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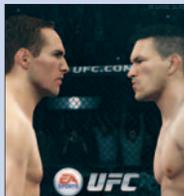
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Summer is time to take a stand on foot health
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MLB



A's, Giants give hope for Bay Bridge Series
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Airliner shot down over Ukraine

Malaysian jet carrying 295 reportedly crashes in east; no responsibility claimed

By PETER LEONARD
The Associated Press

GRABOVO, Ukraine—Ukraine said a passenger plane carrying 295 people was shot down Thursday as it flew over the country, and both the government and the pro-Russia separatists fighting in the region denied any responsibility for downing the plane.

As plumes of black smoke rose near the rebel-held village of Grabovo in eastern Ukraine, an Associated Press journalist counted at least 22 bodies at the crash site 25 miles from the Russian border.

The plane appeared to have broken up before impact and the

burning wreckage — including body parts and the belongings of passengers — was scattered over a wide area.

Malaysia Airlines tweeted that it lost contact with one of its flights carrying 280 passengers and 15 crew as it was traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur over Ukrainian airspace, but

did not yet confirm the crash.

CNN reported that 23 Americans were on board.

Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko called the downing an act of terrorism and called for an international investigation into the crash.

SEE AIRLINER ON PAGE 12



'WE THOUGHT THIS WAS IT'

Rescuers narrowly save 2 airmen caught in Okinawa flash flood

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — Airmen Brandon Miles and Roderick Jones could only laugh as the floodwaters filled their guard shack in the aftermath of Typhoon Neoguri last week.

They had already torn through the drywall and moved into the ceiling, re-

moving some metal brackets and clawing through a layer of foam.

As they looked at the reinforced concrete roof just above their heads, then down at the rising waters, they knew that escaping was out of their hands.

They had about a foot of air space left, and it was shrinking.

SEE RESCUE ON PAGE 4

Airman 1st Class Brandon Miles, left, and Airman 1st Class Roderick Jones. MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes



Courtesy of Kadena Air Base

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The firing never stopped. They were trying to kill (the officers), no doubt."

—Stockton, Calif., Police Chief Eric Jones, after a deadly daytime shootout with bank robbers who took three hostages.

See story on Page 9

MILITARY



Trevor T. McBride/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Marine known as the 'Lion of Fallujah' died during CIA work
2. Both sides in Ukraine deny shooting down Malaysian plane
3. Marine Corps transfers whistleblower who questioned top general
4. Bahrain visits Bahrain after 135 days at sea
5. Kadena rescuers save two airmen caught in flash flood

On the way down to Africa

Airmen from the 48th Security Forces Squadron leave RAF Lakenheath, England, on a C-130 Hercules on Wednesday to deploy to Djibouti. The airmen are to provide security and protection to Air Force assets.

COMING SOON



Shifting gears

Tesla on a mission to hire veterans

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F-15 departure from Europe may be delayed

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Pentagon may delay the planned withdrawal of U.S. Air Force F-15C fighter jets from Europe, and possibly increase aircraft rotations to the continent, as part of an effort to reassure allies and boost assistance to the region in the wake of Russia's recent aggression in Ukraine, officials told members of Congress Wednesday.

In testimony before the House Armed Services Committee, Pentagon leaders were pressed to provide more details about the White

House's "Europe Reassurance Initiative," a \$1 billion funding plan announced by the White House in June. The subject of Wednesday's hearing was the Pentagon's fiscal 2015 overseas contingency operations budget request for \$58.6 billion. Money for the new European mission is part of that request.

Indications that the Defense Department may reconsider removing some of its F-15C aircraft from Europe come less than a month after Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and North Atlantic Treaty Organization Supreme Allied Command, told reporters at the Pentagon that he expected to see reductions to the F-15 force in Europe.

Breedlove's statement followed an Air Force announcement in March that it wants to retire 51 F-15C Eagles, including 21 based overseas, starting in fiscal 2015. In Europe, there are 21 F-15Cs assigned to RAF Lakenheath, England, serving with the 493rd Fighter Squadron.

But the recent flare-up of ten-

sions in eastern Europe, fanned by the Russian takeover of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, has set U.S. allies in the region on edge and forced the United States to rethink and reprioritize its defense strategy in Europe.

Part of that may involve keeping F-15Cs in Europe for longer. The aircraft in May concluded a four-month Baltic air-policing mission while deployed to Lithuania. The mission was augmented in March after the crisis between Russia and Ukraine broke out.

Adm. James Winnefeld, Jr., the Joint Chiefs of Staff vice chairman, told the committee Wednesday that the DOD's primary budget "was submitted before any of this happened," referring to the crisis in eastern Europe. "So this is essentially trying to recover from that, quite honestly. There are initiatives we need to do to support particularly our eastern European partners, who are not quite as strong as our western European partners from a defense perspective."

Of the \$1 billion being sought

for Europe, \$925 million would be set aside for the Defense Department and would be available for two years.

The Pentagon would use about \$440 million to rotate elements of an Army armored brigade combat team into Europe; provide additional funds for expanded naval deployments in the Black and Baltic Seas; continue with NATO air policing in the Baltic region, and either temporarily delay withdrawal of Air Force F-15C aircraft from Europe or increase aircraft rotations to Europe, according to a prepared statement Secretary of Defense Bob Work submitted to the committee.

About \$75 million would go toward conducting more NATO exercises and training with allies and partners; \$250 million for infrastructure upgrades in central and eastern Europe, and \$125 million for prepositioning of U.S. equipment, according to Work's statement.

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Correction

An accompanying quotation in a July 17 story about the USS Bataan's visit to Bahrain misidentified Cpl. David Jones as a USS Bataan sailor. Jones is a Marine.

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MIDEAST

Afghan bases left with fire issues, IG warns

By ERNESTO LONDONO
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In a hurry to finish installations for Afghan forces before the end of the year, the Army Corps of Engineers is leaving behind hundreds of buildings that were built with materials that make them prone to catch fire, the inspector general with oversight for U.S. reconstruction efforts warned in a letter Thursday.

That fact alone alarmed John Sopko, the inspector general for Afghanistan reconstruction. But he was incensed by the rationale offered by one Army general who said the military was unable to retrofit all of the buildings.

“The typical occupant populations for these facilities are young, fit, Afghan soldiers and recruits who have the physical ability to make a hasty retreat during a developing situation,” Maj. Gen. Michael Eyre, deputy commander of the Army Corps’ Transatlantic Division, wrote in a memo.

Sopko, whose confrontational style and widely publicized audits have made him somewhat radioactive in government circles, criticized the Army Corps for leaving behind unsafe buildings and for the money it has had to spend upgrading others.

“I am very troubled by such logic, which seems to argue that fire hazards for a building are somehow remedied by the youthful speed and vigor of the occupants,” Sopko wrote in a June 9 letter that his agency made public Thursday. “This logic pales in light of not only the speed with which these buildings will be consumed by fire as well as the fact that a number of the buildings in question are infirmaries and sleeping quarters.”

The fire-prone buildings are among 1,592 arch-shaped structures the Army was commissioned to build at military bases around the country as part of a \$1.57 billion effort.

Of those, only 507 were initially built using materials that meet a global safety standard known as the International Build-

ing Code.

The Army is taking steps to make fixes to 800 of the facilities to bring them up to standard. But it expects that 285 will remain noncompliant because of the type of insulation foam contractors installed in the buildings.

Col. Richard Heitkamp, the Army Corps’ Transatlantic Division commander, said in a statement that the officials have added “further fire protection to mitigate the potential risk.”

The buildings, he noted, have “additional egress points.”

Two of the buildings were engulfed in flames quickly while they were built. Army officials said those cases were the result of “hot work by the contractor.”

Heitkamp said his team in Afghanistan is conducting an independent review “to ensure that remediation efforts are sufficient.”

The Office of the Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction first raised concerns about the buildings in early April

2013, calling the use of spray polyurethane foam insulation systems a “significant fire hazard.” Later that month, Army officials agreed to cease using the insulation foam in new buildings and pledged they would bring all into compliance.

But early this year, Army officials began transferring buildings that were built with the deficient materials over to the Afghans, citing the urgency of finishing the military installations for a force that has taken on the brunt of the fight in Afghanistan as the U.S. military footprint has thinned out.

The threat of fire at Afghan military bases is high because they often get attacked with artillery and many have power grids or generators that deliver unsteady electricity.

“USACE’s apparent failure to enforce its own contract requirements seems to have resulted in tens of millions of dollars in additional costs and significant construction delays,” Sopko wrote.

5 attackers killed in Taliban raid on Kabul airport

By JOSH SMITH
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — The Taliban claimed responsibility for a brazen attack on the Kabul International Airport on Thursday that inflicted little damage but diverted flights and sent the sound of gunfire and explosions rolling across the city for hours.

All five attackers died during close-quarters fighting that lasted about five hours after the attack began about 4 a.m. Four of the insurgents were killed by security forces, while the fifth detonated a suicide vest, police said. Afghan officials said their forces sustained no casualties.

The airport attackers used a truck bomb to blast their way through a fence and into an area near the airport where high-rise apartment buildings are being built, officials said. From the upper levels of one unoccupied structure, the militants opened fire on the nearby military base, also located on the airport grounds.

Officials with the Afghan Air Force said none of their aircraft were damaged during the attack, but aviation authorities grounded and diverted civilian flights until after the fighting ended.

As Afghan government forces left the scene, they were cheered on by a crowd of residents. But the good will dissipated as police unsuccessfully tried to stop the crowd from tearing apart the remains of the truck bomb for scrap. Police fired shots in the air as the crowd surged forward.

Attacks on the airport have become something of a regular occurrence in recent weeks, with insurgents often firing rockets at it. The raid on Thursday was unusual because it involved a ground attack by Taliban fighters.

On Tuesday a car bomb killed 23 people and wounded at least 74 in the eastern province of Paktika. On the same day a roadside bomb in Kabul left two presidential palace staffers dead.

The attacks come amid a tense political period as Afghans attempt to resolve a disputed presidential election. On Thursday election officials and international observers began an unprecedented recount of ballots from the second round of voting.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report.
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Above: A member of the Afghan police Crisis Response Unit secures the scene after a truck bomb was used to blow a hole in the fence surrounding partially constructed buildings near Kabul International Airport on Thursday. After the explosion, Taliban insurgents gained access to the site and used a building to launch an attack on the airport before being killed by security forces. Left: An Afghan policeman leaves the fireproof near the airport.

JOSH SMITH/Stars and Stripes

MILITARY

Rescue: Airmen trapped in 'rush of water'

FROM FRONT PAGE

"That's all it was, was praying," Miles said Monday, still trying to process their dramatic rescue. "Praying and motivating. Trying to calm each other down."

The two airmen first class in the 18th Security Forces Squadron had stayed home as Neoguri pummeled Okinawa on July 8, then headed to guard duty at Kadena Air Base's munitions gate at 10:30 p.m. as the worst of the storm passed and headed toward the Japanese mainland.

But heavy bands of rain continued to pound the area; the total at Kadena would reach 57 inches.

"All the roads in the area had flooded, so rescuers had trouble finding a route to the shack, said Master Sgt. Brad Reeves, who was among the first group of security forces and firefighters to arrive.

By then, it was too late to flee. A river the two friends couldn't see behind the guard shack had flooded, sending a cascade of water toward them. It met water coming from a bridge in front of them.

The surging water started climbing up the outside of the walls and quickly seeped into the 10-foot-by-5-foot building. The men called it in and got ready to leave.

But "the water pressure had



Rescuers cut a hole through a reinforced concrete roof.

kept the door closed," Miles said. All the roads in the area had flooded, so rescuers had trouble finding a route to the shack, said Master Sgt. Brad Reeves, who was among the first group of security forces and firefighters to arrive.

As lightning flashed overhead, bolt cutters took care of the lock, and the rescuers swam to the guard shack. They dove down and tried unsuccessfully to break the glass and to open the door. Jones and Miles tried to shoot out the windows. No luck.

A rope was tied off on high ground and was attached to the roof of the shack so the rescuers could transport tools to cut a hole.

"The water level was 10 feet high," Reeves said.

Inside, Jones and Miles tried their best to stay calm.

"I would freak out and he would calm me down, and he would freak out and I would calm him down," Miles said. "We both had our points where we thought this was it."

Jones head-butted the sheet rock ceiling and made an indentation. Miles began clawing at it. Jones helped him make a hole and they began pulling it down. They moved up into the ceiling, buying time as the water poured in. But their hearts sank when they hit the reinforced concrete roof.

Outside, assistant fire chief Master Sgt. Aaron Duggins and Tech Sgt. Joseph Flores of the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron arrived, carrying a K-12 fire rescue saw to cut a hole in the roof.

"We try to be optimistic and a lot of times, we say we'll do whatever it takes at all costs and we're always going to be successful, but the reality is in our profes-



Photos courtesy of Kadena Air Base

It took rescuers about 45 minutes to free two airmen trapped inside a guard shack July 9 during a flash flood on Kadena Air Base, Okinawa.

sion we're not always successful," Duggins said. "I was not 100 percent convinced that we had enough time to get it done."

Rescuers were starting to make progress on the roof when the saw's internal belt disintegrated, rendering it useless. So they grabbed axes and sledgehammers and frantically tried to smash through. It was tough going.

The airmen told jokes and prayed as their prospects looked increasingly grim.

Suddenly, Jones and Miles saw light above, but the hole wasn't big enough to crawl through. Duggins considered fashioning snorkels for the two men out of radiator hoses from a fire truck. Jones and Miles cheered their rescuers on the rest of the way.

Jones was the second to be pulled out about 8 a.m. His nose was against the ceiling and he had about an inch of air left at the

time. Duggins said that within minutes, the shack was completely submerged.

"None of the rescuers on scene had life jackets; we didn't have helmets; we didn't have scuba equipment; we didn't have snorkels, and so these rescuers who showed up that day put their lives on the line to save these two guys," Duggins said.

Miles and Jones said they can't believe how close to death they were. They laugh about it now — just as they did then — but mostly because they don't know what else to do.

Jones said they are trying to go around the base to personally thank each rescuer.

"Sometimes he'll just look at me and shake his head, and I'm like, 'Nothing but God bro, nothing but it,'" Miles said. "We're blessed."

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AF secretary in England at bases facing closure

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Secretary of the Air Force Deborah James is on a tour of bases in England, some of which have uncertain futures.

James first stopped at the Farnborough International Airshow near London earlier this week, where she met with U.S. servicemembers. The show provides a meeting ground for defense contractors and potential buyers. Transactions totaling more than \$70 billion were arranged at the 2012 show, according to air show officials.

She arrived at RAF Mildenhall on Wednesday and also was to visit RAFs Alconbury, Molesworth and Lakenheath.

The tour gives her a chance to meet airmen and to view base operations, said Capt. Christina Sukach, a spokeswoman for James.

Most of the bases James is visiting have been designated candidates for closure or reduction. The Air Force proposed in its 2015 budget request closing Alconbury and Molesworth and moving the latter's U.S. intelligence operations to RAF Croughton.

The Senate Appropriations Committee, however, wants the project delayed until the European Infrastructure Consolidation review is complete. The review,

an analysis likely to recommend additional closure and consolidation of installations in Europe, is expected soon.

Lakenheath already has been marked as a potential target of more cuts. Gen. Philip Breedlove, commander of U.S. European Command and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, revealed in June that the consolidation review had "preliminary plans or results" to remove some F-15s from Europe. The 48th Fighter Wing at Lakenheath is the only U.S. wing with F-15s in Europe.

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MILITARY

Former Coast Guard leader gets Arctic post

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

A former commander of the U.S. Coast Guard has been named the United States' special representative for the Arctic, a newly created position formed in response to the region's growing strategic importance.

Retired Adm. Robert Papp Jr. was named to the post as the U.S. prepares to take on the chairmanship of the Arctic Council in 2015.

"The Arctic has enormous and growing geostategic, economic, climate, environment and national security implications for the United States and the world, and we are, of course, delighted to welcome Adm. Papp, a distinguished and senior public servant with broad foreign policy experience," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Wednesday.

The Arctic Council is an inter-governmental group that aims to

establish guidelines for operating in the region and resolve territorial disputes between member nations. Those countries are Canada, Denmark (including Greenland and the Faroe Islands), Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden and the United States.

In the coming decades, shrinking sheets of ice across the Arctic Ocean are expected to open new international sea routes and potentially open access to untapped oil reserves. Those developments could drive more traffic into Arctic sea lanes as well as spark territo-



Papp

U.S. policy say the U.S. lags behind other Arctic nations and should be investing more in vessels capable

rial disputes. A recent Navy study, the Arctic Roadmap 2014-2030, estimates traffic going through the Bering Strait will double by 2025.

Critics of the so-called High North, which was previously divided among three combatant commands, Now,

of operating in the rugged Arctic. However, the U.S. does maintain the world's most advanced fleet of submarines, which routinely patrol the Arctic and provide the Navy with a distinct advantage should tensions ever escalate into armed conflict.

Still, concerns about the region have forced the Defense Department to focus more on Arctic matters. In 2011, the DOD restructured responsibilities for the so-called High North, which was previously divided among three combatant commands. Now,

the area falls directly under U.S. Northern Command, whose area of responsibility was expanded to include the North Pole and the Bering Strait.

U.S. European Command's area was extended to include the water space of the Laptev and Eastern Siberian seas north of Russia. While NORTHCOM is the lead advocate for Arctic issues within the Defense Department, EUCOM manages military relationships with other Arctic nations in Europe.

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Dismissal of tattoo suit urged

The Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — The U.S. Army says a Kentucky National Guard soldier with aspirations of joining a U.S. Army special operations unit is grandfathered in under new regulations concerning soldiers with tattoos and asked a federal judge to dismiss his lawsuit.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Regina S. Edwards says in a motion that Staff Sgt. Adam C. Thorogood of Nashville, Tenn., has no legal basis for suing the Army because he hasn't been and shouldn't be harmed by the policy.

Thorogood, 28, sued Thursday in U.S. District Court in Paducah, Kentucky, seeking to have the rules declared unconstitutional and asking \$100 million in damages.

The regulations went into effect in March and ban tattoos below the knee or elbow. Soldiers who already have the ink are grandfathered in. Under the new regulations, any soldier with tattoos is barred from seeking a promotion to warrant officer or commissioning as an officer.

Thorogood, who has 11 tattoos, spent 10 years on active duty in the Army as a decorated soldier and sniper before switching to the reserves, a move that allowed him to pursue a degree in aerospace at Middle Tennessee State University and pursue certifications in flying planes with the intention of eventually going back on active duty and seeking promotion to warrant officer.

Edwards noted that Thorogood did not apply for a warrant officer position. "Instead, he failed to apply based on initial inquiries from his recruiter and his own assessment, rather than the regulation," Edwards wrote.

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PACIFIC

Report: Radiation not to blame for sailors' ailments

By **MATTHEW M. BURKE**
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — A high-ranking Defense Department official backs the contention that USS Ronald Reagan sailors were not exposed to dangerous levels of radiation in the aftermath of Japan's nuclear disaster three years ago.

In a report recently issued to Congress in response to a January directive from a defense committee, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson defended the military's response and said that safeguards put into place to protect servicemembers worked. He said any illnesses that sailors have developed are not a result of the Operation Tomodachi relief campaign.

Woodson's findings were generally in line with previous Navy and Defense Department statements regarding radiation exposure, yet divulged more detail than previously released, including information on potential potable water contamination and ailments.

"There is no objective evidence that the sailors ... experienced radiation exposures that would

result in an increase in the expected number of radiogenic diseases over time," Woodson wrote. "The estimated radiation doses for all individuals in the Operation Tomodachi registry, including sailors on the USS Ronald Reagan, were very small and well below levels associated with adverse medical conditions."

The report was issued as 111 sailors, Marines and airmen prepare for oral arguments in federal court Aug. 19 in their lawsuit against Japanese utility TEPCO. Lawyers for the plaintiffs said a California judge likely will make a ruling on TEPCO's motions to dismiss the case and to change the venue.

That suit was initiated in 2012 by a small group of Reagan sailors who alleged that TEPCO's misinformation coaxed U.S. forces closer to the affected areas and made them sick. More ailing servicemembers came forward citing exposure-related ailments such as unexplained cancers, excessive bleeding and thyroid issues, and an amended suit was filed in February.

The Reagan was dispatched to help out after a massive earthquake on March 11, 2011, spawned a tsunami that heavily damaged

the Fukushima nuclear power plant on Japan's east coast.

In the report, Woodson said there are several broad categories of diseases, complications and symptoms with "slightly" elevated incidence among the Reagan sailors compared with a control population deployed during the two preceding years. None was caused by radiation, he said.

Woodson said the rate of cancer in Reagan sailors was actually nearly 50 percent lower than in the control population. There were three cases he identified that potentially could be caused by radiation: two cases of thyroid cancer and one of nonchronic lymphocytic leukemia.

"These numbers of cases are not unusual or unexpected among a population of nearly 5,000 individuals," he wrote, adding that the symptoms developed too soon to be caused by exposure.

"The dates of diagnosis for these three cases strongly suggest that these disease processes were initiated well before OT (Operation Tomodachi) and therefore, are not causally related to low-level radiation exposures during OT."

Lawyers for the plaintiffs said the numbers don't match up with



NICHOLAS A. GROESCH/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Sailors scrub the flight deck aboard the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan following a wash-down to decontaminate the flight deck while the ship operated off the coast of Japan in March 2011 in support of Operation Tomodachi.

the number of sick sailors involved in the suit. They claim that the report relied on incomplete and inaccurate information and that their clients were never consulted for the Tomodachi Registry, which served as the basis for many of its conclusions. They also disputed the findings regarding the ship's positioning and radiation levels, the contamination of potable water and the distribution of potassium iodide tablets.

"It is sincerely hoped that those who received this report will look beyond the scant information and ask some serious questions that haven't been answered," said attorney for the plaintiffs Paul Garner.

Referring to photographs shown to Stars and Stripes, lawyers claimed they could prove the ship was closer to the plant than the 100-mile exclusion zone that has been reported. They also said they had testimony of sailors charged with decontaminating the ship after the mission.

An academic report has claimed that the Reagan was met by radiation levels that far exceeded what Navy leadership had been told to expect by the Japanese government when it arrived off the coast on March 13.

Navy and Defense officials did not respond to requests seeking comment.

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Official: More Osprey flights coming to mainland Japan

By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Marine Corps MV-22 Ospreys will be making more flights over mainland Japan as the U.S. military tries to reduce training hours on Okinawa, where residents have protested the hybrid aircraft since before its arrival in 2012.

The Japanese government is in the process of building facilities at U.S. bases on the mainland so that "the majority of the training by the aircraft can be carried out outside Okinawa," according to comments made by Japanese Defense Minister Itsunori Onodera that were posted on the ministry's website.

The 2012 arrival of the Ospreys at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma was met with fierce opposition by many people in Okinawa who were fearful that the aircraft had a less-than-stellar safety record.



D.L. FARLEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

A V-22 Osprey flies over Crete in 2010.

At the time, the U.S. military put on a public-relations fight to assuage those fears, and there have been no major incidents involving the Osprey since its arrival.

Its service on mainland Japan, however, has been limited.

On Tuesday, Ospreys — which take off like helicopters, then tilt their rotors to fly like fixed-wing

aircraft — refueled at Naval Air Station Atsugi, near Tokyo, before dropping off personnel at Camp Fuji, a Marine base in Shizuoka Prefecture, officials said.

Additionally, two Ospreys are scheduled to refuel at Yokota Air Base on Saturday en route to the July 20 Sapporo Air Show, according to 374th Airlift Wing

spokesman 1st Lt. Jacob Bailey.

The Ospreys' participation in the Sapporo Air Show is aimed at raising public awareness of the aircraft, according to 1st Lt. Noah Rappahahn, 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force spokesman.

"We are trying to get as much visibility of the aircraft as we can, and air shows are a great opportunity to let people talk to pilots and go see the aircraft," he said.

The Ospreys are authorized to operate at all U.S. bases in Japan under the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The mainland flights follow designated routes that are already used by other Japanese and U.S. military aircraft, Rappahahn said.

Commanding general of the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing Brig. Gen. Steve R. Rudder wrote in a commentary submitted this week to Stars and Stripes that the Ospreys had been used in training on mainland Japan and in South

Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Australia and Guam for more than a year.

"This reduces the amount of time the Ospreys spend in Okinawa," he said.

However, some Japanese are still concerned about the safety of the aircraft. Local media reported that rallies at Atsugi and Camp Fuji protested against the flights there, and Yokota officials have warned of possible protests outside the base in connection with this weekend's flights.

Onodera said he was aware of the lingering safety concerns.

"We will continue to promptly inform local communities involved of flight schedules as soon as we obtain the information from U.S. military," he said.

Stars and Stripes staffer Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report. robson.seth@stripes.com Twitter: @sethRobson1

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MILITARY

VA: Don't open 'floodgates' to private care

By TOM PHILPOTT

The ambitious push by Congress and its veterans' affairs committee to finally solve a health care wait-time crisis for tens of thousands of veterans by granting access to private-sector care appears to have run hard aground.

After four weeks, House-Senate conferees, working through their staffs to iron out differences in separate veterans' health reform bills, need more major breakthroughs, according to lawmakers and staff.

"I am very concerned that this conferees committee will end up taking us step backward on veterans' health care in this country," said Sen. Jon Tester, D-Mt. "That cannot happen. Veterans deserve better."

Worries center on the showpiece of both bills: that VA for two years will make private care available to veterans if they face waits for VA care longer than 30 days or live more than 40 miles from VA care facilities.

The trouble goes beyond costs, though they are considerable. Lawmakers negotiating a final deal appear on the way to be learning the challenges for veterans to access civilian care, and the need for VA to have the resources to monitor and coordinate expansion of purchased care.

Concerns among lawmakers surfaced during a Wednesday hearing of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee in which Acting VA Secretary Sloan Gibson presented the VA's longer-term plan to improve access to care.

Sen. Pat Murray, D-Wash., asked about difficulties VA has in getting medical records returned from civilian providers and monitoring the quality of care veterans receive in the private sector.

"One of the biggest challenges we have with purchased care in this community is maintaining continuity of care for the veteran," Gibson said. "The ability to get medical record information back and forth is a vital part of this, [to] ensure the quality of care. I will tell you, if the floodgates open, it will present the department with challenges."

The Congressional Budget Office dropped an anvil of hefty cost estimates on both bills, to the shock of fiscal conservatives among supporters.

The Senate voted to treat its bill as emergency legislation, which

MILITARY UPDATE

means not appropriating billions of dollars needed to pay for it; the costs simply would be added to the nation's debt. House Republicans want the final bill paid for, but need to find budget offsets that colleagues will accept.

With Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, insisting on emergency funding only, the search is on for ways to lower costs enough to entice House conferees to compromise.

One idea is to cut from two years to one the window for easy access to private-sector care for veterans facing long waits or long trips to get care. Another idea is to limit eligibility to current VA care enrollees, eliminating the threat of an enrollment rush and yet addressing the current care backlog.

After discussions with committee staffs, the CBO did lower its cost estimate for the Senate bill (HR 3230) to \$35 billion in direct spending over 10 years. But CBO cautioned that the new estimate ignores any costs from higher usage of VA care after October 2017, even if "triggered" by the bill's design. In an earlier cost estimate, CBO said VA health costs could spike by \$50 billion per year if as many as 2 million veterans are enticed to drop current health plans to seek VA-paid care from local physicians.

The VA's new plan to address the wait-time crisis includes expanding VA medical staff by 10,000 personnel, including 1,500 physicians, during the next three years. That sounds like a lot, Gibson said, but it's only a 3 percent increase to the Veterans Health Administration's current staff of 300,000.

The VA's audit of wait times at health facilities, he said, found that the "number one cause for scheduling difficulties" was a shortage of doctors.

"We have not historically managed to requirements," Gibson said. "We have managed to a budget number" regardless of actual need. "And the veterans would up being the shock absorbers in that process."

The VA also wants more facility space to provide direct care, so it is asking Congress to fund eight large medical facilities from the VA's construction backlog list, to support leases for 77 more outpatient clinics, and to cover minor construction and maintenance projects that would open even more space.

Those projects combined would allow 8 million more VA health appointments annually, Gibson said. The entire plan would cost \$17.6 billion over three years. Gibson hinted it's a better plan than some lawmakers seek.

"I believe the greatest risk to veterans over the intermediate-to-long-term is that additional resources are provided only to support increased purchase care in the community and not to

materially remedy the historic shortfall in internal VA capacity," Gibson said. "Such an outcome would leave VA even more poorly positioned to meet future demand."

More VA facilities and staff, however, are precisely what party-aligned conservatives in Congress vehemently oppose. Their view is said to be influencing debate among House-Senate conferees.

Sen. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., a top party favorite who will retire from the Senate in December, told Gibson that what the VA needs is competition from private-sector health care providers and not more billions of dollars to spend.

"If somebody were biting at your backside because they were providing better care, faster care,

wouldn't waiting lists, [VA leaders] honest go, 'Holy smoke! If we don't get our act together [and] if we don't see more patients during the day, we're going to lose out,'" Johanns said.

Gibson countered that many veterans like and depend on VA care.

"But at the end of the day," Johanns interrupted, "these veterans fight for our freedoms. Why don't they have the freedom to make their own choice about their health care? And maybe they say ... That hospital 20 minutes down the road is simply a better situation for me than the [VA] hospital that's 250 miles from where I'm at, with a long waiting list."

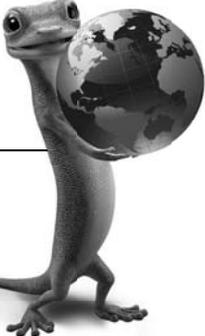
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Bill would add sailors' names to memorial

WASHINGTON — The Navy destroyer USS Frank E. Evans' bow sank in a few minutes.

The battle to add its deceased crewmembers' names to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial has lasted more than a decade.

But it could soon be coming to an end. A House-approved bill could clear the way for the names of 74 sailors to be added to the memorial more than four decades after their Long Beach, Calif.-based ship was cut in half in a collision with an aircraft carrier in the South China Sea.

The legislation is among a slate of measures in Congress aimed at healing lingering wounds at the Vietnam War era.

In this case, family members of sailors who died aboard the Evans on June 3, 1969, call it painful to visit the black granite wall and not see the names of their loved ones on it.

The names of the "Lost 74" have never been etched into one of Washington's most visited memorials because their ship was outside the official war zone.

From wire reports

MILITARY

Ex-SEAL testifies on Ventura punch

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — A former U.S. Navy SEAL testified Wednesday that he saw military sniper Chris Kyle punch former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura in a bar in 2006, providing the most complete account yet backing the version told by Kyle in his best-selling autobiography.

Jeremiah Dinnell testified in federal court as part of Ventura's defamation lawsuit against the estate of the former SEAL and "American Sniper" author, who was killed in Texas last year.

Dinnell, who served in the SEALs for a decade before leaving last year, said he saw Kyle strike Ventura with his right hand at a California bar after Ventura said the SEALs "deserve to lose a few." Dinnell said he watched Ventura fall and get up again.

In his 2012 book, Kyle wrote that he punched a man he called "Scruff Face." Kyle later identified the man as Ventura, who is also a former SEAL.

Ventura says he never said SEALs deserved to die and alleges Kyle never hit him.

Dinnell testified that he served in Iraq twice with Kyle and also served one tour in Afghanistan. He said he was friends with Kyle and his widow, Yana Kyle, and had read about half of "American Sniper" but not the three-

page section describing the bar incident.

Dinnell said he had been a pallbearer earlier that day at the funeral for a SEAL killed in a battle and had gone to the wake at a bar in Coronado, Calif., where Ventura was attending a gathering of Navy underwater demolition team members.

Dinnell said he heard Ventura talking to others on the bar patio and he was "loud and boisterous." He said he heard Ventura "bashing (President) Bush" and saying that, "We didn't need to be overseas and what we were doing wasn't right."

Ventura's attorney, David Bradley Olsen, challenged Dinnell's credibility, pointing out discrepancies in earlier written statements and in a 2012 deposition, the Star Tribune reported. Olsen noted that in 2012, Dinnell never said that Ventura stated that SEALs deserved to die.

Leita Walker, an attorney for Kyle's widow, had a page of Dinnell's 151-page deposition displayed on the courtroom screen. The page shows Dinnell's statement that he heard Ventura say, "with what we are doing overseas, we deserve to lose a few guys."

Walker asked Dinnell if he had any doubts that Ventura made that statement.

"No," Dinnell replied. "It is something that sticks with you."

Bergdahl attorney asks public withhold judgment

LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The lawyer representing Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl said Wednesday that his client has been vilified by some people, but the public should not leap to conclusions before the U.S. Army finishes its investigation into how and why the soldier left his post in Afghanistan before being captured by the Taliban.

Eugene R. Fidell, a well-known lawyer and military justice expert, told Associated Press Television News that he assumes the probe will be done in several weeks.

There are people who have vilified Sgt. Bergdahl, there are people who attempted to turn him into a kind of pinata," said Fidell, who teaches at Yale Law School. "On the other hand, there are people of goodwill who have communicated with me their sympathy for the experience Sgt. Bergdahl has had to undergo, the ordeal, really."

Some former members of the unit Bergdahl served with in Afghanistan have called him a deserter, asserting that he chose to walk away and saying some servicemembers were wounded or killed looking for him.

An initial U.S. military investigation in 2009 concluded that

Bergdahl deliberately walked away from his unit, based on evidence available at the time.

The Army has not ruled out disciplinary action against Bergdahl, who was promoted during captivity, from private first class to sergeant, as a matter of standard procedure.

"Let the facts unfold a little bit," Fidell said, adding that he has met with Bergdahl as well as the Army officer handling the case, Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl.

He said Dahl is proceeding in a "methodical, professional way." The Pentagon says Bergdahl has not yet met with Dahl.

Bergdahl has completed his initial reintegration into the Army after his release by the Taliban on May 31, when he was turned over to Army special forces in exchange for five detainees at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, detention center. He is now assigned a desk job at San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston in Texas.

Fidell added that Bergdahl is looking forward to having this entire matter behind him, and that the soldier has a lot of faith in the common sense of the American people.

He said Bergdahl also is deeply grateful that President Barack Obama saved his life.



CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes

Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., testifies during a U.S. Senate hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday.

Dunford urges funding for Russian-made helos

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford urged lawmakers on Thursday to back off plans to cut funding for Russian-made transport helicopters used by the Afghan military, arguing that such a move would have a "catastrophic" effect on Afghanistan's ability to conduct counterterrorism operations.

"The reason I use the word catastrophic, which I don't think is hyperbole, is because of the inability of the Afghans to have the operational reach represented by the Mi-17 will seriously deteriorate their ability to take the fight to the enemy," Dunford said during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee. "But the more important reason I use the word catastrophic is their inability to take the fight to the enemy will actually put young Americans in harm's way in 2015 and beyond."

Dunford, who commands the war in Afghanistan, has been nominated to serve as the 36th commandant of the Marine Corps, replacing the retiring Gen. James Amos. Although Dunford was in Washington to testify at

his confirmation hearing, most questions from lawmakers centered on the 13-year war in Afghanistan, which the general has led since February 2013.

As the U.S. military drawdown, Afghan forces will increasingly need the operational reach provided by the Mi-17 helicopter. Plans call for the Afghans to maintain a fleet of about 80 of the aircraft, 30 of which are to be used by Afghan special forces, Dunford said.

While the Pentagon has a \$550 million contract with Rosobronexport, a Russian supplier of the Mi-17s used by Afghan forces, Russian actions in Ukraine have prompted lawmakers in the House and Senate to consider scaling back that contract as a punitive measure. But without proper funding, the Afghans' ability to maintain their fleet would be compromised, Dunford said, and "Afghan forces will not be successful in providing security in Afghanistan."

The Mi-17 has proven very popular with the Afghan air force because of its rugged design, ease of maintenance and low operating costs.

By the end of the year, the U.S. will formally end its combat mission in Afghanistan, and U.S.

troop levels are set to drop from roughly 30,000 today to 9,800. Most of those forces will be involved in assorted training and advisory missions.

About 1,000 of the forces will be focused on conducting counterterrorism operations. NATO allies are also expected to contribute an additional 4,000 troops in Afghanistan after 2014, Dunford said.

The general said he believes the Afghan security forces have proved to be effective fighters, though challenges remain, especially in areas such as logistics.

On the political side, Dunford also said he was optimistic that disputes over the outcome of the recent Afghan presidential election would soon be resolved and that a bilateral security pact would be reached with the U.S.

If confirmed as the head of the Marine Corps, Dunford will face new challenges, especially in balancing demands for more modernization while maintaining readiness and the Marine crisis-response capabilities.

"Balancing all those in a fiscally constrained environment is going to be very difficult," Dunford said.

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NATION

Microsoft to cut staff by 14 percent

The Associated Press

REDMOND, Wash. — Microsoft is cutting up to 18,000 jobs, about 14 percent of its staff, over the next year as it works to cut down on management layers and integrate the Nokia devices business it bought in April.

The news sent Microsoft's stock up 3 percent in premarket trading.

Although the job cuts had been expected, the extent of them was a surprise. It's the boldest move by CEO Satya Nadella since he took the reins from Steve Ballmer in February.

In a public email to employees Thursday, he said the changes were needed for the company to "become more agile and move faster."

Of the job cuts, about 12,500 professional and factory jobs will be cut. Microsoft expects charges of \$1.1 billion to \$1.6 billion over the next four quarters, which includes \$750 million to \$800 million for severance and related benefit costs.

FBR Capital Markets analyst Daniel Ives said the cuts were

about double what Wall Street was expecting.

But he said they were necessary to streamline operations and clean up a bloated management structure.

Microsoft has been shifting its focus from traditional PC software to cloud computing and cloud-based products like its Office 365 productivity software.

With its \$7.3 billion acquisition of Nokia's handset business, Microsoft has been seeking to meld its software and hardware business into a cohesive package, similar to rival Apple.

In a letter to employees, Executive Vice President Stephen Elop said the company will drive sales of its Windows Phone by targeting the lower-price smartphone market with its Lumia devices.

It also plans to develop more products for the higher-end smartphone segment.

Nadella said Thursday that he would give more details when in Redmond, Wash.-based Microsoft reports fiscal 2014 results on Tuesday.



A police officer investigates the scene after a vehicle stolen by suspected bank robbers was stopped on Wednesday in Stockton, Calif.

CRAIG SANDERS, THE STOCKTON, CALIF., RECORD/AP

3 dead in hail of gunfire after robbery, chase

The Associated Press

STOCKTON, Calif. — Robbers fleeing a California bank took three women hostage and threw two of them from their getaway vehicle as they fired repeatedly at police during a high-speed chase. Police shot out their tires but the shooting continued, fatally wounding two suspects and the last hostage.

The violence in this central California city erupted Wednesday afternoon when officers responded to a report of a robbery at a Bank of the West branch and spotted three men taking three female hostages from the bank at gunpoint, Stockton police officer Joe Silva said.

The suspects with their hostages in tow fled in an SUV stolen from a bank worker and led officers on a 45-minute chase.

During the pursuit, police said two of the hostages, both bank employees, were thrown from the SUV. One was taken to a hospital with a gunshot wound; the other suffered a grazing bullet wound.

The pursuit continued as the suspects fired with

AK-47 style rifles from the SUV. Fourteen police cars and many homes along the robbers' path were peppered with bullets, Police Chief Eric Jones told a news conference late Wednesday.

"It was such a chaotic ... fluid situation, really one of the most dangerous, tense situations that a police officer could go through," Jones said.

When the SUV's tires were shot and the vehicle came to a stop at an intersection, officers exchanged gunfire with at least one of the assailants.

"The firing never stopped," Jones said, noting that the suspects had ammunition strapped to their bodies. "They were trying to kill (the officers), no doubt."

When it was all over, the third hostage was found dead in the SUV and one of the robbers was also dead. The police chief said the hostage was a bank customer, and that she appears to have been used by the suspects as a human shield during the shootout.

Police said the other two suspects were taken to the hospital with gunshot wounds, and one of them later died.



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NATION



RICK LOOMIS, LOS ANGELES TIMES/AP

Immigrants caught crossing the border illegally are housed Tuesday inside the McAllen Border Patrol Station in McAllen, Texas.

White House faces broad resistance on border bill

By ERICA WERNER AND JIM KUHNHEIN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House is meeting growing resistance from both the left and the right as it pushes a multibillion-dollar emergency spending bill to tackle the crisis of tens of thousands of unaccompanied children crossing into South Texas.

The crisis of unaccompanied youths at the border has burst into U.S. headlines in recent weeks, with the bulk of more than 57,000 young people streaming up from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador since last autumn, often fleeing brutal gang violence.

In Washington, Democratic opposition is hardening to changing a 2008 anti-trafficking law to allow Central American children to be sent home more quickly.

Meanwhile, Republicans demand such changes as their price for supporting any part of President Barack Obama's \$3.7 billion spending request.

An Obama administration Senate briefing late Wednesday ap-

peared to change few minds. "You wanted someone to stand up and say, 'Hey let's talk about reality here. There's nowhere to get this money out of the House of Representatives unless you adjust the law,'" said Sen. Mark Kirk, R-Ill.

In the briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson reiterated support for changing the 2008 law to treat Central American children the same as Mexican youths, who can be turned around at the border without the immigration hearing guaranteed to those from Central America.

Yet Johnson's statement didn't go far enough for Republicans, even as Democrats expressed alarm at such a change. "I'm really opposed to changing that 2008 law," Tom Harkin, a Democrat senator, said as he left the meeting.

Any bill approved by the Republican-led House might have trouble in the Democratic-controlled Senate, even as time draws short for any action in the few weeks remaining before Con-

gress' annual summer recess. Meanwhile, the politics around the issue appeared set to get even tougher as a spokeswoman for Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz announced he would use any legislation to try to repeal a 2-year-old Obama directive that allowed certain immigrants brought here illegally as youths to stay and work in the U.S.

Republicans contend that policy is partly responsible for the current crisis by creating the perception that youths can stay in this country, even though no one arriving now would be eligible. The administration largely disputes that notion.

Still, lawmakers of both parties expressed the desire to act amid signs that the public was demanding a solution.

One in six people now calls immigration the most pressing problem facing the U.S., according to a new Gallup poll — up dramatically since last month, when only 5 percent said immigration topped their list of concerns.

Justice looks into IRS email incident

By JOSH HICKS
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is investigating missing emails of former Internal Revenue Service official Lois Lerner, according to testimony that Deputy Attorney General James Cole prepared for a hearing Thursday.

The House subcommittee on economic growth, job creation and regulatory affairs, headed by Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, has

called on Cole to testify about the matter. Cole said in his prepared remarks that the Justice Department is "investigating the circumstances of the lost emails from Ms. Lerner's computer." The Wall Street Journal first reported his planned remarks.

Lerner is a central figure in the agency's targeting controversy. The IRS has said it lost many of her emails when her computer crashed in June 2011. The agency said it subsequently destroyed

her hard drive as a matter of protocol after trying to recover the data with help from technical experts, including IRS forensic specialists.

"Finally, someone in the administration admits that the destruction of two years of emails from Lois Lerner is fishy," Jordan said in a statement Wednesday.

He added that there are still "significant bipartisan concerns with the administration's overall investigation."

Democrats target women with bills on contraception, pay

By CHARLES BABINGTON
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic and Republican lawmakers are fervently pursuing a batch of doomed bills in the U.S. Congress in a bid to woo women, whose votes could be decisive in the Nov. 4 midterm elections.

Recent votes on "pay equity" and family-leave issues were aimed at women, who are increasingly crucial to Democrats' election hopes, and therefore worrisome to Republicans. Any shift in women's typical turnout or Democratic tilt this fall could determine tight elections, especially for the Senate.

Republicans need to gain six Senate seats to control the chamber, and women's issues are especially lively in the most contested states, including Colorado, North Carolina, Arkansas and Louisiana.

A Senate vote Wednesday on contraception legislation is the latest example of Democrats' win-by-losing strategy, which forces Republicans to vote on sensitive matters that might anger women.

Recent elections explain the fixation on female voters.

Women have outvoted men in every federal election since 1982. Female voters preferred Democrats by 11 percentage points in 2012, while men favored Republicans by 8 percentage points. But the voting rate among women, and especially single women, usually drops more than male voting in nonpresidential elections.

Both parties must cater to their

ideological bases, even as they court women voters.

Nearly all Republicans are opposing measures that appear likely to expand abortion access, place new requirements on employers or limit religious conservatives' rights.

Democrats overwhelmingly support abortion access, worker benefits and equal treatment of women in the workplace.

Still, Democrats approached this week's birth control debate with different tactics, depending on whether they were seeking reelection in a Republican-leaning state or in a 50-50 or Democratic-leaning state.

Democrats knew Republicans would block their bill to counter the Supreme Court's recent ruling that said employers may exclude birth control products from their health insurance plans if the products violate the employers' religious faith.

Two Democrats who strongly campaigned against the court ruling centered on arts-and-crafts company Hobby Lobby are seeking re-election in states that President Barack Obama carried at least once, thanks in part to strong backing from women: Kay Hagan, of North Carolina, and Mark Udall, of Colorado.

Minutes after all but three of the Senate's 45 Republicans voted to block the Democrats' "Not My Boss' Business" bill, Udall said his party will continue to contest a ruling that says "a boss' beliefs can supersede a woman's rights to health care benefits that she has earned."

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WORLD

Truce remains elusive in Gaza

Attacks resume after chaotic lull in fighting

By KARIN LAUB
AND TIA GOLDENBERG
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gaza residents rushed to banks, vegetable markets and shops Thursday during a first U.N.-brokered lull in 10 days of Israel-Hamas fighting, but a quick resumption of hostilities after it ended signaled that a permanent truce remains elusive.

Hamas fired 10 rockets at Israel after the end of the temporary truce, while Israel launched two airstrikes at the Gaza Strip, security officials said.

Egypt persisted with diplomatic efforts to bring all sides to the table Thursday, with President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi meeting with Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas after Egyptian officials met separately with representatives of Israel and Hamas in Cairo. But the gaps remain wide.

Israel accepted Egypt's call earlier this week to halt all fighting, but Hamas rejected the idea because it first wants to lock in achievements, such as easing the seven-year blockade of Gaza by Israel and Egypt.

Strict Egyptian access restrictions to Gaza over the past year, combined with long-running Israeli closures, severely weakened the Islamic militant group.

During the humanitarian cease-fire, Gaza residents rushed to restock supplies after more than a week of being mostly holed up at home for fear of airstrikes.

"The situation is likely to get worse because there is no clear way out of it," said Moussa Amran, 43, a money changer in central Gaza City.

The city's streets returned to normalcy during the lull, with traffic jams, motorists honking horns and Hamas police directing traffic at busy intersections. Hundreds lined up outside banks, with people jostling and shouting to get to ATM machines. In an outdoor market, shoppers filled plastic bags with fruit, vegetables and freshly slaughtered chickens.

Abdallah Jaber, 42, seized the opportunity to visit his father, Hosni, 87, in a care facility for the elderly and disabled close to the Israeli border in an area that has been targeted repeatedly by the Israeli army as a launching area for rockets.

Several kam shell hits the upper floors of the federal Wafa rehabilitation center last week, punching large holes into the wall facing the border. Israel has demanded that the building be evacuated, but director Basman Ashi said such a trip was too risky for his 17 patients, many of them unable to walk.

Israeli strikes have killed more than 230 Palestinians, mainly in military operations, spokesman Ashraf al-Kidra said. One Israeli has been killed and several wounded in rocket attacks, officials said. Since July 8, Israel carried out nearly 2,000 airstrikes, while Hamas fired more than 1,300 rockets.

In Cairo, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shaker assisted Tuesday in talks with The Associated Press that the cease-fire deal was still alive and expressed frustration that "Palestinian factions" — a clear reference to Hamas — had not agreed to it.

Hamas' agreement is crucial to any such truce, but its demand that the blockade be eased significantly is likely to be rejected by Israel and Egypt because it would strip power from the group's hold on Gaza, where it seized power in 2007.

On Wednesday, the No. 2 in Hamas, Moussa Abu Marzuq, presented a list of demands to Egypt, said a senior official in the group who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the negotiations with reporters.



ADEL HANA/AP

Palestinian girls on Thursday collect their belongings at an apartment building which was hit by an overnight Israeli missile strike in Gaza City.

Israelis struggle for normalcy amid threat of incoming fire

By ARON HELLER
The Associated Press

HOD HASHARON, Israel — A morning siren in this middle-class Israeli town sent some fleeing inside for shelter — but others ran outside, curious to catch a glimpse of the incoming rocket being shot down.

Thanks to Israel's "Iron Dome" defense system, Israelis seem to fear less for their lives than for their lifestyles as they adjust to the anxiety of random, potentially deadly, yet generally harmless rocket attacks.

Whereas the residents in northern and southern Israel have years of experience in coping with militant rocket fire, the people in central Israel are new to the reality and still getting used to hearing sounds of explosions.

"It just doesn't make any sense that this is happening," said Taly Shlomo, 10, who exited a Hod Hasharon bakery to watch the fireworks above. "It's not scary because nothing terrible has happened yet but it's something you can't get used to. It's crazy."

In Gaza, Israeli strikes have left a trail of devastation, with more than 200 people dead in just over a week of fighting — a quarter of them children, according to the United Nations. Southern Israel has experience with the dangers too, battered for years by militant fire from Gaza that has caused deaths and frequently sends residents rushing for safety. But in central Israel, residents have long cultivated a sense of distance from the region's conflicts — and their main concern now appears to be that it won't be shattered.

Residents are struggling to decide whether to carry on with their routines or take emergency precautions, whether to keep up with the

nonstop TV coverage of the fighting or tune out entirely for their own sanity. Parents are debating whether to rush their children to shelters at the sound of each siren or take their chances but not convey panic.

"We live in a weird and distorted reality," said Maya Elharar, 36, a mother of three. "The anxiety is there all the time. It's very sad that people have to endure this."

A striking photo of some 20 young children lying on the floor of their Hod Hasharon kindergarten during a siren with their hands covering their heads was featured prominently Wednesday in Israeli media. The images from Gaza have been far more harrowing, with funerals of children and scenes of others huddling with their families in refugees after their homes have been destroyed.

Israel suffered its first fatality of the fighting Tuesday, when a civilian delivering food to soldiers near the Gaza border was killed by shrapnel from a mortar. At his funeral Wednesday, a eulogizer prayed he would be the last victim of this offensive.

Most Israelis say they are willing to stomach the abnormal reality a while longer to avoid repeating a similar situation again, having already faced three rounds of fierce rocket fire over the past five years.

"The rockets have to stop once and for all," said Said Shabi, 64.

Yotam Dagan, the director of community outreach at Israel's Trauma Center for Victims of Terror and War, said research showed that some 20 percent of those exposed to large explosions would develop some form of post-traumatic stress disorder, Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Bolivia acts to lower working age for kids

EL ALTO, Bolivia — While most of the world is trying to end child labor, Bolivia is on the verge of becoming the first nation to legalize it from age 10. Congress has approved the proposal and all that's now required is President Evo Morales' signature.

The bill's sponsors say lowering the minimum work age from 14 simply acknowledges a reality: Many poor families in Bolivia have no other choice than for their kids to work. The bill offers working children safeguards, they say.

Under the legislation, 10-year-olds will be able to work as long as they are under parental supervision and also attend school. It sets 12 as the minimum age for a child to work under contract.

Militants fought near Pakistani leader's home

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani police fought for more than 10 hours with militants they said were planning to attack the home of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said Thursday.

An intelligence officer and two militants were killed when the shootout erupted during an overnight operation in the eastern city of Lahore, said police chief Zulfikar Hameed. Shuja Khanzada, a provincial counterterrorism official, said the gunbattle took place at a house near Sharif's residence, which he said was the "prime target" of the militants.

Sharif was away from the residence at the time.

2 bomb attacks in Iraq kill at least 11 people

BAGHDAD — Two bomb attacks, one of which ripped through a sprawling Baghdad market, killed at least 11 people in Iraq on Thursday, officials said.

Thursday's first attack struck Baghdad's Shorja Market, an open air emporium that is one of the most popular places for residents. A police officer said a bomb hidden on a wooden cart exploded near a Shi'ite mosque in the market, killing at least six people and wounding 12, a police officer said.

In Tajil, 12 miles north of the capital, a suicide bomber rammed his car into a military checkpoint, killing four soldiers and three civilians, a police officer said. Thirteen people were wounded.

Firefighting helicopter crashes in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea — A firefighting helicopter crashed Thursday near an apartment complex in a people still mourning a South Korean city of Gwangju, killing five people, officials said.

The helicopter was returning to headquarters in the eastern provincial firefighting agency after participating in search operations for 11 people still missing on a ferry sinking that killed more than 290 in April, fire officials in Gwangju said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The crash killed all five fire officers aboard the helicopter, while a fifth person fell from the ground and received a minor injury, the officials said.

From The Associated Press

UKRAINE UNREST

Putin: Sanctions hurt ties, US companies

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Thursday lamented the latest round of U.S. sanctions against Russia, saying they will stalemate bilateral relations and hurt not only Russian but also American businesses.

Russia's benchmark MICEX was down 2.9 percent in late afternoon trading Thursday upon news of the sanctions while Russia's biggest oil company, Rosneft, was nearly 5 percent down and second-largest oil producer was trading 9 percent lower.

Putin's comments came hours after President Barack Obama announced broader sanctions against Russia, targeting two major energy firms including Rosneft, a pair of powerful financial institutions, eight weapons firms and four individuals. The increased U.S. economic pressure is designed to end the insurgency in eastern Ukraine that is widely believed to be backed by the Kremlin.

The U.S. penalties, however,

stopped short of the most stringent actions the West has threatened, which would fully cut off key sectors of Russia's oil-dependent economy. But officials said those steps were still on the table if Russia fails to abide by the West's demands to stop its support for the pro-Russian insurgents who have destabilized eastern Ukraine.

The insurgents have been fighting government troops in eastern Ukraine for four months now in a conflict that the U.N. says has killed over 400 people and has displaced tens of thousands. The conflict took off shortly after Russia annexed the mostly Russian-speaking Ukrainian peninsula of Crimea.

In televised comments Thursday, Putin said the sanctions are "driving into a corner" relations between the two nations as well as the interests of American companies and "the long-term national interests of the U.S. government and people."

Putin warned Washington that the sanctions will backlash against American companies

working in Russia.

The most noticeable companies on the list are Rosneft and Russia's largest independent gas producer, Novatek. Both are now barred from getting long-term loans from U.S. entities.

Moscow-based investment bank Sberbank-CIB said in a note to investors that Russian companies cannot replace long-term loans from the U.S. immediately. "While Asian and Middle Eastern money can step in to fill the gap, we expect that this will take time," the note said, adding that borrowing will also cost more.

Rosneft has a multibillion-dollar deal with ExxonMobil, which among other things allowed Exxon to develop lucrative oil fields in Russia.

"We gave this American company the right to work on the shelf," Putin said in Brazil, referring to Exxon's potential exploration on the Russian Arctic shelf. "So, what, the United States does not want it to work there now?"

Russia's foreign ministry dismissed the sanctions "bullying"

and signaled that it was ready to push back.

"We consider the new round of American sanctions against Russia as a primitive attempt to take vengeance for the fact that events in Ukraine are not playing out to the tune of the script of Washington," the ministry said in a statement.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev in televised remarks said the sanctions are throwing Russia's relations with the West "back to the 1980s" and added that Russia "will have to pay more attention to military and security spending."

Putin made no mention of the additional sanctions levied Wednesday by the 28-nation European Union, which urged the European Investment Bank to sign no new financing agreements with Moscow and was suspending operations in Russia financed by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. European nations have much closer energy and other economic ties with Russia and have not imposed as tough sanc-

tions as the United States.

But the foreign ministry did lash out at the EU's new sanctions, accusing Europe of "giving in to the bullying of the U.S. administration."

In Moscow, the Association of European Businesses on Thursday expressed its "strong disagreement" with the new U.S. sanctions, saying "these companies and banks are reliable and long-term partners of many European companies" and said the curtailing of the activities of the EBRD and the EIB in Russia might "affect the general reliability of these two institutions in other markets."

Igor Sechin, Rosneft's CEO and a close confidante of Putin, dismissed the U.S. sanctions as "unfounded, subjective and unlawful," adding that his company "had no role in the events in Ukraine."

Sechin said their lawyers have to yet to explore how hurtful the sanctions could be but added that the company has enough money in reserves to refrain from taking out new loans for a while.



DMITRY LOVETSKY/AP

People walk amid debris Thursday at the crash site of a passenger plane near the village of Grabovo, Ukraine. A Ukrainian official said a passenger plane carrying 295 people was shot down Thursday as it flew over the country. Malaysia Airlines tweeted that it lost contact with one of its flights as it was traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur over Ukrainian airspace.

Airliner: Plane goes down in region that has seen fighting

FROM FRONT PAGE

The Donetsk region government said a plane crashed Thursday near a village called Grabovo, which it said is currently under the control of the separatists. The region where the flight was lost has seen severe fighting between the two sides in recent days.

Anton Geraschenko, an adviser to Ukraine's interior minister, said on his Facebook page the

plane was flying at an altitude of 33,000 feet. He said it was hit by a missile fired from a Buk launcher, which can fire missiles up to an altitude of 72,000 feet.

The Malaysia Airlines plane is a Boeing 777-200ER, which was delivered to Malaysia Airlines on July 30, 1997, according to FlightGlobal's Ascend Online Fleets, which sells and tracks information about aircraft. It has more

than 43,000 hours of flight time and 6,950 takeoffs and landings.

Poroshenko said his country's armed forces didn't shoot at any airborne targets.

"We do not exclude that this plane was shot down, and we stress that the Armed Forces of Ukraine did not take action against any airborne targets," he said. "We are sure that those who are guilty in this tragedy will be

held responsible."

Separatist leader Andrei Purgin told The Associated Press that he was certain that Ukrainian troops had shot the plane down but gave no explanation or proof for his statement.

Purgin said he did not know whether rebel forces owned Buk missile launchers, but said even if they did, there had no fighters capable of operating it.

Pentagon: More Russia troops going to border

By LOLITA C. BALDOR
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Russian combat troops are again building up along the border with Ukraine, and U.S. officials believe Moscow may be sending heavy weapons into the country to aid the separatists, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Army Col. Steve Warren told reporters the U.S. believes there are now up to 12,000 Russian troops on the border, reflecting a steady increase in recent weeks.

On June 30, Air Force Gen. Philip Breedlove, the U.S. commander of NATO forces in Europe, said there were about seven battalion task groups and some small special operations forces along the border — which officials said amounted to about 8,000 troops. The growing number of troops, he said, is "not a helpful development, in what it brings to the problem."

The number has fluctuated widely. U.S. officials in May estimated that there were as many as 40,000 Russian troops arrayed along the border but as weeks went by, the total plunged to about 1,000 under pressure from the West.

Warren said there are a variety of Russian forces there, including the combat battalion task groups.

Ukraine and the West have accused Russia of fomenting the insurgency by sending troops and weapons, including tanks and rocket launchers, something Moscow denies.

NATION

We the People

... wish to renounce our US citizenship

By ADAM GELLER
The Associated Press

Inside the long-awaited package, six pages of government paperwork dryly affirmed Carol Tapanila's anxious request. But when Tapanila slipped the contents from the brown envelope, she saw there was something more.

"We the people ..." declared the script inside her U.S. passport — now with four holes punched through it from cover to cover. Her departure from life as an American was stamped final on the same page: "Bearer Expatriated Self."

With the envelope's arrival, Tapanila, a native of upstate New York who has lived in Canada since 1969, joined a largely overlooked surge of Americans rejecting what is, to millions, a highly sought prize: U.S. citizenship. Last year, the U.S. government reported a record 2,999 people renounced citizenship or terminated permanent residency; most are widely assumed to be driven by a desire to avoid paying taxes on hidden wealth.

The reality, though, is more complicated. The government's pursuit of tax evaders among Americans living abroad is indeed driving the jump in abandoned citizenship, experts say. But renouncers — whose ranks have swelled more than fivefold from a decade ago — often contradict the stereotype of the financial scoundrel. Many are from very ordinary economic circumstances.

Some call themselves "accidental Americans," who recall little of life in the U.S., but long ago happened to be born in it. Others say they renounced because of politics, family or personal identity. Some say signing away citizenship was a huge relief. Others recall being sickened by the decision.

At the U.S. Consulate in Geneva, "I talked to a man who explained to me that I could never, ever get my nationality back," said Donna-Lane Nelson, whose Boston accent lingers though she's lived in Switzerland 24 years. "It felt like a divorce. It felt like a death. I took the second oath and I left the consulate and I threw up."

When Americans do hear about patriots rejecting citizenship, it's more often people keeping their U.S. citizenship and dropping that of another country.

Last year, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz acknowledged the Canadian citizenship he was born to, but has since renounced it.

One of the few times rejected U.S. citizenship has gotten significant ink was Facebook co-founder Eduardo Saverin's 2011 decision to turn in his American passport after moving to Singapore. Saverin likely avoided millions of dollars in taxes by doing so shortly before Facebook's initial stock offering.

Saverin's decision hit a political nerve, along with scandals surrounding UBS and Credit Suisse, which were caught matching wealthy Americans with offshore accounts.

But some of those surrendering citizenship say their reasons are as much about life as about taxes, particularly since the U.S. government does not tax Americans abroad on their first \$96,600 in yearly income.

Corine Mauch was born a U.S. citizen to Swiss parents who were college students in Iowa. They lived in the U.S. until she was 5, then again for two more years before she turned 11. Mauch maintained dual citizenship even after she was elected to Zurich's city council. When she became mayor, she reconsidered.

During the last American presidential election, "I asked myself, 'Where do I feel

championships.

When the team's owner suggested last year that he join Taiwan's national team, Davis said, he found little motivation to keep his U.S. citizenship.

"When you think about who I am as a black guy in the U.S., I didn't have opportunities," he said. "You get discriminated against over there in the South. Here everyone is so nice. They invite you into their homes, they're so hospitable. ... There's no crime, no guns. I can't help but love this place."

The jump in renunciations reflects evolving views about national identity, said Nancy L. Green, an American professor at the L'École des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. When the U.S. got its start, citizenship was defined by "perpetual allegiance" — the British notion of nationality as a birthright that could never be changed.

Carol Tapanila's life in Canada has tested that redefinition.

Six years after Tapanila's husband lost his job at a Boeing factory in Washington state and they moved to Canada for work, the couple became citizens of their new country. She said U.S. consular officials told her that, by swearing allegiance to Canada, she might well have lost her American citizenship.

After retiring from a job as an administrative assistant at an oil company in Calgary,

Tapanila began putting \$125 a month into a special savings account for her developmentally disabled son, matched by the Canadian government.

In her will, she authorized creation of a trust fund to draw on retirement savings and other assets to provide for her son, who is now 40, after her death.

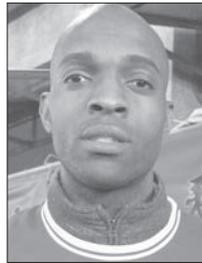
Tapanila said she didn't know she was required to file U.S. tax returns until 2007, when her daughter raised the subject.

Her troubles were compounded by her decision to apply for a U.S. passport after a border officer told her she should have one.

She has since spent \$42,000 on fees for lawyers and accountants and paid about \$2,000 in U.S. taxes, including on funds in her son's disability savings account.

In 2012 she turned in the passport, renouncing U.S. citizenship to protect money saved for her retirement and her son.

Tapanila, 70, has tried and failed to renounce U.S. citizenship on his behalf, saying officials told her such a decision must be made by the individual alone.



'When you think about who I am as a black guy in the U.S., I didn't have opportunities.'

Quincy Davis III
Pure Youth Construction
basketball team, Taiwan



'I took the second oath and I left the consulate and I threw up.'

Donna-Lane Nelson
Swiss citizen who was
formerly a U.S. national



'I asked myself, "Where do I feel at home?" And the answer was clear: In Zurich and in Switzerland.'

Zurich Mayor Corine Mauch
born a U.S. citizen



at home?" And the answer is clear: In Zurich and in Switzerland," Mauch said. "My attachment to America is limited to my very early youth." Double taxation was "not the crucial factor for my decision," she said. "But I will not miss the U.S. tax bureaucracy either."

Sports played the central role in Quincy Davis III's decision. Davis, raised in Los Angeles and Mobile, Ala., played professional basketball in Europe after three years as Tulane University's leading scorer. By 2011, he was home studying to become a firefighter when he was offered a spot on a Taiwanese pro squad. He's since helped lead the Pure Youth Construction team to two

NATION

Guarding the Grand Canyon



MEL NELSON, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

Visitors take in the view of the Grand Canyon at Mather Point on the Southern Rim in January.

Officials: Development plans a threat to view, water supply

By JULIE CART
Los Angeles Times

GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Ariz. — At the rim of the Grand Canyon, busloads of Chinese tourists jostled on a recent day with 20-something backpackers and an Amish family with rambunctious boys in suspenders and straw hats, all eager for a prime viewing spot.

They gazed out on a dizzying sight of receding canyons and sheer rock walls, with the Colorado River cutting through the canyon floor a mile down.

Generations of park managers have tried to preserve that natural vista, but officials here say a proposed development would alter the view.

Looking eastward from the canyon's popular South Rim, visitors soon could see a hive of construction as workers build restaurants, hotels and shops on a distant mesa on the Navajo Indian reservation.

The developers also plan a gondola ride from those attractions to whisk tourists to the canyon floor, where they would stroll along an elevated riverside walkway to a restaurant at the confluence of the Colorado and Little Colorado rivers.

That project and a second, unrelated development proposed for just south of the canyon have set

off alarms at the National Park Service, which sees them as the most serious threat the park has faced in its 95-year history.

The first would alter the natural beauty of the canyon and would encroach on its borders. The second, a major housing and commercial development, jeopardizes the fragile ecology and water supply on the arid South Rim plateau. The Tusayan development would add 2,200 homes and 3 million square feet of commercial space to a town two blocks long.

Park officials say existing development around the park and the scarcity of water already have stressed the park's ability to handle visitors. The new projects would only make matters worse.

"They are serious threats to the future of the park," said park Superintendent Dave Uberuaga. "When you have that size and scope of potential development that close to the park, it will impact our visitor experience."

The Grand Canyon affords once-in-a-lifetime views, but it has always been difficult for anyone except seasoned hikers to reach the canyon floor. Most of the 5 million annual visitors stop at the rim, look out and move on without ever venturing into the canyon.

Native American tribes are changing that. Grand Canyon West, on Hualapai land, operates

Grand plans

National Park Service officials consider developments proposed near Grand Canyon National Park a serious threat. They say the projects would alter the park's vistas and jeopardize its fragile ecology and water supply.



SOURCES: OpenStreetMap contributors, Google Earth

JULIE CART, LORENA INGUEZ ELEBEE, LOS ANGELES TIMES/MCT

the Skywalk attraction, a popular glass walkway that juts out over the canyon. Since 2007, the tribe has offered helicopter tours that land on tribal property next to the river.

The proposed Grand Canyon Escalade gondola would afford a rare opportunity for tourists to reach the canyon floor, said developer R. Lamar Whitmer, who is working with the Navajo.

The park service offers nothing more than "a drive-by wilderness experience," Whitmer said. "The average person can't ride a mule to the bottom of the canyon. We want them to feel the canyon from the bottom."

For now, the park is waiting for

the tribe to complete its planning process before providing an official response.

The project requires approval of the Navajo tribal government — and some within the tribe have voiced objections, particularly about the gondola's terminus near the confluence of the rivers.

Tribal opponents believe the two rivers represent male and female, and where they meet is where life begins.

"That's where our spirits go back to," said Renae Yellowhorse of the group Save the Confluence. "My father passed away last March. That's where he resides. If there is a development there, where are our prayers going to go?"

Two miles from the Grand Canyon's front entrance is a project that park officials say is a more fundamental threat because they expect it to diminish the small amount of water found naturally on the arid Colorado Plateau.

The park's main gateway community of Tusayan has approved plans for a development that would increase the town's demand for water fourfold.

The plans do not say where the water will come from.

With Arizona suffering through its worst drought in 110 years of records, the park service says there isn't enough water to sustain both wildlife and the new development.

NATION



JORDAN STEAD, SEATTLEPI.COM/AP

A large cloud rises over wildfires in Eastern Washington — as seen from Seattle — at sunset Wednesday.

Homes threatened by Wash. wildfire

The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Authorities in Central Washington State urged residents of nearly 900 homes to flee a wildfire fueled by strong winds that was tearing through timber in its path late Wednesday.

Firefighters could not contain the fire raging 10 miles north of the Bavarian-themed village of Leavenworth on Wednesday and hot and windy conditions were forecast for Thursday.

The fire's smoke plume was

visible for miles as it rose 25,000 feet into the air.

Residents of 860 homes were told they should leave immediately, fire spokesman Rick Acosta said late Wednesday. Authorities said another 800 homes were less seriously threatened.

Nearly 1,000 firefighters were battling three separate wildfires in the state.

Worsening wildfire activity prompted the governor's offices in both Washington and Oregon to declare a state of emergency, a

move that enables state officials to call up the National Guard.

Wildfires were also burning in Oregon, Utah, Idaho and California.

In southern Oregon, a wildfire destroyed 17 homes and 16 outbuildings earlier this week, while a fire in Northern California was still posing a threat to nearly 70 homes, fire officials said Wednesday night.

The California blaze was started on Friday by marijuana growing activity, authorities said.

@HiddenCash to pay for money hunt damage

WHITTIER, Calif. — When the man with the Twitter handle @HiddenCash moved his scavenger hunt to Whittier, 1,000 people trampled through a park seeking free money. Now Jason Buzi, the real estate investor behind the cash giveaways, says he will pay for the damage.

KNBC-TV reported Tuesday that Buzi has agreed to send the city \$5,000 to cover the cost of repairs. City Manager Jeff Collier said cash hunters trampled on plants, uprooted a newly planted tree, tore apart sprinkler heads and broke fences. Collier said Buzi was apologetic.

Through Twitter, Buzi has directed people to envelopes with \$50 and \$100 inside them in California in recent months. He calls his giveaways a "social experiment for good."

From The Associated Press

'Keurig machine for beer' gets crowdfunding help

St. Louis Post-Dispatch

At the end of a 30-minute interview with Synek co-founder Steve Young this month, a colleague of the beer entrepreneur checked his smartphone, leaned over and told him, "We just made another \$5,000."

By then, Young was checking his phone many, many times a day. Since the 28-year-old launched a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter on June 24 for what has been dubbed the "Keurig machine for beer," the St. Louis resident said he's getting 1,000 emails, phone calls and voice mails a day from people inquiring about the product, eight months before it's available for sale.

Per Kickstarter rules, Synek had a month to reach his goal of

\$250,000 or it wouldn't get the funding. As of July 10, Synek had raised more than \$450,000. The money will be used for development, manufacturing and marketing expenses.

In return, those who made pledges get first-edition versions of the product when it hits the market next March. T-shirts and other perks, based on their level of investment.

Synek, which has been in development for two years, has a patent pending for its titanium and nylon bags that can be filled from brewers' taps with a gallon of beer, or the equivalent of 11 beers. The bags are pressurized, allowing the beer to maintain freshness for at least 30 days, much longer than a growler's shelf life of a mere few days, according to Young.

Let family access dead loved one's online accounts?

By ANNE FLAHERTY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Should your emails, web albums and other online accounts die when you do? Or should you be able to pass them down to a family member much as you would a house or a box of letters?

A leading group of lawyers says that families should immediately get access to everything online unless otherwise specified in a will. They are urging state lawmakers to enact their proposal so loved ones don't get shut out as American lives move increasingly online.

"Our email accounts are our filing cabinets these days," said Suzanne Brown Walsh, a Cummings & Lockwood attorney who led the effort. But "if you need access to an email account, in most states you just get it online."

The Uniform Law Commission, whose members are appointed by state governments to help standardize state laws, on Wednesday endorsed the plan for "digital assets." It would give loved ones access to — but not control of — the deceased's digital accounts unless a will says otherwise.

To become law, the legislation would have to be adopted by each state's legislature. It would trump "terms of service" agreements by tech companies that prohibit people from accessing an account that isn't theirs.

"This is something most people don't think of until they are faced with it. They have no idea what is about to be lost," said Karen Williams of Beaverton, Ore., who sued Facebook for access to her 22-year-old son Loren's account after he died in a 2005 motorcycle accident.

Facebook and other tech companies have been reluctant to hand over their customers' private data. But when confronted with death, families say they need access to settle financial details or simply for sentimental reasons.

Privacy activists are skeptical of the proposal. Ginger McCall, associate director of the Electronic Privacy Information Center in Washington, said a judge's approval should be needed for

access, to protect the privacy of both the owners of accounts and the people who communicate with them.

"The digital world is a different world" from offline, McCall said. "No one would keep 10 years of every communication they ever had with dozens or even hundreds of other people under their bed."

Many people assume they can decide what happens by sharing certain passwords with a trusted family member, or even making those passwords part of their will. But in addition to potentially exposing passwords when a will becomes public record, anti-hacking laws and the terms of service agreements prohibit it.

Several tech providers have come up with their own solutions. Facebook, for example, will "memorialize" accounts by allowing already confirmed friends to continue to view photos and old posts. Google will let you email, YouTube and Picasa Web Albums, offers this: If people don't log on after a while, their accounts can be deleted or shared with a designated member. Yahoo users agree when signing up that their accounts expire if not used.

But the courts aren't convinced that a company supplying the technology should get to decide what happens to a person's digital assets. In 2005, a Michigan probate judge ordered Yahoo to hand over the emails of a Marine killed in Iraq after his parents argued that their son would have wanted to share them. Likewise, a court eventually granted Williams, the Oregon mother, access to her son's Facebook account, although she says the communications appeared to be redacted.

Williams said she supports letting people decide in their wills whether accounts should be kept from family members.

"I could understand where some people don't want to share everything," she said in a phone interview this week. "But to us, losing him (our son) unexpectedly, anything he touched became so valuable to us." And "if we were still in the era of keeping a shoebox full of letters, that would have been part of the estate and we wouldn't have thought anything of it."

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PACIFIC

Japan's pachinko pastime bets on casinos

By YUKI YAMAGUCHI
Bloomberg News

“Welcome!” two young women in shorts and Hawaiian shirts chime over the clatter of pinballs and J-Pop at the Million pachinko parlor in the Tokyo residential area of Suginami.

“All of your favorite machines are waiting for you, nice and clean,” beckons orange, green and yellow signs near the door. “We lead you to the next level of amusement.”

For decades, this is how millions of Japanese office workers, housewives and retirees have kicked off long, smoky nights out. They come to play pachinko, a pinball-slot-machine hybrid that has skirted a nationwide gambling ban to become an industry that takes in bets of \$187 billion, bigger than the entire economy of New Zealand.

Now, pachinko wants casinos, driven by attendance that has sunk more than 60 percent since the mid-1990s and an uncertain legal status that has prevented them from listing in Japan.

“Pachinko companies are feeling a sense of crisis that they will go into decline unless they do something,” Daigo Fukunaga, a senior analyst at Advanced Research Japan, said in an interview. Casinos would be “a big new market” to pachinko companies, he said.

With the 2020 Tokyo Olympics promising to attract millions of foreign tourists, Japanese lawmakers in December submitted a bill to legalize casinos in the world's third-largest economy. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said last month that his ruling party would seek to pass the bill in the fall. If approved, the Japanese casino industry could be worth an estimated \$40 billion a year as early as 2025, according to brokerage CLSA Ltd., making it Asia's second-biggest after



TOMOHIRO OHSUMI/Bloomberg News

There are 11,000 pachinko parlors across Japan — including this one in Tokyo. Pachinko operates in a legal gray area, since operators rely on third-party shops to exchange prizes for cash.

Macau

While Pachinko still attracts players — about 10 million — parlor operators and pachinko-machine makers, such as Dynam Japan Holdings and Sega Sammy Holdings, are forced to embrace a change that threatens their long dominance of Japan's gaming market. The industry is seeking something to give it more legitimacy at home and a greater opportunity for expansion overseas.

Big global casino firms, such as MGM Resorts International and Wynn Resorts, are courting local partners to help them break into the market. Pachinko companies argue their deep roots in the Japanese gaming industry make them ideal collaborators.

The potential benefits are most obvious for pachinko machine makers like Sega Sammy. Best

known outside Japan for its discontinued video game consoles, the company attributes almost half of its revenue to pachinko machines. In May, the company said it would begin making electronic table games for the Macau and Singapore markets as well. Konami Corp., whose products include pachinko machines and video games, such as the hit “Metal Gear” series, already makes slot machines and other gambling equipment for Las Vegas Sands and MGM in Las Vegas and other overseas markets. If approached, the company may tie up with both casino companies, as well as another client, Caesars Entertainment.

Satoshi Sakamoto, the chief executive officer of Konami's gaming unit, said in an interview on May 28 that Japanese casinos

“could be a turning point” for the company.

Pachinko parlor operators, such as Dynam, Maruhan and P Ark Holdings, will also benefit from a casino boom. Dynam, Japan's second-largest pachinko operator, may sell additional shares to fund its entry into the casino market. Chairman Yoji Sato said in a March interview. Maruhan, Japan's biggest pachinko operator, is also interested in running casinos, according to people familiar with the company's plans.

Such moves may help pachinko operators overcome legal concerns that have blocked them from securing listings on Japanese stock exchanges.

There are 11,000 pachinko parlors across the country. Players often sit for hours, plunking down up to 4 yen for each metal

ball. The balls beget more balls, which beget prizes like a Hello Kitty bread maker or a Nikon Coolpix digital camera. Players can also choose to take tokens instead, which they can take to a shop next door to exchange for money, avoiding laws that bar cash payments.

Japanese law prohibits gambling except for the government-run options such as horse and boat racing. Pachinko operates in a legal gray area, since operators rely on third-party shops to exchange prizes for cash. The National Police Agency, which oversees the pachinko industry, has described the system as “not immediately illegal” without endorsing it.

The legal ambiguity is why Tokyo-based P Ark's 2005 application to list on the Jasdax was rejected and why Dynam went to Hong Kong in 2012 for the first-ever public offering by a pachinko operator.

“If casinos are legal, saying ‘no’ to pachinko doesn't make sense,” said Fukunaga of Advanced Research Japan.

The game's reputation has also been hit by concerns the game feeds gambling addicts that were exacerbated by machines which generated high payouts. At least seven children have died since 2006 after their parents left them unattended in hot cars to play pachinko. Yoshiyuki Tsuji, the head of community safety for Japan's National Police Agency, told lawmakers during a June 18 discussion on the casino bill.

The industry voluntarily removed machines that gave high payouts in 1996, while regulators tightened rules to curb jackpots in some of machines in 2004. Without big payouts, pachinko offers few thrills a smartphone can't match.

The change signaled an end of the seven decades of growth for pachinko, which saw revenues peak at \$1 trillion yen in 1995, according to the Japan Productivity Center.

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Ku Klux Klan using candy as recruiting tool

SC SENECA — Some residents in northwestern South Carolina said they found bags of candy on their street containing a piece of paper asking them to join the Ku Klux Klan.

Residents in an Oconee County subdivision found the bags Saturday night or Sunday morning.

The paper said "Save Our Land, Join the Klan." It had a phone number that led to an automated message discussing KKK efforts against illegal immigration.

Robert Jones told WHNS-TV that he's the imperial klalfif of the Loyal White Knights and said the effort was part of a recruiting event held three times a year.

Cronut creator demands name change

LA SHREVEPORT — A northwest Louisiana restaurant's croissant-doughnut hybrid is getting a new name — Juggernaut, Highlander or Steve.

Lizz Bowen and her husband, Scott Roebuck, got a cease-and-desist letter last week from Cronut creator Dominique Ansel, telling them that their Sevendipity Cafe in Shreveport's Highland neighborhood cannot use any variation of his trademarked name. Using a string of letters often pronounced "oh" in Louisiana names, Bowen and Roebuck had been calling the pastries creauxnuts. Bowen uses the restaurant's bread dough for her flaky pastry rings with toppings that change from day to day.

The couple held a name-the-pastry contest on the cafe's Facebook page. Bowen announced the three finalists Sunday night.

Candidate scraps shotgun-blast ad

WA RICHLAND — A Democrat running for Congress in conservative central Washington on Saturday removed an online campaign video that showed him blasting an elephant-shaped piñata with a shotgun.

The Tri-City Herald reported that the advertisement for Estakio Beltran generated a lot of criticism after it was posted last week, including from a group founded by former Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. The Arizona Democrat who survived a gunshot wound to the head in 2011.

"Mr. Beltran's ad showing him shooting a stuffed elephant — the longtime symbol of the Republican Party — is irresponsible and offensive," said the statement from Americans for Responsible Solutions.

Man found inside home on Kennedy compound

MA HYANNIS PORT — Police arrested a man they say broke into a home in the Kennedy compound once owned by John F. Kennedy and told investigators he was looking for singer Katy Perry.

Police in Barnstable responded to the home in Hyannis Port about 9:30 p.m. Tuesday after getting

THE CENSUS

\$100K

The value of one Tillamook cheese van, three of which were stolen Saturday from a hotel parking lot in Manteca, Calif. Two men were arrested Tuesday on suspicion of stealing the Volkswagen minibuses customized to look like bright orange blocks of cheese. The historic minibuses were on a tour promoting the Oregon-based Tillamook County Creamery Association's dairy products. A tip led investigators to the vehicles Monday in a storage locker about 50 miles from Manteca. Brian Lancaster, 32, and Ryan Monaco, 38, both of Sacramento, are being held for investigation of auto theft, possession of stolen vehicles, conspiracy and arson. The cheese vans were not damaged.



MARK LEFFINGWELL, THE (BOULDER, COLO.) DAILY CAMERA/AP

Taking the tube

Alyse Kehler, left, and Erik Summerside don their business attire to tube in Boulder Creek for the 7th annual Tube to Work Day in Boulder, Colo., on Tuesday. About 40 people participated. "Tube to Work Day is about alternative commuting and having a good time on the water," said co-founder Jeff Kagan. "It brings people together."

a call from a Kennedy family member who said a strange man picked up the phone at the home, and he was concerned about the well-being of his teenage son. Police said they found James Lacroix, 53, in the kitchen of the home. He was charged with breaking and entering and was held pending arraignment.

Fire chief criticized for comments on blog

DE WILMINGTON — Wilmington's fire chief is being criticized for comments on his blog that appear to threaten reducing fire coverage in areas represented by council members who support budget cuts for the department.

The News Journal of Wilmington reported that Anthony Goode urged residents on the blog to speak out against eliminating funding for eight vacant firefighter jobs. He went on to write of the council members who think the jobs should be cut. "Those council districts will be the districts

that we will be forced to consider reducing coverage in!"

Council President Theo Gregory called Goode's comments "asinine," and Councilwoman Loretta Walsh says Goode appeared to be threatening residents.

Unattended bodies found at mortuary

TX FORT WORTH — Police are investigating after finding eight bodies unattended after a mortuary service was told to move out of its building in Fort Worth, Texas.

Police Sgt. Raymond Bush said the property owner a couple of weeks ago told Johnson Family Mortuary to vacate the building. He said the owner returned Tuesday morning to find eight bodies in the building but no workers.

Bush said the bodies were in various stages of decomposition and ranged from infants to adults. No charges have been filed. The Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office has taken custody of the bodies.

Con man is accused of posing as federal agent

ND WILLISTON — A convicted con man is jailed in North Dakota's oil patch, awaiting trial on federal charges of impersonating an officer and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon.

Court documents show Steven Goldmann tried to pass himself off as an FBI agent in Williston to score free coffee and a government rate at a budget hotel. He was initially arrested for failing to pay back victims he swindled out of thousands of dollars in Nashville, Tenn.

Goldmann's court-appointed attorney said the 26-year-old is suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder as a result of military service in Iraq.

Workers at the Boomtown Babes Espresso shop said they suspected Goldmann was a scam artist after he took advantage of the policy to give free coffee to law enforcement.

1st woman appears in annual FDNY calendar

NY NEW YORK — The Fire Department of New York's famous calendar has a new look. For the first time, a female firefighter appears in the charity calendar of hard bodies.

Danae Mines, of Engine Co. 6 in the South Bronx, is Miss March. She signed calendars in Times Square on Tuesday. The 11-year veteran booked the part after attending an open call for firefighters last year. She said she was discouraged from trying out at first because of her gender. Mines is one of only 41 female firefighters in the department.

The Calendar of Heroes celebrates the 150th anniversary of the fire department and features pictures of attractive firefighters for every month of the year. It went on sale Tuesday for \$15.95. Proceeds go to the FDNY Foundation, which promotes fire safety education.

From wire reports

FAITH

From the cockpit to pulpit

Fighter pilot takes on a mission as pastor

By LESLIE BRIDGERS
Portland (Maine) Press Herald

LSOUTH PORTLAND, Maine — Col. Eric Samuelson never struggled to reconcile his roles as fighter pilot and church pastor, even in combat in Iraq, where he had a hand in destroying enemy vehicles.

It didn't hurt that, as far as he knows, there was no one inside.

"I don't think I've ever had to cross that bridge," Samuelson, pastor of The Rock Church in Scarborough, said about harming another human.

Now he knows he'll never have to.

Samuelson, 46, took the last flight of his 24-year military career on July 10.

As is tradition, his final training mission was turned into a ceremony of sorts. Flanked by two other F-15 fighter jets, Samuelson led the formation from Barnes Air National Guard Base in Westfield, Mass., to northern Maine for low-altitude training. After buzzing Portland, they headed for the jetport, where more than 100 members of his church were waiting in a parking lot by the runway off Westbrook Street.

"We're all a little excited for our pastor," said Melanie Malia, of Yarmouth.

She and others held signs for when he flew by. "From Cockpit to Pulpit Go Eric!" one said. "There Goes My Pastor!" read another.

Members of the church said they're proud of Samuelson's military service. They believe it gives him a broader perspective that lends itself to the practical brand of faith he brings to the congregation, which they described as their family.

Plus, Susan Davis said, "It just adds a cool factor."

Samuelson knew he wanted to be a pilot long before he decided to become a pastor. As a child in Syracuse, N.Y., he'd look up every time a plane passed overhead and pictured himself as the one flying it one day.

Shift in priorities

Since then, his priorities have shifted. It was during his 10 years as an active-duty Air Force member that Samuelson got involved with a church community in North Carolina and was inspired to become a pastor.

He had already studied theology and done Bible training at undergraduate Gordon College, a Christian school in Massachusetts. All he needed was to complete an apprenticeship to be ordained.

The position was easy enough to find. Samuelson's brother-in-law, Kirk Winters, had recently started The Rock Church in Scarborough and, with a growing congregation, needed help.

After three years working together,



PHOTOS BY SHAWN PATRICK OUELLETTE, PORTLAND (MAINE) PRESS HERALD/MCT

Above: Members of the Rock Church in Scarborough, Maine, cheer and look on as Lt. Col. Eric Samuelson, 46, made a final flight in the high-performance F-15, buzzing the Portland Jetport on July 10. Below: Samuelson flies his F-15 in formation with two others at the jetport.



Winters left for Bangor to start another nondenominational Christian church and left the southern Maine congregation to Samuelson.

When Samuelson moved to Maine, the church had about 100 members, he said. On a recent Sunday, some 700 people attended its four services.

"As the church grows like that, I just want to be more involved," said Samuelson, who was taken away several days a month to maintain his status in the Air National Guard.

There's also his desire to spend more time with his wife, Kim, and their four children, ages 8 to 15, who live in Gorham.

"I think the biggest thing is the strain that it puts both on my family and the shared responsibility to church and country," he said about his reason for retiring from the military.

Although the time commitments needed

for his two jobs conflict, he said, their purposes aren't at odds.

"My primary mission is to protect and defend," Samuelson said of his role as a fighter pilot. "There's nothing in the Christian culture and Scriptures that wouldn't protect the innocent and preserve peace."

Even, he said, if that required him to kill.

'A different air'

There are things, however, that separate him from most of his fellow fighter pilots. For one, he doesn't drink, though he's stood at the bar with his friends for hours, he said. But he sees how their demeanor changes when he walks in a room.

"There's a different air, a different attitude," he said.

What they all share is the rush of flying 600 miles an hour, 40,000 feet in the air,

as well as the call to serve their country, which Samuelson said was the same as the reason he came to serve his church.

"To do something meaningful for others," he said.

Judging by the crowd at the jetport, he's had an impact.

Hundreds of eyes searched the sky after the first onlooker spotted the jets just after 3 p.m. on July 10, when they appeared like little black dots above Maine Medical Center.

While the children pressed up against the chain-link fence, other church members stood on cars with iPhones and tablets. Scott Grant, who was an airplane enthusiast before he began attending the church, brought a ladder and a telephoto lens.

As the planes got closer, the crowd got louder with shouts of "They're coming!" and "Here we go!"

Just seconds after the jets were barely visible, they zoomed right in front of the hollering onlookers, who threw their arms in the air.

After circling overhead, the thunderous fighters flew by twice more, approaching the runway in single file. Samuelson, who was last in line, tilted his wings, as if he was waving back, before shooting into the sky, looping in the air and heading back to the base.

As others started to pack up, Patrice Silva kept watching, her hand over her mouth.

"It's exciting and sad at the same time," she said. "That's his farewell."

Samuelson, however, seemed to be taking it in stride.

"Everyone has to have a last mission," he said.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Hybrid-buoyed Toyota trying fuel cells

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Rocket science long dismissed as too impractical and expensive for everyday cars is getting a push into the mainstream by Toyota, the world's top-selling automaker.

Buoyed by its success with electric-gasoline hybrid vehicles, Toyota is betting that drivers will embrace hydrogen fuel cells, an even cleaner technology that runs on the energy created by a

photochemical reaction when oxygen in the air combines with hydrogen stored as fuel.

Unlike internal combustion engines that power most vehicles on roads today, a pure hydrogen fuel cell emits no exhaust, only some heat and a trickle of pure water. Fuel cells also boast greater efficiency than the internal combustion process, which expends about two-thirds of the energy in gasoline as heat.

Toyota's fuel cell car will go on

sale before April next year. Despite advantages that are seemingly compelling, the technology has struggled to move beyond its prototypes after several decades of research and development by industry and backing from governments.

For the auto industry in particular, there have been significant hurdles to commercialization including the prohibitive expense of such vehicles. On top of that, fueling stations are almost nonexistent

before April next year. Despite advantages that are seemingly compelling, the technology has struggled to move beyond its prototypes after several decades of research and development by industry and backing from governments.

But Satoshi Ogiso, the engineer leading the Toyota project, is confident there's a market that will grow in significance over time. "Hydrogen marks an even bigger step than a hybrid," Ogiso said. "It is our proposal for a totally new kind of car. If you want to experience this new world, if you want to go green, this is it."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (July 18)	\$1.3885
Dollar buys (July 18)	€0.7202
British pound (July 18)	\$1.175
Japanese yen (July 18)	99.00
South Korean won (July 18)	1,004.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.7102/0.5847
Canada (dollar)	1.0746
China (Yuan)	6.2038
Denmark (Krone)	5.1388
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3527/0.7393
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7510
Hungary (Forint)	229.31
Israel (Shekel)	3.4123
Japan (Yen)	101.57
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2824
Norway (Krone)	6.1912
Philippines (Peso)	43.53
Poland (Zloty)	3.06
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2416
South Korea (Won)	1,028.03
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8981
Thailand (Bath)	32.16
Turkey (New Lira)	1,1224

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

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.938	\$4.114	\$4.281	\$4.197
Change in price	-4.3 cents	-3.8 cents	-3.7 cents	-1.9 cents
Netherlands	--	\$5.034	\$5.324	\$5.078
Change in price	--	-7.6 cents	-8.1 cents	-3.5 cents
U.K.	--	\$4.115	\$4.251	\$4.155
Change in price	--	-9.2 cents	-3.7 cents	-1.9 cents
Azores	--	--	\$4.227	--
Change in price	--	--	-3.7 cents	--
Turkey	--	--	\$4.188	\$4.343
Change in price	--	--	no change	no change
Turkey	--	--	\$4.635	\$5.042
Change in price	--	--	-4.7 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.088	--	--	--
Change in price	no change	--	--	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	\$3.799	--	--	\$3.879
Change in price	--	-4.0 cents	--	-2.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.799	--	--	\$3.879
Change in price	+1.0 cents	--	--	-2.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.759	--	--	\$4.019
Change in price	-5.0 cents	--	-3.0 cents	-2.0 cents
Guam	\$3.749**	\$3.929	\$4.089	--
Change in price	-4.0 cents	-4.0 cents	-4.0 cents	--

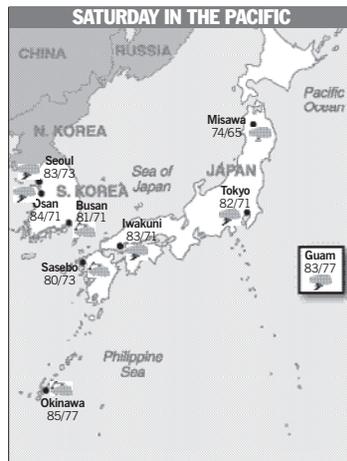
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For the week of July 18-25

MARKET WATCH

July 16, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	77.52
	17,138.20
Nasdaq composite	9.58
	4,425.97
Standard & Poor's 500	8.29
	1,981.57
Russell 2000	-2.26
	1,151.55

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	83	60	PCldy	Fort Wayne	76	51	PCldy	Louisville	81	59	Clrd	Pocatello	92	57	Clrd	Sioux City	78	53	PCldy
Ablene, Tex	85	72	Rain	Cheyenne	76	49	PCldy	Fresno	95	69	Clrd	Lubbock	77	69	Clrd	Portland, Maine	78	60	PCldy	Sioux Falls	78	55	Clrd
Akron, Ohio	74	49	Clrd	Chicago	78	56	PCldy	Goodland	75	55	Clrd	Macon	90	63	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	80	59	PCldy	South Bend	75	50	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	78	56	PCldy	Cincinnati	77	54	PCldy	Grand Junction	82	63	PCldy	Madison	77	51	PCldy	Providence	82	65	PCldy	Spokane	93	65	Clrd
Albuquerque	90	66	Clrd	Cleveland	73	54	Clrd	Grand Rapids	75	52	PCldy	Medford	97	66	Clrd	Pueblo	79	58	PCldy	Springfield, Ill.	77	54	PCldy
Allentown, Pa.	81	57	Clrd	Colorado Springs	74	52	PCldy	Great Falls	92	59	PCldy	Memphis	83	63	Clrd	Raleigh-Durham	86	63	PCldy	Springfield, Mo.	72	58	Clrd
Amarillo	74	60	Clrd	Columbia, S.C.	90	65	Clrd	Green Bay	76	51	Clrd	Miami Beach	90	76	Rain	Reno	96	70	Clrd	Tallahassee	92	70	Clrd
Anchorage	64	53	Clrd	Columbus, Ga.	89	64	Clrd	Greensboro, N.C.	85	60	PCldy	Midland-Odessa	95	73	PCldy	Reno	96	70	Clrd	Tampa	87	79	Clrd
Asheville	79	55	PCldy	Columbus, Ohio	76	54	PCldy	Harrisburg	80	58	PCldy	Milwaukee	74	54	PCldy	Richmond	88	63	PCldy	Tampa	87	79	Clrd
Atlanta	86	60	Clrd	Concord, N.H.	80	56	PCldy	Hartford	87	63	PCldy	Minneapolis	78	58	Clrd	Rochester	84	56	PCldy	Toledo	75	52	PCldy
Atlantic City	86	61	Clrd	Corpus Christi	94	78	PCldy	Helena	92	63	PCldy	Missoula	95	58	Clrd	Rochester	74	53	PCldy	Topeka	76	59	Clrd
Austin	75	55	Clrd	Dallas-Ft. Worth	86	64	Rain	Honolulu	89	76	Clrd	Mobile	89	76	Clrd	Rockford	78	53	PCldy	Wichita	82	63	PCldy
Baltimore	84	62	PCldy	Dayton	75	53	PCldy	Houston	93	76	Clrd	Montgomery	88	61	Clrd	Sacramento	85	62	PCldy	Wichita	82	63	PCldy
Baton Rouge	92	65	PCldy	Daytona Beach	93	76	Rain	Indianapolis	87	58	PCldy	Nashville	83	60	PCldy	St. Louis	77	59	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	85	62	PCldy
Biloxi	89	58	PCldy	Denver	78	53	PCldy	Indianapolis	91	69	PCldy	New Orleans	80	70	PCldy	St. Petersburg	88	82	Clrd	Yonkers	73	55	Clrd
Birmingham	84	61	PCldy	Des Moines	78	56	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	90	61	Clrd	New York City	82	65	Clrd	St. Thomas	89	79	PCldy	Washington	86	64	PCldy
Bismarck	88	54	Clrd	Detroit	76	56	Clrd	Jacksonville	91	69	PCldy	Newark	86	66	Clrd	Salem, Ore.	85	57	PCldy	Wash. Post Beach	90	77	PCldy
Boise	89	63	Clrd	Duluth	75	52	Clrd	Janeau	62	50	Clrd	Norfolk, Va.	86	69	PCldy	Salt Lake City	92	65	PCldy	Wichita	73	62	PCldy
Boston	81	66	PCldy	El Paso	98	76	Clrd	Kansas City	76	57	Clrd	North Platte	76	54	PCldy	San Angelo	93	74	PCldy	Wichita Falls	76	69	Rain
Bridgport	84	63	PCldy	Elkins	75	48	PCldy	Key West	91	82	PCldy	Oklahoma City	70	65	Rain	San Antonio	95	77	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	76	56	PCldy
Brownsville	95	80	PCldy	Erie	70	54	Clrd	Knoxville	82	58	PCldy	Omaha	78	55	PCldy	San Diego	93	67	PCldy	Wilmington, Del.	85	62	PCldy
Buffalo	73	54	PCldy	Eugene	86	54	PCldy	Lake Charles	86	74	Clrd	Orlando	93	75	Rain	San Francisco	72	59	PCldy	Yakima	96	66	Clrd
Burlington, Vt.	76	57	PCldy	Evansville	78	55	PCldy	Lansing	74	49	PCldy	Paducah	79	57	PCldy	San Jose	77	59	PCldy	Youngstown	73	46	Clrd
Caribou, Maine	76	60	PCldy	Fairbanks	69	54	Clrd	Las Vegas	105	83	Clrd	Pendleton	97	66	Clrd	Santa Fe	86	57	Clrd	Yonkers	73	46	Clrd
Casper, Wyo.	89	49	Clrd	Fargo	75	48	PCldy	Lexington	80	57	Clrd	Peoria	77	65	PCldy	St. Marie	71	45	Clrd				
Charleston, S.C.	90	70	PCldy	Flagstaff	82	56	PCldy	Lincoln	79	56	PCldy	Philadelphia	84	65	Clrd	Savannah	91	70	PCldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	82	54	PCldy	Flint	74	50	Clrd	Little Rock	79	64	Rain	Phoenix	108	85	Clrd	Seattle	78	58	PCldy				
Charlotte, N.C.	86	61	PCldy	Fort Smith	67	65	Rain	Los Angeles	77	65	PCldy	Pittsburgh	74	49	PCldy	Shreveport	88	70	PCldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Tue., 118, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Tue., 36, Hettner, N.D. and Hill
Rain: City, S.D.

WEEKEND

HOT tunes

26 songs to keep
summer rolling along

Page 24

ILLUSTRATION BY
BRADENTON HERALD/VCT

Fabulous fruit flavors

Drinks pair nicely
with orange
marmalade at
Italian winery

After Hours, Page 29



Turkish delights

Restaurant's
exotic fare
a special treat
in Seoul

After Hours, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

'Deleted' photos not as gone as you think

By Andrew Smith
Special To The Washington Post

If you're selling an old Android smartphone on an online auction site, you could be giving away rather more than you intend to, according to a recent investigation by anti-malware company Avast.

Going through phones that had supposedly been "factory reset," the company's researchers were able to view photos taken by the phone's original owners. In addition to the usual harmless photos of the family cat were naked selfies that the original owners would never have wanted anyone to see.

What's more, the researchers were able to do this simply by using a range of free smartphone forensic tools that are easy to use by technical enthusiasts as well as professional forensics experts.

How it works

Electronic data, stored either on a solid state drive or a traditional hard disk, persist even when we think we have wiped the storage device. Many readers will naturally assume that when you delete a file, it has been removed from your phone or computer.

The way it actually works is that the link (or reference) to the file is deleted, but the original file is still there — so that inappropriate stuff is still in your phone's storage even if you can no longer see it in the photo browser. What's worse is that, unless the file is fully overwritten, you may find that the dodgy pictures remain for some considerable time.

The issue spotted by Avast is that the "factory settings" feature of some older Android phones does not overwrite every bit of data; instead, it simply removes the file references.

Which phones are affected?

Based on their research, it is only Android devices that are affected. iPhones encrypt their storage, which adds a layer of strong



DETROIT FREE PRESS/MCT

Think you've deleted those naked selfies from your phone? If your phone is an Android, think again.

security. So even if you could see that the data existed, you couldn't see what it was as you won't have access to the original security keys.

It would seem that Windows and BlackBerry phones are not affected either. Researchers might yet discover issues, but as it stands there are no concerns.

How to protect your data

The best advice I can give if you intend to sell your Android phone is to first consider carefully how you may have used the device. If there are — or were — any pictures or data on the phone that you do not want to fall into the hands of others, then keep the phone, and do not sell or give it away.

There are also ways that you can encrypt your Android, and this is a technique worth considering.

But the only truly secure way to destroy the data is to smash the phone into little pieces, then throw it into a fire.

Personally, I prefer to store only impersonal and chaste data on my phone. Best not to take pictures of your cat unless you really want others to see your kitty.

GADGET WATCH

Thin antenna light years ahead of rabbit ears

By Gregg Ellman
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The RCA ultra-thin indoor antenna receives local HD and digital TV broadcasts but looks nothing like those old intrusive rabbit-ear antennas my dad had on the family TV decades ago.

Instead, it's an 11-by-13-inch flat antenna that you mount on a window within 12 feet of the TV — only because the cable attached is 12 feet long.

It mounts with double-sided tape, or you can be creative and use Velcro if you want it removed at times. One side is black, the other white for a choice of the color facing the room.

Digital TV can be received in resolutions up to 1080; lower signals are enhanced to better quality since the antenna amplifies weak signals.

The setup was simple; connect the other end of the 12-foot cable, which has a coaxial connection, to your TV.

A USB port needs to be connected to a power source. This can be into an outlet or even into your TV if it has one.

I tried this on an older TV that sits collecting dust in my guest room. Also, I might add, guests haven't been able to watch TV in that room for more than 10 years.

You'll have to do a channel search and read the dreaded instructions to tweak the antenna settings, but it was pretty easy, just not as simple as plug-and-play. I did end up putting it up higher on the window for better reception.

My future house guests can rest easy, knowing that bedtime TV does exist once again.

Online: rcaaudiovideo.com, \$69.99

The SyrenPro wireless (Bluetooth) speaker from iLuv got my attention at the Consumer Electronic Show in Las Vegas earlier this year,

The SyrenPro creates a powerful stereo sound system.

iLuvMCT

though testing an audio device on a trade-show floor is never a true test of the item's quality.

However, once I got it home, the speaker delivered. From my family room to poolside, the speaker cranked out music with superior audio at any volume.

The SyrenPro provided lower levels of sound indoors with great clarity.

Outdoors, I cranked up the 360-degree sound and it held its own in clarity and great amounts of bass. iLuv's J4Aura sound technology claims to produce a balance of low-, middle- and high-range frequencies, and I found this to be true. The product also is equipped with TrueWireless Stereo.

An internal rechargeable battery will last for up to four hours of playtime in each speaker.

The body is weather- and UV-resistant, which makes it great for outdoors, but that doesn't mean it's waterproof. It can probably handle a quick light sprinkle, but get it indoors before the downpour.

Online: iLuv.com; \$129.99

The BookArc from Twelve South is for select Apple laptops to be used on your desktop in a space-saving manner.

While many laptop owners love the portability aspect, there's nothing like having a bigger monitor for home use, and this hardware allows you to have both.

The directions are simple; park your laptop in the stand, run the cables you need through the bottom cable management system, and your laptop becomes a desktop computer. And since the laptop is in a vertical position, look at all the desktop space saved.

The cable management system has hooks to hold the cables when the laptop is unplugged, preventing them from falling behind your desk.

No need to transfer files since you're actually still working off the same computer.

According to Twelve South, the BookArc is designed exclusively for the MacBook Pro (unibody) and MacBook Pro with Retina display.

Online: TwelveSouth.com; \$49.99 for the BookArc. You're on your own for the larger desktop monitor and external keyboard.



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for July 16:

- "Everything I Didn't Say," 5 Seconds of Summer
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Problem (feat. Iggy Azalea)," Ariana Grande
- "Dirt," Florida Georgia Line
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Boom Clap," Charli XCX
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Love Runs Out," OneRepublic

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

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

- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
- "Problem (feat. Iggy Azalea)," Ariana Grande
- "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
- "Latah," Disclosure
- "Summer," Calvin Harris
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Wiggle (feat. Snoo Dogg)," Jason Derulo
- "Classic," MKTO
- "Break Free," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for July 16:

- "Snowpiercer"
- "The Other Woman"
- "Rio 2"
- "Noah"
- "Rise of the Planet of the Apes"
- "Bad Words"
- "The Wolf of Wall Street"
- "The LEGO Movie"
- "Under the Skin"
- "The Grand Budapest Hotel"



— Compiled by MCT

ITUNES MOVIES VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the Top 10 Xbox 360 games for July:

- "Wolfenstein: The New Order," Bethesda
- "Super Time Force," Capybara Games
- "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
- "Child of Light," Ubisoft
- "2014 FIFA World Cup Brazil," EA Sports
- "Another World," Digital Lounge
- "Bound by Flame," Focus Home Interactive
- "GRID Autosport," Codemasters
- "Wolf Among Us: Episode 5 - Cry Wolf," Telltale Games
- "Valiant Hearts: The Great War," Ubisoft

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for July 16:

- ANDROID
- Leo's Fortune
 - Topia World Builder
 - Blek
 - Wayward Souls
 - Real Drift Car Racing
- Top 5 paid apps for July 16:
- APPLE
- Minecraft - Pocket Edition
 - Heads Up!
 - Monument Valley
 - Blek
 - Afterlight

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

'Weird Al' back, better than ever

"Weird Al" Yankovic, king of parody songs, has added some instant classics to his body of work with the new album "Mandatory Fun." He's also releasing videos to accompany eight of his songs, set to present-day hits such as "Happy," "Blurred Lines," "Royals" and "Radioactive."

The three videos released thus far are an absolute scream. "Tacky" is Weird Al's homage to/parody of Pharrell Williams' omnipresent hit, complete with twerking by Jack Black. Look for Pharrell's hat hanging on a hatrack in the background. "Foil," playing off of Lorde's "Royals," is possibly even better. "Word Crimes," which redeems Robin Thicke's naughty-playful "Blurred Lines," is the best of all.

- **Album review on Page 25.**
- **Order a copy of "Mandatory Fun" and watch the videos at weirdal.com.**



Courtesy of RCA Records

"Weird Al" Yankovic is releasing a new album called "Mandatory Fun," and eight videos as well. Find them at weirdal.com.

2

Get sucked in by del Toro's 'The Strain'

Actor Corey Stoll stars in "The Strain," a creepy new TV show about a viral outbreak that threatens humanity (vampire alert!). Director Guillermo del Toro of "Hellboy" fame cowrote the novels the show is based on, so there's no telling what creepy twists and turns might be ahead. It's clear from the first few episodes, however, that if you're squeamish, you should give this one a pass.

- **Profile on Page 39; "The Strain" airs Mondays on AFN-Spectrum.**



Stoll

3

Another 'Purge'

It's been a year since the last "Purge," so ... here we go again. This time, in "The Purge: Anarchy," there's more chaos, and less of actor Ethan Hawke. Let that be your guide as to whether the sequel is better or worse than the original.

- **Movie review of "The Purge: Anarchy" on Page 37.**



4

Everything's better with Batman

Batman often tops "best superhero ever" lists, but his greatness doesn't stop there. A new Tumblr blog inserts the broody Gotham billionaire into other great shows to make them EVEN GREATER.



In some of the best shots, E.T. rides in a basket on the front of the Batmobile; Batman's ears protrude from the water, shark fin-style, as in "Jaws"; Batman presents baby Simba in "The Lion King"; and Batman chills with the ladies of "Orange Is the New Black."

- **See it at tinyurl.com/withbatman**

WEEKEND: MUSIC

By DAN DeLUCA
The Philadelphia Inquirer

It's that hot and sticky time of year when everybody absolutely must know what the song of the summer is. It could be "Happy," the Pharrell Williams mega-hit that actually came out on the "Despicable Me 2" soundtrack in June of last year but just spent 10 straight weeks atop the Hot 100.

More likely, it's "Problem," the hard-to-get-out-of-your-head hip-pop collaboration between former teen star Ariana Grande and Australian rapper Iggy Azalea. Or maybe it's "Fancy," another track with Azalea's name on it that recently topped the Billboard chart.

But we come not to crown one defining song, but to serve up a multi-genre playlist of bright and sunny (and occasionally dark and gloomy) summer songs in which the musical moods of the season are encapsulated.

They can also be streamed. The entire 26-song list is up on Spotify, and can be accessed through my "In the Mix" blog at inquirer.com/inthemic.

1. "Love Never Felt So Good," Michael Jackson. The King of Pop is dead, but has new music on the radio. "Xscape," his "contemporized" posthumous album, is my all-time exercise in pointless necrophilia, but this duet with Justin Timberlake (co-written by Paul Anka) is a dreamy summer jam.

2. "Come Get It Bae," Pharrell Williams. "Happy" didn't need to be on this list. You can turn on the radio and hear "Happy" three times an hour. This similarly elastic slice of pop-funk gives Pharrell yet another hit.



"West Coast" is the lead single off of Lana Del Rey's latest album, "Ultraviolence."
Shore Fire Media

3. "Water Fountain," Tune-Yards. Delightfully polyrhythmic pogo-pop from indie heroine Merrill Garbus.

4. "Do It Again," Royskopp & Robyn. Smart Scandinavian dance-music team of a pair of Norwegian beatmakers and a Swedish singer, out now with a five-song EP.

5. "I Will Never Let You Down," Rita Ora. Written by then-boyfriend Calvin Harris, this is the great pop song that should turn British singer Ora into a star in the United States. It promises too-good-to-be-true happy times ahead.

6. "Summer," Calvin Harris. The Scottish EDM star gets the last word in, of course, on this driving dance track that turns out to be a bummer with a rubbery beat. In his telling, naturally, it was her fault, not his.

7. "Seasons (Waiting On You)," Future Islands. Nobody works up a sweat like Future Islands singer Samuel T. Herring, but this Baltimore synth-pop band, enjoying a breakout year, always keep the music shiny and cool.

8. "Everything Nice," Popcaan. Decidedly dubby, laid-back track from this Jamaican dance-hall artist, born Andre Sutherland.

9. "West Coast," Lana Del Rey. Cinematic noir vibes from chart-topping "Summer Sadness" singer and Kimye wedding serenader. Sinister.

10. "Your Love Will Blow Me Away When My Heart Aches," Son Little. Haunting soul cry from Philly's Aaron Livingston, collaborator with the Roots and RJD2.

11. "Let Me Find Out," Sth Ward Webbie. Infectiously energetic quintessential



Ariana Grande, right, sings about a sour relationship, with Aussie rapper Iggy Azalea, on "Problem." Azalea is also enjoying the success of "Fancy," a sassy ode to the good life.

New Orleans bounce track from the amusing and profane Webbie. Whatever you're doing, don't let Webbie find out!

12. "Problem," Ariana Grande, featuring Iggy Azalea. Nickelodeon star makes a most effective grown-up pop move by teaming with divisive Australian female rapper. Might be the most undeniable summer hit of the season... unless it's...

13. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea, featuring Charli XCX. The time-honored cultural appropriation debate in 2014 is embodied by Azalea, who hails from Down Under and raps in irony-free exaggerated patois as if she grew up in South Central Los Angeles. She has only one weapon with which to defend herself from charges of minstrelsy: Hits.

14. "Don't Stop," 5 Seconds of Summer. "She Looks So Perfect" is the current smash, but that song's line about "American Apparel underwear" is too creepy (in the wake of the Dov Charney sexual-predator news) to land in this mix. This ditty from these Aussie pop punk lads will have to do.

15. "I Don't Know You Anymore," Bob Mould. Post-punk legend and former Hüsker Dü leader Mould is at the top of his game on this Wall of Sound rager from the fab new CD "Beauty & Ruin."

16. "Goshen 97," Strand of Oaks. Philadelphia songwriter Timothy Showalter lays his heart on the line on this recollection of making teenage rock 'n' roll in the basement, with an assist from J Mascis of Dinosaur Jr.

17. "Black and White," Parquet Courts. Dark thoughts accompanied by driving, uplifting punkish rock. "Is the solitude I seek a trap where I've been blindly led?" Andrew Savage wonders. From the (relatively) summery "Sunbathing Animal."

18. "Dust, Juice, Bones and Hair," Martha. Springy DIY indie rock from the suburbs of northern England, with all four male and female members, none named Martha, trading vocals. From the charming debut CD "Courting Strong."

19. "Kong," the Notwist. German glitch-pop experts return with their first album since 2008, and are more pleasingly poppy on this track than ever before.

20. "North Sea Girls," Wussy. Gorgeously seaside rumination by Lisa Walker of underdog Ohio band Wussy, from the new CD "Attica." Guitars shimmer while swimmers take off their coats and boldly dive in, "like it's summertime."

21. "Safe With Me," Sam Smith. Elegant longing from the 22-year-old Brit who is the breakout voice of the season.

22. "Love Me Like I'm Not Made of Stone," Lykke Li. Heartbreaker worthy of its "Love Hurts" lineage from this Swedish songstress' fine new CD "I Never Learn."

23. "Smokin' and Drinkin'," Miranda Lambert, featuring Little Big Town. Summertime reverie too tough-minded for easy nostalgia, as is typical of Lambert's terrifically awful album "Platinum," which



"I Will Never Let You Down" is a feel-good love song by British singer Rita Ora.
Invision/AP

stands head and shoulders above bro-country practitioners currently riding high in their pickup trucks.

24. "Hard to Be an Outlaw," Willie Nelson. Speaking of bros, Shotgun Willie takes a shot at faux hillbillies on this track penned by Billy Joe Shaver. From the 81-year-old Nelson's impressive "Band of Brothers."

25. "U Get Me High," Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers. Petty is back in a swoony groove on this encouraging track from "Hypnotic Eye," due this month.

26. "An Ocean in Between the Waves," the War On Drugs. Before you jump in the water, you have to get to the beach. There's no better driving music to be heard in 2014 than "Lost in the Dream," the transfixing fourth album by Philly's own the War On Drugs. So let's ride it out on the wave of these superb seven minutes, shall we?

26 SONGS OF SUMMER

Find your anthem of the season among these hot picks



Miley Cyrus joins Pharrell Williams on "Come Get It Bae."
Los Angeles Times

WEEKEND: MUSIC

(Down to a)

WEIRD SCIENCE

Yankovic's mastery of parody all over his latest album

The success of any great piece of art is determined by a few key factors. Does it accomplish what it sets out to achieve? Does it illuminate some essential aspect of the human condition? Does it change those who are exposed to it — rewire the circuitry, add new ideas that disturb the status quo? Does it build on the art of others, in the process crafting something profoundly new? Most important, does it advocate for the enduring relevance of tinfoil?

Under these guidelines, “Weird Al” Yankovic’s new “Mandatory Fun” is a stone cold masterpiece. Its goal remains the same since Yankovic changed the game with “My Bologna” and “Eat It”: parodying hit songs to create gut-busting laughter. Thirty years later, the Weird One hits every note.

Is it illuminating? Certainly. You will learn, for example, that beneath Robin Thicke’s “Blurred Lines” is a way better message about a more important topic than dubiously intended swagger: good grammar. Harnessing the song’s undeniably funky music and melody, Yankovic turns it into “Word Crimes,” a song directed at online commenters and their unspeakable bastardizations of the English



'Weird Al' Yankovic
Mandatory Fun (RCA Records)

language. Yankovic implores his fans to educate themselves: “You learn the definition of nouns and prepositions/Literacy’s your mission/And that’s why I think it’s a good time/To learn some grammar/Did I stammer?/Work on that grammar.”

He transforms Imagine Dragons’ “Radioactive” into “Inactive,” a celebration of couch potato culture featuring tubestep warble and the chorus, “I’m really inactive/I’m highly inactive!” Yankovic’s at his best on his ode to handymen, “Handy,” rapped to the tune of Iggy Azalea’s “Fancy,” where all the bragging is about carpentry skills rather than Aussie bling.

On “Foil,” Yankovic channels young New Zealand singer Lorde’s “Royals” in service of a love letter to aluminum. Opening with the singer in full Lorde mode, he explains, “I never seem to finish all my food/I always get a doggy bag from the waiter/So I just keep what’s still unchewed/And I take it home, save it for later.” The solution, sung to the tune of the chorus: “Aluminum foil/Never settle for less/That kind of wrap is just the best.” No argument here.

—Randall Roberts
Los Angeles Times

A LOOK BACK AT SOME OF HIS GREATEST VIDEO HITS

‘I Lost on “Jeopardy!”’ (1984)

PARODY OF: The Greg Kihn Band’s “Jeopardy”

THE VIDEO: Poor “Weird Al” bombs in every category, from Poptourn to Famous Accordion Players, in this hilarious spoof of the pre-Alex Trebek “Jeopardy!” Adding to the fun are original host Art Fleming, who doesn’t hide his disdain for Al, and announcer Don Pardo, who relishes telling Al that he won’t be receiving a case of Turtle Wax.

MEMORABLE LINE: “I was there to match my intellect on national TV. Against a plumber, oh, and an architect, both with a Ph.D.”

‘Eat It’ (1984)

PARODY OF: Michael Jackson’s “Beat It”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” got every detail right — including his dorky dancing — playing a super-tussy eater in this tasty re-creation of the King of Pop’s “Beat It” video.

MEMORABLE LINE: “Have some more yogurt, have some more spum. It doesn’t matter if it’s fresh or it’s canned.”

‘Like a Surgeon’ (1985)

PARODY OF: Madonna’s “Like a Virgin”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” as an inept surgeon had everyone in stitches, especially when he copied Madonna’s writhing from her “Like a Virgin” video. Of course, Madonna wasn’t wearing scrubs and posing on a gurney.

MEMORABLE LINE: “It’s a fact, I’m a quack.”

‘Smells Like Nirvana’ (1992)

PARODY OF: Nirvana’s “Smells Like Teen Spirit”

THE VIDEO: Grunge and Kurt Cobain’s unintelligible screaming got spoofed in this video that featured a cow, a sheep, a janitor in a tutu and Dick Van Patten at a teen rally. Talk about nirvana!

MEMORABLE LINE: “Here we are now, we’re Nirvana. Sing distinctly? We don’t wanna.”

‘Perform This Way’ (2011)

PARODY OF: Lady Gaga’s “Born This Way”

THE VIDEO: “Weird Al” came out of his shell, just as Gaga did at the 2011 Grammys, only he didn’t end up with egg on his face. Gaga should have been taking notes on Al’s costumes, which ranged from a beehive to a jelly bean.

MEMORABLE LINE: “Got my straitjacket today, it’s made of gold lamé.”

—Daniel Bubbeo, Newsday

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Unanimously pleasing

'EA Sports UFC' a respectable first round for EA



"EA Sports UFC" features nearly 100 of the top mixed martial artists in the world, including Rashad Evans. EA Sports

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

After the closure of publisher THQ, it's been a few years since gamers have been able to set foot in the virtual octagon of the most famous mixed martial arts brand. The ability to grapple with a video game controller is back, this time from an entirely new game publisher for the latest generation of consoles.

"EA Sports UFC" marks the first UFC game from Electronic Arts, which has long dominated the sports genre with series like "Madden NFL," "FIFA" and "Tiger Woods PGA Tour," though it's not their first job at a MMA game. They released the awkward "EA Sports MMA" in 2010.

This time, EA has both the cachet of the UFC and the power of next-generation consoles on its side.

The mostly robust roster of almost 100 fighters in "EA Sports UFC" features such vets as Anderson Silva and female fighters like Ronda Rousey. Bruce Lee is included as an unlockable player. The artists at developer EA Canada have meticulously re-created the scrappers — right down to their tattoos, body hair and cauliflower ears.

A similar level of detail is also available in the game's career mode, where players can create custom fighters from scratch, adding such tidbits as nicknames, hometowns and moves before taking them from "The Ultimate Fighter" reality TV competition to a possible six-figure contract and eventually all the way to the UFC Hall of Fame.

With seemingly spontaneous commentary coming from Joe Rogan and Mike Goldberg, and fighters' flesh deteriorating as bouts progress, the audio-visual presentation of "EA Sports



UFC" is fluidly flawless. The game's controls — much like the actual sport of MMA — are equally accurate. They require precision, not floundering. However, "EA Sports UFC" isn't a total knockout.

While it lends itself to the game's realism, there's a steep learning curve for navigating among striking, clinching, wrestling and grappling, which relies on an odd octagon-shaped mini-game where quick flicks of the thumb sticks block submissions. It's unfortunate there wasn't a smarter solution — or smarter virtual opponents.

The artificial intelligence of the challengers is often a cinch to overcome, making the game feel more like a fantasy than a simulation. It only truly feels alive when played against other humans, either in person or online. After coaching a few fighters from rookies to retirees, there's little reason to replay the career mode.

Sure, for MMA devotees, "EA Sports UFC" is a must. Despite some daffy responses from the computer-controlled opponents and a too-nimble career mode, EA Sports has laid a striking foundation for a new sports series, but more casual fighting fans will want to wait for "Super Smash Bros."

Platforms: Xbox One, PS4
Online: easports.com/ufc

'Shovel Knight': A delightful tribute to the side-scrollers of yore

By TIM TURI
Game Informer Magazine

The downloadable market is flush with pixelated throwbacks harkening back to the NES era. So many exist that developers can't get by on 8-bit visuals and chiptunes alone; a game has to be polished and infuse something fresh and exciting into our sorry memories. Yacht Club Games' "Shovel Knight" not only looks and feels like a lost gem from gaming's past, it hybridizes classic gameplay mechanics from Capcom hits while injecting a modern risk/reward system. The polished core is topped off with a familiar yet authentic visual style that drives the whole experience home.

At a glance, "Shovel Knight" looks like someone swapped out "Mega Man's" cartoonish futuristic look with medieval castles and armored warriors. This appraisal isn't too far from the truth, but there's more to it than that. "Shovel Knight" fuses together "DuckTales" pogo-jumping combat and "Mega Man's" screen-scroll-

ing level design. You can slash at enemies with a chargeable shovel, gleefully bounce on enemies' heads with your weapon and explore an overworld map reminiscent of "Super Mario Bros. 3." Conquered levels can also be revisited to score extra cash, and optional side bosses prowling the map like Hammer Bros. Players have a sur-



prising amount of fun things to do beyond beating the eight knight bosses and facing off against the evil Enchantress.

Fattening your wallet by returning to beaten levels and fighting optional bosses is important for upgrading your armored digger. Towns are filled with NPCs ready to upgrade your health, increase your magic (for using side weapons like a fire wand

and limited invulnerability), and shovel/armor enhancements that offer new abilities like digging up treasure piles faster. "Shovel Knight" eschews the traditional lives-based penalty system of the games it's inspired by in favor of something more engaging. Players drop floating bags of cash with every death and have one chance to reclaim them after respawning at the generously placed checkpoints. "Shovel Knight" ups the ante by allowing players to sacrifice checkpoints for extra cash. It's a unique and interesting way to soften the difficulty, though the risk/reward system loses impact near the endgame after you've purchased everything.

Scouring the kingdom for loot is just part of the appeal — the diverse environments and boss knights had me excited for each new level. Green goo drips from the ceiling of a treacherous fire world, turning hot lava into bouncy platforms. Piles of corpses in a graveyard sink if too many enemies cluster on them, forcing you to thin the crowd or die trying. The Finker Knight battle begins with an imbalanced duel against the dimin-

utive boss before the ground gives way and you face off against his huge jousting-tank contraption. "Shovel Knight" is a bright, cheery grab bag of good times.

It looks like a simple, straightforward trip down memory lane, but I was surprised by the subtle, emotional story Yacht Club Games delivered. After some boss fights, "Shovel Knight" rests and dreams of his lost partner, Shield Knight. In his dreams she falls from the sky as he fights waves of enemies in an attempt to catch her. These recurring segments are capped off with a satisfying and memorable payoff that raises the experience to a new level.

Indie throwbacks to video games of the early '80s are a dime a dozen, but Yacht Club Games' "Shovel Knight" rises to the top. The tried-and-true game design principles and elegant checkpoint system make "Shovel Knight" worth a try no matter which era of gaming you prefer.

Platforms: Wii U, 3DS, PC
Online: yachtclubgames.com/shovel-knight

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



JOEL RYAN, INVISION/AP

Standing under umbrellas aboard an open-top bus in London's Trafalgar Square is the cast of the musical show "Let It Be," from left: Luke Roberts as Ringo Starr, James Fox as Paul McCartney, John Brosnan as George Harrison and Paul Canning as John Lennon.

FAB FOUR FUN:

Say 'Yeah, yeah, yeah' to Beatlemania

Following two tours of the United Kingdom and Ireland, the musical show "Let It Be" has returned to London for a limited summer season at Garrick Theatre, 2 Charing Cross Road. Seen by more than 800,000 people, the show features more than 40 of The Beatles' greatest hits, with live performances of early tracks including "Twist and Shout," "She Loves You" and "Drive My Car" as well as global mega-hits "Yesterday," "Hey Jude," "Come Together" and, of course, "Let It Be."

Performance times are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7:30 p.m., Saturday at 3 and 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3:30 and 7 p.m. (Running time is two hours and 20 minutes.) Ticket prices range from 15 pounds (about \$25) to 65 pounds (group rates for 10 or more people are available). Book online at letitbelondon.com/tickets. If you won't be in London this summer, not to worry. The website says the tour will return in 2015 and dates will soon be announced.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Alsatian wedding fest

Looking for a French experience that doesn't involve driving for hours on end? Make your way to Seebach, a community near Wissembourg, just south of the German border and the German Wine Road. Through Sunday, the town will be awash in folk revelry for the celebration of the Streselshochzeit, or Bouquet Wedding, an old-fashioned wedding celebration, Alsatian-style.

The fest, based on diligent research of the costumes and traditions of old, shows how country folk would have celebrated a marriage in the days before World War II.

The fun kicks off Friday at 6 p.m. with music and culinary specialties of the region, including Flammkuchen, known as *arte jambé* by French speakers. A stroll along memory lane takes visitors past *tableaux vivants*, in which re-enactors holding perfectly still re-create scenes of days gone by. Saturday is the Nuit de Lumière, in which the town's half-timbered houses, lanes and trees are festively lit, and a night parade with illuminated floats and torch-bearing marchers pays tribute to the seasons of the year.

On Sunday a wedding parade sets forth at 10:30 a.m., followed by folk dancing. At about 2 p.m., more wedding pairs from neighboring Alsatian villages appear to show off their own towns' traditional best dress.

All this serves as a prelude to the marriage celebrations beginning at 3:30 p.m. and involving another parade stretching for nearly a mile.

Entry on Friday costs 3 euros



Karen Bradbury

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

(about \$4). On Saturday and Sunday, adult admission costs 5 euros (those under age 16 enter free). A ticket for both days costs 8 euros. For the program, see uas.fr/de/mariage-paysan.html (French or German only).

Beer-tasting in Mainz

Cold beer on a hot day is a good thing, throw in some live music and a pretty backdrop such as the Rhine River, and you've got yourself a party.

The Mainzer Bierbörse, opening Friday and running through Sunday, offers much more than the standard paltry choices of pils or wheat beer. About 50 stands will offer a wide selection of beers, ales and other delights, not to mention non-alcoholic drinks and hearty eats, such as meats from the grill. While there's plenty of beer on tap, bottles also will be available for sale.

The festival opens at 3 p.m. and runs until midnight on Friday and Saturday; on Sunday, sampling takes place between noon and 9 p.m.

Fans of the festival take note: It has been relocated from its usual spot just a bit downstream, directly across from the Kurfürstliche Schloss, or the Elector's Palace. See bierboerse.com/city/mainz.htm (in German).

The Bierbörse isn't unique to Mainz; it's a traveling open-air event. Additional German cities playing host include Bonn, July 25-27; Leverkusen, Aug. 8-11; Düsseldorf, Aug. 15-17; Hildesheim, Aug. 22-24; Karlsruhe, Aug. 29-31; and Cologne, Sept. 5-7.

Street theater in Italy

Street entertainers appear in many guises: acrobats, dancers, fire-eaters, magicians, musicians and still-walkers, to name a few. A good place to spot a huge variety of performing artists showcasing their unique talents this weekend is the community of Certaldo, a Tuscan town some 20 miles southwest of Florence.

This year's Mercantia International Street Theater Festival works around the theme of miracles, including the fact that it seldom, if ever, has rained during the festivities, which began in 1988.

Visitors to Mercantia (mercantiacertaldo.it), widely

considered one of Italy's best and most beautiful street festivals, can choose among some 100 shows each evening, from piano performances to avant-garde theater, in more than 20 venues.

Unique, often handcrafted, items will be for sale.

The festival takes place in a medieval village on a hilltop, reachable by a brisk walk uphill or a trip on the funicular. The festival runs from 8 p.m. Friday until 1:30 a.m.; Saturday from 6 p.m. to 1:30 a.m.; and Sunday from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Tickets are available at entry points from 4:30 p.m. Friday and from 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Adult admission costs 15 euros (\$20.50) on Friday and Sunday and 20 euros on Saturday.

Children between ages 7 and 14 get a five-euro discount. Exact crowds.



Mercantia in Certaldo, Italy, is widely considered one of Italy's best and most beautiful street festivals.

Photo courtesy of Mercantia

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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Path to discovery

Italian park with a villa makes for a perfect place to relax

By Jason Duhr
Stars and Stripes

Nestled against the shores of the river Liverna in Italy, a serene 18-acre park containing a villa originally built during the 15th century rests, awaiting the arrival of guests to enjoy it.

With an abundance of sites surrounding Villa Varda, it makes for the perfect place to relax and observe how nature and the villa's owners commingled to form the tranquil site, which has been a part of the town of San Cassiano's history for some time.

A winding path, often occupied by runners and walkers alike, bends to the edges of the tree line leading you through the shaded property — connecting you to a number of fascinating discoveries.

The villa is among the first you'll see. The name of this residence — if you can find the translation — means to observe or guard, while others might say it means to look. With a combination of connecting gardens, which house beds of flowers, looking is exactly what you'll want to do.

Looking only limits you to one sense, though; listen closely and you'll hear the buzzing of bees as the noise occupies the trees above the path throughout the park. The smells of spring and summer invite more than just people to this park.

As you uncover more of this fascinating property, depending on which direction you choose, you'll be led to a greenhouse built in the twentieth century. Interlocked with five arches, the glass-walled structure houses a variety of literature for the public to view. While most of the books are in Italian, the idea of an open library on the edge of a grassy lawn is still appealing. One could easily bring one's own book to enjoy on a nearby knoll.

More than a shuffle but less than a mile away, a towering structure will grab your attention as you continue your adventure. Each structure built on the property represents a different time period and each adds its own touch of wonder.

The tower was built in 1932 and was used as a reservoir to supply water to the gardens. It sits where an underground building used to hold water to be turned to ice during the winter, allowing food to be stored on the property.

Adjacent to the tower sit two murky ponds, and if you look closely enough, you might spot a turtle or possibly a fish or two. Continuing on the path to discovery, as I liked to call it on my first visit, you'll arrive at the



PHOTOS BY JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

A shaded path guides visitors to a set of stairs just below the back of Villa Varda in San Cassiano, Italy.



A tower built in 1932 adds its own sense of wonder at the shady Italian park.

doorstep of a 17th century chapel. Embellished with paintings on the inside, the chapel appears to still be in use. On more than one occasion I've found a candle or two lit.

Across an open field in a mausoleum lie the remains of one of the many owners of Villa Varda and the last heir of his family, Mario Morpugo.

Surviving time and a series of owners, Villa Varda has undergone restorations and continues



Interlocked with five arches, this 20th century, glass-walled greenhouse, located in the park at Villa Varda, houses a variety of literature open to the public to view.



The 17th century chapel is one of many destinations found along the paths at the park of Villa Varda.

to, which is apparent on some of the buildings. The open park offers a look at

history, but also offers a place for a family to enjoy nature's inescapable beauty.



NOVA AM-RAW/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The park and villa are located at Via Villa Varda 7, San Cassiano, Italy. There is an abundance of parking located just before the walking entrance to the park.

TIMES

On occasion the villa opens its doors for special events, which can be found on its website (only in Italian).

COSTS

The park is free to enter, but events might require a fee.

INFORMATION

Website: In Italian only, villavarda.it

— Jason Duhr



Pews and paintings line the interior of the beautiful chapel at Villa Varda.

A picnic nearby, a stroll through the heavily shaded path or an early run for someone with an active lifestyle, Villa Varda is a place to enjoy.

Duhr.Jason@stripes.com

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

Come to Villa Sceriman for the wine, but don't miss the orange marmalade. It contains only sugar, rind and chunks of fruit.

After Hours: Italy

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

In Italy, you're never far from a vineyard or a winery.

Nearly all of the country's regions grow grapes, and Italy is both one of the biggest wine producers and wine consumers in the world. The Veneto region in the northeast is home to some of the best-known wines — Bardolino, Valpolicella, and Soave — and boasts some 600 wineries.

Among them, just a 35-minute drive from Vicenza, in the town of Vo', is Villa Sceriman, an ancient estate bought in 1740 by the Scerimans, a family of wealthy shipowners originally from Armenia.

A 16th-century villa, one of the great Renaissance architect Palladio's minor works, is where the current owners live, now in its second generation of wine production, behind a gate guarded by flower pots and two large dogs. The public is welcomed warmly everywhere else.

Villa Sceriman, which has been producing wine since the 1960s, is both American- and German-friendly, with multi-lingual brochures and a huge parking lot.

The wine cellar, in what was once the stables, is filled with wines typical of the Euganean Hills, and boasts a large, wisteria-covered patio where oenophiles can sample both reds and whites, sparkling or not, by the glass or the bottle.

On a recent visit on a warm, cloudy evening, we ordered a plate of prosciutto, olives and bread for sort of an early supper along with two glasses of white wine. Only a few other parties were about, including three American women who chatted happily as their children played



The family that operates the winery caters to Americans and Germans and our server spoke English as she poured our wine.

nearby, and two couples who enjoyed two bottles.

It was very relaxing, positively serene. I chose the Sauvignon Bianco, a smooth, full-bodied, dry wine with, according to the brochure, a fragrance reminiscent of sweet peppers.

My companion considered ordering the Colli Euganei Bianco, a mellow, dry wine typical, the

brochure said, of the ancient Euganean tradition. It's made by mixing a variety of grapes — Prosecco, Garganèa, Pinot Bianco, Riesling, Tocai, Sauvignon and Pinella — in precise proportions.

But instead, he got the Moscato Secco, with supposedly floral, riper citrus, and honey overtones yet light and fresh, elegant and



On a weekday evening, a patio offered plenty of open picnic tables.

VILLA SCERIMAN

Hours: Closed Sundays. Open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to noon and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Dress: Casual

Cientele: Italians, Germans and Americans

Address: Via dei Colli, 1084, Vo'

Phone: (+39) 049 9940 123

Email: villasceriman@villasceriman.it

— Nancy Montgomery

crisp. It really was all that. And at 2 euros a glass, it seemed insane not to have another.

But I later felt a twinge of regret for not trying another variety, maybe one of the reds, a Merlot or Cabernet Sauvignon. Maybe on the next trip.

It was my second visit to the winery, which has used organic farming methods for the past two decades, and the truth is I was prompted to return by something more associated with breakfast and the British than dinner and the Italians: I went back for the orange marmalade. I'd previously bought a jar; it lasted three weeks tops.

The marmalade, using local oranges, is made in small batches: only about 250 jars a year. Full of chunks of fruit, strips of rind and sugar — and nothing else — sweet but with a hint of bitterness, it tastes like oranges, times 10. Now if I could only find a decent croissant.

Add Nutella for pie bliss made easy

By LINDA CICERO
The Miami Herald

"I brake for pie" should be my bumper sticker. One of my pastimes is to search out fabulous pies at roadside stands and diners and standalone bakeries. My favorite pie sign said "Ho' made Pie," just outside Zion National Park in Utah, and my favorite bite was a warm peach pie with a cobbler-type top with fresh peach ice cream from an orchard off Interstate 81 in Georgia.

I'd rather eat pie than cake, so my birthday wish is always for a peach pie. Or a blueberry pie. Or a chocolate pie. So I always approach pie cookbooks with enthusiasm.

The Nutella Pie recipe here is from "First Prize Pies" by Allison Kave (\$29.95, Stewart, Taboori & Chang). The author entered a pie contest in Brooklyn on a whim, stole the show, then founded a successful bake shop. These pies are approachable, inventive and enticing — 85 recipes in all — and the photos alone will make you want pie.

EASY NUTELLA PIE

Ingredients:

1½ cups finely ground chocolate cookie crumbs
5 to 8 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted
2 cups Nutella
2½ cups mascarpone cheese
¼ teaspoon salt
¼ cup chopped toasted hazelnuts

Make the crust:

Crumble the cookies (Kave makes homemade for this but I settled for store-bought) into the work bowl of a food processor and process until finely ground, or whack with a rolling pin until finely crushed. Pour the butter into the crumbs and mix (nuts are best for this) until the butter is fully incorporated and the texture is that of wet sand. Firmly press the crumbs against the sides of a 9-inch pie pan, then against the bottom of the pan. Chill for at least 15 minutes. Heat the oven to 350 degrees. Bake crust 10 minutes, then let it cool completely.

Make the filling:

In a large bowl, using a hand mixer, or in the bowl of a stand mixer using the whisk attachment, beat together the Nutella, mascarpone and salt until light and fluffy. Spread the filling into the pie shell, cover it with plastic wrap and refrigerate until firm, about 1 hour. Top with the chopped nuts. Makes 8 servings. May be refrigerated for up to 1 week, covered in plastic wrap.

Per serving: 826 calories (66 percent from fat), 269 mg sodium.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Dubrovnik, Croatia, provides a dreamscape for 'Game of Thrones'

BY DAVIN O'DWYER
Special to The Washington Post

I was perhaps the ideal introduction to Dubrovnik. I walked past the statue of Saint Blaise and through the grand stone arch of the Pila gate and entered the old walled city. Standing before me were a few dozen men dressed in doublets and hose, heavy tunics, floppy hats and the brown robes of Franciscan monks. Their fashions were as old as the 15th century fountain they surrounded.

For a moment, it felt as if I'd been transported back centuries, to a time when Dubrovnik was a powerful center of merchant shipping in the Mediterranean.

Then, breaking the spell, one of the men pulled out a smartphone and snapped a selfie with another garbed fellow. Almost as soon as he clicked the shutter, the men were surrounded by an even larger group of camera-toting tourists.

The scene, with its stunning backdrop and cast of costumed extras waiting for a director to shout "action," summarized the character of the Old City, which appears perfectly preserved in vivid historical richness, and hints at the way it now excels at playing versions of itself.

The Pearl of the Adriatic, as Dubrovnik is known, has prospered and persevered since its birth in the 7th century and boasts exquisite physical perfection. The Old City, which juts out into the sea, is renowned for its defensive wall, towering forts, a characteristic red-tiled roofscape and narrow, climbing streets.



MACALL B. POLAY, HBO/Washington Post

Dubrovnik, used as a stand-in for King's Landing in "Game of Thrones," has a history that rivals anything in the HBO fantasy-drama.

It is these qualities that draw the film cameras to this spectacular part of the Dalmatian Coast of Croatia and have brought Dubrovnik an unusual form of stardom. The filming I'd seen was for a Croatian TV series about the medieval Dubrovnik Republic, but the city most famously plays the role of King's Landing in "Game of Thrones."

Dubrovnik is a perfect real-world substitute for the grand capital of Westeros, the fictional world of George R.R. Martin's novels, which have become a phenomenon with HBO's lavish television adaptation. Though most of the interiors are filmed

in Northern Ireland, the striking location shoots are filmed in Dubrovnik — every year, the cast and crew gather for a month or more and King's Landing comes to life on the streets and ramparts as the central power struggles play out, with rival factions scheming to hold on to the Iron Throne.

Frequently during my stay in the city, I would come upon a huge fort, a stunning vista or a narrow street that I recognized from that fictional world: the vice king Jeffrey's Red Keep; the packed slum of Flea Bottom; or Blackwater Bay, scene of an epic, bloody battle.

Inevitably, there are now a few operators offering "Game of Thrones" walking tours, pointing out where various scenes are filmed and sharing anecdotes from the shoots. But on the whole, the city is admirably modest about its stardom, with hardly any visible attempts to cash in on its role as King's Landing. Perhaps a city with as illustrious a history as Dubrovnik's doesn't feel the need to rely on television celebrity for its appeal.

Indeed, the real history is as fraught and dramatic as anything in Westeros. Since the city's founding, visitors have included marauding Turks, Arab invaders, a shipwrecked Richard the Lionhearted and Napoleon's army. It came under the protection of the Byzantine Empire, then under the sovereignty of Venice, and from the mid-14th

century it was the affluent capital of the Republic of Ragusa, a vassal of the Kingdom of Hungary and the Ottoman Empire but effectively a free state stretching a short distance up and down this remarkable coastline of steep, mountainous terrain.

The larger city of Dubrovnik is an attractive coastal town, but it is the Old City that really captivates. Between the Ploce Gate to the east and the Pila Gate to the west is the fine main thoroughfare, the Stradun. It's one of the most perfectly proportioned streets I've ever walked along; the bell towers at either end act as visual exclamation points bookending the gleaming stone pavement and the cream-colored buildings in between.

The Stradun functions as a sort of spine to the old walled city, with narrow lanes stretching out north and south. Those streets climb up to the ramparts on the land and sea sides. The walled city is small, but you can get

lost in the crisscrossing streets, finding yourself at yet another cafe-filled square or in front of one of many Gothic, Renaissance or Baroque churches.

However, a meandering stroll through these streets acts as a mere prelude to the views available from the city's most breathtaking attraction, the famous old wall that stretches for one and a quarter miles, enclosing the city like the rim of a bowl. There are two main entrances, by the Pila and Ploce gates (a third entrance is behind the St John Fortress). I recommend Pila for maximum effect — the walk along the west side takes you out toward the azure-colored Adriatic and offers stunning views of Fort Lovrijenac, a.k.a. the Red Keep of King's Landing, across a small bay and then along the south-facing sea wall, with a vertiginous drop to the water.

On this side, my view was pulled out to sea and to the sight of Lokrum Island not far away, **CONTINUED ON PAGE 31**



DAVIN O'DWYER/Special to The Washington Post

An actor on a Croatian television series about the Dubrovnik Republic is chained to Orlandos Column on Luza Square.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

FROM PAGE 30

a leafy green idyll floating on the bright blue water. But as I continued the circle, it was the city itself that began to catch my attention, drawing my eye inward. The ramparts on the northern wall, facing the land, are much higher and the walls much thicker, nearly 20 feet in places, an indication of where the greatest threat was perceived to lie. The finest view of all came at the Minčeta tower, on the northwest corner, where the collage of bell towers and terra cotta roofs, framed by the sea beyond, was played out before me, a breathtaking scene.



NOGA AMR-BW/Stars and Stripes

Another perspective on Dubrovnik comes with a journey on the cable car that runs 1,300 feet up Mount Srđ, the precipice that looms steeply over the city. From up here, the rooftops merge into one rust-red mosaic, and I could see how perfectly proportioned and self-contained the Old City is. From the fast-rising cable car, its relationship to Lokrum Island became clear to me, the two operating very much as a pair from up high, the forested Lokrum a glowing emerald to Dubrovnik's gleaming pearl.

But the stunning view isn't the only valuable perspective to be gained at the top of Mount Srđ. Adjacent to the cable car station

is the Imperial Fort, an imposing relic of the Napoleonic wars that was built in the early 19th century. The fort's lofty position makes it a critical defensive site for the city, a point most recently proven during the Siege of Dubrovnik that lasted from late 1991 to 1992. Today, the siege is remembered in a moving exhibition in the Imperial Fort, and as I gazed at some of the shells from the bombardment,

photographs and news footage of the siege, Dubrovnik took on a very different personality.

During the Homeland War, as it's known in Croatia, the Yugoslav People's Army bombarded the city as part of an effort to create a greater Serbia after the breakup of Yugoslavia. A relatively small unit of young Croatian soldiers protected the Imperial Fort, for to lose it would almost certainly have meant losing the city, and they fended off Serbian forces in the mountains to the west and attacks from sea and air. Dubrovnik, both inside and outside the walls, suffered enormous damage from the shelling.

The successful defense of the city, and the international coverage that the siege attracted, became a hugely significant symbol

of Croatian resistance to Serbian aggression. When you view it in this light, Dubrovnik finally shakes off some of its timeless, otherworldly quality. Because it's one of the great historical sites of the world, no expense was spared in repairing the city, to such a degree that the damage is hard to notice unless it's pointed out. But the Old City has suffered in other ways since — a population of 5,000 has now dwindled to about 500, with residents being priced out as the Old City accommodations and restaurants increasingly cater exclusively to tourists at inflated prices.

For many of those visitors, the fantasy world of Westeros is more real, more palpable,

than the Republic of Ragusa; the Battle of Blackwater more vivid than the siege during the Homeland War. Even playing a historical version of itself, as it was in the Dubrovnik Republic which I kept stumbling upon, it's clear that the city is engaged in a kind of perpetual performance.

On my last day, in Luza Square at the eastern end of the Stradun, I happened upon a large crowd of men dressed in the costumes of medieval guards, surrounding an ornate pillar known as Orlando's Column. On one side of the pillar is the statue of the legendary Orlando, a Norman knight who defended the city from the Saracens in its earliest years. On the other side is a prisoner, chained, beaten and

whipped, his face bloodied and swollen, his forlorn eyes raised to the facade of the Church of Saint Blaise, Dubrovnik's patron saint. A crowd of onlookers gazes at his suffering, curious about his plight.

And then the director yells "cut!" The cameras stop rolling, and as the "prisoner" is released from his shackles, he poses with some of the onlookers for photographs, smiling broadly at the attention, his anguish vanished.

In this little vignette, I realized, there is something of what Dubrovnik offers: the illusion that past and present, reality and fiction, are coexisting in this magical little place.

It's an illusion, in truth, that I didn't want to end.

Restaurant Directory GERMANY

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area Since 1978</p> <p>China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaier 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33896 Fax. 0961-34073 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0631-42828</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Brauhaus Castel Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhr Ring 27 55253 Wanne-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>
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WEEKEND



THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

OFF BASE



Stars and Stripes

SEE THIS: Kyoto Gion Festival, Japan

This festival, now through July 31, is at Yasaka Shrine. The highlight is Yamahoko Jyunko, a parade of floats from Shijo Karasuma that makes a circuit around Shijo, Kawaramachi and Oike streets 9-11:35 a.m. July 17. Another parade is from Karasuma Miike, Kawaracho Miike, Shijo Kawaracho and Shijo Karasuma at 9:30 a.m. July 24. For more: tinyurl.com/lagej5l.



Courtesy of Ocean Lantern Festival Executive Committee

IN LIGHT: Ocean Lantern Festival, Tokyo

Arrange candlelights to create art at Odaiba Ocean Park 6:30-10 p.m. July 15 and 16. The event is free.



TALL AND BRIGHT: Taebaek Sunflower Festival, South Korea

This festival, in Gangwon province July 25 to Aug. 16, celebrates the area's colorful wildflowers and fields of sunflowers in Gaeau village. The event has art exhibitions, concerts and nature films. For more: tinyurl.com/mytfoxg.

CELEBRATE: Earth Day Tokyo

Enjoy live performances, food booths and more at Yoyogi Park in Tokyo 10 a.m.-4 p.m. July 20.



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

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THE NEW SANNO

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

LOTUS FLOWER FESTIVALS

Japan

SANKEIEN GARDEN — EARLY MORNING LOTUS VIEWING (Kanagawa prefecture):

July 19-Aug. 10, 6 a.m.-5 p.m., weekends & holidays; the best time to see the lotus flowers at this garden with historic buildings and flowers is 7 a.m.; 10-minute bus ride from JR Negishi Station; free; www.sankeien.or.jp.

South Korea

BUYEO SEDONG LOTUS FESTIVAL (South Chungcheong province):

Through July 20; celebrates lotus flowers, highlights the importance of preserving wildflowers. Visitors can make paper lotus flowers and lotus flower soup; take a bus from Seoul Nambu Bus Terminal to Buyeo; then take a taxi to Gungnam; www.buyeotour.net.

A lotus flower in South Chungcheong province, South Korea.

Photo courtesy KTO NY



App, website helps you set off on an urban adventure

Name: Kamino
Available: iOS app, www.gokamino.com

Cost: Free
What it does: Crowd-sources things for you to do, whether you're meeting a friend for lunch or having a full day at leisure.

What's hot: The content feels as if it is written by locals. You'll find a treasure-trove of hip restaurants, boutiques and fun things to do that you might not have known about. I found where to go on a walking tour of overlooked London, a walking tour of Miami's Little Havana neighborhood, where to hang out with man's best friend in New York and where to find artistic types in Berlin. I found it easier to use the website for planning and the app for finding a quick suggestion for what was around me.

What's not: It was great for finding cool restaurants and shops that were close to me, even in the small beach town of Carlsbad, Calif. But when I started to use it to research other cities as if I were planning for a trip, it was a chore to figure out how the walks or hikes related to the bigger picture. There is a map for each individual hike, so you can see how far apart the attractions are from each other. It would be better if there were a larger map option within the app.

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



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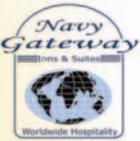


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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

Customers at Kervan, which serves Turkish foods including brick oven-baked breads, baklava, kebabs, hummus, and baba ghanoush, an eggplant dip. The busy restaurant is located in Itaewon.



Also served at Kervan is vegetarian "pide," right, a pizza-like crust topped with cheese and vegetables, and, in the background, "nur dagi" salad, a mix of chopped vegetables and walnuts topped with pomegranate sauce, olive oil and sumac, a Middle Eastern spice.

After Hours: South Korea

By Ashley Rowland
Stars and Stripes

I didn't go to Kervan, a busy Turkish restaurant in the heart of Itaewon, just for dinner.

I really went for dessert — specifically, for the promise of one of Kervan's honey-drenched, nut-filled baklava at the end of the meal. The pastries have become somewhat well-known in the area thanks to Kervan's tiny bakery and coffee shop, located about a block from the restaurant, where trays filled with hundreds of baklava — walnut, pistachio, carrot — sit on display in the front window and routinely stop curious passersby in their tracks.

Kervan offers an extensive Turkish menu that includes Middle Eastern standards familiar to many Americans, such as falafel and the chickpea dip hummus to more exotic fare, such as yogurt- and spice-marinated chicken and Turkish *kalve*, or coffee. All of which complement the interesting dessert menu that includes everything from baklava to slices of *dondurma*, a Turkish ice cream; and blackberry- and cherry-topped yogurts.

Kervan is popular but pricey, with many dishes costing 20,000



Courtesy of Lisa Carman

Yogurt sarma, or grape leaves stuffed with a spiced mixture of rice and onions and served with yogurt and a drizzle of tomato sauce, was a standout dish at Kervan.

won (about \$19) or more. Still, it was packed on the Friday night we dined there, with Koreans as well as Middle Eastern expats and a few Westerners.

After a 20-minute wait to be seated, a friend and I started our meal with the *nur dagi* salad, described in the menu as "the most famous of Turkish salads," a mix of lettuce, tomatoes, cucumber, parsley, walnuts and sumac, and topped with a drizzle of pomegranate sauce and olive oil.

It was fine but unexceptional and certainly not worth the 17,000 won we paid for it.

"This is exactly what I make at

home, except it has walnuts," my friend said, estimating that she could have spent 5,000 won to make the same dish herself.

The meal gradually got better. The next dish to arrive was a vegetarian *pide* (20,000 won), a flat crust topped with cheese and vegetables, something like a pizza without the tomato sauce.

It was tasty but unremarkable aside from the chewy and flavorful crust that would have been at home at any good Italian restaurant. Kervan offers other *pides* with toppings including seasoned beef or lamb, cheeses and veggies.

The standout, and the one item that will keep me coming back to Kervan despite the cost, was the yogurt *sarma*, a plate of savory grape leaves stuffed with cinnamon-spiced rice, pine nuts and onion and served with a generous helping of yogurt and a drizzle of tomato sauce for dipping. The one shortfall was that bread wasn't included with the dish; it was so good that we wiped up the remnants on the plate with our fingers.

We also ordered a glass of *ayran*, a homemade yogurt drink (5,000 won) and a mango *lassi* (6,000 won), neither of which was delivered to our table. Which was just as well, since we were so stuffed after our meal that we couldn't even order dessert.

The menu also includes an extensive list of chicken, lamb or beef kebabs (19,000 to 39,000 won) and an array of interesting dips like *ezme*, a mixture of roasted bell peppers, tomatoes, garlic, parsley and olive oil.

Kervan offers lunch set menus for 9,900 won, as well as set menus for two, ranging from 52,000 to 62,000 won, that include soup, bread, meat and drinks.

Kervan doesn't offer alcoholic beverages, making this a good choice for families who want to

KERVAN

Location: Take exit 3 from Itaewon station. Walk straight for about two minutes. Pass Starbucks and you'll see Kervan on the second floor. Reservations and valet parking are available.

Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Phone: 02-792-4767

Dress: Casual
Menu: In English
Prices: Items vary widely in price, but expect to spend 8,000 to 15,000 won on salads and appetizers and at least 20,000 on entrees. Portions are generous enough to share.
Website: kervan.turkey.co.kr

— Ashley Rowland

avoid the Itaewon party atmosphere, but does offer coffee, tea, juices and soft drinks.

This is a great place to go with friends to try some unusual dishes, although not the best place for a night out if you're on a budget. Our three-item meal cost 69,000 won, and while filling, might be more than many servicemembers might be willing to spend for a casual meal. Still, with its laid-back but polished ambience, this is a good bet for a night out.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

‘Along with Confucius, Sun Wu is one of the great philosophers born in Shandong.’

Zhao Chengfeng
Chairman, Shandong Sun Zi
Research Association



Guangrao County in China's Shandong Province is pushing ahead with a multi-million-dollar tourism center aimed at selling itself as the hometown of the man considered a "military saint" in China.

Banking on a hero

Chinese county hopes to draw visitors with claim that 'Art of War' author was born there

By KAZUHIKO MAKITA
The Yomiuri Shimbum

About 2,500 years ago in war-torn China, Sun Wu wrote what would become the world's most well-known military text.

Born in the sixth century B.C., the famed tactician who wrote a 6,000-word booklet called "The Art of War" is considered a "military saint" in China and one of its greatest ancient philosophers. He was made a general by King Helu of Wu and gained fame by defeating enemies, including the Chu Kingdom.

Studied by generals during the Sengoku ("Warring States") period in the late 15th century to late 16th century in Japan, and by American presidents including George Bush, the ideas of Sun Wu (later known as Sun Tzu, an honorific meaning "Master Sun" and sometimes written as Sun Zi) have influenced people of the East and West from ancient to modern times.

Drive northeast for about two hours on the highway from China's Jinan, the capital of Shandong Province, and you arrive at Guangrao County. The county claims Sun Wu was born nearby and has dubbed itself "Sun Wu's hometown."

Take a look around and you will find Sun Wu Road and Bingsheng (the Saint of War) Road. Go into a restaurant, and you can try a local liquor with a name that translates roughly as "military saint king alcohol."

On the outskirts of Guangrao County is a memorial temple dedicated to him. In the 1990s, the county rebuilt the mausoleum, which originally was constructed in the 12th century. Inside, panel exhibits and miniature models give a detailed introduction to Sun Wu's life and "The Art of War." Just inside the entrance stands an imposing statue of the famous general.

"If you know the enemy and know yourself, you need not fear the result of a hundred battles." This quote from "The Art of War" is displayed prominently in the exhibition room: It could be the most well-known quote in China and was frequently referenced by Mao Zedong when he led the Communist Party.

Zhao Chengfeng, 70, chairman of the Shandong Sun Zi Research Association, has long been enthralled by Sun Wu's philosophy.

Zhao, 70, said he was "taught Sun Tzu" when he was in the military and decided to devote himself to researching the famous warrior after he retired. Zhao formed the association in 2008 to promote exchanges between domestic and overseas researchers.

"Sun Wu's 'The Art of War' is not constrained by time or national boundaries," Zhao said. "It has a universality that can be accepted by a wide range of academic fields. Along with Confucius, Sun Wu is one of the great philosophers born in Shandong." Although Guangrao County is



PHOTOS BY KAZUHIKO MAKITA/The Yomiuri Shimbum

A statue of Sun Wu (also known as Sun Tzu and Sun Zi) stands in a Shandong Province museum in China. At about age 30, the Chinese warrior wrote the original version of "The Art of War." He was made a general by King Helu of Wu and gained fame by defeating enemies, including the Chu Kingdom.



Visitors to the Sun Tzu memorial temple on the outskirts of Guangrao County, China, view a statue of the general based on a Ming Dynasty portrait. In the 1990s, the county rebuilt the mausoleum dedicated to the military strategist.

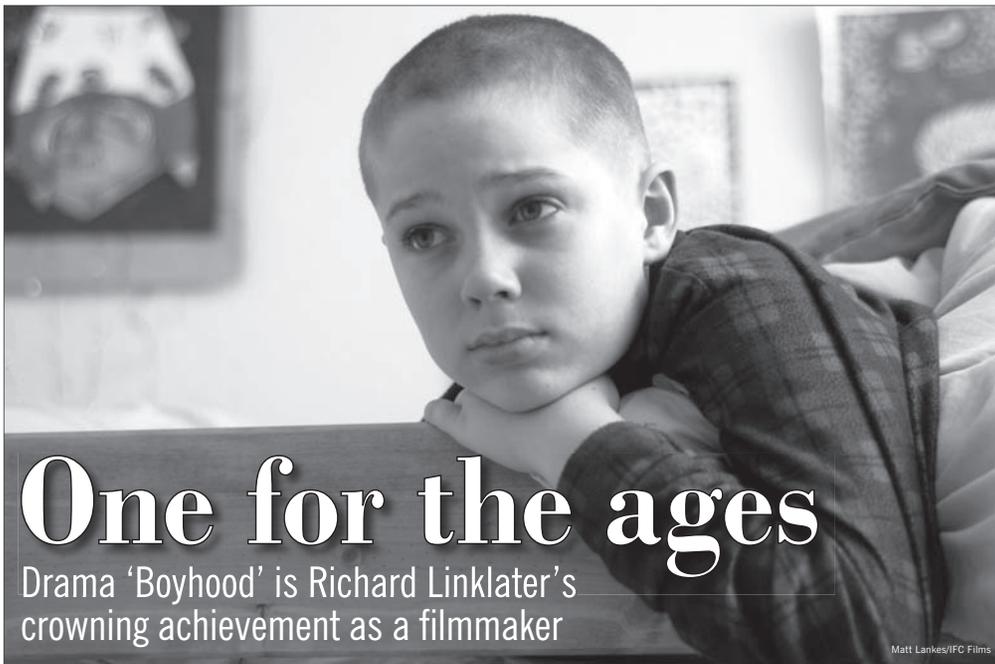
little known outside of Sun Wu researchers, it could be on the verge of a major transformation. In March 2012, it established the Sun Tzu Cultural Tourist Area Management Committee and is pushing ahead with tourism developments aimed at selling itself as Sun Wu's hometown.

The manmade Sun Wu Lake is surrounded by a huge, 42-square-kilometer tourism district that is to include a theme park, research institute, hot spring hotel and other facilities.

While expectations are great, the project comes at a price. The theme park will require 1.6 bil-

lion yuan (about \$257 million) in investments and more than 3 billion yuan for the entire district. Wang Tingwen, director of the Center for Sun Tzu Cultural Studies of Guangrao, said that, if successful, the area "will be a base for transmitting Sun Wu's philosophy to the world."

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Matt Lanke/IFC Films

One for the ages

Drama 'Boyhood' is Richard Linklater's crowning achievement as a filmmaker

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

It started as “a narrative problem,” writer-director Richard Linklater says. “How do you tell a story, with actors, over a long period of time? You can’t re-cut it when you’re catching up with somebody, year by year. The change in appearance would be too abrupt.”

He wanted to follow a child from first grade to college enrollment, “and I was stuck with the limitation of the physical appearance of whatever young actor I had.”

His solution is “Boyhood,” the most acclaimed film of the year, a movie that uses the same actors — children and adults — over twelve years of filming just a few days each year, telling a story of one Texas family and one boy. “It may be years before anyone works up the gumption to match its achievement,” critic A.A. Dowd said of “Boyhood.” And that’s almost certainly true.

Linklater, who turns 54 at the end of July, is best known for such talky/thoughtful films as “Before Sunrise” and “Before Sunset,” another long-term project following a couple (Ethan Hawke and Julie Delpy) through a budding romance, a courtship and eventually years into a marriage that’s in trouble. To say the filmmaker, who got his start with the indie classic “Slacker,” is a patient man would be an understatement.

“Cinema makes you patient,” he says. “Sometimes it takes 10 years for a film you want to make to come together. That’s not unusual. But in this case, it was fun to have a life project that was taking just a chunk of time every year. I had to have my artistic antenna out, thinking about this

movie, all year long, every year. Parenting, growing up, all these things that are part of life I was paying more attention to, because of this film I was making.” And he would be taking a sensitive, introspective little boy along for the ride. Ellar Coltrane, now 19, went through “multiple auditions” as a 6-year-old, trying to land this role. He, and his director, got lucky.

“Ellar’s a lot like he is at the end of the film,” Linklater says of his star. “That’s Ellar, sitting at the top of a mountain, observing, taking it all in. That wasn’t him — Mason (his character) — at the beginning of the film. But even so, there were days, every year, where I was grateful that I’d cast the perfect kid.”

“Boyhood” follows Mason, a

Texas boy, part of a broken family, as he copes with a stressed, working-class mother (Patricia Arquette) and sometimes-bullying big sister (Lorelei Linklater) and misses his free-spirited, often-absent father (Ethan Hawke).

Coltrane remembers that he was an aspiring child actor, home-schooled, going on “a lot of auditions, at the time I was cast.” He can’t recall much about the early years of filming, but he never lost interest in this lifelong commitment and never minded giving up a chunk of each year to making “Boyhood.”

“It’s surreal,” he says, looking at the movie now. “There’s parts that are terrifying, or could be embarrassing. It’s also kind of comforting to see those parts of

myself kind of magnified — these awkward teenage phases that you go through. Seeing them years later is a lot different from the way I experienced them. When you’re that age, you don’t feel like a complete person. Everything is this dramatic part of your personality. To see it all together and in context is a beautiful thing and kind of comforting and reassuring, existentially.”

Coltrane says he was always able to treat Mason, his alter ego, “as a character ... As much as I used myself as a reference point, I was taking those personal memories and putting them outside of myself to play Mason, putting them through a different filter.”

Linklater, despite his daughter being in the film, felt far enough

removed from the world of the kids that he would give Coltrane assignments — pick his brain for what he was going through each year, and then script accordingly. Ellar’s into “Star Wars”? So is Mason. Ellar’s about to start dating? “Take notes. Remember exactly what you and that first girl you talk to talked about,” Linklater says he told Coltrane.

The result is a movie that’s a lot like life itself — little details, arguments about the most banal things, kids testing boundaries, and a divorced couple trying to do right by their children.

A filmmaker famed for his “gift for spotting the extraordinary in the ordinary” (Film Journal International) has his career-crowning achievement.



Left: The cast of “Boyhood,” from left: Ethan Hawke, Ellar Coltrane, Lorelei Linklater, Patricia Arquette and writer-director Richard Linklater. “Boyhood” follows the character played by Coltrane, who began work on the film at age 6.

Top: Coltrane shoots a scene during the early stages of filming.
INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES



UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

Dutiful citizens prepare for their country's yearly 12 hours of legal murder and mayhem in "The Purge: Anarchy," the sequel to 2013's sci-fi horror film "The Purge."

Time for another 'Purge'

Sequel plays more like a sermon than horror flick

BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The clever conceit behind James DeMonaco's 2013 sleeper hit "The Purge" was not that American society had resolved its crime/inequality/population problems with an annual free-pass-for-murder "purge."

It was that this hell night came home to roost on isolated, gated suburbanites, ostensibly liberal people above this annual bloodletting, immune to its impact, but benefiting and even profiting from the mayhem — until it invades their community and their homes.

"The Purge: Anarchy" abandons that sly and disturbing message for a straightforward quest — trope trapped outside when the annual "release the beast" commences, people who fall in with a bloody-minded man, bent on vengeance. It's preachier, more diverse in its casting. All of which make it more specific and limit it. Throw in generally lackluster performances and illogical plot twists, and "Anarchy" is seriously crippled.

It goes wrong right from the start, with the title. Years into this annual purge, it's become widely accepted. Anarchy? No. There are organized gangs, piling into armored school buses, "roid-raging" skinheads and tractor trailers full of jack-booted thugs. Images of the Rwandan genocide, or of packs of gun nuts toting their semiautomatic weapons through discount stores, come to mind. "Stay safe," everybody says, but most don't mean it.

A black revolutionary with the basketball hog-friendly name Carmelo (Michael K. Williams) is preaching against the purge, calling it a racist way the rich and powerful use to cull the minority population.

But all waitress Eva (Carmen Ejogo) wants to do is keep her daughter (Zoë Soul) safe for the night and her aged dad (John Beasley) out of trouble. Then trouble blows down their door.

Liz (Kiele Sanchez) and Shane (Zach Gilford) are a bickering couple who only want to finish their shopping and drive home. But their car is sabotaged, and when darkness hits, black kids in whiteface with machetes and machine guns are after them.

One scowling stranger (Frank Grillo) has armed himself to the teeth, armored his Dodge Charger and set out for revenge this night. But

these people in jeopardy fall into his path and interfere with his plans.

"Purge 2" is more overtly about race and class as our mixed group of five tries to make its way to the safety of dawn (when the purge ends) without getting slaughtered by a mysterious "army" or murderous oligarchs or black revolutionaries. It's closer to a sermon. And it's very close to being an utter bore.

DeMonaco, who has written thrillers such as "The Negotiator," plainly was given this sequel order as a rush job, and the lack of polish shows. Characters act against their self-interest as well as their morals. They stop to bicker in deadly situations and clumsily act as if they've read the dull, tin-eared script and know they aren't in danger in this sequence, so they can chatter and traipse through this alley or down that subway tunnel without a care in the world.

To a one, they're blasé, only summoning up rage or terror once or twice in the third act. We don't care for any one of them, and Grillo plays his hard-hearted killer with barely a hint of wit or heart.

That reduces the film to a first-person shooter video game with a dose of politics added. Maybe that's the only way to experience "Anarchy," with the viewer doing the shooting. Let's hope DeMonaco has a piece of the spinoff game action, because "The Purge" has pretty much run its course as a violent big-screen social satire.

"The Purge: Anarchy" is rated R for strong disturbing violence, and for language. Running time: 100 minutes.

New on base

"The Purge: Anarchy" is playing at:

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

Pacific
Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenna, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: blumhouse.com/film/the-purge-anarchy



DISNEY/AP

Dane Cook returns as the voice of Dusty in "Planes: Fire & Rescue."

'Planes: Fire & Rescue' soars above the original

BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

"Planes: Fire & Rescue" is roughly twice as good as its predecessor, "Planes," which was so story- and laugh-starved it would have given "direct-to-video" a bad name. Nowhere to go but up.

The sequel's story is about something — Dusty the racing plane learns to be a S.E.A.T., a Single Engine Air Tanker, a fire-fighting plane. For very young children, it offers animated suspense and lovely and exciting animated aerial footage of planes and helicopters fighting forest fires in the American West.

The characters are, to a one, stiff. But bringing in Ed Harris (as fire-nonsense trainer/mentor), Hal Holbrook (voicing an ancient fire truck) and Wes Studi (a Native American Sikorsky Sky Crane chopper) classes things up.

And adults will catch the increased supply of one-liners, which will zoom right over the heads of kids, especially in the scene set in a planes and cars honkytonk.

"She left me for a hybrid," a pickup truck moans to the bartender. "I didn't even hear 'im coming!'"

The story, such as it is, has Dusty (voiced by Dane Cook) discover that his antique gearbox has nearly given out, so he can't race anymore. When, in his grief, he causes a terrible fire at the Propwash Junction Airfield, he realizes at least he can train to be a firefighter and help aging fire truck Mayday (Holbrook) keep the field from closing. Dusty flies off to Piston Peak to train with the team suppressing fires in a national park.

There's more of a "Thomas the Tank Engine" feel to this sequel, with planes and firetrucks and bulldozers doing the righteous work of dousing pretty convincing animated blazes.

The conflict comes from the ambitious park superintendent (John Michael Higgins), the profanity is all motor related ("Oh, Chevy," "SHUT the Hangar Door!") and the pickup lines in the aforementioned honkytonk are real zingers. "Did you fall out of a B-17? cuz you're the BOMB."

New on base

"Planes: Fire & Rescue" is playing at the following military facilities:

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

Pacific
Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Kadena, Kinser, Courtney, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: movies.disney.com/planes-fire-and-rescue

Disney put more of a Pixar imprint on this than the first "Planes," with familiar voices such as John Ratzenberger, Fred Willard and Patrick Warburton fleshing out the cast.

"Planes: Fire & Rescue" is rated PG for action and some peril. Running time: 83 minutes.

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In Digital 3D: How to train your Dragon 2 (PG): Thur & Fri 18:00, Sat 18:45, Mon - Wed 19:00

In Digital 3D: Planes 2: Fire & Rescue (PG): Fri 15:45, Sat & Sun 15:15, Mon - Wed 16:00

22 Jump Street (R): Thur 20:30, Fri 8 Sat 20:00, Sun 20:15, Mon - Wed 20:30

Tammy (R): Thur 16:00, 20:30, Fri 20:15, 22:30, Sat & Sun 18:00, 20:15, Mon 18:00, 20:30, Tue 20:30, Wed 16:00, 20:30

In 2D: How to train your Dragon 2 (PG): Thur & Fri 16:00, Sat & Sun 15:30, Mon - Wed 16:00

In 2D: Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13): Thur 17:00, 20:00, Fri 17:00, 20:15, Sat 18:00, 20:15, Sun 18:30, 19:30, Mon - Wed 17:00, 20:00

In 2D: Planes 2: Fire & Rescue (PG): Fri 17:15, Sat & Sun 13:30, 17:00, Mon - Wed 17:30

Also showing: Godzilla, Maleficent, X-Men: Days of Future Past

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

WEEKEND: BOOKS

Author chronicles quest for rare records

By RANDALL ROBERTS
Los Angeles Times

Missing through her thoughtful, entertaining history of obsessed music collectors and their quest for rare early 78 rpm records, writer and music journalist Amanda Petrusich has a revelation. Focusing on one particular seeker and his knack for finding obscure titles others have missed, she describes him strategizing his search by “pursuing his prey with the kind of vehemence typically employed by a PI stalking a client’s ex-wife, or a cop chasing a kung-fu. It felt calculated and thorough.”

the difference? Unlike those delicate 78 rpm records, a kung-fu doesn’t shatter when you accidentally brush against him, can’t live invisibly in cobwebbed basements for decades and upon discovery doesn’t hold the mystery, beguiling sound of a lost past time-

traveling into the present. It is true, though, that both the record hunter and the detective might end up scouring riverbeds for remains, as Petrusich herself did while researching “Do Not Sell at Any Price: The Wild, Obscure Hunt for the World’s Rarest 78 rpm Records.”

Tracing the rise of the record collectors’ market from its infancy to the present, Petrusich follows the souls, mostly men, whose restless drive to unearth obscure recorded sounds has helped shape America’s musical memory. In the process of collectors salvaging a vanishing history, their tastes and influence — and, for some, egomania and possessiveness — helped bring to a mainstream audience artists such as Robert Johnson, Skip James and Ma Rainey.

Petrusich examines the impulse to possess artifacts, illuminates that rush of discovery and the often sanity-testing quest for chasing elusive, unknown platters can lead men toward pettiness, hoarding and, in some cases, an isolation akin to that of an addict.

While documenting the culture and the characters who occupy it, Petrusich also

looks at her own role as one of an even rarer breed of record collector: a female in a mostly male realm. This means hunting for treasures at flea markets, yard sales, “in Victrola cabinets, under piles of John Denver LPs, wrapped in sheets of yellowed newspaper, in the backseats of vendors’ cars, shoved under tables, in blue Tupperware bins labeled ‘Old Records,’ stacked indiscriminately in the high, bleating sun.”

The prize for the scrounge? Probably a scratched-up 10-inch record, unplayable on your average turntable, holding hiss-filled music that might be far more easily found online, if it hasn’t been totally bypassed by posters.

To the chosen few, however, a pristine 78 on the right label is a nugget of history, a mini “Mona Lisa” that just might contain creations as transcendent as titles made famous by such record crate diggers as the late New York artist Harry Smith. His 1952 six-album collection, “Anthology of American Folk Music,” is considered by many to be the first great curatorial gathering of the nation’s early American folk and blues music.

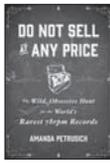
Smith, writes Petrusich, ordered the se-

lections not based on region or academic utility but “as a poet orders words on a page, channeling, building meaning from nothing, becoming a physical conduit for spiritual truth.”

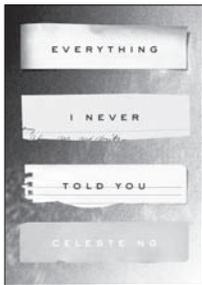
Along with a handful of regulars at the storied New York shop the Jazz Record Center, Smith made connections between white and black music when the public’s tastes were still mostly segregated. For reasons both noble and selfish (history and her budding 78 collection, respectively), Petrusich works to discover what happened to Smith’s 13,000-piece collection. The answer is predictably depressing.

Diving for buried records might be the final frontier, considering the bounty of music available online. The Internet has unlocked the attic to a new generation searching for 78s not in dumpsters but in avenues such as eBay.

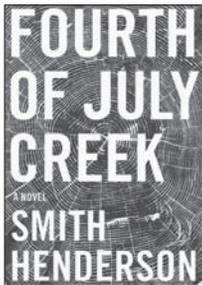
Petrusich follows this evolution and provides a fascinating counterpoint by profiling collectors searching other continents for equally exciting and otherwise lost recordings. Among them are next-generation curators equally interested in recontextualization and adding to the historical record.



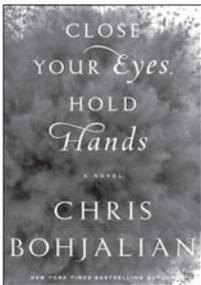
Birdmen
Lawrence Goldstone



Everything I Never Told You
Celeste Ng



Fourth of July Creek
Smith Henderson



Close Your Eyes, Hold Hands
Chris Bohjalian



The Queen of the Tearing
Erika Johansen

The flight was not even really a flight, just a short hop — some 120 feet. But in successfully flying a controlled, powered aircraft on the beach of Kitty Hawk, N.C. in 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright did what many had tried and failed to do before.

The story that Lawrence Goldstone tells in “Birdmen: The Wright Brothers, Glenn Curtiss, and the Battle to Control the Skies,” his enthralling new account of flying’s wild early years, is a dark one. The brothers’ ingenuity is not in question, but they were also petty, vindictive, litigious businessmen who, Goldstone suggests, impeded the progress of American aviation.

At stake was a central issue: Was powered flight a concept open to all who could master it, or a patented process that could be owned? The Wrights insisted it was the latter, and meant to patent flying itself, and their decisive innovation of lateral control, a twisting of the wings that provided stability. The patent claim was breathtaking in its sweep. Yet, as Goldstone shows, flying could not be contained.

— Matthew Price
Newsday

The demise of Lydia Lee, the teenage daughter of James, a Chinese-American professor, and Marilyn, his Virginia-born wife, is announced in the very first sentence. “Lydia is dead,” Ng writes. “But they don’t know this yet.”

With this as a starting point, “Everything I Never Told You” can’t help but feel a little like a mystery, and the pages that follow do reveal, gradually, the cause of Lydia’s death. At its core, though, Ng’s book is a conventional, domestically centered novel about an American family.

The novel unfolds in the 1970s, a time when the term “oriental” was tossed about freely. Still, despite the Lees’ interracial status, issues of ethnic and cultural identity are largely secondary to the emotional wounds that have scarred the family. These wounds have been inflicted by the universal difficulties faced by intelligent people in the late 20th century.

The novel casts a powerful light on the secrets that have kept an American family together — and that finally end up tearing it apart.

— Hector Tobar
Los Angeles Times

In “Fourth of July Creek,” stability is hard to come by, particularly in this time and place (rural Montana in the early 1980s).

Pete, who lives in a remote cabin, has seen just about every bad thing you can think of — families living in the woods, abused children, drug-addled parents.

But Pete’s experience hasn’t prepared him for what happens when he meets skinny, sickly Benjamin Pearl, an 11-year-old who shows up in town one day. When Pete tries to return the boy to his family, he runs afoul of Benjamin’s survivalist father, Jeremiah, a paranoid zealot.

The novel is too unsparring and serious to serve up a saintly social worker; Pete, for all his good intentions, is hiding just like Jeremiah Pearl. He has abandoned his unfaithful wife and his daughter, Rachel, now a hostile teenager. They move to Texas, and Rachel goes missing.

“Fourth of July Creek” reveals social, cultural and economic complexities that define us even now, and it’s never just an examination of the people who fall through the cracks.

— Connie Ogle
The Miami Herald

Surprisingly, one of the few complications that Emily Shepard — a cutter, dope smoker and sometimes “prostit” — selects is Emily Dickinson. She leans on Dickinson’s poetry and life story the way other teens might lean on rap music or the Bible: as a source of inspiration and pleasure, and as a filter for trying to make sense of her own experiences.

If you’ve already formed a mental Polaroid of Shepard, tear it up. She’s more complicated than that — more innocent, wiser and possibly mentally ill.

She’s on the run because a nuclear plant has melted down catastrophically, her father’s 19 people and devastating the area. She fears that father, a casualty (along with her mother) and one of the plant’s main operators, is being blamed for the disaster. She’s afraid that she’ll be forced to take on her father’s drinking problem, and that public vengeance will descend upon her.

Although “Close Your Eyes” is a novel for adults, readers of any age might find Shepard’s story, sobering as it is, an awesome one.

— Jim Higgins
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

As a baby, Kelsea Raleigh was sent away by her mother, the feckless Queen Elyssa, and hidden on a small farm. When Kelsea is 7, Elyssa dies and her daughter inherits the throne of Tearing.

On her 19th birthday, a group of soldiers show up to escort Kelsea to the capitol to be crowned, since it turns out she has a price on her head that many would like to cash in. She arrives just in time to witness the cost of the peace with the neighboring bully state, Mortmesne, ruled by the evil Red Queen — a monthly tribute of captive men, women and children from Tearing to keep the peace.

By interrupting the shipment, Kelsea basically steps onto the world stage and instantly becomes the target of the Red Queen, the Church and everyone who has a stake in keeping the status quo intact in Tearing, including the clinically evil Arlen Thorne.

The world created by Johansen in “The Queen of Tearing” is solidly drawn with interesting characters — all with hidden pasts, traumas and flashing swords.

— Tish Wells
McClatchy Washington Bureau

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“Debbie Macomber’s Cedar Cove: Season One”: Andie MacDowell stars in this sweet cable series based on the bestselling book series by Debbie Macomber.

MacDowell plays municipal Judge Olivia Lockhart in the small town of Cedar Cove. She brings a lot of baggage to the bench having to deal with the death of her son and a divorce. The test for Lockhart is to keep her professional career in focus while dealing with the potential of new romance.

Macomber says this series was better suited for a cable series than movie because of her readers.

“They love the characters so much that they want me to continue writing about the same characters. And so it seems natural to make the progression, then, from ongoing characters into a TV series,” Macomber says.

The second season opens July 20 on the Hallmark Channel.

“How The West Was Won: The Complete Second Season”: There was a time when Westerns were a popular genre in feature films and on TV. This epic TV series tried to get fans of both with the 1978 broadcast based on the 1962 film of the same name.

If you like Westerns, then this is a set to own. It follows members of the Macahan family as they face daily struggles to survive and thrive in the American West. These stories are told through an impressive cast topped by James Arness (“Gunsmoke”), Eva Marie Saint (“North by Northwest”) and Bruce Boxleitner (“Iron”) as well as famous guest stars such as Ricardo Montalban, William Shatner, Tim Matheson and Lloyd Bridges.

This six-disc set includes all 14 parts of the 1978 season.



20TH CENTURY FOX/BLU-RAY SKY STUDIOS/AP

George Lopez, Jamie Foxx, Will.i.am and Rachel Corw lend their voices to “Rio 2.” The animated film is now available on DVD.

Also new on DVD:

“Rio 2”: It’s another fine-feathered adventure.

“Under the Skin”: Voluptuous woman (Scarlett Johansson) searches for isolated or forsaken men.

“Clue: A Movie Mystery Adventure”: Young sleuths work together deciphering a series of clues.

“Time Scanners: Petra”: Team of laser-scanning experts travel to Jordan.

“Open Grave”: Looks at how important memory is to a person’s identity.

“Escaped From Devil’s Island”: Roger Corman feature starring Jim Brown, Christopher George.

“100 Years of WWI”: Mini-series looks at how military strategy changed through weapon development, advanced intelligence.

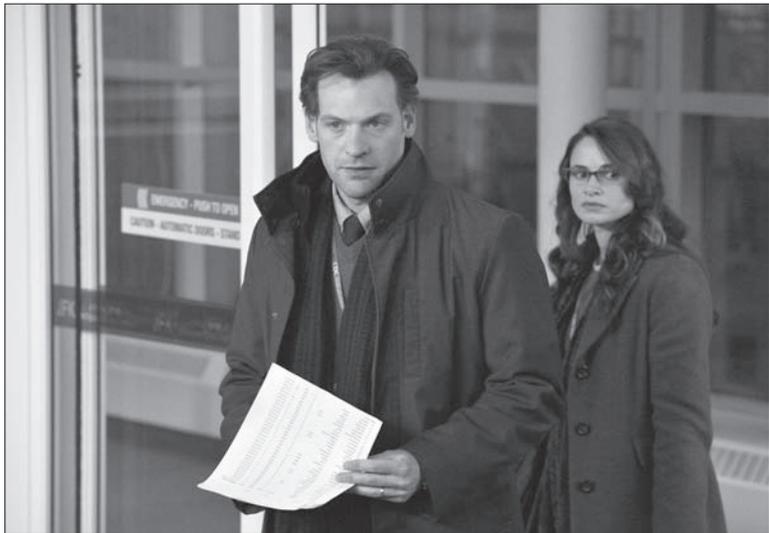
“A Day Late and a Dollar Short”: Woman tries bring her family back together before time slips away.

“David Suchet: In the Footsteps of St. Paul”: BBC documentary exploring Christianity’s early years.

“The Junior Spy Agency”: History assignment becomes case for young detectives.

“Wrinkles”: Animated tale of elderly characters who rebel against authority.

“Hercules: Hero, God, Warrior”: History channel special about the hero.
— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



MICHAEL GIBSON, FX/AP

Corey Stoll, left, and Mia Maestro star in “The Strain,” airing Mondays on AFN-Spectrum. The thriller begins when a mysterious viral outbreak spreads to New York. Stoll plays Dr. Ephraim Goodweather, head of the task force battling this global threat.

‘The Strain’ of stardom

Actor Corey Stoll talks hairpiece, role in new thriller series

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

This looks dire. An airliner has landed in New York with everyone on board apparently dead. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s hard-charging troubleshooter, Dr. Ephraim Goodweather, is summoned to investigate.

A suspicious-looking crate the plane was carrying vanishes.

Welcome to “The Strain,” a creepy new thriller about a viral outbreak threatening the human race that only Goodweather can stop.

“The Strain,” which airs Mondays on AFN-Spectrum, can claim as co-creators Guillermo del Toro (the “Hellboy” films) and Chuck Hogan, who jointly wrote the novels that inspired the series. Carlton Cuse (“Lost”) is the show runner.

The series stars Corey Stoll, who tangled with demonic Washington, D.C., in the first season of the Netflix political drama “House of Cards.”

Now he’s battling bloodsucking zombies who mean to take over the world. If the premiere began with what seems like a nod to the bygone Fox series “Fringe” (dead passengers on a plane) and ended with a fatherly homage to AMC’s “The Walking Dead,” Stoll vows that his show will blaze its own trail.

“I’ve never seen a lot of the stuff we’ll be doing,” he says. “And there’s a unique tone: a mix of goofiness and melancholy,” often registered in the mix of horror, disgust and rapt fascination with which Goodweather greets the monstrous things he sees.

It’s a muggy day as Stoll, 38, nurses an iced coffee in a Brooklyn diner not far

from his home. He has had a few weeks to catch his breath (and thaw out) after the frigid winter shoot in Toronto, which subs for New York on “The Strain.” But his schedule is about to really heat up.

Right away he’ll head to South Africa for a guest role on the new season of Showtime’s CIA drama “Homeland.”

He has a small part in the upcoming Johnny Depp film “Black Mass,” and in August heads to Atlanta for several months of shooting the much-awaited sci-fi film “Ant-Man.” After that, with luck, he’ll be back at work on a second season of “The Strain.”

Corey Stoll

Stoll’s career has taken off in the past five years. He appeared in the Angelina Jolie film “Salt,” starred for a season in “Law & Order: Los Angeles” and memorably depicted Ernest Hemingway in Woody Allen’s “Midnight in Paris.”

He considers the timing of his career to have been a blessing, particularly in one respect that, in another era, might have stopped him cold: His premature baldness, which happened shortly after college.

“I’m fortunate,” he says, “to have entered the business when a bald person could play something other than a biker or prisoner or cancer patient.”

Even now, few pale-pated actors (Patrick Stewart, Bruce Willis) are granted

leading-man status. But Stoll never looked to be a matinee idol. He envisioned a stage career of character roles, even back at New York’s High School for the Performing Arts when he had a full head of hair.

And no wonder. “I was a really fat kid,” he explains. “In high school, I topped out at about 310.”

What turned him around was a showcase where his teacher proposed two possible roles: the Hunchback of Notre Dame or the Elephant Man.

“I remember thinking, ‘I don’t want to only be playing Quasimodo for the rest of my life, so I better lose some weight.’”

He instilled his parents’ exercise bike in his bedroom and pumped away by the hour while The Smashing Pumpkins blasted. His improvised diet: white rice and V8 juice.

“I was doing it all wrong,” Stoll laughs. But it worked. He says he shed 100 pounds. (Today, at 6-foot-2, he weighs a bit 210 pounds.)

“The irony is, I got down to a less character-y weight — and lost my hair.”

Often in his roles, his signature baldness is on full display, as with Peter Russo, the womanizing, drugs-abusing congressman in “House of Cards.”

But as Eph Goodweather on “The Strain,” he exhibits a full colf, complete with distinguished-looking widow’s peak.

“I enjoy having a mask,” he says. “A wig helps put me in character.”

It serves Stoll as just another character choice. For him, hair has never been a matter of vanity, nor was it less traumatic, he insists.

“I never thought I had good looks to lose,” he sums up with a shrug.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Start with being careful about what you wear.

"Improperly fitting shoes, flip-flops, sandals — obviously there's a risk to all that because your toes are exposed," Babich says. "On a Friday or Saturday night in Uptown, you see those Egyptian-style sandals. You see the wedges. Let's add alcohol and no support. You're asking for a big problem."

When summer ends, podiatrist Dr. Allan Sherman sees an abundance of arch and heel strains.

But in the heat, closed shoes are not necessarily a cure-all. Dustin Stein, women's soccer coach at Eastfield College, remembers his team playing on turf in Louisiana one summer. Their cleats melted.

"Obviously if it's melting," says Stein, an athletic trainer, "you're baking your feet inside your shoes."

Thus, Sherman's description of summer feet. They are, he says, "almost a petri dish."

Diabetic problems

Summer foot problems are magnified for diabetics, who often suffer from neuropathy, or numbness, in their feet.

"I tell them not to go outside barefoot," Babich says. "One patient went out to get the mail on a 112-degree day on hot asphalt. They walk out slowly, stand at the mailbox, walk on back. They might as well have walked on an iron."

Some diabetics know what to do, he says; others haven't a clue. "I've pulled out of red, swollen feet a gold chain from a necklace. That's on top of needles, staples, wood, glass."

A blister of the toes of a healthy person tends to heal; not necessarily so for a diabetic, he says. He's had some tell him, "I can't believe I got a blister from flip-flops and am now in the hospital on IV antibiotics."

General advice

For all those problems, there are solutions. Our experts say you should:

Wear sunblock. Put it on the tops of feet as well as bottoms, which are exposed when you sit in a lounge chair, Sherman says.

Limit time in flip-flops. You need them by the pool and in public showers, Sherman says, because you can pick up a germ that causes walking barefoot around the pool. Plus, who knows what bacteria the showers hold? But "on the town for the night?" Babich asks. "No."

Wear wicking socks when exercising outdoors. Unlike cotton, wicking socks "take moisture away from skin



Pedi ready

Take steps to protect your feet from summer hazards

By LESLIE BARKER
The Dallas Morning News

Even after nine summers in Dallas, podiatrist Dr. Matthew Babich has yet to adjust to so many bare feet.

"Any time of day," he says, "I see someone walking with their shoes off. I shake my head at it."

"When I first moved here, a neighbor mowed his lawn barefoot. Come on, really? It's not that a shoe will save a foot if it goes under a mower, but not to have anything on it blew my mind."

Summer is a harsh season on feet. Bared toes mean stubbing opportunities abound, to say nothing of pebbles, ants, sun, griddle-hot sidewalks. And those are just the natural villains. Other problems are self-inflicted.

Which is why Babich and fellow experts say summer is a prime season to take a stand in the name of foot health. With a little care, most summer foot problems can be stamped out, they say,

and help our skin breathe easier. They allow better health, a better environment."

Remove athletic shoes and socks after working out. Take out the shoe's removable liner; otherwise, Sherman says, the shoe will stay wet between it and the sole. Put the liner outside to dry. "Make sure you open up

the shoes really well. Crumple newspaper into the shoe, which will help absorb moisture and keep the shoes spread."

Stretch your feet to prevent strains. Roll a ball around your arch to stretch your muscles, Sherman says. Also, sit down, bring the soles of your feet together and intertwine your toes.

Pay attention if your foot hurts. Anything that happens to your feet affects the rest of your body, Stein says. "If one is injured, you'll overcompensate. You'll put more pressure on the opposite foot, which can cause a break or stress injury in the leg, knee, hip."

Employ basic hygiene. "Some of the football players and soccer players have the most disgusting feet," Stein says. "Make sure you're washing your feet. Don't let your toenails grow out."

Be careful about pedicures. People without medical issues are at risk for ingrown toenails and infection, Babich says. "Put that with someone who is compromised from circulation or immune system problems and the likelihood of increased risk during a pedicure goes up."

The mindful pedicure

Marcia Lopez, a lead nail technician at Cooper Spa Dallas, says she not only wants feet to be pretty; Her goal is to keep them healthy, too. Which is why she pays careful attention to her workspace.

"You're scrubbing the feet. You're scrubbing skin," she says. "Bacteria is always on the skin. If everything isn't cleaned properly after each client, you can cross-contaminate."

Adds Lopez, who has worked at Cooper for seven years: "You don't want to get a pedicure where it could cost your life."

To that end, she offers tips on making sure that painted toenails and smooth heels are all you'll bring home from a pedicure.

Observe how equipment is cleaned. Make sure the salon's foot tubs are cleaned and sanitized after each use, she says.

Observe whether files are clean before they touch your feet. "We like to use disposable files, but not everyone does," Lopez says. "If it has nail polish on it, you should not let the technician use it on you."

Double-check orangewood sticks. Because these cuticle-pushing sticks are porous and hold bacteria, only one per client should be used, she says. Again, "if you see red or pink nail polish on it, ask for a brand-new stick and don't let the technician touch you with that dirty stick."

Ask questions. The salon "should pull everything apart after each client, clean it and start over again." A lot don't want to take the time to follow daily and weekly sanitizing steps, she says. "But you're saving somebody's life if you ... do that."

Tell the technician your health issues. If you're diabetic or have thin skin, don't let the technician use a metal file, she says. Remember that a technician cannot remove an ingrown toenail or give a pedicure to someone with athlete's foot or another fungus. A good one will notice if your ankles are swollen, and might suggest you follow up with your physician.

Be wary of how the nails are cut or filed. "When you cut the sides of the nail, they grow back into the skin when they're growing out and that leads to ingrown toenails," she says. "You can file the corners, but you don't want to cut into them."



VERNON BRYANT, THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS/MCT

Nail technician Marcia Lopez, left, tells customers to pay attention to equipment and how it's cleaned when getting a pedicure.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



"It would be a terrible tragedy if the art of reading to your child is lost in the digital transition."

Jason Boog

Breeding bookworms

Author advises parents to read early and often to kids

By LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

Jason Boog was immersed in publishing for five years as editor of the Mediabistro blog GalleyCat. When he became a dad, he was curious how best to foster a love of books in his newborn daughter.

His solution was — what else? — writing a book about raising bookworms, "Born Reading," out in July from Touchstone. Boog, 37, lives in Los Angeles with his wife and now nearly 4-year-old daughter, Olive. He works for a film production company, connecting screenwriters with experts to assist story development. Boog's book coincides with a policy issued last month from the American Academy of Pediatrics asking doctors to stress that parents should read to kids every day, beginning in infancy.

Four questions for Jason Boog: Isn't there enough guidance out there on fostering a love of reading in babies and young children?

When I was just starting to introduce my daughter to books, the iPad, lots of digital devices, were swamping the market. They entered the marketplace so quickly that I don't think we as parents, or even the child development experts — no one, really — had enough time to process the whole change. There was this rapid shift in the way we read, so I set out in the book to speak to scientists, child development experts on how best to handle the new landscape.

Are parents too exhausted in their child's first year to read to them?

I started to read to my daughter from the very first few days of her life. On the one hand, it's boring to have these newborns. They don't do very much. They kind of just sit there, and you kind of need something to do to entertain them and entertain yourself.

Then when I started speaking to the experts about it, that act of reading, even if your child is not speaking and not pointing to things in a book, but the act and the sound of your voice is turning on switches in their brain constantly in those first two years of life. I didn't realize that.

So I would set her up in her bouncy chair and as she drank her bottle I would pull out a board book and read it to her. Every single day you would see a little bit more light in those eyes, and you would see her start to follow the story a little bit.

How do you feel about the recommendation of no screen time for children under 2?

Some parents ban it completely during those first two years. We definitely let Olive grab the iPhone or the iPad when we were on airplanes or in long lines. We kind of used it as the pacifier of last resort. I still struggle on a daily basis with my daughter to balance my need for making her lunch, for doing my work or getting dressed.

She would play with the iPad all

day if I let her, until she fell over and fell asleep. She has nothing in her brain that tells her to turn it off. It's a constant struggle for 21st-century parents to figure out what the perfect balance is for their child and devices.

Realistically, you can't have zero screen time the way the world works now, with parents using devices every day and children seeing them. They're going to be curious. They're going to want to touch them.

Do you think parents, pediatricians, day care providers and others do enough to read to or expose babies and young children to reading?

Over the last 30 years, we've developed this rich body of research about the science of interactive reading. That is reading to your child in a way where you're asking questions, where you're having them compare it to their own experiences, where it's a very active, participatory experience. You can use a device, you can do it while watching 'Sesame Street,' with a song, but it's you and your child, not your child and a device.

So we've had 30 years of research telling us it's just crucial for a developing brain to do this. I feel like at a time when books, maybe, are receding a little bit from the public imagination, it's almost a public health issue to know this. People should be handing something out at the hospital saying it's really important that you do this with your child, have this interactive experience. It doesn't have to be an either/or proposition — book over device.

It would be a terrible tragedy if the art of reading to your child is lost in the digital transition.

SPOUSE CALLS

Going the extra mile for family

Just a couple of weeks ago my mom called to tell me that her brother, my Uncle Cecil, had died. She told me the funeral date had not been set yet, and then added, "I know you can't come. ..."

She didn't mean it to sting, but I felt it. In our military life, it seems we are often too far away at significant times. I know the strain of being distant when my family needs me closer, or when I need to be closer to them.

My grandfather died 20 years ago when we were stationed on the other side of the world in Guam. At the time, I had a 6-month-old, a 3-year-old and a husband who was TDY on another continent. I didn't make it home then to grieve with my family, nor four months later when my Aunt Marie succumbed to cancer, leaving behind her husband, Cecil, and three young daughters.

This month, when my mom told me that those daughters, now grown up, had lost their father too, she figured I couldn't be there. However, our latest home is only 600 miles or so from my extended family. By military family standards, that's close.

"Mom, of course I can come," I said. "I can drive there in one day."

I had already been considering a trip because another change was on the horizon. My 94-year-old grandmother was moving. Health challenges made it impossible for her to remain in her rural home and drive herself back and forth to town, as she had always done. I wanted to go and help with her transition to assisted living.

For various reasons, Meemaw's moving day and the funeral had to be the same day, so I arrived at my mom's house the day before.

The morning of the funeral, we got up before dark, dressed and tried to prepare ourselves for the difficult day ahead. My sisters met us at the cemetery.

At the graveside service, we reunited with cousins and friends, hugged each other, laughed and cried over good times remembered. After the funeral, we went to my grandmother's home for another kind of ceremony, an unofficial one marking the end of her independent life.

I've seen plenty of homes being disassembled, but this one was different. Throughout my life I've moved from place to place, but my grandparents' home was a constant, transcendent when the rest of my life was transient.

I walked through the house, taking in everything one last time: The built-in telephone shelf in the hallway, the turbanic cupboard and my grandfather's made. Knickknacks, glassware, black and white photos of my uncles playing together as little boys.

The house was filled with family, like holidays past, but this was a work day. Meemaw sat quietly in her chair as we began taking apart the home where she had lived for 61 years, after burying her son on the same day. My uncle's funeral and my grandmother's move didn't seem like the events of just one day. They were like life flashing before my eyes, not just my life but the lives of my family. I wondered how it felt to Meemaw.

She watched, saying little, as her children and grandchildren packed up furniture and clothes for her move. Some things she had chosen, and others were chosen for her: a bed, her favorite chair, a shelf my grandfather made, family photos.

"I want that picture to go with me," she said, gesturing to a painting, done by a friend many years ago, depicting the house she was about to leave behind.

My cousin removed the painting from its nail. I dusted it off and carried it out to my car as a sacred charge. I was part of the caravan that would transport Meemaw's life to her new home. I carried the picture of her old home and hung it on the wall in her new one. It wasn't a big job, but it was important to me. I have missed some crucial days with my family, but I was there that day. I'll be there for as many as I can, and wherever I go I'll carry the image of Meemaw's house with me.

Terri Barnes is a military wife and mother of three. She writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com.



Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

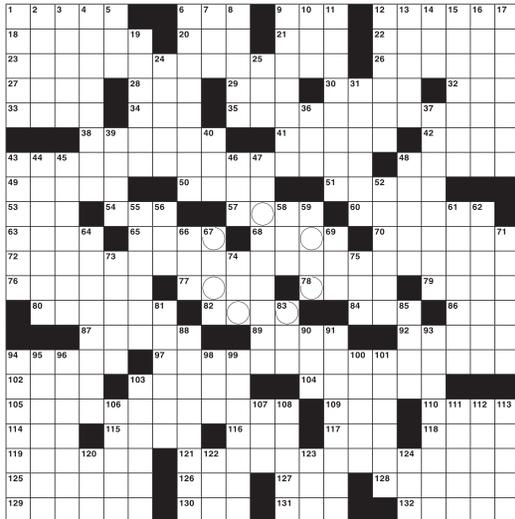
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

WE HOLD THESE TRUTHS TO BE SELF-EVIDENT

BY TOM MCCOY/ EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Note: The circled letters, when read clockwise, will reveal a quote from Gertrude Stein.

- ACROSS
1 Fighting group
6 Understood
9 Scientific truth
12 Lives
18 Opposite of wind up
20 Bobby on the ice
21 Memphis-to-Nashville dir.
22 Like yesterday
23 Classic excuse for some misdemeanors
26 Intimidating words
27 Prefix with -graphic
28 Mercury, but not Earth
29 Workman's aid
30 Heavy work
32 Carrier to Tokyo
33 World's largest particle physics lab, in Switzerland
34 Many a drive-thru installation
35 Declaration from Popey
38 Anne's (popular) pretzel purveyor
41 Smugglers' worries
42 ___ mortal
43 Doubt-dispelling words from Lady Macbeth
48 Follower of Iop
49 Follower of Iop
50 Formerly, once
51 Spectrum
53 "Alea iacta ___" ("The die is cast")
54 Mutt's mutter?
57 "When You're Good to ___" ("Chicago" song)
60 Aside, e.g.
63 Encyclopedic
65 Frequent features of John Constable landscapes
68 Atypical
70 Bearing in mind
72 Famous Yogisism
76 Traditional Gaelic singer
77 Falafel holder
78 Food often with pentagonal cross sections
79 "All ___"
80 Holy ___
82 Makes loop-the-loops?
84 Chicken ___
86 Spanish "that"
87 One summing things up
89 They may come with covenants
92 Property areas
94 Match game?
97 Words dismissive of detractors
102 Send, in a way
104 Top choice
105 Expression of resignation
109 Baseball stat.
110 "Did gyre and gimble in the ___": "Jabberwocky"
114 Take it easy
115 Cast
116 Sushi topper, maybe
117 Hardy highbrow reading
118 Material blocked by parental controls
119 Fantasy title character whose name is one letter different from the creature he rides
121 "We will tolerate this no more!"
125 Least plausible
126 Certain wardrobe malfunction
127 Filler of la mer
128 Mess up
129 Covers with goo
130 Austin Powers, e.g.
131 Record stat
132 Game
DOWN
1 Like some measures
2 Cell part
3 Whirlpool product
4 Strike a chord
5 "Gross!"
6 Source of great profit
7 Mercury or Earth
8 District in Rome
9 Sheldon's apartment-mate on "The Big Bang Theory"
10 "___ questions?"
11 Emmy-winning drama four years in a row, with "The ___"
12 Some memory triggers
13 Stereotypical beatnik accessory
14 Hard water
15 Pushed back
16 Capture
17 Fuming
19 Bonding molecule
24 Kind of ticket
25 Howl
31 "My, my!"
36 Card game with a "Chairman"
37 Ape
39 Letters of certification?
40 Ending for how or who, for Shakespeare
43 One that's a bore?
44 Fights
45 Where prints may be picked up
46 Movement
47 Send in troops, say
48 Some wrestlers
52 Bonkers
55 Went back over
56 Rapper ___ Rida
58 Jun preceder
59 1968 live folk album
61 "Tender Is the Night" locale, with "the ___"
62 Mideast legislature
64 Determines the concentration of a dissolved substance
66 Team V.I.P.
67 Ocho - dos
69 Certain ruminant



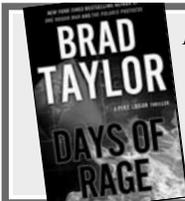
- 71 "Summer Nights" musical
73 Colorful, pebble-like candies
74 Bit of trip planning: Abbr.
75 Roth ___
81 Take up again, as a case
83 Yearbook sect.
85 Small power sources
88 Ones that warn before they attack
90 Former employer for Vladimir Putin, for short
91 Sunny room
93 Reams S
94 Takes a turn
95 Strict
96 Work for a folder
98 What you might be in France?
99 Degree of disorder in a system
100 Top stars?
101 Bit of wisdom
103 Pushes aside
106 ___ Baby Are You? (1920 show tune)
107 Debt note
108 Rocker Bob
111 Bequile
112 Corn chip since 1966
113 Clear sky
120 Pip
122 Barely beat
123 Chance, poetically
124 Refusals

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FACES

First lady salutes Grammy Museum, music teachers

By SANDY COHEN
The Associated Press

Michelle Obama says every arts organization in the country should embrace the mission of the Grammy Museum in Los Angeles, which focuses on education.

Six million American children attend schools with no art or music classes, she said Wednesday at the museum's inaugural Jane Ortner Education Award Luncheon.

"Arts are a way to channel ... pain and frustration into something meaningful and productive and beautiful, and every human being needs that, particularly our kids," she said. "And when they don't have that outlet, that's such a tremendous loss, not just for our kids but for our nation."

The Grammy Museum has worked with the first lady since 2009 to produce concerts and music education programs for young people, bringing 1,000 stu-

dents to Washington, D.C., to see live performances.

"Those are some of my favorite events at the White House," Obama said.

The Grammy Museum has focused on education since it opened in 2008, said executive director Bob Santelli. The museum hosts more than 35,000 students a year and provides free curricula for various subjects that incorporate music in innovative ways.

Singer-songwriter Janelle Monae, who received the Jane Ortner Artist Award, said music saved her when she was growing up in a rough neighborhood.

"Music helped me really deal with my emotions, when I could not articulate how frustrated I was," she said. "It gave me the opportunity to get it all out."

Her latest album, 2013's "The Electric Lady," rails against sexism among women as subjects rather than objects.



DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

First Lady Michelle Obama, right, hugs six-time Grammy nominee singer Janelle Monae at the Grammy Museum's Jane Ortner Education Award Luncheon in Los Angeles on Wednesday.

The 28-year-old entertainer is active with the Grammy Museum's educational outreach, entertaining students at the White

House and at the museum.

"I hope we have more mentors," Monae said. "More mentors than superstars."

After accepting her microphone-shaped trophy, she brought out her band and performed a high-energy four-song set.

Samberg has advice for anyone fired from 'SNL'

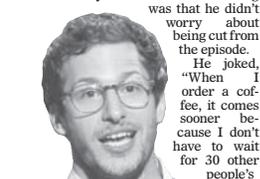
The Associated Press

Andy Samberg wants ousted "Saturday Night Live" cast members to know there is life after the comedy show.

Brooks Wheelan tweeted earlier this week that he had been fired from the NBC sketch comedy series. A source familiar with casting but not authorized to speak on the record told The Associated Press that he would not be returning in the fall.

Talking to journalists Wednesday at a Television Critics Association set visit for Fox's "Brooklyn Nine-Nine," Samberg — a featured cast member on "SNL" from 2005 to 2012 — said, "If you were hired ... there's something good going on with you."

The 35-year-old returned to guest host earlier this year after winning the Golden Globe Award for best actor in a television series musical or comedy for "Nine-Nine." He said the only difference about hosting



was that he didn't worry about being cut from the episode. He joked, "When I order a coffee, it comes sooner ... because I don't have to wait for 30 other people's

coffees. Other than that, it's almost exactly the same."

Samberg is happy to be back in California to film "Nine-Nine" because he was raised in Berkeley. He also says it's better for his marriage. (He wed musician Joanna Newsom last September.) "The schedule (now) is much better. ... 'SNL' is notoriously bad for a relationship," he said.

Beyonce leads nominations

Doing a visual album has paid off for Beyonce: She's the leading nominee at the MTV Video Music Awards.

MTV announced Thursday that Beyonce is up for eight moonman trophies, including video of the year for "Drunk in Love." Iggy Azalea and Eminem are nominated for seven awards each.

Pharrell is the only male nominated for the top prize. Along with Beyonce, his "Happy" will compete with Azalea's "Fancy," Miley Cyrus' "Wrecking Ball" and Sia's "Chandelier" for video of the year. Azalea is nominated twice for best pop video and female video, thanks to her other hit, the Ariana Grande-led smash "Problem."

The VMAs are Aug. 24 at the Forum in Inglewood, Calif. Performers include Grande, Usher and 5 Seconds of Summer.

Water mite named after J.Lo

Pop singer Jennifer Lopez may be linking life is funny after a group of scientists named a water mite in her honor after discovering a new species near Puerto Rico.

The music of the Bronx, N.Y.-born entertainer who has Puerto Rican roots was a hit with the group while they wrote

about their findings, biologist Vladimir Pestic said in an email Wednesday.

"The reason behind the unusual choice of name for the new species is ... simple: J.Lo's songs and videos kept the team in a continuous good mood when writing the manuscript and watching World Cup Soccer 2014," said Pestic.

Pestic is the corresponding author of the study published Tuesday in the journal ZooKeys. Pestic and other scientists collected the newly baptized *Litarachna lopezae* mite from a coral reef in Mona Passage, a body of water that separates Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

Other news

■ HBO says Bryan Cranston is reprising his role as President Lyndon Johnson in a TV adaptation of his recent Broadway debut. "All the Way" focuses on Johnson early in his presidency.

■ Jason Mraz announced Wednesday that he will tour the five boroughs of New York in September. He will kick off the tour Sept. 17 at the Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College.

■ Ron Howard will direct a documentary on the Beatles that focuses on the band's touring years during the early 1960s. Howard announced the project Wednesday. The film is being made with the cooperation of Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr, Yoko Ono and Olivia Harrison. The Beatles company, Apple Corps, is co-producing the film.

■ Texas blues legend Johnny Winter, known for his lightning-fast guitar riffs, his striking long white hair and his collaborations with the likes of Jimi Hendrix and childhood hero Muddy Waters, has died. He was 70.



Zhou Xun, right, and Archie Kao show their wedding rings to the crowd at a concert in China on Wednesday.

Actors exchange vows on concert stage

The closing act at a charity event, Chinese actress Zhou Xun sang two songs then stayed on stage for the best of encores.

Rumors had swirled beforehand that Zhou would be announcing her engagement to actor Archie Kao at Wednesday's concert in Hangzhou, the capital of China's eastern province of Zhejiang.

After she sang, she went backstage and reappeared in an ivory Chanel wedding gown, holding a bouquet. As the crowd broke into a loud cheer, she was joined on stage by Kao, wearing a black tuxedo. The couple surprised everyone by announcing that they were getting married on stage. They went on to exchange vows and rings in front of the audience.

After saying "I do," Kao told the crowd, "It's love that brought us all here tonight, and it's also love that brought me and my wife together."

Zhou, 39, is one of China's most sought-after actresses and made her Hollywood debut in "Cloud Atlas." Kao, 44, is a Chinese-American actor whose credits include the television series "CSI: Crime Scene Investigation."

"Brooklyn Nine-Nine" star Andy Samberg wants released "Saturday Night Live" cast members to know there is life beyond the show.

PAUL A. HEBERT, INVISION/AP

From The Associated Press

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OPINION

Ospreys help Marines protect, assist our allies — on Okinawa and beyond

BY BRIG. GEN. STEVE R. RUDDER

The MV-22B Osprey, a tilt-rotor aircraft that takes off and lands like a helicopter, has operated in the Asia-Pacific theater for nearly two years, and with it has come amazing benefits for the Japan-U.S. alliance and for partner nations where the Osprey operates.

While the Osprey was newly introduced in Japan in 2012, the squadrons are not additions to the Marine Air Group. They simply replaced, with a one-for-one swap, an older less-capable aircraft, the CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter. The CH-46 Sea Knight served us well for 50 years, including service in Vietnam, and the time for replacement had come throughout the Marine Corps. Starting 10 years ago on the East Coast of the U.S. at Camp Lejeune, N.C., then on the West Coast of the U.S. at Camp Pendleton, Calif., the Osprey came into service as we systematically replaced CH-46 Sea Knights.

Ospreys have served across the world, in combat and humanitarian situations including service in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, Haiti and many other places. Finally, beginning the replacement in October 2012 and completing it last year, the very newest and best Ospreys — with highly trained and experienced pilots, crews and maintenance teams — came to Okinawa, putting the best and most modern equipment we have to offer in Japan where they can best serve the people of Japan and the region as a whole.

The reason for the leap in capability is seen when you look at what the Osprey can do compared with the older Sea Knight it replaced. The Osprey can travel twice as fast, carry three times the payload and go four times farther than the Sea Knight. In addition, it can refuel in midair, extending its range indefinitely.

This is not just a strategic benefit for the Japan-U.S. alliance; it is also a considerable benefit for Okinawa, where some of the Ospreys in the Asia-Pacific theater operate. One benefit to having such a long flight range is the ability to regularly go outside Okinawa prefecture for exercises and training events, increasing our ability to partner with regional allies and friends while giving the pilots valuable training experience. That reduces the amount of time the Ospreys spend on Okinawa. For well over a year, Ospreys have been used during training in mainland Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Australia, Guam and across the seas as they deployed aboard the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. Local residents on Okinawa have told us that they do not see nearly as many Ospreys around as they used to see Sea Knights! It is not because they are not being utilized, but because they are being used so much more and farther away from Okinawa. With the Sea Knight, that could not be done because of their limited range.

As an example of the capability benefits brought by the Osprey, during Operation Tomodachi our Sea Knights responded to



LISA TOURTELOR/Stars And Stripes

Visitors to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, Okinawa, on June 8 line up to catch a glimpse of the Marines' newest aircraft to the island — the MV-22 Osprey.

northeastern Japan. They took approximately three days to reach the region, having to refuel and island-hop the entire way. Had Ospreys been stationed on Okinawa at the time, the response time would have been much faster.

In fact, during Operation Damayan, Ospreys flew about the same distance — 1,118 miles — to the Philippines in three hours. The Ospreys evacuated 1,200 people and delivered more than 20 tons of supplies to remote areas where neither traditional airplanes nor helicopters could reach. That gives you an idea of the tremendous capability the Osprey brings.

Simply put, the Osprey can respond faster and farther to any situation where we might be called, including our most frequent mission — humanitarian assistance and disaster response. The Osprey is the ideal aircraft to respond to a disaster or any remote area because it can go so far and fast, carry a great deal of supplies or personnel, and it does not need a runway to land.

The Osprey is also quieter than the helicopters we operate — partly because it can quickly convert to airplane mode. While in helicopter mode, the sound it creates is generally quieter than that of any Marine Corps helicopter as depicted in the 2012 noise study. And when it switches to airplane mode, the sound becomes even less. Because the aircraft is much more fuel efficient in airplane mode, and can go much faster, we convert to aircraft mode quickly, making for a faster departure from Okinawa than the Sea Knight ever could. In addition, the Osprey can fly much higher than other rotary aircraft, making for a quieter experience for people on the ground as well. Local residents and leaders around Marine Corps Air Station Futenma tell us the air situation is much quieter than before the Ospreys arrived.

The state-of-the-art technology that the Osprey uses is transferable to our ultramodern Osprey flight simulators, allowing our pilots to conduct many of their training sessions in the simulator on the ground, which could not be done with the CH-46 Sea Knights. That reduces the number of training flights.

The Osprey is also very safe, with an excellent record demonstrating it is one of the safest aircraft in the entire U.S. Department of Defense. All major systems on the aircraft — including the computer, navigation, hydraulics and fuel systems — are triple-redundant, meaning that it

has its backup systems backed up. Keeping safety as a top priority, maintenance is executed with care, diligence and oversight. Our professional crews — who are well-versed in international flights standards — maintain high performance standards and are also diligent in implementing local agreements pertaining to flight paths and noise abatement.

The U.S. Marine Corps is the world's most reliable crisis response force, and the speed and ability of our response is because we always train as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force, or MAGTF. This MAGTF is always composed of air, ground and logistics elements operating together, and it is what makes the Marine Corps so efficient at crisis response. With the Osprey as part of that MAGTF, our overall response ability is significantly strengthened.

The Osprey has gathered many supporters, especially here on Okinawa. Each year we open every base to the public, and invite friends and neighbors to see how Marines live and work. Marine Corps Air Station Futenma opened its gates in June during the annual Futenma Flightline Fair. This was the second year we had the MV-22 Osprey on display, and again this year we had thousands of visitors. The one aircraft that everyone wants to see is the Osprey, and we received many positive comments, as well as answered numerous questions from Okinawans who told us the local media has not provided them with accurate information.

We have even seen the establishment of the Okinawa Osprey Fan Club, the Fence Clean Project, the Heart Clean Project and Operation Arigato, which have thousands of members. Members gather regularly outside the gates of MCAS Futenma to thank our Marines for their service and to voice their support for the U.S.-Japan defense alliance. I want to thank them for their willingness to express their appreciation.

For more than six decades, the Japan-U.S. security treaty has provided peace, security and prosperity to not only our great nations, but also to the entire Asia-Pacific region and the larger international community. I believe the Osprey has tremendously contributed to making the U.S.-Japan defense alliance and our combined abilities the strongest they have ever been.

Brig. Gen. Steve R. Rudder is commanding general of the 26th Marine Amphibious Brigade, headquartered on Camp Foster, Okinawa. For more information on the MV-22 Osprey, please visit: www.okinawa.usmc.mil/MV22/MV22.html.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

US invested in Afghan recount Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

The latest chapter in U.S. efforts to nation-build in Afghanistan is the attempt by Secretary of State John Kerry to salvage the country's presidential election.

What America wants Afghanistan to do, for three reasons, is elect a credible president to succeed Hamid Karzai, ostensibly in charge of the country since 2001. First, having a democratically elected president means that the United States can leave in an orderly fashion, having been a major military, political and economic presence for 13 years. President Barack Obama would prefer to leave an Afghanistan that does not immediately descend into the sort of chaos that characterizes Iraq, which U.S. forces left in 2011.

The second reason Washington wants a duly elected president in charge is that Karzai refused to sign an agreement extending the U.S. presence from 2014 to 2016, but both of the candidates still in the race have promised to do so if elected.

The third is the United States still has more than 30,000 troops in Afghanistan, will leave behind an Afghan army that has been trained to fight the Taliban, and has many projects that have been carried out and many bases and much property to turn over to the Afghans.

As it stands now, the election has been a disaster. Former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah won the first round in April over incumbent President Karzai, but he failed to win 50 percent of the votes, prompting a runoff. Ghani, the candidate of Karzai, was announced to have finished first in the second round in June. Abdullah credibly cried "foul." One suspicious detail is that the vote total in the second round was 23 percent higher than that of the first round. Maybe Ghani campaigned more effectively or maybe ballot boxes were stuffed, a common phenomenon in Afghanistan.

Kerry hurried to Kabul to try to retrieve the situation. Both candidates agreed to a recount of the 8.1 million ballots and both agreed to form a coalition government when the counting was done. The United States and other nations have the privilege of paying for the recount, which for U.S. troops will be part of the ticket home.

For Israel, peril is all around The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

President Barack Obama has offered to broker a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas, a standard U.S. response to the problem of the Gaza Strip. But the current rocket fire from Gaza into Israel is different from past episodes, and the usual cease-fire may not answer Israel's new peril.

Hamas took credit for trying to destroy Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona. Three rockets were fired into Israel. Two fell short and one was intercepted by Israel's Iron Dome anti-missile system.

Had the attacks succeeded — and more are expected — widespread exposure to nuclear radiation could have resulted. At the least, Hamas' terrorism campaign would have achieved a new level.

Around the same time, Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri declared, "All Israelis have become legitimate targets." He claimed that the deaths of seven civilians in an Israeli air raid on Khan Yunis, a Gaza settlement, justified this blood claim. Israel's reply to Hamas rocket attacks has indeed been far more deadly than the



provocation. But that is due to three things: the ineptness of most Hamas attacks, the roughly 90 percent success of Israel's Iron Dome system in destroying the missiles most likely to do damage, and the practice of Hamas to put its missiles, command posts and other military targets in the midst of dense civilian populations.

The heightened threat level may lead to an Israeli invasion of Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israel also has to worry about the threat from Hezbollah in Lebanon, with as many as 30,000 missiles, including some that have GPS guidance systems. Hezbollah also gets its weapons from Iran, with the help of the Assad government of Syria. It can be expected to unleash an attack if Iran thinks it is desirable. With Iran's help Assad seems to be winning the civil war in Syria, but it is not over yet. Indeed, it has spread to Iraq and now threatens Jordan.

Hamas' aggression against Israel — the murders, the missiles, the rhetoric — threatens to drag Israel into the wider Middle East conflict. A cease-fire may put a temporary stop to the pressure from Iran's proxies. But Israel's heightened peril will remain. And that intensifies the need for the international community, including the U.S., to help resolve not only the latest violence, but finally the intransigent Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Brazil finds games not all fun Commercial Appeal

Against daunting odds, Brazil's pace of construction, demonstrations by displaced slum dwellers, long distances, impenetrable traffic and the collapse of one hastily built overpass — Brazil pulled off what is universally and rightly regarded as a successful soccer World Cup. The competition was watched by record crowds worldwide, including a 100 percent increase in U.S. viewership over the last World Cup.

It is not too much to say that the fate of the government of President Dilma Rousseff, who faces an election in October, was riding on Brazil being able to pull off a major international sporting event. Then, too, there is the matter of paying the \$1.6-billion-plus cost of hosting the cup, but Brazil is a wealthy nation and, besides, it shares South America's relaxed attitude about carrying large amounts of debt.

Few of the brick-and-mortar benefits from the cup materialized and Brazil, which is in the midst of paying the \$1.6 billion-plus cost of hosting the cup, but Brazil is a wealthy nation and, besides, it shares South America's relaxed attitude about carrying large amounts of debt.

World Cup in size and cost.

Before the World Cup there were riots by Brazilians, who felt the money could be better spent, for example, on schools and housing. Having been deprived of promised civic benefits once, it's hard to imagine Brazilians exhibiting similar forbearance for the Summer Olympics.

Miracles do happen; the fact that Brazil pulled off the World Cup was one, but maybe a second one is too much to ask for.

A fire DOD needs to extinguish The Wall Street Journal

The Obama administration is asking Congress for more money to fund summer wildfires, especially in the dry West, but perhaps it could start by getting its own agencies off firefighters' backs. We're speaking of the Defense Department's recent and gratuitous fit of environmental consciousness, which has disrupted disaster efforts in peak wildfire season.

A bipartisan group of 25 senators led by Arizona's John McCain on July 10 sent Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel a letter demanding an explanation for the Pentagon's June decision to stop programs that supply federal equipment to states for fighting wildfires. The DOD suspended the programs on grounds the equipment didn't meet the latest federal emissions standards. As if real fires aren't major air-polluting events.

At issue are two programs — the Federal Excess Personal Property Program and the Firefighter Property Program — that every year loan local firefighting units more than \$150 million of equipment that the federal government no longer needs. The programs supply tens of thousands of items — trucks, pumps, generators, engine parts — and have become a lifeline for smaller, all-volunteer fire departments that can't afford \$500,000 for a new tanker. This is more than charity, given that the Environmental Protection Agency's strictest emissions standards. According to the Defense Logistics Agency, which handles the transfers, its employees were wading through paperwork in May and suddenly feared that they weren't abiding by a decades-old agreement with the EPA to submit to Clean Air Act standards. The DOD's response to its self-generated confusion was to suspend the program, leaving thousands of local firefighting teams without help.

An enormous state outcry caused the EPA and the DOD to announce last week that they are restarting the programs. The wizards at the DOD have concluded that the six grants to "assure national security" in connection to its emissions rules for transferred

military equipment. Wonderful.

Yet proving that no government mistake goes without punishing others, the agencies have nonetheless suggested that this program restart may now come with new requirements — including that local firefighters track and ultimately return every piece of equipment so the feds can destroy it. We can't have rug, un-emissions-free generators roaming the countryside.

That inspired McCain's letter to Hagel asking to know how this mess happened, as well as the details on any new requirements. Local fire units have enough trouble without worrying that the feds will suddenly seize their fire trucks keys. This administration can't even give things away without making a mess of it.

Let 'dental therapists' help The Washington Post

In 2009, 830,000 visits to emergency rooms around the country could have been prevented if the patients had seen a dentist earlier. In 2011, more than half of children on Medicaid died without dental care.

Those facts lie behind the story of Deamonte Driver, a Maryland seventh-grader who died of a preventable infection that spread from his mouth to his brain in 2007. Maryland pushed through some reforms following Deamonte's death, but the situation across the country has not dramatically improved.

Everyone seems to agree there is a dental care crisis in the United States, particularly among people in poor or rural areas. People who have dental insurance or the means to pay out of pocket can get a high level of care. Those without struggle. Medicaid must cover dental services, but try finding a dentist who participates in the program, which offers small reimbursements. Only perhaps a third of dentists accept Medicaid. Deamonte's mother faced this problem. In less-developed areas, sometimes regardless of insurance, few patients may have to travel hours to get care.

One potential solution is to license less-qualified "dental therapists" to carry out some basic services, such as filling cavities, that currently only dentists perform. Behind that effort is the experience of more than 50 states and a few states that allow these midlevel providers to practice in public and private settings. Most recently, the Pew Charitable Trusts released its second report on how dental therapists are working in a few places around the United States and Canada, with some encouraging results.

In the two private dental practices and the three public health dental operations the Pew researchers examined, dental therapists counseled patients, extracted teeth, filled cavities and performed other relatively simple procedures. The number of patients treated by dental therapists at the basic work taken care of, dentists could focus on complicated procedures, which also allowed them to bill more. Overall, the private practices brought in more than enough revenue to cover the dental therapists' salaries.

Some critics are considering bills to license dental therapists, but many dentists have been skeptical. The American Dental Association recently released a plan to improve access to dental care, and it left out dental therapists. Instead, the dentists' group favors more community coordinators who would help patients find a dentist and help them find a dentist. Instead of a focus on dental therapists, said ADA President Charles Norman, his group favors a broader package that would address many problems at once. Besides, he said, many dentists might find that dental therapists don't make the financial sense. (The authors of the report suggest) Even if that's so, it's not a reason to continue artificially constraining the supply of qualified practitioners. With the right training and supervision, dental therapists can do a lot of work that doesn't require an advanced degree. If the finances don't pan out in some places, fine. But state policy should not close off the option.

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Honda model
- 6 Essential organs
- 12 "Key Largo" co-star
- 13 "... blackbirds, baked ..."
- 14 He was Sal in "Do the Right Thing"
- 15 Out from the throne
- 16 Picnic invaders
- 17 Practice prizefighting
- 19 Blue
- 20 Jannings of old Hollywood
- 22 Youngster
- 24 Eastern "way"
- 27 Letter jumble (Abbr.)
- 29 Anger
- 32 Cello, viola and two violins
- 35 Gambling game
- 36 Enterprise officer
- 37 Common Mkt.
- 38 Blackbird
- 40 Benevolent fraternity
- 42 President pro —
- 44 Lucy's man
- 46 Grad
- 50 Frank
- 52 Bag
- 54 Toughen
- 55 Canine coat
- 56 Come to land
- 57 Echolocation apparatus
- 23 Bobby of hockey lore
- 24 "For shame!"
- 25 Corroded
- 26 Decoration
- 28 Traveling man?
- 30 "Gosh!"
- 31 List-ending abbr.
- 33 Charged bit
- 34 Diving bird
- 39 Perfect
- 41 Dieter's entree
- 42 "Jabberwocky" starter
- 43 "— Kline Nachtmusik"
- 45 Perry's creator
- 47 Peru's capital
- 48 Addict
- 49 Tillis or Torné
- 51 Profit
- 53 Santa —, Calif.

DOWN

- 1 Biblical villain
- 2 Tracy Marrow's nom de rap
- 3 Sibelius' "— Triste"
- 4 Suffering a bug
- 5 Bad news on Broadway
- 6 "Livin' la — Loca" starter
- 7 Unmoving
- 8 Spigot
- 9 Religious defector
- 10 Bart's sister
- 11 Start a garden
- 12 Sheepish remark?
- 18 Hangable awards
- 21 Follow

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

7-19

CRYPTOQUIP

ZNML TFHCS BFHXJRFV CHFNVQ
 YZRTZ C IRM KZRASFCQ FB
 SCMLH YCK KARSSLQ: JZL
 MHL CJ ILLHRLH HLLB.

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Today's Cryptquip Clue: L equals E



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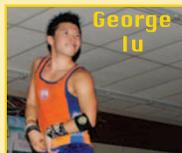


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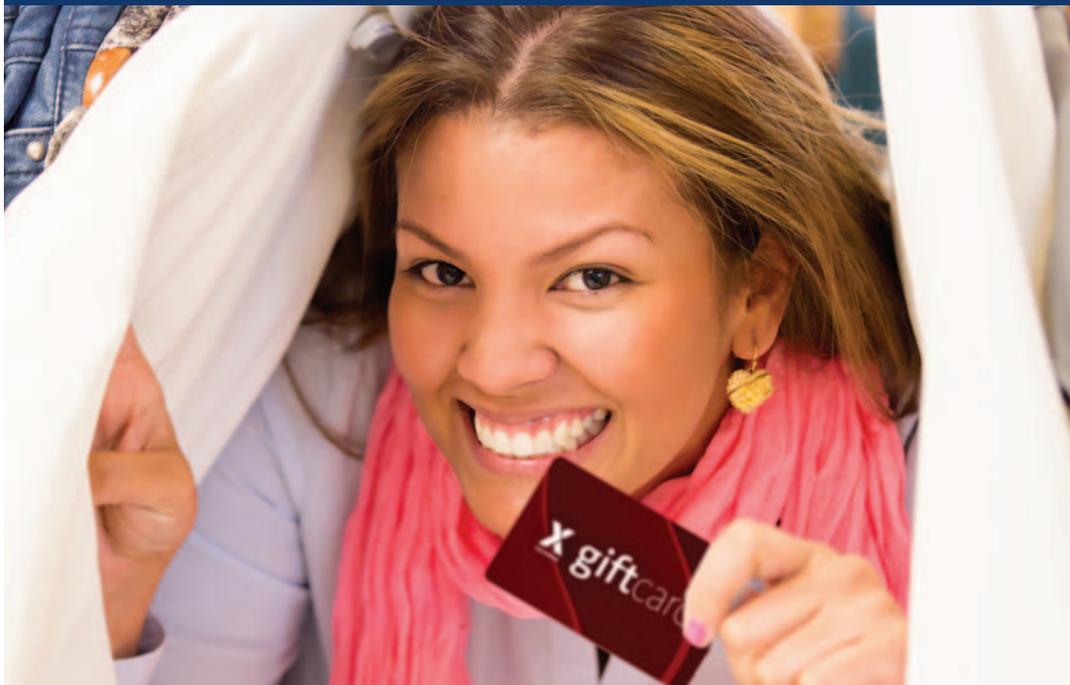


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INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

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), by 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 Storm 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 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.

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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 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 Headliner 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 Series

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

NBA

Some win, some lose as free agency winds down

By **BRODERICK TURNER**
Los Angeles Times

Once LeBron James announced, "I'm Coming Home," to Cleveland last Friday, the free-agency floodgates opened, with the player moves coming fast and furious.

James was the Pied Piper, the one who set in motion so much change in the NBA that it left some teams with high hopes, some with despair and some thinking they remain on the right course for next season.

James' decision to return to the Cleveland Cavaliers for a second stint, obviously made them the big winner in the free-agency marketplace, and it left his old Miami Heat team a loser because it lost the best player on the planet.

So here is a quick look at the teams who are the winners, losers and wild cards during the free-agency period:

Winners

Cleveland: James spent his first seven NBA seasons playing for the Cavaliers, before spending the last four years in Miami. The Cavaliers had a woeful 97-215 record without him.

The Cavaliers drafted Andrew Wiggins with the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft last month. And after James' decision, the Cavaliers signed free-agent small forward sharpshooter Mike Miller, who won two NBA championships with James in Miami.

Chicago: The signing of former Los Angeles Lakers All-Star Pau Gasol, and getting Creighton forward Doug McDermott in a draft-day trade from Denver should do wonders for the offensively challenged Bulls.

Gasol averaged 17.4 points, 9.7 rebounds and 3.4 assists in 60 games last season for the Lakers. He's an upgrade at power forward over Carlos Boozer, who was just waived by the Bulls via the NBA's one-time amnesty provision.

The return of a healthy Derrick Rose, if he resembles the player who won the 2011 MVP award, will make Chicago big winners.

San Antonio: Coach Gregg Popovich, considered the best coach in the NBA, has agreed to a contract extension, and that should be enough to make the 2014 NBA champions contenders again.

It also helps that Tim Duncan, 38, has decided to play next season. Plus, the Spurs resigned key reserves Boris Diaw and Patty Mills and drafted UCLA's Kyle Anderson, whose style of play fits San Antonio's approach to the game.

Oklahoma City: The Thunder didn't land any big-name free agents, but it still has MVP Kevin Durant, Russell Westbrook

and Serge Ibaka, and that is more than enough to contend.

Signing wingman Anthony Morrow, a very good outside scoring threat, helps fill a spot after the exits of Thabo Sefolosha and Derek Fisher.

Losers



Anthony

New York: The Knicks got Anthony back, but that's about it.

The Knicks' Big Three consists of Anthony, new president Phil Jackson and new coach Fisher.

Jackson needs better players, Fisher needs coaching experience and Anthony will have to play the best hoops of his life to give the Knicks a chance of reaching the playoffs.

Los Angeles Lakers: They failed to get Carmelo Anthony or James, proving the Lakers are no longer the free-agent destination they used to be.

Lakers fans haven't been jumping for joy, either, after the team traded for point guard Jeremy Lin from Houston, or the resigning of Nick Young and Jordan Hill.

The Lakers don't even have a head coach — though Byron Scott appears to be the front-runner.

Miami: It's impossible for the Heat to make up for the loss of James.

But the Heat did rally some of re-signing Dwyane Wade, Chris Bosh and Mario Chalmers, acquiring point guard Shabazz Napier in a draft-day trade from Charlotte and signing free agents Josh McRoberts and Danny Granger.

Wild Cards

Washington: They got veteran Paul Pierce (to replace Trevor Ariza) to show young fellas John Wall and Bradley Beal what it's going to take to win a title. They also signed free agents Kris Humphries and DeJuan Blair to shore up their frontcourt.

Houston: The Rockets lost offensive-minded Chandler Parsons to free agency to Dallas, but Houston acquired a better two-way player in Ariza to replace Parsons at small forward.

Toronto: By re-signing point guard Kyle Lowry and trading for guard Lou Williams, the Raptors improved their chances of reaching the playoffs in back-to-back seasons.

Los Angeles Clippers: They wanted a better Jarrett Jack from Cleveland and they signed center Spencer Hawes. They lost talented backup point guard Darren Collison to the Sacramento Kings, but signed Jordan Farmar to back up Chris Paul.

Brooklyn: They lost coach Jason Kidd to Milwaukee, but gained a top-notch replacement in Lionel Hollins. The Nets got Jarrett Jack from Cleveland and they re-signed Alan Anderson, but they also lost Pierce (Wizards) and Shaun Livingston (Warriors) in free agency.



MICHAEL DWYER/AP

With LeBron James heading back to Cleveland after a four-year, two-title stint in Miami, is the era of NBA "superteams" over? Some observers think so, and welcome a return to a more balanced playing field when it comes to competing for championships.

Leveling the field

James' decision heralds a return to balance amongst NBA teams chasing championship

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Patrick Ewing sees the parallels between then and now.

For 13 straight seasons, Ewing averaged at least 20 points. He was a superstar, the toast of New York, the city's biggest star when he was the face of the Knicks' franchise. During the stretch when Ewing was at his peak, his combination of points, rebounds and blocked shots made him unquestionably one of the game's elite.

"When I played, it was mostly one superstar per team," Ewing said.

And that, in the end, was a problem for Ewing. For as good as he was — not to mention the likes of Charles Barkley, Dominique Wilkins, George Gervin and many others — his enormous talent never carried him to an NBA championship.

He sees the league heading back that way now. When LeBron James left Miami last week for a return to the Cleveland Cavaliers, the power structure of the league shifted as well. And while there's obviously a team loaded with future Hall of Famers in San Antonio, and plenty of teams with two players worthy of at least superstar argument, there's nothing now that can mirror what the Heat had.

James' latest decision also gives Cleveland a better chance to win a title.

But like Ewing, Barkley and plenty of others know, a more-balanced playing field

across the NBA means many other teams figure to have a better chance as well.

"There's a lot of money being given today and there's a lot of teams with more great players than there were in the past," said Paul Silas, James' first coach in Cleveland. "I really like to see the teams fight against each other and having more than one have a chance to win the whole thing."

Welcome to the new NBA.

Or, rather, the updated NBA.

Sure, 16 teams go to the playoffs, but really, how many were legitimate title contenders last season? The entire season a year ago seemed like Indiana and Miami were preordained to meet in the Eastern Conference finals — and that's exactly what happened. James changes sides, a few other moves get made, and now there's probably a half-dozen teams in the East alone thinking they'll be good enough to be one of the last two teams standing next June.

Ask NBA executives, many of whom aren't used to see Miami's stranglehold as East favorites come to an end, and they say it's all a good thing for the game.

"Much more competitive this year," Knicks President Phil Jackson said. "The East last year, I thought until the very end when the Knicks made a run, Toronto got going, Washington got going, there were a lot of teams languishing under or around .500. But I think this year, more talent's spread around the East and I think it's going to be very competitive."

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WNBA

Griner blossoming after rough start to pro career

Former Baylor star thriving in second year with Phoenix

By Bob Baum
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — After a tough first season in the WNBA, Brittney Griner is blossoming into the player everyone thought she would be, all the while embracing her status as a role model for gay youth.

"We need more people in the LGBT community to step up and be role models," she said. "I definitely take that on."

Last season, after a record-setting career at Baylor, Griner came out and wrote a candid memoir, "In My Skin," that was critical of her college coach, Kim Mulkey. And she wasn't dominating games the way people had projected.

"The book wasn't a distraction, really," Griner said. "Just all the media from last year, being a rookie, was crazy."

After playing in China during the WNBA offseason, Griner returned to the Phoenix Mercury stronger and more confident. As teammate Diana Taurasi said, "She's a totally different player."

"She's gained her confidence back, her aggression," Taurasi said. "Her confidence on what she wants to do on the court, and obviously defensively she's a huge force."

Griner, marvelously fluid at 6-foot-8, had her second dunk of the season in a victory Tuesday, when Phoenix won its 11th in a row and improved to a league-leading 17-3 record.

"She went to China and she really put the work in," Mercury first-year coach Sandy Brondello said, "and she's put the work in here every day we've been here. So it's about getting physically strong and just understanding, 'OK, these are the things I need to work on to

By the numbers

4

Dunks by Griner in her 45-game WNBA career. The rest of the league has six in 3,990 games.

77

Blocks by Griner in 21 games this season, more than six other WNBA squads have as a team.

15.2

Griner's average ppg this season, up from 12.6 as a rookie. She is also averaging 8.2 rebounds.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

be a force in this league."

With Taurasi, Griner will represent the Mercury in the WNBA All-Star game Saturday in Phoenix. She is averaging 15.2 points, up from 12.6 as a rookie. She's pulling down 8.2 rebounds per game, up from 6.3. And, of course, she excels in blocked shots. Her 77 blocks — in 21 games — this season are

more than six WNBA teams.

The dunks get the most attention. She has four in 45 games. The rest of the WNBA has six in 3,990 games.

Her first this season came July 29 in Los Angeles, a one-hander when she rose far above the hoop from the baseline and slammed it down.

At Tulsa on June 29, she blocked a WNBA-record 11 shots. She scored a career-high 28 points June 20, also against Tulsa. The previous game, June 16 against Minnesota, she scored 27 points and matched her career high of 18 rebounds. She also had 18 rebounds against San Antonio on June 7.

"Just a year under my belt," Griner said when asked to explain her better play this season. "I was able to work on my game in the off-season. That's a big difference."

She took her skills coach, Dean Demopoulos, when she went to play for Zhejiang Golden Bulls. After experiencing life and basketball far from home, Griner returned stronger and more confident.

Embracing her role as a prominent gay athlete also has made a difference, those around her say.

"I think it's great because she's comfortable in her own skin," Brondello said, "and she can be a role model for so many people. The public loves her. She gets so much attention but she's very giving of her time. That's what I like. She's a star but she doesn't have the ego that goes with that."

Griner likes what she sees as more and more states allow gay marriage. But she knows it's far from a universal attitude.

"I love the way the country's changing," she said. "But it's still a big issue. A lot of states are changing rules, but it's still tough."



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Phoenix Mercury's Brittney Griner is blossoming into the player everyone thought she would be after a difficult first season in the WNBA. She already has four dunks in 45 games, compared to the six dunks the rest of the league has in 3,990 games.

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NFL/COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ellington's focus now solely on football

Two-sport athlete at South Carolina has given up basketball

By PETE IACOBELLI
The Associated Press

MONCKS CORNER, S.C. — Gone are the days when Bruce Ellington would rush from a basketball workout with South Carolina teammates to a football meeting room to learn the complex schemes of coach Steve Spurrier. Ellington's only focus is the San Francisco 49ers and making an impact on the NFL.

"It was fun, all the rushing around," said Ellington, taken in the fourth round by the 49ers. "I thought I could do and I went after it."

Ellington hosted a youth camp recently at his high school with his older cousin, Arizona Cardinals running back Andre Ellington, who twice rushed for 1,000 yards while playing college ball at Clemson.

Bruce Ellington actually pared down his workload in college after playing three sports — he ran track, too — at Berkeley High. He helped his school win a state football title his senior year and many figured he slide nicely into South Carolina's rising football program.

Instead, he decided his future was solely on the court. He led the Gamecocks in scoring as a freshman in 2010-11, starting all 30 games. But when South Carolina struggled to win games, Ellington felt like he was missing out not playing alongside football standouts like Alshon Jeffery, Marcus Lattimore and Stephone Gilmore — also Palmetto State prep stars.

"I didn't say much about it," Andre Ellington said. "But I knew he was going to miss football."

So Bruce began a two-sport odyssey that continued for three years until January, when he gave up his senior seasons in basketball and football to jump to the NFL.

"It took some time to realize what I wanted to do," Ellington said. "This is it." At Ellington's urging, he continues improving in the pros. At 5-foot-9, Ellington is



JEFF CHU/AP

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Bruce Ellington catches a pass during during minicamp in Santa Clara, Calif. Ellington played two sports at South Carolina, even choosing basketball over football at one point, before declaring a year early for the NFL Draft.

tied for the shortest receiver on the 49ers' roster. But Ellington's got a relentless nature for finding open space and holding onto almost everything thrown his way, said his former high school coach Jerry Brown.

"Football's played on a big field and it's hard to track someone like Bruce who's got so much agility," Brown said.

Ellington found his football form as a sophomore when he was South Carolina's top receiver with 40 catches for 600 yards and seven touchdowns, including a 32-yard grab with 11 seconds left to beat Michigan in the Outback Bowl two years ago.

Ellington was again South Carolina's top receiver in 2013. His best regular-season showing came at Missouri when he had 10

catches for 136 yards and two touchdowns in the 27-24, double-overtime victory. Ellington saved the game in the first overtime with his fourth-and-goal, 15-yard TD catch to keep things going.

"I think that may have been my favorite moment," he said, smiling.

Ellington capped his college career with his most versatile game: He had nine catches for 140 yards and two touchdowns to beat Wisconsin in the Capital One Bowl. Ellington also threw a nine-yard TD pass to quarterback Connor Shaw.

Ellington kept his football mentality while continually playing and training with basketball teammates. South Carolina basketball coach Frank Martin never saw Ellington's intensity drop, no matter what

he had done to prepare for football.

Ellington, 22, swears he never got worn down at playing or prepping for two major college sports at a Southeastern Conference school.

"I'm a young guy," he said. "It's hard to get tired."

Ellington believes he can bring that drive to the 49ers. The team hasn't put expectations on him and he won't either, eager to prove his worth when the games start. And no, he says he's not planning a call to the Golden State Warriors to see if he can get in some NBA action in his down time.

"I'm just going to work hard, give it a hundred [percent] every time I step on the field and keep on chasing the dream," he said.

Bielema stands by 'facts' of dangerous offenses

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

HOOVER, Ala. — Bret Bielema didn't bite this time. Not really.

For the second straight year, the Arkansas coach had to respond at Southeastern Conference media days to another coach's skepticism about his contention that fast-paced offenses are hazardous to defensive players.

A year ago, Auburn's Gus Malzahn said he initially thought that was a joke and Bielema fired back that he's no comedian.

On Wednesday, Missouri coach Gary Pinkel said the contention that uptempo offenses lead to any more injuries is "fiction."

"I don't buy the health issue in any way,"

Pinkel said. "No one has ever come to me all those years and said, 'Gosh, I'm really concerned about the health of our teams playing these fast-paced offenses.'"

Bielema's response a few hours later was calm and good-humored, but he's no less convinced of his stance either.

"Not to carry from last year but I'm probably more of a reality-based movie guy more than fiction," said Bielema, who lobbied for a 10-second minimum between plays. "I deal more in what I know, what I see, what I believe. Have I softened in my view of fast-paced offenses? If you ask me in that tense, you're asking me have I softened my view on player safety. The answer would be no."

The differing views help make the season-opener with defending SEC champion

Auburn a little more intriguing. Bielema and Malzahn certainly are polar opposites in their preferred offensive styles. The Arkansas coach said maybe he's not going to break bread with Malzahn but he's also not going to start "throwing bread at him and rocks and everything else."

Mainly, the Razorbacks view the Aug. 30 opener as a chance to make quite a statement that they've come a long way since going winless in league games during Bielema's debut season. He said it's been a motivator for his team since the schedule was announced.

Bielema is hardly guaranteeing a dramatic turnaround in Year 2, but said positives he's seen in areas like academics, off-the-field behavior should translate into more success on the field.

"When that thing comes full-circle, we're going to start to win," Bielema said. "When we win, it's going to be able to maintain a winning style than this other thing that we've been living through."

Another positive from the offseason, Bielema said, has been what he's seen from quarterback Brandon Allen, who struggled at times last season for the league's worst pass offense.

Bielema said Allen had "probably one of the best offseasons that I've ever seen a positional player have, I let alone a quarterback."

"He's gotten stronger, he's gotten better mentally," the coach said. "He understands expectations he needs to fulfill as a quarterback."

MLB

Brewers turn it around from year ago

By GENARO C. ARMAS
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — The post-game music was turned up a couple notches in the Brewers clubhouse. Finally, a victory to savor after a seven-game losing streak.

Yet for all the trouble on the field the last couple weeks, the tough stretch pales in comparison to what Milwaukee went through a year ago.

From All-Star break to All-Star break, the Brewers have gone from worst to first in the NL Central.

"I don't remember how many games we were out (last year), but I don't think we were in the race at all," All-Star third baseman Aramis Ramirez said after Sunday's 11-2 victory over St. Louis that gave the Brewers a one-game lead on the Cardinals in the division.

The first-place Brewers are 53-43 at this year's break. In 2013 they were 38-56, 19½ games out and in last place.

"It was tough, last year was a tough year," said Ramirez, the National League starter at third. "Compared to this year, we're in first place. It doesn't get any better than that."

And to think, this season started with Brewers fans swooning for something other than baseball. "Hank, a cuddly white canine thought to be a bichon frise mix, walked on to the team's spring training facility in Phoenix and turned into a breakout star and unofficial team mascot.

A Hank T-shirt day is planned



Tom Llewellyn/AP

The Brewers' Carlos Gomez rounds third on his way home to score in an 11-2 win against the Cardinals on Sunday. Gomez and the Brewers are atop the division. A year ago, they were at the bottom.

for next month, and a "Bobble-Hank" doll giveaway day planned for September is already sold out. But other than the ubiquitous merchandise, Hank-mania for now has retreated to the background.

In a way, Hank did his job in the spring by bringing positive national exposure to the Brewers at a time when "candidly there wasn't a lot of buzz about the team," chief operating officer Rick Schlesinger said.

Hank had even relegated the return of slugger Ryan Braun to the team into a footnote. Last July after the break, Major League Baseball handed down its 50-game suspension of Braun as part of the Biogenesis doping scandal.

"Everybody loves a homeless dog. He's a nice pup, and yeah that helped," Schlesinger said when

asked if the pup unintentionally became a welcome distraction. "I would say a lot of the factors have helped — but candidly, it's the team playing well."

The season-ticket base contracted following the tough 2013 season, mainly from short-term seat-holders who had signed up after the 2011 playoff run.

No dog days in Milwaukee this summer with the Brewers in the race.

Schlesinger said attendance could finish at between 2.8 million and 2.9 million at its current pace. That would be up from 2.5 million in 2013 and approaching the record of just more than 3 million in the last playoff season of 2011.

"Given what we had in 2013 and we're so thrilled we're talking

about those numbers realistically for the 2014 season," Schlesinger said.

Much will depend, of course, on how the second half plays out.

The Brewers had built a 6½-game lead thanks in large part to a nine-game winning streak in April. Manager Ron Roenicke never expected to run away in a tough division that included St. Louis, Pittsburgh and Cincinnati.

But he also thought a pitching staff fortified in the offseason with free-agent Matt Garza would help make the team immune to long losing stretches like the one the Brewers just endured. Milwaukee has lost 11 of 13 since going a season-best 19 games over .500 on June 28.

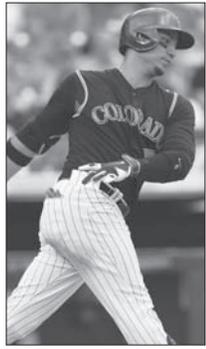
The last game though before the break was a win, a huge confidence boost headed for a struggling team.

"Now, we go into it feeling good and come out of it feeling good," Roenicke said. "It does a lot."

The Brewers this season have also withstood injuries to key players including Braun and Ramirez, though they haven't been sidelined for long stretches like in 2013.

Add in All-Stars, outfielder Carlos Gomez and catcher Jonathan Lucroy, plus emerging hitters Khris Davis and Scooter Gennett, and the Brewers have potent bats up and down the lineup.

"From the leadoff to the [eighth] hitter, we have guys you can damage to the opposing team," Gomez said. "This season when you look in general at the team, we are a better team collectively."



David Zulurowski/AP

Rockies' Carlos Gonzalez is part of an injury-depleted lineup on his way to a fourth-straight losing season.

Scoreboard

American League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
	Baltimore	52	42	.553
Toronto	49	47	.510	4
New York	47	47	.500	5
Tampa Bay	44	53	.454	9½
Boston	43	52	.453	9½

Central Division

Detroit	53	38	.582	—
Kansas City	48	46	.511	6½
Cleveland	47	47	.500	7½
Chicago	45	51	.469	10½
Minnesota	44	50	.468	10½

West Division

Oakland	43	62	—	—
Los Angeles	37	66	.356	19½
Seattle	36	67	.347	20
Houston	40	56	.417	19½
Texas	38	57	.400	21

National League

East Division	W	L	Pct	GB
	Washington	51	42	.548
Atlanta	52	43	.547	—
New York	45	50	.474	7
Miami	40	50	.448	7½
Philadelphia	42	53	.442	10

Central Division

Milwaukee	53	43	.552	—
St. Louis	52	44	.541	1
Cincinnati	51	44	.537	1½
Pittsburgh	49	46	.516	3½
Chicago	40	54	.433	12

West Division

Los Angeles	54	43	.557	—
San Francisco	52	43	.547	1
San Diego	41	54	.432	12
Colorado	40	55	.421	13
Arizona	40	56	.417	13½

Wednesday's games

No games scheduled
No games scheduled
Texas (Darvish 8-5) at Toronto (Dickey 7-9)

Friday's games

Cleveland (Bauer 3-4) at Detroit (A. Sanchez 5-3)
Kansas City (Shields 9-5) at Boston (Buchholz 4-5)
Houston (Feldman 4-6) at Chicago White Sox (Quintana 5-7)
Tampa Bay (Cooper 4-6) at Minnesota (Gibson 8-7)
Baltimore (Tillman 7-5) at Oakland (Samardzija 1-2)
Seattle (Iwakuma 8-4) at L.A. Angels (Weaver 6-9)
Cincinnati (Undecided) at N.Y. Yankees (Pheasant 2-4)
Colorado (Undecided) at Pittsburgh (Liriano 1-7)
San Francisco (Loeh 9-4) at Washington (Strasburg 7-6)
Aug. 12-14 — Owners' meetings, Ft. Myers
Aug. 12-14 — Active rosters expand to 40 players
Aug. 18 — Postseason begins
Oct. 22 — World Series begins.

Calendar

July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft pick-up sign.
July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
July 31 — Last day to trade a player without securing waivers.
Aug. 12-14 — Owners' meetings, Baltimore.
Aug. 11 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.
Oct. 18 — Postseason begins.
Oct. 22 — World Series begins.

Rockies on pace for another losing season

By PAT GRAHAM
The Associated Press

DENVER — The recent fury of Colorado Rockies owner Dick Monfort was directed at his front office or even his players, just his paying customers.

He lashed out at fans who were bashing the bad baseball at Coors Field, suggesting to one in an email exchange that maybe Denver shouldn't deserve a major league team anymore.

Monfort issued an apology and said that relocating the Rockies "has never been, and will never be an option."

Outfielder Carlos Gonzalez understands his owner's exasperation. He feels it, too, in a season that's turned sour.

At 40-55, the injury-riddled Rockies are on course for their fourth straight losing season. They trail the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers by 13 games at the All-Star break.

"[Monfort] wants to win just like we want to win," said Gonzalez, who returned Friday after missing more than a month with an injured left index finger. "He's a guy that will get in front of us and let us know the way he feels and express himself."

"Fans, they're going to get frustrated, of course. When we don't get results, we get frustrated, too."

After raising eyebrows this spring by predicting a 90-win season, Monfort drew even more attention last week by admonishing some supporters who expressed concerns with the product on the field. Monfort went so far as to suggest they not come out to Coors Field.

He later backtracked, saying "I want to express my sincere apology to Rockies fans that received a recent email response that was not consistent with our organization's values. ... The fact that so many of you take the time to write to us demonstrates your tremendous passion for the Rockies."

The Rockies got off to a fast start, even spending a day — May 7 — tied for first. But they've been beset by injuries and inconsistent play, swooning to a franchise-worst June mark of 8-20 to drop well back of the pack.

"It's certainly disappointing where we're at," said manager Walt Weiss, whose squad leads the major leagues in hitting (.281), but is last in ERA (5.07). "We've had to fight through some tough stuff."

The Rockies have relied on 13 different starting pitchers this season, including prized prospect Eddie Butler, who made a start before going on the disabled list with an inflamed rotator cuff. The starters have earned just five wins over the last 29 games, with ace Jorge De La Rosa accounting for four of them.

Butler's return could help in the second half. Same with Jordan Lyles, who was on schedule to come back from a broken left hand soon after the break, but recent X-rays showed he needed a little more time to heal.

Colorado also has been without some big bats in their lineup, but received a boost with the return of Gonzalez and Nolan Arenado, who missed a month with a broken left middle finger.

Reigning NL batting champion Michael

Cuddyer remains out with a fractured left shoulder. Cuddyer is scheduled to undergo another MRI this week and if all goes well, he said he could soon be out of his sling and back working on his swing. Cuddyer is hoping for a mid-August return.

"It's crazy," Cuddyer said of the team's injury epidemic. "Sometimes, you get snake-bit and unfortunately we have been. Just trying to weather that storm."

With the Rockies scuffling, there will no doubt be some whispers about potential deals as the trade deadline draws near. All-Star shortstop Troy Tulowitzki's name could surface, but he's the cornerstone of this franchise.

Tulowitzki has been healthy this season and leads the league with a .345 average. "I've always treated the trade deadline like reading the National Enquirer," Cuddyer said. "Half of the stuff isn't even true. But it's fun as a fan to watch it and follow it. Until it actually happens, there's no reason to believe any of it."

Gonzalez definitely expects his name to be mentioned, especially now that he's no longer hampered by a finicky finger. He underwent surgery on June 10 to remove a small tumor in the finger.

"Just trying to get better as a player, get healthy and help this club win," Gonzalez said. "We have to concentrate on the little things and don't think about what our record is and who's in first. Just compete every day and try to win series."

MLB



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

San Francisco's Gregor Blanco celebrates a 4-1 win over the Miami Marlins in a baseball game in San Francisco. The small-budget Athletics are baseball's best team at the break in a division featuring some of the highest-paid stars. The Giants are right in the chase for the NL West crown despite some recent stumbles. It's only mid-July and there is already talk of a special October and, perhaps, a Bay Bridge Series with far more significance come fall.

Golden: Bay Area teams could be baseball's best

FROM BACK PAGE

Oakland had its most wins ever before the All-Star break, and its six All-Stars were most for the A's since 1975.

"They've done a great job of stacking this team and this organization with guys who can get the job done at this level," Oakland right fielder Josh Reddick said. "With the last two and now a third year, we're proving that we're here to be a true competitor and we're showing that with the best record in baseball right now. It gives us confidence to know that he (Beane) is wanting to go for the whole thing just as much as we are."

In each of the past two Octobers, the Tigers have eliminated Oakland in division series that went the five-game maximum.

The Giants, winners of the 2010 and '12 World Series, missed the playoffs last year and hope they can get back on a roll like the team across the bay. At 52-43, they are one game behind the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers, and Tim Lincecum has won four straight starts for the first time since April 2010.

"No question, the Giants have really established something here for a long period of time," Melvin said. "It's difficult to not only win a World Series, win two out of four, and be in the position they're in right now. It could be

really exciting for the Bay Area."

The Giants are counting on some reinforcements in the second half. Center fielder Angel Pagan and second baseman Marco Scutaro come back from injuries to give San Francisco the roster it envisioned.

It led the NL West by 9½ games when it was 42-21 on June 8, but has struggled since then. The Giants were outscored 19-7 in losing three out of four in their recent interleague series with the A's.

"Their boat's just kind of been going in a steady direction and we're just trying to get ours on that path as well," said Lincecum, who pitched his second no-hitter in 11 months against San Diego on June 25. "You get into those runs and you try to look for how to get out of them and I think it's just doing what you did beforehand, not necessarily putting so much emphasis on getting out of it."

Despite injuries, small crowds and even sewage problems in their home stadium, the A's have found a way to win.

"We've had contributions everywhere," assistant general manager David Forst said. "It's certainly been not unlike any other year where we've had to tinker and turn over the roster as we go. ... The players are unfazed by any changes we make. They just go out and play for three hours a day, and they've played great."

AL East-leading Orioles looking to finish strong

Baltimore alone atop division at break for first time since '97

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Against all logic, the Baltimore Orioles stand alone atop the AL East at the All-Star break for the first time since 1997.

The Orioles endured injuries to three of their best hitters, changed closers in the middle of May and began the season with 35 of their first 58 games on the road.

Yet, two years after finally ending a run of 14 straight losing seasons, Baltimore (52-42) reached the season's midpoint four games ahead of second-place Toronto. This is what they had to overcome: Manny Machado missing April recovery from knee surgery; Chris Davis sitting out two weeks with an oblique injury; starting pitcher Bud Norris being sidelined for 17 days with a right groin strain and, worst of all, the loss of catcher Matt Wieters for the season in May after undergoing elbow ligament replacement surgery.

"Given the hand we've been dealt, I think we've handled ourselves really well, especially with the schedule," Davis said. "A lot of teams can say this, but I feel like we had a really tough schedule early on, a lot of road games, a lot of road games in cold places."

Baltimore was 30-28 and 5½ games out of first place after those 35 road games. At that point, Machado hadn't rediscovered his swing, Davis was struggling, J.J. Hardy still hadn't hit his first home run and Zach Britton was just getting used to his new role as closer after Tommy Hunter faltered.

"If you'd have told me in spring training all that was going to happen, I'd say it would be a challenge just to be in contention," Britton said. "It's just a credit to the type of team we have, that some of our big-time players can either be underperforming or injured and we're able to pick up the slack and be in first place at this point."

Much credit should go to executive vice president of baseball operations Dan Duquette, who made several key offseason pickups before doing a strong in-season job of juggling the roster. It's hard to imagine where the Orioles would be without Nelson Cruz, who reached the break with a .287 batting average and a team-high 28 homers and 74 RBIs after signing as a free agent in February.

"I cannot be more blessed to



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Chris Davis and the Baltimore Orioles are alone atop the AL East at the All-Star break for the first time since 1997, despite a string of injuries and a brutal early-season schedule.

be part of this," Cruz said just before the break. "When you have a good season and you're winning, it's everything you can ask for. The last few weeks we showed a lot of heart, a lot of personality as a team. We have a good thing going on here."

Steve Pearce has also been essential to the team's success. Designated for assignment on April 22, the journeyman returned as a free agent on April 29 after Davis' injury. Pearce is hitting .316 with a career-high 11 home runs and 31 RBIs, numbers that are particularly meaningful because Davis has yet to display the form he showed as an All-Star last year, when he batted .286 and led the majors with 53 homers and 138 RBIs.

Davis has only four more total bases than strikeouts (110-106) and is batting .199. One reason why the Orioles are optimistic about the second half is that they can't imagine Davis going through an entire season looking this bad.

"CD, he hasn't been the CD we're accustomed to seeing around here," All-Star outfielder Adam Jones said. "He hasn't been hot at all, but all we need for him

is to have a big second half and we'll be right in the middle of it."

The Orioles rank second in the majors in home runs and are fourth with a .265 batting average, but sustaining that won't necessarily guarantee their second playoff berth in three years.

"We're going to have to pitch," manager Buck Showalter said. "That would allow us to stay consistent."

Wei-Yin Chen (9-3) has been solid for a rotation that goes six deep. The bullpen has been even better, with Britton registering 15 saves and a 1.30 ERA behind setup-man Darren O'Day (2-1, 1.11).

That bodes well for the final 68 games. The Orioles resume play Friday night with a 10-game swing through Oakland, Los Angeles and Seattle.

"The last two years, our pitching is better in the second half," O'Day said. "The starters get sorted out a little bit, start getting longer starts, and the bullpen gets rested and gets better, too. I know we've got a big West Coast trip coming up and we've got a tough schedule in the second half. It should be a fun."

AUTO RACING

Crash raises questions about 72-year-old driver

NASCAR can't stop Shepherd from competing after 72-year-old driver

CHARLOTTE, N.C. It's been almost two decades since Morgan Shepherd last ran a full Sprint Cup season, and his last national series victory was in 1993.

He can still probably wheel a race car better than you and most of your friends. That doesn't mean the 72-year-old should be racing against the very best drivers in NASCAR.

In the Pits

Shepherd drew scrutiny Sunday at New Hampshire Motor Speedway when he caused Joey Logano to crash.

Shepherd was 40th, 16 laps off the pace, when second-

place Logano tried to pass the slower car. Replays show little, just that Logano ended up with a wrecked car. He then publicly questioned if there should be driving tests for some competitors.

NASCAR dismissed Logano's notion, pointing out Shepherd has been approved to drive since 1970.

Shepherd has 925 starts in NASCAR's top three levels. He's got four career Sprint Cup victories, won 15 Nationwide races and even ran a full Nationwide schedule four years ago at age 69.

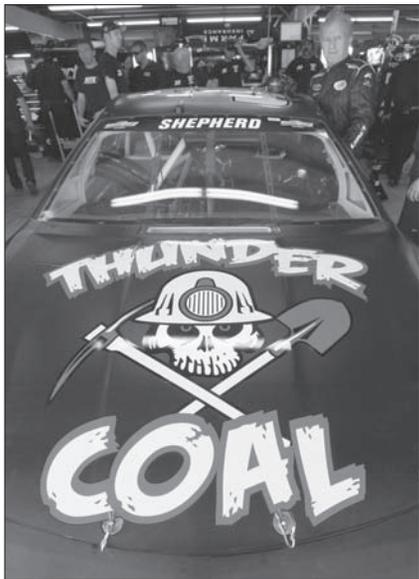
"He's been approved for decades," NASCAR vice president of competition Robin Pemberton said. "You take a physical at the beginning of the year. You pass your physical. You pass inspections with your car, you qualify for the race and you run the event. He met everything he needed to meet."

That's the problem. There is no rule in place — except for drivers under 18 years old — stopping someone from competing in a national level NASCAR race.

Mark Martin, his back aching and his eyesight no longer what it once was, he called it quits last year at 54. If he wanted to race next week at Indianapolis, nobody would stop him if he showed up in a car that made the field.

Michael Waltrip, 51, still runs four races a year. His Hall of Fame brother, Darrell, was 53 when he got out of the car following eight winless seasons.

Point is, rarely does a driver recognize when to call it a career. The love of racing, the addiction to speed, the thrill of competition, can all cloud a driver's judgment and make it impossible to see they



Morgan Shepherd, 72, has 925 starts in NASCAR's top three levels. He's won four Sprint Cup races and 15 Nationwide races.

aren't what they once were.

That's the case with Shepherd, who seems to have embarked on a journey to become the oldest at everything. He's the second-oldest race winner (he was 51 in 1993). He became the oldest driver to lead laps in a Nationwide race at 70, and last year he became the oldest driver to start a Cup race at 72.

That's all allowed in a sport that often fails to set standards to ensure only the best compete at the top level. In racing, those who find the dollars needed to race get the seats — often at the expense of the most talented.

So Shepherd got the funding — probably about \$75,000 — to run for Circle Sport Racing at New Hampshire. For the second time this season, he was in the field with the big boys.

But the big boys passed him again and again as Shepherd struggled with handling and perhaps meeting the minimum speed of 115 mph. NASCAR said Shepherd was not warned about failing to keep pace during the race.

Shepherd did try to stay out of the way. But spotters alleged Shepherd couldn't hold his line at the bottom of the track and hit

the corners at such a poor angle, his car would push into the center of the track. Logano spotter Tab Boyd tweeted he was "riding around like a rolling road block."

Shepherd, though, put the blame on Logano and said his age was not a factor.

"When he laid close to me, it caused me to slip into him," Shepherd said. "It's got nothing to do with my age or anything else. I've always said if I go out and I start hitting the wall and stuff, making mistakes, I'll get out of the car." Fans seemed to flock to Shepherd's defense, calling the No. 33 Chevrolet subpar equipment. Well, that's on Shepherd, who could have taken his cash to any team in an attempt to get a better ride.

The ride isn't great, but Bobby Labonte drove the same car to a 24th-place finish at Daytona. Three other drivers have driven the car this year without crashing the leaders.

Had Shepherd had an eventful run at the back of the field all day, nobody would have said a word about his presence in the race. Nobody would have noticed him. But he was involved in one glaring incident that NASCAR must consider going forward.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

Next race: Brickyard 400, July 27, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Last week: Brad Keselowski completed a Nationwide-Cup sweep at New Hampshire for his third victory of the season.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon	670
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	658
3. Brad Keselowski	634
4. Matt Kenseth	621
5. Jimmie Johnson	598
6. Carl Edwards	574
7. Ryan Newman	573
8. Kyle Busch	567
9. Joey Logano	551
10. Clint Bowyer	548
11. Paul Menard	541
12. Denny Hamlin	530
13. Kevin Harvick	528
14. Kyle Larson	524
15. Austin Dillon	524
16. Greg Biffle	519
17. Casey Mears	515
18. Brian Vickers	507
19. Tony Stewart	502
20. Marcos Ambrose	489

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: EnjoyIllinois.com 300 at Joliet, Ill.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 2:30 a.m. Sunday CET; 9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Chicagoland Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Joey Logano held off Penske Racing teammate Sam Hornish Jr.

Last week: Brad Keselowski won at New Hampshire for his second series victory of the year. He also won the Sprint Cup race.

Next race: Lilly Diabetes 250, July 26, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Regan Smith	611
2. Elliott Sadler	603
3. Chase Elliott	598
4. Ty Dillon	577
5. Brian Scott	560
6. Trevor Bayne	553
7. Brendan Gaughan	493
8. Chris Buescher	486
9. James Buescher	470
10. Ryan Reed	456
11. Landon Cassill	442
12. Dylan Kwasniewski	438
13. Dakota Armstrong	397
14. Jeremy Clements	372
15. Mike Bliss	372
16. J.J. Yeley	333
17. Jeffrey Earnhardt	319
18. Ryan Sieg	317
19. Eric McClure	287
20. Joey Gase	269

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: Mudsummer Classic, July 23, Eldora Speedway, Rossburg, Ohio.

Last week: Eric Jones won at Iowa Speedway, giving Kyle Busch Motorsports its 15th victory in nine races this season.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Honda Indy Toronto at Toronto.

TV: AFN-Xtra, First race, 9 p.m. Sat.

urday CET; 4 a.m. Sunday JKT; Second race, 4 a.m. Sunday CET; 11 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Streets of Toronto (street course, 1.75 miles).

Distance: 148.75 miles, 85 laps.

Last year: Chip Ganassi Racing's Scott Dixon became IndyCar's active victory leader, sweeping the double-header for the 31st and 32nd of his 33 career victories.

Last week: Ryan Hunter-Reay won at Iowa Speedway for Andretti Autosport's fifth straight victory at the track. Hunter-Reay also won this year in Alabama and Indianapolis.

Next races: Honda Indy 200, Aug. 3, Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course, Lexington, Ohio.

Online: indycar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: German Grand Prix at Hockenheim, Germany.

Track: Hockenheimring (road course, 2.84 miles).

Distance: 190.42 miles, 67 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel won at Nuerburgring for the fourth of his 13 2013 victories. The German driver is winless this season.

Last race: Lewis Hamilton won the British Grand Prix on July 6 for his fifth victory of the year and Mercedes' eighth in the first nine races. Hamilton cut teammate Nico Rosberg's series lead to four points. Rosberg had a gearbox failure.

Next race: Hungarian Grand Prix, July 27, Hungaroring, Budapest, Hungary.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

Next event: Mile-High NHRA Nationals at Morrison, Colorado.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 7 a.m. Monday CET; 2 p.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Bandimere Speedway, Distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Allen Johnson won the event for the fifth time, beating V. Gaines in the Pro Stock final. Spencer Massey won in Top Fuel. Cruz Pedregon topped the Funny Car field, and Shawn Gunn won in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: John Force raced to his 140th victory on July 6 in Norwalk, Ohio, beating Ron Capps in the Funny Car final. Andre Brown won in Top Fuel, Eric Anders-Stevens in Pro Stock, and Andrew Hines in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Next event: NHRA Sonoma Nationals, July 25-27, Sonoma Raceway, Sonoma, Calif.

Online: nhra.com

OTHER RACES

ARCA RACING SERIES: Ansell Action 150, Saturday, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: arcaracing.com

WORLD OF OUTLAWS: Sprint Car: Thursday, Lincoln Speedway, Abbottstown, Pa.; Friday-Saturday, Williams Grove Speedway, Mechanicsburg, Pa. Sunday, Lebanon Valley Speedway, West Lebanon, N.Y. Late Model: Friday, River Cities Speedway, Grand Forks, N.D.

Online: worldofoutlaws.com

U.S. AUTO RACING CLUB: Sprint Car: Thursday, Lincoln Park Speedway, Putnamville, Ind.; Friday, Bloomington Speedway, Bloomington, Ind.; Saturday, Tri-State Speedway, Haubstadt, Ind.

Online: usarcacing.com

OLYMPICS

One down, one to go

Brazil turns its attention to 2016 Summer Games

By STEPHEN WADE
The Associated Press

BRIO DE JANEIRO Brazil just pulled off the World Cup. Next up is Rio de Janeiro's 2016 Olympics, which poses an even bigger challenge.

Cement trucks are busy, creating billowing dust clouds, and girders are rising along Avenida Embaixador Abelardo Bueno, the main road running in front of the main Olympic Park in the suburb of Barra da Tijuca.

"It's going, it's going," said a worker at the construction site, wearing an orange helmet, blue overalls and introducing himself as Mauricio Lima.

Rust-orange beams sprouted behind him as he talked, a superstructure that in two years will become the Olympic media and broadcast centers.

"There is a lot to do, but things are moving," he added.

The World Cup overcame fears about protests, half-finished stadiums and chaotic transport to deliver an exciting tournament that culminated with Germany's 1-0 victory over Argentina in extra time in the final.

Brazil's humiliating 7-1 loss against Germany in the semifinals was a blow to the home country, and the collapse a week ago of an overpass — part of a World Cup project in the southeast city of Belo Horizonte — killed two people. Eight workers died in World Cup stadium construction accidents.

Rio's Olympics have had their own problems.

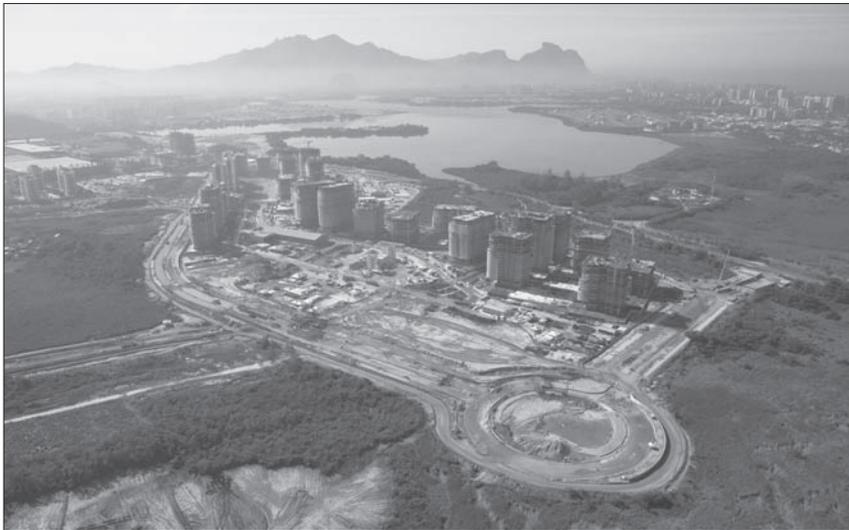
A few months ago, International Olympic Committee Vice President John Coates called the city's preparations the "worst" in memory. Other IOC members openly lambasted Rio. In response, the IOC sent in executive director Gilbert Felli to work as a troubleshooter.

Felli believes the World Cup gave the Olympics a boost.

"The perception of the Brazilians is much more positive," Felli said. "It's good for the games. They have better trust in themselves to deliver the games. My view is to say ... the Brazilians will deliver excellent games. But we have to work every day for it. Nothing is a done deal."

Deadlines are still tight, and Felli described some as "tense, very tense." The problem areas include:

- a shortage of hotel rooms
- severe water pollution at the sailing venue in Guanabara Bay
- a late start at the second large cluster of venues called Deodoro in northern Rio
- completion of a subway line



LEO CORREA/AP

Construction on the Athletes Village continues as Rio de Janeiro prepares to host the Summer Olympics in 2016.

“The Brazilians will deliver excellent games. But we have to work every day for it. Nothing is a done deal.”

Gilbert Felli

International Olympic Committee Executive Director

extension from central Rio to Barra da Tijuca, site of the Olympic Park

■ construction of a public golf course several miles from the Olympic Park.

The Rio Games, with events scattered around four venue clusters, could present transportation nightmares in a city cut up by mountains, tunnels and poor roads. About 60 percent of the events will be at Olympic Park, about 15 miles west of central Rio.

The Olympic Park and nearby golf course is being built in a wetlands/swamp area. Small alligators have been spotted wandering around the golf course, and visitors constantly complain about swarming mosquitoes in the Olympic Park area and the neighboring athletes village.

Track and field will be run at the Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium, which was built in 2007 for

the Pan American Games.

In the wake of the World Cup, former IOC marketing director Michael Payne warned against complacency.

"The danger would be anybody having a false sense of security," Payne said. "The Olympics are a far more complicated undertaking to deliver than the World Cup."

For example:

- The World Cup involved 736 athletes; the Olympics 10,500.
- The World Cup is one championship; the Olympics are dozens.
- The World Cup drags on for a month; the Olympics are densely packed into just over two weeks.
- Host-generated broadcasting for the World Cup amounted to a few hundred hours; the Rio Olympics will generate about 5,000 hours.

AP Sports Writer Stephen Wilson contributed to this report.



LEO CORREA/AP

Olympic Park is being built in an area previously occupied by the Jacarepagua Autodrome. The Rio de Janeiro Olympics promise to be an even larger challenge than the World Cup.

BRITISH OPEN

Technological breakthrough

R&A moves to enhance fan experience with wifi, LEDs

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Old Tom Morris would barely recognize the British Open these days.

It's one thing for golf to evolve from gutta percha to polyurethane, from niblicks to hybrids, from hickory to graphite. Now the British Open is all about LED screens, apps and routers. Yes, there are wireless routers affixed to every grandstand at Royal Liverpool.

Leave it to the Royal & Ancient to be on the cutting edge of digital technology among major championships.

The British Open is believed to be the first major golf event to offer wireless in every grandstand, allowing spectators with mobile phone and tablets to watch the BBC coverage, track their favorite player through GPS, and get data through up-to-the-minute scoring updates.

"The experience for our spectators will, I believe, be the best they have ever received," said Peter Unsworth, chairman of the R&A's championship committee.

"Using their own smartphones and tablets, and on ground-breaking Wi-Fi network which is available in every grandstand, they will be able to enjoy live BBC television and radio coverage, live scoring and get news and updates without leaving their seat.

"The ability to connect to our spectators has never been so readily available."

And to think this major only three years ago banned cellphones from the golf course. Now they're telling spectators they're missing out if they don't have them.

The R&A last year installed wireless signals as an experiment, with the source of streaming capabilities coming from London.



PETER MORRISON AND SCOTT HEPPELL/AP

Above: A spectator takes a selfie with Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland as he passes along the 13th fairway during a practice round Wednesday at Royal Liverpool. When the tournament was held at the course in 2006, so many fans took photos with their phones that mobile devices were banned the next year. **Right:** Player Ian Poulter monitors two mobile devices on Tuesday.



It was so pleased with the result that it now has installed its own fiber optic network at most of the links courses where it holds The Open, starting with Hoylake.

Malcolm Booth, the R&A's communications director, said the signal is strong enough for as many as 20,000 fans to stream video at the same time.

A popular theme at the R&A over the last two decades has been finding a balance between tradition and technology. R&A chief executive Peter Dawson always thought that would involve only equipment. Now he is trying to grasp a world of live streaming and second-screen channels.

Traditions die hard at the oldest

golf championship in the world, which dates to 1860. Tom Watson, a five-time champion who played his first British Open before Tiger Woods was even born, couldn't help notice some of the changes during a practice round Monday.

"What happened to the yellow scoreboards?" he said.

For starters, the scoreboards changed from wood to green years ago, but point taken. For the longest time, there was a manual scoreboard behind each green that showed the cumulative score of the players on that hole, and the scores of the group next to play.

Those are gone, replaced by LED screens that now give scores, news updates on the champion-

ship, and even a rules quiz during the practice rounds.

"They're in the modern age," Watson said.

Dawson said former championship committee chairman Jim McArthur was a strong advocate for getting up to speed with digital technology, and it then was turned over to Booth and the communications department.

Oddly enough, it was at Royal Liverpool in 2006 when spectators took so many pictures with their phones that mobile devices were banned the following year. The R&A finally relented on that strict policy in 2012 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes.

Now it has Wi-Fi networks,

live streaming, geofencing. Is there anything still ancient about the Royal & Ancient?

"Me," Dawson said with a smile.

He retires next year after 16 years as chief executive, the last few years filled with technology changes he never imagined. He still likes the balance between old and new. The Open still is played on the same turf where Old Tom Morris and Willie Park Sr. vied for championships. The claret jug has been passed around for 86 years.

"But I think in the modern era," Dawson said, "the way that people now embrace this technology is something that golf also has to embrace."

Five players who desperately needed mulligans

By Doug Ferguson
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Major championships can be won a single shot, good (winner) or bad (loser).

The British Open is no exception. Every now and again, golf's oldest major championship is remembered as much for the bad shots as the good ones. And the glory of golf is that there are no second chances. The term "mulligan" began in America, but it can be applied to any championship.

Here are five players in the British Open who wish they could have had one.

5 The whiff: Hale Irwin was going along nicely in the 1983 British Open at Royal Birkdale. He was 6-under for the tournament and had a 12-foot birdie putt on the 14th hole of the third round that he narrowly missed. Irwin reached over to tap in the 2-inch putt when he whiffed.

The putter hit the ground and went over the cup. Irwin was so stunned that he knocked in the next one, retrieved it from the hole and fumbled the ball onto the green. And he was even more shook up by the end of the week.

He finished one shot behind Tom Wat-

son. Give him that shot back and he likely is in a playoff.

Irwin closed with a 67, though it became clear it would not be enough. After speaking to reporters after his round, and with Watson having struck a 2-iron onto the 18th green that all but secured the Open title, Irwin said, "Now I get to see Watson two-putt this thing and make me cry."

4 When Birdie becomes bogey: Tony Jacklin looked like a winner on the 71st hole of the 1972 British Open at Muirfield.

Jack Nicklaus made his charge and closed with a 66, though by now it was clear he would come up short. Jacklin and Lee Trevino were tied for the lead, with a big advantage to Jacklin. The Englishman was just short of the green in two on the par-5 17th. Trevino had made a mess of it and was over the green in four shots.

Jacklin could have used a mulligan on either of his next two shots. His chip was so weak that it settled some 20 feet short of the hole. His putt was so strong that he wound up with a three-putt bogey. Trevino chipped in far for to take the most unlikely lead, and Jacklin was so rattled that he bogeyed the last.

Jacklin never again had a top 10 in the British Open.

3 Bunker mentality: Overlooked about Thomas Bjorn in the 2003 British Open is that he was penalized because of a poor bunker shot — in the first round. The Dane left his shot in the sand on the 17th hole and as he always does after a bad shot, slapped at the sand. Except he was still in the bunker, and thus received a two-shot penalty, making a quadruple bogey.

What cost him the claret jug was three sand shots on Sunday — from the same bunker.

He had a two-shot lead with three holes to play when his tee shot on the par-3 16th rolled into the bunker. His first shot didn't carry far enough and rolled back into the sand. His next shot did the same. Bjorn got out on the third shot and made double bogey. He took bogey on the 17th to fall one shot behind, and he wound up one shot behind Ben Curtis, an American playing in his first major.

2 The putt: For all his colorful clothes, Doug Sanders is best remembered for a simple putt he would love to have back. It would have made him a major champion. It would have denied Jack Nicklaus his first victory at St. Andrews.

In the 1970 British Open, Lee Trevino blew up to a 77 on the final day. Sanders

was in a tussle with Nicklaus, but appeared to have the upper hand. He had a one-shot lead playing the easy 18th hole, and he needed only a two-putt par to win the claret jug. The first putt went about 3 feet by the hole.

Sanders backed off, and then hit a weak stroke that missed. He flipped the putter in the air, a mixture of surprise and disgust. The bogey led to a playoff that Nicklaus won the next day by one shot.

1 Frenchman follies: As much as Jean Van de Velde could have used a mulligan, he was equally a part of bad luck in the final hole at Carnoustie in the 1999 British Open. All these years later, it stands as the greatest collapse in a major, and it likely will for years to come.

Van de Velde had a three-shot lead playing the 18th, hit driver off the tee into the right rough, drew a good lie and elected to hit 2-iron to the green. Once it cleared the burn, the tournament should have been over — except the ball hit the railing on the grandstand, flew back over the burn into tall, thick grass. The rest was history, and so was Van de Velde. His wedge went into the burn. His fifth shot went into a bunker and he had to scramble to make triple bogey.

He wound up losing in a three-man playoff to Paul Lawrie.

BRITISH OPEN/SPORTS BRIEFS



PETER MORRISON/AP

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy plays out of a bunker on the 16th hole Thursday during the first round in Hoylake, England.

Tiger opens at 3 under

Trails McIlroy by three strokes

By PAUL NEWBERRY
The Associated Press

HOYLAKE, England — Tiger Woods is back at the majors.

Seems like he was never away. After a shaky start to the British Open, Woods ripped through Royal Liverpool on Thursday much as he did eight years ago when he won the claret jug for the third time. A 30-foot birdie from the fringe of the 11th green got him going. Four more birdies in the next five holes carried Woods to a 3-under 69, leaving him just three shots behind Rory McIlroy.

Not bad for a guy playing his first major of the year, who went months without being able to swing a club after back surgery.

"I'm only going to get better," Woods said. "I'm getting stronger, I'm getting faster, I'm getting more explosive. The ball is starting to travel again. And those are all positive things."

For McIlroy, it was another blistering start.

The question now: Can he keep it going? McIlroy took advantage of the prime scoring conditions more than anyone, a 66 putting him in the familiar position of first-round leader. He has played the opening round in a cumulative 55 under par this year, including three 63s and a course-record 64 at last week's Scottish Open.

But McIlroy failed to win any of those events, largely because of what he calls his "second-round thing," an acknowledged mental block that he's struggling to overcome.

His total score on Fridays — 15 over. "Maybe it's having higher expectations going out on a Friday because you shot a

low round," said McIlroy, whose goal now is "to put those expectations aside."

Woods, who has been stuck on 14 major titles for more than six years, is just happy to be playing after March 31 surgery kept him out of the Masters and the U.S. Open.

He bogeyed the first two holes on a mild, sunny day with only a hint of a breeze rippling the flags. Down the stretch, he looked more like the player who went 18 under the last time golf's oldest major was held at this course along the Irish Sea.

"I felt good about a lot of things I did out there," said Woods, who played the back nine in 4-under 33. "Especially coming back after that start I had today, to fight myself back into the championship. I feel pretty good about it."

The conditions were a far cry from 2006, when he won on dry, fiery course that made the grass more brown than green. This time, Royal Liverpool was lush and relatively soft after intermittent rain on Wednesday.

Matteo Manassero made only one bogey and also shot 33 after the turn, taking advantage of a quirk in the course which puts three par-5s in the closing nine. He birdied them all for a 67.

He wasn't the only Italian in the thick of things. Brothers Edoardo and Francesco Molinari opened with matching 68s.

"I saw the leaderboard," said Francesco, the younger of the siblings. "But it's a tough course, so you have to focus on what you are doing rather than the others are doing — even if it's your brother."

Also at 68 were Spain's Sergio Garcia and a pair of Americans, Jim Furyk and Brooks Koepka. Another shot back, Woods was joined at 69 by countrymen Rickie

Briefly

Kristoff wins stage; Nibali retains lead

The Associated Press

SAINT-ETIENNE, France — Alexander Kristoff of Norway, in a solo show of opportunistic racing, won the 12th stage of the Tour de France in a sprint as Vincenzo Nibali kept the yellow jersey for a 10th day on Thursday.

After hitching a ride behind the back wheel of Italian sprinter Matteo Trentin, Kristoff powered out of the barreling pack and beat Peter Sagan of Slovakia, who was second, by nearly a bike length, while Arnold Demare of France was third. The pack overtook a pair of breakaway riders with less than seven kilometers to go.

Kristoff, who won the Milan-San Remo race this year, pointed his fingers skyward and shouted as he crossed the line — pretty much without any of his Katusha teammates: Sagan's Cannondale team and Giant-Shimano took turns leading the pack at the end. But Kristoff timed his burst perfectly.

The mostly flat 115.5-mile course from Bourg-en-Bresse to Saint-Etienne in southeastern France was well suited for a possible sprint finish.

The top standings didn't change. Nibali leads Richie Porte of Australia by 2 minutes, 23 seconds, and Alejandro Valverde of Spain was third, 2:47 back. Nibali is looking to become the first Italian to win the Tour since the late Marco Pantani in 1998.

Sabres sign Ennis for 5 years

BUFFALO, N.Y. — The Buffalo Sabres re-signed center Tyler Ennis on Thursday to a five-year contract worth about \$23 million, addressing one of the final pieces of their offseason rebuilding plan.

A person familiar with the agreement revealed the terms to The Associated Press. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the Sabres referred to the contract only as a multiyear deal.

Ennis was a restricted free agent after the Sabres retained his rights by tendering him an offer last month. Buffalo has now re-signed four of its five restricted free agents, with the exception of forward Luke Adam.

Ennis is a speedy, playmaking forward who led the Sabres with a career-best 21 goals and added 22 assists in 80 games last season.

Royals get Frasor from Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Kansas City Royals have gotten some relief help, acquiring veteran reliever Jason Frasor from the Texas Rangers for Triple-A right-hander Spencer Patton.

The trade was made Wednesday, the same day Patton was scheduled to participate in the Triple-A All-Star game. The Royals will assign him to Triple-A Round Rock.

Frasor was 1-1 with a 3.34 ERA in 38 appearances this season, his second in Texas. The right-hander spent nine seasons with Toronto (2004-12), returning to the Blue Jays after being traded to the White Sox in July 2011 and finishing that season in Chicago.

In 624 major league games, Frasor is 31-35 with 36 saves and a 3.65 ERA.

The injury-plagued Rangers (38-57) went into the All-Star break with the worst record in the major leagues.



PETER MORRISON/AP

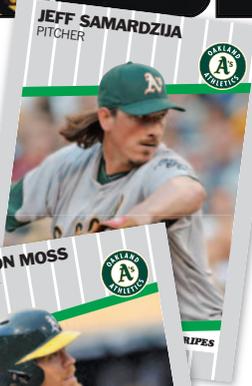
Tiger Woods holds up his ball after putting out on the 11th green at the Royal Liverpool golf club.

Fowler, Jimmy Walker and Boo Weekley; Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, Koumei Oda and Yoshinobu Tsukada; Sweden's Robert Karlsson; and Marc Leishman of Australia.

"I didn't play fantastic, but the course is out there to make some birdies on," said Karlsson, who teed off in the first group of the day at 6:25 a.m.

The wind picked up through the day, making things tougher for those with afternoon tee times.

SPORTS



GOLDEN STATE

ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES
STARS AND STRIPES

After strong first half for Athletics, Giants, the first Bay Bridge Series since 1989 could be in the cards

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

The small-budget Oakland Athletics have baseball's best record at the break in a division featuring some of the sport's highest-paid stars. The San Francisco Giants are in the chase for the NL West title despite recent stumbles.

Bay Area baseball has delivered a stellar first half. It's only mid-July and there is already talk of a special October and, perhaps, the first Bay Bridge Series since 1989.

California could have four teams playing into October. The two organizations in Northern California have set the tone.

"It'd be hard to find two teams in the same city doing as well as we are," said Giants right-hander Tim Hudson, who began his career with the A's. "It's really exciting for all of the fans from both sides of the bay. They've had the opportunity over the years to have some really fun teams to watch, World Se-

ries-caliber teams every year. New York can't say that, L.A. can't really say that. It's been fun."

Oakland, a major league-best 59-36 and the two-time defending AL West champion, produced a pair of six-game winning streaks behind its reliable starting pitching. And general manager Billy Beane pulled off a July 4 trade with the Cubs that brought Jeff Samardzija and Jason Hammel to a deep rotation that lost Jarrod Parker and A.J. Griffin to season-ending elbow injuries that required surgery.

"We could probably go seven deep," A's manager Bob Melvin said. "Tommy Milone's in Triple-A right now and with the numbers he's put up, it means we're creating a lot of depth to withstand whatever could potentially happen coming up in the second half."

Several offseasons ago, Beane committed to building from the bottom of the minor league system on up to make sure his club had the depth to withstand injuries, and that philosophy is working — even in a talented division that includes Robinson Cano in Seattle and power hitters Josh Hamilton and Albert Pujols of the Angels.

SEE GOLDEN ON PAGE 59

Inside:

- First-place Orioles seek consistency, Page 59
- Brewers go from worst to first in year, Page 58

