

**FACES**

Zach Braff embraces independent spirit in crafting latest project  
Page 17



**MILITARY**

Air Force to cut 3,500 positions at headquarters  
Page 4



**BRITISH OPEN**

Despite struggle, Mickelson confident about links course  
Back page

F-35 cleared for 'restricted' flights; will not participate in air show » Page 4

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 73, No. 64 ©SS 2014 WEDNESDAY, JULY 16, 2014

平成26年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)  
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥50

50¢/Free to Deployed Areas



## FOR AIR FORCE, A NEW MISSION?

Service looks to meet new demands amid shrinking budget

Page 3

BRETT CLASHMAN/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Air Force Lt. Col. Benjamin Bishop adjusts his helmet inside an F-35 Lightning II before a training mission last year at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The Air Force has pinned much of its future on the radar-evading F-35, which officials maintain could provide key information to troops on the ground.

## IG: VA lied about benefits backlog

### House hears testimony that agency wrote off thousands of disability, pension claims

BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs overstated progress in reducing its massive benefits backlog by improperly scrubbing thousands of the oldest veterans claims from estimates, the department inspector general said Monday.

The VA claimed last year it drastically cut the number of disability and pension claims languishing for more than two

years, but in reality the department wrote off thousands of cases without making final decisions on granting benefits, the IG found.

The VA has struggled for years with its benefits backlog, but the manipulation disclosed Monday by investigators before the House Veterans Affairs Committee suggests new depths of dysfunction and wrongdoing in the Veterans Benefits Administration, which accounts for half of the VA's responsibilities.

SEE BACKLOG ON PAGE 3



A fighter with the Islamic State takes control of an intersection in central Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday in this cellphone photo.

## Extent of Iraqi army's June debacle clearer

By MITCHELL PROTHERO  
*McClatchy Foreign Staff*

IRBIL, Iraq — Five weeks after Islamist fighters stormed across northern and western Iraq in a surprise offensive that nearly reached the outskirts of the Iraqi capital, virtually every captured location remains firmly in rebel hands, while the central government's meager efforts at a counteroffensive have met with failure

on virtually every front. Worse yet, Iraqi and U.S. officials have confirmed that fighters allied with the Islamic State not only captured hundreds of U.S.-supplied Humvees and large amounts of ammunition in their march across Iraq, but they also now possess as many as 52 U.S.-supplied artillery pieces with GPS aiming systems.

SEE IRAQ ON PAGE 10

**QUOTE**  
OF THE DAY

"The very first family I killed, I felt bad, but then I got used to it. Given how we were told that the Tutsis were evil, after the first family, I just felt like I was killing our enemies."

— Emmanuel Ndayisaba, now vice president of a group that builds houses for Rwandan genocide survivors

See story on Page 12

**TOP CLICKS**  
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Bergdahl completes 'reintegration,' reports for Army admin job
2. Bill would add names of 'Lost 74' sailors to Vietnam Wall
3. Marine captain refused to leave Afghan interpreter behind
4. Navy expands command ball cap policy
5. From Marines to Mr. Clean: Veteran uses war zone skills to start crime-scene cleanup company

**COMING**  
SOON



Health

Keeping your feet fit

**TODAY**  
IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 16
- Business ..... 18
- Classified ..... 19, 23
- Comics ..... 13
- Crossword ..... 13
- Faces ..... 17
- Opinion ..... 20-21
- Sports ..... 24-32
- Weather ..... 18
- Wired World..... 15

**MILITARY**

**89 killed in Afghan suicide blast**

By RAHIM FAIEZ  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber blew up a car packed with explosives near a busy market and a mosque in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, killing 89 people and wounding more than 40 in one of the deadliest attacks since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion.

The attack in the town of Urgun in Paktika province brutally underscored the country's instability as foreign troops prepare to leave by the end of the year and feuding politicians in Kabul work to form a new government after a disputed presidential election.

Gen. Mohammad Zahir Azimi,

Defense Ministry spokesman, said the bomber detonated his explosives-laden vehicle as he drove by the crowded market in the remote town in Urgun district, close to the border with Pakistan.

The military was providing helicopters and ambulances to transport the victims to the provincial capital, Sharan, and so far 42 wounded have been moved to hospitals there, he said, adding that the explosion destroyed more than 20 shops.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Taliban sent a statement to media denying involvement, saying they "strongly condemn attacks on local people."

Many of the victims were buried under the rubble, said Mohammad Reza Kharoti, administrative chief of Urgun district.

"It was a very brutal suicide attack against poor civilians," he said. "There was no military base nearby."

The bombing was also the first major attack since a weekend deal between the two Afghan presidential contenders brokered by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry averted a dangerous rift in the country's troubled democracy following last month's disputed runoff. The two candidates, former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani and former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, met Tues-

day to discuss an agreed-upon audit of last month's presidential runoff vote, Abdullah's spokesman, Fazl Sancharaki, said.

Neither the election nor the weekend deal have had any visible impact on the security situation in the country, which sees near-daily attacks. Hours before the Paktika blast, a roadside bomb in eastern Kabul ripped through a minivan carrying seven employees of the media office of the presidential palace, killing two of the passengers. The explosion struck as the vehicle was taking the palace staffers to work, said Gul Agha Hashimi, the chief of criminal investigations with the Kabul police.

**Meyer takes command of 2nd Cavalry Regiment**

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL  
Stars and Stripes

VILSECK, Germany — Col. John Meyer replaced Col. Douglas Sims as commander of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment during a ceremony Tuesday that also saw the changeover of the command sergeant major along with each Dragon squad commander.

Meyer is no stranger to Germany, having served several tours of duty here, including one as commander of 2nd Battalion, 28th Infantry Regiment, in Grafenwöhr. Most recently, he served as director of training for the operations, plans and training forces command in Fort Bragg, N.C.

Sims is heading to Fort Carson, Colo., to become the chief of staff for the 4th Infantry Division. With his departure, the command sergeant major reins passed from his senior enlisted adviser, Sgt. Maj. Wilber Engram, to Sgt. Maj. Martin Celestine, who will serve as interim command sergeant major.

Meyer said being selected as



MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Maj. Gen. Richard Longo, deputy commanding general of U.S. Army Europe and commander of U.S. Army NATO, passes the 2nd Cavalry Regiment unit colors to its new commander, Col. John Meyer, in Vilseck, Germany, on Tuesday. Sgt. Maj. Martin Celestine will serve as interim command sergeant major.

commander to what he referred to as "the longest serving regiment in the U.S. Army" is a point of pride for him.

"It's an honor and a privilege to serve in the regiment," Meyer

said. "What I'd like to do is to continue the history, traditions and legacy of the regiment and honor everything they've done before. And then to continue to support [U.S. Army Europe] and our allies

as the regiment gets ready to assume their next mission."

Tuesday's ceremony also included the standing-up of a new regimental engineer squadron.

darnell.michael@stripes.com

**BEST IN PACAF**  
2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Conference Room  
Reception & Coffee Shop  
24 Hour Dry & Laundry Service  
Business Center  
Fitness Room

**AIR FORCE INNS**

**TURUMI LODGE**  
OSAN AIR BASE, KOREA

Do you have friends & family visiting soon? Or do you just need a time out? Make reservations at the most comfortable and affordable place in town. Room rate from \$56.00 to \$60.50 per night. Turumi Lodge operation 24 hours, 7days a week.

DSN: 315-784-1844    Comm: 82-31-661-1844  
E-mail: turumilodge.reservat@us.af.mil

**www.dodlodging.net    www.51fss.com**



## MILITARY

## AF urged to adapt, plan for today's threats

By Tom Vandenberg  
USA Today

WASHINGTON — Demand for Air Force spy planes, fighters and bombers from Eastern Europe to the Far East is spiking, and top generals say they're scrambling to meet commanders' needs as they struggle with shrinking budgets and keeping old planes flying.

Juggling those tasks comes as Air Force brass seek to move beyond ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and establish their service as the Pentagon's pre-eminent player. But some analysts believe the military would be better served if the Air Force focused on helping other services. "Their primary role in the nation's defense is actually not about air-to-air combat in sexy fighter planes," Janine Davidson, a military analyst at the Council on Foreign Relations and former Air Force pilot at the Pentagon office, said in an email. Instead, the Air Force should focus on tasks that help troops fight on the

ground for the Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and allied nations. At \$400 billion, the jet is the most costly weapon in Pentagon history. It has been beset by cost overruns and was grounded July 3 after fire broke out on one June 23 in Florida. It was cleared to resume limited flying Tuesday.

For commanders in troubled regions, the top priority is for aircraft that collect intelligence and conduct surveillance and reconnaissance missions (ISR), Hostage said. "They're [also] asking for high-end fighter capability and for continuous bomber presence."

Hostage, and his successor at Combat Command, Gen. Herbert Carlisle, currently in command of the Air Force in the Pacific, see the following hot spots:

■ In Eastern Europe where Russian President Vladimir Putin this spring seized the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine and continues to sue unrest. Air Force F-16s and Army paratroopers were sent for exercises in neighboring

countries.

■ "If you go back and read Hitler's playbook in 1939 it looks a lot like what Mr. Putin's up to in Eastern Europe," Hostage said. "My expectation is that we're going to have to continue our requirement to support our friends in Europe and NATO."

■ In the Pacific, China has jostled with Vietnam, Japan and the Philippines over offshore mineral rights and control of islands in the South China and East China seas. The Air Force is also fortifying its bases and shifting warplanes among them in the region to withstand and retaliate to Chinese missiles, according to Carlisle.

The Pentagon's preoccupation with Iraq and Afghanistan — unchallenged skies for the most part

— allowed the Air Force to get by with older warplanes. Future foes won't be as forgiving, says Loren Thompson, a military analyst at the Lexington Institute and a consultant to defense contractors.

"Much of the Air Force fleet has grown decrepit with age," Thompson said. "The fighters, bombers, tankers, trainers and radar planes are all in need of replacement. Modernization of Cold War planes has been delayed by the fact that we fought enemies after 9/11 who lacked air forces and air defenses — so buying better planes was not a high priority."

The Air Force has pinned much of its future on the F-35. But Davidson, the former Pentagon official and pilot, said it would be better served emphasizing how it helps other services fight.

"They might have been in a better place if people understood the vast array of things everyone relies on them for," Davidson said. "But they don't manage to talk that story well."

Furthermore, the VA then "lost control" of the provisional ratings cases, where they were pushed further to the back burner, where they were ignored. Some veterans might never have received final rating decisions if not for the IG investigation, according to Halliday.

Miller showed internal VA emails from last year showing managers told employees that the method of dealing with the oldest cases might go against their professional values but that "there will be no negative consequences for you the employees."

The only negative effects would come from not meeting VA goals of reducing the backlog, according to excerpts from the emails.

Investigators also are looking at allegations that 40,000 pieces of mail, much of it related to claims, has been shredded or hidden at VA benefits offices in Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The VA considers any disability or pension benefit claims unprocessed if over four and a half months part of its backlog. This month, the department reported its backlog is now 279,913 cases, down from 588,000 reported a year ago when the special initiative to reduce the oldest cases began.

Allison Hickey, the VA undersecretary for benefits, told the House she was "saddened and offended" by revelations that the department's health care system manipulated data and understated that lawmakers are skeptical of her statistics.

"I know the No. 1 question on your minds is whether the accuracy of data in [Veterans Benefits Administration] can be trusted," Hickey said.

Still, the overall claims backlog shrank by more than 56 percent from last year and veterans are

waiting an average of 128 days less for a claims decision, she said.

"We have done 300,000 claims in backlog last year. We don't have that many left in backlog this year," Hickey said. "I think we will [eliminate the backlog] and I think we have the data to say we can."

She said the disability and pension claims are filtered through 11 levels of review to catch errors, and benefits records are kept on a national database that allows changes to be added to discourage manipulation, but there will always be employees in any organization that commit wrongdoing.

"When we find these individuals, you can rest assured I will respond quickly and take necessary actions," Hickey said.

Miller and other members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee have said they are skeptical of such reassurances.

Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich., said repeated VA claims about the backlog are "baloney" designed to make the department look good while staff was actually hiding the true numbers.

"They are all concerned about numbers and not veterans," Benishek said. "It is absolutely unbelievable to me that this is going on and nobody seems responsible for it."

Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., asked Halliday if she trusts the VA claim that it has reduced the overall claims backlog by 56 percent.

"At this point, I can say, 'No, I do not trust those numbers,'" Halliday said. "They need to be looked at very carefully, so I don't want to say I trust them."

tritten.travis@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Travis\_Tritten

## Senate panel sets GI pay raise cap at 1 percent

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Senators on Tuesday backed the Pentagon's proposed cap on military pay raises for next year in an early subcommittee draft of its annual defense spending bill.

The \$549 billion legislation drafted by the Senate appropriations subcommittee on defense backs proposals by the Obama administration and the Pentagon to cut long-term personnel costs beginning with a 1 percent cap.

But it remains early in the game for the Senate defense spending bill and changes are likely. The House has already voted to keep the standard 1.8 percent cap on raises next year and there is similar support in the Senate at large.

A summary of the subcommittee bill released Tuesday shows a \$489.6 billion base budget with \$59.7 billion for supplemental war funding. On Thursday, the proposal will go to the full Senate Appropriations Committee for debate and amendments.

The Senate appropriations bill is the last piece of the 2015 military budget needed for Congress to craft a final plan for defense priorities and spending. The chamber has passed a large defense authorization bill and the House passed both an authorization bill and appropriations bill earlier this summer.

Along with the pay cap, the subcommittee also blocked Pentagon wishes by blocking \$200 million in cuts to military base supermarkets and providing money to save the venerable A-10 Thunderbolt II, nicknamed the Warthog, from retirement, as the Air Force would like to have more than 100 support from the rest of Congress

and is likely to survive.

"I think the A-10 is a great aircraft. There are a lot of people who agree in the Pentagon," said Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., who chairs the defense appropriation subcommittee. "I will tell you in the Senate support among members is very strong."

The draft pumps money into military hardware, including \$1.3 billion for the E/A-18G Growler aircraft, \$120 million for Abrams tanks, and an additional \$5.9 billion for defense research and development.

Durbin said the funding maintains key military assets and preserves the U.S. military industrial base and its expertise in defense manufacturing.

Meanwhile, without significant increases in money for DARPA and other innovative programs, Durbin said the United States could lose its edge over China, which dedicates a larger piece of its defense budget to military technology.

Also, the subcommittee has proposed eliminating federal subsidies on tobacco products sold on military bases, which Durbin says could cut the costs of cigarettes and smokeless tobacco by up to 25 percent for servicemembers despite the known health risks.

The budget adds \$25 million in funding for special victims counseling in which Durbin says assault cases would — a threefold increase from 2012, according to the Senate.

Under the bill, the U.S. would also double down on its funding for Israel's Iron Dome missile defense shield as tensions increase with the Palestinians.

tritten.travis@stripes.com  
Twitter: @Travis\_Tritten

## Backlog: Lawmaker deems VA claims 'baloney'

## FROM FRONT PAGE

The other major mission of the VA comprises a nationwide health care system now embroiled in scandal for manipulating data and covering up long delays in treatment at hundreds of hospitals and clinics.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the committee, said the VA manipulation of its backlog of veterans seeking disability and pension ratings by writing off thousands of unresolved cases is analogous to its health care facilities keeping secret patient wait lists to hide months-long waits.

"I created the appearance of success just like cooking the books on scheduling times," he said.

The VA announced last year that it had reduced its oldest benefit claims from 1,300 to 1,258 in just two months as part of a special initiative to chip away at the backlog, according to the IG report released Monday.

Over 7,800 of the unresolved benefit claims disappeared from the VA's backlog. The IG issued what it called a "provisional rating," a preliminary decision based on incomplete or outdated medical information in a claims file. It is a classification that requires additional work by VA staff to benefit claimants after the VA issued what it called a "provisional rating" and cannot be appealed by veterans, the IG found.

The department practice overstated the reduction in pending claims and progress toward eliminating the overall claims backlog, according to the assistant VA inspector general for audits and evaluations, testified to the House committee.

"They were working hard — they had to try something to clear the backlog — but we feel it misrepresented the workload," she said.

MILITARY

# Air Force set to reduce positions at HQs by 3,500

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — The Air Force plans to cut nearly 3,500 positions at headquarters across the service by deactivating and realigning elements in an effort to save \$1.6 billion over the next five years.

The savings from reducing 3,459 higher headquarters' positions are to be reinvested into combat missions at the wing level, officials said.

Some of the cuts will come from the consolidation of installation support management under a new Air Force Installation and Mission Support Center, which will report to Air Force Materiel Command. Its location has not been announced.

Most of the cuts will likely come sooner rather than later.

"We are aggressively pursuing reductions within the first year, rather than spread them out over five years as allowed by" the Defense Department, Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James said, according to a news release. "It's better for airmen because it provides them predictability and allows us to restabilize our workforce sooner. It also allows us to harvest the savings earlier so that we can plow it back into readiness and some of our key modernization programs."

The staffing reductions are part of a comprehensive management review plan to reduce overhead costs, increase efficiencies, eliminate redundant activities and improve business practices, the Air Force said in Monday's announcement.

Taking the biggest staffing hits are Joint Base Langley-Eustis, outside Washington and home to Air Combat Command, slated to lose 742 jobs, and Air Force Headquarters at the Pentagon, which would lose 734 jobs.

U.S. Air Forces in Europe, with headquarters at Ramstein Air Base, is scheduled to lose 349 positions, while 238 jobs are to be cut from Pacific Air Forces at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii.

At USAFE, 200 positions will be transferred to the new installation and mission support center, USAFE spokesman said in an email.

In some areas, such as personnel, civil engineering and financial management, "centralized management makes sense and allows us to better focus our support" on executing the operational mission, chief public affairs officer Jerry Renne said.

USAFE will also reduce its headquarters staff by more than 100 positions, reductions expected to have minimal effect on the command's wings, Renne said.

The Air Force-wide cuts will be a combination of civilian and military jobs. The Air Force hasn't specified what types of jobs will be eliminated or how many civilian positions might be slashed.

The Air Force said it will try to spare civilians from involuntary separation by first offering early retirement and voluntary separation incentive pay programs.

Another streamlining change is the creation of a new numbered



**'We are aggressively pursuing reductions within the first year, rather than spread them out over five years as allowed by [the DOD].'**

Deborah Lee James  
Air Force secretary

Air Force. The Air Force Intelligence and Reconnaissance Agency will realign under the new 25th Air Force and be part of Air Combat Command. Its headquarters will be at Joint Base San Antonio.

The Air Force will also continue to reduce contract spending, operating budgets and travel expenditures.

The cuts are part of a sweeping effort to save \$1.6 billion by fiscal 2019.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel announced about six months ago that the Defense Department would begin reducing overhead and streamlining organizations. He directed each of the military branches to trim headquarters costs and staffing levels by 20 percent, allowing five years to accomplish the savings.

"We must change the way we are doing business if we are to meet the Air Force's goal to reduce staffing functions by more than 20 percent," Bill Booth, Air Force acting deputy chief management officer, was quoted as saying in the news release. "Reducing higher headquarters' staffs means we can save money that can be reinvested in getting ready for combat missions at the wing level."

svan.jennifer@stripes.com



BRADLEY C. CHURCH/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

**U.S. Air Force pararescue jumpers participate in a mass casualty exercise at Camp Navajo in Flagstaff, Ariz., on May 9. The Air Force selected only about 25 percent of senior airmen for promotion to staff sergeant this month, but some undermanned jobs, such as pararescue, saw higher promotion rates.**

## Fewer promotions among airmen

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN  
Stars and Stripes

**KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany** — It's a tough year to be an ambitious senior airman in the U.S. Air Force.

This month's round of promotions to staff sergeant had the lowest selection rate in 16 years.

"It's absolutely intentional," said Brig. Gen. Brian Kelly, director of force management policy for the Air Force. It's necessitated by requirements to shrink the force by thousands of airmen.

The numbers this year were stark. Of the 36,739 senior airmen eligible for promotion, 9,403 made the grade, a 25.59 percent selection rate — or roughly 1 in 4 airmen. That's the lowest selection rate since 1998 and down from a high of 50 percent in 2009.

Promotion rates were also fairly low for master sergeant and technical sergeant, Kelly said,

reflective of the overall Air Force drawdown.

Senior airman is the enlisted rank with the highest number competing for promotion. The Air Force purposely kept numbers low to avoid involuntary separation later on to thin the ranks, Kelly said.

However, the rate of promotion varied, depending on whether candidates were in jobs with a surplus or those that are understaffed.

Career fields with less than 85 percent of their required staffing make the Air Force's "chronic critical shortage" list and tend to have better promotion rates, Kelly said.

Jobs that saw the highest percentage of senior airmen promoted were all on that list. For example, of seven airmen eligible for promotion in the "mobility air forces integrated instrument and flight control systems" — the person

charged with maintaining all aspects of flight controls — six were promoted, for a selection rate of 85.71 percent. Nearly 67 percent of airmen who maintain remotely piloted aircraft made staff sergeant, as did about 64 percent of airmen in the pararescue career field, according to data from the Air Force.

Jobs with some of the lowest advancement rates included in-flight refuelers, which saw a promotion rate of 17.65 percent; loadmasters, at 16.43 percent; and public health specialists, at 15 percent.

It's too soon to know if the promotion rates will improve next year, given budget uncertainties, Kelly said.

"What is the actual size of the Air Force going to be?" he asked. "Until we get that solidified, we won't really know" how promotion rates might shake out next year.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

## F-35 will not take part in England air show

BY JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

**WASHINGTON** — Air Force and Navy air worthiness authorities have given the green light for the F-35 fleet to return to flight, but the aircraft won't be able to participate in the world's preeminent international air show in England this week, the Pentagon announced Tuesday.

"The Department of Defense, in concert with our partners in the U.K., has decided not to send Marine Corps ... F-35B aircraft across the Atlantic to participate in the Farnborough air show," Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters. "Although DOD announced Tuesday that the plane had been cleared for takeoff, it still faces restrictions."

"This is a limited flight clearance that includes an engine inspection regimen and a restricted flight envelope which will remain in effect until the root cause of the

June 23 engine mishap is identified and corrected," Kirby said in an earlier statement.

Kirby said that one of the restrictions in place is a requirement that each front fan section of the plane's engine be inspected after three hours of flight time.

"That was a pretty significant limitation in terms of being able to fly them across the Atlantic," Kirby said.

"While we're disappointed that we're not going to be able to participate in the air show, we remain fully committed to the program itself and look forward to future opportunities to showcase its capability to allies and partners," Kirby said.

The entire F-35 fleet had been grounded since July 3 after an F-35 caught fire at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., during an aborted takeoff on June 23. The incident led authorities to conduct engine inspections on all F-35s.

Kendall, the top acquisition official at the Pentagon, has

said that the fire at Eglin was due to excessive friction between blades in the engine's low-pressure turbine and the surrounding cowl, which caused one of the engine blades to fail. He has also said that early indications suggest that the engine problem is not systemic.

Farnborough is the most high-profile air show for industry and defense officials pro-moting their latest hardware. About 90 government delegations are slated to appear, as well as hundreds of contractors and subcontractors, according to BBC News. The Pentagon and contractor Lockheed Martin were hoping to show off the F-35 at the event.

"It would have been a wonderful thing to have those airplanes here," Bogdan said at a news conference Monday, "so the rest of the world could see that it's not a paper airplane, that it's really a technological marvel."

harper.jon@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

MILITARY

# Survey: Wary of China, Vietnamese warm to US

By ERIC SLAVIN  
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Vietnam's people now view the United States as their greatest ally amid widespread concern in Asia over China's territorial ambitions, according to a Pew Research Center global survey released Monday.

In the face-to-face survey of 1,000 adults, 67 percent of Vietnamese said they viewed the United States favorably, while 30 percent said the U.S. will be their most dependable ally in the future, more than any other country selected. For those with no memory of the Vietnam War, U.S. support is even higher. In the 18-29 age group, 89 percent viewed the United States favorably.

Meanwhile, 74 percent of Vietnamese saw China as their nation's greatest threat, with no other nation garnering a statistically significant response. The Vietnamese poll included a 4.5 percent margin of error.

Other neighboring countries seem to share Vietnam's views: The majority of respondents in all Asia-Pacific nations polled by Pew said they were concerned that territorial disputes between China and its neighbors could lead to territorial conflict.

For example, 93 percent of respondents in the Philippines said they were concerned, the highest figure among all countries surveyed. For the past few years, Chinese vessels have blocked Philippine fishing boats from accessing islands the Philippines considers part of its exclusive economic zone, within 200 nautical miles of its mainland.

## Purser gets 2 years for stealing from ship safe

NORFOLK, Va. — A former Military Sealift Command purser was sentenced Monday to two years in federal prison for stealing more than \$350,000 from a ship's safe.

Ismael "Mike" Estrada, 66, of Norfolk, was convicted in March of one count of embezzlement in U.S. District Court.

According to court testimony, Estrada served as a civilian purser on the USNS Arctic, a supply ship. Part of his job was to handle money onboard the vessel.

The jury found Estrada, a retired senior chief petty officer in the Navy, had taken more than half of the Arctic's \$691,000 petty cash supply from a safe on board the vessel. The theft was discovered when Estrada was transferred to another Sealift Command ship. Officials found that bundles of money that should have been all \$100 bills had been swapped out for smaller denominations.

Estrada maintained his innocence at trial. His attorney argued others, including the ship's captain, had access to the safe.

Federal sentencing guidelines recommended a sentence between 3 years and 5 months and 4 years and 3 months. Prosecutors argued

In Japan, 83 percent said they were concerned, due mainly to tense maritime and jet encounters over the Japan-administered Senkaku Islands, which China claims.

Sixty-two percent of Chinese also said they were concerned about potential armed conflict over territory.

The months-long standoff in the South China Sea over a deep water oil rig deployed by China near the Paracel Islands — which are claimed by both Vietnam and China — seems to have a big effect on the survey results in Vietnam.

Although no shots have been fired, each side has accused the other of ramming each other's ships, though most of China's ships are considerably larger. One Vietnamese fishing vessel sunk during the first weeks of the incident, which began in early May. Several photographs and videos online purport to show Chinese vessels targeting Vietnamese ship communications with water cannons.

On July 10, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution calling on China to withdraw the rig and its ships.

The conflict has led to speculation that Vietnam and the United States are headed for a closer strategic relationship than anyone envisioned even a few years ago. U.S. Navy officials have discussed expanding an existing military exchange, while Vietnamese leaders said that they will open to ship visits from all nations at Cam Ranh Bay, which is close to some of the South China Sea's disputed areas.

However, Vietnam's govern-

## for Estrada to receive a sentence within the guidelines, noting the scope of the theft scheme.

James Theuer, Estrada's attorney, asked U.S. District Judge Henry Coke Morgan Jr. for two years. He noted that his client served the United States for more than 40 years — including 26 years with the Navy and more than 14 with Sealift Command.

## US selling \$11 billion in arms to Qatar

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is making an \$11 billion sale of Apache attack helicopters and Patriot and Javelin air-defense weapons to the Gulf state of Qatar.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and his Qatari counterpart, Hamad bin Ali al-Attiyah, met Monday at the Pentagon to sign the deal.

Qatar is a key U.S. ally and hosts a major U.S. air operations center. Qatar was instrumental in completing the deal that gained the May 31 release of Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who was held for five years by the Taliban, in exchange for the release by the U.S. of five Taliban commanders imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

From The Associated Press

ment is still taking a more conservative tone in comparison to popular opinion on China, said Carlyle Thayer, a professor emeritus at University of New South Wales in Australia and Southeast Asia analyst.

Hanoi will factor any enhanced U.S. relationship with China's immediate presence next door, along with its powerful neighbor's economic importance.

"Vietnam would like to tell the U.S. why it's in its interest to balance against China, but also limit their involvement in helping the United States," Thayer said.

If China removes its drilling rig from the disputed waters in mid-August, as it said it would from the beginning in May, it will at least give the two nations time to work on a diplomatic solution.

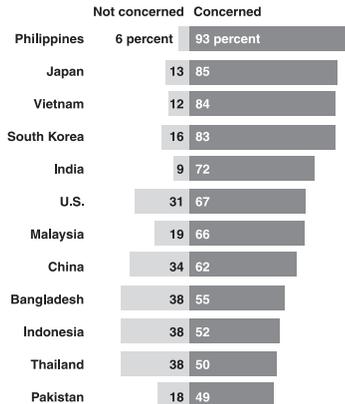
"The tipping point would be any more use of force," Thayer said. "My gut feeling is that I don't think it suits either China or Vietnam to make matters worse."

China claims about 90 percent of the South China Sea, including several island groups and the vast natural resources in their nearby waters.

slavin.eric@stripes.com  
Twitter: @eslavin\_stripes

## Concern over China

Survey finds many Asia-Pacific nations are concerned about territorial disputes between China and neighboring countries.



SOURCE: Pew Research Center

Stars and Stripes



**HAMAGAWA LODGE**

Free & unlimited internet (W-LAN) access

Attention contractors, Long-term stay OK!

## HAMAGAWA LODGE

**CALL FOR RESERVATIONS!**

Friendly English speaking staff

**(098)-936-7139**

Office 9-6 Mon.-Fri., 9-1 Sat., closed Sun.

[72hamagawa@gmail.com](mailto:72hamagawa@gmail.com)

Kadena Golf Club  
Chinese Restaurant  
Hamagawa Lodge  
Sante

Camp Foster  
Family Unit  
KFC  
Pizza House  
HABUSO-ON

- ★ Fully Furnished Living & Dining Room and Kitchenette.
- ★ Free large parking area, Cable TV and Pets allowed welcome.
- ★ Conveniently located near Kadena Air Base, Camp Foster.

## FOREIGN SERVICE BENEFIT PLAN

*Caring for Your Health Worldwide®*



**ENJOY OUR HIGH OPTION BENEFITS AND SERVICES AND COMPETITIVE PREMIUMS:**

- ▶ Enhanced benefits: Low calendar year deductible for PPO/overseas providers; wellness programs/incentives; nutritional counseling/weight management benefits
- ▶ Generous acupuncture, chiropractic and massage therapy benefits
- ▶ Foreign claims paid at PPO coinsurance level
- ▶ 24-hour Nurse Advice and Translation Line
- ▶ Secure Internet claim submission and claim portal
- ▶ Prompt claim payment by Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)
- ▶ Direct billing arrangements with many international hospitals
- ▶ Translation of claims not needed — we do the work for you
- ▶ Keep the Plan when you return to the U.S.

Ready to learn more? Visit our Web site at [www.AFSPA.org/sip1](http://www.AFSPA.org/sip1)

This is a brief description of the features of the Foreign Service Benefit Plan. Before making a final decision, please read the Plan's Federal brochure (01/72-001). All benefits are subject to the definitions, limitations and exclusions set forth in the Federal brochure.

AMERICAN FOREIGN SERVICE PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
Foreign Service Benefit Plan  
Caring for Your Health Worldwide®

NATION

# 2 of 3 al-Qaida case convictions set aside

By PETE YOST  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court on Monday set aside two of three convictions against a former personal assistant to Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit issued the ruling in the case of Ali Hamza al-Bahlul, who produced propaganda videos for al-Qaida and assisted with preparations for the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist strikes.

A military commission had convicted him of conspiracy to commit war crimes, providing

material support for terrorism and soliciting others to commit war crimes. He has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

The appeals court rejected al-Bahlul's challenge to his conspiracy conviction but overturned his material support and solicitation convictions.

The court, in an opinion by Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson, said the government had offered little backup for the notion that a military commission could try defendants on the charges for which the convictions were overturned — material support for terrorism and solicitation to commit war crimes.

On the conspiracy conviction, the appeals court said Congress has positively identified conspiracy as a war crime.

Since the Guantanamo Bay detention center opened at the U.S. Navy base in January 2002, eight prisoners have been convicted of war crimes.

One of those cases was overturned by a civilian court and six came through plea bargains. Six others are facing trial, including the five men charged in the Sept. 11 attacks.

Human Rights First, a nonprofit group, said the decision highlights the problems of continuing to rely on military commissions

to handle such cases.

"There is no question that al-Bahlul could have been tried in a U.S. federal court on terrorism-related charges and justice would have been served long ago," said Daphne Eviatar, senior counsel of the law and security program at Human Rights First.

The Center for Constitutional Rights said the decision will require that another conviction, that of David Hicks for material support for terrorism, be set aside. The Hicks case is pending before the Court of Military Commission Review.

Hicks, an Australian, trained with al-Qaida in Afghanistan and

ended up a prisoner in Guantanamo Bay. He was the first Guantanamo prisoner to be convicted of war crimes. He pleaded guilty in March 2007 to the material support charge and was freed by the end of that year.

The center said Monday's ruling merely defers the inevitable by failing to recognize that conspiracy is no more appropriately tried by a military commission than charges of material support for terrorism.

"We urge the Supreme Court to review today's ruling regarding invidious conspiracy and dispense with all fabricated war crimes charges once and for all," the center said.



JOHN MUNCHILL/AP

A pedestrian on Monday stands beside a memorial for Jersey City police officer Melvin Santiago at the Walgreens where he was fatally shot Sunday in Jersey City, N.J. Another makeshift memorial to the shooter has inflamed passions in the city.

## Memorial to purported Jersey City cop killer shows community at odds

By DAVID PORTER  
The Associated Press

JERSEY CITY, N.J. — A day after a rookie police officer was gunned down in an ambush, mourners came to pay their respects at a makeshift memorial with candles, balloons, empty liquor bottles and messages of love from friends scrawled on T-shirts taped to a brick wall — to his killer.

"Rest easy," "Thug in peace" and "See u on the other side" were among the things friends wrote to Lawrence Campbell, who police say ambushed Officer Melvin Santiago early Sunday as he responded to an armed robbery call at a 24/7 pharmacy. Other officers returned fire, killing Campbell.

Visitors to the memorial would not give their names to The Associated Press. But Barbara Jones, Campbell's neighbor, told The Jersey Journey that the Campbell she knew was nothing like the man city officers say was firing in wait for officers to arrive before open-

ing fire. "He was a good man. He looked up for everybody on the block," Jones told the newspaper.

Angelique Campbell, Campbell's widow, told News 12 New Jersey on Sunday that she was sorry for Santiago's family but that her husband should have killed more officers if they were planning to kill him. She later apologized for the comments.

City officials lashed out that some residents were grieving for the suspect instead of the rookie officer.

Mayor Steven Fulop called Angelique Campbell's comments "ignorant" and "disgusting." Police Director James Shea said they weren't representative of the city or even of Campbell's neighborhood in southwest Jersey City, where the majority of shootings in the city take place and where distrust of police is as much a staple as boarded-up houses and groups of young men hanging out on street corners at midday.

"I firmly believe that the people

who made the ignorant comments on the TV and the people who put up a memorial to a cowardly murderer who shot somebody in the head without giving him a chance are not representative of the people who live up there," Shea said. "We know that because our officers interact with them every day."

A temporary memorial to the slain officer — significantly smaller than the one for Campbell — was set up outside the Walgreens where he was killed, drawing mourners as the store reopened Monday.

Police said they are looking for clues to explain why Campbell, 27, who had previous drug arrests and was released from jail in January, would have committed such a violent act.

Campbell, who didn't try to rob the Walgreen's, assaulted the store's armed security guard and snatched his gun, Fulop said. Then, he told someone to watch the news later because he was "going to be famous."

## Survey finds LGBT population is small

By SANDHYA SOMASHEKHAR  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Less than 3 percent of the U.S. population identify themselves as gay, lesbian or bisexual, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Tuesday in the first large-scale government survey measuring Americans' sexual orientation.

The National Health Interview Survey, which is the government's premier tool for annually assessing Americans' health and behaviors, found that 1.6 percent of adults self-identify as gay or lesbian, and 0.7 percent consider themselves bisexual.

The overwhelming majority of adults, 96.6 percent, labeled themselves as straight in the 2013 survey. An additional 1.1 percent declined to answer, responded "I don't know the answer" or said they were "something else."

The figures offered a slightly smaller assessment of the size of the gay, lesbian and bisexual population than other surveys, which have pegged the overall proportion at closer to 3.5 or 4 percent. In particular, the estimate for bisexuals was lower than in some other surveys.

Inclusion of the sexual orientation question in an influential survey used to guide government funding and research decisions was viewed as a major victory for the gay community, which has struggled with a dearth of data about its special health needs.

"This is a major step forward in trying to remedy some of these

gaps in our understanding of the role sexual orientation and gender identity play in people's health and in their lives," said Gary Gates, a demographer at the Williams Institute, a research center at the University of California at Los Angeles that studies the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, or LGBT, population.

Begun in 1957, the federal health interview survey comprises a wide range of questions, on topics including medical care, vaccinations and tobacco use. The data is collected for the CDC by the Census Bureau, which conducts interviews with thousands of Americans across the country. It is highly regarded because of its large sample size — it comprised 33,557 adults between the ages of 18 and 64 for the most recent survey — and because of its methods, which include face-to-face interviews and some follow-up telephone queries.

A few other federal surveys ask about sexual orientation but are not large enough to provide data that can be generalized to the country as a whole, government health officials have said.

The information released by the CDC Tuesday offers an initial analysis through the lens of sexual orientation on measures critical to public health, such as smoking, drinking and health insurance status.

It did not find a broad pattern suggesting that one group was less healthy overall than any other group, said Brian Ward, the researcher for the report.

We've been making loans of up to \$10,000 to Active Duty Military for over 64 years.

# YES

omni  
MILITARY

Click Today...Cash Today\* [www.omnimilitaryloans.com](http://www.omnimilitaryloans.com) "We love to say yes!"

NATION

# Skin gel shows promise as breast cancer treatment

By CAELAINN HOGAN  
The Washington Post

A gel containing the drug tamoxifen and applied to the skin was as effective in reducing the growth of breast cancer cells in women with noninvasive cancer as the pill form of the medication—and it caused fewer side effects, according to a new study.

The paper, published Tuesday in Clinical Cancer Research, a journal of the American Association for Cancer Research, said the gel was applied to the breasts of women diagnosed with ductal carcinoma in situ, or DCIS. All the women had DCIS that was sensitive to estrogen.

After six to 10 weeks of gel application, the reduction in a marker for cancer cell growth in the breast tissue was similar to that of the orally administered tamoxifen, the study found.

The findings could have broad implications, the researchers said. The gel, like the pill form of the drug, could be used to reduce the risk of a recurrence of breast cancer or to try to prevent the disease in the first place.

It might be used more widely because it causes fewer side effects, said Seema Khan, a surgical oncologist at the Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine in Chicago and the lead author of the study.

Tamoxifen is used to treat women with estrogen-receptor-

positive cancer, which relies on estrogen to grow. When taken for five years, the drug can cut in half the risk of recurrence of that type of cancer.

Tamoxifen's side effects range from hot flashes and vaginal dryness to potentially fatal blood clots and uterine cancer.

The medicated gel causes fewer side effects because the drug is concentrated in the breast tissue and doesn't circulate much in the blood.

"The gel minimized exposure to the rest of the body and concentrated the drug in the breast, where it is needed," Khan said.

The study could have broader implications for other drugs that cannot be administered by mouth but might be safely used topically.

A related study released Tuesday said that researchers have identified the genes that help predict whether patients will respond to tamoxifen. About one-third of women with estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer relapse after being treated with tamoxifen and, even with further treatment, have a median survival rate of 30 to 45 months.

Using data from about 680 patients, the researchers are doing further testing on the effectiveness of the gene signature in predicting whether women at risk would respond to tamoxifen therapy.



TED S. WARREN/AP

Michael "Billy the Kid" Kenworthy, a marijuana delivery driver for Winterlife, displays marijuana products for a customer who identified herself as "Tracy" while conducting a transaction in Seattle last month.

# Budding delivery business grows with legalized pot

By MANUEL VALDES  
The Associated Press

SEATTLE — William "Jack-rabbit" Large pulls his SUV out the side of a downtown Seattle street, parking behind an Amazon Fresh delivery truck and carrying a product the online retailer doesn't offer: marijuana.

The thin, bespectacled Large is a delivery man for Winterlife, a Seattle company that is among a group of new businesses pushing the limits of Washington state's recreational pot industry by offering to bring marijuana to almost any doorstep.

"It's an opportunity that should not be missed," Large said.

While delivery services have existed for years to supply medical marijuana patients, the rise of similar businesses geared toward serving recreational users in Washington state and Colorado highlights how the industry is outpacing the states' pot laws.

Winterlife's business model is a felony under Washington state law, which allows only the sale of pot grown by licensed producers at licensed retail shops.

Lawmakers should consider changing that, said Alison Holcomb, the author of the 2012 voter initiative that legalized the recreational use of pot, because providing more ways to access marijuana will help push people to the legal pot market.

In Colorado, where marijuana regulations require sales to be done in licensed dispensaries, there's a flourishing market online for marijuana deliveries made in exchange for donations. The law allows adults over 21 to

give one another up to an ounce of marijuana, provided it is done "without remuneration."

The only known case of criminal charges brought against a Colorado delivery service came last year, when the owner of a pot-for-donations service in the Colorado Springs area faced felony distribution charges. He committed suicide before trial.

In Washington state, where the legal pot industry kicked off last week, companies like Winterlife jumped in to fill demand from consumers for marijuana while the state spent the past 19 months building the regulations and licensing growers and retailers.

Winterlife co-founder Evan Cox, a vegan and bicyclist enthusiast, began by advertising on Craigslist and made deliveries.

Now he has around 50 full- and part-time employees, including 25 to 30 delivery personnel in cars and bicycles. Operators field between 400 and 600 calls a day.

"We found a way to really fill the need that the Washington voter said that there is," he said from his company's headquar-

ters, where workers busily sort, cut and package their different marijuana products into branded clear bags.

The Winterlife model is simple. They have a website that features their products — marijuana flowers, edibles and pipes. After a consumer makes a call, the consumer's phone is relayed to a driver, who then asks them where they want to meet.

Cox is fully aware of the shaky legal ground where he stands.

As the business kept growing, Cox decided to visit an attorney for advice. The company hopes that by checking the identification of its customers and opting not to mail the product it will avoid legal trouble.

Sgt. Sean Whitcomb, a spokesman for the Seattle Police Department, said Winterlife is undermining the spirit of the legal marijuana law. So far, he said, the police department has bigger priorities.

But he said the department could change its stance if it receives information about underage sales or other complaints.

# Ruling paves way for Confederate flag on Texas license plates

From wire reports

AUSTIN, Texas — A Southern heritage group defeated Texas on Monday, celebrating a court decision expected to allow the state to issue license plates adorned with the Confederate battle flag.

A federal appeals panel ruled 2-1 that the Department of Motor Vehicles had violated the Sons of Confederate Veterans' free speech rights when it engaged in "viewpoint discrimination" by rejecting its specialty plate in 2011.

The judgment rekindled a loud debate among those who say the symbol honors Confederate heritage and others who see it as racially offensive and hurtful.

Opponents said they were dismayed by the ruling of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in

New Orleans. That's where the veterans group took its fight after a federal judge in Austin rejected its lawsuit against the DMV and upheld the state's ban on the plate.

"This is a sad day for African-Americans and others victimized by hate groups in this state," said Gary Bledsoe, president of the NAACP in Texas. He said such a Confederate-inspired plate "marginalizes American citizens" and is akin to memorializing slavery.

The state attorney general's office, which represented the DMV, said it is reviewing its options, such as requesting a hearing before the full appeals court or taking it to the U.S. Supreme Court. Judges Edward Prado and Jennifer Elrod, who upheld the group's suit, said that under a "reasonable observer" test, others would see the plate as a statement of the driver and not of the state issuing it. Jerry Smith, the dissenting judge, said he found no precedent in the law to support such a test.

**www.ABCtravel.de/stripes** ★ ☎ 0621 37 00 95 11

<p><b>TOP</b></p> <p>Discount Flights</p> <p>Fly now Pay later</p> <p>We accept US \$</p> <p>Your special discount only on <a href="http://www.abctravel.de/stripes">www.abctravel.de/stripes</a></p> <p>Flights from AUG - OCT 2014. From/To Germany RT. All taxes incl. All prices based on availability.</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Atlanta .....</td> <td>€ 554</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chicago .....</td> <td>€ 599</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Los Angeles .....</td> <td>€ 637</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Las Vegas .....</td> <td>€ 617</td> </tr> <tr> <td>New York .....</td> <td>€ 494</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Seattle .....</td> <td>€ 637</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Miami .....</td> <td>€ 557</td> </tr> </table>	Atlanta .....	€ 554	Chicago .....	€ 599	Los Angeles .....	€ 637	Las Vegas .....	€ 617	New York .....	€ 494	Seattle .....	€ 637	Miami .....	€ 557
Atlanta .....	€ 554														
Chicago .....	€ 599														
Los Angeles .....	€ 637														
Las Vegas .....	€ 617														
New York .....	€ 494														
Seattle .....	€ 637														
Miami .....	€ 557														

**TOP CRUISES**

**569** 6 Days

up to € 18 SEP 14 dep. 18 SEP 14

Mediterranean Sea on RC Oasis of the Seas

Barcelona/Spain, Rome/Italy, Naples/Italy - RT

NATION

# Obama gets aggressive on funding for highways

By Ashley Halsey III  
and Juliet Eilperin  
*The Washington Post*

WASHINGTON — The White House began an ambitious week-long effort Monday to focus public attention on a pair of pressing national problems: the decay of roads, bridges and transit systems, and Congress' inability to come up with money to fix them.

Bolstered with repackaged data on the potential of infrastructure investment to create jobs, President Barack Obama has scheduled side trips to Virginia and Delaware this week to spotlight innovative solutions.

He is attempting to ratchet up the pressure on Congress, which is wrestling to find cash to keep transportation projects rolling through the summer construction season while it searches for a long-term funding solution. White House officials warn that nearly 700,000 jobs could be jeopardized if the Highway Trust Fund runs short of cash.

The effort marks a subtle shift by the administration, adopting a more aggressive approach on an issue on which it had hoped Congress would take the lead. Although the administration proposed a \$30.2 billion transportation funding package in April, suggesting corporate tax reform to pay for it, and has raised the possibility of allowing more tolls on interstates, its underlying message has signaled an openness to all funding options.

Privately, senior administration officials have suggested a reluctance to push specific funding proposals for fear that Republicans will oppose any option the White House appears to favor.

Obama voiced frustration with his GOP advisers last week when he told reporters, "If I sponsor a bill declaring apple pie American, it might fall victim to partisan politics."

Although the president prefers raising money for infrastructure through tax reform — which has little chance of moving on Capitol Hill this year — his focus on the issue this week suggests that he is willing to wade deeper into the fray.

"The president believes so strongly in the importance of keeping the Highway Trust Fund solvent that we would certainly entertain other proposals," said White House press secretary Josh Earnest. "We've been very clear about what we think is the best way to do this. We'd like to see some support from members of Congress for it. But if there are other ideas that people want to put forward, [we're] open to considering them as well."

Obama will announce new executive actions this week aimed at spurring more private investment in infrastructure projects, White House officials said.



DENNIS LEE, COURTESY OF THE OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY/AP

The Moccasin Hill fire burns north of Sprague River and northeast of Klamath Falls, Ore. Lightning struck Oregon more than 6,000 times Sunday and Monday, touching off small fires by the dozens.

# Hot, dry weather sparks western fires

By Steven Dubois  
and Tim Fought  
*The Associated Press*

PORTLAND, Ore. — A southern Oregon wildfire has destroyed six homes and 14 other buildings, and dozens of additional blazes ignited after thousands of lightning strikes lashed the state.

In central Oregon, a wildfire at the confluence of the Ochoco National Forest and ranchland has prompted the evacuation of numerous campgrounds and nearly a dozen ranch homes. Wheeler County Sheriff Chris Humphreys said Monday night. Local fire departments were protecting homes.

The destructive Moccasin Hill fire — named for a longstanding subdivision — began Sunday near the ranching town of Sprague River, about 25 miles northeast of Klamath Falls, fire spokeswoman Erica Hupp said Monday. Many residents keep horses and cattle on their land, and neighbors have

been stepping in to shelter both stock and pets, she said.

The blaze has burned across about 4 square miles, fire officials said, and caused more than 100 people to evacuate before the threat subsided and many returned home.

Another fire spokeswoman, Tina O'Donnell, said 231 structures remained threatened Monday, and one minor injury was reported. She did not know if the injury was suffered by a resident or a firefighter.

Walter "Butch" Browning, who operates a general store in Sprague River, said the flames reached the driveway at his home Sunday afternoon, forcing his wife to "get out of there" with a computer, a change of clothes, medications and the dogs. The wind changed direction, he said, sparing his place.

The fire is believed to have been started by humans, though how it began is still under investigation. It is zero percent contained.

Meanwhile, lightning struck

Oregon more than 6,000 times Sunday and Monday, touching off small fires by the dozens on both sides of the Cascades. Such a barrage can be expected to cause numerous "sleeper" or holdover fires in coming days, said Robin DeMarco, spokeswoman for the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center.

Elsewhere in the West, authorities in Northern California said a wildfire started by exhaust from a truck at a marijuana cultivation site led to new evacuations Monday. Freddie Alexander Smoke III, 27, of Sacramento, was arrested on suspicion of causing the blaze. Fire crews have been hindered by steep terrain, dry conditions and triple-digit heat.

Idaho's Boise County Sheriff's Office asked residents of about 60 homes east of Alder Creek in Garden Valley to voluntarily evacuate because of the Calder Fire. It's one of about 20 blazes sparked by lightning across the Boise National Forest during a storm Sunday night.

# Wasting water?

Amid drought, Calif. residents could be fined \$500 a day

By Don Thompson  
*The Associated Press*

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — In one of the most drastic responses yet to California's drought, state regulators on Tuesday will consider fines of up to \$500 a day for people who waste water on landscaping, fountains, washing vehicles and other outdoor uses.

The rules would prohibit the watering of landscaping to the point that runoff spills onto sidewalks or streets. Hosing down lawns, driveways and other hard surfaces would be banned along with washing vehicles without a shut-off nozzle.

Violations would be infractions punishable by the fines, although most cities are likely to have a sliding scale that starts with a warning and increases for repeat violations.

The State Water Resources Control Board said it received about 100 written comments after it proposed the emergency regulations last week.

"So far, people have been pretty supportive," board Chairman Felicia Marcus said.

Felicia Marcus  
State Water Resources Control Board

"I think people recognize that we're taking a moderate approach, and we're sending a message as much as anything."

The board estimates that the proposed restrictions could save enough water statewide to supply more than 3.5 million people for a year. That's enough to meet the needs of nearly nine of every 10 Los Angeles residents.

The California Department of Water Resources estimates that cities and suburbs use about a fifth of the state's water, about half going outdoors. Agriculture is by far the greatest water user, accounting for 75 percent of the state's consumption.

San Francisco officials worry about the prohibition on washing streets and sidewalks. Public Works Department spokeswoman Rachel Gordon said that could interfere with the frequent cleaning of alleys to wash away human waste where there are high concentrations of homeless people.

"We feel very strongly that this is a health and safety issue for people in San Francisco," she said.

Nor does it do much for tourism if visitors see or smell the waste. During the past 12 months, she said, the city responded to about 8,000 calls to steam clean streets of human waste.

# 'Six Californias' bill may be on Nov. ballot

By Josh Richman  
*San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News*

Once easily mistaken for political satire, venture capitalist Tim Draper's "Six Californias" ballot measure to tear the Golden State asunder seems bound for the November 2016 ballot.

Draper, who has shelled out \$4.9 million on his oft-mocked and maligned campaign, announced he'll submit petition signatures for the measure Tuesday and hold a news conference in Sacramento.

"California needs a reboot," said a news release issued Monday by his committee. "Six Californias is our opportunity to solve the many problems we face today. Six states that are more representative and accountable. Six states that embrace

innovation and strive to improve the lives of residents."

The measure would split California into six states, each with its own government; much of the San Francisco Bay Area, plus Santa Cruz and Monterey counties, would become the state of Silicon Valley. California's northernmost parts would become Jefferson, as some counties up there have wanted for years; some North Bay counties would become part of North California; Stockton, Fresno and Bakersfield would be among Central California's largest cities; Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara would wind up in West California; and San Diego would anchor South California.

Silicon Valley would become the nation's richest state, while

Central California would become its poorest, the nonpartisan Legislative Analyst's Office found.

"This is a colossal and divisive waste of time, energy, and money that will hurt the California brand, our ability to attract business and jobs, and move our state forward together," said Steve Maviglio, a veteran Democratic strategist, speaking for the OneCalifornia committee created to oppose Draper's effort.

Corey Cook, director of the University of San Francisco's Leo T. McCarthy Center for Public Service and the Common Good, said it'll be hard for Draper to find anyone else willing to bankroll the effort. "I'm not sure it's a wildly popular idea, and I think the perception is that if this guy wants to propose it, he can fund it too."

NAVY EXCHANGE YOKOSUKA, ATSUGI & SASEBO, JAPAN

**NEX**  
Navy Exchange

**\$569**

**HP BEATS EDITION TOUCHSCREEN NOTEBOOK PC**  
AMD Quad Core A4-5545M Processor, 8GB DDR3 System Memory, Super Multi DVD-RW Drive, 802.11n Wireless LAN, Touchscreen HD Webcam and Mic, Memory Card Reader, 20.5" S.D. Backlit Keyboard, #15-P23291-#0203291 Reg. \$599  
Two year Protection Plan only \$9.99

**NEW!**  
15.6" DISPLAY  
TTB  
Bluetooth  
Windows 8  
HP

**NOBODY BEATS NEX**  
**beats PRICES**

**\$999**

**HP BEATS EDITION TOUCHSCREEN ALL-IN-ONE DESKTOP PC**  
Intel Core i3-3240 Processor, 8GB System Memory, 20" Screen, Webcam, Keyboard, Mouse, Speakers, #15-P23291-#0203291 Reg. \$1,199  
Two year Protection Plan only \$9.99

**\$229**

**HP BEATS EDITION TABLET**  
10.1" HD Touch Screen, 16GB Storage, 8MP Rear Camera, 5MP Front Camera, Full HD 1080p Video Playback, #15-P23291-#0203291 Reg. \$249  
Two year Protection Plan only \$9.99

**NEW!**  
15.6" DISPLAY  
TTB  
Bluetooth  
Windows 8  
HP

**NEW!**  
10.1" DISPLAY  
16GB  
Bluetooth  
HP

WiFi PS3

**SONY**  
make.believe

**SAVE \$50**

**1,279<sup>99</sup>**

**60" CLASS NEW! SONY BRAVIA™ LED SMART HDTV**

- PlayStation Now Ready
- 1080p / 120Hz • Wi-Fi
- #KDL60W6308 • #R226535
- Reg. 1,329.00
- Three year Protection Plan only 119.99

Netflix YouTube Hulu Plus Facebook

**64<sup>99</sup>**

**SAVE \$45**

**NEW BALANCE NEW'S EXTREME™ 2**  
Reg. \$109.99  
\$64.99

**43<sup>99</sup>**

**NEW BALANCE NEW'S MYSOLES**  
A LADIES' ATHLETIC™  
Reg. \$86.99  
\$43.99

**95<sup>99</sup>**

**NEW BALANCE NEW'S MYSOLES**  
Reg. \$140.99  
\$95.99

**43<sup>99</sup>**

**NEW BALANCE NEW'S WOLFPACK & LADIES' WOLFPACK™**  
Reg. \$86.99  
\$43.99

The HYPOCUBE leverages an aggressive outsole, ultra-light and XL leg heights for greater traction. Full-length HE-Vibe molecule provides superior responsiveness and durability.

**YOUR CHOICE \$1**

**RY LEAGUE COMPOSITION OR 1-SUBJECT NOTEBOOK**

**BACK TO SCHOOL GIVEAWAYS**

**14 in 2014**

**ENTER TO WIN 1 of 14 iPad Minis**

**GIVEN AWAY JULY 9-SEPT. 2**

Sponsored by Avery Dennison, Bic and Sanford  
See store for details

**BETTER YOU**

**EXTRA 20% OFF**  
on footwear purchases

**ALL OTHER MEN'S & LADIES' NEW BALANCE & ASICS**

**71<sup>99</sup>**

**ASICS MEN'S & LADIES' GT 2000 2**  
Reg. \$99.99  
\$71.99

**SAVE AN EXTRA 10% OFF**

**ON FIRST DAY'S PURCHASES WHEN YOU OPEN A NEW MILITARY STAR ACCOUNT**

**asics.**

SALE PRICES GOOD JULY 15 - 22, 2014

**BETTER ODDS... BIGGER SAVINGS**

**300,000 CARDS WITH 10% OR BETTER DISCOUNTS**

**THE SCRATCH CARD VALID ONE DAY ONLY**

**JULY 15 - 20, 2014**

**CHOOSE YOUR DAY TO SAVE!**

Limited to stock on hand. Styles shown are representative of assortment. Special prices may not be applied to previous purchases or existing layaways. Neither the Navy nor any other part of the Federal Government officially endorses any company sponsor or their products or services. Your Navy Exchange profits support MWR Programs & Services.



IRAQ

# Iraqi parliament breaks deadlock, elects speaker

By QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA AND SINAN SALAHEDDIN  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqi lawmakers broke their deadlock Tuesday and elected a new speaker of parliament, taking the first step toward forming a new government that is widely seen as crucial to confronting militants who have overrun much of the country.

Still, it was not clear whether lawmakers had reached a larger deal that would also include an agreement on the most contentious decision — the choice for prime minister. The incumbent, Nouri al-Maliki, has ruled the country since 2006, but is under intense pressure to step aside. So far, he has insisted on staying for a third term.

After voting behind closed doors, the legislature tallied the results on a whiteboard wheeled into the hall that showed Sunni lawmaker Salim al-Jubouri winning with 194 votes out of 273 cast in the 328-seat parliament. A second candidate, Shoroq al-Abayachi, received 19 votes. There were 60 abstentions.

Tuesday's vote demonstrates the country's democracy and national unity," Shiite lawmaker Abbas al-

Bayati said after a vote that was delayed twice. "We have now a legislative body that can do its job in building democracy."

Lawmakers broke into applause after al-Jubouri passed the 165-vote threshold needed to win the post, before the proceedings turned to electing two deputy speakers — one Shiite and one Kurd.

According to the constitution, parliament now has 30 days to elect a president, who will then have 15 days to ask the leader of the largest bloc in the legislature to form a government. Then a prime minister will be picked.

Under an informal agreement that took hold after the 2003 U.S.-led invasion, the speaker's chair goes to a Sunni, the presidency to a Kurd and the prime minister's post to a Shiite.

The inability of al-Maliki's government to prevent the militant offensive over the past month has deeply shaken confidence, both at home and abroad, in his ability to hold Iraq together. His opponents — and even many of his former allies — accuse him of trying to monopolize power and alienating the Sunni minority.

Al-Maliki has so far refused to withdraw his candidacy, and in-



HADI MIZBAN/AP

A destroyed car is moved from the site of a car bombing in Baghdad's Allawi neighborhood Monday.

sists he has a mandate because his bloc won the most seats in April elections.

Despite al-Jubouri's election, signs quickly emerged that any agreement on a president, prime minister and eventually a new Cabinet may still take some time.

Al-Bayati, the State of Law coalition legislator, said the Shiite bloc's support for al-Jubouri Tuesday was predicated upon reciprocal support for al-Maliki's prime minister bid.

"There is an ethical and political agreement with the blocs to whom we gave our vote today to support their candidate for the post of parliament speaker, and to vote for our candidate for the post of prime minister: al-Maliki," al-Bayati said.

Sunni lawmaker Mohammed Ikbali, a member of al-Jubouri's bloc, denied there was any such deal.

"We do not support a third term (for al-Maliki) because of the wrong policies in the country and the deterioration in the security situation," Ikbali told The Associated Press. "We support any other candidate from the National Alliance."

Perhaps just as important were the divisions that emerged within the National Alliance, the umbrella group for Shiite parties, during the vote for the first deputy speaker.

According to lawmakers, there was an agreement between all of the alliance's blocs to present the State of Law's Haider al-Abadi as the Shiite nominee for deputy speaker. But at the last minute, a second Shiite candidate, Ahmed Chalabi, was also nominated for the post.

When it came time to cast ballots, al-Abadi and Chalabi nearly split the vote, forcing lawmakers

to cast their ballots again. Chalabi, a secular Shiite and one-time Washington favorite widely disliked by Iraq's Sunnis, eventually withdrew his candidacy to bring an end to the challenge.

Clashes and attacks still take place daily in the main conflict zones in Iraq, including Tuesday in two towns located in a Sunni belt that runs just south of the capital.

Two bombs in quick succession killed at least nine people in the town of Madain, some 15 miles southeast of Baghdad, officials said.

Another roadside bomb killed four soldiers, including two officers, during a patrol in the town of Yusufiyah, 15 miles south of the capital, a police officer said. Four other soldiers were wounded in the attack, he said.

## Iraq: US assessment paints grim picture of challenges facing Iraqi army

FROM FRONT PAGE

The 155mm guns have a range of 20 miles, putting many Iraqi cities still in government hands easily within range of Islamic State positions.

Even the Iraqi government's military briefings, consistently upbeat, hint at the grim outlook. The list of accomplishments cited by the Iraqi military's spokesmen are almost entirely defensive, making it clear that the Islamic State remains on the offensive and in control of when and where fighting takes place.

With five teams of 90 U.S. troops completing their initial assessment of what it would take to help the Iraqi army reverse its military losses, the situation as described by Iraqi soldiers, a senior Iraqi politician and outside analysts who are carefully watching developments underscores how difficult a task awaits any American advisers asked to rejuvenate the Iraqi military. They describe a military riddled with incompetence, unable to provide support to troops in combat, widespread cowardice among the officer corps, and without a coherent plan for reversing the Islamic State's advance.

**“We actually never had food at all from the army or the government, and the only way we stayed alive is because of the big mosque in Samarra, and Shiite [charities] are helping us and provide food for us.”**

Ammar Abdul Hussein  
Iraqi soldier

The initial U.S. assessment, which arrived at the Pentagon Monday, apparently is just as grim. In one of its most alarming findings, according to a Pentagon official, the advisers concluded that while Iraqi troops could defend Baghdad against an attack now, they would be unable to launch the kind of offensive maneuvers required to fend off the insurgents for the long term, leaving the capital at continued risk. The official asked to remain anonymous because he had not been authorized to discuss the report.

The advisers also warned that the majority of Iraqi brigades are infiltrated by either Sunni extremists or Shiite militias, the official said.

The assessment will inform the President's recommendations to President Barack Obama on possible options in Iraq, though there is no public timeline for when such recommendations could arrive at the White House. In the meantime, the assessment teams remain in Baghdad, where they would become advisers to the Iraqi military should the White House authorize that step.

As the Pentagon drafts its recommendations, the size of the Iraqi debacle in June is becoming increasingly clear.

Four Iraqi army divisions have simply disappeared and won't be easily reassembled.

Hussein, a soldier from the Iraqi army's so-called SWAT Unit, perhaps the most highly trained unit in the field, said the arrival of thousands of Shiite militiamen had secured Samarra, home to a revered Shiite shrine, from the Islamic State's advance. But Hussein, who returned to Baghdad from Samarra a week ago after three weeks of heavy fighting, said he fears that the light weapons of the government-allied forces are no match for those that the Islamists possess.

"The problem is not the quantity; the problem is the quality. The heaviest weapon we have as SWAT is a BKC," he said, referring to a medium machine gun. He also said the troops at Samarra are short of food and water.

"We actually never had food at all from the army or the government, and the only way we stayed alive is because of the big mosque in Samarra, and Shiite [charities] are helping us and provide food for us," he said.

It's not clear how valuable the equipment the insurgents have captured ultimately will prove to be. Many of the vehicles, including 1,500 armored Humvees, require enormous amounts of

gasoline, which remains in short supply throughout the country, thanks to the ongoing battle for the Baiji refinery complex, Iraq's largest.

Jeremy Binnie, of HIS Janes, a British military consultancy, said he doubted that the American-made armored vehicles the Islamic State captured would still be operating in a month. "The Iraqis had difficulty keeping their own armor running," he said.

Of more use, he said, would be the 52 155mm M198 howitzers that have apparently fallen into Islamic State hands. The guns, which cost more than \$500,000 each, can fire two rounds every minute. While Binnie said he doubted that the Islamists would be able to learn how to fire them with pinpoint accuracy quickly, he said, "They shouldn't have too much trouble shelling large area targets like a city if they have sufficient ammo."

Among the weapons that fell to the Islamic State also were 4,000 PKC machine guns, a heavy belt-fed weapon that's been standard for combat forces since the Vietnam War and can fire as many as 800 rounds a minute.

# WORLD

## Shipwrecked Concordia refloated for tow

GIGLIO, Italy — The shipwrecked Costa Concordia was successfully refloated Monday in preparation to be towed away for scrapping, 30 months after it struck a reef and capsized, killing 32 people.

Authorities expressed satisfaction that the operation to float the Concordia from an underwater platform had proceeded without a hitch.

The entire operation to remove the Concordia from the reef and float it to Genoa, where it will be scrapped, will cost a total of \$2 billion, Costa Crociere SpA CEO Michael Tamm said.

## Officials: Ukraine airstrike kills civilians

SNIZHNE, Ukraine — An airstrike demolished an apartment block in eastern Ukraine on Tuesday, killing at least 11 civilians, regional officials said. The attack adds to the steadily growing number of civilians killed over four months in a dogged pro-Russia invasion.

The devastation bore signs of a strike by several missiles and left only a mountain of smoking debris. Government officials denied local resident claims that the strike was carried out by Ukraine's air force.

## Pakistan offensive in 2nd key town underway

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's military said Tuesday it has launched a ground offensive against local and foreign militants in a second key insurgent stronghold near the Afghan border.

The army spokesman, Gen. Asad Khan Bajwa, said government forces moved in the town of Mir Ali on Monday, triggering a gunbattle in which three soldiers and seven militants were killed.

Mir Ali is near Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal region, where the military last month launched a long-awaited operation against the militants who have carried out numerous attacks in the country.

Washington has been urging Pakistan for years for a crackdown in North Waziristan, where the U.S. has relied on CIA drone strikes.

## S. Korea: Drawings sparked army rampage

SEOUL, South Korea — Military investigators say a South Korean soldier involved in a deadly shooting spree has testified that he opened fire on colleagues after seeing their drawings depicting him as a SpideyBob Superpants.

The soldier, surnamed Yim, was arrested last month after allegedly killing five soldiers and wounding seven others at their army unit near the border with North Korea.

Brig. Gen. Seon Jong-chul said Tuesday that Yim testified that he opened the rampage after finding the drawings, which he believed mocked him, on the back of his unit's border patrol log.



LEIFTERIS PITRARIKI/AP

A Palestinian walks on the rubble from a damaged house following an overnight Israeli missile strike in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, on Tuesday.

# Gaza cease-fire plan falls apart

BY KARIN LAUB AND PETER ENAV  
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — An Egyptian truce proposal for the conflict in Gaza quickly unraveled Tuesday after the Islamic militant Hamas rejected the plan. Gaza militants fired scores of rockets at Israel and Israel responded with more than a dozen airstrikes.

The speedy resumption of violence, less than a day after Egypt presented its cease-fire plan, illustrated that it will be harder this time than in the past to negotiate an end to Israel-Hamas fighting.

A key difference to a previous truce in 2012 is that Hamas does not trust the current rulers of Egypt who deposed a Hamas-friendly government in Cairo a year ago.

Israel had proposed the Egyptian plan, agreed late Monday. Under it, a 12-hour period of de-escalation was to begin at mid-morning Tuesday. Once both sides agree to halt hostilities, they would negotiate the terms of a longer-term truce.

Gaza militants responded by firing dozens of rockets after the proposed start of the de-escalation, some of them reaching deep into Israel, though not causing injuries. Israel, which had warned it would strike Gaza harder than before if Hamas did not halt hostilities, held its fire for several hours, but resumed airstrikes by mid-afternoon Tuesday.

After the renewed rocket fire from Gaza on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defense Minister

Moshe Yaalon "directed the military to act with intensity against terror targets in Gaza," said an Israeli official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the decision with the media.

Since the outbreak of cross-border fighting on July 8, more than 190 Palestinians have been killed in hundreds of Israeli airstrikes and millions of Israelis have been exposed to rocket fire. The current round of violence was the third in just over five years. The previous one, in 2012, eventually ended with the help of Egypt, at the time seen as a trusted broker by Hamas.

Hamas distrusts Egypt's current rulers, who have tightened the border blockade on Gaza, including curtailing travel in and out of the territory. An easing of the blockade of the coastal strip is key to the survival of Hamas.

Hamas officials on Tuesday rejected the Egyptian plan as is, noting they weren't consulted by Cairo. Some portrayed the truce offer as an ultimatum presented to Hamas by Israel and Egypt.

The officials, including Osama Hamdan, a senior aide to top Hamas leader Khaled Mashaal, said the Egyptian plan offered no tangible achievements, particularly on easing a border blockade of the coastal strip, which has been enforced by Israel and Egypt for the past seven years.

Hamdan said the movement needs detailed assurances that Gaza's borders will be opened, particularly the Rafah crossing between Gaza and Egypt, the territory's main gate to the world.

# At least 20 dead after Moscow subway wreck

BY VITNIJA SALDAVA AND NATALIYA VASILYEVA  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — A subway train derailed Tuesday deep below Moscow streets, twisting and mangling crowded rail cars at the height of morning rush hour: At least 20 people were killed, Russian officials said, and 150 more were hospitalized, many with serious injuries.

The Russian capital's airports and transit systems have been a prime target for terrorists over the past two decades, but multiple officials vigorously dismissed terrorism as a possible cause.

The Moscow Metro is world-famous for its palatial interiors with mosaics, chandeliers and marble benches. Park Pobedy, where the derailment occurred, is Moscow's deepest metro station — 275 feet below the surface — and made the rescue particularly difficult. The station serves the vast park where Russia's World War II museum is located.

It was unclear what caused the train to derail. Lines of inquiry included a fault in one of the cars or the sinking of the roadbed, according to Vladimir Markin, spokesman for Russia's top investigative body. He said other officials who said earlier that a power surge triggered an alarm, causing the train to stop abruptly, were incorrect.

Of the 150 people reported injured, at least 50 were in grave condition, health officials said. One citizen of China and one citizen of Tajikistan were among those killed, Russian news agencies quoted city officials as saying.

More than 1,100 people were evacuated from the train, which was stuck between two stations,

in a rescue operation that lasted at least seven hours.

By late afternoon, rescuers had recovered seven bodies and were working to extract 12 more trapped in two wrecked train cars, said Alexander Gavrilov, deputy chief of Moscow's emergency services. One woman taken from the scene died at a Moscow hospital.

In video released by the Emergency Situations Ministry, several wrecked train cars looked almost coiled, occupying the entire width of the tunnel. Workers were trying to force open the mangled doors of one car to retrieve bodies.

Major Sergei Sobyanian told reporters that unnamed officials will not only be fired but also charged with crimes, though he would not say what charges they might face.

While technical glitches are regular occurrences in the Moscow Metro, the subway hasn't seen deadly accidents in decades.

Terrorism is another matter. More than 100 people have been killed in bombings on Moscow's subway trains or near stations since 2000, including two bomb blasts on the same day in 2010 that killed a total of 40 people.

## YES

Click today...cash today...  
[www.militaryloans.com](http://www.militaryloans.com)



"We love to say yes!"

## STARS AND STRIPES

**LANDSTUHL/PIRMASENS AREA DELIVERY CONTRACTOR NEEDED**

Pick up papers at R.O.B. Opel Circle off Autobahn 6 Kaiserslautern west exit approx. 02:00

Papers are delivered to locations on Landstuhl/Pirmasens military installations 5 nights a week

Length of route: approx. 96 Km  
Est. time required: approx. 2.5 Hrs  
Delivery finished no later than 06:00

INTERESTED? CONTACT  
NATHANIEL JAMISON 0172-6715-315  
E-mail: [jamison.nathaniel@stripes.com](mailto:jamison.nathaniel@stripes.com)  
Or contracting officer  
Michael Williams 0631-3615-9440  
E-Mail: [williams.michael@stripes.com](mailto:williams.michael@stripes.com)

## WORLD

# 'Forgiveness is possible' in Rwanda

## 20 years after genocide, Hutu attacker, Tutsi victim are friends

By JASON STRAZIUSO  
The Associated Press

NYAMATA, Rwanda — She lost her baby daughter and her right hand to a manic killing spree. He wielded the machete that took both.

Yet today, despite coming from opposite sides of an unspeakable shared past, Alice Mukarurinda and Emmanuel Ndayisaba are friends. She is the treasurer and he the vice president of a group that builds simple brick houses for genocide survivors. They live near each other and shop at the same market.

Their story of ethnic violence, extreme guilt and, to some degree, reconciliation is the story of Rwanda today, 20 years after its Hutu majority killed more than 1 million Tutsis and moderate Hutus. The Rwandan government is still accused by human rights groups of holding an iron grip on power, stifling dissent and killing political opponents. But even critics give President Paul Kagame credit for leading the country toward a peace that seemed all but impossible two decades ago.

"I never saw my arm, I remember what happened," said Alice, a mother of five with a deep scar on her left temple where Emanuel sliced her with a machete. As she speaks, Emmanuel — the man who killed her baby — sits close enough that his left hand and her right stump sometimes touch.

In April, Rwanda marked the 20th anniversary of the beginning of 100 days of bloody mayhem. But the genocide was really in the making for decades, fueled by hate speech, discrimination, propaganda and the training of death squads. Hutus had come to resent Tutsis for their greater wealth and what they saw as oppressive rule.

Rwanda is the most densely populated country in mainland Africa, slightly smaller than the U.S. state of Maryland but with a population of more than 12 million. The countryside is lush green, filled with uncountable numbers of banana trees.

The Hutu-Tutsi divide may be the country's most notorious characteristic but also its most confounding. The two groups are so closely related that it's nearly impossible for an outsider to tell which the average Rwandan belongs to. Even Rwandans have trouble knowing who is who, especially after two decades of a government push to create a single Rwandan identity.

For Alice, a Tutsi, the genocide began in 1992, when her family took refuge in a church for a week. Hutu community leaders began importing machetes. Houses were burned, cars taken.

Hutu leaders created lists of prominent or educated Tutsis targeted for killing. They also held meetings where they told those in attendance how evil the Tutsis were. Like many of his Hutu neighbors, Emmanuel soaked in the message.

The situation caught fire on April 6, 1994, when the plane carrying Rwanda's president was shot down. Hutus started killing Tutsis, who ran for their lives and fled Alice's village.

Three days later, local Hutu leaders told



PHOTOS BY BEN CURTIS/AP

Emmanuel Ndayisaba, right, and Alice Mukarurinda stand outside Mukarurinda's house in Nyamata, Rwanda, in March. A machete-wielding Ndayisaba wounded Mukarurinda and left her for dead in April 1994.

Emmanuel, then 23, that they had a job for him.

"They took him to a Tutsi home and ordered him to use his machete. A Christian who sang in his church choir, Emmanuel had never killed before. But inside the house he murdered 14 people. The next day, April 12, Emmanuel found a Tutsi doctor in hiding and killed him, too. The day after, he killed two women and a child.

"The very first family I killed, I felt bad, but then I got used to it," he said. "Given how we were told that the Tutsis were evil, after the first family, I just felt like I was killing our enemies."

In the meantime, Alice's family took refuge in a church, just as they had done before, crammed in with hundreds of others. But this time, Hutu attackers threw a bomb inside and set the church on fire. Those who fled the fire inside died by machetes outside. Alice lost some 26 family members among the estimated 5,000 victims at the church.

Alice, then 25, escaped with her 9-month-old daughter and a 9-year-old niece into Rwanda's green countryside, moving, hiding, moving. She hid in a forested

swamp.

"There were so many bodies all over the place," she said. "Hutus would wake up in the morning and go hunting for Tutsis to kill."

By late April, rebel Tutsi fighters led by Kagame had reached the capital and had chased Hutu out. Hutu troops began to flee to neighboring countries, and the violence spread, with killings carried out by both sides.

On April 29, Emmanuel joined Hutu soldiers searching the countryside for Tutsis. The attackers blew a whistle whenever they found a Tutsi hiding.

The murders began at 10 a.m. and lasted until 3 p.m. Alice had been hiding in a swamp for days, keeping out only the top of her face so she could breathe. That was where the Hutus found her.

They surrounded the swamp. Then they attacked.

First they killed the girls. When that was done, they came after Alice. She was sure she would die, but instinctively put up her arm up to defend herself.

Emmanuel, Alice's schoolmate, recognized the woman but couldn't recall her

name. Perhaps that made it easier to rain down machete blows on Alice's right arm, severing it just above the wrist. He sliced her face. His colleague pierced a spear through her left shoulder.

They left her for dead.

She was bloodied, scared, and missing a hand, yes, but not dead. Alice fell unconscious, she said, and was found three days later by other survivors. It was only then that she realized she no longer had a right hand.

In the months after the genocide, guilt gnawed away at Emmanuel. He saw his victims during nightmares. In 1996, he turned himself in and confessed.

His prison term lasted from 1997 until 2003, when Kagame pardoned Hutus who admitted their guilt. After he was freed, he began asking family members of his victims for forgiveness. He joined a group of genocide killers and survivors called Ukurukuganze, who still meet weekly.

It was there that he saw Alice, the woman he thought he had killed.

At first he avoided her. Eventually he knelt before her and asked for forgiveness. After two weeks of thought and long discussions with her husband, she said yes.

Josephine Munyeli is the director of peace and reconciliation programs in Rwanda for World Vision, a U.S.-based aid group. A survivor of the genocide herself, Munyeli said more killers and victims would like to reconcile but many don't know who they attacked or were attacked by.

"Forgiveness is possible. It's common here," she said. "Guilt is heavy. When one realizes how heavy it is, the first thing they do to recuperate themselves is apologize."

Although Rwanda has made significant progress since the genocide, ethnic tensions remain. Alice worries that some genocide planners were never caught, and that messages denying the genocide still filter into the country from Hutus living abroad. She believes remembrance is important to ensure that another genocide never happens.



Ndayisaba, left, wielded the machete that took the right hand and the baby daughter of Mukarurinda, right.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15				16				17		
18							19	20		
			21				22			
23	24	25		26		27		28		29 30
31		32		33		34		35		
36				37		38		39		40
		41				42		43		44
45	46						47			48 49 50
51					52	53				
54						55				56
57						58				59

ACROSS

- 1 Watch chains
- 5 Bankroll
- 8 You love (Lat.)
- 12 Asian nursemaid
- 13 Inventor Whitney
- 14 Double agent
- 15 Easy task
- 17 Benefit
- 18 "Jeopardy!" emcee
- 19 Deserved
- 21 Rd.
- 22 Leisurely
- 23 Clear the tables
- 26 Conclude
- 28 Biblical poem
- 31 "Yeah, right!"
- 33 "Help!"
- 35 Director Kazan
- 36 Marconi's medium
- 38 Make up your mind

DOWN

- 1 Datum
- 2 Actor Sharif
- 3 Use the oven
- 4 Inge's title dog
- 5 Debitating
- 6 Everything
- 7 Leaves
- 8 Bierce or Burnside
- 9 Move like Michael Jackson
- 10 Lotion additive
- 11 Transmit
- 12 "—Only Just Begun"
- 20 Matternhorn, for one
- 23 Tavern
- 24 Can. neighbor
- 25 Pavement
- 27 Dah preceider
- 29 Whopper
- 30 Periodical, for short
- 32 Colts' siblings
- 34 Katharine's frequent co-star
- 37 Bullring bravo
- 39 Seized
- 42 Extra
- 44 Scattered seed
- 45 Mata —
- 46 Actress Lena
- 48 Bargain
- 49 Carolina college for one
- 50 Vail gear
- 53 Guitar's kin

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	A	M	B	S	M	U	F	O	L	D
E	L	I	E	C	A	L	O	L	I	O
F	O	R	E	C	A	S	T	R	A	V
F	E	E	A	R	K	F	E	V	E	R
			F	R	Y	Y	E	S		
P	I	L	O	T	B	E	Z	I	Q	U
A	C	E	R	T	I	N	G	U	S	T
S	H	O	E	B	O	X	S	H	I	E
			C	U	P	V	A	T		
Q	U	I	L	T	R	I	G	W	E	E
U	N	T	O	F	O	R	E	W	O	R
I	D	E	S	R	A	G	P	O	N	G
P	O	M	E	A	D	O	A	L	E	E

7-16

CRYPTOQUIP

DSWPCXS YBPY CTLPZZNSK  
PFPXJPT LPT BPX P OPZJP GT.  
N XCOOGXSBS'X XYNFF NT  
BNX DPWBSFGZ BGGK.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'M ENTIRELY TOO FEEBLE TO CLIMB THE FINAL PART OF THIS MOUNTAIN. THE CREST IS UP TO YOU.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals L

## NATION



PHOTOS BY MATT ROURKE/AP

A RoboCup "athlete" belonging to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia works on its skills.

# Robot soccer scores, advancing technology

After World Cup, the competition field changes to include humanoids as 45 countries face off at RoboCup

By KATHY MATHESON  
*The Associated Press*

PHILADELPHIA — When robots first started playing soccer, it was a challenge for them just to see the ball. And to stay upright.

But the machines participating in this month's international RoboCup tournament are making passes and scoring points.

Their ultimate goal? To beat the human World Cup champs within the next 35 years.

"It's hard to predict what will happen in 2050, but we are on the right path," said event co-founder Manuela Veloso, a computer science professor at Carnegie Mellon University.

A week after the World Cup title game, teams from 45 countries will face off at RoboCup in the Brazilian coastal town of Joao Pessoa.

The "players," which range from life-size humanoids to wheeled objects the size of soccer balls, compete in size-based divisions on miniature indoor fields. The tournament runs July 19-25.

While it is certainly fun to

watch, organizers say the annual competition isn't just about creating kicking machines.

It's about teaching the fully autonomous robots to make quick, smart decisions while working together in a changing environment.

Those algorithms

can translate off the field into technology like self-driving cars or delivery drones, said University of Pennsylvania engineering professor Dan Lee.

RoboCup includes separate contests for service robots and search-and-rescue droids.

Lee, who directs Penn's robotics lab, has been the head "coach" of the school's RoboCup soccer teams since 2002. Back then, the games resembled those played by 5-year-old children, Lee said.

"They would all cluster together," he said of the robots. "Who-

ever got the ball would have a hard time figuring out which way to kick the ball."

Now, it's like watching 10-year-olds execute basic athletic skills and strategies, Lee said.

The battery-powered creatures play much shorter matches — about 20 minutes, compared with 90 minutes in the World Cup — but generally follow the same rules. Humans referee the games, entering their calls into a computer that communicates with the robots.

When RoboCup first began in 1997, Veloso said, most robotics research focused on the abilities of single machines, such as NASA's Sojourner rover on Mars. RoboCup seeks to emphasize machine collaboration, she said.

Robot types and technologies are evolving as quickly as smartphones, RoboCup co-chairman Alexandre da Silva Simoes said in an email. Organizers make the game tougher each year by changing parameters like field size or number of players.

Next year, Veloso said, the robots might play outside.



Lee



Stephen McGill works with a Nao RoboCup entrant at the University of Pennsylvania. The international robot soccer tournament called RoboCup takes place in Brazil right after the World Cup.

WIRED WORLD

# Evolving smartwatches

## Gadgets seeing advances, but regret is a risk if you buy now

By ANICK JESDANUN  
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — New Android wristwatches from Samsung and LG make a few evolutionary advances, though I won't be rushing out to buy either.

Samsung's Gear Live and LG's G Watch are good products and will appeal to those who like to be among the first to own new gadgets.

The watches serve as pedometers and let you catch up on email, texts and Facebook notifications while your phone is in your pocket or charging in the bedroom. Even with the phone in your hand, you can check messages on the watch and keep playing video on the phone.

Both smartwatches try to keep things simple through voice commands rather than touch. They use Google's Android Wear system.

Android Wear has a lot of potential but still lacks the functionality of even last year's smartwatches. Your ability to reply is limited, and there's not much you can do yet without a companion phone nearby.

The companion phone must run Android 4.3 or later, which covers about a quarter of the Android devices in use. It doesn't have to be a Samsung or LG phone. Visit <http://g.co/WearCheck> from your phone to check compatibility. Don't even bother if you have an iPhone.

Even with its release of the Gear Live, Samsung will continue to sell the Gear 2 line of smartwatches, so I'll start there.

■ Samsung's Gear 2 (\$299).

I find the Gear 2 most useful for its fitness features. The watch counts the steps you take each day. It estimates distance and calories burned and measures heart rate on your runs, hikes and bike rides.

The features are rather basic, so active users might prefer a gadget dedicated to a specific task, such as measuring distance and pace using GPS. But the Gear 2 does offer a good introduction to newcomers.

Shots from the watch's 2-megapixel camera are mediocre, but that beats missing the shot entirely because your better camera is in your pocket or handbag. If you don't need the camera, you can save \$100 with the Gear 2 Neo, which has similar features otherwise.

Both have speakerphones for making phone calls.

The Gear 2 line doesn't use Android Wear, but a fledgling system called Tizen. Samsung says that helps extend battery life to two or three days, instead of the single day on the original, Android-based Galaxy Gear. Unlike the Android Wear watches, the Gear 2 and the Gear 2 Neo both require a Samsung phone.

■ Samsung's Gear Live (\$199).

Out of the box, the Gear Live looks much like the Gear 2. But once you turn it on, it stays on. The watch face doesn't go dark as the one on the Gear 2 does after inactivity.

Unfortunately, the promised battery life is back down to a single day, though actual performance varied depending on use. The best I got was a day and a half on a full charge. In the worst case, about half the charge was gone in just five hours.

The Gear Live doesn't have as many fitness features. You can count steps and measure heart rate, but you can't measure distance or calories with built-in apps.

In addition, there's no camera or speakerphone. To make calls, you need a Bluetooth headset paired to your phone.

Because the Gear Live and the G Watch both use Android Wear, they have similar functionality. You control both mostly by

voice.

There aren't many icons or buttons on the screen, as you'd find on previous smartwatches.

You do have to get used to swiping left (for more information) or right (to dismiss a notification). Otherwise, the interface is clean and simple. One thing I wish for: a central place to view notifications, including ones I've dismissed.

■ LG's G Watch (\$229).

LG is hoping to make its watch easier to use by making it without a physical button. It's not really needed when voice control is so prominent, and I've used the Gear Live's physical button only as a fallback for when I couldn't figure out how to do something.

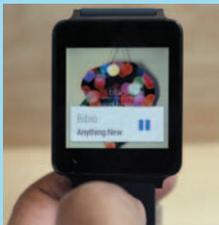
The LG watch has about a third more battery capacity than Samsung's, but both watches lasted about the same amount of time in my tests.

The resolution and colors on LG's always-on screen aren't as good as they are on Samsung's, though LG's notifications use larger type and are easier to read.

The G Watch can count steps but doesn't have a heart rate sensor—the biggest way it differs from the Gear Live. The G Watch doesn't have a camera or speakerphone either.

Motorola plans to come out with the round-faced Moto 360 this summer, while the ones out so far have had square displays. And Apple is widely expected to have its own smartwatch this fall.

I recommend waiting to see what they do. You might still gravitate toward Samsung's or LG's watch, but you risk regret if you buy one now.



The LG G Watch will cost about \$229.

Jeff Chu/AP



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Police: Man arrested on 13th charge of DWI

**NM** ALBUQUERQUE — It's an unlucky number but officials say he's lucky no one has been killed.

KOB-TV reported that an Albuquerque man was arrested last week for his 13th drunken driving charge.

According to police, an officer saw Celestino Centeno back his car out of a driveway in a neighborhood near downtown Albuquerque and slam into a curb, disabling the vehicle.

The criminal complaints says Centeno denied drinking, but had "alcohol emitting from his breath, thick speech and blood-shot watery eyes." Police said he refused to take a field sobriety test and was charged with aggravated DWI.

Court records show Centeno has been arrested for drunken driving 13 times and has six DWI convictions. He is being held on a \$50,000 bond.

## Fire at popular tourist attraction hurts six

**NY** NEW YORK — New York City fire officials said six people, including a child, suffered slight burns when a piece of camera equipment caught fire inside the observation deck of 30 Rockefeller Plaza.

A fire department spokesman said the fire started just after 7:30 p.m. Sunday and was under control about a half-hour later. He said the injuries were caused by embers from the fire falling onto the victims.

Five adults at the scene refused medical attention, and the child, whose age was not immediately known, was taken to a nearby hospital. There was no word on what caused the fire.

## Man threatening air ambulance is arrested

**OH** CINCINNATI — Police in Cincinnati said a man was arrested after driving to a hospital and threatening to shoot down a medical helicopter the next time it flew over his property.

Police said Leonard Pflanz, 56, drove to Mercy West Hospital on Sunday, yelled at the University of Cincinnati Health Air Care pilot and threatened to shoot down the aircraft.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that Pflanz was arrested and charged with a felony count of disrupting public service and with misdemeanor counts of misconduct at an emergency and aggravated menacing.

The helicopter apparently flew over the man's property en route to the hospital early Sunday. Authorities said Pflanz drove to the hospital, got out of his vehicle and began yelling at the pilot.

## Odor from sump pumps prompts evacuations

**PA** SKIPPACK — Authorities said an odor that prompted a voluntary evacuation of about 100 homes in suburban Ft. Mill is due to an organic compound coming from the sump

## THE CENSUS

# 2,500

The number of miles a Maine grandmother plans to travel in a kayak during a trip from Portland to Guatemala. Deborah Walters, 63, of Troy, pushed off from Portland's Eastern Promenade Beach on Sunday. The journey is expected to take about a year, and the goal is to raise money for the children of the Central American nation, especially those who scrounge out a living by scavenging at the dump instead of going to school. Walters said her goal is to give the children an education so they can start small businesses and get jobs. An experienced kayaker, she first saw the extreme poverty in Guatemala on a trip nine years ago.



ERIN KIRKLAND/AP

## Airbrushing Albert

Kevin Burdock, of Fenton, Mich., a professional airbrush artist, puts the finishing touches on his Albert Einstein painting at the fourth annual Buckham Alley Festival in downtown Flint, Mich. The event hosts musicians, vendors, artists and more in an attempt to beautify Flint's alleys.

slugs in the basements. The Montgomery County hazardous response team, the state Department of Environmental Protection and the federal Environmental Protection Agency are working to identify the "volatile organic compound" involved, the county Department of Public Safety said in a statement Monday.

## Professional gorger has his 3rd slugburger title

**MS** CORINTH — Professional gorger Matt Stonie gulped down a record 43 slugburgers Saturday — one better than the nation's top-ranked food-gobbler, Joey Chestnut — to keep his Slugburger Festival title.

The Daily Corinthian reported that Stonie has now defeated Chestnut twice at the Corinth festival and has won three events overall.

Slugburgers, a local delicacy, aren't made of slugs as the name implies. The secret recipe includes meat and a breading tender, deep-fried and garnished with pickle, mustard and onion.

## Gift certificate held for 25 years honored

**MA** WORCESTER — A pop culture store has honored a 25-year-old gift certificate.

Sierra Wales, assistant manager at That's Entertainment in Worcester, said a longtime customer recently brought in the \$10 gift certificate bought in 1989.

She told The Republican newspaper that the gift certificate had been sitting in a drawer for years. The customer had been meaning to bring it in for some time, and finally remembered over the Fourth of July weekend.

She noted that the gift certificate was older than most employ-

ees and had actually been bought at the store's old location. The customer used it to buy a graphic novel.

## Beer pong at teen party gets woman arrested

**CT** FAIRFIELD — A Fairfield woman was arrested after police alleged she set up a drinking game for teenagers attending a party at her house last week.

Police charged Maria Flores, 41, with permitting minors to possess alcohol and breach of peace.

The Connecticut Post reported that one teen was taken to St. Vincent's Medical Center in Bridgeport for treatment after being found intoxicated during Thursday night's party.

Others were found playing the game beer pong in the backyard of Flores' home.

Police said she admitted to setting up the game.

Flores was released on a promise to appear July 21 in Bridgeport Superior Court.

## Pedestrian killed trying to beat oncoming train

**MI** BRIDGMAN — Authorities said a pedestrian trying to beat an oncoming train by running across the tracks was struck and killed at a crossing in southwestern Michigan.

Police in Bridgman said the crash happened about 10 p.m. Saturday in the city of 2,300. The crossing is in Berrien County, about 12 miles south-southwest of Benton Harbor.

Chief Daniel J. Unruh said in a statement Sunday that witnesses reported that the gates were down and the warning lights were flashing for a northbound train when the pedestrian tried to cross.

From wire reports

FACES



BRET HARTMAN/For The Washington Post

Actor-director-producer Zach Braff was eager to follow "Garden State," a movie which transformed him from a pratfalling TV doctor on "Scrubs" to an indie heartthrob. But it took a decade to do it his way.

A decade after 'Garden State,' Braff still a wandering soul

By JEFF WEISS

Special to The Washington Post

To his acolytes, Zach Braff is the every-nebbish — the alienated but empathetic "nice guy." Yet others see him as a tipping point in the eventual Urban Outfitterization of indie rock.

Regardless of your axis on the Braff spectrum, the impact of his directorial debut, 2004's "Garden State," was unmistakable. Made for \$2.5 million, it grossed \$26.7 million domestically and won a Grammy (Best Compilation Soundtrack) and Independent Spirit Award (Best First Feature).

"I didn't know that 'Garden State' would be this astronomical hit," said Braff, 39. He notes that "90 percent" of his attackers describe themselves as writers.

"Was some of it didactic? Sure. Was some of it quirk for quirk's sake? Sure," he continues. "But to go back and diss it, and say we were so young and naive, that's insulting and silly. It was pretty good for a first effort."

Some celebrities insulate themselves from criticism by staying offline, but Braff actively engages his 1.4 million Twitter followers. He lauds its ability to joke with fans in Australia when fighting bouts of insomnia. But his Twitter bio tellingly reads: "I block people quicker than I should."

A Braff takeover seemed imminent after "Garden State." But it took 10 years for "Wish I Was Here" to come to fruition. The film made headlines a year ago, when Braff turned to Kickstarter seeking \$2 million for the project. The donations would help offset previously procured funding and Braff's own

investment without the help of film financiers.

"I'm making a tiny movie about my spirituality, my family and my biggest fears. And I'm supposed to give final cut to a banker, who's going to make his cuts totally based on a test screening in the suburbs of L.A.? No. [Forget] that," Braff thunders. Within about a month, 46,500 people had contributed a total of \$3.1 million.

He's candid about the themes coursing through "Wish I Was Here." A spiritual sequel to "Garden State,"

it raises personal and religious questions: how to reconcile personal limitations with childhood dreams, the fantasy of being saved by the love of your family and the crushing nothingness of death among them.

"It doesn't work for me to believe that Noah's Ark was real. The only religious sentiment that does is to go, 'I'm here now. How can I be a good person to those around me? How can I express myself artistically, honestly and truly, without compromise?'"

Zach Braff work for me to

Filmmakers in Georgia train crash jailed briefly

From wire reports

Two filmmakers charged with involuntary manslaughter several months after a train crash killed a member of their movie crew flew to Georgia over the weekend to turn themselves in at a rural jail, where they posted \$25,000 bond apiece before returning home to California, their defense attorney said Tuesday.

"Midnight Rider" director Randall Miller and his wife and business partner, Jody Savin, were booked Sunday at the Wayne County jail about 60 miles southwest of Savannah, said the couple's defense attorney, Don Samuel. The amount of their bond had been approved prior to their arrival, allowing them to report to jail quickly and quietly.

"There were in and out in 30 minutes," Samuel said.

Miller, Savin and executive producer Jay Sedrish were indicted July 3 on charges of involuntary manslaughter and criminal trespassing in connection with the crash that occurred the day the filmmakers began shooting a movie based on the life of singer Gregg Allman.

On Feb. 20, a freight train plowed into the crew as well as a metal-framed bed placed across the tracks as a prop on a railroad bridge spanning the Altamaha River. A camera assistant, 27-year-old Sarah Jones of Atlanta, was killed and six other crew members were injured.

The indictment charges Miller, Savin and Sedrish with unintentionally causing Jones' death by trespassing onto the railroad bridge. The filmmakers went onto the train trestle even after CSX Railroad denied them access, the indictment says.

Brooks 'crushed' as Dublin refunds begin

It's crying time on the Emerald Isle: Country music superstar Garth Brooks issued a statement Monday confirming that his five planned concerts in Dublin next week are scrapped, and that ticket refunds for 400,000 ticket buyers will proceed.

"I just received the news the Dublin City Council cannot change their earlier ruling to not allow the licenses for all five shows," Brooks said. "To say I am crushed is an understatement."

Fans held out hope Monday that the shows might be reinstated after a top Irish government official stepped in over the weekend to try to help broker a deal between Brooks, concert promoter Peter Aiken and Dublin city officials who had recently voted to deny permits to two of the five sold-out concerts in 83,000-capacity Croke Park Stadium.

Brooks said he would play all five shows on Nov. 6 and Aiken Promotions subsequently announced that all five were canceled.

Nick's 'Sam & Cat' gone after less than 1 season

With Ariana Grande hitting it big in the music world this summer, her time as star on children's television is about to become history.

Nickelodeon announced Monday that "Sam & Cat," which at times was the network's most popular series after debuting just last summer, will air its last original episode Thursday.

Grande, whose single "Problems" has sold 2.3 million tracks, co-starred on the series with another longtime Nickelodeon personality, Jennette McCurdy.

"We are very proud of the show and its very talented cast, and we wish them all the best," Nickelodeon said.

It's unusual for a network to end a highly rated series so quickly. After an initial order of 20 episodes, Nick doubled it to 40. But the series shut down production this spring, four episodes short of a full order amid published reports of turmoil on the set and a falling out between Grande and McCurdy.

Representatives for the actresses did not immediately return messages seeking comment.

Details of Archie's demise in comic emerge

Archie Andrews will die taking a bullet for his gay best friend.

The famous rock-flecked comic book icon is meeting his demise in Wednesday's installment of "Life with Archie" when he intervenes in an assassination attempt on Kevin Keller, Archie Comics' first openly gay character. Andrews' death, which was first announced in April, will mark the conclusion of the series that focuses on grown-up renditions of Andrews and his Riverdale pals.

"The way in which Archie dies is everything that you would expect of Archie," said Jon Goldberger, Archie Comics' publisher and CEO. "He dies heroically. He dies selflessly. He dies in the manner that epitomizes not only the best of Riverdale but the best of all of us. It's what Archie has come to represent over the past almost 75 years."

Other news

■ Syfy network said Monday that **Thomas Jane** will star as a world-weary detective in an otherworldly thriller for the network. "The Expanse," a 10-episode series billed as a "space opera," is based on the best-selling book series by James S.A. Corey. It will air in 2015.

■ The organization that puts on the Golden Globes Awards and the ceremony that produces the telecast have resolved their longstanding court battle over rights to the show. The Hollywood Foreign Press Association and dick clark productions announced Monday that the 2010 lawsuit has been settled. The terms were not revealed.



# BUSINESS/WEATHER

# Case puts payday lending in spotlight

By **DUGAN ARNETT**  
The Kansas City Star

Tiffany Kelker was stuck. In January 2011, finding herself in need of some financial assistance after the holidays, she had taken out a \$600 "payday loan" from an online lending business that advertised fast cash.

In the ensuing months, however, the Billings, Mont., resident of five watched helplessly as the company withdrew money electronically from her bank account, according to court documents. Eventually, the lender took more than \$1,500 in interest charges alone, which court records calculated as an annual percentage rate of 780 percent.

Kelker would eventually file suit against Geneva Roth Ventures Inc., an Internet-based lending operation headquartered in Mission, Kan.

The Montana case was only the latest in a collection of legal issues involving Geneva Roth and its CEO Mark Curry. Several other

# 780

The percentage rate paid by Tiffany Kelker to Geneva Roth Ventures Inc., of Mission, Kan., for a \$600 payday loan. The interest alone totaled \$1,800.

states already had barred the company from doing business, according to court records.

The Montana case highlights the controversial tactics such companies use — and the increased scrutiny their tactics have attracted from state and federal agencies.

"Payday lending is right up there among our top issues," said Nikhil Singhvi, staff attorney for the Federal Trade Commission. Yet lenders can be difficult to track. The office listed on Kansas paperwork as the Geneva Roth headquarters in Mission features no sign in front, although state records still list it as an active

company. Curry could not be reached for comment for this story. His Montana lawyer issued a statement on his behalf, however, saying Geneva Roth is no longer in business and was happy to resolve the Montana case.

Whatever the status of Geneva Roth, Curry established himself as a significant figure within the industry. He was an early member of the Online Lenders Alliance, a group founded in 2005 purportedly to serve as a kind of industry watchdog.

The goal of the alliance, according to its website, is "to protect the industry against potential damage caused by inept lenders."

"Like many new Internet industries, it can be a little bit of a Wild West mentality," said Peter Barden, a spokesman for the alliance. "And the folks that brought it together wanted to create some really good rules based on integrity, with the focus on the consumer."

But while industry proponents argue that online payday lenders

offer an important and quick form of financial relief not available elsewhere, critics accuse these companies of charging exorbitant interest rates, failing to adequately inform consumers about fees and trapping vulnerable individuals.

"We see it over and over again where people borrow some amount of money, say \$300, and (before long) they've paid back \$1,000 — and they still owe," said Jim DePrest, a deputy attorney general in Arkansas.

## MARKET WATCH

July 14, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+111.61
Nasdaq composite	+24.93
Standard & Poor's 500	+9.53
Russell 2000	+5.69

1,055.42  
4,440.42  
1,977.10  
1,165.62

### EXCHANGE RATES

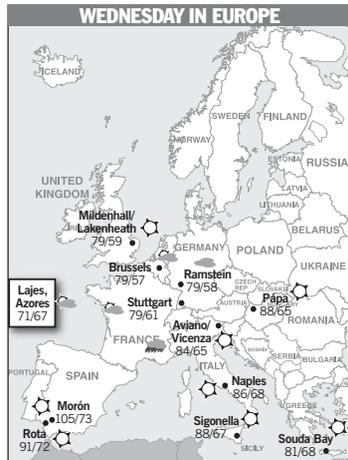
Military rates	
Euro costs (July 16)	\$1.3955
Dollar buys (July 16)	€0.7166
British pound (July 16)	\$1.76
Japanese yen (July 16)	¥99.00
South Korean won (July 16)	₩1,058.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.0780
Canada (Dollar)	1.0714
China (Yuan)	6.2063
Denmark (Krone)	6.4758
Egypt (Pound)	7.1506
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3618/0.7343
Hungary (Forint)	227.00
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4185
Japan (Yen)	101.58
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	6.1833
Philippines (Peso)	43.51
Poland (Zloty)	3.04
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2411
South Korea (Won)	1,019.40
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8919
Thailand (Baht)	32.14
Turkey (Lira)	1.1160

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., those in 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, one dollar except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.75
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.10
30-year bond	3.37

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



### Wednesday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	82	60	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	71	53	Pcldy	Louisville	77	58	Cldy	Pocatello	88	59	Cldy	Sloux City	75	48	Cldy
Ablene, Texas	90	71	Cldy	Cheyenne	68	53	Cldy	Fresno	100	73	Pcldy	Lubbock	87	68	Cldy	Portland, Maine	73	66	Rain	Sloux Falls	75	50	Cldy
Akron, Ohio	69	53	Cldy	Chicago	71	57	Pcldy	Goodland	67	55	Rain	Macon	88	67	Cldy	Portland, Ore.	87	61	Cldy	South Bend	70	53	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	78	66	Pcldy	Cincinnati	73	53	Pcldy	Grand Junction	90	68	Pcldy	Madison	74	48	Pcldy	Providence	80	73	Rain	Soukan	98	68	Cldy
Albuquerque	89	68	Cldy	Cleveland	71	55	Cldy	Grand Rapids	70	53	Cldy	Medford	103	70	Cldy	Pueblo	82	61	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	74	52	Cldy
Allentown, Pa.	80	65	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	78	57	Cldy	Great Falls	88	65	Cldy	Mempphis	81	61	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	84	68	Cldy	Springfield, Mo.	75	53	Pcldy
Amarillo	83	63	Rain	Columbia, S.C.	89	70	Pcldy	Green Bay	73	51	Pcldy	Miami Beach	88	76	Pcldy	Rapid City	75	54	Pcldy	Toledo	72	52	Cldy
Anchorage	66	55	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	87	68	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	83	65	Pcldy	Midland-Odesa	97	72	Cldy	Roanoke	96	69	Cldy	Tallahassee	91	74	Cldy
Asheville	79	59	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	73	54	Pcldy	Harrisburg	77	63	Pcldy	Milwaukee	66	53	Pcldy	Richmond	84	69	Cldy	Tampa	89	77	Rain
Atlanta	84	63	Cldy	Concord, N.H.	79	67	Rain	Hartford Springfield	72	71	Rain	Minneapolis	81	66	Cldy	Rockford	81	63	Pcldy	Tempe	72	52	Cldy
Atlantic City	83	72	Cldy	Corpus Christi	97	76	Cldy	Helena	89	66	Cldy	Missoula	93	55	Cldy	Rochester	72	56	Pcldy	Topeka	76	54	Pcldy
Austin	85	69	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	90	72	Cldy	Honolulu	89	70	Cldy	Mobile	87	66	Cldy	St. Louis	72	49	Pcldy	Tucson	89	71	Cldy
Baltimore	81	66	Pcldy	Dayton	72	52	Pcldy	Houston	94	75	Cldy	Montgomery	87	67	Pcldy	Sacramento	89	64	Cldy	Tulsa	79	59	Cldy
Baton Rouge	89	69	Pcldy	Denver	70	56	Cldy	Huntsville	83	58	Cldy	Nashville	81	58	Cldy	St. Louis	78	58	Pcldy	Tupelo	82	59	Pcldy
Billings	85	57	Cldy	Des Moines	74	58	Cldy	Indianapolis	73	55	Pcldy	New Orleans	91	74	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	88	79	Rain	Waco	94	71	Cldy
Birmingham	82	61	Cldy	Des Moines	76	54	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	86	61	Cldy	New York City	81	69	Cldy	St. Thomas	85	79	Cldy	Washington	83	66	Pcldy
Bismarck	78	52	Cldy	Detroit	73	59	Cldy	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	Newark	84	71	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	91	57	Cldy	W Palm Beach	88	76	Rain
Boise	86	66	Cldy	Duluth	73	59	Cldy	Lexington	76	56	Pcldy	Newark, Va.	82	74	Cldy	Salt Lake City	91	68	Cldy	Wichita	72	62	Cldy
Boston	77	72	Rain	El Paso	96	76	Cldy	Kansas City	76	55	Pcldy	New York, N.Y.	87	64	Cldy	San Antonio	96	71	Cldy	Wichita Falls	84	67	Cldy
Bridgport	81	69	Rain	Elkins	71	54	Pcldy	Key West	80	60	Cldy	Omaha	75	53	Cldy	San Diego	97	77	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	75	61	Pcldy
Brownsville	96	77	Cldy	Erie	67	57	Cldy	Knoxville	80	59	Cldy	Orlando	92	75	Cldy	San Francisco	75	61	Pcldy	Wilmington, Del.	82	69	Pcldy
Buffalo	69	55	Cldy	Eugene	92	55	Cldy	Lake Charles	90	73	Cldy	Ocala	92	75	Rain	San Jose	87	67	Cldy	Yakima	100	67	Cldy
Burlington, Vt.	74	66	Rain	Evansville	77	55	Pcldy	Lansing	70	51	Cldy	Panama	79	59	Cldy	San Jose	81	64	Cldy	Youngstown	69	51	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	74	66	Rain	Fairbanks	69	53	Cldy	Las Vegas	104	84	Pcldy	Pendleton	101	66	Cldy	Santa Fe	87	60	Cldy				
Casper	77	52	Cldy	Fargo	75	51	Cldy	Lexington	76	56	Cldy	Phoenix	103	87	Cldy	Sierra Marie	65	49	Cldy				
Charleston, S.C.	90	75	Cldy	Flagstaff	77	57	Cldy	Lincoln	74	52	Pcldy	Philadelphia	83	70	Cldy	Savannah	90	75	Cldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	78	56	Pcldy	Flint	68	50	Cldy	Little Rock	81	59	Pcldy	Phoenix	107	87	Cldy	Seattle	85	60	Cldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	85	67	Pcldy	Fort Smith	81	59	Cldy	Los Angeles	79	65	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	73	54	Pcldy	Shreveport	88	65	Cldy				

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

National temperature extremes  
Hi: Mon., 119, Death Valley, Calif.  
Lo: Mon., 40, Scobey, Mont.

# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Attorneys 178

**NICKEL**  
**US & German Attorneys**  
 US & German Divorce • Employment  
 Wills and Probate • Support Issues  
 Personal Injury • Tax  
 Contractor Issues  
 Call 069-299-2069-9  
 Email: maiss@nickelonline.de

**EUROPE'S PREMIER MILITARY DEFENSE FIRM**  
**COURT & CARPENTER**  
 Over 45 years defending servicemembers  
 Heilbronner Strasse 150,  
 70191 Stuttgart, Germany  
 Phone in Germany: 0711 490 04320  
 www.militarylawfirm.eu

**Law Offices Joseph K. Kelso U.S. Attorney at Law**  
 Specializing in:  
 U.S. Federal Employment Law,  
 Administrative Boards, Personal Injury and  
 Medical Malpractice, Claims, International  
 Contracts and Immigration Law.  
 Frankfurt am Main  
 Tel: (06108) 797579 • Fax: (06108) 799622  
 joseph-kelso@t-online.de

Military Items 720

**DEPENDABLE**  
 We test each bag we add to our line  
 Over 1000 bags  
 All branches  
 All cargo types  
 Check our reviews on Facebook  
**MILITARYLUGGAGE.COM**

**U.S. military news 24/7 from around the world.**

Stripes.com posts regular updates from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific and the Mideast—and covers the Pentagon and Capitol Hill.

We also deliver on mobile apps for iPhone and Android and offer a Tablet Edition for iPad.

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
 Wherever you need us, however you read us, we're always for you.

Transportation 944

**VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES**

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

**For Further Information Please Contact**

<p>GERMANY                  Phone: +49-6134-2592730                  Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)                  E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de                  WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de</p>	<p>UNITED KINGDOM                  +44-117 938 1919                  0800-7839351 (UK only)                  info@carshipuk.co.uk                  www.carshipuk.co.uk</p>	<p>U.S.A                  +1-972-602-1670                  +1-800-264-8167 (US only)                  info@tgalus                  www.tgalus</p>
---	--	---

*For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations*

**Trans Global**  
 LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH



Dental 902

**American Dental Care**

**Services Offered:**  
 Family Dentistry  
 Certified Orthodontists  
 Crowns and Veneers  
 Implant Surgery  
 Zoom Teeth Whitening  
 Wisdom Teeth Surgery  
 Nitrous Oxide  
 Saturday & Evening Appointments  
 Caring, Friendly American Staff

**LOCATIONS**

**Wiesbaden Dental Care**  
 06119 887 2650  
 Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden  
 Wiesbadendental.com

**Ramstein Dental Care**  
 06371 406230  
 Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein  
 Ramsteindental.com

Certified American Dental Hygienists  
 TRICARE Preferred Provider

Dental 902

**Over 90% Non-Extraction**



Member American Association of Orthodontists

Convenient Payment Plans  
 No Referral Necessary  
 Evening & Weekends  
 TriCare Provider

**American Orthodontist**  
 Dr. Michael Dillon, DDS, MS (Orthod)  
 Univ of Maryland, Former USAF  
 All Treatment Fees in US \$

**06371-918911**  
 www.dillonortho.com

**Dillon Orthodontic Care**

Financial Services 904

**LOANS up to \$10,000**

For Active Duty U.S. Military

Call Toll Free

Germany: 0800 YES-LOAN  
 Italy/Belgium: 00800 YES-LOANS  
 Stateside: +1.931.802.6522

www.yesomni.com

**omni MILITARY LOANS**

"We love to say yes!"

© Omni Financial - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. All loans subject to approval.

Transportation 944

**Are you in the picture?**



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most. No one covers the bases the way we do.

**Interglobal Shipping GmbH**  
 Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada  
 Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings  
 Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!  
 info@interglobalshipping.de  
 www.interglobalshipping.de

Tel: (0421) 540 650 Fax: (0421) 540 6555  
 TollFree: 0800 000631

Ship Cars and Containers to and from the USA

**STARS AND STRIPES**  
 In print • Online at stripes.com  
 Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad

**WORLDWIDE SHIPPING AGENCY**

**OPENING HOURS:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mon - Fri  
 0800-522-6274 or 800-WSA-SHIP (972-7447)  
 For a free rate request, please email: info@worldwide-ship.de  
 Visit our Website: www.worldwide-ship.de

# STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Choate, Pacific commander  
 Terry M. Wegner, Pacific Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com  
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
 reid.robert@stripes.com  
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor  
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com  
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor  
 croley.tina@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

**Europe/Mideast**  
 Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast  
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com;  
 +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell  
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

**Pacific**  
 Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific  
 alexander.paul@stripes.com  
 +81-3.6285.5377; cell (080)5883.1673  
 DSN (315)225.5377

**Washington**  
 Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief  
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com  
 (+1)703.693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web  
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,  
 Sports, Features and Graphics  
 moores.sean@stripes.com

## CONTACT US

**Washington**  
 tel: (+1)202.761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;  
 fax: (+1)202.761.0890  
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC  
 20045-1301

### Reader letters

**Additional contacts**  
 stripes.com/contacts

## OMBUDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting, editing, and publishing, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 04171900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 30 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

## OPINION

# Vocal moderates could make parties listen

By DAN SCHUR

**L**ike more than 20 percent of my fellow Californians, I am now classified as a no-party-preference voter, registered to vote but with no affiliation to any of the state's political parties.

I am for lower taxes and for marriage equality. I am tough on crime and I am anti-abortion. I believe that a pathway to citizenship is a necessary part of immigration reform and that student test scores should be a critical component of teacher evaluations.

Given the nature of modern-day politics, I'm not sure either party would have me.

Those of us who consciously choose not to align ourselves with a party are the fastest-growing portion of the electorate. The millennial generation has the highest percentage of independents, suggesting that nonpartisan voters are poised to play an increasingly influential role in shaping state politics and governing in the future.

But those statistics tell only one small part of the story. Because independents' dissatisfaction with party politics tends to make them less engaged than their partisan counterparts, the result is an electorate in which the most motivated liberals and most devoted conservatives wield a disproportionate influence over an election's outcome. So while the ranks of independent voters continue to grow, the most ideologically extreme members of both parties are tightening their grip on the political process.

Independent voters are not necessarily centrist. In fact, numerous studies have shown that most independents do not significantly differ in their policy positions

from more traditional partisans. But by definition, their willingness to separate from a party that advocates for their preferred policy solutions suggests an openness to compromise that most committed partisans no longer share.

The practical impact of this polarization can be seen both in the hands of government and in the dwindling turnout for elections. When citizens see their elected representatives paralyzed by gridlock, they become increasingly discouraged about their government's ability to confront society's challenges. When they see investive and name-calling dominate policy debate rather than negotiation and compromise, they become increasingly disgusted. And when they see the most ideologically extreme special interests on both sides of the aisle pouring millions of dollars of undisclosed and unregulated money into so-called independent committees every election season, they turn up their hands in disgust and simply opt out altogether.

That is not to suggest that centrists are inherently superior to principled progressives and principled conservatives. Our system requires strong partisans engaged on behalf of the issues and causes that they value. It also requires politicians to sometimes work across party lines, and for that, there must be common ground on which the two sides can meet to negotiate their differences.

I believe that candidates running without party affiliation would be well suited to serve as the political center, and with that in mind I ran as an independent candidate for secretary of state in the last election. I was unsuccessful, as have been the overwhelming majority of

independents who've run in California. One day that may change, but that will require educating voters about the potential benefits of electing a nonpartisan candidate. In the absence of better information on that front, most voters will continue to opt for the familiar party labels when casting their ballots.

Until centrist voters are prepared to embrace independent candidates in statewide races, the alternative is for them to exert more pressure on the choices presented to them by the existing parties. Redistricting reform and the top-two primary system have created opportunities for voters to express their preferences for less ideologically extreme candidates. But more sweeping change requires not just new rules but new attitudes.

In politics, a smaller group of citizens with an intense commitment to a cause will almost always prevail over a larger group who lack that same fervor. It's easy to blame tea partiers and the Occupy Wall Street crowd for the state of politics today. But they are simply advocating as forcefully as possible for the things that are important to them. The answer for those of us who want to repair a broken system of politics is not to denigrate these activists but to outwork their influence.

There's an old saying on the campaign trail: There's no such thing as a raging moderate. For politics to work again, those who occupy the center of the political spectrum will have to invest the time and effort to prove that adage wrong.

Dan Schur is director of the Jesse M. Unruh Institute of Politics at the University of Southern California. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

# Close ranks on scammers targeting troops

By EDITH RAMIREZ

**S**ervice personnel across our military work hard to earn their paychecks, often in hostile environments around the globe on challenging deployments. Sadly, that regular paycheck, frequent relocation, the stress of deployment, and separation from family and friends can make military households an attractive target for scam artists.

We would like to think our Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard personnel can let their guards down when they are back home engaging in basic activities like shopping for a car or securing a personal loan, selecting the best college or online course to improve their education, or choosing a pension plan.

Unfortunately, each of those activities represents an opportunity for scammers to defraud servicemembers and their families or steal their personal information. Last year, the Federal Trade Commission received 73,000 complaints from the military community. Thirty percent of those complaints related to identify theft, which is consistently one of the top fraud complaints reported to our agency. Other top complaints relate to impostor scams, lotteries and sweepstakes, foreign money offers and counterfeit check frauds.

As the nation's lead consumer protection agency, the FTC brings law enforcement actions and engages in consumer education campaigns to stop fraud against all consumers, including servicemembers,

veterans and their families.

In one recent case, the commission charged that one of the nation's largest refinancers of veterans' home loans violated the law by falsely representing that low-interest fixed-rate mortgages were available at no cost. Another case brought last year involved debt collectors who harassed servicemembers, sometimes for debts they did not even owe. A military consumer reported that a defendant debt collector told him he could face dismissal from the military for being in debt and that the collector would ruin his military career. In those and other consumer cases, the FTC has acted to stop those unlawful practices and obtain appropriate redress.

In addition to those enforcement efforts, we also cooperate closely with the Department of Defense, other federal agencies and law enforcement partners to stop scams and unlawful business practices that come to our attention. And we work with organizations such as the American Legion to spread accurate and helpful information to military families that is crucial to combating fraud.

We are looking to do even more to help empower our military and veteran communities. As the daughter of a veteran, I have a particular appreciation for our military and feel we have a duty to do the most we can for those who are willing to sacrifice so much to protect our country.

July 16 marks the second annual Military Consumer Protection Day. Together

with the DOD's Office of the Secretary of Defense, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and more than 30 public- and private-sector organizations including Military Saves, the FTC is working hard to ensure servicemembers have the tools they need to be well-informed consumers.

Our joint campaign, Military Consumer, provides active-duty and retired military consumers with a range of free and easily accessible online resources about how to manage finances, avoid scams and deal with identity theft. I urge military families to take advantage of it.

The website includes tips to help develop servicemembers place an active-duty alert on their credit reports to deter identify theft, guidance on how veterans can protect their pensions, and questions to ask when you're looking to use Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits, among other useful resources.

In addition, the FTC will be joining our Military Consumer Partners for a Twitter town hall July 16 at 2 p.m. EST. We hope you can join the conversation, which will focus on identify theft and credit-related topics. Questions can be submitted using #MCPD2014.

It's time to close ranks on the scammers targeting our military, and by working more closely together, we believe this is an achievable mission.

Thank you for your service.

Edith Ramirez is chairwoman of the Federal Trade Commission.

## Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader Letters information on this page.

OPINION

# Pot, gambling: government's favorite vices

BY MICHAEL GERSON

WASHINGTON

Two of the larger social trends of our time — the growth of payday gambling and the legalization of marijuana — have two things in common: They are justified as the expansion of personal liberty and they serve the interests of an expanding government.

The ideological alliance behind these changes is among the strangest in American politics. Libertarians seek to lift governmental restraints on consensual acts. State governments seek sources of revenue without the political inconvenience of requesting broad tax increases. Both find common ground in encouraging and exploiting the weaknesses and addictions of citizens. (And business interests and their lobbyists, of course, find new ways to profit from reliable vices.)

The financial appeal is forthright. Maryland did not legalize gambling in order to expand the realm of personal autonomy. It collects a 61 percent tax on slot machine revenues. Colorado expects about \$114 million in taxes and fees during its first year of marijuana legalization. "If Colorado is able to rake in substantial amounts of tax revenue," according to one news account, "legalization advocates" pitches to legislators in Oregon, Massachusetts and Alaska become that much easier."

Consider the perspective of a state legislator. Your state has incurred a variety of unfunded obligations. Voting to raise taxes might cost your job. Legalizing gambling or pot, in contrast, will bring in new revenues and perhaps new campaign donations. And some people will call it the advance of freedom!

This is a tribute to a hardy weed — in this case, the steady feed of government which can grow in any political environment. If you are a progressive who wants universal health coverage, government ex-

pands. If you are a libertarian who wants people to be able to waste their money at casinos, or smoke and ingest whatever they damn well please, government expands as well.

But this particular enlargement depends on minimizing and dismissing the consequences for individuals and communities.

Gambling is merely entertainment — though modern slot machines are really sophisticated computer programs designed to elicit Pavlovian responses until victims "play to extinction." An estimated 40 percent to 60 percent of slot revenues come from problem gamblers. And casinos are often sited to attract working-class people.

Pot is harmless — though we really have little information on the health and cultural effects of the widespread legal distribution of modern, potent methods of consuming THC (the chemical name). We do know that the substance is addictive in about one of nine cases (more like one in six when use starts in the teens); that it can make structural changes in portions of the brain controlling emotion and motivation; and that regular use undermines memory, attention span, problem-solving skills and the ability to complete complex tasks. What possible use could these attributes be in a modern economy?

There is also little doubt that an expanded legal market in pot also expands the illegal market for reselling (or giving) to children and teens. And the product — especially Colorado's ingestible pot lollipops and gummy bears — is particularly suitable. The social message of normalization, of banalization, is intended — and received by young people. The first \$40 million of Colorado's pot revenues is slated for public school construction. What were once "drug-free school zones" are becoming drug-funded schools. Will there be a celebratory plaque in seventh-grade classrooms: "Brought to you by the potheads of



TONY OVERMAN, THE OLYMPIAN/AP

Chad U'Ren of Olympia, Wash., smiles as he completes his purchase of a glass pipe during the first day of recreational marijuana sales in Thurston County, Wash., at the 420 Carpenter marijuana store east of Lacey, Wash., on Friday.

the Centennial State?"

Parents no longer expect much help from government in reinforcing the cultural and moral norms necessary to the raising of responsible, successful children. But now some states are profiting from actively undermining those norms. Apparently, only consenting adults matter. Libertarian utopias are always childrenless.

For the strongest ideological advocates of this approach, the outcomes are largely irrelevant. It ultimately doesn't matter if teen drug use increases by X percent, or gambling addiction rises Y percent. Ending "consensual crimes" is a matter of principle — not just on pot and slots but on heroin and meth. The idea of a political

community upholding standards, in order to help other institutions (such as families) pass healthy cultural norms between generations, is anathema.

But libertarians are now, paradoxically, providing ideological air cover for irresponsible government. State officials just want the money. However it is blessed, without requesting it through the normal democratic process. Rather than building social competence and capital, politicians increasingly benefit when citizens are addicted, exploited, impoverished and stoned. And that deserves contempt, not applause.

Michael Gerson is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

# If IBM's Watson had legs, it would jaywalk like we do

BY STEPHEN BAKER

It's strange to walk the streets of Seattle and San Jose, Calif., two of the world's great software capitals, and see people behaving like machines. I'm referring to jaywalking or, more precisely, the lack of it. You see packs of knowledgeable workers huddled at street corners. They appear able to ignore the data streaming in through their eyes and ears that would make it clear to other creatures — dogs, squirrels or, for that matter, New Yorkers — that the coast is clear and it's safe to cross. Instead they wait for a blinking machine to issue orders.

This approach, like much of computer science in its early years, is based on rules. Because cars are killing machines, they must stop at red lights. And because pedestrians can be killed and maimed by cars, they too must obey the signal. To save a motorist and a pedestrian from a deadly rendezvous, authorities force both driver and walker to follow strict rules.

Computer programs, traditionally, feature long lists of such rules. If X happens, do Y. This is ideal for listing names in alphabetical order and countless other memory and logic tasks. But rule-based thinking is what makes computers so thickheaded. They struggle to adjust to change. The human brain, by contrast, adjusts almost effortlessly. It picks up changing context, is alive to nuance and adjusts to exceptions. This is why when someone

**Rule-based thinking is what makes computers so thickheaded. They struggle to adjust to change.**

tells us his name is spelled Ximenez, we shrug and accept it, while the spell-checker on the computer stubbornly insists on changing the X to a J. Rules, by their very nature, are dumb.

Researchers in artificial intelligence are working to overcome them. They program machines, such as Watson, IBM's "Jeopardy" computer, to analyze evidence and to calculate the odds for the best response. This is what jaywalkers do. We carry out advanced analytics involving a host of variables: the perceived speed of the oncoming truck, our walking speed and the width of the street, the worst-case chance that the driver will accelerate or swerve, and our ability in such a scenario to run.

Now, there's always a good reason for rules. Traffic authorities no doubt agree that human beings have fabulous brains, which are fully capable of looking left and right, drawing conclusions and crossing the street when safe. But many people are not using their brains for this important work. They're talking on their phones, listening to music or fiddling with umbrellas. Some

are drugged. Some are lousy at calculating their chances against oncoming traffic.

So the only way to keep them safe is to treat them like herd animals and bypass independent analysis with ironclad rules.

That approach certainly makes sense for governing vehicles, at least until the computer scientists make these killing machines "smarter." But I'd argue that we people should be as free as possible to navigate our bodies as we see fit. That includes the right to cross an empty street against a red light.

And what about the people who walk obviously into traffic wearing headphones or messaging on Google Glass? Where jaywalking is legal, or at least tolerated, they have a choice. They can either wait with the masses for the red light or pay attention. If they choose neither and wander into traffic, an angry motorist will honk at them or scream out the window or, in the very worst case, hit them.

This does happen. In the jaywalking hotbed of New York City, 168 pedestrians were killed last year, according to police. It's a grave problem. Mayor Bill de Blasio vows to go after outlaw pedestrians as well as fast-moving cars and trucks. In Los Angeles, where 72 pedestrians died in 2013, the police justify handing out \$250 tickets to people who step into crosswalks downtown as the "walk/don't walk" signal begins to count down because of "too many accidents and deaths."

Despite such crackdowns, jaywalking is a constant in most cities. It's factored into our commuting and delivery schedules. It's also part of what makes a city feel footloose. As the years pass, I think we'll especially treasure this freedom of movement because in so many areas we're going to be less free. Increasingly, governments, employers and insurance companies, among others, are going to have the tools to monitor and optimize our behavior, in every area from the dinner table and the workplace to our cars.

In fact, the same push for safety that punishes jaywalkers will likely lead us to driverless vehicles. They'll be a lot safer, since automatic drivers don't drink, text, turn around and scream at kids or fall asleep. At the same time, though, we passengers are bound to feel a bit shackled as the cars convey us, under the speed limit and following the most efficient route, to our destination.

At least we should be free to jaywalk. It will be a tiny refuge for self-expression. And here's the best part. In this future, driverless cars will screech to a halt if a pedestrian crosses their vision. It will no doubt be programmed into their operating system as a rule.

Stephen Baker is the author of "Final Jeopardy: Man vs. Machine and the Quest to Know Everything." His novel "The Boost" came out in May. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

# INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

## Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at [stripes.com](http://stripes.com) or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in



Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transported to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

## STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

2014 VFW News Media Award – For outstanding contribution to a better understanding of our American way of life and its institutions and interests by honest and forthright reporting.

2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Martin Kuz: "Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner  
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention  
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention  
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National Headline Awards – First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) – Third Place: News Series (Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism – George Polk Award for Military Reporting  
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III and Kevin Baron

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Steve Lower Photography; Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Hero

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

FREE Ad Guidelines:

- Free ads are available only DOD ID Card holders selling personal merchandise.
Ads may contain up to 32 words. All Ads must contain price and contact information.
No websites will be accepted in any ad.

Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite and reject any ads that do not meet our guidelines.

STARS AND STRIPES logo with 'Go to stripes.com to place your free ad. Sell fast! Buy fast' text.

When you see this camera icon go to stripes.com to view the updated photo.

Table with 4 columns: Advertising, Circulation, Reader Letters, and various contact information for Europe, Middle East, and Pacific regions.

Classifieds EUROPE For information on Commercial Rates: CV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

SCAM FADS advertisement with text: 'Scams classify scammers... Beware of the common red flags...'

Automotive 140

SELLER BEWARE advertisement with text: 'Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property...'

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW, 325i, 1997 \$4000 in great shape. Brand new tires, brakes and suspension. Headlight covers with no issues.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Chrysler Dodge Grand Caravan 2004 \$1900.00. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Jeep Wrangler Sport 2001. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volvo XC90 2010 \$130000. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Benelux 150

Volvo V40 2000 \$750.00 1.8L Turbo. AC, 4 door, black leather seats. AC, 171-259-8662.

Furniture 510

German Show Shrank & Storage \$100.00 35' Long 17.5' Wide. Located in Dierckhofstr. 17172 52 1603. Munro 1995 @ gmail.com

www.oconus.com

Looking For Online Coupons? One Stop Shopping For Military Families! OCONUS

Arts & Crafts 080

Scrapbooking and Stamping Supplies \$200.00 lots of Stamping ink stamps and different colors of paper and die cut.

www.patriot-autos.net We are Veterans

Autos for Sale - Germany 142. Patriot Military Automobiles US-Citizens Contact. We Buy Cars - US Specifications

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

BMW X3, 2002 \$150.00. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Germany 142

Volvo XC90 2010 \$130000. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Italy 144

BMW X3 2005. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Benelux 150

Mercedes SLK 300, 2001. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 2 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Trucks 174

Volvo V40 2000 \$750.00 1.8L Turbo. AC, 4 door, black leather seats. AC, 171-259-8662.

Music Lessons 918

Drum Lessons by professional instructor. In-Private Lessons - One on One - Acoustic & Electric Drums - Beginners to Advanced - Learn to read music.

Classifieds PACIFIC For information on Commercial Rates: CV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

www.oconus.com Looking For Online Coupons? One Stop Shopping For Military Families! OCONUS

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Dodge Dart 2013 \$11500.00. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Ford E350 Super Duty Conv. Van. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Hyundai Sonata 2001. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Hyundai Sonata 2005. 100,000 miles. Clean title. 4 door. 2.4 liter. 4 speed. 160 hp.

Sell Your Stuff!

Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS - sell everything with Stripes free classifieds! STARS AND STRIPES

# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

## Tennis

**Claro Open**  
Monday  
At Centro de Alto Rendimiento Bogota, Colombia  
Purse: \$172,000 (W1250)  
Surface: Clay-Indoor

First Round	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Alex Kuznetsov, United States, def. Adrian Panarino, France, 6-4, 7-6 (3)					
Bernard Tomic, Australia, def. Farrukh Dustov, Uzbekistan, 6-3, 6-2					
Guido Pella, Argentina, def. Eduardo Struvay, Colombia, 6-3, 6-4					

**First Round**  
Sanchai and Sonchat Rattawatana, Thailand, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, and Jimmy Wang, Taiwan, 6-7 (4), 7-5, 10-8, 11-9

**Istanbul Cup**  
Monday  
At Istanbul WTA Sports Istanbul  
Purse: \$225,000 (Int'l)  
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

First Round	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Bojana Jovanovski (7), Serbia, def. Alisandra Livancic, Belgium, 1-6, 6-7 (5), 6-3					
Elina Svitolina (4), Ukraine, def. Danka Kostovic, Montenegro, 6-1, 6-4, 6-3					
Klára Kouckova (3), Czech Republic, def. Donna Vekic, Croatia, 4-6, 6-0, 6-4					

**bet-at-home Open**  
Monday  
At Rethenbauer Sport GmbH Hamburg, Germany  
Purse: \$1.8 million (W1500)  
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

First Round	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Benoit Paire, France, def. Andy Golubev, Kazakhstan, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2					
Dusan Lajovic, Serbia, def. Kenrick Schepper, France, 6-3, 6-2					
Marcel Granollers, Portugal, def. Albert Montanes, Spain, 6-4, 6-2					

**Double**  
Daniel Gimeno-Traver, Spain, def. Yan-Lei Xiang, China, 6-3, 6-4  
Pablo Andujar, Spain, def. Mate Delic, Croatia, 6-4, 6-2

**First Round**  
Jamie Murray, Britain, and John Peers (4), Australia, def. Martin Ermmich and Christopher Kas, Germany, 6-3, 6-4  
Marcel Granollers and Marc Lopez (3), Spain, def. Andre Begemann and Alexander Zverev, Germany, 7-6 (4), 6-4

**Swedish Open**  
Monday  
At Bastad Tennis Stadium Bastad, Sweden  
Purse: \$250,000 (W1250)  
Surface: Clay-Outdoor

First Round	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Laura Arrabarrena, Spain, def. Inara Cosma, Romania, 6-4, 6-2					
Jana Cepelova, Slovakia, def. Rebecca Peterson, Sweden, 6-3, 6-4					
Chanelle Scheepers, S. Africa, def. Anastasia Rodionova, Russia, 6-5, 6-4					

Grace Min, United States, def. Mariya Pavlyuchenkova (2), Russia, 6-0, 6-4

**Pro basketball**  
**WNBA**  
EASTERN CONFERENCE  
Atlanta 15 5 750 +1  
Chicago 12 1 476 -1  
Washington 9 2 429 -6  
New York 8 3 381 -11  
CINCINNATI  
Chicago 18 13 71 +1  
New York 10 10 350 -8  
WESTERN CONFERENCE  
Phoenix 16 6 727 +1  
Minnesota 11 11 500 0  
Seattle 9 14 391 -9  
San Antonio 8 13 330 -10

**Tuesday's games**  
Connecticut at Seattle  
Los Angeles at Indiana  
Washington at Phoenix  
**Wednesday's games**  
Atlanta at New York  
Tulsa at Minnesota

## Golf

### World ranking

Through July 13	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
1. Adam Scott AUS 8.86					
2. Henrik Stenson SWI 6.73					
3. Justin Rose ENG 7.34					
4. Bubba Watson USA 6.90					

## International

W	L	Pts	GF	GA
1. Adam Scott AUS 8.86				
2. Henrik Stenson SWI 6.73				
3. Justin Rose ENG 7.34				
4. Bubba Watson USA 6.90				

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	8	5	25	26	16
Toronto FC	7	5	24	23	20
New York Red Bulls	7	5	23	20	16

## Deals

### Monday's transactions

**COURT OF ARBITRATION FOR SPORT** - Reduced the salary cap for the 2015 season for American sprinters Asafa Powell and Sherone Simpson to six months.

**American League**  
**HOUSTON ASTROS** - Options RHP David Martinez to Oklahoma City (PCL).

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** - Recalled RHP Trevor Cahill from Reno (PCL). Options RHP Josh Beckett to Reno.

**MIAMI MIAMI** - Sent RHP AJ Ramos to Jacksonville for a rehab assignment.

## Championship

### FedEx Cup leaders

Through July 13	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
1. Jimmy Walker USA 4.18					
2. Jason Day AUS 4.14					
3. Luke Donald ENG 3.98					

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Eastern Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	3	5	11	12
Philadelphia 76ers	2	3	5	11	12
Toronto FC	4	3	10	16	18

## Pro soccer

### MLS

Western Conference	W	L	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	12	4	38	24	16
Real Salt Lake	10	5	27	22	22
FC Dallas	7	7	26	20	23

## Pro soccer

### MLS

## BRITISH OPEN

## Spieth not frazzled by fast rise in golf



Jon SUPER/AP

Jordan Spieth, 20, tees off the first hole during a practice round ahead of the British Open at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, Hoylake, England, on Tuesday.

By DOUG FERGUSON

The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Jordan Spieth was so caught up in the debate he never realized he might have been talking about himself.

The topic was college football.

Three days into the new year, Spieth was getting ready to play a practice round at Kapaluha when he walked into a conversation about Oklahoma's upset win over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl. A caddy was blaming Nick Saban for being so critical of the Crimson Tide leading up to the game that it rattled his players. Spieth, a football junkie and sideline guest during the Oklahoma-Texas game, shook his head.

"Listen you guys, 20-year-olds don't get rattled by [anything] — trust me on that one," he said before walking away. Two people left behind at the coffee machine stared at each other for a moment, wondering if the kid knew what he had just said.

Spieth is 20.

He gets angry at some of the shots he plays. He talks to himself so much on the golf course that he provides his own color commentary.

But rattled?

Not over a bunker shot on the final hole at the John Deere Classic that he made for birdie to get into a playoff for his first PGA Tour victory. Not in a final-round pairing with Phil Mickelson, when he shot 62 in a performance so impressive that Mickelson told Presidents Cup captain Fred Couples, "Dude, you've got to pick this guy."

Spieth wasn't rattled as the youngest American to play in the Presidents Cup, either. During a team match against Tiger Woods in a practice round, he won the 12th hole by making a hole-in-one. And he didn't look fazed when he shot 64 and nearly won the FedEx Cup, two months after getting his PGA Tour card.

He became the first player since another 20-year-old — Woods — to start a season without status and reach the Tour Championship.

Spieth is not the next Tiger Woods. But he sure got Woods' attention.

"For a person to have come out of college and done this well, this fast and been as consistent ... normally when you're young, you come out and you may have two, three good weeks a year, maybe more," Woods said. "It just seems like he's having one every week. He's always up there."

Spieth, who won't turn 21 until a week after the British Open, is among the favorites at Royal Liverpool.

Even though the John Deere Classic remains his only victory, his body of work can't be ignored. Spieth is No. 10 in the world, and only Sergio Garcia and Rory

McIlroy cracked the top 10 at a younger age. He shared the 54-hole lead at the Masters and The Players Championship, losing out to Bubba Watson and Matt Kaymer. Dating to his victory, he has finished one of the top 20 only six times in 28 tournaments.

All this in the blur of one year.

"It feels like time flies," Spieth said. "But if you look back, even Kapalua feels like a long time ago. It feels like I've been on tour for four years now."

He plays much older than his age. Two weeks ago at Congressional, Spieth was in the same group as Woods when golf's biggest star returned from back surgery. Spieth had no idea where the ball was going. He was in much worse shape than Woods off the tee, but he put on a clinic with his short game.

Woods missed the cut. Spieth tied for 11th.

"He's got an old head on young shoulders," Ernie Els said. "I know you guys haven't heard that a million times, but in his case, he understands the game at a young age. He's cocky enough that he knows he's good. But he doesn't think that he knows everything. He's ready to learn still."

Cameron McCormick can attest to that.

The golf instructor at Brook Hollow in Dallas first met Spieth when he was 12. They were playing nine holes when McCormick wanted to see more of his short game. Over the last six holes, he placed three balls around the green. It would be a par 2 from each spot, and McCormick told Spieth he would buy him a hat if he was 3 over. On the last hole, Spieth needed to hole one shot and get up and down on the other two.

Spieth holed two of the shots. He got the hat.

The teacher is not surprised by Spieth's rapid ascent. He attributed it to not getting a big head and not being afraid to work. Even after his amazing year on the PGA Tour, Spieth and McCormick pored over statistics, identified areas to improve and got after it.

"He's the last person I have to ask to do more," McCormick said. "Jordan tries really hard to play his best golf regardless of whether the game is there that day."

The only thing lacking are the wins, though he at least is giving himself chances. Remember, Garcia still only had one victory when he was 20. McIlroy collected his second victory the day before he turned 21.

Spieth has time on his side — lots of it — even if feels as though time flies. He's not about to get rattled.








## SECURE YOUR MILITARY DEPLOYMENT BENEFITS!

- More rebates on 2015 models than anywhere else
- Rebates on 2014 models ready to deliver
- Exclusive Europe Specials
- Order here for Local or Stateside Delivery
- Custom Order a vehicle or choose from large available inventory

Talk to us now, to find out more!





Authorized Independent Distributor  
The U.S. Armed Forces for Chrysler Group LLC

Jeep RAM

All programs and guarantees subject to terms and conditions. Visit us online for more information. Representative for complete details. All restrictions and qualifications apply to the extent of our knowledge current as of the date of publication. They are subject to change without notice by the manufacturer and the terms or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. Chrysler Group LLC is an authorized distributor of the Exchange and NEXCOM Exchange New Car Loans in all states where such vehicles are sold and registered. This advertisement does not represent an offer of insurance. For more information, contact your insurance agent. The Exchange, NEXCOM, NEXCOM.com, and the Federal Government are not sponsored by the U.S. Military, U.S. Coast Guard, or U.S. Navy.

Visit a Sales Representative on base for more information!




# BRITISH OPEN

## The same yet very different

Major, Woods are back at Royal Liverpool, but the course is softer, greener, and the former No. 1 player is not dominant

By DOUG FERGUSON  
The Associated Press

**T**HOYLAKE, England the British Open packs 154 years of history on links courses that have been nurtured more by time than by tractors. It returns this year to Royal Liverpool, the second-oldest golf club in England, established in 1867 before anyone in America knew much about the Royal & Ancient game.

For all its heritage, however, the charm of this major is what lies ahead. No one ever knows what to expect.

Consider the landscape. Royal Liverpool was so brown and baked when The Open was last here in 2006 that the R&A asked players to take extra care if they smoked, and it had two fire engines stationed on the golf course. The ball rolled so far when it hit the ground that Tiger Woods hit only one driver over 72 holes and won by two shots.

Now the grass is greener than it was at Pinehurst No. 2 for the U.S. Open.

It feels like a new course this year.

"It's lush. The greens are soft and very green. Fairways are pretty similar," said Rory McIlroy, who took a scouting trip to Hoylake last week. "But I think they are going to get a spell of good weather leading up to The Open, and hopefully, it will get a bit firmer."

He recalled watching in 2006 when "the ball was like bouncing down a road on the fairways." McIlroy says he could hit as many as five drivers each round.

"It's going to be a little different," he said. "There's some thick spots of rough on the course, so avoiding that and avoiding those fairway bunkers ... if I can just do that, and anyone else can do that, then they'll have a good chance."

A greater change might be the landscape of golf.

Woods was at the height of his powers eight years ago when he won the claret jug for the third time. He was the first player in more than 20 years to repeat as Open champion. He would go on to win the PGA Championship that year, making history as the only player to capture multiple majors in successive years.

Now he makes news when he can even play in a major.

Woods has had three surgeries since he was last at Royal Liverpool on his left knee, the most recent on March 31 to alleviate a nerve impingement in his back, which caused him to miss the Masters for the first time, and then the U.S. Open. When the British Open begins on Thursday, it will be his first major in 11 months.

Woods returned earlier than anyone thought, himself included,



ALASTAIR GRANT/JON SUPER/AP

In the July 23, 2006, photo above, Tiger Woods plays from the hard and brown fourth fairway during the final round of the British Open at Royal Liverpool in Hoylake, England. At right, Woods plays a shot on the soft and green second fairway during a practice round on Saturday for this year's British Open, which starts Thursday.

three weeks ago in the Quicken Loans National at Congressional. He missed the cut, which annoyed him, and played without pain, which thrilled him. "I hate to say it, but I'm really encouraged by what happened this week," Woods said. "What I was able to do physically, and the speed I had and the distance that I was hitting the golf ball again, I had not done that in a very long time."

He wasn't worried about the little mistakes, mainly with his short game, because he could fix them.

But how soon? Woods is 38 and without a major in six years, leaving him at 14 for his career and still four short of catching Jack Nicklaus. It might help to return to a course where he has won before, except that this is a different golf course. And he is not the same player.

"We haven't seen Tiger really, really play well in a while now," two-time U.S. Open champion Curtis Strange said.

There hasn't been a dominant player even during his time away from various injuries and surger-

ies over the last five years. Golf is ruled by committee.

McIlroy, with two majors by age 23, is just now starting to get his game back in order. Martin Kaymer is in the best form, having won The Players Championship and U.S. Open by going wire-to-wire in both. Adam Scott is No. 1 in the world. Phil Mickelson is the defending champion. Justin Rose is fresh off a big win at Congressional. Bubba Watson is a Masters champion again.

All have had moments of greatness, none of it sustained.

Nineteen players have won the 24 majors that have been held since Woods won his last one.

"We have all witnessed what Tiger has been able to do over his career, whether that's come back from injury and win, come back from any sort of off-course stuff and win. I mean, win the U.S. Open on one leg," McIlroy said. "Is it foolish for people to write him off? I would say so. If he's playing and he's competing, he's got as good a chance as any."

Considering the circumstances, Woods winning would be a surprise.

Then again, for as long as golf's oldest championship has been around, it is still capable of delivering a few shockers.

Mickelson produced one of his own at Muirfield last summer when he had his name etched on that silver claret jug for winning the one major that for years befuddled him. Only five years ago, 59-year-old Tom Watson came within an 8-foot par putt of being the oldest major champion. Ben Curtis was playing his first major in 2003 when he won at Royal St. George's. He was the only player to break par. The Open returned to St. George's eight years later, and 11 players had a better score than Curtis.

What happened eight years ago at Royal Liverpool feels like ancient history.

Perhaps that should be the adage for The Open. The more things stay the same, the more they change.

### Facts & Figures

**Event:** 143rd British Open. **Dates:** July 17-20

**Site:** Royal Liverpool Golf Club

**Length:** 7,312 yards. **Par:** 35-37-72

**Field:** 156 (152 professionals, 4 amateurs)

**Prize money:** 5.4 million pounds (\$9.24 million)

**Winner's share:** 975,000 pounds (\$1.67 million)

**Defending champion:** Phil Mickelson

**Last year:** Phil Mickelson delivered one of the best closing rounds in major championship history at Muirfield. He made four birdies in the last six holes to win the major even though he thought he would never win. Mickelson rallied from a five-shot deficit and won by three shots over Henrik Stenson. It was his fifth major, and left him only a U.S. Open away from the career Grand Slam.

**Last time at Royal Liverpool:** One month after missing the cut in a major for the first time, Tiger Woods won his third claret jug in 2006 with a two-shot victory over Chris DiMarco. Woods hit only one driver all week on the brown, baked fairways — and that one went on the adjacent fairway. He closed with a 67 and became the first player to repeat as champion since Tom Watson in 1962-63. This major was memorable for the emotion. Woods broke down and sobbed on the 18th green. It was his first major since the death of his father.

**Open champions at Royal Liverpool:** Tiger Woods (2006), Roberto De Vicenzo (1967), Peter Thomson (1956), Fred Daly (1947), Alfred Padgham (1936), Bobby Jones (1930), Walter Hagen (1924), John H. Taylor (1913), Arnaud Massy (1907), Sandy Herd (1902), Harold Hilton (1897).

**The course:** Royal Liverpool is the second-oldest golf course in England, founded in 1869. It hosted the first British Amateur, and it staged the first match between the United States and Britain in 1921, which inspired George H. Walker to start the Walker Cup. Until 1876, golfers shared the links with a horse racing track.

**Tiger Tales:** Tiger Woods is playing his first major of the season after having back surgery on March 31. He is a combined even par in majors since winning his last one at the 2008 U.S. Open.

**Key statistic:** Seven of the last 10 major champions were ranked in the top 20 of the world ranking.

**Noteworthy:** The last three Open champions — Phil Mickelson (43), Ernie Els (42) and Darren Clarke (42) — were all in their 40s, the first time any major has had three successive winners 40 or older.

**Quoteworthy:** "Doubt is a killer in the British Open. You play by feel and have to believe what you feel." — Jim Furyk.

— The Associated Press



# BRITISH OPEN

## Right: Mickelson unfazed by results since capturing jug

### FROM BACK PAGE

He has missed three cuts. He withdrew twice after narrowly making the cut because of injuries in San Diego and San Antonio. At the Masters, where he is a three-time champion, Mickelson missed the cut for the first time in 17 years. His lone top 10 on the PGA Tour was last August at the Barclays, a tie for sixth when he closed with a 65.

So why the smile?  
 "Normally, I would be discouraged or frustrated, but I'm just not," Mickelson said. "I feel like I've had some good breakthroughs in some areas. I haven't had the results. I know I haven't played well. But the parts feel a lot better than the whole right now. And I don't know when it will all click together. I don't know if it will be this week. I don't know if it will be in three weeks or a month or what, but it should be soon."

He's running out of time. Mickelson is No. 12 in the Ryder Cup standings. He has qualified for every team since 1995 — two years after Jordan Spieth was born. He has reached the FedEx Cup finale for the top 30 at the Tour Championship every year since it began in 2007. With only three starts before the playoffs begin, Mickelson is at No. 97.

Then again, it's easy for Mickelson not to be overly concerned. He is 44 and has been on tour for half of his life, compiling 42 victories on the PGA Tour and five majors, including that claret jug.

It's at least been a good year for the jug.

He has taken it to golf clubs and corporate outings, shared it with friends and people he had never met. He has let his caddie, Jim Mackay, take it to pose for pictures.

Mickelson had only one rule. "One of the things I stressed is that we have to treat the claret jug with reverence and respect that it deserves, and only put good stuff in it," he said. "No bad stuff was allowed. And each person that I brought it to had a different



Jon SUPER/AP

Phil Mickelson signs autographs for fans after a practice round Tuesday at the Royal Liverpool golf club in Hoylake, England.

definition of what the good stuff was."

One definition was a bottle of 1990 Romaneq Conti, which can range in price from \$16,000 to about \$35,000.

"Now, I didn't know what this was when I drank it," Mickelson said. "I just knew that it was really good. And that was the best bottle that was ever put in there."

Like fine wine, Mickelson can only hope he gets better with age. Even though he had to overcome arthritis in the middle of the 2010 season, and only eight players older than he is right now have won majors, Mickelson doesn't see that as an obstacle. Sure, he has to work a little harder, train a little better, stretch a little more.

"But I feel better than I have in a long time," he said.

Padraig Harrington is the last

player to repeat as Open champion. Tiger Woods repeated at Royal Liverpool in 2006. Tom Watson won back-to-back some 30 years ago. Winning majors is difficult enough. Winning the same one two years in a row is even harder.

Monday was the first full day of practice for most players, while some took the day off. Woods didn't show up at the course after practicing both days on the weekend. Some players from the Scottish Open weren't at Hoylake. Others, like Spieth, arrived Monday morning on a charter from the John Deere Classic and went on to play.

Mickelson closed with a 65 at Royal Aberdeen to tie for 11th in the Scottish Open. He won the Scottish Open a year ago, and believes the lag putting into a crossing wind, along with seeing the

### By the numbers

0

Number of wins Mickelson has had in 2014 through 15 tournaments he's played.

13

Mickelson's current world ranking. He's also 12th in Ryder Cup standings; he's qualified for every team since 1995.

5

Number of majors Mickelson won, including last year's British Open, three Masters and a PGA Championship.

SOURCE: pgatour.com, AP

ball react on links courses is a big benefit.

Plus, he's never been so enthu-

siastic about golf's oldest championship, mainly because his name is on the trophy.

## Go Green and Save during the Volkswagen TDI Clean Diesel Event

Order before you leave the Middle East and claim \$1,000 in green savings  
 Make every drive a cleaner one

42' mpg  
609 hp per tank



43' mpg  
795 hp per tank

LiveChat

Speak with a representative online 24/7 at [militaryautosource.com](http://militaryautosource.com)  
 Product Questions • Order Your Vehicle • Customer Service

Offer valid on all 2015 Volkswagen TDI vehicles and expires 7/31/14. \*Jetta Range based on 42 highway mpg EPA estimate with manual transmission and a 14.5-gallon tank, 2014-2-01. Jetta TDI Clean Diesel, manual transmission: 30 city/42 highway mpg EPA estimates. Passat Range based on 43 highway mpg (2014 Passat 2.0L Clean Diesel, 6-speed manual transmission and a 18.3-gallon fuel tank). EPA estimates. Your mileage will vary and depends on several factors, including your driving habits and vehicle condition. See [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov) for EPA estimates. Volkswagen Carefree Maintenance Program covers the vehicle's scheduled maintenance for one year or 10,000 miles, whichever comes first. Some limitations apply. Lowest price guarantee in effect up to 14 days after delivery, for the same vehicle, delivered at the same location by an authorized dealer. Vehicles shown are for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantee are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Deutsche Military Sales Corporation - (800) 341-3665, 479\_350



**MCS**  
 MILITARY AUTOSOURCE

SPORTS BRIEFS/NBA



German soccer player Per Mertesacker celebrates his team's World Cup title Tuesday near the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. An estimated 400,000 people packed the "fan mile" in front of the Berlin landmark to welcome home coach Joachim Loew's team.

ALEX GRIMM, POOL/AP

Briefly

# Saints reach deal with TE Graham

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The New Orleans Saints on Tuesday confirmed a multiyear contract with Jimmy Graham, ending a protracted holdout for the star tight end.

Graham skipped all of the Saints' voluntary and mandatory practices and workouts — and challenged the NFL's franchise tag process through arbitration.

The odds of Graham leaving the Saints were slim since the club in late February placed its franchise tag on the player. The NFL Players Association filed a grievance, contending Graham was used as a wide receiver often enough to qualify for the more lucrative receiver tag, worth about \$5 million a year more than the \$7 million tag for a tight end.

A hearing was held in June and earlier this month, Arbitrator Stephen Burbank sided with the NFL, ruling Graham was capable of continuing to perform specific tight end duties while lined up in the slot or within 4 yards of an offensive tackle.

Once the ruling was in place, Graham had a choice of appealing or trying to reach a long-term contract by a July 15 deadline — after which he would have to play next season for his franchise tag number. A favorable ruling from Burbank would have further enhanced negotiating leverage for Graham, who last season led the Saints with 86 catches for 1,215 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Graham was the Saints' third-round draft choice in 2010. In his second season, Graham caught 99 passes for 1,310 yards. That total stood record for tight ends. That same day the mark was broken on the final day of that season by New England's Rob Gronkowski, who finished with 1,327.

Graham has led the Saints in

catches the past three seasons and led them in yards receiving and touchdowns in two of the last three seasons. For the past three regular seasons, he has 270 catches for 3,507 yards and 36 touchdowns.

In other NFL news  
 ■ Former Minnesota Vikings punter Chris Kluge intends to sue the team over allegations of anti-gay conduct by a coach, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Lawyer Clayton Halunen said they'll seek a copy of the Vikings' internal investigation and make it public if they can. They accused the Vikings of reneging on a pledge to release the report, which they believe corroborates Kluge's claims.

The Vikings hired two outside lawyers to examine Kluge's claims that special teams coordinator Mike Priefer used slurs and taunts to try to quash Kluge's outspoken support for gay marriage. Priefer denied the allegations. Kluge was cut in May 2013 after eight seasons with the Vikings.

## Estimated 400,000 celebrate Cup champs

BERLIN — At a party 24 years in the making, hundreds of thousands of Germans showed their admiration and adoration for their World Cup winners in a parade to the Brandenburg Gate on Tuesday.

The players, in matching black T-shirts bearing the number "1," lapped up the love by playing up to the estimated 400,000 people packing the "fan mile" in front of the landmark.

Fans began arriving overnight to secure good spots to welcome home coach Joachim Loew's team and the trophy. Germany's fourth World Cup, the first since 1990, crowned years of work by Loew to modernize the team

# No Love for Wiggins just yet

By JASON LLOYD  
 Akron Beacon Journal

LAS VEGAS — One of the most polarizing debates among front-office executives at summer league is what the Minnesota Timberwolves should do with Kevin Love and how aggressively the Cavs should pursue him.

The Timberwolves have made it clear they won't deal Love to the Cavs for anything less than top overall pick Andrew Wiggins. The Cavs, in turn, have dug in their heels at this point and declared him off-limits.

It's a July poker game. All of the cards don't have to be revealed now.

"There's no reason or cause for worry on his part because Andrew's not going anywhere, as far as I know and as far as the club has expressed," Cavs coach David Blatt told reporters recently.

Wiggins was asked if he has any concerns over being traded, but a Cavs media relations official cut off the question and didn't allow him to answer it.

One rival Eastern Conference executive said it's too soon to trade Wiggins until the Cavs learn whether he can play shooting guard between Kyrie Irving and LeBron James.

"LeBron [James] and Kyrie will handle the bulk of the scoring," he said, speaking on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitive nature of trade talks. "If Wiggins can score, leave the other guys like Andy (Varejao) and Tristan (Thompson) to do the dirty work."

The front-office executive is high on Thompson and likes the way his game has steadily improved. He believes Thompson can overcome his defensive deficiencies and that simply James' presence will go a long way in teaching Thompson how to defend.

He believes Thompson can thrive this season simply by running the floor and rebounding and thinks Thompson will continue to develop a shooting touch.

Others disagree. An executive from a different team believes the Cavs made a mistake by choosing Wiggins over Jabari Parker, and if the Timberwolves are open to dealing Love to the Cavs, the Cavs should act quickly.

"He's soft and he can't shoot," the executive said of Wiggins. "Parker is the better player. Make that deal today."

The Timberwolves are believed to value Wiggins more than Parker, who went second to the Milwaukee Bucks.

One executive predicted the Cavs, as currently constructed, could win 60 games next season simply with the addition of James and the wide-open Eastern Conference. He pointed to the leap the Cavs made when James was a rookie. They won 35 games that year, more than double the 17 victories the season before his arrival.

"[The Cavs] were awful," the



JOHN LOCHER/AP

The Cavaliers took Andrew Wiggins with the No. 1 pick in the draft, but if they hope to acquire Kevin Love, Minnesota wants the rookie.

executive said. "[They had] Z [Zydrunas Ilgauskas] and a young [Carlos] Boozer, but look at everyone else on that team: Darius Miles, Ricky Davis, Kevin Ollie. LeBron carried them to 35 wins as a 19-year-old."

The Timberwolves, according to sources, are willing to be patient in these trade talks. They believe the teams in pursuit of Love, including the Cavs and the Golden State Warriors, may not be as good now as those teams think they are and will ultimately meet their price — Wiggins from the Cavs or Klay Thompson from the Warriors.

The Cavs discussed a Love trade with the Timberwolves before the draft, but refused to include the No. 1 pick at the time. That was before they knew for certain James was returning. The scenario has obviously changed now.

Another complication in a proposed Love-for-Wiggins trade is making the money match under the salary cap, since Wiggins will be on a rookie scale deal and Love

is due to earn nearly \$16 million. But no one polled this week in Las Vegas believes that will be a stumbling block. A third team could be included, one executive offered, to make the money work.

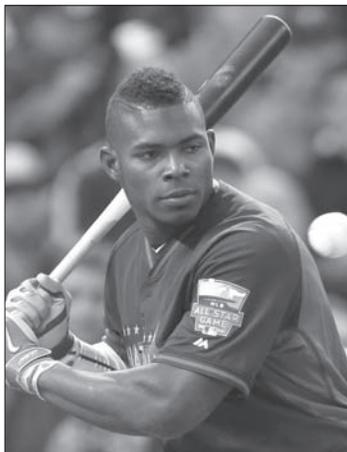
Wiggins has yet to sign his contract with the Cavs. Once he does, he can't be traded for 30 days under league rules.

The wild card in all of this, of course, is James. All executives and coaches polled believe if James wants Love, the Cavs will make whatever deal is necessary to obtain him. Love is only 25, after all, and is reportedly amenable to signing long term in Cleveland now that James has returned.

But James was in Brazil over the weekend for the World Cup and has believed to have had minimal contact with the Cavs since releasing his letter announcing his return home.

For now, the Cavs, Warriors and Timberwolves have formed a triangular staredown that could drag all the way into training camp and beyond.

MLB



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Yasiel Puig, who has been a sensation since he was called up to the Dodgers in June last year, is hitting .309 with 12 homers and 52 RBIs.



MARK DUNCAN/AP

The White Sox's Jose Abreu made his big league debut this season, and is hitting .292 with 73 RBIs and a league-leading 29 homers.



DAVID KOHL/AP

Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman earned his third All-Star selection this season and was on the gold medal-winning team at the 2007 Pan American Games.

# Cuban All Stars have shown they belong

'We left a country looking to make a dream come true. We have accomplished that.'

By ERIC NUNEZ  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Five Cubans are on the rosters for Tuesday night's All-Star Game.

Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman earned his third selection, and Yasiel Puig is a first-time All-Star along with Oakland outfielder Yoenis Cespedes and Chicago White Sox first baseman Jose Abreu and shortstop Alexei Ramirez.

Ramirez and Chapman were teammates on the gold medal-winning team at the 2007 Pan American Games in

Rio de Janeiro.

"It kind of feel like old times playing with the national team in Cuba," Ramirez said. "We got this vibe, in which we try to be happy all time, having fun, playing dominoes."

"We left a country looking to make a dream come true, which is to play in the best baseball league in the world," added Ramirez. "We have accomplished that and here we are, at the All-Star Game."

Cespedes won the All-Star Home Run Derby for the second year in a row Monday night, powering his way past Cincinnati's Todd Frazier 9-1 in the final round to become the first repeat winner since Ken Griffey Jr. in 1998 and '99.

Puig, wearing a bright yellow sleeve on his right arm, was eliminated in the first round and became the first home-less participant since Robinson Cano two years ago in Kansas City.

Cespedes won the derby last year, even though he wasn't an All-Star. He's batting .246 this season with 14 homers and 56 RBIs.

"The Cuban league is below the major leagues levels, but the Cuban players have shown that we are capable to shine here," he said. "Last year, I was only invited to the Derby. That was a nice experience, but it wasn't the same thing. I wanted to feel like an All-Star. This year I was able to do it."

There were a record 19 Cubans on Opening-Day rosters and disabled lists, four more than the previous mark set last year and third among foreign-born players behind only the Dominican Republic (82) and Venezuela (59).

Abreu, who made his big league debut this season, is hitting .292 with 73 RBIs and a league-leading 29 homers.

"After all we have gone through, this is big in our lives, and we felt so proud of doing well," he said. "We have the abilities to perform."

Puig, a sensation since he was called up to the Dodgers in June last year, is hitting .309 with 12 homers and 52 RBIs. He was elected to a starting outfield spot by fans.

"This the sort of stuff all Cuban players dream since they were kids, being here at an All-Star Game, playing at a World Series," he said. "We are five this year, and I hope we can add some more next year."

Abreu and Puig text each other regularly during the season to discuss how to improve their play. Cespedes, who played against Puig in Cuba, was impressed with his compatriot's increased maturity and diminished flashiness.

"He was very young when he arrived here with so much desire to play and prove himself. That's the reason he got into some things," Cespedes said. "On his second year, he knows the league and he's more calm."

Tony Oliva, an eight-time All-Star who played from the Twins from 1962-75, would like to see more Cubans in the big leagues, too. Oliva, who turns 76 on July 20, left Cuba for the United States in 1961.

"If we managed to get a normalization of the ties between the two countries and they can get here in the United States," he said, "there will be more and more Cubans in the majors."



PAUL SANCIYA/AP

Yoenis Cespedes said "Last year, I was only invited to the Derby. That was a nice experience, but it wasn't the same thing. I wanted to feel like an All-Star."



MARK DUNCAN/AP

"It kind of feel like old times playing with the national team in Cuba," the White Sox's Alexei Ramirez said. "We got this vibe, in which we try to be happy all time."

MLB

# Raise hitting by lowering mound?

## Pitchers are dominating the game but many factors have played role

By RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

**B**ASEBALL has a problem: Clayton Kershaw, Arodis Chapman, Felix Hernandez, and all the other kings of the hill are just too good.

Ruling with an assortment of big-bending curveballs, sharp sliders and 100 mph heat, a new generation of pitchers has thrown major league hitters into a huge slump.

The spike in strikeouts, the dip in home runs and worries that the game is becoming boring for fans reminds some people of 1968, when Bob Gibson, Denny McLain and their fellow aces dominated.

Back then, the sport came up with a radical solution: The pitcher's mound was lowered from 15 inches to 10 and the strike zone was reduced.

Combined with the addition of four expansion teams, the result was an 11-point increase in the big league batting average in 1969 and a 19 percent rise in runs.

Should baseball drop the mound again?

"I don't know, man, maybe if they keep going like this," Miami Marlins slugger Giancarlo Stanton said Monday at the All-Star festivities.

"Move the mound back 5 feet," he added with a chuckle.

There's some thought that reducing the mound would combat the outbreak of blown-out elbows, which has seen stars such as Stephen Strasburg, Matt Harvey and Jose Fernandez needing reconstructive surgery, and could also claim Masahiro Tanaka.

From his vintage point in the New York Mets' broadcast booth, former NL MVP Keith Hernandez has an unusual analysis and an equally drastic solution.

"They should get rid of four teams," he said. "Too many players. There's too much dilution of talent. The pitching's not better. It's the same."

"I think that the residuals of steroids and aluminum bats has affected how they taught kids how to hit, and now we're seeing normal bodies and balls that used to get out of the ballpark are caught now," he said.

It's wasn't too long ago that batters had the edge. The boom years peaked in 2000 with an average

of 1.17 home runs per team per game. The runs average of 5.14 was MLB's highest since 1936.

But offense has steadily shrunk — as have the players — as baseball implemented testing for performance-enhancing drugs and then repeatedly strengthened those rules.

And with complete games virtually a relic, hard-throwing relievers dominate the late innings. Radar guns routinely register mph readings around triple digits.

"Everybody's throwing 109, so you don't get to see the starters for your fourth turn," said Atlanta Braves manager Fredi Gonzalez, exaggerating only slightly. "There's a lot of guys in the bullpen that are special guys."

All that gas has contributed to more than two dozen pitchers needing Tommy John surgery this year.

Dr. David Altchek, the Mets' top physician, said a lower mound "should decrease the force as the body gets less far ahead of the arm."

"As the body falls down the mound, the arm momentarily lags and forces at the elbow cumulate," he said.

But Glenn Fleisig of the American Sports Medicine Institute counters that recent studies disagree whether lowering or eliminating the mound would slightly cut or slightly increase the stress on an adolescent pitcher's arm.

"Reducing the amount of competitive pitching is the most strongly proven action for reducing the risk of pitching injuries," he said.

This much is certain: The major league batting average is down to .252 this year, according to STATS. It hasn't been that low since 1972, the year before the American League adopted the designated hitter.

Teams are averaging a full one run less per game, with the 4.14 scoring average MLB's lowest since 1992, just before the spread of better hitting through



In this combo of file photos, Mickey Lolich of the Detroit Tigers, top, is shown pitching during the World Series against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium on Oct. 3, 1968, while Clayton Kershaw, bottom, of the Los Angeles Dodgers, pitches during the second inning of the All-Star Game on July 16, 2013 in New York. The spike in strikeouts, the dip in home runs and worries that the game is becoming boring for fans reminds some people of 1968, when Bob Gibson, Denny McLain and their fellow aces dominated.

chemistry.

There's a lot less contact, too: Teams average 770 strikeouts per game, on track to set a record for the eighth straight season and up more than 60 percent from 1981's 4.75.

From the seventh inning on, baseball resembles the 1960s, the greatest era for pitchers since the lively ball days began in 1920. The .241 batting average in the late innings is the lowest since STATS's records began in 1974, and teams are averaging just 1.30 runs — not much incentive to keep fans in stadiums or watching their televisions.

"Obviously the real 'solution' here is to ban set-up men and closers," ESPN's Keith Olbermann said.

"I'm not sure lowering the mound would have much impact. Does a lower mound transform strikeouts into homers? Viscerally this doesn't even feel like the results of cleaning out PEDs, because batters continue to hit the ball harder and farther — and less. Ultimately this seems like just more in the decades-long transformation of batting into mere swinging," he said.

Baseball remains the most traditional of American sports. Change comes slowly — widespread instant replay for umpires only began this year.

"I would be reluctant to lower the mound further," said John Thorn, MLB's official historian, "as this might be using a sledgehammer to swat a fly."

Ever cautious, the players' association says the time to consider such a step is "too far off right now," according to new union head Tony Clark.

"It's a game of adjustments," the former All-Star first baseman said, "and we'll see as the pitching has adjusted how the offense adjusts and how long it takes to adjust or if it can adjust based on the current circumstances."

San Francisco pitcher Tim Lincecum, who last month threw his second career no-hitter, put it simply: "It's been one of those things it's a staple in the game. The bases are going to be 90 feet. The distance to the plate's going to be 60 feet, 6 inches. The mound's going to be yaa high. It'd be weird to think of it any differently."

### Did you know

The batting average in the majors this year is .252. If it remains that low, this will be the eighth straight year the average has dropped.

SOURCE: STATS, baseball-almanac.com

MLB

# BACK-TO-BACK



## Athletics' Cespedes repeats as Home Run Derby champ

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Yoenis Cespedes knew how to pace himself in this rain-delayed Home Run Derby, drawn out further by a new format.

The Oakland Athletics outfielder simply trusted his own strength.

Cespedes became the first repeat winner of the All-Star skills contest in 15 years, powering his way past the Cincinnati Reds' Todd Frazier 9-1 in the final round Monday night.

With a serious, determined look on his face the whole time, Cespedes finished with 30 homers. That was two fewer than last year, when he beat Washington's Bryce Harper 9-8 in the final round.

The 28-year-old Cuban even told Athletics teammate Josh Donaldson he was doing this wrong.

"I knew he wasn't going to win because his mentality was to take the ball out of the stadium, and I told him that is not the way you win this competition," Cespedes said through an interpreter.

He added: "I'm somebody who's very conscious of the power that I have. So I don't need to put more of a swing or more of an effort in order to hit a home run. I just have to look for a good pitch and put a good swing on it, and it usually takes care of it."

Cespedes saved his best for last, a 452-foot blast to the third deck above left field that officially measured as the longest of the night. A's third base coach Mike Gallego again pitched to Cespedes, who went deep 32 times in last year's derby at Citi Field in New York. Gallego's arm looked nearly out of gas by the final round, which started after 10:30 p.m. local time.

"Maybe next year I'll put up a better showing at the end," Frazier said. "Now that I understand, maybe I'll do a couple of more push-ups."

Cespedes topped Toronto's Jose Bautista, and Frazier surprisingly beat Miami's Giancarlo Stanton 1-0 in the semifinals.

Bautista and Stanton each earned a bye to the semifinals under the new bracketed format, which gave each player seven outs and pitted the survivors from each side in the final round. Bautista went deep 10 times in the first round, keeping the fans in the second deck above left field on their toes, and Stanton hit six, including one that landed in the third deck above left field, about a half-dozen rows shy of the top of the ballpark. Another reached the second deck above the center field batter's eye, a place never touched by a ball during a game.

That was all for him, though.

**Oakland's Yoenis Cespedes beat the Cincinnati Reds' Todd Frazier in the finals of the All-Star Game Home Run Derby on Monday night in Minneapolis.**

JEFF ROBERSON/AP

### Others with multiple titles

Ken Griffey Jr.  
1993, 1998, 1999



Prince Fielder  
2009, 2012



# 452

Distance in feet of the last of Cespedes' 30 home runs, the longest blast of the night.

### At Target Field, Minneapolis

Monday		
American League		
First Round	Tot	Long
Jose Bautista, Toronto	10	428
Adam Jones, Baltimore	4	426
Josh Donaldson, Oakland	3	406
Yoenis Cespedes, Oakland	3	418
Brian Dozier, Minnesota	2	372
Swing Off	Tot	Long
Cespedes	2	2
Donaldson	1	2
Second Round	Tot	Long
Cespedes	9	422
Jones	3	418
Semifinals	Tot	Long
Cespedes	7	447
Bautista	4	424
National League		
First Round	Tot	Long
Giancarlo Stanton, Miami	6	430
Troy Tulowitzki, Colorado	4	402
Todd Frazier, Cincinnati	2	427
Justin Morneau, Colorado	2	409
Yaseli Puig, L.A. Dodgers	0	000
Swing Off	Tot	Long
Frazier	1	1
Morneau	0	0
Second Round	Tot	Long
Frazier	6	417
Tulowitzki	2	419
Semifinals	Tot	Long
Frazier	1	365
Stanton	0	000
Finals		
Cespedes	Tot	Long
Cespedes	9	452
Frazier	1	393

### Quotable:

"It was real close to getting some tears in the eyes at the beginning. It's hard to prepare yourself for something like that, but it was definitely awesome. It's something I'll never forget."

Justin Morneau

Colorado Rockies first baseman, a former Home Run Derby champ and 4-time All-Star with the Twins before a concussion derailed his career, on his reception from the Minnesota fans.



## SPORTS



**New format, same result**

A's Cespedes repeats as Home Run Derby champ | **Page 31**

BRITISH OPEN

# Feeling right

**Lefty confident on links course after yearlong drought**

Phil Mickelson practices Monday at Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England.

JON SUPER/AP

By DOUG FERGUSON  
*The Associated Press*

HOYLAKЕ, England — Phil Mickelson rolled long putts across the practice green in front of the Royal Liverpool clubhouse, some of them going in, most of them the right distance. He chirped to the caddie of Brandt Snedeker about their money game, a Mickelson

tradition at the majors.

Lefty was in good spirits Monday at the British Open, except for having to return the claret jug.

Even that allowed him to reflect on a year of keeping golf's oldest trophy, and the confidence he finally has when he plays links golf.

"It's a different feeling for me coming over here now having won this tourna-

ment," Mickelson said. "The way I felt was, 'Am I ever going to break through and play well on links golf and win an Open Championship?' Now I know that I can. I know that I've done it, and it takes a lot of pressure off me."

Confidence in links golf? Yes.

In his game? That takes a little more work.

Not even Mickelson would have

imagined when he left Muirfield last summer that he would not have won another tournament anywhere in the world. This is the longest he has gone without winning in five years.

And except for the Abu Dhabi HSBC Golf Championship in January, where he was runner-up, Mickelson hasn't been particularly close.

SEE RIGHT ON PAGE 27

**Saints reach multiyear deal with TE Graham** | Page 28

