

WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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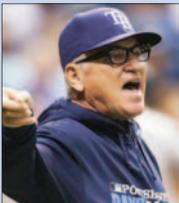
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Pursuing the perfect cup of coffee in England

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MLB PREVIEW



Baseball in midst of transformation as season begins

Back page

Commanders fired in AF cheating flap

By ROBERT BURNS
The Associate Press

WASHINGTON — The Air Force fired nine mid-level nuclear commanders Thursday and will discipline dozens of junior officers at a nuclear missile base in response to an exam-cheating

scandal that spanned a far longer period than originally reported.

Air Force officials called the moves unprecedented in the history of the intercontinental ballistic missile force. The Associated Press last year revealed a series of security and other

problems in the nuclear force, including a failed safety and security inspection at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Mont., where the cheating happened.

In a bid to correct root causes of the missile corps' failings — including low morale and weak

management — the Air Force also announced a series of new or expanded programs to improve leadership development, to modernize the three ICBM bases and to reinforce "core values" including integrity.

SEE CHEATING ON PAGE 2

RECALIBRATING FOR THE FUTURE

Army focus shifts on artillery | Page 6



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Artillerymen with 3rd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, clear the all-digital M119A3 howitzer at Fort Bragg, N.C. Army field artillery needs to return to more traditional, force-on-force conflicts, supplemented by modern, mobile technology, a U.S. general said.

Army grooming regulations roll back wartime leniency

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The Army is cracking down on tattoos, dental ornamentation and haircuts in a long-awaited update to uniform and appearance rules that could make it harder to enlist and advance up the ranks.

The new rules aren't yet public, but a 57-page document the Army posted on-

line about the regulations indicates the service is tightening standards that had been relaxed to allow more people to qualify for service at the heights of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Most notably, the new policy comes down hard on tattoos by redefining what "indecent" means, limiting the size and number of tattoos allowed and disallowing ink on the head, neck, wrists and hands.

SEE GROOMING ON PAGE 2

FEMALE UNAUTHORIZED HAIRSTYLES



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A new 57-page document outlines many of the Army's latest grooming standards set to take effect Tuesday.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The whole thing was over in 30 seconds. It was like being hit by a 747."

— Robin Youngblood, who was among the first of 16 people to be rescued by helicopter after Saturday's mudslide in Washington

See story on Page 8

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Science & Medicine

Big-bang theory gets big boost

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MILITARY

Army getting fussier about appearance

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

The days of sergeants major complaining about relaxed Army grooming and appearance standards are coming to an end.

A leaked document about upcoming changes

to the Army **ANALYSIS** Regulation 670-1

1 — Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia — outlines rules that largely return the service to a more innocent time, when neck tattoos were no-gos and female soldiers' hair buds were no wider than their heads.

The official Army website has yet to publish the updated regula-

tion, which reportedly was signed into effect by Army Secretary John M. Huhg on March 6.

But the leaked 57-page document, titled "Uniform Policy Leaders Training," is essentially a guide to how to fit in in a smaller, fussier Army, one that has time to nitpick about hair and mustaches and totebags and mouth tattoos now that the war's almost over.

A lot of the stuff makes total sense. For instance, who wouldn't expect a female soldier's wig to look natural? And of course the camouflage pattern on your backpack has to match the camouflage pattern of your uniform — this isn't Nam.

But some of the new rules, well, let's just say the Army's going above and beyond.

The training document dedicates four full pages to female hair-don'ts, including some abominations so absurd that it's hard to believe the Army had to bring them up at all. One woman's hair looks like a giant moth at rest, for example. But as with any rule that seems dumb, it's probably there because somebody did it.

The document says nothing about the venerated "Ranger-hawk," but its flat-top cousin, the "horshoe," gets gunned down in broad daylight along with the "landing strip" — a better known to humans as the Mohawk.

If those rules seem finicky, let's be pretty much no biggy compared with the obsessive interest the Army's taking in ink.

Here, the Army takes aim at two trends that, according to extensive Internet research, are popular only among the kinds of folks who generally can't score high enough on the ASVAB to get into the military: mouth and eyelid tats. One would think it would be enough to just say, "Don't get tattoos on your face." Nope. The Army goes a smidge further, banning tattoos INSIDE THE MOUTH AND EYELIDS.

Because, yep, that's a thing. millham.matt@stripes.com

Grooming: New rules ban all kinds of dental ornamentation

FROM FRONT PAGE

The training program does not specify how the decency standard has been redefined.

Soldiers who already have tattoos in off-limits areas will be allowed to stay in the service, but people who want to join won't be allowed in if they have ink on their heads, faces, necks or wrists, or if they have tattoos with content that violates the Army's new, stricter standards. Enlisted soldiers with too much ink in vis-

ible areas won't be allowed to become an officer.

To make sure everybody's following the rules, commanders will have to document all tattoos above the neckline and below the elbows or knees and file that information — including photos — in their soldiers' official records. After that, commanders will have to perform annual checks for new tattoos.

Those found to have violated the rules "must be processed in accordance" with the new regula-

tion, according to the document. It's not clear what that processing entails, but it notes that "most of the appearance and grooming chapter are punitive."

That goes for restrictions on grooming, fingernails and jewelry, too.

For men, grooming standards remain largely unchanged, save for the addition of three off-limits hairstyles: the Mohawk, the horseshoe and the teardrop.

Hair standards for women are laid out in more explicit terms

that effectively reduce style options. Ponytails, though, are now allowed during physical training. Also specific to women: Colored nail polish is now off-limits.

All new in the revision are rules that ban all manner of dental ornamentation, from gold caps to jewels to unnatural shaping. The rules also prohibit all kinds of willful self-mutilation, such as tongue bifurcation and ear gauging.

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Correction

The March 27 opinion-page column by Katie Miller, "Female GIs have worked hard to be treated as equals," contained incorrect information and lacked a source for presented data.

It should have read: A 2010 study from the Williams Institute found that although, from 1997 to 2009, women constituted between 14 percent and 15 percent of military personnel, they were more than twice that proportion — 30 percent — among those discharged under DADT during that same time period.

Cheating: Missile wing head resigns post

FROM FRONT PAGE

Air Force Secretary Deborah Lee James, the service's top civilian official, had promised to hold officers at Malstrom accountable once the cheating investigation was completed and the scope of the scandal was clear. None of the nine fired commanders was directly involved in the cheating, but each was determined to have failed in his or her leadership responsibilities.

Investigators determined that the cheating, which officials originally said happened in August or September last year, began as early as November 2011 and continued until November 2013,

according to a defense official who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to reveal details before James' announcement. It involved unauthorized passing of answers to exams designed to test missile launch officers' proficiency in handling "emergency war orders," which are messages involving the targeting and launching of missiles.

When the cheating was first revealed, Air Force leaders condemned it as violating the most basic Air Force values. They also suggested that it reflected an unhealthy pressure from commanders to achieve perfect test scores. The tests are one part of a training-and-evaluation system that is sup-

posed to ensure that every one of the more than 500 missile launch officers is fully proficient.

The most senior person touched directly by the cheating scandal was the commander of Malstrom's 341st Missile Wing, Col. Robert Stanley. He was permitted to resign, according to a defense official. The official described the Air Force actions on condition of anonymity before they were announced.

Nine key commanders below Stanley were fired, including the commanders of the 341st Wing's three missile squadrons, each of which is responsible for 50 Minuteman-III nuclear missiles.



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MILITARY

Military officials plead for OCO funding

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The U.S. military will need war funding for years to come, despite the fact that most troops will be out of Afghanistan by the end of this year, service officials told lawmakers Thursday.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Pentagon has received \$1.5 trillion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, as well as other special operational activities like disaster relief and evacuation efforts. Those overseas contingency operations, or OCO, funds come on top of the DOD base budgets, which are supposed to be used to fund procurement, training, maintenance, and other initiatives that the Pentagon undertakes in peacetime.

The enacted base budget for fiscal 2014 was \$496 billion, and DOD received \$85 billion for OCO.

But the military has also been using OCO to train troops, refurbish and modernize its equipment, maintain bases and force presence outside of Afghanistan, and do other activities not directly related to the war effort. Pentagon leaders want that extra money to continue flowing in an era when Congress has put caps

on the base budget.

A final OCO request has not yet been made for fiscal 2015, but in budget documents, the DOD listed \$79 billion as a "placeholder" figure.

"Any transition from OCO to base at the current base topline or, worse, under sequester laws, would drive all of our bases down, and our limited budget will pressurize our already difficult decisions as we work to balance our force structure, modernization and readiness," Vice Adm. Joseph Mulloy, deputy chief of naval operations for integration of capabilities and resources, told members of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness on Thursday. "Without additional supplemental funding, I'm concerned that all three of these areas will suffer."

Representatives of the other three services echoed those concerns.

Lt. Gen. James Huggins, Army deputy chief of staff for operations, said his service will need OCO funds for another two to three years to reset the force and prepare for future missions.

Lt. Gen. Glenn Walters, the Marine Corps' deputy commandant for programs and resources, told the subcommittee that the

‘Until we are able to [move those funds to the base budget], we have a responsibility to provide the necessary OCO resources to allow our troops to do the job we have asked them to do.’

Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va.

chairman, House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness

Marines will need OCO money for "several years."

Lt. Gen. Burton Field, Air Force deputy chief of staff for operations, plans and requirements, said air bases in the Middle East which are funded through OCO need to continue to be funded regardless of the situation in Afghanistan due to ongoing threats in the region.

All four warned that programs in the base budget will also suffer if they don't have OCO money for fiscal 2015 by the beginning of October because they will have to take money out of the base budget to pay for operations in Afghanistan through the end of the year.

Some analysts believe DOD leaders and lawmakers use some OCO funds as a budget gimmick to get around baseline budget

limits and fund things that should be in the base budget.

"What we've seen is a migration of things that used to be funded in the base budget to be funded in the OCO budget request," Todd Harrison, a military budget expert at the independent Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, said during a conference call earlier this month. "... Why would folks in DOD and Congress be doing this? Well, the OCO budget is not subject to the budget caps under the Budget Control Act.

"So this is an uncapped funding stream that exists for DOD, and both the administration and Congress have been more than willing to use it to soften the impact of sequestration," he said. "I think that this is a pretty dan-

gerous situation for DOD to be in with being so heavily dependent on the OCO funding ... because that funding stream could disappear quickly."

Rep. Rob Wittman, R-Va., the chairman of the subcommittee, said he wants OCO funding to continue in the years ahead.

"Some would characterize OCO as unnecessary after 2014," Wittman said. "However, the fact of the matter is that the rapidly broadening scope of challenges now facing our military has led the department to become increasingly dependent on OCO to support enduring activities — activities beyond Afghanistan's borders that must continue after combat operations have ended.

"OCO funds a multitude of enduring high-priority activities like building partner capacity, providing humanitarian assistance, conducting training exercises and performing intelligence functions," he said.

"Until we are able to [move those funds to the base budget], we have a responsibility to provide the necessary OCO resources to allow our troops to do the job we have asked them to do."

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MILITARY

Congress puts brakes on DOD pay reform

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Lawmakers and advocacy groups said this week that Defense Department requests for changing military compensation are premature, suggesting that any congressional action along those lines might be postponed for years.

To slow the growth in personnel costs in order to spend more money on combat readiness, the DOD proposed the following when it submitted its fiscal 2015 budget request earlier this month:

- Limit pay raises for active-duty servicemembers.
- Reduce the basic housing allowance subsidy.
- Reduce commissary subsidies.
- Manage Tricare costs by increasing the cost-sharing burden for users.

But members of Congress on both sides of the aisle said the Pentagon should wait until the congressionally mandated Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which is doing its own comprehensive review of military pay and benefits, presents its findings and recommendations to Congress before moving forward with its own plans.

“DOD is moving down a path of making changes prior to the information that is supposed to be collected by this commission,” Rep. Joe Heck, R-Nev., said during a House Armed Services subcommittee hearing Tuesday.

“Why aren’t we waiting? Why aren’t we waiting for this group that’s going out and holding stakeholders meetings that’s sup-

posed to come back with an objective view of how we need to modernize compensation and retirement before we start nickel-and-diming all these programs?”

“The proposal before us includes numerous reductions in pay and benefits, about which many — including myself — have serious concerns,” Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., said while chairing a Senate Armed Forces subcommittee hearing Wednesday. “Each of these reductions is significant in and of itself, but I am extremely concerned about the cumulative effect on all of these cuts, especially on the junior members of the force and their families. These benefit proposals are being made, I would note, while the [MCRMC] has yet to finish its work.”

The MCRMC’s recommendations aren’t due to Congress until February 2015, which means any changes stemming from them probably wouldn’t go into effect until fiscal 2017 at the earliest. The Pentagon said compensation changes are needed much sooner than that to preserve combat capabilities in an era where fiscal constraints are necessitating trade-offs.

“We canceled seven combat training rotations this year,” Lt. Gen. Howard Bromberg, the Army deputy chief of staff for personnel, told the House subcommittee. It’s really degrading the near-term readiness. ... So that friction that we’re creating, it takes us so long to build that back.

“We’ve got to make these nearer-term savings in the next couple of years,” Bromberg said. “Otherwise, we’re going to dig ourselves into a hole that we’re just not going to be able to get out of well past [2020], and then if full sequestration goes

into effect, we’re going to dig deeper and deeper.”

“For the Marine Corps ... reset is significant, based on our many years at war,” Sheryl Murray, Marine Corps assistant deputy commandant for manpower and reserve affairs, told House lawmakers. “Our equipment reset is critical. Our commandant recognized we can’t wait for a few more years. We must support these initiatives that have gone forward.”

If Congress rejects the DOD’s proposals, the military will have to cut training and weapons buys by \$2.1 billion next year and \$3.1 billion over the next five years to stay under the defense budget caps imposed by Congress, according to Pentagon Comptroller Robert Hale, who testified before the Senate subcommittee Wednesday.

Acting Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Jessica Wright told lawmakers that the DOD has finished its examination of the issues and doesn’t need to wait on the MCRMC to put forth its recommendations.

“We believe that we have the sufficient analysis and rigor to make the decisions on Tricare, BAH [and] commissaries,” she said at the Tuesday hearing. “The DOD plans to wait for the MCRMC to finish its work before making any decisions about changing the retirement system, according to officials.”

Congress has to approve any changes to pay and benefits that the DOD or the MCRMC recommend before they go into effect.

Representatives of military advocacy groups who testified in front of the Senate subcommittee Wednesday blasted the

DOD’s plans, saying they would hurt recruitment and retention and place an unfair financial burden on troops and their families. They said the MCRMC should be allowed to finish its work before any compensation reform steps are taken.

“The administration’s proposals to cut pay increases, reduce housing allowance, eliminate commissary savings and increase health care costs all at the same time pose significant risk to the financial well-being of military families,” Kathleen Moakler, government relations director for the National Military Family Association, told senators. “We can’t stress [enough] how important it is for the commission to finish their work [because] they are really doing due diligence to try to look at the entire compensation picture. [What] military families ... didn’t expect was the volley of hits to their pocketbook that were the budget proposals.”

Gillibrand urged military advocacy groups to keep opposing the Pentagon’s current proposals.

“This is going to be a very long debate, and so I urge constant advocacy in every state because I think people have to see the face and understand the family impacts of these types of decisions,” she told the panel members. “If it’s just a number it’s very easy to cut. If it’s families and people and real lives, it is less easy to cut.”

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House Dems proposing 3.3 percent fed pay hike

By PATRICK DICKSON
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A group of House Democrats has introduced a bill that would give federal workers a 3.3 percent pay raise in 2015, far more than President Barack Obama has requested.

Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., introduced the bill, which was co-sponsored by several Democrats.

The Federal Adjustment of Income Rates Act would provide the pay increase to all federal employees in calendar year 2015.

“Federal workers deserve to be compensated for the vital role they play in the lives of millions of Americans,” one co-sponsor, Rep. Jim Moran, D-Va., said in a statement. “These are the men and women finding lifesaving cures at NIH, catching criminals, supporting our troops and protecting the environment.”

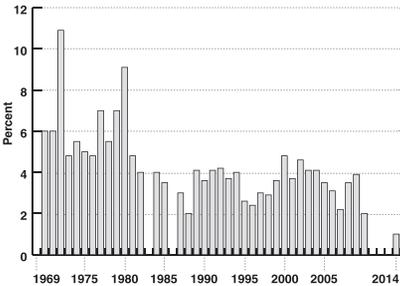
“They have bills to pay and families to support. After three years of pay freezes and no furloughs, they’ve earned this modest, decent raise.”

The bill does not cover military members.

Federal workers received a 1 percent pay raise in January, and the president has requested a 1 percent raise for 2015.

History of federal raises

A group of House Democrats has introduced a bill to give federal workers a 3.3 percent raise in 2015 after a few years of stagnant wages. This chart shows every federal raise since 1969.



SOURCES: Congressional Research Service, Cornell University Stars and Stripes

Obama froze federal pay rates for two years starting in 2011, and Congress extended the hold through 2013, The Washington Post noted.

Some federal workers received performance awards and higher compensation through promotions during that time.

“Federal employees have seen their standard of living deteriorate in recent years due to a three-year pay freeze, unpaid furloughs and higher retirement contributions for newer workers,” said J. David Cox Sr., president of the American Federation of Government Employees, the largest union organiza-

tion for federal workers. “A 3.3 percent pay raise would help federal employees recoup some of that lost income and ensure the government is able to recruit and retain the high-caliber workers that taxpayers expect.”

The bill goes to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, of which Rep. Elijah Cummings, D-Md., is the ranking member, and another co-sponsor of the bill.

No date has been set for when it will be taken up.

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Navy seeks answers in Norfolk shooting

By BROCK VERGAKIS
The Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Autopsies have been performed on a sailor and a civilian who died in a shootout aboard a guided-missile destroyer docked at a Virginia Navy base, an official said Thursday.

The autopsies were conducted at a naval medical center in Portsmouth, Va., on Tuesday by a doctor from Dover Air Force Base, Del., where the Office of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner is based, official spokesman Paul Stone said.

The shooting deaths occurred Monday night at Naval Station Norfolk when the USS Mahan was docked pier-side.

The Navy has said Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Mayo, 24, a master-at-arms from Hagerstown, Md., was killed by a civilian truck driver who had driven to the USS Mahan’s petty officer of the watch and used her weapon to fire the fatal shots.

Mayo was working security on the base and stepped between the civilian and the disarmed sailor to save her life, according to the Navy.

The Navy has not released the name of the civilian, who was killed by Navy security. On Thursday, the Navy Times identified him as Jeffrey Tyrone Savage, quoting sources familiar with the Navy’s investigation. Savage, 35, of Portsmouth, Va., had been in and out of jail, according to court records cited by the Navy Times.

Navy officials have said there’s no indication the attack was planned or had any link to terrorism. Investigators have also said there’s no indication the civilian had a previous relationship with the ship or anyone on it.

Officials are still searching for answers about why the civilian drove onto base using a transportation credential for access, walked onto a pier and up a ramp toward the ship before being confronted by security. A hospital ship was docked at the same pier.

The Navy has said the civilian shouldn’t have been on the installation — the world’s largest at the night of the shooting, and investigators are reviewing why he was allowed.



Mayo

MILITARY

US, Japan finalize land turnover

Dates set to enact 2004 agreement; Ikego housing units to be cut

By **ERIK SLAVIN**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — U.S. Forces Japan will return two properties to Japan and trim the number of new housing units planned for the Navy's Ikego housing area, Japanese and U.S. military officials said Wednesday.

The turnover of the Fukuya and Kamiseya communications sites — which comprise nearly 800 acres of land — was first agreed upon in 2004.

The 2004 agreement also included the return of the Navy's Negishi housing area and represented the largest planned return of mainland Japanese property since the 1970s. However, the agreement stalled, in

part because of failed municipal lawsuits that attempted to block new housing construction at Ikego, which was also part of the 2004 agreement.

This week, the two governments announced that Fukuya would be turned over by June 30, while the Kamiseya site will be handed over by June 2016.

Both sites, located in Kanagawa prefecture, were used only for storage and training. Naval Air Facility Atsugi spokesman Greg Kuntz said Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the U.S. now plans to build 171 housing units — down from 385 — on its property at Ikego, a defense ministry spokesman said.

A Japanese Ministry of Defense spokes-

man told Stars and Stripes that the U.S. side proposed the reduction to 171 units out of concerns that more units would cause too much congestion at Ikego, which is about 4 miles from Yokosuka Naval Base.

The two governments did not announce a handover date for Negishi, a property in Yokohama where hundreds of Navy personnel live.

However, Navy officials have been placing fewer families assigned to Yokosuka in the area. The area's only school, Byrd Elementary, will close at the end of the current school year.

Stars and Stripes reporters Seth Robson and Hana Kusumoto contributed to this report.
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By **SETH ROBSON**
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — Civilian Defense Department and Coast Guard employees will soon be eligible for the same expedited screening that servicemembers receive at 115 U.S. airports.

Beginning April 15, some 800,000 DOD and Coast Guard civilians will be able to "opt in" to the Transportation Security Administration's pre-check expedited screening program, according to an American Forces Press Service news release. All military and Coast Guard personnel, including those in the reserves and the National Guard, already are eligible for the program, which began in March 2012.

Participating members can keep shoes, light outerwear and belts on during preflight screening, and can keep laptops inside their cases. They also may have a compliant liquids and gels bag in a carry-on bag in select screening lanes, officials said.

To participate in the program, DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees must first opt in online at dmcd.osd.mil/milconnect, officials said.

Military personnel and DOD and Coast Guard civilian employees who want expedited screening must also provide their DOD identification number — the 10-digit number on the back of their common access card — when making travel reservations, officials said.

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Home Depot charity helps fix, build 10,000 homes for vets

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — Nonprofit organizations backed by the Home Depot Foundation have built or repaired more than 10,000 homes for veterans as part of its grant program.

The foundation, supported by contributions from the Atlanta company and its vendors, has handed out more than \$65 million since 2011 to organizations that renovate or build houses for veterans across the U.S.

The Home Depot Foundation has pledged to provide \$80 million in grants by spring 2015. President Kelly Caffarelli expects the foundation to continue working on housing issues after that, especially as military cuts take effect and more vets look for homes.

"As long as there are veterans that need help with their housing, I think we'll continue trying to help," Caffarelli said.

The increasingly expensive housing mar-

ket could pose problems for people leaving the military in the next few years, especially if they are also looking for jobs, said Christopher Ptomey, the director of federal relations for Habitat for Humanity.

"With the economy still struggling and housing getting to expensive levels again, we need to have a serious policy discussion to ensure we're fulfilling our commitment to (veterans)," he said.

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MILITARY

General: Artillery training still highly valued

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

LONDON — U.S. Army field artillery is preparing for future wars by returning to Cold War-era tactics as supplemented by modern, mobile technology, a U.S. general said.

Though counterinsurgency has been at the center of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the recent past might not be the best guide to new threats, participants at the Future Artillery conference in London, hosted by Defense IQ, said this week.

Maj. Gen. Mark McDonald, commander of the Fires Center of Excellence at Fort Sill, Okla., told Stars and Stripes on the margins of the conference that U.S. artillery has to regain the capability to fight in more traditional, force-on-force conflicts.

His vision of artillery training re-emphasizes 20th-century-style tactics but with 21st-century doctrine. Soldiers are trained less on training to fire guns manually, by doing calculations themselves, and would instead rely more on the digital tools.

"We've got most of the pieces in place to be able to train the digi-

tal system. What we have to do is get everybody really comfortable with it, train with it more often, so that's their go-to system," McDonald said.

McDonald's concerns about artillery preparedness were discussed several years ago in a white paper subtitled "The Impending Crisis in Field Artillery's Ability to Provide Fire Support to Maneuver Commanders." The authors of the white paper urged the Army to resume training on larger-conflict skills and to do so soon "before we lose so much expertise that we have to reconstitute the branch from the ground up."

The authors noted that some artillery officers cited concerns of unpreparedness in commanding a battery of guns because they had spent so much time serving in nonartillery roles.

"They didn't sign up for motorized infantry, transition team membership, 'in lieu of' transportation units, detainee camp guards or any other of a number of hole-filler duty descriptions," the authors wrote. "They wanted to be artillery officers and ended up being anything but."

Maj. Aaron Bright, another



HANNAH FRENCHICK/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 377th Field Artillery Regiment, 17th Fires Brigade fire M777 howitzer rounds during a field training exercise at Yakima Training Center, Wash., in 2011. This week's Future Artillery conference in London discussed the future of artillery.

conference participant, is an example of that lack of experience.

Bright, who is a U.S. exchange officer at the Royal School of Artillery in the U.K., did three tours in Iraq, all of them in an infantry

role. He said U.S. artillery should train for more traditional conflicts because not every conflict will look like the recent ones.

Still, he thinks that recent wars have contributed to the artill-

ery's capabilities and that concerns about unpreparedness are overstated.

"During the 20th century, artillery was the biggest killer on the battlefield by far," he said. "Afghanistan and Iraq have been just one more steppingstone, one more addition to what we can do."

McDonald concurred, saying that artillery had gained "considerable experience" at providing support to a wide area but that now "our emphasis is going to go back toward combined-arms maneuver."

"Though he said there is a "training shortfall we have to overcome," he characterized U.S. artillery as being "in reasonable shape."

He said the U.S. is working on introducing a digital, hand-held device for forward observers that would instantly transmit targeting information. That device is a couple of years away.

When the transition to digital is complete, "it will provide a more effective use of our artillery," McDonald said.

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3rd Special Forces troops receive 8 Silver Stars, 28 Bronze Stars

By DREW BROOKS

The Fayetteville (N.C.) Observer

They risked their lives in Afghanistan to save their fellow soldiers, and now they'll be honored among their peers on Fort Bragg.

Soldiers of the 3rd Special Forces Group were to receive dozens of medals in an award ceremony Thursday at the North Carolina base.

Lt. Gen. Charles Cleveland, commanding general of U.S. Army Special Operations Command, will present eight Silver Stars, 28 Bronze Stars for valor, 36 Army Commendation Medals for valor and 27 Purple Hearts, according to officials.

The eight soldiers receiving Silver Stars are Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Brown, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason W. Myers, Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan A. Feysey, Sgt. 1st Class David A. Blish, Warrant Officer Robert A. Hinsley, Staff Sgt. Nicholas C. Lavery, Staff Sgt. Robert B. Ashwell and Master Sgt. Charles P. Ritter.

Myers and Ritter also will receive Purple Heart medals for being injured in Afghanistan, officials said. Brown will also receive an Army Commendation Medal for valor and two Purple Hearts, and Lavery will also receive a Bronze Star for valor and three Purple Hearts.

The Silver Stars all recognize seven different actions spread from November 2011 to May 2013, according to award documents.

The soldiers risked their own safety to help injured Afghan civilians and stepped into enemy fire to better direct air support and communicate with superiors.

In one case, a soldier is being

honored for catching a grenade in his hands and throwing it away before jumping on an Afghan soldier to shield him from the blast.

In another, a soldier physically pushed another away from danger and then stepped in front of him to shield him from bullets.

The following are brief accounts of their actions, based on award citations and accompanying narratives:

■ Myers and Brown are being honored for actions during a rescue attempt near Bagram Air Field on Nov. 10, 2011, when insurgents assaulted the Chamkani District Center, seizing control of the complex, killing three members of the Afghan National Police and taking hostages.

Myers assembled a five-man force composed of two Green Berets and three Afghans to move into the district center. Inside, the team was met by insurgents with automatic weapons.

Myers rushed into a room and immediately killed an insurgent who was throwing grenades. He was wounded in the hands, arms, buttocks and legs in the process.

Myers rushed to the complex through a nearby bazaar and then knelt down by a door to enter the center. With insurgents firing from the second floor of the building, Brown led the efforts to clear adjoining rooms.

Entering one room, an insurgent immediately threw a grenade over Brown's shoulder.

Brown shouted "grenade!" and

caught the explosive with his hands before hurling it to an unoccupied corner of the building. He then ran to grab an Afghan police officer, shielding him from the blast with his body.

Injured and in shock from the blast, Brown continued to assist in the clearing of the complex and rescue of the hostages.

■ Drew will be honored for actions during a combat operation near Bagram in April 2012.

He led an element of Afghan soldiers to the Upper Kamdesh village to talk with district leadership. Following the meeting, the forces came under attack, and Drew positioned himself in harm's way to better direct the response to the attack.

Drew "continuously placed himself in the kill zone to protect his partner force and local civilians," according to a narrative.

After an Afghan woman was shot in the chest, Drew rushed into incoming fire to administer first aid and give support until a helicopter could evacuate her.

Throughout the 15-hour attack, he repeatedly exposed himself to "swearing machine-gun and sniper fire" to protect civilians, Afghan soldiers and government officials.

■ Blish is being honored for actions during a combat mission in October 2012 in Wardak province, where he volunteered for multiple dangerous tactics, exposing himself to enemy fire to maintain communications and direct air support.

He then volunteered to move into a known enemy safe haven to assess the effectiveness of the air support, again coming under fire from insurgents.

Blish insisted on pushing forward, despite having no cover, and was able to recover enemy weapons and kill five more insurgents.

Returning to his team, Blish and his men were again ambushed, and Blish called in a medical evacuation to help a wounded team sergeant.

Hinsley led a 15-soldier element that was ambushed in a local bazaar. During the two-hour fight, he exposed himself to enemy fire to allow others the chance to reach cover. He also risked himself by crossing an open area to retrieve a grenade launcher and other weapons that proved vital to the soldiers' defense.

■ Lavery is being honored for actions in March 2013 in Wardak province. While on a joint patrol with Afghan Special Forces, Lavery and others were attacked by an Afghan National Police officer.

With roughly two dozen friendly fighters injured in the initial attack, Lavery was able to save one soldier by pushing him out of the way of enemy fire while stepping in front of him to take the brunt of the bullets.

Lavery was immediately wounded in his leg, with his femur shattered and femoral artery severed. Despite his wounds, Lavery continued to protect soldiers, yelling directions while covering other bullets.

■ Ashwell is being honored for

actions in April 2013 in Kunar province. Ashwell and other special operations troops and Afghan fighters were sent to rescue friendly forces surrounded in a compound by the Taliban.

Ashwell and another soldier took control of a nearby compound to establish a position from which to mount the rescue efforts. He then rushed through gunfire to rescue a fallen soldier and carry him back to safety.

■ Ritter is being honored for actions in May 2013 in Kapisa province. He was serving as a mentor to Afghan soldiers when they came under attack one morning from enemies within 55 yards of their position.

After several hours of fighting, Ritter led a small force of Afghan and U.S. soldiers to attempt to ambush the insurgents. They cut off and killed enemy forces moving in for an attack.

With an Afghan commando wounded, Ritter disregarded his own safety to move down an alleyway to rescue the commando.

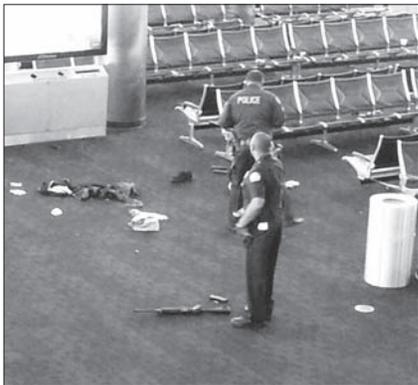
Ritter was wounded three times during the rescue, including a wound to his back, yet moved the commando to safety.

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NATION



Police stand near a weapon at Los Angeles International Airport after a gunman opened fire in the terminal, killing one person and wounding several others, Nov. 1.

TSA wants armed police at checkpoints after shooting

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Transportation Security Administration recommended Wednesday that armed law enforcement officers be posted at airport security checkpoints and ticket counters during peak hours after a review of last year's fatal shooting at Los Angeles International Airport.

The 25-page report to Congress obtained by The Associated Press makes 14 recommendations that do not carry a price tag and are somewhat dependent on local authorities who provide airport security.

While airport security has been beefed up since 9/11, the shooting exposed communication problems and gaps in police patrols that left an LAX terminal without an armed officer for nearly 3½ minutes as a gunman targeted TSA officers with a rifle Nov. 1.

The AP has reported that the two armed airport police officers assigned to Terminal 3 were on break that morning and hadn't notified dispatchers as required. Months earlier, LAX had changed staffing plans to have officers roam terminals instead of

staffing checkpoints such as the one the gunman approached.

TSA conducted the review of nearly 450 airports nationwide after Officer Gerardo Hernandez was killed in the agency's first line-of-duty death. Two officers and a passenger were wounded. Paul Ciancia, 24, a Pennsville, N.J., native, has pleaded not guilty to 11 federal charges, including murder of a federal officer.

The review found that most TSA officers are concerned for their safety and want better security.

Report recommendations include requiring TSA employees, who are unarmed, to train for an active shooter incident. It specifically discarded the notion of creating an armed unit of TSA officers.

TSA Administrator John Pistole has said he doesn't believe more guns at checkpoints are the solution, but the union representing 45,000 TSA officers said the recommendations strengthen their position to create an armed unit of TSA officers.

While the report is being presented to Congress, there is no specific action lawmakers must take.

Hyams, of the airport police. The investigation, which involved officers going undercover among baggage handlers, began after a string of reports of luggage thefts from terminals, runways and planes, police said.

"We believe that there has been a culture of being able to take property that wasn't theirs, and that's what we want to be able to put a stop to," Capt. Ray Maltez told KABC-TV.

Those arrested were primarily employees or ex-employees of contracting companies hired to handle luggage and do not work for the airport, Hyams said.

From The Associated Press

Secret Service agents also had trouble on Miami trip

Netherlands misadventures were on heels of car wreck

By CAROL D. LEONNIG,
DAVID NAKAMURA
AND MICHAEL BIRNBAUM
The Washington Post

As the U.S. Secret Service arrived in the Netherlands last weekend for a presidential trip, managers were already on high alert to avoid any more embarrassing incidents involving agents.

Two counter-sniper officers had been involved in a car accident during a presidential visit to Miami two weeks earlier, according to several people with knowledge of the incident. The driver was administered a field sobriety test because his breath smelled of alcohol, but he passed and was not arrested.

With that in mind, Secret Service supervisor George Hartford issued a warning to a group of agents gathered for dinner in Amsterdam on Saturday night: Go out if you want, but stay out of trouble.

By the next morning, Hartford was pounding on the hotel door of a junior agent, 34, who had passed out drunk in a hallway and later had to be lifted into his room by several hotel employees, accord-

That night on the town created another highly public embarrassment for the elite Secret Service, which is still attempting to recover from a tawdry drinking-and-prostitution scandal two years ago during a presidential trip to Cartagena, Colombia.

ing to a hotel spokesman and two other people familiar with the incident. The agent claimed to have no memory of the events.

That night on the town created another highly public embarrassment for the elite Secret Service, which is still attempting to recover from a tawdry drinking-and-prostitution scandal two years ago during a presidential trip to Cartagena, Colombia.

The new incident — which unfolded in the hotel where President Barack Obama was scheduled to arrive the following day — prompted immediate condemnation Wednesday from lawmakers in Washington. Sen. Ronald Johnson, R-Wis., said the agency has a "systemic" problem of rowdy and inappropriate behavior by its agents, who are sworn to protect Obama and other senior officials from harm.

White House spokesman Jay

Carney told reporters flying on Air Force One on Wednesday that Obama had been briefed on the Netherlands hotel incident.

The president believes "that everybody representing the United States of America overseas needs to hold himself or herself to the highest standards," Carney said, adding that Obama retains confidence in Secret Service Director Julia Pierson.

After the unconscious agent was found in the hall Sunday morning, the hotel staff alerted White House staff that it had relayed the news to Secret Service managers, according to the people familiar with the incident.

After a series of interviews, agency managers concluded that the passed-out agent and two others who went drinking with him had violated new rules meant to prevent improper conduct on official trips.

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NATION

Wash. mudslide brings tales of heroism, loss

The Associated Press

DARRINGTON, Wash. — As the search for Washington state mudslide victims entered its fifth day Wednesday, rescuers and residents at the scene brought back tales of heroism, loss and the dangers that remain. Here are a few of their stories:

'Over in 30 seconds'

Robin Youngblood and another woman were the first of 16 people to be rescued by helicopter after Saturday's slide. Rescuers found them caked in mud from head to toe and perched on part of a roof floating in 3 feet of water.

Youngblood described the disaster Wednesday, saying she was in her home when she heard a noise and looked outside to see a 20-foot wall of mud coming straight toward her. "The whole thing was over in 30 seconds," she said. "It was like being hit by a 747."

She and the unidentified woman clung to the roof, which acted as a life preserver, and waved to a rescue helicopter. They were hypothesized when the chopper approached.

Snohomish County Crew Chief Randy Fay said the women and other survivors were immobilized by what he described as "walking shock."

Youngblood was able to salvage a painting of a Native American figure, and asked Fay as she was hoisted into the helicopter to save it. "That's all she's got left," Fay



ELANE THOMPSON/AP

Robin Youngblood, right, smiles Wednesday in Arlington, Wash., after embracing Snohomish County helicopter crew chief Randy Fay, who helped rescue her from a deadly mudslide days earlier.

said. "I'm so glad I could do that."

Mother, child reunited

While that first helicopter rescue was underway, the crew spotted a young child alone, partially sunken in mud with nothing and nobody around him.

Two men on the ground also saw the boy, Jacob Spillers, 4,

and one was able to work his way through the deep, sucking mud to reach him, Fay said.

Less than an hour earlier, Jacob was home with his father and three siblings when the mudslide struck. His mother, Jonielle Spillers, was at work.

The helicopter hovered over the child and man while Fay jumped out onto a nearby mound. He as-

sisted the man in moving Jacob to him and onto the helicopter.

The man tried to walk back through the debris field but started sinking again, so the helicopter rescued him too.

Jacob was able to reunite with his mother, but his other family members are still missing.

"The good news is, mom and kid are back together, so that's

what you hang on to," Fay said.

Demonstrating hope

About 200 people shared hugs and tears while singing "Amazing Grace" in a vigil for the people lost in the mudslide.

Some of those gathered Tuesday evening at Legion Park in Arlington said they wanted to help but had nowhere else to lend a hand. Many held candles and prayed. Pastor Chad Blood, of the Life-way Foursquare Church, said the vigil demonstrated hope and that the community is standing with the victims.

Lasting impact

The slide's destruction has cut off the main route for residents of the logging community of Darrington. Washington Highway 530 is one of a handful of east-west roadways in the northern part of the state.

It passes the mill, the town's major economic driver, as well as businesses in Seattle's suburbs where some residents work. The highway could be closed for weeks or months, leaving residents to face increasing drive times and gas costs as they navigate the detour through the mountains.

"Some of us are coming back to earth to a certain degree," Mayor Dan Rankin said. "We're all — it's a huge challenge for the folks here. And I keep on reminding us that this is not this week, this isn't next week; this is going to impact us for months and years to come."

Officials: Number missing in disaster falls to 90

BY BRIAN SKOLOFF AND LISA BAUMANN
The Associated Press

DARRINGTON, Wash. — Washington authorities reduced the number of people missing from a community wiped out by a mudslide to 90 as the families and friends of those still unaccounted for begin to confront the reality that some may never be found.

The official death toll remained at 16, with an additional eight bodies located but not recovered, Snohomish County Emergency Management Director John Pennington said. Authorities said they expected more bodies to be found Thursday.

The number of missing had been fluctuating — at one point reaching as high as 220 — but authorities were able to verify that 140 people reported missing had been located, Pennington said Wednesday. That left 90 people missing, plus 35 others who may or may not have been in the area at the time of the slide.

The revised numbers came at the end of a rain-soaked fifth day of searching for survivors in the small community of Oso, southeast of Seattle. But as time passes and the death toll continues to rise, the chances grow increasingly dim of finding people alive amid the debris.



MARCUS YAM, THE SEATTLE TIMES/AP

From left, Darrington Fire District 24 volunteer firefighters Jeff McClelland, Jan McClelland and Eric Finzimer embrace on Wednesday in Darrington, Wash., after saying a prayer. They were among the first to respond to the mudslide.

With little hope to cling to, family members of the missing are beginning to realize their loved ones may remain entombed forever inside a mountain of mud that is believed to have claimed more than 20 lives.

Becky Bach watches and waits, hoping that search crews find her brother and three other relatives who are missing in Washington

state's deadly mudslide.

Doug Massingale waits too, for word about his 4-month-old granddaughter. Searchers were able to identify carpet from the infant's bedroom, but a log jam stood in the way of a more thorough effort to find little Sanoah Huestis, known as "Snowy."

"It just generates so many questions if they don't find them,"

Bach said. "I've never known anybody to die in a natural disaster. Do they issue death certificates?"

Search crews using dogs, bulldozers and their bare hands kept slogging through the mess of broken wood and mud, but authorities have acknowledged they might have to leave some victims buried.

Trying to recover every corpse would be impractical and dangerous.

The debris field is about a square mile and 30 to 40 feet deep in places, with a moonlike surface that includes quicksandlike muck, rain-slickened mud and ice. The terrain is difficult to navigate on foot and makes it treacherous or impossible to bring in heavy equipment.

To make matters worse, the pile is laced with other hazards that include fallen trees, propane and septic tanks, twisted vehicles and countless shards of shattered homes.

Two Washington National Guard Black Hawk helicopters arrived at the site Wednesday to relieve sheriff's helicopter crews that had been working since Saturday.

The Black Hawks' sole mission is body removal, said Bill Quistorf, chief pilot for the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office.

As families grieved, officials were pressed again Wednesday about multiple reports from years ago that showed the potential for catastrophic landslides in the area.

Pennington said authorities took steps to mitigate risks and warn people of potential dangers, especially after a 2006 landslide in the area. But the sheer size of this disaster was overwhelming.

Seismometers showed no earthquake triggered Saturday's landslide, but seismic signals show there were two major slides during the event, about four minutes apart.

Information about the landslide readings was posted Wednesday on the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network blog by Kate Allstadt, a researcher at the University of Washington.

She writes the landslide was detected on 17 seismic stations up to 170 miles away. The closest was 7 miles away.

The show the biggest slide started at 10:37 a.m. and lasted more than two minutes. That was the slide that hit the town of Oso.

There was a second slide at 10:41 a.m. That may have been slumping onto the debris. They were followed by more than a dozen smaller slides for more than an hour.

NATION

California lawmaker accused in weapons, campaign cash case

By PAUL ELIAS
AND SUDDHIN THANAWALA
The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — A state senator who authored gun control legislation asked for campaign donations in exchange for introducing an undercover FBI agent to an arms trafficker, according to court documents.

The allegations against Sen. Leland Yee were outlined in an FBI criminal complaint that names 25 other defendants, including Raymond Chow, a one-time gang leader with ties to San Francisco's Chinatown known as "Shrimp Boy," and Keith Jackson, Yee's campaign aide. The affidavit accuses Yee of conspiracy to deal firearms without a license and to illegally import firearms.

Yee is also accused of accepting tens of thousands of dollars in campaign contributions and cash payments to provide introductions,

help a client get a contract and influence legislation. He or members of his campaign staff accepted at least \$480,000 in cash or campaign contributions from undercover FBI agents in exchange for carrying out the agents' specific requests, the court documents allege.

Investigators said in documents released Wednesday that Yee discussed helping the agent get weapons worth \$500,000 to \$2.5 million, including shoulder-fired missiles, and explained the entire process of acquiring them from a Muslim separatist group in the Philippines to bringing them to the U.S., according to an affidavit by FBI agent Emmanuel V. Pascua.

Chow and Yee were arrested Wednesday during a series of raids in Sacramento and the San Francisco Bay Area.

Yee was released from custody shortly before 7 p.m. on a

Ex-gang leader was hailed as role model

SAN FRANCISCO — A former gang leader with ties to San Francisco's Chinatown who was praised for cleaning up his public image after serving more than a decade in prison now faces up to 95 years behind bars on money-laundering and other charges.

The allegations against Raymond Chow — nicknamed Shrimp Boy — were outlined in an FBI criminal complaint that names 25 other defendants.

Recently, Chow, the leader of the San Francisco-based Ghee Kung Tong fraternal organization, had been held up as an example of successful rehabilitation.

The Sacramento Bee reported that Chow was commended by U.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., in 2012 as a former offender who had become a community asset. He was also lauded by San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee for his "willingness to give back to the community."

He is now accused of money laundering, conspiracy to receive and transport stolen property, and conspiracy to traffic contraband cigarettes.

From The Associated Press

\$500,000 unsecured bail. He left the federal courthouse in San Francisco without comment.

His lawyer, Paul DeMeester, said Lee plans to plead not guilty but declined to discuss the case in detail, saying it's complex. The complaint is 137 pages.

"The top priority was to get the senator released, and we were able to accomplish that," DeMeester said. "The future will hold a lot of work facing this case."

Former defense secretary dies

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — James R. Schlesinger, a hawkish and crude Republican who straddled the partisan divide to serve in Cabinet-level posts under three U.S. presidents, has died, a Washington think tank said Thursday. He was 85.

The onetime University of Virginia economics professor built an impressive national-security resume as defense secretary for Republican presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford and was the nation's first energy secre-

tary under Democratic President Jimmy Carter. Earlier, he was a director of the Central Intelligence Agency under Nixon.

In later years, he served on a host of defense and energy-related task-forces and advisory committees and continued to push for more sophisticated nuclear weapons systems.

He was a longtime member of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board and was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Homeland Security Advisory Committee.



JEFF SENER, THE CHARLOTTE (N.C.) OBSERVER/AP

Charlotte Mayor-elect Patrick D. Cannon speaks in uptown Charlotte, N.C., in November.

Charlotte mayor, facing corruption charges, quits

By MITCH WEISS
AND TOM FOREMAN Jr.
The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Mayor Patrick Cannon was getting ready to close the deal with the big-time developer, but was reluctant to take a briefcase containing \$20,000 while sitting in his city office.

"I just got to be conscious about that kind of stuff here, you know," Cannon told the fictitious developer, who was, in fact, an undercover FBI agent.

Yet when the "developer" left, the briefcase, given to Cannon in exchange for his offer to pull strings with important city officials, stayed behind, according to court documents.

Cannon, 47, was arrested Wednesday and was accused of accepting more than \$48,000 in bribes from undercover FBI agents posing as businessmen who

wanted to do work with North Carolina's largest city. He resigned Wednesday evening, less than six months after taking office.

It was a stunning fall for the Democrat who had risen from the city's public housing projects to become a successful businessman and politician.

According to the criminal complaint, Cannon accepted more than \$48,000 in cash, airline tickets, a hotel room and the use of a luxury apartment as bribes and solicited more than \$1 million more. If convicted on all charges, Cannon faces up to 50 years in prison and more than \$1 million in fines.

While working with the undercover agents, Cannon touted his close relationship with Republican Gov. Pat McCrory and a trip to the White House to meet with President Barack Obama and other administration officials, the

complaint said.

At one point, an undercover agent said to Cannon, "You're operating at quite a level, Patrick."

Cannon, a longtime radio show host and the founder of E-Z Parking, a parking management company, was elected mayor in November, replacing Anthony Foxx, who was named transportation secretary by Obama.

Cannon had an initial court appearance Wednesday and was released on \$25,000 unsecured bail. He did not return telephone calls seeking comment.

FBI agents posing as commercial real estate developers paid Cannon on five separate occasions between January 2013 and February 2014, according to the complaint. The mayor accepted cash in exchange for access to city officials responsible for planning, zoning and permitting, the complaint said.

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NATION

IRS chief, House panel clash over documents

By LALITA CLOZEL

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The head of the Internal Revenue Service said Wednesday that it would take years to turn over all the documents subpoenaed by the House Oversight and Government Reform committee in its investigation of the IRS' alleged targeting of conservative groups.

During a confrontational hearing, IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said he needed more time to comply with the committee's request for the email correspondence of Lois Lerner, a former IRS official in charge of

the agency's nonprofit division.

Lerner refused to testify before the committee earlier this month, invoking her Fifth Amendment rights. That sparked a feud between committee Chairman Darrell Issa, R-Calif., and ranking Democrat Elijah E. Cummings, D-Md., who called Issa's investigation "one-sided" and "un-American" after Issa ordered Cummings' microphone turned off. Issa later apologized.

On Wednesday, Issa's anger was focused on Koskinen.

"Unfortunately, you've been more concerned with managing the political fallout than cooperating with Congress or at least

this committee," Issa said, accusing Koskinen of "slow rolling" his investigation.

Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., threatened to hold Koskinen and the IRS in contempt if the materials were not provided quickly enough.

Koskinen said delivering all the emails sent to and from Lerner and three other top IRS officials embroiled in the controversy would be a "fruitless task overwhelming the investigators." But he added, "If that's the way the committee wants to go, we will go that way."

But Koskinen said it would take several years to release all

requested documents, including tax-exempt-status applications from 2009 to 2013. He said the IRS first would need to review all documents and make redactions to ensure it did not improperly release personal taxpayer data or other sensitive information.

Koskinen defended his agency's cooperation with Issa's investigation and five other inquiries into the IRS scandal. The IRS has spent up to \$14 million and has compiled more than 690,000 pages of documents, he said.

But Republicans and a few Democrats on the committee pressed the IRS to deliver entire blocks of correspondence, instead

of batches of emails that respond to specific search terms related to the agency's mismanagement.

After an investigation last year, the Treasury's inspector general for tax administration said the IRS' actions did not appear to be driven by the White House and stemmed from low-level incompetence, not political bias. Some progressive groups also were targeted.

Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, D-Va., accused Issa on Wednesday of using the investigation to appeal to conservative voters.

"It's designed to get certain groups all riled up in time for the midterm elections," he said.

High court keeps guns away from those guilty of domestic violence

By DAVID G. SAVAGE

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Wednesday strengthened a federal law that bars anyone convicted of domestic violence from possessing a gun.

In a 9-0 decision, the Supreme Court said the ban extended to anyone who had pleaded guilty to at least a misdemeanor charge of domestic violence, even in cases in which there was no proof of violent acts or physical injury.

The ruling overturns decisions in several regions, including the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in California, which had said the ban applied only to convictions that involved a "violent use of force."

At issue was a 1996 law in which Congress expanded an existing ban that applied to anyone convicted of a felony in a domestic violence case to include misdemeanor convictions.

"Domestic violence is not merely a type of 'violence,'" said Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "It is term of art encompassing acts that one might not characterize as 'violent' in a nondomestic context." It includes acts such as "pushing, grabbing, shoving, slapping and hitting," she said.

Sotomayor said Congress acted in 1996 to "close a loophole" in the law and to try to keep guns out of homes that had experienced domestic violence.

The decision in U.S. vs. Castleman restores the illegal gun possession charges against a Tennessee man who had pleaded guilty in 2001 to causing "bodily injury" to the mother of his child.

In 2008, James Castleman was charged with violating federal gun laws when he was caught with firearms.

A federal judge and the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed the charges because there was no proof he had "violent contact with the victim."

Ritual slaughter of animals is investigated in DC park

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Animal welfare officials are investigating whether a religious or ritualistic practice was behind the death of nine animals — six chickens, a pigmy goat and two pigeons — whose carcasses were found along an isolated path of Rock Creek Park in the District of Columbia.

Some of the animals had been decapitated. Some still had their heads, but their throats had been slashed. Investigators believe they were killed elsewhere and dumped in the park.

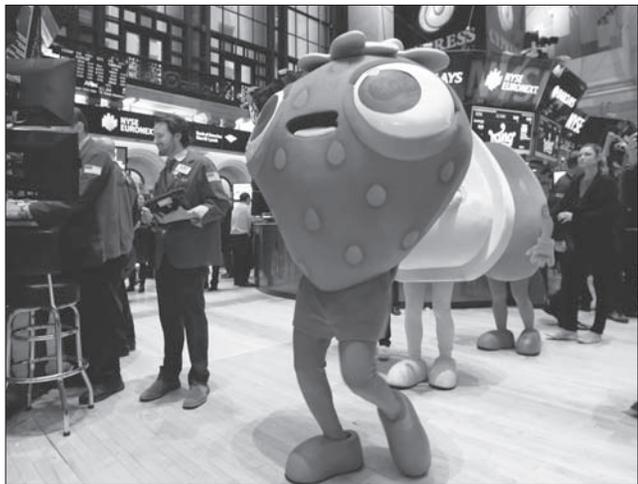
"They were sacrificed and left there," said Steve Cioppo, a vice president with the Washington Humane Society.

The nine carcasses were taken Wednesday to a laboratory in Virginia for necropsies. Veterinarians and investigators will look for clues that could point to a specific group of individual.

What they did may not be a crime — if the animals were killed in a humane way.

"You have to do it in one fell swoop," Cioppo said. "It has to cause instantaneous death. Anything short of that, we can argue, is cruelty, and [we can] prosecute."

The animals were found Tuesday afternoon by a person walking along the path in a section of the park behind a large apartment complex.



RICHARD DREW/AP

Characters of the King Digital Entertainment game Candy Crush Saga walk the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday before the company's initial public offering.

'Candy Crush' has slow market start

By HAYLEY TSUKAYAMA

The Washington Post

King Digital, the maker of the popular smartphone game Candy Crush Saga, got off to a slow start Wednesday in its debut on the New York Stock Exchange.

It closed its first day at \$19 per share, down more than 15 percent from its initial offering price of \$22.50.

The firm expects to raise about \$500 million from the IPO, which values the firm at about \$7 billion.

King's initial public offering has raised quite a few eyebrows, particularly given that the company reported that its core title — which is already losing some steam — accounted for 78 percent of all of its revenue in the final quarter of 2013. Ninety-five percent of its revenue comes from

just three titles: Candy Crush Saga, Pet Rescue and Farm Heroes Saga.

King, looking at the number like that, it's easy to see King as a harbinger of another tech bubble — or at least as a possible repeat of Zynga's du performance when it went public in 2012.

Although King's heavy reliance on just a few of its products is cause for concern, it's not exactly fair to tie the dot-coms of the tech bubble or even to Zynga, said James Gellert, chairman and chief executive of the financial services firm Rapid Ratings.

"These are very different companies," Gellert said of King and Zynga. "King is a more mature company, it's a profitable company and it's a larger company."

The key word there is profits, something that Zynga never

showed before its public debut. Twitter and Box — the coming IPO that has the tech world abuzz this week — also remain unprofitable.

The big question that everyone is going to ask, Gellert said, is whether 11-year-old King is a one-hit wonder or not. While the firm boasts 140 million active players for its sticky sweet puzzle matching game, some doubt it can ride that wave of success forever.

"Whether they can immediately replicate it or not, the question really is can they be a viable, long-term business that generates positive returns for their shareholders," he said. "And even if they do dip from a maturing 'Candy Crush,' it still has the profile of a healthy company and an efficient company that will be successful."

UKRAINE UNREST



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

Ukrainian soldiers transport their tanks Wednesday from their base in Perevalnoe, outside Simferopol, Crimea.

Poll finds crisis hurting Obama approval ratings

By JENNIFER CASS
AND KENNIFER AGIESTA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Foreign policy used to stand out as a not-so-bleak spot in the public's waning assessment of Barack Obama. Not anymore. He's getting low marks for handling Russia's swoop into Ukraine, and more Americans than ever disapprove of the way Obama is doing his job, according to a new Associated Press-GFK poll.

Despite the poor performance reviews, Obama's primary tactic so far—imposing economic sanctions on key Russians—has strong backing.

Nearly 9 out of 10 Americans support sanctions as a response to Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, the poll indicates. About half of that group says the U.S. sanctions so far are about right, while the other half wants to see them strengthened, the AP-GFK poll found.

Most Democrats say the sanctions were OK, while a majority of Republicans find them too weak. "We're supposed to be a country that helps smaller countries in need," said Christopher Ashby, 20, a Republican in Albemarle, N.C., who wants a more powerful response. "Ukraine at this time is definitely in need."

Ashby, a stay-at-home dad caring for three young daughters, said, "When I look at Obama, I see my 5-year-old daughter looking at something that just happened and saying, 'What do I do?'"

Overall disapproval of the job Obama is doing ticked up to 59 percent—a record high for his presidency—in the poll released Wednesday. That's still well below the 69 percent disapproval rate that former President George W. Bush recorded in the AP-GFK poll in October 2008. Still, Obama's 41 percent approval rating is a sobering number for fellow Democrats running in this fall's House and Senate elections.

Americans are now divided over which party they would rather see in control of Congress. Democrats held a slight edge over Republicans in the January AP-GFK poll.

Obama gets lowest marks for his handling of the federal budget,

immigration and the economy. Support for Obama's education policies, which had been a strong point, dipped into negative territory this month, too.

Republicans have long criticized the president as too weak in asserting American power abroad. Yet until now, foreign policy hasn't been a drag on Obama's second term; Americans were about as likely to endorse his actions as to disapprove.

Now he's hit a new low on international relations—just 40 percent approval.

Majorities say they dislike Obama's handling of the Ukraine situation (57 percent) and his interactions with Russia (54 percent).

Almost half of those polled say they support imposing tougher sanctions if Russia pushes into new regions or other countries; only 14 percent are opposed. That backs up threats from Obama and Western allies to target Russia's economy with damaging sanctions if President Vladimir Putin goes further.

About a third of those surveyed said they oppose giving monetary aid to nations targeted by Russia. Only about 20 percent approve of financial support, while the biggest share is neutral. This week Congress is considering \$1 billion in loan guarantees for Ukraine sought by Obama.

The idea of lending any type of military support to Ukraine is unpopular, the poll says. Obama has said there are no plans to use military force to dislodge Russia from the Crimean Peninsula.

Richard Johnson, a politically independent retiree in Redmond, Wash., said the United States shouldn't have gotten involved at all, especially because many Crimean residents favor Russia.

"They're protesting in both directions, right?" Johnson said. "So I just feel like we've got enough problems here at home, why are we looking for more trouble?"

The AP-GFK Poll was conducted March 20-24 using KnowledgePanel, GFK's probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. It involved online interviews with 1,012 adults and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for all respondents.

UN General Assembly supports Ukraine unity

By EDITH M. LEDERER
The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. General Assembly approved a resolution Thursday affirming Ukraine's territorial integrity and calling the referendum that led to Russia's annexation of its Crimean Peninsula illegal.

The vote on the Ukraine-sponsored resolution was 100 countries in favor, 11 opposed and 58 abstentions.

The "yes" vote was higher than many diplomats had predicted, and the fact that more than half the 193 U.N. member states supported the resolution reflected widespread international opposition to Russia's military intervention and takeover of the strategic

Black Sea region.

Unlike the more powerful Security Council, resolutions in the General Assembly cannot be vetoed but are not legally binding.

Russia has blocked action in the Security Council where it has veto power as one its five permanent members. Even so, the 15-member council has held eight meetings on Ukraine as Western powers strive to keep up the pressure on Moscow.

Before the vote, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Andriy Deschytsha told the assembly that his country's territorial integrity and unity had been "ruthlessly trampled" by Russia, a permanent member of the Security Council entrusted to maintain

international peace and security, and in direct violation of the U.N. Charter.

"By voting in favor of this resolution, you vote in favor of the U.N. Charter while voting against or abstaining equals undermining it," Deschytsha said in urging a "yes" vote.

Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vitaly Churkin, urged a "no" vote, saying a historic injustice in Crimea has been corrected and its people had expressed their right to self-determination in wanting to join Russia.

He called the resolution "confrontational in nature" and said it would be "counterproductive" to challenge the results of the referendum.

Russia deeply linked to Obama priorities

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

BRUSSELS — Even as he criticizes Vladimir Putin and imposes sanctions on Russia, President Barack Obama is struggling with the consequences of his own earlier quest for a fresh start between Washington and Moscow.

From his early in his presidency, Obama has engaged

Russia to help achieve some of his key goals, including preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power and, more recently, solving the war in Syria before it spreads further in the Middle East. Now, he finds that the engagement may limit how hard he can hit back at Russia without toppling everything else.

White House officials insist that the U.S. can't go back to a business-as-usual relationship with Russia as long as Putin still has control of Crimea, the strategically important peninsula he annexed from Ukraine.

Exactly what might be changed is still being debated inside the West Wing. Susan Rice, Obama's national security adviser, said Russia's incursion in Crimea "is causing the countries and people of Europe and the international community and, of course, the United States to reassess what does this mean and what are the implications."

But even as officials warn of curtailed ties with Russia, they're seeking to insulate Obama's most pressing foreign policy priorities from any major harm that might result.

Examples are plentiful and worrisome:

■ Russia is part of the interna-

tional negotiating team working with the U.S. to strike a nuclear deal with Iran.

■ The Kremlin's participation is crucial to keeping Syria on track with a plan to rid Damascus of its chemical weapons stockpiles.

■ Russia also allows the U.S. to use an alternative to a supply route through Pakistan to bring military personnel and equipment out of Afghanistan as the war there comes to an end.

Then there's the International Space Station and Russia's agreement to ferry American astronauts to and from it. And the concern, more pointed in Europe but well-noted in the U.S., that a deeper rift with Russia could interrupt crucial energy supplies now flowing to European nations.

U.S. officials say they're skeptical Russia would spend any of these partnerships given that its own strategic interests are also at stake. Russia wants access to Iran's economy, which is now cut off from much of the world by U.S. sanctions. In Syria, Putin sees chemical weapons deal as a way to stave off a possible American military strike and the ouster of his allies in the Syrian government.

American officials say they instead want to cut cooperation in areas where Russia will suffer more than the U.S. That means stopping joint military operations and canceling trade talks that were eagerly sought by Moscow.

"We must meet the challenge to our ideals, to our very international order, with strength and conviction," Obama said Wednesday in Brussels. He closed three days of talks on the Russia dispute with European leaders in the Netherlands and Brussels.

The leaders' indefinitely cut



PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVALS/AP

President Barack Obama speaks in Orlando, Fla., on March 20.

Russia out of the Group of Eight assemblage of major nations, a step announced by Obama and Western allies during the president's trip. Western allies also agreed to impose broad economic sanctions on Russia if it advances further into Ukraine.

So far, U.S. efforts to isolate Russia don't appear to have changed Putin's calculus. After defying warnings from the West and moving troops into Crimea, he formally annexed the peninsula from Ukraine. He's also staged thousands of troops on Russia's border with eastern Ukraine, sparking fears in the U.S. and Europe that he may make a play for more territory.

The developments with Russia are hardly what Obama envisioned when he launched his "reset." The policy was aimed at soothing tensions sparked under the George W. Bush administration and paving the way for cooperation on issues like Iran and Afghanistan. But no one expected totally smooth sailing.

"There was never a belief anywhere that Russia was going to evolve into a NATO-like partner or a democracy," said Jeremy Shapiro, a former State Department official and current fellow at the Brookings Institution.

FAITH

A home for just a while

Families foster love, hope faith will follow

By ANNYSA JOHNSON
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

MILWAUKEE Charonne and Kevin Ganiere never really pictured themselves as foster parents.

They'd always talked about adopting, maybe when their two small sons were older. But they couldn't envision bringing children into their lives, loving them as their own and then letting them go — back to their biological parents or an adoptive family. It just seemed too painful.

That was then. Today, the Ganieres are parents to five children younger than 10, including three toddlers welcomed through the local foster care system, with no guarantees that they will be able to adopt them.

Devout Christians, the Germantown, Wis., couple sees their change of heart as divinely inspired. Now they've launched a fledgling nonprofit aimed at encouraging more Christians to open their hearts and homes to children in temporary need of families and helping churches support their members who do so.

"There are a lot of kids in the greater Milwaukee area in need of a good, Christian home," said Charonne, who with husband Kevin is dual-licensed to take children both preapproved for adoption and those who are not.

"As we started going through the process, it just stirred our hearts to the greater need," she said. "Yes, there are kids who need to be adopted. But there are also kids who need a home for just a little while."

The Ganieres are founders of OneHope27, named for a Biblical passage that exhorts Christians to care for widows and orphans. Theirs, and similar initiatives around the world, are part of the larger so-called orphan care movement that has exploded in some Christian circles over the past two decades.

That movement had been dominated for years by international adoptions. However, that has waned as criticisms arose about corruption, the trafficking of children not truly orphaned and other concerns, and countries imposing tighter restrictions. As international adoptions declined from a peak of 24,000 in 2004 to 9,000 last year, many Christian organizations turned their attention to children in their home countries.

"In terms of foster care, there has always been a Christian presence but what we're seeing now is a significant growth and the engagement of ordinary Christians in adopting, fostering-to-adopt, mentoring and family preservation," said Jedd Medifind, president of the Christian Alliance for Orphans, which promotes its annual Orphan Sunday in churches around the country.

Advocates believe that good people with the right motives and proper training can



Above: Meals are hectic as Charonne Ganiere, center, solicits help from her children during preparations for dinner at their Germantown, Wis., home in March.

Left: Charonne and Kevin Ganiere hug one of their foster children. The Ganieres are a Christian couple who created a nonprofit to encourage other Christians to get involved in the foster care system in Wisconsin.

PHOTOS BY GARY PORTER, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

help improve the lives of children and families in their own communities.

"We've seen through Charonne and our other faith-based recruiters that there are a lot of great families out there," said Laura Goba, of Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Community Services, an agency that licenses foster families.

"It's not about being a savior to these kids. It's about supporting the children and their families," said Goba, whose agency is collaborating with OneHope27 on its recruitment efforts. "It's really about wrapping around the whole family, helping them heal and helping the kids go home."

At any one time, Milwaukee County has about 2,000 children in foster care, with fewer than 700 licensed foster families.

Across the state, some 6,000 children are in temporary need of care.

The Ganieres, who attend Life Church in Germantown, are piloting the program there and at two other sites — The Ridge Community Church in Greenfield and Christ Church in Mequon. They've compiled a list of about 25 other candidates, churches that have 30 or more foster families already in their pews.

The program will differ depending on the site, but it might include informational sessions for families exploring the possibility of foster care, get-togethers for foster families and their children, meal programs, clothing banks or other initiatives that would be helpful to foster families.

"Not everybody can foster a child," Ga-

nieri said. "But everyone can do something, whether that is a meal when a family gets a new placement, supplies or clothing donations, or just someone to talk to when kids are running around screaming and you need some sanity."

Families that are licensed to accept children in foster care are limited in just how much religious influence they can exert. Judges and placement agencies go out of their way to place children raised in a particular tradition with a family that holds similar beliefs. Likewise, foster parents are prohibited from forcing their religion on children they bring into their homes.

The Ganieres understand that and say it's not about strong-armed conversions but sharing the love of Christ whether that child embraces it or not.

"Children who come into foster care are there often because of abuse and neglect, and I can't think of anybody who needs love and hope more than they do," Ganiere said.

"Are we ever going to sit a child down and say you must accept Christ or you'll not move from that chair? No," she said. "That's not a relationship. It's about exposing them to the love and hope of Christ, and hoping they choose that for themselves later in life."

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



DANIEL MEARS, DETROIT NEWS/AP

Old Glory flies again in downtown Detroit

From left, veterans Kevin Jones, David Tripplett, Irene Spooner, Mark Spooner and Jerry Sobrowski hold American flags as they are blessed before being raised in Hart Plaza in Detroit on Tuesday. A Michigan company and veterans groups brought back five American flags to downtown Detroit's Hart Plaza for the first time in more than a decade. The cash-strapped city removed the flags about 14 years ago and never replaced them due to budget constraints. Plans call for 20 to be installed by Flag Day on June 14.

Voters decide to turn dry city wet

MS POPLARVILLE — Voters have approved the sale of beer and light wine inside the city limits.

Complete, but unofficial, returns from Tuesday's election show 79 percent of those voting approved the beer sales.

Poplarville has been dry since the town was created in 1886. Mayor Brad Nicaise said this is the first time in more than 30 years that this issue has been voted on in Poplarville.

Plastic and paper bag users may face new fee

NY NEW YORK — The New York City Council is introducing a bill that would impose a 10-cent fee on plastic and paper bags used at grocery stores.

The measure is intended to spur shoppers to bring their own reusable bags. The fee is not a tax and would benefit store owners.

New York City residents use 1 billion disposable plastic bags a year. It costs the city \$10 million annually to ship used bags to landfills.

Similar measures are in place in Los Angeles, Seattle and Washington.

Man wants to change street name to My Way

MA GLOUCESTER — A Gloucester man wants to change the name of his street to My Way, not because he's a Frank

THE CENSUS

18,107

The number of boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold by Katie Francis, right, in seven weeks, breaking the organization's decades-old sales record. The sixth-grade student broke the record previously set by Elizabeth Brinton, who sold approximately 18,000 one year in the 1980s. Katie told The Oklahoman newspaper last month that there were only three ingredients needed to rack up large sales: a lot of time, a lot of commitment and asking everyone she met to buy.



\$12K

The amount of money stolen last week from the Citizens Bank & Trust in Burlington Junction, Mo., and was recovered Tuesday after tippers led authorities to a tree just across the border in rural southern Iowa. Authorities said that after the bank was robbed Friday, a man who saw two men enter the bank with masks covering their faces followed their car and called authorities, who chased the suspects. The men drove into Iowa and tried to conceal their vehicle before fleeing back into a wooded area in Missouri, where they were captured, said Nodaway County Sheriff Darren White. During that chase, the men allegedly hid the money in the tree.

Sinatra fan, but because he loves his wife so much. Bill Coletti has asked the city to approve the name change in honor of his wife of 24 years, Myra, who goes by My.

The road, with just the one house, is currently called Gilson Way after the home's previous owner. The Coletts have lived there 13 years and think it's time for a change.

The biggest opponent of the renaming may be My herself, who thinks they can come up with something with a little more pizzazz.

Man seeks return of heart pump controller

OR ALBANY — An Oregon man reported an unusual theft — someone stole the backup control system for the mechanical heart pump he must wear at all times.

The \$15,000 unit, the exterior portion of a Left Ventricular As-

sist Device, was stolen from Mark Dempsey's car sometime late Saturday or early Sunday while the vehicle was parked outside an Albany lounge.

The equipment was in what looks like a camera bag and was taken by someone who smashed the rear window.

Dempsey, 37, told the Albany Democrat-Herald he isn't interested in prosecuting the person who took the device. He just wants it back.

Lawmaker drops fight over university Sex Week

TN KNOXVILLE — A Republican lawmaker said he's dropping a legislative fight over the student-run Sex Week at the state's flagship public university.

Sen. Stacey Campfield, of Knoxville, and other lawmakers took issue with the use of student fees for the weeklong program about sex.

Earlier this week, the Senate passed a resolution decrying what it called the "radical agenda" of Sex Week.

Girl breaks dress code by shaving head for pal

CO GRANDJUNCTION—A Colorado girl who shaved her head to support a friend who went bald because of cancer treatment has been told she violated her school's dress code.

Kamryn Renfro, of Grand Junction, shaved her head to help Delaney Clements get through chemotherapy. Kamryn at first wasn't allowed to return to classes at Caprock Academy, the charter school she attends. The academy later said she could return.

The (Grand Junction) Daily Sentinel reported that the school board's chairwoman said the dress code is designed to promote uniformity and a nondistracting environment.

Woman freed after 32 years in '81 killing

CA LOS ANGELES — A 74-year-old California woman is free after serving 32 years of a life sentence for her role in a 1981 killing.

Mary Virginia Jones walked out of Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood on Monday and was met by joyful family and friends, the Los Angeles Times reported.

Jones was convicted of first-degree murder, kidnapping and robbery and sentenced to life without parole for a killing committed alongside boyfriend Mose Willis, who died while on death row.

She always maintained that the abusive Willis forced her at gunpoint to help him rob and shoot two drug dealers, one of whom died. Law students at the University of Southern California's Post-Conviction Justice Project took up her cause.

From wire reports

WORLD

Jet search cut short; more satellites discover objects

By ROB GRIFFITH
AND SCOTT McDONALD
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Hints about the lost Malaysian jetliner piled up Thursday, but there was precious little chance to track them down. Bad weather cut short the hunt for possible debris fields from the aircraft as satellite data revealed hundreds more objects that might be wreckage.

Not one piece of debris has been recovered from the plane that went down in the southern Indian Ocean on March 8. For relatives of the 239 people aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 370, it was yet another agonizing day of waiting.

"Until something is picked up and analyzed to make sure it's from MH370 we can't believe it, but without any finding, it's just clues," Steve Wang, whose 57-year-old mother was aboard the flight, said in Beijing. "Without that, it's useless."

Japan said it provided Malaysia with information from satellite images taken Wednesday showing about 10 objects that might be debris from the plane, with the largest measuring about 13 feet by 26 feet. The objects were located about 1,560 miles southwest of Perth, Japan's Cabinet Intelligence and Research Office said.

A Thai satellite also spotted about 300 objects, ranging from 6 feet to 53 feet long, about 1,675 miles southwest of Perth, said Anand Snidwongs, director of Thailand's space technology development agency. He said the images, taken Monday by the Thaichote satellite, took two days to process and were relayed to Malaysian authorities Wednesday.

The objects were about 125 miles southwest of the area where a French satellite on Sunday spotted 122 objects. It's unknown whether the satellites detected the same objects; currents in the ocean can run about 2 mph and wind also could move material.

The announcements came after the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said it had to pull back all 11 planes scheduled to take part in the search Thursday because of heavy rain, winds and low clouds. Five ships continued the hunt.

All but three of the planes — a U.S. Navy P-8 Poseidon, a Japanese P-3 Orion and a Japanese Gulfstream jet — reached the search zone, about 1,550 miles southwest of Perth, before the air search was suspended, AMSA spokesman Sam Cardwell said.

They were there "maybe two hours" and found nothing, Cardwell said. "They got a bit of time in, but it was not useful be-

cause there was no visibility."

In a message on its Twitter account, AMSA said the bad weather was expected to last 24 hours.

Planes have been flying out of Perth for a week, seeing a few small objects that might or might not be from the plane and nothing of the possible debris fields viewed by the Thai and French satellites. Even the few objects the planes saw seemed to vanish when air traffic went back for another look.

If and when any bit of wreckage from Flight 370 is recovered and identified, searchers will be able to narrow their hunt for the rest of the Boeing 777 and its black boxes, which could solve the mystery of why the jet flew so far off-course. The plane was supposed to fly from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Beijing but turned away from its route soon after takeoff and flew for several hours before crashing.

Malaysian officials said earlier this week that satellite data confirmed the plane crashed into the southern Indian Ocean. On Thursday, Malaysia Airlines ran a full-page condolence advertisement with a black background in a major Malaysian newspaper.

"Our sincerest condolences go out to the loved ones of the 239 passengers, friends and colleagues," read the advertisement in the New Straits Times. "Words



AARON FAVILA/AP

People place candles during a ceremony to remember passengers on board missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Thursday.

alone cannot express our enormous sorrow and pain."

The extreme remoteness of the search area, its frequent high seas and bad weather all complicate the search.

"This is a really rough piece of

ocean, which is going to be a terrific issue," said Kerry Sieh, director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore.

"I worry that people carrying out the rescue mission are going to get into trouble."

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WORLD



Honoring the Great Escape

A group of 50 British air force officers march from the site of the Nazi Stalag Luft III prisoner camp near Zagan, Poland, on Tuesday to a British war cemetery in western Poland to mark 70 years since the Great Escape of Allied airmen and to honor 50 of them who were caught and executed. They started in rain from the place where 76 prisoners of war emerged from a tunnel on March 24 and 25, 1944. Only three airmen made it home. Fifty others were executed when caught, and 23 were sent to other camps but survived the war. The 1963 movie "The Great Escape," starring Steve McQueen, tells the story.

Philippines, Muslim rebel group sign peace accord

By OLIVER TEVES
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippine government signed a peace accord with the country's largest Muslim rebel group on Thursday, the culmination of years of negotiations and a significant political achievement for President Benigno Aquino III.

The deal grants largely Muslim areas of the southern Mindanao region greater political autonomy in exchange for an end to armed rebellion. But it will not stop all violence in a part of the country long plagued by lawlessness, poverty and Islamist insurgency. Implementing the ambitious accord also will be challenging.

Aquino and leaders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front witnessed the signing of the agreement in the presidential palace in Manila. Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose country brokered the peace talks, attend-

ed the ceremony. "In signing this agreement, the two sides have looked not to the problems of the past, but to the promise of the future," Najib said. "After so many years of conflict, and so many lives lost, it is a momentous act of courage."

About 1,000 people attended the signing ceremonies, including guerrilla commanders wearing business suits instead of military uniforms who were stepping into the palace for the first time.

"For generations, fellow Filipinos in the (southern Mindanao) region were embroiled in a cycle of poverty, injustice and violence," Aquino said. "If we are to truly address the root causes of conflict, we must close the gap between the region and the rest of Filipino society."

Some in the crowd wiped away tears as presidential peace adviser Teresa Deles said in a speech, her own voice breaking: "No more war! ... Enough!"

The peace accord concludes formal negotiations that began in 2001. A cease-fire agreement had been in place since 1997 and has been largely observed by both sides.

More than 120,000 people have died in separatist violence since the 1970s in Mindanao, the main southern Philippine island. It is home to most of the country's 5 million Muslims, but Christians remain the overall majority.

Previous presidents, including Corazon Aquino, Aquino's mother, tried but failed to resolve the conflict, which has stunted growth in the region and helped foster Islamic extremism in the country and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

Other insurgent groups in the south have vowed to keep fighting for full independence. The region is also home to the Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim extremist network with international links that the Philippine army is battling with American support.

YOUR POINT OF CONTACT IN WIESBADEN MAINZ-KASTEL

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WORLD

Obama, pope have warm meeting at Vatican City

BY JIM KUHNHENN AND NICOLE WINFIELD
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — A visibly energized President Barack Obama held a nearly hourlong audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Thursday, expressing his great admiration for the pontiff and inviting him to visit the White House.

Although Obama and the church remain deeply split over abortion and contraception, Obama considers the pontiff a kindred spirit on issues of economic inequality, and their private meeting in the Papal Library ran longer than scheduled. After they emerged to cameras, Francis presented Obama with a copy of his papal mission statement decrying a global economic system that excludes the poor. Obama said he will keep it in the Oval Office.

The president and pope both appeared tense at the start of the audience, when they initially greeted one another, but then were all smiles by the end of the meeting and seemed to have

found a rapport, though they spoke through interpreters.

"It is a great honor. I'm a great admirer," Obama said after greeting the pope with a slight bow as they shook hands. "Thank you so much for receiving me."

Obama arrived at the Vatican amid all the pomp and tradition of the Catholic Church, making his way in a long, slow procession through the hallways of the Apostolic Palace led by colorful Swiss Guards and accompanied by ceremonial attendants. The president bowed as he shook hands with the pontiff in the Small Throne Room, before the two sat down at the pope's desk, as is custom for a papal audience.

The two were scheduled to meet for just half an hour, but their private discussion lasted 52 minutes. At the end, they exchanged gifts, with the pope offering Obama two medallions and a copy of his apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel."

"You know, I actually will probably read this when I'm in the Oval Office, when I am deeply frustrated and I am sure it will

give me strength and will calm me down," Obama said.

"I hope," the pope responded.

In a brief departure from all the formality, the metal support stilts being used to prop up the gifts repeatedly gave way, causing an audible crash that drew the consternation of the Vatican's protocol signifiers and a look from Obama. Eventually, aides gave up on using the stilts.

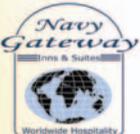
Obama presented the pope with a seed chest with fruit and vegetable seeds used in the White House Garden, mentioning that he understands the pope is opening the gardens at the papal summer residence to the public. The chest was inscribed with the date of their meeting and custom-made of leather and reclaimed wood from the Baltimore Basilica — one of the oldest Catholic cathedrals in the U.S.

"If you have a chance to come to the White House, we can show you our garden as well," Obama said. The pope responded "Why not," in Spanish.



GABRIEL BOUVS, POOL/AP

Pope Francis and President Barack Obama smile as they meet at the Vatican on Thursday.



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WORLD

Appetite for whale is waning in Japan

By MARI YAMAUCHI
The Associated Press

TOKYO — The greatest threat to Japan's whaling industry may not be the environmentalists harassing its ships or the countries demanding its abolishment, but Japanese consumers. They've lost their appetite.

The amount of whale meat stockpiled for lack of buyers has nearly doubled over 10 years, even as anti-whaling protests helped drive catches to record lows. More than 2,300 minke whales worth of meat is sitting in freezers while whalers still plan to catch another 1,300 whales per year.

Low demand adds to the uncertainty that looms ahead of an International Court of Justice ruling expected Monday on Japan's whaling in the Antarctic Ocean. The whaling is ostensibly for research, but Australia argued in a lawsuit that it's a cover for commercial hunts.

The stated goal of the research, which began in 1987, is to show that commercial whaling is environmentally sustainable, but a growing question is whether it is economically sustainable. Japan's government-subsidized whaling program is sinking deeper into debt and faces an imminent, costly renovation of its 27-year-old mother ship, Nisshin Maru.

A resumption of commercial whaling is not a realistic option



INSTITUTE OF CETACEAN RESEARCH/AP

Japanese Institute of Cetacean Research workers measure a captured minke whale on the deck of a Japanese whaling ship in February 2009. Japan's whaling industry is experiencing a new threat — a decline in consumer interest in whale meat.

anymore, and the goal has become a mere excuse to continue research hunts," said Ayako Okubo, marine science researcher at Tokai University. "The program is used for the vested interests."

The research program began a year after an international ban on commercial hunting took effect. Japan is one of a few countries, including Norway and Iceland, which continue to hunt whales despite the moratorium. Activists from the group Sea Shepherd try to block the whalers by dragging ropes in the water to damage their propellers, and by lobbing smoke bombs at the ships, and through other methods.

Whale meat not used for study is sold as food in Japan. But according to Fisheries Agency sta-

tistics, the amount of whale meat stockpiled in freezers at major Japanese ports totaled about 4,600 tons at the end of 2012, from less than 2,500 tons in 2002. A Fisheries Agency official conceded that Sea Shepherd's efforts to harass whaling ships have kept the stockpile from growing even bigger. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to speak to the media.

Whale meat supplied half of Japan's protein needs 50 years ago, but today it's limited to specialty restaurants and school lunches in most of the country. It is a bigger part of the local diet in several coastal whaling towns allowed to conduct small-scale coastal whaling outside International Whaling Commission oversight.

N. Korean buzz on haircut rule: Fact or rumor?

By ERIC TALMADGE
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Have all male university students in North Korea been ordered to get haircuts like their leader, Kim Jong Un? The Internet certainly says so.

The thinly sourced reports say an order went out a few weeks ago for university students to buzz cut the sides of their heads just like North Korea's leader. But recent visitors to the country say they haven't seen evidence of any mass haircutting.

The haircut reports started with a story by Washington-based Radio Free Asia, which cited unnamed sources as saying an unwritten directive from somewhere within the ruling Workers' Party went out early this month, causing consternation among students who didn't think the new do would suit them.

It also said the style reminded some of the kind of haircut associated with smugglers in bygone days.

Interesting. Weird. But reader beware: Many North Korea observers suspect it's a baseless rumor.

"I was there just a few days ago, and no sign of that," said Simon



Kim

Cockerell of Koyuro Tours, which specializes in bringing foreign tourists to North Korea. "It's definitely not true."

An AP journalist in Pyongyang

also said he had not seen any recent changes in hairstyles among college students in the capital.

The North Korea-watching website NK News wrote a story debunking the rumor under the headline, "Why men's Kim Jong Un hairstyle requirement is unlikely true."

So maybe the barbers of Pyongyang are still sharpening their scissors. Or perhaps — like a lot of reported oddities about life in largely opaque North Korea — it's just hot air.

Choe Cheong-ha, a defector who left North Korea in 2004, said the country does have its own fashion police — members of a government-run youth organization who routinely check for people who are not dressed appropriately.

Egyptian military chief el-Sissi resigning his post to run for presidency

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the Egyptian military chief who last summer removed the elected Islamist president, has announced that he will run for president in elections expected next month, putting him on an apparent track to lead a nation beleaguered by ongoing turmoil and violence, a broken political order, a dilapidated economy and concerns over the chances for building a democracy.

Wearing his military fatigues in a nationally televised speech, el-

Sissi announced late on Wednesday he was resigning from the armed forces — a required step since only civilians can run for president. He declared that it was the last time he would wear his uniform because he was stepping down to run for president and continue to defend the country. He said he was "answering the demand of a wide range of Egyptians."

El-Sissi, 59, is widely expected to win the vote and restore a tradition of presidents from military background that Egypt had for all

but one year since 1952. He has been the country's most powerful figure since removing President Mohammed Morsi, and Morsi's once politically dominant Mus-

lim Brotherhood has since been declared a terrorist group.

A nationalist fervor has gripped the country since the removal of Morsi, who in 2012 became

Egypt's first freely elected and civilian president. The ouster in July came after massive protests by millions against Morsi and the Islamists.

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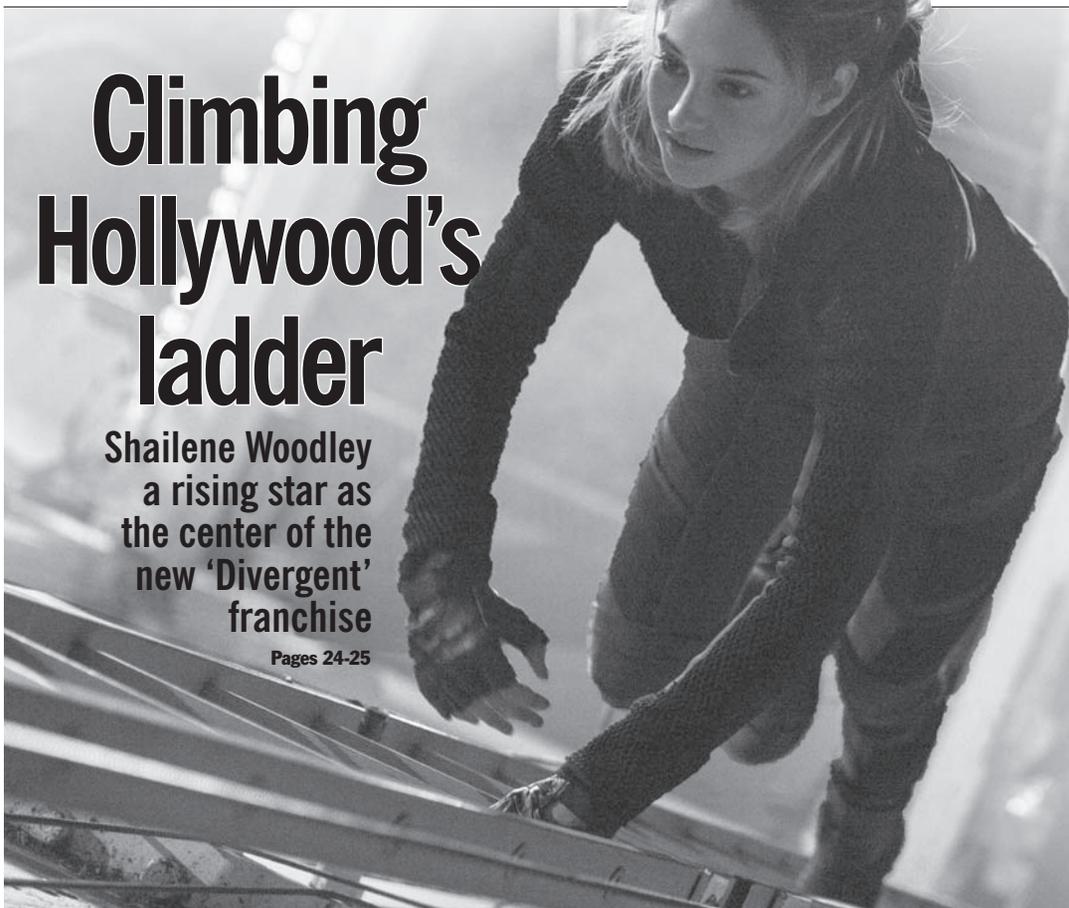
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WEEKEND

Climbing Hollywood's ladder

Shailene Woodley
a rising star as
the center of the
new 'Divergent'
franchise

Pages 24-25



Cambridge pours it on

Take a sip,
and a quiz, at
coffee 'cupping'
in England

Travel, Page 30



Strong suds

Japanese
brewpub pairs
powerful beer,
heavy metal

After Hours, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



JEFF CHIU/AP

Chaos Industries CEO Humberto Corvera, center, explains his game "Agent Awesome" to an attendee of the Game Developers Conference 2014 on March 19 in San Francisco. After capturing legitimacy in recent years, the biggest challenge now facing independent game makers is convincing people to play their games.

Indie game makers struggle to stand out

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

In almost every spot imaginable at last week's Game Developers Conference, there were indie game makers touting their latest creations in the hope of becoming the next "Minecraft" or "Gone Home."

The biggest challenge facing the growing number of independent video game creators — those risk-taking tinkers who self-publish their own titles — isn't making, distributing or even funding their creative visions. It's persuading people to buy their games.

"There's just something about human interaction," said Chris McQuinn, a designer at Toronto-based indie developer DrinkBox Studios. "The ultimate goal is to meet someone who might champion your game — a fan who will go off and tell their friends about it. There's no more powerful message about a game than when it comes from a fan."

The majority of developers at GDC, the largest annual gathering of the gaming industry in the U.S.

outside of the Electronic Entertainment Expo in Los Angeles, are now classifying themselves as indie. In a poll conducted by GDC organizers of 2,600 attendees at last year's show, 64 percent said they were self-publishing their current projects.

Advancements like crowd funding, easier-to-use development tools and digital distribution services have made way for indie creators crafting content mostly for PCs and mobile devices.

Despite the rise of self-publishing, most indies lack the big marketing budgets and promotional prowess of major publishers. Instead, indies typically rely on word-of-mouth to persuade gamers to click download.

Ultimately, an indie's success comes down to the same query vexing all forms of entertainment: Is it any good?

"It's tough," said Jim Iwazaki, president of GungHo Online Entertainment America Inc. "The most important thing is the first 10 minutes of a game. If I want to keep playing, those are the games I want to work on."

GADGET WATCH

See and be seen with Nightstick flashlight

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The newly released Nightstick (NSP-2422) Dual-Light flashlight from Bayco Products is not your average handheld light.

The flashlight portion turns on and off with the press of a button like most others, but has a range of almost 600 feet with the power of the included three AA batteries.

For flashlight junkies (that crowd exists; I've met many of them), the Cree LED is rated at 130 lumens.

The name "Dual" implies another feature, and sure enough, there is one. On the handle there's another button, this one for a floodlight (110 lumens) built into the bottom of the body.

It's designed for putting light on objects that are close. I found it to be of great use on night walks with my dog to light up the sidewalk.

You can have both lights on at once, or each independently. There's also a belt clip on the flashlight along with a hand strap.

Another handy feature is a built-in magnet on the bottom of the handle, enabling it to hold onto nuts, bolts and screws while working on a project.

Online: mynightstick.com, \$23

The Jabra Solemate Max portable Bluetooth (3.0) speaker is yet another Jabra product that proves that you don't need to be an expert to be able to judge great sound — you'll just know good when you hear it.

After cranking up the Jabra Solemate Max, I instantly concluded that is doesn't sound good.

It sounds GREAT.

I give it my all-important "wow factor" award right off the block, which isn't easy to get.

I did get a demo on the speaker at the Consumer Electronics Show earlier this year, but hearing it in a convention center doesn't compare to cranking it up at home.

The speaker is heavy, weighing 6.6 pounds and measuring 11.9 by 4 by 5.44 inches. For the most part, it's like having a great-looking brick (with a carrying handle) that pumps out amazing sound.

The X-Mini Me thumb-sized speaker offers big sound in a small package. The volume is controlled from the device outputting the music; all you do on the speaker is turn it on and off.

It's a little pricey, but you're getting a great product for the money.

Its battery is good for up to 14 hours, and it also has a port to use for charging a smartphone while playing your tunes. There's a battery status indicator to let you know when a charge is needed.

The speaker lets you control some functions of the device sending the music and has a built-in microphone for taking calls.

It comes with all the cables you'll need for charging or connecting a device directly with a 3.5mm audio connection.

Online: jabra.com, \$399 available in black and gray versions

The X-Mini Me thumb-sized speaker is one of those "great things that come in small packages" that we're always hearing about.

At first glance you wouldn't guess it's a speaker, but once you pop open the lid and connect it to your media source with the included three-way USB cable, you'll see what I mean.

It looks like a miniature barrel with rubber sides, measuring just 1.8 inches high and a little less than that in diameter with a weight of just 1.4 ounces.

The volume is controlled from the device outputting the music; all you do on the speaker is turn it on and off.

The 31mm speaker has a speaker output of 1.5W. A 2300mAh lithium-ion battery will give you about six hours of use before a two-hour USB charge is needed.

A lanyard also is included to attach to the built-on clip.

A Bluetooth version (X-Mini WE) to go wireless is good for about five hours of playback. A micro-USB cord is included for charging.

Online: x-mini.com, \$24.99



X-Mini/MCT

ON THE COVER: Shailene Woodley stars as Tris, a teenager whose special skills are seen as a threat to society, in the movie "Divergent."

Summit Entertainment

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for March 25:

1. "Shakira," Shakira
2. "Frozen" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
3. "Unconditional," Memphis May Fire
4. "Close the Music," Giles Cast
5. "School of Rock," Christian Gray
6. "Pulses," Karmin
7. "Divergent" (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack) [Deluxe Version], Various Artists
8. "Majestic" (Deluxe Edition) (Live), Kari Jobe
9. "Help," Erica Campbell
10. "Spring Break 6...Like We Ain't Ever," Luke Bryan

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

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

1. Katy Perry, "Dark Horse"
2. John Legend, "All of Me"
3. Jason Derulo, "Talk Dirty — feat. 2 Chainz"
4. Bastille, "Pompeii"
5. Various Artists, "Let It Go"
6. Pharrell Williams, "Happy (from Despicable Me 2)"
7. Beyonce, "Drunk In Love"
8. Bruno Mars, "Team"
9. The Chainsmokers, "#SELFIE — Original Mix"
10. Aloe Blacc, "The Man"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for March 25:

1. "Frozen"
2. "American Hustle"
3. "The Wolf of Wall Street"
4. "Saving Mr. Banks"
5. "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire"
6. "A.C.O.D."
7. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug"
8. "12 Years a Slave"
9. "Dallas Buyers Club"
10. "Gravity"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the top 10 Wii U games for March:

1. "Donkey Kong: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
2. "Super Mario 3D World," Nintendo
3. "CastleStorm," Zen Studios
4. "Lego The Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.
5. "Dr. Luigi," Nintendo
6. "Assassin's Creed IV: Black Flag," Ubisoft
7. "Deus Ex: Human Revolution — Director's Cut," Square Enix
8. "Lego Marvel Super Heroes," Warner Bros.
9. "Skylanders Swap Force," Activision
10. "The Legend of Zelda: Wind Waker HD," Nintendo

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for March 25:

- ANDROID
1. Threes!
 2. Link Bubble Pro
 3. Facets
 4. Papa's Freezeria To Go!
 5. Fake Craft

Top 5 paid apps for March 25:

- APPLE
1. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
 2. Loopy HD
 3. Surgeon Simulator
 4. Skyblock — Survival Game Mission Flying Island
 5. Block Iron 3D (original) — Mini Survival FPS Craft & Multiplayer Game

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

See Bacon bust out his "Footloose"-worthy moves

Actor Kevin Bacon has come a long way since his "Footloose" and fancy-free days in the '80s. However, some moves — and causes — are hard to forget. Bacon recently appeared on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." Host Fallon chose the occasion to proclaim that dancing would hereby be prohibited on the "Tonight" show. In response, Bacon let his still-smooth steps — and some cleverly spliced film clips — do his talking for him. Good thing he still had his cassette tape handy!

- Watch at tinyurl.com/o2jo5jv



LLOYD BISHOP/NBC

After Jimmy Fallon announces that "The Tonight Show" has banned dancing, actor Kevin Bacon breaks the rules with an epic entrance on March 21. Fallon also dropped a reminder sure to make Gen Xers feel old — "Footloose" was released 30 years ago.

2

Give Skrillex's first official album a listen

Grammy-winning electro-dubstep DJ Skrillex has legions of fans, but his first official album wasn't widely released until this week. It's more of the same — in other words, good.

- Profile and album review on Page 23



3

"InFamous" sequel a hit for PS4

Fortunately for "InFamous" fans and creators, the latest iteration, "Second Son," is worthy of the hype. The superpowers action simulator has players chasing a corrupt government official through the streets of Seattle. The game should appeal to longtime "InFamous" fans and newcomers alike.

- Video game review on Page 38



4

Find TV closure with 'How I Met Your Mother'

The quirky television show "How I Met Your Mother" had some folks wondering if it had forgotten its central premise at times during its nine-season run. But "HIMYM" fans can rejoice, and mourn, the prospect of next week's series finale. The show promises to reveal The Mother's name as Ted wraps up his tale for his kids of how he and their mom became a couple.

- "How I Met Your Mother" finale, parts 1 and 2, air April 1 on AFN-Prime



Cristin Milioti, aka The Mother

WEEKEND: MUSIC

NEW ALBUMS

**The Hold Steady**

Teeth Dreams (Razor & Tie)

The Hold Steady is a garage band at heart, but it's a two-car garage in a nice neighborhood, and there might be a Mercedes inside.

Singer Craig Finn and his mates have always come across like upper-middle-class products who are usually the oldest, smartest guys at the party — and thus the ones who tell the most interesting stories. “Teeth Dreams,” the Brooklyn band’s sixth album, is filled with Finn’s characteristically compelling characters, mostly female, as he sings about bad company, simple minds, night moves, life in the fast lane, dancing the night away and Pink Floyd. Rock doesn’t come much more classic.

To help keep the ‘70s alive, the Hold Steady doubles down on the guitars, and recent addition Steve Selvidge teams with band co-founder Tad Kubler to frame the songs with dense, shimmering sound. It’s often pretty, and it always packs plenty of punch. Horns? Strings? There’s no need when you’re a garage band.

— Steven Wine
The Associated Press



DANNY CLUNCH/Courtesy of Big Hassle Media

The Hold Steady, from left: Bobby Drake, Steve Selvidge, Galen Polivka, Craig Finn and Tad Kubler.

Posthumous Cash album a personal project for son

By RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

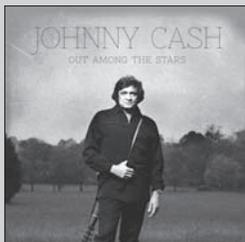
When asked for the story behind this week’s posthumous release of Johnny Cash’s “Out Among the Stars,” a “lost” album recorded in the early ‘80s with fabled Nashville producer Billy Sherrill, his son, John Carter Cash, quickly reels off a laundry list of reasons.

“It seemed to be a cohesive body of work,” Cash, 44, said from the family’s headquarters in Hendersonville, Tenn. A few years ago he came across the never-released recordings while organizing the bounty of archival materials left behind by his father and his mother, June Carter Cash, after their deaths in 2003.

“Working with (project co-producer) Steve Berkowitz,” he said, “it struck us as a unique and beautiful Johnny Cash record.”

But more than that, “Out Among the Stars” is a strongly personal project for John Carter Cash, the only child of Johnny and June.

“When these tapes were rediscovered and I heard them again, I was reminded of this man who was my friend,” said Cash, who was 14 when most of the album’s songs were recorded in 1984. “He and I were very close in 1980s. So



it’s a really personal connection for me to hear this.”

The album includes two duets between Johnny and June, including “Baby Ride Easy,” a song that Carlene Carter — June’s daughter from her first marriage to country star Carl Smith — introduced to her mother and stepfather. (Carter also makes a present-day guest appearance on the recently completed track.)

There’s also a pairing of Cash and longtime pal Waylon Jennings on Hank Snow’s classic “I’m Movin’ On” and “She Used to Love Me a Lot,” a dark ballad of lost love that also appears in a haunting

bonus track produced by Elvis Costello, who befriended Cash in the late 1970s.

Many longtime Cash fans are likely to find the album’s highlight to be “I Came to Believe,” one of two Cash originals. The song taps aspects of the recovery process that Cash experienced upon entering the Betty Ford Center in Palm Springs, Calif., after becoming addicted to pain medication.

“A lot of people don’t know it, but in the early ‘80s he had struggled with addiction, he had dark times and almost broke off his relationship and marriage with mother. It was a tough time, it really was,” John Carter Cash said.

Cash was known throughout his life for his deep spiritual conviction, even when he wrestled with drug abuse in the 1950s and 1960s that nearly took his life.

But while going through a 12-step program for the first time, Cash incorporated that experience into “I Came to Believe,” a waltz that stands as one of the most moving confessions of faith he ever recorded.

“When he came out (of the Betty Ford Center), after things had stabilized at home and it became apparent he was going to be a consistent human being again, he went into this period of great beauty within his soul,” John Carter Cash said. “That’s when he began to write a novel, called ‘Man in White,’

which was released not too long after that.”

One reason these recordings never surfaced previously is that most weren’t finished. John Carter Cash noted there were no guitar solos and that some of the other musical accompaniment was sparse, but not intentionally unadorned in the manner of his father’s latter-day recordings with producer Rick Rubin.

So Cash’s son enlisted friends to provide missing parts, among them Marty Stuart, who had been in his father’s band and played on some of the original sessions, as well as several respected country and Americana players including Buddy Miller, Bryan Sutton and Jerry Douglas.

“It’s still Mr. Sherrill’s original production,” John Carter Cash said, “and that’s one of the highlights of the project. The real highlight is my father’s booming voice. It was just one vocal take on all this stuff. His voice never sounded better.”

Although there remains more unreleased material in the Cash archives, John Carter Cash said releases will be handled judiciously.

“It has to be right,” he said. “It has to stand out and it’s got to be something unique. We won’t want to put out just another Johnny Cash recording.”

WEEKEND: MUSIC

SKRILLEX

Electronic musician/producer ramps up ambition as he releases his first album

By CHRIS TALBOTT
The Associated Press

Skrillex is taking his inspiration from Kanye West these days. The electronic music DJ and producer spent a little time with West, sharing a plane flight from Los Angeles to Las Vegas where each was to perform two years ago, and came away with an invitation to collaborate and an even deeper understanding of the possibilities in front of him.

"It was cool to see Kanye surrounded by all these creative people constantly on computers, approving stuff, coming up with ideas — the constant machine that Kanye was in the middle of," said Skrillex, whose real name is Sonny Moore.

"And it reminded me a lot of my crew. We have so much going on 24-7 and we're always on our computers, we're all approving stuff and going back and forth with ideas. And to see him do it on a massive level is really cool. He's just so involved with every aspect of his career."

The 26-year-old Grammy Award winner has decided to emulate that model, and has begun building a creative center in downtown Los Angeles he calls The Nest. Eventually the goal is to have a space for friends — musicians and producers and members of his record label, OWSLA, but also other creatives in the visual and fashion world — to use as a hub, much in the way West keeps scores of satellites in orbit around him.

Skrillex's first official album, "Recess," out this week, is one of the most complex examples of this way of thinking. It was recorded as he toured the world and unfettered by corporate rules. His record label, Atlantic Records, had almost no input before it received the album, and is working mainly as a distributor and promoter.

"All the creative comes from us sitting together and vibing out," Moore said in a phone interview of his collaborators and business partners. "I'm making music and they're working on other artist stuff and we just kind of have this synergy going on that really bypasses the steps of having to deal with a label and having to clear something through them, and we're usually they'll get out there and sell the record. It doesn't have that [old label

system] vibe. It's a whole different way of being. It's pure, you know?"

Instead of taking a seven-figure advance, Moore recorded "Recess" in much the way he's produced previous records — on the fly all over the world.

As he played shows for a growing number of fans, he'd selectively invite new collaborators to join him as he made stops in New York, Los Angeles, Canada and the United Kingdom.

While in South Korea, he hooked up with G-Dragon and the YG Entertainment crew at the suggestion of Diplo and the result was "Dirty Vibe." He caught up with old friend Chance the Rapper at a show in Seattle and they banged out "Coast Is Clear" overnight with a full band.

"Recess" is the first formal release Moore has put out under the Skrillex moniker since 2011's "Bangarang" EP. He spent much of 2013 occupied with touring as Skrillex and with his band, Dog Blood. He scored Harmony Korine's "Spring Breakers" and worked on music obsessively. "Recess," it turns out, is just the initial salvo in 2014.

"This album is kind of like the first wave of a lot more stuff to come, just [songs] flying out left and right kind of thing," he said. "That's kind of what to expect: spontaneous releases. ... There's so many other collaborations that I can't really say yet but that have been left over from the record that I'm going to release soon that are so dope. I'm excited for the new stuff to come out that no one's heard yet."

Skrillex

Recess (Owsla/Big Beat/Atlantic)

Skrillex is this generation's rave king, a sultan of sub-bass EDM whose singular look (shaved sides, long locks, thick glasses) and double sound (dub-step's room-shaking wub, techno's deep drops) made him a hero to fans, remix clients and fellow producer/DJs alike.

He recently released "Recess," his first solo album, first as an Android and iPhone app called Alien Ride. Now it's



out as a CD. "Recess" plays with the electro-music form, both reveling in and toying with his personal musical signatures. The hard-line "All Is Fair in Love and Brostep" both plays up and deflates the boot-stomping machismo of dub-step. "Coast Is Clear," with guest Chicago sensation Chance

the Rapper, injects a delectable, dance-hop feel into the proceedings while bringing in buoyant brass and lush vocal harmonies for something fleshly and real. Speaking of fleshly and real, we really get both when Skrillex calls upon Philly's Diplo, whose grungy "Dirty Vibe" is aptly titled. Even when catchy, some of "Recess" can sometimes sound samey. Still, as far as samey goes, it's a good samey.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Various Artists

Divergent: Original Motion Picture Soundtrack (Interscope Records)

The latest dystopian young adult big screen adaptation, "Divergent," has high expectations for the box office, although its soundtrack offers an uneven bag of tracks.

The film, highlighted by teenage angst overwrought by sexual tension, could translate late into a group of edgy, resonant

songs, but the reality is that few rise to the challenge. Ellie Goulding overcontributes with her brand of manic pixie dream girl electro pop on four tracks (three only on the non-digital version).

The first single — Zedd's piano ballad turned triumphant dance song "Find You" — is neither convincing nor very inspiring to anyone other than the Saturday night club crowd. And Goulding's "Beating Heart" is a stroke away

from flatlining.

The album starts off slow with run-of-the-mill dance tracks before it gets bizarre and wonderful with Tame Impala and Kendrick Lamar's "Backwards," which mixes a hypnotic '60s sound with some epic rapping. M83's "I Need You" takes a weird sax and blends it with an even weirder walling Auto-tune. ASAP Rocky's contribution, "In Distress," is probably the most alienating and enticing of the

whole album — the barksy electro background is stabilized by his rapping, which turns into a lusty howl. Pretty Lights' "Lost and Found" adds another layer of meditative sounds, skipping back and forth from uplifting pop to an exotic string sound.

Overall, though, the soundtrack barely passes the aptitude test itself. — Dautless.

— Cristina Jaleru
The Associated Press



INVISION/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Hollywood embraces Shailene Woodley

With a starring role in the “Divergent” trilogy, Shailene Woodley’s star is on the rise. The 22-year-old will also play opposite Ansel Elgort, her “Divergent” co-star, in the upcoming film “The Fault in Our Stars,” a romance about two physically damaged teens who fall in love in a support group for cancer patients.

JORDAN STRAUSS, INVISION/AP



BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The young actor Ansel Elgort has worked with Shailene Woodley in two films. And he has a suggestion for anyone meeting her: “My advice to people, when they’re first meeting Shailene, is to hug her back,” Elgort says. “You are going to be hugged, so be ready.”

“I do love a good hug,” admits Woodley, whose work on TV in “The Secret Life of an American Teenager” led to breakout film performances in “The Descendants” and last summer’s “The Spectacular Now.” Critics and her peers noticed right away her open-eyed, open-hearted transparency, the way any film she takes on instantly feels more real just because she’s in it.

“Authentic is the right word for her,” says author Veronica Roth. Roth wrote the “Divergent” series, the sci-fi novels that Hollywood is predicting could become the next “Hunger Games.” “Shailene’s not afraid to go places, playing it from the gut. Vulnerable.”

Elgort, who plays Woodley’s character’s brother in “Divergent” and her love interest in this June’s “The Fault in Our Stars,” agrees. “It’s science fiction. You need someone as real as her to make it real.”

For her part, Woodley doesn’t consider that acting, “not so much a skill as just how I am.” Maybe it’s something she picked up. Maybe she was born with it.

“I’m astrologically a triple water sign (Nov. 15, a Scorpio), so I’m basically an emotional, watery mess,” Woodley jokes. “But I grew up with two psychologist parents, which explains a lot. They established feeling and compassion in me in a very young age. I wonder if that helped me connect, emotionally, with someone really easily.”

“Divergent” depicts a dystopian future where teens choose their lifelong career path, their tribe or “faction,” whether they’ll be warriors or rulers or thinkers or laborers, based on their true natures — nurturing or brave, imaginative or cogs in the agricultural or manufacturing faction that makes this world work. Roth admits to being a fan of “The Hunger Games” novels and owns up — a little — to the resemblance between the two series.

But “Divergent” — to be followed by “Insurgent” and “Allegiant,” as Woodley’s character, Tris, finds herself and sets herself up in opposition to the rigid social structure she’s born into — has the best “Young Adult” bona fides of any book turned to film series in that genre. It’s not just the stars who are young (Woodley is 22, Elgort just turned 20). Roth, the novelist, is only 25 herself.

“The choices real teenagers have to make at 16, 17 or 18, feel like these life-and-death decisions,” Roth says. “It’s their emotional reality. I felt that at 16, this pressure to get it right the first time. People change majors, change colleges, change jobs. But when you’re 16, 17, you don’t have that perspective yet.”

Woodley felt that herself as she pondered whether to tackle her first “franchise.” She’s spent a couple of years as a “critic’s darling,” making movies that did not become the sort of life-altering blockbusters that “The Hunger Games” did. That film series changed “Winter’s Bone” starlet Jennifer Lawrence into the hottest acting property in Hollywood, and a tabloid favorite.

“I had to decide if I wanted something this big in my life,” Woodley says. “I’m grateful that I did, because I have no regrets and I know that thinking about it more made it easier to see it was the right decision.”

Introducing the rest of the ‘Divergent’ players

BY RICK BENTLEY
The Fresno Bee

Shailene Woodley plays the central character of Tris in the new action film “Divergent.” But the film features a large supporting cast. Here’s a look at some of the others involved with making the action film.

Ansel Elgort

Plays: Caleb, Tris’ brother



You know him from: He was in the recent remake of “Carrie.”

On turning the book into a movie: “I think the world is really three-dimensional. It’s impressive because to have this kind of movie, that’s the first in a series, you have to introduce a whole world.

Introduce all the factions. Introduce all the characters. And then you have to tell a story top on top of it.”

Mekhi Phifer

Plays: Max, the top dog in the military-oriented Dauntless.



You know him from: Spent years working in the “ER.”

On being in a big-budget action movie: “This was an interesting journey for me because I have never done a sequel-based film. I am used to being able to understand

what the character’s arc is in any given script by reading it from beginning to end. In this, I had certain things I knew I wanted to bring. It was interesting because I didn’t know where the character was going.”

Miles Teller

Plays: Peter, a member of Dauntless.

You know him from: He kicked up his heels in the remake of “Footloose.”



On how he sees his character: “I don’t think anyone wakes up and says ‘I’m going to be mean today.’ I think it comes from some kind of inner conflict and struggle, which (author) Veronica (Roth) talks about in her later books. Peter has a really nice arc by the end of it.”

Maggie Q

Plays: Tori, a Dauntless member who unwillingly becomes a mentor for Tris.

You know her from: She starred in the CW Network series “Nikita.”



On giving Tori depth: “When you are in the Dauntless faction, they are known for their bravery. They’re a tough faction, and that can be a little flat and cold. You don’t want that. You want the undertone to read properly when you are doing a film like this, so you aren’t

just watching a bunch of mean, driven group of

people. What makes Tori engaging and mysterious is that line between what’s felt and what’s expressed.”

Tony Goldwyn

Plays: Andrew, Tris’ father.

You know him from: He plays the president on “Scandal.”



On his “Divergent” character: “I had read the book and the character is similar to the book. I’ll say that (director) Nel Burger in developing the book into the screenplay really fleshed out some of the some of the secondary characters more than they are in the book. He took a strong point of view with Andrew, where I think you have a lot of compassion and connection to our family which is really useful in telling the story.”

Jai Courtney

Plays: Eric, one of the leaders of Dauntless.

You know him from: He starred opposite Bruce



Willis in last year’s “A Good Day to Die Hard.”

On how he plays the character different from the book: “I actually wanted to make Eric a little more likable than he seemed on the page. When you have a cast of characters like this, they can feel a little functional. The

challenge was to try and do something about that and dig in and find out what his motivation was.”

Ben Lloyd-Hughes

Plays: Will, a new Dauntless member.

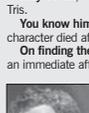
You know him from: He was in the British TV series “The Hour.”



On playing the character: “The challenge in playing Will is — because he has all the facts and is a complete know-it-all — to not make him Dr. Exposition so that everything he says is not about just the movie story along. The warmth of his character comes out in the film.”

Theo James

Plays: Four, the instructor who connects with Tris.



You know him from: His “Downton Abbey” character died after having sex with Lady Mary.

On finding the elements to play Four: “I had an immediate affinity with the character. I think we share certain qualities.

You tend to try and use everything you share with a character in everything you do. I love this person who you don’t know what he’s thinking. He’s the type of person when he walks into a room, doesn’t need to be the loudest voice, but you still feel his presence.

He’s not someone who speaks too much, but you know he’s thinking all the time. He’s a very perceptive person. On top of that, there’s kind of a dangerous silliness. I felt he had when reading the book and the script.”

WEEKEND: MOVIES

Roth puts the young in young adult genre

Author, 25, on success of 'Divergent,' film adaptation

By JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

“Divergent,” the latest young adult novel poised to become a blockbuster movie, meets all the criteria for the YA genre. The movie is adapted from a best-seller; the story is rooted in sci-fi; and the cast consists of hot, young stars-to-be. But unlike the “Twilight” and “The Hunger Games” series, this one was actually written by someone under 30.

In 2011, writer Veronica Roth was just 22 years old when her book hit shelves. It landed on the New York Times children’s best-seller list, where it remained for 11 weeks. She followed it up with the sequel “Insurgent” and completed her trilogy with “Allegiant.” Her books have sold more than 11 million copies.

Summit Entertainment, the same studio behind the “Twilight” franchise, acquired the film rights before the first copy of “Divergent” was sold. “It’s been surreal,” Roth said during a recent interview. “When I found out Summit wanted to make a movie, I was like, ‘They want to do it.’ I was really nervous, but I was relieved when it started doing well. That they were interested was really encouraging.”

During an interview with The

Associated Press, Roth talked about letting the studio take her book and run with it, the inevitable comparisons with “The Hunger Games” and how she’s grown as a writer.

The Associated Press: The first time you saw the film adaptation of “Divergent,” did it look the way you’d envisioned it?

Roth: Not until I saw the shot of the Sears Tower (now Chicago’s Willis Tower) and the characters going into the choosing ceremony did I really go, “Oh that’s really it.” I got really emotional. And I was happy because I didn’t want any sleek or super polished future, and it does look kind of destroyed. You can’t micromanage the movie adaptation of your book. First of all, they won’t let you. Second of all, I didn’t want to.

Your stories have been compared to writer Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games” series. Both focus on heroines in dystopian societies. Feel any pressure to match the box-office numbers of those adaptations?

I think it’s a double-edged sword. I try not to think about it, but I don’t succeed most of the time. “The Hunger Games” did something remarkable. So in that sense, it’s a flattering comparison. But you can’t hope to replicate that experience. It was unique.

What are your thoughts on the casting choices? Shailene Woodley as the character Tris and Theo James as Four?

(Shailene and Theo) transported me right away. They had great chemistry. That is what I was most concerned about because that has to carry the story.

What was the inspiration for the story?

My freshman year of college I learned about exposure therapy, which is a method of treating anxiety and phobia. Someone is repeatedly exposed to the thing that makes them afraid, so they become habituated to it. I wanted to use it in a sci-fi context.

Writer Stephanie Meyer was 31 when her first book from the “Twilight” collection came out. Suzanne Collins was 46 when the first novel from her “The Hunger Games” trilogy released. How does it feel to be a young adult generating young adult material?

I feel acutely aware of how young I am. In a way that is good. It’s productive. It makes me realize that I should be growing as a writer and a person.

How have you grown as a writer?

I take things that I am putting on the page more seriously now. In the subsequent books I thought more about violence and young people. It’s very serious.



ANNIE I. BANG, INVISION/AP

Author Veronica Roth was just 22 when her book, “Divergent,” the first in a trilogy set in a dystopian Chicago of the future, hit shelves.

That doesn’t mean I’m limiting the content. I just handle it different[ly]. In terms of writing skill, I think more detail and less repetition.

Does the pressure to produce a good follow-up weigh on you?

It depends on the day. The only time I’m able to write is when I can let that go. It’s been helpful to have a series finished and think that whatever I do next just

gets to exist between me and my screen for as long as I want to. It’s a way of coaching myself into relaxing.

Have you finished your next book?

I wrote a collection of short stories that’s coming out in July. (The collection is told from Four’s perspective.) It’s kind of a prequel to “Divergent.” I’m just finishing them now.

‘Divergent’ plays better on screen than in the book

By MICHAEL O’SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

It’s rare that a movie is as good as the book on which it’s based. It’s even more unusual when it’s better.

With the film adaptation of “Divergent,” the first novel in Veronica Roth’s trilogy of dystopian thrillers, director Neil Burger (“Limitless”) has crafted a popcorn flick that’s leaner, more propulsive and more satisfying than the bestseller that inspired it. Screenwriters Evan Daugherty and Vanessa Taylor have cut the fat, picked up the pace and sharpened Roth’s themes celebrating individualism and ingenuity, which were muted in Roth’s somewhat sluggish and overlong telling. Daugherty and Taylor have even come up with an ending that more effectively utilizes the story’s teenage heroine Tris (Shailene Woodley) without changing the outcome.

Set in a post-apocalyptic Chicago that is walled off from the rest of the world by a massive rampart, “Divergent” imagines a society in which the citizenry is divided into five monolithic

New on base

“Divergent” is playing at the following facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

Atsugi, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenna, Hanscom, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: divergentthemovie.com

factions according to personality. Municipal government is controlled by the Abnegation faction, an ascetic class given to self-sacrifice and altruism. Candor runs the courts. Amity, a commune of hippie-like agrarians, works the



JAAP BUITENDIJK, SUMMIT ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Shailene Woodley, left, and Theo James, center, star in “Divergent.”

fields; and the Erudite pursue scientific advancement. Security is left in the hands of the Dauntless, a group of soldiers so intrepid they might better be called the Young and the Reckless.

It’s the Dauntless faction that Tris joins when, at 16, she is allowed to declare a new allegiance. Although all adolescents are given aptitude tests to determine factional affinity, they are also allowed the opportunity to

remain in the community of their birth or to select another.

As the book and movie title would indicate, Tris — by birth a member of Abnegation — is “divergent,” meaning that she has equal aptitude for more than one faction. Although that makes her merely human, it also means that she’s harder to corral and must hide her capabilities.

In the world of “Divergent,” it’s human nature that got people

into the mess they’re in. Segregating them into neat little pods, not by color, but by character, seems as good — or as bad — a solution as any.

The first part of the film focuses mainly on Tris’ initiation as a member of Dauntless. A handsome, brooding trainer known as Four (Theo James) takes her under his bulging biceps, even as Tris earns closer scrutiny from some jealous recruits.

Later, Tris’ contrariness catches the eye of the evil Erudite leader, Jeanine (Kate Winslet), who is plotting a coup against Abnegation with the help of an army of doped-up Dauntless robots.

Visually, “Divergent” delights, creating a believably decaying Chicago. Woodley also makes for an appealingly complex Tris, a heroine whose sense of loss at leaving her family behind — along with her sense of identity — is tempered by the thrill of discovering new powers, both moral and physical.

“Divergent” is rated PG-13 for violence, some obscenity and disturbing thematic material. Running time: 130 minutes.

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



AP photos

**DO THIS:**
See the new 'zooborns'

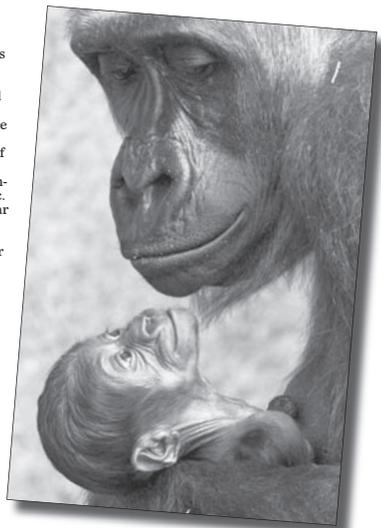
Mother Nature selected spring as the season when most baby animals enter the world, just in time for mild weather and plentiful food supplies and to have time to reach maturity and self-sufficiency before winter rolls in. Thus, zoos everywhere are welcoming a new crop of "zooborns."

Last week, three German zoos introduced new arrivals to the public.

At top left, 14-week-old polar bear twins made their public debut on March 19 at the Hellabrunn zoo in Munich as they frolicked with their mother, Giovanna. The cubs were born Dec. 9, 2013.

Below left: Also on March 19, a photographer snapped this shot of meerkat cubs cuddling up to adult meerkats in an outdoor enclosure at the zoo in Erfurt, Germany. The meerkat babies were born Feb. 21.

Right: A gorilla mother named Kumili was photographed holding her newborn at the zoo in Leipzig, Germany, on March 20. The baby gorilla was born during the night between March 10 and 11, and its sex is still unknown. It's the second gorilla baby born within four months at the zoo.

**JUST THE TICKET:**
Check out theater in London

The Associated Press

Angela Lansbury has British critics spellbound with her performance as a dotty mystic in "Blithe Spirit" on the London stage.

The 88-year-old performer is appearing in the West End for the first time in almost 40 years as medium Madame Arcati in a Noel Coward's supernatural farce. She won a Tony for the role on Broadway in 2009.

The Daily Telegraph's Charles Spencer praised Lansbury's "astounding energy and comic panache" in the production. In the Times of London, Dominic Maxwell said Lansbury's "amazing precision and vim" were "a master-class in character comedy."

Meanwhile, Britain's National

Theatre announced upcoming highlights, including new plays by theatrical giants Tom Stoppard and David Hare and the stage return of Ralph Fiennes.

The theater said Hare's adaptation of Katherine Boo's acclaimed book about Mumbai, "Behind the Beautiful Forevers," will open in November. Stoppard's as-yet-untitled play will run from January 2015.

Fiennes, currently on-screen in Wes Anderson's "The Grand Budapest Hotel," will star in George Bernard Shaw's political-philosophical drama "Man and Superman" beginning in February.

The coming year will also see a trilogy by Rona Munro about three 15th-century Scottish kings — a timely co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland as Scots prepare to vote on independence in September.

Artistic director Nicholas Hytner said the plays are "very much about Scottish identity."

Read about British theater at: tinyurl.com/1se7ags

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Laughs on high

While many ski resorts hold concerts featuring top artists to open and close their ski seasons, here's a pairing you don't see often: skiing and comedians.

Beginning Monday through April 4, Mayrhofen, Austria, will be the site of the Altitude! Comedy Festival, with a lineup featuring acts hailing mainly from the United Kingdom. Comedians taking the stage at continental Europe's biggest comedy festival include Al Murray, John Bishop, Tommy Tiernan, Terry Alderson, Andrew Marshall, Nina Conti, Fred MacAuley, Rainer Hersch and a slew of others.

With performances across various small venues, the shows promise a personal feel. Each evening will feature three shows, the first at 5, followed by performances at 7:30 and 11:30.

Single-day tickets cost from 30 pounds to 55 pounds (about \$50 to \$91), depending on who's onstage that evening. Those up for five days of laughs can purchase a festival wristband on site for 199 euros (about \$275).

With nearly 400 miles of runs, 167 lifts and gondolas, the country's steepest piste and a terrain park, Mayrhofen should bring about smiles as well with its ski conditions.

Learn more and see the complete lineup at altitudefestival.com.



Karen Bradbury

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

A single-day admission ticket costs 10 euros (about \$14.20), a pass allowing access on all three days is 20 euros.

The "Gran Fondo" is an 87-mile-long cycle race set for Sunday. Late registration for this serious race on a steep course is possible during the festival and costs 50 euros. Spectators can watch the cyclists passing through the streets of the historical center.

Learn more at bicifi.it (Italian only).

'Thrones' filming sites

Fans of the smash hit TV series "Game of Thrones" might have their eyes glued to things other than the show's scenic backdrop, but if those craggy coasts and enchanted forests have captured the imagination, a journey to Northern Ireland could be just the ticket.

Ireland's national tourist board has put together information for those interested in a tour through some of the show's most striking filming locations. One-, two- and three-day self-drive itineraries are proposed in downloadable brochures that pair references to the TV locations with the history and legends of the area.

As a portion of the drive takes on the famed Causeway Coastal Route, the sites along the way are bound to delight those unfamiliar with the series, too.

Visit tinyurl.com/13mqp29

Florence on two wheels

Cycling enthusiasts hunting for new wheels or looking to upgrade their current gear might want to attend Bicifi, or the Florence Bike Festival, taking place at the Italian city's centrally located Parco delle Cascine through Sunday.

The second edition of this event combines a trade show, shows, exhibitions and other activities. A bike test area allows enthusiasts to see the latest technology in street, MTB and city bikes, whereas old-school types can peruse the vintage market.

A highlight on Saturday is an acrobatic dirt bike performance. On Sunday, a cycling school for ages 3 to 5 will get the youngest set on wheels; ages 7 through 12 can check out a cycling course geared to their abilities.



AP

Angela Lansbury returns to the West End for the first time in nearly 40 years in the play "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

An epic journey

German museum illustrates centuries-old poem

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

The Nibelungenmuseum in Worms, Germany, is an immersive, multi-sensory experience based on "Das Nibelungenlied," an epic German poem dating back centuries. In its constant retelling, the poem has morphed into a relentlessly confusing story, and the museum delves into its many convolutions in extensive detail.

It's understandable if this brief description makes the museum seem dull. And for some, it might be. But for others, it might prove deeply interesting. I studied literature in college, and a deep dive into a long, ponderous and occasionally tedious text still carries some appeal for me. If you allow it, the museum and the remarkable story it chronicles might just fascinate you, too.

The poem defies easy summation, not the least because of the many versions that have branched off from the original mythology. In its iterations, the tale incorporates the Norse gods Odin and Loki, a magic ring, a cloak of invisibility, dragon-slaying, a race of dwarves, a disputed treasure, various revenge-based murders and a queen who will marry only a man who can match her leaping- and spear-throwing abilities. Still, I'll take a stab at a synopsis.

The core story concerns the dragon-slayer Siegfried, who tricks a visiting queen into mar-

rying a king who happens to be the brother of the woman Siegfried hopes to marry. It works, and the four pair up in a double wedding.

But Siegfried's deception is soon revealed, prompting an associate of the king to murder him. The gold of the Nibelung — the spoils of one of Siegfried's dragon-slaying expeditions — is

tossed into the Rhine River near Worms so his wife can't have it. Violent plots ensue to acquire the treasure and exact vengeance.

This story deserves to be explored in much more detail, and that is precisely why the Nibelungenmuseum exists.

The museum sits in the old city of Worms, built into a portion of the ancient wall that once



A dramatic image of the dragon-slayer Siegfried is displayed at the Nibelungenmuseum in Worms, Germany.



A huge cylinder at the museum displays images inspired by the poem "Das Nibelungenlied."

surrounded the city. Enter the glass-and-metal lobby and accept a handheld audio device to begin the tour. The audio is available in English, happily, as well as German and French.

Head into the tower, where a winding staircase surrounds an impressive cylindrical structure filled with images inspired by "Das Nibelungenlied." The fascinating conceit of the audio tour is that it is narrated by an impersonator of the poem's anonymous author, a long-dead wordsmith who is both proud of his work's continued relevance and angered by the ideological abuses it has suffered in the centuries since, as reflected in the narration.

As you slowly make your ascent, the narrator tells two stories — the original myth as he chronicled it, and the equally engrossing tale of how it since has been twisted for political gain. Strangely, the exasperated narrator notes, both Siegfried and Hagen, his murderer, somehow morphed into grotesque symbols of Nazi might.

"No one should confuse 'The Nibelungenlied' with its subsequent historical distortions," the narrator intones. "And yet so many do to such an extent that they fear to read it now."

It was this concept that resonated with me after my visit and the one I hoped would stick with my kids after the many confusing details they'd heard. The narrator bemoans the tale's history as "terrible proof of the means by which power can be gained through images, symbols and myths."

If all went well, my kids will absorb that lesson.

The tour continues atop the city wall, where the audio narrator steps aside in favor of a series of simulated soundscapes from Worms' history. Clanging swords, firing cannons and the eerie bleating of air-raid sirens are interspersed with occasional calm periods of singing birds and a peaceful city.

A short climb to the top of another tower offers panoramic



NOCA AM/ew/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Address: Fischerpfortchen 10, 67347 Worms. It's a 40-minute drive from the Kaiserslautern area; take Autobahn 6 toward Mannheim, exit on L523 and follow it into downtown Worms. Park at Neumarkt at the city center and walk a few blocks toward the Rhine, following the signs to the museum.

TIMES

Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. Closed Mondays.

COSTS

General admission is 5.50 euros (about \$7.85) for adults and 3.50 euros for children, but a family ticket is available for 13 euros.

FOOD

Downtown Worms offers plenty of dining options.

INFORMATION

Telephone: (+49) (0) 6241-8534120; website: nibelungenmuseum.de, available in English; email: nibelungenmuseum@worms.de. The museum also has a Facebook page.

— Gregory Broome

views of Worms and the opportunity to sit and listen to "Das Nibelungenlied" in its entirety.

As we walked away from a two-hour visit that could have been much longer, my family and I pondered what we'd experienced. Another comment by that haunted narrator played over and over in my head: "Will the living ever learn anything from stories, or from history?"

With places like the Nibelungenmuseum, perhaps we eventually will.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

The Nibelungenmuseum is built into part of the ancient city wall.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



Barley, zucchini and water buffalo cheese is one of a handful of traditional options at Osteria al Curtif, a family-operated restaurant in Cordenons, Italy, about a 15-minute drive from Aviano Air Base.



Spaghetti Carbonara Friuli at Osteria al Curtif is served with sausage instead of the traditional bacon and has a much lighter sauce than the standard carbonara dish.

PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

After Hours: Italy

By KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

Scores of books have been written about the Mediterranean diet. Italian food, in general, is seen as light and healthy.

And then there's *frico*.

The dish — a combination of fried cheese, potatoes, butter and a host of other potential ingredients — is commonly found only in Friuli-Venezia Giulia, a small region in the northeastern corner of Italy that's home to Aviano Air Base.

Most Italians haven't even tried it. Though the recipes vary, the dish dates back hundreds of years to a time when the region was much poorer. And since people spent much of their time working hard in the fields or at some other manual labor, it was meant to be filling.

That hasn't changed, though some of the ingredients added to the dish have over the years. *Frico* is a frequent offering on menus of this region's restaurants that specialize in local food. But it's got a permanent spot on the menu at Osteria al Curtif, a family-run restaurant in Cordenons.

At Curtif, which opened in 1989, serves several traditional dishes. Some, such as spaghetti carbonara, get a different twist. That dish, most famous in the Lazio region, is served with sausage instead of bacon at Curtif, and the sauce is much lighter than the standard take. Other dishes, such as *orzotto* (barley) with zucchini and water buffalo cheese, and *baccala Vicentina* (dried cod that's served in a stew of sorts), are more famous in other parts of northern Italy.

But *frico* appears in five variations on the Al Curtif menu: leeks, pears, sausage, bacon and radicchio. They range in price from 8 euros to 10 euros. The large portions are rich and filling — so much so that it might be wise to walk or bike the 15 miles or so back to Aviano. Or take a *frico*-induced nap.

There's also a section of the



"Frico," a specialty of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region in Italy, is about as heavy as it gets when it comes to Italian food. It's generally made from cheese and potatoes with a number of other ingredients possible. Osteria al Curtif boasts five kinds of "frico," all served with a side of grilled polenta.

menu for those interested in avoiding gluten. That includes appetizers such as San Daniele ham, *lardone* (bacon) and a torte made of Montasio cheese and polenta.

Second-course options include sliced beef with fresh rosemary and pork crusted in pistachios. A board on the wall lists a dozen or so local wines available by the glass. More than 100 varieties from around the region and the world are available, according to a brochure.

Al Curtif is housed in a 19th-century farmhouse. The restaurant's name comes from the Friulian word for "courtyard." And it's possible to sit outside during part of the year. The rest of the time, customers dine in a few small rooms that seat about 50 people. Though it might be necessary to take away a table or two if they're all having *frico*.

Harris.kent@stripes.com

OSTERIA AL CURTIF

Address: Via Del Cristo 3, Cordenons, Italy. Cordenons is a short drive from Aviano. Turn left from the A-P highway onto the SS-13 and take a left at the next stoplight, turning right at the traffic circle onto Via Maestra. That's the main road into Cordenons. Turn right on Via Del Cristo (just after the Agip gas station). The restaurant is on the right after a few blocks.

Hours: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Open for lunch Mondays. Closed Tuesdays.

Prices: Appetizers from 8 euros (about \$11.35) to 15 euros; first courses 8 euros, second courses 13 euros to 15 euros; *frico* dishes 8 euros to 10 euros; glasses of wine 1 euro to 2.50 euros.



The restaurant's name comes from a Friulian word for "courtyard."

Clientele: Italians.

Dress: Casual.

Menu: In Italian (some English spoken and some dishes translated on brochure at bar).
Information: Telephone: (+39) 0434-931038; Web: osterialcurtif.it (in Italian).

— Kent Harris

Fresh greens offer a taste of the season

By ELLEN KANNER
The Miami Herald

It's officially spring, so it's time to turn over — and eat — a new leaf. Enjoy the freshness of the season by tossing new spring greens with other vegetables, fruits, nuts, beans or whole grains.

Think of spring greens not as healthy (though they are), nor as food to be feared (because they're not). They're your golden — and green — opportunity to commune with spring.

In this recipe, tender, sweet spring leaves, tart, crunchy Granny Smith apples and the gently licorice flavor of crisp fennel combine for a significant salad that's a symphony of textures, delivering the cheering taste of spring in every bite.

SPRING GREENS SALAD WITH GRANNY SMITH APPLES AND FENNEL

Ingredients:

- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup walnuts, coarsely chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup olive oil or walnut oil
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons prepared Dijon mustard
- 1 tablespoon agave or honey
- 1 large bulb fresh organic fennel (or 2 small), thinly sliced, long stems and fronds reserved for another use
- 2 bunches fresh organic spinach, kale, arugula or other tender spring greens torn into bite-sized bits
- 1 Granny Smith apple or other tart apple, sliced thin
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon crushed fennel seeds (optional)

See salt and freshly ground pepper

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Pour chopped walnuts in a shallow baking dish and roast for 8 to 10 minutes, until they darken and crisp and smell rich and buttery. Remove the walnuts from the oven and set aside to cool.

Meanwhile, whisk together in a small bowl the olive or walnut oil, apple cider vinegar, mustard and agave or honey.

In a large salad bowl, toss together spinach or other spring greens and thinly sliced fennel. Add half the dressing and toss gently. Scatter the thin slices of apple and roasted walnuts on top. Drizzle some or all of remaining dressing over all. Toss again. Sprinkle in fennel seeds (if using) and salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 6 to 8 servings, 153 calories each.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes

During a coffee-tasting at Hot Numbers in Cambridge, England, water in a siphon coffeemaker heats and gushes up into a second chamber to saturate coffee grounds, left. Coffee steeps in a cup, center, before a taster prepares to slurp it up from a spoon, right, which helps to get a better sense of the coffee's qualities.

Grounds for enjoyment

At a coffee-tasting in England, the secret lies in the slurping

By ADAM L. MATHIS
Stars and Stripes

A coffee shop proved to me that I didn't know beans about coffee. I came to this realization after attending a public coffee-tasting at Hot Numbers, a coffee shop and roaster in Cambridge, England. Properly called a "cupping," the process, led by two shop employees, involved roughly two hours of sniffing, slurping and analyzing coffee and concluded with a quiz, which I failed.

Cupping is designed to reveal the nuances of flavor in a coffee, and the process can seem quite arcane. The Specialty Coffee Association of America's cupping guidelines dictate how wide the cups should be (3 inches to 3½ inches) and insists that once you break the surface of the brewed coffee, you must stir three times then allow "the foam to run down the back of the spoon while gently sniffing" the coffee in the cup. Our session was far less rigid. The first three stages of judging revolved around the coffee's aroma.

We held cups of dry coffee grounds to our faces to determine the aroma, then we set the cups down and the baristas added hot water. As the coffee steeped for four minutes, we leaned over the cups for another whiff to see what water did to the aroma. The steeping process causes a layer to form on the top of the liquid, trapping some of the gases below, which is why our final sniff test was to break the surface with a spoon and smell the coffee fully brewed.



Hot Numbers provides three coffees for tasters to try at its "cupping" event.

Research has shown that coffee has about 1,000 substances that can be smelled when the grounds are brewed. Sadly, this evening, I could not seem to smell more than one of them. Others could pick up flavors in the aroma, but I often had no idea how to describe it. (I could broaden my palette by ordering an aroma kit that comes with 36 of the most common coffee aromas, but I cannot justify spending \$350 on preserved aromas to sharpen my own nosing abilities.) Gulping down the coffee

doesn't give an accurate taste, so we used spoons to slurp it into our mouths. Using a spoon, according to one source, helps aerate the coffee: "Ideally, the retro-nasal breathing helps to pull the coffee into the nasal passages even more," wrote Tom Owen on a well-regarded coffee website. "The coffee falls down in the palate and can then be circulated around the tongue."

I was able to pick up far more in the slurping. The first sample tasted of hazelnut, a flavor that was suggested by another taster. My favorite was the third, a

pleasant, earthy, perhaps woody flavor.

Sadly, however, my love for this coffee didn't help during my final exam.

The shop employees, still keeping us in the dark as to what type of coffee we had been tasting, brewed each of the three coffees in a manner they might give it to a customer. They used a siphon pot, which is an hourglass-looking device that involves heated water gushing like a geyser up to the top chamber to saturate the grounds. We drank the properly brewed coffee then tried to guess

KNOW & GO

Location: Units 5/6 Dales Brewery, Gwydir Street, Cambridge. Parking is available on the street and a parking lot with a limited number of spaces is across the street from the shop.

Hours: Hot Numbers is open 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays; 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays; 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays.

Costs: The ticket to this cupping cost 10 British pounds (about \$15). The shop also offers private tastings. **Information:** Cuppings are not held on a regular schedule, so check with Hot Numbers frequently to see when one will take place. Telephone: (+44) 01223-35966; the shop's website is <http://hotnumberscoffee.co.uk>.

— Adam L. Mathis

which one each was, based on our cupping notes.

As if my lack of vocabulary for most of the cupping wasn't bad enough, I failed miserably when it came to guessing which brewed cup corresponded to the samples we cupped. I could not even identify my much loved earthy coffee, which turned out to be a Mexican bean, because the brewed cup tasted quite different to me.

Failure in this setting is not a bad thing. One of our hosts noted that there are no right or wrong answers. Maybe next time I'll get a passing grade.

matis.adam@stripes.com

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Discover Glasgow's glow

Glasgow is Scotland's largest and most populated city, but it's often overlooked in favor of Edinburgh, which has capital status and more tourism appeal. A century ago, Glasgow was one of Europe's biggest cities, an industrial powerhouse producing 25 percent of the world's ocean-going ships, but in the mid-20th century, tough times hit the city, giving it a run-down feel. Today, Glasgow is on the rise. Its flair for art and unpretentious friendliness make it more popular than ever to visit.

You can sense Glasgow's energy on its streets and squares. At the heart of the city is George Square, decorated with a Who's Who of statues depicting great Scots, from Sir Walter Scott to James Watt, who perfected the steam engine that helped power Europe into the Industrial Age.

Nearby is Buchanan Street, part of a pedestrian shopping zone called the Golden Zed (Brit-speak for "Z," named for the way it zigzags through town). Glaswegians also refer to this district, which has the top shops in town, as the Style Mile. It's a delight just to stroll up this street — listening to buskers, enjoying the people-watching, and looking up at the architecture.

It's also worth meandering through the Style Mile's alleys, which are filled with huge, fun and edgy murals. The city has given top street artists entire walls to paint. These murals are

almost sightseeing destinations in themselves.

Glasgow's artsy vibe can also be seen in its architecture. During the late 1800s and early 1900s, Glasgow-born architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh brought an exuberant Art Nouveau influence to this otherwise practical, working-class city. Travelers can enjoy his work (and a meal) at the Willow Tea Rooms, a delightful black-and-white space that Mackintosh designed right down to the furniture, lighting and cutlery. But his crowning achievement is the Glasgow School of Art. Still a working school, it's only viewable via a guided tour.



Rick Steves

From a fireplace that looks like a kimono to the remarkable forest-like library to windows that soar for multiple stories, the building is an Art Nouveau original.

Near the Glasgow School of Art is the Tenement House, a perfectly preserved 1930s-era middle-class residence. This typical row home was owned by Miss Agnes Toward, who for five decades kept her home essentially unchanged.

Two excellent museums are worth the trek away from the city center. Housed in a grand,

100-year-old Spanish Baroque-style building, the Kelvingrove is like a Scottish Smithsonian, with everything from a stuffed elephant to fine artwork by the great masters. The Riverside Museum focuses on transportation, featuring stagecoaches, locomotives, a re-creation of a circa-1900 street, and a shipping exhibit that commemorates Glasgow's shipbuilding era.

At night, I enjoy the hip, lively West End district, including the fun eateries and bars lining Ashton Lane. A great place to end a West End evening is at Oran Mór, featuring an atmospheric bar, outdoor beer garden and brasserie in a converted 1862 church. Downstairs, there's a nightclub with everything from rock shows to traditional Scottish



Courtesy of Rick Steves

Graffiti artists have adorned the Glasgow's buildings with colorful murals you can see if you check out the alleys in the Style Mile.

music nights. Edinburgh has the royal aura, but I find Glasgow's down-to-earth appeal captivating. In this revitalized city, friendly locals do their best to introduce you to the

fun-loving, laid-back Glaswegian way of life.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guides and hosts travel shows on public TV and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.



Restaurant Directory

<p>Bavaria-Graf/Vilseck area</p> <p>Since 1978</p>  <p>China Restaurant Peking Chinese and Mongolian Buffet</p> <p>Nihilstr. 8, 92627 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-3386 Fax. 0961-3407/3 www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Garimish-Partenkirchen</p>  <p>Open Wed.-Mon. Noon-11pm (Tues. Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08921-97496 www.ristorante-la-mama-garimish.de Zugsplittstrasse 27, 83667 Garimish-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>Boninius Gastel</p> <p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine</p> <p>Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhl Ring 37 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 0631-24999 www.boninius-gastel.de</p>
 <p>Glutschaufel Hotel & Restaurant International Hotel & Cuisine Cosmopolitan Atmosphere Open: Mon-Sat 5pm-11pm Obersee 1, 92676 Eschenbach Tel: 09645/60 29 00 www.glutschaufel.de</p>	<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK</p> <p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inn. Sascha Gärtner Enterwilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0631-42828</p>	 <p>PAPPEL HAUS</p> <p>Steinertstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
 <p>PALLAS GREEK SPECIALITIES</p> <p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel./Fax: +49 (0)961-431 621</p>	<p>EFENDI Kebab</p> <p>Enjoy the taste of Turkey Rieserstrasse 18 67652 Kaiserslautern www.facebook.com/EFENDIKebab</p>	 <p>Okinii</p> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808</p>
 <p>City Hotel Pension</p> <p>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>Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch</p> <p>Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Ho, Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned, 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: +49 (0)611-95 97 30 welcome@hoteldefrance.de www.hoteldefrance.com VAT Forms accepted / Credit Cards accepted.</p>	<p>Villa im Tal</p> <p>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admanstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
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<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p>  <p>Saytouna Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Café Temptation</p> <p>"reservations recommended" Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OP area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>	<p>Frankfurt area</p>  <p>Lafayette Airport City Mall - Terminal 1 Frankfurt International Airport Tel. 069-9002432 www.chillax-sportbars.com</p>



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WEEKEND



THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

OFF BASE



Courtesy of Yamanashi Tourism Organization

TRAVEL BACK IN TIME: Shingen-ko Festival

A man, center, dressed as Shingen Takeda, a warlord and tactician of Japan's warring stages era, drinks a cup of sake to wish a victory before going into battle at Maizuru Castle Park. It's part of the Shingen-ko Festival in Yamanashi prefecture, Japan, April 4-6. The highlight of the event is a parade through Kofu city of people in samurai costume. For more: tinyurl.com/omkb2yc

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

Japan

FCI ASIA PACIFIC SECTION DOG SHOW 2014 (Tokyo): March 29 & 30, 7:30 a.m.-7 p.m., Asia's biggest dog event features a dog show with 2,400 dogs in 132 varieties and more; Tokyo Big Sight East 5 & 6.

SHINSHU ONGAKUMURA NARCISSUS FESTIVAL (Nagano prefecture): March 29-April 20, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; 100,000 narcissus bloom at Shinshu Ongakumura; free; 0268-42-3436.

24TH HAKKODA WALK (Aomori prefecture): March 30 & 31; walk 8.1 km of Hakkoda-Iowada Gold Line (Route 103) before it reopens April 1; tinyurl.com/m7au67a.

ATAMI FIREWORKS (Kanagawa prefecture): March 30 & April 12, 8:30-8:45 p.m.; 3,000 fireworks from the ocean off Atami city.

YOKOHAMA HAKKEIJIMA SEA PARADISE - SPECIAL NIGHT SHOW (Kanagawa prefecture): Through March 31, 5-6:30 p.m.; see dolphins and illuminations at Club D of Sea Paradise while having drinks; Seaside Line, Hakkeijima Station; www.seaparasite.co.jp/english.

OKTOBERFEST AT AKIHABARA (Tokyo): Through April 6, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; German beers and live performances at Versalle Akihabara, four-minute walk from JR Akihabara Station (Denkigai Exit) on Sobu Line; free, but 1,000 yen deposit for glass for beer; 03-5733-6773.

Okinawa

BEER FES OKINAWA: March 29, 1-6 p.m. & March 30, noon-5 p.m.; taste award-winning beer at Helios Pub, 1-2-5, Makishi, located on Kokusai Streets; <http://beertester.org/index-e.html>.

RYUKYU KAIEN FESTIVAL 2014: April 12, 7:30-10 p.m., Japan's first fireworks of the season, produced

jointly with Junko Koshino, along with live opera at Ginowan Marine Park; 098-987-2764.

South Korea

GURYU SANSUYU FESTIVAL (South Jeolla province): Through March 30; Guryu Sansuyu Festival is an annual spring flower festival that takes place in the Jirisan Mountain hot springs area and programs include cornus fruit liquor making, music and dance performances and fireworks; Sandang-myeon, Gurye-gun; <http://tinyurl.com/klkp3ad>.

INCHEON BAEKSA SANSUYU FLOWER FESTIVAL: April 4-6; Icheon's Baeksa Village is home to Sansuyu trees - Japanese dogwood or cornus fruit trees - which grow naturally. During the festival, visitors can participate in Korean traditional folk games and watch the Sansuyu flower parade; Icheon-si Baeksa-myeon, 667, Dorip-ri, Baeksa-myeon; free; tinyurl.com/jwunx3h.

IN BLOOM: Cherry Blossom Festivals

As of March 19, the Japan Meteorological Agency predicts cherry blossom trees will begin blooming March 28 in Tokyo. For a forecast for the bloom in Japan: tinyurl.com/intsakura

- New events are added often to the cherry blossom festivals calendar at stripes.com/bloom
- Share your pictures with us by emailing tibbetts.meredith@stripes.com. Photographs may be used in print and on the web. By submitting content, you are granting Stars and Stripes a non-exclusive license to use your content in its newspaper, in print or in digital format, or in any other commercial manner of its choosing. You further warrant that you own or control the copyrights to the content (text and/or image) you are submitting and that its republication by Stars and Stripes will not violate the intellectual property rights or privacy/publicity rights of any third party.



A day with the animals

Visit Fuji Safari Park in Japan with Atsugi ITT Tours on April 6 and Yokosuka Tours on April 11.



Stars and Stripes

Sweet tour



Visit Nago Pineapple Park and Neo Park with Camp Foster Tours on April 10. For more: tinyurl.com/pulg8ny.



LEE JIN-MA/PA

Planning ahead

A worker hangs lanterns on a tree at Jogyesa Temple in Seoul, South Korea, earlier this month in preparation for Buddha's birthday on May 6. For more on the temple: jogyesa.kr/user/english



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

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY TREVOR ANDERSEN/Stars and Stripes

Thrashzone in Yokohama serves international craft beers. World Dwarf Stout, above, is a Thrashzone original. At left, fried potatoes are topped with fresh basil mayo.

Vietnamese stir-fry uses fish sauce

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Savor the sweet and sour flavors of Vietnamese cooking with this simple chicken stir-fry. An important ingredient in Vietnamese cooking is Nuoc Mam, a fish sauce made from fermented anchovies. It is used in many Pacific Rim countries such as Americans use salt and is widely available in Asian food stores.

VIETNAMESE SWEET AND SOUR CHICKEN

Ingredients:

¼ pound Chinese steamed egg noodles

1 teaspoon sesame oil
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

For the sauce:

1 tablespoon low-sodium, soy sauce

1 tablespoon Nuoc Mam
1½ tablespoons white vinegar

2 tablespoons sugar
2 tablespoons cornstarch
½ cup water

2 teaspoons sesame oil
½ pound boneless, skinless chicken breast, cut into ½-inch strips

½ cup sliced onion
½ cup sliced carrot
½ cup peeled, sliced daikon (white) radish

1 garlic clove, crushed
½ cup medium tomato, cut into 6 wedges

Directions:
Mix the soy sauce, fish sauce, vinegar, sugar, cornstarch and water together. Set aside.

Heat the oil in a wok or skillet over high heat. Add the chicken and stir-fry 2 minutes. Remove from the wok to a bowl. Add the onion, carrot, radish and garlic to the wok. Stir-fry 2 minutes. Add the tomato and return the chicken to the wok. Stir the sauce and add to the wok. Stir fry for 2 minutes or until the sauce thickens. Remove to a bowl. Stir-fry steamed noodles in same wok with sesame oil. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 2 servings.

After Hours: Japan

By TREVOR ANDERSEN
Stars and Stripes

Only a few minutes away from Yokohama station is one of the best brewpubs in Japan.

Adventurers are greeted at the door with a guitar amplifier with the words "Extreme Beer Only" emblazoned in lights across the front. The slogan rings true when you see that most of the beers on the chalkboard menu are more than 7 percent alcohol by volume.

But the alcoholic content isn't the only thing that makes Thrashzone's beer extreme. There is a measurement system called the International Bitterness Units scale, or IBUs.

Koichi Katsuki, owner of Thrashzone and the Thrashzone brewery, explained that most India pale ales, or IPAs, measure at 60 IBUs. "Most of ours are over 100," he said.

Even with the high IBUs, Thrashzone's custom beers are not overpoweringly bitter. Beers with heavy-metal-themed names, such as "Number of the Yeast" and "Hop Slave," are sur-



The bar is small and decorated with thrash metal posters, guitars and amplifiers. The beer menu is on a giant chalkboard because the beers on tap are always changing.

prisingly friendly on the palate.

The menu is small; they don't have much room for a kitchen, but the food they do have is amazing.

Thrashzone cooks up a variety of french fries from different kinds of potatoes depending on what's in season. Currently

the menu has only *danshaku* potatoes, but that could change at any time. The real surprise is the sauce selection. Basil mayo as well as a few other flavors are big hits with the regulars.

A classic Queen concert played on the TV screens around the bar, but the music playing

THRASHZONE

Address: Tsuruyachochi-10-7 Tamura building 1F Kanagawa-ku, Yokohama Japan 2210835

Hours: 6 p.m.-11:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday.

Dress code: Casual

Cost: 500-1000 yen per beer (about \$5-\$10).

Other information:

Email: thrashzone@beerdrinkinginternational.com. See what's on tap now on its website: beerdrinkinginternational.com.

— Trevor Andersen

was by a Japanese grindcore band called SU19B. Patrons were amused by how often Freddy Mercury's mouth synced with the music.

If you like beer and heavy metal, Thrashzone is where you need to be. If you like beer but don't like metal, bite the bullet and try it anyway.

andersen.trevor@stripes.com

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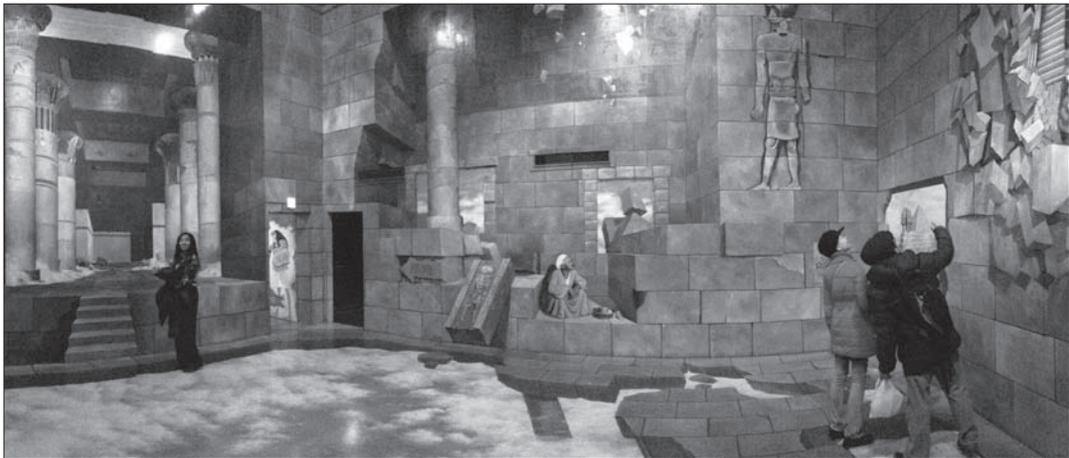
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WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

The wall art at the Takao Trick Art Museum gives the illusion of depth and sometimes motion depending on where you stand. Many rooms have an Egyptian theme.

The art of deception

Museum treats visitors to the fun of optical illusion

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

At Takao Trick Art Museum west of Tokyo, you're dangling by a hand from the Sphinx's nose one minute and then escaping spears and lions the next.

Located within a five-minute walk from the base of Mount Takao, in sight of Takao-sanguchi station, the Trick Art Museum is filled top to bottom with beautifully painted optical illusions and interactive displays ready for adults and children alike.

While most exhibits in the museum are easily appreciated at first sight, some require the use of a camera. There are markers on the floor and example pictures near each station to help visitors frame their photos and pose when cameras are recommended.

A tour through each of the museum's rooms should take about an hour, though a trip might run longer if one decides to take part in the museum's interactive areas. The anti-gravity room and the black light rooms are known to hold patrons' attention.

The staff speaks and understands English, and there are printed guides available to visitors as well. Each exhibit has Japanese and English instructions posted nearby.

Take time for a hike (or a lift) to the top of Mount Takao after enjoying a world of optical illusions at the museum.

guzman.eric@stripes.com



The Takao Trick Art Museum uses perspective to create optical illusions, most of which are best seen through a lens. The museum recommends bringing a camera to fully enjoy the art.



Coming into contact with the works on display, speaking aloud and making noise are "accepted ways of enjoying the museum," according to its website.



Paintings at the museum appear to jump from the walls when viewed from certain angles.

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

The Takao Trick Art Museum is located at 1786 Takaomachi, Hachioji-shi. GPS: 35.632858, 139.271061. By train, get off at Takao-sanguchi station

COSTS

Admission costs 1,300 yen for adults; 1,000 yen for middle and high school students; 700 yen for elementary school students and 500 yen for preschoolers. Discounts apply for the disabled, physically

handicapped and groups of 20 or more. Parking at the train station costs 1,000 yen.

TIMES

10 a.m.-7 p.m. from April to November; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. from December to March.

INFORMATION

Telephone: 042 (667) 1081; website: trickart.jp/en.

— Eric Guzman

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



PHOTOS BY BRIAN J. CANTWELL/Seattle Times

Helping Hawaii

The Hawaii Wildlife Fund is working to protect green sea turtles as they come ashore by the dozens at the same spot every evening on bustling Hookipa Beach.

Volunteers spend vacation time working to save land, sea and wildlife

By BRIAN J. CANTWELL
The Seattle Times

For months, dozens of green sea turtles have been showing up every evening at the same spot on Maui's Hookipa Beach to rest on the sand for hours. Naturalists call it "basking."

"We don't quite understand why they chose this place, but once they did, they have kept coming," says Hannah Bernard, president of the nonprofit Hawaii Wildlife Fund (wildhawaii.org), which is working to protect them. "No place in the world has as many basking turtles."

Visitors can photograph the turtles. Or they can have a richer experience: While on the island, they can volunteer as turtle monitors with Bernard's group, helping to educate others about these endangered sea creatures the locals call *honu*.

Helping the *honu* means spending a few hours on the beach — hardly a painful commitment. It's just one way to turn an island vacation into "voluntourism."

Theories vary on why the turtles are coming ashore. It might be related to a disease that causes non-malignant tumors, depleting their energy. It might be a way to escape predatory sharks. Or the cold-blooded turtles might just be taking a break to warm up, not unlike human swimmers.

That they've chosen as a refuge one of Hawaii's busier beaches — on the good-surfing side of the island, near the main Maui airport — is a challenge to those hoping to protect them. Without human monitors

for the turtles, visitors have been known to sit their kids on the turtles' backs for photos, or disrupt their rest in other ways.

With slow, jerky gait, more and more turtles carve a tractor-tread-like path up into the sand at the base of a bluff. There's a baby, about a third of the size of the adults, which can grow as long as 5 feet and weigh 700 pounds. By 7:30 p.m., the end of that night's watch, we count 24 turtles resting on the sand.

It's a wildlife show that you'll never get at SeaWorld.

If human culture is of more interest, sign up for a van trip on the Kahakui Highway, one of the most challenging narrow roads on Maui. Snake around oceanfront cliffs and through gulches to near the island's northern tip, where volunteers are helping to restore "Uncle Oliver's" taro farm. The Kahakui Valley farm is the project of 70-year-old Oliver Dukelow, who has lived here 47 years as steward of this land passed down through generations to his wife, Valerie Rose Piimauna Aiwohi. Together the couple raised eight children here, four of whom became college professors.

He takes the honorary "uncle"

'Right now we're not taking care of the land or the ocean. We need to do better; that's what this is about.'

Oliver Dukelow
plant and fish farmer



"Uncle Oliver" Dukelow explains the virtues of the types of taro, a Hawaiian plant. Volunteers are helping him restore his taro farm.

title bestowed affectionately in island culture.

This is another volunteer project with Hawaii Wildlife Fund. To reach the farm, I bounce along with Bernard in her little four-wheel-drive Chevy. The place has more green than Ireland. Banana trees, papaya, taro leaf and more.

"This is Hawaiian land, and the opportunity to come here is special because you can only come as an invited guest," Bernard tells me.

Uncle Oliver, a big man with leathery skin and tousled salt-and-pepper locks, shows us his ponds, which volunteers have helped to excavate and plant. Starsteepped behind his home on stilts, the ponds hold both taro, a traditional Hawaiian food crop grown in water, and fish.

The project is an effort to take

fishing pressure off island reefs and allow them to recover from damage caused by development runoff and other contamination.

Uncle Oliver has three tilapia ponds and plans two more ponds with mullet. In restoring the ponds, he aims to recapture some of the aquaculture innovations of his forebears.

"The land's still alive, and the spirits are still alive," he tells us. "I've never thought of owning the land, but of taking care of it. Right now we're not taking care of the land or the ocean. We need to do better; that's what this is about."

From the top of his clearing, I count more than a dozen ponds fed by diverted stream water splashing from PVC pipes. Around watery stalks, big fish swim in lazy circles. It's like Eden without apples.

Above the ponds perches an old, unoccupied house decorated inside with photos of Uncle Oliver's stern-faced ancestors. This is one option for visitor housing. A partnership between Hawaii Wildlife Fund, California-based Blueology and the Cascadia Research Collective will bring volunteer groups here. Activities might include learning to pound poi, the edible paste made from taro roots, and building a traditional underground oven.

If you're a hiker with a few gardening skills, head for Waiehe Coastal Dunes & Wetlands Refuge, northwest of Kahului, on any Friday morning between 8 and noon. It's Volunteer Day.

James Keoni Crowe, land steward for Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (hilt.org/protected-lands/maui/waiehe-refuge), might put you to work pulling castor beans, Mexican poppy and other invasive plants from a 27-acre wetland pasture at the heart of this 277-acre preserve. It once was the site of a centuries-old Hawaiian village. Today, it's a birder's paradise and a great place for a waterfront hike.

When chores are done he leads me on a walk along a peaceful beachfront trail, past sun-bleached, bonelike driftwood, dazzlingly chartreuse dune plants called *naupaka*, and the remains of an ancient rock temple originally dedicated to Ku, the god of war, politics and fishing. (Somehow it made sense that those things went together in these islands.)

At trip's end, I've learned more than I've labored. I'm richer for it. Yet in a small way, I've given something of myself, in the spirit of *aloha*.

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



Surrounded by a society that fears them, superhumans are ruthlessly hunted down and caged by the Department of Unified Protection in "inFamous: Second Son."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SONY/JP



'InFamous: Second Son'

With stunning visuals, smooth combat, game is never boring

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL

Stars and Stripes

"InFamous: Second Son" is aptly named, as it's really the second big exclusive for the PlayStation 4 and as such, has a fair amount of expectation placed on it. Owners of the PS4 really needed "inFamous" to step up and fill a void in the quality of available titles that "Knack" and "Killzone" just haven't filled.

Luckily, "Second Son" is here, and it definitely helps justify the high cost of being an early console adopter.

Created by Sucker Punch, the "inFamous" series is best described as a superpowers action simulator, in which the actions you take in-game will result in you becoming a superhero or a murderous villain.

The first and second "inFamous" games focused on superpowered protagonist Cole McGrath as he ran around fictional analogs of New York City and New Orleans, either saving citizens and defeating evil or kicking puppies and generally acting like a big, electric jerk. This binary good or evil system lies at the heart of the franchise and influences everything from gameplay to story progression.

"Second Son" doesn't diverge from this formula much, although it does give us a new protagonist in the form of Delsin Rowe, whose story is told against the backdrop of the very real city of Seattle. Delsin is a small-time delinquent, specializing in graffiti and annoying his big brother, who just happens to be a local police officer. Through a chance encounter, Delsin finds out that he's a "Conduit" — the

name given to superpowered folks in the "inFamous" universe — with the ability to copy other Conduits' abilities. After a bit of exposition, he and his brother find themselves in Seattle with designs on taking down a corrupt government official.

In order to do this, Delsin has to chase down other Conduits in order to borrow their powers. To do this, he'll have to make a series of decisions that will influence how the game plays out, both in how the story is told and how the abilities he gets will be used. If you make heroic decisions, your powers will be more benign. If you decide to be more villainous, your powers will be more combat-oriented.

While the past "inFamous" games toyed with different abilities, they never gave players the number of skills found in "Second Son." Without spoiling it too much, by the end of the game, Delsin has access to four sets of powers. Some of those abilities are basically palette swaps with one another, but there is enough variation between the abilities that players can adjust to fit their own play style.

Personally, I used the power that allowed me to run up walls when I needed to get from point A to point B, then I'd drain some smoke powers when it was time to throw down. The power subsets can't be changed on the fly, but are switched up by finding one

of the appropriate power sources scattered across the map and draining it. I wish we had been given the ability to change between abilities a bit quicker, but that's a minor nitpick.

Generally, a power set has a ranged attack, a transportation mode, a melee attack and a super attack, which is powered up by gaining combat "karma." For instance, if you use a power to disable an enemy, rather than kill him, you'll gain good karma points that will add up until you can unleash the big attack.

Only one of the power sets is missing this mega attack, which is sort of unfortunate, as it leaves that one feeling a bit unfinished. Other than that misstep, the combat system is extremely satisfying, thanks to a fluid set of controls that always feels like you're in charge. Action games live and die on their controls and ability to keep the action fresh, and thanks to the various sets of powers and fine control you have over the combat, the action in "Second Son" never gets boring.

While the combat is front and center in "inFamous," the storyline has a couple of neat hooks that help bring it above the comic book storytelling it generally falls back on. The best hook is tied into Delsin's graffiti artist background. His internal monologues are told with a stylized graffiti flair, and one of the common side missions builds on his background by having players hold their controller like a can of spray paint to tag surfaces throughout Seattle. The light on the DualShock even changes colors depending on the color of paint being used, which is a nice touch.

Overall grade: **B+**

The side missions scattered through the city aren't as exciting as the combat or story though, as there really isn't much variety in the handful the games gives you. Completing them will free up sections of the city, which doesn't do much to affect the game besides giving access to a fast travel point. It would have been nice to have some sort of reaction from the antagonist as you slowly whittled away her control over Seattle, or even change up missions from sector to sector, but it was the same handful in each area. It turned opening up the city into somewhat of a slog, with no real payoff for the player, save for an unlocking of a different design for the back of Delsin's vest.

Those are really minor annoyances, though. The game is bound to be a hit for PS4 owners, and for good reason. It marries fantastic visuals with a fun, albeit basic, story and fantastic combat. For fans of the previous games, there is bound to be a sense of déjà vu, but there is enough new here for the formula to feel sufficiently refreshing.

Those who haven't played the previous "inFamous" games won't be lost as the story and setting are brand new, though those players might not get the Easter eggs and fan service scattered across the world. Both sets of PS4 owners really have no reason not to pick up "inFamous: Second Son," as it's easily the best game on the console right now.

Bottom line: B+ If you have a PlayStation 4 and like fun, "Second Son" is a no-brainer.

Rated: Mature

Platform: PlayStation 4

Online: infamousthegame.com



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

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

"Delivery Man": A meat delivery man (Vince Vaughn) learns that his sperm donations have resulted in 533 children. Vaughn has carved out a successful career playing characters who aren't the most productive members of society. And those characters are usually played for big laughs. He portrays the same kind of role in "Delivery Man," a guy whose biggest talent is being a frequent sperm donor. But this time the laughs are more subdued and — dare it be said — sweet. Vaughn's found a way to take a character who, by all accounts, should be annoying and make him endearing. The film is a pleasant surprise. The storyline, about being the father to hundreds, had all the earmarks of being an over-the-top comedy. Instead, this is one of the sweetest family movies released this year on DVD.



DreamWorks Pictures

Britt Robertson, left, hugs Vince Vaughn in the recent DVD release "Delivery Man."

"Key & Peele: Seasons One and Two": The DVD set features former "MADtv" actors Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele who reunited to star in the new half-hour cable sketch comedy show. Through improv, original characters and celebrity impressions, the pair look at the oddities of life in a very funny way.

"Here's Lucy: The Complete Series": Most know Lucille Ball from her years on "I Love Lucy." But after Ball and Desi Arnaz divorced, she went on to star in her own series that ran from 1968-1974. It's not as good as her original series, but the 144 episodes show off the comic skills of Ball.

Also available on DVD:
"Mystery Science Theater 3000: XXIX": Includes "Untamed Youth," "Hercules and the Captive Women," "The Thing That Couldn't Die," "The Pumaman."

"The Wolf of Wall Street": Leonardo DiCaprio plays a stockbroker in the middle of widespread corruption on Wall Street.

"Wonderwall": George Harrison wrote the score for this 1968 film.

"Welcome to the Jungle": Office workers find themselves in a corporate retreat that goes horribly wrong.

"The Conspiracy": Two filmmakers end up in peril after they select a crazed conspiracy theorist as the subject of their new movie.

"Odd Thomas": Small-town fry cook sees dead people.

"The Appearing": Demonic possession horror film.

"Scooby-Doo! WrestleMania Mystery": Scooby and the gang protect the WWE championship belt.

"Nature: Honey Badgers: Masters of Mayhem": A look at the honey badger.

"Californication: The Sixth Season": Hank (David Duchovny) tries to collaborate on a rock opera based on his book with a famous rock star.

"Veep: The Complete Second Season": Cable comedy starring Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

'Late bloomer' Jeremy Piven returns to TV as Mr. Selfridge

By LUAINEE LEE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Jeremy Piven was 37 years old when he was anointed with "The Fresh Face of the Year" acting award. At that point he'd been performing for 29 years.

He'd costarred in nearly 40 movies as TV's scoundrel "Ellen," "Cupid" and "The Larry Sanders Show." But his wasn't a household name.

"I was a late bloomer compared to other people," he says. "But for me, it was the right journey."

Piven actually grew up in the theater. His parents ran their own theater company in Chicago, and Jeremy had trekked the stage since he was 8.

He thought everybody's life included curtain calls and greasepaint. "I guess I lived in a microcosm. I thought everyone grew up on stage and everyone had an acting family — and you would grow up and do improv games and people would enjoy it. And then you would do some Salinger or some Mamet or some Chekhov. I literally thought everyone has this," he says.

"Then I got to college and, 'Wait a minute! Not everyone grew up in this.' So that was a rude awakening. But when being exposed, I guess ignorance is bliss. I didn't know any better. You're up on stage and you're throwing yourself in, and I didn't know enough to be afraid."

It turns out he didn't need to be afraid. He worked all of his adult years as an actor. And two years after he earned the dubious "Fresh Face" title, he landed the part of super agent Ari Gold on HBO's "Entourage." It was the role that boosted him onto the A-list.

"Some people call it paying your dues, and I just think it's luck,"

he says. "I got lucky in the way that it didn't happen to me early on. I knew I was capable of doing other roles. I'd played these great roles on stage, but they weren't necessarily coming to me (on screen). I didn't even have the opportunity to audition for great roles.

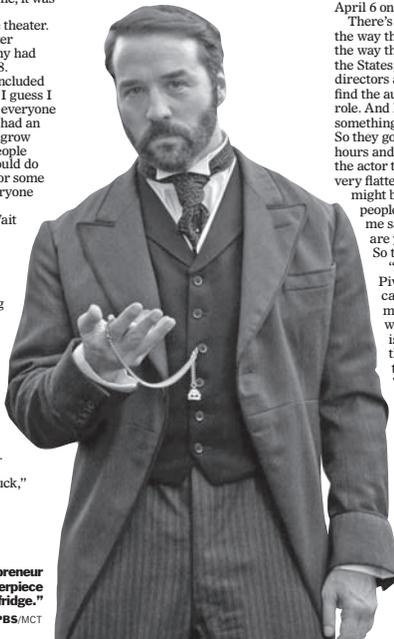
"And Ari was a very small role, the reason I got it. It wasn't on paper. It was one little scene in the pilot. He was supposed to be a fringe player. And I took a chance, and I'm glad that I did. That was indicative of my career up

till that moment, which was you take these tiny roles and you put everything you have into it, and hopefully they will grow. And then they'll see you're contributing, and maybe they will expand the role. So that was the result of a couple of decades of that type of work."

It was more than luck, though, when Britain came calling, hoping to cast Piven, 48, as the gutsy American who established England's high-end department store, Selfridges. The second season of "Mr. Selfridge" premieres on April 6 on APTN-Movie.

There's a difference, he says, between the way the British cast a role and the way the Americans do. "I think in the States, it's almost like the casting directors are Method. They want to find the authentic person who IS the role. And I think in the U.K., if they do something, they're going to do it right. So they go to drama school and log the hours and put the time in so they find the actor to PLAY the role ... And it's very flattering for people to think I might be Ari Gold, when there are people like that ... People meeting me say, 'Who's THIS guy? And why are you so calm? Are you stoned?' So that's an interesting journey.

"And the Brits get that," says Piven. "I think that's why I was cast in this role. I think they saw me play these various roles. I was lucky enough, and the word is — I believe them, and I hope this is the case — that I was the first person they came to. They thought I was capable of playing this role. And I was very flattered to play in a period drama and play this guy who's an American entrepreneur not unlike Ari. But they're very different people. Very different."



Jeremy Piven stars as entrepreneur Harry Selfridge in the "Masterpiece Classic" series "Mr. Selfridge."

PBS/MCT

'Midwife' actress Miranda Hart: 'It's good that life doesn't come easy'



PBS

Bryony Hannah, left, Jessica Rain and Miranda Hart star on "Call the Midwife."

The midwives of London's poor will be bicycling back onto television in the U.S. on April 6 when "Call the Midwife" returns for a new season on PBS.

Miranda Hart, who plays the clumsy but lovable Chummy, stands more than 6 feet tall and says she had her days when she longed to be petite and graceful. "At one point you wish you were the beautiful one at school because things seem to come easy to those girls," she says.

"And now I look back and I think, 'Thank you, God, I never was that,' because I think I had to rely on wit, and I had to rely on other things ... It's good that life doesn't come easy, I think. Of course, there's a period where you want to be the pretty — the pretty little thing. But then I've turned 40 now and reckon I got used to being me at 39. Yeah, it did take a while ... All my girlfriends seem to be 5-foot-1, for some reason. So you just felt odd. You didn't feel like normal. But I now love that and embrace that."

— Luaine Lee/MCT

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Up to code?

Restaurant inspection reporter puts her kitchen to the test

When it comes to safe food handling, washing hands — and vegetables — is a must. Gloves can also be worn and make cleanup easier.

By LYDIA MULVANY
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

I'm not a germaphobe, but for a few hours I tried to become one.

A City of Milwaukee health inspector came to my apartment to conduct an inspection of my kitchen, and as if that wasn't intimidating enough, the director of Milwaukee's Health Department came along, too. Both were staying for lunch.

I'd invited them over because as a reporter covering restaurant inspections, it was becoming clear my own kitchen would likely fail under similar scrutiny.

Sanitation regulations can be esoteric. Obviously, moldy cutting boards and mouse droppings are vile, but restaurants get docked for holding beef with broccoli at 116 degrees instead of 135, or putting dishes in a hand sink.

I don't even have a so-called hand sink, and I don't take the temperature of my food. So what other rules was I breaking in my kitchen, and how serious were they? The restaurants I write about get inspected at least once a year, and can face fines or — worst case — closure, for serious or repeated violations.

The day of my inspection, I headed back home from work before they were supposed to arrive in order to have a few minutes to clear away remnants of my breakfast and do some last-minute tasks. But the Milwaukee Health Department was one step ahead of me. As I walked in, the phone rang. Angie Hagy, the health director, was already downstairs.

I greeted Hagy at the door, but the inspector, Carly Hasler, was still outside parking her car. To buy a few minutes, I asked Hagy if she wouldn't mind letting



PHOTOS BY RICK WOOD, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/MCT

Milwaukee health inspector Carly Hasler, left, talks with reporter Lydia Mulvany during a visit to Mulvany's kitchen.

Hasler in. She was onto me.

"Are you going to go frantically clean?" she said.

When they came in, we got right down to business and washed our hands the approved way, for 20 seconds.

Then the violations started piling up.

Hasler asked for paper towels to dry her hands. I had some under the sink. As for the hand towel hanging on the oven door that I actually use for hand drying? Violation.

I hadn't been able to stash away the breakfast evidence, so I picked up a violation there, too. I'd sliced cheese on counter space next to my sink, but food preparation has to be done away from the potential spray of dirty dishwasher. I was upfront about some of my sins. I don't have a trash can,

for example. I just hang a plastic bag that I throw out every day.

I also got dinged for how I stored my wooden spoons and ladles. The handles should be sticking up out of the utensil holder, not the other way around.

As Hasler continued her walk-through, poking around in my refrigerator and opening drawers, it became clear that home kitchens aren't really designed with food safety in mind. For example, my refrigerator, like most, has crisper drawers for fresh foods on the bottom, which means raw meat and eggs go on the shelves above. That's the opposite of what's required of restaurants, since any leaks would contaminate everything below.

Hasler took the temperature of my refrigerator to make sure it was below 41 degrees and

tested the air inside of an applesauce jar to make sure it was cold enough. The thermometer registered 35 degrees on both. Although I passed, I'd never have known if there was a problem.

After the walk-through, I began preparing lunch: fettuccine with sausage and cream sauce, and a simple salad. I grabbed some onions and raw sausage and carried them as far away as I could from the sinks.

It was inevitable something would go awry with the raw sausage. When I finished cutting it, I washed my hands, but turned on the faucet with my contaminated fingers. Technically, I should have used my clean wrist, Hasler said.

The hardest thing about having the health director to lunch is resisting the urge to continually nibble away at the creamy pasta sauce. Like many people, I love to eat as I cook.

"I can't use this to taste the sauce, right?" I asked.

Hagy's reply was stern. I'd have to use a new spoon each time I took a bite. I only got one spoonful in before lunch was served.

One of my final violations was handling the salad with my bare hands. In a restaurant, I would have worn gloves; even at home, Hasler said, I should use tongs to wash and toss the salad.

In the end, they slapped me with eight "critical" violations, infractions that are more likely than others to cause a foodborne illness. On the upside, Hasler and Hagy ate the pasta and salad, and neither of them got food poisoning later. (Yes, I checked.)

"We wouldn't shut you down, but there were definitely some critical things that we'd come back and check on," Hasler said. Next time, I'll get home a little earlier.

FOOD SAFETY TIPS

Keep your kitchen safe from bacteria and food-borne illness with these tips:

- **When shopping:** At the grocery store, shop for paper products, boxed and canned items first, then frozen items and refrigerated items last. Wrap raw meats in a plastic bag, and place on a shelf beneath the cart.

- **Test the fridge:** Take your refrigerator's temperature. It should be 41 degrees or lower. And make sure food in your freezer is frozen.

- **Thawing:** Don't thaw frozen food on the countertop. Thaw it in the refrigerator, under cold running water or in the microwave.

- **Raw meat:** Don't let raw meat, seafood or eggs come into contact with other food. That's called cross-contamination — don't do it!

- **Wash, wash, wash:** Wash hands and surfaces often. Wash your hands with warm water and soap for 20 seconds, then dry with disposable towels in these situations, among others: before handling food, after using the bathroom, between tasks like handling raw meat and preparing other food.

- **No hands:** Use tongs or other utensils to handle food whenever possible.

- **Sanitize:** Clean and sanitize all surfaces, including the sink, before preparing food and between tasks that contaminate cutting boards, knives and other surfaces. Use bleach to sanitize, with a solution of one teaspoon of bleach per quart of water.

- **Cook to proper temperature:** Poultry and stuffed meats to 165 degrees, ground meats to 155 degrees, pork and fish to 145 degrees and vegetables to 135 degrees. They should reach those temperatures for at least 15 seconds.

- **Keep at proper temperature:** Keep hot food at 135 degrees or higher. Once leftovers fall below that temperature, they have six hours to cool to a safe 41 degrees, and they should cool to 71 degrees in the first two hours. Otherwise, throw them away.

- **Big batches of leftovers:** Don't put that huge pot of steaming chili in the refrigerator — it won't cool fast enough, which means your dinner tomorrow will be in the temperature "danger zone" where bacteria was fruitful and multiplied. Instead, fill your sink with ice, place the pot in there and use tongs to cool. Or divide the leftovers into smaller, shallower containers.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Left: Somboun Vattana forms molten glass into a heart-shaped memento that will contain ashes of a deceased family member.

Below: Juliet Sykes watches the formation of the keepsake that will contain ashes of her great-grandmother.

PHOTOS BY KEN LAMBERT, SEATTLE TIMES/MCT



art from ASHES

Company mixes remains
into treasured keepsakes

By CORAL GARNICK
The Seattle Times

Juliet Sykes watched tear-eyed as glass workers began to shape a small white heart.

Glowing orange tanks full of melted glass at 2,300 degrees lined the back wall, while reheating stations with steel tools and buckets of cold water dotted the workshop. Sykes stood upstairs in the gallery, tacking it all in.

Before the ball of glass was formed into a solid heart with swirls of color and glitter, an artist rolled it across a tablespoon of ash — the ashes of Sykes' great grandmother Dorothy "Nanny" Walker, who died in 1998. "It is just so beautiful," Sykes said as sparks jumped off a cold steel blade as it touched the burning-hot glass. "I love the sparks — that is Nanny saying, 'I'm here.'"

Whether it is a glass heart or a diamond ring or being placed in a reef off the coast of Florida, people are finding new ways to memorialize the life of their departed loved ones who chose cremation.

In the 18 months since Greg and Christina Dale started Artful Ashes in Sammamish, Wash., in 2012, the Dales have gone from 10 memorials a month to more than 200. By contracting with Glass Eye Studio in Ballard, Wash., they have the capacity to make 110 a day, said Christina Dale.

From 2002 to 2012, the cremation rate in the United States increased from 28.2 percent to 43.5 percent, according to the most recent data from the Cremation Association of North America (CANA).

"It is closure for a lot of people while also giving them something that fits perfectly in their hands," Christina, 49, said.

Lisa Suchsland heard about Artful Ashes through a friend and decided to make a heart in honor of her father, who died two years ago.

She said her family agreed they would get more joy out of a glass keepsake than having ashes on a mantel. "There really could not be anything more beautiful and personal to me than to have a heart made with his ashes," said Suchsland. "It is nice to have a place to go, a cemetery or a mausoleum, but it is also nice to have something to hold."

People are realizing they have more options to personalize a memorial tribute, said Barbara Kemmis, CANA executive director.



"Ten years ago, you had three choices," Kemmis said. "Your choices were to scatter remains, buy an urn and keep it in your house, or buy an urn and put it in a cemetery. But what gets more personalized than art?"

The idea for Artful Ashes came out of a close call with Greg Dale's father. He lives in Miami and went to the hospital for surgery in February 2012. Beforehand, he researched end-of-life options, just to be prepared.

"He was like, 'Did you know you could be buried in a reef or made into a ring or shot into outer space?'" Christina Dale said. "Luckily his dad pulled through, but the whole thing just got us thinking."

Just a few months later, Greg visited a Made in Washington store that carries Glass Eye Studio's glass heart paperweights. He approached the studio owners with his idea of incorporating a small amount of cremated

ashes into the colorful hearts and they liked the idea, so the business was formed.

Susan and Ted Smith, who bought Glass Eye Studio in November, said they were happy to continue the partnership and gave the couple an office at the studio.

Glass Eye employees make the memorials, and the Dales buy them from the studio at wholesale prices, Greg said. Artful Ashes then sells both the hearts and globes to customers for \$185.

"They are almost like funeral directors," said Ted Smith. "The product is just a piece of what they do for these people. I am always seeing people leave with a smile even during such a sad time."

Nick Savage co-founded Memory Glass, one of the first glass-memorial businesses in the country, in 2002. Savage said in the past five years, he has seen an explosion of new ideas for memorial items.

"The baby-boomer generation is coming through," he said. "They want something unique, original — something artistic."

It had been more than 15 years since Nanny was cremated, but Juliet Sykes said when she saw one of the Artful Ashes hearts on Facebook, she had to have one.

Sykes told the Dales: "I just wish granddad had been cremated, too, so they could be together."

SPOUSE CALLS 'Army Wives' ends, but real life goes on

As the "Army Wives" television show concludes its seven-season run, the end is also near for the last of the real-life wars the program portrayed.

When the show began airing on the Lifetime Network in 2007, the U.S. was at war in both Afghanistan and Iraq. The show portrayed the friendships, romances and struggles of Army spouses at a fictional Army base, through wars and other more personal conflicts.

"There's irony there, that the show ended as (the war) is winding down in Afghanistan," said Tanya Blank, author of "Army Wives: The Unwritten Code of Military Marriage," the nonfiction book on which the show and its fictional characters were based.

"Jeff Malvo, the executive producer, said the show was (Lifetime's) longest-running show to cover the longest-running war in our history," she said.

The war is ending, and the serial drama about military spouses and families is over, but real military life goes on, as does global conflict.

"We live in such a volatile world ... Our military will always be deployed to danger zones," said Blank, who is an Army wife, daughter and sister.

"We're always going to have soldiers on hardship tours. I hope the American public doesn't forget about the sacrifices that these men and women are making — and their families," she said. "That was the great thing about ... 'Army Wives.' It showed the human side of service."

The show was canceled last fall, after Season 7 was already completed, so the final episode left the characters — and the show's many fans — hanging.

"We did not know that the show would be ending when Season 7 ended last June," said Blank. "If we had known that it was going to be a series ending and not just a season ending, there would have been more of a conclusion. The plot lines would have been resolved with a nice send-off for the characters," said Blank, who also served as a military consultant to writers and producers throughout the show's run, the longest in the network's history.

Perhaps to atone for the loose ends, earlier this month Lifetime aired a two-hour special called "Final Salute to Army Wives." It did not resolve the stories in the drama, but it did reunite many of the original cast members, who talked about their experiences.

"For a show to be given the opportunity to have a reunion special ... is really unique and a nod to how popular the show was," said Blank, who was featured on the final show, as were stars like Bridg Brannagh, Sally Pressman, Brian McNamara, Kim Delaney and others.

"Do I think the show ran its course? I don't," Blank said. "The executive producer told me he thought we had many more meaningful and worthy plotlines and stories to share. He said we still had some mileage. When he talks about 'Army Wives,' he had that little twinkle in his eye, and that is so important."

In spite of her disappointment, Blank said she chooses to focus on the positives.

"The show meant so much to fans and impacted them in so many positive ways. So I've been celebrating that fact since the show was canceled," she said.

She believes the show's success had both civilian and military components. Civilians watched the show because they wanted to better understand servicemembers and their families, she said.

"For the military, it was a venue to share our story with the American people and to be proud of our story."

Blank described a restaurant — in her husband's Ohio hometown — where photographs of every person from the town who has served in uniform are displayed on the wall.

"I think that just tells you something: that even though you might not have a personal connection to the military, it still matters," she said.

"We live in a country where people like Miley Cyrus and Justin Bieber grab headlines, but (that wall) tells me that serving one's country matters; those who serve alongside at the home front matter. I think that sacrifice, honor and service to nation will never go out of fashion."

Terri Barnes writes Spouse Calls weekly for Stars and Stripes and is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@stripes.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

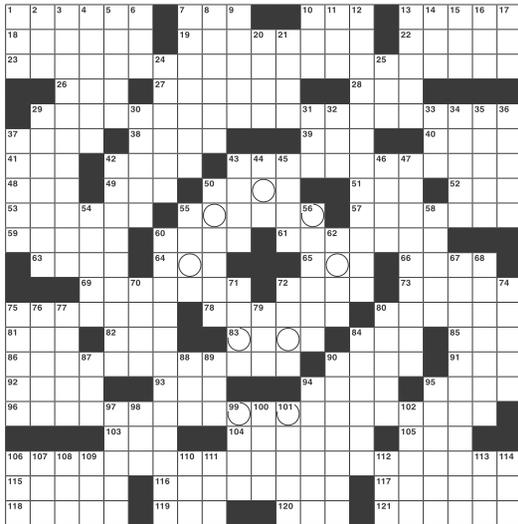
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BRIGHT IDEAS

BY IAN LIVENGOOD / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

When this puzzle is done, the circled letters, reading counterclockwise from the top, will spell a phrase relating to the puzzle's theme.

- CROSSWORD clues: 1 Expands, in a way of Helios; 7 Sister of Helios; 10 ___ room; 13 Elite unit; 18 Gambling mecca; 19 Saint's home, for short; 22 Venomous African tree-dweller; 23 Start of a motivational comment attributed to 86-Across; 26 Justin Timberlake's "Cry ___ River"; 27 [That makes me so uncomfortable]; 28 Lockup; 29 Middle of the comment; 37 Toolbar feature; 38 Director Nicolas; 39 Record; 40 Facial moisturizing brand; 41 "Power" suffix; 42 Sticks in the closet?; 43 End of the comment briefly; 44 College major; 49 Commercial lead-in to Pen; 50 Rocket; 51 Cousin of "Ugh!"; 52 Osaka-to-Sapporo dir.; 53 Law firm department; 55 Fired on; 57 Good-for-nothing; 59 Resort city in 1945 news; 60 Small scene; 61 Restricted part of an urban area; 63 Ball player?; 64 Prominent feature of an Obama caricature; 65 Ray Charles hosted in 1977: Abbr.; 66 Couple at the altar?; 69 Start to show one's real potential; 72 Sr.; 73 Birthplace of Buddha, now; 75 Pitcher Mike with 270 wins; 78 Christmas cookie ingredient; 80 Plagues; 81 Eponymous German physician; 82 Combined with "Watering hole for Homer and Barney"; 84 Coin collector; 85 Pelican's home, for short; 86 See 23-Across; 90 The Durbanfield girl, in literature; 91 Dr. Scuss animal; 92 It has paper denominations from 5 to 500; 93 Ex-fed head Bernanke; 94 Some body work, in dir.; 95 Zippo alternatives; 96 Nickname for 86-Across; 103 Barrel of fun?; 104 Saffron-flavored dish; 105 Brow line?; 106 Development of an active volcano; 115 World capital on the slope of an active volcano; 116 Dolph of "Rocky IV"; 117 More chilling; 118 Throw around; 119 D.C. mover and shaker: Abbr.; 120 Scandinavian coin; 121 Actor Christian; DOWN: 1 French kiss recipient, maybe; 2 "How silly of me!"; 3 Bit of a code; 4 Stockpile; 5 View that may cost you extra; 6 Security Council veto; 7 Ins; 8 Near future; 9 Hardly enough; 10 The French way?; 11 It may be delayed by a storm: Abbr.; 12 United Center team; 13 Update, say; 14 Garden State casino, informally, with "the"; 15 Outback native; 16 Crunches crunch them; 17 Yoga base; 20 ___ of relief; 21 Nondairy item in the dairy aisle; 24 Ones without a leg to stand on?; 25 Part of a moving line; 29 Blues Brothers wear; 30 Nosesides; 31 Utmost: Abbr.; 32 Farm mother; 33 "My word!"; 34 Stag, maybe; 35 "The fish that got away" and others; 36 Comic Wanda; 37 Hurried; 42 "Death Magnetic" band; 43 Drinking binge; 44 Inspiration for the 91-Across; 45 Many an Al Jazeera viewer; 46 Pioneer org.; 47 Five-time Super Bowl champions, informally; 50 Barack's successor; 54 Sharp pains; 55 Travel agency listings; 56 Cabossex; 58 Starts of news articles; 60 Deli stock with seeds; 62 Tight; 67 What an electric current does not flow through; 68 Relaxed, say; 80 Cesare Angelotti in "Tosca," e.g.; 84 It gets you off schedule; 87 Place to store hay; 88 German article; 89 Third line on many a ballot: Abbr.; 90 Sunbathing evidence; 94 One with bills piling up?; 95 "My Name Is ___," gold album of 1965; 97 "Tell me two parts of a British puzzle?"; 99 ___ page; 100 Canine; 101 D.C. mover; 102 Pt. ___ "Life of Pi" protagonist; 106 100s of ordinary people?; 107 Fanatic; 108 Geometry fig.; 109 Had something; 110 Bring into court (TV slogan); 111 ___ = Politics (TV slogan); 112 Guys; 113 Food Network host Sandra; 114 "It's f-f-freezing!"



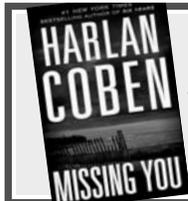
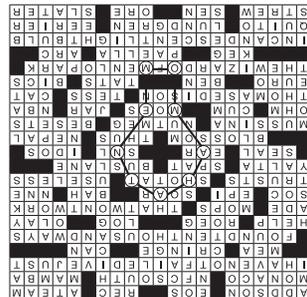
- 70 Difficult weight; 71 Appropriate flowers for Mother's Day?; 72 Bootleggers' banes; 74 Exams offered four times a yr.; 75 Certain Bach composition; 76 "For sure"; 77 Goocy campfire treat; 79 "Not ___ shabby!"; 80 Cesare Angelotti in "Tosca," e.g.; 84 It gets you off schedule; 87 Place to store hay; 88 German article; 89 Third line on many a ballot: Abbr.; 90 Sunbathing evidence; 94 One with bills piling up?; 95 "My Name Is ___," gold album of 1965; 97 "Tell me two parts of a British puzzle?"; 99 ___ page; 100 Canine; 101 D.C. mover; 102 Pt. ___ "Life of Pi" protagonist; 106 100s of ordinary people?; 107 Fanatic; 108 Geometry fig.; 109 Had something; 110 Bring into court (TV slogan); 111 ___ = Politics (TV slogan); 112 Guys; 113 Food Network host Sandra; 114 "It's f-f-freezing!"

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. E-mail him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES



“Scandal” actor Columbus Short was arrested Wednesday on a felony battery case filed after he knocked a man out during an altercation in a West Hollywood, Calif., restaurant on March 15.

“Scandal” star charged with felony

By ANTHONY MCCARTNEY
The Associated Press

Columbus Short, a lead actor on the television series “Scandal,” was arrested Wednesday on a felony charge that he seriously injured a man during an altercation at a restaurant earlier this month.

Short was arrested by police in Claremont, Calif., on a warrant issued in a case that alleges he committed a battery that caused serious bodily harm.

The actor was involved in a dispute with a man at a West Los Angeles, Calif., restaurant March 15 before Short hit the man and knocked him out, according to Los Angeles police and prosecutors. Further details about the altercation were not released.

Short, 31, plays attorney Harrison Wright on ABC’s hit series “Scandal.” Records show he was released Wednesday after posting \$50,000 bail. If convicted, Short faces up to four years in state prison. A date for his initial court appearance has not yet been set.

A phone number for Jeff Jacquet, Short’s attorney in another criminal case, had a full voicemail box, and a message sent via fax was not immediately returned.

Short was charged Feb. 14 with misdemeanor spousal battery and has pleaded not guilty in that case. A judge ordered him to stay away from his wife, Tuere Short, at a March 5 court hearing. Records show she filed for divorce last year but dismissed her petition earlier this year.

Flick is a nod to movies from Nolan’s childhood

By JESSICA HERNDON
The Associated Press

It’s tough to get writer-director Christopher Nolan to divulge details about the plot of his upcoming sci-fi movie “Interstellar.”

“We’re right in the thick of the first cut of the film,” he said on stage during a question and answer session at the annual movie-theater convention CinemaCon in Las Vegas on Wednesday. “So I can’t really say much about it right now.”

However, he did say that the tone of the time travel-focused project, of which scientist Kip Thorne is a producer, is very different than any of his previous films.

“For me, it’s about harking back to films I saw when I was a child,” he said. “I grew up in an era that was the golden age of the blockbuster, where something being a family film could be very broad and universal. I feel like that is something I want to see again. Something that looks at where we are as people, and where we might go.”

Co-written with his brother and frequent collaborator Jonathan Nolan — the two have worked on “The Dark Knight,” “The Dark Knight Rises” and “The Pres-



“I grew up in an era that was the golden age of the blockbuster, where something being a family film could be very broad and universal. I feel like that is something I want to see again.”

Christopher Nolan
writer-director of “Interstellar”

tige” together — “Interstellar” is about “interstellar travel,” Nolan offered.

But just how the story will unfold when it hits theaters in November is still a mystery. In the trailer, snippets of archival aviation footage is shown as Matthew McConaughey talks about “the ability to overcome the impossible” via voiceover.

We also see a shot of the Oscar winner driving down a dusty road while tears are in his eyes and a little girl holding a man’s hand while watching the launch of what looks like a rocket.

McConaughey, along with Anne Hathaway and Jessica Chastain, stars in the film. Nolan said he “needed someone who

was very much an everyman” to play the male lead. McConaughey, he added, was an ideal choice.

“He is experiencing extraordinary events in the film and we are seeing them through his eyes. I didn’t know how much potential Matthew had until ‘Mad.’ It showed me a side of his capabilities that I never knew was there. It’s a transformative performance.”

Though he did not reveal any of the locations where the film was shot, Nolan said the film was “shot like a documentary.”

He said he tried to stay away from creating scenes with CGI. “We put the people in the real environments,” he added.



SONY PICTURES/AP

First look at ‘The Amazing Spider-Man 2’

Sony Pictures debuted 30 minutes of 3-D footage of “The Amazing Spider-Man 2” — starring Andrew Garfield, as Spider-Man, left, and Jamie Foxx as Electro — at CinemaCon in Las Vegas on Wednesday night. Cut into multiple segments, a packed house at Caesars Palace previewed scenes explaining the death of Peter Parker’s parents, played by Campbell Scott and Embeth Davidtz, and the rekindling of Parker and Gwen Stacy, played by Emma Stone, as they graduate from high school.

‘Sherlock’ to Shakespeare: Benedict Cumberbatch to play Hamlet on London stage

The Associated Press

London’s Barbican Centre said Wednesday Benedict Cumberbatch will play Hamlet at the venue next year. The Lyndsey Turner-directed production of “Hamlet” will run August to October 2015, and the stint in the 1,160-seat venue is guaranteed to be a hot ticket. Cumberbatch has gained fans around the world for his role in the BBC TV drama “Sherlock” as cerebral sleuth Sherlock Holmes.

Producer Sonia Friedman called Cumberbatch “one of the most gifted and exciting actors of his generation.”

Cumberbatch, who appeared in the movies “12 Years a Slave” and “The Fifth Estate” won an Olivier theater award for his starring role in “Frankenstein” at Britain’s National Theatre in 2011.

Winfrey going on the road

Oprah Winfrey is taking a self-help show on the road to eight cities this fall, a two-day event giving fans a chance to see and possibly meet her.

The talk-show host and chief of the OWN television network said Wednesday the “Oprah’s The Life You Want Weekend” will include some of the personalities she has featured over the years. Also appearing will be “Eat, Pray, Love” author Elizabeth Gilbert and Pastor Rob Bell, with author Deepak Chopra at some of the tour stops.

Winfrey has done speaking engagements and held a few live “Oprah’s Life Class” events in recent years, but nothing of this scale, organizers said. Tickets start at \$99 and range up to \$999.

Startup offers movie investing

A new startup is offering wealthy investors a chance to finance movies starring Tom Hanks, Kate Winslet and Casey Affleck. The San Francisco-based Junction launched Wednesday. It’s a twist on the crowdfunding that has helped movies like “Veronica Mars” get made. It’s open only to those who make \$200,000 a year or have a net worth of more than \$1 million.

Junction investors share in potential profits, like normal film financiers. Contributors to projects on crowdfunding sites like Kickstarter receive rewards, like a copy of the script or a signed movie poster.

Junction films are already fully funded, but open to adding more investors. Among the first projects are the John

Hillcoat-directed “Triple Nine,” with Affleck and Winslet, and the Dave Eggers adaptation “A Hologram for the King,” starring Hanks.

Snooki plans N.J. wedding

Officials in a northern New Jersey town are discussing whether to allow taping of an MTV show featuring Nicole “Snooki” Polizzi’s wedding.

The cast member of the reality series “Jersey Shore” and “Snooki and JWoww” spinoff intends to marry her fiancé, Jonni LaValle, at the Venetian banquet hall in Garfield in the fall. The couple has a 15-year-old son. Polizzi’s website says she’s planning a “Great Gatsby”-themed wedding.

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OPINION

Obama's policies poor, well, but he doesn't

By ROBERT KAGAN

Whether one likes President Barack Obama's conduct of foreign policy or not, the common assumption is that the administration is at least giving the American people the foreign policy they want. The majority of Americans have opposed any meaningful U.S. role in Syria, have wanted to lessen U.S. involvement in the Middle East generally, are eager to see the "tide of war" recede and would like to focus on "nation-building at home." Until now, the president generally has catered to and encouraged this public mood, so one presumes that he has succeeded, if nothing else, in gaining the public's approval.

Yet, surprisingly, he hasn't. The president's approval ratings on foreign policy are dismal. According to the most recent CBS News poll, only 36 percent of Americans approve of the job Obama is doing on foreign policy, while 49 percent disapprove.

That was consistent with other polls over the past year. A November poll by the Pew Research Center showed a 34 percent approval on foreign policy vs. 56 percent disapproval. The CBS poll showed a higher percentage of Americans approving of Obama's economic policies (39 percent) and a higher percentage approving his handling of health care (41 percent). Foreign policy is the most unpopular thing Obama is doing right now. And lest one think that foreign policy is never a winner, Bill Clinton's foreign policy ratings at roughly the same point in his second term were quite good — 57 percent approval; 34 percent disapproval — and Ronald Reagan's rating was more than 50 percent

at a similar point in his presidency. That leaves Obama in the company of George W. Bush — not the first-term Bush whose ratings were consistently high but the second-term Bush mired in the worst phase of the Iraq War.

Nor are Obama's numbers on foreign policy simply being dragged down by his overall job approval ratings. The public is capable of drawing distinctions. When George H.W. Bush's overall approval ratings were tanking in the last year of his presidency, his ratings on economic policy led the downward trend, but his foreign policy ratings stayed above 50 percent. According to the CBS poll, Obama's overall approval rating is 40 percent, four points higher than his foreign policy rating.

So we return to the paradox: Obama is supposedly conducting a foreign policy in tune with popular opinion, yet his foreign policy is not popular. What's the explanation? I await further investigation by pollsters, but until then I offer one hypothesis:

A majority of Americans may not want to intervene in Syria, do anything serious about Iran or care what happens in Afghanistan, Iraq, Egypt or Ukraine. They may prefer a minimalist foreign policy in which the United States no longer plays a leading role in the world and leaves others to deal with their own miserable problems. They may want a more narrowly self-interested American policy. In short, they may want what Obama so far has been giving them. But they're not proud of it, and they're not grateful to him for giving them what they want.

For many decades Americans thought of their nation as special. They were the self-proclaimed "leader of the free world," the "indispensable nation," the No. 1 super-

power. It was a source of pride. Now, pundits and prognosticators are telling them that those days are over, that it is time for the United States to seek more modest goals commensurate with its declining power. And they have a president committed to this task. He has shown little nostalgia for the days of U.S. leadership and at the same time has conceded that his job to deal with the "reality" of decline.

Perhaps this is what they want from him. But it is not something they will thank him for. To follow a leader to triumph in inspiring loyalty, gratitude and affection. Following a leader in retreat inspires no such emotions.

Presidents are not always rewarded for doing what the public says it wants. Sometimes they are rewarded for doing just the opposite. Bill Clinton enjoyed higher approval ratings after intervening in Bosnia and Kosovo, even though majorities of Americans had opposed both interventions before he took office. Who knows what the public might have thought of Obama had he gone through with his planned attack on Syria last August? As Col. Henry Stimson observed, until a president leads, he can't expect the people to "voluntarily take the initiative in letting him know whether or not they would follow him if he did take the lead." Obama's speech in Europe on Wednesday shows that he may understand that the time has come to offer leadership. Whether or not he does in his remaining time in office, perhaps his would-be successors can take note.

Robert Kagan, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, is an occasional contributor to The Washington Post op-ed page. He is the author of "The World America Made." This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

Ending current setup could be a Net loss

By ANN McFEETERS
 McClatchy-Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON
 Here's a conundrum for our times.
 The Internet has opened up free expression to millions of people around the world, including those who live in dictatorships. But the United States just announced it intends to give up oversight of the functioning of the Internet to an as-yet-unformed international organization. The idea is to give more government and private entities a bigger stake in controlling the Web. But it could also mean stifling the free flow of ideas.

You probably aren't surprised to know that this has created a huge international controversy, with pro-democracy advocates in a tizzy and academics engaged in full-throated debate. Most of us are scratching our perplexed heads.

You also might not be surprised to know that the widespread spying by the National Security Agency for the last six years has contributed to the brouhaha.

Is the Obama administration about to make a huge mistake with potentially disastrous ramifications for millions of peo-

ple around the globe?
 Possibly.
 The Department of Commerce says that it was always intended that the U.S. oversight of the Internet over a group that doles out domain names and Internet address numbers would be temporary. The contract between the Commerce Department and the nonprofit Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, which has been doing the daily, onerous task of technical management of the Internet in California, expires Sept. 30, 2015.

It is not clear what will take over the contract, with millions of Internet Protocol addresses and names to keep track of and manage. Commerce's contract with ICANN has worked well (Commerce always has had authority to veto ICANN's decisions), but Commerce says the "timing is right" for the new, more open, take-over.

ICANN has matured as a competent, independent operation. But because of NSA's enthusiasm about tapping cellphones of world leaders and reading emails, many regard ICANN with suspicion because of its partnership with Commerce. Thus Commerce proposes to terminate it.

Former U.S. Trade Representative Peter just revealed that when he has important messages to convey, he sends them by snail mail because he is convinced he is being spied upon.)

But with governments increasingly being called "stakeholders" in the use of the Internet, many U.S. members of Congress are pushing for more control over the Internet, they will do what China has done — restrict access to citizens.

Commerce stresses that one of the goals of the transition from U.S. control of the administration of the Internet (by Commerce's White House-authorized National Telecommunications and Information Administra-

tion) to international control is maintaining the "openness of the Internet."

Let's see how that is working right now. A few days ago Turkey's government banned Twitter because Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan was angry about leaks on social media that fueled a corruption scandal involving his government. He is worried about keeping his 11-year-old hold on power.

Commerce says the first step in the transition is creation of an oversight body that would "win the trust of crucial stakeholders around the world." Sure. Governments such as Russia and China will simply step aside and let well-meaning, humanitarian, benign nonprofits take over the most powerful communications tool ever invented.

There is an "out." If Commerce is convinced an international oversight body developed by ICANN would not be fair, uncorrupt, open and functional, ICANN's supervision could be extended as is. But the fallout would be extreme — the U.S. promises international control but then backs away from it?

We ponder the efficacy of international bodies such as the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency and the International Telecommunications Union and are left doubtful that an "independent" nonpartisan body, even one conceived by the global tech community, could oversee the complicated entity that is the Internet. Let alone maintain the innovation and fairness such a hungry beast demands.

How ironic and tragic if Edward Snowden's thoughtless unleashing of NSA secrets would end up endangering cyberspace in unforfeitable ways.

Ann McFeeters is an op-ed columnist for McClatchy-Tribune.

Tell us what you think

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

OPINION

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.

Make it Hobby Lobby's choice The Detroit News

Hobby Lobby is the kind of business President Barack Obama says he loves. The family-owned company is successful, and its owners treat their employees like family. They receive better pay and benefits than many others in retail jobs, including wages well above the federal minimum.

But through Obamacare, the Department of Health and Human Services is requiring all businesses to provide a wide range of contraceptives free of charge to employees through their insurance plans. Part of that requirement goes against the religious beliefs of the family who owns Hobby Lobby, and they've brought a lawsuit against the Obama administration.

The company was founded by David Green in a garage in 1972. The family business has grown into more than 556 stores in 41 states with 16,000 full-time employees. Hobby Lobby pays its hourly employees 90 percent above the federal minimum wage and offers them generous insurance and retirement plans for a retail chain.

On Tuesday, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Hobby Lobby case. This case was combined with a similar one out of Pennsylvania. The Greens are represented by the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, a nonprofit legal and educational institute.

The contraceptive mandate has created an uproar throughout the Catholic Church and beyond to the private sector. So far, 94 cases have been filed challenging the mandate — half are from for-profit companies like Hobby Lobby. The rest are from nonprofits. Eleven of the lawsuits are out of Michigan.

And Hobby Lobby owners do offer birth control to employees in their insurance plans. It's the drugs and devices that may induce an early abortion that they object to — only four out of 20 contraceptives the Obama administration wants employees to include.

Lori Windham, a Becket Fund attorney who is representing Hobby Lobby, says the law is on the side of Hobby Lobby. For instance, in a decision last June, the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the religious rights of the Greens. Many of the other businesses and organizations challenging the mandate have had similar favorable rulings.

"We are hopeful," Windham said. If the Greens family doesn't win, Windham says this will set a "very disturbing and troubling precedent" that if you open a family business you forfeit your religious rights. And with that precedent, there would be few limits as to what the government could tell companies to do.

In a country that was founded on protecting basic, individual freedoms, that would be a hard case to back — not to mention an affront to the Constitution. ... The Supreme Court should uphold the ability of people like the Greens to run a business without violating their conscience.

Can't just ignore ACA deadline The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

It's down to the wire, folks. Under the new federal health care law, March 31 is the deadline for signing up for health insurance, either through the federal marketplace, HealthCare.gov, or from a private insurer.



David Green, second from left, founder and chief executive officer of Hobby Lobby, walks with his wife, Barbara, center, and members of their family as they acknowledge a cheer from demonstrators at the Supreme Court on Tuesday.

If you aren't insured through an employer, you don't already have an individual policy, you have compelling reasons to act quickly. ... Going uninsured will cost you. The law requires a tax penalty for remaining uncovered. Depending on your income, you could end up paying anywhere from \$95 as a single adult to as much as \$10,150. A single person whose modified adjusted gross income is \$35,000 a year would be liable for a \$249 penalty. And you get nothing for your money. ...

Yes, Obamacare has been controversial. But it is the law, and millions of Americans are benefiting from it.

Even critics appreciate the law's consumer protections, especially a prohibition against insurers refusing affordable policies to consumers with pre-existing health conditions. And the only way to guarantee affordable coverage to sick people is to recruit healthy people into the insurance pool.

It's obvious how NRA operates Reading (Pa.) Eagle

Though the designee supports increased gun regulations, he'd play no role in forming policy.

The National Rifle Association's attack on President Barack Obama's surgeon general nominee is a too-common tale of corrupted power and political cowardice. It's also, apparently, on the verge of derailing Dr. Vivek H. Murthy's candidacy.

No doubt many NRA backers will blindly rejoice, but we caution that this story should dismay both guns-rights advocates and gun-control proponents.

Because the crux of the NRA's smear campaign simply bears no relevance to Murthy's would-be role as the country's top doctor. Murthy is Yale- and Harvard-educated. ... But the NRA began aiming its political guns at Murthy in a bullying February letter to Senate leaders, writing, "[There is a] likelihood he would use the office of surgeon general to further his pre-existing campaign against gun ownership."

It's true that Murthy advocates an assault weapons ban and mandatory training. Patching gunshot victims' gaping wounds when he was an emergency-room doctor likely helped shape Murthy's position that gun ownership is more a harmful than a helpful right.

Still, the NRA's arguments are specious. Forget that at his confirmation hearing

Murthy testified he had no intention of using the surgeon general's post to advance a gun control platform, because Murthy's intent has little to do with the fact that a surgeon general has no role in gun regulation formation. ...

Despite this nonconnection between Murthy's gun stance and a surgeon general's role, the White House is reportedly recalibrating its strategy on Murthy, and 10 Democrats from heavily pro-gun states have hinted they'd vote against him.

Shame on the NRA for exerting its alarmist might against a qualified candidate not in lockstep with its one-way agenda. Shame on Obama for not having Murthy's back. And shame on those Democrats for their me-first approach to politics.

Flight 370: need to know why The Dallas Morning News

One part of the mystery solved, another continues to build.

Malaysia's prime minister ended the rankest speculation with the announcement Monday that Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 was likely lost in the southern Indian Ocean.

It was, at least, a merciful gesture for loved ones of the 239 passengers and crewmembers after more than two weeks of agonizing over how and why a Boeing 777 could simply vanish — and whether they should hold out hope for a miracle.

A statement the airline sent to relatives said an analysis concluded that "none of those on board survived." The heart-breaking news let the families move on to a new phase of their grief.

Prime Minister Najib Razak's announcement also should end conjecture over certain implausible scenarios. ...

The detective work to piece together why the Beijing-bound plane went drastically off course is no closer to definitive answers, however.

Why did the plane's transponder abruptly go quiet as the plane neared Vietnamese airspace? Was there hidden meaning to the first officer's last words: "All right, good night?"

Was the crew overcome by a suddenly depressurized cabin? Why didn't passengers make any cellphone calls? Did lithium batteries in the plane's cargo hold ignite?

The answers are significant to both the flying public and an airline industry that desperately wants to address lingering doubts about safety. The Boeing 777 has

a remarkable safety record, with only two serious mishaps among hundreds of aircraft over 19 years. If it has an undiscovered vulnerability, analyzing that could save lives in the future.

First job matters down the line Deseret News, Salt Lake City

The rising rate of unemployment among teenagers is the perfect storm of social and economic trends that is clouding the future for American youth, particularly young men. Jobs are harder to come by. That scarcity is likely to continue as technology and automation replace jobs traditionally held by those first entering the workforce, and as long as government tinkers with policies that make it harder for companies to hire young people.

The consequences may be difficult to grapple with. Young men who are unable to find employment and vocational skills early in life are less likely to embark on a career path that ensures stability in adulthood. ...

One reason for hope is the programs springing up to provide apprenticeships for teenagers to gain real-world work experience as part of their secondary or post-high school educations. ...

In Utah, the rate of teenage employment is relatively high, according to an analysis by the Brookings Institute. The Provo area enjoys the nation's highest rate of employment among 16-19 year olds, at about 49 percent. The national rate is around 26 percent, down from about 45 percent in 2000. The higher job rate in Utah is attributed to several factors, primarily the influence of an overall low unemployment rate, a higher-than-average number of youth per capita, and a culture of attaining part-time employment at an early age.

That culture provides benefits to individuals and to society at large. To ensure that it continues, educators in Utah and nationwide should consider the kinds of initiatives to partner schools and businesses in apprenticeship programs. Existing programs could be expanded to a larger scale, extending their benefits.

Similarly, both local and national policymakers must remember not to harm to teenage employment prospects. Specifically, raising the national or state minimum wage laws are certain to narrow the opportunities available for younger workers.

Put Obama library in Chicago Chicago Sun-Times

Just say no to splitting up the Obama presidential library.

Say no to an annex in Hawaii.

Say no to a building at the University of Illinois.

Say no to a facility at Chicago State University.

Sometimes the whole really is better than the sum of its parts.

To realize its full potential, the Barack Obama presidential library and museum should be confined to a single site on Chicago's mid-South Side, with an striking distance from the University of Chicago. ...

The foundation overseeing the library last week laid out in broad terms its vision, making it a critical moment to draw a line in the sand.

The Sun-Times' Lynn Sweet said that document includes a reference to a "multi-unit facility," possibly a signal that the first couple is looking for more than one building and location. That potentially opens the door for a site in Hawaii or local sites beyond the mid-South Side.

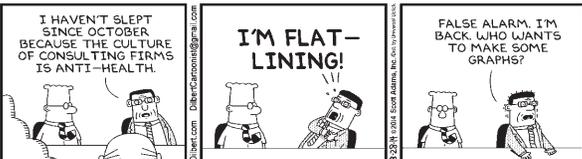
The foundation expects to select a site in early 2015.

There is only so much money, so many artifacts, so much time. They should all be concentrated on Chicago's mid-South Side, giving each and every library visitor the richest and most rewarding experience possible.

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				
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37							39				
		40					41		42	43	44
45	46	47			48	49					
50					51				52		
53					54				55		

ACROSS

- 1 Swabbie's tool
- 4 Grouch
- 8 Enthusiastic German asset
- 12 Commotion
- 13 Come in last
- 14 Tippy-top
- 15 Sink fixture
- 17 Relinquish
- 18 Undivided
- 19 Fictional TV planet
- 21 Part of UCLA
- 22 Subversive one
- 26 UPS rival
- 29 Lustrous black
- 30 Sapporo bash
- 31 Cupid's alias
- 32 1963 Paul Newman movie
- 33 Actress Jessica
- 34 Id counterpart
- 35 Trot
- 36 Stage a comeback
- 37 Back-related
- 39 Barbie's companion
- 40 Snoop
- 41 Busy
- 45 Labyrinth
- 48 Revelry
- 50 Burn remedy
- 51 Finished
- 52 Annoy
- 53 "The day the music..."
- 54 Prop for Potter

DOWN

- 1 Put together
- 2 Valhalla VIP
- 3 Tweet, e.g.
- 4 Bleach brand
- 5 Kentucky Derby prize
- 6 Simile center
- 7 Toni Morrison novel
- 8 Some are one-eyed
- 9 Mimic
- 10 Clampett patriarch
- 11 Pink-slip
- 12 Heaps
- 20 Betrayer
- 23 Earth
- 24 First victim
- 25 Easter symbol
- 26 Nourish
- 27 Therefore
- 28 Entrance
- 29 Moonshine vessel
- 32 "Gee whiz!"
- 33 African language group
- 35 Jostle
- 36 "Guinness Book" entry
- 38 Haste
- 39 Singer Carpenter
- 42 "— bigger than a breadbox?"
- 43 Change
- 44 Moose kin
- 45 Frenzied
- 46 "The Greatest"
- 47 Orange "Sesame Street" Muppet
- 49 Actress Gardner

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

3-28

CRYPTOQUIP

GW OQWGLBG JSANLTK KQWA
 PMI JPQA, GJL NBWGGSNJ
 SMNGQYALMGPTSNG BPQQLH
 P QWYMH OSOLO NOOPI.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I SUPPOSE MENOGERIE DENIZENS WHICH CRAWL ABOUT CLOSE TO THE GROUND MIGHT BE CALLED ZOO CREEPERS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals T

Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



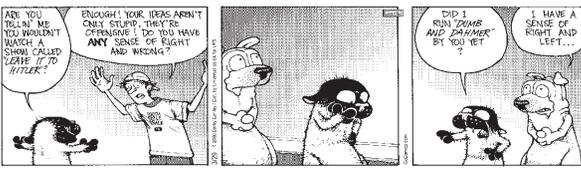
Non Sequitur



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		
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			38	39				40		41			
42	43									46	47	48	49
50				51						52	53		
54										55			
56										57			

ACROSS

- 1 Phony chocolate
- 6 Diamond shapes
- 12 He served between Albright and Rice
- 13 Miami newspaper
- 14 Peet or Plummer
- 15 Main dish
- 16 Singer-actor Axton
- 17 Bridge
- 19 Picks from a lineup
- 20 Fill till full
- 22 "Caught ya!"
- 24 Peyton's brother
- 27 Campus facility
- 29 One
- 32 Omerta
- 35 Couturier Cassini
- 36 Central points
- 37 Keep tabs on
- 38 Kabuki alternative
- 40 Siestas
- 42 Write in the margins
- 44 "There oughta be —!"
- 46 Never again?
- 50 Maroon
- 52 Earlier
- 54 Quarter-back Y.A.
- 55 Canine coat
- 56 Fashions
- 57 Fix a seam

DOWN

- 1 "Magic Moments" crooner
- 2 Vacationing
- 3 "Monopoly" payments
- 4 On in years
- 5 Launch
- 6 Perlman of "Kirstie"
- 7 Carrot-top's secret?
- 8 Table scrap
- 9 Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Moore
- 10 Ran in the wash
- 11 Midmonth date
- 12 Com follower
- 18 Characterization
- 21 Fuss
- 23 Shade
- 24 "The Name of the
- 25 Texter's "That's funny"
- 26 Theft target
- 28 Dickens' poor optimist
- 30 Unfriendly
- 31 Ball-bearing item
- 33 Swelled head
- 34 Back talk
- 39 Berry of Hollywood
- 41 Parlor pieces
- 42 "West Side Story" gang
- 43 Not procrastinating
- 45 Dregs
- 47 Iditarod terminus
- 48 Group of workers
- 49 Wet wriggler
- 51 Mo. city
- 53 Opposite WSW

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

3-29 CRYPTOQUIP

KN TYQHAYH GHT BWV
 FYGP PHBLF QYAHF TY ICBI
 ICHPH'T SHPY WHNI, K'L
 TBF CH'T B NGAL-PBSYP.
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: TO PROTECT HIMSELF FROM ANY HARM, THE SCOTTISH INSTRUMENTALIST CARRIED AROUND PIPER SPRAY.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: T equals S

“ESCAPE TO THE HEART OF TOKYO!”

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

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Audi Q8 2011 \$33000.00 2011 Audi Q8 2.8I Quattro Premium Plus with 3.1 liter gas 70 hp, full leather, cruise control, traction control, blind spot alert, parking camera & sensors, tie rod her smart key, luxury pkg, leather interior, Bose, full American leather, Bose & Cluison dual heated seats, Bose surround sound, iPod hook-up, 4200 mph top drive, 2 zone Klipsch inboard cup holders, 22,700 miles, all Audi service records. s.kuykendall@gmail.com 016022-0889 016048-4002 jkuyk@hotmail.com

BMW X3 DIESEL 2006
Diesel, 4X4, Metallic Black, w/19" Interior Heated Seats, Parking Assist System, Adaptive Brake, Sun Roof, 010-2-64-1964

HYUNDAI NEW ET SPONATA 2008 \$2200.00 (2008) maintained by one owner and in good condition. 3 speed manual transmission, good gas mileage. 3-2-740-3666 +82-2270-7145

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Dodge Journey STX 2010 \$14500.00 Super condition in both interior and exterior (no children). Full options DVD Premium Stereo, Rear AC and Color. Blue. Gray. Interior Color: Blue. Gray. Mileage: 010-9205-1649 jees43@gmail.com

Ford Fusion SEL 2011 \$17500.00 Purchased at 21,000 miles. Car sales in 2011. Gray exterior, black leather interior, with moon roof, rear spoiler, premium 16" alloy wheels, reverse sensing system, rain sensing wipers, AC, cruise control, power windows, cruise control, power locks, cruise control, cross traffic alert (BSM), backup camera, heated seats, SYNC, factory Sony Premium sound system, 12 speakers) includes CD/MP3/AUX/USB satellite radio. 010-2-64-8499 Email: plage98@gmail.com

Ford Fusion SEL 2011 \$17500.00 Purchased at 21,000 miles. Car sales in 2011. Gray exterior, black leather interior, with moon roof, rear spoiler, premium 16" alloy wheels, reverse sensing system, rain sensing wipers, AC, cruise control, power windows, cruise control, power locks, cruise control, cross traffic alert (BSM), backup camera, heated seats, SYNC, factory Sony Premium sound system, 12 speakers) includes CD/MP3/AUX/USB satellite radio. 010-2-64-8499 Email: plage98@gmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Ford Fusion SEL 2011 \$17500.00 Purchased at 21,000 miles. Car sales in 2011. Gray exterior, black leather interior, with moon roof, rear spoiler, premium 16" alloy wheels, reverse sensing system, rain sensing wipers, AC, cruise control, power windows, cruise control, power locks, cruise control, cross traffic alert (BSM), backup camera, heated seats, SYNC, factory Sony Premium sound system, 12 speakers) includes CD/MP3/AUX/USB satellite radio. 010-2-64-8499 Email: plage98@gmail.com

Ford Mustang GT 2013 \$20000.00 PCSing and late in chance shipping damage. Performance seats, Sync, 6-speaker, 420 horse power, 17" premium alloy wheels, black wheels, break, beautiful and Fast - email for info, pics, questions. jkuyk@hotmail.com

Autos for Sale - Korea 148

Jeep Cherokee Laredo 2012 \$28500.00 Great condition, garage kept and less than 2 years old. Asking under blue book value. Vehicle has extended warranty. Contact for more details. 010682477

PCS Sale 780

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Jobs Offered 630

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SCOREBOARD

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Deals

Wednesday's transactions

BASEBALL
ANACAP LEAGUE
BALTIMORE ORIOLES — Assigned LHP Kameron Rupp to Norfolk (IL).
DETROIT TIGERS — Selected the contract of SS Alex Gonzalez from Toledo (IL).
KANSAS CITY ROYALS — Traded C Adam Moore to San Diego for a player to be named.
LOS ANGELES ANGELES — Waived RHP Joe Mauer for the purpose of granting him his unconditional release.
MINNAPOLIS TWINS — Released of Jermaine Mitchell. Agreed to terms with pitcher Matt Garza on a minor league contract.
TEXAS RANGERS — Agreed to terms with OF Endy Chavez and C Humberto Quintero on minor league contracts.

MLB
ATLANTA BRAVES — Released RHP Mark Lowe.
TEXAS RANGERS — Claimed RHP Seth Roster off waivers from the L.A. Dodgers after being Murphy off waivers from the Chicago Cubs. Placed RHP Tommy Hanson on irrevocable waivers for the purpose of giving him his unconditional release. Placed OF Engel Bettrre on the 60-day DL.

National League
CHICAGO CUBS — Released C George Kotaras.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Optioned RHP Ryan Wooten to the minors. Herera to Nashville (PCL).
MINNAPOLIS TWINS — Agreed to terms with RHP Kyle Farnsworth on a minor league contract.
RHP Jose Valverde from Las Vegas (PCL).
OPTIONED RHP Vic Black to Los Angeles.
TAMPA BAY RAYONS — Optioned C Cameron Rupp to Lehigh Valley (IL).
ST. LOUIS CARDINALS — Agreed to terms with RHP David Aardsma on a minor league contract.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
SAN DIEGO PADRES — Agreed to terms with OF Jeff Francoeur on a minor league contract.
WASHINGTON NATIONALS — Voided their option on RHP Ross Ohliver. Ohliver placed him on the 60-day DL. Agreed to terms with OF Kevin Frandsen on a one-year contract.

BASKETBALL
National Basketball Association
MILWAUKEE BUCKS — Signed G/D.J. St. Louis to a 10-year contract.
WOMEN'S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION — Re-signed C Erika de Souza.

FOOTBALL
National Football League
KANSAS CITY CHIEFS — Signed DT Luke McCown to a one-year contract.
NEW ORLEANS SAINTS — Agreed to terms with QB Drew Brees on a one-year contract.

HOCKEY
National Hockey League
WASHING DUCKS — Signed RW Matt Barkley to a 10-year contract.
DALLAS STARS — Signed F Justin Dowling to a two-year contract.
DETROIT RED WINGS — Assigned LW Matt Zaitsev to Grand Rapids (AHL).
FLORIDA PANTHERS — Reassigned F Joey Crabb and D Ryan Whitney to San Jose.

MONTREAL CANADIENS — Signed D Brent Burns to a two-year contract.
NASHVILLE PREDATORS — Assigned F Ryan Suter from Montreal to Nashville (AHL).
PHOENIX RANGERS — Recalled F J.T. Miller from Hartford (AHL).
PHOENIX COYOTES — Recalled D Connor Knack from Portland (AHL).
SAN JOSE SHARKS — Signed F Ryan Carpenter to a one-year contract.

SOCCER
MLS — Suspended Toronto M Jackson one game and fined him an undisclosed amount for aggressive inflammatory behavior during Sporting Kansas City's game.

NEW YORK COSMOS — Signed G Kyle Zito to a one-year contract.
MID-AMERICAN CONFERENCE — Announced the Midwest football league will be leaving conference after the 2015 season.

MUHLERBERG — Named Joshua Carter coach and Mike Lewis receivers coach and special teams coordinator.
RICE — Named Mike Rhoades men's basketball coach.
TARLETON STATE — Announced the retirement of women's basketball coach Renee Hearne. Named Misty Wilson women's basketball coach.

College basketball

NCAA Men's tournament

EAST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Nashville, Tenn., March 28 (29-7)
 UConn (28-8) vs. Iowa State (29-7)
 Michigan State (28-8) vs. Virginia (30-6)

Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 30
 Semifinal winners

SOUTH REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Memphis, Tenn., March 28 (29-7)
 Thursday, March 27
 Dayton (25-10) vs. Stanford (23-12)
 Florida (24-2) vs. UCLA (28-8)

Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 29
 Semifinal winners

MIDWEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Indianapolis, Ind., March 28 (29-7)
 Michigan (27-8) vs. Tennessee (24-12)
 Kentucky (26-10) vs. Louisville (31-5)

Regional Championship
 Sunday, March 30
 Semifinal winners

WEST REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Anaheim, Calif., March 28 (29-7)
 Wisconsin (26-7) vs. Baylor (26-11)
 San Diego State (31-4) vs. Arizona (32-4)

Regional Championship
 Saturday, March 29
 Semifinal winners

WESTERN CONFERENCE
Southwest Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Mountain West Division
 W L Pct GB
 Utah 15 2 0.882 0
 Colorado State 14 3 0.824 1
 New Mexico State 13 4 0.765 2
 Wyoming 12 5 0.706 3
 Nevada 11 6 0.646 4
 Idaho 10 7 0.588 5
 Utah State 9 8 0.529 6
 Arizona State 8 9 0.471 7
 Oregon State 7 10 0.412 8
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 9
 Oregon 5 12 0.294 10
 California 4 13 0.235 11
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 12
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 13
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 14

Big West Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big Sky Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big East Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big Ten Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

SEC Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

ACC Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 12 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 5 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 7 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 8 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 9 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 10 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 11 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 12 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 13 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 14 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 15 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 16 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 17 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

Big 18 Division
 W L Pct GB
 Oregon 16 1 0.938 0
 Utah 15 2 0.882 1
 Arizona 14 3 0.810 2
 Colorado 13 4 0.765 3
 New Mexico 12 5 0.706 4
 Wyoming 11 6 0.646 5
 Nevada 10 7 0.588 6
 Montana 9 8 0.529 7
 Idaho 8 9 0.471 8
 Utah State 7 10 0.412 9
 Washington State 6 11 0.353 10
 Oregon State 5 12 0.294 11
 California 4 13 0.235 12
 North Dakota 3 14 0.176 13
 South Dakota 2 15 0.118 14
 Montana State 1 16 0.059 15

NCAA Men's Division II tournament

Thursday, March 27
 At Evansville, Ind.
Central Missouri vs. Metro State
West Liberty vs. S. Carolina Aiken

At Evansville, Ind.
Championship
 Semifinal winners

NCAA Women's tournament

LINCOLN REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Lincoln, Neb., March 29 (Saturday)
 UConn (26-9) vs. Penn State (24-7)
 DePaul (29-6) vs. Texas A&M (26-8)

Monday, March 31
Regional Championship
 Semifinal winners

STANFORD REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Stanford, Calif., March 29 (Saturday)
 Stanford (30-3) vs. Penn State (24-7)
 South Carolina (28-9) vs. North Carolina (26-9)

Monday, March 31
Regional Championship
 Semifinal winners

NOTRE DAME REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Notre Dame, Ind., Saturday, March 29
 Kentucky (26-9) vs. Oregon (31-4)
 Notre Dame (34-0) vs. Oklahoma State (25-8)

Monday, March 31
Regional Championship
 Semifinal winners

LOUISVILLE REGIONAL
Regional Semifinals
 At Louisville, Ky., March 30 (Sunday)
 Tennessee (28-5) vs. Maryland (26-6)
 Louisville (22-4) vs. LSU (21-12)

Monday, March 31
Regional Championship
 Semifinal winners

WNIT

Third Round
 Washington 62, San Diego 55
Thursday, March 27
 George Washington (23-10) at South Florida (21-12).
 Michigan (19-15) at Indiana (20-14).
 Michigan (20-13) at Bowling Green (29-4).
 North Hall (20-13) at Rutgers (24-9).
 Auburn (19-14) at Mississippi State (21-13).
 Minnesota (22-12) at South Dakota State (24-9).

Friday, March 28
 Colorado (19-14) vs. UTEP (26-7)

NCAA Women's Division II tournament

Wednesday, March 26
 At Erie, Pa.
Semifinals
 West Texas A&M 68, Pomona Southeastern 52
 Bentley 77, Cal Poly Pomona 62

Friday, March 28
Championship
 West Texas A&M vs. Bentley

Pro hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE
Atlantic Division
 W L OT Pts GF GA
 x-Boston 72 19 11 104 230 153
 Montreal 71 20 10 97 214 187
 Tampa Bay 73 29 4 97 214 193

Metropolitan Division

AUTO RACING



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

New Zealand's Scott Dixon celebrates after winning the first IndyCar Grand Prix of Houston on Oct. 5. Much has changed since Dixon wrapped up his third IndyCar championship five months ago. He's got a new engine manufacturer in Chevrolet, and longtime teammate Dario Franchitti has retired and been replaced by Target Chip Ganassi Racing with Indianapolis 500 winner Tony Kanaan.

Dixon forced to defend title without Franchitti

Champ opens IndyCar season minus retired teammate

By JENNA FRYER
The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. So much has changed for Scott Dixon since he wrapped up his third IndyCar championship five months ago in California.

Target Chip Ganassi Racing's offseason move to Chevrolet has given Dixon a new engine for the year, and when he heads into Sunday's season-opener through the streets of St. Petersburg, he won't have longtime teammate Dario Franchitti alongside him for the first time in six years.

Franchitti was forced to retire because of injuries suffered in an October crash in Houston, and he's been replaced in the Target lineup by Indianapolis 500 winner Tony Kanaan.

Dixon and Franchitti were a fearsome duo for five seasons. With an open dialogue, teamwork and a tight friendship, the two combined for four championships, 29 victories and two Indianapolis 500 wins for Franchitti.

Now half of that pair is on the sidelines — Franchitti has taken a role as a driver coach with the Ganassi organization — and Dixon is adjusting to life without his close mate in the car.

"It is a big loss, not just for myself, but I think for the team and also for the series," Dixon said. "The positive side is that he's still going to be involved with the team. He's obviously very talented. He's won a lot of races, achieved many things. But when it comes down to the engineering side of it, his approach to a race weekend, I think it is something that will be missed a little bit. Hopefully with his involvement we can keep that going."

"As a friend, it is going to be great to have him around. We'll have to see how big that change is as we get through the year with different drivers and different combinations."



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Injuries over the course of his career forced three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Franchitti to retire.

Dixon has had two chances to work with new teammate Kanaan on race weekends, both in the Tudor United Sports Car Series. They've also tested their Indy cars together, and Dixon doesn't seem concerned that his red No. 9 Target team will be any less formidable without Franchitti in the red No. 10.

"There's many different ways to look at it — I think TK is a great driver, he's won a championship, he's won many races," Dixon said. "He may be stronger in other areas and maybe a little weaker in others. I think with the team combination, drivers and engineering, we can try to bring that back together and make it a strong 1-2 punch."

The landscape of the series will be a bit different now that Juan Pablo Montoya has returned to open wheel after seven years in NASCAR. Once a teammate of Dixon's in the Ganassi organization, Montoya is now with rival Team Penske and determined to win races again.

Around the track

SPRINT CUP

This week: STP 500 at Martinsville, Va.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday, CET; 2 a.m. Monday, Japan & Korea.

Track: Martinsville Speedway (oval, 0.526 miles).

Race distance: 263 miles, 500 laps.

Last year: Jimmie Johnson raced to his eighth Martinsville victory.

Last week: Kyle Busch won at Fontana for the second straight year, holding off Kyle Larson, Tony Stewart and Kurt Busch in a two-lap sprint.

Fast facts: Richard Petty won a record 15 times at Martinsville, the only remaining venue from NASCAR's inaugural 1949 season.

Next race: Duck Commander 500, April 6, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.

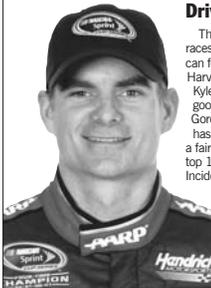
Online: nascar.com
— The Associated Press

Driver standings

1. Carl Edwards.....	186
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	185
3. Jeff Gordon.....	184
4. Brad Keselowski.....	182
5. Matt Kenseth.....	179
6. Jimmie Johnson.....	165
7. Kyle Busch.....	158
8. Ryan Newman.....	150
9. Austin Dillon.....	150
10. Joey Logano.....	146
11. Denny Hamlin.....	140
12. Jamie McMurray.....	138
13. Brian Vickers.....	137
14. Paul Menard.....	134
15. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.....	132
16. Kyle Larson.....	131
17. Tony Stewart.....	127
18. Casey Mears.....	126
19. Casey Kahne.....	123
20. Marcos Ambrose.....	122

Driver to watch

There have been five winners in as many races this season, so if early form holds you can forget about Dale Earnhardt Jr., Kevin Harvick, Brad Keselowski, Carl Edwards or Kyle Busch. That makes Jeff Gordon a very good candidate for a victory on Sunday. Gordon won at Martinsville in October, and he has eight victories at the track. He's also had a fairly consistent early season, finishing in the top 10 in four of the five Cup races thus far. Incidentally, a sixth different winner in the first six races of the season would set a record in the Chase era.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

Next race: O'Reilly Auto Parts 300, April 4, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth.

Last week: Kyle Larson raced to his first Nationwide win, holding off Kevin Harvick and Kyle Busch at Fontana.

Online: nascar.com
— The Associated Press

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: Firestone Grand Prix at St. Petersburg, Fla.

TV: (Delayed), AFN-Xtra, 8:30 a.m. Monday, CET; 3:30 p.m. Monday, Japan & Korea.

Track: Streets of St. Petersburg (street course, 1.8 miles).

Race distance: 198 miles, 110 laps.

Last year: James Hinchcliffe won the opener for Andretti Autosport.

Next race: Toyota Grand Prix of Long Beach, April 13, Streets of Long Beach, Calif.

Online: indycar.com
— The Associated Press

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

This week: Kroger 250 at Martinsville, Va.

Track: Martinsville Speedway (oval, 0.526 miles).

Race distance: 105.2 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: Johnny Sauter raced to his second straight victory.

Last race: Kyle Busch won at Daytona on Feb. 21.

Next race: North Carolina Educa-

tion Lottery 200, May 16, Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nascar.com
— The Associated Press

FORMULA ONE

This week: Malaysian Grand Prix at Kuala Lumpur.

Track: Sepang International Circuit (road course, 3.44 miles).

Race distance: 192.8 miles, 56 laps.

Last year: Red Bull's Sebastian Vettel won after ignoring orders and overtaking teammate Mark Webber for the lead.

Last race: Mercedes' Nico Rosberg won the season-opening Australia Grand Prix on March 16.

Next race: Bahrain Grand Prix, April 6, Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhr.

Online: formula1.com
— The Associated Press

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals at Las Vegas.

Track: The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Last year: Allen Johnson swept the K&N Horsepower Challenge event and regular Pro Stock competition. Tony Schumacher won in Top Fuel, and Cruz Pedregon topped Funny Car.

Last year: Robert Hight won the Gatornationals on March 26, beating John Force in Funny Car. Doug Kalitta (Top Fuel), Johnson (Pro Stock) and Steve Johnson (Pro Stock Motorcycle) also won.

Online: nhra.com
— The Associated Press

HIGH SCHOOL

Naples hosting annual diamond extravaganza

By **GREGORY BROOME**
Stars and Stripes

A signature event of the DODDS-Europe spring season arrives this weekend as all four of Italy's baseball- and softball-playing programs converge on Naples for two busy days on the diamonds.

The annual extravaganza takes place once again at Carney Park, a U.S. military recreational site built atop an extinct volcano. The sprawling green space boasts cabins and camping areas, countless picnic tables and facilities for a number of outdoor activities.

But it's the baseball and softball fields that are of particular interest for DODDS Europe sports fans this weekend. The eight teams from the combined four schools — Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and host Naples — will play a combined 16 games over Friday and Saturday, in the process establishing the region's early power structure.

The schedule starts off Friday morning at 9 a.m. with perhaps the most-anticipated game of the weekend, a Division II European championship-game rematch between Vicenza and the hometown Wildcats. Naples won last season's last game by a 15-1 margin, but the runner-up Cougars return an experienced group led by pitcher/catcher Levi Martin and shortstop/pitcher Louis Vozzay.

But Vicenza will have to catch up, as Naples isn't coming back to the pack. The Wildcats return seven starters from their title team, including ace pitcher Zane Zimmerman and middle infielder Jonny Bray.

And Naples is already off to a strong title defense, sweeping Sigonella in a pair of games last weekend.

The Jaguars will hunt for their first win Friday in games against Vicenza and Aviano, both of which are making their season debuts.

Sigonella, the lone Division III program among its D-II neighbors, made some early noise in softball last weekend when it opened its season with an 11-9 upset of Naples.

The Wildcats retaliated the next day for a 16-9 win. But the Jaguars, in hanging 27 runs in two games on a projected top European championship contender, proved they have the offense to compete when Division II and III teams are lumped into a common bracket for the European championships. Junior Sydney Moore and senior Halei Barnes are at the heart of the squad's explosive batting order.

The Wildcats, led by senior catcher Vicky Krause and hard-hitting senior Shanice Alexander, will face off against Vicenza and Aviano on Friday. Both the Wildcats and Saints are playing their season openers.

Saturday's schedule is identical to Friday's as each team rounds out its four-game weekend slate. The teams will have plenty of time to recuperate afterward, each has close to a month off, resuming the Italian DODDS Europe diamond schedule April 25.

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Pacific schedule

Japan

Soccer

Boys and Girls
Friday, March 28-Saturday, March 29
Perry at Kinnick, Edgren at Zama, Yokota vs. E.J. King at Iwakuni

Friday, March 28-Saturday, March 29
King and Marist at Perry, Edgren at Zama
Saturday, March 29
Yokota at Kinnick

Softball

Friday, March 28
Kinnick at Yokota
Friday, March 28-Saturday, March 29
King and Marist at Perry, Edgren at Zama

Track and field

Saturday, March 29
Zama, Kinnick and Edgren at Yokota

South Korea

Soccer

Saturday, March 29
DODDS Korea jamborees
Boys at Seoul American, Humphreys vs. Seoul American, Daegu vs. Osan, Daegu vs. Humphreys, Osan vs. Seoul American.
Girls at Osan: Seoul American vs. Osan, Humphreys vs. Daegu, Seoul American vs. Humphreys, Osan vs. Daegu.

Baseball

Friday, March 28
Osan at Seoul American
Saturday, March 29
Daegu at Seoul American

Softball

Friday, March 28
Osan at Seoul American
Saturday, March 29
Daegu at Seoul American, Daegu vs. Humphreys at Yongsan Garrison

Track and field

Saturday, March 29
DODDS Korea at Humphreys

Okinawa

Boys soccer

Saturday, March 29
Gushikawa Shogyo at Kadena, 10 a.m.

Girls soccer

Friday, March 28
OCSI at Kubasaki, 5 p.m.
Saturday, March 29
Kaiho at Kadena, 3 p.m.

Track and field

Saturday, March 29
Zion Christian, Okinawa Christian and Kubasaki at Kadena, 9 a.m.

Baseball

Saturday, March 29
Uraoce Braves at Kubasaki, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Softball

Saturday, March 29
Kozu vs. Kadena at Habu Field, Ryukyu Middle School, 10 a.m.
Kozu vs. Kubasaki at Habu Field, Ryukyu Middle School, 1 p.m.

Korea soccer teams clash at jamboree

By **DAVE ORNAUER**
Stars and Stripes

Faced with the prospect of too many games for too few weekends, DODDS soccer teams in Korea choose to pool their resources.

The result is jamborees on Saturday, boys at Seoul American and girls at Osan. DODDS Pacific schools now have "interval weeks" between seasons, and those two weeks, combined with the Korean-American Interscholastic Activities Conference rule against matches in May reduced the number of weekends available for soccer games.

That meant Daegu, Seoul American, Humphreys and Osan "had enough weekends for 10 games, but not enough for 12" plus the KAIAC tournaments April 25-26. Daegu AD Ken Walter said.

The KAIAC boys tournament is at Seoul American and the girls at Taejon Christian International. Walter and the other three DODDS Korea athletics directors decided the jamborees were the answer. The four teams will take turns playing one another, getting two matches apiece.

Jamborees will be added to the basketball and volleyball seasons in the future, Walter said.

Also this weekend will be the first track and field meet to be held on DODDS Korea property. Humphreys will christen its new eight-lane track with a quadrangular meet involving the four DODDS Korea teams; it also will feature automated timing. "Keep your fingers crossed," Humphreys coach and meet manager Mitch Moellendick said. "We brought it out and got everything lined up today. Everything's working but you know what they say about the best laid plans. But right now, everything's set up and working."

Rain is forecast for Saturday, but it is an all-weather track. It also relieves DODDS Korea of having to rent off-base facilities, some where throwing and hurdles events could not be contested.

Just the four DODDS teams are competing this weekend, but future meets will include KAIAC international schools such as Seoul Foreign and Gyeonggi Suwon International.

Having the league's five meets in the same location offers "some consistency," Moellendick said. "They know what things will be like week to week."

ornauer.dave@stripes.com

Europe schedule

Soccer

Friday

Lakenheath at AFNORTH
Saturday

Lakenheath at SHAPE
Menwith Hill at AFNORTH
Bitburg at Wiesbaden
Baumholder at BFA
Patch at Schweinfurt
Hohenfels at Vilseck
Aviano at Marymount
AOSR at Vicenza
Sigonella at Naples

Baseball and softball

Friday

AFNORTH at Lakenheath
Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza at Naples

Saturday

AFNORTH at Alconbury
Ramstein at Bitburg
Baumholder at Kaiserslautern
Wiesbaden at Ansbach
Patch at Vilseck
Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza at Naples



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MLB PREVIEW



Popcorn, peanuts and snow blowers

M SPENCER GREEN/AP

Groundskeepers at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago are using gigantic dryers placed underneath tarps to blow hot air on the field in an effort to thaw out the White Sox's home park, which had an estimated 30 inches of permafrost below the playing surface on March 17 after one of the most brutal winters the city has ever seen. Chicago's home opener is Monday against the Minnesota Twins and 10 of the White Sox's first 16 games are at home.

Grounds crews are scrambling to thaw out fields before Opening Day

By NOAH TRISTER
The Associated Press

In all his years as a groundskeeper for the Chicago White Sox, Roger Bossard has never faced anything quite like this.

The snow that piled up at U.S. Cellular Field could be dealt with easily enough. It's Chicago, after all. But the frost in the ground can be measured in feet, not inches.

To ready the field for the first pitch, Bossard is overseeing an effort akin to blowing a gigantic hair dryer under a tarp to pump hot air onto the field and thaw it out. Crews have been chipping away at ice near the right field line with shovels.

And Opening Day is a few days away.

"This has actually been the perfect storm for me," Bossard said. "I've been in this for 45 years and I've seen a lot of snow. Certainly, that's not hard to handle. ... My problem actually is the permafrost. I've actually never run into where I've got 30 inches of permafrost."

Groundskeepers all over baseball are scrambling to help their ballparks recover from months of snow and freezing temperatures that left fields looking more ready for cross-country skiers than bats and balls.

Like the White Sox, the Detroit Tigers are scheduled to play at home on Monday when the regular season begins in earnest with 13 games. The Minnesota Twins — who for so long played in the indoor confines of the Metrodome — have been digging out from their own snowy surroundings at Target Field. They at least have until April 7 before they have to play a home game.

Points farther south have been affected, too.

"It's rare that we get snow as bad as we've had this winter," said Nicole McPadyen, head groundskeeper at Camden Yards in Baltimore. Luckily, McPadyen caught a break: The snow is melting because the sun's reflection is heating the stadium.



DIANE WEISS/AP

Statues of Detroit Tigers' greets Hal Newhouser, left, Charlie Gehringer, center, and Hank Greenberg look over Detroit's Comerica Park, which was still covered in snow on March 13. The Tigers' home opener is Monday against the Kansas City Royals.

Baltimore got 26 inches of snow from December through February, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. That was almost a 50 percent increase from an average winter, but it was nothing compared to what Chicago (66.7 inches) and Detroit (78 inches) are dealing with. Boston had 56.4 inches over that three-month period, and Cleveland had 65.

The worst may be over in terms of cold weather, but the outlook for Opening Day isn't all that promising. From March 26 through Tuesday, there's a decent chance of below-normal temperatures all over the eastern half of the country, particularly near the Great Lakes.

Meanwhile, the clock is ticking.

"The back's against the wall a little bit," Bossard said.

Bossard estimated his crew removed

more than 400 tons of snow last weekend. Snow blowers and plows can help, but it's a delicate operation: Plows can only do so much before there's a risk of field damage.

Detroit also brought in heaters to blow hot air under the infield tarp. The Tigers haven't worried about the grass at Comerica Park because, well, there hasn't been any.

The Tigers are re-sodding their field after it was used for part of the NHL's Winter Classic festivities. The outfield right now consists of a sandy base that looks nothing like a baseball field.

A shipment of Kentucky bluegrass was scheduled to arrive Thursday and team vice president Ron Colangelo said this was essentially the timetable all along.

Colangelo said the process of installing the new grass should take only a few days, giving the team a bit of a grace period even

Cold openers

Weather forecasts for cities hosting possible cold-weather games on Opening Day.

	Lo	Hi	Weather
Cubs at Pittsburgh	41	62	Cloudy
Kansas City at Detroit	31	53	Cloudy
Washington at N.Y. Mets	39	50	Mostly cloudy
Boston at Baltimore	44	65	Partly cloudy
St. Louis at Cincinnati	37	67	Cloudy
Minnesota at White Sox	31	50	Showers

SOURCE: National Weather Service

if more bad weather comes through.

"Obviously, Mother Nature's been incredibly generous in the amount of snow that she's been offering," Colangelo said. "The plan is on schedule."

The Twins are also confident, and have a stadium built to handle the cold. They began playing at their open-air ballpark in 2010, and it's well equipped to combat the remnants of winter.

"We have a state-of-the-art heating system that allows us to keep the field at a constant temperature no matter what the winter brings," Twins president Dave St. Peter said. "We worry more about the seating bowl and making sure that the pedestrian plazas and walkways and gate locations are dry and ice-free and safe. We spend just as much time if not more on those areas."

The Twins begin the season on the road, something St. Peter said the team requests every season. Baltimore won't have that luxury — the Orioles are hosting the defending champion Boston Red Sox on Monday. That same day, the Tigers host Kansas City and the White Sox welcome Minnesota to what Bossard hopes will be a thawed-out opener on Chicago's South Side.

AP Sports Writers Dave Campbell and David Ginsburg contributed to this report.

MLB PREVIEW

Scoreboard

American League

	East Division			GB
	W	L	Pct	
Baltimore	0	0	.000	—
Boston	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Tampa Bay	0	0	.000	—
Toronto	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cleveland	0	0	.000	—
Detroit	0	0	.000	—
Kansas City	0	0	.000	—
Minnesota	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Houston	0	0	.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0	.000	—
Oakland	0	0	.000	—
Seattle	0	0	.000	—
Texas	0	0	.000	—

National League

	East Division			GB
	W	L	Pct	
Atlanta	0	0	.000	—
Miami	0	0	.000	—
New York	0	0	.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0	.000	—
Washington	0	0	.000	—
Central Division				
Chicago	0	0	.000	—
Cincinnati	0	0	.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0	.000	—
Pittsburgh	0	0	.000	—
St. Louis	0	0	.000	—
West Division				
Los Angeles	0	0	1.000	—
Colorado	0	0	.000	1
San Diego	0	0	.000	1
San Francisco	0	0	.000	1
Arizona	0	2	.000	2

Sunday's game
L.A. Dodgers (TBD) at San Diego (Cashner 0-0)

Monday's games
Chicago Cubs (Samardzija, 0-0) at Pittsburgh (Liriano, 0-0)
Kansas City (Shields, 0-0) at Detroit (Verhulst, 0-0)
Washington (Strasburg 0-0) at New York Mets (Lee 0-0) at Texas (Scheppers 0-0)

St. Louis (Wainwright 0-0) at Cincinnati (TBD)
Toronto (Dickey 0-0) at Tampa Bay (Ferdeoush 0-0)
Colorado (De La Rosa 0-0) at Miami (Price 0-0)

San Francisco (Bumgarner 0-0) at Arizona (McCarthy 0-0)
Cleveland (Masterson 0-0) at Oakland (Gray 0-0)
Seattle (Hernandez 0-0) at Anaheim (TBD)

Tuesday's games
LA Dodgers at San Diego
NY Yankees at Houston
Philadelphia at Texas
San Francisco at Arizona
St. Louis at Los Angeles
Colorado at Miami
Toronto at Tampa Bay
Atlanta at Milwaukee
Cleveland at Oakland

Calendar
March 26 — Last day to request unconditional release waivers on a player without having to pay his full 2014 salary.
March 30 — Opening day in North America. Los Angeles Dodgers at San Diego. Active rosters reduced to 25 players.

June 5 — Amateur draft.
July 15 — All-Star Game, Minneapolis.
July 18 — Deadline for amateur draft pickie sign.
July 27 — Hall of Fame inductions, Cooperstown, N.Y.
July 31 — Last day to trade a player without securing waivers.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.



GERALD HERBERT/AP

Yankees starting pitcher David Phelps pitches against Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz with an empty infield during a defensive shift in the fourth inning of an exhibition game in Fort Myers, Fla., last Thursday. From the designer defenses taking over the game, to expanded replay, to opening day on a cricket ground in Australia, one thing is clear — baseball is changing.

Shift: Baseball seeing renewed focus on defense, alignments

FROM BACK PAGE
Even before the Dodgers and Diamondbacks started the season in Sydney, Major League Baseball's first regular-season games Down Under, there were serious setbacks.
Kris Medlen, Brandon Beachy, Jarrod Parker and Luke Hochevar were all out for the year with Tommy John surgery, and Patrick Corbin may soon join them.
Aroldis Chapman likely will miss at least two months after getting hit on the head by a line drive. There was no defense for that, not even those protective caps now in play for pitchers likely would've saved the Cincinnati reliever.
Defense, though, has rapidly become a major focus in the majors. Be it Dodger Stadium or Fenway Park or anywhere in-between, it's easy to spot the trend taking over baseball: Creative ways that clubs are positioning their fielders.
The Detroit Tigers even hired a defensive coordinator. Ever expect to hear about a defensive coordinator in baseball?
Matt Martin got that job, and pointed to the overloaded alignments Red Sox slugger David Ortiz sees on a daily basis.
"That's not out of the norm now. That is the norm. With left-handers, if you'd have seen this

25 years ago, the way they play Big Papi — and 15, 20 guys in the league playing like that — you'd be, 'What happened? Did I wake up and come to a softball game?'"
Makes perfect sense to Pittsburgh second baseman Neil Walker.
"The data is so undeniable, the defensive metrics are so prevalent," he said. "You have so much more information, you should use it."

"There were some times a few years ago when I felt out of place," he admitted. "I was out there in right field and kind of like, 'Where am I supposed to be? But we practice it, I practice my throws from extreme angles and I'm comfortable.'"
An hour later, Walker was standing in shallow right when Phillies slugger Ryan Howard batted in a spring training game. Walker made a diving stop on a hard

grounder, scrambled to his feet, but threw the ball past first base.
"It's not an exact science," he said.
Fielding always lagged far behind pitching and hitting in statistical analysis, mainly because it was hard to quantify glove work. Teams are trying hard to play catchup.
Baseball Info Solutions tracks defensive shifts, and reports there were 8,134 instances in the majors last season. That's way up from 4,577 in 2012, and far more than the 2,358 in 2011.

"It's not as much fun as it used to be," Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon lamented. "Everybody's using it."
Maddon is a shifting maven, having employed four-man outfields and routinely putting three players on one side of the dirt at different depths.
In a recent exhibition, with a runner on third base, Maddon overshifted his infield in the middle of an at-bat. No luck. A wild pitch scored the run.
Maddon has a theory on why it took teams so many years to shift around.
"They were afraid they might be wrong," he said. "But it always made sense to adjust your fielders. Why would you play someone in a

place where a guy never hits it?"
Scioscia's strategy paid off this month for the Los Angeles Angels when his repositioned left fielder handled a grounder and began a bases-loaded DP in extra innings. Williams, Washington's first-year manager, tried something with the bases loaded in the eighth and paid the price.
Offered San Diego manager Bud Black: "Yes, my thinking has changed."
"We will move," he said.
So will the Reds, after new Cincinnati manager Bryan Price talks to his men on the mound.
"Pitchers can be pretty temperamental about defensive alignment. We know that," he said. "We want to have the discussion beforehand, not after."
St. Louis general manager John Mozeliak wants to start earlier, letting his minor leaguers get accustomed to moving.
Minnesota's Jason Kubel has been on the other side a lot.
The lefty hitter debuted a decade ago and rarely saw defensive shifts, if ever. Against the Yankees this month, he faced three fielders on the right side every at-bat.
"Now, I think it would be weird if I came up and saw that defense was moved," Kubel said.

“The data is so undeniable... You have so much more information, you should use it.”

Neil Walker
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MLB PREVIEW

AMERICAN LEAGUE

What is next? Competitive division appears to have gotten even stronger

By JANIE MCCAULEY
The Associated Press

The big-spend AL West also appears to have gotten even stronger

Yet Bob Melvin's A's hardly consider themselves the favorite to win a third straight West crown, not in one of baseball's best divisions that appears to have gotten even better this offseason.

"Obviously they won the last two years, so they're the team to chase," Rangers third baseman Adrian Beltre said. "There are probably teams that probably don't take them seriously, but we do. They showed that they can get it done and as of right now, they're the champions of the West. So it's obviously that we're chasing them now."

While New York Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter tries to finish his Hall of Fame career in pinstripes the way he started it, with a World Series title, and the Detroit Tigers aim to unseat the defending-champion Boston Red Sox, the West looks to be one of baseball's top divisions again in 2014.

"I think you can make a legitimate case that all five teams are better," Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said. "You've got the Yankees and Dodgers and a number of clubs that made a lot of moves out there, Washington and others, but from a division-to-division standpoint, I don't know that any group was more active than the AL West."

Robinson Cano is the new star in Seattle — for the next decade, no less. Prince Fielder takes over in the middle of the Texas lineup after his trade from the Tigers. Sluggers Josh Hamilton and Albert Pujols have something to prove for the playoff-starved Los Angeles Angels, who are feeling the pressure after missing the postseason the past four years.

"Sure, the A's have made their share of moves this winter — many via trade as general manager Billy Beane often does. But Oakland's changes are minor compared to the acquisitions of Cano and Fielder."

"I think we're still trying to prove people wrong," A's center fielder Coco Crisp said. Here's a look at the American League by division, in predicted order of finish:

West

Texas Rangers: Texas traded for Fielder, added Shoemaker. The \$130 million over seven years and is determined to bounce back from last fall's early exit with Yu Darvish as its ace.

San Francisco Giants: (91-72) lost the AL wild-card tiebreaker to Tampa Bay and hope for a World Series return this year after runner-up finishes in 2010 and '11.

Oakland Athletics: The A's projected ace Jarrod Parker to a season-ending elbow injury that requires surgery, leaving another void to fill for a team that has done so well in recent years. While pitching depth has long been a focus for the organization, that will be tested early without Parker and also A.J. Griffin. But with new closer Jim Johnson at the back end of a talented bullpen, Oakland still has

plenty of confidence it can win if Crisp and the offense provide just enough support.

Los Angeles Angels: The pressure is on for manager Mike Scioscia, Hamilton and Pujols after a fourth straight season out of the playoffs, and Mike Trout can't do it all. Pujols was sidelined from July 26 on and batted .258 with 17 homers and 64 RBIs in 99 games.

This team's pitching must be far better, period, not to mention stay healthy.

Scioscia and general manager Jerry Dipoto survived for one more chance from owner Arte Moreno following the club's worst season in a decade at 78-84 — its lowest win total since 2003 despite the high-profile, expensive roster.

"We're much better when our focus is in house," Scioscia said. "We have a terrific club and we have the makings of a championship team. No matter who you're playing, you're going to face a tough opponent. There are a lot of talented teams, not only in our division but in our league."

Seattle Mariners: It's the Cano show at Safeco Field but Seattle's new \$240 million man is going to need help to give manager Lloyd McClendon — Jim Levland's hitting coach in Detroit the last season years — a successful first season in the Pacific Northwest.

Seattle will need steady production from the starting pitchers after Felix Hernandez and Hisashi Iwakuma — who is recovering from a finger injury on hit pitching hand.

McClendon knows the A's are the team to beat.

"When I was with Detroit, we battled them every year in the playoffs," he said. "I don't take them lightly. This is a great division. There's a lot of talented teams in this division, including the Seattle Mariners."

Houston Astros: Manager Bo Porter welcomes the addition of new center fielder and leadoff hitter Dexter Fowler as the Astros begin their second season in the AL West trying to fight from the bottom of one of baseball's best divisions a year after losing a franchise-worst 111 games.

Houston has spent the spring trying to find the right combination for the rotation.

Central

Detroit Tigers: The Tigers have reached the AL championship series three straight years, but a World Series title has remained elusive since 1984.

New manager Brad Ausmus takes over a team that made a couple of significant changes in the offseason, trading Fielder and right-hander Doug Fister. Even without Fister, Detroit may have the AL's best rotation — assuming ace Justin Verlander comes back strong after having core muscle surgery in January.

Miguel Cabrera hopes to be healthier than last year, when he was hobbled down the stretch but still won MVP honors for the second straight year. Max Scherzer gave Detroit two major awards by winning the Cy Young.

Kansas City Royals: Kansas City's big move before the season was trading eventual MVP of the year Will Myers for James Shields — did not help the Royals reach the playoffs, but their 86-76 record was their best since 1983.

The Royals acquired outfielder Norichika Aoki and second baseman Omar Infante this offseason, but Ervin Santana's departure could be costly. Kansas City signed left-hander Jason Vargas (career ERA of 4.30) in November.

Cleveland Indians: Cleveland rolled to 92 wins in 2013 in its first season under manager Terry Francona. The Indians made the playoffs for the first time since 2007 and finished only a game behind the division.

The pitching will likely determine whether Cleveland makes a return to the postseason. Ubaldo Jimenez left via free agency, and John Axford replaces closer Chris Perez.



Matt York/AP

Seattle made the biggest offseason acquisition when it signed Robinson Cano away from the Yankees for 10 years and \$240 million.

Chicago White Sox: Even a brilliant season by left-hander Chris Sale wasn't enough to prevent 99 losses for the White Sox. Jose Abreu and Adam Eaton were brought in to boost the offense, and Adam Dunn is still around as a home run threat.

Chicago won 85 games in 2012 and nearly took the division, so the White Sox probably aren't as bad as last year's record suggests. But they have a lot of ground to make up if they want to contend again.

Minnesota Twins: Once the AL Central's model franchise, the Twins have lost at least 96 games for three straight seasons. Joe Mauer's move to first base could keep his bat in the lineup more often, but the starting rotation has been unreliable for a while.

Ricky Nolasco and Phil Hughes signed as free agents in Minnesota's latest attempt to improve its pitching staff.

East

Boston Red Sox: The reigning World Series champion Red Sox will try to capture the magic again, minus many of those bushy beards this time. The pitching staff is led by a large group of experienced players such as Jon Lester, Clay Buchholz, John Lackey, Felix Doubront and Jake Peavy.

Boston lost Jacoby Ellsbury to the rival Yankees in free agency and must find its best fit in center field to replace him, and manager John Farrell has several options. Gaby Sizemore would like to be the choice, hoping to stay healthy and play a full season to help complement slugger David Ortiz and Dustin Pedroia.

New York Yankees: Last year was closer Mariano Rivera's emotional farewell tour, but it ended without a playoff berth. Now, it's Derek Jeter's turn — and there's no Alex Rodriguez around to provide a distraction as the long-time captain looks for one last memorable Rodriguez.

Rodriguez, a three-time AL MVP and baseball's highest-paid player, was suspended for 211 games on Aug. 5 for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract. An arbitrator in January cut the penalty to the 2014

season and postseason. Joining Ellsbury — he got a \$153 million, seven-year contract — in the Bronx are fellow newcomers catcher Brian McCann, outfielder Carlos Beltran, and Japanese pitching star Masahiro Tanaka. Tanaka signed a \$155 million, seven-year contract in January. He was 24-0 with a 1.27 ERA last year while leading Rakuten to its first Japan Series title.

Tampa Bay Rays: The Rays kept much of their 2013 roster together to make another run — including three-time All-Star and ace David Price. The 2012 AL Cy Young Award winner received a \$14 million, one-year deal.

First baseman James Loney received a new \$21 million, three-year contract, while new closer Grant Balfour signed for \$12 million for two years. Evn Longoria hit .269 with 32 homers and 88 RBIs in a career-best 160 games last season, his first of a \$100 million, 10-year contract.

Baltimore Orioles: Buck Showalter can't count on Chris Davis to duplicate his sensational season in which he hit a majors-leading 53 home runs and 138 RBIs, but Baltimore's manager will sure take something close to that kind of production.

The Orioles hope the addition of Nelson Cruz on an \$8 million, one-year contract will provide a boost in the lineup — and Cruz is eager for a fresh start following his 50-game suspension last year as part of the Biogenesis case.

Toronto Blue Jays: The Blue Jays need slugger Jose Bautista to stay healthy after he was sidelined to end the season for the second straight year. Bautista and Melky Cabrera are out to show they can be keys to a potent lineup, and Bautista hopes to return to the form of his 2012 season when he hit a club-record 54 home runs.

Also looking for a big rebound season: knuckleballer R.A. Dickey, the 2012 NL Cy Young Awardist who went 14-13 with a 4.21 ERA last year on the heels of his 20-win season for the Mets.

AP Baseball Writer Noah Trister, Sports Writer Stephen Hawkins, and Freelance Writers Jose M. Romero and Jim Richards contributed to this report.

MLB PREVIEW

CENTRAL LEAGUE

Cardinals style

After taking NL crown in '13, St. Louis is still team to beat

By JAY COHEN
The Associated Press

Stephen Strasburg leads a deep rotation in Washington. Matt Holliday and St. Louis are back again. And the loaded Los Angeles Dodgers think it's their time to shine.

Yes, it is a very familiar group of favorites. Throw in Freddie Freeman and Atlanta, and the NL list is practically complete. But there's always one team that crashes the party at the top; see MVP Andrew McCutchen and the 2013 Pirates.

With Arizona and Los Angeles starting the season Down Under in Australia, the race is on to see which teams will finish on top in the National League.

"Our team's really good," Dodgers pitcher Zack Greinke said. "We did really good, even with a bunch of injuries last year. We have some young guys about ready to come up if needed. I mean, the expectations should be really high here."

Washington was among the favorites last year, coming off a breakthrough season. But Bryce Harper was hurt and the Nationals underperformed in their final season under manager Davey Johnson, finishing 10 games back of NL East champion Atlanta.

Enter Matt Williams, who gets his first job as a major league manager after three seasons as Arizona's third-base coach. The rotation is one of the best in the majors, with Doug Fister coming over in a December trade after winning 14 games for Detroit last season. Harper is healthy again, and Strasburg looks just fine following October elbow surgery.

"The more experience you get, the better chance you have to succeed, and I think that's kind of the lesson from last year," third baseman Ryan Zimmerman said.

The Central belongs to St. Louis, which has won the division five times in the last decade. There's no reason to believe the Cardinals won't make it six times in 11 years.

Adam Wainwright and postseason darling Michael Wacha are part of the division's best rotation. The lineup remains stacked even after Carlos Beltran departed in free agency. All-Star slugger Allen Craig missed much of the postseason last year, and the Cardinals still made it to the World Series.

The real intrigue in the division comes after the Cardinals. The Central had both wild cards last season, with Pittsburgh making the playoffs for the first time in 21 years and Cincinnati another four games back in third.

The Pirates and Reds each lost a key player in free agency, while the Brewers get Ryan Braun back from his season-ending, 65-game drug suspension. A.J. Burnett went from the Pirates to the Phillies after a productive two years in Pittsburgh, while the Reds lost leadoff hitter Shin-Soo Choo to a big contract with the Rangers.

"We're still hungry," Pirates catcher Russell Martin said. "We did some special things last year, but everybody was disappointed with how it finished. I don't know

what all the 'experts' are saying, but I consider myself an expert and I think we're going to do better than we did last year."

The muddled Central could mean another playoff slot for one of the West teams.

Los Angeles' biggest deal of the offseason was a \$215 million, seven-year contract for its own Clayton Kershaw, who won the NL Cy Young Award for the second time in three seasons. Kershaw, Cuban sensation Yasiel Puig and steady Adrian Gonzalez helped the Dodgers all the way to the championship series.

Arizona made one of the biggest trades of the offseason, acquiring Mark Trumbo from the Angels in a three-team swap that also involved the White Sox. Trumbo hit 34 homers last year and should help protect Paul Goldschmidt in the lineup. The Diamondbacks also signed Bronson Arroyo to provide innings.

The Giants are another team that could surprise. Hudson joins a rotation that also includes 13-game winner Madison Bumgarner and Matt Cain, and Michael Morse should add some pop in left field.

"The way this team is put together, everybody has a job and everybody just does their job," Morse said. "History shows it, this is a winning organization."

A look at the NL in predicted order of finish:

East

Washington Nationals: Adam LaRoche plays great defense, but he slumped last year at the plate. That's why Zimmerman fielded some grounders at first this spring training. The plan is for Zimmerman to remain at third most days, but more time at the opposite corner might help him stay healthy.

The Nationals finished in the middle of the league in most offensive categories in 2013, and more games for Zimmerman could help improve those numbers. But the rotation is still a mess, with first baseman and right-handed Jerry Blewins, acquired in a December trade with Oakland, should help the bullpen.

Atlanta Braves: The 24-year-old Freeman hit 31.9 with 23 homers and 105 RBIs last year, making the All-Star team for the first time. He was rewarded with the biggest contract in franchise history, a \$135 million, eight-year deal.

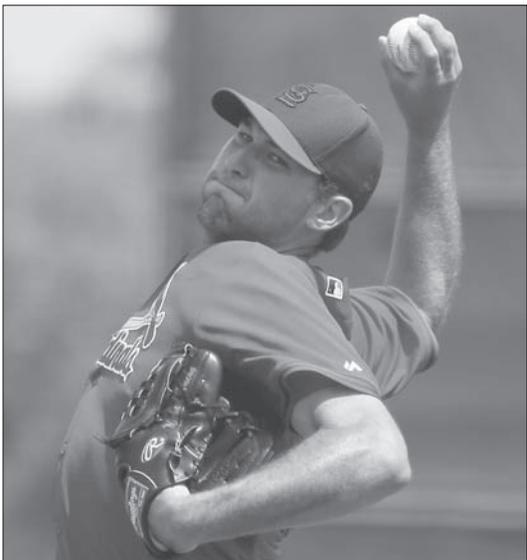
The Braves also agreed to multiyear deals with outfielder Jason Heyward, closer Craig Kimbrel and shortstop Andrelton Simmons. When Brandon Beachy and Kris Medlen re-injured their elbows, the Braves signed Ervin Santana to a \$14.1 million, one-year contract to bolster their rotation.

New York Mets: Help is on the way for the Mets; it just appears to be at least a year away. Pitching prospects Noah Syndergaard and Rafael Montero showed promise during spring training, and Matt Harvey is rehabbing his surgically repaired right elbow.

In the meantime, free-agent deals for pitcher Bartolo Colon and outfielders Curtis Granderson and Alex Young may be enough to help New York on top of Philadelphia in third.

Philadelphia Phillies: Another year, another set of injuries for the aging Phillies. Cole Hamels could miss the first month of the season with left biceps tendinitis. Shortstop Jimmy Rollins and second baseman Chase Utley are each 35, and slugger Ryan Howard is 34, making another title run for the accomplished core even more questionable.

Miami Marlins: Giancarlo Stanton should have some more help in the lineup after the



Carlos Osorio/AP

St. Louis pitcher Michael Wacha hopes to build on the success he enjoyed last season during the postseason and is part of the NL Central's best rotation.

West

Los Angeles Dodgers: Tough luck for Alexander Guerrero, who is moving from shortstop to second base while adjusting to life in the United States. He defected from Cuba last year and agreed to a \$28 million, four-year contract with the Dodgers in October. Dee Gordon and Chone Figgins also were in the mix at second.

Los Angeles Angels: The Angels have a bulging disk in his back. And that was a relatively minor problem for the Diamondbacks compared to the injury to Patrick Corbin, who could need season-ending surgery on his left elbow. At least Arizona has Archie Bradley, one of the majors' best pitching prospects.

San Diego Padres: The Padres have a promising rotation in Andrew Cashner, Ian Kennedy, Tyson Ross, Josh Johnson and Eric Stults. The throw-right Cashner, acquired from the Cubs in 2012 trade, went 10-9 last season with a 3.09 ERA in 21 games, 26 starts.

San Francisco Giants: Hudson broke his right ankle while covering first for Atlanta last July 24, ending his season. The Giants are counting on a full recovery for the 38-year-old right-hander after their rotation faltered last year. Hudson had 49 wins for Atlanta from 2010-12.

Colorado Rockies: No more Todd Helton: the longtime first baseman retired after 17 seasons in Colorado. Justin Morneau takes over, but the biggest key for the Rockies could be just keeping sluggers Troy Tulowitzki and Carlos Gonzalez on the field. Tulowitzki played in 126 games last year, while Gonzalez was limited to 110 games.

Milwaukee Brewers: Matt Garza returned to the NL Central for a big free-agent deal with Milwaukee, joining Yovani Gallardo and Kyle Lohse on top of an improved Brewers rotation. Garza went 6-1 in 11 starts with the Cubs last year before he was traded to Texas in July.

Chicago Cubs: The Cubs are hoping new manager Rick Renteria will have a positive effect on first baseman Anthony Rizzo and shortstop Starlin Castro after each young player had a disappointing 2013 season. The focus remains on the future, with slugging prospects Kris Bryant and Javier Baez attracting attention during spring training.

Pittsburgh Pirates: Burnett is gone, but Pittsburgh still has Francisco Liriano and Gerrit Cole at the front end of the rotation. Liriano won 16 games last year in his first season with the Pirates, and the 23-year-old Cole looks like a star. Touted pitching prospect Jameson Taillon also could make it to the majors this summer.

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AP Sports Writer Janie McCauley in San Francisco and AP freelance writer Carl Kotalla in Viera, Fla., contributed to this report.

MLB PREVIEW

Closing time

Relievers go from obscurity to supremacy and back

BY RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

Some relievers thrive when they move into the huge ninth-inning spotlight and some fizzle. And others turn into one-year wonders.

They can be a Jimmy Fallon, earning raves, a Conan O'Brien deflecting raves, or one of those single-season phenoms that's increasingly common, a bullpen Halley's Comet that gets all the attention one summer and disappears the next.

After a half-decade as Mariano Rivera's understudy in the New York Yankees' bullpen, David Robertson feels ready for his move to the big time.

"I'm hoping it's more fun," Robertson says. "You get to high-five with everybody at the end of the game instead of just running in the dugout and going, 'OK, Mike coming in. I'm going to go get undressed and get ready to high-five him when he comes in the clubhouse.'"

Top closers are baseball's rock stars — tied to their entrance music and their oversized persona, whether of chaos or cool. It's hard to think of Rivera without Metallica's "Enter Sandman" or Trevor Hoffman divested of AC/DC's "Hell Bells."

But for every success there are multiple failures, especially these days when the managers and front-office executives feel intense pressure for their teams to produce right from the season's start and every single night.

Hence, the reliever who goes from obscurity to supremacy and back.

"In the case of relievers, if you check the history it's kind of a natural wave of things," Baltimore Orioles pitching coach Dave Wallace says. "A lot of guys have a real good year, or maybe two good years, and then they maybe hit a bump in the road for a year or two. That's what makes Trevor Hoffman, Mariano, those type of guys special because they've done it over a long period of time."

From 1969, when the save first became a statistic, until 2003 there was not a single occurrence

Did you know

In the last three years, seven pitchers have reached 30 saves for the first time.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

of a pitcher who had exactly one 30-save season and no other, according to STATS.

Shawn Chacon became the first. An All-Star starter for Colorado in 2003, he was converted to closer the following year and had 35 saves — but also blew nine and became the first player in major league history with 30 saves and an ERA over 7.00.

Restored to the rotation for 2005, he struggled and was dealt to the Yankees. Chacon started for most of the remainder of his career, which ended in 2008, and got just one more save.

Toronto's Miguel Batista (2005) was the next with a one-time-only 30-save season, followed by Texas' Akinori Otsuka (2006) and Toronto's Jeremy Accardo (2007).

In the last three years, seven pitchers have reached 30 saves for the first time and it remains to be seen whether they will do it again: Sergio Santos (2011), Drew Storen (2011), Jordan Walden (2011), Tyler Clippard (2012), Jason Motte (2012), Jason Grilli (2013) and Edward Mujica (2013).

"Some guys are built for it and some guys aren't," Miami Marlins manager Mike Redmond says. "If you can throw strikes and get guys out and save games you are going to have that job forever, but as soon as you don't they find somebody else who does, right? It's just the nature of the beast."

Koji Uehara had 13 saves for Baltimore in 2011, then had one save in each of the following two seasons. After opening last season in a setup role for the Red Sox, he got the big job when Joel Hanrahan tore an elbow ligament and Andrew Bailey struggled and needed shoulder surgery. By October, the 34-year-old Uehara was dominant, striking out St. Louis' Matt Carpenter to finish Boston's first World Series clincher at home since Babe Ruth's team back in 1918.

Tampa Bay manager Joe Maddon likened Uehara to Fernando Rodney, who saved 37 games for Detroit in 2009, served mostly as a setup man during two seasons with the Los Angeles Angels, then emerged as a top closer for the Rays before signing with Seattle. Rodney succeeded when he commanded his changeup and Uehara excelled when he mastered the splitter.

Rivera became baseball's greatest closer because of his cutter, which shattered bats of hundreds of left-handed hitters. "I have to believe the common thread is a more other pitch, which is more than likely is going to be a changeup or a split," Maddon says. "The way that Rivera did it consistently for so many years, it seems it's difficult today to get relief pitchers to be consistent for that many consecutive years."

Rodney's changeup fell into place because of a change in his mechanics.

"A pitcher always lifts his foot. So I stayed in my slide step and got the same velocity, everything the same," he says. "I pitched really well in the Dominican Winter League and I came to spring training and con-



KATHY WILLENS/AP

Yankees reliever David Robertson takes over for the greatest closer in baseball history with Mariano Rivera's retirement.

tinuing to work. And I got a lot of positive results."

With Rivera's retirement, 39-year-old Joe Nathan becomes the active saves leader with 341. He's preparing

for his first season with the Tigers, a "Guys and Dolls" pairing of Nathan-Detroit.

Robertson, who turns 29 next month, has all of eight career saves to his credit. When Derek Jeter retires at the end of the season, Robertson will become the longest-tenured Yankees player if he remains with New York, by one day over outfielder Brett Gardner.

Friends have texted him congratulations on taking over Rivera's role. He keeps saying it's no big deal, that he's approaching the ninth in the same manner he pitches the eighth.

"You blow a game, well, you're going to hear about it. No one wants to lose games," he says.

"Believe me, I've done it in the eighth inning. I've lost games, a bunch of games. It's a little more pressure on you in the ninth, but I still think it's still a job. You're trying to do the same thing. You're trying to

get three outs as quickly as possible. You want to minimize damage and make quality pitches and finish the game. End it."



CHRIS LEE, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/MCT

Pirates closer Jason Grilli had 33 saves in 2013.



Boston Red Sox closer Koji Uehara

STEVEN SENNE/AP

NCAA TOURNAMENT

Games on AFN



No. 1 Virginia (30-6)
vs. No. 4 Michigan State (28-8)
AFN-Xtra
2:45 a.m. Saturday CET
10:45 a.m. Saturday JKT



No. 3 Iowa State (28-7)
vs. No. 7 Connecticut (28-8)
AFN-Xtra
12:15 a.m. Saturday CET
8:15 a.m. Saturday JKT



No. 4 Louisville (31-5)
vs. No. 8 Kentucky (26-10)
AFN-Sports
2:30 a.m. Saturday CET
10:30 a.m. Saturday JKT



No. 2 Michigan (27-8)
vs. No. 11 Tennessee (24-12)
AFN-Sports
Midnight Friday CET
8 a.m. Saturday JKT

Regional final
Teams TBD
AFN-Sports
11 p.m. Saturday CET
7 a.m. Sunday JKT

Regional final
Teams TBD
AFN-Sports
1:30 a.m. Sunday CET
9:30 a.m. Sunday JKT

Regional final
Teams TBD
AFN-Sports
8 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Regional final
Teams TBD
AFN-Sports
10:30 p.m. Sunday CET
5:30 a.m. Monday JKT

What to watch for in the regionals

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

Just when you think the first weekend of the NCAA tournament couldn't possibly top itself, it happened again.

Last year's ride was a wild one, filled with massive upsets that blew up brackets and spectacular performances that made it one of the most entertaining starts in tournament history.

This year's version was even better, the best weekend on the sports calendar starting with most of the brackets blown out on the first game of the first full day and including a four-point play to send a game to overtime.

Now that we've had time to catch our breath, it's time to hold on tight again with the regional rounds up next.

Here's some of what to keep an eye on:

The upstarts

Dayton. Archie Miller has the Flyers flying high, just like big brother Sean's Arizona Wildcats.

Tennessee. Vols aren't exactly a mid-major, but they are a bit of a surprise to get this deep after having to sweat out Selection Sunday.

Stanford. See above.

San Diego State. Aztecs appear to be on the verge of a huge breakthrough.

Kentucky. We know, the team with the second-most national titles in history is no upstart, but Coach Cal and his latest crop of NBAers-in-waiting had to claw their way into the bracket after some shaky moments during the regular season.

The big boys

Florida. Gators were the No. 1 overall seed and did nothing to diminish that.

Arizona. That defensive performance against Gonzaga has to be causing some sweaty palms among the other 15 teams still left.

Michigan State. Izzo and the Spartans Storm the Sweet 16, Part XII.

Louisville. Defending national champs on another roll.

Virginia. Cavaliers have proven the ACC sweep and No. 1 seeding were deserved.

The players

Nick Johnson, Arizona. Great two-way player and leader who's already pulling down All-America honors.

Russ Smith, Louisville. Like Johnson, he's a finalist for the Naismith Award.

DeAndre Kane, Iowa State. Kane has been the king through the first two rounds of the bracket.

Kyle Anderson, UCLA. A 6-foot-9 point guard who can rebound, score and facilitate.

Shabazz Napier, UConn. A shorter version of Anderson from the East.

Nik Stauskas, Michigan. Best pure shooter left in the bracket.

Numbers

■ .850 — Baylor's postseason winning percentage (17-3) over the past six seasons, best in Division I among schools with multiple NCAA tournaments in that span.

■ 5.0 — Assist-to-turnover ratio of Iowa State's Monte Morris, leading the nation.

■ 7.0 — The SEC's record in the NCAA tournament so far, best among all conferences.

■ 8 — Turnovers per game by Wisconsin, best in the nation.

■ 14 — Years since Iowa State had reached the Sweet 16.

■ 16 — Wins without a loss for Rick Pitino in the regional semifinals.

■ 19 — Years since Virginia last reached the Sweet 16.

■ 28 — Games of Florida's winning streak.

Did you know?

■ Arizona's Nick Johnson is the nephew of Hall of Famer Dennis Johnson.

■ Iowa State center Isaiah Austin is the nephew of Isaac Austin, who played for seven NBA teams over nine seasons and was the NBA's 1997 most improved player.

■ Louisville guard Terry Koziar is afraid of squirrels.

■ Kyle Anderson's grandfather, Clifton Anderson, had a two-year NFL career with the Chicago Cardinals in 1952 and the New York Giants in 1953.

■ Iowa State forward Dustin Hogue's brother, Douglas Hogue Jr., played inbacker for the NFL's Detroit Lions and Carolina Panthers.

■ Florida's Alex Murphy is the son of Jay Murphy, who played four NBA seasons with the Los Angeles Clippers and Washington Bullets from 1984-88.

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SPORTS



Moving on
IndyCar champion Dixon adjusting to life without teammate Franchitti | Page 54

MLB

Major shift

From designer defenses to instant replay, baseball is undergoing transformation

By BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

Mike Scioscia moved his left fielder onto the infield dirt, then watched him start a double play. Matt Williams tried a similar trick — he put his right fielder on the grass behind the mound, only to see a bases-loaded triple fly into the vacated spot.

All over the majors this year, the shift is on. From the designer defenses taking over the game, to expanded replay, to opening day on a cricket ground in Australia, baseball is changing.

Those scraggly beards of the World Series champion Boston Red Sox? Shaved off, mostly. Soon Derek Jeter will be gone, too. “You can’t do this forever,” the Yankees captain said. “I’d like to, but you can’t do it forever.”

Ryan Braun and the Biogenesis bunch are back in, recklessly crashing into catchers is an automatic out. Robinson Cano, Shin-Soo Choo and Japanese ace Masahiro Tanaka changed sides, as did Jacoby Ellsbury, Prince Fielder and Curtis Granderson.

Plus, there’s a rookie with real pedigree — sweet Hank the Dog got no second chance. He found a home in Milwaukee; no telling if he’ll later visit Petco Park.

This spring has been much rougher for others.
SEE SHIFT ON PAGE 57

‘It’s not as much fun as it used to be. Everybody’s using it.’

Joe Maddon

Rays manager, on the increased use of defensive shifts in MLB

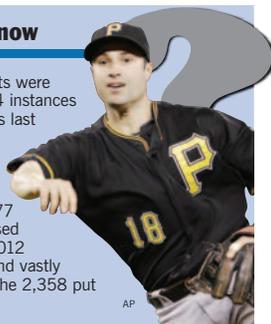
Tampa Bay Rays manager Joe Maddon is a shifting maven, having employed four-man outfields and routinely putting three players on one side of the dirt at different depths. The strategies Maddon has employed for years are now finding wider acceptance among MLB managers.

Chris O’Meara/AP

Did you know

Defensive shifts were used in 8,134 instances in the majors last season, a marked increase from the 4,577 shifts used in the 2012 season, and vastly more than the 2,358 put on in 2011.

AP



SOURCE: The Associated Press

