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WEEKEND EDITION

EUROPE & PACIFIC

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VA ALLEGATIONS

WE JUST FEEL ABANDONED

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VA Secretary
Eric Shinseki
AP

Camp Humphreys 'on track' for 2017, Army official says

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The twice-delayed expansion of the U.S. military's future flagship installation in South Korea — so large that officials have likened it to building a small city — is on track to be completed in 2016-17, according to a top Army official.

Forty percent of construction at Camp Humphreys has been completed, including the initial development of the site, and planning and construction on the rest of the expansion is underway, according to Katherine Hammack, the Army's assistant secretary for installations, energy and environment.

"They're on track, they're on schedule, so we do think we're going to reach substantial completion by 2017," said Hammack, who visited Humphreys in March for the first time in two years for a progress report.

Some small projects will remain at Humphreys after that date, she said.

"There's always the final finishing touches — the road that might not yet be paved or the last motor pool that might not yet be completed," she said. But most units slated for relocation will be able to move by then and the majority of bases they vacate will be ready for return to South Korea.

SEE HUMPHREYS ON PAGE 10



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

Construction is underway on troop barracks at Camp Humphreys in South Korea.

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

“What seems to be spit turns out to be a nail. I don’t give it much importance.”

— The Rev. Gabriele Amorth, the Catholic Church’s best-known exorcist, discussing “the stuff that gets spewed from mouths” when people are brought to him for an exorcism

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3. Navy’s top admiral: Reducing carrier fleet would burn out sailors, ships
4. DODDS-Europe soccer - Day 4
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Ferrari’s 458 Speciale

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MIDEAST

Afghans back on campaign trail

By **HEATH DRUZIN**
Stars and Stripes

KABUL — The campaign for Afghanistan’s second round of presidential elections kicked off Thursday with many concerned that this winner-take-all phase could raise tensions in a country poised for its first-ever democratic transition of power.

At opening-day campaign rallies Thursday for the remaining two candidates — former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, and former Finance Minister Ashraf Ghani — supporters expressed concerns about an unfair result and showed a willingness to take to the streets if there were fraud.

“All the people of the country should convince the candidates that if one wins, the other should accept the result without causing tension,” Abdullah supporter Arbab Mirwais Sarfaraz said. “But if someone wins through corruption, we will resist.”

Roughly 7 million voters turned out in the first round of voting on April 5. That poll was hailed by both Afghans and the international community for its high turnout and relative lack of violence in major urban centers — although rural areas saw a spate of attacks and 400,000 votes were thrown out due to irregularities. Because no one received a majority, Abdullah and Ghani will square off as the top two vote-getters in a second round scheduled for June 14.

With President Hamid Karzai — the only leader Afghanistan has known since the U.S. ousted the ruling Taliban in 2001 — constitutionally barred from running for another term, the next president will be crucial both at stabilizing a country still at war and to mending a strained relationship with Washington, with whose leaders Karzai frequently clashed.

Both candidates have said they will sign a crucial security agreement with the U.S. that would pave the way for a small U.S. and allied military force to stay for training and counterterrorism missions past Dec. 31, the deadline for all international combat troops to leave the country.

During the first round of voting, no one was close to the out-



PHOTOS BY HEATH DRUZIN/Stars and Stripes

Afghan presidential candidate Ashraf Ghani, center right, greets former Afghan President Hazrat Mujaddidi at a kickoff rally for Ghani’s campaign in the second round of the Afghan presidential elections Thursday in Kabul.



Afghan presidential candidate Abdullah Abdullah addresses supporters at a kickoff rally for his campaign Thursday in Kabul.

right majority needed to avoid a run-off, despite complaints of fraud and biased election bodies.

The two top vote-getters were so far ahead of their rivals that there was little impetus to mobilize supporters for the kind of protests that analysts fear could divide the country and cause unrest. This next ballot will be decisive and the most important outcome may not be who wins, but whether the loser accepts the results.

Both Abdullah and Ghani had hoped to win an outright majority in the first round to avoid a run-off, but their main focus was on

at least qualifying for the second round of voting, said Martine van Bijlert, co-director of the Kabul-based Afghanistan Analysts Network.

She said the winner-take-all run-off promises to be a “much fiercer competition,” and a disputed result could raise tensions in the country making the conduct and credibility of Afghanistan’s much-criticized election commissions crucial to an accepted outcome.

“If it’s a close election, it could become a contest over quite small numbers of ‘disqualifications,’” van Bijlert said. “Then it becomes extremely important that everyone trusts the decisions of the election bodies, which hasn’t been the case in the first round.”

The Independent Election Commission, responsible for administering the election, and the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission, which investigates voting irregularities, were roundly criticized by candidates, voters, and election observers for a variety of problems in the first round of voting, including ballot shortages, lack of transparency and delays in announcing results.

Many experts worry the commissions haven’t done enough to fix the problems. Jandam Spinghar, director of the independent election monitoring group, Election Watch Afghanistan, said

the issue of polling stations running out of ballots particularly incensed both voters and candidates and that it could happen again.

“Unfortunately, we haven’t seen any strong mechanism from the (Independent Election) Commission’s side to make sure in the second round similar shortages don’t occur,” he said.

Spinghar said he is cautiously optimistic the second-round vote will go smoothly, but with the stakes so much higher this time he worries missteps by the commissions could make people question the legitimacy of the election, which could lead to protests, prompting a crisis.

Younus Fakor, an independent political analyst in Kabul, would like to see Abdullah and Ghani publicly agree to respect the results of the election and step aside after the vote if they lose.

“If they sign an agreement, it will decrease tensions in the future,” he said.

After more than 30 years of war, many Afghans have little appetite for further strife and are pinning their hopes on the election to preserve what fragile gains have been made in the country since the U.S. Taliban were ousted.

For Shafiqia Shuja Qaderi, 50, a Kabul schoolteacher, a smooth transition of power is crucial to continuing to improve the rights of women, who were brutally repressed under the Taliban and still face widespread abuses, despite new laws aimed at protecting them from violence and discrimination.

“The last 10 years, a lot has been done for women in this country,” she said. “We need those achievements maintained and continued.”

For many, a democratic transition also holds the key to finally escaping the spiral of war that has enveloped the country since the Soviet Union invaded in 1979.

“The election is crucial,” Juma Khan, 62, a Kabul shopkeeper, said. “We want to live in peace, and through elections, we can achieve that.”

Zubair Babakarkhal contributed to this report. druzin@baharistripes.com Twitter: @Druzin_Stripes

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EUROPE

Breedlove: NATO needs to keep its options open

Commander says positioning troops in Eastern Europe should be considered

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

BRUSSELS — NATO should not rule out positioning forces in Eastern Europe in light of Russia's newly aggressive stance, which now demands that the alliance find fresh ways to boost its state of readiness, NATO's top military officer said Thursday.

Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO supreme allied commander, also said there were some signs that Russian forces positioned along the border with Ukraine were re-deploying, but that a sizable fighting force remained in the area. Earlier this week, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Russian units would begin returning to their home garrisons.

"We need to be very honest, we are seeing some movement," Breedlove told reporters. "The size and scope of it is not exactly clear yet."

NATO has said the Russian army had assembled about 40,000 combat-ready troops along the border with eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russia separatist groups have been fighting with Ukrainian government troops. On Thursday, at least 11 Ukrainian troops were killed when pro-Russia forces attacked a military checkpoint, The Associated Press reported.

"We don't see movement in two of the areas that are very con-

cerning to us," Breedlove said, without elaborating. In order to de-escalate tensions along the border, he said, a "100 percent withdrawal" of Russian forces from the area would be required.

He was speaking at the end of a two-day meeting of the alliance's defense chiefs in Brussels devoted mainly to the situation in Ukraine.

Breedlove signaled that the NATO Response Force, formed a decade ago as the alliance's rapid-deployment force, must play a key role as NATO attempts to ensure it is capable of fielding forces in the event of a sudden crisis.

"Are we asking it (the NRF) to do the right things?" Breedlove asked. "Is it responsive enough to meet the new threat?"

Breedlove, who also commands U.S. European Command, said that NATO's task now is to prepare itself for a future in which Russia can no longer be regarded as a partner.

The NATO Response Force, which includes a Texas-based U.S. Army brigade and about 20,000 European troops, has generally been used for training exercises and peacekeeping activities. As a result, it's not built to mobilize in a matter of hours or days, though it trains as a fighting force.

"I think we need to reset the goals of the NRF), especially as it relates to responsiveness," Breedlove, said. "We need an



A IVAN SEKRETAREV/AP

A Ukrainian soldier walks past the remains of an armored vehicle at the site of a gunbarricade near the village of Blahodudne, Ukraine, on Thursday. At least 11 Ukrainian troops were killed and about 30 others were wounded when pro-Russia fighters attacked a military checkpoint.

NRF that is very responsive."

"To maintain a NATO force at a higher state of alert, however, will require a more intensive training program and more resources to ensure the troops are mission-ready.

"That will cost money," Breedlove said. "Readiness and responsiveness is not free."

The U.S. has repeatedly taken its European partners to task for reducing defense spending and not shouldering their share of the burden and the U.S. has been drawing down forces in Europe. NATO also should consider moving an element of NRF closer to potential hot spots, Breedlove said. The positioning of NATO

forces in the east, near Russia's borders, is a source of contention within the alliance. Allies in the east have been eager for more NATO presence, but some members in the west, such as Germany, have indicated opposition to any permanent stationing of troops.

Breedlove stopped short of saying whether the forces should be permanently stationed, saying such a move would be a political decision. But he didn't rule it out.

"We have to think about whether we should have forces in the east," Breedlove said. "There are many avenues to explore."

For more than a decade, NATO has viewed Russia as a partner,

and that has been factored into military planning within the alliance, Breedlove said.

Now, the allies must take stock as the security paradigm in Europe has changed, said Breedlove, who argued that Russia's altering of the borders in Ukraine by seizing Crimea has security implications that ripple across Eastern Europe.

"Is our force sized correctly?" Breedlove asked. "Is our force equipped correctly? Is the responsiveness of our force appropriate?"

"We have to look at our structures," he said.

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White House opposes new timeline on Poland missile interceptor base

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — The Obama administration says a House plan to accelerate installation of a missile interceptor site in Poland and to deploy short-range air- and missile-defense capabilities to the country offer few benefits while risking other defense programs.

Its opposition is included in a document released by the White House this week detailing disagreements with parts of the National Defense Authorization Act being considered in the Republican-controlled House. Taking into account Eastern Europe's recent concerns over Russia, the bill would speed up the timeline for installation of the Aegis Ashore missile interceptor system in Poland to 2016 from the

original finish date of 2018.

"Accelerating the deployment of the Aegis Ashore site by two years would impose large costs on, and risk to, other Navy programs and, likely would not change Russia's security calculation in Europe," the White House statement read.

Deployment of the short-range missile batteries by December, as required by the bill, would take from other missile defense priorities, it said.

The Poland site is part of a U.S.-led missile defense shield for the continent, known as the European Phase Adaptive Approach. Other components include ship-based interceptors aboard four U.S. destroyers in Spain, a radar site in Turkey and a command element in Germany. Another shore-based site is being built in

Romania.

The plan has caused a major rift with Russia, which says the shield is aimed against its own nuclear missile arsenal. The U.S. and its NATO allies insist the defense system is meant to protect Europe from potentially hostile countries in the region, such as Iran.

New tensions with Russia after its March invasion of Crimea have resulted in calls for speeding installation of the site. The head of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency, Vice Adm. James Syring, told a House subcommittee in April that acceleration would be possible with additional funding.

The Navy is currently building the Romania interceptor site at an air base in Deveslu, which is scheduled for completion by the end of 2015 and will be manned

by about 200 sailors. Costs of the construction have risen sharply since initial plans. A GAO report released in April found that the combined price of the Romania interceptor site and a test battery in Hawaii have doubled from initial estimates to \$1.6 billion, up from \$813 million.

On Wednesday, the Pentagon announced that the U.S. military on the Hawaiian island of Kauai has conducted the first flight test of the new missile defense system, according to The Associated Press. The Missile Defense Agency and the Navy used the Aegis Weapon System to track a simulated target in Tuesday evening's test, the report said, adding that it successfully intercepted the simulated target using a Standard Missile-3 Block 1B missile.

Poland has accelerated field-

ing its own missile defense shield since the Crimea invasion. The House bill states the country still needs a short-range air and missile defense capability while it develops its own system.

The White House document details its opposition to other aspects of the House bill, including its failure to reform servicemember compensation, its limited funding for the Littoral Combat Ship, and its limits on retiring weapons systems and aircraft like the A-10 Warthog.

The full House is considering the bill for a vote after the House Armed Services Committee approved it two weeks ago. The Senate Armed Services committee will soon release its own draft.

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Air Force security forces failed nuke test

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Armed security forces at a U.S. nuclear missile base failed a drill last summer that simulated the hostile takeover of a missile launch silo because they were unable to speedily regain control of the captured nuclear weapon, according to an internal Air Force review obtained by The Associated Press.

The previously unreported failure, which the Air Force called a "critical deficiency" was the reason the 341st Missile Wing at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana flunked its broader safety-and-security inspection.

The security team was required to respond to the simulated capture of a Minuteman 3 nuclear missile silo, termed an "Empty Quiver" scenario in which a nuclear weapon is lost, stolen or seized. Each of the Air Force's 450 Minuteman 3 silos contains one missile armed with a nuclear warhead and ready for launch on orders from the president.

The review obtained by the AP through a Freedom of Information Act request sought to examine why the security force showed an "inability to effectively respond to a recapture scenario." It cited their failure to take "all lawful actions necessary to immediately regain control of nuclear weapons" but did not specify those actions.

The prize for terrorists or others who might seek to seize control of a missile would be the nuclear warhead attached to it. In 2009, the Air Force cited a "post-9/11 shift in thinking" about such situations, saying that while this nightmare scenario once was considered an impossibility, the U.S. "no longer has the luxury of assuming what is and what is not possible."

The inspection failure was one of a string of nuclear missile corps setbacks revealed by the AP during the past year. The force has suffered embarrassing leadership and training lapses, breakdowns in discipline and morale problems. Earlier this year, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ordered two parallel nuclear reviews, still underway, to address his concern that those lapses could erode public trust in the security of the nation's nuclear weapons.

The safety and security of nuclear weapons under military control is considered of paramount importance, and thus defense agencies perform detailed, rigorous inspections at regular intervals.

When the Air Force publicly acknowledged the inspection failure in August, it said "technical-level errors" had been committed during one phase of the inspection, but it did not say the errors were made by security forces. At the time, the Air Force declined to provide details, saying to do so could expose potential vulnerabilities. Security forces, safety officers, logistics teams, missile launch crews and others

participated in the Malmstrom inspection.

Lt. Col. John Sheets, a spokesman for Air Force Global Strike Command, which is responsible for the nuclear missile corps as well as the nuclear-capable bomber aircraft, said Wednesday he could not comment further.

"We cannot divulge additional details of the scenario or the response tactics due to it being sensitive information that could compromise security," Sheets said. He added that all "countermeasures," or corrective actions, that were proposed in the review obtained by the AP have been accomplished. The only excep-

tion is a plan for more extensive practicing of security response tactics at launch silos, a move that requires signed agreements with owners of the private land on which the missile silos are situated.

The Aug 5-13, 2013, inspection, designed to evaluate management and handling of nuclear weapons to ensure they are properly controlled at all times, was repeated two months later and found no security weaknesses.

Security forces are responsible for a range of protective roles on the Air Force's three nuclear missile bases, including along roads used to transport mis-

siles and warheads to and from launch silos, at weapons storage facilities and at launch silos and launch control centers. The Air Force operates three Minuteman 3 bases — in North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming — each with 150 missiles.

The partially censored document provided to the AP describes in broad terms the nature of the inspection failure, its significance and its underlying causes.

It said insufficient training was at the heart of the problem, beginning with a lack of familiarity among the security forces with "complex scenario" exercises. It also cited unspecified shortcom-

ings in "leadership culture" and a lack of standardized simulations not only at Malmstrom but throughout the nuclear missile corps.

Among the corrective measures cited in the report was to arrange to hold recapture exercises at one launch silo among the 50 silos in each of the 341st's three Minuteman squadrons, using "realistic, varied, simple-to-complex" scenarios based on what the Pentagon calls its "local nuclear security threat capabilities assessment." Also, the Air Force is taking steps to more closely track lessons learned from each "recapture" exercise.



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MILITARY

House rebuffs DOD on spending

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The House on Thursday overwhelmingly backed a \$601 billion defense authorization bill that spares planes, ships and military bases in an election-year nod to hometown interests.

Ignoring a White House veto threat, Republicans and Democrats united behind the popular measure that authorizes spending on weapons and personnel for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1. The vote was 325-98 for the legislation which now must be reconciled with a work-in-progress Senate version.

The Pentagon had proposed re-

tiring the Cold War-era U-2 spy plane and the A-10 Warthog close-air support aircraft as well as

Spending on the military is being cut after more than a decade of fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan, and deficit-driven budget reductions are taking a toll.

Working within spending limits, the Pentagon proposed retiring decades-old aircraft programs, including the A-10 Warthog, a close air support plane, and the U-2.

The Defense Department also sought congressional approval to close military bases deemed unnecessary and slightly increase out-of-pocket costs for housing and health care.

Military identifies Marine who fell from Osprey, died

Stars and Stripes

Military officials have identified the Marine who died after falling out of an MV-22B Osprey during a training flight Monday night.

Lance Cpl. Steven M. Hancock fell from the tilt-rotor aircraft, which functions as both a helicopter and an airplane, about 6:30 p.m. near Marine Corps Air Station New River, N.C.

During a joint search by military and civilian agencies, crews from a military aircraft spotted Hancock's body Tuesday afternoon. It was found on state forest land 96 miles south of Raleigh, according to Bladen County, N.C., Coroner Hubert Kinlaw.

Hancock was with the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Training Squadron 204, based out of MCAF New River.

"I want to pass along our sincere thanks to all who assisted us in recovering Lance Cpl. Hancock," Maj. Gen. Robert Hedelund, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, said in a statement.

"This is a very tragic loss to 2nd MAMW, Marine Aircraft Group 26 and VMFT-204, but your professional, compassionate and genuine care is welcomed and greatly appreciated."

Details surrounding Hancock's death are under investigation.

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report.

Missile cruiser Vella Gulf to enter Black Sea for training

Stars and Stripes

The guided-missile cruiser USS Vella Gulf will enter the Black Sea on Friday, the latest U.S. warship to visit the region amid tensions between Russia and the West over Ukraine.

The ship's crew will train with allies and will be available for security cooperation, according to Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren. Recent deployments to the Black Sea by other U.S. warships have included exercises and port visits with Romania, Bulgaria and Georgia.

The U.S. has increased its presence in the Black Sea in recent months in an effort to reassure allies since the March invasion of Ukraine's Crimea Peninsula by Russian troops.

The consecutive visits of U.S. warships also sends a message to

Russia, which frowned upon U.S. operations in the Black Sea even before recent events and whose Black Sea Fleet is located in Sevastopol. Previous U.S. visits to the Black Sea were typically separated by months.

Recent deployments to the region have largely been quiet, although an unarmed Russian fighter jet buzzed the destroyer USS Cook multiple times in international waters in the western Black Sea on April 12, according to the Pentagon.

"The ship's presence in the Black Sea demonstrates the United States' commitment to working closely with allies to enhance maritime security and stability," Warren said of the Vella Gulf.

The frigate USS Taylor was the previous ship in the region, leaving the Black Sea on March 12.

news@stripes.com

Brig. Gen. Coots assumes Army's top medical position in Europe

Stars and Stripes

Brig. Gen. Norvell V. Coots on Thursday replaced Col. John P. Collins as commander of Europe Regional Medical Command, the Army's top medical post in Europe.

Coots comes to the job after serving as deputy commanding general (support) for the U.S. Army Medical Command and assistant surgeon general for force projection in the General's Office of the Surgeon General in Falls Church, Va.

Coots' arrival puts a one-star general back in command of ERMC, fulfilling a commitment the Army's surgeon general voiced last year when Collins as-

sumed the position of "interim" commander in the midst of a re-organization of top positions in military medicine. Lt. Gen. Patricia D. Horoho, the Army surgeon general, said at the time that she was committed to having a general atop ERMC.

Collins' tenure was expected to run from three to six months while the reorganization shook out, but instead lasted the better part of a year. Collins' predecessor, Jeffrey B. Clark, was also a colonel for nearly his entire tenure as commander of ERMC.

Collins, a 30-year Army veteran, will retire this summer, according to the command.

Some of Coots' more recent military assignments include

surgeon general of U.S. Forces-Afghanistan from May 2012 to March 2013 and commander of the Walter Reed Health Care System from July 2008 to August 2011.

ERMC oversees a health care system that includes numerous clinics, war zone medical logistics, humanitarian assistance and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, the military's only overseas trauma center. With more than 5,500 joint service personnel under its umbrella, it supports three major commands — Europe, Central and Africa Commands — as well as U.S. Army Europe and medical units in Afghanistan.

news@stripes.com

Berger to gain star, lead Marine force

By Jon Harper

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Maj. Gen. David Berger will become commander of the I Marine Expeditionary Force, the Defense Department announced Wednesday. The I MEF is based at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Berger, who with the move will be promoted to lieutenant general, is currently the commander of both the Marine Air Ground Task Force Training Command and the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, at Twentynine

Palms, Calif.

Berger was commissioned as an infantry officer in 1981. He served as a company commander and battalion operations officer in the 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion during Operation Desert Storm. He later commanded Regimental Combat Team 8 in Fallujah during Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the 1st Marine Division (Forward) in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Among other assignments, Berger also served as an instructor at Marine Aviation Weapons

and Tactics Squadron One; an instructor at III MEF Special Operations Training Group; and a policy planner on the Joint Staff.

He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from Tulane University, and a master of international public policy from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies.

Berger's promotion and appointment as commander of I MEF must be confirmed by the Senate.

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MILITARY

USAF troops join search for missing girls

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — Some 80 U.S. Air Force personnel sent to Chad in Central Africa join a growing international effort to help find and rescue about 276 Nigerian schoolgirls who were abducted by an Islamist extremist group last month.

The U.S. airmen are mostly crewmembers, maintenance specialists and security officers for unarmed Predator surveillance drones searching for the girls taken by the group, Boko Haram.

“These personnel will support the operation of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance aircraft for missions over northern Nigeria and the surrounding area,” the White House said in a statement formally notifying Congress about the deployment.

For more than a week, the U.S. military has been flying manned and unmanned surveillance aircraft from Italy and other parts of Africa over densely forested regions in northeastern Nigeria, where the captors, who have said they’d sell the girls into slavery, are believed to be hiding them.

“Our sense at this point is that they’ve been dispersed into multiple smaller groups,” Amanda Dory, the Pentagon’s top Africa Foreign Affairs Committee hearing Wednesday. “They may or may not all be in Nigeria.”

Boko Haram was designated a terror-

“The problem has become regional, if not a Western problem.”

Cameroon President Paul Biya

ist organization by the State Department last year. The group, founded more than a decade ago, seeks to establish a fundamentalist Islamic state ruled by Sharia. The intensity of its attacks increased in 2011 when large quantities of Libyan government weapons became available after rebel groups — backed by NATO air power — ousted the former regime of Moammar Gadhafi.

The group has killed more than 3,000 people, experts say, and has carried out a number of kidnappings. Its members kidnapped a French family in northern Cameroon last year and just last week abducted at least 10 Chinese workers.

“They have committed one more attack, attacked businessmen and this comes after the French hostages were kidnapped,” Cameroon President Paul Biya said in Paris, according to Reuters. “As we speak we are searching for an Italian priest and a Canadian nun. The problem has become regional, if not a Western problem.”

The deployment to Chad brings more surveillance aircraft closer to the affected area. Those will operate from an

air base long used by France, the former colonial power in Chad, in the capital of N’Djamena.

The unit will remain in Chad, “until its support in resolving the kidnapping situation is no longer required,” the White House statement said.

The Chad deployment follows an advisory group of 16 military personnel sent to Nigeria by the U.S. Africa Command, along with FBI and intelligence officials, as part of a State Department effort to assist the Nigerian government in finding and recovering the missing girls.

U.S. Army Africa announced that it has sent personnel, along with special forces troops, to Nigeria to train a Nigerian ranger battalion in combat operations. Previously, USARAF had trained African troops in peacekeeping operations.

“We will provide fundamentals of patrolling, small unit tactics, ambush/raid attack, movements of contact, night operations as opposed to the more traditional U.N. focused peace keeping tasks like patrolling, cordon and search, and establish checkpoints,” Lt. Col. Winnie Garbarino, USARAF’s international military engagements officer, said on the USARAF website.

“We want these soldiers to take the fight to Boko Haram in the restricted terrain and really eliminate the threat within their borders so they can get back to peacekeeping operations.”

The Nigerian ranger battalion has been vetted for human rights abuses, as required

by the Leahy Law — named for Vermont Democratic Sen. Patrick Leahy — which bars the U.S. from providing training or equipment to foreign troops or units who commit “gross human rights violations” such as rape, murder or torture.

The Nigerian military has carried out mass executions, burned hundreds of homes and committed other abuses in its battle against Boko Haram, according to Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

While Boko Haram — which stands for “western education is evil” — is loathed by much of the population for its brutality, the Nigerian army also has a poor record for respecting human rights.

A State Department inspector general’s report last year said that of 1,377 Nigerian soldiers vetted in 2012 to receive training, 211 were rejected or suspended because of rights concerns.

Finding army units that have not been involved in abuses has been a “persistent and very troubling limitation” on American efforts to work with the Nigerians, Alice Friend, the Pentagon’s principal director for African affairs, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this month.

Neighboring African nations expressed an interest last week at a meeting in Paris to, as Chad President Idriss Deby put it, “launch a war, a total war on Boko Haram,” according to Reuters.

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VA ALLEGATIONS



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Barack Obama speaks at the White House on Wednesday following his meeting with Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

House OKs wider power to fire senior management

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The House passed a bill Wednesday that would give Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki new power to fire and demote senior executives in the troubled department.

The vote came just hours after President Barack Obama spoke about the health care scandal involving patient deaths and possible VA misconduct across the country.

The bill takes aim at VA management by allowing the secretary to fire executives without administrative due process.

Opponents in the House called it a knee-jerk reaction that would politicize executives and do little to solve deep problems with access at the agency.

Congress intensified calls this week for quick and decisive changes at the VA as allegations of an off-the-books waiting list that might have led to the deaths of 40 veterans at a Phoenix hospital snowballed into a national scandal.

Allegations of wrongdoing have surfaced at facilities in at least 10 states.

Amid growing public frustration, Obama called the embattled secretary to the White House on Wednesday, pledging support as the VA inspector general conducts an investigation and vowing to hold employees accountable for any uncovered wrongdoing.

Also attending was White House Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors, who last week was assigned to review VA operations nationwide.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., who sponsored the VA bill in the House, said he was deeply disappointed by Obama's reaction to what he called the biggest scandal in VA's history.

"The best way to reform the VA is to get rid of the dead wood," Miller said.

SEE POWER ON PAGE 9

'Tremendous disappointment'

Obama's 'long-overdue' remarks on VA scandal do little to put minds at ease

By Jennifer Hlad
Stars and Stripes

When President Barack Obama spoke Wednesday about the growing scandals at the Department of Veterans Affairs, some veterans asked why it took so long for their commander in chief to speak up.

Darrell Richardson attended a town hall meeting in Phoenix last week to tell fellow veterans about the death of his brother, Dennis. Since then, Richardson has been speaking out about the problems with the VA, and asking why Obama and others had not commented or taken action.

"We just feel abandoned," he said. Dennis Richardson had been diagnosed with liver cancer at a civilian hospital in July 2012, but when he tried to get an appointment at the Phoenix VA, he was told he would have to wait seven months, his brother said.

A few months later, Dennis' pain was so severe that he went to the VA's emergency room for help. He was started on chemotherapy, but stopped the treatments after a few weeks because he was so sick, Darrell said. He died Nov. 8, 2012.

At this point, Richardson said, the president and the VA should be finding veterans who have life-threatening illnesses that require immediate appointments, and getting them in front of doctors.

"Let's find out who needs care right now, and get them in for

'Let's find out who needs care right now, and get them in for an appointment. If the president would have said that [Wednesday] morning, I would have been absolutely ecstatic.'

Darrell Richardson

an appointment. If the president would have said that [Wednesday] morning, I would have been absolutely ecstatic," he said.

After a closed-door meeting Wednesday with VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors, whom Obama had already tasked with helping sort out the VA, Obama said that the inspector general has launched investigations into the Phoenix VA and other VA facilities, and that anyone found to have manipulated records will be punished.

Nabors will meet with the heads of veterans service organizations in Phoenix on Thursday.

Gene Crego, Arizona state council president for Vietnam Veterans of America, said he was satisfied with Obama's statement, though "it took longer than what we were hoping for."

Crego said he agrees that there are many dedicated people in the VA system, but also knows the

See a timeline of VA Secretary Eric Shinseki's career, at stripes.com/go/shinsekistimeline

long delays in getting an appointment is "something that's been happening for years," in part because there is not enough staff.

Obama said his administration has made progress by boosting funding, making VA benefits available to more veterans, and "launching an all-out war on the disability claims backlog."

Paul Rieckhoff, CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said the president's "long-overdue" remarks "were a tremendous disappointment" and "did nothing to quell the growing nationwide VA controversy."

The American Legion and several members of Congress have called for Shinseki to resign because of the allegations, but Obama on Wednesday called Shinseki "a great soldier."

"Nobody cares more about our veterans than Ric Shinseki," Obama said. "He has put his heart and soul into this ... and he has taken it very seriously ... At this stage, [Shinseki] is committed to solving the problem and working with us to do it."

Richardson and Crego said they think keeping Shinseki in

place, at least for now, is the best decision.

"It makes no sense to get rid of him," Richardson said. "At least he's committed to helping the vets. He just needs the tools and the authority to do it."

But American Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger said the decision to keep Shinseki is "an unfortunate one."

"The VA, has been aware for some time that inappropriate scheduling procedures are widespread among its medical facilities," Dellinger said. "Yet Secretary Shinseki has taken no initiative in correcting the problem. Veterans continue to die waiting for their health care, senior VA executives continue to get their bonuses, and only after all of this is the secretary now pledging to fix what's wrong."

A 2010 VA memo obtained by the American Legion shows that officials were aware of "gaming strategies" to meet performance measures.

Dr. Samuel Foote, one of the whistleblower in the Phoenix VA case, first wrote a letter to the inspector general alleging secret waiting lists in late October 2013.

Foote, who retired from the VA in 2013 after more than 23 years, told Stars and Stripes he had known about the waiting lists earlier that year, after a clerk told him they weren't allowed to make new patient appointments, but he didn't know until late August that some patients on the list had died while waiting for an appointment.

SEE OBAMA ON PAGE 9

'The best way to reform the VA is to get rid of the dead wood.'

Rep. Jeff Miller
R-Fla.

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VA ALLEGATIONS



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki listens to a reporter's questions on Capitol Hill in Washington on Thursday after testifying before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

House panel to VA officials: Appear or face subpoenas

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — House lawmakers on Thursday told Department of Veterans Affairs executives to appear May 28 on Capitol Hill or face subpoenas, saying the department has failed for weeks to fully comply with an inquiry into allegations of falsified documents and dozens of veteran deaths at a Phoenix hospital.

On Wednesday evening, VA executives were told to appear Thursday morning at a House Veterans Affairs Committee meeting to explain why requested documents have not been supplied, but told frustrated lawmakers they could not attend.

Rep. Jeff Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee, said members would issue subpoenas if the VA does not provide testimony next week by the deputy undersecretary for health and clinical operations, assistant secretary for congressional affairs and a congressional relations officer.

A whistleblower has alleged a Phoenix VA hospital had an off-the-books waiting list that might have led to 40 patient deaths, and similar reports have surfaced in at least 10 other states.

Miller said the VA has not been forthcoming despite a May 8 subpoena of 27 employees for documents related to the Phoenix allegations and an early admission that a secret waiting list was kept to conceal long wait times.

"It is not very hard in this day and age to give us the info we are asking for ... search through the emails," he said.

Still, the department provided 201 emails in a "rolling block" of info and another 3,000 documents in the early morning hours before the Thursday committee hearing, Miller said.

That has not been good enough for committee members.

"It is unbelievable to me that

you could not get those emails done in a few hours," Rep. David Roe, R-Tenn., said. "We are losing the trust of our veterans ... we are about to blow it up right here on Memorial Day weekend."

The House push comes after calls from members of Congress and veterans' groups for Shinseki to resign.

On Wednesday, amid the growing pressure, President Barack Obama called the embattled secretary to the White House for a meeting with Deputy Chief of Staff Rob Nabors, who has been called in to help oversee a department review following the scandal.

Late Wednesday, the House overwhelming passed a bill designed to put more pressure on VA management by giving VA Secretary Eric Shinseki wider power to fire and demote senior executives in the wake of the agency's nationwide scandal over patient wait times and related deaths at its facilities.

Obama, who has also drawn fire from congressional Republicans for his handling of the VA, pledged to support Shinseki while the VA inspector general conducts an investigation that is due in August.

House Speaker Rep. John Boehner, R-Ohio, backed the veterans' affairs committee push Thursday, saying he also believes the agency has balked at providing documents called for earlier this month.

"The fact is, they have not complied with the subpoena," Boehner said during a press conference following the morning hearing.

The speaker said he is moving closer to a censure. Shinseki's resignation given new allegations of more VA misconduct in his Ohio district, but said it would do nothing to solve deep, systemic problems within the agency.

"This isn't about one person," he said. "It is about the entire system underneath him."

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Power: Proposed house bill would give VA power to quickly remove executives

FROM PAGE 8

His bill would strip away the existing administrative process currently needed to remove or demote federal senior executives who work at the agency, meaning Shinseki alone could decide what merits termination instead of performance reviews required by federal law.

Miller said "it is easier for someone to get a bonus than it is to get some type of discipline" at the VA and that has led to gross negligence and incompetence throughout the agency.

The House bill would give the secretary the power he needs to quickly remove problematic senior executives and restore public confidence, he said.

Other House lawmakers said they were frustrated by perceived inaction by the VA and White House.

"In the real world, you get fired if you fail to do your job. Not in the VA," said Rep. Dan Benishek, R-Mich. "I'm sick and tired of haul-

'In the real world, you get fired if you fail to do your job. Not in the VA.'

Rep. Dan Benishek
R-Mich.

ing VA officials in front to the [House Veterans Affairs] committee to hear tired excuses."

Similar legislation sponsored by Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., has been introduced in the Senate.

Shinseki said he does not need the new authority — the agency fired 3,000 employees last year — and senior executive employees urged Congress to reject the proposal this week.

Federal law requires that senior executives be fired if they receive two unsatisfactory performance ratings in five years or two less than totally successful ratings in three years, according to the Senior Executives Association, a trade group representing federal managers. But the VA already has

the authority to fire a senior executive after one unsatisfactory performance review, the group wrote in a May 20 letter to Congress opposing the Miller bill.

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., also opposed the legislation, saying it would break down an administrative wall designed to protect senior federal executives from being fired at will by presidential political appointees, such as Shinseki.

"All of us are outraged at the allegations that have been made, but that's not what this legislation is about," Hoyer said. "This legislation is about a knee-jerk reaction to a very bad situation painting with a very broad brush."

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Obama: Records show thousands of dollars spent on gardening, interior design while patients waited

FROM PAGE 8

In the meantime, he said, Sharon Helman, the director of the Phoenix VA Health Care System, received a \$9,345 bonus in 2013 for reducing the time it took for patients to get return and follow-up appointments from almost a year to an average of two weeks, even though 13,000 patients were still without primary care providers, Foote said.

"What's the return wait time when you don't have a provider?" he said. "It's infinity ... not something to be proud of."

Teams that met the "wildly important goals" set out by Helman — who has since been put in administrative leave — were rewarded with pizza, Foote said.

"We all celebrated, though later we found out we were celebrating the deaths of several people," he said.

A July 2012 email exchange reported by the Arizona Republic shows that Helman and other officials were aware then that the data was misleading.

Damian Reese, a program analyst, had written: "I think it's unfair to call any of this a success when veterans are waiting six weeks on an electronic waiting list before they're called to schedule their first [primary care] appointment, Sure, when their appointment was created, [it] can be 14 days out, but we're making them wait 6-20 weeks to create that appointment. That is unethical and a disservice to our veterans," according to the

Arizona Republic.

Records obtained by Fox News show that more than \$843,000 in bonuses was awarded to about half the system's 3,170 workers from 2011 to 2013, and that the hospital spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on gardening and interior design while patients in the emergency room waited hours for care.

Dellinger said that now, veterans are again being told to wait for things to get better.

"Words are nice, and even somewhat comforting," he said, "but when will the VA's house be cleansed of those who are soiling it and dishonoring the system?"

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PACIFIC



Courtesy of Camp Humphreys

New construction at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, includes about 500 projects and more than 1,000 buildings.

Humphreys: Expansion project showing progress after years of delays

FROM FRONT PAGE

A shortage of off-post housing for the thousands of troops and civilians projected to move to the area also could potentially slow the relocation, though the military says Korean developers are expected to fill the gap now that they see the long-delayed project is finally moving forward.

Humphreys is the centerpiece of the military's plan to close dozens of U.S. bases in and north of Seoul, allowing the U.S. to consolidate its presence into regional hubs in Pyeongtaek and Daegu. The \$10 billion-plus expansion of the former helicopter base includes about 500 projects and construction of more than 1,000 buildings.

Last year, U.S. Forces Korea and South Korea's Ministry of National Defense Relocation Office told Stars and Stripes that 53 percent of the expansion had been completed as of May 2013, much more than what Hammack had indicated. USFK said the rest would be finished at a pace of about 15 percent each year with the exception of minor projects such as landscaping.

USFK did not provide an explanation for the discrepancy with Hammack's figures.

The relocation has faced multiple delays due to funding and construction problems. The move was initially scheduled to take place in 2008, but was postponed until 2012 and then to 2016.

Hammack said readying the site for construction has proved to be the most difficult part of the expansion but is nearly completed. Flooding required extensive landfills, plaguing the early years

of the project.

"Most of the area is currently rice fields, right along a river," USFK told Stars and Stripes in 2006. "Rice fields are designed to flood. The rice fields must be filled in, just as is done all over Korea when new towns are built."

More housing needed

An additional 8,000 USFK-affiliated personnel, including military, civilians, contractors and retirees, are expected to move to the Humphreys area by the end of 2017.

Of those, about 1,100 are expected to be housed on post, and the military believes it is 30 percent to 50 percent short of its projected need for off-post housing for 2017.

"Because the move to Humphreys has taken longer than initially conceived, part of this plan is both Gen. (Curtis) Scaparrotti and myself explaining that we are committed to a 2017 end state move, so the pieces will need to be in place in '16, and here we are in '14, so it's a fairly narrow window," Hammack said.

Several Korean industries are also planning to open facilities in the area, she said, putting even more of a squeeze on the housing market.

Despite the current lack of supply, Hammack said interest among Korean developers in building rentals for USFK appears to be high.

While at Humphreys, she met with 200 South Korean developers, real estate professionals and local government officials at a forum to explain USFK's requirements for off-post housing. Inter-



ARMANDO R. LIMON/Stars and Stripes

The frame of the new troop chapel, foreground, is visible on May 8, with additional barracks under construction in the background at Camp Humphreys.

est was so high that attendance was capped.

Under the military's Rental Partnership Program, housing that has yet to be built can essentially be pre-certified for rental to U.S. troops and government civilians if the landlord agrees to comply with the military's building requirements.

The military wants troops to live within a 30-minute drive of the base. Most will be stationed at Humphreys on relatively short tours of nine months or one or two years, Hammack said.

"They (Korean developers) heard the message," Hammack said. "One of the challenges is they want financial guarantees, and that's not something we will give. We're not going to be buying off-post housing, we're not going to be contracting for long-term leases."

Scaparrotti, the USFK commander, spoke at the forum, which was closed to media. The command would not release a transcript of his remarks, say-

ing the forum was "just for the Korean businesses and leaders to talk with USFK and Army leadership."

More work to be done

Meeting target dates also could depend on the unexpected.

The military has yet to release a full list of the problems that delayed the opening of Humphreys High School last August by a semester. According to a source with knowledge of the project, many of the deficiencies, including installation of fire detectors in refrigerators, were caused by translation problems between the U.S. military and the South Korean contractor.

Additionally, the U.S. military failed to detect some mistakes during a pre-construction review of Samsung C&T Corp.'s design plans.

Asked about the problems, Hammack said there was "an extensive punchlist of things that needed to be completed" as is typ-

ical for any construction project.

"I think that anytime you take on a project this big, there are going to be hiccups that occur along the way, and the school was a great testing ground for all of the details that need to be ironed out ... and to tighten up the teaming that it's going to take in order to ensure the base is complete and ready on time," she said.

Hammack said that as Humphreys construction approaches the end state, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been asked to increase its oversight of the project.

"My understanding is there are now weekly reviews of each of the projects to ensure that we don't have balls that are dropped or confusion, and that things are clarified ahead of time," she said.

She said the U.S. military's budget-tightening won't affect the relocation. "Even though budget impacts are affecting our operations in many locations, there's a firm commitment here."

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PACIFIC

Student a suspect in Kadena sex assault case

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — For the second time in as many weeks, a suspected sexual assault has come to light involving high school students on Kadena Air Base in Okinawa.

The incident allegedly happened at Kadena High School on Monday and involved two students, according to DODEA-Pacific schools spokesman Charly Hoff. Administrators received the complaint the following day.

Hoff declined to provide fur-

ther information regarding the circumstances due to privacy concerns. The case has been handed over to Okinawan prefectural police, who are investigating.

Okinawan officials had no further information.

"We're cooperating fully with law enforcement," Hoff said. "We've taken all the appropriate actions we can pending the results of an investigation."

Word of the suspected assault comes a week after Kadena High School student, Ricky Isaiah Sherwood, 18, was indicted in federal

court on charges that he raped a heavily intoxicated 17-year-old classmate in front of other students and captured the incident on a cellphone video.

Sherwood was charged in District Court in Minnesota with sexual abuse, production of child pornography and possession of child pornography, according to the Justice Department. That incident is suspected to have taken place in early February at the Kadena Air Base home of his legal guardian and uncle, a Marine Corps staff sergeant.

Sherwood is being tried in

federal court because under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, federal courts have jurisdiction over felonies committed abroad by individuals employed by — or accompanying — the U.S. military. The act applies to any offenses punishable by more than one year in prison.

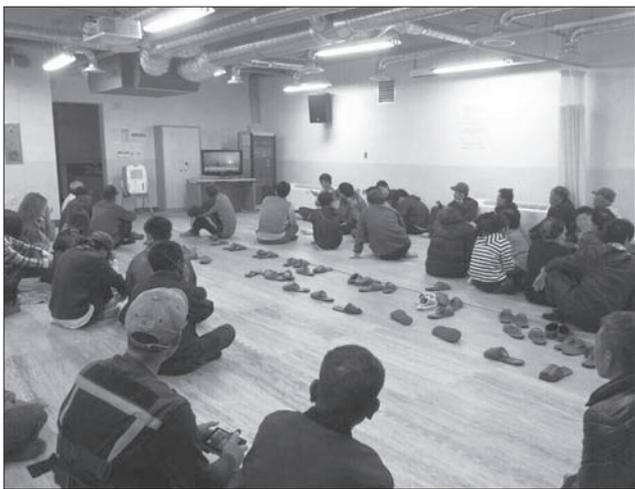
Air Force officials at Kadena declined to provide details of the case. However, they said that incidents regarding dependents of Status of Forces Agreement personnel fall under Japanese jurisdiction. The parties involved have the option to report the incident to

the U.S. military or to Japanese law enforcement, which was done in this case.

Following the previous incident, students at Kadena High School were given military Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Training that had been modified for them, school officials have said.

"The incident is under investigation; however, we have no reason to believe it is part of a trend," an Air Force spokesman said of the most recent case.

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COURTESY OF ONGIN COUNTY, SOUTH KOREA/AP

Residents of South Korea's Yeonpyeong Island rest Thursday after evacuating to a shelter on an island near the West Sea border with North Korea.

Koreas trade fire near disputed boundary

By HYUNG-JIN KIM

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North and South Korean warships exchanged artillery fire Thursday in disputed waters off the western coast, South Korean military officials said, in the latest sign of rising animosity between the bitter rivals in recent weeks.

Officials from the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff and Defense Ministry said a South Korean navy ship was engaged in a routine patrol near the countries' disputed maritime boundary in the Yellow Sea when a North Korean navy ship fired two artillery shells. The shells did not hit the South Korean ship and fell into water near it, they said.

The South Korean ship then fired several artillery rounds into water near the North Korean ship, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity be-

cause of office rules.

South Korea was trying to determine if the North Korean ship had attempted to hit the South Korean vessel but missed or if the shells were not meant to hit the ship.

Officials said that residents on the front-line Yeonpyeong Island were evacuated to shelters, and fishing ships in the area were ordered to return to ports. In 2010, North Korea fired artillery at the island, killing two civilians and two marines.

Kang Myeong-sung, a Yeonpyeong resident, said in a phone interview that hundreds of residents were in underground shelters after loudspeakers ordered them there. He heard the sound of artillery fire and said many people felt uneasy at first, but later began to stop worrying.

Both Koreas regularly conduct artillery drills in the disputed waters. The sea boundary is not

clearly marked, and the area has been the scene of three bloody naval skirmishes between the rival Koreas since 1999.

North Korea has in recent weeks conducted a string of artillery drills and missile tests and has unleashed a torrent of racist and sexist rhetoric at the leaders of the U.S. and South Korea.

On Tuesday, South Korean navy ships fired warning shots to repel three North Korean warships that briefly violated the disputed sea boundary. On Wednesday, North Korea's military vowed to retaliate.

North Korean military ships and fishing boats have routinely intruded into South Korean-controlled waters that the North doesn't recognize. The Yellow Sea boundary was unilaterally drawn by the U.S.-led U.N. Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Japan's main party pushes combat role

By ERIK SLAVIN

Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — Japan's dominant political party officially began its push this week to convince its skeptical coalition partner that the country should allow its troops to defend U.S. forces in combat.

The Liberal Democratic Party opened talks with New Komeito on a host of changes that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said will strengthen Japan's security.

New Komeito could conceivably cripple Abe's goal of reinterpreting — without actually amending — Japan's pacifist constitution, which Abe deems necessary for a plan that would allow Japanese forces to engage in collective self-defense with its closest allies.

Abe's desired first step is an unopposed Cabinet resolution, which would require a New Komeito official to agree, or at least to abstain.

After months of internal debate, New Komeito hasn't signed on to the collective self-defense plan. It doesn't appear likely to do so now, especially after the Soka Gakkai Buddhist organization, the party's key backer, voiced its opposition in a statement May 17.

A strong New Komeito protest could gain support from much of the Japanese public, which polls show agrees with some of Abe's ideas on security, but opposes his legal methods. However, recent statements by New Komeito leaders indicate the party may offer only symbolic resistance.

On Monday, New Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi criticized the governing coalition for ending the ban on collective self-defense as "very abstract and vague." Jiji Press reported from a members-only meeting at the Research Institute of Japan. He went on to deny his party would leave the LDP ruling coalition over any disagreement on the issue.

Without the threat of weakening his governing majority, Abe faces little chance of failure.

The current talks between the LDP and New Komeito amount to political theater, said Jeff Kingston, director of Asian Studies at Temple University's Japan

campus.

"Abe is desperately trying to demonstrate that he is consulting various groups," Kingston said. "He's moving in a slow and deliberate manner, he's not going to shove it down the country's throat the way he did on the [official secrecy] law, which proved extremely unpopular."

Kingston said Abe could make a valid public argument for increasing Japan's role in regional and international security operations, as well as for a broader U.S.-Japan security alliance. However, Japan's constitution offers a clear method for change, and Abe isn't following it, he said.

A constitutional amendment requires a two-thirds majority in both legislative houses, which most analysts agree the government can't pull off. On May 15, a government panel of legal experts issued a report arguing otherwise. It laid the groundwork for a reinterpretation, relying on close examination of the constitution's verbiage, supreme court decisions from the 1950s and other precedents.

Abe and many on Japan's political right have long disagreed with the current interpretation banning collective self-defense. Soon after the LDP was swept back into power during 2012 elections, Abe began citing tensions in North Korea and the rise of militant groups in China as evidence of the need for change.

The United States appears less concerned with Abe's methods and more interested in broadening its defense options with a key ally in the Asia-Pacific region, which President Barack Obama has identified as America's top long-term priority in foreign affairs. During separate visits to Japan this year, Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel each endorsed Japan's consideration of collective self-defense.

"The important coalition partner (the LDP) consulted was the United States," Kingston said. "What's more important, making New Komeito happy, or making Washington happy? It's obvious."

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NATION



M. SPENCER GREEN/AP

Hundreds of workers, organizers and supporters gather Thursday outside a McDonald's Corp. building in Oak Brook, Ill., to demonstrate in favor of a \$15-per-hour wage and the right to unionize.

McDonald's to face critics at annual shareholders meeting

By Candice Choi and Tammy Webber
The Associated Press

OAK BROOK, Ill. — McDonald's is set to face criticism on issues including worker pay and marketing to children at its shareholders meeting Thursday morning.

Critics plan to confront CEO Don Thompson during the question-and-answer portion of the annual event. Already on Wednesday, McDonald's closed one of its buildings in Oak Brook, Ill., where hundreds of protesters had planned to demonstrate over the low wages paid to its workers.

Protesters targeted another site on the company's headquarters in suburban Chicago, and more than

138 were arrested for refusing to leave the property.

The protesters were out again before the meeting was set to begin Thursday, chanting "I want, I want, I want my \$15."

Shawn Dalton, 59, traveled from Pittsburgh, saying she wanted to support fast-food and minimum-wage workers. Dalton said her daughter is a recent high school graduate who can't afford to go to college right away, so she'll likely wind up earning Pennsylvania's \$7.25-per-hour minimum wage.

Inside the meeting, individuals affiliated with Corporate Accountability intended to once again bring up the company's marketing to children. Last year, the group made headlines after it

arranged to have a 9-year-old girl ask Thompson to stop "tricking" kids into eating McDonald's food.

McDonald's representatives didn't immediately respond when asked if they planned to change the way it conducts its question-and-answer period this year. In past years, people have been able to stand and directly address executives.

Shareholder meetings offer a rare opportunity for average investors to face top executives at publicly traded companies. Public pension funds and activist groups often show up in hopes of changing corporate practices.

The McDonald's meeting is a frequent target because of the company's high profile.

Police describe woman's decade held in captivity

By Gillian Flaccus and Tami Abdollah
The Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. — A woman who says she was abducted in California a decade ago by a man who forced her to marry him and who fathered her child said in a television interview that she's happy and blessed to be back with her family.

Police described a decade during which the now-25-year-old woman — abused mentally, physically and sexually by her captor — was moved at least four times and was given multiple fake identities to hide her from family and authorities.

The woman, who wasn't identified, said she often thought about escaping but was fearful of her abductor.

"I was very afraid about everything because I was alone," she told KABC-TV in an interview that aired Wednesday night.

Isidro Garcia, 41, of the Los Angeles suburb of Bell Gardens, was arrested on suspicion of kidnapping, rape, lewd acts with a minor and false imprisonment, the Santa Ana Police Department said.

His accuser — who came forward to police on Monday after finding her sister on Facebook — told the station that her neighbors believed her captor was a good man because he worked hard.



Garcia

"He worked hard for me and my daughter and he bought everything I want. But I didn't want that," she said with her mother, sister and daughter at her side. "I love me from my family, not things."

KABC-TV didn't identify the woman because it is a victim of sexual abuse. The station had interviewed the woman's mother when she went missing 10 years ago.

Santa Ana police Cpl. Anthony Bertagna said his department's investigation concluded the following:

The girl arrived from Mexico in February 2004 to join her mother and sister in Santa Ana, about 30 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. She had entered the United States illegally and spoke no English.

Garcia was her mother's boyfriend. After one fight between the girl's mother and Garcia in August 2004, the girl's mother left the house and the girl went to a nearby park.

Garcia followed the girl. When he caught up with her, she said she had a headache and wanted to go home.

Garcia began threatening the girl.

"He told her then, 'You can't go home. You're here illegally, you don't speak the language, your mom's called the police, they will send you back. I'm your only hope,'" Bertagna said.

Garcia gave her five pills that he said would help her headache but instead knocked her out. When the girl awoke, she was locked in a garage in Compton, a city between Santa Ana and Los Angeles.

House Democrats to participate in Benghazi investigation

By Donna Cassata
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats will participate in the special, Republican-led select committee investigating the deadly 2012 attack in Benghazi, Libya, despite serious concerns within the party that the inquiry is an election-year ploy to energize core GOP voters.

Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi announced on Wednesday that she will appoint the full complement of five Democrats on the 12-member panel, tapping lawmakers who have been deeply involved in previous congressional investigations of the Sept. 11, 2012, assault on the U.S. diplomatic outpost.

Four Americans, including U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, died in the attack when militants stormed the mission. Republicans have accused the Obama administration of misleading Americans about a terrorist attack weeks before the presidential election.

"I believe we need someone in that room to simply defend the truth," Rep. Elijah Cummings, of Maryland, the top Democrat on the Oversight panel, told reporters at a Capitol Hill news conference.

Cummings will serve as the ranking member on the select committee. Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, had selected Rep. Trey Gowdy, R-S.C., a seasoned prosecutor, to be the panel's

chairman along with six other Republicans.

Democrats who also will participate are Adam Smith, of Washington state, the top Democrat on the Armed Services panel; Adam Schiff, of California, a member of the Intelligence Committee; Linda Sanchez, also of California, who is on Ways and Means' oversight subcommittee; and Tammy Duckworth, of Illinois, who serves on Armed Services.

Democrats have been divided over whether to boycott the investigation, the eighth probe. Some Democrats have called the new inquiry a political shakedown designed to embarrass the Obama administration and to rough up former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a potential 2016

presidential candidate.

Among Democratic leaders, Rep. Jim Clyburn, of South Carolina, reiterated his reservations on Tuesday. Clyburn had said, "If you're going to have a hanging, don't ask me to bring the noose."

Pelosi said she "could have argued this either way. Why give any validity to this effort?"

Other Democrats have maintained that they must participate in the select committee to ensure they have a role in questioning witnesses.

"We can't simply let the Republicans run the show," Smith said.

Cummings said the select committee is unnecessary "because many of the so-called unanswered questions" have been answered

in previous reports.

In a statement, Gowdy said he looked forward to working with committee members "toward an investigation and a process worthy of the American people and the four brave Americans who lost their lives in service to our country."

At the White House, spokesman Jay Carney said there was no indication that House GOP's investigation "might not be divorced from politics."

"Our view has always been — and it has been not just our view, but our practice — that it is appropriate to have legitimate congressional oversight," Carney added, without elaborating on whether the Gowdy-led investigation constitutes legitimate oversight.

NATION



STROKE OF HEALING

Prosthetic arm allows injured Afghan girl to pursue joy of art

By JOHN ROGERS
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — She had always loved to paint and draw, something it appeared the little girl from Afghanistan might never do again after she mistakenly picked up a grenade outside her war-torn home last year and it blew off much of her right arm.

But with the help of doctors, prosthetists and a prominent Los Angeles artist, Shah Bibi Tarakhail, 7, dispelled any notion that something as ugly as war can stifle a small child's determination to add beauty to the world.

"What color would you like?" asked artist Davyd Whaley as he sat next to her at a table at the Galerie Michael on Rodeo Drive in the heart of Beverly Hills on Wednesday afternoon.

"That one!" the normally reticent girl responded with a firm voice as she pointed to a tube of blue acrylic. Then, before her mentor could fetch it, she grabbed it with her new prosthetic hand, unscrewed the top with her other hand and began squeezing the tube's contents onto a palette.



PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Shah Bibi Tarakhail smiles as she holds her painting with artist Davyd Whaley, right, at Galerie Michael in Beverly Hills, Calif.

As her friends from the nonprofit Children of War Foundation and the Shriners' Hospital for Children Los Angeles looked on with delight, Shah Bibi proceeded to put a series of broad brush strokes across a piece of art board Whaley had provided.

At one point she giggled with embarrassment as she accidentally squeezed a tube of orange paint onto the palette rather than the palette. But Whaley quickly assured her that accidental art sometimes makes the best abstract art.

"You're going to do a Jackson Pollock," he quipped. "The finished result, the artist said afterward, was pretty mind-blowing."

Shah Bibi, he said, not only handles a brush well but has an impressive grasp of matching colors.

"She kind of has a facility for it if she wants to pursue it," added the artist whose own work is the subject of a large exhibition on display at Galerie Michael, where Shah Bibi was invited to join him after gallery owners learned of her love of art.

Less than a year ago, she was at a morning battle with her brother. They had been a violent battle pitting Taliban fighters against U.S. military forces the night before, but that was nothing residents weren't used to. Their village had been a cauldron of violence since the Afghan War began.

"There was what looked like a rock that she picked up and threw on the ground and it exploded," said Ilaha Omar, a Children of War Foundation member who brought her to the United States, where Shriners Hospital treated her for free.

The explosion had destroyed her right eye, taken off most of her right arm, put a few scars on her face and killed her brother.

She returned to her family in Afghanistan recently, but Children of War plans to bring her back next year to fit her with a prosthetic eye and attend to her scars.

As the afternoon grew longer and the gallery crowd thinned, Whaley asked if she might like to do another painting.

"Yes!" came the exuberant reply. And the pair got back to work.

FAITH



MARCO DI LAURO/AP

A priest reads the Bible earlier this month in Rome during a break at a Vatican-sponsored conference on exorcism, which was attended by 200 delegates, most of them priests and nuns, from more than two dozen nations.

Exorcist treats a disease ‘of the soul’

By ANTHONY FAIOLA
The Washington Post

The den of the Catholic Church's best-known exorcist is an unassuming place, a small third-floor room in a home for aging priests hidden in an obscure corner of southern Rome. I walk down the hospital-like hallway on my way to meet him, and the priest anticipates my knock before it happens. The door swings open, and there he is.

The Rev. Gabriele Amorth, 89, peers up with goldfish eyes through his Hubble-telescope glasses.

"Enter," says the diminutive priest.

I obey.

The room is stark, fitted out with a hospital bed and numerous images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. Then there are the mementos, which Amorth began collecting after he was appointed as an exorcist back in the 1980s.

He has conducted thousands of spiritual cleansings since then, keeping just a few of the bits and bobs he likes to call "the stuff that gets spewed from mouths." Nails. Keys. Chains. Plastic figurines.

"What seems to be spit turns out to be a nail," he said with a seen-it-all tone. "I don't give it much importance."

His services, though still in great demand, are not always needed. "Most times there's no actual diabolical presence, and my job lies in suggesting



A leaflet that reads "Vade Retro" ("Go back" or "Step back, Satan") is seen at the conference.

those that come to me to live a life of faith and prayer," he said. "And this is enough to assuage the fears of those afraid of the Devil's ills."

Other times, he said, "there really is a diabolical influence."

"Twice, Amorth claims, he saw possessed victims levitate. "We try to keep the person in the armchair," he said, adding that demons "do it just to show off."

An hour later, he invites me and an Italian colleague to witness an exorcism ourselves.

His exorcism room is a retrofitted, white-tiled kitchen on the first floor of the residence decorated with more images of Jesus and Mary.

Before launching into combat with the Beast, Amorth dons a black cassock and a purple sash and speaks a few words of consolation to the 40-something Neapolitan housewife before him. With her well-coiffed hair, sparkly sneakers and Bulgari sunglasses, the woman, who gave her name only as Antonella, seems perfectly normal at first.

That will change.

Unlike the speedy rituals shown in the movies, real exorcisms are more of a slow burn, often involving years of repeated rites before the big cleanse. Antonella, who drove up to Rome from Naples with her husband, Michele, for her latest exorcism, claims to have been possessed by multiple demons for the better part of 17 years.

Both she and Michele blame the affliction on a curse by a devil-worshipping, childless friend who they say envied Antonella's fecundity as a mother of two. They knew something was wrong, they said, when Antonella began throwing violent fits after receiving the Eucharist at Mass and going into trances in which she spoke Aramaic and German - languages she said she has never studied. It would typically take, three grown men to subdue her, the couple said.

After four years of exorcisms with Amorth, however, her fits have grown progressively less violent. She said she has begun to view the process as a long-term treatment of a terrible disease.

"But one of the soul," she said.

After a round of praying, Amorth, aided by three assistants, finally launches his spiritual attack.

He begins chanting in Latin, commanding the presumed devils inside Antonella to reveal themselves. Several minutes pass before Antonella reacts. She begins coughing, coughing up phlegm. She moans, and rocks back and forth. As if in pain, she demands that the chanting stop.

Amorth refuses, shouting, "Tell me your name!"

Antonella writhes in her seat, hissing "No! No!" She shakes her head, her eyes rolling to the back of her head. In an altered voice, she says, "I will not!"

"Tell me your name!" Amorth repeats, until finally she spits out a name: Asmodeus, a demon from scriptural lore.

"How many are you!" the priest demands, repeating the question as she grunts and shakes her head violently.

Finally, she responds defiantly, "We are five!"

Amorth begins making the sign of the cross on her forehead, prompting her to recoil. The chanting and blessings go on for several more minutes before Antonella calms down. Soon, she comes around as if from a dream. She opens her eyes and slumps in her chair.

After his bout with the demons, Amorth simply shrugs.

"That," he said, "was a light one."

WORLD



A doctor treats a Syrian man Wednesday at a charity clinic in the northern port city of Tripoli, Lebanon.

Syrian troops break prison siege in Aleppo

By BASSEM MROUE
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Syrian troops backed by airstrikes broke a year-long rebel siege of a prison in the northern city of Aleppo on Thursday, allowing President Bashar Assad's forces to close in on a nearby command center of a coalition of Islamist rebel groups, opposition activists said.

The sprawling prison has witnessed deadly clashes between government and opposition forces for the past year. Rebels repeatedly have barreled suicide car bombs into the front gates and fought guards and troops holed up inside, seeking to free an estimated 4,000 inmates.

Aleppo has been carved into rebel- and government-controlled areas since opposition fighters launched an offensive in Syria's largest city in mid-2012. The Syrian army has made gains in the center of the country and is seeking to advance against opposition-held areas in the north ahead of next month's presidential election.

It would take a monumental army push to take back the entire city, and it is very unlikely to happen before the June 3 vote. But the army advances are a sign that the momentum in the city may be starting to shift decisively in favor of the government.

The reward is twofold for Assad: The more territory he can claw back, the more places he can potentially hold balloting. Syrian officials have said voting will only take place in government controlled territory.

Battlefield gains in Aleppo will give Assad more reason to claim he is winning, and portray himself as the only one capable of restoring security to the country.

The march toward Aleppo prison holds significant moral importance for Assad. The situation inside the facility was at one point so dire that the army was obliged to airdrop food to besieged government troops inside. The army had been trying to for months to advance with no success.

Government forces began a final push on Tuesday and entered the prison at dawn Wednesday after rebels besieging the

facility fled under intense aerial bombardment of explosives-packed barrels, according to Aleppo-based activists and the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The Observatory expressed fears that government forces might kill some of the inmates and "claim that they died during the rebels' siege of the prison." Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen and Al-Manar television stations, which are close to the Syrian government and have reporters in different parts of Syria, also reported that government troops ended the siege, which began in April 2013.

State-run Syrian media had no mention of the army's activities in Aleppo Thursday.

Aleppo Central Prison lies on a highway about 4 miles north of the city of Aleppo, once Syria's prized commercial center. The war devastated the city, leaving rebels controlling its east as Assad's forces hold its west.

"The air raids were astonishing," said Ibrahim Saeed, an activist based in Aleppo province. "The air force tipped the balance of power. More than 100 barrel bombs struck the area around the prison."

Saeed said the next target of government forces appears to be the nearby town of Handarat, followed by the Kindi Hospital in an attempt to cut off rebel supply lines from the countryside into Aleppo.

He added that after the capture of the prison, Assad's forces are now close to a command center of the Islamic Front alliance, a powerful coalition of seven rebel groups fighting the government. The center is in an army infantry base that was captured by rebels two years ago.

Activists say more than 160,000 people have been killed since the Syrian conflict started in March 2011 as largely peaceful protests against Assad's rule that deteriorated into civil war. The fighting has also uprooted 9 million people, with over 6 million Syrians seeking shelter in safer parts of the country and at least 2.7 million fleeing to neighboring countries.

Scores killed, wounded during attack in China

By DIDI TANG
The Associated Press

URUMQI, China — Attackers hurled bombs from two SUVs that plowed through shoppers at a busy street market in China's volatile northwestern region of Xinjiang on Thursday, killing 31 people and wounding more than 90, local officials said.

It was not immediately clear who was responsible nor how many assailants took part, but the attack in the city of Urumqi was the bloodiest in a series of violent incidents in recent months that Chinese authorities have blamed on radical separatists from the country's Muslim Uighur minority.

The Xinjiang region is home to the native Turkic-speaking Uighurs but has seen large inflows from China's ethnic Han majority in recent decades. Uighur activists contend that restrictive and discriminatory policies favoring the Chinese migrants are fueling the bloodshed. The knowledge that Muslims elsewhere are rising up against their governments also seems to be contributing to the increased militancy.

The Xinjiang regional government said in a statement that the early-morning attack was "a serious violent terrorist incident of a particularly vile nature."

The two vehicles crashed through barriers at 7:50 a.m. and drove right into the crowds while setting off explosives, the statement said.

The SUVs then crashed head-

on and one of them exploded, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. It quoted an eyewitness as saying there were up to a dozen blasts in all and that at one point, one of the vehicles stopped because it was blocked by bodies and handcars.

"I heard four or five explosions. I was very scared. I saw three or four people lying on the ground," Fang Shaoying, the owner of a small supermarket near the scene of the attack, told The Associated Press by phone.

Photos from the scene posted to popular Chinese social media site Weibo showed at least three people lying in a street with a large fire in the distance giving off huge plumes of smoke.

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WORLD

Islamist-led militias join standoff in Libya capital

The Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya—Islamist-led militias on Thursday streamed into the Libyan capital amid a standoff with fighters loyal to a renegade general whose offensive has won support from officials, diplomats and army units, but has also threatened to fragment the country further.

The militias, known as Libya Central Shield, comprise groups from the western city of Misrata. They are under the command of the country's chief of staff, who answers to parliament. The Islamist-dominated legislature has described the campaign by Gen. Khalifa Hifter as a coup.

Witnesses in Tripoli said they saw Misrata militiamen take positions early on Thursday in army barracks in the city's south, near the airport highway. The residents spoke on condition of anonymity, fearing for their own safety.

The parliament — challenged by its own government, which is pressing for a suspension of the house's sessions until new elections — has called in the forces to face off pro-Hifter militias in the capital.

Thai military takes over, sets curfew

By THANYARAT DOKSONE AND JOCELYN GECKER
The Associated Press

BANGKOK — Thailand's military seized power Thursday in a bloodless coup, dissolving the government and dispersing groups of protesters from both sides of the country's political divide who had gathered in Bangkok and raised fears of a violent showdown.

The powerful army chief, Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha, announced the military takeover in a statement broadcast on national television. It was followed by additional announcements including a nationwide curfew from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. and an order for 18 government officials — including the ousted prime minister — to report immediately to the country's new governing military commission.

There was no immediate sign of soldiers patrolling central Bangkok, but troops dispersed the two protest sites where competing groups were camped out — one backing the now-ousted elected government and one that had struggled for seven months to unseat it.

Although the military has insisted it wasn't taking sides, its ousting of the elected government met the key goal of the anti-government



SARCHAI LALIT/AP

Thai soldiers stand guard in front of the Democracy Monument after a coup Thursday in Bangkok, Thailand.

protesters. The pro-government "Red Shirt" supporters earlier had said they would not tolerate a coup, but there were no immediate signs of resistance or reports of violence. The military provided hundreds of buses to take the protesters home.

Long lines formed at the city's elevated train, subway stations and bus stations as panicked office workers tried to rush home before the curfew.

Flanked by the heads of the armed forces, Prayuth said the

coup was launched "to quickly bring the situation back to normal, to let the people have love and unity as in the past, and to reform the political and economic systems — and to grant equality to every side."

An army spokesman later announced that it had dissolved the caretaker government and suspended the constitution but that the Senate would remain in place. It also ordered the suspension of all television broadcasting and replaced programming with

patriotic music to fill air time between announcements.

CNN, BBC and other cable news channels were also taken off the air.

The coup was the 12th since Thailand's absolute monarchy ended in 1932.

The pivotal developments came after Prayuth had declared martial law on Tuesday in what he called a bid to resolve the crisis, and a day later summoned the country's rival political leaders for face-to-face talks. After two days of talks, the meeting failed to break the impasse.

Shortly before the announcement was made, armed soldiers in military vehicles surrounded the army facility where the politicians were meeting, apparently to block those inside from leaving.

Many of the country's highest-profile figures were summoned for the meeting. They included the acting prime minister — who sent four Cabinet ministers in his place — and anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban, as well as Suthep's rival from the pro-government Red Shirt group, Jatuporn Prompan. Suthep and Jatuporn were escorted out of the meeting by soldiers and detained.

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WORLD

In flood-ravaged Balkans, families look for lost pets

By JOVANA GEC
The Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia — When the floods came, Danijel Mitevski was separated from his family, and it took him two days to rejoin his wife and daughter in a shelter. But the resident of Serbia's flood-hit town of Obrenovac wouldn't rest until his family was complete.

For five long days, Mitevski, 30, didn't know what had happened to the family pet, a cheerful 18-month-old mongrel named Gavra, whom they had to leave behind in a cousin's flat. Mitevski returned three times to the soaked town before he finally managed to reach the dog after walking 3 miles.

"Gavra didn't recognize me at first," Mitevski said Thursday. "But, when he did, he cried like a child."

The Mitevski family is among hundreds of thousands of people who have been forced out of their

homes in the epic Balkan floods, which hit large parts of Serbia, Bosnia and Croatia last week, drowning entire villages and towns. At least 50 people have died.

Fleeing in panic, in packed boats and trucks, many owners could not bring their animals along. On flooded farms, thousands of livestock have drowned inside barns and stables, with officials warning that tons of dead animals must be destroyed before they pose a health hazard.

But efforts also have been underway to rescue any animals that survived the calamity, and reunite them with their owners.

In Serbia, a website has been set up offering description of the pets, now staying temporarily with other people or in dog shelters. Dozens of animal videos and photos have been posted on social networks.



DARKO VOJNOVIC/AP

Dogs from flood-hit Obrenovac are in a shelter Thursday in Belgrade, Serbia. In Serbia, a website has been set up to connect residents fleeing epic flooding with the pets they had to leave behind.

In Obrenovac, volunteers have set up a network of their own to feed and rescue abandoned animals, which can be seen roaming the streets, looking for food amid the debris. One of the volunteers is Ivan Munitak, 27, who drives back to Obrenovac daily from the capital Belgrade to feed the dogs still stranded in the town.

"People call us to tell us where the dogs are and we go there," he said, loading bags of pet food into his car outside a Belgrade shelter hosting people with pets. Inside, dogs and cats are packed side-by-side with their owners on makeshift beds lining the walls.

An elderly couple from Obrenovac are there with Lea, a small

black-and-brown, sad-eyed mongrel. Lea, they said, is like another grandchild, so when they had to flee, the couple put her in one of the two bags they were allowed to take on the rescue boat.

"I could never look her in those eyes and leave her behind, never," said Milena Novakovic, 64. "Then, I would stay too."

Iran arrests 'Happy' dancers after video release

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — An Internet video of six young Iranian men and women dancing to Pharrell Williams' "Happy" has led to their arrests, showing how far Tehran will go to halt what it deems to be decadent Western behavior — despite the views of its moderate president.

Criticism outside Iran was predictably swift Wednesday, with calls for freedom for the jailed youths zipping around social media. Williams tweeted: "It's beyond sad these kids were arrested for trying to spread happiness."

A tweet posted Wednesday evening on President Hassan Rouhani's account seemed to address the controversy, even if it stopped short of mentioning the video or the arrests directly. "(hash)Happiness is our people's right," it said. "We shouldn't be too hard on behaviors caused by joy!"

The widely followed account appears to reflect Rouhani's positions. Iranian media in the past

quoted Rouhani as saying the account is authentic. At the same time, a senior Rouhani adviser said last year that the president had such an account only during the presidential campaign and that Rouhani's views are represented by his official website.

Other social media posts suggested at least some of the dancers had been released, although there was no independent confirmation from authorities.

The dancing Iranians would seem right at home in the West — or indeed in the music video that accompanies Williams' song.

The video, which was posted online several weeks ago, shows hip twentysomethings hamming it up for the camera in sunglasses and silly clothes on Tehran rooftops and alleyways.

None of the three women in the video wears a hijab.

Tehran Police Chief Hossein Sajjidi confirmed the arrests on state TV late Tuesday in a report that blurred images from the video.



AP

In this YouTube frame grab, people dance to Pharrell Williams' hit song "Happy" on a rooftop in Tehran, Iran. Police in Iran have arrested six young people for posting the video.

French mass DNA test does not find rapist

PARIS — French authorities say that mass DNA testing of the entire male population of a French high school failed to find the assailant who raped a teenage girl on the closed campus.

The mass test last month at the Fenelon-Notre Dame high school in western France raised concerns about privacy rights, especially for children. Boys as young as 14 were among those tested. No one refused to participate.

The La Rochelle prosecutor's office said in a statement Thursday that the DNA samples from 539 students and staff will be destroyed. The samples were compared with genetic material recovered from the girl's clothing.

The prosecutor says the investigation is continuing into the reported rape, which the girl says happened in a dark bathroom.

From The Associated Press

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Dallas	€ 587	San Francisco	€ 645
Seattle	€ 637	Washington	€ 557

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Fla.-based tabloid moving to New York

FL WEST PALM BEACH — A tabloid that has long prided itself on turning heads in supermarket checkout lines is heading back to its New York roots.

The National Enquirer is leaving its Boca Raton headquarters and in June will begin operations in New York under a new editor with a mandate to broaden its audience and give it some Internet-age flourish.

"This is a move that is designed to build on the extraordinary," said Dylan Howard, 32, who is becoming editor of the publication while retaining his title of editorial director of RadarOnline.

Radar and the Enquirer will remain separate, each with their own staffs, but Howard said there would be "closer collaboration" between the titles and that the Enquirer would seek to bolster its online offerings.

Cows on highway cause 2 car crashes

OK COGAR — Four people were injured in two separate wrecks caused by cows standing in the middle of a rural Oklahoma highway.

The first wreck was reported late Tuesday on State Highway 52 in Caddo County. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol said a 34-year-old man struck a cow that was in the middle of the road. The driver was taken to a hospital with head injuries and was in fair condition.

The second wreck occurred early Wednesday in the same spot on the road. The highway patrol said three people, including a juvenile, were injured when their car struck two cows. The car then hit a culvert and crashed into a fence.

The highway patrol said all three people in the car are in fair condition at hospitals.

Egg company charged in 2010 outbreak

IA IOWA CITY — Federal prosecutors have filed charges against an Iowa egg company and two executives blamed in a 2010 salmonella outbreak that sickened thousands.

Disgraced egg industry titan Austin "Jack" DeCoster and his son, Peter, were charged Wednesday with introducing adulterated food into interstate commerce, a misdemeanor. A charging document said the pair sold shell eggs that were poisonous in 2010.

Their company, Quality Egg LLC, is charged with introducing misbranded food into interstate commerce, a felony. The document said Quality Egg sold products for years with labeling that "made the eggs appear to be not as old as they actually were."

The company is also charged with bribing a U.S. Department of Agriculture Inspector.

Passer-by delivers fawn after deer is killed

MN PRIOR LAKE — A landscaper who carries a retractable box cutter de-

THE CENSUS

225

The number of people in a southwest Ohio county who died from drug overdoses last year. Officials in Montgomery County, population 500,000, hope graphic images on two large digital billboards will push heroin addicts to get help. The billboard campaign introduced Tuesday depicts a morgue scene with a dead person's toe tag reading "Overdosed." The signs urge addicts to call a phone number for a crisis agency to get help. "We don't believe that two billboards are going to all of a sudden turn this around," County Commissioner Dan Foley said. "But we're hoping this will be a very visual, top-of-the-mind message to the community that there are people in the community who want to help them."



NICK ELLIS, THE BAKERSFIELD CALIFORNIAN/AP

Pitcher purrfect?

Ryan Triantafilo helps Tara the cat try to throw the first pitch, using a baseball attached to a fishing line, at the Bakersfield Blaze baseball game at Sam Lynn Balkarp on Tuesday in Bakersfield, Calif. Tara was captured on security camera when she pounced on a dog that attacked Triantafilo's son, Jeremy, 4, and the video has garnered 21 million YouTube views. At the game, Jeremy stepped in for Tara and threw the actual ceremonial first pitch.

Report: State most risky for senior walkers

HI HONOLULU — Hawaii is proving to be a dangerous place for senior pedestrians.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser reported Hawaii has the highest fatality rate in the nation per capita for older pedestrians. This is according to a new report from Smart Growth America, which says Hawaii has 6.81 deaths per every 100,000 adults 65 and older. The report covers the years 2003 to 2010.

The fatality rate jumps to 9.75 per 100,000 residents for those 75 and older.

Honolulu city officials passed

an ordinance in 2012 to ensure city planners include walking and bicycling considerations in new transportation projects. Three demonstration projects in that effort should be finished this year.

Prison launches yoga program for inmates

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The New Mexico Department of Corrections is using a new method to prepare inmates for life outside prison — yoga.

Corrections officials recently launched a "yoga and mindfulness" program as part of the department's many rehabilitation efforts.

According to the department,

the yoga classes will "help incarcerated individuals on their path to self-discovery, healing and ultimately into living differently."

Officials said other prisons systems are using yoga classes as a method for increasing inmate and public safety and for lowering rates of recidivism rates.

"There is substantial research suggesting that yoga and mindfulness programming, in conjunction with the methods already in place by Corrections, would help NMCD in its efforts to reach its central goal of recidivism reduction," the department said in a report outlining its new inmate programs.

From wire reports

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EBay urges new passwords after breach

By **MAC ANDERSON**
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — E-commerce site EBay is asking users to change their passwords after a cyberattack compromised a company database containing customers' names, encrypted passwords, email addresses, physical addresses, phone numbers and dates of birth.

The company said Wednesday that there is no evidence that any

financial or credit card information was stolen and no sign that the breach has resulted in unauthorized activity for its 145 million active users.

EBay says its investigation is active and it can't comment on the specific number of accounts affected, but says the number could be large.

Cyberattackers stole a small number of employee login credentials that gave access to EBay's corporate network, the company

said. The San Jose, Calif.-based company is working with law enforcement to investigate the attack.

The database was hacked sometime between late February and early March, but compromised employee login credentials were first detected two weeks ago.

EBay uses electronic payment service PayPal, but eBay says there is no evidence PayPal information was hacked, because that data is stored separately.

The attack follows several other high-profile data security incidents, including a massive breach at Target stores and the recent discovery of the "Heartbleed" computer security flaw.

Heartbleed is a point of weakness in a key piece of security technology used by more than 500,000 websites that had been exposing online passwords and other sensitive data to potential theft for more than two years.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (May 23)	\$1.4037
Dollar buys (May 23)	€0.7124
British pound (May 23)	\$1.7173
Japanese yen (May 23)	¥98.00
South Korean won (May 23)	₩998.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6859/0.5932
Canada (dollar)	1.0907
China (Yuan)	6.2353
Denmark (Krone)	5.4889
Egypt (Pound)	7.1331
Euro	\$1.3648/0.7327
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7536
Hungary (Forint)	222.45
Israel (Shekel)	3.4870
Japan (Yen)	101.68
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2818
Norway (Krone)	5.9486
Philippines (Peso)	43.73
Poland (Zloty)	3.0670
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7507
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2521
South Korea (Won)	1,025.17
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8950
Thailand (Baht)	32.54
Turkey (New Lira)	0.0869

(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., South Korea (Won)), the rate is the rate 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.)

MARKET WATCH

May 21, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials 158.75
16,533.06

Nasdaq composite 34.65
4,131.54

Standard & Poor's 500 15.20
1,888.03

Russell 2000 5.73
1,103.63

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.902	\$4.061	\$4.171	\$4.171
U.K.	-0.3 cents	-0.6 cents	-0.4 cents	-1.4 cents
Netherlands	--	\$4.885	\$5.182	\$5.059
Change in price	--	+2.8 cents	+3.2 cents	+7.4cents
Azores	--	\$4.016	\$4.183	\$4.106
Change in price	--	-0.6 cents	-0.4 cents	-1.4 cents
Turkey	--	--	\$4.482	--
Change in price	--	--	--	--
U.K.	--	\$4.084	\$4.343	\$4.215
Change in price	--	--	--	--
Turkey	--	--	\$4.445	\$4.039*
Change in price	--	--	--	-1.4 cents
Austria	\$3.974	--	--	--
Change in price	--	--	--	--

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	\$3.339	--	\$3.329
Change in price	--	--	--	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.659	--	--	\$3.929
Change in price	--	--	--	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.919	--	\$4.259	\$4.189
Change in price	--	--	--	--
Guam	\$3.909**	\$4.089	\$4.259	--
Change in price	-1.0 cents*	-1.0 cents	--	--

* Diesel EFD ** Mildgrade
For the week of May 24-30

WEATHER OUTLOOK



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

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	87	66	Cldy	Fort Wayne	70	47	Pcldy	Louisville	78	60	Pcldy	Pocatello	81	47	Pcldy	Sioux City	83	53	Pcldy
Arlene, Tex	82	68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Cheyenne</td> <td>66</td> <td>49 <td>Rain</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>96</td> <td>62 <td>Cir</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>77</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>57</td> <td>45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>80</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Cheyenne	66	49 <td>Rain</td> <td>Fresno</td> <td>96</td> <td>62 <td>Cir</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>77</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>57</td> <td>45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>80</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Rain	Fresno	96	62 <td>Cir</td> <td>Lubbock</td> <td>77</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>57</td> <td>45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>80</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Lubbock	77	65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Maine</td> <td>57</td> <td>45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>80</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Portland, Maine	57	45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Sioux Falls</td> <td>80</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Sioux Falls	80	51 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Albany, N.Y.	67	49 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Chicago</td> <td>67</td> <td>49</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Goodland</td> <td>74</td> <td>56 <td>Rain</td> <td>Macon</td> <td>94</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Ore.</td> <td>74</td> <td>53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>66</td> <td>46</td> <td>Cir</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Chicago	67	49	Cir	Goodland	74	56 <td>Rain</td> <td>Macon</td> <td>94</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Ore.</td> <td>74</td> <td>53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>66</td> <td>46</td> <td>Cir</td> </td></td>	Rain	Macon	94	66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Portland, Ore.</td> <td>74</td> <td>53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>66</td> <td>46</td> <td>Cir</td> </td>	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	74	53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>South Bend</td> <td>66</td> <td>46</td> <td>Cir</td>	Cldy	South Bend	66	46	Cir
Albuquerque	76	54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Cincinnati</td> <td>72</td> <td>52 <td>Cir</td> <td>Grand Junction</td> <td>70</td> <td>46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Madison</td> <td>87</td> <td>73</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Pueblo</td> <td>79</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>76</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Cincinnati	72	52 <td>Cir</td> <td>Grand Junction</td> <td>70</td> <td>46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Madison</td> <td>87</td> <td>73</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Pueblo</td> <td>79</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>76</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Grand Junction	70	46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Madison</td> <td>87</td> <td>73</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Pueblo</td> <td>79</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>76</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Madison	87	73	Cir	Pueblo	79	52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, Ill.</td> <td>76</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Springfield, Ill.	76	56 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	69	52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Cleveland</td> <td>67</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Grand Rapids</td> <td>70</td> <td>45 <td>Cir</td> <td>Medford</td> <td>84</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Raleigh-Durham</td> <td>83</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Cleveland	67	51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Grand Rapids</td> <td>70</td> <td>45 <td>Cir</td> <td>Medford</td> <td>84</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Raleigh-Durham</td> <td>83</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Grand Rapids	70	45 <td>Cir</td> <td>Medford</td> <td>84</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Raleigh-Durham</td> <td>83</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Medford	84	56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Raleigh-Durham</td> <td>83</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	83	64 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Springfield, Mo.</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	85	68 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Amarillo	79	59 <td>Rain</td> <td>Colorado Springs</td> <td>73</td> <td>49</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Great Falls</td> <td>81</td> <td>50 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Memphis</td> <td>89</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Rapid City</td> <td>76</td> <td>54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, N.J.</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Rain	Colorado Springs	73	49	Cir	Great Falls	81	50 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Memphis</td> <td>89</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Rapid City</td> <td>76</td> <td>54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, N.J.</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Memphis	89	68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Rapid City</td> <td>76</td> <td>54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, N.J.</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	Rapid City	76	54 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Springfield, N.J.</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Springfield, N.J.	80	60 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Anchorage	62	43 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Columbia, S.C.</td> <td>92</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Greenboro, N.C.</td> <td>81</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Midland-Odessa</td> <td>81</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Reno</td> <td>84</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>95</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Columbia, S.C.	92	68 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Greenboro, N.C.</td> <td>81</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Midland-Odessa</td> <td>81</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Reno</td> <td>84</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>95</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Greenboro, N.C.	81	64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Midland-Odessa</td> <td>81</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Reno</td> <td>84</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>95</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Midland-Odessa	81	64 <td>Cir</td> <td>Reno</td> <td>84</td> <td>52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>95</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Reno	84	52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Tallahassee</td> <td>95</td> <td>64 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Tallahassee	95	64 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Asheville	80	57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Columbus, Ga.</td> <td>71</td> <td>52 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Hartford Spfld</td> <td>71</td> <td>53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Milwaukee</td> <td>63</td> <td>49</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Richmond</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tampa</td> <td>91</td> <td>72</td> <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Columbus, Ga.	71	52 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Hartford Spfld</td> <td>71</td> <td>53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Milwaukee</td> <td>63</td> <td>49</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Richmond</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tampa</td> <td>91</td> <td>72</td> <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Hartford Spfld	71	53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Milwaukee</td> <td>63</td> <td>49</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Richmond</td> <td>80</td> <td>60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tampa</td> <td>91</td> <td>72</td> <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Milwaukee	63	49	Cir	Richmond	80	60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tampa</td> <td>91</td> <td>72</td> <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy	Tampa	91	72	Pcldy
Atlanta	83	70 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Concord, N.H.</td> <td>63</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Hartford Spfld</td> <td>62</td> <td>52 <td>Rain</td> <td>Mpls-St Paul</td> <td>75</td> <td>48 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>70</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	63	47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Hartford Spfld</td> <td>62</td> <td>52 <td>Rain</td> <td>Mpls-St Paul</td> <td>75</td> <td>48 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>70</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Hartford Spfld	62	52 <td>Rain</td> <td>Mpls-St Paul</td> <td>75</td> <td>48 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>70</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Rain	Mpls-St Paul	75	48 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>70</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Rochester	77	58 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tucson</td> <td>70</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Tucson	70	49 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Atlantic City	71	55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Corpus Christi</td> <td>85</td> <td>73 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Helena</td> <td>82</td> <td>50 <td>Cir</td> <td>Missoula</td> <td>80</td> <td>46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>58</td> <td>50 <td>Rain</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>80</td> <td>63 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Corpus Christi	85	73 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Helena</td> <td>82</td> <td>50 <td>Cir</td> <td>Missoula</td> <td>80</td> <td>46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>58</td> <td>50 <td>Rain</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>80</td> <td>63 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Helena	82	50 <td>Cir</td> <td>Missoula</td> <td>80</td> <td>46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>58</td> <td>50 <td>Rain</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>80</td> <td>63 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Missoula	80	46 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rochester</td> <td>58</td> <td>50 <td>Rain</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>80</td> <td>63 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Rochester	58	50 <td>Rain</td> <td>Topeka</td> <td>80</td> <td>63 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Rain	Topeka	80	63 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Austin	85	53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Dallas-Ft Worth</td> <td>89</td> <td>69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Honolulu</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Monterey</td> <td>97</td> <td>81 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rockford</td> <td>72</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Dallas-Ft Worth	89	69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Honolulu</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Monterey</td> <td>97</td> <td>81 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rockford</td> <td>72</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Honolulu	87	71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Monterey</td> <td>97</td> <td>81 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rockford</td> <td>72</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Monterey	97	81 <td>Cir</td> <td>Rockford</td> <td>72</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cir	Rockford	72	47	Cir	Tulsa	85	68 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Baltimore	78	55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Dayton</td> <td>70</td> <td>50 <td>Cir</td> <td>Houston</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Montgomery</td> <td>92</td> <td>65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Sacramento</td> <td>92</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Dayton	70	50 <td>Cir</td> <td>Houston</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Montgomery</td> <td>92</td> <td>65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Sacramento</td> <td>92</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cir	Houston	87	71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Montgomery</td> <td>92</td> <td>65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Sacramento</td> <td>92</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Montgomery	92	65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Sacramento</td> <td>92</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Sacramento	92	57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tulsa</td> <td>85</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Tulsa	85	68 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Baton Rouge	90	68 <td>Cir</td> <td>Daytona Beach</td> <td>93</td> <td>68 <td>Cir</td> <td>Houston</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Nashville</td> <td>84</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>St Louis</td> <td>80</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>89</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cir	Daytona Beach	93	68 <td>Cir</td> <td>Houston</td> <td>87</td> <td>71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Nashville</td> <td>84</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>St Louis</td> <td>80</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>89</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cir	Houston	87	71 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Nashville</td> <td>84</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>St Louis</td> <td>80</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>89</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Nashville	84	65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>St Louis</td> <td>80</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>89</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	St Louis	80	59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Tupelo</td> <td>89</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> </td>	Pcldy	Tupelo	89	64 <td>Cir</td>	Cir
Birmingham	82	52 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Denver</td> <td>65</td> <td>49 <td>Rain</td> <td>Indianapolis</td> <td>72</td> <td>52 <td>Cir</td> <td>New Orleans</td> <td>87</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Petersburg</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Denver	65	49 <td>Rain</td> <td>Indianapolis</td> <td>72</td> <td>52 <td>Cir</td> <td>New Orleans</td> <td>87</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Petersburg</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Rain	Indianapolis	72	52 <td>Cir</td> <td>New Orleans</td> <td>87</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Petersburg</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	New Orleans	87	69 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Petersburg</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	St Petersburg	89	75 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Waco</td> <td>89</td> <td>75 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Waco	89	75 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Bismarck	82	53 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Des Moines</td> <td>77</td> <td>54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Jackson, Miss.</td> <td>92</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>New York City</td> <td>66</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St Thomas</td> <td>87</td> <td>78 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Des Moines	77	54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Jackson, Miss.</td> <td>92</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>New York City</td> <td>66</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St Thomas</td> <td>87</td> <td>78 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	64 <td>Cir</td> <td>New York City</td> <td>66</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St Thomas</td> <td>87</td> <td>78 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	New York City	66	56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>St Thomas</td> <td>87</td> <td>78 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	St Thomas	87	78 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Washington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Washington	75	57 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Boise	83	53 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Detroit</td> <td>69</td> <td>50 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Jacksonville</td> <td>99</td> <td>71 <td>Cir</td> <td>Newark</td> <td>68</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Salem, Ore.</td> <td>72</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington</td> <td>85</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Detroit	69	50 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Jacksonville</td> <td>99</td> <td>71 <td>Cir</td> <td>Newark</td> <td>68</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Salem, Ore.</td> <td>72</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington</td> <td>85</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Jacksonville	99	71 <td>Cir</td> <td>Newark</td> <td>68</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Salem, Ore.</td> <td>72</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington</td> <td>85</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cir	Newark	68	56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Salem, Ore.</td> <td>72</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington</td> <td>85</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	Salem, Ore.	72	51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington</td> <td>85</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Wilmington	85	66 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Boston	57	50 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Duluth</td> <td>63</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Juneau</td> <td>58</td> <td>41 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>78</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Salt Lake City</td> <td>78</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Duluth	63	47 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Juneau</td> <td>58</td> <td>41 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>78</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Salt Lake City</td> <td>78</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Juneau	58	41 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Norfolk, Va.</td> <td>78</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Salt Lake City</td> <td>78</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	78	65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Salt Lake City</td> <td>78</td> <td>59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	78	59 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Wichita</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Wichita	88	66 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Bridgport	86	73 <td>Cldy</td> <td>El Paso</td> <td>88</td> <td>68 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Kansas City</td> <td>78</td> <td>61 <td>Cldy</td> <td>North Platte</td> <td>73</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Angelo</td> <td>83</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>86</td> <td>70 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	El Paso	88	68 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Kansas City</td> <td>78</td> <td>61 <td>Cldy</td> <td>North Platte</td> <td>73</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Angelo</td> <td>83</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>86</td> <td>70 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Kansas City	78	61 <td>Cldy</td> <td>North Platte</td> <td>73</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Angelo</td> <td>83</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>86</td> <td>70 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	North Platte	73	55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Angelo</td> <td>83</td> <td>68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>86</td> <td>70 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	San Angelo	83	68 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wichita Falls</td> <td>86</td> <td>70 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Wichita Falls	86	70 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Brownsville	87	53 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Elkins</td> <td>66</td> <td>49 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Key West</td> <td>86</td> <td>76 <td>Cir</td> <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>85</td> <td>69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Antonio</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilkes-Barre</td> <td>68</td> <td>51</td> <td>Rain</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Elkins	66	49 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Key West</td> <td>86</td> <td>76 <td>Cir</td> <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>85</td> <td>69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Antonio</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilkes-Barre</td> <td>68</td> <td>51</td> <td>Rain</td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Key West	86	76 <td>Cir</td> <td>Oklahoma City</td> <td>85</td> <td>69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Antonio</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilkes-Barre</td> <td>68</td> <td>51</td> <td>Rain</td> </td>	Cir	Oklahoma City	85	69 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Antonio</td> <td>89</td> <td>72</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilkes-Barre</td> <td>68</td> <td>51</td> <td>Rain</td>	Cldy	San Antonio	89	72	Cldy	Wilkes-Barre	68	51	Rain
Buffalo	60	49 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Erie</td> <td>63</td> <td>48 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Knoxville</td> <td>83</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Omaha</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>68</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>72</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Erie	63	48 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Knoxville</td> <td>83</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Omaha</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>68</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>72</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Knoxville	83	62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Omaha</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>68</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>72</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Omaha	78	56 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Diego</td> <td>68</td> <td>62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>72</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	San Diego	68	62 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Wilmington, Del.</td> <td>72</td> <td>56 <td>Pcldy</td> </td>	Cldy	Wilmington, Del.	72	56 <td>Pcldy</td>	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	67	52 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Eugene</td> <td>74</td> <td>50 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Lake Charles</td> <td>86</td> <td>65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Orlando</td> <td>95</td> <td>69</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>San Francisco</td> <td>74</td> <td>55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yakima</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Eugene	74	50 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Lake Charles</td> <td>86</td> <td>65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Orlando</td> <td>95</td> <td>69</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>San Francisco</td> <td>74</td> <td>55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yakima</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Cldy	Lake Charles	86	65 <td>Cir</td> <td>Orlando</td> <td>95</td> <td>69</td> <td>Cir</td> <td>San Francisco</td> <td>74</td> <td>55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yakima</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cir	Orlando	95	69	Cir	San Francisco	74	55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yakima</td> <td>78</td> <td>56 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Yakima	78	56 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	61	46 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Evansville</td> <td>79</td> <td>60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lansing</td> <td>70</td> <td>46 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Paducah</td> <td>82</td> <td>64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Jose</td> <td>82</td> <td>54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yonkers</td> <td>66</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Evansville	79	60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lansing</td> <td>70</td> <td>46 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Paducah</td> <td>82</td> <td>64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Jose</td> <td>82</td> <td>54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yonkers</td> <td>66</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td></td>	Pcldy	Lansing	70	46 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Paducah</td> <td>82</td> <td>64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Jose</td> <td>82</td> <td>54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yonkers</td> <td>66</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Paducah	82	64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>San Jose</td> <td>82</td> <td>54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yonkers</td> <td>66</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> </td></td>	Cldy	San Jose	82	54 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Yonkers</td> <td>66</td> <td>47 <td>Cldy</td> </td>	Pcldy	Yonkers	66	47 <td>Cldy</td>	Cldy
Casper	74	45 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Fairbanks</td> <td>59</td> <td>38 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Las Vegas</td> <td>88</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Pendleton</td> <td>78</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Santa Fe</td> <td>73</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Fairbanks	59	38 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Las Vegas</td> <td>88</td> <td>65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Pendleton</td> <td>78</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Santa Fe</td> <td>73</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	Cldy	Las Vegas	88	65 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Pendleton</td> <td>78</td> <td>55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Santa Fe</td> <td>73</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Pcldy	Pendleton	78	55 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Santa Fe</td> <td>73</td> <td>47</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Cldy	Santa Fe	73	47	Cldy				
Charleston, S.C.	93	69	Cir	Fargo	64	47 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Lexington</td> <td>75</td> <td>57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Peoria</td> <td>74</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Marie</td> <td>65</td> <td>38 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Lexington	75	57 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Peoria</td> <td>74</td> <td>64 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Marie</td> <td>65</td> <td>38 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Peoria	74	64 <td>Cir</td> <td>St Marie</td> <td>65</td> <td>38 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Cir	St Marie	65	38 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Pcldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	73	55 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Flagstaff</td> <td>61</td> <td>36 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Lincoln</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Philadelphia</td> <td>72</td> <td>59</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Savannah</td> <td>94</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Flagstaff	61	36 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Lincoln</td> <td>77</td> <td>58 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Philadelphia</td> <td>72</td> <td>59</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Savannah</td> <td>94</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	Cldy	Lincoln	77	58 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Philadelphia</td> <td>72</td> <td>59</td> <td>Cldy</td> <td>Savannah</td> <td>94</td> <td>69 <td>Cir</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Cldy	Philadelphia	72	59	Cldy	Savannah	94	69 <td>Cir</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	85	64 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Fort Smith</td> <td>68</td> <td>47 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Little Rock</td> <td>90</td> <td>67 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Phoenix</td> <td>90</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Seattle</td> <td>69</td> <td>55 <td>Rain</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td></td></td>	Cldy	Fort Smith	68	47 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Little Rock</td> <td>90</td> <td>67 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Phoenix</td> <td>90</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Seattle</td> <td>69</td> <td>55 <td>Rain</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td></td>	Pcldy	Little Rock	90	67 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Phoenix</td> <td>90</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Seattle</td> <td>69</td> <td>55 <td>Rain</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Phoenix	90	66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Seattle</td> <td>69</td> <td>55 <td>Rain</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Pcldy	Seattle	69	55 <td>Rain</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Rain				
								Los Angeles	72	60 <td>Pcldy</td> <td>Pittsburgh</td> <td>66</td> <td>51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td></td>	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	66	51 <td>Cldy</td> <td>Shreveport</td> <td>88</td> <td>66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </td>	Cldy	Shreveport	88	66 <td>Pcldy</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>	Pcldy				

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 25, Antero Reservoir, Colo.
Lo: Wed., 25, Antero Reservoir, Colo. and Twin Lakes, Colo.

WEEKEND



Coldplay tells 'Ghost Stories'

Page 37

BIG return

New 'Godzilla' honors monster movie's legacy

Pages 24-25



A window on WWII

French cemetery in Brittany tells early chapter of American story

Travel, Page 30



Exotic edibles

Wildfoods one of many unusual food festivals in New Zealand

Travel, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Kyodo News/AP

The April 28 issue of the popular manga comic "Oishinbo," right, features a character who develops a nosebleed after visiting Fukushima. The edition is setting off a public debate in Japan about the health effects of radiation after the 2011 nuclear disaster.

Radiation debate reignites as manga shows nosebleed

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

A journalist finds his nose doesn't stop bleeding after visiting the meltdown-stricken Fukushima nuclear plant. He also learns others suffer similar symptoms.

The scene from popular manga comic "Oishinbo," published last month, has set off a hot public debate in Japan—a nation still traumatized by the world's worst nuclear disaster since Chernobyl.

Local governments immediately protested the comic, saying it fosters unfounded fears of radiation.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe chimed in over the weekend, reassuring the public there was no proof of a link between radiation and such illnesses. "The government will make the best effort to take action against baseless rumors," he said.

Undeterred by the ruckus, Tokyo-based publisher Shogakukan added a special 10-page segment to weekly Big Comic Spirits magazine, published May 19, featuring criticism it had received as well as opinion from radiation experts.

Editor Hiroshi Murayama acknowledged he had been unsure about publishing the manga, subtitled "The Truth of Fukushima," because he anticipated people would be offended. But he had decided that voice needed to be heard.

"We hope the various views on the latest 'Oishinbo' will lead to a constructive debate into assessing our future," he said in the special segment.

So far, there has been no confirmed illnesses related to radiation among nuclear plant workers or residents of Fukushima. The nuclear disaster began three years ago in March 2011, when a giant tsunami disabled backup generators at three reactors. Entire towns around the plant remain no-go zones.

The Fukushima prefectural government issued a protest against "Oishinbo," slamming it as misleading and fanning the fears about the safety of the area's fish and agricultural products.

Although nosebleeds might be related to radiation, people outside the evacuation zone in Fukushima are not being exposed to such high levels of radiation, it said in a statement.

ON THE COVER: A familiar fearsome creature returns in "Godzilla."
Warner Bros. Pictures

GADGET WATCH

Devices worthy of dear ol' Dad

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

I guarantee that any of these three products you will read about below will make a great present for most any dad on next month's Father's Day.

Logitech's Harmony Smart Keyboard is a one-touch streaming media control, universal remote and a keyboard that replaces the need for a set-top box system. The keyboard eliminates the usual irritation most of us experience when using a set-top box such as Apple TV or Roku, when we're forced into the cumbersome process of inputting username and passwords with a remote, scrolling around for one letter at a time.

Think of the smart keyboard as a control center, which works off of a pair of AA batteries. Use it like any other keyboard, although it does take just a few minutes to get used to since you are essentially using it as your remote.

All the keys you would expect are there with letters and numbers across the top. A trackpad replaces numbers on the right side.

Also included is the Harmony Hub, the brain of the system, which accepts signals from the keyboard and turns them into wireless commands (Bluetooth, IR or Wi-Fi) that your existing devices understand. Logitech states this will support more than 225,000 devices including program services such as Netflix or Hulu on devices such as Apple TV, Xbox, or PS3, to name just a few.

The Harmony app makes your iOS or Android smartphone an entertainment remote control for your personal favorites and up to 50 of your favorite channels.

Since I'm not a gamer, I'm pretty much locked into DIRECTV and Apple TV. So I tested the keyboard system out with my Apple TV and it was as simple as advertised.

Logitech's tech support is right there on the

page for the Smart Keyboard. This includes videos on setup, forums and a knowledge base.
Online: logitech.com, \$149.99

The AwoX Strimlight B-10 light bulb and Bluetooth speaker were demonstrated for me at a trade show earlier this year, but it's a whole lot cooler trying it out in my own house with my own music.

Just plug the LED bulb into any lamp. Voila! You now have a speaker lamp.

The multifunctional, eco-friendly LED light bulb measures just short of 3.5 inches in diameter and has an integrated Bluetooth speaker in the center to stream wireless music right from the light fixture.

The speaker's specs are: 10 watts, 80hm (range: 200Hz to 20,000Hz), 2 inches in diameter.

An included IR remote controls the light (on/off/dimming) along with the speaker volume. The setup consists of screwing in the light bulb (standard E26 or E27 socket) and then pairing the speaker with any Bluetooth enabled device.

As for the long-lasting LED lighting, it's 110-240v, a 40W incandescent equivalent.

Online: awox.com, \$99

The Jabra Rox Wireless (Bluetooth 4.0) earphones are worthy of the Jabra name.

The pair of speakers are at opposite ends of a wire, which has a three-button remote integrated into the cable. Each speaker has a built-in magnet enabling them to be attached and turned off. Just separate them to turn back on.

An omni-directional microphone with a noise filter is also built into the wireless headphones for hands-free calling. There's a USB charging port on the left ear and a battery status indicator.

You get a bunch of different sized ear tips to get the right fit along with a carrying case.

Online: jabra.com; \$129.99, available in black or white



Logitech's Harmony Smart Keyboard offers one-touch streaming media control, a universal remote and a keyboard, replacing the need for a set-top box system.

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for May 21:

- "Ghost Stories," Coldplay
- "Just As I Am," Brantley Gilbert
- "The Fault In Our Stars," Music From The Motion Picture, Various Artists
- "...And Then You Shoot Your Cousin," The Roots
- "Behind the Light" (Deluxe Version), Phillip Phillips
- "Native," OneRepublic
- "KCAPE" (Deluxe), Michael Jackson
- "...And Then You Shoot Your Cousin," The Roots
- "5 Seconds of Summer" (Bonus Track Version), 5 Seconds of Summer
- "The New Classic" (Deluxe Version), Iggy Azalea

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for May 21:

- Iggy Azalea, "Fancy"
- Ariana Grande, "Problem"
- Calvin Harris, "Summer"
- John Legend, "All of Me"
- DJ Snake & Lil Jon, "Turn Down for What"
- Disclosure, "Latch"
- Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
- Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty" — feat. 2 Chainz
- Am I Wrong, "Nice & Vinz"
- Bastille, "Pompeii"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for May 21:

- "The LEGO Movie"
- "Lone Survivor"
- "The Monuments Men"
- "53 Days to Kill"
- "RoboCop"
- "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit"
- "Her"
- "That Awkward Moment"
- "The Bling Ring"
- "Pompeii"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer rank the top 10 Wii U games for May:

- "Mario Kart 8," Nintendo
- "Child of Light," Ubisoft
- "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
- "Super Mario 3D World," Nintendo
- "CastleStorm," Zen Studios
- "Lego The Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.
- "Dr. Luigi," Nintendo
- "Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag," Ubisoft
- "Deus Ex: Human Revolution — Director's Cut," Square Enix
- "Lego Marvel Super Heroes," Warner Bros.

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for May 21:

- ANDROID
- Monument Valley
 - R.B.I. Baseball 14
 - TV Portal Chromecast Plugin
 - Magazine Mogul
 - Icebreaker: A Viking Voyage
- Top 5 paid apps for May 21:
- APPLE
- Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 - GoodReader 4
 - Table Tennis Touch
 - LEGO Batman: DC Super Heroes
 - Blek

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Hollywood pro offers inside look at the stars online

A former radio and TV broadcaster is opening a Hollywood time capsule of sorts and giving away the treasures inside.

Elliot Mintz did hundreds of celebrity interviews in the 1960s and '70s for his nationally syndicated shows. Stars such as Stevie Wonder, Groucho Marx, Donna Summer, John Coltrane, Jayne Mansfield and scores of other artists and entertainers spent hours talking to him on air.

Mintz got so close to some of the celebrities he interviewed that he eventually switched sides, so to speak, and began working with stars to help shape their image in a world of ever-expanding media. In 1979, he became an independent publicist, representing scores of famous names including Bob Dylan, Don Johnson, Paris Hilton and Diana Ross.

Determined to retire after five decades in Hollywood, the 69-year-old has released

what he calls a "cyberography": A free website filled with more than 150 hours of his radio and TV interviews comprising hundreds of celebrities. There are even intimate discussions with Salvador Dali and Timothy Leary, as well as advice for Hollywood hopefuls from Mintz himself.

In the low, measured tone he cultivated to shed his native New York accent, Mintz says he's a better storyteller than writer. The website is both memoir and parting gift. ElliotMintz.com went live on May 18.

"This is the most personal way I could think to reach people," he said in a recent interview at his home on fabled Mulholland Drive. "And it's free."

Nothing is for sale and there are no ads on the site, just hours and hours of interviews with entertainment legends frozen in time.

— Sandy Cohen/The Associated Press

• Dig in at elliottmintz.com



CHRIS PIZZELLO, INVISION/AP

2

'Monuments Men' in time for Memorial Day

Looking for a war movie to rent over the holiday weekend that's not a battlefield gorefest? Try "Monuments Men," produced and directed by George Clooney. The fact-based film has a lighter, at times humorous, tone — more like M*A*S*H. It tells of a squad of Allies who risked their lives to save art stolen by the Nazis.



• More new DVD releases on Page 39.

3

Coldplay pulls back for 'Ghost Stories'

After the overproduced explosion that was "Mylo Xyloto," Coldplay seems to have stripped things down. The band makes a conscious return to the relative simplicity of its early days with "Ghost Stories."

Newly uncoupled lead singer Chris Martin takes plenty of opportunity to bemoan loves lost. If you like that sort of thing.

• Full review of "Ghost Stories" on Page 37.



4

Dream up crazy fast-food concoctions

It might not be as apparent overseas, where strange food combinations are a way of life, but even in America, fast-food establishments seem to be trying to top each other for weird new offerings (see Taco Bell's waffle taco at left). Invent your own crazy consumable with this fast-food generator.

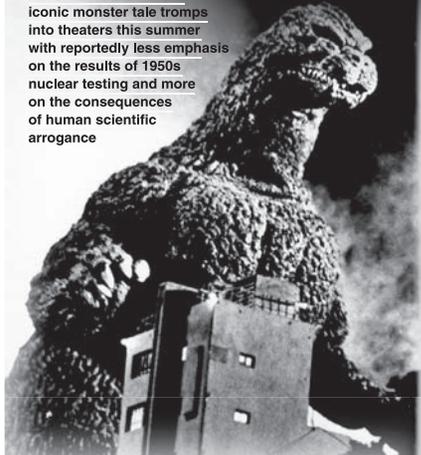


• Build bizarre treats at tinyurl.com/lu5ve81

WEEKEND: MOVIES

GODZILLA

A new treatment of the iconic monster tale tromps into theaters this summer with reportedly less emphasis on the results of 1950s nuclear testing and more on the consequences of human scientific arrogance



Origin story

Godzilla was reputedly awakened and mutated by nuclear testing, developing an atomic heart, breath and regenerative powers; "Gojira," the Japanese name for the monster, combines the words "gorilla" and "whale"

Godzilla's résumé

Has starred in 31 previous movies
Had its own Hanna-Barbera cartoon
Inspired a Blue Oyster Cult song
Received an MTV Lifetime achievement award in 1996

Rebooting

1954

Monster played by actor wearing 220-pound suit of gray painted latex, stuffed with bamboo and foam with a zipper along the spine, air holes in the chest; it had internal controls for the jaw, external wires for the tail

Filmed in three-minute takes

Technicians rubbed bass violin with leather glove to create roar, hit kettle drum with knotted rope for footsteps

Film cost Toho studio \$166,700

TODAY

960 visual effects shots appear in the new film, 327 of them are of Godzilla, for which the 3-D computer model is comprised of 500,000 polygons; if the effects had been done on a single computer, it would have taken 450 years to render them

Screenplay went through four versions

Gareth Edwards, the director, describes Godzilla as an antihero: "Godzilla is a representation of the wrath of nature; the theme is man versus nature; Godzilla is the punishment we deserve"

Godzilla's growth

A composite of T-rex and Stegosaurus:



1954 to 1975
Weight 22,000 tons

1984 to 1989
55,000 tons

1991 to 1995
66,000 tons

Statue of Liberty

And in this corner

Who has tangled with the Big G:

KING KONG

150 feet tall

The most famous foe of Godzilla survived the giant reptile's attacks in 1963; he was enlarged from his 1933 size (Godzilla would have been five times taller) and shot electric rays



RODAN

400-foot wingspan

A winged reptile, this prehistoric Godzilla foe became an ally in 1965; the beast flies at Mach 1.5, fighting with a uranium heat beam; also, there were the male, female and larger Fire Rodan



KING GHIDORAH

300 feet tall

Alien planet-destroyer fights while flying at Mach 3, rousing hurricane winds, shooting gravity beams from his mouth; the most evil Godzilla foe; also, Mecha-King Ghidorah



MOTHRA

800-foot wingspan

Mothra protects her people, the natives of Infant Island in the South Pacific; she is a monster of peace and principle, and entombs foes in cocoons; also, Fairy Mothra



MECHA-GODZILLA

160 feet tall

Godzilla's most powerful enemy is made of space titanium and packs an impressive arsenal—a nose-buster ray, super heat shield, laser beam eyes, plasma grenades, paralysis missiles



Highlights from monster mashes

U.S. productions in italics

1954 *Godzilla*

He destroys Tokyo

1956 *Godzilla, King of the Monsters*

An oxygen destroyer device kills Godzilla, ending his rampage (but of course he'll come back)

1959 *Godzilla Raids Again*

Godzilla defeats the spiny Angurios

1963 *King Kong vs. Godzilla*

Godzilla bests Kong, who swims toward the horizon at the end; there's a giant octopus, too

1964 *Mothra vs. Godzilla*

He kills a giant moth, but is wrapped up in a cocoon

1965 *Ghidorah, the Three-Headed Monster*

Godzilla allies with winged Rodan against alien monster Ghidorah

1966 *Ebirah, Horror of the Deep*

Godzilla joins with Mothra against Ebirah, a huge shrimp

1967 *Son of Godzilla*

Godzilla battles a giant spider and praying mantis

1968 *Destroy All Monsters*

Godzilla is pitted against Mothra against Ebirah, a huge shrimp

1969 *All Monsters Attack*

Godzilla vies with various monsters on Monster Island, but all in a child's dream

1971 *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*

Godzilla comes to humanity's aid, defeating Hedorah, a beast created by pollution

1972 *Godzilla vs. Gigan*

Godzilla again faces Ghidorah and the beaked Gigan, which has a buzz saw in its chest

1973 *Godzilla vs. Megalon*

The android Jet-Jaguar; monster Gigan; undersea god Megalon are thrown into the mix

1975 *Terror of Mechagodzilla*

Godzilla deals with sea monster Titanosauros, robotic Mechagodzilla

1984 *The Return of Godzilla*

Godzilla faces nuclear missiles, flying tanks

1985 *Godzilla 1985*

Essentially a U.S. remake of the 1984 film, using much of its footage

1989 *Godzilla vs. Biollante*

Lake creature Biollante, bacteria are Godzilla's enemies

1991 *Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah*

He beats two Ghidorahs, the real one and a cyborg version

1992 *Godzilla vs. Mothra*

He battles Mothra and Battra, a climate-created monster

1993 *Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla II*

Rodan and Godzilla battle Mechagodzilla and a flying gunship called Garuda

1994 *Godzilla vs. SpaceGodzilla*

Godzilla faces robot weapons and SpaceGodzilla

1995 *Godzilla vs. Destroyah*

Godzilla and Godzilla Junior battle crab-like Destroyah

1998 *Godzilla*

This major U.S. release, directed by Roland Emmerich and starring Matthew Broderick, was a tremendous flop; two planned sequels were canceled

1999 *Godzilla 2000: Millennium*

Godzilla defeats DNA copying monster Orga; five more "Millennium" Godzilla films are released through 2004

WEEKEND: MOVIES

"Godzilla," the latest in the monster-film franchise, comes 60 years after the creature made its big-screen debut in Ishiro Honda's 1954 film "Gojira."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP



Watanabe the perfect actor to explain 'Godzilla'

By ROGER MOORE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Japanese actor Ken Watanabe is most famous for his work in such global blockbusters as "Inception," "Batman Begins," "The Last Samurai" and "Memoirs of a Geisha."

At 54, he's of a stature that Hollywood knows if there's a movie to be made in Japan, Watanabe is the go-to Japanese star. Gus Van Sant called on him to co-star in his Japanese-set drama "Sea of Trees," and Martin Scorsese's film of Shusaku Endo's "Silence," about Jesuit missionaries in 17th century Japan, has Watanabe in a featured role.

And there's probably a law that says you cannot make a "Godzilla" movie without a major Japanese star in it. In the newest incarnation of the "King of the Monsters," Watanabe plays a Japanese scientist who seems to understand the monsters that have burst into the Pacific, better than the American engineers, soldiers and sailors who are battling them.

MCT: What was your first exposure to "Godzilla," growing up in Japan?

Watanabe: I was 9, 10 years old when I watched four or five films on TV, Godzilla battles this creature or that one ("Godzilla vs. Monster Zero," etc.). It was great entertainment for a kid!



Ken Watanabe, left, and Sally Hawkins star in "Godzilla."

As the chief Japanese member of the cast, did you feel protective of Godzilla, how he'd be presented, what he'd represent in this movie?

I met (director) Gareth Edwards and told him, "To me, Godzilla is symbolic of human cultures. His roar is like something sent down from the ancient gods, a mythic warning." I wanted to know from him what kind of story he had in mind for Godzilla, today. He admires Godzilla, and how much fun those movies were. He seems to love

Japanese comic books, Japanese culture. He knew all about Godzilla. ... I knew I wouldn't have to worry about what kind of Godzilla movie he would make.

So, what does a "Godzilla" movie need to be about?

When I saw this movie, finished, I got the most excited whenever Godzilla let out his roar. That sound, 'Rooooooowooooo' filled me with pride. But also sadness. To me, it's like Godzilla is calling out a warning to humanity's foolishness. Radiation from bombs, from power plants. That's what brings him back.

"Godzilla" was born out of fear of nuclear weapons after World War II. But after we experienced the collapse of our nuclear power plant in Fukushima ... it was like the fear was back — the same fear we had 60 years ago when "Godzilla" was born. It made me, as a Japanese actor, want to join this project, be in this film.

And my character's background made me want to play him. His father was a survivor of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. This guy ended up studying nuclear energy, nuclear power. What does that say about him? He hopes he is doing something meaningful for humanity with this very destructive energy. But he is still struggling with that issue. He sees this conflict as nature vs. science. He comes to believe that science does not have power over nature. We have a type of power we cannot control. That is what "Godzilla" is about.

Chilling 'Godzilla' reboot upholds franchise's legacy

By JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

None can blame Gareth Edwards for admittedly feeling nervous when asked to helm a remake of the biggest monster movie of all time. Sure, the only other film he had directed happened to be 2010's "Monsters." But this time, it was Godzilla.

Well, the latest iteration of the 60-year-old franchise is in capable hands. Edwards' "Godzilla" is a pleasingly paced 3-D spectacle that pays chilling homage to the artful legacy of the original 1954 film — Ishiro Honda's "Gojira" — while emerging as its own prodigious monster movie.

Created as a symbol of the nuclear threat following America's atomic attacks on Japan in World War II, Godzilla's reappearance suggests the nuclear tests conducted by the U.S. in the Pacific after the war were really meant to hold the radioactive dinosaur back.

New on base

"Godzilla" is playing at:

Europe

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

Pacific

Atsugi, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post Nos. 1 and 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys and Osan.

Online: godzillamovie.com

This story begins in Japan in 1999 as nuclear physicist Joe Brody (Bryan Cranston) investigates questionable

seismic activity at the Jajirra nuclear power plant.

When a team at the plant, including his scientist wife, Sandra (Juliette Binoche), dies in what everyone believes is a natural disaster, Joe dedicates his life to proving that what caused the devastation was anything but natural. His obsession creates a rift between himself and his son, Ford.

Fifteen years later, we catch up with Ford (Aaron Taylor-Johnson) in San Francisco, where he lives with his wife (Elizabeth Olsen) and their son.

Serving in the U.S. Navy, Ford disarms bombs, a skill that later helps him save the planet from MUTOs — "Massive Unidentified Terrestrial Organism" — that emerge from dormancy and begin traveling the globe, feeding on radiation.

Screenwriter Max Borenstein, working from a story by Dave Callahan, doesn't bombard us with multiple narratives or a multitude of characters (Ken Watanabe and Sally Hawkins play scientists, and

David Strathairn plays an admiral).

Instead, the film focuses on Ford's family story. When we finally see Godzilla, the anticipation has built to such a degree that we expect to be awe-struck.

And we are. We're not bombarded with excessive CGI here. Godzilla isn't oversized, although for some, his lack of screen time won't be satisfying enough.

A threat to the planet in the '50s version, Godzilla isn't out to take the world down this time. He's here to be its hero, and his massive showdown against the MUTOs is the highlight. He's more than a catastrophic beast, and we're on his side when he swims off into the sunset.

While the predictable sequel has not yet been confirmed, one thing is clear: Edwards' version of "Godzilla" remains the ultimate monster movie. The legacy has been upheld.

"Godzilla" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of destruction, mayhem and creature violence. Running time: 123 minutes.

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



JOHAN PERSSON/AP

Joshua McGuire, center, performs in "Privacy" at the Donmar Warehouse in London. The comedy-drama uses data provided by the audience via cell phone and booking information to display personal information onstage, eliciting audible gasps.

SEE THIS:
'Privacy' in London

A comedy-drama called "Privacy" at the Donmar Warehouse theater in London has the city abuzz. James Graham's show aims to wittily explore how governments and corporations collect and use personal data, and what that means for our security, identity and future.

Provoked by the recent revelations of National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, "Privacy" asks the audience: How much do we give away when we share?

To make its point, the play opens with a spoof of an in-flight video that asks audience members to keep their cell phones on but in silent mode. That's because the cast will work live with information supplied by the audience during the production. At one point, audience members are instructed in how to take a "selfie" and then encouraged to email one to the production. Those images are then splashed over a screen made up of row upon row of individual thumbsprints.

Also, using audience members' addresses (given when tickets are booked via credit card), profiles are drawn up onstage by a researcher processing data on a laptop. When the audience sees the amount of information that can be compiled in a short time, audible gasps go up.

The New York Times calls the show "A sensationally entertaining vision of our time."

"Privacy" runs through May 29. Find ticket information at donmarwarehouse.com/en.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Jazz in Brussels

Those with broad musical tastes might find themselves overwhelmed by choice at the Brussels Jazz Marathon, which runs through Sunday in the Belgian capital. The program features some 200 concerts in genres from Latino and funk to rock, blues and more. The good news for indecisive types is that with free entry to the venues, they can move about freely from one act to the next.

The Grand Place, Sablon Square, the St.-Catherine Square, Fernand Cock Square and other landmarks serve as backdrops to the outdoor concerts. For the 19th edition of the festival, multicultural melting pot Luxembourg Square joins as a venue and offers a danceable program. Clubs and bars host yet more performances late into the night. Shuttles will ferry visitors from one venue to the next.

Those with kids could check out the Sablon on Saturday when a special Jazz Marathon for kids takes place starting at 11 a.m. Would-be swing dancers will be in their element at The Festive Dancing Spot at La Tentation, rue de Laeken 28, Friday and Saturday evenings, where concerts, dance instruction and a beauty corner to achieve an era-appropriate style will be offered.

With each edition of the Brussels Jazz Marathon attracting 250,000-plus fans, this is one of the city's major annual events.



Karen Bradbury

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



To plan your visit with a look at the full program, see brusselsjazzmarathon.be.

D-Day show in Duxford

The Duxford Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire, England, will be host to a D-Day Anniversary Air Show this weekend. To mark the 70th anniversary of this decisive military campaign, the vital role of aerial warfare during the invasion of Normandy, France, will be brought to the forefront.

On Saturday and Sunday, fighter, bomber and transport aircraft types that would have been seen over the beaches of France will fly above the museum. Among those slated to fly are five Douglas C-47 Skytrains, representing the aircraft that transported paratroops across the English Channel for their drop into Normandy. Members of the Red Devils, the British

army's parachute regiment, will perform as part of the commemorative flying display.

Visitors will be able to meet today's servicemembers from the airborne forces. Trade stands, historical re-enactment groups and activities such as tank rides round out the program.

The museum offers a photo exhibit on D-Day, a display of more than 30 iconic aircraft, and the American Air Museum, a memorial to the some 30,000 airmen who gave their lives flying from bases in the United Kingdom during World War II.

IWM Duxford will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on both days, with the flying displays kicking off at about 2 p.m. and ending at 5:30 p.m.

Entry costs 27.50 pounds (about \$46) for those ages 16 and older, 18.15 pounds for ages

5-15, and is free for ages 4 and under. Learn more at iwm.org.uk/events.

Harleys in Cologne

Have Harley will ride? Be part of the first edition of The Harley Dome Cologne, a biker gathering that coincides with the 111th anniversary of the Harley-Davidson brand. The number 11 is associated with Cologne's strong carnival traditions, as the season opens each year on Nov. 11.

The fun starts Friday evening with a meet-and-greet at the Hard Rock Cafe, a tour of the SION brewery and cocktails at the Hilton Hotel's ice bar. The event's central venue, the Tanzbrunnen, opens Saturday at 10 a.m. and offers a trading area with accessories, fashion and food stands, a display of the latest Harley models, an acci-

dent simulator from the German automobile club ADAC and a track upon which event sponsor Jeep will show its stuff. Biker kids might enjoy the exhibition of American police cars from the past 40 years.

At 2 p.m., live music will rock the crowds, including a performance by blues master Hank Davison. A custom bike competition is open to all and offers prizes in five categories; register on site between 8 and 11 a.m.

The party continues Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with German bands performing. The program's highlight will be the biker parade kicking off Saturday at noon and following the city ring, taking in the landmarks of the inner city and two bridges across the Rhine River. The aim of the parade is to increase public awareness of and tolerance toward motorcyclists.

Entry to the Tanzbrunnen is for ticket holders only, available online for 10 euros (\$13.71) and valid on both days. Those under the age of 16 enter for free.

Learn more at harleydome.de. (German only).



Courtesy of IWM Duxford

Among the aircraft set to take to the skies at the D-Day Anniversary Air Show this weekend at IWM Duxford will be the Supermarine Spitfire Mark 9 Mk912. It was the first aircraft to land on French soil after D-Day Plus One.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

A haunting Cold War relic

Radio relay station stands like a post-apocalyptic movie set

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

A tattered plush rabbit lies in front of the bullet-pocked guard shack at the Langerkopf radio relay station. There's no saying why it's there or how long it's been there — maybe months, maybe years.

It looks like it belongs. The station, a relic of the Cold War, is all but abandoned and rapidly crumbling. The roofs of wooden buildings that haven't yet collapsed sag like the backs of old ponies. Its concrete structures are missing blocks, windows and doors. Vandals and nature are taking turns ravaging what's left.

Tucked deep in Germany's Palatinate Forest, the old base is a favorite haunt for graffiti artists, ne'er-do-wells and makers of bad German thriller flicks. Its fences, topped with barbed wire, are largely intact but do little to keep out the curious.

The rundown outpost played a central role in the 2013 German film "Lost Place," a sci-fi thriller in which a defunct U.S. military mind-control experiment whirs back to life and ruins a teen camping trip.

There's no indication the site ever served such a purpose. Mostly, the U.S. Army and Air Force used the hilltop site to bounce communication signals around Europe. The main tower, rising 330 feet, stands largely unblemished by time.

Usually closed, the gates to the site were wide open recently, allowing anyone brave enough to wander up to the prisonlike complex to walk right in and explore.

The scene is post-apocalyptic, suggestive of what will become of other U.S. bases after the zombies have their way with us. This is not movie magic. It's just the way things go when left to the elements.

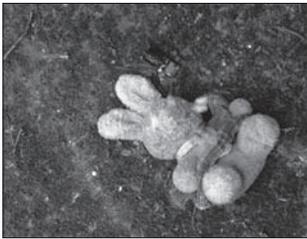
In an old barracks, toilets are littered with shattered glass. Hallways and stairwells are clogged with broken furniture and doors, as if its inhabitants had put them there in a last stand against a horde of undead.

In one building, old technical manuals in English are scattered on the floor. It appears to have once been a gym, but it was later repurposed for office space. Most of those rooms are gone



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

Vandals burned old manuals and other items left behind at the U.S. military's Langerkopf radio relay station, a Cold War relic that has been empty for years.



A toy rabbit lies on the ground at the radio relay station. It appears the rabbit, like the base, has been abandoned for years.

— burned in a fire most likely set on purpose.

In a surviving room, a bank of cubbyholes bears a stencil that says it was built by the American Device Manufacturing Co. in 1970 and is property "of US government." Soldiers probably once received their pay from the window, covered by a thick steel screen, next to it.

Amid the destruction, one corner of the base remains operational. A small, unmanned NATO communications tower hums inside its own small compound. Against the backdrop of destruction, this might be the creepiest part about Langerkopf.

And who knows? Maybe the folks who made "Lost Place" were onto something.

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Bullet holes pockmark the glass of a guard shack at the station.



The elements and vandals have taken their toll on the old outpost. It played a central role in the 2013 German film "Lost Place," a sci-fi thriller in which a defunct U.S. military mind-control experiment whirs back to life and ruins a teen camping expedition.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Google Maps coordinates for Langerkopf radio relay station are 49.300190, 7.845250. The base is accessible from a paved road off the L 496 road about 1.3 miles south of Kaiserslautern in the Palatinate Forest.

COSTS

It's free to explore the old base (if it's open) and the surrounding forest, which is crisscrossed by hundreds of miles of well-tended but poorly marked trails.

FOOD

If you want the full "Lost Place" experience, stop — as the teens in the movie did — at the Hotel-Restaurant Johanniskreuz on the B48 highway south of Kaiserslautern and about halfway to Langerkopf.

INFORMATION

The site contains numerous hazards and graffiti that might not be suitable for children. Proceed with caution.

— Matt Millham



NASA Army/Stars and Stripes

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

At Hostaria Fortuna Vecia dal Venexian in Vicenza, Italy, pale yellow walls, wooden beams and exposed brick make the interior glow. Scores of photographs of movie and television stars, including one of the Three Stooges, provide a lot to look at. Notice Jack Nicholson flashing a smile under the ceiling fan.



A photograph of a young Frank Sinatra with daughter Nancy hangs at the Vicenza restaurant.



My shrimp-loving companion said the grilled shrimp at the restaurant were the best he had ever had.

After Hours: Italy

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

In an unprepossessing spot in this small Italian city is a cozy restaurant with only seven tables and a highly specialized menu.

Hostaria Fortuna Vecia dal Venexian serves no chicken, no beef, no lamb, no pizza. I'm not even sure if it serves vegetables.

It does serve what has so far in my experience in Vicenza been the freshest, most delicious seafood this side of Venice.

The owners are, in fact, Venetians, and the name of the restaurant is in Venetian dialect, which makes it impossible for Google to translate. But its menu makes clear that the restaurant's kitchen prepares only fish and seafood dishes typical of Venice.

Scallops, shrimp, clams, crab, octopus, squid, sea bass, tuna, turbot and monkfish are pretty much all that's on the menu, along with risotto and fresh pasta to mix them with.

But I was not prepared for the charm of its interior: softly glowing lights, exposed wood beams and pale yellow walls covered in an eccentric collection of framed photographs of movie stars. Jack Nicholson appeared in at least two photos on the walls, and I don't recall even one Marilyn Monroe. Yet there was David Niven, of all people. There were Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry,

and not even all of those fish options are on the menu every day. It depends on what's freshest and of the best quality.

I'd read glowing reviews on Trip Advisor, so I wasn't put off by the restaurant's modest exterior, next to a pizza place, on a busy street with no parking.

But I was not prepared for the charm of its interior: softly glowing lights, exposed wood beams and pale yellow walls covered in an eccentric collection of framed photographs of movie stars. Jack Nicholson appeared in at least two photos on the walls, and I don't recall even one Marilyn Monroe. Yet there was David Niven, of all people. There were Clint Eastwood as Dirty Harry,



Hostaria Fortuna Vecia dal Venexian's modest storefront on a busy street in Vicenza belies its interior charms.

HOSTARIA FORTUNA VECIA DAL VENEXIAN

Address: Via Generale Giacomo Medici, 72, Vicenza, Italy 36100

Times: Lunch noon to 3 p.m. and dinner 5:30-midnight Tuesdays through Saturdays; closed Mondays and Sunday evenings.

Prices: Moderate.

Clientele: Mostly Italians. Dress: Business casual. Menu: English menus available. Information: Telephone: (+39) 345-508-7172. Reservations are a must. The restaurant accepts cash only.

— Nancy Montgomery

Burgess Meredith as the Penguin and the Three Stooges as themselves. It made us proud to be Americans.

There were white tablecloths on the tables, and, as I sat down, I realized the chairs were actually comfortable, which is unusual in Vicenza restaurants. It was also far quieter than most downtown Vicenza restaurants, and more romantic.

As soon as we sat, we were asked if we wanted still or sparkling water, and, without being asked, we were poured complementary glasses of prosecco. A small dish of crudites (I was kidding before. They do have vegetables; also desserts) and bread sticks with olive oil for dipping were placed on the table as we studied the menu.

Such a warm welcome, such a



A starter of scallops. The Hostaria Fortuna Vecia dal Venexian serves only fish and seafood prepared simply, as they do in Venice.



Grilled monkfish, or, as the menu calls it, Fisher Frogtail.

promising start.

The owner of the place, Claudio, who speaks a little English, was a most gracious host, and he advised us as we, quite hungry by 8 p.m., chose three courses. Everything, from raw oysters (2.50 euros each) to spaghetti with squid ink (12 euros) to broiled monkfish (14 euros) and shrimp (13 euros) was perfect, briny but sweet. My companion,

who started eating shrimp as a toddler on the Florida coast and has subsequently eaten a ton of the crustaceans, pronounced his grilled shrimp the best he had ever had.

We asked for a bottle of Lis Nerris Sauvignon, which was also delightful, and at 21 euros, by far the most expensive thing we ordered.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Brittany American Cemetery, near St. James, France, is the final resting place for 4,408 American World War II dead. Most of them died during Operation Cobra, the breakout from Normandy.

More than 4,000 U.S. WWII dead lie in France's Brittany American Cemetery

By MICHAEL ABRAMS
Stars and Stripes

The D-Day invasion of Normandy, France, was only the beginning of the struggle to liberate western Europe from Nazi Germany in World War II.

After waging fierce battles on the Normandy beaches, and finally capturing St. Lo in mid-July, the Allies launched Operation Cobra to break out of Normandy, advance through Brittany and liberate Paris.

The fighting was heavy, and as the armies swept across Brittany, casualties were high. Many Americans who fell here never left France, and 4,408 are buried at Brittany American Cemetery on the outskirts of the small town of St. James.

It was first a temporary



NASA/AMNH/Stars and Stripes

graveyard during the war, then became a permanent one, being dedicated on July 20, 1956.

The cemetery's layout is designed as a military emblem, that of SHAEF — Supreme Headquarters Allied Expedition-

ary Forces — the armies under Gen. Dwight David Eisenhower's command from 1943 through the end of the war. It depicts a flaming sword backed by a shield.

As the cemetery's assistant superintendent, Walter Benjamin, explained during a recent visit, the Memorial building and the two walls that flank it make up the sword's hilt. Two paths that lead through the center of the cemetery and meet behind a cenotaph at its far end form the sword's blade. Two paths that lead back to the Tablets of the Missing make up the emblem's shield and the curved rows of graves are the sword's flames.

The emblem is featured in a stained-glass window above the Memorial's main entrance.

The Brittany American Cemetery is similar to others administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. Row upon row of white Latin crosses stand, speckled with 81 Stars of David representing Jewish fallen, in 16 plots to the left and right of the center paths.

On each marker, Christian or Jewish, is the fallen's name, rank, unit, place of birth and date of death. For 97 whose identity has been lost forever, it simply states: "Here Rests In Honored Glory A Comrade In Arms Known But To God."

There are 498 names inscribed on the Tablets of the Missing.

Inside the Memorial building, two walls are each adorned with a giant map. One shows the



Rows of crosses, speckled with 81 Jewish Stars of David, make up the Brittany American Cemetery.

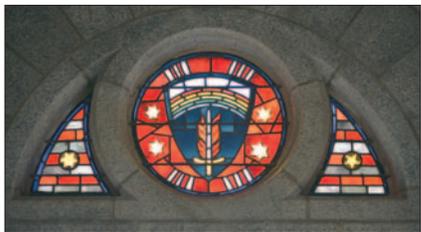
breakout from the beachhead and the advance to the Seine River, while the other depicts operations from Normandy to the end of the war.

Above the chapel altar is a stained-glass window of the

great seal of the United States.

Before you leave, sign the guest register in the visitor building and leave a message for those who gave their lives for freedom.

abrams.mike@stripes.com



Inside the Memorial building at the cemetery, above the main entrance, is a stained-glass window that features the emblem of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force, or SHAEF.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

A map in the museum room of the Memorial at Brittany American Cemetery shows the breakout from the D-Day beachhead, the advance through Brittany to the Seine and the liberation of Paris.



A cenotaph stands on the western end of the cemetery. It is adorned with the words "PRO PATRIA 1941-1945," which is Latin, meaning "for one's country."

KNOW & GO: BRITANNY AMERICAN CEMETERY

Getting there

Brittany American Cemetery is about 1.5 miles southeast of St. James, France, and about 12 miles south of Avranches. It is about a 30-minute drive from Mont St. Michel.

From Paris, about a 3.5-hour drive, take the A-13 highway to Caen and then A-84 toward Rennes, exiting at St. James.

Coming from Omaha Beach take N-13 toward Cherbourg, then N-174 toward St. Lo, until it meets up with A-84. GPS coordinates are N48 31.199 W1 18.067.

Times

Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily; closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

More information

The cemetery's link on the

American Battle Monument Commission's website is abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/brittany-american-cemetery.

Some upcoming events at the cemetery are the Memorial Day ceremony at 3 p.m. May 26 and a ceremony honoring paratroops at 10 a.m. June 1 with a scheduled CV-22 Osprey flyover.

— Michael Abrams

Restaurant Directory

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p>Since 1978</p> <p>China Restaurant Peking</p> <p>Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nikolastr. 8, 92637 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33096 Fax. 0961-34073/www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK</p> <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten</p> <p>Inh. Sascha Gartner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-kl.de Tel. 0931 142928</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Brannigan's Gastel</p> <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Söhr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brnigan-buss-castel.de</p>
<p>Glutschaufel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere</p> <p>Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel: 09645/60 39 80 www.glutschaufel.de</p>	<p>EFENDI 'Kebab'</p> <p>Enjoy the taste of Turkey</p> <p>Riesenstrasse 18 67653 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/efendikebab</p>	<p>PAPPELHAUS</p> <p>Steinernstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649609 Get our juicy irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>PALLAS</p> <p>GREEK SPECIALTIES</p> <p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 621</p>	<p>Trattoria Da Salvatore</p> <p>Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p>Okinii</p> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2385808</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



DO THIS: KANAZAWA HYAKUMANGOKU MATSURI

This event in Ishikawa prefecture — the biggest annual festival in the region — is June 6 to 8. It celebrates Toshiie Maeda, the first lord of Kanazawa. It includes a parade, floating lanterns in the Asano-Gawa River, and Takigi Noh — a beautiful and mystic musical theater lit by bonfires — at Kanazawa Castle Park 7-9 p.m. June 7. For a schedule: tinyurl.com/ke7r2yr.

At top, children play daiko (Japanese drums) at Kanazawa Station East Square during the Kanazawa Hyakumangoku Matsuri parade kickoff ceremony. This year it will be 2 p.m. June 7. Right, residents will parade in samurai costumes 2-6 p.m. June 7.

Photos courtesy of Kanazawa City



IRIS FESTIVALS

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

ITAKO IRIS FESTIVAL (Ibaraki prefecture): May 24/June 29, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 500 varieties of the flower at Maekawa Garden, a five-minute walk from Itako Station on JR Kashima-Line or 1.5-minute ride from Itako I.C. on Higashi Kanto Express; free; tinyurl.com/povy3kq.

SAWARA IRIS FESTIVAL 2014 (Chiba prefecture): May 31/June 29, 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.; 1.5 million irises at Sawara Shokubutsuen Garden, a 20-minute bus ride from JR Sawara Station to Susei Shokubutsuen, or bus from JR Sawara Station; 700 yen adults, 350 yen kids; tinyurl.com/npqfn8 and tinyurl.com/ns7bcs.

IRIS FESTIVAL AT IZU NIJI-NO-SATO (Shizuoka prefecture): Early-to-late June, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., opening 6:30 a.m. June 7, 8, 14 & 15; 1.5-minute ride from Shuzenji Station or 90-minute ride from Numazu I.C. on Tomei Express; 1,200 yen adults, 600 yen ages 4-12; tinyurl.com/mvpydry.

IRIS FESTIVAL IN NISHIYAMA TOUGEN GARDEN — PARADISE ON EARTH (Ibaraki prefecture): Mid-to-late June, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 3,000 irises in bloom and paper lanterns are illuminated and mini-concerts performed after sunset on weekends; 10-minute ride from JR Hitachiota Station on Suigin Line or 20-minute ride from Naka I.C. on Hitachi Express; 0294-73-1300.



Courtesy of Itako City Sightseeing Association

The Itako Iris Festival in Ibaraki prefecture, Japan, is May 24 to June 29 at Maekawa Garden.

ON BASE

Japan

Atsugi MWR is having Asian Pacific Islander Night at Atsugi Convention Center Outside Patio 5-9 p.m. May 24. Atsugi's ITT will provide transportation to the Yokohama DeNa Baystars vs. Hiroshima Toyo Carp ballgame 4-10 p.m. June 27. See Mount Fuji and go to Fuji-Q Highland on June 8 with **Yokosuka**

Tours. Camp **Zama** Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service has a tour to Kamakura, Japan, on June 14.

Guam

Carol Reef Fitness Center at **Andersen** Air Force Base has a bench press competition 10 a.m. May 31 and a beach volleyball tournament at Tarague Beach 3 p.m. on June 6.

Okinawa

Enjoy the Flightline Fair at MCAS **Futenma** 2-10 p.m. June 7 and 8. See Shuri Castle and Naha on June 7 with **Camp Foster**, Camp Courtney and Camp Kinser Tours. See hydrangeas with Kadeno ITT on May 31.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Incredible Kiwi edibles

New Zealand fests show pride in locally produced food

By REID WILSON
The Washington Post

I eyed the eclair my wife was offering me with suspicion. It looked innocent enough, the flaky pastry layered with rich chocolate and oozing decadent cream filling.

But the setting made me skeptical: She'd purchased it from a stand where vendors dressed as milkmaids stood beneath a sign depicting a garishly grinning cartoon cow shooting milk from its teats.

No, I was not eager to learn what "colostrum" is.

The eclair was one of the last dishes we tried at the Wildfoods Festival, an annual gathering of culinary aficionados in Hokitika, a small town on the west coast of New Zealand's South Island. We'd already sampled shark, kangaroo, alligator, crayfish and whitebait, a particularly disgusting little bait fish that passes for a delicacy in New Zealand. My wife had choked down a chocolate-covered beetle, and she said that the colostrum — the first milk a cow gives after giving birth to a calf — was incredibly rich.

Wildfoods is just one in the seemingly endless parade of festivals, celebrations and anniversaries that draw visitors to small towns throughout New Zealand during a season that lasts from spring to late fall. Lasting a three-month adventure that took us through the country last year, my wife and I found ourselves at several such events, all of which told us something about the region where we were staying at the moment.

In Hokitika, a small tourist enclave anchored in the off-season by New Zealand's greenstone industry, 13,000 people snacked on strange morsels. Many of the samplers were dressed in costume; we saw satyrs, Bigfoot, a few St. Pauli girls and several Catholic cardinals (Pope Francis would be elected a few days later). Most were fortified by Speight's, Mon-teith's or Tui, the national beers, or by a local wine.

A few weeks later, we spent several days just outside the Marlborough region, best known for sauvignon blanc, which makes up about four-fifths of New Zealand's annual wine harvest. We were in Hawke Bay, which sits at the base of the spidery waterways that lead into the Cook Strait, which



Courtesy of the Hokitika Wildfoods Festival

Chocolate-covered beetles are one of the many treats you can find at the Wildfoods Festival in Hokitika, New Zealand.

divides the North and South islands. Every day, small fishing boats leave Havelock to ply the Mahau, Pelorus and Kenepeur Sounds for green-lipped mussels, which are endemic to the region.

Our host at a small bed-and-breakfast pointed us to the Havelock Mussel Festival, which draws shell-fish fans to the self-proclaimed green-lipped mussel capital of the world.

We watched teams of local chefs speed-shuck hundreds of mussels (one chef had been certified the world's fastest shucker by the Guinness Book of World Records).

While my wife went to get her own order of the local delicacy, flash-steamed in a boiling cauldron fueled by an antique train engine, I watched a crowded competition of enthusiastic eaters prepare to wolf down a dozen mussels and half a pint of beer. The introduction took four min-

utes. The winner, a tall man with a South African flag on his hat, cleaned his plate and emptied his stein in seven seconds.

Another month passed as we slowly made our way north, across the Cook Strait to the North Island, through Wellington and Martinborough and Hawke's Bay. (In Napier, a city leveled by an earthquake in 1931 and rebuilt in the Art Deco style, the local festival attracts tens of thousands dressed in period costumes from the era.)

With barely two weeks left in New Zealand, we stopped in Hamilton, the country's fourth-largest city, an hour or so south of Auckland.

In the 19th century, the Waikato region was the site of the largest battles between British soldiers and Maori rebels. Today, the skies above Hamilton are dotted with hot air balloons of all shapes and colors as part of a five-day festival.

The punctuation came on a Saturday night, as the setting sun turned the few lazy white clouds a stunning combination of pink and purple. We made our way to the campus of Waikato University and shared a bottle of wine alongside thousands of picnickers as a dozen balloons, inflated

in Clyde or Cromwell or the Gibbston Valley.

The monthlong Christchurch Arts Festival showcases the arts in a city still recovering from a 2011 earthquake; during our visit, a large section of the downtown was blocked off due to structural damage.

As an island nation, New Zealand imports much of its food and durable goods. That fact must inspire in Kiwis an instinctive pride in the goods they produce at home. The resulting festival culture means that the entire country spends most of the year in happy celebration.

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WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW COUNTRY ALBUMS

Brantley Gilbert

Just As I Am (Valory)

Everybody in Nashville has been predicting Brantley Gilbert will be the next big thing in country music for a couple of years now. His new album, the long-awaited "Just as I Am," is engineered to make that little bit of soothing a reality.

The tracks on "Just as I Am" follow the blueprint for modern country success. There's the drinking song — first single "Bottoms Up" already is a No. 1 hit. There's a song about his hometown called "Lights of My Hometown."

He makes sure he defines himself for his female fans on the opener, "If You Want a Bad Boy," pays tribute to friends and family members who died too young ("One Hell of an Amen") and doesn't forget the all-star team-up ("Small Town Throwdown") with labelmates Justin Moore and Thomas Rhett.

Gilbert had a lot to do with this formula's popularity as the writer of some of Jason Aldean's biggest hits, including "My Kinda Party" and "Dirt Road Anthem." Since then, there's been a debate about the direction of country, and Gilbert's third album is certainly fodder for the discussion.

There's a difference between following a formula and becoming cliché, however, and Gilbert easily skirts that line with his songwriting, his sonic choices and a more varied vocal approach on the Dann Huff-produced album. Gilbert co-wrote all 11 tracks with the help of some of Nashville's more distinctive songwriters, and feels more invested than some of his songwriting peers.

"Bottoms Up" is more melancholy love song than a sloppy drunk anthem, and Gilbert's vocals is subtle. The laid-back guitar line on that leads off opener "Bad Boy" is an invitation to listen for interesting instrumentation throughout. "Hometown" builds powerfully with a gospel choir wrapped around a towering guitar solo. And a melancholy line throughout the album finds a home in album-closing "My Faith in You," a song that reaffirms Gilbert's faith after a difficult period that's included the end of his engagement and struggles with alcohol.

If you have bought into mainstream country's modern sound, "Just as I Am" will be one of your year's biggest albums. If not, settle in — this one's going to be on the radio for a while.

— Chris Talbott
The Associated Press



CHARLES SYKES, INVISION/AP

Dolly Parton emphasizes banjo, fiddle and gospel-style harmony — a sound that has served her well in the past — on "Blue Smoke."

Bringing back the bluegrass

Parton turns out her best album in years

Dolly Parton, at age 68, creates her best album in more than a dozen years by returning to the bluegrass-flavored sound that worked so well for her at the turn of the century.

"Blue Smoke" succeeds partly because the Country Music Hall of Fame member's songwriting pen remains sharp. "Unlikely Angel" and the family melodrama "Miss You-Miss Me" join the three-part harmony of the title cut in adding to Parton's considerable legacy as a songwriter.

The emphasis on banjo, fiddle and gospel-style harmony is reminiscent of 1999's "The Grass Is Blue," a Parton career highlight. Her update of the traditional murder ballad "Banks of the Ohio" fits the bill, too.

Parton expands her musical palette with two risky covers. She gives Bob Dylan's "Don't Think Twice" a bluegrass treatment, turning Dylan's bitter sneer into a melancholy farewell. She also transforms Don Jovi's "Lay Your Hands On Me" into a surprisingly effective Baptist



Dolly Parton

Blue Smoke (Sony Masterworks)

rave-up.

The album could have done without the silly "Lover Du Jour" and the tacked-on duets "You Can't Make Old Friends" with Kenny Rogers and "From Here To The Moon And Back" with Willie Nelson that previously appeared on other albums. But overall, "Blue Smoke" is another triumph from one of American music's most treasured artists.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press

Hunter Hayes

Storyline (Atlantic)

At 22, Hunter Hayes isn't one for subtlety on his sophomore album: His up-tempo songs ("Tattoo," "Storyline") race with breathless rushes of lyrics and fast, busy arrangements; his ballads are intensely dramatic, whether he takes on self-esteem (the Top 10 country hit "Invisible") or the mysteries of attraction ("Still Fallin").

The Grammy-nominated rising star is following up his 2011 successful self-titled introductory record by once again co-writing, co-producing and playing several instruments on "Storyline."

To his credit, Hayes avoids contemporary country clichés: There are no pickup trucks, dirt roads or beer drinking in these songs. Still, even though the opening "Wild Card" boasts that he's a crazy guy, Hayes could benefit from loosening up and showing some of that wildness on record.

That said, Hayes is an inventive country-pop songwriter and



performer. He and co-producer Dann Huff cram songs with clever sonic twists; they even include a couple of short musical interludes, as if the other dozen tracks don't provide room for all of the instrumental ideas.

Hayes is striving for something more distinctive than radio hits; he wants to inspire, to create something spectacular. "Storyline" doesn't quite fulfill that ambition, but fans will find the collection entertaining. And there's enough to suggest that the multitalented boy wonder still packs plenty of potential.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press

Sturgill Simpson

Metamodern Sounds in Country Music (Thirty Tigers)

The album title is an intriguing one, and the first number, "Turtles (All the Way Down)," is certainly a trippy affair, with its mentions of "reptile aliens" and mind-altering substances, as well as Jesus, Buddha, and the Devil. But don't be fooled: On his second album, Sturgill Simpson remains hard-core country at heart — more Waylon than way out.

Simpson might have more on his mind than the average honky-tonker or new-country hunk — "Gonna transmigrate to my destination/Far beyond time in an eternal dream," he sings on "Just Let Go." But his musings are tethered mostly to chip-kicking barroom twang, and



he's not above delivering such age-old sentiments as this from the swaggering "Life of Sin": "Gonna drink myself silly/Only way for this hillbilly." Like any good country boy, Simpson can also deliver a dose of straight-up gospel, as he does with "A Little Light Within."

— Nick Cristiano
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Rascal Flatts

Rewind (Big Machine)

Rascal Flatts named its ninth album "Rewind," but musically the country-pop trio takes a much-needed step forward.

Punching up arrangements with rock energy ("Payback") and synth-pop flourishes ("Honeyuckle Lazy"), the band undergoes a contemporary country makeover as it celebrates its 15th year. The result makes for a more fun, mature and diverse sound — washing away the stale taste of recent outings.

On "Rewind," lead singer Gary LeVox, bassist-pianist-singer Jay Demarcus and guitarist Joe Don Rooney talk a bigger hand in their production, cutting more than half of the album on their own.

Led by Demarcus, who has co-produced albums by Jo Dee Messina and the rock band Chicago, the trio moves the needle forward on the engaging "DJ Tonight" and the title cut, a recent



country Top 10 hit. The group also brought in pop veteran Howard Benson, who produced five cuts, including the dance floor-ready "Powerful Stuff" Old hand Dann Huff, who had produced the band since 2006, worked with the group on the catchy "Life's a Song," which sounds more like the old Rascal Flatts. But what makes "Rewind" exciting is that Rascal Flatts has fast-forwarded into the future.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press



WEEKEND: MUSIC



Courtesy of The Fun Star

Telling Ghost Stories

Martin works through his feelings on Coldplay's gloomy new album

Ghost Stories" is Coldplay's first album since lead singer Chris Martin's separation from Gwyneth Paltrow launched a thousand "conscious uncoupling" jokes. Some of the best albums in history have been born out of such domestic strife. But for Coldplay, which has always treated romantic misery as an all-you-can-eat buffet, an album full of gloomy songs about love gone wrong is in itself unremarkable—the band was making divorce albums before anybody actually got married.

"Ghost Stories" is stripped down and slippery, a pointed de-escalation from their last album, "Mylo Xyloto." Both incredibly popular and intensely disliked, "Mylo Xyloto" was outsized and overproduced, a helium balloon of an album that existed in a state of peak Coldplay. The band's basic formula—ringing anthems, earnest-but-vague lyrics—was inflated to the point of absurdity.

In its preference for acoustic ballads instead of stadium-ready electro-pop, "Ghost Stories" is a retrenchment, a conscious return to the relative simplicity of the



Coldplay
Ghost Stories (Parlophone Records)

band's debut, "Parachutes." There's a great exercise in Technicolor dubstep-like pop courtesy of Avicii ("A Sky Full of Stars"), but everything else feels like a retreat. It's as if Coldplay has decided they want to be less like U2 in 1991 and more like Coldplay in 2001, as if no time had elapsed, and no real artistic progress had been made, in the years since.

There is less of a sense of puffed-up grandeur than any of the band's recent outings, but grandeur was something Coldplay did well, if too often. Grandeur can cover a multitude of sins. These Spartan songs—elongated, intimate and quiet—lay bare every weakness of melody (Martin used to write superlative ones; he seems to have given up) and songwriting. Lyrically, "Ghost Stories" is

fascinating (in theory, at least) for the same reasons it's so vicariously depressing. This isn't Coldplay's usual conspicuous mopery; this is a public blood-letting. "True Love" is a raw, synth-driven mid-tempo ballad about the disintegration of a relationship, driven by Martin's spectral falsetto ("Tell me you love me/If you don't, then lie"). The similarly themed "Ink," loping and percussive, feels like something Jack Johnson might make if he were British and sad all the time. Its lyrics read like bad "Twilight" fan fiction ("All I know/Is that I'm lost/In your fire below").

Martin is as polarizing a figure in his world as Paltrow is in hers, and "Ghost Stories" humanizes them while still managing to be universal in its reach. Sometimes it does this too much: Martin is a master of lyrical generalities, adept at telegraphing basic emotions—I'm lonely, I'm sad, I'll meet you in the rain, I'll fly away like a bird—but unequal to the deep dive a truly classic breakup album requires.

Still, there has never been such a revealing relationship album written by one celebrity we felt as if we knew about another celebrity we also felt as if we knew, even if its revelations might not all be intentional. This isn't just an album of garment-rendering breakup songs, it's an

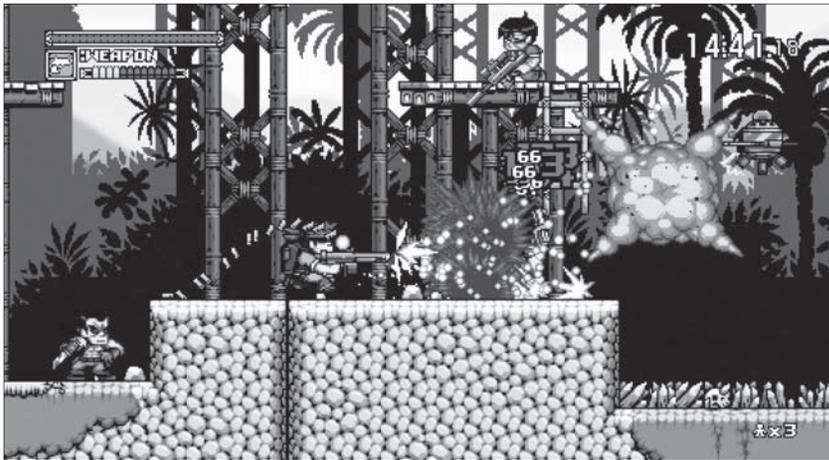
album with giddy newfound love songs. Songs written about someone who clearly isn't Gwyneth Paltrow, by someone who was married to Gwyneth Paltrow at the time.

So it's awkward. "A Sky Full of Stars" ("Cause you get brighter the more it gets dark/I'm gonna give you my heart"), an unofficial sequel to "Yellow," is as anthemic, and is as happy, as things get, which is to say, not very. "Magic" rides the mildest electro pulse imaginable, but it's one of the few tracks that feels like it was made by a band. "Ghost Stories" can come uncomfortably close to resembling a Chris Martin solo album.

With sometime collaborator Brian Eno (he produced the fine "Viva la Vida," and contributed to the tolerable parts of "Mylo Xyloto") absent, and guitarist Jonny Buckland unwisely minimized ("Ghost Stories" belongs to its synth, piano and bass), Martin is left to his own devices. The result is a great premise chained to an album of modest pleasures, its lyrics too ethereal to carry much charge, its melodies too mild to prop them up. As a piece of art, "Ghost Stories" is an exercise in frustrated potential. As a historical document of a celebrity divorce as a slow-motion car crash, it's not much either, but it's the best we have.

—Allison Stewart
Special to The Washington Post

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



MCT

In "Mercenary Kings," players — who are part of a highly skilled team of warriors-for-hire — fight against enemies and rescue hostages.

A throwback to gaming's past

Nostalgic gameplay meets modern sensibilities in 'Mercenary Kings'

By MATT MILLER

Game Informer Magazine

When certain games release, you find yourself wondering why more developers haven't done the same thing before. "Mercenary Kings" is one of those games. While few inherently new ideas are at play in Tribute's latest project, the combined whole is an impressive effort that mixes classic shooting (inspired by games like "Metal Slug" and "Mega Man") and injects some of the customization, storytelling and ancillary mechanics more prevalent in modern games. Whether playing alone or with friends, this massive adventure should keep most players busy for hours.

You are one of the Kings, a mercenary force brought back to life through a secret scientific formula to rid a tropical island of the terrorist threat named CLAW. Before each mission, you wander through camp purchasing first aid kits, equipping new bionic mods and customizing equipment. Once your soldier is up to snuff, you tackle missions that have you rescuing hostages, taking down giant robotic bosses, gathering supplies or infiltrating ancient temples. More than 100 missions are available, but many of these outings see you returning to the same maps again and again. While all of the game's maps are suitably large, it's a grind coming back to the same location the seventh or eighth time.

The level designs and enemy placements are top notch, exhibiting a strong eye for a gradual challenge curve that always keeps players on their toes, whether through tough platforming, challenging baddies or a severe time limit. More than 100 distinct enemy types await your attack, constantly demanding new tactics. The shooting mechanic

feels purposefully stiff, only allowing you to shoot in straight lines up and down or left and right — a direct homage to the games that inspired "Mercenary Kings." Little touches like an active reload system (a la "Gears of War") add a modern touch, forcing you to time your shots and movement to coincide with when bullets remain in your magazine.



While a number of boss models are repeated or show up in only minor variations, they are usually excellent fights. With time and patience, each telegraphs its movements, helping you to gain a sense of mastery. However, I'm not a fan of the odd approach to tracking down a boss. In any given stage, you might need to track your targets to one of several possible locations on the map. If they aren't there, you must run across the stage again to the next location. If they are there, they're usually on a timer, and they flee to the next location before you can finish them off. It's a frustrating mechanic that I could have done without, even though the game provides a couple of ways to work around the issue.

One of the biggest features that sets "Mercenary Kings" apart is its rewarding customization. After acquiring money and materials on missions, you can upgrade your character's armor for more hit points, install new bionic mods that offer effects like faster speed or higher damage, or change your outfit colors. However, the weapon system far outstrips everything else, offering around 300 distinct weapon

pieces that can all be mixed and matched to create an arsenal for any occasion. By the end, you might have a handgun that shoots electric bullets, or a shotgun with a sniper-rifle scope that looks like a trombone.

As I explored Mandragora Island, my admiration for the gorgeous art, animation and music grew. "Mercenary Kings" is a masterpiece of old-school 2-D presentation, filled with clever nods to older games, but with a distinct style to the characters and backgrounds all its own. The evocative chiptune soundtrack matches that look perfectly, and I looked forward to each new area and the character models, environments and music I might find there.

Tribute's shooter holds up well as a solo experience, but the flexibility to play two- to four-player local or online play (but not both at the same time) makes this a great fit for group get-togethers. Since many missions include multiple objectives, it can be fun to work together and decide how best to split up the tasks in order to speed up full completion. After having tried multiple variations of play, the two-player online team-up is my recommendation.

"Mercenary Kings" is a testament to the idea that you can get too much of a good thing. The slick art, old-school shooting and deep customization options are immensely fun, as are the stages that you play through — the first few times. As it is, this style of shooting action feels like it's stretched thin over such a lengthy campaign, and some of the missions might have been more fun if I hadn't already explored the maps so thoroughly. That tedium certainly isn't enough for me to warn people away from such a richly illustrated tribute to the roots of the shooter.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, PC
 Info: mercenarykings.com

'Halo' returns in 2015

By DERRIK J. LANG
 The Associated Press

Master Chief is returning to the battlefield next year.

Microsoft announced plans last week to release the video game sequel "Halo 5: Guardians" for the Xbox One and a "Halo" television series to be produced by Steven Spielberg in fall 2015. The next entry in the sci-fi shooter series starring super-soldier Master Chief will run at 60 frames per second on a new engine created by "Halo" developer 343 Studios.

"Halo 5" will mark the first time a "Halo" game has run at that frame rate, which provides a more realistic sense of motion on screen and increases accuracy for players.

"Halo 5: Guardians" is obviously a big deal for us," said Frank O'Connor, franchise development director at 343. "It's the next chapter in the Master Chief saga. It's also a big deal for us because of the transition to the Xbox One platform. All of the 'Halo' games — more or less — have added something to the Xbox ecosystem."

Bonnie Ross, general manager at 343 Studios, noted that additional plans in the pipeline for the "Halo" franchise would be announced June 9 at Microsoft's presentation at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, the largest annual gathering of the gaming industry.

At last year's E3, Microsoft showed footage featuring a cloaked figure revealed to be Master Chief encountering a bird-like robot in a desert with the words "2014: Your Journey Begins on Xbox One."

"Halo: Combat Evolved" launched in 2001 as the original Xbox and became a cultural sensation, spawning several sequels, spinoffs, novels and comic books set within the game's universe.

"Halo 4," which was released in 2012 for the Xbox 360, smashed entertainment industry records by making \$300 million in its opening week. A live-action digital series, "Forward Unto Dawn," was released alongside "Halo 4." Microsoft previously announced Ridley Scott was executive producing a similar multi-part "Halo" film.

The Xbox One could use a boost from Master Chief. Microsoft Corp. said last month that sales of its latest console had slowed to 1.2 million in the quarter through March, compared to the 3.9 million it sold during the holiday season. The total of 5.1 million was behind the PlayStation 4 in sales of the PlayStation 4 by rival Sony Corp.



Many staff-written game reviews at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“The Monuments Men”: George Clooney’s latest directing effort takes a look at the handful of out-of-shape artisans tasked with saving the great art of Europe stolen by the Nazis during World War II. The film isn’t a masterpiece, but it’s a fitting tribute to the men who put their lives on the line in the name of saving culture. The film is based on a true story, but it takes some artistic license. A simple story about looking for art would have been cerebral if not for the heart this production shows.



COLUMBIA PICTURES/The Washington Post

John Goodman, left, Matt Damon, George Clooney, Bob Balaban and Bill Murray star in the DVD release “The Monuments Men.”

“In Secret”: Director Charlie Straton’s screenplay reflects the scandalous elements of Emile Zola’s original work. The message about the often treacherous path taken because of lust plays in grand moralistic fashion. Unlike a modern screenplay about infidelity, where the consequences are often blunted, Zola’s work embraces the cold and fatalistic view of such improprieties. It’s just the delivery of the elements that fails.

“About Last Night”: Couple deals with the ups and downs of their relationship. Kevin Hart stars. This is not so much a remake of the 1986 “About Last Night...” starring Rob Lowe and Demi Moore, but a return to the source material. David Mamet’s “Sexual Perversity in Chicago.” The film is already striding ahead of most comedies because of the witty and brilliant writing of Mamet. Hart can be a little manic, but in this case that energy works because Regina Hall matches him beat for beat. This movie would have been just as entertaining had it focused on them. Having two solid star lines that work in such harmony is a rare find.

“Pompeii”: Slave turned invincible gladiator who finds himself in a race against time to save his true love. Director Paul W.S. Anderson fails because his story of the love between Milo (Kit Harrington), a slave turned gladiator, and his wife, spirited Cassia (Emily Browning), the daughter of a wealthy merchant, has all the exposiveness of a high school volcano science project.

Also new on DVD:

“3 Days to Kill”: Dying hired assassin agrees to one more job. Kevin Costner stars.

“All the Men in the Moon”: The midwives search for a new location.

“Mountain Men: Season 2”: Tom Oar, Rich Lewis, Eustace Conway, Marty Merotto and Charlie Tucker confront menacing elements.

“Nosferatu the Vampire”: Werner Herzog’s 1979 film is now on Blu-ray.

“Marital Arts Two-Week Marathon”: The two-disc collection features “Manchu Boxer” (1974) and “The Association” (1975).

“Garage Sale Mystery”: A woman who goes to garage sales finds a link to a friend’s murder.

“Duck Dynasty: The Duck Days of Summer”: Includes a trip by the Robertson family to Hawaii.

“Waking the Dead”: Detective Superintendent Peter Boyd (Trevor Eve) and his team tackle more cold cases.

“Amish Mafia: Season One”: Introduces viewers to the Amish Mafia.

“The First World War: The Complete Series”: Ten-part series based on the book by Hew Strachan.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



CBS/AP

Jess Weider, left, Matt Czuchy and Julianna Margulies star on “The Good Wife.” The latest season of the drama wrapped up May 19 on AFN-Prime.

The Good Show

Series goes its own way as refreshing drama

By FRAZIER MOORE
The Associated Press

Considering TV’s tradition of copying what works, then copying those copies, it says a lot that no show rips off “The Good Wife.”

Or dares to try. A whip-smart blend of workplace derring-do and domestic melodrama, this CBS series has kept safe distance from TV’s echo chamber, immune to a discernible formula or gimmick. It manages to stay both mainstream and offbeat. A neat trick.

“The Good Wife” has replenished the stripped-bare legal-drama genre with complex storylines that employ human relationships as much as courtroom brinkmanship. It is often funny yet never less than gripping as it forgoes (with the rarest exceptions) screeching tires, fisticuffs and gunplay.

Oh, sure, lawyer Will Gardner was gunned down in a March episode that narratively served the wishes of Josh Charles, who played him, to depart. But this weariest of legal-drama tropes (a

courthouse shooting!) rocked the audience as much as it did Will’s associates. No wonder: It was so unexpected for “The Good Wife” to shed blood.

Despite fans’ sorrow at losing Will, “The Good Wife” remains bursting with great characters played by a stellar troupe including Christine Baranski, Archie Panjabi, Matt Czuchy and Alan Cumming, aided by a bounty of guest stars that currently includes Michael J. Fox in a delicious story arc.

They are led by Julianna Margulies, who plays the titular protagonist, Alicia Florrick — a stay-at-home mother and former Chicago attorney forced to go back to work at the start of the series after a sex-and-corruption scandal sent her Cook County State’s Attorney husband (Chris Noth) to jail.

Back in September 2009, this seemed a juicy premise. But marital betrayal with a good-wife-as-victim was only the stepping-off point.

“We knew that Alicia should confront that initial crisis, but then grow and change,” says Michelle King, who, with her husband Robert King, created the

series. “We wanted to follow that trajectory and see her strengths develop, not just live in a world of infidelity and its aftermath.”

The untimely death of Will, Alicia’s former colleague and heartthrob, has given the show a creative jolt, a stirring overlay to its tangled litigation and office intrigue. But life goes on.

“On the show, we try to imitate as much as possible the life most of us are familiar with,” says Robert King. “In your office every day, you’re not dealing with dragon slayers, you’re dealing with people metaphorically stabbing you in the back.”

As a show that relies on words and ideas over flash and dash, “The Good Wife” more closely resembles certain boutique cable series such as “Mad Men” than the slate of procedurals CBS dines out on. But the Kings say the network has supported them in their resistance to a copycat approach.

“CBS has given us so much rope,” says Robert King. “It’s amazing we haven’t hung ourselves three or four times over.”

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WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

‘Bodies of Adonis and a garbage mouth’

Poor dental health of Olympians attributed to sugary energy drinks, frequent meals

By JOHN LEICESTER
The Associated Press

Faster, higher, stronger they may be, but Olympians wouldn't win many medals in a contest of dental health. Behind their buffed physiques lurks a dentist's nightmare.

"They have bodies of Adonis and a garbage mouth," says Paul Piccininni. As dental director for the International Olympic Committee, Piccininni is intimately familiar with the broken teeth, abscesses, decay and other dental issues that force hundreds of Olympians into dentists' chairs at every games.

Among them: Michael Jordan. At the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, where basketball's superstar in the making was top scorer on the gold medal-winning U.S. team, Jordan "had a significant dental problem that could have kept him out of a game," Piccininni told The Associated Press in an interview.

The AP sent Jordan a phone text message to ask about the tooth issue, but he didn't respond. Piccininni, bound by medical secrecy requirements, also wouldn't give details.

"I know, but I shouldn't say," Piccininni said. "We've seen the best of the best."

Honing their bodies through intense physical effort, athletes refuel with energy drinks, gels and bars and frequent meals, which teeth don't like. Dehydration from sweating can also cut the production of saliva needed to regenerate tooth enamel.

Some rowers, for example, have "huge amounts of decay" because they're training in boats for hours at a time, refueling with teeth-eroding acidic, sugary drinks, said Tony Clough, who set up the dental clinic for Olympians at the 2012 London Games. Located in the athletes' village, it had 30 dentists and 1,900 visits.

"We had patients coming in at 10:30 at night to have root canals and things like that," said Clough.

A study that looked at 278 of the clinic's visitors found 55 percent had cavities and three quarters diseased gums, mostly gingivitis but also 15 percent with more serious periodontitis. One-quarter said dental problems affected their quality of life. The British Journal of Sports Medicine published the study last September.

"The oral health of athletes is worse than the oral health of the general population," Piccininni said. "Considerably worse."

An abscessed lower-left wisdom tooth threatened to keep British rower Alan Campbell from the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The infection spread to his shoulder, back and eventually settled in his right knee, requiring surgery two months before the games and ruining his training. He placed fifth in the Olympic single-sculls final and feels "I certainly would have gone to drink water rather than sugary drinks, is "more aware of how important dental hygiene is to me and my body" and "if I thought I had any problems I would just have a tooth removed."

"I'm not saying someone with perfect teeth is going to beat Usain Bolt," Campbell said in a phone interview with the AP. "But if you're a professional athlete versus myself with bad dental hygiene: The



ILLUSTRATION BY BEV SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

According to Paul Piccininni, dental director for the International Olympic Committee, the oral health of athletes is considerably worse than the oral health of the general population.

version of me with good dental hygiene will be the one that comes out on top, I'm certain of it."

Generally, teeth are most at risk among people aged 16-25, when they fly the family nest, perhaps party more and brush less, Clough said. That's also the age group of many Olympians, which helps explain why so many have problem teeth. But other suspected causes appear more athlete-specific. Frequent travel for competition or training can get in the way of regular dental check-ups. The wear of long flights might also be a factor, because dental dentists see "a huge big leap" in dental infections in the first week of the games, said Clough.

Clenching teeth during strenuous activity can also grind them down.

"You could land the Space Shuttle" on some athletes' teeth, said Piccininni. "Flat as a pancake. They have worn it down so much."

Rowers breathe up to 80 times a minute in competition, and burn through 6,000 calories and eat five times a day, Campbell noted.

"A lot of pressure is going through the mouth," he said. At the Athens Olympics in 2004, "I was grinding my teeth in my sleep and I was waking up with a very sore jaw and sore teeth as well and I had a special gum-shield to wear at night to sleep with."

"That was the stress. It was my first Olympics. I was quite young. I was 21. I think I was feeling the pressure," he said.

The 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic clinic will have eight dental chairs, X-ray ma-

chines, root canal specialists and surgical facilities. There will be full-time dentists at hockey, rugby and basketball games for any injuries. The clinic will also distribute mouth guards.

They handed out 350 in London and 150 at the Sochi Olympics in February, including to four Austrian ice hockey players after a teammate lost a tooth in their first game.

Treatment is free. Some Olympians "know they've had a dental problem for three weeks or a month or three months, but they know if they can hold off until they get to the games they get it treated for free," Piccininni said.

"That's fine. That's one of the reasons that we're there, is because athletes don't have the financial resources."

WEEKEND: FAMILY

By LOLLY BOWEN
Chicago Tribune

The catered spread of classic American comfort foods had been set up, the space was dotted with bluish pink and gray balloons, and the bright red carpet had been properly placed at the beginning of the walkway. The photographer was there, the chairs were carefully arranged, and the DJ was playing a mix of soul and hip-hop music.

Te'airah Gaylord was a bundle of nerves as she rushed to get dressed for the prom, staying hidden away, yet keeping a watchful eye on the arrangements.

But the extensive spread wasn't for the actual prom — it was Gaylord's extravagant "send-off" before the real event.

"It will be a fabulous celebration, and it's going to be fun and exciting," said Gaylord, 17, a senior at Notre Dame High School for Girls in Chicago. "I am going to the prom. I want to make sure everybody comes and sends me off."

In Chicago's African-American community, a burgeoning, unique ritual now accompanies the annual spring of a flamboyant pre-event gathering called "the send-off."



Te'airah Gaylord and Raymond Solomon make their red carpet entrance at her pre-prom send-off.

BRIAN CASSELLA
CHICAGO TRIBUNE/MCT

Red-carpet ready

Teens get royal treatment at prom 'send-off'

Here, friends, family, community leaders and residents greet and celebrate teenagers just before they depart for their school-sponsored parties. Mounting in popularity — and extravagance — in recent years, in most cases the send-offs are bigger and more important than the prom. Especially to the adults.

Hundreds of former prom-goers will crowd in their relatives' houses and yards and along their blocks to celebrate and party. There is live music, food and sometimes a dress code. The adults and friends stand together and take pictures and cheer as the students emerge in their formal wear.

Then they spend an hour or so mingling with the teenagers before the students depart for the formal event. Some of the guests will stay for hours after, reminiscing about the proms of their youth.

For many African-Americans in Chicago, prom gives them an opportunity to create a cultural custom that didn't exist before, said Kay McCrimmon, assistant director of the African-American Cultural Center at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"For such a long time, African-Americans didn't recognize or go to prom. But in the 1960s, we started getting excited about it," McCrimmon said. "There are not a lot of things we get to cel-

ebrate in a big and elaborate way. The prom ceremonies gave us a way to highlight family and pass over our children."

While the send-offs acknowledge the students, they are actually designed for adults, she said.

"After the kids leave for prom, the party continues," McCrimmon said. "You play cards, eat and drink. People laugh and tell stories about their own proms."

On Te'airah Gaylord's big day, May 2, family and friends were scrambling to pull everything together at their Chicago home.

When the DJ began playing old-school soul music, as requested by Gaylord's grandmother, her older brother intervened and demanded more modern sounds.

"Te'airah's got a playlist, Grandma," the boy said with authority. "Today is her day."

Te'airah needed help getting dressed and touching up makeup that had been applied by a professional artist. Finally, the teen emerged from the house to Beyoncé's "Flawless."

She paused to give everyone a chance to take a good look at her. Then she and her date walked hand in hand down her red carpet.

"To the world, this is just one day. But for me, it's everything," the teen said. "The prom is little. My party is so much bigger."

SPOUSE CALLS

Foundation empowers military caregivers

Elizabeth Dole — former U.S. senator and presidential cabinet member twice over — and her husband, Robert Dole — longtime veteran of both houses of Congress and two presidential tickets — could be called a Republican power couple.

However, their latest efforts bridge the gap between red and blue politics with a red, white and blue cause. The National Coalition for Military Caregivers was launched this year by Caring for Military Families: Elizabeth Dole Foundation.

"Everyone is so willing to help," said Elizabeth Dole. "We are very much a bipartisan organization, and it's a joy to work with people who are friends on both sides of the aisle, and the White House."

Working alongside first lady Michelle Obama's Joining Forces initiative, Dole's coalition has enlisted labor and business leaders, nonprofits and faith groups to engineer a nationwide network of support for caregivers of wounded warriors.

Dole's inspiration for what she calls her "mission" is as personal as it is patriotic. Her husband was severely wounded in WWII, suffering injuries that have affected him throughout his life. A long stay in 2010 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., introduced the Doles to many post-9/11 veterans.

"Bob was hospitalized for almost 11 months at Walter Reed, so I spent a great deal of time there," Elizabeth Dole said. "I got to know the wounded warriors and some of their caregivers, who often were young spouses, or sometimes mothers and fathers."

She said getting to know other patients and their families opened her eyes to the obstacles facing those caregivers, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation arose from a desire to help them overcome.

Through her foundation, Dole commissioned a Rand Corporation study of the caregiver population in the U.S. Among other findings, the two-year study discovered that of 5.5 million caregivers in the U.S., 1.1 million are caring for veterans of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars. This group is younger than the rest of the caregiver population and less likely to have a support network, according to the study.

"Isolation was certainly one strong part of the Rand findings," Dole said. "Also the legal and financial challenges ... Many (military caregivers) have no health care, so their own health often has been impacted."

Dole said she was surprised the research showed a majority of these caregivers were also in the workforce. "They have to be because of the expenses of caregiving, and some are now their family's breadwinners," she said. "And they're raising children, many of them."

After the study, the launch of the National Coalition of Military Caregivers was the next logical step. Dole said she envisions a network of support for wounded warriors and caregivers that will include efforts from government, private companies, nonprofit organizations, labor organizations and the faith community.

Although her initiative is focused on the caregivers of wounded warriors, Dole said families with special-needs children could also benefit from the coalition.

"Many of the initiatives are meant to reduce stress and strain for the entire family and ease efforts to provide support, I think, will be helpful for parents of special-needs children, like respite care, like financial planning."

The Elizabeth Dole Fellows Program is another outreach. Fifty caregivers of wounded warriors — one from each state — represent fellow caregivers in their states and advise the foundation.

The Dole foundation's work has natural connections to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and Dole expressed concern over the recent news about mismanagement at VA hospitals around the country.

She called VA Secretary Eric Shinewski "an honorable man with a great background in the military," but said he leads an agency with longtime systemic issues that must be addressed.

"When you think about people who've been placed in harm's way and who are defending our freedom and our security, there's a special responsibility that we have to them," she said. "So it's very important to get these matters resolved, and the spotlight is on it now."

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

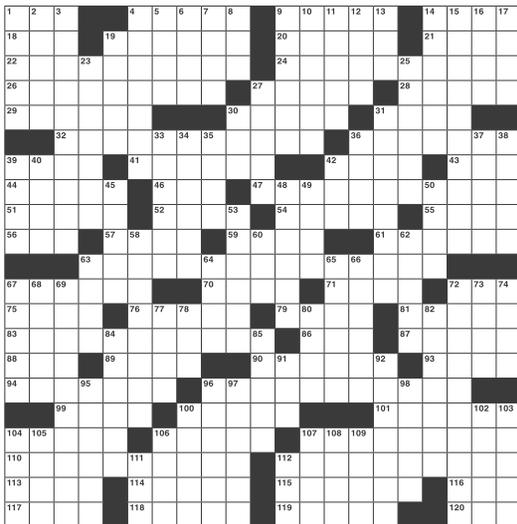
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

OH, WHO?

BY JOE DIPIETRO / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
52 Nodules
1 Pat
4 Nosed around
9 Univ. divisions
14 Early third-century year
18 Univ. in Troy, N.Y.
19 Quarter back, possibly
20 Like some workers
21 Edison's middle name
22 Irish chemist?
24 Irish arborist?
26 Harvey of Hollywood
27 China's Zhou ___
28 How pastrami is usually ordered
29 Serenaded
30 "Scary Movie," for one
31 Love letters?
32 Irish secretary?
36 Targets for a delivery
39 One may take you in
41 Mists
42 Bird on a Canadian dollar
43 All-human bridge?
44 Barely bite
46 When the day's done, to Domne
47 Irish algebra teacher?
51 Missile Command maker
52 Nodules
54 Big name in restaurant reviews
55 "Hard ___" (nautical command)
56 Digs of pigs
57 When the day's done, to Denis
59 End of a game?
61 Long, angry complaint
63 Irish woodworker?
67 Lie
70 Part of a dishwasher
71 California county or its seat
72 Beat
75 Jack-in-the-pulpit, e.g.
76 Finger-pointer
79 ___ City (Baghdad area)
81 Lie
83 Irish mountain climber?
86 Family nickname
87 Canadian blockhead
88 Suffix with zodiac
89 Victory god
90 Set crowd, maybe
93 Where the Storting meets
94 Light reddish-brown horses
96 Irish dogsled racer?
99 1979 Roman
Polanski film
100 Places for fuel
101 Places for panels
104 Fall shade
106 Some investment bonds, for short
107 Band with the 1974 No. 1 hit "The Night Chicago Died"
110 Irish health care worker?
112 Irish painter?
113 Do sometimes called a "natural"
114 Support
115 "So true"
116 Yard filler, maybe
117 Snorkeling locale
118 Director von Sternberg
119 Put up with
120 "___ not!"
DOWN
1 Ties
2 Problem in bed, for some
3 Like some bands with only modest Western popularity
4 Light quanta
5 Burning sensation?
6 Calvary inscription
7 Richard of "A Summer Place"
8 ___ Bums (Brooklyn Dodgers nickname)
9 Suddenly strike
10 Novel ending
11 Rice dish
12 Anklesomes
13 ___ Caps (candy)
14 Steal, as a vehicle
15 Chaucer work that invokes the book of Job, with "The"
16 Tony-winning actress Judith
17 Still-life subject
19 Jai alai basket
23 ___ Johansson, 1959-60 world heavyweight champion
25 AAA service
27 Protestant denom.
30 One who bugs people?
31 Riddles with bullets
33 Christmas Day urging
34 Compact
35 Positive principle
36 Versatile bean
37 Pith helmet
38 Voiced some pleasure
39 Breeze
40 Quote
42 Advantage, with "up"
45 "Tony ___ Wedding"
48 Springfield Plateau area
49 Pour
50 Numismatist's classification
53 Preinstalled iPhone browser
58 Setting set
60 Montreal suburb
62 Hard drive malfunction
63 Pear or quince
64 Utah city
65 One of the Gandhis
66 Foot bone
67 Indian princesses
82 Got sick
84 "I'll be right with you"
85 Some distance races
86 Marks (out)
92 Depressed-looking
95 Cover with new shingles
96 She married Bobby on "The Sopranos"
80 About
81 About
82 About
83 About
84 About
85 About
86 About
87 About
88 About
89 About
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91 About
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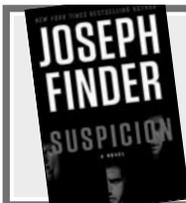
- 68 Orphic hymn charmer
69 "Let's shake!"
72 Prepare the first course, say
73 Pitcher Hershey
74 Lighting expert?
77 "Great" birds
78 Marie Curie, e.g.: Abbr.
80 About
81 About
82 Got sick
84 "I'll be right with you"
85 Some distance races
86 Marks (out)
92 Depressed-looking
95 Cover with new shingles
96 She married Bobby on "The Sopranos"
97 Social welfare org.
98 Eastern wrap. Var.
100 Bonito relatives
102 Possible water contaminator
103 Tailored
104 Barbra's "Funny Girl" co-star
105 ___ noir
106 "The Hunter (Catalan Landscapes)" painter
107 Fertilizer ingredient
108 Bit of stagnant water growth
109 Lucrative Internet biz
111 War on Poverty prez
112 What can open files?

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit http://gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Single dad Danny Goodman finds himself unable to afford the private school his teenage daughter adores and accepts a loan that brings the DEA into his life and leads to an impossible choice: indictment for accepting drug money or an unthinkable treacherous undercover assignment.

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FACES



JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP

Caleb Johnson won the 13th season of "American Idol" on Wednesday.

'American Idol' crowns champ

The Associated Press

Big-voiced rocker Caleb Johnson is the season 13 "American Idol," winning the title over teenage pop singer Jena Irene. "This is crazy," Johnson said after host Ryan Seacrest announced the TV audience's decision on Wednesday's season finale of the Fox contest.

Johnson, 23, of Asheville, N.C., and Irene, 17, of Farmington Hills, Mich., told each other "you da bomb" before the result was revealed. Runner-up Irene is getting a consolation prize: The two competitors and friends are set to attend her high school prom, Seacrest said.

Johnson's win came on the strength of his renditions Tuesday of "Dream On," "Maybe I'm Amazed" and "As Long as You Love Me," intended as his first single. Irene sang "Dog Days Are Over," "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "We Are One." Johnson is to receive a recording contract as this season's champion.

Filming begins in Detroit

Warner Bros. Pictures says filming has started in Detroit for "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," starring Henry Cavill, reprising his role as Clark Kent/Superman, and Ben Affleck as Bruce Wayne/Batman.

The studio said Wednesday the action feature directed by Zack Snyder will also star Israeli porn actress Gal Gadot as Diana Prince/Wonder Woman; Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor; Jeremy Irons as Alfred, Wayne's loyal guardian; and Holly Hunter in a newly created role.

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," with additional shooting locations in Illinois, Africa and the South Pacific, is set for release on May 6, 2016.

Fans to get chance at cameo

"Star Wars: Episode VII" director J.J. Abrams is giving fans a shot at a cameo in the film that's set to be released next year. Disney, Lucasfilm and Bad Robot have teamed up for a campaign to raise funds for UNICEF. Abrams announced the initiative in a video from the set of the movie in Abu Dhabi. For every \$10 donation at Omaze.com/StarWars, contributors will become eligible to appear in the film when it shoots in London. The campaign runs until 11:59 p.m. PDT on July 18.

King to perform at rally

Songwriter and singer Carole King is scheduled to perform at an Idaho rally for a U.S. soldier held captive by the Taliban since 2009. The Idaho Mountain Express reported Wednesday that King, whose hits include "You've Got a Friend," will perform for free in Hailey on June 28 at the event intended to raise awareness for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl. The 28-year-old Bergdahl is from Hailey and is the only American held captive in the Afghan war.

WHEN CELEBS WED

Lavish events the norm for big-name sweethearts

By ELAINE GANLEY/The Associated Press

As Romeo said: "My bounty is as boundless as the sea ... the more I give to thee, the more I have." His modern-day counterparts — the kind with deep pockets — are going all out to offer extravagant, star-studded weddings to their own Juliets.

Hip-hop star Kanye West might uphold glam-set tradition this week with a wedding to TV reality star Kim Kardashian. The office of the mayor of Florence and the Chateau de Versailles say the couple will celebrate in palatial, centuries-old venues in Italy and France. The potential bride and groom, however,

are staying mum. It would be the first marriage for him, the third for her.

Despite the hype preceding celebrity wedding vows, the special moment and the after-parties are often locked in secrecy, with photographs going exclusively to the highest bidder.

And love itself is often less immortal than Shakespeare had in mind. Kardashian's second marriage to basketball star Kris Humphries lasted 72 days.

A look at some of the more glamorous celebrity weddings of late:



THE FANTASY: Eva Longoria-Tony Parker

Eva Longoria, who found fame on the TV soap "Desperate Housewives," and NBA star Tony Parker married in 2007 at a Paris church that was once frequented by royalty. It was stage two of a weekend extravaganza — all hidden from view, even by umbrellas at the church. Stage one was a civil ceremony conducted by then-Paris Mayor Bertrand Delanoë. The Baroque 17th-century Vaux-le-Vicomte chateau near Paris opened its gates for the grand finale where guests swept across its marble-floored ballroom. The couple divorced in 2011.



THE NEVER-ENDING KISS: Katie Holmes-Tom Cruise

Tom Cruise arrived for his 2006 wedding at a 15th-century Italian castle accompanied by flag bearers in medieval costumes as he walked down a stone ramp, drums rolling. Bride Katie Holmes wore Armani and the designer was among the guests in Bracciano outside Rome, along with Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez, Jim Carrey and Victoria Beckham. Italian singer Andrea Bocelli serenaded the couple, and fireworks lit the sky. Despite the lavish accoutrements, the couple exchanged vows in a former stable decorated with white flowers in a Scientology ceremony. Then came their "never-ending kiss" — so long that guests shouted for them to stop, Giorgio Armani recounted later. The couple divorced in 2012.



THE FAIRY TALE: Liz Hurley-Arun Nayar

The wedding of actress-model Liz Hurley and businessman Arun Nayar began in Britain and moved through several cities in India over six days. The blessing and party in 2007 at Sudley Castle west of London drew the likes of Elton John, arriving by helicopter, Kate Moss and actor Hugh Grant. Hurley's ex from there the wedding moved to Mumbai for celebrations that ended at the Maharaja of Jodhpur's palace for a traditional Hindu ceremony, some 60 guests in tow. Secrecy was so tight that guests' cellphones were banned, the *Hindustan Times* newspaper reported. The couple divorced in 2011.

THE TV MARRIAGE: Kim Kardashian-Kris Humphries

There were few secrets about the Kardashian-Humphries marriage in August 2011: It was televised. Fans had to wait until October to see the two-part special on E!, but the Kardashians posted a stream of updates on their blogs and websites. Among the 440 guests at the California wedding were boxing champ Sugar Ray Leonard, Lindsay Lohan and Eva Longoria.



THREE'S A CHARM: Kim Kardashian-Kanye West

After two divorces, that might be the logic for 33-year-old Kardashian, who has a daughter, named North, with the 36-year-old West. The couple, Kardashian family in tow, is in Paris this week, shopping at Givency.

Their expected wedding pre-party could be lavish enough for a Sun King. The Chateau de Versailles — former digs of King Louis XIV — says the couple are hosting guests there Friday evening on a private visit. Kardashian's spokeswoman Ina Treickos called the Versailles statement "a fabrication" and wouldn't comment further on possible wedding plans.

But the Florence mayor's office says they'll marry Saturday at the imposing 16th-century Belvedere Fort, next to the city's famed Boboli Gardens. A spokeswoman says they rented the fort for about \$410,000, and a Protestant minister will preside.

The couple's silence has raised questions. Is this a calculated strategy to raise the all-important celebrity wedding buzz? Or are they just having so much fun in Paris that they've forgotten the worldwide publicity machine?

Time to wait and see.



AP photos

Kim Kardashian and Kanye West will wed and host a reception at Florence's Belvedere Fort on May 24, a spokeswoman at the Florence, Italy, mayor's office said. Located near the Arno River, it offers a view of Florence and the Tuscan hills.

STARS AND STRIPES

OPINION

Obama late again in VA controversy

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BY CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

Once again, a management mess. Once again, the White House says an angry president vows to fix things.

And once again, that vow comes more than a little late, creating another political problem for Barack Obama.

The president's initial reaction to reports that Veterans Affairs officials covered up that perhaps two dozen veterans died because of delays in getting appointments was strikingly similar to his initial comments after last fall's disastrous Affordable Care Act rollout.

In both cases, the White House bureaucracy reacted similarly, assigning a top staffer to supervise fact-finding and corrective efforts.

But Obama shifted gears Wednesday, clearly recognizing that he needs to do more to try to assure Americans that he is on top of the situation. Stepping before the cameras after meeting with embattled Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki, he declared, "I won't stand for" misconduct, and he vowed that if it's found, "it will be punished."

Obama rejected any housecleaning, such as firing Shinseki, until there's a full review of the facts. But he pointedly limited his praise of the secretary to saying several times that "nobody cares more about our veterans than Eric Shinseki," while stressing that he expects accountability and prompt corrective steps.

It's more than troubling that, after five years in office, Obama once again took weeks before acknowledging an administration management problem, an indication that the White House still has not fixed the failures that have plagued it all the way back to the unveiling of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, a.k.a. the stimulus.

It's easy to blame much of this on Obama's lack of management experience. While his 2008 campaign was marked by administrative efficiency, that's been lacking in his White House, in part because of his own failure to follow up after he delegates responsibility to others.

BY CATHERINE RAMPPELL

The Washington Post

Many women are not sufficiently full of themselves. But let's not coach them to be full of something else, either.

Read the rash of corporate self-help books and articles lately unleashed upon the world's white-collar women — like "The Confidence Code" and "Lean In" — and you'll learn that there is a yawning "confidence gap" between the sexes.

Among the alarming symptoms and evidence: In an anonymous political opinion poll, women are more likely than men to say "I don't know" when pressed for a view on something about which we actually know quite a bit.

When we do express opinions, we too often apologize for or prematurely disclaim them ... or intimate that we're asking questions rather than statements. We don't throw our bonnets into



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Barack Obama speaks in the White House on Wednesday following his meeting with Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki.

Exhibit No. 1, of course, is the Affordable Care Act. From the onset of last October's launch, the computer system created by the Department of Health and Human Services suffered from repeated breakdowns and complicated procedures that were difficult to navigate.

More than three weeks passed before Obama addressed the situation publicly, declaring, "Nobody's madder than me about the fact that the website isn't working as well as it should, which means it's going to get fixed."

White House budget official Jeffrey Zients was delegated to oversee a crash corrective effort, but none of the responsible officials were initially replaced. (Some departed subsequently, and HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius resigned six months later.)

To Obama's credit, Zients fixed the problem. By mid-April, more than 8 million people had enrolled in the health program, well above earlier forecasts.

More recently, reports surfaced that Veterans Affairs Department officials may have covered up possibly deadly delays in treatment at the VA facility in Phoenix and elsewhere.

On CBS' "Face the Nation" on Sunday, White House chief of staff Denis McDonough said Obama is "madder than hell, and I've got the staff to prove it" from meetings discussing the problem. "We're

going to get to the bottom of those things, fix them and ensure that they don't happen again," he said.

The White House named deputy chief of staff Rob Nabors to oversee the effort. But after meeting Wednesday with Shinseki and Nabors, Obama himself addressed the issue, vowing to fix the situation while contending that his administration has made progress over the past five years in cutting average patient waiting times in half.

Taking a methodical rather than a more urgent approach will hardly satisfy administration critics, especially veterans groups and lawmakers who have called for Shinseki's resignation. "We haven't seen that quick proactive vs. reactive culture change we'd like to see," American Legion commander Daniel Dellinger said on "Face the Nation."

Meanwhile, there still seems to be substantial dispute over how many veterans died while awaiting treatment in Phoenix and at least seven other facilities. Whatever the number, it's too high.

On Wednesday, Obama showed an understanding that he needs to do more than be "madder than hell" about longstanding problems. Few would be surprised if, sooner rather than later, that includes Shinseki's departure.

Leubsdorf is the former Washington bureau chief of the Dallas Morning News.

Maybe it's time that women learn to swagger

the ring for promotions and raises for which we're surely qualified, whereas men toss in their cowboy hats even when their own credentials appear comically deficient.

The self-assurance deficit reinforces the glass ceiling because confidence seems to help people perform better on certain tasks — and, perhaps more important, swagger leads others to perceive us as more competent. One study that asked business school students about imaginary historical people and events ... found that those who feigned familiarity with the fictional figures achieved the highest social status among peers.

These are familiar, broad-brush gender stereotypes, of course, often undermined by tiny lab experiments conducted on callow university students or by corporate surveys administered with little outside scrutiny. But many of them ring true to me — both as a young woman with brilliant and accomplished but perpetually self-doubting girlfriends and as an opinion journalist. (Op-ed pages are often criticized for their dearth of female voices, but the gender imbalance is because men are much more likely to submit unsolicited guest columns and to accept direct invitations to write.)

So sure, whether because of biology or socialization, women are underselling them-

selves, and could stand to be a little more self-promotional. Still, it's not clear to me why this so-called "confidence gap" has been framed exclusively as a woman's problem or why the optimal solution is for women to ape the men with whom they compete.

Those very same studies that show women to be underconfident often show men to be overconfident. "The Confidence Code" cites one Columbia Business School study documenting that men typically rate their performance 30 percent better than it actually is. A survey released last week by YouGov found that, when asked to compare their own intelligence to that of the "average American," about a quarter of men declared themselves "much more intelligent," vs. just 15 percent of women. Lake Wobegon, it seems, is brimming with testosterone.

In short, men seem much more willing to be blowhards than women are — during dinner parties, at the office, on anonymous phone surveys and in the nation's fine-op-ed pages. And as long as both employers and peers continue to conflate bluster with aptitude and to reward bombast with respect and job promotions, the only way women can successfully compete with men is to be not just more confident but overconfident on everything they do, too.

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.

Racism and sexism

The (New Jersey) Star-Ledger
Now and then, we choose the most convenient prism through which to view our most serious social problems, however superficial, because it comes packaged in equal doses of celebrity and infamy.

There is a drug crisis in most states, but it hardly registers until Rob Ford's drooling visage fills the TV screen or Philip Seymour Hoffman drops dead. This country has a mass shooting problem, with 4,500 dead and 19,600 more bleeding on ER tables so far this year, but the world doesn't notice until Placido Domingo puts a hole in his own thigh. We cannot educate children in many cities, but the tragedy goes unnoticed until some altruistic billionaire drops \$100 million on Newark.

So now there is fresh dialogue about racism and sexism, spilling into the mainstream media with an incoherent shove from Donald Sterling and Jill Abramson. But to discuss either as a cause célèbre is to trivialize the real issues.

Abramson, a journalist as subtle as a blowtorch, was accused of unspecified acts of brusque behavior, committed among the princely hierarchy at The New York Times. But the theme here is the political culture that was muted the moment the U.S. Senate blocked a vote last month, and about having the worst maternity leave policy in the world.

Indeed, Abramson might be a sympathizer figure. But gender justice isn't so much about an executive making \$450,000 as it is about the culture of our political culture that was muted the moment the U.S. Senate blocked a vote last month, and about having the worst maternity leave policy in the world.

Moreover, racism isn't merely the purview of dotty old men such as Sterling. Racism is common in our political culture — not only in Cliven Bundy's America, but in the institutional marginalization of minorities by our courts and our laws, which conspire to produce segregated schools and voting restrictions and countless wars waged on the poor.

Theologian Paul Tillich said if we don't develop a keener eye for racism or sexism or homophobia, and address them only when the news cycle gives us no other choice, we're mistaking moralism for morality. The real systemic sins are hiding inside the latter. Yet the cycle spins on.

China's hacking Orange County (Calif.) Register

Actor Claude Rains is perhaps best known for his role as Capt. Louis Renault in the 1942 film "Casablanca." In a memorable scene, he orders a popular cafe shut down on orders from his German overseers.

"How can you close me up? On what grounds?" asks the cafe owner, played by Humphrey Bogart. To which Renault replies, "I'm shocked, shocked, to find that gambling is going on here."

Just then, a crowing hands Renault a pile of money. "Your winners, sir," he tells him. To which Renault replies, not the least bit sheepishly, "Thank you very much."

We were reminded of this scene Monday when the U.S. Department of Justice indicted five members of the Chinese military on charges of hacking the computers of five U.S. companies: Westinghouse Electric, Alcoa, Allegheny Technologies Incorporated, U.S. Steel and SolarWorld.

Attorney General Eric Holder declared himself shocked, shocked that Beijing would stoop to such cyberespionage. He vowed



A Russian space agency rescue team helps Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin off the capsule of the Russian Soyuz TMA-11 module shortly after its landing in Kazakhstan May 14 after a half-year mission to the International Space Station. Russia's deputy prime minister said last week that his country wouldn't cooperate with the United States on the International Space Station beyond 2020.

that the U.S. "will not tolerate actions by any nation that seeks to illegally sabotage American companies and undermine the integrity of fair competition in the operation of the free market."

We imagine that John Chambers, CEO of Cisco Systems, the network equipment company, must feel a little like the cafe owner in "Casablanca."

Indeed, while the Obama administration has decided to crack down on China's alleged hacking, it has not responded in a meaningful way to recent revelations that the National Security Agency has secretly installed surveillance technology in servers and networking gear — including products made by Cisco.

In a letter Thursday to President Barack Obama, Chambers reports that the NSA actually has intercepted IT equipment in transit from manufacturers to customers. Those reports also included a photograph of a Cisco product being modified.

Cisco's CEO warns that the actions of the NSA, actually sanctioned by the Obama administration, have undermined confidence in the U.S. technology.

"This confidence is eroded," he wrote the president, "by revelations of governments' surveillance, government demands that make it difficult for companies to meet privacy expectations of citizens and laws of other countries, and allegations that governments exploit, rather than report, security vulnerabilities."

That erosion of confidence has already hurt U.S. companies, like Cisco, doing business in foreign markets.

International Space Station (Biloxi, Miss.) Sun Herald

If you want to see the price of our dysfunctional government, just look up — up toward the International Space Station.

It once was a symbol of international cooperation, but it is now caught in a web of intrigue that threatens its existence. The United States, having shut down the space shuttle, the only craft it had capable of taking astronauts to and from the space station,

is now at the mercy of Russia, which is taking advantage of that situation.

We have a single seat on each flight of a Russian craft — at a cost of \$71 million per trip. Only one-third of the crew at the station at any given time is American, even though the U.S. paid for most of the station's \$140 million price tag.

There is plenty of blame to spread around. President George W. Bush got things started when he decided in 2004 that NASA's mission should be a return to the moon and space colonization. That plan retired the shuttle in favor of building deep space rockets.

That left a gap between the end of the shuttle program and the launch of new craft capable of carrying people into space.

When Barack Obama became president he decided we needed a quicker way for ferry astronauts to the station and left it up to commercial interests to figure out how to do it.

Congress balked and underfunded the commercial program, which means the first flight will be in 2017, not 2015 as Obama envisioned. Not the best solution but a workable plan — until Russia annexed Crimea. In the tit-for-tat that followed, the Russians threatened to pull the plug on the Space Station by 2020. That would seem to make it even more urgent to get these commercial flights — flights that Stennis Space Center could play a big role in — as soon as possible.

We shouldn't have to rely on Russia, an unreliable "partner" at best and a country that doesn't seem to be seeing us as much of an ally in its ambitions.

And we shouldn't be playing politics with an investment of more than \$100 billion.

U.S. Export-Import Bank The Augusta (Ga.) Chronicle

Government agencies, bureaus and departments whose services are no longer needed tend to hang around too long. Bureaucracies, once in place, are difficult to remove.

The task becomes far easier when the

agency has an expiration date.

The U.S. Export-Import Bank is such an agency. Lawmakers should let it Sept. 30 expiration date pass without a reauthorization.

This Depression-era relic that most taxpayers have never heard of uses its money to secure financing for favored corporations and foreign governments under the aegis of "facilitating" U.S. exports.

Like most New Deal-era machinations, the Export-Import Bank's time has come and gone.

Global trade is no longer the exotic and tumultuous prospect it was when President Roosevelt created Ex-Im to finance trade with the Soviet Union in 1934. These days, any major American corporation worth its salt has been doing business overseas without assistance for decades. And thanks to e-commerce, even small businesses are exporting their wares overseas.

So what does Ex-Im do exactly? If you ask Diane Katz, the Heritage Foundation's regulatory policy fellow, Ex-Im is "a conduit for corporate welfare beset by unreliable risk management, inefficiency and cronyism."

That assessment is backed up by a review of its annual report. Ex-Im's biggest customers are multinational U.S. corporations such as Bechtel, Boeing, Caterpillar and General Electric — the kinds of "exporters" most would be shocked to learn need taxpayer-funded assistance.

As with most forms of corporate welfare, Ex-Im's spoils tend to go to the companies with the most traditional U.S. government relations budgets. You can be assured Big Business lobbyists are working overtime to ensure the spigot to the government-finance hose isn't turned off.

If our elected officials were truly committed to bolstering America's competitiveness in global trade, they would gut government relations budgets. You can be assured Big Business lobbyists are working overtime to ensure the spigot to the government-finance hose isn't turned off.

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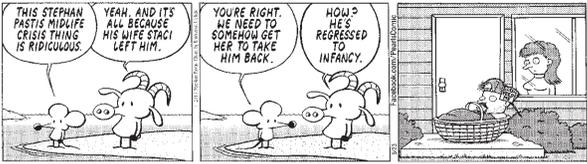
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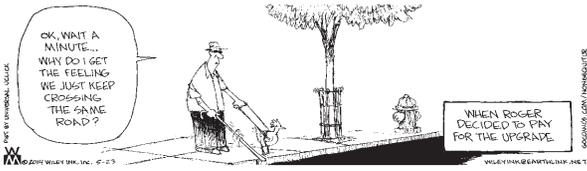
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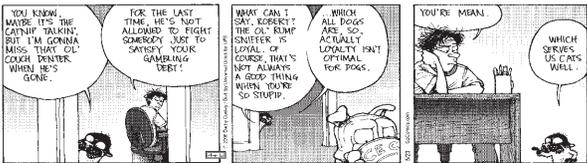
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- 12 Prior to
- 13 Croupier's tool
- 14 European capital
- 15 Fine metal openwork
- 17 Pivot line
- 18 Stumble
- 19 Manhandle
- 21 Whatever amount
- 22 Extra touch
- 26 Cockeyed
- 29 Prohibit
- 30 Expert
- 31 PlayStation maker
- 32 Cauldron
- 33 Highlander
- 34 Table scrap
- 35 Cornfield call
- 36 "Home, Sweet Home" writer
- 37 Squalid
- 39 Crony
- 40 Existed
- 41 Weakness cause
- 45 Vapor
- 48 Light bulb part
- 50 Somewhere out there
- 51 Utah city
- 52 Way back when
- 53 Fisherman's perch, often

ACROSS

- 54 Tabua descriptor
- 55 Hightail it

DOWN

- 1 Funny Foxworthy
- 2 Soprano's solo
- 3 Water source setting
- 4 Silver (Lat.)
- 5 Tote
- 6 Eisenhower
- 7 Frying medium
- 8 Move on all fours
- 9 Bagel topper
- 10 "— Blue?"
- 11 "Certainly"
- 12 14-Across's country
- 13 Football fan
- 14 Frilly
- 15 PC picture
- 25 Sampras or Seeger
- 26 Since
- 27 Singer Amos
- 28 Worldwise (Abbr.)
- 29 Violinist's prop
- 32 Covers, in a way
- 33 "The Crucible"
- 35 Half a dance?
- 36 Central American nation
- 38 Move like Miley
- 39 Loses color
- 42 Repeat
- 43 Actress Swenson
- 44 Fermi's bit
- 45 Craze
- 46 Venusian vessel?
- 47 "Where to, —?"
- 49 A Gershwin brother

Answer to Previous Puzzle

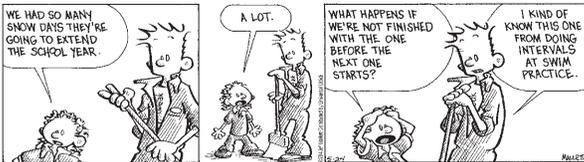
M	A	C	E	R	A	J	A	L	E	G
I	M	A	M	O	D	E	S	I	D	O
F	I	R	M	A	M	E	N	T	G	I
F	R	E	E	L	I	O	R	A	T	E
T	I	S	T	R	I	U	M			
K	N	O	T	P	A	R	B	E	T	A
E	R	R	O	V	A	N	O	R		
N	A	N	A	L	O	P	A	T	O	M
A	R	B	O	R	I	N				
G	U	M	B	O	P	R	I	Z	E	S
A	R	E	S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N
Z	I	N	O	L	I	O	A	R	T	Y
E	S	T	M	E	D	S	L	O	S	E

5-23

CRYPTOQUIP

NFXP HZBHEZ BX KWDI
 UZFTW FCZ NRTW KBB HFEZ.
 IBNZUBJP CZFEEP IWBREJ
 TFEZ KWZ FIWZX HBEDTZ.
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I AM NOT QUITE SUCH A BOISTEROUS PARTICIPANT IN THESE MOB SCENES. I'M A QUIETER RIOTER.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals P

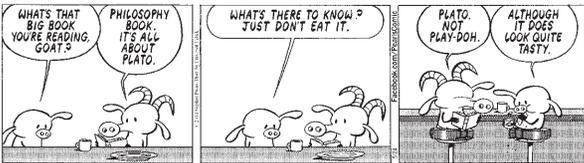
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



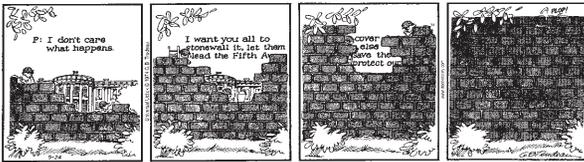
Candorville



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		
									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 Ersatz chocolate
- 6 Horrifics
- 12 "Cockles and mussels" seller
- 13 Cause to blunder
- 14 Acknowledged
- 15 Fall
- 16 Fountain on clarinet
- 17 Charon's river
- 19 Legislation
- 20 Information
- 22 Singer Sumac
- 24 Auction action
- 27 Lawless portrayal
- 29 Hurry
- 32 Toast
- 35 "As I Lay Dying" character

DOWN

- 1 Spelunkers' site
- 2 Greatly
- 3 Used oars
- 4 Inseparable
- 5 Four-poster framework
- 6 Lawyer (Abbr.)
- 7 Sub
- 8 Die spot
- 9 Clapping
- 10 "Be-Bop-a-Loo"
- 11 Jet forth
- 12 Navigation aid
- 18 Line bordering a circle
- 21 Chopper
- 23 Duffbire or Dalloway
- 24 Purchase from Fredrick's

- 25 Ziering of "Sharknado"
- 26 19th-century British prime minister
- 28 Reference
- 30 Pig's digs
- 31 Weeding need
- 33 Vast expanse
- 34 Pick a target
- 39 Preprandial prayer
- 41 Human, e.g.
- 42 Lip
- 43 Item on stage
- 45 Wilds
- 47 Present
- 48 Small
- 49 See 30-Down
- 51 A Bobsey twin
- 53 CEO's deg.

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

5-24

CRYPTOQUIP

B DVBCE YVKABQY Z OKSWNC
 KL MCVFP ZD DMC PWR
 ZYCQOR'P KLLBOC, FSD DMC R

ACVC LKSQE DK FC WNZQDP.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MANY PEOPLE ON THIS BEACH ARE MUCH TOO PALE. SOMEBODY REALLY SHOULD CALL THE ASHEN POLICE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals O

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COLLEGE BASEBALL

Ragin' Cajuns out to show they can play

By ERIC OLSON
The Associated Press

Located in the heart of SEC country, Louisiana-Lafayette knows its place in the college baseball hierarchy. That doesn't mean the Ragin' Cajuns have to accept it.

They've amassed the most wins in Division I this year, but the accomplishment is diminished by the fact they are in the Sun Belt Conference. Thus, their season will be defined by how far they go in the NCAA tournament.

"We have to play bigger than we are," coach Tony Robichaux said Monday.

That's life on the No. 11 RPI conference, where any wins is a bad loss and even some wins hurt because of the weakness of the opponent.

Still, the Ragin' Cajuns (49-7) are up to No. 2 nationally behind Oregon State in this week's major polls and No. 7 in the RPI. They're poised to be among the top eight NCAA seeds; that is, unless they stumble in this week's Sun Belt tournament.

Robichaux said his team is made up of "plop horses, not show horses," and before breaking the hurdle after wins, he asks, "What have we earned the right to do?"

The response: "MORE!" Robichaux returned almost all his everyday players from last year's 43-win team that lost at LSU in a regional final. Pitching depth improved with the arrival of junior-college transfer Carson Baranik (10-1, 2.99 ERA) and the emergence of 6-foot-7, 230-pound freshman reliever Reagan Bazar



Bill Fife/AP

Blake Trahan is batting .326 with three homers and 37 RBIs this season for the Ragin' Cajuns.

(4-0, 2.32).

Lafayette is scoring eight runs a game and batting .319 with 125 doubles and 61 homers. Caleb Adams is batting .375 with 10 home runs, and seven other regulars are batting at least .309.

It's not all about power, though. The Ragin' Cajuns have three dozen bunt singles, and their top power hitters are willing and able to sacrifice. Robichaux pointed out that his team used a squeeze bunt to beat Alabama — one of three valuable wins against the SEC.

Wetzler wizardry

Coming off his five-game suspension for a window-breaking incident, Ben Wetzler pitched a two-hitter in Oregon State's 3-0 win over Washington on Sunday.

The Beavers won two of three in the series and lead the Huskies by two games in the Pac-12 with three to play. Wetzler struck out nine and lowered his national-leading ERA to 0.84.

Miami's strong finish

ACC regular-season champion

Miami won 27 of 30 following a 13-12 start and has its first 40-win season since 2008. The Hurricanes, who won two of three against North Carolina this past weekend, finished top games ahead of Virginia, which lost two of three to Wake Forest.

Languishing Longhorns

Dillon Peters and Morgan Cooper combined on a no-hitter in Texas' 12-0 win at Kansas State on Friday, one of the Longhorns' few highlights since mid-April. Texas started 30-8 but finished fifth in the Big 12 — five games behind champion Oklahoma State — after losing eight of its last 14.

Indiana's strong arms

Indiana pitchers' combined ERA of 1.53 in Big Ten play was the lowest since Iowa's 1.17 in 1965. No Big Ten opponent has scored more than four runs.

Broncos' iron arm

Chad Mayle of Western Michigan threw 156 pitches in nine innings in a two-hit shutout at Central Michigan on Friday. The highest pitch count in Division I this season, as tracked by statistician Boyd Nation, is 157 by Chicago State's Ean McNeal against Texas-Pan American in April.

Big boppers

Tennessee Tech leads the nation in home runs with 78, the most since East Tennessee State hit 86 in 2011. Brandon Thomason homered twice in the Golden Eagles' weekend series against Belmont and has 22, one behind national leader A.J. Reed of Kentucky.



Bill Fife/AP

Louisiana-Lafayette's Caleb Adams makes a catch to put out LSU's Alex Bregman in an NCAA college baseball tournament regional game in Baton Rouge, La., last June. The Ragin' Cajuns (49-7) are No. 2 nationally behind Oregon State and No. 7 in the RPI and are poised to be among the top eight NCAA seeds.

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Pro soccer

MLS EASTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for Rank, Team, Points, Goals For, Goals Against.

MLS WESTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for Rank, Team, Points, Goals For, Goals Against.

Top three points for victory, one point for tie.

D.C. United 2, Houston 0 Los Angeles 2, FC Dallas 1 Sunday's games Toronto FC at Sporting Kansas City Seattle FC at Vancouver New York Red Bulls at Columbus D.C. United at New England Chicago at Columbus Montreal at Colorado FC Dallas at Real Salt Lake Philadelphia at St. Louis Houston at Sporting Kansas City Wednesday, May 21 Portland at Chivas USA Real Salt Lake at Seattle FC Columbus at Toronto FC Portland at FC Dallas Philadelphia at Chivas USA

Wednesday United 2, Dynamo 0 Houston 0-0 D.C. United 1-2 FC Dallas 1-1 (Espindola), 28th minute. Second half - D.C. United, Espindola 50' (Bill Gentry). Goals - Houston, Taylor Hill; D.C. United, Bill Gentry. Yellow Cards - Arnaud, D.C. United, 30'; Houston, 56th; Espindola, D.C. United, 72nd. Red Cards - Oswiney, Houston, 90th+.

Galaxy 2, FC Dallas 1 FC Dallas 0-1 Los Angeles 2, 0-2 (Zardes), 24th minute; 2, Los Angeles, Zardes 50' (Gadson), 27th. Second half - FC Dallas, Akideke 1 (Behr), 65th. Goals - Dallas, Raul Fernandez; Los Angeles, Jaime Penedo. Yellow Cards - Los Angeles, 37th; Akideke, FC Dallas, 44th; Watson, FC Dallas, 71st. A=1,617,000.

NWSL Seattle 7-0 Portland 4-1 FC Dallas 3-2 Western New York 3-4 Washington 3-4 Sky Blue FC 1-2 Houston 2-1 Boston 1-5. Top three points for victory, one point for tie.

Wednesday's games Washington 3, Sky Blue FC 2, FC Kansas City 1, Seattle FC 1, the Portland at Western New York. Friday's games Chicago at Houston Saturday's games Sky Blue FC at Portland Sunday's games Western New York at Seattle FC Houston at Washington Monday's games Washington, May 28 Chicago at Sky Blue FC Portland at Western New York

Pro baseball

MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE table with columns for Rank, Team, Record, Pct, GB.

MLB NATIONAL LEAGUE table with columns for Rank, Team, Record, Pct, GB.

Wednesday's games Cleveland 11, Detroit 10, 13 innings Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 2 Toronto 8, Boston 4 Kansas City 3, Chicago White Sox 1 L.A. Angels 2, Houston 1 Toronto 4, Chicago Cubs 2, 13 innings Cincinnati 2, Washington 1 Pittsburgh 9, Baltimore 8 L.A. Dodgers 4, N.Y. Mets 3 Philadelphia 6, Atlanta 1 Miami 14, Philadelphia 5 St. Louis 3, Arizona 2, 22 innings San Francisco 5, Colorado 1 Minnesota 2, San Diego 0 Texas at Detroit Toronto at Boston Oakland at Tampa Bay Cleveland at Baltimore Milwaukee at Chicago White Sox Houston at Seattle Philadelphia at Miami San Francisco at Colorado Washington at Pittsburgh Chicago at St. Louis Milwaukee at Atlanta Arizona at N.Y. Mets Cleveland at San Diego Friday's games Oakland (Masterson 2-3) at Baltimore (Borris 2-4) Oakland (Kazmir 5-1) at Toronto (Dick-e 4-4) Toronto (S.Baker 0-0) at Detroit (Anchez 1-2) Toronto (Lackey 5-3) at Tampa Bay (Archer 1-0) N.Y. Yankees (Kuroda 3-3) at Chicago White Sox (Nease 4-0) Kansas City (Duffy 2-3) at L.A. Angels (Wilson 5-2) Los Angeles (Kershaw 1-4) at Seattle (Fernandez 5-1) Philadelphia (Perceba 2-1) at Philadelphia (R Hernandez 2-1) Washington (Zimmermann 3-1) at Pittsburgh (Morton 0-0) Arizona (C Anderson 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Colson 1-0) Milwaukee (Estrada 3-2) at Miami (Koeber 4-3) St. Louis (S.Miller 6-2) at Cincinnati (Baley 3-3) Milwaukee (Lyles 5-1) at Atlanta (Floyd 0-1) Chicago Cubs (Jackson 3-3) at San Diego (Elin 4-2) Minnesota (Gibson 4-3) at San Francisco (Lincecum 3-3) Saturday's games Oakland at Baltimore Oakland at Toronto N.Y. Yankees at Chicago White Sox Texas at Detroit Houston at Tampa Bay Houston at L.A. Angels Boston at Seattle L.A. Dodgers at Philadelphia Arizona at N.Y. Mets Colorado at Atlanta Milwaukee at Miami Pittsburgh at Washington Washington at Pittsburgh Seattle at San Francisco Chicago Cubs at San Diego Minnesota at San Francisco Colorado at Atlanta St. Louis at Cincinnati

College baseball

Wednesday's scores

American Athletic Conference UCF 7, UConn 10 Houston 3, Temple 0 Rutgers 10, South Florida 0 Colostate 1, Miami 3 Florida Tech 5, Clemson 3 Florida St., North Carolina 1 Atlantic Sun Conference Tennessee St. 11, UTSA 7, 10 innings Stetson 7, Mercer 5, 10 innings Florida Gulf Coast 9, Florida 3 Lipscomb 2, Jacksonville 1, 10 innings Atlantic 10 Conference VCU 5, Richmond 6 Saint Joseph's 9, Fordham 4 George Mason 4, Cal State 3, 11 innings Big South Conference Charleston Southern vs. Campbell pdp. vs. Gardner-Webb, pdp. Big Ten Conference Michigan St. 2, Illinois 1 Nebraska 7, Ohio St. 6 Indiana 5, Iowa 2 Michigan 3, Minnesota 2 UCI 8, Stanford 5 West Virginia 10, Kansas 9 Rutgers 5, Oklahoma 4 Texas 8, Texas Tech 3 Colorado State 1, Oklahoma 4 Delaware 4, Northeastern 3 Wake Forest 11, Wake Forest 10, 10 innings Northeastern 3, James Madison 10 Middle Tennessee 3, Old Dominion 2 Rice 4, UTU 4 UTSA 4, UAB 1 Georgia Southern 9, Southern Miss. 8, 11 innings Horizon League Youngstown St. 7, Valparaiso 3 Marquette 3, Cleveland State 3 Fairfield 2, Manhattan 1 Quinnipiac 4, Monmouth (NJ) 0 Quinnipiac 10, Quinnipiac 9 Mid-American Conference Buffalo 6, Miami (Ohio) 5 Buff 6, Bowling Green 2 Bowling Green 2, Miami 3 Kenton 9, Cent. Michigan 6 Missouri Valley Conference Wichita St. 8, Evansville 9 Missouri St. 9, Indiana St. 1 Illinois St. 5, Illinois 4 Dallas Baptist 6, Bradley 4, 6 1/2 innings, susp. return Mountain West Conference San Jose St. 11, Air Force 3 Northern Iowa 1, Weber St. 1 Fresno St. 4, Nevada 3 Southern Conference Morehead St. 11, SIU-Edwardsville 6 E. Illinois 2, Jacksonville St. 1 Southeastern Conference LSU 11, Vanderbilt 11 Mississippi St. 11, China 6-2 Kentucky 4, Florida 2 Mississippi St. 12, South Carolina 0 Southern Conference Appalachian St. 3, Georgia Southern 2, 11 innings Furman 3, W. Carolina 2 Davidson 9, The Citadel 7 Central American Conference SE Louisiana 1, Georgia St. 3 Lamar 10, Sam Houston 10 McNeese 4, Nicholls St. 4 Central Texas 3, Texas A&M-CC 1 Sun Belt Conference Texas St. 10, North Carolina 10 Texas St. 10, North Carolina 10 L.-Lafayette 7, La.-Monroe 3 Angelo State 1, Texas A&M-CC 2 Texas-Arlington 8, South Alabama 4 Western Athletic Conference Boise State 11, New Mexico St. 10

NCAA Division I tournament Semifinals Saturday, May 24 at M&T Bank Stadium Baltimore Duke vs. Denver College softball NCAA Division I super regions (Best-of-three; if necessary) Host school is home team for Game 1; visiting school is home team for Game 2; if final determines the team Game 3. At Tallahassee, Fla. Thursday: Michigan (46-13) vs. Florida State (46-13) Friday: Michigan vs. Florida State Saturday: Michigan vs. Florida State At Tusculocoma, Ala. Thursday: Nebraska (44-16) vs. Alabama (47-11) Friday: Nebraska vs. Alabama Saturday: Nebraska vs. Alabama At Athens, Ga. Friday: Baylor (48-15) vs. Georgia (49-13) Saturday: Baylor vs. Georgia Sunday: Baylor vs. Georgia At Lafayette, La. Friday: Arizona (44-15) vs. Louisiana-

Tennis

Nice Open

Wednesday At The Nice Lawn Tennis Club Nice, France Surface: 566,500 (W750) Singles First Round John Isner, United States, def. Jack Sock, U.S. 6-3, 6-3 Albert Montanes, Argentina, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 Albert Montanes, Argentina, def. Eduardo Roger-Vasselin (8), France, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 Carlos Berloco, Argentina, def. Nicolas Pietrangeli, France, 6-2, 6-3 Federico Delbonis (7), Argentina, def. Paul-Henri Mathieu, France, 6-2, 6-4 Dmitry Tursunov (5), Russia, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-3 Ernesto Gulbis (2), Latvia, def. Martin Klizan, Slovakia, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 6-1 Gilles Simon (4), France, def. Dominic Thiem, Austria, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Dusseldorf Open

Wednesday At Rotchuslub Dusseldorf, Germany Surface: 566,500 (W750) Singles First Round Jason Kubler, Australia, def. Alessandro Giannacchi, Italy, 7-6 (5), 6-1. Juan Monaco, Argentina, def. Marcel Granollers (2), Spain, 6-2, 6-4. Uro Karlovic (7), Croatia, def. Nikola Pietrangeli, France, 6-4, 6-4. Jurgen Melzer, Austria, def. Joao Sousa (4), Portugal, 7-6 (5), 4-6, 6-4. Filip Vesely, Czech Republic, def. Nikolay Pietrangeli, France, 6-3, 6-3. Mate Delic, Croatia, def. Dustin Brown, Germany, 6-3, 6-2. Teymuraz Gabashvili, Russia, 6-3, 6-2. Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Jason Kubler, Australia, 6-3, 6-2. Andreas Seppi (3), Italy, def. Adrian Panarino, France, 6-2, 6-1.

Strasbourg International

Wednesday At Centre Sportif de Haute-pierre Strasbourg, France Surface: 2,250,000 (Intl) Singles First Round Christina McHale, United States, def. Casey Dellacqua, Australia, 6-3, 7-5. Alison Riske, def. Alison Riske, def. Alison Riske (8), United States, 6-4, 6-4. Zarina Dijas, Kazakhstan, def. Alja Bokic, Croatia, 7-5, 6-4. Julia Georges, Germany, def. Lauren Davis, United States, 7-6 (4), 6-4. Monica Puig, Puerto Rico, def. Mirjana Lucic, Croatia, 6-3, 6-2. Silvia Soler-Espinoza, Spain, def. Peng Shuai, China, 6-2. Camilla Giorgi, Italy, def. Claire Feuerstein, France, 6-3, 6-2. Andrea Petkovic (4), Germany, def. Varia King, United States, 6-3, 6-2.

Nuremberg Cup

Wednesday At Tennis-Club 1 FC Nuremberg e.V Nuremberg, Germany Surface: 2,250,000 (Intl) Singles First Round Elena Svitolina (4), Ukraine, def. Beatriz Garcia Velagudo (4), Ukraine, 6-3 (6-5), 6-3. Angelika Kerber (1), Germany, def. O. Anke-Lena Friedsam, Germany, 6-2, 7-6. Caroline Garcia (7), France, def. Dinah Pfizenmaier, Germany, 7-5, 5-7, 6-3. Monica Niculescu (6), Romania, def. Annika Beck (8), Germany, 6-2, 6-4.

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL BOSTON RED SOX - Agreed to terms with SS Stephen Drew on a one-year contract. Placed LHP Felix Doubront on the 15-day DL. LOS ANGELES ANGELES - Reinstated OF Kole Calhoun from the 15-day DL. Optioned LHP Hector Santiago to Salt Lake (PCL). TEXAS RANGERS - Assigned C J.P. Arencheta outright to Round Rock (PCL). CINCINNATI REDS - Placed 1B Joey Votto on the 15-day DL, retroactive to May 16. Reinstated OF Jay Bruce from the 15-day DL. LOS ANGELES DODGERS - Recalled INF Eric Arruebarrena from Chattanooga (SCL). Placed INF Eric Uribe on the 15-day DL. Reinstated LHP Hyun-Ju Ryu from the 15-day DL. Optioned RHP Withrow to Albuquerque (PCL). Placed Albuquerque (PCL) Miguel Olivo on the suspended list pending the completion of an investigation into the dugout altercation during yesterday's game at Salt Lake. ST. LOUIS CARDINALS - Recalled OF Shane Robinson from Memphis. Optioned OF Joey Butler to Memphis.

NFL

National Basketball Association - Named Jason Lawson ambassador to Africa. Ined Indiana G. Smith to the 15-day DL for violating the league's anti-flopping rules during Game 2 of the Eastern Conference

NFL

National Football League - Agreed to terms with WR Matt Matthews and DE Ra'Shede Hageman.

Baseball

CINCINNATI REDS - Signed LB Marlon Felix to a one-year contract. Signed LB JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS - Signed CB Anton Colvin and DE Chris Smith to four-year contracts. KANSAS CITY CHIEFS - Signed QB Antwan Murray.

Baseball

MINNESOTA VIKINGS - Signed LB Anthony Barr and S Aaron Rodgers. OAKLAND RAIDERS - Signed QB Derek Carr to a four-year contract. SAN DIEGO CHARGERS - Signed RB Brandon Oliver. Waived T Ian White and T James Palmer.

Hockey

Dallas BLA LIGHTNING - Signed D Dylan Bjuges to a three-year entry-level contract. Tampa Bay Lightning - Named Jim Benning general manager.

Soccer

National Women's Soccer League WASHINGTON SPIRIT - Waived F Colleen Williams.

Swimming

USA SWIMMING - Named Scott Lightman director of PR and communications.

Barton - COLLEGE

Barton - Agreed to the resignation of women's soccer coach Chris Shaw to become women's soccer coach at UNLV.

Baseball

Arizona - Named Julie Riecke Lachy deputy commissioner. Arizona - Named Bob Whisenand team's general manager. Behn women's basketball coach.

Baseball

MICHIGAN STATE - Announced men's junior basketball & Russell Byrd is leaving the program to transfer to Master's College in Claremont, Calif.

NIT

NIT - Announced it will not renew the contract with coach Jim Calhoun. Ryan McNeil and strength and conditioning coach Dan Huff.

Baseball

TENNESSEE - Announced the contract of director of track and field/cross country J.J. Clark will not be renewed.

Baseball

UNLV - Named William Williams men's associate head basketball coach.

Baseball

Washington State - Named Lonnie Williams men's associate head basketball coach.

WNBA

WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for Rank, Team, Record, Pct, GB.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

WNBA WESTERN CONFERENCE table with columns for Rank, Team, Record, Pct, GB.

WNBA

No games scheduled. Wednesday's games Chicago at Connecticut Thursday's games No games scheduled. Friday's games Seattle at Connecticut Washington at Indiana Minnesota at Tulsa San Antonio at Phoenix

WORLD CUP

FIFA VP frustrated by racism

By ROB HARRIS
The Associated Press

LONDON — FIFA Vice President Jeffrey Webb condemned “deep rooted racism” in Italy on Wednesday after Mario Balotelli was racially abused while training with the national team.

A year after spearheading the strengthening of FIFA’s discrimination sanctions, Webb is frustrated that some countries, including Italy and Spain, are not showing the commitment required to fight racism.



Webb

“National associations obviously really have to not just talk about zero tolerance — they have to put action behind it,” Webb told The Associated Press in an interview in London. “If you

look at some of the decisions that have been taken in Spain and Italy definitely that’s cause for concern.”

Balotelli, who is black, faced racist chants again on Wednesday morning in Italy — this time at the national team’s World Cup training base in Florence.

“Unfortunately, it just shows the deep-rooted racism and prejudice that exists obviously in the Italian community and society at large,” said Webb, who heads FIFA’s task force against discrimination. “It is a fight, it is a challenge.”

And a challenge to ensure every country adopts the penalties adopted by FIFA last May, including minimum five-game bans for racist abuse by players, and point deductions or relegation for serious incidents in the stands.

In Spain, Villarreal’s only sanction last month was a \$16,000 fine from the league after a fan threw a banana at Barcelona defender Dani Alves, rather than any partial stadium closure for the next game.

“We have seen national associations taking decisions and they have not implemented what FIFA has adopted or what UEFA has adopted (including a minimum 10-game ban for racism),” said Webb, who is also CONCACAF president. “In those cases now we have got to make sure that those regulations go down to the national associations — and the national associations hold the clubs accountable.”

To Webb, Spanish soccer remains in a state of denial about the extent of racism and the need to show a commitment to eradicating the scourge of the game in the home of the world and European champions.

“It’s obviously very much deep-rooted,” he said of the situation in Spain.



ANDRE PENNER/AP

Corinthians and Figueirense players listen to the national anthem prior to a Brazilian soccer league match at the Itaquero, the still-unfinished stadium that will host the World Cup opener between Brazil and Croatia on June 12, in Sao Paulo.

Test match postponed

Final dress rehearsal for Itaquero pushed back 3 days

By TALES AZZONI
The Associated Press

SAO PAULO — FIFA and local organizers have postponed the final test event at the troubled World Cup stadium in Sao Paulo, raising fresh uncertainty about Brazil’s readiness to stage the tournament opener in the city.

Following concerns from local authorities, FIFA said Wednesday that a test match scheduled for May 29, a Thursday, has been moved to the following Sunday to avoid disrupting the city’s “operational routine” on a working day.

Soccer’s governing body said it also decided to stage the game on a weekend to “ensure it attracts more than 50,000” fans needed to properly test the venue.

Less than 40,000 people attended the first test match at the Itaquero stadium in Sao Paulo last weekend, when the 20,000 temporary seats being added for the open-

ing game of the tournament couldn’t be used.

The new test event will be staged less than two weeks before the high-profile opener between Brazil and Croatia on June 12, when 70,000 fans and guests are expected.

“It (is) vital for us that all facilities will be tested under full match conditions,” Jerome Valcke

FIFA secretary general

said on Twitter. “Including the temporary seats (and) associated facilities.” The change in date comes amid a bus strike in Sao Paulo that has created chaos for people trying to get to work in the South American metrop-

olis already known for its terrible rush-hour traffic.

FIFA said in a statement that it was a “request from local authorities” to have the match on a weekend to “reduce the impact on the city’s operational routine.”

The World Cup opener will also fall on a Thursday, but city officials are expected to declare holidays on match days during the tournament.

FIFA said it was important to have another test match at the Itaquero “given the attention drawn from the opening match.”

Only one test event had been initially scheduled for the Itaquero because it was among the most delayed stadiums for the World Cup. The venue was expected to be completed by the end of last year, but two construction accidents that killed a total of three workers caused significant delays.

Among the problems last weekend were a leaking roof and faulty communications for fans and journalists.

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WORLD CUP

Calm, cool & collected

Donovan confident going into fourth World Cup

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

His hairline has receded during 15 years in the spotlight, seeming to retreat at the same pace as his record-breaking scoring total advanced.

Landon Donovan first became widely known in 1999, when he was voted the golden ball as the best player of the FIFA Under-17 World Championship—an award later won by Cesc Fàbregas, Anderson and Tomi Kroos. In a soccer world where Americans were long looked at as non-entities, Donovan's success was startling.

He was 18 when he scored against Mexico in his U.S. national team debut and has 57 goals overall, 21 more than Clint Dempsey's second-place total.

Now 32, Donovan's spot in the starting lineup is no longer assured, perhaps not even his place on the 23-man roster. If Donovan and DaMarcus Beasley make it to Brazil next month, they could become the first Americans to play in four World Cups.

"This is my last chance at this," Donovan said Monday. "For me personally, I sort of liken it to 2002. In '06 and in 2010, I knew for the most part unless I was awful that I was going to make the team. This time is more similar to '02 where I wasn't sure. And so in that way, yes, it's as competitive as it's been for me personally in a long time."

He is for many the face of American soccer, the player who spent most of his career at home instead of finding fame in Europe.

Stints at Bayer Leverkusen and Bayern Munich were unsuccessful, but he starred with the San Jose Earthquakes from 2001-04 and the Los Angeles Galaxy since 2005, winning five Major League Soccer titles and tying Jeff Cunningham for the regular-season goals record at 134.

But he's better known for his play with the national team, where his

156 appearances are eight shy of tying Cobi Jones' mark. Donovan has an American-record five World Cup goals, against Poland and Mexico in 2002, and versus Slovenia, Algeria and Ghana four years ago.

His stoppage-time goal against Les Fennecs at Pretoria's Loftus Versfeld was one of the iconic moments in American soccer, alongside Paul Caligiuri's 1989 long-range strike at Trinidad and Tobago that put the U.S. in its first World Cup in 40 years and Eric Wynalda's free kick against Switzerland in the 1994 World Cup.

"For me, it's a very easy equation. If Landon's on the field, he's our top one or two players," goalkeeper Tim Howard said. "For me, he's easily one of our best players, and he strikes fear in opponents."

Donovan doesn't have the pace he once did, but he's still among the faster Americans. His game has changed, and Klinsmann views him more a forward than a midfielder.

"I don't have that youthful energy and excitement that I did in 2002, but I see the game and I see the situation a lot more clearly now, so I'm able to I think enjoy it more in that way," Donovan said. "When you're younger, you're just sort of going crazy to do whatever it takes to make the team and you forget to enjoy it. And now I'm actually getting to enjoy it."

By the numbers

3

World Cups in which Landon Donovan has played.

57

Goals Donovan has scored as a member of the US national team.

8

Appearances on US national team needed to tie Cobi Jones' mark of 164.

SOURCE: The Associated Press



American Landon Donovan controls the ball during a training session on May 14 in Stanford, Calif. Donovan is the leading American scorer in World Cup history.

TONY AVELAR/AP

HIGH SCHOOL

Far East scoreboards

Soccer
Boys
Division I
Thursday at Kadoma Air Base, Okinawa
 4. Yokota 0
Fifth place
 Kinrick 2, Guam 0
Third-place
 Christian Academy, Japan 2, Seoul American 1, OT
Championship
 Kadoma 1, Okinawa 0
 Halftime — 0-0, Full — 0-0, Goal — Kadema: Drew Anoop (3), Assist — Yui Callahan.
Awards
 Most Valuable Player — Callahan (two-time selection), Kyle Smoker (two-time selection), Lawrence Yamaguchi, CAJ.
 Outstanding goalkeeper — Richard Erlanger, KubaSaki.
 Outstanding defender — Yuri Burgard, KubaSaki.
 Team sportsmanship award — KubaSaki.
All-Tournament team — Callahan (two-time selection), Kai Heckerman (two-time selection), Jurta, Callahan, Micah Summers, Kadema; Kai Stallings, Iselah Washington, imani Washington, KubaSaki; Mykelle Rife Ready, Shi Sura, CAJ; Devin Turner, Sam Mitchell, Seoul American; Yoder (two-time selection), Kinrick; Dalton Kinney, Guam.

Division II
Thursday at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan
 3. Okinawa Christian 1
Seventh place
 Daegu 6, Osan 0
Fifth place
 Humphreys 1, Edgren 0
Third place
 King of Okinawa Christian by forfeit
Championship
 Perry 3, Zama 1
Awards
 Most Valuable Player — Ben Cook, Zama.
 Golden Boot — Lange (three-time selection).
 Outstanding goalkeeper — Austin Burdick, Edgren.
 Defensive Most Valuable Player — Sam Hess, Perry.
 Team Sportsmanship — Daegu.
All-Tournament team — Manasseh Nartey (two-time selection), Humphreys, Daichi Bellwood, Steven Ball, King; Austin Burdick, Edgren; Gerard Chopin, Osan; Gabriel Labrador, Daegu; Cook, Ryan Walls, Jojo Byrnes, Zama; Jimmy Fisher, Jacob Weingartner, Okinawa Christian; Lange (four-time selection), Sam Hess, Justin Hill (two-time selection), Calvin Barker (two-time selection), Perry.
Girls
Thursday at Camp Foster
Single-elimination playoffs
 Guam 1, Kadema 6, SO (3-1), Seoul American 1, Seisen International 1
 Kadema 1, Seoul American 0
Seventh place
 Kadema 2, Seison 0
Fifth place
 Guam 3, CAJ 2
Third place
 Kinrick 5, Yokota 6
Championship
 KubaSaki 1, ASU 0, SO (3-1)
Awards
 Most Valuable Player — Alexis Townsend, KubaSaki.
 Golden Boot — Helwick.
 Outstanding goalkeeper — Harleigh Lewis, KubaSaki.

Outstanding defender — Maya Tromburg, American School In Japan.
 Team sportsmanship award — Guam High.
Tournament team — Mesquita (two-time selection), Kennedy Salazar, Alicia Gillard, KubaSaki; Joy Yamada (two-time selection), Celeste Lim, Jo Carroll, ASJ; Sarah Cronin (two-time selection), Christine Iadama, Yokota; Mariana Connolly, Guam; Charla Johnson, Aiko Allan (two-time selection), Kinrick; Kelly Justitano, CAJ; Emily Anderson, Kadema; Jade Vasconcelos, Seisen.
Division II
Thursday at Marine Corps Air Base, Japan
 Zama 2, Osan 1
 Zama 2, Sacred Heart, SO (3-2)
Championship
 Edgren 3, Zama 1
 Halftime — 3-1, Goals — Edgren: Vanessa Black (13), Natalie Gammel (10), Claire Caffery (2); Zama: Hurley (15).
Awards
 Offensive Most Valuable Player — Black.
 Defensive Most Valuable Player — Shawnee Proctor, King.
 Golden Boot — Reid.
 Outstanding goalkeeper — Kayla Eversole, Edgren.
All-Tournament team — Black, Gammel (two-time selection), Claire Caffery, Edgren Reid (two-time selection), Hurley, Zama; Evie Garrido, Andrea Carandang, Osan; Sasha Shibasaki, Bobbi Hill, Peyton Turner (two-time selection), Sophia Nozera, Kaylee Spielman, Humphreys Tiffany Long, King; Monica Morales, Daegu.

Baseball
Division I Tournament
Thursday at Naval Air Facility Atsugi and St. Mary's International School, Japan
Pool A
 Kadema 6, Seoul American 6
 American School In Japan 4, Yokota 1
 Kadena 7, Yokota 4
 ASU 19, Seoul American 0
 ASU vs. Kadema, ccd., rain
 Seoul American vs. Yokota, ccd., rain
Pool B
 KubaSaki 15, Guam 0
 ASU 4, St. Mary's 1
 KubaSaki 3, Kinrick 3
 Kinrick vs. Guam, ccd., rain
 KubaSaki vs. St. Mary's, ccd., rain
Single-elimination playoffs
 ASU vs. Guam, 8 a.m.
 Seoul American vs. Kinrick, 10 a.m.
 Kadema vs. St. Mary's, noon
 KubaSaki vs. Yokota, 2 p.m.
 ASU vs. Guam winner vs. Seoul American-Kinrick winner, 4 p.m.
 Kadema-St. Mary's winner vs. KubaSaki-Yokota winner, 6 p.m.
Division II
Thursday at Camp Zama, Japan
Round robin play
 Matthew C. Perry 19, Daegu 3
 Robert D. Edgren 5, Osan 4
 Zama 15, E.J. King 0
 Perry 2, Edgren 0, susp., rain
Friday's games
 Perry vs. Edgren completion
 Zama vs. Daegu
 King vs. Osan
 Perry vs. Zama
 Daegu vs. Osan
 Edgren vs. Perry
 Edgren vs. Daegu
 Zama vs. Osan

Euro scoreboards

Baseball
Thursday at Kaiserslautern and Ramstein, Germany
Pool play
 Vilsack 10, Lakenheath 7
 Kaiserslautern 7, Wiesbaden 6
 Kaiserslautern 6, Lakenheath 2
 Patch 10, Wiesbaden 0
 Ramstein 17, Vilsack 1
Friday's games
(Quarterfinals)
 Kaiserslautern vs. Lakenheath, noon
 Wiesbaden vs. TBD, 3:30 p.m.
Semifinals
 Patch vs. TBD, 3:30 p.m.
Division II
Pool play
 Naples 14, Baumholder 1
 AFNORTH 5, Aviano 0
 Vicenza 4, Ansbach 1
 SHAPE 6, Sigonella 3
 Naples 12, AFNORTH 2
 Aviano 6, Baumholder 4
 Alconbury 6, Bahrain 5
 Hohenfels 11, Bitburg 10
 Sigonella vs. 9 Bitburg, late
 SHAPE 8, Bahrain 7
 5 Sigonella vs. 11 Alconbury, late
 4 Ansbach vs. 10 Hohenfels, late
Friday's games
(Pool play vs. Southeast)
 1 Naples vs. 12 Aviano, 8:30 a.m.
 3 Vicenza vs. 10 Hohenfels, 8:30 a.m.
 4 Ansbach vs. 9 Bitburg, 10:15 a.m.
 6 Baumholder vs. 7 AFNORTH, 10:15 a.m.
(Pool play at Pulaski)
 2 SHAPE vs. 11 Alconbury, 8:30 a.m.
 5 Sigonella vs. 8 Bahrain, 10:15 a.m.
(Quarterfinals at Ramstein Southside)
 1:45 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.
(Quarterfinals at Pulaski)
 1:45 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Softball
At Ramstein and Kaiserslautern, Germany
Thursday
Division I
Pool A
 Patch 15, Wiesbaden 0
 Kaiserslautern 9, Wiesbaden 3
 Patch vs. Kaiserslautern 0
Pool B
 Vilsack 6, Ramstein 5
 Lakenheath 5, Vilsack 3
 Ramstein 12, Lakenheath 4
Friday's games
(Quarterfinals at Ramstein High)
 Kaiserslautern vs. Lakenheath, noon
 Vilsack vs. Wiesbaden, noon
(Semifinals at Ramstein High)
 Patch vs. TBD, 3:30 p.m.
 Ramstein vs. TBD, 5:30 p.m.
Division II
 Vicenza 22, SHAPE 0
 Ansbach 14, Sigonella 13
 Vicenza 17, Sigonella 5
 Ansbach 17, SHAPE 5
Pool A
 Alconbury 9, AFNORTH 7
 Rota 11, Aviano 5
 Alconbury 8, Aviano 18, AFNORTH 4
Pool B
 Naples 11, Hohenfels 4
 Bitburg 18, Baumholder 17
 Naples 16, Bitburg 4
 Hohenfels 27, Baumholder 8
Friday's games
Pool A
 1 Vicenza vs. 12 Ansbach, 8:30 a.m.
 6 SHAPE vs. 7 Sigonella, 10:15 a.m.
Pool B
 2 Alconbury vs. 11 Aviano, 8:30 a.m.
 5 Ansbach vs. 8 Rota, 10:15 a.m.
 3 Naples vs. 10 Baumholder, 8:30 a.m.
 4 Hohenfels vs. 9 Bitburg, 10:15 a.m.
(Quarterfinals at Ramstein)
 Both at 1:45 p.m.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Ramstein players celebrate their 1-0 win over Patch in the Division I final at the DODDS Europe soccer championships on Thursday.

Girls Division I: Ramstein 1, Patch 0

By MATT MILLHAM
 Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Before the tournament even began, Ramstein and Patch expected to face one another in the DODDS Europe Division I girls soccer final and they expected it to be close, hinging perhaps on a stroke of luck or a little mistake.

The critical moment Thursday came early in the second half, when Ramstein's Hunter Pace and Ebony Madrid combined for a goal that bamboozled even them. The score was enough for the Royals to take home the title, their second in three years.

"We each went into the competition knowing that we were going to play each other because of how talented each team is," sophomore striker Madrid said. But that knowledge didn't make facing the Panthers in the final any easier.

In round robin play a day earlier, Patch edged Ramstein on penalty kicks after tying 2-2 in regulation. In their sole regular season meeting in April, Ramstein came out on top with a razor-thin 4-3 victory.

So coming into the final Thursday, "We were all biting nails," Madrid said. "Half the team couldn't even sleep last night. We were just — we didn't know how it was going to go today."

Patch didn't know either, senior midfielder Amber Garcia said.

They tried to stay relaxed, knowing they'd have to pressure Ramstein constantly to have a chance, "because we knew that Ramstein was going to come out for us because we won the last game."

The teams seemed to share a game plan through the first half as the two sides traded trips into each other's territory. Neither was able to draw blood, and they headed into halftime knotted in a scoreless tie.

The goals the two teams traded "they're usually all flukes" or the result of mistakes, Garcia said after the game. At least that's been the case in the past — and it was so here.

In the ninth minute of the second half, Ramstein senior Pace shot a high lof off her left foot. In the drizzling rain, Patch goalie Goldie Bougher came out to intercept the ball on a bounce as Madrid streaked in to try to finish it off.

The ball bounced high, and Bougher could do little more than watch it sail over her head and into the goal behind her. "Ramstein's such a good team and we're such a good team, it's kind of hard to break through," Garcia said. "And so when there's an opportunity of an open shot, it's taken and usually ends up in a goal."

Patch's offense frantically tried to get one back, "but after the goal we kind of just lost it and it was kind of hard for us to get back."

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HIGH SCHOOL

ODDS EUROPE SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys Division III: Sigonella 4, Brussels 3

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — After a winless regular season, the Jaguars of Sigonella redeemed themselves in the boys Division III tournament by taking down Brussels, 4-3, for the championship.

It was a Jekyll and Hyde performance for both squads, with Sigonella dominating in the first half and then shrinking in the second as Brussels, listless and lethargic through the first period, was strong after intermission.

“I think we just eased up a little. We thought we had a good hold on the game, but that’s never the case,” Sigonella senior Alessandro Thomas said.

The Jaguars blasted out to a 3-0 lead on a gorgeous lob from sophomore Jason Berlin, a blast inside the box from freshman Kyle Marshall and a penalty kick from Thomas.

Marshall’s strike was his first of the entire season, he said. “Not a better time to get it than champs.”

But in the second half, Sigonella was jittery and tepid. The rejuvenated Brigands controlled play for the first 20 minutes as the Jaguars fell back on their heels.

A day earlier, the Jaguars had taken a 3-0 lead over

Menwith Hill, then watched the margin melt away as the Mustangs put up two unanswered goals.

“I think we were just nervous that it was going to happen again,” Marshall said. It was a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Brussels senior Merab Chitanava, who scored on a penalty just before the end of the half, poked in another in the 10th minute of the second half to reduce the gap to one. Thomas rallied his side with a solo drive in the 30th minute to put the Jaguars back up 4-2, but the energy that strike created was short-lived.

Chitanava scored on another penalty in the 35th minute to pull the Brigands back within one. But it was too little, too late.

“The first half, we didn’t come out as strong as we were supposed to and we gave them easy goals,” Chitanava said. “We should have played the first half better. There’s no excuses in this one.”

Sigonella was regularly matched up against bigger Division II squads in the regular season. Those matches were great prep for the tournament, Thomas said.

“Playing the tougher teams is always a good thing.” The win brought Thomas his second championship of his high school career. Most of the Jaguars squad will be back for a shot to repeat next year.

“As a freshman, that’s a great start for four years of high school,” Marshall said.



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Sigonella’s Alessandro Thomas scores a goal as Brussels’ Greg Norton tries to defend in Thursday’s final.

Boys Division II: Marymont 2, AFNORTH 1

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Another Italian soccer dynasty extended into a fourth year on Thursday as Marymont edged AFNORTH for the Division II boys’ championship.

An opportunistic goal by Lotanna Mba and a go-ahead score by Diego Poricco rallied the Royals from a 1-0 halftime deficit and prolonged their reign atop the division.

The comeback wasn’t the product of any tactical adjustment, just the Royals’ realization that the championship window was slowly drawing shut.

“We didn’t change anything,” Mba said. “We just knew we had to do something.”

Marymont came in with a well-earned reputation for quick-strike offense, but it was AFNORTH that launched repeated attacks in the first half. One of those paid off with a goal by junior midfielder Claudius Karich, giving AFNORTH a lead eight minutes into the game. That goal was it for the day, despite repeated runs and shots over the rest of the 80-minute game.

“Clearly, we had a bunch of chances and it should have been three or four-nil,” AFNORTH coach Kevin Padron said, calling the loss “a heartbreaker.”

“We didn’t capitalize on those chances and we came up short.”

Marymont finally got its goal back midway through the second half on a piece of heads-up gamesmanship by Mba. The AFNORTH goalie was called for a handball outside of the box, setting up a Marymont free

kick. Mba snatched the ball, set it on the ground and promptly kicked it into the unmonitored goal while the flustered Lions defense continued to loiter around in confusion.

“When he caught the ball, I thought the first thing I should do is shoot,” Mba said. “If it doesn’t count, we’ll take it again. But if it does, it’s a great goal and we tie the game.”

It did count, despite AFNORTH’s immediate protests.

AFNORTH again ramped up its offensive efforts in response to the unconventional Royal goal, but every attempt sailed high or wide or was denied by Marymont goalkeeper Giammaria Montella and the Royal defense.

“It was really tense,” Montella said. “I was looking at the time and I was asking myself when it was going to whistle.”



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Florence’s Emma Nataloni and Brussels’ Gabriele Fiedroff battle for the ball at the DODDS Europe championships on Thursday. Brussels won 1-0.

Girls Division III: Brussels 1, Florence 0

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — It took nearly the entire 80 minutes, but the girls of Brussels plunked in a last-minute goal to take the Division III soccer championship, downing the International School of Florence 1-0.

The result was far different from the pool game the teams had played just a day earlier, when Brussels fed the top-seeded Wild Boars a 7-1 helping of humble pie.

Despite dominating their earlier meeting, Brussels’ offense appeared dazed early in the first half after failing to capitalize on a handful of opening drives.

As they say on Wall Street, past performance is not an indication of future results.

“It’s funny — the hardest part is getting the ball to the goal, which is what we worked on for the whole season,” Brussels senior Ali DeFazio said. “And so, of course, we did really well at that.”

Both sides put up lackluster first half performances that appeared more like a 40-minute scrim than an organized soccer game. In the melee, both sides managed to get off a few shots that came close, but never close enough.

Despite underwhelming through most of the game, top-seed Florence pounded two shots in the last 10 minutes that nearly found their mark.

But those late efforts were undone by a final breakout from DeFazio, who fired a shot into the right side just past Mons as time ran out.

Girls Division II: Naples 2, AFNORTH 0

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The dynasty lives on, now a half-decade strong. And it might not be done yet. The outgoing and ongoing talent of the Naples Wildcats delivered the program’s fifth consecutive DODDS Europe Division II girls’ soccer championship Thursday.

“It’s unbelievable. We take each year as it comes,” Naples coach Rebecca Lucy said. “And I’m just so proud of these amazing young women.”

The Lions, a hard-nosed team further solidified by a miraculous 5-4 overtime win over Alconbury in Wednesday’s semifinal, distilled the fitness-based Wildcats with physical play throughout, furthering a strategy that found success in their 2-1 pool-play loss to Naples. The approach successfully subdued the vaunted Naples offense Thursday, but at a steep cost: the defensive focus had a similar dampening effect on the AFNORTH attack.

“We had to change our strategy,” Lucy said. “We decided that we would just do our best to take opportunities as they came to us and be very creative with our combinations.”

The Wildcats converted two such opportunities. Isabella Lucy scored on a direct kick in the first half, and Jill Thurston added a goal five minutes into the second half.

“I feel like we did what we had set out to do, which was to play them really strong defensively,” AFNORTH coach Christopher Booth said. “To hold a team like that to those types of numbers, I think, is a testament to our girls.”

“Unfortunately we just couldn’t get anything going offensively today.”

Isabella Lucy, the Wildcats’ slender, speedy senior wing, did her best to power through the contact.

“We were protecting ourselves and the ball,” Lucy said. “Once we had it completely under control and there wasn’t any chance of them jabbing at it, then we could move it up the field.”

Meanwhile, the Naples defense denied every AFNORTH assault. Goalkeeper Hannah Hood made all eight saves



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

AFNORTH’s Nicole Telega, left, battles with Naples’ Jill Thurston during the title game on Thursday. The Wildcats won 2-0 to claim their fifth-straight crown.

required of her to preserve the shutout.

Hood rescued the Wildcats in a penalty-kick showdown with Aviano in the quarterfinals, and a 5-2 semifinal win over Vicenza in a rematch of last year’s championship game earned the Wildcats a shot at a fifth-straight crown. “They worked so hard all week, beaten up and battered, but they still came through in the end,” coach Lucy said.

HIGH SCHOOL

FAR EAST SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys Division I: Kadena 1, Kubasaki 0

Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa – Winning Far East finals by the barest of margins has become old hat for Mike Callahan and his star striker son, Yuji; they've won two straight by identical 1-0 scores.

This time, the winning goal waited until midway through the second overtime, when versatile senior Drew Ancog knocked in a corner kick by the younger Callahan, providing the only scoring in a victory Thursday over Kubasaki at Ryukyū Middle School's Habu Field.

It was far different from the regular-season matches the teams played; Kadena won the island season series 3-0 and beat the Dragons in Far East pool play, outscoring Kubasaki 13-4 in their four meetings.

"When it comes time for Far East, the defenses lock down and it becomes hard to get the goal," Mike Callahan said. "We had been pretty dominant all year. I have a lot of respect for Coach (Chris) Eastman and the Dragons, and we just happened to get the lone goal."



MARIE OHSUNA/Special to Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki's Iselah Washington and Kadena's Drew Ancog scuffle for the ball in the Boys Division I final. Kadena won 1-0 in overtime on Ancog's goal off a corner kick by Yuji Callahan.

players such as Tristan Hyden and Jakob Weicht did a great job of shutting down" Kubasaki's main scoring weapon, Imani Washington.

"It was a total team effort," said Callahan, whose Panthers finished 17-2-2. "The kids bought into our program, put aside their individual goals and this was the result."

It was Callahan's fourth Division I title and his son captured Far East MVP honors for the second consecutive year.

Boys Division II: Perry 3, Zama 1

Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — They trailed by a goal with 20 minutes left. And M.C. Perry coach Mark Lange and his star striker son Gaku feared their goal of a third consecutive Far East title was slipping away.

Justin Hill saved that dream from evaporating. The junior midfielder scored two goals, including the go-ahead tally with 10 minutes left, and the Samurai rallied late for a 3-1 victory in Thursday's championship at Penny Lake Field.

"Omigoshi," Mark Lange said. "There was a lot of pressure on us. Kudos to Zama, they played their hearts out. But we rose up to the occasion and overcame that pressure and won three in a row and four out of five. Can you believe it? Coached my son to three Far East championships."

For Lange the younger, it marked the end of an era in which he totaled a school-record 155 goals for his career, 51 this season alone. "Great way to go out," Lange the elder said.

It might not have happened if not for that late rally. The Trojans (13-10) in the first half took advantage of high winds that as-



LISA TOURTELO/SStars and Stripes

Kubasaki's Marissa Mesquita beats American School in Japan's Joey Yamada to a header in the Division I final.

Girls Division I: Kubasaki 3, ASU 1

Stars and Stripes

CAMP POSTER, Okinawa — With senior striker Sydney Johnson, among others, shelved or hobbled by injuries, Kubasaki needed a spark from the player the Dragons consider the team's backbone.

Junior goalkeeper Harleigh Lewis responded to the challenge. She allowed one goal the entire week and recorded five shutouts to help Kubasaki regain the Far East High School Girls Division I title it last won two years ago.

"She was an outstanding goalkeeper, absolutely the best," coach Terry Chumley said after the Dragons dethroned defending champion American School in Japan, outgunning the Mustangs 3-1 in a penalty-kick shootout in Thursday's final at Kubasaki's Mike Petty Stadium.

It was the latest installment of what's become the tournament's most regular rivalry. The two teams have met for the D-I title the past four years, with each winning twice, each time by close margins.

The victory completed the turnaround of a Kubasaki team that began the season in turmoil. Chumley, who won three D-I titles in her previous stint as coach, came out of retirement in late March after coach Rob Loyd stepped down for undisclosed reasons.

From that point, the Dragons (14-2-1) kept their eyes on one goal, which they accomplished Thursday. "All of our hard work finally paid off," said midfielder Alexis Townsend, named the tournament's MVP.

"It's been a great experience; I'm so happy I took this job. It was like it was meant to be," Chumley said.

Asked if she would return next season, she said: "I told the girls I'd think about it."

sisted a 35-foot shot by Roman Duarte to elude the hands of Samurai keeper Eric Saiki for the match's initial goal.

"We played catch-up the rest of the time," Mark Lange said.

That changed in the 60th minute. Jon Cadavos made a throw-in that Gaku Lange flicked to Hill, who settled the ball and fired it in from 18 yards out. "You don't see any better than that," Mark Lange said.

After a handball in the area, Gaku Lange lined up for a penalty kick that got stopped, but Hill was there to put home the rebound. Then Lange closed out his career sending a shot low to the corner. He had 16 goals for the week and won the tournament's Golden Boot award.

Perry began the season 1-2-1, but closed with a 21-1 run which Mark Lange characterized as "amazing."

Both Zama's boys and girls teams ended up a win short of capturing D-II titles, which would have been the first in school history.

"We were gassed from all the games we'd played," said coach Marc Norton, whose Trojans had to battle out of the knockout bracket and played two more playoff matches than the Samurai. "The boys fought hard. They really wanted it."



SHEILA SUCKARY/Special to Stars and Stripes

Edgren's Vanessa Black and Zama's Caitlyn Torres fight for control of the ball in Thursday's Division II final. Edgren won 3-1 to capture its first girls soccer title.

Girls Division II: Edgren 3, Zama 1

Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — What she couldn't do as a player, Jen Black accomplished as an assistant coach — with some help from her younger sister Vanessa.

Vanessa Black scored her team-leading 13th goal and Natalie Gammel and Claire Caffery each added first-half scores as Edgren captured its school-first Far East title with a 3-1 home victory Thursday over Zama.

"It's surreal. I feel like I'm still dreaming. It's amazing," said Jen Black, who'd played for the Eagles for two seasons, each of which resulted in Far East near-misses.

After spending a year at St. Leo University in Florida two years ago, Jen Black returned to Misawa and spent her springs assisting long-time Eagles head coach Justin Edmonds. "Finally, we found something we could give back to him for all he's done for us as a coach," she said.

"I'm so glad she's our coach," sister Vanessa said of the Eagles' youthful assistant, adding that she still channels her inner player while helping organize drills during team workouts.

"She's very close to our girls. It's almost like she wasn't a coach, but another player, like she won this with us," Vanessa said.

The genesis of the Eagles' championship run, the sisters said, probably had its roots in last month's DODDS Japan tournament, in which the Eagles went a sub-par 2-3 and finished fifth.

That was their last regular-season competition before going 6-0-1 at Far East to finish 11-10-1 overall — the team's first winning record in school history.



ANJU YAMANAKA/Special to Stars and Stripes

Zama American's Robert Corneliusen and Matthew C. Perry's Isaac Lewis go after the ball in Thursday's Boys Division II final, won by Perry 3-1.

AUTO RACING

Double dragon



PHOTOS BY PATRICK SEMANSKY, ABOVE, AND MICHAEL CONROY, BELOW/AP

NASCAR bad boy Kurt Busch, above, working out, and below, driving out of the pit area during an Indy 500 practice run, is trying to own the title of baddest man on the track by pulling off racing's version of an IronMan triathlon, attempting to complete — and win — both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 in the same day.

Busch gets crash course on IndyCar in pursuit of rare feat

BY DAN GELSTON
The Associated Press

With one sudden spin and slam into the wall, Kurt Busch's IndyCar burst into flames.

His shot at The Double, almost up in smoke.

Busch walked away unscathed, his car totaled for this weekend's Indy 500. He'll have an Andretti Autosport backup ready to go for race day, when he tries to make history by becoming only the second driver to complete 1,100 total miles by racing in the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca Cola 600 in the same day.

"You're here this morning, you're upright, you're OK, but you crashed yesterday," host Matt Lauer said on NBC's "Today" show over a photo of Busch's No. 26 Honda on fire.

He sure did, and it was a doozy. Busch spun coming out of the second turn on the 2.5-mile oval and smacked into the outside wall. It was the biggest crash of the month.

Busch was lucky his accident didn't cost him more than a car. And his Tony Stewart-owned NASCAR team surely said a big thanks that one of their key cogs won't miss any time in his day job.

'I'll get over it quick. I've wrecked cars before.'

Kurt Busch

NASCAR driver, after totaling his car during a practice session for the Indy 500. Busch is attempting to become just the second driver to complete both the Indy 500 and the Coca Cola 600 in the same day.

"I'll get over it quick. I've wrecked cars before," Busch said. "I got sideways, I tried to correct it. I had it for a moment, but then I tried to overcorrect it."

Busch is aiming to become the fourth driver to attempt the back-to-back race feat known as "The Double." He's making his debut in IndyCar, and the 2004 Cup champion acknowledged that he made a rookie mistake on the track.

"We made a couple of changes, it was back to my most confident feel in the car," he said. "I just got too aggressive with sway bar changes, weight jacker changes, and didn't stay up on top of my adjustments."

At 1,500 pounds, IndyCars are lighter and have less horsepower than the 3,500-pound cars in NASCAR. Busch usually drives. That leaves IndyCars more suscep-



tible to flips and even fatalities. Busch's crash sent tires and other debris strewn across the track.

The compact stock cars are designed for bangin' and crashin' and side-by-side racing. Unlike the sleek IndyCars, stock cars are modeled to look like ones sold on showroom floors. It's NASCAR's way of putting the "stock" back in stock-car racing. Grills and body lines are similar. Silhouettes are within millimeters of their showroom counterparts.

NASCAR drivers are protected by a roof. IndyCars have no doors, an open cockpit

and about a dozen control buttons at the driver's disposal.

Busch started racing karts as a kid, and won races early in his career in just about every type of series, one reason he has the confidence he can pull off the dual feat. But for all his racing guile, he's still just a first-timer in open-wheel with only weeks of experience, a fact he made easy to forget with the blistering speeds posted during Indy practice. He'll start 12th in the 500 — four spots higher than last year's champ, Tony Kanaan.

SEE DOUBLE ON PAGE 62

AUTO RACING



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Brazil's Tony Kanaan talks with his crew over the radio as he sits in his car in the pit area during practice for the Indianapolis 500. Kanaan won the race for the first time last year.

Celebrating 50 years

ABC set to mark Indy broadcasting milestone

By Dave Skretta
The Associated Press

Strolling casually through the storied grounds of Indianapolis Motor Speedway this week, Scott Goodyear kept getting stopped by fans clutching a photograph and hoping for an autograph.

It was the same photo every time: That iconic image of the finish line in 1992, when he finished second to Al Unser Jr. by a fraction of a second in the Indianapolis 500.

"I think it still resonates," he said, "because so many people remember seeing it on TV."

Indeed, the closest finish in race history remains one of the most memorable moments in a marriage between the Indianapolis 500 and ABC that will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sunday — right along with Danny Sullivan's infamous spin-and-win, A.J. Foyt's triumphs and the year that Danica Patrick became the first woman to lead a lap.

What began as a simple, black-and-white highlights package in 1965 on the seminal "Wide World of Sports" program has grown into one of the marquee events in ABC's sports portfolio, and a test ground for innovations such as in-car cameras that are now common in auto racing coverage.

Rich Feinberg, ESPN's vice president in charge of motorsports production, said the event is among those few "special opportunities."

"When we work the Indy 500," Feinberg said, "we're entrusted with it. We're entrusted with taking this monumental event and



REINHOLD MATAP/AP

Master of Ceremonies Allen Bestwick talks during the NASCAR Nationwide Series awards banquet in Orlando, Fla., on Nov. 22, 2008. Bestwick remembers watching tape-delayed coverage of the Indianapolis 500 as a child.

bringing it to viewers around the world. It's one that's been around 100-plus years, and you have a special sense of responsibility when you work on a project like this. You never have to tell people who work on it how important it is to do well."

"When I was 10 years old, ABC started showing the race with a Sunday night tape-delay," said Allen Bestwick, who will take over lap-by-lap duties from Marty Reid this year.

"That was appointment viewing for us," Bestwick said. "We watched it every year, and that was before CBS began showing the Daytona 500. It was before racing was shown on television. It

was a big, big deal. Jim McKay, Jackie Stewart, Chris Schenkel — you name it. And those people and that broadcast is what got me interested in being a broadcaster."

Innovation has become as much a part of the Indy 500 as the race itself.

Al Unser and Rick Mears carried the first onboard cameras used in Indy 500 coverage for the 1983 race, three years before it was televised live for the first time. In 2006, ABC introduced the "side-by-side" format, allowing viewers to continue watching during commercial breaks. And the following year, the race was broadcast in high definition for the first time.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: Coca-Cola 600 at Concord, N.C.
TV: AFN-Xtra, midnight Sunday, CET; 7 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).
Race distance: 600 miles, 400 laps.

Last year: Kevin Harvick won the race for the second time in three seasons, beating Kasey Kahne on a restart with 11 laps left.

Last week: Jamie McMurray won the non-points Sprint All-Star race at the track, pulling away after a door-to-door battle with Carl Edwards in the 10-lap finale.

Fast facts: Jimmie Johnson, winless this season, has six Charlotte victories.

Next race: FedEx 400, June 1, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Delaware.

Online: nascar.com

Driver standings

1. Jeff Gordon	394
2. Matt Kenseth	379
3. Kyle Busch	373
4. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	368
5. Carl Edwards	367
6. Joey Logano	346
7. Jimmie Johnson	340
8. Ryan Newman	332
9. Greg Biffle	328
10. Brian Vickers	327
11. Brad Keselowski	326
12. Denny Hamlin	318
13. Kyle Larson	318
14. Austin Dillon	306
15. Kevin Harvick	302
16. Kasey Kahne	294
17. AJ Allmendinger	293
18. Paul Menard	292
19. Marcos Ambrose	288
20. Clint Bowyer	282

Driver to watch



It doesn't happen often, but every once in a while a driver attempts the double: Driving in both the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600 on the same day. This year, Kurt Busch will give it a try. Busch will try to become only the fourth driver in history to compete in both races, joining John Andretti, Robby Gordon and Tony Stewart. Of the three who have done it, only Stewart has completed all 1,100 miles. He also had the best finishes in any of the races, finishing sixth in Indy and third at Charlotte in 2001.

CAMPING WORLD TRUCK

Next race: Lucas Oil 200, May 30, Dover International Speedway, Dover, Del.

Last week: Kyle Busch raced to his third victory this year, dominating at Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Indianapolis 500 at Indianapolis.

TV: AFN-Sports, 6 p.m. Sunday, CET; 1 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Indianapolis Motor Speedway (oval, 2.5 miles).
Race distance: 500 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Tony Kanaan raced to his first victory in the event, winning under caution.

Last race: France's Simon Pagenaud won the inaugural Grand Prix of Indianapolis on May 10.

Next race: Chevrolet Detroit Belle Isle Grand Prix, May 31 and June 1, Belle Isle, Detroit.

Online: indycar.com

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: History 300 at Concord, N.C.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Sports, 9 a.m. Sunday, CET; 4 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Charlotte Motor Speedway (oval, 1.5 miles).

Race distance: 300 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the sixth of his 12 2013 series victories.

Last week: Sam Hornish Jr. won at Iowa Speedway.

Next race: History 300, May 24, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

This week: Monaco Grand Prix at Monte Carlo, Monaco.

Track: Circuit de Monaco (street course, 2.075 miles).

Race distance: 161.9 miles, 78 laps.

Last year: Nico Rosberg won the crash-raced race.

Last race: Mercedes' Lewis Hamilton won the Spanish Grand Prix on May 11 for his fourth straight victory.

Next race: Canadian Grand Prix, June 8, Circuit Gilles Villeneuve, Montreal.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: NHRA Kansas Nationals at Topeka, Kan.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 4:30 a.m. Monday, CET; 11:30 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Heartland Park Topeka.

Last year: Johnny Gray won Funny Car. Shawn Langdon won in Top Fuel and Jeg Coughlin topped Pro Stock.

Last week: Robert Hight won Funny Car in the Southern Nationals in Commerce, Georgia. Other winners were Spencer Massey (Top Fuel), Coughlin (Pro Stock) and Eddie Krawiec (Pro Stock Motorcycle).

Next event: NHRA Summernationals, May 29-June 1, Old Bridge Township Raceway Park, Englishtown, N.J.

Online: nhra.com

Series capsules

by The Associated Press

AUTO RACING/NHL PLAYOFFS

Double: Busch fortunate wreck only cost him car

FROM PAGE 60

Busch's "NASCAR instincts" got him in trouble during the wreck, 2000 Indy 500 winner and former NASCAR driver Juan Pablo Montoya said. Montoya mimicked the motion of turning a wheel all the way as a source of the problem.

He explained: "Too much wheel. ... A NASCAR wheel goes and it stays there for a long time. It doesn't kick back. The IndyCar, an open wheel, kicks back."

"In NASCAR, you can fight with it all the way to the wall to try to save it. They slide and you can help it," Montoya said. "In IndyCar, when it goes, ask Kurt what happened. And NASCAR is a lot more forgiving because the car is bigger, heavier, there's so much mass that it just takes a lot to get it moving."

Busch knows there's more to learn in his new ride, and he won't truly grasp the nuances of racing in corners or handling traffic until Sunday.

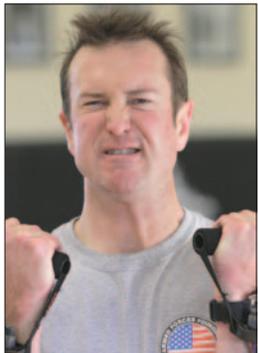
"I have to use my experience from the NASCAR world to feel the car, know what to do in traffic, predict restarts," he said. "It will be a full set of lessons learned in the first half of the race. If I'm there halfway, I'll start to apply it."

Stewart, a champion driver in both series, has offered Busch tips on the differences between each car.

"With those cars, it's all about momentum and being able to carry corner speeds," Stewart said. "It's a little more crucial in those cars than it is in ours because we have horsepower to fall back on."

Hours after the wreck, Busch said he felt fine, up for the grid of his media obligations. He went out for dinner in New York with rapper Ice-T and his wife, Coco. He'll return to racing Friday when the final 1-hour Indy 500 practice sessions will be held. The 35-year-old Busch is in the shape of his career thanks to workouts in a karate dojo, and newfound dedication to proper fitness and nutrition.

"I would consider him a possible top-three finisher, if he gets through all the problems during the race," 1998 Indy 500 winner Eddie Cheever said. "He's been incredible. I'm very impressed."



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

Race car driver Kurt Busch works out at a gym in Ellicott City, Md. On Sunday, he'll try and race in the Indianapolis 500 and the Coca-Cola 600, with a race or two against the clock thrown in.



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Los Angeles' Jake Muzzin, left, reacts Wednesday after scoring a goal during Game 2 of the Western Conference finals in Chicago.

Kings explode, even series

NHL scoreboard

LA scores 6 goals after falling behind 2-0

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

Conference finals
(Best-of-seven; x if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers 2, Montreal 0
N.Y. Rangers 3, Montreal 1
Thursday: at NY Rangers
Sunday: at NY Rangers
x-Tuesday: at Montreal
x-Thursday, May 29: at NY Rangers
x-Friday, May 31: at Montreal
WESTERN CONFERENCE
Chicago 3, Los Angeles 1
Wednesday: Los Angeles 6, Chicago 2
Saturday: at Los Angeles
Monday: at Los Angeles
Wednesday, May 28: at Chicago
x-Friday, May 30: at Los Angeles
x-Sunday, June 1: at Chicago

Wednesday
Kings 6, Blackhawks 2
Los Angeles 0 1 5-6
Chicago 1 0 0-2
First Period—1. Chicago, Ledy 1 (Kethl), 14:16 (pp).
Second Period—2. Chicago, Smith 2 (Bollig, Oduya), 1:40, 3. Los Angeles, Williams 6 (Richards, King), 18:14.
Third Period—4. Los Angeles, Carter 5 (Doughty, Voynov), 1:37 (pp), 5. Los Angeles, Muzzin 4 (Martinez, Gaborko), 4:04 (pp), 6. Los Angeles, Toffoli 5 (Pearson, Carter), 8:59, 7. Los Angeles, Carter 6 (Pearson, Greene), 14:44, 8. Los Angeles, Carter 7, 16:29 (en).
Shots on Goal—Los Angeles 8-11-12—31, Chicago 9-10-6—25.
Power-play opportunities—Los Angeles 2 of 4; Chicago 1 of 4.
Goals—Los Angeles, Quick 9-7-0 (25 shots; 23 saves), Chicago, Crawford 9-5-0 (30-25).
A—22,019 (19,717). T—2:37.

Calendar
May 29-31 — NHL combine, Toronto, June 18 — Last possible day for Stanley Cup finals.
June 25 — NHL awards, Las Vegas.

CHICAGO — One big stop by Jonathan Quick turned into a scoring spree for Jeff Carter and Los Angeles.

These resilient Kings can come back in a hurry.

Carter scored three of Los Angeles' six straight goals, and the Kings beat the Chicago Blackhawks 6-2 Wednesday night to even the Western Conference finals at a game apiece.

Tyler Toffoli and Jake Muzzin also scored in Los Angeles' five-goal third period to help the Kings become the first visiting team to win in Chicago this postseason. The Blackhawks won their first seven home playoff games this year, but the Kings skated right by Chicago after the defending Stanley Cup champion Blackhawks took a 2-0 lead in the second period.

"Just sticking with what we need to do," Carter said. "You know, we got a good group of leaders in our room. We've been through comebacks and whatnot a lot lately. Obviously, not something we want to do. But we stick with it, grind it out, get the job done."

The early deficit was just a small speed bump for Los Angeles, dubbed the comeback Kings for their play in the opening two rounds.

Los Angeles trailed 3-0 in its first playoff series against San Jose, and won four straight games to eliminate the Sharks. The Kings overcame a 3-2 series deficit in the second round against top-seeded Anaheim.

"We know we can win," forward Jarret Stoll said. "That's the bottom line. They've got a good

team, but we feel we do, too."
Game 3 of the best-of-seven series is Saturday night in Los Angeles.

Nick Leddy and Ben Smith scored for Chicago, which won 3-1 in Game 1 on Sunday.

"The way it turned on a dime like that, I don't know if we've seen a game like that all year where we're doing everything all right and all of a sudden it was a disaster," Blackhawks coach Joel Quenneville said.

Chicago was in position for its fourth consecutive win before Carter redirected Drew Doughty's slap shot by Corey Crawford to tie it at 2 just 1:37 into the third. Muzzin then had another power-play score at 4:04 that gave Los Angeles the lead.

Once the Kings got going, they appeared to get almost anything they wanted against the sagging Blackhawks. Tanner Pearson set up goals by Toffoli at 8:59 and Carter at 14:44, and Carter added an empty-netter for his seventh of the playoffs.

"We knew the third period was going to be our best period in this series so far," Doughty said. "We were just adamant in here about coming out, taking the pressure, getting a goal early and we did that."

It was the first time Los Angeles had five goals in single postseason period since May 7, 1993, against Vancouver, according to STATS. Wayne Gretzky had two of those goals and watched Wednesday's game from a suite at the United Center.

It was the most goals allowed by the Blackhawks in a playoff game since a 6-1 loss to Detroit on May 24, 2009.

NBA PLAYERS

Spurs dominate Thunder for 2-0 lead

Oklahoma City heads home searching for answers

By **RAUL DOMINGUEZ**
The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs have been here before.

Tony Parker scored 22 points, Danny Green added 21 on seven three-pointers, and San Antonio used a dominant third quarter to pummel Oklahoma City 112-77 Wednesday night and take a 2-0 lead in the Western Conference finals.

The Spurs were in the same position in 2012 before the Thunder won four straight to capture the series and stun a Spurs team that appeared to have its best days behind.

Well, San Antonio is back in the conference final with a commanding lead, wiser and even older.

"I know after the game, nobody is very happy in the locker room," Parker said. "Everybody is very focused, and we respect that team. We know they're very capable of a comeback, and they did that against us in 2012. We're just very focused and nobody is satisfied."

Game 3 is Sunday at Oklahoma City, where the Thunder will try to bounce back from the worst playoff loss in franchise history.

"Definitely doesn't sound good, and it shouldn't," Oklahoma City coach Scott Brooks said. "I hope our entire locker room doesn't feel good. You shouldn't feel good. We got our butts kicked."

Playing without Serge Ibaka



**Western Conference Game 3:
San Antonio at Oklahoma City**
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Monday CET
9:30 a.m. Monday JKT

and given two days to adjust to dropping Game 1 by 17 points, the Thunder performed even worse.

Parker and Green each had eight points in the third quarter and San Antonio outscored Oklahoma City 33-18 in the period.

Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook each finished with 15 points, but the third-quarter barrage made spectators of both in the fourth — not that they accomplished much when they did play. The star duo combined to shoot 13-for-40, including 4-for-14 in the third quarter.

"If they had won this game by one point, we'd still be down 0-2," Durant said. "[We] lost by a lot two games in a row. It's hard for you to stay together, but we have a group of guys that are not front-runners and we'll figure it out. That's all we've got to do."

An attempt to do that resulted in an argument between Durant and Westbrook as they walked off

the court at halftime.

"I was just getting on Kevin about some stuff and he got on me right back," Westbrook said. "And that's what teammates do, that's what leaders do, we get on each other. We came back and we talk about it and then we come out like nothing ever happened."

That didn't help in the second half.

Durant made his first two field goals of the third quarter, but did not have another for the rest of the half.

Oklahoma City has yet to find a consistent third option on offense through two games. After combining to score five points in the opener, fellow starters Nick Collison, Kendrick Perkins and Thabo Sefolosha had just four in Game 2.

Durant said he and Westbrook didn't stop trusting their teammates, but during a 17-minute stretch spanning the second and third quarters, they took shots on 27 of 38 possessions.

Asked why, Durant said, "Because we're the focal point of the offense."

And the Spurs realize that, which is why they have made them work hard for every point.

"Work, work for everything," Duncan said of the Spurs' defensive strategy. "Keep them off the free throw line, make their shots as tough as possible. Those guys are great scorers, we know that, but we want to make them score over a hand and work for everything they get."



DARREN ABATE/AP

Spurs guard Tony Parker, left, of France, drives past Thunder guard Thabo Sefolosha during the first half of Game 2 of the Western Conference finals on Wednesday in San Antonio.

Scoreboard

Conference finals
(Best-of-seven; x=if necessary)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Indiana 1, Miami 1
Miami 87, Indiana 83
Saturday at Miami
Wednesday, May 28: at Indiana
Thursday, May 29: at Miami
WESTERN CONFERENCE
San Antonio 2, Oklahoma City 0
San Antonio 122, Oklahoma City 105
San Antonio 111, Oklahoma City 112
Monday at Oklahoma City
Tuesday at Oklahoma City
x-Thursday, May 29: at San Antonio
x-Saturday, May 31: at Oklahoma City
x-Monday, June 2: at San Antonio

Wednesday
Spurs 112, Thunder 77

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 6-16 3-5 15, Collison 1-2 0-0 2, Perkins 1-2 0-0 2, Westbrook 7-24 0-15, Sefolosha 0-5 0-0 0, Adams 4-5 1-4 5, Jackson 4-7 0-0 8, Butler 4-8 0-9, Fisher 1-5 0-2, Jones 1-4 0-2, Lamb 6-8 1-13, Robertson 0-3 0-0 0, Totter 0-0 0-0 10
SAN ANTONIO — Leonard 2-4 0-0 4, Duncan 5-12 4-4 14, Splitter 2-4 5-9 9, Jones 1-7 2-22 22, San Antonio 5-23 (Green 7-16, Ginobili 1-2, Diaw 1-2, Bonner 0-1, Joseph 0-1, Duncan 0-1, Parker 0-1, Bellinelli 0-2, Mills 0-3), Fouled Out—Nando De Colo (17), James Harden (17), Adams 8, San Antonio 55 (Duncan 12), Assistants—Oklahoma City 18 (Westbrook 5), 17 (Parker 5), Total Fouls—Oklahoma City 21, San Antonio 15, Technicals—Duncan, A.—18,581 (18,797).

In the East, needed rest for the weary

By **TIM REYNOLDS**
The Associated Press

MIAMI — The long break between games in the Eastern Conference finals could be welcomed by Indiana, after Pacers guard Paul George was diagnosed Wednesday with a concussion that will force him to complete several NBA-mandated procedures before he can return to the matchup against the Miami Heat.

The series, now tied at a game apiece, doesn't resume until Saturday night.

And what at first might have been looked at as an awkward break — three full days off until the next game day — is probably now welcomed by the Pacers. Indiana not only needs to get George cleared but also had starters Lance Stephenson, Roy Hibbert and David West all either limping or ailing in the final minutes of the Game 2 loss on Tuesday night.

George was hurt with 6:52 left in the fourth quarter of Miami's Game 2 victory. He stole the ball from Heat guard Dwyane Wade, but could not keep control and wound up tumbling face-first to the court. Wade, also going for the ball, struck the back of George's



**Eastern Conference Game 3:
Indiana at Miami**
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Sunday CET
9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

head with his left knee, then appeared to scrape the same area with his right leg as he also fell to the hardwood.

George remained down for a few moments, but played the remainder of the game. He revealed afterward that he "blacked out" on the play, something that the Pacers say was not related to their medical staff.

"George exhibited no symptoms of a concussion and, in response to questions from the Pacers' medical staff, he denied dizziness, nausea, and issues with his vision," the Pacers said Wednesday. "He was also active and aware of his surroundings. As a result, the Indiana medical staff

did not suspect a concussion."

But after the "blacked out" comment, the Pacers evaluated George again Wednesday morning.

"This case illustrates that concussion evaluation is an ongoing process and manifestations of the injury may not always present immediately," said NBA Concussion Program Director Dr. Jeffrey Kutcher, who will discuss George's return-to-participation process with the Pacers' team doctor before clearance is given for a return.

Miami evened the series with an 87-83 win, after LeBron James and Wade controlled the fourth quarter for the Heat. George made a three-pointer to give Indiana a 73-69 lead on the possession immediately preceding the one where he got tangled with Wade. The Heat answered with a 13-2 run over the next 5 minutes, James scoring nine of those points and Wade getting the other two.

Just like that, the Heat grabbed the home-court edge in the series.

"They're a tough bunch," Heat forward Chris Bosh said of the Pacers. "Very good team and we're going to continue to challenge each other throughout the

series. It's just now getting started. We have to take care of home court. First, we can really relax for a few days, and then get it on Saturday."

Both teams were off on Wednesday.

"I just know I've got warriors behind me, and we're just going to take it to them," Stephenson said. "We've just got to take our time. It's a long series. We've just got to stay together."

The NBA's concussion policy states that once a player is diagnosed, he needs to be "held out of all activity until he is symptom-free at rest" and until neurological signs return to normal. George will have to go through tests of increasing exertion before he gets cleared.

Pacers coach Frank Vogel said he was told during the game that George was "good to go."

There were plenty of other aches and pains for Indiana to deal with. West appeared to get poked in an eye in the fourth quarter, Hibbert was flexing his left leg after a tumble in the final seconds, and Stephenson went down at midcourt after colliding with Wade on the game's final play, grabbing the area around his right knee.

SPORTS



Spurs on
San Antonio dominant again in Game 2 win over OKC | Page 63

DODDS SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS



ABOVE:
MICHAEL ABRAMS
STARS AND STRIPES

LEFT:
MARIE OSUNA
SOCIAL TO STARS AND STRIPES

Above, Ramstein's Dominique Dubois, left, and Patch's Lauren Rittenhouse fight for a ball in the Division I final at the DODDS-Europe soccer championships in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Thursday. Ramstein won 1-0. At left, the Kadena Panthers boys soccer players celebrate their second straight Far East Division I Tournament title after a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Kubasaki.

Pacific



Boys
Division I
Kadena 1
Kubasaki 0



Girls
Division I
Kubasaki 3
ASIJ 1



Boys
Division II
Perry 3
Zama 1



Girls
Division II
Edgren 3
Zama 1

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Europe



Girls
Division I
Ramstein 1
Patch 0



Girls
Division II
Naples 2
AFNORTH 0



Boys
Division II
Marymount 2,
AFNORTH 1



Girls
Division III
Brussels 1
Florence 0



Boys
Division III
Sigonella 4,
Brussels 3

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