

# STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 72, No. 233 ©SS 2014

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2014

平成26年4月5日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土曜除く)  
発行所 星島新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

**WEEKEND**  
EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC

Going for  
**GOLD**

Oscars preview extravaganza | Page 23



**MUSIC**



'Morning Phase'  
finds Beck  
in sea change  
Page 36

**QUICK TRIPS**



Okinawa's largest  
glass factory  
clearly a must-see  
Page 33

**BASKETBALL**



Term 'mid-major'  
in hoops finally  
dies of old age  
Back page



Facebook group to  
servicemembers:

## DON'T BE AN IDIOT

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON

Facebook group created Tuesday is slamming servicemembers who post controversial photos and comments on social media.

**A**The group — Military Social Media Idiots — has one message: "If you are wearing the uniform, **DON'T POST PICTURES OF YOURSELF THAT WILL DISGRACE THE UNIFORM.**"

The group's mission is to expose servicemembers who post those kinds of images and comments so the offenders will get punished and others will be deterred from such activity, according to the administrators.

SEE IDIOTS ON PAGE 2



A series of viral images has brought scrutiny to servicemembers who post controversial content on social media. In the latest incident, officials at Fort Carson, Colo., are investigating reports that Pfc. Tariqka Sheffey, top, posted a photo on Instagram of herself deliberately avoiding saluting the flag.

Stars and Stripes illustration

## Lawmakers hold hearing on downing of 'Extortion 17'

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON—Was the mission doomed from the start? Were Taliban fighters tipped off? Were fallen servicemembers treated with dignity and respect? A congressional oversight com-

mittee held a controversial hearing Thursday to get answers to questions surrounding the high-profile shoot-down of an American helicopter in Afghanistan and the way that the remains of the fallen servicemembers were handled. On Aug. 6, 2011, an American

CH-47 Chinook helicopter with the call sign "Extortion 17" was shot down by Taliban insurgents while transporting a fast-reaction team of special operations forces to assist Army Rangers in a battle against insurgents in Wardak province. The event raised many ques-

tions over the planning and execution of the SOF mission, as well as the way that memorial ceremonies and the transfer of remains were conducted. Even the decisions to hold a hearing and who was allowed to testify were controversial.

SEE HEARING ON PAGE 8

# QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We don't see it that way. We do not believe this should be an East-West, Russia-United States. This is not 'Rocky IV,' believe me. We don't see it that way."

— Secretary of State John Kerry, saying Russia shouldn't view the situation in Ukraine through the prism of the past

See story on Page 11

# TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

1. Facebook group to servicemembers: Don't be an idiot on social media
2. 'Scary' tattoo ban passed at popular beach for servicemembers in Japan
3. Colorado soldier accused of avoiding flag salute
4. Pentagon budget cuts take first toll in Japan, England
5. Colorado soldier accused of avoiding flag salute

# COMING SOON

### Movies

The Academy Awards



# TODAY IN STRIPES

- American Roundup ..... 19
- Business ..... 20
- Classified ..... 50-52
- Comics ..... 42, 46-47
- Crossword ..... 42, 46-47
- Faces ..... 43
- Faith ..... 14
- Health & Fitness ..... 40
- Opinion ..... 44-45
- Quick Trips ..... 29, 33-34
- Sports ..... 54-64
- Weather ..... 20
- Weekend ..... 21-42

# MILITARY

## Pentagon says Syria should hand over its chemical weapons faster

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is urging Syria to move faster on its promise to hand over its chemical weapons.

Defense Department spokesman So far, only one batch of the government's most toxic chemicals has been shipped out of the coun-

try. It was mustard gas.

The government led by President Bashar Assad has missed at least two deadlines in the past two months to remove chemicals.

A U.S. cargo ship loaded with equipment to neutralize the chemicals is waiting in Europe to destroy the most dangerous parts of the stockpile.



## Winter watch

U.S. soldiers patrol at Manas air base outside Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, on Tuesday. The base started closing, and U.S. troops began using its replacement in Romania as they transit into and out of Afghanistan.

VLADIMIR VORONIN/AP

## Idiots: Group urges careful thought before posting photos

### FROM FRONT PAGE

"I'm going to put a stop to this one way or another," the page creator(s) said. "If you have a screenshot of a soldier or other military servicemember disgracing the uniform, please message the page. We may or may not post it. Please give details of where it was posted."

Photos on the site show servicemembers doing a variety of things that many would consider inappropriate for someone in uniform to be doing on social media, including:

- Posing in states of undress.
- Grabbing one's crotch while saluting.
- Using profanity and racially charged language.

Going forward, the group will focus on the most egregious cases.

"There is WAY too many photos of people posing with their shirts off to even contemplate, so we're just going to go after those who [are serious offenders]," the administrators wrote Wednesday.

The image that first appeared on the site is a screenshot of an Instagram post made by Pfc. Tariqah Sheffey, who uses the handle "sheffeynation," in which she suggests that she avoided a flag ceremony.

Sheffey posted a photo of herself with the following caption:

"This is me lying on my back in my car hiding so I don't have to salute the 1700 flag. KEEP ALL YOUR 'THAT'S SO DISRESPECTFUL/HOW RUDE/ETC.' COMMENTS TO YOURSELF, cuz, right now, IDGAFFPE!"

An official at Fort Carson, Colo., where Sheffey is stationed, said in

an email that Sheffey's command is aware of her social media post and they are reviewing potential courses of action.

Military Social Media Idiots already has struck a chord with many members of the military community. Its Facebook page has gotten more than 10,500 "likes" as of Thursday afternoon, a day after the site was created.

The group has some advice for servicemembers who are active on social media.

"If you are a person considering making a career in the military ... think really hard about what you post. When you become a leader, your picture showing up on the internet half naked is going to completely undermine your ability to lead, ESPECIALLY if you are a female leading male soldiers ... You want to take sexy pictures of yourself and send it to your girlfriend? Great, go for it. Just don't post them on instagram, facebook, twitter, tumblr, whatever. When you do, it is out there for the world to see. Regardless of your privacy settings."

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has expressed concerns that current and future servicemembers don't realize the potential for social media to ruin their military careers.

"I worry a bit about ... the young men and women who are now in their teens, early teens, and who probably underestimate the impact of their persona in social media and what impact that could have later in life on things like security clearances and promotions and selections," he said at a veterans conference in Washington in December.

Brett Griffith, a former servicemember who commented on the page, said soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines who post inappropriate pictures are unworthy of wearing the uniform.

"The ONLY pictures I have of myself in Uniform are me wearing it properly with nothing but PRIDE in myself and my former Unit ... Those who wear it improperly or have no respect for it, do not need to be granted the HONOR of putting it on," he wrote.

The administrators posted the following message from a "fan" of the group:

"You must ensure your virtual conduct is as patriotic and honorable as the service you represent."

Some commenters questioned the way the administrators are pursuing their goals.

"I feel like [the page] is being run by [someone] that is just trying to nail soldiers for dumb stuff when most of this stuff should be handled by their team leaders and squad leaders," said David Lynch, a retired Army soldier. "When I was in the Army I always had that mentality that if my soldiers were [expletive] up, let me handle it. Don't outsource to others."

Another commentator, Adam Pellin, also criticized the site.

"I can see the point of this page," he said. "But it's sad that a page like this actually exists. Putting these [people] on display for everyone to see I think may inadvertently have a negative effect. You say they are disgracing the uniform in a public forum, so how is sharing their pictures to even more people going to help?"

Others praised the group.

"I am a fan of the site and hope it helps deter Soldiers from making career ending social media mistakes, both the Soldiers who post outrageous photos and the Soldiers whose comments also constitute career ending social media mistakes," wrote Eileen Hernandez, an Army officer.

The administrators defended their exposure strategy.

"[We're doing it this way] because obviously it is NOT being handled in house," they wrote.

Social media posts of servicemembers doing inappropriate things have recently triggered high-profile investigations and suspensions of the personnel involved.

Stars and Stripes reported on two controversial photos that went viral on social media earlier this month, including one depicting an airman pretending to make out with the POW/MIA emblem and another showing National Guard soldiers posing disrespectfully in front of a military funeral training casket. The military has launched investigations into both cases.

"Commenting, posting or linking to material that violates the UCMJ or basic rules of Soldier conduct is prohibited," Army Staff Sgt. Dale Sweetnam, of the Office of the Chief of Public Affairs, said in a news release in February 2012. "It is important that all Soldiers know that once they log on to a social media platform, they still represent the Army ... The best way to think about it is, if you wouldn't say it in formation or to your leader's face, don't say it online."

harperjon@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

Stay connected to your military community, no matter how far you are from home.

News, information and more — 24/7

stripes.com STARS AND STRIPES

## MILITARY



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

Army and Air Force Exchange Service and commissary services at RAF Menwith Hill, England, will have their presence reduced in response to the reduction of 500 personnel at the base by October 2016.

## Technology led to decision to cut personnel at Menwith Hill

By ADAM L. MATHIS  
Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — A technological streamlining of operations at RAF Menwith Hill is behind the decision to cut some 500 servicemembers and civilians at the base in central Britain.

U.S. European Command announced Wednesday that the 421st Air Base Group, which provides base support at Menwith Hill, "and other U.S. military units will be deactivated."

A worldwide Department of Defense review found that operations at Menwith Hill could be streamlined by doing the same job with more technology and fewer personnel "so that kind of drove the reduction," said Capt. Michael Hertzog II, a spokesman for U.S. Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa.

Hertzog could not elaborate

about the nature of technology involved in which operations were being streamlined at the National Security Agency base in Yorkshire.

He alluded to wider improvements in computer and information technology.

"It's fairly consistent with ... what's been going on across the spectrum ... as we improve everything from ... server capacity to the hardware that we're using," Hertzog said in a telephone interview. "We're doing more with less."

The reduction in operation personnel also will affect support staff, which led to plans for downsizing the 421st Air Base Group into a squadron, he said. It has not yet been decided how many airmen will make up the squadron.

Squadron Leader Geoff Dickson, the Royal Air Force commander at Menwith Hill, said Wednesday that the reductions

will affect all areas of the base and they "will be spending the next few months deciding what the exact footprint will be for RAF Menwith Hill."

The reductions, however, will cut into the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and commissary locations at the base, which is more than 100 miles from the majority of other U.S. bases with those services in England.

"AAFES will still offer products for sale and so will DeCA (Defense Commissary Agency), but it's not going to be the same facility footprint that it is now," Hertzog said.

Dickson said the change will not affect the base's mission capability.

"There will be no impact on the mission whatsoever, and Menwith Hill is not closing and the mission will continue," Dickson said.

mathis.adam@stripes.com

## Admiral: Weapons cuts provide most savings for DOD

By TONY CAPACCIO  
AND ROXANA TRON  
Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's proposed reductions in military compensation, such as housing allowances, amount to only about 10 percent of cuts being sought over the next five years, the No. 2 U.S. military official said Wednesday.

"These savings are gradual, measured and fair," Adm. James Winnefeld, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said at Bloomberg Government's Defense Transformation conference in Washington.

"The remaining 90 percent of savings come from" spending on weapons buying and readiness and from reductions in force structure, led by trimming the Army's ranks, Winnefeld said. "So we are taking a lot more risk there."

The five-year plan that Hagel presented on Feb. 24 is about \$130 billion less than projected last year — even before automatic cuts known as sequestration, the admiral said in an interview. Compensation savings account for about \$12 billion over that period, with about \$1 billion in 2015, he said.

Hagel outlined a fiscal 2015 budget intended to achieve the \$45 billion in savings needed to stay within a \$496 billion cap imposed by spending limits revised under a congressional budget deal in December.

Members of Congress indicated they will challenge his efforts to reduce the Army's ranks by 6

percent to about 490,000 personnel by 2015 from about 522,000 today.

Congress also has regularly resisted efforts to cut benefits to military personnel.

Reps. Adam Smith, D-Wash., and Randy Forbes, R-Va., two senior members of the House Armed Services Committee — Wednesday called for the reversal of the automatic budget reductions.

Those cuts are scheduled take full effect again in 2016.

Forbes, the chairman of the House Armed Services Sequestration subcommittee, said at the conference that the defense budget needs to be increased to thwart national security threats, from the Middle East to Venezuela.

"We need a bigger budget," he said.

Forbes acknowledged the political difficulty in the Republican-led House of preventing even further reductions in the defense budget.

He said defense supporters need to make the case for national security and defense technology to small-government Republicans who want to cut the federal budget.

Smith, the top Democrat on the Armed Services committee, said readiness and preparation for future wars will remain constrained without some changes to increasingly costly military benefits.

"That is what leads to a hollow force," Smith said.

Hagel's proposals to slow compensation costs included the reduced housing allowance and cuts in subsidies for commissaries on military bases.

He said his recommendations "favor a smaller and more capable force" that "can defeat more technologically advanced adversaries."

## Official: Troop levels in South Korea not affected by Pentagon cuts

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Sweeping proposed cuts to military spending and troop levels will not affect U.S. military operations in South Korea, and the U.S. military rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region will be preserved, a top defense official said Wednesday.

"The importance of our relationship with Korea and the importance of our commitment to South Korea and the troops on the peninsula is not affected by our plans," Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense Christine Fox said during a forum at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington.

Fox said a proposal to shrink the num-

ber of Army personnel to between 444,000 and 450,000 would give U.S. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno "enough flexibility to meet the requirements that any Korean contingency would require and sustain our commitment to the forces on the peninsula and protect the homeland and do something else."

"But the smaller the force, the less else you can do. But ... it's not Korea. Korea is set and was an input," she said.

The U.S. maintains a constant force presence of 28,500 on the Korean Peninsula as a deterrent to North Korea, though the number of boots on the ground is higher due to the burgeoning use of rotational deployments.

Approximately 800 members of the 1st

Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment from Fort Hood, Texas, are now in South Korea for a nine-month deployment. The 1-12 CABV brought with it about 40 M1-A2 Abrams tanks and 40 M2-A3 Bradleys, which will remain in Korea for follow-on rotations.

South Korean defense officials said this week that they were not worried about the impending budget cuts, citing previous assurances from the U.S. that sequestration would not affect U.S. Forces Korea troop levels or readiness.

Even though the Air Force announced Wednesday that it will reduce the number of troops at Misawa Air Base's intelligence gathering units by 500 over the next 1½ years, Fox said the rebalance to the Asia-Pacific remains critical, citing Marine

Corps deployments to Australia and trips to the region by top U.S. officials including President Barack Obama as examples of U.S. commitment to that rebalance.

She said the budget and personnel cuts, while painful, were necessary and warned that "without far-sighted bipartisan action by the Congress, sequestration will return in FY 2016." That would cut defense spending by more than \$50 billion per year through 2021, she said.

The Department of Defense budget plan announced this week would "help remedy some of the damage already caused by sequestration," Fox said. "It's \$15 billion more over the next five years than sequestration funding, she said.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

MILITARY

# Reid: Vets bill headed toward Senate defeat

By ALAN FRAM  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said a \$21 billion Democratic measure enriching health care, education and job-training benefits for veterans seemed headed for defeat Thursday, amid blamed Republicans.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell countered that Democrats were mirroring the bill in election-year politics.

Both parties generally favor helping the nation's 22 million veterans and their families, especially ahead of the November elections. The measure's apparent demise underscored the political maneuvering that abounds this year, when Congress seems stalemated and able to achieve little.

This week, Republicans tried ending the vet-

erans measure to make it less expensive and to add new penalties against Iran for its nuclear program. President Barack Obama strongly opposes that step, saying international talks on Iran's nuclear program must be given more time.

Similar legislation drew 59 Senate cosponsors, and an Iran vote potentially could embarrass the White House.

Reid, D-Nev., blocked a vote on the Iran amendment and others, and Republicans seemed ready to use a procedural move Thursday to derail the entire bill.

Reid said he hoped veterans groups were watching what Republicans were doing on the bill "because it will be defeated. That was their aim from the very beginning."

McConnell, R-Ky., complained that Reid was denying Republicans a chance to help shape the legislation, and he said many

lawmakers disagree with Obama's approach to Iran.

"It's shameful that Senate Democrats would seek to score political points by rushing to the floor a bill" Republicans weren't given a chance to reshape, McConnell said.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., chairman of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said Wednesday that it would be "extremely disrespectful to the men and women who have put their lives on the line" to block the legislation because of the dispute over Iran.

"The American people don't want to see serious legislation sabotaged because of political partisanship," Sanders said.

Republicans said Reid was shielding Democratic senators from a difficult vote.

"What Reid would like to do is take all the votes and push them past the November election," said North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, top Republican on the Veterans Committee.

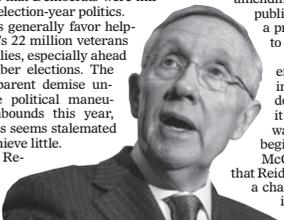
It will take 60 votes to keep the bill alive,

and that's more than the 53 Democrats and two Democratic-leaning Independents who are likely to go that way.

The bill would make many veterans without service-connected injuries eligible for treatment at Department of Veterans Affairs' medical facilities. It would expand the dental, chiropractic and fertility treatments the VA provides, bolster programs for veterans who suffered sexual abuse and increase the use of alternative medicine such as yoga for stress.

More veterans would be eligible for in-state tuition at public universities. Some benefits for spouses of deceased veterans would improve, and aid to relatives caring for a wounded veteran would be expanded to include those who served before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The department would be required to publicly report more data on its handling of veterans' benefit claims. That and other steps are designed to eat into the VA's backlog of 390,000 claims that have been awaiting action for more than 125 days.



# Hagel on the defense budget: It's going to be a tough sell

By WALTER PINCUS  
The Washington Post

The first shots in this year's battle over the Defense Department budget have been exchanged, with Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel's opening salvo fired Monday and quickly drawing heat from Congress, veterans groups and lobbyists.

The former senator from Nebraska has prepared for an extended political fight. He's trying

**ANALYSIS**

to set the terms of the debate by speaking out about the fiscal 2015 Pentagon reductions and sending top aides into verbal combat a week before President Barack Obama's budget is released Tuesday.

Hagel appears to be taking a page from his predecessor Robert Gates' book, "Duty," in which Gates described trying to limit criticism in 2009 of a newly sworn-in President Obama by announcing his own controversial cut to an inflated Bush defense proposal before the Obama budget numbers were released.

On Tuesday, Hagel discussed the budget during three appearances, two before military audiences. In addition, acting Deputy Defense Secretary Christine Fox spoke to the McAleese Defense Programs Conference on Tuesday and to the American Enterprise Institute on Wednesday. Adm. James Winnefeld Jr., vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, spoke Wednesday at Bloomberg Government's defense summit.

While the main target is Congress, Hagel hopes to generate early support by explaining his proposals to the troops, service families and national security experts before they get distorted during the expected debate.

"It's going to be a tough sell," he told a group of former Pentagon officials and journalists at a Tuesday morning session at the Pentagon. He knows that budget



Rear Adm. Kirby, right, briefs Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel before he takes questions from the media during his visit to Fort Eustis, Va., on Tuesday to speak to soldiers about the Army's future.

hawks now battle defense hawks on Capitol Hill and that there's no guarantee all Republicans will support Pentagon spending as they did when he was a senator.

For the new times, there will be three 2015 defense budgets.

Obama will send up one based on numbers in the 2013 agreement between Rep. Paul Ryan, R-Wis., and Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash. That one allows \$496 billion for core defense spending but is about \$45 billion below what Obama projected last year would be needed.

To close the gap, Obama has another proposal: an Opportunity, Growth and Security Initiative with \$26 billion for defense and \$30 billion for other spending. He will propose a package of spending and tax reforms to pay for it.

The third defense budget, assembled by Hagel's team, will show what fiscal 2015 and future

years would look like under sequester levels, because, the secretary said, "sequestration-level cuts remain the law ... for fiscal year 2016 and beyond" if Congress doesn't act. Fox noted that it would require defense cuts from earlier projects of more than \$50 billion annually through 2021.

Hagel uses the sequester projections as ammunition. For example, under current planning the Army would be cut to 490,000 personnel; Hagel's plan would trim it over the next five years to 440,000 or 450,000. Sequester levels returning in 2016 would require a cut to 420,000, a level that Gen. Raymond Odierno, the Army chief of staff, has said won't support current strategy.

Hagel's early efforts are an effort to address objections voiced about his plan and provide a sense of what's to come. The main subjects:

■ Creating a "hollow Army," Hagel, addressing Army troops at Fort Eustis in Newport News, Va., said he is trying to reduce the force structure as is done after every war, but "in a responsible, glide-path way."

"I suppose we could just have a lot of people and just keep training them and training them and training them, thinking that, well, maybe another Iraq or Afghanistan will come," he said.

Instead, he said, the reality is that "we can't continue to keep everybody trained and compensated. ... We cannot allow a so-called 'hollow force' or too many members just to have too many members. ... That's not fair to the members who stay in."

■ The administration is balancing the budget on the backs of those who serve. Winnefeld said personnel compensation savings — limiting pay increases, rais-

ing Tricare health fees, seeking a 5 percent increase in the rent allowance — "only amount to 10 percent of the savings we're suggesting out of what constitutes fully one-third of our budget." The other 90 percent of savings comes from "the other two-thirds, which pays for modernization and readiness as well as end-strength cost," Winnefeld said. Fox said the expectation was that "these initiatives [would] save \$11 billion over the next five years."

■ Over several years, commissaries are to lose \$1 billion of their \$1.4 billion annual direct subsidy, but still have free rent and pay no taxes. Overseas commissaries and those in remote sites will continue to get subsidies.

■ No change in retirement programs is expected until after the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission report, which is expected next February. The Pentagon supports grandfathering in those now in the programs. At Langley Air Force Base near Newport News on Tuesday, Hagel said Pentagon officials had not been consulted about the Ryan-Murray proposal, now repealed, that imposed a 1 percent cut in the retirement pay of those under 62. "We would have been opposed to it," he said.

It has been almost 13 months since Hagel's confirmation hearing before the Senate Armed Services Committee and a year since he was sworn in.

On Tuesday, he recalled the teaching of Tom Osborne, the former University of Nebraska football coach who said the first quarter of a game was the time to build internally and the second was the time to play.

The Hagel set to appear before Armed Services on the defense budget Wednesday sees himself heading into the second quarter, prepared with far more expertise than the nominee who stumbled in answering questions a year ago.

## EUROPE

# 173rd trades Afghanistan for Africa in upcoming exercise

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — For the last decade, the go-to place for the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team was Afghanistan. The brigade deployed there four times after a 2003 tour in Iraq.

Now, with combat tours ended for the foreseeable future as the U.S. prepares to have all combat troops out of Afghanistan by the end of the year, brigade paratroopers are headed, somewhat unexpectedly, somewhere different.

About 135 paratroopers with Company C, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment are going to Cameroon, in central Africa. They will be participating starting in mid-March in an annual U.S. Army Africa exercise called Central Accord.

It's a first for the 173rd, whose soldiers have been busy either deploying to Afghanistan or returning.

"We've never done an exercise with USARAF," said Maj. Mike Weisman, brigade spokesman. "This is the first time it lined up

is the beginning of a beautiful friendship between the 173rd and U.S. Army Africa.

The brigade is headquartered in Vicenza, as is USARAF. But it's a part of U.S. Army Europe, which had to agree to lend the troops to USARAF.

Under the Army's year-old concept of regionally aligning forces with specific combatant commands, the go-to unit for the U.S. Africa Command is the Fort Riley, Kan.-based 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Weisman said the 173rd aims to be the "unit of choice for any commander around the globe" and is positioned to do it.

"One of the best parts of the 173rd being forward-located in Europe is that we can fill operational needs of other geographical commanders," he said.

"We've got the infrastructure in U.S. Army Europe to move troops and support to AFRICOM or CENTCOM rapidly," he said, referring to U.S. Africa Command and Central Command, which is responsible for the Middle East and Afghanistan.

is the beginning of a beautiful friendship between the 173rd and U.S. Army Africa.

The brigade is headquartered in Vicenza, as is USARAF. But it's a part of U.S. Army Europe, which had to agree to lend the troops to USARAF.

Under the Army's year-old concept of regionally aligning forces with specific combatant commands, the go-to unit for the U.S. Africa Command is the Fort Riley, Kan.-based 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Weisman said the 173rd aims to be the "unit of choice for any commander around the globe" and is positioned to do it.

"One of the best parts of the 173rd being forward-located in Europe is that we can fill operational needs of other geographical commanders," he said.

"We've got the infrastructure in U.S. Army Europe to move troops and support to AFRICOM or CENTCOM rapidly," he said, referring to U.S. Africa Command and Central Command, which is responsible for the Middle East and Afghanistan.



Stars and Stripes

**Soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team salute during a casing of the colors ceremony at Caserma Ederle in Vicenza, Italy, in June before deploying to Afghanistan.**

Two jumps with Cameroonian paratroopers, using U.S. aircraft and parachutes, have been planned as part of the upcoming exercise. One is sort of a ceremonial "wing exchange" employing Cameroonian jump masters; the other is more tactical. The landing field features 7-foot-tall grass, Weisman said.

"They're clearing that now," Capt. Dwayne Steppe, company commander, said this week. "There's still the giant termite mound, though."

Steppe, like most of his troops, has never been to Africa. But he

said they were happy to be tasked with the training.

"This is just a great opportunity to train with African partners," he said. "We're just going to go down there and get after it with them."

In the spirit of team-building, the paratroopers were also planning to play in a soccer tournament, which was requested by the Africans, who are avid and expert players. Steppe said he expected to lose.

"I think I have one guy that's played soccer," he said.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

## LET US PUT YOU IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT.

We offer low rates that will put you in the vehicle of your dreams. Apply now and enjoy your savings tomorrow.

ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY  
ARE ELIGIBLE FOR A

**1/4%**  
APR DISCOUNT.\*



**NAVY  
FEDERAL**  
Credit Union

ARMY  
MARINE CORPS  
NAVY  
AIR FORCE  
COAST GUARD  
DoD

For a complete list of our worldwide locations, along with international calling information, visit [navyfederal.org](http://navyfederal.org).

Federally insured by NCUA. \*Direct Deposit required. This military special may expire at any time. Applications accepted at a branch and by phone only. Rate discounts can be applied, but cannot bring the rate lower than the minimum APR. © 2013 Navy Federal NFCU12742-A (9-13)



## EUROPE

## DOD voids some debts in LQA dispute

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Defense Department would not impose new debts on nearly 700 overseas civilian workers who the department says received housing allowances erroneously, the Pentagon's top personnel official said this week.

In May, 659 workers, mainly in Europe and the Pacific, were told that because of administrative mistakes they improperly received overseas housing allowances. They were told they would have to obtain special debt waivers so they would not have to repay all past allowances received.

Months later, those employees learned they could be on the hook for an additional round of debts in connection with other benefits associated with Living Quarters Allowances. Now, the DOD says it will not conduct an audit to determine the extent of those debts and will grant a blanket extension that enables workers to continue receiving those associated benefits until their LQA expires in May.

"I have determined that because of the cost of conducting audits of associated allowances and establishing any associated debts would likely exceed the amount that would be collected, no audits of associated allowances will be conducted," Jessica

Wright, the DOD's acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, wrote in a Tuesday memorandum. "Further, no action will be taken to pursue collection of these associated allowance debts in the future."

The move was welcomed by the employees, who have been critical of the DOD's handling of the matter. However, employees say blanket debt waivers should also be extended to housing allowances. Tuesday's decision applies only to additional allowances workers have received, such as Temporary Quarters Subsistence Allowance; student travel; post-differential; foreign transfer; separation maintenance;

and home services.

In early 2013, the DOD ordered an audit of locally hired personnel overseas in connection with a new interpretation of rules governing who is eligible to receive Living Quarters Allowances, which helps cover the cost of rent and utilities.

Employees argue that the new interpretation of regulations should not be applied retroactively and that the department should honor their original hiring agreements. Numerous senior military commanders have sided with the workers, urging the DOD to restore the benefits. So far, the DOD has rejected those requests.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

## Navy civilian facing fraud charges for accepting Italy housing payments

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — A Navy civilian accused of accepting more than \$360,000 in illegal housing benefits and forging documents during a 10-year tour in southern Italy was arraigned on theft and perjury charges in a U.S. federal court Wednesday.

Steven William Ashton, 41, was employed by the Navy as the NATO and Host Nations Program manager for the Europe, Africa and Southwest Asia region. He was arrested at the Naples base in Capriuchino last Friday after a grand jury indictment and flown to Norfolk for a first appearance, the Justice Department said.

The indictment accuses Ashton of filing the lease to his girlfriend's condominium with the base housing office in 2005, which enabled him to receive a monthly reimbursement of 2,200 euros, or about \$3,000, for rent.

Ashton, who was otherwise eligible for a housing benefit, never paid rent on the condominium, according to the indictment.

Federal rules prohibit housing benefits for employees living in a spouse-owned apartment. Ashton married his girlfriend in 2006 but never modified the lease, the indictment says.

Ashton was questioned by a Naval Criminal Investigative Service agent, Ashton said he had moved the lease to his father-in-law's name in 2006, according to the indictment. He told the agent that after his father-in-law died in 2007, he continued to pay rent, in cash, to a trust in the man's name.

Prosecutors charge that Ashton then gave the agent a copy of a lease he claimed was made in 2006 but that agents determined had recently been forged.

As his tour in Naples neared its end in October 2011, Ashton is alleged to have forged a series of documents allowing him to stay at the base two more years.

One of the documents justified the extension of the tour and was forwarded to Italian authorities for permit to stay, the indictment says; another gave him ac-

cess to reduced-price gasoline and on-base amenities such as the commissary and exchange; and a third allowed him to renew the security card that grants access to the base, buildings on the base and equipment inside. Ashton forged signatures on the documents with computer editing software, according to the indictment.

Prosecutors say Ashton also faked several Coast Guard documents to fool Navy officials into granting his boat reduced-price moorage in the Bay of Naples. The alleged scam allowed him to avoid more than \$28,000 in fees.

Ashton is identified online as the CEO of Blackgrid Consulting, whose website offers work in "engineering and logistics services" and touts relationships with commercial and government entities. Blackgrid was registered in Delaware in 2010, according to online records, and it is registered with the Defense Contract Management Agency. It's unclear if the business has been awarded any defense contracts.

A brief biography on the business website says Ashton worked for the Defense Department prior to starting Blackgrid and formerly served as an officer in the Navy's Civil Engineering Corps, where he worked in humanitarian and peacekeeping operations across the world.

The indictment charges Ashton with six counts of making false statements, each punishable by a fine and up to five years in prison; one count of falsifying records in an investigation, which can be punished with a fine and a maximum prison sentence of 20 years; and a count of theft and conversion, which is punishable with a fine and up to 10 years in prison.

The case was investigated by NCIS and the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Ashton was charged by a grand jury in the Southern District of Iowa, his home state.

A spokesman for the region command that employed Ashton did not respond to a request for comment by deadline.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com  
Twitter: @jbeardsley



Courtesy of John Provan

Soldiers pose with a looted painting by Edouard Manet discovered in a mine by men of the U.S. Army's 90th Infantry Division on April 7, 1945.

## The real monuments men: Wiesbaden ground zero for WWII artifact recovery

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — At the end of World War II, the U.S. military found itself in custody of the largest art collection on the planet.

This relatively obscure fact is making headlines now thanks to Hollywood and George Clooney's film "The Monuments Men."

John Provan, an American historian who lives in Germany, told Stars and Stripes the real-life story depicted in the movie is something about which Americans should be proud.

"Never before had an Army that was winning a war given a rat's ass about the cultural remains or cultural highlights of not only a country but a continent basically that was being defeated," Provan said.

But that's exactly what the "Monuments Men" — and women — of the Allies' Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives section did.

While stomping around Europe, the Nazis pulled off the greatest art heist the world had ever seen, stealing cultural treasures from every country they set foot in.

To counter the possible destruction of what Provan describes as 5,000 years worth of cultural heritage the U.S. led the creation of the MFAA, a unit of some 345

"I think it's something that you should look back upon and realize, 'Wow, that's something where the military did an awful lot of good.' Just imagine going to a museum today and not seeing the 'Mona Lisa' or the 'Nefertiti.'"

John Provan  
American historian

men and women who were experts in the artistic and cultural history of the continent.

In the last year of the war, the MFAA tracked and hunted down items stolen by the Nazis. When the war was over, it returned more than 5 million articles — everything from paintings and sculptures to furniture and jewelry.

One of the major collecting points for processing the recovered war booty was Wiesbaden, where the Army commandeered the building that is now the Wiesbaden Museum, less than 5 miles from the current headquarters of U.S. Army Europe.

"It's something that I'm sure that no soldier nowadays gives any consideration of," Provan said. "But I think it's something that you should look back upon and realize, 'Wow, that's something where the military did an

awful lot of good.' Just imagine going to a museum today and not seeing the 'Mona Lisa' or the 'Nefertiti.'"

The movie makes its Army and Air Force Exchange Service theater debut in Europe on March 7.

millham.matthew@stripes.com  
Twitter: @matmillham

# YES

Click today...cash today...  
www.militaryloans.com



"We love to say yes!"

## PACIFIC

# Soil tests find no dioxins at Kadena schools

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa** — New tests on soil from schools at Kadena Air Base in Okinawa have found no danger of herbicides or dioxin despite fears over contaminated metal drums unearthed at a nearby soccer field, the Air Force announced Thursday.

The tests conducted this month by U.S. labs confirmed the results of earlier Air Force air and soil testing conducted around Amelia Earhart Intermediate School and Bob Hope Primary School. No trace was found of banned herbicides, and all other pollution was below safety standards, the service said.

Hundreds of military parents and residents have been on edge as Japanese workers removed 83 rusty drums — some contaminated with high levels of defoliant and dioxin — over the past nine months from an off-base Okinawa City recreational area that is within sight of the schools and a playground.

During a town hall meeting last month, some parents demanded additional testing as a safety measure for students, despite Japanese findings that the pollution had not spread across the soccer field or gotten into the ground water, and Air Force assurances that the schools were “completely safe.”

On Thursday, the service said it has completed its probes into the pollution. “These results conclusively characterize and confirm

that no contaminants have migrated from the excavation site to Kadena Air Base and that the [school] recreational area does not pose a health concern to the staff and students in the area,” said an Air Force statement that included the testing data. “No further surveillance is required.”

The soil samples from the schools were sent to three commercial labs in the United States that tested for dioxin, herbicides, PCBs, fuel constituents, metals and fluoride. Traces of some common environmental pollutants were found but none at a level deemed a health threat, the Air Force said.

Many residents have expressed fears of exposure to dioxin, which has been linked to cancer, reproductive and developmental problems, immune system damage and hormone imbalances.

Japanese tests on the drums found dioxin and the herbicide 2,4,5-trichlorophenoxyacetic acid. The latter’s use in commercial defoliants was discontinued in 1985 because of concerns over dioxin contamination, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The land where the soccer field is located was used by the Air Force until 1986, when it was turned over to the municipality. The Air Force has said it believes the barrels and other recovered debris were part of fill used to elevate the soccer field site after the land was returned.

tritten.travis@stripes.com

## Appeal of ex-soldier convicted in BB gun shooting dismissed

Stars and Stripes

**SEOUL, South Korea** — South Korea’s highest court on Thursday dismissed the final appeal of a former U.S. soldier convicted of firing a BB gun at pedestrians and hitting a South Korean police officer with his car.

The Supreme Court’s decision means that Christian Lopez-Morales will serve the entirety of his three-year sentence, according to a court spokesperson. The former staff sergeant was convicted, along with Pfc. Wendy Fuentes, in Seoul Central District Court last September of firing BBs at a crosswalk in the crowded Itaewon entertainment district. They drove away, triggering a high-speed chase that led to a third soldier being shot in the chest by a South Korean policeman.

Anyone convicted of a crime at the district court level in South Korea automatically has the right

to two appeals.

The March 2013 incident sparked considerable attention in South Korea and prompted public calls for the military to do more to prevent troop misbehavior. Lopez-Morales, formerly Fuentes’ superior, pleaded guilty in a general court-martial in May to military charges of dereliction of duty, adultery, four specifications of making a false official statement and three specifications of failure to obey an order or regulation, according to the Eighth Army. He was sentenced to eight months of confinement, demoted to E-1 and given a dishonorable discharge.

Fuentes was assessed the maximum fine under South Korean law, 5 million won (about \$4,600), and a higher court proceeding. She was reduced in rank from E-4 to E-3 and fined a month’s pay at a court-martial.

news@stripes.com

## ‘Scary’ tattoo ban passed for beach that’s popular with troops in Japan

By Erik Slavin  
and Hana Kusumoto  
Stars and Stripes

**YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan** — The party is about to slow down for patrons of one of Japan’s most popular beaches, and it may be over altogether for servicemembers displaying “scary” tattoos.

The Zushi city council passed an ordinance that includes a host of restrictions at its beach, which is regularly packed on weekends with young adults from the Tokyo region during summer. Zushi is a 10-minute train ride from Yokosuka Naval Base, making its beach one of the most accessible for sailors.

The restrictions include a ban on barbecues and alcoholic drinks outside the restaurants and wooden structures that line the beach during summer, city official Masashi Koizumi told Stars and Stripes on Thursday.

Perhaps the biggest issue for servicemembers is the part of the ordinance that bans the display of tattoos that, in Koizumi’s words, scare other beachgoers.

A single, small tattoo would be acceptable, while full body tattoos would not, city officials said. It means remains unclear exactly how a scary tattoo display will be defined.

Tattoos are traditionally associated with yakuza organized crime in Japan, though that is changing among young people, particularly



Stars and Stripes

**Tattooed American sailors pose at Zushi Beach about three years ago.**

those who have traveled abroad.

Irezumi — the elaborate tattoos found on the bodies of many yakuza members — are generally distinguishable from other tattoos.

Despite that, many traditional hot springs and other businesses in Japan either ban people with tattoos or require patrons to cover them up.

The city is establishing a committee to come up with more specific rules for the law, which will take effect in late March.

The ordinance will ban loud music and is expected to require beach houses, which operate temporarily on the sand each summer, to close by 6:30 p.m., Koizumi said.

Zushi Beach lies across the street from an affluent neighborhood populated by many retirees.

The city has received complaints from residents for about 10 years, but those complaints have markedly increased recently, Koizumi said.

The low point for many in the community was when two men were stabbed at night on the beach last July.

Japanese media later reported that one of the victims died and that yakuza involvement was suspected.

“Public morals [at Zushi Beach] have worsened every year,” Koizumi said. “The residents have said that they wished for summer to pass quickly and that they just have to endure it.”

Zushi Mayor Ryuichi Hirai said on the city website that he will do everything he can to “bring back [the] Zushi beach that is safe and pleasant.”

City officials said there won’t be a punishment or fine for breaking the rules, but that security guards and other officials posted at the beach could leave violators to either stop or leave the beach.

U.S. Navy officials said Thursday that they could not comment because they had not spoken with Zushi officials about the ordinance.

The city plans to notify the military once the specifics of the new ordinance are agreed upon, Koizumi said.

Slavin.erik@stripes.com  
Twitter:@eslavin\_stripes  
Kusumoto.hana@stripes.com

## TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURIES

Have you sustained a head injury due to a fall or explosion? You do not have to have a wound to have a TBI.

Traumatic Brain Injury is real

Symptoms Include:

- Unable to think clearly
- Memory Loss
- Headaches
- Vision Problems
- Dizziness
- Depression
- Nervousness
- Easily Angered
- Trouble Sleeping

Treatment is available!  
Seek care today.

**Barnett & Lerner**  
Professional Association  
Fighting for injured workers

HIRE US ON YOUR COMPUTER

[www.injuredoverseas.com](http://www.injuredoverseas.com)

You can now hire Barnett & Lerner, P.A. from your computer

Phone: 954.920.7400 US Toll Free: 888.732.7425



MILITARY

# DOD tells of huge rise in sex assault reports

By Chris Carroll  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — About 5,400 instances of sexual assault or unwanted sexual contact were reported within the U.S. military last fiscal year, a 60 percent rise from 2012, the Pentagon said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Army reported it had suspended hundreds of sexual assault response coordinators, recruiters and others in "positions of responsibility" for a range of missteps including sexual assault and alcohol abuse.

The Pentagon's preliminary sexual assault tally for fiscal 2013, which ended Sept. 30, has risen since late December, when the military reported slightly more than 5,000 incidents. The numbers could rise again before a final report for 2013, Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Cathy Wilkinson said.

In fiscal 2012, military members reported 3,374 instances of

unwanted sexual contact. Defense officials estimated the true number was about 26,000, based on a "prevalence survey" given to troops.

The survey, which indicates that fewer than 20 percent of such incidents are reported, is conducted every other year, meaning no estimate for the total number of incidents will be available for 2013.

The latest number came out in panel discussion during a Senate hearing Wednesday to discuss the links between sexual assault, PTSD and suicide. The hearing was run by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., who's spearheading an effort to overhaul prosecutions of serious crimes in the military to better protect sexual assault victims.

Gillibrand said late Wednesday that her bill, the Military Justice Improvement Act, had received unanimous consent from senators to move forward to debate on the Senate floor. Although a majority

of senators have indicated they support the bill to strip military commanders of authority over major criminal prosecutions, not enough have yet signed on to bypass a filibuster that opponents have promised.

More than 600 of the incidents, or about 11 percent, occurred prior to servicemembers' entering the military, Wilkinson said. In 2012, only 3.4 percent of reports were from events prior to military service.

Defense officials regard the increase as a sign that confidence in the military sexual assault reporting system is growing, she said.

The Army, which announced it had disqualified 588 of about 20,000 soldiers in "positions of trust," is in the process of deciding whether those suspended can remain in the service, a spokesman at the Pentagon said.

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

others could face further actions from their commands."

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel last May ordered the services to conduct a "stand-down" to review the credentials and backgrounds of recruiters and sexual assault response personnel.

In August, the Army announced it had suspended 55 sexual assault counselors, drill instructors, recruiters and others, less than one-tenth of the eventual number pulled out of their jobs.

"The Army continues to ensure that those in positions of personal trust have the right tools, skills and background needed to carry out their duties effectively," Patterson said. "We will continue working to better ensure we select the very best people for these posts, and that the chain of command knows what is expected of them, and how important this work is to the Army."

According to a report in USA Today, the Navy disqualified five personnel, while the Air Force

and Marines suspended no one.

Pentagon officials said part of the reason the Army found so many more people to suspend may have resulted from the service branch going beyond Hagel's order from last spring and reviewing the records of drill sergeants and other trainers as well.

Hagel's spokesman, Rear Adm. John Kirby, said the defense secretary supported the Army's initiative to cast a wider net than absolutely required in an effort to stamp out sexual assault.

"Nothing is more important to Secretary Hagel than the health and well-being of our troops and their families," Kirby said. "He was happy to learn that the Army widened the scope of their review and he is grateful for the work they have done to get a better grip on a very difficult issue and hold people accountable."

carroll.chris@stripes.com  
Twitter: @ChrisCarroll\_

# Hearing: Incident was greatest loss of US lives during Afghanistan War

FROM FRONT PAGE

"If I did not believe that a majority of families wanted a forum like this to exist, we would not be conducting this hearing," Rep. Jason Chaffetz, R-Utah, the chairman of the oversight committee, said in his opening remarks.

"There are other families and their representatives who have contacted the subcommittee and expressed grave concern about this hearing," said Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass. "They've asked for privacy and they seek closure. So... we should acknowledge that not all of the families affected by this tragedy support these proceedings."

Another source of controversy surrounded the decision not to allow family members of the fallen servicemembers to testify. Five defense officials spoke at the hearing. A plan to have a second witness panel comprising some family members was abandoned in favor of having them submit written statements expressing their concerns, Foreign Policy reported.

"We have tried our best to treat all the families' interests equally knowing that there's a wide-ranging spectrum of perspectives given the sheer number of families and people that are engaged in this," Chaffetz said at the beginning of the hearing.

The crash killed 30 U.S. servicemembers, including 25 special operations personnel, some of whom were part of SEAL Team Six, the unit that carried out the raid on Osama bin Laden's compound in Pakistan. Five Army National Guard and Reserve crewmen also died, as well as eight Afghans who were part of the team carrying out the mission.

The shooting down of "Extortion 17" constitutes the greatest



A CH-47 Chinook helicopter serves as a backdrop for a memorial service in Olathe, Kan., for the air crew killed Aug. 6, 2011, when their CH-47 was shot down in Afghanistan.

HEATHER GRAHAM-ASHLEY/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

loss of American life from a single battle in the history of the Afghanistan War. It is also the most disastrous incident in the 27-year history of U.S. Special Operations Command.

Another point of controversy was the tactics employed during the operation, including the decision to fly into an area where the aircraft could be easily shot down.

Garry Reid, the principal

deputy assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said that the task force employed "sound tactics," but acknowledged that the unit did not achieve the element of surprise because the preceding battle likely put the insurgents on a heightened state of alert and other aerial assets failed to identify the Taliban who were positioned to shoot down the aircraft.

Another decision that was criticized was the choice of using the conventional Chinook instead of the one designed for special-operations missions.

Reid said that no U.S. military aircraft has effective countermeasures for RPGs, and that using a different aircraft wouldn't have made any difference in the outcome.

Some lawmakers asked whether Afghan forces tipped off the

Taliban before the mission took place, enabling the insurgents to prepare to ambush the aircraft.

Reid said that was highly unlikely because no Afghans were informed of the mission ahead of time except the members of the team, and there were no external communications before the mission was launched.

Events surrounding memorial ceremonies and the way that the remains were handled upset some families of the fallen servicemembers. Some were angry that the military filmed a memorial ceremony in Afghanistan without their permission.

Reid said that was routine practice until the policy was changed by U.S. Central Command last year.

Another source of concern involved reports that an Afghan colonel who spoke in Arabic at the memorial ceremony in Afghanistan insulted the fallen American servicemembers. Reid said it was his understanding, based on talking to those who listened to the remarks, that the colonel praised the fallen servicemembers and demigrated the enemy, but that the colonel's remarks were "subject to interpretation."

Others were upset about the fact that when the caskets of the fallen members of the team were returned to Dover Air Force Base, Del., they were draped with 30 American flags as well as eight Afghan flags.

Air Force Col. John Devillier, commander of Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, said that decision was made because officials could not identify the remains and distinguish between the Americans and the Afghans until a medical examiner looked at the bodies.

harperjon@stripes.com  
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

NATION

# Ariz. governor's veto aimed at own party's right

**By BOB CHRISTIE**  
*The Associated Press*

PHOENIX — Republican Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer slapped down the right wing of her own party, vetoing a bill pushed by social conservatives that would have allowed people with sincerely held religious beliefs to refuse to serve gays.

The conservative governor said she could not sign a bill that was not only unneeded but would damage the state's improving business environment and would divide its citizens.

Senate Bill 1062 had set off a national debate over gay rights, religion and discrimination and subjected Arizona to blistering criticism from major corporations and political leaders from both parties.

Loud cheers erupted outside the Capitol building immediately after Brewer made her announcement Wednesday night.

Brewer pushed back hard against the GOP conservatives who forced the bill forward by citing examples of religious rights infringements in other states.

"I have not heard one example in Arizona where a business owner's religious liberty has been violated," Brewer said. "The bill is broadly worded and could result in unintended and negative consequences."

She chastised the GOP-controlled state Legislature for sending her a divisive bill instead of working on a state budget that continues her economic expansion policies or an overhaul of Arizona's broken child welfare system, her top priorities.

In a reference to the gay mar-



**Brewer**



**Ross D. FRANKLIN/AP**

**Gay rights supporters Rachel Butas, right, and Jo Jo Halko kiss Wednesday in Phoenix after learning that Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer vetoed a bill to allow refusal of service to homosexuals.**

riage debate that has expanded across the nation, she reached out to the religious right with sympathy but said 1062 was not the solution.

"Our society is undergoing many dramatic changes," she said. "However, I sincerely believe that Senate Bill 1062 has the potential to create more problems than it purports to solve. It could divide Arizona in ways we cannot even imagine and nobody could ever want."

The bill was designed to give added protection from lawsuits to people who assert their religious beliefs in refusing service to gays or others who offend their beliefs. Opponents called it an

open attack on gays that invited discrimination.

Arizona was thrust into the national spotlight last week after both chambers of the state legislature approved the bill. As the days passed, more and more groups, politicians and average citizens weighed in against it. Many took to social media to criticize the bill.

Prominent business groups said it would be another black eye for the state that saw a national backlash over its 2010 immigration-crackdown law, SB1070, and warned that businesses looking to expand into the state may not do so if bill became law.

# Texas AG vows to appeal gay marriage ruling

**By CHRIS TOMLINSON**  
*The Associated Press*

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott's office was working on an appeal Thursday of a federal judge's decision to lift the state's ban on gay marriage.

U.S. District Judge Orlando Garcia ruled a day earlier that the ban was unconstitutional. The judge is allowing the law to remain in place to give Abbott time to appeal to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, noting that the issue likely will end up at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Abbott, the leading candidate to replace Republican Gov. Rick Perry, took a conciliatory tone after the ruling. He said "there are good, well-meaning people on both sides" of the same-sex marriage debate, but he insisted that states have the right to set their own marriage laws.

He said Texas voters did just that in 2005 by passing a constitutional amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman.

"As the lower court acknowledged today, it's an issue that will ultimately be resolved by a higher court," Abbott said, adding that

Texas would begin that process by appealing to the 5th Circuit.

In his ruling, Garcia said marriage was an individual right that a voter-approved constitutional amendment couldn't deny. He said his decision was not made "in defiance of the great people of Texas or the Texas Legislature," but in compliance with the U.S. Constitution and Supreme Court precedent.

"Without a rational relation to a legitimate governmental pur-

pose, state-imposed inequality can find no refuge in our United States Constitution," he wrote.

Garcia's ruling added to a tangled web of court rulings, state laws and legal opinions across the country that is expected to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court. There are civil rights lawsuits in 24 states asking courts to overturn bans on state gay marriages, and gay rights groups have won recent victories in other conservative states.

# Obama plan aims to help minority boys' odds

**By JOSH LEDERMAN**  
*The Associated Press*

WASHINGTON — Long before he arrived at the White House, Barack Obama was the son of a single mother, challenged and tempted by the same societal ills that disproportionately keep blacks impoverished and behind bars. Now the nation's first black president is unveiling a new initiative aimed at breaking down those obstacles, and pledging to continue the fight long after his presidency ends.

Joined at the White House by young men of color, Obama on Thursday was calling on America's businesses, philanthropists and government leaders to join forces to put more boys on a path toward successful lives. Foundations were to announce pledges to spend at least \$200 million over five years to promote that goal as Obama launches his "My Brother's Keeper" initiative.

Those organizations, which include prominent groups like the Ford Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, will seek to coordinate their investments to create and bolster programs that keep youths in school and out of the criminal justice system while improving their access to higher education. The White House said it expects money for these programs to grow "exponentially" as major businesses start to pitch in.

Obama also will sign a presidential memorandum creating a governmentwide task force to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches so federal and local governments, community groups and businesses will have best practices to follow in the future.

An online "What Works" portal will provide public access to data about programs that improve outcomes for young minority men.

## 13 are exposed to radiation at NM plant

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — Employees who were working at the nation's underground nuclear waste dump when it started leaking didn't show signs of external contamination, but officials say biological samples show 13 workers suffered some exposure to radiation.

The U.S. Department of Energy and the contractor that runs the Waste Isolation Pilot Project declined to comment further on the preliminary test results announced Wednesday, saying they would discuss the issue at a news conference Thursday afternoon.

It is important to note that these are initial sample results," the DOE and Nuclear Waste Part-

nership, the plant operator, said in a joint statement. "These employees, both federal and contractor, will be asked to provide additional samples in order to fully determine the extent of any exposure."

All employees who were working at the southeastern New Mexico plant when the leak occurred late Feb. 14 were checked for contamination before being allowed to leave, the news release said. Biological samples also were taken to check for possible exposure from inhaling radioactive particles.

Elevated radiation levels have been detected in the air around the plant, but officials have said the readings are too low to constitute a public health threat.

From The Associated Press

## Cambodia Angkor Wat 5 days

Guide, transfer and meals included

Prices from 144,745 yen (\$1,450)

09 APR - 13 APR

---

## Explore Beijing 6 days

Tax included, based on twin room use. Please ask us for more details!

Prices from 129,563 yen (\$1,300)

05 APR - 10 APR

For more detail, please visit our web site

# WWW.NIGHTFLIGHT.CO.JP

Calling from outside JAPAN: 81-42-530-4891  
in Japan: 042-530-4891

INATION

# Boston Marathon security plan includes ban on bags

By DENISE LAVOE  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — This year's Boston Marathon will have a "no bags" policy as part of stepped-up security following last year's deadly bombing, the Boston Athletic Association announced Wednesday.

Marathon runners typically are allowed to bring bags or backpacks to keep personal items. Those bags are bused between the starting line in Hopkinton and the finish line in Boston.

This year, runners will not be allowed to bring backpacks or bags, which will also not be allowed in certain areas near the start or finish line, or along the 26.2-mile course.

Runners will be given a chance to check gear in Hopkinton on the morning of the marathon to allow them to have a change of clothing at the end of the race. The athletic association said it will provide clear plastic bags for that purpose.

Twin bombs placed in backpacks near the 2013 finish line killed three people and injured more than 260. Prosecutors say two spectators were responsible.

Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 20, is awaiting trial and faces the possibility of the death penalty on 30

**'We are going to strike a good balance between public safety and security, and ensuring that this is a celebratory and festive event like it has always been.'**

**Kurt Schwartz**  
Massachusetts undersecretary for public safety

federal charges, including using a weapon of mass destruction. His brother, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, died following a gunbattle with police several days after the marathon.

State, local and federal law enforcement officials have been meeting for months to prepare a stringent security plan for this year's April 21 marathon.

The new rules were outlined in an email sent by the athletic association to registered runners.

Costumes covering the face or non-form-fitting, bulky outfits will also be prohibited.

Glass containers and any container larger than one liter will be banned.

The list of prohibited items for runners also includes strollers, suitcases and rolling bags, weight vests or any type of vest with pockets, except for lightweight running vests, which will

be allowed.

The BAA said runners will be allowed to wear small fanny packs to carry food, medicine, identification, cellphones or other necessary small items. They can also bring water bottles, but they must be one liter or smaller. Organizers are discouraging runners from wearing headphones, but they will be permitted.

Kurt Schwartz, the state's undersecretary for public safety, said officials are trying to maintain the excitement of marathon while at the same time ensuring the safety of the thousands of marathon participants and spectators.

"We are going to strike a good balance between public safety and security, and ensuring that this is a celebratory and festive event like it has always been," Schwartz said



JEFF SCHEID, LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL/AP

**Self-proclaimed pimp and accused killer Ammar Asim Faruq Harris listens while prosecutor Lisa Luzaich, right, speaks during sentencing in Clark County District Court on Wednesday.**

# Vegas Strip shooting and crash suspect sentenced to 16 years in rape case

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — A self-described pimp was sentenced Wednesday to 16 years to life in Nevada state prison in a rape and robbery case that served as a prelude to his death penalty trial later this year in a Las Vegas Strip shooting and fiery crash that left three people dead.

Ammar Asim Faruq Harris, 27, stood with his shackled hands in orange mitts and declined to speak before his sentencing Wednesday in Clark County District Court.

His lawyer, Robert Langford, told Judge Kathleen Delaney that Harris will appeal his conviction and sentence, and that Harris wasn't the bad person he had been made out to be.

"His history is not as bad as they say," Langford said. "There is going to be an appeal of this. That's why he doesn't want to address the court."

Prosecutor Lisa Luzaich cast Harris as a repeat felon who bragged that he made a living exploiting and abusing women even before a jury in Las Vegas found him guilty in September of raping and robbing an 18-year-old woman at a Las Vegas condominium in June 2010.

Harris has never been convicted of pimping. He was convicted

in South Carolina in 2004 of felony possession with intent to sell a stolen pistol and in Atlanta of misdemeanor marijuana possession.

In the months before the shooting, Harris posted Internet videos of himself fanning a wad of \$100 bills and boasting about luxury cars, prostitutes and women who paid him. Records showed he lived in Miami, Atlanta and Las Vegas.

Luzaich said Harris' marijuana conviction was a plea bargain stemming from a felony charge.

"There's nobody who can show he's a productive member of society," the prosecutor said.

Harris is due for trial Sept. 28 in the Strip shooting and crash that killed an aspiring rapper, a cab driver and a taxi passenger a little more than a year ago.

He is accused of shooting from a black Range Rover and mortally wounding aspiring rapper Kenneth Cherry Jr. behind the wheel of a Maserati sports car after the two men exchanged words at a casino table stand.

The Maserati sped forward and crashed into a taxi, igniting a fireball that killed cab driver Michael Boldon and passenger Sandra Sutton-Wasmund, of Maple Valley, Wash.

The motive was not clear.

The suspect was expected to appear in court for the first time Thursday.

From The Associated Press

# Bus driver shooting probed as hate crime

The Associated Press

DAYTON, Ohio — Authorities said Wednesday that they are investigating whether the shooting of a bus driver who said a book of Bible verses in his pocket helped stop two bullets could have been a hate crime.

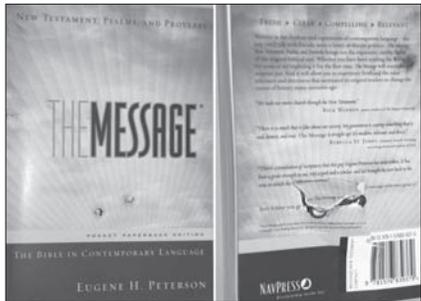
Bus driver Rickey Wagoner, who is white, told Dayton police that he was outside his bus early Monday when three black men shot at him, with two bullets hitting the book in his shirt pocket and one hitting his leg. He said he was also stabbed in the arm.

Wagoner, 49, was released from the hospital Tuesday.

Police Chief Richard Biehl said Wednesday that he became concerned about the possibility of a hate crime after reading the initial police report and that he forwarded the report to the FBI's Dayton office.

FBI spokesman Rick Smith said agents will help determine whether the shooting was a hate crime, a federal civil rights violation.

Biehl said Wednesday that po-



DAYTON POLICE VIA THE DAYTON (OHIO) DAILY NEWS/AP

**This is the book of Bible verses that bus driver Rickey Wagoner was carrying when he was attacked early Monday, with two bullets hitting the book in his shirt pocket.**

lice recovered a .25-caliber semi-automatic pistol and a knife along with four spent rounds and three live rounds from the gun. He said the spent rounds match the number of shots heard on an audio recording from the bus.

Biehl said there were no witnesses and no video of the shooting.

Police are analyzing evidence that includes the knife, shell casings, bullets and the gun.

A driver for the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority, Wagoner said he stopped the bus to check a mechanical problem

around 5 a.m. Monday when the men approached him. Wagoner told police he fought back and grabbed the gun and that the men ran away. Wagoner told police he fired at them before driving the bus to safety and calling for help.

Police on Wednesday displayed a photo of the book that showed where two bullets entered through its cover. When asked about the book's thickness, police used as an example a book that appeared to be about an inch thick.

Wagoner told police he just started carrying the book about a week earlier.

# Ohio man expected to survive after 14 shots

CINCINNATI — Police said a man is expected to survive after being shot 14 times.

The Cincinnati Enquirer reported that the 35-year-old man was rushed to a hospital Wednesday night after he was riddled with bullets in the arms, legs and

body.

The man's girlfriend drove him to the hospital after the attack in Cincinnati. A 32-year-old man was arrested a few hours later and charged with felonious assault.

The motive was not clear.

The suspect was expected to appear in court for the first time Thursday.

From The Associated Press

WORLD

**Officials: Bombings kill at least 26 in Iraq**

BAGHDAD — A bomb hidden on a motorcycle exploded at a second-hand market in Iraq's capital, the deadliest of a series of bombings Thursday around Baghdad that killed at least 26 people, authorities said.

The motorcycle market blast struck Baghdad's sprawling eastern Sadr City district as night fell on at least 17 people and wounding 38, officials said. It appeared as though the motorcycle bomb had been slipped in among the other bikes on display, officials said.

Two other bombs struck across the capital targeting minibus cabs ferrying home laborers at the end of the workday. In Sadr City, officials said a bomb attached to a minibus exploded, killing five civilians and wounding 14. Another bomb stuck on a minibus killed four and wounded 11 in the northern Shaab neighborhood, authorities said.

**UK to consult on rules for 3-parent embryos**

LONDON — Britain is starting a public consultation on rules allowing scientists to create embryos using DNA from three people — a man and two women — to prevent mothers from passing on potentially fatal genetic diseases.

Britain's department of health said Thursday the consultation is intended to gather as many views as possible before introducing its final regulations.

The consultation isn't meant to debate whether the controversial techniques should be allowed, but simply how they should be used. The proposed rules have been published online and the government is inviting people to respond online or by mail by late May.

About one in 200 children every year in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder, faults in a cell's energy source that are contained outside the nucleus in a normal egg. Mistakes in the mitochondria's genetic code can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and mental retardation.

**S. Korea: N. Korea fired missiles into waters**

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea fired four suspected short-range missiles into its eastern waters Thursday, South Korean defense officials said, in an apparent effort to protest ongoing U.S.-South Korean military exercises that Pyongyang calls a rehearsal for invasion.

The launches weren't expected to raise tension as North Korea routinely tests short-range missiles and it has recently sought better ties with South Korea in what outside analysts say is an attempt to win badly-needed foreign investment and aid. The rival Koreas this month held their first reunions of Korean War-divided families in more than three years.

The projectiles that landed off North's eastern coast were believed to be short-range missiles with a range of more than 125 miles.

From The Associated Press

**Officials urge calm as Russia drills**

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and NATO's top official on Thursday called on Russia to avoid an escalation along its border with Ukraine, where a surprise Russian military exercise has stoked concerns about a possible armed conflict.

"I urge Russia not to take any action that could escalate tension or create misunderstanding," NATO Secretary-General Anders Fogh Rasmussen told journalists after a ministerial meeting in Brussels.

Hagel, during a subsequent news conference, echoed those concerns, saying he was keeping

a close eye on the Russian war games.

In Ukraine, weeks of anti-government clashes and bloody protests forced Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, who is now on the run, out of office last week. Tensions remain high in the country amid concerns of separatism in Ukraine's Russian-speaking Crimea region. Groups of gunmen seized control of local government buildings in Crimea on Thursday and raised the Russian flag, The Associated Press reported.

Rasmussen called on all sides to "cool down."

"I urge all parties to step back from confrontation, refrain from provocative actions and return to

the path of dialogue," Rasmussen said during a news conference in Brussels that was streamed live on the Internet.

Hagel echoed that call.

"This is a time for very cool, wise leadership, on the Russian side, and on everybody's side," Hagel said, as quoted by the AP.

There are no indications the Russian military drills are a prelude to any intervention.

"We have no information indicating that Russia has any plans to intervene militarily," Rasmussen said.

Nonetheless, the situation in Ukraine has prompted concerns about a return to old Cold War political battles between Russia and the West, with Ukraine as a key

piece on the geopolitical chess board.

In an interview with MSNBC on Thursday, Secretary of State John Kerry said Russia shouldn't view the situation in Ukraine through the prism of the past.

"So we're hoping that Russia will not see this as a sort of a continuation of the Cold War," Kerry said. "We don't see it that way. We do not believe this should be an East-West, Russia-United States. This is not 'Rocky IV,' believe me. We don't see it that way."

NATO defense ministers, who met with Ukrainian officials on Thursday, said the alliance would press ahead with plans for security cooperation with Ukraine.

vandiver.john@stripes.com

**Russia reportedly sheltering Ukraine's president**

By KARL RITTER  
AND DALTON BENNETT  
The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine — Russia scrambled fighter jets to patrol its border and reportedly gave shelter to Ukraine's fugitive president as pro-Russian gunmen stormed offices of Ukraine's strategic region of Crimea, deepening the crisis for the new Ukrainian government even as it was being formed.

The moves pose an immediate challenge to Ukraine's new authorities as they seek to set up an interim government for the country, whose population is divided in loyalties between Russia and the West. Ukraine's new prime minister said the country's future lies in the European Union but with friendly relations with Russia. Moscow, meanwhile, has launched a massive military exercise involving 150,000 troops and has put fighter jets on patrol along the border.

A respected Russian news organization reported that the fugitive president, Viktor Yanukovich, who was driven out of Kiev by a three-month protest movement, was staying in a Kremlin sanatorium just outside Moscow.

"I have to ask Russia to ensure my personal safety from extremists," Yanukovich said in a statement carried by Russian news agencies on Thursday. He said he still considers himself president and sees the new Ukrainian authority as illegitimate.

Shortly afterward, the same three Russian news agencies quoted an unnamed Russian official saying that Yanukovich's request for protection "was satisfied" on the territory of Russia.

Russian news agencies later reported that Yanukovich will hold a news conference Friday in the southern Russian city of Rostov-on-Don.



EFREM LUKATSKY/AP

Anti-Yanukovich demonstrators take part in a rally Thursday at Parliament in Kiev, Ukraine.

of Ukraine." He warned that any move by Russian troops off of their base in Crimea "will be considered a military aggression."

"Unidentified people with automatic weapons, explosives and grenades have taken over the governmental buildings and the Parliament building in the autonomous region of Crimea," he said. "I have given orders to the military to use all methods necessary to protect the citizens, punish the criminals and to free the buildings."

Turchynov was to leave for Simferopol later Thursday in hopes of reaching a peaceful end to the standoff there, Ukraine's ambassador to NATO, Thor Dolhov, told The Associated Press in Brussels.

"And the most important thing is now to avoid clashes and use of force, violence," Dolhov said.

In Kiev, lawmakers chose Arseniy Yatsenyuk as the new prime minister. He will face the hugely complicated task of restoring stability in a country that

is not only deeply divided politically but on the verge of financial collapse. Yatsenyuk, 39, served as economy minister, foreign minister and parliamentary speaker before Yanukovich took office in 2010, and is widely viewed as a technocratic reformer who enjoys the support of the U.S.

Shortly before the lawmakers chose him as the leader of the new Cabinet, Yatsenyuk said Ukraine doesn't want a fight with Russia, but insisted the country wouldn't accept the secession of the southern Crimea region.

He said Crimea "has been and will be a part of Ukraine."

Yanukovich fled after riot police attacked protesters in Kiev's central square, killing more than 80 people, and European and Russian officials intervened. He has not been seen publicly since Saturday, when he said he remained the legitimately elected president — a position that has been backed by Russia.

Russia's respected RBK news

organization reported Wednesday evening that Yanukovich was staying at the Barvicha sanatorium, which is run by the presidential administration's property department.

The spokesman for that department, Viktor Khrekov, told the AP on Thursday that he has no information about that.

The RBK report was impossible to confirm, but security at the Ukraina Hotel was unusually heavy late Wednesday, with police watching from parked vehicles outside and guards posted throughout the lobby. Some of Yanukovich's allies, also reported to have been at the hotel, may have still been there.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman also said he had no information about Yanukovich's reported arrival in Moscow.

In a clear warning to Ukraine, Putin on Wednesday ordered massive military exercises involving most of the military units in western Russia.

## WORLD

# In school, off streets



PHOTOS BY FARAN ABDI WARSAMEN/AP

Mohamed Aden works on his exercises in a school classroom in Mogadishu, Somalia, in January.

## Opposed by militants, free education for Somali children proving popular

By ABDI GULED  
The Associated Press

MOGADISHU, Somalia — Two years ago, Mohamed Aden was a shoe shiner in Mogadishu, walking the streets of the Somali capital in search of clients even as his friends attended school. Now the 12-year-old boy sits proudly among classmates.

For Aden, a poor boy whose family lives in a derelict building in a Mogadishu slum, the transition from streets to classroom might never have happened without a new government-run program called Go2School that seeks to give a free elementary school education to at least 1 million children.

Many in Somalia are happy with the new program, but the country's al-Qaida-linked militant group earlier this month warned that schools are legitimate targets for attack. Sheikh Ali Mohamed Hussein, a senior al-Shabab official, told reporters the educational program seeks to secularize Somali children.

Despite a long history of such anti-education threats, the donor-funded program has proved popular with parents as well as children who otherwise would have no opportunity to get even

the most basic education in a country with one of the worst literacy rates in the world.

On a recent morning, Aden gleefully worked on an English exercise as a teacher stood by the blackboard offering instruction to dozens of boys and girls at Mogadishu's Macalin Jamaac School, where some 700 students are trying to catch up on lost school time. Launched late last year, the program already has enrolled more than 35,000 students in 16 schools across the country.

"I'm happy now because I am learning at a school," Aden said. "I'm going to become a doctor when I finish studying."

Abdiwahid Sheikh Ahmed, the school's principal, said his goal is "to bring many lost children back to school."

The U.N. children's agency, UNICEF, is urging donors to keep the program running. Only 42 percent of Somali children attend primary school, according to one estimate by the U.N. Of those, only about a third are girls.

The poor attendance rates are partly a legacy of instability in the Horn of Africa nation. Public schools collapsed in the decades-long chaos that followed the collapse of Somalia's central government in 1991. Schools, ex-



A teacher works with a student in Mogadishu in January.

pensive to run and often targeted by Islamic militants as agents of so-called Western indoctrination, were among the hardest hit.

Although some private schools exist, few Somalis can afford the tuition in a country where many live in extreme poverty. Annual per capita income was \$107 in 2011, according to U.N. data.

Unable to go to school, many Somali children have ended up on the streets, offering cheap

labor at building sites. Others have been targeted as potential recruits for a terrorist campaign by Islamic rebels.

Somali education officials believe many children can be lured to the classroom as the country gradually becomes more peaceful. The program is funded by the U.N. and countries including Qatar, a key supporter of Somalia's president. Parents have to pay only for uniforms and scholastic

materials for their children.

"So far, the program is going well," said Mohamed Abdiqadir Ali, a director at Somalia's Education Ministry. "We want to increase the low enrolment rate in the country. We are also considering setting up mobile schools in the rural areas and regions."

Boys sit side by side with girls in schools run under the Go2School program, a gender mix that has alarmed some parents in this conservative Muslim country. Many keep their daughters away.

Ali, the Education Ministry director, said they have yet to design a standard national school curriculum, raising questions about the quality of teaching now offered. Some teachers said that often their monthly pay comes late, and others were said to have stopped teaching because of safety concerns amid militant threats.

Some critics, noting the country's lack of strong institutions, worry that the program may be derailed by official corruption.

"It's the most excellent program Somalia is undertaking in decades, but there's question of its sustainability, given the country's corruption background," said Mohamed Ali, a retired university professor in Mogadishu.

NATION

# 'We need the iPhone of guns'



The Armatix iP1 pistol and the iW1 active RFID watch use the Armatix Smart System for gun access and use. A Smart System gun will shoot only if it is within range of the watch.



Armatix

## Will the arrival of smart guns transform the industry?

BY MICHAEL S. ROSENWALD  
*The Washington Post*

One of California's largest firearm stores recently added a peculiar new gun to its shelves. It requires an accessory: a black waterproof watch.

The watch's primary purpose is not to provide accurate time, though it does. The watch makes the gun think. Electronic chips inside the gun and watch communicate with each other. If the watch is within close reach of the gun, a light on the grip turns green. Fire away. No watch means no green light. The gun becomes a paperweight.

A dream of gun-control advocates for decades, the Armatix iP1 is the country's first smart gun. Its introduction is seen as a landmark event in efforts to reduce gun violence, suicides and accidental shootings. Proponents compare smart guns to automobile air bags — a transformative add-on that gun owners will demand. Gun-rights advocates are already balking, wondering what happens if the technology fails just as an intruder breaks in.

James Mitchell, the "extremely pro-gun" owner of the Oak Tree Gun Club, isn't one of the skeptics. His club's firearms shop is the only outlet in the country selling the iP1. "It could revolutionize the gun industry," Mitchell said.

The implications for the iP1's introduction are potentially enormous, both politically and economically. Lawmakers around the country have been intrigued by the possibilities. New Jersey passed a hotly contested law in 2002 requiring that only smart guns be sold in the state within three years of a smart gun being sold anywhere in the country. A similar measure made it through the California Senate last year, and at the federal level, Rep. John Tierney, D-Mass., also has introduced a mandate.

Although National Rifle Association officials did not respond to requests for comment about smart-gun technology, the group fiercely opposes "government mandates that require the use of expensive, unreliable features, such as grips that would read your fingerprints before the gun will fire," according to the website of its lobbying arm, the Institute for Legislative Action. "And NRA recognizes that the 'smart guns' issue clearly has the potential to mesh with the anti-gunner's agenda, opening the door to a ban on all guns that do not possess the government-required technology."

The arrival of smart-gun technology also comes amid a flurry of interest in the concept from investors who think the country is ready for new, innova-

tive gun-control ideas. Last month, Ron Conway, a Silicon Valley titan and early investor in Google and Facebook, launched a \$1 million X-prize-like contest for smart-gun technology.

"We need the iPhone of guns," Conway said, noting how the new iPhone 5s can be unlocked quickly with a fingerprint. "The entrepreneur who does this right could be the Mark Zuckerberg of guns. Then the venture capitalists like me will dive in, give them capital, and we will build a multibillion-dollar gun company that makes safe, smart guns."

Smart guns will have huge appeal to buyers, advocates say. "If you have two cars and one has an air bag and one doesn't, are you going to buy the one without the air bag?" said Belinda Padilla, president of Armatix's U.S. operation. "It's your choice, but why would you do that?"

Some of the sharpest criticism comes from an unlikely corner — the Violence Policy Center, a staunch advocate of reducing gun violence.

Policy Center officials argue that the new technology is unlikely to stem gun homicides, which often occur between people who know each other, and that personalization will have no effect on the more than 300 million guns in circulation. The organization also questions whether the technology would deter the nearly 350,000 incidents of firearm theft per year, though some of the proposed technologies are add-ons installed on existing guns.

Perhaps most importantly, the Violence Policy Center worries that smart guns will increase the number of gun owners, because marketing around safety could sway those previously opposed to guns to make their first purchase.

"We are very skeptical of what this technology can accomplish," said Josh Sugarmann, the organization's executive director. "You're really affecting a very small portion of the gun-buying public."

Proponents of smart guns dispute the criticism. They point to studies that hint at potentially significant reductions in gun deaths, particularly high-profile ones among children. In 2010, children accounted for 9 percent of the 606 unintentional or accidental gun deaths in the United States. A smart gun could prevent those deaths, proponents say.

"These guns are not going to rescue us from the 32,000 gun deaths a year but they are going to materially reduce gun deaths in the United States," Teret said.

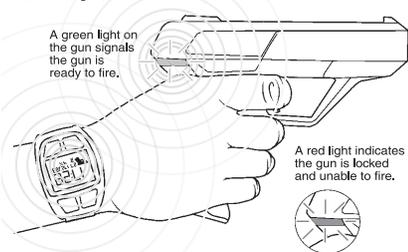
The cost is high. Armatix's iP1, a .22-caliber pistol, is \$1,399 — plus \$399 for the watch. A 40-caliber Glock handgun can be had for about \$600.

### How it works

Some new types of guns feature safeties that are more than mere mechanical switches. Firearm manufacturers are applying digital technology to guns to make them safer and less likely to be used by anyone other than the owner.

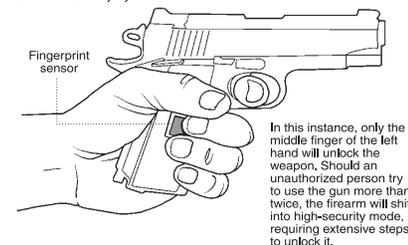
#### The wristwatch key

This gun broadcasts radio frequencies. If a wristwatch transponder worn on the wrist — and activated by a personal identification number — is adjacent to the gun, the watch will return a signal to unlock the gun.



#### The fingerprint key

Guns equipped with a fingerprint-recognition system on the grip can be fired only by authorized users.



## FAITH

# Not the least bit rattled

## Death of snake-handling pastor doesn't shake worshippers' belief

By Travis Loller

The Associated Press

Three days after pastor Jamie Coots died from a rattlesnake bite at church, mourners leaving the funeral went to the church to handle snakes.

Coots, who appeared on the National Geographic Channel's "Snake Salvation," pastored the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Jesus Name church founded by his grandfather in Middlesboro, Ky. The third-generation snake handler was bitten during a service on Feb. 15 and died later at his home after refusing medical help. Now his adult son, Cody, is taking over the church where snakes are frequently part of services.

"People think they will stop handling snakes because someone got bit, but it's just the opposite," said Ralph Hood, a professor of psychology at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, who has been studying snake handlers for decades. "It reaffirms their faith."

The practice of snake handling in the United States was first documented in the mountains of East Tennessee in the early 20th century, according to Paul Williamson, a professor of psychology at Henderson State University, who, along with Hood, co-wrote a book about snake handlers called "Them That Believe." In the 1940s and 1950s, many states made snake handling illegal (it's currently illegal in Kentucky), but the practice has continued, and often law enforcement simply looks the other way.

The basis for the practice is a passage in the Gospel of Mark. In the King James Version of the Bible, Mark 16:17-18 reads: "And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."

Snake handling gained mo-



DAN HENRY, CHATTANOOGA (TENN.) TIMES FREE PRESS/AP

**Pastor Jamie Coots prays during a service at the Full Gospel Tabernacle in Jesus Name church in Middlesboro, Ky., on Dec. 11. Coots died on Feb. 16 after being bitten by a rattlesnake.**

mentum when George Hensley, a Pentecostal minister working in Southern states in the early 1900s, recounted an experience where, while on a mountain, a serpent slithered beside him. Hensley purported to be able to handle the snake with impunity, and when he came down the mountain he proclaimed the truth of following all five of the signs in Mark. Hensley later died from a snakebite.

Today the practice is most common in Southern Appalachian states, and snake handlers often use native rattlesnakes and copperheads. Such churches are independent, and often call themselves "signs following" churches.

Andrew Hamblin, who co-starred on "Snake Salvation," said he was with Coots when he died.

"I held him in my arms when he took his

last breath," said Hamblin, who is pastor at the Tabernacle Church of God in the nearby community of LaFollette, Tenn.

He believes that Coots, 42, would have died Feb. 15 no matter what; if not by a snake, then a stroke or some sort of accident.

"God's appointed time of death trumps everything," Hamblin said.

Williamson said believers describe the feeling they get when they are handling snake. "Like a high, but a greater high than any drug or alcohol. It's a feeling of joy, peace, extreme happiness."

He said that many snake handlers believe that when God anoints them, they will be protected, but they still recognize there is danger. For instance, if the spirit leaves them and they don't put down the snake quickly

**'People think they will stop handling snakes because someone got bit, but it's just the opposite. It reaffirms their faith.'**

Ralph Hood

professor of psychology at the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga, who has been studying snake handlers for decades

enough, they could be bitten.

Coots had handled snakes many years and had been bitten several times, always relying on prayer, and not medical help, to heal him. In "The Serpent Handlers: Three Families and Their Faith," a book focusing on prominent snake-handling families, Coots is interviewed and describes a bite that took part of his finger, saying he had done something he shouldn't have done (he doesn't say what) and God was punishing him. Describing another painful bite, Coots says he was bitten after the spirit had moved out of him but he continued holding the snake for egotistical reasons.

At church service a week after Coots died, both Cody Coots and his mother handled the rattler that killed his father, said Williamson, who attended the service. Calls to the Coots family have not been returned.

Williamson said he has documented 91 snake-bite deaths among serpent handlers since 1919. Between 350 and 400 people die from snake bites in the U.S. each year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Williamson said questions of why a snake-handling believer dies from a bite are no different from the questions believers of various faiths have about why bad things happen to good people.

Coots' death was the second snake bite death at his church, which was founded in 1978. Melinda Brown, 28, a mother of five, died in 1995, two days after she was bitten by a rattlesnake during a service.

Coots was a 23-year-old pastor, and Brown spent the two days it took her to die at Coots' house. At the time, Coots told reporters that Brown decided to put her fate in God's hands rather than go to the hospital.

Brown's husband, John Wayne "Punkin" Brown, continued to handle serpents after his wife's death. He was killed by a snake in 1998, at age 34, while preaching at an Alabama church.

His last words to the congregation were, "No matter what else, God's still God."

**Junior McCormick tests his faith by handling a rattlesnake during services at the Church of the Lord Jesus in Kingston, Ga., in 1995. Church members believe that if they have faith in God, they will be protected from harm as they handle the serpents.**

AP



WORLD

# Germany's ex-president not guilty of corruption

The Associated Press

BERLIN — Germany's former president, Christian Wulff, was acquitted Thursday of corruption charges in a case that prompted his resignation two years ago.

Wulff declared himself "very relieved" after the state court in Hannover cleared him of illegally accepting favors. "I never had any doubt" about the outcome, he told reporters.

Wulff was once a deputy leader of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative party and was her choice for the largely ceremonial role of president. His resignation less than two years into a five-year term was an embarrassment to the German leader.

He quit when prosecutors asked Parliament to lift his immunity in February 2012 so that he could start a formal investigation.

Wulff had faced a barrage of corruption allegations stemming from his time as governor of the state of Lower Saxony before he became president in 2010. A furious message that he left on the voicemail of the editor of Germany's best-selling newspaper before it published a report on the allegations added to pressure on the president, raising questions over his political judgment.

The charges that went to trial



TOBIAS SCHWARZ/AP

**Former German President Christian Wulff, center, arrives for his trial in Hannover on Thursday. Wulff was acquitted of corruption charges that prompted his resignation two years ago.**

last November related specifically to some \$990 in hotel and entertainment costs allegedly paid by German film producer David Groenewold for Wulff and his family during a visit to Oktoberfest in Munich in 2008. Prosecutors alleged that Wulff then helped Groenewold try to raise support for a film project.

Both men denied corruption.

Groenewold also was acquitted of providing favors to Wulff.

"There is simply no powerful evidence against the defendants," Judge Frank Rosenow said as he read the verdict, news agency dpa reported.

It wasn't immediately clear whether prosecutors would appeal the verdict.

## Spring BAZAAR



stuttgart.armymwr.com



# MARCH 14-16

Friday, 10 am - 8 pm  
Saturday, 10 am - 7 pm  
Sunday, 11 am - 4 pm

Patch Community Center

Find us on Facebook Search "Spring Bazaar Stuttgart"

Open to all military ID card holders, NATO Forces, civilians and reservists with TDY orders.

OVER 75 VENDORS FROM ALL OVER EUROPE!



EVENT SPONSORS



No Federal endorsement intended.

Come to Heidelberg's largest Fasching Party

Come as the monster you've always dreamed of being - and bring a ghoulfriend!

Renée Walker & Band  
Freddy Wonder Combo

AMOKOMA  
SHEBEN  
Kings Cross

40 Kultball

5 Bands

## BALL DER VAMPIRE

Stadthalle Heidelberg

Saturday March 1, 2014 • 20:30 h to 03:00 h

Tickets with bus transportation are available at the USO-Wiesbaden box-office.

Online at [www.ticketonline.de](http://www.ticketonline.de)  
Call the Ticket-Hotline 01805 - 44 70 000.

© [www.flamme-konzerte.de](http://www.flamme-konzerte.de) | [www.facebook.com/BalderVampire](http://www.facebook.com/BalderVampire)

## DRIVE IN STYLE, EVEN WITH THE KIDS...

PAYMENTS AS LOW AS

LEASE or BUY \$299/MO\*

### 2014 CHEVY EQUINOX 2LT AWD

Serving you in  
Vilseck and Ramstein

\*Payments & Terms are subject to credit approval.

09662-413-841 VILSECK 06371-6174260 RAMSTEIN  
INFO@GMMILITARYAUTOSALES.COM

## MAJOR WORLD MILITARY AUTO SALES

WWW.GMMILITARYAUTOSALES.COM

CHEVROLET

WORLD



MARTIN MEISSNER/AP

Just horsing around

A woman smiles at a man wearing a horse head as tens of thousands of revelers dressed in carnival costumes celebrate the start of the street carnival on the so-called "Old Women's Day" in Cologne, Germany, on Thursday.

Israel replaces vandalized Anne Frank books in Tokyo

The Associated Press

TOKYO — The Israeli Embassy is donating 300 Anne Frank-related books to Tokyo libraries to replace those that have been vandalized.

Representatives from the embassy and Japan's Jewish community presented some of the books to the mayor of Tokyo's Suginami ward at a news conference Thursday.

More than 300 books related to Anne Frank, including copies of "The Diary of a Young Girl," have been found damaged in Tokyo libraries, according to the latest tally. Suginami was particularly hard hit, with 121 books vandal-

ized. The donated books will be divided among Tokyo libraries.

The mayor of Suginami expressed hope that the incident could be turned into a lesson for Japanese who are not aware of the Holocaust.

"Through this incident, I believe that people also learned about the horrid facts of history and of racism, and with this knowledge, I hope that our people were given an opportunity to reflect on the preciousness of peace," Mayor Ryo Tanaka said.

Peleg Lewi, deputy chief of mission at the Israeli Embassy, said he believes the vandalism was a single act that does not represent

the feelings of the Japanese.

"The diary of Anne Frank represents to us a message of tolerance between people," he said. "We fully trust the Japanese authorities to bring those responsible for these cowardly acts to justice."

Police established a task force this week to investigate the case.

Frank wrote her diary during the two years her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. She was 15 when she died in a concentration camp in 1945. Her father survived and published the diary, which has become the most widely read document to emerge from the Holocaust.

Weight Loss & Cosmetic Surgery

If you want to start a new life, We have the answers. A well-organized medical system for foreign patients.

- Gastric Band 6500USD
- Tummy tuck 5600USD
- Gastric Sleeve 8500USD
- Liposuction 3400USD
- Gastric Balloon 5500USD
- Breast Lift 4500USD
- Breast Augmentation 7000USD



Over 3000 successful cases of surgery

- EVLT
  - Per leg 1500USD
  - Both leg 2500USD
- Sclerotherapy
  - Per leg 1500USD
  - Both leg 2500USD

- Experienced surgeons
- Skilled medical teams
- The latest medical equipments
- Surgery available on weekend
- Laparoscopic procedure
- [Minimally Invasive Surgery]
- Reasonable price

• Lap band+ Sleeve plication



128kg → 80kg 5 months after

• Gastric Sleeve



107kg → 87kg 3 months after

+82-10-4732-7582 | skypak@hotmail.com  
 www.seoulskyhospital.com  
 36-1 Garak-dong, Songpa-gu, Seoul, Korea

SEOUL SKY HOSPITAL

Read STARS AND STRIPES online at [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com)

"ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!"

March							April							May						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa	Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29														
30	31																			

■ Available ■ Not Available

RESERVATIONS FOR ROOMS: room\_rsv@thenewsanno.com or DSN 229-7121 CML 03-3440-7871 EXT.7121

We will respond with a confirmation number or contact you if your first choice of dates is not available. For current availability, call our Reservation Desk or check our website: www.thenewsanno.com Available dates on the above calendars are subject to change without notice.

An eight course dinner accompanied by a selection of fine wines and fabulous live entertainment \$84/Person

**April 19, Saturday**  
 | Seating at 18:30 | Dinner at 19:00 |  
 DRESS: BUSINESS ATTIRE

RESERVATIONS FOR EVENTS: events@thenewsanno.com or 229-7151

Like us on Facebook

THE NEW SANNO



# NAVY-MARINE CORPS RELIEF SOCIETY

**Since 1904, making a difference for  
Sailors, Marines and their Families**

[www.nmcrs.org](http://www.nmcrs.org)

WORLD

# Ex-PM: Japan's '95 war apology should stand

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama said Thursday that the landmark 1995 war apology carrying his name is an international pledge that Japan must not change, amid speculation that the current conservative leaders want to revise it.

Murayama said that Japan also should keep another apology over forced prostitution before and during World War II, and urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to stand by both statements.

"Nobody can deny the Murayama statement," he said during his rare public speech in Tokyo since his retirement in 2000. "It has

become an international pledge and Japan's national policy. It's impossible to deny it, and for that reason I trust Prime Minister Abe would observe it."

The apology was issued under Murayama and is seen as Japan's main expression of remorse for its wartime and colonial past. It has been endorsed since by all 10 prime ministers, including Abe's earlier administration in 2007.

Since taking office in 2012, Abe has angered China and South Korea, which were occupied by Japan before and during World War II, by questioning the meaning of the word "aggression" in the 1995 apology and saying there is no international consensus on its definition. Abe suggested that his Cabinet does not necessarily sup-

port the entire apology, though he later promised to stand by it.

Abe's visit in December to Tokyo's shrine honoring war dead, including convicted war criminals, has escalated tensions.

Murayama was a Democratic Socialist who led the three-party coalition government that included Abe's Liberal Democratic Party from 1994 to 1996. He issued the statement of apology to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Murayama also criticized growing attempts by nationalist lawmakers to discredit the apology for forced prostitution by citing the lack of official wartime documents specifically stating that the government at the time systematically forced Asian women to

provide sex for Japanese soldiers at military brothels.

Although numbers vary, historians say as many as 200,000 women from across Asia, mostly Koreans, were forced into prostitution. There is a growing movement by Japanese nationalists and revisionists to try to deny the use of coercion and to scrap the 1993 apology signed by then-Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono. They say the apology is based on false accounts provided by former sex slaves from South Korea.

Abe wants to issue a fresh statement marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II next year.

Since taking office for the second time, Abe has said he prefers to leave history up to historians.



Kyodo News/AP

Former Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama speaks at a symposium in Beijing in 2011.

**YOUR NEW VOLVO - FROM SWEDEN WITH LOVE** **FACTORY PRICING**

**www.avus-automobile.com**  
authorized factory agent

Heidelberg | Hanau  
sales@avus-automobile.com  
+49 (0)6181 3698932

**VOLVO CAR INTERNATIONAL CUSTOMER SALES | MILITARY | DIPLOMAT | EXPAT**

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

<b>Top</b>	Atlanta .....	€ 604
	Chicago .....	€ 589
<b>Discount Flights</b>	Los Angeles .....	€ 607
	Las Vegas .....	€ 597
<b>Fly now</b>	New York .....	€ 434
<b>Pay later</b>	Seattle .....	€ 615
<b>We accept US \$</b>	Miami .....	€ 517

**TOP CRUISES**

up to **499** **7 Days** dep. **27 JUN 14**

**Mediterranean Sea - Costa Classica**  
Savona - Rome - Katakoloön - Piraeus - Santorin - Rhodes

Your special discount only on [www.abctravel.de/stripes](http://www.abctravel.de/stripes)  
Flights from JAN - MAY 2014. From to Germany RT. All taxes incl. All prices based on availability.

## REFINANCE AND GET REWARDED



**\$50 for every \$5K refinanced!**

CASH BACK	LOAN AMOUNT
\$50	\$5,000 - \$9,999
\$100	\$10,000 - \$14,999
\$150	\$15,000 - \$19,999
\$200	\$20,000 - \$24,999
\$250	\$25,000 - \$29,999
\$300	>\$30,000

Cash back will be in form of Visa® Gift Card. Maximum cash back amount is \$300.\*\*

**AUTO RATES**  
as low as

**1.59%\***  
APR

and **Cash Back!**

- > Affordable payment options
- > Up to 84 month term
- > Other rates and terms available.

Apply today and get fast approvals. We make auto financing easy!



andrewsfcu.org

800.487.5500 U.S. | 0800.487.56267 International



\*1.59% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) is a fee rate on auto loans financed up to the NADA retail value for a maximum of 60 months. Additional rates and terms are available. For qualified applicants for up to 84 months. Actual APR may vary and is based on credit score and loan-to-value ratio. \*\*\$50 for every \$5K refinanced. Offer good as of March 1, 2014 and is subject to change without notice. Please refer to website for our current offer. Cash reward is based on amount borrowed and will be paid as a pre-paid VISA gift card. Cash rewards for refinancing an existing Andrews Federal auto loan will be based on the additional amount financed and not the total loan balance. Gift card will be sent to the address of the primary borrower, within 15 days of the loan closing.



# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Planes report being targeted by laser lights

**MA** NEWTON — The Federal Aviation Administration is investigating reports that someone pointed a laser light at the cockpits of two airplanes in the Boston area.

Also, police in Newton, just west of Boston and Logan Airport, are looking into a report from a driver that a man pointed a green laser at him and other drivers Tuesday night, about two hours before the planes were allegedly targeted.

One plane had left Boston and was heading to Atlanta; the other was en route to Boston and flying over Providence, R.I. The FAA pinpointed the coordinates to Forte Park in Newton; police responded but did not find anyone.

## Pizza Hut closed after urination incident

**WV** KERMIT — A Pizza Hut in southern West Virginia, where a district manager was caught on surveillance video urinating into a sink, is closing permanently.

The video dated Jan. 29 shows the manager at the Kermit, W.Va., restaurant urinating in a metal sink in a food preparation area. The incident occurred after business hours. The employee was fired.

Pizza Hut Corp. spokesman Doug Terfehr said Wednesday the decision to permanently close the restaurant was made Feb. 19, the day after the video surfaced.

## Pot advocates take case to Elections Board

**DC** WASHINGTON — The District of Columbia should set aside the warnings of its attorney general and let voters decide whether they want to legalize marijuana possession in the nation's capital, advocates for the measure argued Tuesday before the D.C. Board of Elections.

The marijuana advocates are seeking to make Washington one of the first East Coast cities to legalize marijuana possession. If it successfully gets the measure on the November ballot, legalization has a strong chance of being approved, according to a recent Washington Post poll.

Last week, D.C. Attorney General Irvin Nathan urged the Elections Board to reject the proposed ballot initiative, saying it would put at least one aspect of District of Columbia law in conflict with federal law. He warned that federal law would still require the city to kick out those residents of public housing who are convicted of drug possession, even if District of Columbia law no longer considered it a crime.

## 2 hurt in falls from Mardi Gras floats

**LA** NEW ORLEANS — Two men were injured falling from floats in a Mardi Gras-season parade Sunday, despite a city ordinance requiring riders to wear a safety belt or harness.

The first man fell from a float in the Krewe of Alla parade

## THE CENSUS

# \$10M

avoid having to change their lifestyle, plan to sell most of the coins. Although the face value of the gold pieces adds up to about \$27,000, some of them are so rare that coin experts say they could fetch nearly \$1 million apiece.

The value of a cache of rare gold coins that a couple out walking their dog discovered in the shadow of an old tree on their property in Northern California.

Nearly all of the 1,427 coins, dating from 1847 to 1894, were in uncirculated, mint condition, according to veteran numismatist Don Kagan, who is representing the couple. He said Tuesday that the couple, who wish to remain anonymous to the public, plan to sell most of the coins. Although the face value of the gold pieces adds up to about \$27,000, some of them are so rare that coin experts say they could fetch nearly \$1 million apiece.



Coin grader David Hall poses with recently found gold coins in Santa Ana, Calif.

AP



CHRISTOPHER CHUNG, SANTA ROSA (CALIF.) PRESS DEMOCRAT/AP

## Rider in the rain

**Bidur Pokharel shields himself from the rain as he bikes along Yutupa Avenue in Santa Rosa, Calif., on Wednesday. Much-needed rain fell in Northern California at the outset of what the parched state hopes is the start to a one-two punch of stormy weather.**

about 4:15 p.m. Sunday and was in stable condition when brought to a hospital, said Liz Belcher, a spokeswoman for New Orleans Emergency Medical Services. The second man fell from a separate, double-decker float about 5:30 p.m. and was taken to the city's trauma center in critical condition, Belcher said. The hospital later told her that he had been stabilized. She did not have the men's names or ages.

The New Orleans Fire Department's pre-parade inspection found the floats met the rules, Belcher said.

## Convicted murderer loses nickname appeal

**CT** HARTFORD — A Connecticut man found guilty of killing four people has failed to convince the state Appellate Court that his convictions should be thrown out because he was referred to by his nickname — "Killer" — at trial.

Marco Camacho was convicted in the 1996 murders of four people

inside a Southington home. Prosecutors say he and an accomplice went to the house to collect a \$400 drug debt, and when they were not paid, Camacho became enraged and shot everyone inside.

Camacho appealed, arguing in part that a witness at the trial referred to him as "Killer" even after being told by the judge not to use the nickname.

The court ruled Monday that Camacho's lawyer failed to prove the use of the name prejudiced the jury enough to warrant a mistrial.

## Portraits by Bush to be exhibited at library

**TX** DALLAS — Portraits painted by former President George W. Bush will be featured in an exhibit at his presidential library this spring.

The exhibit titled "The Art of Leadership: A President's Personal Diplomacy" will open in early April at the George W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in Dallas.

The exhibit exploring relationships Bush formed with other world leaders will feature more than two dozen portraits by Bush that have never been exhibited.

Bush, who left office in 2009, has taken up oil painting in recent years.

Artifacts, photographs and personal reflections will also be on display.

## Police seek suspect in poisoned meatballs case

**CA** SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco police say they have found dozens of meatballs suspected to be poisonous in a Twin Peaks neighborhood where a similar incident happened last year.

Animal Care and Control officers are asking for the public's help in tracking down whomever hid the meatballs in areas where dogs and cats could find them.

Acting Lt. Denise BonGiovanni said she found 34 meatballs hidden in carports, behind stairwells, along curbs and in bushes

on Saturday. She said a resident handed her another ball of raw meat she took from her dog.

The San Francisco Chronicle reported police will test them to determine if they are poisonous.

## Stolen '65 VW Beetle found 40 years later

**TN** NASHVILLE — The owner of a 1965 Volkswagen Beetle discovered in Detroit nearly 40 years after it was stolen says he never stopped thinking about that car.

Joe MacDonald, of Knoxville, Tenn., said he used to buy Beetles to fix up and sell. He had many of them, but he says he never stopped grieving for the red convertible that he had running "slick as a ribbon" before it was stolen.

The car was found in January when federal border agents checked the paperwork as it was about to be shipped overseas for restoration. MacDonald said he learned the car had been located from a reporter at WBRF-TV.

From wire reports

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Agency to investigate GM recall effort

By **Tom Krisher**  
The Associated Press

**DETROIT** — The U.S. government's auto safety watchdog is investigating whether General Motors acted quickly enough to recall 1.6 million older-model small cars in a case linked to 13 deaths.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration said Wednesday night that it opened the probe "to determine whether GM properly followed the legal processes and requirements for

reporting recalls."

The agency has the authority to fine GM as much as \$35 million under legislation that went into effect late last year. The previous maximum fine automakers faced per incident was \$17.35 million. Automakers must report evidence of safety defects within five days of discovering it.

On Tuesday, GM doubled the number of cars in the recall for faulty ignition switches. The problem has been linked to 31 front-end crashes that caused the 13

deaths. The company also issued a rare apology, saying its process to examine the problem was not robust enough when it surfaced about a decade ago.

A chronology of events filed Monday with NHTSA by GM shows it knew of the problem as early as 2004.

Since undergoing a painful bankruptcy in 2009, GM has reformed layers of bureaucracy, improved the quality of its vehicles and is quicker to issue recalls when problems occur. However,

the admission that its procedures were lacking 10 years ago shows how the old culture can still haunt the automaker.

On Feb. 13, GM announced the recall of more than 780,000 Chevrolet Cobalts and Pontiac G5s (model years 2005-07). Then on Tuesday, it doubled up, adding 842,000 Saturn Ion compacts (2003-07), and Chevrolet HHR SUVs, Pontiac Solstice and Saturn Sky sports cars (2006-07). Most of the cars were sold in the U.S., Mexico and Canada.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (Feb. 28)	\$1.4035
Dollar buys (Feb. 28)	€0.7125
British pound (Feb. 28)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Feb. 28)	100.00
South Korean won (Feb. 28)	1,039.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.6673/0.5998
Canada (dollar)	1.1145
China (Yuan)	6.1331
Denmark (Krone)	5.4577
Egypt (Pound)	0.9631
Euro	\$1.3687/0.7306
Hong Kong (Dollar)	0.7766
Hungary (Forint)	227.63
Israel (Shekel)	3.5141
Japan (Yen)	102.16
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2820
Norway (Krone)	0.6265
Philippines (Peso)	44.69
Poland (Zloty)	3.705
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2656
South Korea (Won)	1,068.54
Switzerland (Franc)	0.8891
Thailand (Bath)	32.60
Turkey (New Lira)	0.2206

(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., U.S. dollars), rates are based on the rates 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

Feb. 28, 2014

<b>Dow Jones Industrials</b>	<b>+18.75</b>
	16,199.41
<b>Nasdaq composite</b>	<b>+4.48</b>
	4,292.06
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's 500</b>	<b>+0.04</b>
	1,845.16
<b>Russell 2000</b>	<b>+7.77</b>
	1,181.72

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.681	\$3.852	\$4.250	\$3.689
Netherlands	+6.4 cents	+6.0 cents	+5.5 cents	+2.8 cents
Change in price	--	+4.763	\$5.061	\$5.109
UK	--	+1.1 cents	+1.2 cents	+1.2 cents
Change in price	--	\$3.797	\$3.995	\$4.189
Azores	--	+6.0 cents	+5.5 cents	+2.8 cents
Change in price	--	--	\$4.482	--
Belgium	--	--	no change	--
Change in price	--	\$3.851	\$4.006	\$4.266
Turkey	--	--	no change	no change
Change in price	--	--	\$4.445	\$4.122
Italy	\$3.936	--	--	no change
Change in price	no change	--	--	\$4.277

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	--	--	--	\$3.689
Change in price	--	+6.0 cents	--	+3.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.439	--	--	\$4.09
Change in price	-2.0 cents	--	--	+3.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.699	--	--	\$4.269
Change in price	+6.0 cents	--	--	+3.0 cents
Guam	\$3.689*	\$3.859	\$4.029	--
Change in price	+6.0 cents*	+6.0 cents	+5.0 cents	--

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of March 1-7

## 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	51	22	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	22	42	Pcldy	Louisville	37	12	Pcldy	Pocatello	49	35	Cldy	Clay	Sioux City	25	4	Snow			
Ablene, Tex	79	48	Pcldy	Cheyenne	38	27	Cldy	Fresno	62	51	Rain	Lubbock	76	42	Cir	Portland, Maine	25	8	Cir	Portland, Ore.	55	46	Cldy	Sioux Falls	19	-4	Snow
Akron, Ohio	19	0	Cldy	Chicago	21	-4	Cldy	Goodland	40	28	Cldy	Macon	57	26	Cir	Pueblo	65	46	Cldy	South Bend	19	-11	Cldy	Tampa	70	47	Pcldy
Albany, N.Y.	18	3	Cir	Cincinnati	32	6	Pcldy	Grand Junction	53	33	Cldy	Madison	16	-11	Snow	Providence	25	9	Cir	Spokane	33	27	Snow	Wichita	49	30	Snow
Albuquerque	64	38	Cldy	Cleveland	17	1	Cldy	Great Rapids	15	-8	Cldy	Medford	59	38	Cldy	Reno	51	39	Rain	Tallahassee	66	28	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	23	10	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	21	2	Cir	Colorado Springs	55	33	Cldy	Great Falls	0	0	Snow	Memphis	53	25	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	44	23	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	40	23	Snow	Worcester	18	13	Snow
Amarillo	70	39	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	53	29	Pcldy	Green Bay	11	-5	Cldy	Miami Beach	78	63	Cir	Rapid City	18	13	Snow	St. Louis	69	52	Cldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Anchorage	38	31	Cir	Columbus, Ga.	58	30	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	41	22	Cir	Midland-Odessa	80	41	Cir	Reno	51	39	Rain	Tallahassee	66	28	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Ashville	46	28	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	57	5	Pcldy	Harrisburg	20	5	Cir	Milwaukee	18	-5	Cldy	Richmond	33	18	Cir	Tampa	70	47	Pcldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Atlanta	53	28	Cir	Concord, N.H.	22	5	Pcldy	Hartford	21	5	Cir	Miami Beach	78	63	Cir	Rochester	13	0	Cldy	Topeka	43	21	Rain	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Atlantic City	25	10	Cir	Corpus Christi	76	52	Cldy	Helena	9	9	Snow	Missoula	23	23	Snow	Rockford	19	-12	Cir	Tulsa	60	35	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Austin	64	44	Cldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	76	52	Cldy	Honolulu	81	66	Cldy	Mobile	30	19	Cir	Sacramento	57	51	Rain	Tulsa	60	35	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Baltimore	24	10	Cir	Dayton	27	2	Pcldy	Houston	71	46	Cldy	Montgomery	59	26	Cir	Salt Lake City	59	44	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	23	10	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Baton Rouge	65	33	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	69	43	Pcldy	Houston	71	46	Cldy	Nashville	46	18	Cldy	St. Louis	33	13	Snow	Tupelo	56	22	Cldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Bilings	70	39	Cir	Denver	51	8	Pcldy	Indianapolis	32	5	Cldy	New Orleans	64	39	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	69	52	Cir	Washington	27	16	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Birmingham	55	24	Cir	Des Moines	21	4	Snow	Jackson, Miss.	64	28	Cir	New York City	21	15	Cir	St. Thomas	85	74	Cir	Washington	27	16	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Bismarck	5	-7	Cir	Detroit	15	-19	Cir	Jacksonville	63	37	Pcldy	Newark	22	10	Cir	Salem, Ore.	59	44	Cir	Washington	27	16	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Boston	24	9	Cir	El Paso	75	49	Cir	Kansas City	37	19	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	22	25	Cir	Salt Lake City	56	39	Pcldy	Washington	27	16	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Bridgeport	21	7	Cir	Elkins	30	-1	Cir	Key West	68	19	Cir	Oklahoma City	67	37	Cir	San Antonio	82	45	Cir	Wichita Falls	77	39	Pcldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Brownsville	76	57	Pcldy	Erie	13	-1	Pcldy	Knoxville	49	20	Pcldy	Omaha	25	7	Snow	San Diego	65	57	Rain	Wilmington, Del.	23	10	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Buffalo	11	-2	Cldy	Eugene	58	44	Cldy	Lake Charles	63	38	Cir	Orlando	73	47	Pcldy	San Francisco	59	51	Rain	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Burlington, Vt.	14	3	Pcldy	Evansville	34	-2	Cldy	Lansing	14	-14	Cldy	Paducah	37	16	Snow	San Jose	57	50	Rain	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Caribou, Maine	13	0	Cldy	Fairbanks	24	-2	Cldy	Las Vegas	63	51	Rain	Pendleton	44	38	Cir	Santa Fe	61	33	Cldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Casper	24	20	Snow	Fargo	5	-13	Cir	Lexington	35	10	Pcldy	Peoria	27	12	Cir	St. Marie	9	-17	Cir	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Charleston, S.C.	56	34	Pcldy	Flagstaff	47	30	Rain	Lincoln	29	10	Snow	Philadelphia	22	10	Cir	Savannah	58	34	Pcldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Charleston, W.Va.	38	10	Pcldy	Flint	12	-13	Pcldy	Little Rock	53	27	Cir	Phoenix	76	57	Cir	Seattle	58	43	Pcldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow
Charlotte, N.C.	48	24	Cir	Fort Smith	56	31	Cldy	Los Angeles	61	56	Rain	Pittsburgh	23	1	Pcldy	Shreveport	64	36	Cldy	Yonkers	14	3	Snow	Yonkers	14	3	Snow

National temperature extremes

Hi: Wed., 88, Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Cldy Pompano Beach, Fla.  
Lo: Wed., 25, Clark, Wyo.

# WEEKEND

# Star power

Nothing brings out  
Hollywood's best & brightest  
like The Academy Awards

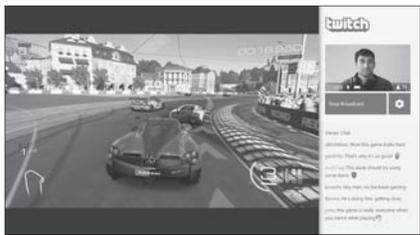
## INSIDE

- Our impressions of the best picture nominees
- How to improve the show
  - Oscar trivia



© A.M.P.A.S.

# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



**The popular video game broadcasting service Twitch is bringing a slew of features to Microsoft's newest console. An Xbox One update will add the ability to live stream video games, among other things.**

## Twitch live broadcasting coming soon to Xbox One

By DERRIK J. LANG  
*The Associated Press*

**X**box One will soon be Twitchier than the PlayStation 4. The popular video game broadcasting service Twitch is bringing a slew of fresh features to Microsoft's newest console. An update next month will add the ability to live stream video games, join in on games with broadcasters, initiate game broadcasts with voice commands, archive game clips and watch Twitch streams broadcast from any device, including the PS4.

Previously, Xbox One users could only spectate Twitch streams and record game clips with the system's Upload app. "It's complete integration," said Emmett Shear, co-founder and CEO of Twitch. "It's exciting because we've never had the ability to broadcast from a console like this with such a deep level of integration. The concept of being able to join a broadcasters' party is really cool, and it's another step in the direction of interacting more closely with broadcasters."

The updated Twitch app will also include Twitch's chat features and the ability for users to broadcast from their living rooms with Xbox One's camera-based Kinect system. It's scheduled to launch alongside the March 11 debut of "Titanfall," the much-anticipated man-

versus-machine shooter being released exclusively for Xbox One, Xbox 360 and PC.

It's good news for Xbox One players, but what took so long? The update is coming months after Microsoft Corp. rival Sony Corp. included Twitch streaming capabilities when it launched its PlayStation 4 ahead of the Xbox One last November. However, the PS4 version of Twitch — which Shear noted was crafted by Sony, not Twitch — only permits PS4 users to spectate other PS4s and doesn't allow them to easily connect.

"That's a very certain type of experience," said Yusuf Mehdi, Microsoft's vice president of marketing and strategy for Xbox. "For us, we thought that was too limiting for what our fans would want. Our fans really are what the full next-gen service, so that's why we decided to take our time, do it right and have it come out in this fashion."

Twitch, which features one million live broadcasters and 45 million viewers a month, has become an ESPN for gamers. The service's live and recorded broadcasts include such content as comically narrated clips of games, matches from seasoned e-sports athletes, "speed runs" — clips of players plowing through games — and streams of everyday gamers playing online. "This will open up the social aspect of Xbox One in a new way," Mehdi said. "The community of Twitch is huge."

## GADGET WATCH

# Four-port device replaces traditional wall plug

By GREGG ELLMAN  
*McClatchy-Tribune News Service*

**I**f two accessible USB charging ports are good, four has to be better. Leviton's four-port device fits exactly to replace an existing AC wall plug/box, substituting the pair of standard plugs with the four USB ports.

Its design allows you to plug in your own charging cables for 4.2 amps of power, which is controlled by a microprocessor to accommodate up to four high-powered devices simultaneously. This can include smartphones, tablets, gaming units and digital cameras regardless of the manufacturer. The only requirement that is they charge via USB.

The four USB ports are aligned in the outlet vertically to lessen stress on the charging cables, according to the company's website.

Also mentioned on the site is that all Leviton charging devices are UL listed and meet all National Electrical Code requirements for Tamper-Resistant outlets.

Online: leviton.com; \$39.99, available in gray, ivory, light almond and black



Other features include 40mm drivers built into the soft leather memory foam cushioned ear pads and folding hinges to store in the hard-shell carrying case. There also are full on-board controls along with a mic for hands-free calls.

You have your choice of silver or an eye-catching black. You'll get about 10 hours of battery life and then a four-hour charge to power them back up. A microUSB cable is included for charging. Online: smsby50.com, \$229.95

The CamRanger, in my mind the best third-party digital SLR camera accessory, just got better with a recent free firmware update.

If you're not familiar with the CamRanger (\$299.99), it's a device that connects to select Canon or Nikon DSLR cameras via USB to create a Wi-Fi network from the camera to a smartphone, tablet or computer (Mac and PC) without needing an Internet connection.

This includes capturing and storing the images on your device away from the camera as well as changing settings including shutter speeds, ISO and f-stops.

Among the new features in the update, photographers now can share images with multiple devices and network bridging.

The photographer can share images or live view from camera with others on their personal smartphone, tablet or computer using the free CamRanger Share app, regardless of their location.

And users now have the option to bridge into a network to extend the Wi-Fi range or post images to the Internet immediately.

Online: camranger.com/firmware-update

FLIR One turns your iPhone 5/Ss into a thermal imaging device using first and only item of its kind, according to the company.

The FLIR One puts thermal imaging technology in your hands to extend the limits of human vision, allowing you to see in complete darkness.

The uses are endless. Two examples: homeowners can use it for security or to optimize energy efficiency in doors and windows.

The FLIR One comes as a protective iPhone case that fits like a glove and has a lens on the back to detect and broadcast a live thermal image on the phone's LCD. It's not available yet but expected later this year for \$349.

Online: www.flir.com



## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for Feb. 26:

- "She Looks So Perfect," 5 Seconds of Summer
- "Morning Pause," Beck
- "RISE," Dierks Bentley
- "Holes," The Fray
- "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
- "Tides Live," Bethel Music
- "Six Vincents," St. Vincent
- "The Outsiders," Eric Church
- "Girls, Vol. 2: All Adventurous Women Do ..." (Music from the HBO Original Series), Various Artists
- "Live Through It," James Fortune & F.I.Y.A., F.I.Y.A. & James Fortune

— Compiled by MCT

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify from Feb. 17-23:

- Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
- Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty — feat. 2 Chainz"
- Bastille, "Pompeii"
- Beyoncé, "Drunk In Love"
- Pitbull, "Timber"
- Lorde, "Team"
- A Great Big World, "Say Something"
- OneRepublic, "Counting Stars"
- Pharrell Williams, "Happy (from Despicable Me 2)"
- Lorde, "Royals"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Feb. 26:

- "Gravity"
- "Thor: The Dark World"
- "Dallas Buyers Club"
- "Nabraska"
- "Homefront"
- "Captain Phillips"
- "12 Years a Slave"
- "Ender's Game"
- "The Counselor" (Unrated Extended Cut)
- "Last Vegas"

— Compiled by MCT

## VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer Magazine rank the top 10 PC games for February:

- "Our Darker Purpose," Avidly Wild Games
- "The Banner Saga," Slatic
- "Broken Age: Act One," DoubleFine
- "Strider," Capcom
- "Thief," Square Enix
- "Might & Magic X: Legacy," Ubisoft
- "Banished," Shining Rock
- "Nabraska," Capcom
- "The Walking Dead Season Two Episode 1: All That Remains," Telltale Games
- "Nidhogg," Messhof

— Compiled by MCT

## APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Feb. 26:

- ANDROID
- The Room Two
  - Toxa Lab
  - SpongeBob Moves In
  - R.TYPE II
  - Marvel Run Jump Smash!
- Top 5 paid apps for Feb. 26:
- APPLE
- Minecraft — Pocket Edition
  - Card Wars — Adventure Time
  - Tengami
  - Three!
  - Survivalcraft

— Compiled by MCT

## WEEKEND: THE ACADEMY AWARDS

# Films with CHARACTER

**T**his year, the best picture nominees for the Academy Awards are really about the characters.

The nine films nominated for best picture are full of great and memorable characters who endure long after the movie has ended. The nominees feature men suffering and persevering — “Captain Phillips,” “12 Years a Slave,” “Dallas Buyers Club” and “Her.” They feature grieving mothers — “Gravity” and “Philomena.” They feature cons — those perpetuating them and those falling for them — “American Hustle,” “Nebraska” and “The Wolf of Wall Street.”

And many of the films feature supporting characters just as memorable as their protagonist — such as the voice of the OS in “Her,” the wife in “Nebraska,” and a young slave woman in “12 Years a Slave.” No wonder it felt like the actor and actress categories needed to be expanded to 10 nominees each.

Stripes staffers share their takes on the nine best picture nominees.

The show airs on AFN on March 3.

**Countdown**  
to the  
**Academy Awards**

Get full-length assessments of the best picture nominees, a printable ballot and the latest updates on the events at

[stripes.com/oscars2014](http://stripes.com/oscars2014)

## 12 Years a Slave

“12 Years a Slave” is the favorite to win going into this year’s Academy Awards — and deservedly so. It is a masterfully made epic tale featuring a well-told story, beautiful directing and incredible performances.

The film is adapted from the 1853 memoir of Solomon Northup, a free black man living in New York. The father, husband and talented musician is lured to Washington, D.C., drugged and sold into slavery. He endures and witnesses horror after horror while enslaved — brutality, abuse and degradation. It would be easy to say that this is a film about slavery and those trapped in it. But it’s not. The film is really about Northup’s battle to sustain his identity, his humanity and his hope in the face of very long odds that he would ultimately be free again and with his family.

The movie’s cinematography is stunning — terrible events are juxtaposed against the beauty of northern Louisiana, where the movie was set and shot. But the performances elevate this film. Michael Fassbender disappears into his role as a sadistic slave owner. Lupita Nyong’o gives her role as slave woman Patsy incredible depth and feeling. Patsy is alternately childlike and sweet and desperate and hopeless in the face of a seemingly never-ending situation. Her final moments in the film are unforgettable. And Chiwetel Ejiofor shines as Northup. He manages to make you understand his character’s struggles



“12 Years a Slave”  
Fox Searchlight Pictures

while he hides his true self from those determined to strip him forever of his identity.

The cast said making the movie was like “dancing with ghosts.” I was haunted by the film’s characters long after the lights went up and I made my way back out into the streets of Washington, D.C. — not far from where Northup himself was held after he was kidnapped and sold. I couldn’t let go of the sight of Patsy’s face after she was once again abused by her masters, or Northup’s expression when he is once again denied a chance at freedom. This was not an easy film to watch, but a worthy one.

And it will take home the Oscar for best picture.

— Danielle L. Kiracofe,  
entertainment/features editor,  
@dorangaya26

## American Hustle

The story of this best picture nominee is complex yet simple: Everyone in this story is conning someone, and a few are also conning themselves. It’s “The Sting,” only with bad hair and lots of cleavage. This crazy caper, based on the late 1970s/early ‘80s Abscam scandal, is a true ensemble piece. That makes it great to watch, but hard to predict for Oscars. The Academy doesn’t have a performance by a cast category — for which “Hustle” earned a SAG award — and the competition for best picture is stiff. While I loved the movie — pay attention or you might miss a twist or two — and I loved tripping through the disco era, its value is the sum of its performances, so I don’t see it as best picture winner.

Bradley Cooper stands out as Richie DiMaso, a rogue FBI agent with visions of grandeur despite living with his degrading mother and putting off his long-suffering fiancée. It’s almost sad when the stars in his eyes — powered by dreams of the FBI sting — fade. Cooper would win



“American Hustle”  
Columbia Pictures

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24

# WEEKEND: THE ACADEMY AWARDS

FROM PAGE 23

best supporting actor if I were voting. And I'll go with beautiful chameleon Amy Adams to win as best actress for her role as the interesting character Sydney — and for the best use of double-stick tape.

Christian Bale is oddly charismatic as Irving, with his bald-man swirlie and huge glasses, but he's too easily manipulated by Sydney (Adams) and his controlling wife, Rosalyn (Jennifer Lawrence). It's easy to see why he was nominated for best actor; I hope that's enough for him. As for Lawrence, she's eye-candy with her faux vulnerability, and the critics loved her. Me, not so much. In a film full of small fish treading water in a big pond, she's too hot for me.

There's another amazing ensemble in this film: the soundtrack. From Duke Ellington's "Jeep's Blues" (when Irving meets Sydney) to Santana's "Evil Ways" (when Rosalyn saunters over to mobster bad boys), the music fits the characters and the moments. And yes, there's the requisite disco-era touch: The Bee Gees pine about broken hearts when Rosalyn kisses Sydney, and Donna Summer heats it up when Irving and Sydney dance.

But perhaps I've said too much for the folks who haven't seen "American Hustle" — if there are any left. The movie is worth the hype and its 10 nominations, but I'm betting against a clean sweep.

— Tina Croley, enterprise editor

## Captain Phillips

The film "Captain Phillips," which was nominated for an Academy Award for best picture, is a story about the real-life hijacking of the U.S.-flagged MV Maersk Alabama by Somali pirates in 2009. During the incident, Richard Phillips, played by Tom Hanks, was taken hostage by the Somalis after they disembarked from his vessel.

The seizure of the Maersk Alabama marked the first time in 200 years that an American cargo ship had been hijacked on the high seas. The shocking attack mobilized U.S. Navy warships, and the subsequent standoff with the pirates ultimately drew in President Barack Obama, the commander-in-chief who was head in office only a few months. It had been the first national security crises of his presidency.

The film was well-acted. Tom Hanks did a solid job as the main character. Although it was not the finest performance of his amazing career, his acting in the final scene demonstrated why he is one of the best in the business.

But Hanks was outshined by Barkhad Abdi, who played the leader of the pirate gang. Abdi, a Somali native who was starring in his first film, delivered an outstanding performance that earned him a well-deserved best supporting actor nomination. Although the other nominees did a fine job in their respective films, the Oscar should clearly go to Abdi.

Overall, "Captain Phillips" is an intense adventure story that appeals to a wide audience. It is entertaining and well worth seeing. But given the caliber of the competition this year, it is not worthy of winning



"Captain Phillips"  
Columbia Pictures



"Gravity"  
Warner Bros.

best picture.

— Jon Harper, Pentagon reporter  
@JHarperStripes

## Dallas Buyers Club

It's difficult to judge Matthew McConaughey's star turn in "Dallas Buyers Club" without considering it in the context of the past two years. During that time, he's made film fans and critics take notice with his performances in "Mud," "Magic Mike," "The Wolf of Wall Street" and the HBO series "True Detective." This stretch of incredible work makes one wonder how he got lost in the land of lame rom-coms for so many years.

The crowning jewel in this career renaissance is McConaughey's performance as Ron Woodroof in "Dallas Buyers Club." Based on real events, the film tells Woodroof's story from his 1985 HIV diagnosis to the end of his life. The hard-charging electrician and rodeo aficionado reacts to the news with angry denial. The homophobic Texan couldn't have HIV, the virus that causes AIDS, because he's not a homosexual. To suggest otherwise would be a request for a facial of fist. Woodroof sneers at the doctor's prognosis: 30 days to live.

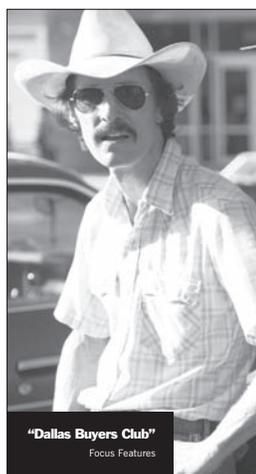
Woodroof does some research, and quickly discovers that, given his history of unprotected sex, the diagnosis is real. Still, he's determined to die with his boots on. He finds a sympathetic ear in Dr. Saks, played by Jennifer Garner, but she can't give him what he really wants — the drug AZT. Instead, he gets it illegally through

a hospital employee. When that well runs dry, Woodroof heads south of the border.

A Mexican doctor tells him that AZT (along with continued booze and coke binges) has compromised his immune system, and Woodroof has developed AIDS. The doctor prescribes unapproved pharmaceuticals and vitamins. Woodroof sees results, and sees the opportunity to make money by selling the drugs to other patients. During a subsequent hospital stay, Woodroof is placed in a room with Rayon, best supporting actor nominee Jared Leto, a transgender woman enrolled in an AZT trial. Woodroof and Rayon become unlikely business partners. Ron is repulsed by Rayon's lifestyle, but attracted to his new associate's network of potential clients.

After run-ins with the law and the FDA, Woodroof decides to stop selling drugs and start selling memberships. Hence the formation of the titular club. For \$400 a month, clients get all the drugs they want. The wiry Woodroof is a scrapper, battling for his life on one front and fighting tooth and nail with The Man on the other.

Capturing the fighting side of Woodroof is the heart of McConaughey's performance. He is a man possessed. He lost more than 40 pounds for the role (Leto, deservedly nominated for best supporting actor, lost more than 30), making it at times uncomfortable to look at this doomed man. The way he channels Woodroof's rage, first into looking for a lifeline and then into compassionately helping others, makes it impossible to



"Dallas Buyers Club"  
Focus Features

look away. McConaughey transformed himself physically, and Woodroof, who lost his friends after his diagnosis, evolved through tolerance.

Oscar voters love transformation, and McConaughey has got it to spare. Physical change, change of character and the reawakening of a promising career. The plot of "Dallas Buyers Club" feels a little too contrived at times (even for a movie script), and that's why it's unlikely to win best picture. McConaughey, though, is likely to continue his career resurgence with the Oscar for best actor.

— Sean Moores, assistant managing editor/sports, features and graphics

## Gravity

Alfonso Cuarón's "Gravity" is a visual marvel. One gets the sensation at times that you're an additional member of the crew, floating above a beautiful Earth, weightless and feeling poetic, as the vast majority of what we experience glides by beneath you.

So why did I come away feeling empty? Maybe it's the improbability of having human drama — even one as gripping as the events portrayed would be — match up to the technical achievement. Maybe the dialogue feels flat, because what can be said? How do you even process the notion of being stranded in space, and having to climb in and out of disabled spacecraft in the hopes of finding the lifeboat that will get you home?

Cinema purists might take issue with a cinematography award for something artificial, but that feels like the realm in which this movie should be competing for awards; the sheer magic of being in a theater and feeling like you're somewhere few people have been.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 25

## ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Oscars trivia ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**289**

the number of features eligible for best picture for the 86th Academy Awards

**6,028**

the number of voting members of the academy

**50**

the number of statuettes created for the 86th Academy Awards

**8.5**

the weight, in pounds, of an Oscar statuette

## WEEKEND: THE ACADEMY AWARDS



## FROM PAGE 24

I am OK with suspending my disbelief. I won't feel the need to pick nits, as a colleague did: "All the space stations and space telescopes don't hang around in an area the size of the greater Washington [D.C.] metro area," he said. "The Hubble and ISS are at different altitudes and on different orbits, each going like 17,000 miles an hour. If you managed to leave one and contact the other, you would disintegrate and it would be damaged."

True. Still, the movie's great shortcoming, in my view, is that it didn't make me believe the human drama.

I like visually appealing, technologically-savvy popcorn fare as much as the next guy. I wish I'd gone into the movie knowing that's all it was. Why on Earth is this movie a best-picture nominee?

—Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief, @StripesDCchief

## Her

In the not-too-distant future, people live practically virtual lives. Or so we're led to believe from observing our protagonist, Theodore Twombly, played by Joaquin Phoenix. Theodore is a writer-for-hire — his company's employees write letters for strangers. He writes love letters for other couples with great passion, and surprising intimacy, as his computer takes dictation.

But he goes home alone to an empty apartment, aside from a video game. His estranged wife, played by Rooney Mara, has been asking him to sign final divorce papers for a year. He just can't bring himself to do it.

Theodore sees an advertisement for a sentient computer operating system, and decides — why not? After just a few less than thorough personal questions, his tailor-made OS is ready. And she sounds just like Scarlett Johansson. Thus begins an unlikely relationship — first a friendship, then something more intimate — and a dip into the familiar "sentient computer wants to learn what it's like to be truly human" trope. But, to writer/director Spike Jonze's credit, he doesn't stop there. The OS, who names herself Samantha, and the other sentient operating systems learn all they can from the humans, then

start conversing among themselves, and come to conclusions their human creators most likely never intended them to reach.

Johansson acquits herself well as her voice-only character. I wouldn't go so far as to call it Oscar-worthy (she's not nominated, but some have said she should have been), but the role continues to push the envelope that the likes of Andy Serkis (Gollum in "The Lord of the Rings") and "Hobbit" movies) began — the idea that an acting role is more than a physical body being filmed. I suspect it doesn't hurt that Johansson's physical body is well-known to movie fans in genres far and wide, and it's pretty easy to see when she's talking, even if she can't be seen.

The movie touches many themes that have been done before — lonely characters in love meet each other, get to know one another in unlikely ways and become more fulfilled and better from the acquaintance. But by the end, the story has also taken us somewhere refreshingly new. Through the humans vs. OS element, the movie encourages us to ponder what it means to be alive, and in love, and what a relationship really requires.

The movie isn't likely to take the night's biggest Oscar prize — it's a bit too quiet for that — but it has earned its spot in the running through its insightful script, its gorgeous camera work and Phoenix's powerful acting.

By the end of the movie, Theodore is in a better place through knowing Samantha. One of the critical moments occurs, interestingly enough, when his thinking about relationships is more binary than hers. Perhaps the machines have something to teach us after — Kate Maisel, features editor

## Nebbraska

Watching "Nebbraska," a line in Baz Luhrmann's song, "Everybody's Free (to Wear Sunscreen)" came to mind: "Get to know your parents/ You never know when they might be gone for good."

Believing he has won a million dollars in a direct-mail sweepstakes, cantankerous, shambling drunk Woody Grant, portrayed brilliantly by Bruce Dern, tries to walk from his home in Billings, Mont., to Lincoln, Neb., to claim his prize. Following another failed attempt to do so

and after the insistence of his wife Kate (nominee June Squibb) and two sons that this is a scam, Woody's son David (Will Forte) finally agrees to take his father on an 850-mile journey, as a way to bond with his father, give the elder a break from his nagging wife and allow him a possible final adventure.

Along the way, the pair get detoured from the fictional town of Hawthorne, Neb., where Woody grew up and where his older brother still resides. An impromptu family reunion takes place, and soon Woody's wife, never one to bite her tongue, and their slightly more successful son Ross join in. The story proceeds like an episode of "This Is Your Life," and we learn more about Woody's difficult past.

Beneath the surprising humor of "Nebbraska" is a story of disappointment, regret and despair. The backdrop of Hawthorne, its wide-open spaces where little life is seen, plays an important role in the film and helps us understand how Woody came to be so despondent and uninterested in the people around him.

"Nebbraska" is deserving of the Oscar for best picture this year quite simply because it feels so real. There's no feeling of overacting or underacting. The characters are convincing and you feel connected to them. You pity them. You root for them. By the end, you care for them. A drama, a comedy and a character study all in one, it's a thought-provoking story. It takes you to an uncomfortable but necessary place, where you must face your own mortality and the mortality of your parents.

Squibb's brazen portrayal of a feisty, forever suffering wife ("You know what I'd do with a million dollars? I'd put him in a home.") is genius, and Forte is highly effective as the underachieving but well-meaning son in one of his first dramatic film roles. However, Dern, who won the best actor award at the Cannes Film Festival for his portrayal of Woody, steals the show and delivers the performance of a lifetime.

While Woody does not leave Lincoln a millionaire, he definitely won me over in

"Nebbraska," one of the most touching and important movies of the year.

—Laura Evans, copy editor

## Philomena

I expected "Philomena" to be another excellent example of the stately and critically acclaimed British actress Dame Judi Dench being ... well, the stately and critically acclaimed British actress. And it was. What I didn't expect is that I would also see Dench in this Oscar-nominated role taking on such complex issues as love, faith and forgiveness.

"Philomena" is the story of a woman's quest to find her son, taken from her 50 years earlier. In 1952, the title character, inspired by the real-life Philomena Lee, is 18 years old and pregnant when she is banished to a Catholic home for unwed mothers in Roscrea, Ireland. After giving birth, Philomena does hard duty in the convent's laundry. She lives for the one hour a day that the convent allows the mothers to see their children. Without warning, the convent gives the boy to an American couple when he is 3 years old, leaving the young Philomena to scream and cry as she sees the last glimpse of his small face looking out from the car driven away by his adoptive parents.

Philomena lives with her pain secretly until she finally tells her grown daughter, and the daughter enlists the help of former BBC journalist Martin Sixsmith, played by Steve Coogan, to write her mother's story.

This begins a journey that takes the cynical but kind journalist and a woman in her dotage to the U.S. to search for the long-lost son.

Philomena is a sweet but at times exasperating old woman. Once in Washington, D.C., where Sixsmith scours birth records, she assumes that a dark-skinned server is Mexican and tells him that she believes Mexico must be lovely "aside from the kidnappings." She marvels at America and the gigantic food portions.

As the pair piece together details of her

CONTINUED ON PAGE 26

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

# Oscars trivia

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**500** approximate length, in feet, of the Oscars red carpet at Dolby Theater in Hollywood

**2,900** the number of Oscar statuettes presented since the first Academy Awards

**8** the number of times Martin Scorsese has been nominated for best director (He has won once.)

Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

## On the Web

- For the latest on the Oscars from Stars and Stripes: [stripes.com/oscars2014](http://stripes.com/oscars2014)
- Follow the Academy:
- Facebook: [Facebook.com/TheAcademy](https://www.facebook.com/TheAcademy)
  - Twitter: [Twitter.com/TheAcademy](https://twitter.com/TheAcademy) (Official Oscars hashtags: #Oscars #BestDressed)
  - YouTube: [YouTube.com/Oscars](https://www.youtube.com/Oscars)
  - Google+: [bit.ly/OscarsGplus](https://plus.google.com/bit.ly/OscarsGplus)

## WEEKEND: THE ACADEMY AWARDS



# Ideas on how the awards telecast can be better

By GLENN WHIPP  
Los Angeles Times

**W**ere days away from the Oscars, which means we're days away from the first tweet complaining about the show.

But why wait? Let's be clear: We're not wishing failure on this year's Oscar telecast or predicting that host Ellen DeGeneres will bomb. When it comes to the Oscars, we're always hopeful. And then the show starts and ... mmmph ... it's wait 'til next year.

But it's going to be different on March 2, right? (It will air March 3 on AFN-Movie). Producers Craig Zadan and Neil Meron are back on the job, as is DeGeneres, returning as host seven years after her first turn. We're sure they're going to put all that experience to good use. But, you know, just in case, here are a few ideas for a more perfect night, both for this year and the future.

**Ramp up the energy, Ellen.** We enjoyed your low-key charm back in '07. Asking Steven Spielberg to snap your picture with Clint Eastwood? Adorbs. But there's a fine line between unpretentious and just a little dull. Don't let last year keep you from stirring the pot. As long as you're funny, no one will mind the barbs. (Publicly, at least.)

**Pick a host. Then stay the course.** We've gone from the "OMG! Oscars heart you people!" Anne Hathaway/James Franco debacle to nostal-

gic, Old Hollywood Billy Crystal ("We've cornered the 70- to 85-year-old market!") then, last year, to naughtiness (Seth MacFarlane) to this year's return to nice. The Golden Globes, meanwhile, are enjoying record ratings, having established a consistent tone by employing the same great hosts year after year. (Ricky Gervais ran things from 2009 to 2011; Tina Fey and Amy Poehler are signed next year for a third straight go-around.) The audience knows what to expect and actually looks forward to what's coming. Crazy, huh?

So, if DeGeneres kills it this year, bring her back. If not, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences needs to find the 21st century equivalent of Crystal, Johnny Carson and Bob Hope — hosts who skillfully presided over the Oscars for years. Since ABC has the telecast through 2020, it's not going to be Jimmy Fallon, who amped up the fun as Emmy host in 2010. So why not Jimmy Kimmel, who, at the 2012 Emmys, displayed a winning goofiness that played both at home and the room itself?

**Change the venue.** "The Oscars used to be a good time," says Robert Osborne, author of "85 Years of the Oscar: The Official History of the Academy Awards."

"But that was back in the early years when it was a banquet and people used to be able to eat and drink and relax. It was a party everyone wanted to attend. Now no one wants to go unless they have to." So why not move it back to a ballroom? Scaling back on the starchiness of a theater setting would do wonders for the vibe in the room and, by extension, the show itself.

Keep it at three hours.

**Television icon Ellen DeGeneres returns to host the Oscars for a second time. It airs March 3 on AFN-Movie. The show will air at 1 a.m. Central European Time and 9 a.m. in Japan and Korea.**

ABC

## FROM PAGE 25

son's life, *Philomena* practices her faith, and *Sixsmith* practices his atheism. He becomes enraged about the secrecy that shrouds the convent's baby trade, and the lies it tells to keep the mothers and children from finding each other. But *Philomena* is without guile. She forgives. Is she just a naive old woman guilty of accepting the easy answers offered by the church? Or is *Sixsmith*'s hardened journalist who is guilty of asking the easy, anti-God questions? Did God cause the pain inflicted on the girls at the convent, or was it human beings who presumed to speak for Him?

It's a gut-wrenching but beautifully told story. Still, the best picture nominee is not without clichés. The worst is the cartoonish portrayal of the business of journalism, as *Sixsmith*'s superficial editor only wants to hear *Philomena*'s story told as good guys versus bad guys and happy versus sad endings. The ending was a bit of both. When I left the theater, I felt as if *Philomena*'s story had happened to me. I'm pretty sure that's a sign of an Oscar-worthy performance.

—Jolene Carpenter, features travel editor

## The Wolf of Wall Street

Have you ever wondered just how excessive your life might become if you ever had an unlimited amount of money at your disposal?



Sure you have. So have I.

No one's better at presenting the trappings and travails of excess quite like Martin Scorsese, who once again goes down that road in his latest movie, "The Wolf of Wall Street."

Viewers will notice a certain similarity among two of Scorsese's earlier films, "Goodfellas" and "Casino," and "The Wolf of Wall Street." All three films let the protagonist tell the story as it unfolds, explaining to the audience what he was thinking and just how his actions came back to haunt him.



In this case, it's Leonardo DiCaprio telling the point of view of Jordan Belfort, the once wealthy stockbroker who eventually went to prison on fraud and market manipulation charges.

But the fun is in the journey, and how he reached that point.

DiCaprio and his cronies start out pitching penny stocks to wealthy investors

before eventually becoming involved in "pump and dump" schemes in which they purchase most of the stock for themselves, sell the remaining stock to investors to drive up the value of the stock, then sell their own stock for astounding profits. Along with the money comes overindulgence in drugs, sex and alcohol, as well as spending sprees that allow him to live a life that royalty in many other countries might only dream of living. From palatial estates to yachts and helicopters, DiCaprio prods his charges to come along for the ride and enjoy the life that had always eluded them until they went to work for him.

The scenes are true to Belfort's story, and if you didn't know better you'd think Scorsese had dreamed them up. More than once, I found myself saying, surely they didn't do that. From shaving a female co-worker's head for \$10,000 to shopping for various levels of prostitutes, DiCaprio seems to relish the role.

Of course, it eventually all comes crashing down and Belfort is forced to incriminate his underlings to avoid a lengthy jail sentence. Just as in "Goodfellas" and "Casino," we get to see where all the excess eventually leads to the main character.

But what a ride. Oh, what a ride. "The Wolf of Wall Street" is also nominated for four other Academy Awards, including best director for Scorsese and best actor for DiCaprio and Jonah Hill for best supporting actor.

—Rich Killmon, sports copy editor

## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

SEND IN THE CLOWNS:  
Belgium's Gilles

Belgium comes alive each year as carnival season begins. Its most famous carnival celebration, in the small town of Binche, attracts thousands of visitors annually. This colorful event takes place March 2-4. Dating from the 14th century, Binche's carnival is most famous for its parade on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, when Gilles — clownlike performers wearing masks, red costumes and wooden clogs — converge on the city.

Not everybody can be a Gilles. The Gilles of Binche must be male and born in Binche. They can come out only on Shrove Tuesday and need to be guided by a drummer at all times. They are not allowed to sit down or get drunk in public. On Shrove Tuesday, they meet on the Grand Place of Binche and dance with brooms to the sound of drums to chase away the evil spirits of winter and welcome spring. Then they march through town throwing oranges to the public, a symbol of the coming of spring.

Find the carnival schedule at [carnavaldebinche.com](http://carnavaldebinche.com), program-of-the-shrovedays.html.



Up to 1,000 clownlike performers known as Gilles appear in Binche, Belgium, during the popular Carnival of Binche. AP



Courtesy of [crufts.org](http://crufts.org)

Gavin Robertson with Jilly, a Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen who won Best in Show on the final day of Crufts 2013.

SIT UP AND TAKE NOTICE:  
Crufts Dog Show

Billed as an "un-fur-gettable" family day out, the Crufts Dog Show comes to the NEC arena in Birmingham, England, March 6-9. Almost 22,000 dogs will compete in what is billed as the world's largest dog show and competition. Tickets purchased in advance cost 16.50 pounds (about \$20) for Thursday and

Friday and 17.60 for Saturday and Sunday. On show days, tickets will cost 18 pounds Thursday and Friday and 19 pounds Saturday and Sunday. Tickets to the concession area and Best in Show Competition are sold separately. Children younger than 12 get in free. Find details at [crufts.org.uk](http://crufts.org.uk).

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## 'Ball with a bite'

The Heidelberg, Germany, Kongresshaus Stadthalle, an elegant, Jugendstil venue built more than 100 years ago, is a place one might associate with highbrow events such as philharmonic concerts or operas. The picture will be a little different come Saturday night, when the Vampire Ball, the city's cult event around carnival time, will draw ghoulish revelers from far beyond the borders of this university town. The "ball with a bite" celebrates its 40th anniversary this year.

Many revelers make serious business out of dressing for the occasion: if not in vampire attire, often as elegantly clad, blood-spattered victims of Dracula's fangs.

Five regional bands provide the musical backdrop for a night of dancing and socializing.

The ball kicks off at 8:30 p.m. and ends at 3 a.m. Although the spacious hall can accommodate more than 2,000 people, tickets typically sell out. American guests usually number in the hundreds. Tickets cost 37 euros (about \$51) plus fees. Although they are no longer available online, would-be vampires might be lucky enough to get them at the door.

## Spain welcomes spring

Las Fallas, Valencia, Spain's grand bash to celebrate the arrival of spring, involves plenty to



Karen Bradbury

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



stimulate the senses.

The annual festivities kick off Saturday and Sunday with La Mascleta, a noisy affair involving firecrackers in the city's Plaza del Ayuntamiento and growing more raucous as the event reaches its climax March 16-19.

A visual highlight of the festival are the giant papier-mâché figures, some towering more than 20 feet, known as

*ninots*. They often are inspired by politics, popular culture or sport, particularly public figures who have fallen from the public's grace. The statues go on display throughout the city from noon March 15.

Don't-miss events include ceremonies to honor the city's patroness March 17 and 18, in which residents from throughout the state of Valencia dress in colorful costumes and offer floral tributes to a giant image of the Virgen de los Desamparados. March 18 is known as the Nit del Foc, with its giant fireworks display.

Festivities draw to a close March 19 with La Crema, in which the effigies are set on fire, banishing the evils of the past. The official program is available at [fallas.com](http://fallas.com) (Spanish only).



Giant papier-mâché figures are the highlight of the Fallas Festival in Valencia, Spain. AP



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

## WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Europe



PHOTOS BY MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

A wooden bridge connects the two main parts of the ruins of Burg Beilstein near Kaiserslautern, Germany. Local lore holds that a beautiful but reclusive maiden lived in the castle. A squire hoping to kidnap her is said to have broken in, only to find her with two ghosts. In the end, the ghosts caused his demise.

# Mythical marvel

## German castle ruin boasts its own medieval ghost story

By MATT MILLHAM  
Stars and Stripes

According to local lore, a beautiful young girl used to live in the woods behind what is now Panzer Kaserne in Kaiserslautern, Germany.

This was back in the Middle Ages. She had a pretty little castle on a pretty little hill surrounded by big pretty trees.

She kept to herself, never going into town. She didn't like visitors. Another thing she didn't like: men.

Her disinterest in the opposite sex was of no consequence to one of Kaiserslautern's resident squires, who was drawn to the idea of dating a hot hermit.

Under the light of a full moon, he and two servants hiked into the woods to kidnap her. They broke in without a problem, but probably came to wish they hadn't.

The would-be kidnapers found the beautiful lass at a large table flanked by a pair of ghosts. The servants fled screaming, which, compared to the squire's reaction, was almost dignified. The scared lad fainted.

When he came to, the ghosts were gone, but the girl was still there. His courage miraculously restored, the squire grabbed the



A picnic table sits at the base of the pillar of sandstone that was once a major structural support for Burg Beilstein.

girl and started dragging her back toward Kaiserslautern. She broke free and sprinted home, leaving the squire in her dust.

The squire, socially awkward, a bit slow of foot and unable to take a hint, decided to give kidnapping another go.

He got back into the castle with no problem, and again the girl was there with the ghosts.

The squire didn't faint this time, though — oh no. Instead, the ghosts touched him and, as often happens in these harsh German

morality plays, he fell dead as a doornail.

The story doesn't say what happened to his corpse. Nor does it say what happened to the girl or the ghosts.

But the ruins of her castle, Burg Beilstein, are still there.

The castle, which shows up in records as far back as 1158, was all but destroyed in the early 1400s and never rebuilt. But what's left rotting away in the woods less than a mile southeast of Panzer's perimeter fence is

highly intriguing.

Large sections of the castle's outer walls are still intact (some of them partially reconstructed in the 1800s), forming a large oval divided by a massive crack in the bedrock. A wooden bridge connects the two main parts of the former fortress.

The most striking feature of the site is a natural tower of red sandstone that was a major part of the castle's structure. Rectangular hollows that were carved into the rock to hold roof beams are still clearly visible, giving a sense of how the place was laid out. A single stone doorway hints at what was here in the past.

Though Beilstein is obscure as a tourist destination, getting there is remarkably easy and quite beautiful.

Even in late winter, the woods are alive with bird song and the sound of woodpeckers drilling for lunch. In places, moss covers the forest floor in a bright green blanket.

The main trails are well-marked and the hike in takes less than half an hour at a moderate pace. Only the last quarter-mile or so is somewhat challenging as you hike up a gradually steepening hill to the mystifying and possibly haunted ruins on top.

millham\_mattthew@stripes.com  
Twitter: @mattmillham



By SCHILLING/Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Google Maps coordinates for one trailhead are 49.432692,7.821856. The start point is a pull-off at the bend in the L504 road behind Kleber and Panzer Kasernes and next to a stone train trestle. Hike in about 200 meters, take the first left and then follow the signs to the ruin.

### COSTS

It's free to explore the ruins and the surrounding forest.

### FOOD

Quack, a restaurant popular with hikers, is just down the road on the L504, street address Entersweilerstrasse 74, Kaiserslautern.

### INFORMATION

Climbing the rock pillar at the center of the ruin is prohibited.

— Matt Millham

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



Above: A light fixture adorns the exterior of a Pollo in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Right: A half chicken with fries and bread.



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

## After Hours: Germany

By GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

I hate receiving mail at my house. It always makes me feel bad. I get speeding tickets I didn't know I incurred, bills for accounts I don't remember signing up for, and advertisements for hardware stores I'm afraid to go into. And I can't read a word of any of it. I always spend the next 20 minutes typing terrifying words into Google Translate and peeking through my fingers at the results.

*Rechnung. Verfahrungskosten. Nebenforderungen.*

But the other day, something wonderful arrived in my mailbox. It was a simple flier for a Pollo chicken-only restaurant in Kaiserslautern. This flier had happy words on it, many of which I translated without Google's help.

*Hahnchen. Trinken. Pommes frites.*

Have you ever seen or heard of something for the first time and immediately known it would be an awesome addition to your life? I felt that way when I met my wife 14 years ago, and both of the times we learned that we were expecting a child. I felt that way the first time I watched professional wrestling, and when I first logged onto the Internet to look up Wu-Tang Clan lyrics.

I felt that way again when the á Pollo flier arrived.

It was my wife who first discovered it. She showed me the flier and we shared a knowing look.

"This is a good thing," our eyes said, communicating.

A couple of days later, we went to á Pollo for a lunch date. A co-

## Á POLLO

Address: Bremerstrasse 12  
Kaiserslautern.

Hours: Opens for lunch at noon seven days a week; closing time varies.

Food: Chicken and sides.

Dress: Casual.

Costs: Meals start at about 4 or 5 euros for chicken and bread. Salads with chicken cost about

8 euros. Larger meals with soup, chicken, fries, cole slaw and dessert ring up at about 16 euros. The bar stocks a variety of wine, beer and soft drinks. Information: Call (49-49) (0) 631-320-4244. Menus are in German but the staff speaks English.

— Gregory Broome

worker heard of our plans and offered his endorsement, but it didn't matter. We were certain it would be good to excellent.

We parked and approached the restaurant. It was absolutely adorable. I'm a little hesitant to use the word "adorable," but it's the best descriptor for the place and, at some point my wife said, "This place is adorable."

The restaurant was equally adorable inside. A small corner bar was surrounded by benches with throw pillows, beautiful brick walls and endless chicken-themed art and decorations. It felt comfortable and inviting like a family dinner, only without your whole family around to make it awkward.

We were greeted by a young

woman with that air of pleasant ambivalence that I have come to love from European restaurants.

"It's cool that you're here," this welcome makes clear to the visitor. "Want to eat some chicken?"

As a matter of fact, my wife and I did want to eat some chicken. So we did, our confidence still solidly intact.

If you were waiting for the twist ending to this story, when our food turned out awful and our preconceived notions were dashed and some kind of lesson was imparted, that would theoretically go here. But it didn't happen that way. The food was excellent.

The beauty of á Pollo is in its simplicity. They serve only chicken and the usual sides, or chicken in salad or soups.

There's no agonizing over the menu. My wife and I each ordered a half roasted chicken with bread and an order of fries to share and never considered anything else. You can get the chicken seasoned to your preferred level of spiciness, so that's a choice you'll be forced to make. Everything was fresh and delicious, and the bill for the two of us amounted to just about 15 euros (\$21). We're planning to go back often with the kids and friends. We might even become the kind of regulars the staff recognizes and waves at. I've always wanted to have a place like that.

á Pollo has brought more than succulent chicken into my life. It's cured my fear of the German mail. Next time that once-intimidating Deutsche Post lady approaches on her bike, I'll greet her with a smile.

broome.gregory@stripes.com  
Twitter: @broomestripes

## Steak gets some zip from coffee and spice combination

By LINDA GASSENHEIMER  
The Miami Herald

This quick coffee-crusted steak with sauteed garlic potatoes is simple enough for a midweek dinner. Chili powder adds a little kick while the paprika gives a smoky flavor.

Complete the meal with a washed-ready-to-eat salad and your favorite dressing.

## COFFEE-RUBBED STEAK

## Ingredients

1 tablespoon ground espresso coffee  
½ tablespoon onion powder  
½ tablespoon smoked paprika  
½ teaspoon salt  
½ teaspoon chili powder  
½ tablespoon brown sugar  
¾ pound grass-fed strip steak, fat removed (about ½-inch thick)

1 tablespoon olive oil  
2 medium tomatoes, sliced

## Steps

Mix coffee with onion powder, paprika, salt, chili powder and brown sugar. Spread on both sides of the steak, pressing the spice on.

Heat oil in a nonstick skillet over medium heat. Add the steak and saute 5 minutes, watching to make sure the spices do not burn. Turn the steak over and cook another 5 minutes. A meat thermometer should read 125 degrees for medium-rare and 145 degrees for medium.

Remove meat to a cutting board and pour pan juices over the steak. Let rest while finishing the potatoes. Slice and serve.

Makes 2 servings, 322 calories each.

## GARLIC POTATOES

## Ingredients

1 pound red potatoes, unpeeled, washed and cut into 1-inch pieces

1 cup sliced red bell pepper  
2 teaspoons olive oil  
2 teaspoons minced garlic  
Salt and freshly ground pepper

## Steps

Microwave potatoes on high 10 minutes. Remove from oven and add garlic and bell pepper. Set aside.

Makes 2 servings of potatoes, 222 calories each.

When steak is removed from skillet, add olive oil to it. Turn heat to high. Add potato mixture. Saute 5 minutes turning potatoes to brown on all sides, about 5 minutes. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve potatoes with the steak.



A fully stocked bar occupies a corner of a Pollo restaurant. The atmosphere is homey and the chicken is delicious.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

# Viva la Vespa



PHOTOS BY ALESSANDRO PENSO VIA ONOFF PICTURE/For The Washington Post

Scooteroma guide Annie Ojile, center, gets ready to lead a Vespa tour of Rome. The scooters still get attention despite their omnipresence in the city.

## Buzzing along on two wheels, riders see the heart of Rome's hubbub

By KELLY DiNARDO  
Special to The Washington Post

**S**itting on the back of a Vespa, I watch the dark green sedan inch closer and closer. We're stopped at a traffic light, and the car's Italian driver, chatting busily on his cellphone, isn't paying attention. Just as his vehicle drifts

across the lane and threatens to knock into us, the driver of my scooter slams her palm down on the hood. Startled, the man snaps back to reality and hits the brakes.

The light changes, and our Vespa hurtles forward, leaving the chaotic knot of Roman traffic in the dust.

*Ciao, amici!*

Italians' love affair with the Vespa has been going on since 1946, when manufacturer Piaggio first introduced the wasp-shaped scooter (*vespa* means wasp in Italian) to the market. When Audrey Hepburn and Gregory Peck buzzed through the Italian capital in the 1953 film "Roman Holiday," the scooter's popularity shot into overdrive. Today, the Vespa is one of many modern scooter brands, including Aprilia, Suzuki and Honda, that crowd Roman streets.

The exhilaration and glamour of whizzing around the city on two wheels outweighed any fear I had. But even though I'm a long-time Vespa owner, I wasn't keen on negotiating Rome's frenzied streets on my own. So on a recent trip with my husband and in-laws, we arranged a professional Vespa tour of the Eternal City.

Annie Ojile, an American expat who's the brains behind the Vespa tour company Scooteroma, and her fellow Vesparazzi picked us up outside our rented apartment. Annie handed us helmets and directed us to climb on

behind our guides. With a high roundhouse kick over the small trunk, I mounted up behind Annie on her cherry-red Vespa.

The morning rain cleared, but as we slowly filed out of the cobblestone alley, my husband asked his driver whether the damp ground would be a problem. I'm glad I didn't hear the response: "It's like putting ice skates on a Vespa!" the driver said.

We scheduled our tour for a Sunday, when the traffic in Rome is a smidgen calmer than normal, but the guides were still cautious as we zigzagged

through a tangle of streets that veered off in random directions and made our way toward the Piazza Venezia, where the sights include the monument to a united Italy's first king, Victor Emmanuel II. We stopped at the historic tribute that locals like to disparage, calling it "the wedding cake." Annie gave us some broad strokes of the city's history and pointed out details — like the balcony above the piazza from which Mussolini gave many of his speeches — that we'd missed when clambering over the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31



The Vespa tour takes riders past the National Monument to Victor Emmanuel II in Rome's Piazza Venezia.

YOUR POINT OF CONTACT IN WIESBADEN MAINZ-KASTEL

**HAESE**

IT'S A GREAT DEAL



www.AUTOHAUS-HAESE.DE | DESK1@AUTOHAUS-HAESE.DE | 06134-28 49 43

# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Europe

FROM PAGE 30

monument and through the square the day before.

The sun was shining as we walked behind the monument and up a short paved hill. We stopped at a park overlooking Circus Maximus, the ancient chariot-racing stadium that Annie called the "NASCAR of its day."

Annie is engaging and funny as a guide and aware as a driver, which put me at ease.

We hilled over to Aventine Hill, a posh residential district dotted with gardens. We scooped past a bus and a smattering of cars jockeying for limited parking spots and pulled up to the walled entrance of Giardino degli Aranci, or the Garden of Oranges. Hopping off our scooters, we strolled under a canopy of Roman pines and took in citrus-perfumed air and sweeping views of Rome. When we returned, a few tourists tried to surreptitiously snap pictures of our little posse. Despite their omnipresence in Rome, Vespas are still a curiosity, and each time we paused, fellow tourists gawked, took photos and asked things like "Are you having fun?" "Is it scary?"

Back on our scooters, we toolied a few blocks over to the Piazza of the Knights of Malta. Far from the grand piazzas of downtown, this concrete square is completely unremarkable, save for a few tourists clustered around a marble arch with a large stone door. We joined the group and looked through the keyhole, where the dome of St. Peter's was visible in the distance.

While our guides chatted in Italian, I watched other tourists being herded back onto a cramped minibus. Glad that I was not one of them, I gleefully swung onto the back of the Vespa, and we zipped past the loving coach. This is what I lube about a scooter — the efficiency, the freedom, the slightly rebellious and dangerous feeling that comes from darting around a city on two wheels.

We drove along the outside of the thick, ancient city wall that rises more than 30 feet above the modern road and parked outside the main gate of the Via Appia. Wandering down the road, our guide pointed out the wheel markings of chariots that once traveled from Rome to the Adriatic Coast along this route. I imagined the punishing journey along uneven, bumpy roads, and I was grateful for my modern-day chariot.

We dashed back toward downtown, waving and tooting our horns at fellow scooter riders, and wove through Testaccio, once a working-class neighborhood but now a trendy hot spot, where we popped into a cafe for espressos and biscotti.

Revved, we made our way toward the Great Synagogue of Rome. For the first time, we were traveling along busy, multi-lane roads, and the kamikaze driving made me glad that I was not at the handlebars. Drivers crammed their cars together with little space between bumpers, oblivious to lane markers.

Annie carefully snaked through the chaos. From my perch behind her, I peered into car windows and saw drivers checking their phones, lighting cigarettes and turning around to talk to friends in the back seat.

Finally, we pulled into the Jewish ghetto and parked near the

synagogue. I caught my breath while we watched elaborately dressed wedding guests lingering outdoors. The bride arrived, and we took in the flurry of satin, sequins and tulle. When the streets were quiet again, we talked about the walled ghetto that was demolished when Italy was unified and the impressive synagogue with the square dome meant to distinguish it from the city's Christian churches.

In a single-file scooter line, we then twisted past terra-cotta-

colored buildings up a tree-lined hill. I inhaled wafts of sweet honeysuckle between occasional whiffs of the exhaust from the mid-1950s scooter ahead of us. (Scootermeets uses both new and vintage Vespas on its tours.)

We climbed Gianicolo, a hill west of the Tiber and just above the Vatican. I dismounted and took in a view of Rome's skyline that few tourists see because this spot isn't easy to get to.

Back in the thick of the city, we bumped along cobbled alleyways

— equally picture-perfect and pinball-seek as I bounced on my seat. We ran a final gamlet, swarming to avoid pedestrians, including a group of nuns who had spilled off the sidewalk while waiting in line for gelato. As we zoomed past, I was close enough to touch the wooden rosary dangling from one of their waists.

Finally, at a cafe-lined street not far from the Piazza Navona, we bid farewell to our drivers, who zipped off and out of sight. Ciao, amici!

# Restaurant Directory

<p><b>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</b> Since 1978</p> <p><b>China Restaurant Peking</b> Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nikolaier 8, 92675 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-33096 Fax. 0961-34073/www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p><b>Frankfurt area</b></p> <p><b>Chillers</b> Airport City Mall Terminal 1 Frankfurt International Airport Tel. 069-6902432 www.chillers-sportbars.com</p>	<p><b>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</b></p> <p><b>Benjamin's Gastel</b> Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Sahn Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.benjamins-gastel.de</p>
<p><b>Glutschaufel Hotel &amp; Restaurant International Hotel &amp; Cuisine</b> Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel: 09645/60 29 90 www.storiente-la-mama-garmisch.de www.glutschaufel.de</p>	<p><b>Garmisch-Partenkirchen</b></p> <p>Open Wed-Mon Noon-11pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 09881-57466 www.storiente-la-mama-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82647 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p><b>PAPPEL HAUS</b> Steenersstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p><b>Glutschaufel</b></p> <p>Untermer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p><b>Idar - Oberstein</b></p> <p><b>Restaurant Alte-Kanzlei</b> Das original Speisestuben Kaiserslautern The place to go for the original open fire grilled Gaucho style steaks! Hauptstrasse 432-35743 Idar - Oberstein 06781-28059/36773 www.restaurant-altekanzlei.de</p>	<p><b>SMOKE TRIBE</b> Nassaustrasse 6 Hofhim am Taunus-Wallus Tel. 06122-4022 www.smoketribebq.com</p>
<p><b>IMAN'S BAR</b> ALTE AMBERGER STR. 36 92655 GRAFENWOHR</p>	<p><b>Kaiserslautern area</b></p> <p><b>QUACK</b> Gasthaus &amp; Biergarten Inh. Sacha Gärtner Entenweilerstrasse 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.quack-ll.de Tel. 0631-42828</p>	<p><b>Vitis Restaurant</b> Fine Italian Cuisine Oppelner Strasse 3 - Wiesbaden-Nordstadt Tel. 06122-9279701</p>
<p><b>BEAUEWIRT</b> Gasthausbrauere Brau Wirt Traditional Bavarian Cuisine + Zoigl Beers Untermer Markt 9, 92637 Weiden/Opf. Phone: 0961/481333 info@brauewirt.de, www.brauewirt.de</p>	<p><b>EFENDI 'Kebab'</b> Enjoy the taste of Turkey Riennerstrasse 18 67655 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/EFENDIkebab</p>	<p><b>okinii</b> Taanus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23839808</p>
<p><b>EL GRECO</b> This Way To Greece... Original Greek Cuisine Come as a guest, leave as a friend. Tel: 0049 961 37279 Schörlplatz 9 92637 Weiden www.elgreco-weiden.de</p>	<p><b>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</b></p> <p><b>Bei Michos</b> Finest Greek specialities Mon-Fri 8 Sun: 11:00-14:00 &amp; 17:00-22:00 Saturday 17:00-22:00 Neu Strasse 4, 55252 Mainz-Kastel (100 yds from Mainz-Kastel facilities) www.bei-michos-kastel.de</p>	<p><b>Villa im Tal</b> Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admanal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p><b>DA PEPPINO</b> <b>Hookah Café</b> Phone: 09641454045 Neue Amberger Str. 18 92665 Grafenwöhr</p>	<p><b>Saytouna Cuisine Orientale</b> Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p><b>sardak PIZZA &amp; BÖRNER</b> Bockstr. 55, 55252 Mainz-Kastel (across the street from United Furniture) Tel. 06134-23661 Open: Mon-Fri 11:00-22:30 Sat 12:00-22:30 Sun &amp; German Holidays - 15:00-22:30</p>
<p>Book now! VAF form required, show your ID card. Book directly on <a href="http://manriett.com">manriett.com</a> or via your Mill. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: <a href="mailto:reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de">reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</a></p>	<p><b>AGAT</b> Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau Tel. 06122-4022 Email: <a href="mailto:info@hotel-agat.de">info@hotel-agat.de</a></p>	<p><b>WIESBADEN NORDSTADT</b> Only 9 65201 Wiesbaden www.wiesbaden-bad.com</p>

# Hotel Directory

<p><b>Hotel Am See</b> Kirchenbühmcher Str. 36 92676 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • <a href="mailto:hotelamsee@usa.net">hotelamsee@usa.net</a> FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Sited just on the shore of the Aufsehlweiher</p>	<p><b>Glutschaufel Hotel &amp; Restaurant International Hotel &amp; Cuisine</b> Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach 09645/602900 www.glutschaufel.de</p>
<p><b>City of Wiesbaden Hotel Pension</b> Am Schoenberg 18 - 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de mail:city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390</p>	<p><b>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch</b> Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Ho Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned. 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: <a href="mailto:hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de">hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de</a> VAT Forms accepted! <a href="http://www.forsthaus-oberau.de">www.forsthaus-oberau.de</a></p>
<p><b>Pullman Stuttgart Fontana</b> Vollmoellerstr. 5, 70563 Stuttgart-Vaihingen Tel. 0711-7300 • Email: <a href="mailto:hs425@accor.com">hs425@accor.com</a> www.pullmanhotels.com</p>	<p><b>Hotel de France</b> "Historical Boutique Hotel in Wiesbaden's Faunastadt" Tel: +49 (0)611-95 37 30 <a href="http://www.hoteldefrance.com">www.hoteldefrance.com</a> VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>
<p><b>HOTEL AGAT</b> Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau Tel. 06122-4022 Email: <a href="mailto:info@hotel-agat.de">info@hotel-agat.de</a></p>	<p>Book now! VAF form required, show your ID card. Book directly on <a href="http://manriett.com">manriett.com</a> or via your Mill. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: <a href="mailto:reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de">reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</a></p>

WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVALS

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

Japan

YOSHINO-BAIGO PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): March 1-31, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; about 1,200 plum trees in bloom; 15-minute walk from JR Ome Line, Hinatawada Station, along Yoshino Kaido Street, Ome city.

KOISHIKAWA KORAKUEN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through March 2, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 120 plum trees in 11 varieties; two-minute walk from Iidabashi Station on Oedo-Line or an eight-minute walk from Iidabashi Station on Sobu-Line; tinyurl.com/cdsgz5.

NARITA PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Chiba prefecture): Through March 9, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; plum blossoms in Narita-san Koen and Narita-san Shinshoji Temple, along with live koto performances, open-air tea services and more; 15-minute walk from JR Narita Station; tinyurl.com/qbde49v.

YUSHIMA TENJIN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through March 9; one of the most



Visitors admire plum blossoms at a shrine in Tokyo last year.

popular spots in central Tokyo to appreciate the bloom. The shrine has 300 white and red blossom plum trees and has an open-air tea service for 500 yen 11 a.m. March 2 & 3; Yushima station, Chiyoda subway line.

ATAMI PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture): Through March 9; see the earliest plum blossoms to bloom

in Japan at Atami Baien Koen (Plum Garden).

PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through March 9; about 360 plum trees bloom at Mukojima Hyakkaen, Hino city, eight-minute walk from Higashi Mukojima Station on Tobu SkyTree Line.

TANOURA PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Kanagawa

prefecture): Through March 16, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; 2,700 plum trees in red and white varieties; Tanoura Umenosato, 20-minute walk from JR Tanoura Station; free; 046-861-4181.

TAURA PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Kanagawa prefecture): Through March 16; about 27,000 plum trees in bloom; Yokosuka city, 25-minute walk from JR Taura Station; free.

PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Tokyo): Through March 16; about 500 plum trees in bloom at Keio Mogusaen, Hino city, 10-minute walk from Keio Mogusaen-mae Station.

YUGAWARA PLUM BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (Kawagawa prefecture): Through March 16; about 4,000 plum trees in bloom at Makuyama Park in Yugawara, along with taiko performance, traditional dance and more; 15-minute bus ride from JR Yugawara Station; 200 yen adults, kids free.

MITO KAIRAKUEN PLUM BLOSSOMS FESTIVAL (Ibaraki prefecture): Through March 31, 6 a.m.-7 p.m.; 3,000 trees with white and red blossoms; open-air tea ceremony Sun. and night illumination until 9 p.m. March 7-23; free; tinyurl.com/anywzsr.

OFF BASE

DO THIS: Mount Takao Firewalking

On March 9 at Yakuoin Temple in Hachioji, Japan, a group of mountain priests walk barefoot on the path of smoldering embers during this annual festival in Hachioji — and you can join in. For more: tinyurl.com/ogr8zrk.



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

CAMP ZAMA COMMUNITY

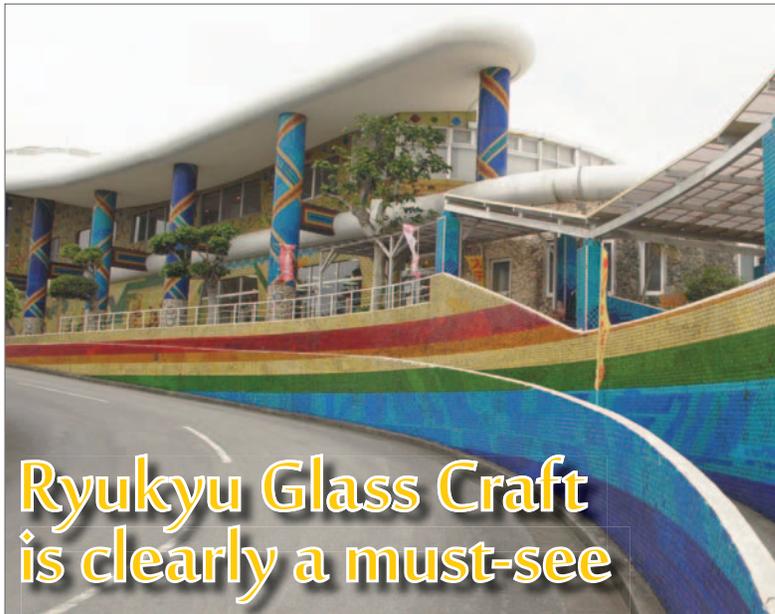
# BAZAAR

Camp Zama Community Club  
 Saturday March 1 2014 (9am - 5pm)  
 Sunday March 2 2014 (10am - 4pm)

Furniture, Arts, Pictures, Jewelry,  
 Toys, Antiques, Novelties,  
 Souvenirs and More...

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



Ryukyu Glass Craft is clearly a must-see

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
*Stars and Stripes*

**L**ike many things on Okinawa, the story of glass craft is a story of war, hardship and rebirth.

The island and its manufacturing — including a small number of glass makers — were devastated during World War II. Most Okinawans were either displaced or killed in the fighting.

The craftspeople who returned to rebuild often found little more than rubble and were forced to make use of whatever materials were available. Glass was needed in the recovery effort.

As the stories go, Okinawans began collecting the bottles discarded by occupying U.S. troops. Some say it was Coca-Cola bottles tossed from ships, though it's just as likely the island's large number of military bases also produced a steady stream of cast-off glass containers.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

The Ryukyu Glass Craft factory in southern Okinawa, Japan, is decorated with small tiles of colored glass.

TRAVIS J. TRITTEN/Stars and Stripes

# Traveling on Orders?

## Save Navy's Dollars... Stay At NGIS!

**Navy Gateway Inns and Suites**

The official and preferred lodging choice for all TDY travelers offers:

- Professionally managed, comfortable accommodations
- Convenient locations near work assignments and base amenities
- A welcoming atmosphere and stellar customer service

**Make your individual or group reservations now!**

**We Welcome:**

- Active duty and retired military, reservists, NAP and DoD employees
- Sponsored friends and families
- Business/TDY guests on official travel
- Space-available travelers (no orders required)

**Planning a meeting, conference or catered event? We can help! Talk to our managers.**

Creating comfortable guest services for those we serve: Today and Tomorrow!



**Free Internet Access!**



Also, you can call us by scanning this code with your smartphone.





**To Make Reservations:**  
1-877-NAVY-BED (628-9233)  
or [www.dodlodging.net](http://www.dodlodging.net)

# WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

## Tradition, talent on display at Okinawa's largest glass factory

### FROM PAGE 33

The bottles were melted down and rebloven into a unique type of recycled glassware. Locally made glass caught on quickly with U.S. servicemenbers, who bought them as shipboard storage containers or souvenirs and supplied an economic base for the new industry.

Since the war, the Okinawan art of glass-making — once a grim wartime necessity — has been refined and has blossomed into one of the island's proudest traditions. The local craft now attracts interest among visitors from across Asia and the world with exceptionally skilled pieces selling for thousands of dollars.

Ryukyu Glass Craft in the southern community of Ito-man is the largest glass producer on the island.

Visits to the factory are free and offer a front-row seat for anybody interested in the craftwork.

The public can gather around the kiln area as the factory craftsmen use long metal pipes to blow and fashion glowing lumps of molten glass. Sparks fly as they use rags to shape the spinning vases, cups and bowls. The process of creating multicolored, patterned glass can be mesmerizing.

Ryukyu Glass Craft is also part museum and outlet store.

The adjacent museum is a showcase the best of Okinawan glass-making (unfortunately, no photography is allowed inside the museum).

Among the displays is a sashin — a kind of Okinawan banjo — made entirely from delicate blown glass and a series of exquisite master-crafted vases that resemble flowers and sea life. Clear glass storage containers originally made for U.S. troops are also on display.

Next door to the factory, a wide variety of glassware is for sale — and prices range dramatically.

Locally made pieces fetch a premium, but Ryukyu Glass Craft also imports less expensive pieces in the same local style from a sister factory in Vietnam.

Simple drinking glasses from either factory can be purchased for less than \$10, though anyone hoping to buy a fancier example of Okinawan glass craft should expect to pay much more. Even small local vases with patterned glass can cost more than \$100.

Still, it might be a fair price to pay for a handcrafted piece of local history, judging by the visitors and interest in the island factory. After all, the pieces of colored glass are part of a quintessential Okinawan comeback story.

tritten.travis@stripes.com



PHOTOS BY TRAVIS J. TRITTEN/Stars and Stripes

A dome and stained glass windows at the Ryukyu Glass Craft factory on Okinawa.



Stars and Stripes

## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

From Camp Foster and Kadema Air Base, take the Okinawa Expressway south to the Tomigusuku exit toward the airport. After the expressway ends, take a left turn onto the Route 331 bypass. Follow 331 past Ito-man city hall on the right and then the Nanbu hospital on the left. Look for the glass-tile-covered Ryukyu Glass Craft factory; it will be on the right side.

### COST

Factory, museum and outlet access is free.

### FOOD

The factory offers an Okinawan food restaurant that is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### INFORMATION

English website: ryukyu-glass.co.jp/guide/en

— Travis J. Tritten



From left: Glass available for sale is made in Ryukyu and at a sister factory in Vietnam; visitors browse Ryukyu Glass Craft's outlet shop; a glass blower works on a new piece.

**AIR FORCE INNS**  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES

**TURUMI LODGE**  
OSAN AIR BASE, KOREA

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

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

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

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

Conference Room  
Receptionist's Coffee Shop  
24 Hour Dry & Laundry Service  
Business Center  
Fitness Room

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

Pacific

## After Hours: South Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

Order your favorite food in South Korea, and there's a good chance it will arrive at your table with some unusual twist: pizza topped with an unexpectedly tasty combination of potato wedges, corn and mayonnaise. Sushi topped with squiggles of grape jelly, rendering perfectly good tuna practically inedible.

In other words, you learn to expect the unexpected when you go out to eat.

Still, my dining companion and I were initially baffled during a recent visit to Berlin Restaurant and Lounge in Seoul's Itaewon when our server placed a bowl of gnocchi in front of me: eight bright purple sweet potato dumplings nestled like giant grapes in a pale lavender sauce, topped with a scattering of greens and cherry tomato slices.

"What is that?" my friend said. "Yogurt?"

Not quite: the "yogurt" was a mild but savory cream sauce that worked surprisingly well with the delicately sweet gnocchi (14,000 won; about \$13).

Such creative offerings are typical at Berlin, which serves a range of upscale Western-style dishes including salads, pastas and meat, some with sophisticated or Asian twists, as well as an extensive drinks menu.

Perched on a hill at the entrance to Itaewon, directly across the street from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, the real draw here is the view. With its tall windows and sleek gray interior, the restaurant has the feel of a hipster lounge that you might find in Europe or New York City.

The food is good, though more expensive than you might find elsewhere in the area. Weekend brunch dishes include an open Cuban sandwich with a crispy poached egg (16,000 won) and a Spanish omelette with house baked chickpeas (14,000 won).

The dinner menu ranges from pork ribs with hoisin barbecue sauce (20,000 won) to Wagyu steak with mushrooms (32,000 won).



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

**Fish and chips at Berlin Restaurant and Lounge in the Itaewon neighborhood of Seoul. The eatery serves lunch, dinner, weekend brunch and has an extensive drinks menu.**

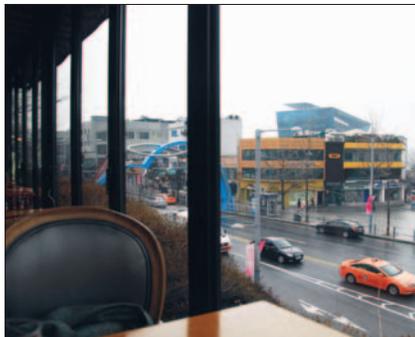
My friend ordered fish and chips (16,000 won), which arrived appropriately battered and crispy and served with tartar sauce and ketchup.

Our meals, served as part of the lunch set menu, came with a small basket of French bread slices and side salads. With a cappuccino and glass of orange juice, our bill came to 41,000 won.

Since it was early afternoon, we skipped the extensive drinks menu that includes beers, wines, cocktails and a long list of martinis (11,000 won) like lemongrass, burnt orange and apple cinnamon.

If you go to Berlin for a night of drinking, you can order platters of food to share, Korean-style, to share with your drinking companions.

Rowland.ashley@stripes.com



Perched on a hill at the entrance to Itaewon, directly across the street from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan, Berlin's draw is the view.



**A bowl of purple sweet potato gnocchi in a creamy sauce at Berlin. The dish is served as a lunch set with bread and salad for 14,000 won.**

BERLIN  
RESTAURANT  
AND LOUNGE

**Directions:** Berlin is located directly across the street from U.S. Army Garrison Yongsan on the hill between Noksapyeong Station and Itaewon. From Itaewon Station, take exit one, or from Noksapyeong Station, exit three, and walk to the blue arch that says "Welcome to Korea." Look at the hill above the arch and you'll see a building with a small sign that says "Berlin" above rows of glass windows. Walk up the small side road that runs up the hill and look for the restaurant's sign at a small stairway.

**Hours:** 11:30 a.m. to 2 a.m. Monday-Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 12 a.m. Sunday.

**Food:** Upscale Western dishes, some with an Asian twist: appetizers, salads, desserts and an extensive drink menu. Vegetarian selections are marked and the menu is written in English.

**Cost:** Main dishes range from 14,000 to 32,000 won. Lunch and weekend brunch from 14,000 to 18,000 won. **Phone:** 02-749-0903 **Clientele:** Hip Koreans and expats; dress is upscale casual.

— Ashley Rowland

## Spring Escapade Tours Are On Sale

Please check our web page for more details!

**FUN TOURS**



Zama ITT is now on Facebook. Like us now!

Zama ITT



Serving you with a difference

**Zama ITT**

Your reliable on-base travel concierge



Voted Best Travel Agent 12 years in a row!

Proceeds Support Your Local Zama MWR

Phone: 263-4059-8273 Fax: 0462-55-0356

0462-54-9898

E-mail: travel@zamaitt.com

http://zamaitt.com

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

## WHERE IT'S AT

Beck's new 'Morning Phase'  
a refreshing, superior companion  
to 2002's much-lauded 'Sea Change'

By MIKAEL WOOD  
Los Angeles Times

**B**eck made his name as a recycler, a smart, savvy searcher known for finding new value in old things. So it makes sense that the artist responsible for "Mellow Gold" and "Odelay," both high points of mid-'90s cut-and-paste pop, would eventually get around to recycling himself.

That's more or less what Beck does on his latest album, "Morning Phase." With the same downbeat acoustic vibe and many of the same players, the new record serves as a kind of spiritual sequel — a "companion piece," his camp calls it — to 2002's "Sea Change," on which the singer broke from his established collage aesthetic to offer up a dozen slow-and-low folk songs about the pain of heartache.

True to his transformer's nature, the sequel is better than the original.

For all that connects "Morning Phase" to "Sea Change," the two records come out of very different circumstances. On the earlier album, Beck was pondering the end of his relationship with a longtime girlfriend, but he was also looking for a bridge to the next phase of his career after 1999's polarizing absurdist-soul fantasia "Midnite Vultures."

Now he's a married 43-year-old father of two whose commercial success and tastemaker acclaim have afforded him the leeway to do pretty much whatever he wants. Though "Morning Phase" is Beck's first studio record since "Modern Guilt" in 2008, it follows a smattering of left-field projects that speak to his prestige: "Song Reader," a collection of tunes issued only as sheet music; writing and production gigs on records by Stephen Malkmus and the Lonely Island; an elaborate performance of David Bowie's "Sound and Vision"

sponsored by the carmaker Lincoln.

You can hear the effect of that privileged stability all over "Morning Phase," which employs a similar palette as "Sea Change" — acoustic guitar, spacey synth, string arrangements by Beck's father, David Campbell — to achieve a far lushier sound, with stronger melodies, deeper grooves and more expressive singing.

Beck's bassist, Justin Meldal-Johnsen, recently told the Los Angeles Times that the new album is "minimal beyond anything we had done before," but even if that's true in some technical sense, it's not at all the way "Morning Phase" works. The trippy keyboards in "Unforgiven," the unexpected chord changes in "Morning" — these handsome details provide more sensation, not less.

Though much of Beck's early music is as appealing now as it was when it was released, "Sea Change" suffers considerably from the comparison with "Morning Phase," the older songs feel punishingly drab, while Beck sounds like he's half-



Photos courtesy of Nasty Little Man



### Beck

Morning Phase (Capitol)

asleep in most of them.

Given his emotional state at the time he made it, perhaps that lifelessness was his goal. (The album does contain a song called "Already Dead.") But it's no match for the lush sensuality of the new "Heart Is a Drum" or the dreamy thrum of "Blue Moon" — even if it's hard

to know where this family man and constant collaborator is coming from when he insists in the latter, "I'm so tired of being alone."

Which means that the only basis for ranking "Sea Change," frequently described as a masterpiece, over "Morning Phase" is a bad old-fashioned authenticity fetish — the belief that drawing directly on real-life experience (as with Beck's breakup) necessarily yields more meaningful music than that which pulls from imagination or invention.

But if Beck has taught us anything over the course of his hopescoting two-decade career, isn't it to distrust that quaintly outmoded idea?

What feels far more important than whether he actually saw "the sleet that rests upon the quiet street we're standing on" in "Say Good-bye" is the sense the song gives of that sleet and that street. Even more important than that, perhaps, is the lack of particulars in the song regarding both.

One reason "Sea Change" might

sound so squeezed-dry is because we know too much about its origin. "Morning Phase," by contrast, is full of fuzzy West Coast philosophizing that rarely gives up anything easily linkable to Beck's celebrity existence.

"We could come to understand what's wrong is right as rain," he muses in "Blackbird Chain," which I think we can all agree is preferable to whatever he might've written explicitly about the back injury he said he suffered after "Modern Guilt." Before "Sea Change" and its perceived confessions, of course, that fuzziness was Beck's default mode. "A devil's haircut in my mind" — how exactly does that work?

Yet somehow we began to expect something different from Beck, something more knowable, once he had his guitar strapped on. Even music that feels lighter than air ever as it takes on shades of gloom, the comfortable fortysomething dad on "Morning Phase" refreshes that familiar pose with some welcome mystery.

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Step into the silent shoes of Garrett, a dark and lonely thief with an unrivaled set of skills, in "Thief," where nothing — the most challenging heists, the most inaccessible loot, the best-kept secrets — is out of your reach.

Photos courtesy of Square Enix

# Copycat burglar

## 'Thief' steals a few tricks from 'Dishonored'

By BRIAN BOWERS  
Stars and Stripes

The hero stalks the streets of a squalid, plague-ravaged city, seeking to undermine a corrupt leadership that cares nothing for the sick and poor. His primary tools are stealth and uncanny acrobatic abilities, but he is equipped to fight if necessary.

This describes Garrett, the hero of "Thief," the new action game developed by Eidos for Square Enix. It also describes Corvo from "Dishonored," which was released by Bethesda Softworks a little more than a year ago. Of course this leads to comparison, and "Thief" doesn't always stack up well against its predecessor, which was one of the best games of the past two years. However, it is a very enjoyable game when considered in isolation.

The "Thief" franchise got its start on PCs about 15 years ago. The three original games were considered trend-setters in the stealth genre. They featured Garrett, a master thief who eschewed violence, as he prowled through a city that straddled the divide between medieval and industrial. The latest game, which is more of a reboot than a sequel, brings back most of these elements as it tells its tale.

Garrett is hired to "visit" a mansion and is teamed with a former protege, the impulsive and often violent Erin. It's a combination that doesn't mix well with the careful and less-lethal master thief, and it caused the two to part ways previously. However, they decide to complete



the mission together.

As the duo gain access to the mansion's roof and peer through a skylight, they witness a mysterious ceremony. Things go downhill from there as they are caught up in an otherworldly burst of energy. The next thing you know, Garrett is waking up a year later and everything has declined dramatically, with a sort of urban rot settling upon the City and "the gloom" afflicting its citizens.

For the rest of the game, you use your burglary skills to unravel what has happened to your hometown — and lift a few sparkly baubles along the way.

You spend most of your time climbing, jumping, picking pockets, picking locks and disabling traps. And you need to be stealthy, which requires lurking in the shadows, hiding in cabinets and climbing to places where guards' eyes are unlikely to fall. An indicator on the screen lets you know when you are in shadows,

and visual and audio cues let you know when guards are getting suspicious or danger is looming.

Garrett can get a boost to his skills by engaging his "focus" ability, which helps him see and understand more about his surroundings. As a result, he can perform a variety of tasks much more efficiently, such as picking locks more quickly, locating traps and aiming arrows with increased skill. Of course, Garrett's abilities seem a bit pedestrian when compared to those of Corvo. The hero of "Dishonored" can teleport, bend time, possess the bodies of animals and people and summon rats to attack foes.

Beyond his natural skills and "focus," Garrett's ability to accomplish his missions is tied to his gadgets. He has a grapple that allows him to scale walls more easily, a wrench to gain access to ducts and a wire cutter to deal with traps. But most importantly, Garrett has

Overall grade: **B**

a good selection of special arrows that enable him to extinguish torches, anchor ropes to high places, knock out foes, start fires and even turn off switches for electrical lights. (For some reason, a society that has mastered electricity still uses torches and candles — and still uses crossbows instead of firearms.) Garrett's missions are usually well designed, with interesting tales to tell and engaging challenges. Most challenges involve using Garrett's abilities and tools to navigate around the cityscape in search of his target. However, developers throw in some good puzzles to raise the bar in a few cases.

Between missions included in the main storyline, you can explore the area around the clock tower that Garrett calls home. You can visit shops to replenish supplies or buy upgrades. And you can accept side missions from your friend — and fence — Basso. These generally involve liberating some shiny trinket from undeserving hands.

Unfortunately, the city isn't the sort of large open arena that's available in other games these days. It's broken up into a number of smaller segments that are pieced together like a tricky puzzle. To go from one end to the other involves finding the right access points between the segments and waiting for each to load. As a result, cross-city movement can get tedious.

I played the game on the Xbox One, which boasts much better graphics and processing power than the previous generation of consoles. I expected lavish renderings filled with detail and texture. However, I was a bit disappointed.

The settings were generally pretty good, depicting a gloomy half-medieval city in distress. However, they weren't exactly leaps and bounds ahead of cityscapes we've seen on the Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3. And the characters were actually disappointing. Faces were somewhat soft and lacking in texture. And animations were good, but didn't reach the level of realism I'd expect from the newest generation of consoles.

The controls are smooth, but a few commands seemed counterintuitive. For example, the jump command is mapped to the left trigger, which is a very unusual setup.

It could be said that the game earns its mature rating for violence and sexual situations. However, you can play without engaging in much mayhem. But that leaves the sexual situations. In one mission, you sneak into a bordello, which contains a few topless courtesans. The mission involves a bit of peeping as you search for clues to a puzzle, and one of the rooms contains a couple having sex.

**Bottom line:** "Thief" delivers an enjoyable experience, but will seem overly familiar to gamers who have played "Dishonored."

**Platforms:** PlayStation 4, PlayStation 4, Xbox 360, Xbox One  
**Online:** thiefgame.com



Many more staff-written game reviews at [stripes.com/military-life](http://stripes.com/military-life)



## WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

## NEW ON DVD

“Gravity”: Director Alfonso Cuarón doesn't just paint a dazzling and compelling portrait of an emotionally stunted medical engineer (Sandra Bullock) and a roughish astronaut (George Clooney), who must find a way to survive after being stranded in space when their shuttle is destroyed. He also transports us to that cold vacuum as an ad hoc participant. The first 20 minutes of the Oscar-nominated movie — presented without a single edit — is a masterpiece of filmmaking that sets the tone for the incredible journey.

“Nebraska”: Woody Grant (Bruce Dern) has received a sweepstakes letter in the mail notifying him he has won \$1 million. Although everyone tries to convince him, it's just a promotional ploy to get him to buy magazines, Woody is willing to walk from his home in Billings, Mont., to the prize center in Lincoln, Neb. When it's obvious that no one can shake Woody of his fool's dream, his son, David (Will Forte), agrees to drive him.

The vast landscapes that director Alexander Payne scatters through “Nebraska” aren't just there to create artistic images. All of the emptiness and promises of a brighter tomorrow reflect the driving theme of this examination of a man's legacy. The landscapes become all that more stark and cold because of the decision by the director to present the tale in black and white.



WALT DISNEY STUDIOS, MARVEL/ABC

Chris Hemsworth stars in “Thor: The Dark World,” now available on DVD.

“Thor: The Dark World”: The second film in the series avoids the slump that often comes with a sequel by cranking up the action, embracing the deep mythology that made the comics popular, sustaining the family elements and focusing on the film's two greatest assets: Chris Hemsworth and Tom Hiddleston. Toss in a strong performance by the supporting cast, a surprise cameo and some good emotional moments, and the sequel delivers visual lightning and story thunder.

Also new on DVD Feb. 25:

“Adventures of the Penguin King”: Tim Allen narrates.

“Pulling Strings”: Diplomatic consul and her savior, a single father, clash.

“Above Suspicion, Set 3”: Series based on the novel “Silent Scream” by Lynda La Plante.

“Bugging Out”: Includes two episodes of the “Wild Kratts” series.

“Transformers Prime: Ultimate Bumblebee”: Autobot proves that he has the bravery to fight for what is right.

“Mr. Nobody”: Story of romance, love and how our choices can alter our destinies.

“The Middle: Season Four”: Family comedy starring Patricia Heaton.

“Peep and the Big Wide World: Diva Duck”: Features eight adventures in which Quack takes center stage.

“Under Capricorn”: Series based on the novel by Helen Simpson.

“Scarecrow”: This scarecrow is a killer protector of a field. Lacey Chabert stars.

“Adventure Time: The Complete Third Season”: Includes all 26 episodes of the cable cartoon.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

## Hollywood royalty

Singer-actress Queen Latifah discusses fame, talk show gig

By PATRICIA SHERIDAN  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Born Dana Owens, she first became noticed as a hip-hop rapper in her teens, but it didn't take long for Newark, N.J.'s Queen Latifah to blossom into a world-class entertainer.

At 43, she counts a Grammy, a Golden Globe and two Screen Actors Guild awards among her triumphs, and this year, a People's Choice Award for best new talk show host. She also earned an Oscar nomination for her role in the film “Chicago.” She recently marked the 100th episode of “The Queen Latifah Show,” which airs weekdays on the CW.

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette: I saw you marry all those couples at the Grammy Awards, but I read you are not a minister. What did you do to be able to perform the marriage ceremony?

Queen Latifah: Well, I'm definitely not an ordained minister; that requires a lot more. I was deputized as a commissioner by the State of California to be able to do that. I had to get sworn in, and it was just for a limited amount of time. It was like Cinderella (laughs).

Was fame something you had to adjust to, or did you know what you were getting into?

The only part of being famous that I probably wanted growing up was enough fame to get into clubs for free (laughs). Because I was hanging out in New York City and I wanted to be able to get the hook-up. I read a lot of interviews because of music. Music was really the love that I had and you know, (music brought about) business opportunities to be able to change the circumstances for my family — to buy my mom a house and do things for my family and friends. That was the goal. The fame came along with that.

You did what you loved.

I did what I loved. I always did what I loved, and so fame was an adjustment for me. It took me to crazy places. All of a sudden people looked at me, and I was supposed to be a role model. I was 17 years old when my first single came out. I was a kid. It was kind of a lot of responsibility. I felt a little bit of that pressure because I felt I'm still learning. I'm still growing. I also saw the positive side of what I could do and how I could get involved in AIDS activism and the things that were important in my time, growing up as a teenager. South Africa, apartheid, bringing those walls down. It was something we were able to bring to the world's attention through hip-hop, through music. My generation of hip-hop spoke a lot about social issues, if there was something that needed to be talked about. So there was a lot of upside to that fame.

Would you describe yourself as an ambitious person?

I would describe myself as an ambitious person. I was raised to go to college. I was the daughter of a high school teacher, and education was very important in my house. You had to get an education. You had to hit the books. It was tough because I dropped out of college to pursue music. But I skipped first grade. So I made a deal with my

mom. Since I had a year to blow in my mind, I said I would take a year off from college and put everything I had into making my music career a success. If it was successful in that amount of time, then I would stick with it. If not, I would go back to college. So we made that deal, and I never had to return. I wish I could have. She was happy, but she still wanted me to get a degree, and I wish I had. Everything worked out. I went to the college of life.

“I did what I loved. I always did what I loved, and so fame was an adjustment for me.”

Your name is now a brand, but do you ever regret not using your given name because you were so young when you chose it?

I actually don't regret it. If anything, I'm kind of glad I did create this sort of persona. It was part of how I visualized myself and something I wanted to portray. I believed the queen part was important because I felt like all women are queens and should be treated as such. I saw a lot of misogyny and chauvinism growing up. I guess I was a feminist back then, and I didn't know it. I didn't really know about feminism, but I did know that women should get the same pay as the guys for the same job.

I watched my mom work really hard and my dad work really hard. I felt like things should be balanced. To me, it was an attitude. Calling myself “Queen” would help me grow into those shoes. Queen Latifah, I never thought people would call me the whole name for some reason. My nickname was Latifah. Everybody called me that already. I kind of stuck the Queen on at the last minute when it was time for me to sign a recording contract.

Being a celebrity and now interviewing celebrities, has that helped you in your approach?

I think I've had to adjust to being forward. I'm not really a forward person in front of the cameras with other people. I know what it is to sort of have a private life and then have a public life — what we do professionally, it just comes along with that. So between my producer and I, we ask the questions we need to ask. If anything, I can rephrase things or put them in a way that is always respectful to my guests because I have been on that side of the couch. I wish to remain respectful and yet curious at the same time. I find when you create a safe environment, I am more inclined to open up. I wanted to create that same environment for guests on the show. Some of them I know or I am friends with, so I just wanted to create a comfortable, safe space and allow them to have at it.



Grammy Award-winning singer and actress Queen Latifah recently marked the 100th episode of her self-titled daytime talk show.

Don Holtz/Participant Media with CBS

# WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

## Got flab? Stress?

# Health coaches are here to help

By MARNI JAMESON  
The Orlando Sentinel

**L**ike many working moms, advertising executive Regina Camplin put work and family ahead of personal wellness.

"After I had my second child, work was crazy breakneck. I was traveling and struggling to find myself in all of that," said the 38-year-old mother of two daughters, ages 4 and 5.

That changed two years ago when the Oviedo, Fla., woman started working with certified health coach Nicole Copare, who helped Camplin lose weight, get stronger and find some balance in her life.

A relatively new profession — at least in name — health coaches are part weight-loss counselor, part personal trainer and part motivational expert. The field is growing rapidly thanks to a big boost from the new health-care law.

Obamacare requires private insurance companies to cover "intensive behavioral counseling for obesity" for adults beginning in 2014. That coverage has to be without any co-pay from patients. Medicare already covers obesity counseling for Americans older than 65.

Sessions with a certified health coach would qualify. The American Council on Exercise, the accrediting agency best known for certifying personal trainers, began offering health-coach certifications in October 2012. Since then it has become "the fastest-growing certification we have ever seen," said Cedric Bryant, chief science officer for ACE.

Today, the council has 2,600 certified health coaches, including 128 in Florida, Bryant said. Coaches differ from personal trainers in key ways, he said. Personal trainers focus on helping individuals with their exercise and physical activity. They conduct fitness assessments, then design exercise programs.

Health coaches take a more holistic view and factor in what else is going on in clients' lives, including work, family, stress levels and diet.

"Most people know what they should be doing," Bryant said. "The secret sauce is to translate that knowledge into activity that leads to sustainable change."

Camplin, who has had a personal trainer before, says working with a health coach is better. "Nicole takes it beyond how much do I weigh and how far can I run, to, if I don't feel right, what's my what's changed in my life."

Since she began working out

### How to choose a health coach

Health coaches are gaining popularity so fast that knowing the good ones from the fakes is tricky. Some tips:

- Be sure the coach has a credential from a reputable certifying agency. To become certified by the American Council on Exercise, for instance, applicants spend about 10 hours a week for 12 to 15 weeks on guided study, then take a three-hour exam, said Cedric Bryant, ACE chief science officer.

- Ask what training and experience the coach has. A college degree in a fitness or nutrition-related field would add credibility.

- Talk to some of the coach's clients to see how their experience has gone.

- Be sure the coach is a personality match for you. Chemistry will be important.

- Get a referral from a respected health provider, said Dr. Steven McCarus, a gynecologist for Florida Hospital. "If it's from a physician, that should bring some credibility, especially if the coach is collaborating with a doctor."

- Beware of any coach promoting a product, like a nutrition supplement, or a trendy or extreme plan, said Bryant. Consider that a red flag.

with Copare, Camplin has lost "at least 20 pounds," but more important to her is what she's gained. "I found a way to fit it all in."

The working mom pays \$40 out of pocket for each 30-minute session, which she attends two to three times a week. "I have to invest in lifestyle changes, otherwise I won't get results," she said.

Beyond the promise of coverage, Obamacare is driving the health-coach trend another way. As more Americans become insured as a result of the law, more will visit primary care doctors, who are already in short supply.

"I am one physician with 5,000 patients in my practice," said Dr. Steven McCarus, a gynecologist for Florida Hospital for Women at Winter Park Memorial Hospital, who relies on a health coach to do what he doesn't have time for. "I'm working at max. For me, a health coach is a way to



PHOTOS BY STEPHEN M. DOWELL, THE ORLANDO SENTINEL/MCT

Working mom Regina Camplin, left, works out with health coach Nicole Copare at TV Fitness Pros in Orlando, Fla. While personal trainers focus on an individual's exercise and physical activity, health coaches focus on the person's diet and stress levels.

get through my day and address problems I can't."

The health-coach concept is still new to most physicians. When Florida Hospital for Women-Winter Park opened in October, it had one "life designer" on staff. The nurse provides a personalized approach to health and wellness. "This is very new to our Winter Park campus, so we are still working on getting more doctors to refer to it," said hospital spokeswoman Jennifer Roberts.

Having a health coach helps doctors provide support for patients who need help dealing with chronic diseases, such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and obesity, said Bridgett Jameson, a certified health coach who started working for a family doctor at Batson Family Health and Wellness in Longwood, Fla., last January. "The doctor's goal is to

prescribe as little medicine as possible and treat as much as we can with lifestyle. That's where I come in," she said.

Non-Medicare patients pay \$25 for a 30-minute session. That's likely to change next year for some patients when the new law will require health insurance plans to provide more coverage, she said.

While the notion of using health coaches is fairly new, McCarus thinks many more doctors will begin relying on them. "Health coaches help providers be proactive. In the long run we will benefit," he said.

"As with any new concept, there are some doubting Thomases," he said. The concern is coach oversight. Doctors need to work closely with health coaches to guard against bad advice.

However, McCarus said, that won't slow the trend. "This is the tip of the iceberg."

# Fitbit recalls its Force wristband

By RENE LYNCH  
Los Angeles Times

**F**itbit is voluntarily recalling the Force, a wristband fitness tracker that won rare reviews — until users began complaining about skin irritation, rashes and, in some cases, burns.

James Park, Fitbit's CEO and co-founder, released a statement explaining the recall. It said



in part: "While only 1.7 percent of Force users have reported any type of skin irritation, we care about every one of our customers. We have now learned enough to take further action. We have stopped selling Force and have advanced that have turned to conduct a voluntary recall. We are offering a refund directly to consumers for full retail price."

Fitness trackers have become all the rage, spurred on by remarkable tech advances that have turned the fuddy-duddy pedometer into something sleek and cool: Wearable fuel feedback that can keep track of steps taken, stairs climbed, calories burned and even how well you slept last night.

A Google search will attest to how cluttered the fitness tracker niche has become.

Yet to many, the Fitbit Force was the standout, winning high marks in categories like ease of setup, its ability to sync feedback across multiple devices, ease of use and at-a-glance feedback. (Many devices, such as those worn on the waistband or bra strap, require retrieval to check in on steps taken so far, or checking a computer or smartphone.)

To those who love their Force fitness trackers, Park said: "Rest assured we're working on our next-generation tracker and will announce news about it soon."

It's still unclear what was causing the Force skin problems. Park's statement suggests that there might be multiple causes:

"Independent test results have found any issues with the battery or electrical systems. Test results show that users are likely experiencing allergic contact dermatitis. All Force materials are commonly used in consumer products. However, some users may be reacting to the nickel present in the surgical grade stainless steel used in the device. Other users are likely experiencing an allergic reaction to the materials used in the strap or the adhesives used to assemble the product."

## WEEKEND: FAMILY



PHOTOS BY PAT SULLIVAN/AP

Lily Cherry, 8, cleans her bathroom as her mother, Andrea, watches at their home in Texas. Andrea Cherry has passed on her childhood practice of doing chores to her children, believing it gives them a sense of responsibility.

# It's a dirty job, but...

## Experts say giving kids a pass on chores is a disservice

By LISA A. FLAM  
The Associated Press

It's the dirty work of home life: dusting the shelves, mopping the floors and doing the laundry, load after load. Yet asking kids to help has gotten harder for some parents, caught up in the blur of today's competitive, time-pressed, child-focused world.

"Parents feel very conflicted about getting their kids involved in housework," said child psychologist Eileen Kennedy-Moore, who sees a wide range of what kids are asked to do and how strongly the completion of chores is enforced.

Parents feel resentful if their kids don't help, she said, yet many worry about adding housework to their children's burden, already so heavy with school, sports and other activities that many don't get enough sleep.

"It's another thing on the to-do list, and it seems less important than making sure they did their homework or get to soccer practice," Kennedy-Moore said.

Miriam Arond, director of the Good Housekeeping Research Institute, notes a change over the past two decades, with parents now feeling "tremendous pressure" to enrich their children, hiring tutors before their child behind, just for a leg up. And with many parents working, and kids busy after school, family time is more precious.

Yet kids should still be expected to pitch in, experts say. Through chores, children gain a feeling of competence as they learn skills that will carry into adulthood, and they benefit by making a contribution to their family.

"It's very important to counter a sense of entitlement," Arond said.



Lily Cherry follows a checklist of daily household chores.

"It's important emotionally because it gives children the sense that they can do something, that they're part of the family, that we're all in this together," she said. "Emotionally, parents don't realize that it is very strengthening for a child. It helps them feel secure, they have a role, they feel rooted. Sometimes parents feel apologetic about giving children chores."

Not Andrea Cherry, of Kingwood, Texas, who has passed on her childhood practice of doing chores to her own children. As toddlers, they began with the game of sock sorting, and now, at ages 8 and 6, have graduated to "extensive" daily chores. Lily makes her bed and prepares breakfast for herself and her little brother. She cleans bathroom sinks with cleaning wipes, tidies the floors with a Swiffer and is learning to vacuum. Aiden feeds the dog and delivers toilet paper to the bathrooms. Both help with laundry and the dishes.

For Cherry, 38, who works full

time, having the kids help makes it possible for her and her husband to have enough time to take the kids to soccer practices and games. Equally important, it fills them with the same idea of family responsibility that Cherry was raised with. "They make a substantial contribution to the family, and it's important because it teaches them about taking care of the family; family is first, and they are responsible members of the family," Cherry said.

While Cherry feels that she requires more of her kids than most parents in her area, Andrea Cameron, a San Diego mother of girls ages 2 and 8 who works occasionally, believes that she asks less than most. Her third-grader, Siobhan, has been dancing since age 2, aspires to be a ballerina or own a dance studio, and dances every day after school — weekends too, during performance season. The family is always pressed for time, driving back and forth to school and dance class.

"We try to throw in a few (chores) here and there, mainly her room, whatever we can squeeze in," said Cameron, 33. "I'd rather let her do what she loves and what she looks at as her future career than take it away from her and make her stay home and clean the house."

Cameron, who grew up having "very consistent" chores, believes that Siobhan is learning responsibility through the discipline of her dance classes, getting there on time with her bag packed with the right gear.

No matter how busy a family is, Kennedy-Moore advises parents to ask kids for at least the minimum effort. "You don't want to set it up where the kid is the honored guest and the parents are the servants," she said.

## SPOUSE CALLS

### Small business comes with hurdles, rewards

Jason and Adrianna Anderson and their two young children will be leaving military life pretty soon, but they aren't looking for jobs. In preparation for Jason Anderson's retirement from the Air Force this year, they created their own. The couple wants to settle in Jason's hometown of Jackson Hole, Wyo., where government contract and defense-related jobs are scarce. "That type work is simply not there," Jason Anderson said. So they decided to start their own business in Wyoming — while still stationed in Virginia.

Long-distance relationships for military families are usually personal rather than professional, but the Andersons chose a business model they could start up and manage from across the country. It's not easy, they said, but the web-based nature of the business adds flexibility. "We are operating it now and learning a lot about how to run a business from 2,000 miles away, learning the challenges of not being in the physical location where the business is located," Anderson said.

Their company, JHLocals, is an advertising business that publishes weekly deals specifically from local businesses in Jackson Hole for local customers. Anderson compared it to companies like Living Social or Groupon, which offer discounts for goods or services. JHLocals is tailored to a smaller, more specialized community.

"Since it is website-based, we could conceivably live anywhere with an Internet connection and still operate the business," Anderson said.

For the Andersons, that meant they wouldn't have to wait for retirement to start their business. "Back in 2011, I told Adrianna we needed to start now," Jason said. "Honestly, she thought I was crazy. We had two children, a 4-year-old and 2-year-old. They kept us very busy."

While still on active duty, Anderson said, the family still had an income, health care and economic stability. "With those in place, we could decide how much money to invest and when," he said. "It allowed us to have complete control over our entrepreneurial endeavors."

The couple said they knew nothing when they first started out, and the steep learning curve of starting a business was another reason they wanted to start early. "Opening a small business is all about action, not academic work," Anderson said. "You can study all you want, but no one tells you what you need to do. Each business is different, and you need to figure out a bit of it on your own. To get a handle on the small business world, you must give yourself time — the more the better."

All the more reason he advises other military members interested in starting a business to conceptualize and develop their ideas and even launch the business before leaving the military, if possible.

These principles are the Andersons have learned along the way formed the basis for another endeavor: Anderson wrote and published a book, "Active-Duty Entrepreneur," aimed at servicemembers who aspire to create businesses.

The couple is able to operate their advertising business on a flexible schedule while Anderson is on active duty and Adrianna manages the homefront and their children's schooling.

"We have a steady beat rhythm of me putting in about an hour a day after work talking to the developer to improve the site, while Adrianna does the social media and talks to the businesses about two to three hours a day," Anderson said.

Adrianna said creating their own business has rewards beyond the practical and financial. "It has brought me back to the working world after 10 years of being an unemployed military spouse living remotely overseas and a stay-at-home mom. I always wondered what I would do once my kids were in school full time," said Adrianna, who designed children's clothing in her pre-military life.

Anderson and his wife are able to grow together and it has set a wonderful example for our kids about tenacity, hard work and taking the road less traveled," she said. "There is nothing like creating a business that is uniquely ours. We created the vision and took the steps together to move things forward."

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes. Contact her at spousecalls@stripes.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



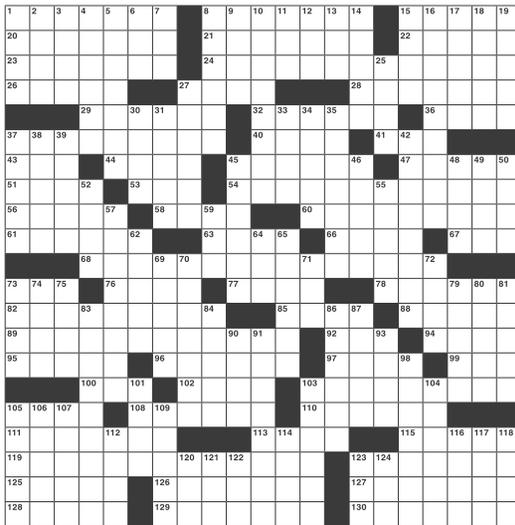
Terri Barnes

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

**REEL-LIFE ANNIVERSARY** By A NAMESAKE OF 119-ACROSS/Edited by Will Shortz

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bush judicial appointee
  - 8 Quarterbacks, often in a way
  - 15 Bush judicial appointee
  - 20 Professional tennis since 1968
  - 21 Rank
  - 22 Singer with the album "Live at the Polynesian Palace"
  - 23 Time for the best deals, maybe, in a going-out-of-business sale
  - 24 \*1939 Judy Garland film
  - 26 There was a great one in Genesis
  - 27 One-named designer
  - 28 Lava comes out of it
  - 29 Kind of car or tee
  - 32 Appear suddenly
  - 36 Slaughter in the 1946 World Series
  - 37 \*1933 Jean Harlow film
  - 40 "Nuts!"
  - 41 Gator's tail?
  - 43 D-backs, on scoreboards
  - 44 Daily riser
  - 45 How things may be brought
  - 47 Pass
  - 51 Restful places
  - 53 Each
  - 54 \*1943 Spencer Tracy/Irene Dunne film
  - 56 Is threatening,
  - 58 Colorist
  - 60 Self-absorbed sort
  - 61 Hit
  - 63 Some kitchenware
  - 66 Call from a curb
  - 67 Sprint competitor, once
  - 68 \*1939 Vivien Leigh/Clark Gable film
  - 73 \_\_\_ king
  - 76 Sprint
  - 77 Word of agreement
  - 78 2000s events in North Korea, for short
  - 82 Provider of music on the go?
  - 85 Court grp.
  - 88 Footnote abbr.
  - 89 \*1942 Spencer Tracy/Hedy Lamarr film
  - 92 Odist's preposition
  - 94 When repeated, a Polynesian capital
  - 95 Publish
  - 96 Drinkers' toasts
  - 97 Brother of George W. and Jeb
  - 99 Award for Miss Hawaii, in addition to a tiara
  - 100 Summer hrs.
  - 102 Snow queen in Disney's "Frozen"
  - 103 \*1948 Ingrid Bergman film
  - 105 Elegance
  - 108 eBay user
  - 110 Certain newspaper advertisement
  - 111 Like Christiane Amanpour, by abridging
  - 113 Pub containers
  - 115 Perfect, as a home
  - 119 Director of the eight starred films in this puzzle, who was born on 2/23/1889
  - 123 Torrey Pines Golf Course locale
  - 125 Suffer humiliation, in slang
  - 126 Comeback
  - 127 Brooks Robinson's team
  - 128 Silicon with a 1974 wedding
  - 129 Foreign traveler's purchase, maybe
  - 130 Source of the line "What's past is prologue," with "The"
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Massage therapeutically
  - 2 \_\_\_ blue
  - 3 "I should \_\_\_ lucky"
  - 4 Put into a sepucler
  - 5 \*1932 Clark Gable/Jean Harlow film
  - 6 La-la lead-in
  - 7 Perhaps
  - 8 Migratory seabird
  - 9 Vier + vier
  - 10 What Babe wants to be in "Babe"
  - 11 Finish (up)
  - 12 New Haven reuner
  - 13 "Fraser" role
  - 14 Major glitch
  - 15 Puts together
  - 16 Things that should be tied up by the curtain?
  - 17 Playfully
  - 18 Complete, informally
  - 19 Transudes
  - 25 Beatles title girl
  - 27 Queen of literature
  - 30 Send off
  - 31 Give up
  - 33 Birthplace of 22-Across
  - 34 Hunts, with "on"
  - 35 Lacking variety
  - 37 Gives up, in slang
  - 38 "Then again, I could be wrong"
  - 39 Adult's counterpart
  - 42 Obsessed with
  - 45 Fortnetelling aids
  - 46 1980s-'90s series based on the fictional film McKenzie, Brackman, Chaney & Kuzak
  - 48 Doing \_\_\_ (dancing springly)
  - 49 Basis in accounting
  - 50 Head to Paris?
  - 52 Overly confident
  - 55 Recipe instruction
  - 57 Wiry-coated terrier
  - 59 Lead-in to Pen, commercially
  - 62 Genuefict
  - 64 Night that "Friends" aired: Abbr.
  - 65 Swabshuckles, say
  - 69 Some London lords



- 70 Effected, in a bad way
- 71 "\_\_\_ ba-a-ack!"
- 72 "Ed Wood" star
- 73 When the story begins, perhaps
- 74 1960s U.S. bombing target
- 75 Flight board info: Abbr.
- 79 Milan's La \_\_\_
- 80 Go-getter
- 81 Unemotive
- 83 Means of access to a cafeteria, maybe
- 84 In part centuries
- 86 Joint parts
- 87 Specialities
- 90 Give off coherent light
- 91 Overreacting sort
- 93 Essen article
- 98 \*1925 Percy Marumont film
- 101 One way to the top
- 103 Pub measure
- 104 1960s western sitcom
- 105 Chopped \_\_\_
- 106 \_\_\_ Heap (Dickens character)
- 107 Blade brand
- 109 Red reupen?
- 112 Bit
- 114 "Render \_\_\_ Caesar ..."
- 116 Shelfmate of Vogue
- 117 Tavern stock
- 118 Place for a topgallant
- 120 Lash holder
- 121 Green monitor, for short?
- 122 Finish (up)
- 123 Fate
- 124 "\_\_\_ we done?"

## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



Suppose you discovered that all the high-tech promises of the 20th century that seem to elude mankind — fusion power, genetic enhancements, artificial intelligence, cures for disease, extended human life — are not beyond our grasp but instead are in the hands of an elite few?

**WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!**  
**Stripes Book Club and Dutton, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., are proud to offer you a chance to win one of 10 signed copies of Daniel Suarez's INFLUX.**  
 Go to [stripesrewards.com/bookclub](http://stripesrewards.com/bookclub) to enter and win.

FACES

# Farmiga: 'Bates Motel' drama only on screen

BY LAURI NEFF  
The Associated Press

In the television show "Bates Motel," Vera Farmiga's character has a dysfunctional relationship with her future serial-killer son Norman, played by Freddie Highmore. In reality, Farmiga says, she and Highmore share a much healthier bond: He's even her child's godfather.



Highmore

Farmiga says Highmore immediately bonded with 5-year-old Fynn in Vancouver, Canada, where "Bates Motel" is filmed and Farmiga and her family moved for the duration of the series. The Oscar-nominated actress says Highmore, whose family is in London, has become something of a surrogate son himself, playing swords and Legos with Fynn on the weekends.

Farmiga, who also has a 3-year-old daughter with her husband, musician Renn Hawkey, says Highmore has become such a fixture in Fynn's life that she and her husband decided it's "a relationship that deserves the title."

On screen, though, the relationship will not go as smoothly between Farmiga's character, Norma Bates, and her son in season two of A&E's modern-day "Psycho" prequel. Farmiga says Norma seems optimistic at the start of the season despite the violent and deadly encounters of season one, her reveal that she was

sexually abused as a child and the question of whether Norman murdered his high school teacher.

"At the beginning of season two, she thinks she's got her neuroses under control," Farmiga said in a recent interview.

Norma is also open to romance again with Michael Vartan ("Alias") joining the show as her love interest.

Norma, the actress says, doesn't think she has any choice but to persevere.

"You're a single mother of this child that you feel is potentially unraveling," she said of Norman, who maintains his newfound interest in taxidermy in the hotel basement.

Anyone familiar with "Psycho" knows this is a story that doesn't end well, and Farmiga says despite Norma's attempt to put a positive spin on their lives, the situation quickly worsens. Farmiga says the teacher's death "is a big source of this orientation and terror for Norman, which in turn Norma will try to sort of solve."

Vera Farmiga stars on the television series "Bates Motel."

AMY SUSSMAN, INVISION/AP



AP

# Aaron Paul wants in on spinoff

The Associated Press

If Aaron Paul gets his way, "Breaking Bad" fans can expect to see Jesse Pinkman calling on Saul Goodman — and perhaps calling him some names — in the spinoff series centered on a sleazy lawyer.

Paul says he'd had "serious talks" with "Better Call Saul" co-creator Vince Gilligan about returning to his character, a low-level drug dealer before he linked up with Bryan Cranston's Walter White to produce methamphetamine.

"Anything Vince is involved with, I'm there," Paul said in an interview while promoting the upcoming "Need For Speed" movie. "I owe him my entire career. And the idea of jumping into the skin of Jesse Pinkman again in his lighter days — because it's all a prequel — it would be fun."

The Emmy-winning "Breaking Bad" ended last year; Gilligan told reporters last month that he'd be asking its actors to make cameos in "Better Call Saul," which will star Bob Odenkirk and is set to premiere in November on AMC.

One actor who definitely won't be involved is Dean Norris, who played White's brother-in-law. Norris is starring in the series "Under the Dome," set to premiere its second season on CBS this summer. "I don't think they'll let me do a little cable show," he said in an interview this week. "I think that experience was that experience. I'm not a big fan of kind of revisiting something that has already been done. But I think it's going to be awesome. So I can't wait to see it."

## Other news

■ **Jim Lange**, the first host of the popular game show "The Dating Game," has died at his home in Mill Valley, Calif. He was 81. He died Tuesday morning after suffering a heart attack, his wife Nancy told The Associated Press Wednesday. Though Lange had a successful career in radio, he is best known for his television role on "The Dating Game," on which he appeared for more than a decade.

■ "Glee" star **Allison Williams**, 25, is engaged to marry boyfriend Ricky Van Ven, her rep Lindsay Galin confirmed Wednesday. Van Ven is a co-founder of the comedy website CollegeHumor.

■ A California jury has ordered **Lisa Kudrow** to pay her former manager \$1.6 million in residuals from her work on "Friends."

# Stars' red carpet secrets include surgery, wigs, tape

BY SANDY COHEN  
The Associated Press

The flawless looks about to be unveiled on the Oscars red carpet have been months in the making and require an army of experts.

With perhaps the highest concentration of cameras anywhere in the world that night, plus millions of viewers keenly critiquing every outfit, Oscar's red carpet is the ultimate runway, where designers and their muses are discovered and celebrated. Hair and makeup trends are established. New style-setting stars are crowned. And sartorial scorn is heaped upon those who make even the slightest misstep. All that perfection takes a lot of preparation. Here's a look at the standard steps and secret tricks that stars employ to get red carpet ready:

**THE SKIN:** That dewy complexion isn't all makeup. Stars spend at least a week prepping for an Oscar appearance, says celebrity makeup artist Melanie Mills. They might do a cleanse to expel toxins and drop weight, she said, along with seaweed wraps to further detoxify and slim down. Mills also recommends a traditional Korean spa-style body scrub a few days prior to the show "to really get that skin exfoliated and super glowing."

Countdown

to the Academy Awards

Find out more on the best picture nominees, get a printable ballot and the latest news at [stripes.com/oscars2014](http://stripes.com/oscars2014)

**A facial and spray tan follow.** Show-day makeup takes about two hours, she said. One of her secrets: using body makeup before foundation for a "sunny, gorgeous, lit-from-within glow" that stays on all day — and won't transfer onto men's jackets during the many industry-requisite hugs.

"You should also mist yourself with a setting spray," she said, "especially if you're going to be schmoozing with a lot of men in black tuxedos."

**THE HAIR:** Skilled hairstylists can give stars a temporary eye lift with a lace-front wig, says Michael Shaun Corby, global creative director for Alterra Haircare. Using nylon thread, he sews a patch of lace into tight pin-curls, which helps lift the brows and smooth wrinkles around the eyes. "Then we top it with a \$7,000 wig and no one knows

our little secret!" he said.

**THE BODY:** Besides a clean diet the week before the big show, trainer Harley Pasternak recommends that his Oscar-bound clients take at least 12,000 steps a day and do resistance exercises that improve their posture. "When you're on the red carpet," he said, "it's really all about confidence and posture."

Botox and facial fillers can be done a few days before the ceremony, but face lifts, liposuction and the increasingly popular butt implants need to be done months in advance, says celebrity plastic surgeon Dr. Peter Fodor, who estimates "at least 80 percent" of the stars on the Oscar carpet have done something surgical to enhance their appearance.

**THE CLOTHES:** Stylists scour fashion shows to find the freshest looks for the Academy Awards, says stylist Brad Goreski. One found, what goes underneath and alongside are priorities. Custom and couture dresses have built-in foundations, he said, but other outfits need special consideration. Double-stick tape is a stylist's No. 1 tool. Besides keeping fabric in place, it can also create the appearance of firmer skin, Goreski said.

Another key to making a red carpet splash? Color.

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe  
 John Panasiewicz, General Manager, Pacific  
 Lt. Col. Jeff Myer, Europe commander  
 Lt. Col. Brian Porter, Pacific commander

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director  
 leonard.terry@stripes.com

Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor  
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com

Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor  
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddy Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast  
 wey.teddi@stripes.com;  
 +49(0)631.3615.9311  
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific  
 alexander.paul@stripes.com  
 +81-3 6385.5377; cell (080)583.1673  
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief  
 dickson.patrick@stripes.com  
 (+1)(703)693.6957; DSN (312)223.6957  
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
 bowers.brian@stripes.com  
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web  
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com  
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,  
 Sports, Features and Graphics  
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

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

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

OMBUDESMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.761.0587.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday except in the U.S. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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

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

© Stars and Stripes 2014

stripes.com

OPINION

Take off rose-colored glasses on Cuba

Miami Herald editorial

The scathing reply delivered by Sen. Marco Rubio on the Senate floor this week in response to Sen. Tom Harkin's report of a visit to Cuba was a well-aimed and well-justified verbal cannonball. Harkin had it coming.

Let's be clear about this: There is room for debate about the U.S. trade embargo of Cuba and whether it should be replaced. Indeed, open debate should be encouraged.

There is certainly room for discussion about finding a more effective way for the United States to help the Cuban people and, at the same time, promote U.S. goals in the hemisphere. Sacred cows have no place in foreign policy.

But any discussion about daily life in Cuba that glosses over, or completely ignores — as Harkin did — the punishing nature of the Cuban regime is intellectually dishonest, not to say naive.

Harkin believes the United States should abandon its policy of seeking Cuba's isolation. His farm state of Iowa benefits from any trade improvement that would increase agricultural exports to Cuba, of course. Still, it's his opinion, and he's entitled to express it without arousing anyone's temper. But U.S. policy toward Cuba is one thing, and the tyrannical, dictatorial nature of the Cuban government is another. How can there be any debate about the latter?

Harkin recently visited eastern Cuba and returned to deliver a report on the Senate floor about the idyllic countryside and the wonders of Cuban medicine, with a brief how, as well, to the state education system.

Even assuming he's right — a debatable point — he forgot to say that whatever "benefits" the Cuban state offers its people have come at the price of taking their liberty. That's a bad bargain in anyone's book.

His constituents in Iowa wouldn't make that deal, and neither did the Cuban people, not willingly.



Coast Guard members attend to the last of three Cubans who tried to windsurf across the Florida Straits before an ambulance arrives at U.S. Coast Guard Base Key West, Fla., on Feb. 21. The migrants fled Jibacoa, Cuba, on Feb. 18. All three men survived.

There's not enough room to once again lay out all the many crimes of the Castro regime. We'll settle for the opening words of the latest Human Rights Watch report on Cuba:

"Cuba remains the only country in Latin America that represses virtually all forms of political dissent. In 2012, the government of Raul Castro continued to enforce political conformity using short-term detentions, beatings, public acts of repudiation, travel restrictions and forced exile."  
 And that's just for openers. Maybe Harkin would have gotten a more accurate impression of what daily life is really like if he had spoken to Cuban dissidents, the courageous individuals who dare to keep the spirit of freedom alive on the island by willingly risking their lives and liberty.

Rubio, a Florida Republican, rightly responded to the speech by the Democrat

from Iowa with sarcasm and indignation, firing the Castro regime to the Venezuelan government's harsh response to street protests over failed economic policies based on Cuba's discredited model.

"Let me tell you what the Cubans are really good at," Rubio said. "What they are really good at is repression... They have exported repression in real time, in our hemisphere, right now."

Rubio ended by making a good suggestion to his colleagues: Go ahead, visit Cuba, but be sure to talk to those who dare to speak the truth even at the cost of punishment by the government.

"I bet you're going to hear something very different than what you got from your hosts on your last trip to the wonderful Cuba, this extraordinary socialist paradise. Because it's a joke. It's a farce."  
 It's a joke, but no one's laughing.

If felons get to vote, do they get to have guns?

BY FRANCIS BARRY

Bloomberg News

Suddenly the left doesn't think U.S. Sen. Rand Paul is so crazy after all.

A week after restoring their general Eric Holder made a strong case for restoring voting rights to felons, the Kentucky Senate joined the Kentucky House in approving a constitutional amendment restoring rights to many felons, and Paul prefers the broader version passed by the Democratic-controlled House in his home state.

Voting rights for felons is an issue of convergence for liberals and libertarians. But it invites another question: What about gun rights?

That is, if citizens who have paid their debt to society should regain their constitutional right to vote, as Holder argued, why should they not regain their constitutional right to own a gun as well?

It's a question Paul and other conservatives — not to mention the National Rifle Association — increasingly will be asking.

Federal law prohibits all felons from possessing guns, but states may restore felons' gun rights after restoring their civil rights — the right to vote, sit on juries and hold office. In 11 states that happens automatically for nonviolent felons, and some states even allow violent felons to recover their gun rights. In most states, however, all felons must petition to have their gun rights restored. In Kentucky, only a pardon from the governor can restore gun rights,

and the same is true for voting rights.

Holder's case for restoring voting rights to felons rests partly on race. The numbers are indeed unsettling. Across the country, 1 of every 13 black citizens is barred from voting. In Florida, Kentucky and Virginia, the number is 1 of every 5. Those disparities also hold true for citizens denied the right to own a gun.

If laws disproportionately deny black citizens a constitutional right, isn't that wrong, no matter what the right? Holder played into this argument, but the issue isn't so black and white.

The Supreme Court has granted states substantial leeway to restrict both voting and gun rights based on criminal behavior. The key question is, what purpose is served by doing so?

Disenfranchising felons doesn't serve as a deterrent to would-be criminals. It's hard to picture a group of bank robbers worrying about whether they'll be able to vote in the next congressional election before donning ski masks. Nor does it aid in their rehabilitation; if anything, it further ostracizes them from society.

It does, however, allow society to prevent citizens who have broken laws from participating in decisions about what those laws should be. And that, the argument goes, protects society. But what risk does society actually run by allowing ex-cons to vote? Based on the experience of states that have done so, none.

Now turn that same question to gun rights. What risk does society run by allowing ex-cons to possess guns? Based on

the evidence, a substantial risk. Felons reoffend at a high rate. Allowing them to do so with a gun in their hands puts society in grave danger. And there are many instances — some documented in a 2011 New York Times expose — of felons who committed violent crimes after having their gun rights restored.

A blanket restoration of felons' gun rights would pose a real danger to society. Not so with voting rights. Nevertheless, any blanket ban on the exercise of rights is bound to create injustices, and just as some states have made it too easy for violent felons to recover their gun rights, some states have made it too hard for nonviolent offenders to recover theirs. A strong case can be made that those who pose the least risk to society — perhaps nonviolent first offenders with no drug convictions — should have their gun rights restored after they have served their time and completed their probation or a minimum waiting period with no rearrests.

Congress could ensure that states are not unduly depriving people of their gun rights by requiring them to restore rights in certain narrow categories of cases. And maybe — just maybe — that idea could create an opening for new bipartisan legislation that would, while restoring gun rights to a significant number of people, close loopholes in the background-check system that would keep guns out of the hands of the truly dangerous.

Francis Barry is a member of the Bloomberg View editorial board.

## 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.

### Chance to right-size military

#### Nesbary

In crafting a military budget for a nation not at war for the first time in 13 years, the challenge is to transform U.S. forces to meet changing security demands while slashing spending.

There is pain and risk in the plan that Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel previewed this week to meet those twin imperatives. But the transformation has to happen, and the \$496 billion military budget for 2015 that the administration will send to Congress next week — down from \$520 billion in 2014, not counting \$92 billion for the war in Afghanistan — is a reasonable blueprint.

It would reduce troop strength in every military branch, active and reserve, while increasing only special forces. For instance the Army would be cut from 520,000 active-duty troops to about 450,000, the smallest number in decades. Overhead would be slashed through cuts in headquarters budgets and civilian personnel. An entire class of Air Force fighter jets would be eliminated. And active-duty military personnel would get a pay raise of only 1 percent.

The downsizing is appropriate, but it isn't risk-free. Hagel said it would create wage gaps in training and diminish the U.S. military's capability to execute extended or simultaneous ground operations.

But the public has no stomach for long, grinding ground wars like those in Iraq and Afghanistan. The threat from nations with nuclear arsenals, and the rise of terrorism, which is better met with small, mobile special forces. Deep troop cuts would enable the military to hit spending targets in the Budget Control Act of 2011 while sustaining readiness and technological superiority, a necessary balance.

That's the good news. The bad news is that the president has got real. Hagel warned that a return to the deep, across-the-board cuts slated for 2016 under sequestration would compromise national security. That's debatable, but Congress can't keep demanding savings while rejecting attempts to actually cut spending. It can't continue pumping up military pay and benefits that have risen 40 percent more than growth in the private sector since 2001 — and more than the Department of Defense requested. Congress can't keep rejecting benefit cuts, such as the small reduction in cost-of-living increases for some military retirees, and then repented this year. It can't continue favoring weapons systems based on where they're built rather than whether they're needed, or rejecting the department's request to close domestic bases, as it has for two years.

There is an opportunity to create the military the nation needs. Congress must seize the moment.

### Kim can't run from atrocities

#### The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer

Michael Kirby, the chief of a special U.N. commission on North Korea that has issued a nearly 400-page interim report on human rights abuses in the oppressive state, said he was "moved to tears" after his survey team had first-hand information on crimes against humanity.

Let's hope the world is moved enough and shocked enough to hold Kim Jong Un and other senior North Korean leaders responsible for these horrendous abuses. Meanwhile, the reported atrocities cry out for Security Council condemnation and continued investigations. The commis-



sion's final report is due to be released next month.

As Kirby, a retired Australian judge, told the BBC recently: "Bearing witness, collecting the stories ... can sometimes bear fruit a little later."

Eyewitness accounts provide overwhelming evidence of state-sanctioned executions, torture, arbitrary imprisonment and even infanticide, reminiscent of Nazi Germany, according to the interim report.

North Korea vigorously disputes the findings, and the atrocities have not been independently verified because of the secretive nature of the regime. Kirby says the North Korean government refused to participate in the investigation or to allow the commission to visit to judge for themselves. However, more than 80 witnesses painted a picture of the Hermit Kingdom as hell on earth.

Kirby warned Kim in a letter that he, as head of state and leader of the military, and his lackeys could be held responsible for atrocities at the International Criminal Court in the Hague.

Realistically, that's unlikely to happen soon since Kim and his minions are in control of a nuclear arsenal. The U.N. findings also could push the rogue nation into even more isolation and paranoia, especially since Kim still appears to be trying to consolidate his internal control after becoming head of state in late 2011 following the death of his father, Kim Jong Il.

But no leader and no state last forever. When North Korea finally crumbles and its leadership tries to evade responsibility for its crimes, this report and others like it might be strong enough and detailed enough to stand in their way.

### Let VW have nonunion council

#### Jackson (Tenn.) Sun

Controversy surrounding last week's vote by Volkswagen workers rejecting unionization under the United Auto Workers ended up casting doubt on whether the world's second-largest automaker would expand operations in Tennessee. We believe the focus is on the wrong issue.

What the German company wants is to establish a works council at the plant. It operates works councils at every other Volkswagen plant. Works councils represent blue-collar and white-collar workers in helping negotiate working conditions such as safety and production issues, but not pay. Volkswagen is highly supportive of works councils as good for the company and good for workers. More important, no one appears to be in opposition to establishing such a works council at the Chattanooga plant.

Republican Sen. Bob Corker, who helped recruit Volkswagen while mayor of Chattanooga, spoke out strongly against workers approving the UAW. He even went so far as to claim he had inside information that the company would not expand the plant to

produce the new midsize sport utility vehicle if workers chose to unionize. Corker's remarks have been roundly criticized as interfering with the vote.

The one person who has made sense during the controversy is Gov. Bill Haslam. He told the Tennessee legislature and worked with companies that are unionized and nonunionized. He said the state has no union litmus test in recruiting economic development. He also pointed out that Tennessee's right-to-work status and a largely nonunionized workforce has been a major factor in recruiting Japanese companies. He also noted that the move toward unionization could dissuade smaller manufacturing suppliers from locating in Tennessee. These are sensible facts and observations.

What no one seems to be asking is why Volkswagen can't have a works council without having the United Auto Workers represent rank-and-file workers. Apparently, this is somehow a function of U.S. labor law.

It is clear from Volkswagen management that the company remains neutral on the union issue. What also is clear is that Volkswagen wants a works council in Chattanooga. Worker rejection of the UAW should not be allowed to endanger Volkswagen expansion in Tennessee. ... If we fail to fix this problem, Mexico is in line to get production of the new SUV.

### Ukraine can't return to Russia

#### The (Charleston, S.C.) Post and Courier

Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich abruptly abandoned his post last weekend, leaving Ukraine's protest movement momentarily victorious. It was an ignominious defeat for a corrupt leader who has sought to counter at every turn the popular forces opposed to his misrule.

But virtually at the moment of victory, Ukraine faces the strong possibility that the nation's eastern Russian-speaking provinces will secede and call in Russian troops to defend them, opening up a new chapter in Ukrainian turmoil.

Avoiding this potentially chaotic split and turning the victory for Ukraine's pro-democracy movement into a peaceful and stable government will call for wise decisions by Ukraine's new leaders, firm support for a peaceful outcome by Europe and the United States, and a Russian decision to stop meddling in Ukraine. Good luck on that last condition.

Secession sentiment apparently is strong in the Russian-speaking Crimea, an isolated peninsula that already considers itself an "autonomous republic" within the Ukraine. A major Russian naval base at Sevastopol has nearly 30 years to run on a lease from the Ukrainian government, so there are already 25,000 Russian military personnel in the Crimea, giving Russia strong leverage.

Russian President Putin would like to end the breakup of the Soviet empire that led to Ukrainian independence and create a "Eurasian Customs Union" trading bloc to compete with the European Union. He used a combination of trade sanction sticks and economic support carrots last year to persuade Yanukovich to turn down an association with the European Union and create closer economic ties to Russia. It was that decision that triggered the student protests in November that culminated in the collapse of Yanukovich's authority on Saturday.

Ukraine also has another problem to deal with — a plummeting economy. Russia is contributing to the problem by putting on hold the economic support it offered Yanukovich.

The interim Ukrainian government must take steps to shore up national support in the eastern provinces that lean to Russia. Meanwhile, Europe and the U.S. should move swiftly to prop up the Ukrainian economy, and counter Putin's effort to undermine it.

EU and U.S. support is essential to bolster Ukraine's democratic forces and possibly avoid a civil war in Eastern Europe. Putin shouldn't be allowed to seize this moment to realize his imperial dreams.

### Be honest about Syria policy

#### The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

Here how President Barack Obama explains his policy in Syria is that particular country — Libya — at this particular moment, we were faced with the prospect of violence on a horrific scale. We had a unique ability to stop that violence."

Judging by the administration's tepid response to even ghastlier violence in Syria, this "unique ability" was the critical determinant in Libya — not the moral imperative to stop the violence.

An international coalition that included the Arab League was in favor of airstrikes in Libya, the rebels were united and it was a relatively low-risk, high-yield engagement. Conversely, Syria has more robust air defenses and its religious makeup — as well as the opposition — is dangerously stratified.

But Syria is more troubling than Libya in every conceivable way. There are more than 8 million internal and external refugees and almost 140,000 people have perished, compared with 1.5 million refugees and 30,000 deaths in Libya.

Beyond the revolting human cost, there are serious strategic concerns. Al-Qaida is becoming more entrenched and intends to use Syria as a base for future operations. The Assad regime is being destroyed by the worst refugee crisis in recent history. Sectarian tensions have been inflamed by Saudi and Iranian proxies, spurring violence in other parts of the region. Yes, Syria is a more difficult situation, but there's a lot more to lose.

Obama sounded impressively authoritative when he declared to the American and Libyan people, "As president, I refuse to wait for the images of slaughter and mass graves before taking action." There's no shortage of excruciating images from Syria, either, but Obama continues to wait. Assad's chemical weapons may be neutralized, but the regime is happy to go about the business of slaughter with conventional weapons (clever ones, too, such as barrel bombs) and with shrapnel and hot oil.

Blatant rhetorical inconsistency serves as a good warning — never take high-minded presidential reassurances at face value. That goes for "rejecting the forces of tyranny" or "anchoring global security" as well, comments Obama made in his speech last September about chemical weapons in Syria. Yes, the canisters, shells and gas are now secure. The people of Syria and other nations in the Middle East, on the other hand, aren't. Let's be honest about it.

Frazz



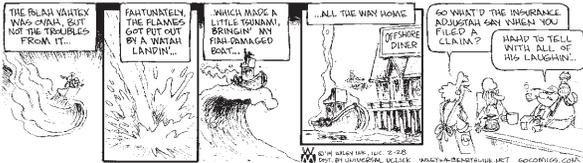
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



### Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Peace, to Pablo
  - 4 Resorts international?
  - 8 Access Moore
  - 12 Singer DiFranco
  - 13 Rodgers collaborator
  - 14 Peruse
  - 15 Sway
  - 17 Too
  - 18 "Sing some more!"
  - 19 Without delay
  - 21 "Monty Python" opener
  - 22 Procession of trucks
  - 26 Gangsters' girlfriends
  - 29 Marceau's persona
  - 30 Swelled head
  - 31 Vicinity
  - 32 Brooks or Blanc
  - 33 Llamas' land
  - 34 Vast expanse
  - 35 "Holy cow!"
  - 36 Agriculture goddess
  - 37 Curving outward
  - 39 Distant
  - 40 Parisian pal
  - 41 Ganchi, for one
  - 45 Supermarket lineup
  - 48 Shake violently
  - 50 Reed instrument
  - 51 Met melody
  - 52 White wine cocktail
- DOWN**
- 1 Walking gait
  - 2 In due time
  - 3 Galvanizing material
  - 4 Skins' opponents
  - 5 Sheets of glass
  - 6 Joan of —
  - 7 Sign painter's aid
  - 8 Haggard
  - 9 Moray, for one
  - 10 Mid-May honoree
  - 11 Altar affirmative
  - 16 Kin of "Presto!"
  - 20 "Alley —"
  - 23 Swerve
  - 24 Shrek, e.g.
  - 25 Annie Lennox's "No More I Love —"
  - 26 Not fern.
  - 27 Sandwich treat
  - 28 Slender
  - 29 Spell-dwon
  - 32 Popular foreign cuisine
  - 33 Lost, in Lyon
  - 35 Jewel
  - 36 Artist's surface
  - 38 Bud holders
  - 39 The end
  - 42 Sorts
  - 43 Largest of the seven
  - 44 Dweeb
  - 45 Bliss
  - 46 Honest politician?
  - 47 Tier
  - 49 Raw rock

#### Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

2-28 CRYPTOQUIP

J H E OVRWCLY JA JZGQZYQW

J Z YBQ UEZW ARCYB RH

AURGQZJE, J ACOORAQ

JY A E LVREYJZ LVQYJRZ.

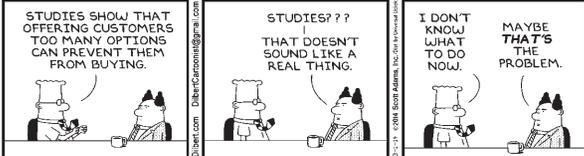
Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHEN AN ALGERIAN GUY WORKS TO SUPPORT HIMSELF AND HIS WIFE, I'D SAY HE'S MAKING DINAR FOR TWO.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: J equals I

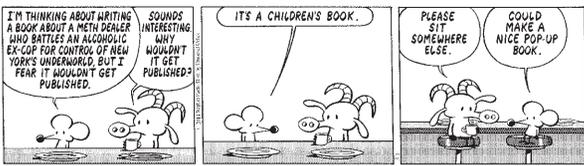
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



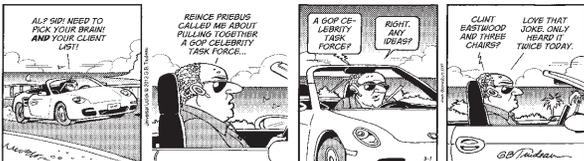
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

ACROSS

- 1 Startle
- 6 Liftoff sensation
- 12 Grads
- 13 Sacrifice sites
- 14 Foreign correspondent?
- 15 Slogans
- 16 Authentic
- 17 Deck in the ring
- 19 — Jima
- 20 Sailing vessel
- 22 Pi follower
- 24 Six-pack, perhaps
- 27 BOUND
- 29 Data
- 32 Ariel, with "The"
- 35 Quartet
- 36 Nickelodeon's explorer
- 37 Began
- 38 Reuben holder
- 40 Understands
- 42 Pooh
- 44 Detail, for short
- 46 Mountain of Thessaly
- 50 Familiar with
- 52 Took to the hammock
- 54 Created a surflet
- 55 Had green eyes?
- 56 Printer supplies
- 57 Leaks slowly

DOWN

- 1 Out of the storm
- 2 Moth variety
- 3 In plentiful amounts
- 4 Genetic stuff
- 5 Latex source
- 6 Like verison
- 7 Elevator option
- 8 Mel of Cooperstown
- 9 Sane
- 10 Gloat
- 11 Old gas brand
- 12 Spring mo.
- 18 With a scoop
- 21 Every iota
- 23 That guy
- 24 TV alien
- 25 Resume, for short
- 26 Caviar provider
- 28 "—, Prince of Tyre"
- 30 Old expietive
- 31 Strange
- 33 Take a whack at
- 34 Joplin's genre
- 39 Performer's compound
- 41 Figure out
- 42 Channel
- 43 Scandinavian city
- 45 Groups of seals
- 47 Misstep
- 48 Witnesses
- 49 Toss in
- 51 Prepare Easter eggs
- 53 Inseparable

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

3-1

CRYPTOQUIP

DUKOJWU AU WPQMM SUUNUN

PL RMOS BLG AQW DQZ

OSZMQSZ PGQR, Q ZJUWW AU

AON JSBQWAUN DJWQSUWW.  
**Yesterday's Cryptquip:** IF A PRODUCT IS INVENTED IN THE LAND SOUTH OF SLOVENIA, I SUPPOSE IT'S A CROATIAN CREATION.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: U equals E

SoftBank

Offer 1

# Spring Special Cash Back Campaign

Sign up with SoftBank today or purchase SB selection accessories and receive a

## \$30 NEX Gift Card!

Available at on-base SoftBank shops for a limited time only!

Exclusive offer to Military customers!



\*NEX gift cards can also be redeemed at AAFES & MCX Exchanges.

Offer 2

# Military best-selling phone now for FREE! with US Flat-rate Call



24/7 Calling to the continental US for just ¥3,000/month.



●Some restrictions apply. ●Campaign details may be changed without notice.  
●Please visit us at following on base SoftBank shops for more information.



**AMERICAN**  
**HERO**  
**OF THE YEAR**

EXCHANGE™

*Congratulations!*

2013 Winner  
**Jason Simms**

Ret. Marine Sargent

See Jason's story at [www.militaryhero.com](http://www.militaryhero.com)

# Stripes SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



Attorneys 178

**NICKEL**  
**US & German Attorneys**  
 US & German Divorces • Employment  
 Wills and Probate • Support Issues  
 Personal Injury • Tax  
 Contractor Issues  
 Call 069-299-2069-0  
 Email: maiss@nickelonline.de

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

Dental 902

**American Dental Care**  
**Services Offered:**  
 Family Dentistry  
 Certified Orthodontics  
 Periodontal Maintenance  
 Implant Surgery  
 Root Canals  
 Wisdom Teeth Surgery  
 Nitrous Oxide  
 Saturday & Evening Appointments  
 Caring, Friendly American Staff

**LOCATIONS**  
**Wiesbaden Dental Care**  
 06119 887 2650  
 Bahnstrasse 14, 65205 Wiesbaden  
 Wiesbadendental.com  
**Ramstein Dental Care**  
 06371 406230  
 Post Strasse 1, 66877 Ramstein  
 Ramsteindental.com  
 Certified American Dental Hygienists  
 TRICARE Preferred Provider

Transportation 944

**VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES**

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

**For Further Information Please Contact**

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

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

**Trans Global**  
 LOGISTICS EUROPE GMBH

Dental 902

**Over 90% Non-Extraction**  
  
 Member American Association of Orthodontists  
 Convenient Payment Plans  
 No Referral Necessary  
 Evening & Weekends  
 TriCare Provider

**American Orthodontist**  
 Dr. Michael Dillon, DDS, MS (Orthod)  
 Unit of Maryland, Former USAF  
 All Treatment Fees in US \$  
**06371-918911**  
 www.dillonortho.com

**Dillon Orthodontic Care**

Financial Services 904

**LOANS up to \$10,000**  
 For Active Duty U.S. Military  
 Call Toll Free  
 Germany: 0800 YES-LOAN  
 Italy/Belgium: 00800 YES-LOANS  
 Stateside: +1.931.802.6522  
 www.yesomni.com  
  
 "We love to say yes"®  
© Omni Financial - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. All loans subject to approval.

Transportation 944

**Interglobal Shipping GmbH**  
 Specialized Shipping to/from the US & Canada  
 Autos, Household Goods, Personal Belongings  
 Contact your Pro's at the Docks today!!!  
 info@interglobalshipping.de  
 www.interglobalshipping.de  
 Tel: (0421) 340-6560 Fax: (0421) 340-6565  
 Toll Free: 0800-000-6311

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

**Sell Your Stuff!**  
  
 Take the fuss out of packing up for your everything with Stripes next PCS—sell free classifieds!  
**STARS AND STRIPES.**

**Are you in the picture?**  
  
 Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.  
*No one covers the bases the way we do.*  
**STARS AND STRIPES.**  
 In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad



Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9013/0912 or DSN: 583-9013/9012

Motorcycles 164

Harley Davidson Fat Boy... Yamaha R1 2007 \$7500.00... Suzuki GSX600F...

Motorcycles 164

Yamaha R1 2007 \$7500.00... Yamaha XC60 6 cyl 240 HP... Volvo XC90...

Trucks 174

Dodge Grand Caravan... Dodge Ram 1500... Dodge Ram 1500...

Dodge Ram 1500... Dodge Ram 1500... Dodge Ram 1500...

Jobs Offered

US-Tax Staff (f/m) for our Corporate Tax Group... We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant...

Building a better working world

www.de.yourworld

630

Medical 690

Tricare Provider for U.S. citizens... Please don't hesitate to contact us: Wiesbaden 06 11 - 30 07 55

Tax Assistance 940

H&R BLOCK Germany H&R Block Tax Offices Get face-to-face tax help. Ramstein Wiesbaden Vilseck

Sport Utility Vehicle 172

Suzuki GSX600F... Yamaha ZZR R1... Yamaha ZZR R1...

Books 250

Disappearing Act \$14.00... The Disappearing Act... The Disappearing Act...

Books 250

Disappearing Act \$14.00... The Disappearing Act... The Disappearing Act...

US-Tax Staff (f/m) for our Corporate Tax Group

We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant... We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant...

US-Tax Staff (f/m) for our Corporate Tax Group... We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant...

www.de.yourworld

US-Tax Staff (f/m) for our Corporate Tax Group

We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant... We are seeking qualified candidates for an outstanding Staff Consultant...

www.de.yourworld

Free Classifieds! Visit Stripes.com for details. STARS AND STRIPES

Cellular Phones 280

Unlocked 4G Phone \$75.00... Samsung T759 Exhibit 4G... Samsung T759 Exhibit 4G...

Cellular Phones 280

Unlocked 4G Phone \$75.00... Samsung T759 Exhibit 4G... Samsung T759 Exhibit 4G...

Furniture/Appliances 511

Mic 220V Items \$200.00... Mic 220V Items \$200.00... Mic 220V Items \$200.00...

Home Electronics 570

60 Inch Hitachi Projection TV... 60 Inch Hitachi Projection TV... 60 Inch Hitachi Projection TV...

Classifieds PACIFIC

PacificClassifieds@stripes.com JAPAN DSN: 229-3276 CIV: 03-6385-3276 OKINAWA DSN: 645-7418 CIV: 098-893-0292

Announcements 040

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

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Dodge Journey SXT 2010... Dodge Journey SXT 2010... Dodge Journey SXT 2010...

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Dodge SXT Journey... Dodge SXT Journey... Dodge SXT Journey...

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Ford E350 Super Duty... Ford E350 Super Duty... Ford E350 Super Duty...

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Jaguar XF Supercharged... Jaguar XF Supercharged... Jaguar XF Supercharged...

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Mini Cooper S Countryman... Mini Cooper S Countryman... Mini Cooper S Countryman...

Jobs Offered 630

Occupational Therapists Assistants Needed In Guam! EXCELLENT COMPENSATION! BACHELORS DEGREE REQ. 2 YRS EXP. REQ. ANY STATE LICENSE

Relocation GUIDE

Moving? Find Your Home Online! militarybyowner.com Succeed with Your Military Network Advertising Homes For Sale or Rent Near US Military Installations

Free Classifieds! Visit Stripes.com for details. STARS AND STRIPES



# Independent News for the U.S. Military Community

*Whenever They Fight  
and Wherever They Live*



The first Stars and Stripes was produced by Union Soldiers during the Civil War in 1861, using the facilities of a captured newspaper office in Bloomfield, Mo., they ran off a one-page paper.

Stars and Stripes was revived during World War I. Our first edition appeared in Paris on February 8, 1918. Produced weekly by an all-military staff, the paper served the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

The newspaper ceased printing at the war's end, only to enjoy a second renaissance. Starting on April 18, 1942, a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (two English pence or about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

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

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

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published as many as 32 separate editions, with page counts running up to 24 pages per issue.

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

In the years that followed World War II, Stripes reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field. Throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Stars and Stripes published the news. The paper was there in the 1990s during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

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

As the "hometown newspaper" for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, Stars and Stripes offers the same types of national and world news, sports and opinion columns found in newspapers in the United States.

Stripes.com coverage ranges from breaking military news reported from bases around the world to local DODDS high school sports. The paper is also available online in PDF format.

Stars and Stripes is available for iPhone and Android smartphones and a Tablet Edition is available for the Apple iPad.

Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where the editions are transmitted to printing facilities in Spain, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, South Korea, Guam, Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, and Djibouti.

Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (in Okinawa, Guam, Kanto Plain and Korea) designed to serve the needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world launched in 2008 to serve servicemembers who have returned from overseas tours. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



## RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2006 NAA ACME Award of Excellence** –  
Youth Oriented Ad Series/Campaign:  
Stripes GAMER;  
Entertainment Promotions: Tales from the Crib

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

**2004 American Legion Excellence  
in Journalism Award** –  
Ground Truth Series

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

STARS AND STRIPES

# SCOREBOARD

## Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

## Pro baseball

### Spring training American League

Team	W	L	Pct
Detroit	1	0	1.000
Oakland	1	0	1.000
Boston	0	0	0.000
Chicago	0	0	0.000
Houston	0	0	0.000
Kansas City	0	0	0.000
Los Angeles	0	0	0.000
Minnesota	0	0	0.000
Seattle	0	0	0.000
Tampa Bay	0	0	0.000
Texas	0	0	0.000
Cleveland	0	0	0.000
New York	0	0	0.000

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Team	W	L	Pct
Arizona	1	0	1.000
Cincinnati	1	0	1.000
Pittsburgh	0	0	0.000
Colorado	0	0	0.000
Milwaukee	0	0	0.000
New York	0	0	0.000
San Diego	0	0	0.000
St. Louis	0	0	0.000
San Francisco	0	0	0.000
Atlanta	0	0	0.000
Los Angeles	0	0	0.000
Philadelphia	0	0	0.000
San Francisco	0	0	0.000

Note: Split-squad games count in standings; games against non-major league clubs do not.

### Wednesday's games

Toronto A, Philadelphia 3, 7 innings  
 Pittsburgh 6, N.Y. Yankees 5  
 Cleveland vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear  
 Cincinnati 8, Cleveland 3

### Thursday's games

Philadelphia vs. Toronto at Dunesdin  
 Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
 Atlanta vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
 Texas vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.

### Friday's games

Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
 Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.

### Saturday's games

Philadelphia vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
 Atlanta vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.  
 Oakland vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.

### Sunday's games

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
 Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
 Houston vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
 Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
 Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

### Monday's games

St. Louis vs. Miami (S) at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Miami (S) vs. N.Y. Mets at Fort St. Louis, Mo.  
 San Diego vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.

### Tuesday's games

L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Goodyear, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
 Cleveland vs. Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, Ariz.  
 Colorado vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Wednesday's games

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
 Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Tampa, Fla.  
 Atlanta vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.  
 Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
 Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

### Thursday's games

St. Louis vs. Miami (S) at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Miami (S) vs. N.Y. Mets at Fort St. Louis, Mo.  
 San Diego vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
 L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Goodyear, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.

### Friday's games

Texas vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
 Cleveland vs. Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, Ariz.  
 San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
 Philadelphia vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
 Milwaukee vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
 Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Saturday's games

Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Tampa, Fla.  
 Atlanta vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.  
 Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
 Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

### Sunday's games

St. Louis vs. Miami (S) at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Miami (S) vs. N.Y. Mets at Fort St. Louis, Mo.  
 San Diego vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
 L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Goodyear, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.

### Monday's games

Texas vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
 Cleveland vs. Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, Ariz.  
 San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
 Philadelphia vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
 Milwaukee vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
 Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Tuesday's games

Houston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
 Philadelphia vs. Baltimore at Tampa, Fla.  
 Atlanta vs. Washington at Viera, Fla.  
 Tampa Bay vs. Pittsburgh at Bradenton, Fla.  
 Boston vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.

### Wednesday's games

St. Louis vs. Miami (S) at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Miami (S) vs. N.Y. Mets at Fort St. Louis, Mo.  
 San Diego vs. Kansas City at Surprise, Ariz.  
 L.A. Dodgers vs. Milwaukee at Goodyear, Ariz.  
 Texas vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.

### Thursday's games

Texas vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
 Cleveland vs. Chicago White Sox at Cleveland, Ariz.  
 San Francisco vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa, Ariz.  
 Philadelphia vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ariz.  
 Milwaukee vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
 Chicago Cubs vs. Arizona at Scottsdale, Ariz.

### Friday's games

Minnesota vs. Boston at Fort Myers, Fla.  
 Miami vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
 Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.

## College basketball

### Wednesday's men's scores

**EAST**  
 American U. 64, Navy 55  
 Bloomfield 85, Caldwell 77  
 Boston U. 71, Army 67  
 Bucknell 65, Lehigh 60  
 Mass. 83, Holyoke 66  
 Drexel 56, Col. of Charleston 45  
 Holy Cross 69, Loyola (Md.) 49  
 Indiana (Pa.) 50, Slippery Rock 32  
 La Salle 75, St. Bonaventure 67  
 Pittsburgh 66, Boston College 59  
 UMass 70, Rhode Island 67  
 Villanova 67, Butler 48

### WEST

Auburn 83, North Carolina 77  
 Coastal Carolina 70, Presbyterian 51  
 Delaware 70, UNC Wilmington 57  
 Florida A&M 104, Edward Waters 69  
 Gardner-Webb 78, Charleston Southern 76  
 George Mason 69, Richmond 60  
 High Point 70, VMI 67  
 LSU 68, Texas A&M 69  
 Lenoir-Rhyne 77, Collier 68  
 Lincoln Memorial 177, Carson-Newman 60  
 Mississippi 70, Alabama 67  
 North Carolina 85, NC State 84  
 OTC (Ga.) 81, Truett McConnell 71  
 Radford 82, Campbell 71  
 South Carolina 82, GRU Augusta 73  
 Tennessee 75, Mississippi St. 68  
 The College of William & Mary 66  
 Tulane 72, FAU 64  
 UNC Greensboro 66, Wake Forest 66  
 UConn 61, South Florida 56  
 Wake Forest 66, Virginia Tech 66  
 William & Mary 79, Hofstra 74  
 Winthrop 107, UNC Asheville 110, Cincinnati 66

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Arizona 1,000  
 Cincinnati 1,000  
 Pittsburgh 0,000  
 Colorado 0,000  
 Milwaukee 0,000  
 New York 0,000  
 San Diego 0,000  
 St. Louis 0,000  
 San Francisco 0,000  
 Atlanta 0,000  
 Los Angeles 0,000  
 Philadelphia 0,000  
 San Francisco 0,000  
 Michigan 0,000  
 Belmont 34, SIU-Edwardsville 75  
 Buffalo 69, Ohio 64  
 Illinois 52, Western Michigan 49  
 Illinois 52, Western Michigan 49  
 Iowa 53, West Virginia 66  
 Miami (Ohio) 65, Akron 61  
 Michigan 70, Purdue 75, OT  
 N. Illinois 74, Toledo 66  
 North Carolina 85, NC State 84  
 Notre Dame 65, Georgia Tech 62  
 W. Michigan 66, Ball State 67

### TOURNAMENTS

**Appalachian Athletic Conference**  
**First Round**  
 St. Andrews 77, Montreat 71  
**Second Round**  
 St. Augustine's 74, Shaw 59  
**Cascade Conference**  
**First Round**  
 Coll. of Idaho 92, E. Oregon 65  
 NW Christian 86, S. Oregon 74  
 Oregon Tech 69, Concordia 61  
 Northwest U. 70, Warner Pacific 65

### Midwest Conference

**Seminifinals**  
 Susquehanna 69, Catholic 66  
**Liberty League**  
**Seminifinals**  
 Hobart 78, Clarkson 69, OT  
**MIAA Tournament**  
 Calvin 64, Albion 55  
 Hope 65, Trine 63

### MAC Tournament

Bethel (Minn.) 70, Augsburg 67  
 Gustavus Adolphus 68, St. John's (Minn.) 64  
**NUAC Tournament**  
**Seminifinals**  
 William Paterson 66, Rutgers-Newark 66

### NSC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

### OSAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Augustana (SD) 56, Northern St. (SD) 64  
 Minn. St.-Mankato 76, Minn.-Crookston 60  
 Minn. St.-Morhead 68, Concordia (S.D.) 60  
 SW Minnesota 81, Grand 65  
 St. Cloud St. 86, Sioux Falls 75

Upper Iowa 86, Minn. Duluth 81  
 Wayne (Neb.) 88, Bemidji 57  
 Wisc. 87, Minot 52, 76

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Cornerstone 83, Concordia (Mich.) 57  
 Davidson 12, Indiana Tech 49  
 Minnesota 76, Aquinas 56  
 Northwestern Ohio 83, Lourdes 69

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

### WIAC Tournament

**First Round**  
 Wis.-La Crosse 76, Ohio 61  
 Wis.-Platteville 70, Wis.-Stout 53

## Tennis

### Mexican Open

**Wednesday**  
**At The Fairmont Acapulco Princess**  
**First Round**  
**Purse: Mex. \$1.45 million (WT500)**  
**Women, \$250,000 (Int'l.)**  
**Surface: Hard-Outdoor**  
**Singles**  
**Second Round**  
 Kevin Anderson (1), South Africa, def. Sam Querrey, United States, 7-6 (2), 6-4, 6-3  
 Gilles Simon (6), France, def. Donald Young, United States, 6-4, 6-3, 6-4  
 Alexander Zverev, Ukraine, def. Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-3, 6-4  
 David Ferrer (1), Spain, def. Feliciano Lopez, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-2, 6-4  
 Ivo Karlovic, Croatia, def. Dudi Sela, Israel, 7-6 (4), 6-2, 6-4  
 Grigor Dimitrov (4), Bulgaria, def. Marcos Baghdatis, Cyprus, 6-1, 6-4  
 Ernests Gulbis (7), Latvia, def. David Goffin, Belgium, 6-1, 3-6, 7-6 (5)  
 Andy Murray (2), Britain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-3, 6-4

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Ajla Tomljanovic, Croatia, def. Victoria Duarte, United States, 6-6 (2), 6-0  
 Dominika Cibulkova (1), Slovakia, def. Yanina Fokina, Belgium, 7-5, 6-2  
 Christina McHale, United States, def. Kimiko Date-Krumm, Japan, 7-5, 6-1  
 Marina Erakovic, Slovenia, def. Bojana Jovanovski (6), Serbia, 6-1, 6-4  
 Liang-Chieh Chia, China, def. Olga Danilovic, Serbia, 6-1, 6-4  
 Fichian, Canada, def. Sharon Fichian, Canada, 6-2, 7-5  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja Konec (3), Estonia, def. Julia Goepfert, Germany, 6-7 (4), 6-4, 7-6

### Men

**Second Round**  
 Federico Delbonis, Argentina, def. Nicolas Almagro (2), Spain, 3-6, 6-4, 6-2  
 Horacio Zeballos, Argentina, def. Guido Pella (1), Argentina, 6-3, 6-4  
 Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 6-4, 2-3, retired  
 Tommy Haas (1), Germany, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 7-6 (2), 6-3

### Women

**Second Round**  
 Eugenie Boucard (2), Canada, def. Lara Arrambide, Spain, 7-6 (2), 6-4  
 Kaja

NHL

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
Boston	58	37	16	5	79	199	130
Tampa Bay	58	33	20	5	71	168	145
Montreal	58	29	25	4	71	149	144
Toronto	60	32	22	6	70	178	182
Detroit	59	27	20	12	66	153	164
Ottawa	58	26	22	11	63	169	193
Florida	58	22	29	7	51	139	183
Buffalo	59	17	34	8	42	118	176
Metropolitan Division							
Pittsburgh	59	32	24	3	83	138	138
N.Y. Rangers	59	32	24	3	67	155	146
Philadelphia	59	30	23	6	66	162	167
Columbus	58	29	24	5	63	170	161
Washington	59	27	23	9	63	171	175
Carolina	58	26	25	7	61	146	161
New Jersey	59	24	22	13	61	139	146
N.Y. Islanders	60	22	30	8	52	164	200

Western Conference

Central Division							
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	
St. Louis	58	39	13	6	84	196	136
Chicago	60	35	11	14	84	207	163
Colorado	59	31	17	5	79	178	159
Minnesota	59	31	21	7	69	145	147
Dallas	59	27	10	22	64	164	164
Winnipeg	60	28	26	6	62	168	175
Nashville	59	25	24	10	60	146	180
Pacific Division							
Anaheim	60	41	14	5	87	196	147
San Jose	59	37	6	6	80	175	142
Los Angeles	60	32	22	6	70	145	132
Vancouver	60	24	24	12	65	147	160
Phoenix	58	27	21	10	64	163	169
Calgary	58	22	29	7	51	137	179
Edmonton	60	20	33	7	47	163	199

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.  
**Tuesday's games**  
 Buffalo 3, Carolina 2  
**Wednesday's games**  
 Buffalo 5, Boston 4, OT  
 Detroit 2, Montreal 1, OT  
 Los Angeles 6, Colorado 4  
 Vancouver 4, St. Louis 0  
**Thursday's games**  
 Columbus at New Jersey  
 Toronto at N.Y. Islanders  
 Chicago at N.Y. Rangers  
 San Jose at Philadelphia  
 Montreal at Pittsburgh  
 Detroit at Ottawa  
 Washington at Florida  
 Tampa Bay at Nashville  
 Phoenix at Winnipeg  
 Carolina at Dallas  
 Los Angeles at Calgary  
 Minnesota at Edmonton  
**Friday's games**  
 San Jose at Buffalo  
 Phoenix at Colorado  
 Minnesota at Vancouver  
 St. Louis at Anaheim  
**Saturday's games**  
 Washington at Boston  
 New Jersey at N.Y. Islanders  
 N.Y. Rangers at Philadelphia  
 Florida at Columbus  
 Winnipeg at Nashville  
 Tampa Bay at Dallas  
 Carolina at Los Angeles  
 Toronto at Montreal  
 Pittsburgh at Chicago  
 Calgary at Edmonton  
**Sunday's games**  
 Philadelphia at Washington  
 San Jose at New Jersey  
 Florida at N.Y. Islanders  
 Ottawa at Vancouver  
 Boston at N.Y. Rangers  
 Tampa Bay at Colorado  
 St. Louis at Phoenix  
 Carolina at Anaheim  
**Monday's games**  
 Columbus at Toronto  
 Bio at Dallas  
 Calgary at Minnesota  
 Montreal at Los Angeles

# He's back in black

## Crosby trades Canada's red and white for Pens' black and gold for a Cup run

BY DAN SCIFO  
 The Associated Press

**S**idney Crosby's second Olympic experience was less dramatic, but just as rewarding. Crosby returned from Sochi, Russia, with his second Olympic gold medal, this one as the captain of the Canadian team. Leading a national team certainly brings a different sense of responsibility, but the same expectation.

"I think everybody feels a sense of pride, but also a sense of relief knowing you were able to do what everybody expected," Crosby said Wednesday. "It's not easy to win, but to be able to go in there with the goal of winning and achieve it is a great feeling."

Now, Crosby and fellow Canadian gold medalist Chris Kunitz are ready for a return to normalcy in the NHL, joining head coach Dan Bylsma and five Olympic teammates, including Russia's Evgeni Malkin, as the first-place Penguins prepare for a stretch run that features 24 games in 46 days.

"It's good to get into a routine again," Crosby said. "Managing rest is something we have to keep in mind."

Canada steamrolled through Sochi, allowing three goals in six games for its third gold medal in the last four Olympics and record ninth overall.

"Everybody talks about our defense, but I think we were able to control the puck a lot in the offensive zone and when you do that teams don't get a lot of time or energy to come against you," Crosby said.

The Canadians, who became the first team to go unbeaten through the Olympic tournament in 30 years, never trailed, a dominating effort that culminated in back-to-back shutouts of the United States and Sweden in the semifinals and gold medal game.

"The last three games, especially, we were at our best, but I think we got better as it went on," Crosby said. "The scores were close, but we felt like we controlled the last three games and played the way we wanted to."

Once again, Crosby's shining moment came in the gold medal game, this time in the second period against Sweden when he deked goaltender Henrik Lundqvist to the ice before depositing a backhand across the line.

"We hadn't had a two-goal lead that often up to that point and with the way we had been playing to get a two-goal lead was nice," Crosby said. "I think that was going through my mind more than the fact that I hadn't scored yet."

It didn't carry the weight of his Golden Goal, the 2010 overtime game-winner against the Americans, but Crosby's first goal of the tournament effectively clinched the gold medal for the defensive-minded Canadians.

"It was a great experience," Crosby said. "Winning makes it better."

It was a different experience for Malkin, who came up empty at the Olympics after the host Russians were eliminated on their home soil in the quarterfinal round by Finland.

"It's not easy, it's always tough," Malkin said. "I remember in Vancouver we lost and now it's worse."

Bylsma understands Malkin's disappointment and challenged his star forward to channel the emotion and try to help the Penguins to a deep run in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

"They had the Olympics at their venue," Bylsma said. "This was their gold medal to win. There's their disappointment. I talked to Evgeni and probably the third thing out of his mouth (was) Stanley Cup. We need to come back here and focus on that."

**Sidney Crosby captained Canada to a gold medal in Sochi, but his focus is now on winning another Stanley Cup as captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins.**

CHUCK MYERS/MCT



## Order your new 2014 Volkswagen

before you leave the Far East for Stateside delivery and



Volkswagen Passat



Volkswagen Jetta SportWagen

SAVE UP TO \$1,000<sup>†</sup>



2014 IIHS TOP SAFETY PICK

**LiveChat**

Speak with a representative online 24/7 at [militaryautosource.com](http://militaryautosource.com)

Product Questions • Order Your Vehicle • Customer Service

Lowest Price Guarantee

**MCS**

MILITARY AUTOSOURCE

Offer subject to change without notice. Savings vary based on order and delivery date. Lowest price guarantee in effect up to 14 days after delivery, for the same vehicle delivered in the same location by an authorized dealer. Vehicle shown is for illustrative only, and is subject to certain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Overseas Military Sales Corporation - OMSC Ltd. (MAS 429)

# NBA/AUTO RACING

## D'Antoni: 'Keep it in house'

Lakers coach addresses comments made by frustrated Gasol

By CLAY BAILEY  
The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Los Angeles Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni says he understands the frustration that led to critical comments from Pau Gasol, but wishes the star center had not lashed out publicly.

D'Antoni addressed Gasol's comments before Wednesday's night game against the Memphis Grizzlies, saying much of the frustration comes from losing and a change in the team's style of play.

Following Tuesday night's 118-90 defeat at Indiana, the Lakers' leading scorer criticized the club for a lack of discipline and expressed frustration with Los Angeles using smaller lineups.

Gasol mentioned everything from selfish play to D'Antoni's offense as problems.

The Lakers have lost three straight and seven of eight after falling 108-103 to the Grizzlies on Wednesday night. Injuries to Kobe Bryant, Steve Nash and others have left Los Angeles with the worst record in the Western Conference.

"I just made some remarks of how I felt after the (Indiana) game," Gasol said after Wednesday's loss.



D'Antoni

day's loss. "Yes, there was some frustration, but I don't think it was anything out of line or nothing that went too far. I stated something obvious to me."

The Lakers remain 1/2 games out of the final playoff spot in the West and the bulk of their players are in the final year of their contracts. The nucleus of the teams that made the Lakers a force in the conference is pretty well down to Gasol and role players.

Still, D'Antoni wasn't happy that Gasol criticized the team in the media.

"The thing I just don't appreciate — and I think every coach, and it should be everybody — you just keep it in house," D'Antoni said during his pregame news conference. "It's very easy to come over and talk about your frustrations. We'll try to work something out and figure it out for now. But to go (to the media) and to do it in the paper is disturbing. I just don't think that's the way to go."

D'Antoni said against big teams like Indiana and Memphis, it doesn't do much good to challenge their strength inside by trying to match up with them. He prefers to counter with a smaller lineup and move the ball up and down the floor. He said the strategy worked against Indiana until foul trouble changed the approach.

"We went big, and it all came down because they're a better bigger team than we are," D'Antoni said of the Pacers. "If you are overmanned a little bit and you try to match up with them, it's not going to work out."

The Lakers coach said he understands Gasol being frustrated by a lack of ball movement and everybody wanting to shine in their contract year. The problem is when everyone wants to shine.

"Everybody's looking for a contract on the team, and when the ball doesn't share, then your numbers go down and you get frustrated, and then you lash out," D'Antoni said. "The place to do it is in the dressing room among us."

Gasol characterized the comments as "not that big of a deal."

"It was just the emotions and the frustrations of a tough loss," he said.

## Around the track

### SPRINT CUP

**This week:** The Profit on CNBC 500 at Avondale, Ariz.

**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 8:30 p.m. CET Sunday, 4:30 a.m. Japan & Korea Monday

**Track:** Phoenix International Raceway (oval, 1.0 miles).  
**Race distance:** 312 miles, 312 laps.

**Last year:** Carl Edwards won to snap a 70-race victory drought.

**Last week:** Dale Earnhardt Jr. won the Daytona 500 for the second time, beating Denny Hamlin in the rain-delayed race.

**Fast facts:** The race is the first to use the new group qualifying format. The fastest 12 cars after the opening 30-minute session will compete for the pole in the final 10-minute session. At tracks 1.25 miles or longer, there will be three rounds. ... Kevin Harvick won the November race at the

track. He's in his first year at Stewart-Haas Racing after 13 Cup seasons at Richard Childress Racing.

**Next race:** Kobalt 400, March 9, Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

**Online:** nascar.com  
— The Associated Press

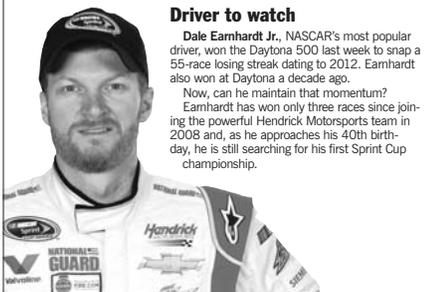
### Driver standings

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	48
2. Denny Hamlin.....	43
3. Brad Keselowski.....	42
4. Jeff Gordon.....	40
5. Jimmie Johnson.....	40
6. Matt Kenseth.....	38
7. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.....	37
8. Greg Biffle.....	37
9. Austin Dillon.....	36
10. Casey Mears.....	34
11. Joey Logano.....	34

### Driver to watch

**Dale Earnhardt Jr., NASCAR's** most popular driver, won the Daytona 500 last week to snap a 55-race losing streak dating to 2012. Earnhardt also won at Daytona a decade ago.

Now, can he maintain that momentum? Earnhardt has won only three races since joining the powerful Hendrick Motorsports team in 2008 and, as he approaches his 40th birthday, he is still searching for his first Sprint Cup championship.



## Felton says arrest not distraction

The Associated Press

GREENBURGH, N.Y. — Raymond Felton is determined to keep personal turmoil from affecting what was already his most trying season professionally.

A day after his arrest on felony weapons charges, Felton returned to practice with the New York Knicks on Wednesday, saying that was "not a distraction" to the team.

Felton spoke for less than a minute and did not take questions. He thanked family, friends and teammates for their support and insisted his thoughts were on the Knicks' game Thursday night in Miami.

"This is not a distraction to this team," he said. "I'm focusing on finishing out this season, finishing out these games with my teammates and going down to Miami, focusing on this next game at task versus the defending champs."

The Knicks are barely hanging on in the playoff race and Felton's struggles have been among their biggest problems. Slowed by nagging leg injuries early, he's averaging a career-worst 10.4 points on 40.5 percent shooting for a team with a 21-36 record.

He's also dealing with the breakup of his marriage, and he was arrested early Tuesday after authorities said a lawyer for his wife turned into a police precinct a loaded semi-automatic handgun

allegedly belonging to the point guard, claiming she no longer wanted it in their home.

Felton was released on \$25,000 bail, and his next court appearance is scheduled for June 2.

Knicks coach Mike Woodson said he never considered not letting Felton play against the Heat.

"The bottom line is Ray is a part of our team, and as his coach I'm going to support him and make sure he's doing everything the right way from here on out, and to try to get him to just concentrate on basketball and practice and playing games," Woodson said.

Felton was charged with criminal possession of a weapon in the third degree and criminal possession of a firearm. The firearm charge is punishable by up to four years in prison. The weapons charge is punishable by up to seven years in prison.

He had turned himself into police not long after a 110-108 loss to Dallas dropped the Knicks farther back in the playoff race. His wife, Ariane Raymond-Felton, filed for divorce last week, according to court records, and Felton acknowledged recently dealing with personal problems.

He said he wouldn't comment on the case, referring any questions to his lawyer.

"But other than that, I'm here to concentrate on this team, finish this season out with the New York Knicks and see what happens, man," Felton said.

### NATIONWIDE SERIES

**This week:** Blue Jeans Go Green 200 at Avondale, Ariz.

**TV:** AFN-Xtra (joined in progress), 10 p.m. Saturday CET, 6 a.m. Sunday Japan & Korea.

**Track:** Phoenix International Raceway (oval, 1.0 miles).  
**Race distance:** 200 miles, 200 laps.

**Last year:** Kyle Busch won to end a 24-race Nationwide drought.

**Last week:** Regan Smith won at Daytona, holding off Brad Keselowski.

**Fast facts:** Busch also won the November race at the track for the last of his 12 series victories in 2013. Busch, driving the No. 54 Joe Gibbs Racing Toyota, has a series-record 63 victories — six at the track. ... Kevin Harvick is driving the Dale Earnhardt Jr.-owned No. 88 Chevrolet.

**Next race:** Boyd Gaming 300, March 8, Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

**Online:** nascar.com  
— The Associated Press

### CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

**Next race:** Kroger 250, March 29, Martinsville Speedway, Martinsville, Va.

**Last week:** Kyle Busch won at Daytona to become the first driver to win Truck, ARCA, Nationwide and Sprint Cup races at the track.

**Online:** nascar.com  
— The Associated Press

### NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

**Next event:** NHRA Gatornationals, March 13-6, Auto Plus Raceway at Gainesville, Fla.

**Last week:** Alexis DeJoria raced to her first career Funny Car victory, beating Robert Hight in the final at Wild Horse Pass in Chandler, Ariz. Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Allen Johnson topped the Pro Stock field.

**Online:** nhra.com  
— The Associated Press

YOUR low price JOURNEY STARTS HERE

FREE SAME-DAY SHIPPING!

For most orders. Some restrictions apply.

\$70  
GET A



VISA® PREPAID CARD

WHEN YOU BUY ANY SET OF 4 MICHELIN TIRES.

ONLINE OR MAIL-IN REBATE. VALID 2/17/14 THROUGH 3/31/14.



DISCOUNT

TIRE DIRECT

discounttiredirect.com

888-459-4058

602-735-1800

M-F: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. SAT: 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. EST



## COLLEGE BASEBALL



C. MICHAEL BERGEN, THE STATE/MCT

Ten years ago, South Carolina likely wouldn't have invested much time in recruiting a player as talented as pitcher Wil Crowe. The Gamecocks have found, however, that college baseball's increasingly visible profile has players like Crowe ready to consider the college game instead of automatically opting for the pros.

## Gamecocks have found success courting top prospects

By PETE IACOBELLI  
The Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — A decade ago, South Carolina coach Chad Holbrook might not have put much effort into chasing a high school star like Wil Crowe with a right arm capable of throwing in the 90 mph range and off-speed pitches tailor-made for the major leagues.

Now, however, more and more prospects like Crowe are turning down big league money to get themselves ready for the pros with the Gamecocks and other college baseball powers.

South Carolina has seen a steady stream of top-quality players like first basemen Justin Smoak and Christian Walker, shortstop Joey Pankake, catcher Grayson Greiner and second baseman Max Schrock — all considered top draft prospects — decide that college is the way to go over minor league ball.

The influx has helped the Gamecocks become one of college baseball's top programs, winning the College World Series in 2010 and 2011, and finishing as the runner-up in Omaha in 2012.

"You come to a game here, it's hard to turn that down considering if you took the minor-league option, you'd be on a hot bus five or six hours playing in front of 200 people," said Greiner, catcher for the USA National Collegiate team last summer.

College baseball's profile has improved, Holbrook said, and that's led young players to covet

### Did you know

The Gamecocks won the College World Series in 2010, 2011, and finished as runner-up in Omaha in 2012.



SOURCE: The Associated Press

college instead of automatically opting for the pros.

They also see one-time teammates making quick trips to the majors. South Carolina's College World Series heroes Jackie Bradley Jr. and Michael Roth reached the majors less than two years after leaving school. Bradley played in the Boston Red Sox outfield last year while Roth made 15 mound appearances for the Los Angeles Angels in 2013 after playing for the Gamecocks a season earlier.

"Those kids and those college guys that have been in the leagues like the SEC that have that experience, those (MLB) organizations are moving them quickly," Holbrook said. "Therefore, those recruits are seeing that and saying, 'Hey, maybe it's best that I get my education and on top of that I get moved through the

minor league that my timeframe of getting to the majors may be quicker if I go to college.' That is what's occurred."

Once players enroll in college from high school, they must wait three seasons until they're next eligible for the draft.

Dave Kellitz, executive director of the American Baseball Coaches Association, said major league clubs see the advantages of polished, older players over high school grads still learning about the game and life.

"They think, 'If we're going to invest \$2 million in someone, isn't it better if they're more mature?'" Kellitz said.

Holbrook sees major league teams signing on, eager to have players who've made it through three seasons in top leagues like the SEC.

"That's encouraged some of our kids to turn down quite a bit of money to attend college," Holbrook said.

Holbrook and his former boss, South Carolina athletic director Ray Tanner, acknowledge courting top prospects is risky business.

"It's definitely a financial decision," Tanner said. "If you're a first-rounder, you're probably going to the bigs and you should."

Still, Holbrook's happy to be in the mix for the best high schoolers these days and knows he's got a chance of securing players who will make a difference on the field.

"You do pick spots," he said. "And we've certainly picked our spots."



ROSE PALMISANO/MCT

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Michael Roth reached the majors less than two years after leaving South Carolina.

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: BASKETBALL



GAKU LANGE/Special to Stars and Stripes



TAI DIRKS/Special to Stars and Stripes

### Anfernee Dent, Daegu

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

Sometimes, the birth of a championship basketball team takes place weeks, even months before the season starts. Or in Anfernee Dent's case, midway through Daegu's football season.

It was a heart-to-heart talk that Dent had with coach Luke Spencer, about living up to his responsibilities as one of the team's seniors and "how he wanted to be remembered at Daegu," Spencer said.

The talk resulted in a total transformation of Dent, "from 'me' player to 'we' player," athletics director Ken Walter said. Not only did it help lead the Warriors to a Far East Division II football title, it carried over to the basketball court.

There, Daegu followed up with its first Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference tournament title in a quarter-century and its first Far East Division II title since 1990.

"It made me sit and think, 'What does everybody love?'" Dent said he asked himself after the talk with Spencer. "And I said to myself, a winner. And I wanted to win at all cost, giving my team all I had."

"The switches all turned, he played like a team player and we had no issues with him after that," Spencer said, adding that Dent realized it was not the "Anfernee Show but the Daegu show. It impacted him. It changed him."

The on-court record: A 9-3 conference record, a 60-59 win in the KALAC Tournament over Seon American, a 25-7 overall

record including games in the Far East D-II tournament. And the crowning achievement: A 70-56 D-II title-game win over host Matthew C. Perry.

Through it all, Dent averaged 16.3 points, 4.5 rebounds and 4.0 assists per game. For his efforts, Dent has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific boys high school basketball Athlete of the Year.

Coach Phillip Loyd said it was more about his maturity than statistics.

"He is a tireless worker on the court, he practices to become better and works to get his team in position to win," Loyd said, adding that Dent insisted that the team adopt the motto "Family."

Dent proved to be a "difference maker" for Daegu in both postseason tournaments, Loyd said, breaking down defenses and making clutch passes for game-winning shots. "In Far East, he was an unstoppable force, constantly going to the rim."

Opposing coaches took note of both his game and his transformation.

"How much he has improved," Seoul American coach Steve Boyd said.

"He has good footwork, good floor presence and natural instincts to get where the ball is going to be. He would pound the boards and he did a good job of that."

Spencer's chat with Dent led to a "snowball effect," Walter said. "We saw more leadership and team concept out of him. He started making people around him better. I've seen a lot of growth. He's one of the best players, if not the best player, in the Pacific."

ornaue.dave@stripes.com

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

Mia Weinland and American School In Japan faced some serious trouble.

Their mission to end a 22-year Far East Girls Division I basketball tournament drought was in peril against Academy of Our Lady of Guam in last Wednesday's semifinal.

The Cougars led the Mustangs by four at half and the game was tied 31-31 entering the fourth quarter when Weinland picked up her fourth foul.

A substitute appeared at the scorer's table. Thinking it was for her, Weinland turned and trotted toward ASIJ's bench, where coach Julie Rogers, needing her tallest scorer and rebounder, told her: "I'm not taking you out. Use your head."

She stayed in the game, did not foul out and ASIJ outscored the Cougars 11-4 in the final quarter, winning 42-35. The Mustangs finished the mission the next day, beating Kadena 57-37 for the title.

"She's really a smart player as well as an intense player," Rogers said of Weinland, a 6-foot-3 junior who averaged 10.7 points and 7.2 rebounds for a Mustangs team that went 20-2.

It was a team on mission to atone for a 45-32 loss in the D-I finals last year to Kinnick. ASIJ lost twice in November's Hong Kong International School Holiday Tournament, then ran the table, capturing the Kanto Plain title and weren't pressed at all until Far East.

### Stars and Stripes All-Far East team

- Mia Weinland**, American School in Japan, Kanto Plain All-Star, All-Tournament at Far East Division I for champion Mustangs.
- Destiny Castro**, Notre Dame, Guam regular season's leading scorer, named Most Valuable Player of Far East D-I for sixth-place Royals.
- Debb Avalos**, E.J. King, DODDS Japan's leading Division II scorer, named MVP of Far East D-II Tournament for fourth-place Cobras.
- Rhegan Wyche**, Daegu, sophomore point guard for Korea regular-season and Far East D-II champion Warriors.
- Lari Robertson**, Daegu, senior forward for Korea regular-season and Far East D-I champion Warriors.

For her efforts, Weinland has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific girls basketball Athlete of the Year. In the fall, she earned MVP honors in the Far East D-II volleyball tournament.

It wasn't so much the numbers that Weinland put up, but how she went about her business: Quietly, yet with the same intensity shown by her senior teammates Liz Thornton and Joey Yamada, whom many teams focused on during the season.

"You really don't know she's out there," said Kadena coach Willie Ware. While Weinland scored 23 points on the Panthers, "she did it quietly. She does her job, she doesn't complain, just in there quietly battling, doing what needs to be done."

"But people shouldn't be fooled," Rogers said. "She is just as competitive and intense as the next kid out there."

She also doesn't feel the need to always be out front in the scoring or rebounding departments and won't be the first to ask to see the scorebook after a game, Rogers said.

"She's pleased that the team is successful; she makes everybody else on the court look good, but doesn't necessarily need to take the credit for it," Rogers said. "She's not only fun to play basketball with, she's a nice person off the court."

Weinland edged a crowded field of candidates, including sophomore guard Rhegan Wyche of Division II champion Daegu, D-I Tournament MVP Destiny Castro of Notre Dame and D-II Tournament MVP Debb Avalos of E.J. King.

ornaue.dave@stripes.com

# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS PACIFIC

## ATHLETE OF THE YEAR: WRESTLING



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Edgren's Kaleb Atchison, shown winning the Far East 141-pound championship bout over St. Mary's Kazuho Kawashima, is Stars and Stripes Pacific high school Athlete of the Year.

### Kaleb Atchison, Edgren

By DAVE ORNAUER  
Stars and Stripes

Kaleb Atchison could have been forgiven had he gone into full panic mode, trailing the 141-pound final bout on Feb. 13 6-0 to Kazuho Kawashima and just a two-point tilt away from losing for the first time all season, and by technical fall at that.

But he says he kept cool, waited for an opening, found one and took advantage, reversing into a chest press for a pin in 1 minute, 28 seconds that gave him a title and helped his Edgren team to a sweep of both Far East wrestling banners.

It was that same attitude, the same demeanor on the mat, that he says carried him to an unbeaten season and helped lead

the Eagles to the best DODDS Japan Division II record.

"Before the start of the season, I told myself, 'I will be an undefeated Far East champion at 141, no matter what it takes, that is my goal,'" Atchison said.

"So, before every one of my matches, I thought to myself: 'You set this goal to be an undefeated Far East champion. Will you let this match take that achievement away from you?' Wrestling calm and under control was the key to all my matches, waiting for a move I was confident in."

That helped carry Atchison, a transfer from Texas who wrestled two years for Edgren, to a 19-0 record this season, each win via pin. "I wanted a chance to get a [technical fall] but I never did," he said.

For his efforts, Atchison has been named Stars and Stripes Pacific high school Athlete of the Year.

Opposing coaches saw the same qualities in Atchison, his ability to do whatever it takes to get the job done, whether in total command or fighting to come from behind.

"You see a confidence to come back, find some move to get into a pinning position," said Kinnick coach Gary Wilson. "He looks just as confident whether he's four points down or four points ahead."

"His demeanor before or after a match, he always maintained a razor-sharp edge, always prepared for what was coming next," said Yokota coach Ty Gaume.

"Not only did he look like a wrestler, he

acted like a wrestler. He always seemed to be mentally focused and aware of his surroundings and be ready to compete."

Atchison excels in other arenas besides athletics, his coach and athletics director said. Atchison maintains a 3.50 grade-point average and Edgren AD Andre Thibert said he serves as an "excellent" role model for his fellow students in and out of the classroom.

"He represents Edgren with pride," Thibert said.

"He's an outstanding leader and very supportive of his team and his coach," Eagles coach Justin Edmonds said. "And I like him."

ornaumer.dave@stripes.com

## Order your new 2014 Volkswagen

before you leave the Far East for Stateside delivery and



Volkswagen Passat



Volkswagen Jetta SportWagen



Speak with a representative online 24/7 at [militaryautosource.com](http://militaryautosource.com)  
Product Questions • Order Your Vehicle • Customer Service



**MCS**  
MILITARY AUTOSOURCE

Offer subject to change without notice. Savings vary based on order and delivery date. Lowest price guarantee in effect up to 14 days after delivery, for the same vehicle, delivered in the same location by an authorized dealer. Vehicle shown is for illustration only, and may contain optional equipment available at additional cost. Program and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Offered by Overseas Military Sales Corporation - OMSC Ltd. (MAS 429)

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL

## Hoyas hindered in new Big East

Missing players, uneven schedule has kept Georgetown from playing at consistent level

By JOSEPH WHITE  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It seemed appropriate that John Thompson III was fiddling with a stop-watch as he stood in the lobby of Georgetown's on-campus gym, speaking about a Hoyas team that has ventured far off-script. Time is running out in a season in which "start," "stop" and "reset" became more than just buttons to press during a practice drill.

"Right in the middle of the season, you almost have to reinvent yourself," Thompson said Wednesday. "We've had to do it, and we're still in a position where we can play our way into the [NCAA] tournament. But we've done things much differently now than we were at the start of the year."

If the new Big East hasn't exactly caught college basketball by storm, Georgetown can be blamed for a failure to supply at least part of the thunder and lightning. Picked to finish second in the preseason coaches' poll, the Hoyas (16-11, 7-8) have been so inconsistent that, if the regular season ended today, they would be one of the four bottom-rung teams forced to play an extra game in the conference tournament.

Creighton and Villanova, both nationally ranked in the top 10, are the class of the reconfigured

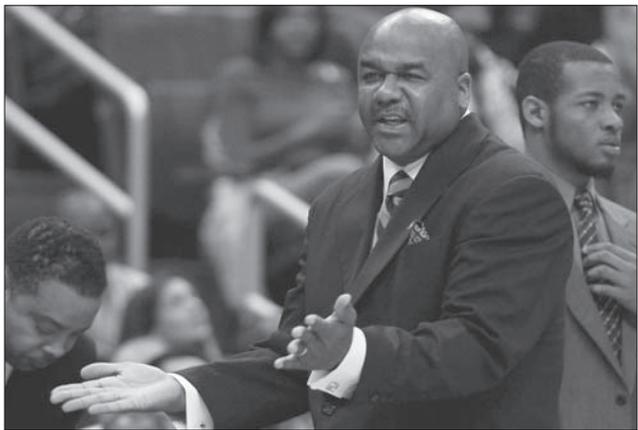
conference, while Georgetown is one of five teams floating precariously around the NCAA tournament bubble. One of Thompson's primary goals this season was to end a string of early round NCAA exits — missing the tournament altogether wasn't supposed to be the solution.

But 6-foot-10, 350-pound UCLA transfer Joshua Smith, a major cog in Thompson's plans, played only 13 games before he was ruled out for the season for academic reasons. Junior forward Greg Whittington, who had academic problems last season and then knee surgery, never suited up at all. Jabril Trawick missed five games with a broken jaw.

The result is that Thompson is trying to figure out his team in February and into March, instead of in November. He has a group who can lose a big lead as fast as it can build one, and vice versa. Simply put: There have been too many times when guards Markel Starks and D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera carry a disproportionate share of the load, leading to nights like a 22-point loss at St. John's and a 15-point loss at Seton Hall.

"We can't win with just those two," Thompson said.

Complicating matters has been a new schedule that was put together under less than ideal circumstances as the conference rushed to relaunch itself. The



CHUCK MYERS/MCT

Georgetown coach John Thompson III questions a referee's call in a game last month. Thompson is trying to figure out how to get the Hoyas to play consistently as the league and NCAA tournaments near.

**'We're still in a position where we can play our way into the [NCAA] tournament. But we're doing things much differently now than we were at the start of the year.'**

John Thompson III  
Georgetown coach

Hoyas routinely play two games in three days.

"We've had more one-day prep games than anyone in the league," Thompson said. "I think the scheduling aspect will be better [next season]. I think there's a lot of inequities with how the schedule was put together this year."

And, while the Big East's trademark physical style of play still

exists, the league has a different vibe.

"You definitely miss the teams like Louisville, Syracuse, UConn," Trawick said. "But at the same time I think the Big East is the still the Big East. It's still a good conference. You've got great teams, great coaches. You can see — we lost some games we didn't think we were going to lose.

You can never take the Big East lightly, especially with the team we've got right now."

The Hoyas boarded their bus in the parking lot to start their road trip to Milwaukee for Thursday's game against Marquette. The Golden Eagles beat the Hoyas in overtime in a messy game last month, an outcome so disheartening that Thompson afterward declared his team in a "funk" and joked that his players would have to keep his spirits up, instead of the other way around.

"It was definitely a point where we were a little frustrated," Smith-Rivera said. "That was a game we feel like we should've won, or could've won. It was definitely a tough loss, so this game is definitely big for us."

## Obit: Gonzaga's success, NCAA tournament upsets both helped bury the 'mid-major' designation

FROM BACK PAGE

"For a game between two mid-majors, or whatever you'd call us, it had anything you could ask for."

It was a throwaway comment, but one that took hold, becoming part of the college basketball lexicon as the NCAA tournament exploded in the 1980s into a high-profile event. Suddenly, any program with a small budget or little name recognition was saddled with the description of "mid-major," back then an endearing term for the scrappy underdogs.

"March Madness is not made on the Kentucky and Dukies and North Carolinas," offered Southern Illinois coach Barry Hinson. "March Madness is made by VCU, Butler and Wichita State."

Yet it was the madman of March that started to bury the term mid-major.

Perhaps no other program has been as hard on its health as Gonzaga, which made the Elite Eight in 1999 and has been to the NCAA tournament every year since, earning a No. 1 seed last season.

All that success has changed the way the program is viewed. The Bulldogs are invited to prestigious tournaments such as the Maui Invitational, and are scheduling home-and-home series — often in NBA-style arenas that seat bigger crowds — against the likes of Kansas State.



AP

George Mason made a memorable run to the Final Four in 2006.

They're not the only ones to shrug off the mid-major label.

George Mason didn't look anything but major in reaching the Final Four in 2006. Neither did Butler when it made back-to-back national championships a few years ago, beating another so-called mid-major in VCU in a riveting 2011 national

semifinal.

"I think that people that know really our league, and not just us, but other teams in our league, they know we play a major college schedule, in non-conference for sure," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said. "And we not only play them, but we have beaten enough of them."

That's why every March, the term mid-major became more difficult to apply.

That continued with the latest round of conference realignment. When Creighton left the Missouri Valley for the Big East, did the Bluejays suddenly become major? And when entirely new conferences such as the American Athletic combined schools from each side of the debate, did it become a major conference or a mid-major one?

"I do think it's interesting that Creighton was one of the top teams with us the last couple years in this league," said Marshall, whose Shockers already have wrapped up the Missouri Valley title. "Now they go to the Big East, considered an elite league, and they're dominating the league, and us with them gone are having to justify our (30-0) record. That's an interesting quandary."

For its part, the NCAA insists that it never labels teams as majors or mid-majors, but it sure becomes a point of discussion — or dissension — every time Selection Sunday rolls around.

"We don't get into conference details," said Wake Forest athletic director Ron Wellman, the chairman of the Division I men's basketball committee. "We pay no attention to what a team's label publicly might be, whether it's mid-major, major. That is not a factor that we look at."

Now, it may not be a factor looked at by anybody.

The Shockers are receiving first-place votes, and Saint Louis remained No. 10 in this week's Top 25. San Diego State rose to No. 6 before a recent loss, and schools such as Southern Methodist and New Mexico — schools formerly known as mid-majors — are also appearing in the polls.

Thus, the death of the term mid-major appears to be at hand.

It is survived by other more meaningful ways to compare teams, such as RPI, one of the metrics used by the NCAA selection committee. It was preceded in death by the peach basket, short-shorts and other basketball novelties that ultimately outgrew their relevancy.

"You mention Wichita State and San Diego State," Indiana State coach Greg Lansing said. "Those two teams, as far as I'm concerned, are high majors. That's how they should be viewed."

AP Sports Writer Bernie Wilson in San Diego contributed to this report.

## NFL

# Pick 6: Standout combine performances

By DAVE CAMPBELL  
The Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS** — The NFL scouting combine will never turn a projected first-round pick into an undrafted free agent, or vice versa.

By this point in the careers of these prospects, their size has been established. So have their smarts. The film of their college performances is indelible, the basis of the evaluation for every team in the league. But over the four-day event at Lucas Oil Stadium, there are always players who help or hurt themselves, even if ever so slightly, when their speed, agility and strength is on display with the rest of their peers. Some even stand out by skipping certain drills.

Here are six notable performances from this year's combine in Indianapolis:

**1 Go Johnny Go:** Johnny Manziel, like fellow top-tier quarterback prospect Teddy Bridgewater, opted not to throw for scouts over the weekend, preferring to wait until his pro day workout at Texas A&M. But while Bridgewater skipped the 40-yard dash, too, Manziel zipped right through it in 4.68 seconds. At 6 feet and less than 210 pounds, Manziel is smaller than the prototype for the position, but as he showed often in college he has the speed to make all kinds of excitement happen on the field.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

**Kent State running back Dri Archer likely helped boost his draft status by running the 40-yard dash in 4.26 seconds, the best time of the year.**

**4 Fast is fast:** Kent State running back Dri Archer is a fringe prospect in this draft, at a mere 5-foot-8 and 175 pounds coming off an injury-affected senior season. He's considered a late-round pick, but Archer sure helped himself by running the 40-yard dash in 4.26 seconds, the best official time this year and a hair behind Chris Johnson's 2008 record of 4.24. Archer can also return kickoffs, which gives teams an other value to consider.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

**South Carolina defensive lineman Jadeveon Clowney runs a drill Monday at the scouting combine in Indianapolis.**

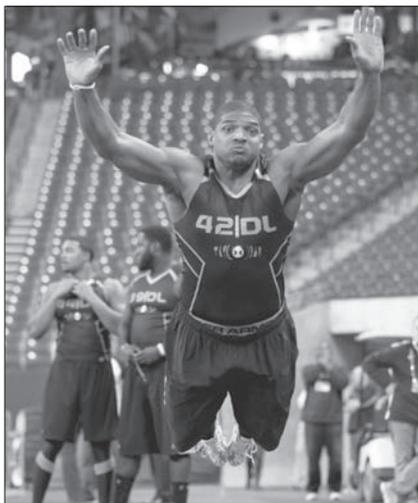
**2 Confounding Clowney:** After a substandard 2013 season for South Carolina, defensive and Jadeveon Clowney has been dogged by questions about his work ethic and focus. But his blend of physical traits at 6-foot-5 and 265 pounds is so promising that he could still be the first pick in the draft. For him to fall out of the top five

would be almost unfathomable.

This, then, was fitting. He ran the 40-yard dash in 4.53 seconds, the fastest at his position, but managed only 21 repetitions of the 225-pound bench press, fewer than several defensive backs and running backs and even a punter. Pat O'Donnell of Miami NFL Network analyst Mike Mayock summed up

the enigma nicely.

"I already think I know what he is: he's the scariest, freakiest, physical specimen I've ever seen since I've been doing this," Mayock said. "However, that doesn't mean I'm saying he's the best defensive lineman in the draft or the best player in the draft because he worries me with some of the red flags."



NAM Y. HUN/AP

**Missouri defensive lineman Michael Sam, hoping to become the first openly gay player in the NFL, didn't boost his stock at the combine.**

**3 Sam struggles:** As the Southeastern Conference co-defensive player of the year for Missouri, Michael Sam has proven his pass-rushing prowess. He has made headlines for his quest to become the league's first openly gay player.

But ultimately, the biggest issue with Sam is he has the skills and the build that's caught between a defensive end in a 4-3 scheme and an outside linebacker in a 3-4 system. The "tweener" label could keep him as a mid-round pick at best.

Sam didn't boost his stock at the combine much, either. He ran the 40 in 4.91 seconds, hardly in Clowney's company. He also had the lowest vertical jump, 25½ inches, and the second-fewest bench press reps, 17, among those at his position who participated.



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

**Justin Gilbert ran the fastest 40 time among defensive players.**

**6 Not-so-little brother:** Minnesota safety Brock Vereen is projected a late-round pick at best, but the younger brother of New England running back Shane Vereen ran a 4.47 in the 40, the 11th-fastest among all defensive players and second among safeties. Vereen also fared well in agility drills and led his position with 25 reps on the bench press.

Asked over the weekend about whether he wanted to be drafted higher than his brother — a long-shot goal because the Patriots took their Vereen in the second round in 2011 — Vereen brushed that off.

"I think the biggest part of me just wants to hit him," Vereen said. "I just can't wait until we meet on the field."

MLB

# No particular hurry

## Nats aren't rushing Strasburg's debut

By CARL KOTALA  
The Associated Press

STEPHEN STRASBURG SAYS he's "ready to rock." Even so, the Washington Nationals aren't rushing his spring debut.

Strasburg isn't scheduled to pitch in the Nationals' first two exhibition games. The team hasn't announced when Strasburg, Gio Gonzalez or Doug Fister will make their first appearances this spring.

"It's just kind of the way it stacks up," Nationals manager Matt Williams said Wednesday. "There's no meaning behind it one way or the other. It's how he feels and how we stack that rotation."

"I've talked with [pitching coach Steve McCatty] a lot about it and it's just kind of the way it falls," he said.

Williams added things will likely change following the team's off-day on March 18. That's when the Nationals could start setting up their rotation for the regular season.

The Nationals will open exhibition play Friday in Port St. Lucie against the New York Mets with Taylor Jordan getting the start. Jordan Zimmermann is set to start in Washington's spring home opener against Atlanta on Saturday.

Strasburg is listed for a bullpen session Saturday.

Asked about his schedule, Stras-

burg replied: "I'm not really sure right now ... Talk to the guys who make the schedule."

Strasburg should make his first appearance of the spring next week. Neither he nor the team seemed to be too concerned about when that will be.

"He is perfectly fine," Williams said. "He feels great. He's ready to go on the day that he pitches."

The 25-year-old right-hander, who went 8-9 with a 3.00 ERA last season, made clear that there are no health issues for him.

"I feel good," he said. "Ready to rock."

Strasburg threw a live batting practice session on Wednesday and looked strong. He is continuing to work on his slider this spring.

"It's good," he said. "I feel different when I throw a good one and when I throw a bad one. I got some good results. The hitters said it looked good."

**Notes:** The Nationals posted their lineup for Friday's spring opener against the Mets and none of their three starting outfielders — Bryce Harper, Jayson Werth and Denard Span — will be making the trip.

**‘He feels great. He’s ready to go on the day that he pitches.’**

**Matt Williams**  
Nationals manager  
on Strasburg



Stephen Strasburg isn't scheduled to pitch in Washington's first two exhibition games.

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP



PHOTOS BY TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Pitchers Taijuan Walker, above, and James Paxton, below, are expected to solidify the back end of Seattle's rotation.

# Seattle puts hopes in Paxton, Walker

By TYM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

PEORIA, Ariz. — When James Paxton and Taijuan Walker were included in the Seattle Mariners' major league camp last spring, it served as a reward for their performance in the minors with no real expectation that their major league debuts were imminent.

This year, the top two pitching prospects in the organization aren't just in camp to get experience throwing against a major league roster. They know the Mariners want them to win jobs coming out of spring training to solidify the back end of the rotation.

That changes the game a little bit.

"After having that time in the big leagues and feeling that I belong I come into this camp feeling like I think I can do it and I have a chance of starting the year with the club," said Paxton, a tall 25-year-old left-hander. "I feel good about where I'm at right now and I'm looking forward to getting out there and competing."

Paxton and Walker are the biggest names among a foursome of young pitchers vying for rotation spots. Erasmo Ramirez has the most experience of the young group and could end up in the rotation as well, and Brandon Maurer started last season in the rotation before being sent to the minors.

But Paxton and Walker are the focus. They have been followed and analyzed in the farm system. They both had brief stints with Seattle at the end of last season that only ramped up their future hopes. Paxton made four starts, going 3-0 with a 1.50 ERA. Walker made three starts with a 1-0 record and 3.60 ERA.

"It was great, I thought," Walker said. "Just getting in the big leagues where you want to be to the highest level you can be at, going out there and just facing big league hitters, the travel, the big league clubhouse, just seeing how it all is, just getting a taste of what



it was all like. It was definitely motivation."

There is concern that Walker is falling behind. He showed up for camp with a sore throwing shoulder and has been limited to throwing off flat ground so far. The hope is to get him throwing in the bullpen soon but he's not scheduled as one of the starters for the first week of spring training games.

"I wouldn't say I'm concerned at this particular time," manager Lloyd McClendon said. "Obviously, he's a little bit behind. I remember we were in spring training 1990 and we had three weeks to get ready and we got ready to play baseball in three weeks. So I'm not that concerned as we speak right now. I don't know what's going to happen in the next week but we'll see."

The expectations placed on Walker were amplified when McClendon said in late January he would be disappointed if Walker was not part of the rotation when the regular season began.

"I wanted to come into camp and fight for a spot because we have a lot of great pitchers fighting for those spots," Walker said. "No matter what he said I wanted to come in here fighting for a spot because nothing is ever guaranteed and no spot is given to you. You have to go out and work for it or someone is going to take it."

MLB

# Ranger nation

## Baseball universal language for Texas' international lineup

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
The Associated Press

**W**HEN Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington fills out his lineup card on opening day, he will likely write down the names of players from seven different countries, plus Puerto Rico.

Baseball is clearly universal at Texas. "When we're out there on the field, we're all from the same country. We all represent the Texas Rangers," said Elvis Andrus, the shortstop from Venezuela. "Where you come from, or your nationality, actually don't matter. When we're all together, we're family."

Yu Darvish, the ace from Japan who finished second in the AL Cy Young voting last season, has been tabbed the opening-day starter for the Rangers. His primary catcher is Geovany Soto from Puerto Rico.

The Rangers' expected starting infield includes first baseman Prince Fielder (a Californian), second baseman Jurickson Profar from Curaçao, Andrus and third baseman Adrian Beltre from the Dominican Republic. The planned outfield includes Shin-Soo Choo from South Korea, Leonys Martin from Cuba and Alex Rios, who was born in Alabama but grew up in Puerto Rico.

"I was just putting baseball players out there," Washington said. "Geez, I never thought about all the different nationalities."

There are players from different cultures and different languages — the Rangers even have a translator well-versed in both Japanese and Spanish.

But what never gets lost in translation is baseball and trying to get the Rangers to the playoffs for the fourth time in five years.

"Whoever can help our team to win ballgames, it doesn't matter what color... I don't think anybody is looking at nationality here, or colors, or anything," Beltre said. "Baseball is baseball no matter where you're from, and how you look. If you've got the talent to do your job well, you're going to be welcomed to open arms everywhere."

Over the past eight years, the Rangers have developed a strong presence in the Dominican Republic and that branched throughout Latin America. They also started scouting heavily in Japan and throughout the Pacific Rim — that is what led to their bidding big and being able to sign Darvish two years ago.

"Our mentality is we want the best players regardless where they're from," general manager Jon Daniels said. "Obviously



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY NOGA AMI-RAW/Stars and Stripes



STEPHEN HAWKINS/AP

Rangers players pose for a photo in support of friends and family members of teammates in Venezuela. Texas has put together a diverse squad for the 2014 campaign, with players hailing from seven different countries, plus Puerto Rico, likely to make up the Rangers' opening-day lineup.

it's worked out that way, where we've got a lot of international players. Some of it is because I think we're open-minded to it, some of it is because a few years ago we set out to establish a program internationally and feel that we've done well there."

The GM also points out that some of the formation of the current roster was the way players became available and the timing of such. He said the Rangers never set out to have an all-international starting lineup.

"It's unique, and I think each of these guys bring something different," he said. "I'm kind of looking forward to watching them come together."

Rios is a major league veteran acquired by the Rangers in a trade last season after Nelson Cruz was suspended 50 games. Choo, who made his major league debut in 2005, signed a free-agent deal during the winter.

Potential closer Joakim Soria was born

in Mexico, and Canadian outfielder Jim Adduci made his major league debut with Texas last year. Both were free-agent additions before last season.

"When you're putting together a team, we were totally color blind," assistant general manager Thad Levine said. "It didn't hit us between the eyes until I think we started penciling in what the 25-man roster could look like. It is remarkable to the extent that we do have diversity on the field."

Nationals in no hurry  
with Strasburg's debut

Page 62

SPORTS

Standout performances  
from the NFL combine

Page 61



iPad

9:41 AM  
COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# OBITUARIES

## 'Mid-major,' 37

BY DAVE SKRETTA  
*The Associated Press*

**R**IP, "mid-major." It was a good run. The term that for years has derisively referred to programs residing somewhere outside the major conferences of college basketball has died. It was 37 years old.

Mid-major had been on life support for nearly a decade as schools such as George Mason, VCU, Butler and Wichita State crashed the Final Four. What had previously been the bastion of blue bloods such as North Carolina, Kentucky and Duke was thrown open to schools with tiny enrollments and modest fan bases, yet enough talent to shake the college basketball establishment.

Its last breath might have come in a ragged gasp as the Shockers rose to No. 2 in the nation this week and Saint Louis elbowed Michigan State and others out of the top 10.

Several coaches had similar reactions: "It's about time," Wichita State's Gregg Marshall said.

"We travel in private planes. We sell out every game. We treat our program the same as a high major in every way," Marshall said. "Besides, who decides what a mid-major is, anyway?"

The term was born in 1977, when Jack Kvacz — then the coach of Catholic University — was asked about a nip-and-tuck game against Howard University, and he summarized it thusly:

SEE OBIT ON PAGE 60



STEPHEN HAAS/AP

Although the term "mid-major" had been in poor health for many years, the ascension of the Missouri Valley Conference's Wichita State to No. 2 in the country likely led to the derogatory label's passing.