Ten):** The Golden Gophers have played one of the toughest schedules in the nation and have some solid victories, including Ohio State and Wisconsin. There's just too many losses for Minnesota to expect to get in right now, including a bad-on-the-résumé setback against Northwest-

ern. The Golden Gophers will likely need a couple of wins in the Big Ten tournament as the No. 7 seed. The Golden Gophers open against Penn State on Thursday.

**California (19-12, 10-8 Pac-12):** The Bears are the No. 4 seed in the Pac-12 tournament, but far from a lock to get into the field of 68. Cal has a not-so-impressive RPI of 55 and lost four of five before giving itself a good boost with an overtime win over fellow bubbler Colorado in the regular-season finale. The Bears can't afford a loss in their Pac-12 tournament opener against Colorado, and would feel a whole lot safer if they can get to the title game.

**Tennessee (20-11, 11-7 SEC):** The Vols are peaking at just the right time. With its blowout victory over Missouri in the season finale, Tennessee closed the regular season with four straight wins to claim the No. 4 seed and a bye in the SEC tournament. The Vols' RPI of 44 is OK and they have a solid strength of schedule, but two losses to Texas A&M do not look good. A loss in the SEC quarterfinals against the Arkansas-South Carolina winner could put a big dent in Tennessee's chances.

**Kansas State (20-11, 10-8 Big 12):** A stumble at the end of the season has put what seemed a sure-bet trip to the NCAA tournament in jeopardy. With a chance to solidify its résumé against two fellow bubble teams, Kansas State stumbled, losing to Oklahoma State and Baylor to close the regular season. The Wildcats have wins over Kansas and Iowa State, but in the what-have-you-done-lately world of NCAA selections, a 3-4 finish to the season might mean a couple of Big 12 tournament wins may be needed.

**Marquette (17-14, 9-9 Big East):** The preseason favorites in the reconfigured Big East have some work to do for an NCAA tournament bid. The Golden Eagles had a disappointing end to the regular season, losing three straight, including two in double overtime. With an RPI of 85, the Golden Eagles will likely need to win the conference tournament, though coach Buzz Williams is hoping the Golden Eagles can still get in if they reach the championship game.

## Marquette's NCAA streak on the line at league tourney

By GENARO C. ARMAS  
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — No getting around it now for Marquette — the Golden Eagles need to win the Big East tournament to guarantee a ninth straight trip to the NCAAs.

But if they can at least get to the conference tourney finals, coach Buzz Williams is hoping that maybe, just maybe, that might be enough to give the NCAA tournament selection committee something more to talk about before finalizing the brackets.

"Do we have to win it? I would say probably," Williams said. "It's hard to say ... but we definitely have to be in the championship game in order to get into the conversation."

The preseason favorites in the reconfigured Big East, the Golden Eagles (17-14, 9-9) head into the conference tournament having lost three straight, including two consecutive games in double overtime. The last one came in an emotionally draining, regular-season finale last weekend against St. John's.

It was the sixth overtime game of the year for Marquette. The positive takeaway is that the Golden Eagles have shown they can claw back into any game, especially when junior guard Todd Mayo is on a roll in the clutch. "It speaks to the character of our kids. It's hard in one week to lose in double overtime, both by a point. At any point in time we could have folded," Williams said.

"When you lose in the manner that we did, it makes you as

a coach, it makes you study ways to get better," he said. "We've got to find ways to get better, and find ways to get better against Xavier on Thursday night."

The third-seeded Musketeers are the first opponent in the league tourney in New York for Marquette, seeded sixth. The teams split the regular-season series, with Xavier shooting at least 52 percent in each game.

Last time out, Marquette allowed St. John's to shoot 50 percent, including 53 percent (7-for-13) from three-point range. Safe to say, improving defensively is one of Williams' top priorities this week.

Marquette is experienced up front with Davante Gardner, the league's sixth man of the year for the second straight season, along with center Chris Otule and forward Jamil Wilson, all seniors. The Golden Eagles seem to be at their best offensively when the frontcourt is complemented by Mayo in the clutch and fellow off-guard Jake Thomas hitting from long range.

Consistency in the backcourt and outside shooting haven't been Marquette's strong suits. Williams' team is last in the league in three-point shooting at 31 percent.

The last time that the Golden Eagles finished 9-9 in the Big East, in 2010-11, they made the NCAAs after getting two wins in the Big East tourney as a No. 11 seed. Marquette finished 22-15 that season, and won two games as a No. 11 seed in the NCAAs before falling to North Carolina in the regional semifinals.



TOM LYNN/AP

Marquette's Davante Gardner looks for a foul call on the St. John's defense during the first half of Saturday's game in Milwaukee.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Men's conference tournaments

**AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE**  
**Championship**  
**Saturday, March 15**  
 Albany (N.Y.) vs. Stony Brook  
**AMERICAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**  
**At Memphis, Tenn.**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Rutgers 72, South Florida 68  
 UCF 94, Temple 90, 201  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 SMU vs. Houston  
 Louisville vs. Rutgers  
 Cincinnati vs. UCF  
 UConn vs. Memphis  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 SMU-Houston winner vs. Louisville-Rutgers winner  
 Cincinnati-UCF winner vs. UConn-Memphis winner  
**ATLANTIC COAST CONFERENCE**  
**At Greensboro, N.C.**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Georgia Tech 73, Boston College 70, OT  
 Miami 57, Virginia Tech 53  
 Wake Forest 81, Notre Dame 69  
**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Maryland vs. Florida State  
 Pittsburgh vs. Wake Forest  
 N.C. State vs. Miami  
 Clemson vs. Georgia Tech  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Virginia-Maryland winner vs. winner North Carolina vs. Pitt-W. Forest winner  
 Syracuse vs. N.C. State-Miami winner  
 Duke vs. Clemson-Georgia Tech winner

**ATLANTIC 10 CONFERENCE**  
**At Brooklyn, N.Y.**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Fordham 70, George Mason 67  
**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 La Salle vs. St. Bonaventure  
 Dayton vs. Fordham  
 Richmond vs. Duquesne  
 UMass vs. Rhode Island  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Saint Louis vs. La Salle-St. Bonaventure winner  
 Saint Joseph's vs. Dayton-Fordham winner  
 VCU vs. Richmond-Duquesne winner  
 George Washington vs. UMass-Rhode Island winner

**BIG EAST CONFERENCE**  
**At New York**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 DePaul 60, Georgetown 56  
 Seton Hall 51, Butler 50  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Villanova vs. Seton Hall  
 Providence vs. St. John's  
 Creighton vs. DePaul  
 Xavier vs. Marquette  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Villanova-Seton Hall winner vs. Providence-St. John's winner  
 Creighton-DePaul winner vs. Xavier-Marquette winner

**BIG SKY CONFERENCE**  
**At Ogden, Utah**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 North Dakota vs. Sacramento State  
 N. Arizona vs. Northern Colorado  
 Montana vs. Portland State  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Michigan vs. Indiana  
 Nebraska vs. Ohio St.-Purdue winner  
 Wisconsin vs. Minnesota  
 West Virginia winner  
 Michigan St. vs. Iowa-Penn St. winner

**BIG 12 CONFERENCE**  
**At Kansas City, Mo.**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Baylor 68  
 Oklahoma St. 80, Texas Tech 62  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Kansas vs. Kansas State  
 Kansas vs. Oklahoma State  
 Oklahoma vs. Baylor  
 Texas vs. West Virginia  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Iowa State-Kansas State winner vs. Kansas-Kansas State winner  
 Oklahoma-Baylor winner vs. Texas-West Virginia winner

**Big Ten Conference**  
**At Annapolis, Calif.**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 UC Santa Barbara 79, Oregon 73  
 Long Beach St. vs. Cal State Fullerton  
 U of U vs. Riverside  
 Hawaii vs. Cal State Northridge  
**CONFERENCE USA**  
**At El Paso, Texas**  
**First Round**  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
 East Carolina 79, UTSA 76  
 North Texas 69, FAU 59  
 North Texas 63, Rice 62, OT  
**Second Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Charlotte 80, UAB 70  
 Old Dominion 73, North Carolina 58  
 Tulane 66, North Texas 61  
 UTEP 77, East Carolina 68

**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Tulsa vs. Tulane  
 Middle Tennessee vs. Old Dominion  
 Southern Miss. vs. UTEP  
 Louisiana Tech vs. Charlotte  
**MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE**  
**First Round**  
**Monday, March 10**  
 Ohio 76, Ball State 64  
 Miami (Ohio) 71, Kent State 64  
 E. Michigan 72, C. Michigan 60  
 N. Illinois 54, Bowling Green 51, OT  
**Second Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 E. Michigan 53, N. Illinois 60  
 Miami (Ohio) 63, Ohio 55  
**Third Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Akron vs. Miami (Ohio)  
 Buffalo vs. E. Michigan  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 W. Michigan vs. Akron-Ohio winner  
 Southern Miss. vs. Buffalo-E. Michigan winner

**MID-EASTERN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**  
**At Norfolk, Va.**  
**First Round**  
**Monday, March 10**  
 Norfolk 78, Maryland-Eastern Shore 74  
 Savannah State 61, S. Carolina State 47  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
 Coppin St. 75, Bethune-Cookman 68  
 Florida A&M 65, Delaware 61  
 Howard 55, NC A&T 47  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Coppin St. 83, Hampton 77  
 NC Central 79, Howard 45  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Morgan State vs. Florida A&M  
 Norfolk State vs. Savannah State  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 NC Central vs. Norfolk State-Savannah State winner  
 Coppin State vs. Morgan State-Florida A&M winner

**MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE**  
**At Las Vegas**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Boise St. 83, San Jose St. 52  
 Fresno St. 61, Air Force 59  
 Utah St. 73, Colorado St. 69  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 San Diego State vs. Utah State  
 UNLV vs. Wyoming  
 New Mexico vs. Fresno State  
 Nevada vs. Boise State  
**Semifinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 San Diego State-Utah State winner vs. UNLV-Wyoming winner  
 New Mexico-Fresno State winner vs. Nevada-Boise State winner

**PACIFIC-10 CONFERENCE**  
**At Las Vegas**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Colorado 59, Southern Cal 56  
 Oregon 88, Oregon St. 74  
 Stanford 74, Washington St. 63  
 Utah 67, Washington 61  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Arizona vs. Utah  
 California vs. Colorado  
 UCLA vs. Oregon  
 Arizona State vs. Stanford

**Friday, March 14**  
 Arizona-Utah vs. Cal.-Colorado winner  
 UCLA-Oregon winner vs. Arizona State-Stanford

**PATRIOT LEAGUE**  
**Championship**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 American U.S. Boston 20, 36  
**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE**  
**At Atlanta**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Mississippi St. 82, Vanderbilt 68  
 South Carolina 74, Arkansas 56  
**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Missouri vs. Texas A&M  
 Arkansas vs. S. Carolina  
 Louisiana State 62, Alabama  
 Mississippi vs. Miss. State  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Florida vs. Missouri-A&M winner  
 Tennessee vs. Ark.-S. Carolina winner  
 Kentucky vs. LSU-Alabama winner  
 Georgia vs. Miss. St.-Alabama winner

**SOUTHLAND CONFERENCE**  
**At Katy, Texas**  
**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Nicholls St. 71, SE Louisiana 64  
 Oral Roberts vs. Michigan St. 60  
**Second Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Northwestern State vs. SE Louisiana  
 Sam Houston State vs. Oral Roberts  
**SOUTHWESTERN CONFERENCE**  
**At Houston**  
**Tuesday, March 11**  
 Grambling State 64, Jackson State 75  
 Prairie View 79, MVU 49  
**Quarterfinals**  
**Wednesday, March 12**  
 Prairie View 64, Southern U. 46  
 Louisiana State 62, North Carolina St. 54  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 Alabama State vs. Alcorn State  
 Arkansas-Pine Bluff vs. Alabama A&M  
**SUN BELT CONFERENCE**  
**New Orleans**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 13**  
 UALR vs. Troy  
 Texas-Arlington vs. Louisiana-Monroe  
**Second Round**  
**Friday, March 14**  
 Arkansas State vs. Troy winner  
 Louisiana-Lafayette vs. Texas-Arlington  
 Louisiana-Monroe vs. Louisiana-Monroe

# No. 6 Virginia headlines week ACC tourney

By Aaron Beard  
 The Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. — This week's Atlantic Coast Conference tournament has a new look, from more teams and an extra round of games to the school holding the No. 1 seed.

Sixth-ranked Virginia is hoping to pair its first outright regular-season title in 33 years with its first ACC tournament title since winning its only other one in 1976.

The Cavaliers (25-6, 16-2) finished two games ahead of No. 11 Syracuse. Yet coach Tony Bennett said for the top seed, only the second for the program, doesn't mean much.

"There's such a small amount of separation and most of these teams will have a chance at it," Bennett said Tuesday. "Who's playing well, and executes, and is the hungriest is going to have the best chance."

The tournament starts Wednesday with the lowest-seeded teams while the Cavaliers and the rest of the top four seeds — the Orange, No. 7 Duke and No. 15 North Carolina — don't play until Friday's quarterfinals.

Virginia hasn't reached the semifinals since 1995 and has lost four straight games dating to 2010.

"It seems like the teams that always do well in the postseason, the Dukes and Carolinas, those guys always seem to take a step up when they get into the ACC tournament, the NCAA tournament, whatever it might be," Virginia guard Joe Harris said. "I think that's a step that this program has to take and hopefully we can try to make that stride this year."

This is the first year for the league with 15 teams with the arrivals of Syracuse, Pittsburgh and Notre Dame from the Big East.

That meant adding a fifth day of competition for the first time in the event's 61-year history, with Wednesday's first-round games at the Greensboro Coliseum featuring teams seeded 10th and lower.

Teams seeded fifth through ninth earned a bye into Thursday's second round.

It also marks the final tournament run for Maryland, which is headed for the Big Ten. The Terrapins, who won their last title a decade ago, play Florida State in Thursday's second round.

Here are five things to watch at this week's ACC tournament:

- Warren's Tear** — North Carolina State's T.J. Warren was named the ACC player of the year on Tuesday after leading the league in scoring (24.8) and shooting percentage (53 percent). He's scored 41 and 42 points in his last two games — the first ACC player to go for 40 in consecutive games in more than 23 years — and has



Virginia's Justin Anderson celebrates the Cavaliers' 57-53 win over rival Virginia Tech on Feb. 18 in Blacksburg, Va. The Cavaliers are the No. 1 seed in the ACC tournament, but haven't been to the championship game since 1995.

scored at least 36 in three of the past four. He could be a headache for a higher-seeded team like Syracuse or Duke in the bracket's bottom half.

**2 Syracuse's slump?** The Orange stood at 25-0 and No. 1 in the country in mid-February, and then lost four of six to close the regular season. Plus, sophomore forward Jerami Grant was battling back problems. Still, coach Jim Boeheim said he didn't think his team was slumping. "Every team in the country loses games ... and sometimes your schedule gets really hard, and that's what happens with us," Boeheim said. "But overall I think we've played consistently well all year."

**3 The other new kids** — Notre Dame had the No. 13 seed and it was a quick exit from the tournament for the Irish, losing to No. 12 seed Wake Forest in Wednesday's opening round. The Demon Deacons advanced to play fifth-seed-

ed Pittsburgh in a quarterfinal game on Thursday.

**4 Second-half Paige:** Can Marcus Paige keep up a second-half run for UNC? The sophomore has repeatedly come up big after halftime, going from averaging 5.9 points and shooting 37 percent in the first half to 11.3 points and 50-percent shooting afterward, according to STATS LLC. "By nature he's trying to run the team more," coach Roy Williams said. "And then all of a sudden he realizes, 'Hey, my part to help this team today might just be scoring again.'"

**5 Uncertain futures:** The ACC tournament will be the last chance for bubble teams Clemson, N.C. State, Maryland and Florida State to make a case to be in the NCAA tournament. There's also uncertainty over whether this will be the final stop for fourth-year Wake Forest coach Jeff Bzdekil, who has struggled to turn around the Demon Deacons.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL



RICH SUOG, THE KANSAS CITY STAR/AP

**Kansas center Joel Embiid, who will sit out the Big 12 Tournament because of a back injury, did join the team for a brief shoot-around Wednesday at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. His availability for the NCAA tournament will be one of the factors the NCAA selection committee weighs in determining the Jayhawks' seeding.**

# Unanswered questions

## Injuries, schedules will be considered by selection committee

By JIM O'CONNELL  
The Associated Press

The power conferences still have a couple of days before they reach the semifinals of their conference tournaments. That doesn't stop the chatter of who will get what seed when the 68-team bracket for the NCAA tournament is revealed Sunday at 6 p.m. EDT.

What has fueled the latest seed talk is the injury to Kansas freshman center Joel Embiid. A second opinion on his back from a specialist in Los Angeles confirmed the initial diagnosis of a stress fracture. He was told the best prescription is rest and rehabilitation.

That means he will definitely not play in the Big 12 tournament this week and the first weekend of the three-week NCAA tournament.

It isn't even sure he'll be back for the regional weekend should the Jayhawks get there.

What should the Selection Committee do? Do they seed Kansas based on the way the Jayhawks played with Embiid's indisposition or do they try and see what the Jayhawks might be like without him? It's hard to not be impressed with a team that went 23-8, has an RPI of 3 and won six games over teams in the RPI's top 25, the most of any team.

The committee is well aware of those injuries. We will follow those injuries. We will get updates on the injuries. We already received a report this morning about an injury," committee chairman Ron Wellman said in a conference call Wednesday. "We will be well aware of the latest information and whether that individual is going to be available to his team during the tournament.

"It is a discussion point with the committee, the injury reports, how that might impact the team. Again, it is up to the individual committee member as to how much weight they want to put on that particular injury."

Here's some other teams who have situations the committee will have to look at:

**Syracuse:** The Orange stumbled to the finish after opening the season 25-0. Their offense certainly became stagnant, but how much of that had to do with big man Jerami Grant playing with a bad back and missing some games because of it. With Grant the inside game is much better and he makes the famed zone defense even more effective with his length.

Once considered a lock to be a No. 1 seed, Syracuse is chasing a 2 seed, 3 at the worst and the committee has to look at how much Grant's absence meant to a team that has a 27-4 record, 9 RPI and seven wins over teams in the RPI's top 50.



PHIL SEARS/AP

**The loss of forward Jerami Grant, left, seen here battling Florida State forward Okaro White for the ball, had a serious impact on the Cavaliers offense. How much Grant's absence had to do with the Orange's late-season struggles is a question the NCAA selection committee will have to answer as they fill out the field of 68.**

# Parity: Tough decisions should mean great tourney

FROM BACK PAGE

"We will be following it throughout the week. We will be in contact with Kansas," Wellman said before the meetings began Wednesday. "So we will be in as good a position as we possibly can be to place Kansas on the right seed line and in the right location."

There are no guarantees, though.

When national player of the year Kenyon Martin broke his right leg during the 2000 Conference USA tournament, the committee dropped Cincinnati from a No. 1 seed to a No. 2 seed.

Ten years later, the committee rewarded Syracuse with a No. 1 seed even though the Orange had lost two straight without injured starting center Arinze Onuaku. The reason: After consulting with Syracuse officials, committee members believed Onuaku would play in the NCAA tournament. He did not.

"We have to rely upon what the schools tell us. We don't have a CIA operation here where we can go in the back door and find out information that they are not giving us," Wellman said. "So we do rely upon the school's truthfulness with us and we believe they do tell us the truth. Sometimes it doesn't pan out the way they predict. But we believe they do their best to give us the very best diagnosis. The diagnosis of an injury can change from day to day, as well."

Injuries will be only part of the discussion this weekend.

The NCAA adopted two changes in August that could help the bracketing process. New guidelines allow conference teams that played once during the regular season to meet as early

as the first weekend of the tournament. The other change calls on the committee to avoid first- and second-round rematches with non-conference teams that have already met. That includes the First Four games in Dayton, Ohio.

Committee members must determine how to seed and bracket a team like Oklahoma State, which was ranked in the top five early in the season but went 0-3 after Marcus Smart was suspended for shoving a fan.

"They'll have to sort through RPI rankings and analytics, which have become a bigger and bigger part of college and pro basketball, to choose 36 at-large teams. They'll have to weigh teams finishing strong against those that are fading, and they may have to give more consideration to placing teams closer to home to prevent attendance declines at second- and third-round sites.

All of this could force the committee to produce multiple brackets before unveiling the final one on CBS.

"There have been a number of years where there have been four or five brackets active very late in the game, whether it be the SEC (tournament) championship or other reasons," Wellman said. "But the committee will be well prepared for any possibility (of upsets) late Sunday afternoon."

Wellman is convinced that by the end of the weekend, the committee will come to a conclusion that fans will embrace.

"I think that's good for college basketball that we have the parity that we do," Wellman said. "It should produce, like I said, a great NCAA basketball tournament."



Virginia

It's not an injury that will give the committee pause over the Cavaliers, it's their schedule. Virginia won the Atlantic Coast Conference title outright for the first time since Ralph Sampson was in Charlottesville 33 years ago. The unbalanced schedule kept the Cavaliers from playing two games against Duke, North Carolina and Syracuse. It's not their fault, that's the schedule they were dealt and they did an impressive job. But Virginia finished with a 25-6 record, a 12 RPI and it only had 10 wins over teams in the RPI's top 100.



Wichita State

The debate of whether or not the Shockers deserve a No. 1 seed is over. They finished unbeaten, 34-0, the first team to enter the NCAA tournament undefeated since UNLV in 1991. Still, there's a nagging little itch that won't go away. The Shockers have a 5 RPI but their strength of schedule is 334. Granted, they can only play who is on their schedule but the Missouri Valley Conference didn't provide much opposition. Wichita State has one win over an RPI top 25, two over top 50 and seven over teams ranked 51 to 100.



Michigan State

When the Spartans were fully healthy they were ranked No. 3 in the nation. Then the injuries started piling up. Adreian Payne, Keith Appling, Branden Dawson and Gary Harris all missed various amounts of time and Michigan State was watching the losses accumulate and the Big Ten title went to rival Michigan. No longer a team that will be a 1 or 2 seed, the Spartans will probably be a 4 or 5, but if the committee looks at the injury bug and seven wins over teams with a top 50 RPI, could they move them up a line or two?



Oklahoma State

There can't be many people who didn't see the tape of star guard Marcus Smart shoving a fan at Texas Tech. He was suspended for three games that were part of a seven-game slide that accounted for more than half of the Cowboys' 11 losses. Ten of Oklahoma State's losses this season were to teams in the RPI's top 50 and the Cowboys did beat five teams in that same range. Oklahoma State is better than its 40 RPI, but the committee is under no obligation to treat a suspension as it would an injury.

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



TONY DING/AP

Minnesota enters the Big Ten tournament needing a win or two to secure an NCAA tournament berth, and the fate of the Gophers will rest largely on the small shoulders of guard DeAndre Mathieu.

## Mathieu helps carry Gophers

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — As DeAndre Mathieu performs, so go the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

That's a lot of responsibility to fall on a player with such small shoulders, but there's no one on the roster more likely to be unfazed by pressure than the speedy, elusive, fearless Mathieu.

"He's 5-9, 160, but he believes he's 6-8, 230," coach Richard Pitino said.

The junior point guard has emerged in his first season with the program as the truest indicator of the team's success, or failure. Such an impact is certainly normal for a player who handles the ball so often, but Mathieu was largely unknown when he transferred to the program last year.

Mathieu has struggled at times, including nine turnovers in a loss at Nebraska in January and seven more in defeat at Purdue in February. But he's also played well in big games. During Minnesota's three best victories this season, against Ohio State, Wisconsin and Iowa, Mathieu totaled 50 points, 15 assists, 12 rebounds and only five turnovers. He shot a combined 20-for-32 from the field.

Pitino has been telling him all season how important his protecting the ball while still playing aggressively is for the Gophers, and even teammates like senior Austin Hollins have echoed the advice.

"We've got a good enough relationship where I said to him... 'Am I being too tough on you? Am I getting to you?'" Pitino said. "And he said, 'Yes.' So I backed off a little."

**'He's 5-9, 160, but he believes he's 6-8, 230.'**

Richard Pitino  
Minnesota basketball coach  
on guard DeAndre Mathieu

That was the only time of any sign Mathieu might have cracked, with a demanding first-year coach and his first foray into the rigor of Big Ten competition. Mathieu, a native of Knoxville, Tenn., played as a freshman at Morehead State in Kentucky. Then he switched to Central Arizona, a junior college, before joining the Gophers.

"It was tough. It was just like they said it'd be. Every game was a battle," Mathieu said after the Gophers beat Penn State 81-63 on Sunday.

He noted that was Minnesota's largest margin of victory in conference play.

"And it took to the end of the season to get that. So it was exactly what they told me it would be," Mathieu said.

Minnesota (19-12, 8-10) played Penn State on Thursday in the first round of the Big Ten tournament.

With three transfers and one incoming freshman, the holdovers from previous coach Tubby Smith's teams weren't sure what to expect from the newcomers. But Mathieu, who is averaging 11.9 points per game, second on the team to Andre Hollins, quickly made quite the impression

with his waterbug-like moves to the basket, leadership of the fast break and remarkably accurate floating mid-range jump shot.

Hollins is most appreciative of Mathieu's ability to drive to the lane, which when the offense is working well opens up more outside shots for the other guards.

"That's not a skill that a lot of people have. He also finishes well," Hollins said.

When the Gophers first started to struggle in late January, opponents were succeeding at forcing Mathieu into costly turnovers by trapping him in the backcourt while he behind the three-point line. After sputtering through some of those games, Mathieu spoke bluntly about his deficiency and has since better determined how to avoid that.

When all else fails, of course, there's always that 15-foot floater that he swishes with regularity. He learned that from one of his youth coaches, years ago.

"I was always smaller than everybody else. I really got a lot better at it. It's starting to get a little easier because I'm getting taller," he said, laughing.

Further growth is unlikely, at least in height. If Mathieu continues to develop during tournament time this week, maybe the Gophers will get to the NCAA tournament.

"If you'd told me at the beginning of the season we could maybe win a game or two, be in the NCAA tournament with returning 48 percent of our scoring, a lot of brand new guys, a lot of guys who have never played in these type of situations," Pitino said. "I'd say, 'Where do I sign up?'"

# Michigan favored to halt Big Ten tourney drought

By MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — No. 8 Michigan ended one championship drought by winning its first outright Big Ten crown last week.

Now the Wolverines will get a chance to end another title drought in the conference tournament, which has been filled with some of the school's most forgettable basketball moments — from Evan Turner's 40-foot buzzer-beater for Ohio State to the embarrassment of having the 1998 title stripped away because of NCAA sanctions.

Maybe this time, Michigan can put those images behind it for good.

"You've just got to go and get through those first games and really play well," coach John Beilein said before leaving for Indianapolis. "You've got to find ways to get lucky and get to find times to play hard and if you can, you'll be sitting there in the championship game."

The Wolverines (23-7) are the favorite.

They have the conference's player of the year, Nik Stauskas, and the media's choice for coach of the year in Beilein. They have a five-game winning streak and 15 wins in conference play. They have multiple NBA prospects and for the first time in school history, the defending national runner-ups are seeded No. 1.

But Beilein also is well aware of what can go wrong in the postseason.

He led the Wolverines to semifinal appearances in 2011 and 2012, but they haven't played for a title since or won more than one game in a single tourney since that '98 championship loss, which was later expunged.

Michigan's march toward redemption begins Friday against either eighth-seeded Indiana (17-14) or ninth-seeded Illinois (18-13), who were to play Thursday.

No. 12 Wisconsin (25-6), No. 23 Michigan State (23-8) and Nebraska (19-11) — the second, third and fourth seeds — all earned byes into Friday's quarterfinals.

Here are five things to look for this week in Indianapolis.

**1 Play-in games:** Most tourney analysts believe six Big Ten teams will get NCAA tournament bids. A seventh could get in with a strong tourney run. The two teams with the most to gain or lose this week appear to be Minnesota and Nebraska.



TONY DING/AP

Michigan's Jordan Morgan holds up the Big Ten trophy after the Wolverines beat Indiana.

**2 Petteway's push:** Terran Petteway had a breakout season for the Cornhuskers, averaging 18 points and earning all-league honors. He also has Nebraska going into the postseason as one of the league's hottest teams with 10 wins in 12 games. The Nebraska women won their first-ever conference tournament title Sunday at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, which prompted coach Connie Yori to declare that Nebraska is no longer just a football school. Now the men's team has a chance to prove it.

**3 Healthy Spartans:** Michigan State coach Tom Izzo does his best work in March and April and there's no place he'd rather be than Indy. Here, Izzo has won a tourney title, his lone national championship and a regional final that allowed the Spartans to make a Final Four appearance in suburban Detroit. Can he do it again? Perhaps. His team, once considered a national title contender, is finally getting healthy.

**4 The red Badgers:** Wisconsin regained its mojo during the second half of the conference season and is now moving full steam ahead into the postseason. How good are these Badgers? They were ranked in the top five in January and were one of the last undefeated teams in the nation. After a midseason slump, the Badgers are playing well again.

**5 Home-state woes:** Purdue and Indiana have struggled all season with consistency. While some think the two Indiana schools have an inherent home-court advantage, Purdue has only won one title (2009) and the Hoosiers haven't won any — numbers that aren't expected to change this year.

# SPORTS



**Aging Tiger?**  
Woods' body may be his biggest obstacle in pursuit of Nicklaus' mark | Page 57

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/Stars and Stripes

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL



# Parity accounts

## Selection committee faces complex choices determining NCAA field

By MICHAEL MAROT  
The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS

**R**on Wellman will spend his weekend watching college basketball games, crunching numbers and evaluating inside information at an Indianapolis hotel.

To college basketball fans, it's a dream world.

The reality is that for Wellman and the other nine members on the NCAA tournament selection committee, this will be a long, stressful weekend with tougher questions and debate than anybody would have expected back in November.

"This year is unlike any of the five years that I have seen," said Wellman, the committee chairman. "There is an awful lot of parity and balance in the game, which will make it more challenging for the committee, but should produce a really exciting tournament."

It's never easy getting this 68-team tournament bracket right, but this year's field is rife with questions from top to bottom.

Five teams have been ranked No. 1 this season, but No. 2 Wichita State, the Missouri Valley Conference champion, is the first team in 23 years to enter the tourney with a perfect record.

Syracuse was unbeaten until a month ago but has now lost four of its last six.

Kansas, the Big 12 regular-season champion, is trying to show the committee it still deserves a No. 1 seed even though star center Joel Embiid is expected to miss the conference tourney and the first weekend of NCAA play with an injured back. The Jayhawks are 1-1 since Embiid went down, and Wellman and his committee will spend part of this weekend getting updates before emerging Sunday evening with the bracket.

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