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WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC



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More than just border wars for conference foes

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EXCHANGES ON ALERT FOR THIEVES AS SHOPPING SEASON KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR



'WE'RE GOING TO CATCH YOU'

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — It's just another sleepy morning at Kadena Air Base's sprawling exchange, and retired Marine John Keith sits behind a humming console of 10 screens with access to 112 cameras that cover the department store inside and out.

Keith — who works in Army and Air Force Exchange Service loss prevention at the Kadena store — watches intently as a pair of uniformed airmen pop in to grab an item before heading back to work. A young woman shops for cosmetics, leisurely looking in the mirror as she tests samples. An older woman strolls the aisles pushing a young child in a stroller.

Little do they know Keith is watching their every move.

He zooms in on the woman testing the cosmetics,

looking for "selection" of an item and "concealment." As she picks up an item, he moves in even closer with the camera.

He's able to relax as she puts the item back on the shelf and walks away. Then he turns to watch the woman pushing the carriage.

"This lady right here, she's walking through the cosmetics, she has a baby carriage," Keith said. "There's so many places to stick things."

Keith and his colleagues have good reason to be so distrusting as they prepare for the surge of holiday shoppers that starts on Black Friday and continues through Christmas.

Last year, AAFES recorded more than 3,700 shoplifting incidents worldwide, involving about \$417,750 worth of merchandise, according to an Exchange service spokesman, Judd Anstey.

SEE EXCHANGES ON PAGE 4

Attacks in Kabul target diplomat convoy, aid agency

By CARLO MUNOZ

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Taliban attackers struck twice in the heart of Kabul on Thursday, killing six people including a British citizen and driving home their message that security in the Afghan capital cannot be guar-

anteed as the U.S. and its allies draw down their combat forces.

In the first attack, a massive car bomb targeted a British Embassy convoy in the east of the city, killing a British Embassy security guard and an embassy interpreter, as well as four other Afghan civilians, according to a statement from the International

Security Assistance Force. Police said 35 other people were wounded.

In the evening, a suicide attack on a foreign guest house near the International Relief & Development organization compound was followed by gunmen storming in, according to the chief of Kabul police, Gen. Mohammad Zahir.

The Virginia-based relief agency, which works closely with the U.S. Agency for International Development, is located in an area where there is a concentration of embassies, nongovernmental organizations and restaurants frequented by foreigners.

SEE KABUL ON PAGE 2

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We shouldn't be debating between readiness and the pay and benefits for those in uniform."

— Retired Air Force Col. Michael F. Hayden, director of government relations for the Military Officers Association of America, whose members had sent almost 45,000 "messages" to Capitol Hill in recent weeks to urge rejection of a proposed pay cap and compensation curbs

See story on Page 5

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Science & Medicine

Return of the "satellite killer?"



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WAR/MILITARY

Kabul: Taliban claim responsibility for attacks that killed 6

FROM FRONT PAGE

Deputy Interior Minister Mohammed Ayub Salangi later said that in addition to the suicide bomber, there were two gunmen, both of whom were killed. A Nepalese guard at the compound was wounded, but no other foreigners were injured or killed.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for both attacks, the latest in a string of attacks in the capital against foreign military and civilian targets.

In the morning attack, a Toyota Corolla packed with explosives pulled alongside a British convoy in the Qalai Wazir neighborhood, according to an Afghan police official.

British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond confirmed that a British national member of the civilian security team at the embassy and an Afghan national working for the embassy were killed. He said in a statement that a second British member of the security team was injured.

"I condemn this appalling attack on innocent civilians supporting our diplomatic activity," Hammond said. "This outrage brings home to us once again the courage and perseverance of the people of Afghanistan and members of the international community who support them, who have lived together through decades of conflict."

ISAF commander Gen. John F. Campbell also condemned the "despicable attack" by the Taliban. "Those who commit such murderous acts have no place in the future of this country," he said in a statement.

Witnesses said the explosion



Carlo Munoz/Stars and Stripes

Bystanders look at the remnants Thursday of a British Embassy vehicle destroyed by a massive car bomb in eastern Kabul.

was large enough to send the British armored vehicle airborne, tossing the wreckage nearly 40 yards from the initial blast site, while sending shrapnel and broken glass into shops and businesses along the Kabul-Jalalabad Road.

At the scene of the evening attack, Afghan Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqji speculated that the Taliban were sending a message that parliament's approval of key agreements with the United States and NATO regarding the terms of continued international troop presence is

"not tolerable."

"The message they want to send is clear — security is not easy to come by," Sediqji said.

On Monday, two U.S. soldiers were killed when a bomb attached to a bicycle struck their convoy as it moved through the same Kabul neighborhood where Thursday's attack took place.

Earlier this month, Taliban fighters attacked the Green Village foreign contractor compound and the offices of Supreme Group logistics company, both in the same eastern Kabul neighborhood. In both of those strikes,

truck bombs were used to breach the compound's gates before insurgents attempted to overrun the facilities.

The deadliest attack this year took place Sunday, when a suicide bomber struck a volleyball tournament in Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan. The blast, which killed 61 people, mostly civilians, was reportedly aimed at high-ranking Afghan Local Police officials who were attending the tournament.

Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. munoz.carlo@stripes.com

Pentagon identifies 2 US troops killed in Afghan attack

From wire reports

The Pentagon has identified two American soldiers who were killed in a bomb attack Monday in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Wardell B. Turner and Spc. Joseph W. Riley died "of wounds suffered when the enemy attacked their vehicle with a vehicle borne improvised explosive device," the Pentagon reported.

Police officials said an explosive attached to a bicycle went off

near their convoy.

Turner, 48, of Nanticoke, Md., was the senior enlisted adviser to a NATO mission training Afghan troops. He was assigned to Fort Drum, N.Y., and previously had deployed to Bosnia in 1995 and to Iraq in 2003. The Baltimore Sun reported. He had been awarded the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and three Meritorious Service Medals, among others.

Turner attended James M. Bennett Sr. High School in Salis-

bury, Md., and played football. He studied management at Towson University, where he graduated in 1989. He joined the Army in 1993 and served in several military police units.

He was married and had five children.

Riley, 27, of Grove City, Ohio, was assigned to 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Riley's family said in a state-

ment that he "loved the Army and felt strongly that freedom is worth the fight."

The Columbus Dispatch reported that Riley was a 2005 graduate of and former football standout at Grove City High School. The city's police chief said Riley had spent summers on a Grove City work crew.

They were the 51st and 52nd Americans killed in Afghanistan this year, according to casualties.org.



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MILITARY



VISAR KRUYEZH/AP

U.S. soldiers serving in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Kosovo pray before sharing a traditional Thanksgiving meal on base at Camp Bondsteel, near the village of Sojevo in Kosovo, on Thursday. It is the 15th Thanksgiving for hundreds of U.S. soldiers serving in the Kosovo mission.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

NATO soldiers look for a seat before they enjoy their Thanksgiving dinner at the ISAF headquarters in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Thursday.



RAHMAT GUL/AP

NATO soldiers are served Thanksgiving dinner at ISAF headquarters in Kabul on Thursday. This is the last Thanksgiving celebration before the U.S. and NATO combat mission ends on Dec. 31.

Thanksgiving in the military



HENRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

A sailor shows off his Thanksgiving Day spirit on the deck of the aircraft carrier USS Carl Vinson, underway in the Persian Gulf conducting missions in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.



ADAM L. MATHIS/Stars and Stripes



HENRICK SIMOES/Stars and Stripes

Col. Kenneth T. Bibb Jr., 100th Air Refueling Wing commander, cuts off part of a steamship roast for a Thanksgiving lunch at RAF Mildenhall, England, on Thursday. Base officials estimated up to 700 people could visit the dining facility for the meal.

Seaman Jose Ortiz puts the final touches on the hams for a Thanksgiving Day meal aboard the USS Carl Vinson.

MILITARY

Exchanges: Official says desperation during holidays drives rise in theft

FROM FRONT PAGE

Of those 3,700 incidents, 274 occurred at stores in the Pacific, which includes the second-largest exchange worldwide in terms of volume — Kadena, Ramstein, Germany, is number one, with Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., as number three.

That represents a sharp drop in shoplifting cases from a few years ago. In 2007, about 7,000 shoppers were detained worldwide, Antsey said. Last year, the number dropped to fewer than 4,000.

With sales in the holiday season expected to soar, Keith and the rest of his team will be manning the floor and watching the screens for the rest of the year to try to bring down those numbers even lower.

“Our main charge is to get out there and serve the servicemember and their dependents,” said Allen Wykle, the Pacific region’s loss prevention manager. “If you’re out there and you’re wanting to shoplift, we’re going to catch you, and we don’t want that to happen.”

“Around the holiday season, people really get desperate,” Wykle said. “Families want to make sure their families have the best Christmas and sometimes cheat to get the kids those presents, so it’s very unfortunate.”

The thieves come in all shapes, sizes, ages and nationalities, and have different methods for stealing and even the reasons behind it.

All shapes, sizes

Keith has loss prevention down to a science.

Upon his arrival at work each morning, he sets up several cameras on the items that inventory tags are stolen from the most, such as cosmetics, electronics and luxury goods. If someone enters that department, he watches them intently, able to zoom in virtually close enough to see skin blemishes.

This season, there’s more people stealing for themselves because they’re saving their money to buy for their loved ones for the



ROBERT DEDEAUX/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Loss-prevention specialist John Keith, center foreground, monitors shoppers in Kadena Air Base's Exchange. Keith expects shoplifting to increase threefold during the holiday season, starting with Black Friday. He said the team will be working to prevent theft this holiday season.

holidays,” he said. “I don’t catch [a shoplifter] every day. It’s actually pretty hard, but they say, statistically, one out of every 11 people who walk up the stairs attempt to steal something” — an industry yardstick that Antsey said is higher than among AAFES shoppers.

In one week earlier this month, loss prevention caught a woman at the Camp Foster exchange store trying to swipe \$2,000 worth of items when the electronic tagging system that alerts staff when someone walks out with a pricier item was temporarily down.

Other notable larceny attempts in recent years include:

■ A woman who stole a \$4 bracelet after spending a couple of hundred dollars at the store.

■ A high school student from Yokota who stole shoes while visiting Okinawa only to be caught upon his return home.

■ Kids who have tried to steal cold medicine or dust-off spray to get high.

■ A servicewoman who walked around the Camp Foster exchange for six hours, dressing her baby in stolen goods, stuffing items into the stroller, even feeding her baby with a stolen bottle. Total price tag: \$1,600.

Rank and station don’t enter into it. During his career in loss prevention, Wykle has seen diplomatic personnel and even an undersecretary of the Army caught shoplifting.

Employees have to be watched, too. Keith said they sometimes

steal, show up late, fraudulently fill out time cards or undercharge their friends.

Who steals depends on the time of day, he said. In the morning, it’s mostly spouses who have just dropped off their children at school. It switches to servicemembers and high school students about lunchtime and back to spouses after lunch. After 4 p.m., it is everybody.

Keith has seen so much theft in the 14 months he has been poring over screens at Okinawa’s exchanges that he has lost some faith in people.

“Not all bandits wear a ski mask,” Keith said.

“I’ve seen 6-year-old kids to 86-year-old old ladies and everyone in between; everyone steals.

And if you don’t catch them today, they’ll be back, and you’ll get them tomorrow.”

After someone is caught stealing, Keith or a manager will approach the person and inform them that there is a discrepancy that needs to be addressed. They then bring the person into the security office and contact military police, who file larceny charges.

Keith said they do not use physical force to restrain someone who has been caught. The video means there’s no need; it can then be turned over to a school, a command or law enforcement.

Careers at risk

The consequences for a servicemember can be devastating — even if it’s a dependent who steals, Keith said. The servicemember also can be charged with the theft.

Dependents have been barred from base for 10 years, which in some cases led to the destruction of their families through divorce or separation.

Servicemembers who steal can be prosecuted and discharged, Wykle said. In addition, if the merchandise is opened or broken, the thief or the thief’s family has to purchase it and pay a restocking fee of \$200.

The pain caused by shoplifting doesn’t end there, Wykle said. A stolen item might remain out of stock for long periods of time.

Merchandise is automatically reordered when it gets down to a certain level because sales are registered in a computer. But it might be a while before an exchange realizes stock of a stolen item is running low, so the general population of servicemembers might be forced to go without.

The community also suffers because exchange earnings support morale, welfare and recreation installation programs. The exchanges have contributed more than \$2.4 billion to military quality-of-life programs in the past 10 years.

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Accident involving military vehicle near NAF Atsugi kills Japanese nurse

By SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — A Japanese motorist is dead following an accident involving a U.S. military vehicle near Naval Air Facility Atsugi.

The accident, involving a 7-ton Marine Corps Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement and a Japanese civilian vehicle, happened shortly after 1 p.m. Wednesday, according to a Marine Corps news release.

The military vehicle was traveling on the Tomei Expressway in Kanagawa Prefecture from U.S. Army Depot, Sagamihara to Camp Fuji at the time of the crash, the news release said.

The car struck the center median and then careened to the shoulder when it was struck by the truck driven by a 20-year-old Camp Fuji servicemember, according to Japanese police.

Motoko Arai, 34, a nurse from Yokohama, was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was pronounced dead at 3:50 p.m., according to a Kanagawa Prefecture police spokesman.

The car’s driver, identified as Ryohei Yamada, 25, a nurse from Tokyo, was seriously injured, police said. The servicemember did not sustain serious injuries, according to police.

“The circumstances and cause of the traffic accident are under

investigation by Japanese traffic and law enforcement personnel and a military investigative team on scene from U.S. Army Camp Zama,” the news release said.

Japanese and U.S. investigators will be permitted to question the driver, who was to return to Camp Fuji, the news release said.

“The commanders and Marines of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and ... Camp Fuji are deeply saddened by the death and injury to the members of our valued and respected community and host-nation,” the news release said.

Stars and Stripes reporters Erik Slavin and Chiyomi Sumida contributed to this report. robson.seth@stripes.com Twitter: @sethrobson1

Rhineland-Pfalz police warn of pickpockets

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The twinkling lights, Christmas music, enticing smells of fire-roasted sausage and hot mulled wine all put visitors to Christmas markets in the mood for giving.

But the distractions of all those sights, sounds and smells could find them giving more than they intend.

Christmas markets attract pickpockets, who take advantage of the crush of people and the generous holiday mood.

Rhineland-Pfalz police are warning visitors to Christmas markets, crowded stores and

train stations to keep a close hold on their wallets, offering the following tips:

■ Carry only as much cash as you need.

■ Carry cash and credit cards in various closed pockets as close to your body as possible.

■ Keep your purse or bag closed across the front of your body or firmly clamped under your arm.

■ Never leave your bag or jacket unattended.

■ Pay particular attention to your valuables in a crowd.

■ If you are the victim of a theft or see suspicious activity, call the police at 110.

news@stripes.com

MILITARY

2ID effort aims to curb troops' misconduct

By Ashley Rowland

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The 2nd Infantry Division is asking bar owners for help in reducing misbehavior by troops after several incidents sparked negative publicity and calls from local officials for the U.S. military to rein in soldier conduct.

Maj. Gen. Thomas Vandal, 2ID commander, said Army officials met with about 20 owners of bars in The Ville outside Camp Casey and Hovey several weeks ago. Citing excessive alcohol use as the main contributor to misconduct, the division wants bartenders to call military police when they believe a soldier's drinking is getting out of hand.

"We asked them to help us with this campaign for responsible drinking that really gets at causing our soldiers to stop, pause and reflect before they have that extra drink, before we see it affects their judgment," Vandal told Stars and Stripes. "They understand the intent. They were very positive, quite frankly," he said, adding that having soldiers get in trouble is bad for a bar's business and can lead to being put off-limits to troops.

Park Young Ho, owner of the Mustang Club and head of the Korea Foreigner Tourist Facility Association's Dongducheon branch, said most bar owners are happy to comply with 2ID's request. Many have felt there is little they can do when troops get drunk and worry that kicking them out could lead to further problems and could endanger other customers.

"This is great," he said. "We can call them (military police) and ask them to take the drunken soldiers to the bases."

The effort is part of 2ID's new Think Twice campaign to encourage responsible behavior among its more than 10,000 soldiers, who make up more than a third of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed on the peninsula.

Announced this week, the campaign emphasizes the dangers of excess drinking and encompasses a number of measures already in place, from cultural awareness classes for newly arrived soldiers to promotion of off-duty activities that don't involve drinking, like sports and college classes.

It also includes more partnership with civic leaders in Dongducheon and Uijeongbu, where major 2ID bases are located, as well as bar owners, Vandal said.

"Ninety-nine percent of our soldiers do what's right. They're serving abroad, they're doing a very challenging, tough mission and they're putting themselves in harm's way," Vandal said. But the few soldiers who cause trouble take "away from all the great things our soldiers are doing."

He said several recent acts of misconduct



Jon Rabinov/Stars and Stripes

Filipino women stand in the doorway of one of the juicy bars in The Ville, just outside Camp Casey, in South Korea as a group of soldiers walks by in June 2009.

around the Labor Day weekend prompted the division to enact Think Twice, which he described as a holistic approach to improving troop behavior. Those incidents included curfew violations and several acts of drunken and disorderly behavior, both on and off post.

Even minor crimes involving U.S. troops can receive national scrutiny in South Korea, where servicemembers are often perceived as being allowed to run afoul of the law with impunity. But 2ID officials say the number of crimes involving its soldiers is ticking downward.

Command spokesman Lt. Col. Scott Rawlinson said in an emailed statement that the command is beginning to track whether any establishments have contacted military police for assistance since the meeting with bar owners.

According to figures provided by 2ID from its provost marshal's office, alcohol was involved in more than 70 percent of reported sexual assaults and more than 50 percent of aggravated assaults involving 2ID soldiers in the 12 months ending Sept. 30. It did not provide specifics on how many incidents there were.

Rawlinson said that because alcohol-related incidents are tracked quarterly, it is too soon to know the impact of Think Twice, but no incidents of soldiers violating South Korean law were reported off post during the Veteran's Day holiday weekend.

Typically, misbehavior tends to spike during long holiday weekends, he said.

An official with the Gyeonggi Provincial Police Agency in Uijeongbu said he believes the number of felonies being committed by 2ID soldiers is decreasing and the command is doing a good job of curbing troop misconduct.

But South Koreans tend to focus on misbehavior as a general issue, not where a soldier is stationed.

"Where the person is attached to doesn't seem to be so important in crimes committed by USFK soldiers," he said.

Earlier this fall, Uijeongbu city hall expressed skepticism that 2ID could do anything to stop troop misconduct after a 2ID soldier's suspected assault of a taxi driver led Mayor Ahn Byung Yung to boycott a friendship concert at Camp Red Cloud in September. Less than a week after that incident, another soldier was accused of flirting with a 26-year-old South Korean woman at a subway station and shoving her toward a wall.

"I wouldn't go so far as to say people can't step out onto the street at night. But they are nervous, and they are scared (of U.S. soldiers)," a spokesman for the mayor said at the time.

Also in September, three 2ID soldiers were given suspended sentences for a drunken disturbance at a water park in which two female employees were touched

inappropriately and a male park employee and a police officer were attacked.

The youth and lack of professional experience among 2ID soldiers — this is the first military assignment for 54 percent of them — as well as South Korea's reputation as an assignment where lax behavior is tolerated may contribute to conduct problems.

"They might have heard from other people that have been stationed in Korea in the past — there's some stories out there that you can get away with anything in Korea because what happens in Korea stays in Korea," said 2ID Command Sgt. Major Andrew Spano, adding that the division is trying to change that perception. "But what happened 25 years ago is nothing like it is now."

Vandal said elements of the Korean media remain unfairly "fixated" on misbehavior within 2ID and often ignore similar misconduct within the South Korean army ranks.

But he said he believes efforts to curb misconduct have had an effect.

"We think it is working, but we also acknowledge, with the turnover we have on the peninsula, this is something we have to encourage consistently, every month," he said.

Stars and Stripes' Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report. rowland.ashley@stripes.com

Port congestion could further delay change-of-station vehicle deliveries

By Adam L. Mathis

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — Congestion at civilian ports around the world means a Defense Department contractor with an already patchy delivery record will be late delivering Defense Department employees' vehicles into the New Year.

International Auto Logistics said on its website Monday that the port congestion already had caused delays. Despite a decrease in shipping volume during the

holiday season, the Brunswick, Ga.-based company "expects these delays to become continually longer into" 2015.

The delays would continue a trend of late deliveries that have marred International's running of the Defense Department contract to ship the vehicles of personnel on permanent change-of-station moves. Neither the International nor the Defense Department has released hard data on the company's shipping record, but many complaints by servicemembers

and DOD employees have surfaced on Facebook, ranging from vehicles delivered well past the required delivery dates to failure to provide accurate tracking information.

Entry ports in the U.S. and Europe have recently suffered from "persistent congestion," according to a report on website of the JOC Group, a company that follows cargo shipment news.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, Calif., have both reported problems with congestion

on their websites. Los Angeles described the month of September as its busiest for cargo since 2006.

Delays at the Rotterdam, Netherlands, port were so severe earlier this year that one shipping company reportedly diverted some of its traffic to a different port.

A spokeswoman for International could not immediately provide any officials to comment, but International said on its website it had made changes to some

operations to help mitigate the situation.

The potential for more delays comes at a time when the government has been hoping to rebuild trust in International. U.S. Transportation Command said in September that the company had doubled the number of vehicles delivered per week compared with August and that deliveries were being made at a greater rate than vehicles were entering the system.

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NATION



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Snow falls as Missouri National Guard members stand outside the Ferguson Police Department on Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo.

Protesters dwindle to small groups in Ferguson

By TOM FOREMAN JR.
AND ALAN SCHEER ZAGIER
The Associated Press

FERGUSON, Mo. — The throngs of protesters who overran Ferguson after the grand jury decision in the Michael Brown case dwindled to just a few small groups as people began cleaning up this battered community and seeking something closer to a normal routine.

Scattered demonstrations continued Wednesday, including protesters who rushed into St. Louis City Hall, screaming, "Shame, shame." But the tension that preceded arson and looting earlier in the week seemed all but gone, two days after the announcement that a white police officer would not face charges in the fatal shooting of the black 18-year-old.

There were no reports of major confrontations or damage to property, and St. Louis County police said there were only two arrests overnight.

In Ferguson, business owners and residents covered up broken windows, cleared away debris and hoped the relative calm would last into the Thanksgiving holiday.

In the St. Louis suburb's historic downtown, about a dozen people painted over boarded-up windows on businesses.

"This is my Ferguson, you know?" said Kari Hobbs, 28, as she watched Molly Rogers, 17, paint "Love Will Win" in bright pink on a board that covered a smashed window at Cathy's Kitchen, a restaurant not far from the Ferguson Police Department.

The footage people see on the news "is such a small bit of what's

happening here," Hobbs said. "There's so much donation and charity going on with the businesses that have been affected and the people that have been affected."

There were no seats inside Cathy's Kitchen, and a line had formed at the back of the building. A diverse mix of residents, businesspeople with the day off and journalists covering the protests enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving lunch.

Jerome Jenkins, who runs the restaurant with his wife, Cathy, said he never considered closing his doors.

"It really wasn't about wondering if the building would get torched or not," Jenkins said. "Me and my wife, we expected it to get damaged ... we decided to go home, and we would live with whatever fate would give us."

He said it was protesters who helped protect his business during Monday night's chaos, when a dozen commercial buildings were burned to the ground.

"The criminals, the looters, whatever you want to call them: They're not protesters. They wanted to vandalize the place," Jenkins said. "And the protesters locked arms together, and they surrounded our place and ... told them, 'No, you're not going to touch this place.'"

After the City Hall outbreak, police locked down the building and called in more than a hundred extra officers. Three people were arrested.

In downtown St. Louis, about 200 demonstrators held a mock trial of officer Darren Wilson.

An influx of National Guard

troops on Tuesday helped contain the protests, although there were still nearly 60 arrests, and demonstrators set fire to a squad car.

On Wednesday night, a crowd of protesters lingered outside the Ferguson Police Department, shouting at Guard troops as light snow fell. About 100 people marched through a major intersection and blocked traffic, but the disruption lasted only a few minutes.

Troops with rifles were posted at intersections and parking lots in an area where stores were looted and burned Monday into Tuesday.

Since the grand jury's decision was announced, demonstrators have been active in other cities throughout the U.S.

In Minneapolis, a car struck one protester and drove into a crowd of others. In Portland, Ore., police used pepper spray and made arrests after about 300 people interrupted bus and light rail traffic.

Also on Wednesday, authorities said a 20-year-old man whose body was found inside a car in Ferguson after Monday night's riots had been intentionally set on fire.

The death of Deandre Joshua, of University City, is being investigated as a homicide, but police have not said whether it's connected to the violence that broke out after the grand jury announcement.

Joshua's body was found Tuesday morning at the wheel of a car parked near the apartment complex where Brown was killed. An autopsy determined that he was shot once in the head.

Dozens arrested in California unrest

By TAMI ABDOLLAH
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Police in Los Angeles and Oakland arrested dozens of demonstrators during a third night of unrest linked to the shooting protest in Ferguson, Mo.

At least 130 demonstrators who refused to disperse during a Los Angeles protest were arrested Wednesday night, while 35 people were detained in Oakland following a march that deteriorated into unrest and vandalism, according to police officials.

About 200 or 300 largely peaceful demonstrators crisscrossed the streets of downtown Los Angeles for several hours in the afternoon and evening over a decision not to bring criminal charges against a Ferguson policeman for killing a black man.

Later some of the protesters were stopped by a phalanx of riot-clad police near the Central Library.

Lt. Andy Neiman said an unlawful assembly was declared after some marchers began walking in the street and disrupting traffic. They were ordered to disperse but instead re-formed, with police trying to corral them.

Neiman said 130 protesters were arrested.

Meanwhile, Oakland police spokeswoman Johnna Watson said the 33 arrests there came after a march by about 100 people through Oakland streets.

She said that later small groups began moving through the streets with some vandalizing property, mainly breaking windows.

Most of the protesters had dispersed but shortly before mid-

night Watson said there was still a very small group that police were monitoring.

On Monday and Tuesday, some demonstrators in Oakland vandalized businesses and blocked freeways to protest the decision not to indict Officer Darren Wilson in the Aug. 9 fatal shooting of Michael Brown, 18.

During the demonstration Wednesday in Los Angeles, demonstrators had marched to a federal building and police headquarters but they were turned away by lines of police after heading toward the county jail and then the Staples Center arena, where the Los Angeles Lakers were playing.

"The system is wrong," demonstrator Jovan Brown told KCAL-TV. "We're trying to let everybody know if we come together as a people and unite, we can change it."

There was a brief, tense confrontation where a handful of demonstrators screamed at officers, who held raised batons. One officer struck a woman who had moved forward, and another shoved a protester.

Finally, squads of police boxed in and began arresting about 60 remaining protesters for failure to disperse, Neiman said.

Most of those arrested were expected to be released after posting \$500 bail for the misdemeanor. Those unable to pay the bail could remain jailed through the Thanksgiving weekend pending scheduled Monday court hearings, authorities said.

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Vaccine for Ebola seems to be safe in initial tests

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — An experimental Ebola vaccine appears safe and triggered signs of immune protection in the first 20 volunteers to test it, U.S. researchers reported Wednesday.

The vaccine is designed to spur the immune system's production of anti-Ebola antibodies, and people developed them within four weeks of getting the shots at the National Institutes of Health. Half of the test group received a higher-dose shot, and those people produced more antibodies, said the study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Some people also developed a different set of virus-fighting immune cells, named T cells, the study found. That may be important in fending off Ebola, as prior research found that monkeys protected by the vaccine also had that combination.

"Stimulating both types of immune response is 'a promising factor,'" said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, whose employees led the work.

The researchers reported no serious side effects. But two people who received the higher-dose vaccine spiked fever, one above 103 degrees Fahrenheit, which disappeared within a day.

Earlier this month, Fauci told Congress this first-stage testing was promising enough that the U.S. planned much larger studies in West Africa, starting in Liberia in early January, to try to prove whether the vaccine really works.

Wednesday's publication offered scientific details about the initial testing of the vaccine candidate furthest along, one being developed by NIH and Glaxo-SmithKline. Additional safety studies are underway here and abroad. A different Canadian-made vaccine also has begun small safety studies.

Many questions remain as larger studies are being designed, including the best dose and how soon protection may begin, cautioned Dr. Daniel Bausch, a Tulane University Ebola specialist who wasn't involved in the study. Plus, monkey research suggests a booster shot will be needed for long-term protection.

"The road is still long and there are many challenges but we are nevertheless one step closer to a solution," he wrote in an accompanying editorial.

"The road is still long and there are many challenges but we are nevertheless one step closer to a solution."



People watch a news program showing Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister, at Seoul Railway Station in South Korea on Thursday.

N. Korean leader's sister named as senior official

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea has revealed that leader Kim Jong Un's younger sister is a senior official in the ruling Workers' Party, strengthening analysts' views that she is an increasingly important part of the family dynasty that runs the country.

State media on Thursday referred to Kim Yo Jong as a departmental vice director within the party's Central Committee.

Analysts say the mention could signal her growing role in supporting her brother's authoritarian rule. The siblings' late father, former leader Kim Jong Il, was seen as relying on his own sister during his 17-year rule.

Outsiders closely study North Korea's opaque ruling power dy-

namics for clues about a secretive country that pursues nuclear weapons and threatens its neighbors with war.

The Korean Central News Agency first referred to Kim Yo Jong as a senior official in the Central Committee in March, but this is the first time state media have specified her role.

Yang Moo-jin, a North Korea expert at the University of North Carolina in Seoul, said a departmental vice director is roughly equivalent to a vice Cabinet minister. The announcement of Kim Yo Jong's role shows that the government is now confident enough to introduce her as an important part of its leadership, Yang said.

Cheong Seong-chang, an analyst at South Korea's private Se-

jong Institute, said Kim Yo Jong is likely to have greater influence than other departmental vice directors because she is a member of the Kim family. In establishing her sister in a senior role in the ruling party, Kim Jong Un is further strengthening his control of North Korea's power elite, Cheong said.

Since taking over North Korea's leadership following the death of his father in 2011, Kim Jong Un has removed key members of the old guard. The process was highlighted by the 2013 execution of his uncle, Jang Song Thae, the husband of Kim Jong Il's influential sister. Jang, who was once considered the second-most powerful man in North Korea, was accused of treason.

Presidents pick up the check for their meals

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — There's no free lunch — or breakfast or dinner — for President Barack Obama on Thanksgiving Day. Or any other day for that matter.

He has to dig into his pocket to pay for his holiday feast of turkey, ham, two kinds of stuffing, sweet and regular potatoes and six different kinds of pie. It's a longstanding practice that a president pays for meals for himself, his family and personal guests.

Obama also pays for other basics — everything from toothpaste to dry cleaning.

Why is that?

Gary Walters, who was chief White House usher for many years, said the payment rule dates to 1800 when the White House was first occupied by President John Adams and there was no staff. Presidents brought staff with them and paid for everything.

Congress gradually began spending money to maintain an official White House staff to oversee operations and maintenance, but presidents continued to pay for personal expenses.

What it boils down to, Walters said, is that the White House is first and foremost the president's home.

What is excluded?

White House chefs who prepare the president's meals are paid by the government.

For the budget year that ended Sept. 30, Congress gave the White House \$19,000 to pay for official receptions and \$12.7 million to cover operating expenses for the residence, which may include entertainment.

The cost of meals for some White House events, including state dinners and receptions, is picked up by the State Department or political parties.

What other costs?

Since presidents and first ladies can't easily pop into the neighborhood drug store, a White House residence staff member will pick up things like toothpaste and deodorant during shopping runs and keep the bill for Obama.

Another cost is private parties, such as the 50th birthday bash Obama threw earlier this year for first lady Michelle Obama. For private events, presidents pay for food and beverages, use of waiters and servers, and setup and cleanup crews.

How does it work?

The White House usher's office prepares a detailed bill and sends a copy to the president and another to the first lady by midmonth. It is itemized to account for all the food and beverages consumed by the first family and personal guests and includes invoices and receipts for those costs and other

Putin's tiger ravages goat farm in China

The Associated Press

BEIJING — Ustin, a rare Siberian tiger released into the wild by Russian President Vladimir Putin, is behaving badly in his new home in northeastern China.

The tiger, one of two to enter China from Russia's Amur border region, bit and killed 15 goats and left another three missing on Sunday and Monday on a farm in Heilongjiang province's Fuyuan county, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"When I opened the goat house in the morning, dead goats were everywhere," farm owner Guo Yulin told the agency Wednesday.

He said he was alerted by dog barks Sunday night, but that his check turned up nothing unusual. He said he woke up the next morning to find two goats dead and three others missing.

The goats' skulls were crushed by the tiger, and a hole the size of a human finger was visible on each goat's head.

Guo said the tiger returned Monday night without making any noise, and the following morning he found 13 dead goats.

Local experts found the tiger's footprints around the goat house and on its roof, Xinhua reported.

Guo said he was stressed by the raids, but he would be compensated by the local forestry department for the loss of the 18 goats. Xinhua said the farmer was also asked to either relocate his goats or reinforce his farm.

Russian experts rescued five tiger cubs two years ago. Ustin was one of three released by Putin in May.

Two of them have entered China. They are fitted with tracking devices and are monitored by Chinese wildlife protection workers.

The other tiger, Kuzya, was believed to have raided a farm and eaten five chickens last month in another Heilongjiang county.

services. Obama then reimburses the government.

Any complaints?

The practice appeared to catch Nancy Pelosi's attention.

"Nobody had told us that the president and his wife are charged for every meal, as well as for such incidentals as dry cleaning, toothpaste and other toiletries," she said shortly after she and President Ronald Reagan visited the White House in January 1981.

Laura Bush knew about it but was still unprepared for some of the costs of first lady.

"I was amazed by the sheer number of designer clothes that was expected to be by, like the woman before me, to meet the fashion expectations for a first lady," Mrs. Bush wrote in her memoir. "After our first year in the White House, our accountant said to George (W. Bush), 'It costs a lot to be president,' and she was referring mainly to my clothes."

WORLD

Amsterdam warns of drugs after 3 deaths

AMSTERDAM — Health authorities in Amsterdam are warning of dangerous drugs being sold to tourists after three British men died in the past month after snorting heroin they may have believed was cocaine.

A large sign outside the Dutch capital's Central Station warned Thursday, "Extremely dangerous cocaine is sold to tourists" in the area.

The warning campaign was started after two British men, ages 20 and 21, were found dead in a hotel room in the city Tuesday. Police said they likely died after snorting "white heroin" they thought believing it was cocaine.

Amsterdam police spokesman Rob van der Veen said the same drug is suspected in another British tourist's death last month.

Venezuela says 13 dead in prison disturbances

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuela's government says 13 prisoners have died of drug overdoses and a further 145 are being treated for intoxication after inmates stormed an infirmary amid disturbances at a major corrections facility.

The disturbances at the David Voloria penitentiary began Monday when a group of inmates declared a hunger strike to demand better living conditions and force out the jail's new warden.

National Guardsmen were called in to restore calm and dozens of prisoners were transferred.

While the situation remains tense, the government said in a statement late Wednesday night that the situation remains under control and all prisoners' rights are being respected.

Strike shuts down services across Greece

ATHENS, Greece — A 24-hour general strike in Greece shut down services across the country, forcing flight cancellations and school closures and leaving state hospitals functioning with emergency staff, while thousands of protesters marched in central Athens.

Labor unions called the strike to protest continued austerity measures as Greece struggles to emerge from a financial crisis that wiped out a quarter of the country's economy and sent unemployment soaring to 26 percent. Youth unemployment reached nearly 60 percent during the crisis, which began in late 2009 after years of profligate government spending and lax fiscal management.

From The Associated Press



ALESSANDRA TARANTINO/AP

Pope Francis kisses a child Thursday as he leaves after an audience in the Paul VI hall at the Vatican.

Pope visits Turkey amid Christian-Muslim tensions

BY NICOLE WINFIELD AND SUZAN FRASER
The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — When a pope last visited Turkey — Benedict XVI in 2006 — Muslim-Catholic tensions were so high that the Vatican added a stop at Istanbul's famed Blue Mosque at the last minute in hopes of showing Benedict's respect for Islam.

Pope Francis travels to Turkey this weekend amid new Muslim-Christian tensions and war next door, with Islamic State militants seizing chunks of Iraq and Syria and sending 1.6 million refugees across the border into Turkey.

Francis is expected to tread lightly during his three-day visit, sensitive to the delicate diplomatic tensions at play between Turkey and the international coalition fighting the Islamic State.

But Vatican officials say he will not shy from denouncing violence in God's name and voicing concern for Christians being targeted by the extremists. Remarkably, though, Francis will not meet with any groups of refugees as he has done on previous trips to the region, a clear sign of the Vatican's unwillingness to wade too deeply into the

conflict.

Francis' visit begins Friday. When Pope Paul VI made the first-ever papal visit to Turkey in 1967, he fell to his knees in prayer inside Hagia Sophia, the 1,500-year-old site in Istanbul that originally was a Byzantine church and was turned into a mosque after the Muslim conquest of Istanbul — then known as Constantinople — in 1453. The Turks were not pleased. They staged protests, claiming Paul had violated the secular nature of the domed complex, which is now a museum.

Asked whether Francis would pray when he visits the massive complex on Saturday, the Vatican was noncommittal. "We'll see what he does," spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi said. "If while there the pope personally experiences a moment of spiritual meditation, we'll have to see."

Some Islamic groups in Turkey want Hagia Sophia to be converted back into a mosque, and they have prayed outside the complex on the anniversary of the conquest of Istanbul to push their demand. The government says it has no plans to change Hagia Sophia's status.

Benedict became only the sec-

ond pope to step foot in a Muslim house of worship when in November 2006 he visited the 17th-century Sultan Ahmet Mosque in Istanbul, Turkey's most important.

There, he took off his shoes, bowed his head and closed his eyes for nearly a minute in prayer alongside an Islamic cleric in a dramatic gesture of outreach to Muslims.

The mosque visit was added late to Benedict's schedule in a bid to soothe Muslim anger over his now-infamous speech in Regensburg, Germany, linking violence to the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad.

Asked whether Francis would pray in the mosque as Benedict did, Lombardi took pains to stress the difference between a formal, ritualistic prayer that a Catholic might recite in church and a respectful "spiritual meditation" in a place of worship of another faith.

Turkey's ambassador to the Holy See, Mehmet Pacaci, said the tensions that overshadowed Benedict's visit are "mostly a forgotten issue."

OPEC unity tested by low prices, oil surfeit

BY GEORGE JAHN
The Associated Press

VIENNA — OPEC oil ministers meeting in Vienna on Thursday are in a bind. Prices are plunging — and in the short term, the cartel may not be able to do much about it.

Expectations that the group would not cut output to support the market saw the global price of oil slump another \$1.93 on Thursday to \$75.82 per barrel, extending losses since June, when it was as high as \$115.

The drop has been driven by a boom in shale production in the United States as well as weakness in some major world economies, causing supply to outpace demand.

OPEC powerhouse Saudi Arabia can weather such lower prices because its coffers are well-padded and its production costs are relatively low. But poorer OPEC members like Venezuela and Nigeria need levels close to \$100 or above to fund national budgets. Saudi rival Iran is suffering, too, with the price drop adding to huge revenue losses due to sanctions on its crude sales imposed over its nuclear program.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries still accounts for a third of the world's oil sales, but the 32 percent fall in prices is straining the tenuous image of unity it strives to protect.

Comments from OPEC Secretary General Abdullah Al-Badry suggested the group was lacking a clear plan going into the meeting.

"Of course there is an oversupply in the market," he told reporters. Asked what the oil ministers planned to do about it, he said, "I have no idea."

With its hands tied, the organization may opt to do as little as possible. That means rolling over its present production ceiling of 30 million barrels per day and urging members not to overproduce.

The cartel was able to stem a sharp drop in prices in 2008 by announcing its largest production cut in its history. But crude prices moving into the comfort zone then allowed members to overproduce past laxly observed output targets.

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WORLD



PHOTOS BY RODRIGO ABA/AP

A soldier signals to his commander while standing inside a crater created by explosives planted by Peruvian counternarcotics forces on part of a clandestine grassy airstrip in the Valley of the Apurimac, Ene and Mantaro River Valleys, or VRAEM, the world's No. 1 coca-growing region in Ayacucho, Peru

Dynamite doesn't halt Peru's narcotics

By FRANKLIN BRICENO
The Associated Press

PICHARI, Peru — The dynamiting of clandestine airstrips by Peruvian security forces in the world's No. 1 coca-growing valley cuts into profits but hardly discourages cocaine traffickers who net tens of thousands of dollars with each Bolivia-bound flight.

As authorities wound up a 54-airstrip "cratering" mission, Peru's counternarcotics police chief Gen. Vicente Romero told reporters that traffickers pay local villagers up to \$100 each to fill the holes blasted into the landing strips that dot the flood plain of the vast and verdant Apurimac and Ene river valley.

Two of the landing strips targeted in the latest operation have each been repaired four times this year, Romero said Friday. Sometimes, the 500-meter airstrips are fixed overnight.

An average of four or five small planes fly daily into Peru from Bolivia, picking up about 300 kilograms each of coca paste worth about a third of a million dollars in Bolivia, where it is further refined, au-

thorities say. Romero said pilots earn from \$10,000 to \$25,000 per flight.

The border has no radar coverage and the neighboring nations' air forces are limited so drug flights can be intercepted only on the ground. Romero said 14 planes have been seized this year.

Last week, Peruvian and Bolivian officials agreed to share information in real time on cross-border drug flights. They did not, however, divulge details.

Peru's anti-drug police, known as Dirandro, say the country produces 450 tons of cocaine a year, half of which leaves the country on small Bolivia-bound narco planes.

Most Peruvian cocaine ends up in Brazil and Europe.

The so-called air bridge between Peru and Bolivia has been especially active since 2011, the year before the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the United Nations said Peru surpassed Colombia as the world's top cocaine producer.

Peru halted shoot-downs of suspected drug flights in 2001 after a Peruvian air force jet mistakenly fired on a plane carrying U.S. missionaries, killing a woman and her infant daughter.



Explosives are detonated by Peruvian counternarcotics forces.



The Mazamari counternarcotics military base.



Soldiers carry a TV after descending from a helicopter at the base.



Counternarcotics officers walk in a clandestine airstrip strewn with boulders. The boulders are used as a way to camouflage the airstrips from air observation.



Soldiers sit against a backdrop of an image of Jesus embracing a praying soldier inside a building at the base.

WORLD



Left: Tourists drive a classic American car on the Malecon in Havana earlier this fall.

Below: American cars are reflected in a mirror.

PHOTOS BY FRANKLIN REYES/AP



Right: A man cleans his American classic car before going to work in Havana.



Below: People drive along The Malecon in Havana.



OLD CARS, NEW GLOSS

American classics enjoy second life as icons of tourism

The Associated Press

When Martin Viera's Chevrolet rolled out of the dealer's lot, Harry Truman was president of the United States, gasoline cost 27 cents a gallon and a 24-year-old lefty named Tommy Lasorda was pitching for Almedares in the Cuban winter baseball league.

That world is long gone, but the Chevy's still running on the streets of Havana — part of a fleet of classic cars that have become an icon of tourism in the socialist nation.

For decades, the cars slowly decayed. But officials in recent years have eased state control over the economy by allowing limited self-employment. Those lucky enough to have a pre-revolutionary car can earn money legally by ferrying tourists along

Havana's waterfront Malecon boulevard.

That's allowed many to paint and polish their aging vehicles.

Viera's 1951 Chevrolet and Osmani Rodriguez's 1954 Ford are now part of Havana's tourist draw.

Rodriguez, who has three daughters, said the opening to self-employment "was a great benefit for me. I bought an apartment to live in and really it improved my standard of living a lot."

The cars may gleam on the outside, but they're often battered, rolling monuments to ingenuity within. People like Yoandri Failu fabricate parts in crude workshops. Many scavenge parts, particularly engines, from Soviet-era cars and trucks.

While the U.S. embargo that took effect in 1961 stopped the flow of new cars, and most parts, a few Cubans now manage to bring in replacement parts when friends or family visit from the U.S.



Cubans gather for an exhibition of classic American cars in Havana.

VIETNAM

50

Joseph Scholle on the USS Iwo Jima.

Courtesy of Joseph Scholle



The Vietnam experience

More photos and video of "Crazy Joe" are at stripes.com/vietnam50

'That's one crazy Joe'

By CARLOS BONGIOANNI
Stars and Stripes

SEVERNA PARK, Md. — Joe Scholle flew hundreds of sorties in Vietnam as a UH-34D helicopter pilot ferrying troops, logistics and medevac patients from base to base and in and out of "hot LZs" — landing zones under fire. While there

"God only knows what stories people are telling about me. ... I hope some of them are true."

Joe Scholle

Marine nicknamed "Crazy Joe"

for a year starting in October 1967, the Marine acquired the nickname "Crazy Joe" for the actions he took at his base at the start of the Tet Offensive.

The nickname has stuck all these years, and so have the memories of many close encounters.

Scholle, 71, shared a few recently at his home.

A chopper through the trees

What was supposed to be a "milk run" ended up becoming Capt. Joe Scholle's first medical evacuation in Vietnam. As the new guy with roughly a week under his belt, Scholle was flying co-pilot. The lead pilot, Jerry Norton, was to log in his very last flight before leaving Vietnam. They were to transport a passenger to another base and return to Marble Mountain Air Facility, where they were attached to Helicopter Marine Medium Squadron 363.

"It was a nothing kind of thing to do... a milk run," Scholle said. "You know, you don't want to get the guy killed on his last day."

While heading back, they received a distress call from infantry troops who spotted their chopper overhead. They had a badly wounded man on the ground. The last medevac helicopter just left, and another wouldn't arrive for at least 30 minutes. "This guy really needs to get out of here," they pleaded.

"Poor Jerry ... talk about agony ... on his face. ... It's his last day," Scholle recalled. "There's active shooting going on down there, and you could see that he wanted to say, 'Well, wait for the medevac, we don't have a corpsman,' or something. But he couldn't."

So down they went. They flew low and fast keeping the trees between them and enemy forces. At the designated spot, they popped over the trees and, because the wind was at their back, did a quick "buttonhook" maneuver thrusting the nose up and kicking the rudder hard left to turn the helicopter 180 degrees around, essentially heading backward as they landed in a paddy field.

The "bad guys" were over the next row of trees in an adjacent field. That made getting out much more risky. Their helicopters didn't accelerate very well at takeoff, Scholle said.

Wanting to reduce the chance of having their aircraft raked with enemy gunfire, Norton headed straight for the trees away from the enemy. He got about three-quarters of the way up and "no kidding, he

chopped the tops off with his rotor blades and went right through the trees," Scholle laughed as he recalled the episode.

They made it out safely, although the damaged rotor blades "talked" to the pilots about their mistreatment, making a loud "whishing" sound all the way back to the base. Mechanics had to reshape and rebalance the blades before the chopper could be used again.

Good friends killed

Attending college in the early 1960s, Scholle, a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., was well aware that he would likely be drafted. At some point in his youth, he fancied himself becoming a Marine pilot after watching "Flying Leathernecks" starring John Wayne.

The question Scholle asked himself: "How do you get out of the draft, and do what you want to do?" The answer: He entered the Marine Corps platoon leader class program that placed him as a lance corporal and automatically took him out of the draft.

SEE PAGE 13

VIETNAM



FROM PAGE 12

During each of his last two years in college, he spent six summer weeks at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., attending Officer Candidate School. After graduating in 1965, Scholle, then 22, received his commission as a second lieutenant.

By the time he made it to Vietnam two years later, Scholle had developed a strong sense of camaraderie with his fellow pilots. Some had gone through flight school together. Those serving with him in Vietnam faced the same hardships and uncertainties of war, forging close bonds cemented with their shared experiences.

The pilots in Scholle's squadron typically flew six days a week at all hours of the day and night. Crews on medevac duty never knew when a call to pick up casualties might come in. Aside from that stress, there was always the very real possibility of being shot down.

“That was the end of a good friend of mine. I wasn't very happy about it. ... But that's the kind of thing that happened.”

Joe Scholle

Marine nicknamed “Crazy Joe”

There were other dangers, too. Scholle said he lost as many friends from accidents as he did from enemy fire. One friend, Robert “Ike” Isaac Terry III, was copilot on a helicopter out in bad weather. They were flying very low to keep under the clouds when their helicopter slammed into the side of Charlie Ridge, a hill just outside the main base at Da Nang.

“That was the end of a good friend of mine,” Scholle said. “I wasn't very happy about it. ... But that's the kind of thing that happened.”

“Stupidity” was another factor that got pilots killed, Scholle said. He recounted how a close buddy, Joe Cestare, was flying copilot on a gunship that was part of a formation escorting an H-46 troop carriers. When an enemy anti-aircraft gun fired at the formation, most of the aircraft scattered to avoid getting hit. However, a major who was the lead pilot in charge of Cestare's aircraft decided to engage.

“God only knows what was running through his mind,” Scholle said of the major. “Everybody's screaming, ‘Don't do it, don't do it, don't do it.’ And he rolled in. He's coming down for a strafing run ... Then the 50-caliber opened up.”

Scholle wasn't flying on that



Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 363 pilot Mike Abajian, center, at Quang Tri in March 1968.

Photos courtesy of Joseph Scholle

mission, but said other pilots who witnessed it told him how pieces of the Huey just flew off, and after the rotor blades stopped spinning, the aircraft plunged several hundred feet to the ground, killing all four aboard.

“So, Joe Cestare ... St. John's University... a New York City kid, like myself...” The thoughts came out in fragments as Scholle just shook his head at the senseless loss of another close friend. “Nobody takes on a 50-caliber with a helicopter gunship. Not that. No, no, no.”

The making of ‘Crazy Joe’

It was late January 1968, just before the start of the Tet Offensive.

Everybody knew the North Vietnamese were about to launch a major offensive, Scholle said. “We just didn't know the full extent of it.”

Scholle planned to capture the battle sounds on a reel-to-reel tape

recorder. Ahead of the big event, he hooked up two microphones and hung them outside the windows of his hut. When the attack finally came, he and his roommates jumped out of their hooches and ran to the relative safety of sandbag bunkers.

Once there, Scholle realized he forgot to turn on his recording device. So as rockets and mortars rained down on the base, he ran back to his hut to hit the play/recorder button.

“Then I ran back to the bunkers,” Scholle recounted. “One of the senior captains, Joe Clark, says, ‘That's one crazy Joe.’ And it stuck.”

On several occasions after leaving Vietnam, Scholle said he'd make a new acquaintance who, after hearing Scholle's name, would ask in an awestruck voice, “Are you the Crazy Joe?”

“God only knows what stories people are telling about me. ... I

hope some of them are true.”

Distinguished Flying Cross

On May 22, 1968, Scholle directed the helicopter he was piloting to a field near the demilitarized zone between North and South Vietnam to resupply troops engaged in heavy combat. Tall grass hid the troops so well that, not seeing anybody, he began to add power to his aircraft to abort the landing. As he did, voices shouted, “No, no, we're here.”

Scholle hovered in the area and decided to do a “quick hard left rudder and come around again.” That's when “all hell broke loose,” he said.

With bullet holes peppering the windshield and shrapnel spraying the side of his face and neck, Scholle was eager to leave. “I'm looking out the window. The crew chief is shoveling out ammunition. I'm like, ‘Hurry up, hurry up.’”

SEE PAGE 14

STARS & STRIPES

The Vietnam experience

stripes.com/vietnam50



Voices

Read memories from those who were there, and add your own.



Casualties

Men made sure the dead made it back home to their families.



Media

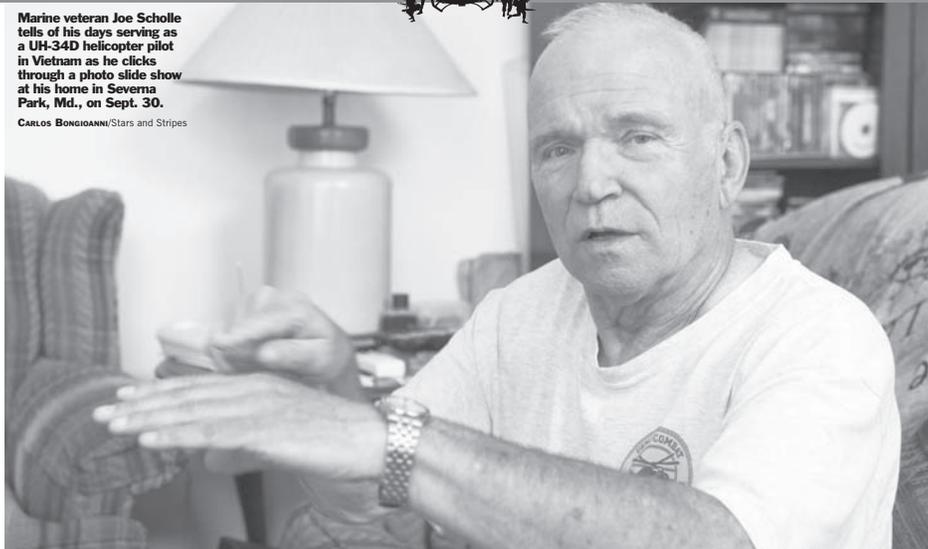
For the first time, the war was everywhere in America.

VIETNAM



Marine veteran Joe Scholle tells of his days serving as a UH-34D helicopter pilot in Vietnam as he clicks through a photo slide show at his home in Severna Park, Md., on Sept. 30.

CARLOS BONGIOANNI/Stars and Stripes



FROM PAGE 13

A slap on the leg from the crew chief below the pilot's seat was the signal that the cargo had been

"It felt like someone took a hot poker out of the fireplace and slapped you across the back of the neck."

Joe Scholle
Marine nicknamed 'Crazy Joe'



Courtesy of Joe Scholle

A scar shows where an AK-47 round burned across the back of Scholle's neck on July 4, 1968, while he was on a medevac mission in Vietnam.

offloaded, and Scholle got away as quickly as possible.

Knowing his aircraft had taken many rounds, he looked at his instrument gauges to make sure the hydraulic systems were working. The gauges indicated everything was fine. What he didn't realize was that an important electrical component had been damaged, leaving the gauges frozen in place.

Once airborne, Scholle learned that his copilot was seriously wounded. One bullet came up through the floorboard and lodged in his big toe. Another came through the side of the aircraft, hitting his thigh and giving him a "big flesh wound."

A bullet or piece of shrapnel had also severed a cord to Scholle's helmet that provided communications in the aircraft. While the aircraft was heading to a medical facility at Dong Ha, the crew chief — unable to tell Scholle that at least one

hydraulic system was shot out and that the second one was also likely damaged — tried to inform Scholle of the situation.

"We're flying back... and all of the sudden, up from between my legs comes this big red hand. ... First thing you're going to think is 'blood.' ... I'm thinking, 'Casualties down in the belly.'"

Scholle learned afterward that the hand was covered in red hydraulic fluid leaking from damaged lines as the chopper was flying. "It was a good thing we landed when we

did. Otherwise, it would have been totally out of control." Scholle said flying a helicopter leaking hydraulic fluid is like driving a car without power steering. Once the hydraulic fluid is gone, it's like driving a car with the steering wheel completely detached.

He figured the strength he needed to fly the aircraft came from all the adrenaline pumping through his system.

For the courage he showed staying in the landing zone until all their cargo was off-loaded and for the skill he showed maneuvering the heavily damaged aircraft to safety, Scholle received a Distinguished Flying Cross.

But the experience unnerved him. Scholle said he shook the next three days every time he entered an aircraft. One way to overcome the fear of getting into the pilot's seat again was to let the copilot fly, he said. He also smoked many cigars to calm his nerves.

On July 4, 1968, Scholle landed at a base that was supposed to be secure. "Everybody was standing up, waving, 'Hi, how are you,'" recalled Scholle. They were carrying to the aircraft a patient who had stepped in

a gopher hole and broken his leg.

Suddenly, Scholle could hear the rat-a-tat-tat of an AK-47. One bullet struck the corpsman in the leg. Another round tore through the back of the copilot's flight suit before it burned across the back of Scholle's neck. "It felt like someone took a hot poker out of the fireplace and slapped you across the back of the neck."

When he felt that, a frantic Scholle told himself, "Time to leave." Again he flew a damaged helicopter with two wounded crew members to the same medical facility he had gone to six weeks earlier.

After that second close encounter, Scholle said he had a very difficult time flying again. On the first mission he was assigned after recuperating from his wound, Scholle said he started hyperventilating and nearly passed out. Passing the controls to a bewildered copilot who had just recently reported for duty in Vietnam, Scholle said he tucked his head between his legs and just rocked back and forth until he regained the courage to take the controls again.

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WORLD

Black Friday sales catching on in UK

The Associated Press

LONDON — Halloween and Mother's Day have become staples of the U.K. shopping calendar. Now Black Friday looks as though it may be the next big retail import from the United States.

Shopping on the day after Thanksgiving is becoming a thing in Britain, too, thanks mainly to the marketing efforts of major retailers.

Online seller Amazon is widely perceived to have first introduced Black Friday deals to the U.K. in 2010. A steady slew of retailers joined the fray each year, with a significant jump in 2013, when the Asda supermarket chain, owned by Wal-Mart, embraced the event.

This year, it's gotten even bigger and Black Friday looks to have cemented its place in the U.K. calendar. People are talking about it and promotions are being aired across the media.

"It's been building for a few years. A lot of retailers have planned their Black Friday strategies and consumers seem to be ready for it," said Patrick O'Brien, retail analyst at Verdict Research.

Thanksgiving isn't a holiday in Britain, but you might be forgiven for being fooled. It's not hard to find someone to talk turkey, never mind sell you one. That's because there are so many Americans in Britain these days that dozens of businesses have started selling the goods they need to celebrate.

Turkey producer Bramble Farm in Surrey has been around since the 1930s and sold 100 or so special birds during Thanksgiving season 15 years ago. Owner Derek Joy said he now sells 4,500.

"I'm personally quite envious of your Thanksgiving," Joy said. "It's about family and friends. It's all about being proud to be an American. It's all about not giving presents, but it's about your presence. It's about being there and being part of a family."

"I think that's pretty cool," he said before checking himself. "That sounds very American, doesn't it?"

The Friday after Thanksgiving has for decades been the biggest shopping day in the U.S. as millions of Americans go in search of bargains and the countdown to Christmas begins in earnest. One of the most common origins of the day's name is that U.S. retailers traditionally turned a profit on Black Friday.

Given its link to Thanksgiving, it was a particularly U.S. event. That is changing, though, primarily in the U.K., which shares many of the retailing customs and traditions of the U.S. in a way that other European countries such as France and Germany don't.

According to Verdict, retailers' heavy investment in Black Friday promotions looks set to pay off as awareness of the U.S. retail event reaches an all-time high in the U.K. In its online consumer survey of 10,000 U.K. shoppers, Verdict found that 47 percent say they will participate in the event.

According to a survey of firms that sell both online and in-store commissioned by Barclays, one of the country's biggest banks, 65 percent of retailers are planning Black Friday promotions, and 69 percent expect the popularity of Black Friday promotions to gain traction in years ahead.



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SCIENCE AND MEDICINE

Lab-coated Muggles using Harry Potter to study the brain

By LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Harry Potter swoops around on his broom, faces the bully Malfoy and later runs into a three-headed dog. For scientists studying brain activity while reading, it's the perfect excerpt from the young wizard's many adventures to give their subjects.

Reading that section of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" activates some of the same regions in the brain that people use to perceive real people's actions and in-

For the first time in history, we can do things like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening.

Tom Mitchell
director of Carnegie Mellon's
Machine Learning Department

terventions. Scientists then map what a healthy brain does as it reads.

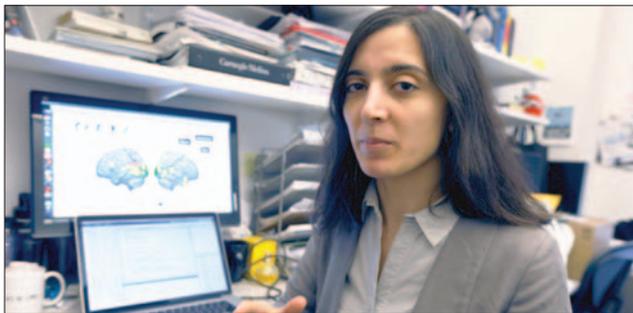
The research reported Wednesday has implications for studying reading disorders or recovery from a stroke. The team from Carnegie Mellon University was pleasantly surprised that the experiment actually worked.

Most neuroscientists painstakingly have tracked how the brain processes a single word or sentence, looking for clues to language development or dyslexia by focusing on one aspect of reading at a time. But reading a story requires multiple systems working at once: recognizing how letters form a word, knowing the definitions and grammar, keeping up with the characters' relationships and the plot twists.

Measuring all that activity is remarkable, said Georgetown University neuroscientist Guinevere Eden, who helped pioneer brain-scanning studies of dyslexia but wasn't involved in the new work.

"It offers a much richer way of thinking about the reading brain," Eden said, calling the project "very clever and very exciting."

No turning pages inside a brain-scanning MRI machine; you have to lie still. So at Carnegie Mellon, eight adult volunteers watched for nearly 45 minutes as each word of



PHOTOS BY KEITH SRAKOIC/AP

Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, talks about the experiment as an image that used brain scans made from volunteers is displayed in her office on Wednesday. Images show a combination of data and graphics compiled as each word of a chapter of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside a brain-scanning MRI machine.

Chapter 9 of "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone" was flashed for half a second onto a screen inside the scanner.

Why that chapter? It has plenty of action and emotion, but there's not too much going on for scientists to track, said lead researcher Leila Wehbe, a Ph.D. student.

The research team analyzed the scans, second by second, and created a computerized model of brain activity involved with different reading processes. The research was published Wednesday by the Journal PLoS One.

"For the first time in history, we can do things like have you read a story and watch where in your brain the neural activity is happening," said senior author Tom Mitchell, director of Carnegie Mellon's Machine Learning De-

partment. "Not just where are the neurons firing, but what information is being coded by those different neurons."

Wehbe had the idea to study reading a story rather than just words or phrases.

But parsing the brain activity took extraordinary effort. For every word the researchers identified features — the number of letters, the part of speech, whether it was associated with a character or action or emotion or conversation. Then they used computer programming to analyze brain patterns associated with those features in every four-word stretch.

They spotted some complex interactions.

For example, the brain region that processes the characters' point of view is the one we use to

perceive intentions behind real people's actions, Wehbe said. A region that we use to visually interpret other people's emotions helps decipher characters' emotions.

That suggests we're using pretty high-level brain functions, not just the semantic concepts but our previous experiences, as we get lost in the story, she said.

A related study using faster brain-scanning techniques shows that much of the neural activity is about the history of the story up to that point, rather than deciphering the current word, Mitchell added.

The team's computer model can distinguish with 74 percent accuracy which of two text passages matches a pattern of neural activity, he said, calling it a first step as researchers tease apart what the brain does when someone reads.

Liver transplant recipient marks 25th anniversary

The Associated Press

SEVERN, Md. — Alyssa Riggan hasn't dwelled on being the first person in the U.S. to successfully receive part of a liver from a living donor 25 years ago, a medical procedure that paved the way for routine live-donor transplants.

The anniversary falls on Thanksgiving this year. Riggan was 21 months old when her mother, Teri Smith, donated more than a third of her liver to save her daughter from a disorder called biliary atresia. Its success has enabled her to live a normal life, almost completely untouched by what was an often-fatal disorder.

"Most of the time, I didn't think about it," Riggan, 26, said in an interview this week at her home in Severn, Maryland, noting her good health has enabled her to enjoy ballet and tap dancing since age 5. "All of my anniversaries are really big, so that's when you really think about it the most."

The procedure expanded the options for children with liver disorders, many of whom died while waiting for a liver from a deceased donor. It was first used only in small children. It's now used for older children, and at some transplant centers, for adults.

Biliary atresia is a disease that blocks liver bile ducts, backing up bile in the bloodstream and the liver. Before Riggan's operation, liver transplants from living donors had been performed only four times — in Brazil, Australia and Japan. Those surgeries involved desperately ill children. Riggan's transplant was the first on a child with time to wait.

An adult liver grows back to normal after the operation. The segment transplanted grows within the recipient.

The University of Chicago team that performed the surgery on Riggan was led by Dr. Christoph Broelsch. The youngest member was Dr. Dick Thistlethwaite, then 41.

"I can tell you we were all extremely concerned about the safety of the mother, Teri, who was just a trouter throughout," Thistlethwaite said. "We were really thankful she got through the operation safely. The feeling when Alyssa's operation was finished was one of elation that it appeared to be a success. ... It was a feeling we had really done something worthwhile that would help, not just this patient, but others as well."

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WORLD

Left is right for some in Germany

By STEVEN ZEITCHIK
Los Angeles Times

ERFURT, Germany — The verdant fields, once covered with bustling farms, are now only dotted with them. Factories pop up every few miles, but mostly as faded husks of their 20th-century selves. Thuringia has the feel of a state lagging behind in the economic powerhouse that is modern Germany.

On the serene streets of Erfurt, the state capital, many people are worn out. They are fatigued by a quarter of a century of rule under Angela Merkel's center-right Christian Democratic Union; by an economy that, with an unemployment rate several percentage points higher and wages lower than the national averages, never seems to live up to its promise; by their nation's involvement for more than a decade in faraway conflicts that seem very removed from these Central European precincts.

"They're tired of what people in the other parties are telling them," politician Bodo Ramelow said. "They want a change."

Ramelow, 58, aims to be the one leading the revolution. The former union leader heads the Thuringian wing of the Left Party, which espouses nationalizing banks, reinvesting in hedge funds and dissolving NATO. Next month, the Left will become the first radical socialist party to run an eastern state since the Socialist Union Party, or SED, ruled East Germany during the Cold War.

Comeback by the Left?

The Left won a startling 28 percent of the vote during state elections in September, a close second to Merkel's long-powerful CDU and well ahead of more moderate left-wing alternatives such as the Social Democratic Party and the Green Party. Ramelow then persuaded the Social Democrats and Greens to join a coalition that the Left will lead.

The specter of a far-left comeback, even in this comparatively small state, has sent ripples through the German political system. It has provoked those who bitterly recall East Germany and the Cold War and touched off sensitive questions about whether a country's dark period should be categorically shunned or cherry-picked for worthy ideas.

As this nation of 80 million held commemorations this month for the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, entertainers and politicians spoke spiritedly of a period consigned to history. But far from abandoning their socialist past, a not insignificant number of Germans are returning to it.

"The CDU has run this place for a long time, and what did it get us?" said Axel Schroeder, a restaur-

ant manager in Erfurt, about 150 miles southwest of Berlin. "It's time for the Left to get a chance."

Such talk is popular in a place that supporters hope will become a laboratory experiment for elevating radical leftist politics on a national scale. With 12 percent of the 631 seats in the Bundestag, or parliament, the Left is now Germany's third-biggest party and, under charismatic legislative leader Gregor Gysi, the largest in the opposition. If the Left can prove effective in Thuringia, supporters foresee victories in other states and nationally.

Immigrants' support

The party has found supporters not just among dyed-in-the-wool easterners, but also among the country's 4 million immigrants, old West German lefties and disenfranchised voters across a variety of backgrounds and geography. They say that capitalism and European Union-centric policies have not worked. Many of them oppose the nation's involvement in NATO and the conflicts in Afghanistan and Libya. The Left, they say, can provide an alternative and a counterbalance.

But such ideas are offensive to many who fought against the East German police state. Though even opponents of the Left believe a return to the era of the Stasi secret police is unlikely — the party has in fact gained much political mileage in the last year criticizing the surveillance by the U.S. National Security Agency — they say the Left's platform is politically and psychologically dangerous.

On the genealogy chart of German political parties, the Left is descended from the SED. It merges the party's successor organization with another socialist faction. Though leaders say it contains no power brokers in key positions from the communist era, critics say that is a distinction without a difference.

But supporters say such dismissals underestimate what a socialist system represents to people in the east. From their perspective, German unification has brought easterners diminished factories, eroded state-run industries such as coal mining and, perhaps more important, eradicated a sense of national identity.

"People don't understand



MARKUS SCHNEIDER/AP

German Chancellor Angela Merkel reflects in a glass window of the visitors tribune Wednesday as she delivers a speech during budget discussions at the parliament Bundestag in Berlin, Germany.

there's a depression that afflicts those who lived in the east and saw their lives ruined by capitalism," said Benjamin Immanuel-Hoff, a former state secretary for the Left in Thuringia who advises Ramelow. "There were psychologists who were going to classify it as a disease, that's how sad it made many Germans. We can't pretend this isn't the case."

Trading on this long-simmering agreement is a fine line for the Left. The party must play on nostalgia without suggesting that it wishes to return to the modest economy or sweeping government oversight of the communist era.

The emergence of the Left is a

sign of generally more polarized politics in Europe. It coincides with the rise of the hard-line anti-euro Alternative for Germany

party and the far-right National Front in France, which won 25 percent of the vote in European elections in May.

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FAITH

Church members each get \$500 to do good for world

BY SHARON COHEN
The Associated Press

On a very memorable Sunday, Pastor Laura Truax surprised her congregation with a bold announcement: She was about to hand out money to everyone.

Not a huge sum, but the pastor said the LaSalle Street Church in Chicago had received a tidy \$1.6 million from a real estate deal, and \$160,000 — a typical 10 percent title — would be divided among some 320 regular attendees. Each would get a \$500 check to do something positive for anything or anyone, including themselves.

It was an unorthodox gesture but Truax notes, LaSalle is “a gutsy little church” with a history of making waves around socially progressive causes it embraces. In 1972, when it stood in the shadow of the now-demolished Cabrini Green housing project, the church established a criminal defense legal aid clinic for the poor.



MARTHA IRVINE/AP

Pastor Laura Truax preaches at a morning service at LaSalle Street Church in Chicago.

Decades later, LaSalle remains an activist church, doing everything from feeding homeless families on Wednesday nights to buying an ambulance for a medical clinic in Niger. The nondenominational congregation is racially and economically diverse. More than 60 percent of members have advanced degrees; about a third live paycheck-to-paycheck.

Not surprisingly, many donations from the congregation will reach far-flung places, including a school in the Himalayas, a health clinic in Uganda and an irrigation project in Tanzania. Closer to home, some checks are going to families and friends in financial trouble.

Church members, Truax said, are doing just what she'd envisioned when she distributed the checks that first Sunday in September. “I hoped that they would recognize the power they had to bless others and change somebody's life,” she said. “I hoped that they would see their connection between their little piece and the bigger thing the church was called to do, that they would feel like they actually had some skin in the game, some prayers in the game. And that has largely happened.”

RANDY DILL



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Randy Dill was almost in a panic to find the right place for his donation — and do it quickly. “I wanted a 100 percent return on my investment,” he said.

But then he slowed down to conduct a careful search for a place to help the unemployed and those trying to boost their skills to earn more money.

Dill, 36, a supervisor at a suburban Chicago assembly plant, eventually settled on the Jane Addams Resource Corporation. The nonprofit helps low-income people with worker training, financial coaching and other services so they can be self-sufficient.

Dill's wife, Erika, a human resources manager, had recommended the nonprofit after she'd recruited machinists from there. He visited the program and liked its all-encompassing approach to keeping people out of poverty. His wife had another idea for using her \$500: to help needy families at their daughters' public school buy winter clothes for their kids.

“What the money did for us was help open our eyes to some things that we take granted,” Dill said. “This was a not-so-subtle reminder how fortunate we are and those things that we have, such as good health, are blessings that are so easy to ignore.”

Randy Dill was almost in a panic to find the right place for his donation — and do it quickly.

“I wanted a 100 percent return on my investment.”

JELINER JORDAN



MARTHA IRVINE/AP

Jeliner Jordan remembers being young and in debt. Aware that her granddaughter, Deitra Holloway, was saddled with college loans, Jordan knew what she'd do with part of her church money. She gave Holloway \$300, figuring it might cover a month's payment. She was shocked when her granddaughter revealed her school debt was in the many thousands.

Though her gift to her granddaughter was small, Jordan still felt mighty good. “That's more money than she had in her pockets before,” she said. “Anything I would give would help her.”

A grateful Holloway used the money instead to help pay a loan on her 2003 Nissan Sentra. It was just another example of her grandmother's generosity, including taking her on a trip to Paris when she was in college.

“I always thought she was rich because she would do these things for me and it never seemed like money was an obstacle,” the 26-year-old said.

Far from it. Jordan, now 71 — her grandkids call her Grandma Jelly — is a meticulous planner who watches every dollar. “She's a great role model,” Holloway said. “She has order and structure and discipline... She always makes sure there's adventure. There's never a dull moment with her.”

Jordan, who had a long career in the insurance industry but still enjoys sewing, divided her remaining money: \$100 to Art on Sedgwick, a neighborhood art center, and \$100 to a nearby elementary school, which the church had supported when it faced possible closure.

Jordan is happy to do her part.

“I honestly felt it was God's money for me to pass on to other people,” Jordan said. “It's not possible to give without receiving. And what I received immediately is joy.”

“I honestly felt it was God's money for me to pass on to other people. It's not possible to give without receiving. And what I received immediately is joy.”

KRISTIN HU



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Teacher Kristin Hu, right, stands with student Lucy.

Kristin Hu was inspired by her grandmother, Irene, who died in June.

When Hu received her \$500, she remembered how her grandmother worked until she was 80, giving private piano lessons, using her savings to help her eight grandchildren pay for college.

As a political science teacher at Lakeview High School, a melting pot of ethnicities, Hu decided she wanted to help some kids who don't have a guardian angel: the Dreamers, those young immigrants brought to the U.S. as children without legal permission, raised here and now going public, fighting to stay. Hu, 29, was moved after hearing an impassioned speech by Lucy, a young accomplished Mexican-born Dreamer in her class, who spoke of how she and others like her want to attend college but don't qualify for financial aid because of their status.

“They have amazing potential but our country isn't investing in them the way they should,” Hu said. “Many of them are so motivated and such leaders in the school. They've really touched me.”

Hu plans to give \$500 to a Dreamer organization or start a scholarship foundation for the kids.

LaSalle's program, she said, also made her think beyond this one donation.

“Why can't I contribute more to the causes I care about?” she said. “What's holding me back from being a more generous person? What about next year? There will be a same need then. There's always going to be a need... It's important to remember the responsibility of paying it forward and giving back.”

“... It's important to remember the responsibility of paying it forward and giving back.”

AMERICAN ROUNDUP



AP

Hiker photographed bear before it killed him

NJ WEST MILFORD — A New Jersey hiker killed by a bear in September took a series of photos of the animal with his cellphone before it mauled him to death.

Police in West Milford released five photos taken by Darsh Patel, 22, before he was killed by the 300-pound black bear while hiking with four friends in the Apsha Preserve, 45 miles northwest of New York.

Investigators said the phone was found with puncture marks from the bear.

Veterans can win a 7-Eleven franchise

VA NEWPORT NEWS — Veterans interested in running their own business may want to take advantage of 7-Eleven Inc.'s first franchise giveaway.

The award is not a full convenience store but rather a credit of as much as \$190,000 for the franchise fee, according to a news release. Veterans have until Jan. 25 to apply for "Operation: Take Command," with the winner to be announced April 23.

Contestants must be at least 21 years old, have been honorably discharged from the military and have three years of retail, leadership or restaurant experience and must still qualify through the 7-Eleven franchise process, which requires "excellent credit." The winner will need to pay other fees and permits, a \$20,000 down payment on inventory and training expenses.

Town hopes former toll booth boosts tourism

NE DECATUR — Decatur residents are hoping a former toll booth will help attract visitors to the eastern Nebraska community.

The Burt County Bridge Commission used to collect \$1 tolls from motorists traveling on Highway 51 to cross a bridge over the Missouri River between Iowa and Nebraska but the commission sold the bridge last fall to the two states. The vacant toll booth was set for demolition, the Sioux City Journal reported.

Residents participating last summer in a program with the

THE CENSUS

140

The number of frozen turkeys that were stolen from a locked refrigerated trailer outside a meat market the week before Thanksgiving. Mark Lengacher, owner of Schneider's Quality Meats and Catering in Waterloo, Ill., said, "I guess even thieves have Thanksgiving." Lengacher said the thefts won't ruin the holiday because he has plenty of other turkeys. The turkeys weigh about 12 pounds each. Police said the haul was valued at more than \$2,000.



DON CAMPBELL, THE (ST. JOSEPH, MICH.) HERALD-PALLADIUM/AP

Puckering up to piglet

Principal Lori Kuntz reacts after kissing a piglet, held by Travis Becht, at Stewart Elementary School in Stevensville, Mich., on Tuesday. Kuntz promised to kiss a pig if the school's fundraising goal of \$10,000 was met by Halloween.

Center for Rural Affairs were searching for a landmark that would attract visitors to Decatur. They settled on the toll booth.

Alleged impersonator wore wrong uniform

PA UNIONTOWN — An alleged military impersonator who was wearing the wrong uniform when he tried to enter a southwestern Pennsylvania school for a speech about Veterans' Day will likely receive probation and mental health treatment under a plea bargain.

State police said Campbell showed up unannounced on Nov. 17 — six days after Veterans' Day — at Laurel Highlands Middle School near Uniontown.

Police said Campbell claimed

to be an Army veteran but was wearing an Air Force uniform and claimed to be there to speak with students about Veterans' Day.

School officials denied Campbell entry and called police.

Town dig yields artifacts dating back to 500 A.D.

VT SWANTON — A University of Vermont team of archeologists excavating a cornfield in Swanton in preparation for a water main has found pottery, buttons and other items going back thousands of years.

The St. Albans Messenger reported the team, which dug about 4 feet deep, has found evidence of three long-term occupations of the land between 500 A.D. and 1600 A.D. The site is on the Missisquoi River flood plain.

They believe that in the 1800s, the site was the home of a Revolutionary War soldier. Kate Ken-

ney, a program historian, said a piece of metal found might have been part of a bridle.

Lost kitten ends up across the country

ME WESTBROOK — A New Mexico woman's missing kitten has been found in Maine, although exactly how the feline made the 2,300-mile trip remains a mystery.

The female kitten, named Spice, was turned in to the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook earlier this month by a man who found her inside a duffel bag outside a Portland thrift store.

Spice's owner was tracked through an implanted microchip to Albuquerque, N.M. Jennifer Brown, of the Animal Refuge League, told the Portland Press Herald she talked to the owner, who said Spice bolted on Halloween when she opened her door for trick-or-treaters.

The owner, who didn't want to be identified, said she's never been to Maine and doesn't know anyone from Maine.

Spice, meanwhile, remains in Westbrook because the owner can't afford to fly her home.

Men crawl from wreckage in canyon

CA MALIBU — Sheriff's deputies said three men were able to crawl from the wreckage of a car that plunged 200 feet into a Malibu canyon.

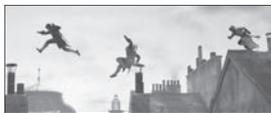
The crash left one of the survivors in critical condition, City News Service reported.

Sgt. Diane Hecht said the car was "virtually destroyed" after veering off Kanan-Dume Road.

The three men were hoisted to safety by a helicopter and taken to a hospital for treatment.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



'Assassin's
Creed: Unity'

Page 26



whose TUNES ARE THEY anyway?

Fans caught in crossfire of battle
between artists, music streaming services

Page 25

Continuous Christmas

Speyer, Germany, keeps the party going until the New Year

Europe Travel, Page 30



Boatload of regret

Hours of illness for seconds of whale spotting in Sri Lanka

Pacific Travel, Page 34



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



SUSAN WALSH/AP

Do you know who this is? A recent study found that most people can identify Microsoft founder Bill Gates, but are unclear on what privacy policies cover, what net neutrality means and the difference between the Internet and the World Wide Web.

Study shows what we (don't) know about 'Net

By ANNE FLAHERTY
The Associated Press

The Internet generation doesn't actually know much about how it works.

A new Pew Research Center survey released Tuesday found most people can recognize Microsoft founder Bill Gates and know that hashtags belong in tweets, but are confused about whether having a privacy policy means that a company actually keeps consumer information confidential.

The results underscore what many techies say is a growing problem for the U.S.: a generation reliant on the convenience that technology brings, but with little understanding of the risks of conducting nearly every transaction digitally.

Aaron Smith, senior researcher at Pew and author of the report, said he thought it would be interesting for policy makers and tech designers to find what knowledge gaps existed in modern life.

"Just because people use these gadgets a lot doesn't necessarily mean they know everything about how they work and where they came from," he said.

Not surprisingly, people young-

er than 30 seemed to do better on some of the questions than older Internet users, such as knowing what a Wiki or captcha is. But young or old, only about 6 in 10 Internet users understood that net neutrality refers to the equal treatment of digital content by service providers. The Federal Communications Commission is considering whether it should regulate the broadband industry more aggressively to prevent providers from playing favorites among content sites like Google, YouTube, Amazon or Netflix.

Another area where age didn't seem to matter was the false assumption that the existence of a privacy policy means that a company keeps the data it collects on consumers confidential. More than half — 52 percent — of Internet users thought that was the case, whereas privacy policies often explain that a company reserves the right to sell a person's information to advertisers or other third parties.

Three-fourths of people surveyed thought the Internet was the same thing as the World Wide Web. The Internet refers to the infrastructure that uses specific protocols to connect various networks; the web is built upon that architecture to share information using web pages.

GADGET WATCH

Lightning connection bright idea for flash drive

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

SanDisk's new iXpand flash drive is built with an iOS Lightning connection, making it simple to move data on and off the latest Apple iOS devices.

This includes photos, movies and documents, and instantly expands device capacity to as much as 64GB.

In addition to the flexible Lightning connection, there is a standard USB port to connect with any computer, essentially making it a flash drive designed for iPhones and iPads.

Once you connect the USB end to an Apple or Windows system, you can load up the content you wish to transfer to your handheld device.

While talking with SanDisk representatives, they mentioned that 2.4 million images are taken every minute, and 71 percent of those happen with a cell phone.

With that in mind, the single biggest advantage most users will love is the automatic backup of your handheld device's photo library. The app has a setting to activate this anytime it is connected to your iPhone or iPad.

To set up, download the free iXpand Sync mobile app. After it's installed and you connect the iXpand, the devices will instantly recognize each other. The app allows you to select individual files or folders, depending on how you set it up.

There's an internal battery in the iXpand that charges when it's connected to your computer. Just connect, and transfer on and off.

A small light on the side has indications for transferring data (blinking), charged (green), low battery (red) and charging (amber).

The iXpand's Lightning port was designed for use while your device is in a case. So when it's connected to your devices, you will not be able to charge them.

Online: SanDisk.com: 16GB, \$59.99; 32GB, \$79.99; 64GB, \$119.99

The **Wellograph activity tracker watch** is the latest wearable health and fitness gadget to hit the retail market. This device looks like a watch, and it is a watch, but it also does a whole lot more.

It's built with a rectangular Spherical Sapphire Crystal face. The company states: "Sapphire is a material with exceptional physical, optical and chemical properties. Its remarkable hardness is second only to diamonds." This is built into a matte finished anodized aluminum lower case.

As you would expect from any fitness device, it tracks workouts and vitals such as heart rate during waking hours and stores it for four months.

You can use it as a standalone device or with the free Wellograph app (iOS, Android, Windows)



TNS photos

The Wellograph activity tracker watch tracks workouts and vital statistics such as heart rate during waking hours and stores the information for up to four months.

on your smartphone. It also functions as a pedometer for walking or running, and a stopwatch in addition to the time of day and date.

The device is built with those who prefer longer battery life in mind, so you'll have to re-connect it via Bluetooth to see the Wellograph app on your handheld device. But have no fear, this is a simple process; it requires just a long press of the upper button on the watch.

The device comes in black or silver along with a brown leather strap, and includes a USB charging dock. One full charge should last about seven days.

The Wellograph is waterproof up to 165 feet deep.

Online: wellograph.com; \$349

The **RoadShow universal tablet car mount** means back-seat travelers get some high-tech entertainment without having to buy a new device. The car mount takes your existing tablet and turns it into a multimedia center in seconds.

It installs without any tools. Just position the hooks on the hard-ware to the backside of the headrest and secure it. Then adjust the support system (8.5 by 1.5 by 4.5 inches) to your tablet's size so it's snug.

The LCD is totally exposed for all the touchscreen features and can be placed in most any angle for viewing.

All iPad versions along with most other tablets should work.

Online: felixbrand.com; \$39.99



ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Nov. 20:

1. "Blank Space," Taylor Swift
2. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
3. "Uptown Funk (featuring Bruno Mars)," Mark Ronson
4. "All About That Boss," Meghan Trainor
5. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
6. "Animals," Maroon 5
7. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
8. "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
9. "Lips Are Movin'," Meghan Trainor
10. "The Heart Wants What It Wants," Selena Gomez



— Compiled by TNS

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify Nov. 17-23:

1. "Take Me to Church," Hozier
2. "I Don't F— With You," Big Sean
3. "I'm Not the Only One," Sam Smith
4. "Animals," Maroon 5
5. "Love Me Harder," Ariana Grande
6. "Jealous," Nick Jonas
7. "Habits (Stay High)," Tove Lo
8. "Steal My Girl," One Direction
9. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
10. "Trumpets," Jason Derulo

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES BOOKS

Bestseller list of paid U.S. iBooks downloads for week ending Nov. 24

1. "Captivated by You," Sylvia Day
2. "The Escape," David Baldacci
3. "Gone Girl," Gillian Flynn
4. "The Burning Room," Michael Connelly
5. "Gray Mountain," John Grisham
6. "Fifty Shades of Grey," E L James
7. "The Andy Cohen Diaries," Andy Cohen
8. "Revival," Stephen King
9. "MCONEY Master the Game," Tony Robbins
10. "Flesh and Blood," Patricia Cornwell

— Compiled by TNS

VIDEO GAMES

The Editors of Game Informer rank the Top Wii U games for November:

1. "Super Smash Bros. for Wii U," Nintendo
2. "Bayonetta 2," Nintendo
3. "Skylanders Trap Team," Activision
4. "Hyrule Warriors," Nintendo
5. "Mario Kart 8," Nintendo
6. "Another World," Digital Lounge
7. "Watch Dogs," Ubisoft
8. "Donkey Kong Country: Tropical Freeze," Nintendo
9. "SteamWorld Dig," Image & Game
10. "The LEGO Movie Videogame," Warner Bros.

— Compiled by TNS

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Nov. 26:

- ANDROID
1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com
 2. Five Nights at Freddy's 2 Demo, Scott Cawthon
 3. TwoDots, Playdots, Inc.
 4. Darkness Reborn, GAMEVIL
 5. King Fu Pets, Com2US

- Top 5 free apps for Nov. 26:
- APPLE
1. Candy Crush Soda Saga, King.com
 2. Facebook Messenger, Facebook
 3. Facebook, Facebook
 4. Instagram, Instagram
 5. Dumb Ways to Die 2: The Games, Metro Trains Melbourne Pty Ltd.

— Compiled by TNS

WEEKEND

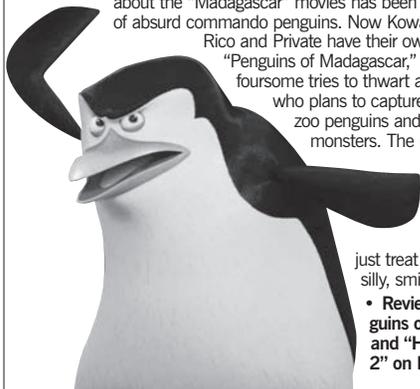
CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time

1

Chill with 'Madagascar's' penguins as they take over the franchise

Now that you've eaten way too much turkey and trimmings, it's time to watch some flightless but highly amusing birds. One of the best things about the "Madagascar" movies has been the quartet of absurd commando penguins. Now Kowalski, Skipper, Rico and Private have their own movie. In "Penguins of Madagascar," the fearsome foursome tries to thwart an evil octopus who plans to capture the world's zoo penguins and turn them into monsters. The new release is



a great excuse to chill with your kids this post-holiday weekend, or just treat yourself to this silly, smirky flick.

- Reviews for "Penguins of Madagascar" and "Horrible Bosses 2" on Page 37.



PHOTOS BY DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/AP

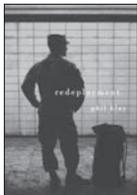
Skipper is a bird on a mission in the slightly cheesy "Penguins of Madagascar."

2

Vet earns book award for perspectives on war

Marine Corps veteran Phil Klay started writing as a way to process his experiences in the Iraq War. It took him more than four years to complete "Redeployment," and now, at age 31, he's won this year's National Book Award for fiction. Read this touching collection of short stories to see what all the fuss is about.

- Interview with Klay on Page 38.



3

'Assassin's Creed: Unity' great but glitchy



The time-bending battle is on again between the freedom-loving Assassins and orderly Templars. This time, the stage is set during the French Revolution, with appearances by the likes of Napoleon and Marquis de Sade. It's a lot of fun to play, but try not to lose your head over the game's frustrating technical glitches.

- Game review on Page 26.

4

Take time for trailers

This weekend heralds the arrival of two hotly anticipated movie previews. The internet has already dissected this week's two-minute, 40-second preview for "Jurassic World,"

coming next April. Rumor has it, the trailer for the next Star Wars will be released today!

Put down your paper and proceed immediately to YouTube.



- "Jurassic" trailer at tinyurl.com/kcz2gbn.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

**Trisha Yearwood**

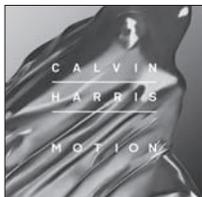
Prizefighter: Hit After Hit
(Gwendolyn/RCA Nashville)

Trisha Yearwood returns with her first new recordings in seven years with "Prizefighter," which combines 10 of her best-known hits ("XXX's" and "OO's"), "She's In Love With The Boy" with six new songs.

The title track pairs Yearwood with acolyte Kelly Clarkson, and they overcome the song's empowerment cliché through the earth-shaking force of their voices. But the album includes better songs: the tender ballad "I Remember You" allows Yearwood to reveal her talent for conveying emotion through a combination of strength and restraint.

Yearwood's re-emergence hasn't received as much attention as that of her husband, Garth Brooks. But "Prizefighter" proves that her remarkable voice deserves a place among the current generation of country hit-makers.

— Michael McCall
The Associated Press

**Calvin Harris**

Motion (Columbia)

In eight years, Calvin Harris has gone from underground DJ and bedroom-recording electronic maven to steely, theatrical composer and producer for drama queens like Rihanna.

Forbes reported he was the highest-earning DJ of 2013 at \$46 million. The interesting thing, then, about "Motion" is that it returns to the subtleties of Harris' earlier work. Yes, "Faith" and "Blame" are laden with overcompensated drums and melodies. But the album also is characterized by smoother tracks with less obvious but still catchy choruses and supple production touches. "Ecstasy" is filled with beautiful EZ-listening touches. "Pray to God" (with Haim) is a delicious noir workout. "Outside" and "Together" featuring Ellie Goulding and Gwen Stefani, respectively, are soulful showcases. By moving toward the less obvious, Harris has moved far forward in an already heady career.

— A.D. Amorosi
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Wilco in 2004

AP



Invarnished history

4-disc set lays bare Wilco's ambitions — and faults

By **TODD MARTENS**
Los Angeles Times

There's a perfunctory, fan-service quality to any longtime band's collection of outtakes, rarities and live performances. Yet this four-disc peek behind the curtain of adventurous Chicago rock outfit Wilco fascinatingly lays bare the band's ambitions — and, often more intriguing, its faults.

It's not often that a band is as open with its rubbish as Wilco is on "Alpha Mike Foxtrox," a collection that's just as forthright with admissions of guilt for leaving a gem off a record. As a result, what could have been a random collection of odds and ends — or worse, a nostalgia grab — isn't so much a look at Wilco's alternate-history past as it is a glimpse at ground the band still has to cover.

Although "Alpha Mike Foxtrox" is curated by the band, it attempts to look back on Wilco's two-decade history as unspooling as the 2002 documentary "I Am Trying to Break Your Heart," the Sam Jones-directed film that chronicles the group's acrimonious split from Reprise Records. Some songs offer glimpses at label politics, others rowdy or more experimental makeovers of album cuts, and some just chronicle a train wreck.

Check the self-deprecating way Wilco architect Jeff Tweedy introduces one track and see if it doesn't pique your curiosity. "Pretty painful listening," he writes in the accompanying notes about the little-known original "Let Me Come Home." "I think this may be the sound of untreated depression," he adds.

The bandleader's criticism is not, but that's far from the only head-scratching moment here worthy of deeper investigation.

How about, for instance, the sound of Wilco the punk rock band? "Student Loan Stereo" is less than 2 minutes of hoarse shouting, guitars that sound as if they're overheating and a bottle-breaking grand finale. "Always one of my favorite tracks," confesses Tweedy, and it's not the only time Wilco reveals its lineage from the Replacements, circa 1983 (see the set's sprint-through of early-career country ballad "Passenger Side"), making one wonder whether the band's folk-leaning tendencies have occasionally been misplaced.

If Wilco's punk rock fandom has gone criminally under-represented on its studio albums, it's long been evident in attitude. This is a career that stretches from the alt-country bullheadedness of its 1995 debut, "A.M.," to the celebrated pop deconstruction of 2001's "Yankee Hotel Foxtrot" (officially released by Nonesuch in 2002). From there the band veers into the panic-attack guitar wrecks of 2004's "A Ghost Is Born," only to softly land on the ornately detailed soulfulness of 2007's "Sky Blue Sky."

In an interview around the release of 2011's "The Whole Love," drummer Glenn Kotche said, "We can make straight-up noise. We can make straight-up pop. We can make a folk record. There's so much we have that we haven't even touched upon."

Evidence here suggests that Wilco should continue to explore every off-the-beaten path it encounters. "Unlikely Japan," a companion to "Sky Blue Sky's" "Impossible Germany," dissolves into Kraftwerk-like robotics. An alternate take on "A Ghost Is Born's" melancholic "Hummingbird" pairs a dance groove with alien-like chiming, and "Dark Neon" has a beat that sounds like a digital whip-crack.

As nice as these diversions are, one can take solace in the fact that despite all the lineup changes, Wilco appears to be a band that ultimately trusts its instincts. Although Tweedy admits fan favorites such as the sunny-side-up pop of "A Magazine Called Sunset" should have been album cuts, alternate takes of songs from 1999's colorful, keyboard-soaked "Summerteeth" show a disaster was nearly avoided.

A Warner Bros. remix of "A Shot in the Arm" takes one of Wilco's most powerful songs and outfits it with all sorts of studio noodling and sound effects, effectively papering over the tune's end-of-relationship lyrical bite.

It's the inclusion of this mistake that perhaps best makes the case for Wilco's importance. Rather than rely on studio trickery or audience pandering, Wilco holds the song itself in highest regard. The rhythms and melody might be malleable toys that can and should be regularly bent out of shape — or downright stripped apart — but Wilco understands the difference between experimentation and over-thinking.

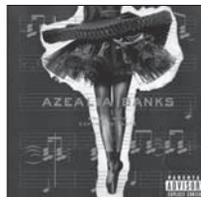
**Damien Rice**

My Favourite Faded Fantasy (Warner)

Irish singer-songwriter Damien Rice says the creative process behind his third studio album, "My Favourite Faded Fantasy," was so good that he occasionally didn't want it to end. Thankfully it did, because now we get to enjoy a well-crafted work with few holes.

Rice's emotive voice and signature solid guitar work are a known quantity. Those talents are coupled here with carefully optimistic songs about life and love. There's a touch of humor thrown in the mix, but not so much as to detract from pressing matters of the heart. The best moments come with back-to-back tearjerkers: "I Don't Want To Change You" and "Colour Me In." Savor every second, because talents as pure as Rice's don't come along every other Tuesday. His musical aim is true and the songwriting is some of the year's best.

— Ron Harris
The Associated Press

**Azealia Banks**

Broke With Expensive Taste (Caroline)

Harlem rapper Azealia Banks has struggled with highly-publicized album delays and label woes since 2011 when her single "212" became an underground hit. After dozens of false starts, releases windows that came and went, a well-received EP and a mixtape, Banks was smart to back out of the spotlight and get her debut album, "Broke With Expensive Taste," out the door when the time came. It is a rare first record that not only capitalizes on the artist's hype, but almost doesn't go far enough in exposing the artist's talents. The expansive collection of taste that Banks shows can be disorienting, and it's a challenge to find a solid throughline to connect with. Still, as wildly disparate as it is, with songs culled from a three-year career and innumerable influences, "Broke With Expensive Taste" is a suitable mission statement from an artist hoping to make an impact.

— Colin Fitzgerald
PopMatters.com

**Wilco**

Alpha Mike Foxtrox:
Rare Tracks 1994-2014 (Nonesuch)

WEEKEND: MUSIC

THE SPOTIFY DIVIDE

Taylor Swift, Daniel Ek debate music streaming service: What's a fan to do?

By RANDALL ROBERTS

Los Angeles Times

Taylor Swift and Daniel Ek are more alike than they might like to admit, and their arguing of late is starting to get confusing.

Sure, one is a Pennsylvania-born pop star who just sold a cool 1.3 million copies of her new album, "1989," in the first week, the other a Sweden-born creator of the popular, and divisive, Spotify music streaming service.

She's got a way with lyric and melody that touches the masses. He's accomplished something astonishing in Spotify and the so-called universal jukebox. She's an artist and one of the few in a position to negotiate for what she and her partners consider fair market value for her work. He's a businessman who says he desires fair compensation for artists, seems sincere about it and can't understand why detractors don't see the numbers or the future.

Their ascents are strikingly similar. Both are leaders in their fields and sought success early. Ek, 31, formed his first business at 14 and launched Spotify at 23. At 14, Swift, now 23, moved to Nashville to embark on a career in music.

Now multimillionaires and in the public eye, Ek and Swift are involved in a high-profile conversation about the availability of her music on his service and are using fans' actions and expectations to further their points. We're stuck in the middle watching Mommy and Daddy fight.

Last month, as Swift was debuting "1989," her record label, Big Machine, pulled her back catalog from Spotify and declined to release the new one to that or any other such service, including Rdio, Rhapsody and Beats Music. Arguing that free-tiered services diminished the value of Swift's and others' art and, worse, insulted so-called superfans, Big Machine opted to release the album only as MP3 download and compact disc; it now limits access to her catalog to premium streaming subscribers.

A million-plus copies later, the arguments have continued, and a central question remains: What's the ethical path for a music fan to take?

"We never wanted to embarrass a fan," Scott Borchetta, Swift's manager and Big Machine founder, said as a justification last week with Nikki Sixx on Sixx's podcast. "If this fan went and purchased the record, CD, iTunes, wherever, and then their friends go, 'Why did you pay for it?' you're embarrassing Swift." We're being completely disrespectful to that superfan who wants to invest."

It's a nimble heartstring to tug, the one that holds Swift's legion of adoring fans as the victims in Ek's question on Spotify: "What's most naive of Taylor's army likely



Taylor Swift

Ira Mac Astute/ABC



Daniel Ek

AP

She says:

Music is art, and art is important and rare. Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for.

On the surface, it's a fair request, although history has shown that for-profit, publicly traded record labels will seek to maximize profit at the expense of fans and nonplatinum artists whenever possible, especially when jobs, bottom lines and first-week sales numbers are involved.

In a response that Spotify published on its blog after Big Machine's action, the company defended its model as it too invoked fans and the plight of the artist. "We believe fans should be able to listen to music wherever and whenever they want, and that artists have an absolute right to be paid for their work and protected from piracy. That's why we pay nearly 70 percent of our revenue back to the music community," it read.

Ek later added in his own blog post that Spotify has earned billions for artists, money that would not have existed in a digital marketplace overrun with illegal file sharing.

"Piracy doesn't pay artists a penny — nothing, zilch, zero," wrote Ek. "Spotify has paid more than \$2 billion to labels, publishers and collecting societies for distribution to songwriters and

He says:

Spotify has paid more than \$2 billion to labels, publishers and collecting societies for distribution to songwriters and recording artists.

recording artists." He added that his company's royalty payments have been for "listening that would have happened with zero or little compensation to artists and songwriters through piracy or practically equivalent services if there was no Spotify." In Swift's case, said Ek, she would have already earned a \$6 million check from his company had she done it the Spotify way.

But that's a tough figure to

parse. In a 2013 blog post, the company estimated that the average "per stream" payout to rights holders was between \$0.006 and \$0.0084. It added that average per-stream payout generated by premium subscribers was "considerably higher" though it didn't offer specifics.

As valid arguments for and against the new system fly, here we are, fans stuck in the crossfire. Spotify needs our dollars and allegiance to make its business model work, Swift makes music that many of us want to possess, and she wants to optimize that desire through the honest, fairly priced — and ubiquitous — distribution of her music.

Many perhaps feel as I do: In love with the sheer wonder of the so-called universal jukebox and willing to support its growth but also respectful of musical creativity and the geniuses, sheldons and never-rans hoping to earn a living from their art. I want as many of them to succeed as possible. (If only so I can continue to be a part of the system and critique their next album.)

I believe that the \$10-per-month fee that most services charge is too low a price, and despite what Ek would have you believe, that price diminishes the value of music and insults its creators. An expert song maker should be compensated just as an expert cabinetmaker is.

Even at \$29.99 a month, such a service would be a bargain. But it's also not a price that your average kid can afford, and therein lies the rub.

So what's the superfan to do, and how do we behave in what Ek describes as "a new music economy that works for artists in a way the music industry never has before?"

If we're building something that favors artists and advocates compensation, why limit the ways artists can be paid through Spotify? One valid idea making the rounds is to allow for a virtual tip jar that allows me to toss in a buck that goes directly into an act's bank account. I once paid \$15 for a download just because the artist explained in his pitch that he'd likely spend the money on a nice glass of Scotch. I loved the idea of buying the guy a snifter of Oban.

If I've listened to the new Run the Jewels record 50 times, I'd be fine with an alert suggesting that a gratuity might be in order. I'd also be happy to know when an act is fundraising for a new album or is starting an account to invest in a new modular synthesizer or replacing stolen gear. It might not be the cure, but such access not only offers the opportunity to be not just a fan but a benefactor and implicitly reinforces the idea that anyone brave enough to make a go of it in the music biz these days deserves an opportunity to shine.

understands that Borchetta is gunning to earn a lot more than respect for his client.

Swift hinted at the pending banishment in July, when she published an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal, writing in part, "Piracy, file sharing and streaming have shrunk the numbers of paid album sales drastically, and every artist has handled this blow differently." Note how she conflated two illegal activities

with the legal streaming option. This is an artist who understands the power of language.

"Music is art, and art is important and rare," Swift continued. "Important, rare things are valuable. Valuable things should be paid for. It's my opinion that music should not be free, and my prediction is that individual artists and their labels will someday decide what an album's price point is."

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



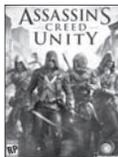
A BEAUTIFUL BUT IMPERFECT WORLD

Technical glitches mar 'Unity's' intriguing tale

By BRIAN BOWERS/*Stars and Stripes*

If Charles Dickens reviewed video games, he might say that it was the best of Creeds, it was the worst of Creeds. "Assassin's Creed: Unity" offers depictions of 18th-century Paris and its inhabitants that are absolutely spectacular. And while the story doesn't exactly rival Dickens' tale of the French Revolution, it's pretty good — especially by "Assassin's Creed" standards. However, some of the controls are a bit soft and sloppy — a serious problem when you're playing a game about people known for precise execution. In addition, the game abounds in minor visual and performance glitches. "Unity" is the latest installment of Ubisoft's saga about the struggle between the freedom-loving Assassins and order-minded Templars. You play as Arno Dorian, an Assassin caught in a tangled web of love and conflicting loyalties. The story is more tightly focused on Arno than on any previous hero in the franchise, which makes the portrayal more intimate and interesting.

Arno's tale unfolds amid the chaos of the revolution that overthrew the French monarchy and led to the rise of Napoleon Bonaparte. The narrative is driven by Arno's personal quest and the Templar-Assassin feud, but much of the action involves personalities and events at the center of the revolution. During missions in the main storyline, you will meet a lecherous Marquis de Sade, an ambitious Napoleon and a ruthless Robespierre. In side quests, you perform tasks such as gathering the heads of guillotined noblemen so Madame Tussaud can make wax likenesses. The streets are often filled with protesting mobs and



the politically active fear losing their heads to the Reign of Terror. As a result, Arno's Paris is the most dynamic setting in the franchise's history. Aside from a few excursions to Versailles, the action takes place in the sprawling city of Paris. You are able to scale the walls and scamper across the rooftops of the city's most famous buildings, from the cathedral of Notre Dame to the dreaded Bastille prison. All are rendered in stunning detail. And this time around, you don't have to be content with climbing the exteriors. You can enter countless buildings great and small. I have to admit that I enjoyed strolling through the palace rooms and comparing them to my memories of Paris. At other times, I was thrilled with the many new opportunities for attack and escape that these open doors provided. While taking in the scenery is part of the fun of "Assassin's Creed," the game is really about the action. Ubisoft has revised some of the paragon controls. It's a little easier to scamper up a palace wall, and it's much easier to climb back down. However, it also seems that the new mechanics are a bit loose. When leaping from railing to overhang to roof, Arno is likely to go off course and land on the

wrong item at some point. And it's relatively difficult to swing through an open window on the first try. In many cases, this isn't a big deal, but it can be disastrous if you have a bloodthirsty Templar on your tail.

I also experienced a number of performance glitches, such as getting stuck in a wall, falling through the floor and having an apparently dead enemy come back to life. The worst was during a cooperative mission in which the final goal never appeared on the map, rendering the entire event a bust.

Visual glitches are even more frequent. I saw my share of dancing corpses and characters melting into the scenery, though I never saw some of the more bizarre glitches that populated YouTube in the days just after the game's release.

When taken together, these minor problems make the game feel like it wasn't quite finished.

However, developers also made some welcome changes in the game's format.

One of the biggest changes comes in the online multiplayer mode's switch from competitive to cooperative play. In some of the previous games, players stalked each other in what was basically a deadly game of tag. This time around, you can team up with one or more players to help Arno win control of Paris for the Assassins. Players are given a common mission that can only be accomplished after completing several intermediate goals. While this sounds like a great opportunity to engage in a well-coordinated multi-pronged assault involving stealth and precision, the reality is that most of the players jump right into combat and kill every enemy on the map. This doesn't seem like the most stylish way to accomplish the mission, but it can be fun and effective.

Another change is the virtual elimination of the modern-day elements that plagued previous "Assassin's Creed" games. As in the past, you actually play the role of a 18th-century person who is using advanced technology to step into the genetic memories of a long-dead Assas-

sin. Unlike previous games, there is no secondary story based on that modern-day person's activities. I am thrilled with this change because I found those stories distracting and a bit weird.

The modern-day elements pop up only a few times during the game, mostly to remind you that your ultimate goal is to find a mysterious Templar whose DNA contains a desirable genetic code. On three occasions, modern-day Templars try to follow your digital trail through Paris. This leads to three interesting escape missions that propel you into incarnations of Paris in different eras — including one where you have to scale the Eiffel Tower and shoot at Nazi warplanes. These missions also set the stage for a series of side quests that involve rescuing other Assassin agents who have been trapped in these alternate Parises.

It should probably be noted that "Unity" has drawn criticism because of its unflattering portrayal of some of the revolution's personalities and because of its lack of female avatars in the multiplayer mode. And I have to admit that I was pretty irritated by Arno's assertive atheistic monologue in the closing scene. Ubisoft precedes each

Overall grade: **B-**

"Assassin's Creed" with a notice that the game was developed by a team representing many cultures and faiths, presumably indicating that it approaches its subjects with sensitivity. However, that notice rings a bit hollow at this point.

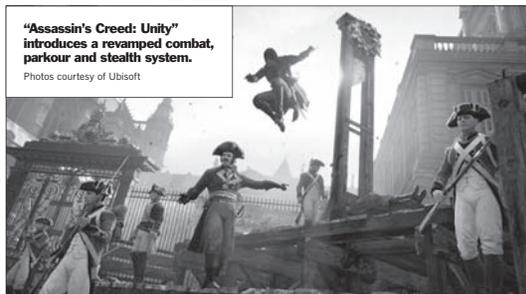
"Unity" had tremendously large shoes to fill after last year's rollicking pirate adventure, "Assassin's Creed IV: The Black Flag." It had no chance of beating that game in terms of sheer fun and excitement, and it didn't really try. Instead, developers opted for a more tightly focused story and breathtaking representation of Paris. And there is plenty of fun to be found there.

Bottom line: B- "Assassin's Creed: Unity" offers an intriguing adventure and a breathtaking setting but is plagued by glitches.

Rating: Mature, primarily for violence and blood

Platforms: Xbox One, PlayStation 4, WiiU, PC

Online: assassinscreed.ubi.com



"Assassin's Creed: Unity" introduces a revamped combat, parkour and stealth system. Photos courtesy of Ubisoft

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



MICHAEL ADIRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Visitors enjoy food, drink and the company of friends at the European Christmas Market in Edinburgh, Scotland, in December 2013. For more photos and a story about the Edinburgh market, see stripes.com/go/edinburgh.

DO THIS:

Visit a European Christmas market

Sunday marks the first of the four Advent Sundays preceding Christmas. The coming of the Advent season also means that many of Germany's Christmas markets soon will be up and running, bringing much-needed cheer when daylight hours are short and the skies are too often cloudy and gray.

While most Christmas markets in Germany's larger cities remain open every day until about Dec. 23, smaller communities often host events that last no more than a day or weekend. The stalls at such markets are often manned by members of clubs or churches from the town, and profits go toward their activities or charitable causes. These can be great opportunities to pick up something handmade and local, as well as to enjoy a warm *Glühwein* and chat with the neighbors you've often seen but had not yet met. Examples of such markets include Bury St. Edmunds, where a Christmas Fayre runs through Sunday; Leeds; London; Manchester; Mörhingen, near Stuttgart; Bierstätt; Erbenheim; and Frauenstein, outside Wiesbaden.

German-style markets also have sprung up far beyond their country of origin. Birmingham, England's market is famously based on the one found in Frankfurt and claims to be the largest authentic German market outside their native land.

Some English cities organize their markets around Victorian themes. Those hosting Christmas markets these days include Bury St. Edmunds, where a Christmas Fayre runs through Sunday; Leeds; London; Manchester; Nottingham; Portsmouth; St. Albans; Winchester; and many others.

In Scotland, one of Edinburgh's Christmas markets takes place in the East Princes Street Gardens, near the train station, while another can be found at St. Andrew Square. Find a list of markets in the United Kingdom at christmasmarkets.com/UK.html.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Auto show in Essen

Sports car lovers might want to motor on over to the Essen Motor Show, opening today and running through Dec. 7. Essen, Germany, a former industrial city now better known for its cultural offerings, is about an hour's drive north of Cologne.

One of Europe's leading fairs for sports vehicles, the show offers more than 500 exhibitors of autos and related products. It attracts up to 360,000 visitors during its 10-day run. The show includes classic cars and motorcycles as well as new models.

One highlight of this year's edition is the exhibit "Formula 1 Made in Germany," which traces the success of German cars and drivers and displays 15 winning vehicles from past races. Another features concept cars and prototypes from manufacturers noted for their attention to style.

Autos making their German premieres include the new Ford Mustang and the Fabia Estate. The DMAX Motorsport Arena in Hall 7 holds a track where race drivers demonstrate their skills at braking, skidding and other maneuvers. The Gymkhana Drift Cup finals take place at 1 p.m. Sunday.

The exhibit is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekends and 10 to 6 p.m. weekdays at the Messe Essen. (Friday is preview day; entry will cost only 25 euros or



Karen Bradbury

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

12 euros after 3 p.m.) Adult day tickets purchased at the door cost 16 euros (about \$20); entry after 3 p.m. costs half that. On-site parking is an additional 8 euros. Special packages sold online offer discounts. Learn more at essen-motorshow.de.

Artisan fair in Milan

Milan's L'Artigiano in Fiera, or artisan trade fair, is an ideal starting point for admiring or acquiring unique items from throughout the world.

The fair brings visitors into contact with craftsmen hailing from more than 100 countries. The fair, now in its 19th year, offers a wide range of goods: decorative items, stationery, musical instruments, jewelry, clothing, textiles, health-and-beauty items, food products and more.

The halls are organized by theme, showcasing handmade furniture, Italian fashion, cake decorating and products for those with creative hobbies.

An events section includes live music and dance shows by artists from throughout Italy and the world, including Cuba, Hungary, India, Morocco and Tibet. "Magica Compagnia" is a special section in which kids are entertained by costumed performers and can indulge in games or crafts.

The fair takes place at the Fieramilano Rho (Milan Fairgrounds). Entry is free. Hours are 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Anticipate large crowds, particularly on weekends. See <http://artigianoinfiera.it/web/index.php>.

Czech re-enactment

The Battle of Austerlitz, also known as Battle of the Three Emperors, was fought on Dec. 2, 1805, between French troops under the command of Emperor Napoleon I and a Russo-Austrian army commanded by Czar Alex-



PETER DAVID JOSEK/AP

History enthusiasts in regimental garb fire a cannon during a re-enactment of Napoleon's battle of Austerlitz near Slavkov U Brna, Czech Republic.

ander I. The battle, considered a tactical masterpiece, represented one of Napoleon's greatest victories.

Throughout the weekend, history buffs can attend a re-enactment of this event on the site where it played out, near Slavkov, just outside of Brno, Czech Republic.

Organizers say these events do not celebrate Napoleon's victory or any war; rather, they serve to commemorate and add to the knowledge of common European history. On Saturday at 2 p.m., a re-

enactment of the battle will be carried out by some 900 participants in uniform, 60 horses and 15 cannons near the village of Tvarozna by the Santon Hill. On Sunday at noon, the Act of Piety takes place by the peace memorial Mohyla miru, near the village of Prace. All re-enactors are unpaid volunteers.

Visitors can watch the events from the sidelines for free. Tickets for a spot in the VIP tribune, parking and a buffet lunch in a heated tent go for 1,300 Czech koruna, or about \$59. Learn more at austerlitz.org.



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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Weissenburg in Bayern, Germany, is home to Biriciana, one of the few Roman fortresses still standing in Bavaria. The northernmost gate of this ancient cavalry fort is its most prominent feature.



The medieval Ellinger Gate remains the entrance to the center of Weissenburg's historic township.

Steeped in history

Weissenburg bears traces of the Roman Empire

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

At its height, the Roman Empire extended across most of Europe, reaching as far north as Scotland and extending from Portugal to what is now known as the Persian Gulf. It was at its most northern reaches that the empire built its frontline outposts that became known as the Roman Limes.

In Bavaria, several of these outposts remain standing and are open to visitors, but it is in Weissenburg that this old world meets the new in a way that is as compelling to history buffs as it is to average tourists.

Historical Weissenburg in Bayern, located 30 miles southeast of Ansbach, is home to Biriciana, one of the few Roman fortresses still standing in Bavaria. The northernmost gate of this ancient cavalry fort remains its most prominent feature, as most of the fort was slowly picked apart to fuel construction of the surrounding town.

An old cistern in the middle of the ruins and the remnants of the granary show the craftsmanship the Romans dedicated toward their most important structures. The old timber barracks have long rotted away. From the gate's remaining parapet visitors can see the outlying valleys through the eyes of the roughly 400 Roman soldiers who called Biriciana home.

The remnants of Biriciana are



There are 38 castle towers in Weissenburg that the public can view. This one is near the Ellinger Gate.

not very large, about 560 square feet. There are well-tended walkways throughout the structure. Signs in German, English and French give the history of the fort.

The entire fort can be explored in about 30 minutes. Depending on your level of love for Roman history, that might be enough to make a trip to Weissenburg. I certainly found it worth the drive, but for those who might want a bit more out of a travel destination, Weissenburg has plenty more to offer. While Nuremberg became

the unofficial center of the Holy Roman Empire, the Free Imperial City of Weissenburg was one of five such independent cities

in Southern Franconia. The imperial influence on the town can be seen in the 14th-century Ellinger Gate that bears coats of arms from 1241 and 1481. It also serves as the entrance to the town's center that holds a Gothic town hall that has been used since 1476 and the visually impressive St. Andreas



NOVA AER/AV/Stars and Stripes

Cathedral, constructed more than a century earlier.

The Reichsstadt Museum holds artifacts from throughout the town's history and can be found near the St. Andreas cathedral. Fair warning: The displays are in German only, so bring your pocket translator. I had no problem understanding what the displays were, and the curator was more than happy to answer questions I had about a statue. Of particular note is the clockwork display on the third floor.

The best part of these points of interest is that they are fairly central to each other in the town. Visitors can walk from the Roman fort to the Ellinger Gate in 10 minutes, and parking is abundant for when the weather turns a bit colder. Prominent signposts along the way point to each location.

The rest of Weissenburg can be summed up as the quintessential German town. There are restaurants aplenty, quite a few shopping destinations and a local brewery whose beer must be tried. It might not be the place to go if you're looking for danger and excitement, but for those seeking a quiet, peaceful walk through history, I highly recommend Weissenburg.

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ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

From Ansbach, take highway B13 south. From Grafenwöhr, take autobahn A9 south, then get on the A6 until it leads into the B2 south, which will lead you straight to the town.

TIMES

The Roman fort is open from sunup to sundown. Sadly, the Roman museum is under renovation, and only a handful of exhibits remain open to the public, but it and the Reichsstadt-museum are open 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2-5 p.m. The museums close in January and February, but the fort remains open.

COSTS

Admission to the fort is free, while the Reichsstadt-museum is 4 euros per adult. A group rate for two adults and their children (no age restriction, according to the information desk) costs 7 euros.

FOOD

Nearly every other building along the main walk between historical points of interest seemed to be a bakery or restaurant.

INFORMATION

The city's website is weissenburg.de/reichsstadt (German only).

— Michael S. Darnell

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe

After Hours: Germany

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
Stars and Stripes

If you're looking for great gobs of meat, the Balkan Grill in Kaiserslautern, Germany, is definitely the place to go.

Although there is much that divides the rival nations of the former Yugoslavia, there's also at least one thing that unites them — their love of *rostiti*, or grilled meat. While there is a wide range of dishes to choose from, the most popular and authentic are *cevapcici* (che-vahp-chi-chi) and *pljeskavica* (plyess-kah-vee-tshah). The Balkan nations' cuisine is an interesting fusion of Turkish, Central European and Mediterranean influences.

Cevapcici is thumb-thick pieces of minced meat, while *pljeskavica* is a spicy beef-and-pork patty also known as the "Balkan hamburger," stuffed with a feta-like white cheese.

A Balkan Platter composed of these two and other meat dishes, including the thinly sliced *przozica* steaks, is a good way to sample some of the offerings from the grill.

The portions are large, so be prepared to hunker down with a slab of meat, garnished with *djuvec*, a rice-and-vegetable stew, and *ajvar*, a relish made from red peppers.

The eatery, located just a block from the site of the new shopping mall in downtown Kaiserslautern, is one of the city's older restaurants, dating from the late 1960s. The proprietors, Mladen and Vera Petrovic, arrived as guest workers from Yugoslavia, but then took over the restaurant, which at the time was the only place in town where one could find non-German fare.

While Vera prepares the dishes, the jocular Mladen acts as chief waiter and entertainer, chatting and laughing with the clientele, which includes a fair number of local residents and Americans.

The atmosphere is very casual.



PHOTOS BY SLOBODAN LEKIC/Stars and Stripes

Kaiserslautern's Balkan Grill serves "cevapcici," a favorite in several countries in southeast Europe.



Vera and Mladen Petrovic, owners of the Balkan Grill, were guest workers from Yugoslavia who eventually took over the restaurant.

Mladen Petrovic likes to give customers free shots of *slivovitz*, the fiery Balkan plum brandy.

"Ninety percent of our customers are people from the neigh-

borhood who know us well," he said. "Often it's families who have been coming here for over 40 years, so we all enjoy a bit of *slivovitz*."

So if you're looking for something more enticing than Kaiserslautern's basic German/Italian restaurant lineup, the Balkan Grill offers an interesting alternative.

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BALKAN GRILL

Location: Muhlstrasse 18, 67659 Kaiserslautern.

Hours: Noon-2 p.m. and 6-11 p.m.; closed Mondays.

Prices: Starters from 6 euros, soups from 4 euros, entrees from about 10.50 euros, nonalcoholic drinks about 2 euros to 3 euros, wine and beer from 3 euros to 5 euros. Special lunchtime menu every day except Sundays and German holidays with dishes available from 6 euros to 8 euros. Menu: English is available.

Dress: Casual.

Information: Seating is limited and the restaurant is frequently packed, so make reservations on weekends and holidays.

Weekday lunches also can get crowded. For reservations, call (+49) (0)631-70786 or (0)172-7834149.

— Slobodan Lekic

Recipe puts leftovers to tasty use in a sauce

By BONNIE S. BENWICK
The Washington Post

Turkey or rotisserie chicken, warmed through in this piquant mixture, can be served over (or under) leftover mashed potatoes or pasta with grilled radicchio in this recipe.

TURKEY IN THE SAUCE

Ingredients

1 medium sweet onion
2 or 3 cloves garlic
Leaves from 2 sprigs tarragon
10 to 12 ounces cooked, skinless turkey or chicken meat (white and/or dark)
1 tablespoon olive oil
1 tablespoon tomato paste
1 cup unsweetened apple cider, plus more as needed
1½ teaspoons ground coriander

Small pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
28 ounces canned, no-salt-added diced tomatoes with their juices

12 ounces frozen black-eyed peas (may substitute green peas or leftover cooked vegetables of your choice)

Kosher salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Steps

Cut the onion into small dice. Smash the garlic (to taste) with the flat side of a chef's knife, then mince to a paste. Mince the tarragon leaves. If needed, cut the turkey or chicken into thick slices or bite-size chunks.

Heat the oil in a medium non-stick skillet over medium heat. Stir in the onion; cook for about 8 minutes, moving it about as needed so the onion softens and starts to brown a bit.

Stir in the garlic (to taste); cook for 30 seconds, then clear a space at the center of the skillet and pop in the tomato paste. Cook undisturbed for 1 minute, then stir in the cup of apple cider. Cook for 3 minutes or until the mixture starts to bubble and blip, then add the ground coriander, crushed red pepper flakes, the tomatoes and their juices and the black-eyed peas. Cook for about 6 minutes or until heated through and close to bubbling.

Use an immersion (stick) blender or a potato masher to break down most of the black-eyed peas; that will thicken the sauce.

Stir in the turkey or chicken; cook until just warmed through. If the mixture seems too thick, add up to ½ cup apple cider.

Taste, and season with a good pinch of salt and a few grinds of pepper. Stir in the tarragon.

Serve hot.

Makes 4 servings, 360 calories each, 32 g protein, 48 g carbohydrates, 6 g fat, 1 g saturated fat, 55 mg cholesterol, 250 mg sodium, 9 g dietary fiber, 19 g sugar.



The atmosphere at the eatery is casual and congenial. Many of the guests are regulars from the neighborhood, whose families have eaten here since the restaurant opened in the late 1960s.



"Pljeskavica," also known as the Balkan hamburger, is stuffed with a feta-like cheese at Balkan Grill.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



Left: Men in yellow serve red and white bratwurst at the Speyer Christmas Market in Speyer, Germany, in December 2013. Eating is a popular activity at the market, where vendors sell Palatinate delicacies such as potato soup and yeast dumplings.



NCCA AMI-HAW/Stars and Stripes



Santa Claus waves from a rooftop at last year's Speyer Christmas Market.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN Stars and Stripes

Merry & bright

Christmas market in Speyer, Germany, keeps the fun going into the New Year

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

My favorite thing about Speyer, Germany, at Christmas-time happens after the Christmas goose is cooked. The city is host to one of the few Christmas markets in Germany that doesn't cart off its stalls, Christmas lights and tubs of mulled wine before Christmas Day.

After closing Dec. 25 and Dec.

26, the festivities return until Jan. 6 under the guise of the Speyer New Year's Market. Different name, same merry scene. Who cares if Christmas is over? I'll gaze at that silly Santa Claus figure wearing shades while sitting on his rooftop sleigh for hours if it means one more chance to sip warm *Glühwein* and revel in the waning magic of Christmas in Germany. The market last year in early January was bustling at mid-day. A stroll down the charming

center of the city, along Maximilianstrasse between the Speyer Dom and the Old Mint, made my stomach lurch with hunger, given the olfactory assault from the usual suspects of grilled sausage, roasted almonds and freshly baked waffles.

Like every Christmas market in Germany, *Glühwein* stands were more common than hot dogs at an American baseball game. But the Speyer market also entices with some unique regional specialties, such as potato soup and yeast dumplings.

Though relatively small — by Nuremberg or Cologne standards, at least — the market draws a nice variety of vendors. Among the items inside the booths were delicate wooden ornaments, glass figurine wind chimes, colorful paper lanterns, handcrafted tin cookie cutters and exotic spices such as saffron.

Weekends bring more activities, with an arts-and-crafts market on the four weekends before Christmas, during Advent, at the courtyard of the old town hall. On Dec. 3 and 18, "The Old City Gate in Flames" takes place. The display of lights, music and fireworks illuminates one of Germany's tallest town gates.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com

KNOW & GO

DIRECTIONS

The city of Speyer is located in the state of Rhineland-Pfalz.

COSTS

Free admission.

TIMES

Through Jan. 6, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, except on the following days: Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.; closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 31, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Jan. 1, 1-9 p.m.

FOOD

Bratwurst, *Glühwein*, waffles, crepes, roasted almonds and re-

gional specialties, such as potato soup and yeast dumplings, are all sold at the market.

INFORMATION

An English link is available at the city website: speyer.de. For information on the Christmas and New Year's markets, as well as other festivities in Speyer, look under the tab labeled "celebrating festivals."

— Jennifer H. Svan

For many more photos of the Christmas market, visit stripes.com/go/speyermarket



Hand-carved wooden Christmas ornaments hang from a stall in 2013 at the annual Speyer market.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Christmas in Europe is far more than a day

Europe is my favorite place to travel, and Christmas is my favorite holiday. In Europe, the holiday lasts much longer than a day — the season stretches well over a month — not to extend the shopping season, but to fit in the many holy days and festivities.



Rick Steves

First comes Advent, beginning four Sundays before Christmas Eve. Next is the Feast of St. Nicholas, celebrated mostly in Catholic countries on Dec. 6.

For many Europeans, the season's main event is Christmas Eve, celebrated with midnight Mass and a grand meal. Others focus more on Christmas Day and gift giving. The "Twelve Days of Christmas" stretch from Dec. 25 until Jan. 6, which is Epiphany, the day the Three Kings delivered their gifts.

While there are many great European Christmas traditions, here are a few of my favorites from Norway and France.

Norway

Christmas in Norway, especially since the advent of electricity, is a festival of light — a promise of longer days and the return of the sun. Norwegians need a boost during those weeks when high noon feels like twilight and it's dark by 4 p.m.

A high "13" of the season is Dec. 13, the least day of Santa

Lucia, the "Queen of Lights" — a tradition that started in Sweden. Lucia was a fourth-century Sicilian saint who (legend says) helped persecuted Christians hiding in tunnels. To guide them, she wore a wreath with candles on her head. In the Scandinavian version, a young woman born of rich and noble parents went from one farm to the next, dressed in a white gown with a red sash. To light her way, she wore a crown of lingonberry twigs with blazing candles and carried a torch, as she brought baked goods to each house.

Today, Santa Lucia Day is celebrated in Norway and Sweden in family gatherings, churches, schools, day-care centers, nursing homes and hospitals. It starts with a procession of girls led by one dressed as the "Lussebrud," wearing a white robe and a crown of lights. The girls carry baskets of saffron buns, called Lussekatter, to hand out.

France

Food is at the center of life in France, even in the dead of winter. The most anticipated culinary event of the year is Le Reveillon de Noël, the Christmas Eve feast. Reveillon literally means an "awakening." In a symbolic sense, the Reveillon is a kind of spiritual and edible wake-up call.

Like most French dinners, it's a multi-course affair lasting

hours. Each region of France proudly serves its own special dishes for the Reveillon, reflecting local ingredients and cuisine. In Paris, the meal kicks off with raw oysters. A specialty of Alsace is foie gras. In Brittany, locals enjoy buckwheat cakes and sour cream. In Provence, people share a special Christmas

bread; after giving half of it to a poor person, they eat the rest. The Reveillon builds to the dessert, a cake called Bûche de Noël (Yule Log). This rolled sponge cake is covered with bark (chocolate butter-cream frosting), mushrooms (cocoa-dusted meringue) and holy leaves (almond paste), all sprinkled with

powdered-sugar snow. Try borrowing from the vivid traditions of Europe. Your own holiday season might have a little more meaning, and maybe a little more pop.

Rick Steves writes travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on TV and radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

<p>Idar-Oberstein</p> <p><i>The original Spätzlehaus</i> Restaurant Alte-Kanzlei <small>Authentic Restaurant</small></p> <p>The place to go for the original open fire grilled Gaucho style steaks! Hauptstrasse 432-57343 Idar- Oberstein 06781-28059/367733 www.restaurant-altekanzlei.de</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p><i>Saytoun Cuisine</i> Saytoun Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3006110</p>	<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p>PAPPELHAUS <small>Steinertstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-5649669</small> Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>Kaiserslautern area</p> <p>QUACK <small>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inh. Sascha Gärtner Entenweilerstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-kl.de Tel. 0611-42828</small></p>	<p>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICANO ENCHILADA - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbadenenchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>Okinii <small>sushi grill</small> Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23853008</p>
<p>China Restaurant China City <small>Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 • Free parking</small></p>	<p>Brauhaus Kastel <small>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhr Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06124-24999 www.brauhaus-kastel.de</small></p>	<p>Villa im Tal <small>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Adamstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</small></p>
<p>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seeweg <small>Waldst. 0, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewoopizzeria.de</small></p>	<p>Café Temptation <small>*reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberger/PX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</small></p>	<p>SMOKETOP <small>Nassaustrasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketripbebbq.com</small></p>
<p>Mainz / Wiesbaden area</p> <p><i>Original Authentisches Käse</i> Ristorantino <small>Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriels-restaurant.de</small></p>	<p>Jodenas Diner <small>Jodenas Diner Seerobertstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberger) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodenas-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</small></p>	<p>Stuttgart</p> <p>Kashmir <small>Authentic Indian Cuisine Esslinger Str. 11 Phone 0711-99763816 Leonberger Str 97 Phone 07152-90332</small></p>
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WEEKEND



THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE

WINTER ILLUMINATIONS

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

Japan

ENOSHIMA SHONAN-NO HOSEKI (Kanagawa prefecture): Nov. 29-Feb. 1, 5-8 p.m., until 9 p.m. weekends, Dec. 22-30 & Jan. 2-6; tunnel decorated with 40,000 Swarovski crystal lights, live concerts and more at Enoshima Sea Candle, along with Enoshima Station on Enoden, Enoshima Winter Tulip and Valentine Island Enoshima; 200 admission for Enoshima Sea Candle, plus 300 year for observation deck.

FUJIKAWAGUCHI NIAGARA FALLS & WAVE ILLUMINATION (Yamanashi prefecture): Dec. 1-Jan. 31, 5-8 p.m.; 10-foot-high Niagara Falls illumination decorated with 40,000 LEDs wave illumination contrasted with Mount Fuji and Lake Kawaguchi at Ohishi Koen, northern shore of Lake Kawaguchi; free; tinyurl.com/lpbto8.

TONAMI WINTER FANTASY (Aomori prefecture): Dec. 6-23, 4-6 p.m.; includes live performances, food booths and more at Misawa Tonan Memorial Village, Misawa city, a 10-minute drive from Misawa Air Base.

HAKONE VENETIAN GLASS MUSEUM ILLUMINATION (Kanagawa prefecture): Through Dec. 23, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., featuring 80,000 crystals on a 32-foot tree and 65,000 crystals on a 23-foot tree and illuminations after sunset; best time for viewing is 3 p.m.; tinyurl.com/mwkr2v.

MISAWA CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATION 2014 (Aomori prefecture): Through Dec. 25, 5 p.m.-midnight; at shopping arcade in Misawa city and the front gate at Misawa Air Base.

YAMANAKAKO ART ILLUMINATION FANTASEUM (Yamanashi prefecture): Through Jan. 4, 5-9 p.m.; along with fireworks 8 p.m. Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20, 23, 24 & 25, and Christmas concerts 6:30 p.m. Dec. 23-25; at Hana-no Miyako Koen; tinyurl.com/moenky.

FOREST ILLUMINATION AT RYUO STATION (Yamanashi prefecture): Through Feb. 28, 5-9 p.m.; a waterfall — Sengataki — created by 120,000 LEDs, and more; Ryuo Station on Chuo Line; 055-278-1708.

Okinawa

2014 MARRIOTT CHRISTMAS: Through Dec. 25, 5:30 p.m.-midnight; 32.8-foot tree decorated with the theme Warm Lights at Okinawa Marriott Resort & Spa; free; tinyurl.com/19zdo3e.

OCEAN EXPO PARK WINTER FANTASY 2014: Through Dec. 28, 6-9 p.m.; at Fountain Square of Ocean Expo Park, and special planetarium 5:15, 6, 6:45 & 7:30 p.m. at Oceanic Culture Museum (170 yen adults, 50 yen children), along with live performances 6:40-8 p.m. Dec. 20 & 21; free admission; tinyurl.com/1n9zthf.

WINTER ELEGANCE 2014: Through Feb. 15, 5:30 p.m.; illumination at Okinawa Outlet Mall Ashibinao; free; ashibinao.com.

SOUTHEAST BOTANICAL GARDEN NIGHT DECORATION: Through Feb. 15, 5-10 p.m.; illumination and more; free; southeast-botanical.jp.

South Korea

LOTTE WORLD'S "HAPPY CHRISTMAS PARTY" (Seoul): Through Dec. 25; featuring about 100 Christmas characters handing out presents to visitors. Activities include taking a portrait at the photo zone decorated with snowmen; 46,000 won adult one-day pass; loteworld.com.

EVERLAND CHRISTMAS FANTASY: Through Dec. 31; 46,000 won adult one-day pass; everland.com.

SEOULLAND CHRISTMAS PARTY: Through Dec. 31; attractions such as a magic show, performances and the Light Fantasy Show; 36,000 won adult one-day pass; seouliland.co.kr.

For a more complete list: stripes.com/go/paclights.



The lights are on at Sagamiiko Illumination, Japan

Now through April 12 (daily until Jan. 7, weekends Jan. and Feb. and March 20-April 5), see 5 million LEDs synced with music at Sagamiiko Resort Pleasure Forest in Kanagawa prefecture. For more: tinyurl.com/qdsew88.



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



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7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

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WEEKEND

Pacific

WINTER FESTIVALS

KARUIZAWA WINTER FESTIVAL

(Nagano prefecture): Nov. 29-Dec. 25; opening ceremony 4 p.m. Nov. 29, followed by fireworks at 5:20 p.m., with ice skating, ice hockey, curling, concerts, food booths, illuminations and more at Yanozaki Koen, five-minute walk from JR Karuizawa Station or 20-minute ride from Usui Karuizawa I.C. on Jyoshinetsu Express.

ROPPONGI HILLS CHRISTMAS MARKET

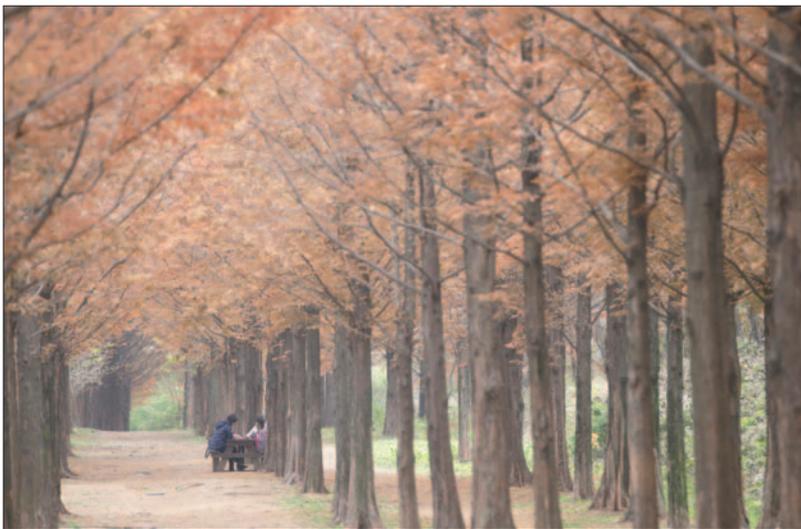
(Tokyo): Nov. 29-Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-9 p.m.; featuring German-style Christmas market including ornaments, trees, Christmas goods and more at O-yane Plaza, Hibiya Station on Hibiya Line or four-minute walk from Oedo Line; 03-6406-6000.

YOKOHAMA REDBRICK WAREHOUSE CHRISTMAS MARKET

(Kanagawa prefecture): Nov. 29-Dec. 25, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; featuring German-style Christmas market including ornaments, trees, Christmas goods and more; 15-minute walk from JR Sakuragicho and Kan-rai Stations; 045-227-2002.

YOKOHAMA REDBRICK WAREHOUSE ART & ICE SKATING:

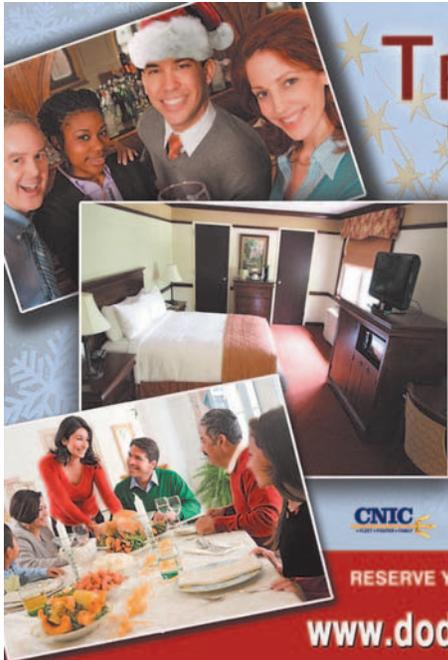
Dec. 6-Feb. 22, 1-10 p.m. weekdays, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends; 10-minute walk from Bashi Station or 15-minute walk from JR Kan-rai Station; 1,000 yen adults, 900 yen children includes shoe rental; 045-211-1515.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

From trash to treasured site in Seoul, South Korea

Visitors take a break near Sky Park in Seoul, South Korea, on Nov. 24. Sky Park is a part of World Cup Park. It was once a landfill, but now is an ecological park built to commemorate the 2002 Korea Japan FIFA World Cup. For more: tinyurl.com/o9nue5.



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Cautionary whale tale

Agonizing voyage renders fleeting glimpse not see-worthy

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

I should have started worrying when the crew passed out motion sickness pills before we even left the harbor.

But the indigo blue sea was calm, and a crew member told us we would have a smooth ride as we settled into our seats on the double-decker boat for a sight-seeing trip deep into the Indian Ocean for several hours.

Most importantly, he said we were 99 percent guaranteed to spot a whale.

As with many other tourists to Sri Lanka's palm tree-studded southwest coast — famous for its swaths of postcard-perfect beaches — a whale-watching cruise was expected to be a highlight of our vacation.

In Unawatuna, our beach town base, posters of gracefully leaping whales with tourists of presumably happy tourists snapping photos in the background were plastered along roadsides and in restaurants and stores.

We had come near the end of the annual monsoon season, with its frequent short-but-heavy storms, and a few months ahead of prime winter whale-spotting season. Still, our hotel manager assured us, as we booked our whale-watching trip with his help, that we were virtually guaranteed to see a few of the sea's giants — though maybe just three or four instead the dozen or so expected during high season.

He assured us that the spotty weather would be no problem. "The whales like playing in the rain," he said.

Perhaps we should have smelled a sales pitch, but maybe whales really DID like the rain. They're water creatures, after all.

The day before our cruise was

stormy, and I worried that our breakfast excursion would be canceled by weather. But as our driver pulled into the harbor of tiny Mirissa, a scruffy fishing village with a burgeoning tourist industry, at about 7 a.m., skies were overcast but the water was as smooth as glass. Fishmongers gathered in the parking lot and haggled over silvery, still-wriggling heaps of tuna and shrimp, some brought to shore by weathered men just back from two-week fishing trips in equally weathered boats.

Our fellow passengers included some three dozen foreign tourists and a large group of Sri Lankan children and parents who appeared to be on a field trip. As we pulled out of the harbor, another crew member warned that while no problems were expected, we could run into squalls at any time. And as we were going to see animals in the wild, anything could happen.

I had assumed the motion sickness pills were an unnecessary precaution. On our boat was a Sri Lankan child who appeared to be no more than a year old and an Australian couple who were probably in their 70s. Surely the tour company wouldn't send babies and the quasi-elderly into rough, potentially dangerous waters.

But as soon as we pulled out of the harbor, the waves grew choppy and rough. The carefree mood on board quickly dampened and the chatter of excited children quieted. About 20 minutes into the trip, the vomiting began.

For the next hour or so, the crew spent most of its time passing out plastic bags to seasick passengers, collecting used bags and then passing out more. About halfway through the trip, one crew member brought out a large tray of neatly arranged sandwiches — our promised



PHOTOS BY ASHLEY ROWLAND/Stars and Stripes

This tourist boat in Mirissa, Sri Lanka, is one of many similar boats that take tourists on whale-watching expeditions off the country's southern coast. Passengers on this whale-watching cruise got a glimpse of a whale's back. (As seen below — sort of.)



Stars and Stripes

breakfast during the cruise — prompting a few wry laughs and a fresh round of retching.

We finally arrived at our destination, an empty expanse of ocean about an hour from land, where our boat, along with three other identical tourist boats and two Sri Lanka Coast Guard ves-

sels, circled slowly. Some of the heartier passengers stood at the edge of the boat, clutching tightly to the railing — and to their puke bags — looking in vain for whales as the boat rocked violently.

Others, myself included, stayed in our seats because we were too queasy to stand up.

Despite the haggard conditions of the passengers, nearly all of whom had thrown up, our crew seemed determined not to return to dry land until we got our money's worth and saw a whale.

One crew member perched on the bow, scanning the waters for about an hour. Finally he pointed to a spot about 50 feet from the boat.

There were two puffs of water, maybe five feet high. Then we saw the shiny gray spine of a whale gracefully arching through the water — for about five seconds.

And just like that, our wildlife encounter was over.



Posters advertising whale-watching expeditions are posted throughout the popular beach town of Unawatuna, Sri Lanka.

And all we had to show for our hours-long trip were a few blurry photos of the ocean with an unidentifiable and barely noticeable speck of gray in the middle.

I don't know that my trip was representative of the average whale-watching cruise. A few weeks later, I found reviews of the excursion company that described similar experiences, from mass seasickness to cruises with zero whale sightings. One reviewer said the crew kept his boat "hostage" on the high seas even as the seasick passengers voted to turn around.

But I also spoke with a number of travelers who gave their trips glowing reviews. One German tourist — a repeat visitor to Sri Lanka — described his cruise in almost reverential terms, saying it was the best thing he had done in the country.

For me, it was the worst \$50 I ever spent. The next time I go searching for whales, I'll be using my remote to find them on the Discovery Channel.

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WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



PHOTOS BY ERIC GUZMAN/Stars and Stripes

A bilingual wait staff serves hearty portions at Tokyo's Roast One, which opened in February.

After Hours: Japan

By ERIC GUZMAN
Stars and Stripes

Holiday season or not, it's probably safe to say that there's never a bad time for roasted bird of any kind.

Roast One, located in Shibuya's Udagawa-cho neighborhood since February, is a Jamaican-Hawaiian fusion restaurant that's sure to satisfy any and all poultry cravings.

Chicken seems to be the focal point of the menu at this relatively new eatery.

Styles ranging from rotisserie and Jamaican jerk — and even jerky — are whipped up in the restaurant's open kitchen and served up by the bilingual wait staff in hearty portions to the energetic sounds of dance hall music that usually crowds the air. The beef patty also stands out as a must-try.

On the Hawaiian side of the equation, garlic shrimp and poke, a popular island dish centered around sashimi-style ahi tuna tossed in oil and lemon with a variety of herbs and relatively few spices, are also on the menu.

Even things like tacos, nachos and *huevos rancheros* are available on the restaurant's smaller Mexican-themed menu, but these seem like an afterthought compared with the Jamaican and Hawaiian portions.

The drinks menu, even with a noticeable absence of rum punch, holds a hefty selection of import beers, a pair of domestics, a wine list, several amazing cocktails and the standard choice of soft drinks and juices you'd expect at any restaurant worth its weight in wings.

Seating is a bit tough to come by, so it's wise to make reservations, the extra effort will be well worth it.

guzman.eric@stripes.com

ROAST ONE

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— Eric Guzman



Jerk chicken, edamame, poke-style ahi tuna and grilled garlic shrimp are available as appetizers or as full meals at Roast One.



Roast One's Mexican menu doesn't cover much ground, but the eatery does get everything right where it tries its hand. The nachos, covered in avocado, sharp cheese, ground beef and edible flower petals, taste almost as good as they look.



The beef patty, a staple on Roast One's Jamaican menu, isn't filling enough for a meal, but a few definitely will put anyone down for the count. Crispy on the outside, warm and chewy on the inside, the spiced ground beef filling makes the beef patty a must-try.

The art of tempura is frying at its best

By JOE YONAN
The Washington Post

I've only recently started making my own tempura at home. It's not that I ever worried, as many cooks do, about heating up oil. I think I had been intimidated by the precision of Japanese cooking; I had a sense that there was much more to tempura than it seemed.

What I needed, really, was a good guide, and I got one in the delightful "Japanese Soul Cooking" by Tadashi Ono and Harris Salat (Ten Speed Press, 2014). The book beautifully demystifies Japanese cooking, reminding readers that at their heart, ramen, *gyoza*, *tonkatsu* and yes, tempura are pure comfort food.

The instructions for vegetable tempura alone are worth the cover price. If you read every bit of instruction and pay close attention, you'll be able to produce light, delicious tempura.

Among the key steps: Barely mix the batter; prepare it just before frying. Maintain the right oil temperature (you'll need a thermometer). Drain the just-fried vegetables thoroughly.

Choose your favorite combination of vegetables, such as broccoli, winter squash or pumpkin, eggplant, carrots, sweet potato, shiitake mushroom caps or other mushrooms.

VEGETABLE TEMPURA

Ingredients:

For the tempura:
1 pound assorted vegetables, cleaned, trimmed as needed and cut into bite-size pieces
½ cup cake flour
Dipping sauce of your choice
8 ounces daikon radish, peeled, coarsely grated and squeezed to remove excess liquid
½-inch piece fresh ginger root, peeled and finely grated
2 quarts vegetable oil, for frying
¼ cup toasted sesame oil, for frying

For the batter:

2 large egg yolks
2 cups cold water
¼ cup ice cubes
2 cups cake flour

Steps:

For the tempura:

Prepare a cooking station next to the stovetop burner. Have ready the vegetables, a plate with the ½ cup of cake

flour, and the ingredients for the wet and dry parts of the batter. Set a cooling rack over a paper-towel-lined baking sheet, and line up your tools: chopsticks, a metal strainer and a candy thermometer or instant-read thermometer.

Pour the vegetable and sesame oils into a large, deep cast-iron skillet or Dutch oven set over high heat. Bring the oil mixture to 360 degrees (slightly lower than the standard 375 degrees for frying, because tempura cooks quickly).

Meanwhile, prepare the separate wet and dry parts of the batter: Combine the yolks and water in a bowl, mixing until well incorporated, then add the ice cubes. Place the 2 cups of cake flour in another bowl.

When you're ready to fry, finish the batter: Quickly add the 2 cups of cake flour to the liquid, all at once.

Hold 4 chopsticks together, the tips pointed down, like you're grabbing a bottle. Stab at the batter with the chopsticks, mashing down repeatedly to combine the dry and wet parts. Do not stir; you barely want to mix the batter. (The chopsticks are

much less efficient than a spoon or spatula, which is exactly the point.) Mix for only about 30 seconds or until the batter becomes loose and liquid, with the consistency of heavy cream. It should be lumpy, with visible globs of dry flour floating in it and with unmixed flour sticking to the sides of the bowl. That's preferred; you don't want to over-mix.

Lightly coat the vegetables in the flour on the plate, then dip them into the batter one at a time. Immediately and carefully, use one hand to lay each vegetable in the hot oil, working in batches. (Use, at most, half of the surface area of the oil to cook.) Deep-fry the denser vegetables like sweet potato or carrot first, for about 3 minutes, until they turn golden brown. Transfer them to the cooling rack to drain. Repeat with the other vegetables. Cook softer vegetables like asparagus, broccoli and pumpkin for about 2 minutes.

Serve the tempura immediately, with a dish of dipping sauce and a small mound of daikon topped with ginger on the side, for each portion. (To eat, add the daikon and ginger to the dipping sauce right before dunking in the first piece of tempura.)

Ingredients are too variable for a meaningful calorie or nutrition analysis.



DEB LINDEY/For the Washington Post

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

By SAM McMANIS
The Sacramento Bee

Another gorgeous and sunny fall southern California afternoon — the smog, apparently, is taking the weekend off — and here I am in a traffic jam deep in the industrial heart of the San Gabriel Valley.

To my left on AZUSA Canyon Road is a huge gravel pit, a moonscape-like crater covering at least three square blocks. To my right is the boxy, beige concrete facade of one of Irwindale's largest and most controversial businesses, Huy Fong Foods, where this conga line of cars is trying to squeeze into the company parking lot built to accommodate only about a hundred vehicles. Men in reflective vests wave orange flags semaphorically as drivers jockey to get a coveted spot, park and then briskly walk to the ever-expanding line at the entrance, as if rushing the stage at a rock concert.

As I inch along, I stare into the gaping maw of the pit and think, I'm giving up my Saturday for this? I'm heading to an outpost in L.A.'s vast sprawl east of downtown, an area people usually flee from on the weekend, to check out a condiment? I'm going to don a hairnet with other visitors and watch factory workers grind chilies, mix them with sugar, salt, garlic, distilled vinegar, potassium sorbate, sodium bisulfite and xanthan gum? I'm going to pour attention on a humble sauce that scores of diners squirt on, well, anything that needs a bit of spicing up?

Yes, reader, I am. And, by the end of the day, so will have 2,400 other people.

Such is the mass appeal of Sriracha, fast becoming the unofficial king of condiments. Ketchup and mustard, salsa and soy sauce? Sorry. They are but bland also-rans to the fiery Asian concoction that, in the past two years, has spawned fan clubs and loyal followers, jumped from a monocultural dinner table staple to finding its way onto the menus of Subway, Taco Bell, even Applebee's.

Heck, Sriracha is so all-American that you can now buy it at Wal-Mart. It's truly a crossover hit.

But it's not just the four-alarm, taste bud-firing, nasal-scouring sensual nature of the sauce that has made Sriracha the Beyoncé of condiments — hot, full-bodied and irresistible. Contrary, too, has boosted its public profile, elevating Sriracha from the food section to the front page.

Last spring, the Irwindale City Council filed a lawsuit and public nuisance declaration against Huy Fong Foods, maker of the sauce, after nearly 70 residents in the community of 1,400 complained that the odors emanating from the factory burned their eyes and throats, as if grinding chilies were able to breathe toxic waste. Public hearings were held, protests staged by the pro-Sriracha faction, officials from the South Coast Air Quality Management District consulted, and



PHOTOS BY SAM McMANIS, THE SACRAMENTO BEE/TNS

More than 2,000 visitors a day took the free Sriracha sauce-making tour during fall grinding season at Huy Fong Foods in Irwindale, Calif., where they could pose with a cardboard cutout of company CEO David Tran.

Looking for some HOT STUFF?

Californian Sriracha factory a very spicy place to be during grinding season



Above: A visitor to the Sriracha factory points his smartphone to capture the chili-grinding magic.

Right: The chilies are ground with garlic into a smooth paste before being packaged in squeeze bottles.

even Gov. Jerry Brown's Business and Economic Development Office weighed in as Texas Gov. Rick Perry tried to lure Huy Fong to his state.

By the summer, Irwindale finally woke up and smelled the Sriracha and realized what a good thing it had, dropped the lawsuit and deemed the factory a public nuisance no longer.

In response, Huy Fong's CEO, Vietnamese immigrant David Tran, made the savvy PR move to fling open the factory doors to free public tours during the three-month grinding season, running mid-August to late October. Which is why, on the last Saturday of October, scores of Sriracha supporters flocked to the manufacturing plant for a look-see. Rumor had it, too, that free samples might be included. And, if there's anything better than Sriracha, it's free Sriracha.

"It's the mystique of it that brings me here," said Veronica Hahn of nearby Monrovia. She'd come with sisters Christina and Tanya, Sriracha fans all. "It's been closed off for so long, and you heard so much about the people complaining, now they're letting people in to see behind the curtain. We had to come."

Before I made the trip to the grinding machine, where the eau de chili is said to be strongest, I stopped three visitors on their way out. They breathed in the fumes — enticing to many; noxious to some — and dismissed the complaints out of hand.

"It wasn't as bad as we expected," said Justin Hsu of Irvine. "They give you the tissue to cover your face, I guess, but you don't need it."

Camera-toting Sriracha tourists who filed into the grinding area with me were hardly overcome by wafting essence of chili. As I joined a family, leaning over the vat that takes the chilies dumped off trucks and transports them via conveyor belt to the grinder, I almost dropped my smartphone in the mix. When a worker, John Acuna, helped steady me, I noticed his eyes were a little watery.

"It's OK," he said. "It took me two weeks working here to get used to it. My first day, man, it was intense. My nose was running and eyes watering. Now, it's, like, no problem."

Only two or three of the hundred visitors I encountered opted to wear surgical masks, and many didn't even put to use the tissues workers handed out. Most were so enthralled with capturing, for their social media uses, the image of barrel upon barrel of Sriracha lined up along the factory floor, the processing of the savory elixir into the clear plastic bottles with green caps, and the packing into boxes to make way for public consumption.

After the tour, visitors flocked to the gift shop, where they snapped up T-shirts with provocative slogans playing off the spiciness of the sauce and the presening rooster. (A tame example: "This is why I'm hot.")

Out front, one of Huy Fong's top executives, operations manager Donna Lam, greeted visitors as they emerged from the experience and pointed them toward free Sriracha ice cream, Sriracha popcorn and chocolate, a complimentary T-shirt commemorating the company's 34 years, and a free bottle of sauce.

"David (Tran, the CEO) did this so people could see for themselves how sanitary we are and what the operation is like and to show we are not making toxic odor," said Lam, who added the company will likely resume tours next fall during grinding season. "There was talk that it was making people nauseous and giving them bloody noses. You saw that's not the case."

"The thing is, we do make hot sauce. You drive by Starbucks, you're going to smell them making coffee. But the issue is, is it making you people ill? No.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



DREAMWORKS ANIMATION/AP

Kowalski, Skipper, Rico and Private join forces with the chic spy organization North Wind to stop the cunning villain Dr. Octavius Brine from taking over the world in "Penguins of Madagascar."

A delightfully silly sequel

'Penguins of Madagascar' has plenty for kids, adults

By MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN
The Washington Post

The career trajectory of the four wise-cracking cartoon penguins introduced as minor characters in "Madagascar" has been one of meteoric ascendancy, with return appearances in two sequels, a couple of stand-alone shorts and a television show. It's not an unusual path in animated Hollywood. We've seen it before with *Scrat*, the saber-toothed squirrel from "Ice Age," who parlayed a cameo in the first film into a cottage industry of increasingly annoying shorts and a camera-hogging turn in the second sequel, "Dawn of the Dinosaurs."

But unlike that acorn-obsessed, chipmunk-checked, paleo-rodent ham, the Flightless Four known as Skipper, Kowalski, Rico and Private are ready for their moment in the sun. "Penguins of Madagascar" is a delightfully silly star turn for this quartet of absurd little birds, who operate as a team of commandos.

There are several reasons why this works. First is the voice talent. Although none of them is a marquee name, the actors who bring the penguins to life — Tom McGrath, Chris Miller, Conrad Vernon and Christopher Knights — do so with verve.

Other notably funny turns in "Penguins" include John Malkovich and Benedict Cumberbatch. Playing to type, the A-list actors provide the voices for, respectively, a villainous, emotionally unstable octopus named Dave and a heroic, cucumber-cool secret agent gray wolf whose name is classified. (That's right: the character's name is never given — "My name is classified" he tells us, in that mellifluous British baritone of his — leading to some giddy "Who's on first?" confusion.)

Which brings me to the real reason for the movie's success: the writing of the story, which concerns Dave's plot to kidnap penguins from all of the world's zoos and turn them into monsters.

Fleshing out characters created by "Madagascar" directors and writers Eric Darnell and McGrath, the screenplay by John Aboud, Michael Colton and Brandon Sawyer has a fizzy, pop-culture pizzazz, tempered by a distinctly vaudeville sensibility. It's smart, but not brainy; dumb, but never inane.

Colton, who was an editor of the Harvard Lampoon in college, worked briefly at The Washington

New on base

"Penguins of Madagascar" is playing at:

Europe

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

Pacific

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

Online: madagascar.dreamworks.com

Post in the late 1990s before leaving to form the now-defunct online humor magazine *Modern Humorist* with Aboud. Their work with Sawyer, a children's TV writer whose credits include the "Penguins" series on Nickelodeon, is perfectly aimed at the target demographic of silly but savvy 10-year-olds. One recurring joke involves Dave barking orders to his tentacled henchmen, leading to a series of increasingly nutty puns name-checking famous movie stars: "Nicolas, cage them!" "Charlize, there on the death ray!" "Drew, Barry, more!"

It's gloriously juvenile, but also very, very funny.

Other ingredients in this self-referential, pop-culture punner include a cameo by the German director Werner Herzog, playing the filmmaker and narrator of the penguin documentary that opens the film in Antarctica, where its prologue is set. Observing that our four heroes are "frozen with fear" on an icy precipice, Herzog orders his sound man to "give them a shove," in order to increase the drama.

And increase it, he does. One of those early scenes features a leopard seal eating a seagull. It's an indication of the dark edge that will give the story its slightly grown-up astingency. "Penguins of Madagascar" is by no means inappropriate for kids, but there's a coolly self-aware smirk to it that makes it palatable to people with driver's licenses, too.

"Penguins of Madagascar" is rated PG for mild action and some rude humor. Running time: 92 minutes.



JOHN P. JOHNSON, WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Fed up with answering to higher-ups, Dale (Charlie Day), Kurt (Jason Sudeikis) and Nick (Jason Bateman) decide to become their own bosses by launching their own business in "Horrible Bosses 2."

'Horrible Bosses' sequel thin on themes and gags

By ROGER MOORE
Tribune News Service

Your enjoyment of "Horrible Bosses 2" is almost wholly dependent on your tolerance for clusters of funny actors, babbling, riffing — and in the case of Charlie Day, screaming — all at once.

That's how they communicate. And if we get headaches listening to them, imagine how they're suffering for their art.

Because it isn't about bosses at all this time. But those poor working schlubs Nick, Kurt and Dale are still getting stiffed. As bad as it is they were the last time around, these clowns still think revenge will taste sweet.

We catch up with the trio as they're pitching their new gadget, the "Shower Buddy," a showerhead that dispenses soap and shampoo and conditioner, on local L.A. TV. The two goobers, Dale and Kurt (Day and Jason Sudeikis), are all about how to "be ourselves" on "Good Morning, L.A.," Nick (Jason Bateman) is still the deadpan voice of sanity.

"Let's NOT be ourselves. 'Our-selves' is a dumpster fire." They proceed to prove it when they're pursued by a home shopping mogul (Chris Pine) and his dad (Christopher Waltz). They are out-maneuvered and stand to lose their startup company, their dream of "never having to work for anybody ever again."

So naturally the two dummies start talking revenge, with the more-sane Nick trying to talk them out of it. They'll kidnap the son, ransom him to the dad and conduct a rough profane tirade of company from the very guy trying to steal it.

The guys have to cross paths with the survivors of "Horrible Bosses." Start with Kevin Spacey's hilarious ex-boss/nominate, hissing profane tirades of "advice" over a prison-visit phone, then check in with the coltishly named thug Jamie Foxx brought to life.

And then there's the sex-crazed dentist (Jennifer Aniston).

The film itself is thin on themes and gags; there's a big car chase finale and an infrequently amusing collection of

New on base

"Horrible Bosses 2" is playing at these installations:

Europe

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

Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenna, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: horriblebosses2.com

outtakes over the closing credits, where Bateman finally breaks his deadpan and Sudeikis finally comes off as clever.

"Horrible Bosses 2" is rated R for strong crude sexual content and language. Running time: 108 minutes.

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THUR NOV 27 - WED DEC 03

In Digital 3D: Big Hero 6 (PG)
Thur 8 Fri 13:30, 15:45, Sat 13:30, 16:00, Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 16:00

In Digital 3D: Penguins From Madagascar (PG)
Thur-Sun 13:30, 18:00, Mon - Wed 18:00

Gene Girl (R)
Thur 13:30, Fri 14:00

In 2D: Penguins From Madagascar (PG)
Thur 15:45, 20:30, Fri - Sun 15:45, 20:15, Mon - Wed 15:45, 20:30

The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1 (PG-13)
Thur & Fri 13:30, 15:00, 18:00, 19:00, 19:30, 21:00, 22:30, Sat 13:30, 15:15, 16:30, 19:00, 19:30, 21:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:15, 16:30, 17:45, 18:00, 20:15, Mon - Wed 13:30, 16:45, 18:00, 19:15, 20:30

Interstellar (PG-13)
Thur 17:30, Fri & Sat 17:30, 22:00, Sun - Wed 17:30

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WEEKEND: BOOKS

Award-winning words of war

'Redeployment' chronicles experiences of Iraq War troops

By JENNIFER HLAD
Stars and Stripes

Phil Klay was so sure he wasn't going to win the National Book Award for fiction that he didn't even prepare a just-in-case speech until the morning of the award ceremony, when his wife told him he had to write something.

Nearly a week after his name was announced at the swank dinner in New York City for "Redeployment," the 31-year-old Marine Corps veteran was still having a hard time believing he had won.

"It's a pretty wild thing," he said, laughing. "I'm still kind of amazed. ... I don't even know how to describe it."

Klay, who was also recognized by the National Book Foundation as one of "5 Under 35" authors, was a writer before he joined the Marine Corps and might have guessed he would write something about the military, but hadn't planned to write a book about Iraq.

Then, in 2007, he deployed to Al-Taqaddum Air Base for 13 months as the public affairs officer for the 2nd Marine Logistics Group.

"I went to Iraq, and then I came back. And then, of course. Of course that's what I wrote about," he said. "That was the thing that I was trying to make sense of: What was that? And not just 'what was that' for me, but 'what was that' for the people in my life."

But instead of a memoir, then-1st Lt. Klay began writing a short story from the perspective of a Marine infantry sergeant who has just returned home to North Carolina from Iraq.

After he left the Marine Corps in 2009, he began graduate school at Hunter College in New York and wrote other stories, told by other narrators: A chaplain. An artilleryman. A foreign service officer.

"For me, fiction is the best way that I know to write about this kind of stuff," Klay said. "If I was writing from my own perspective it would be my reflection on things that have happened to me. And

I like good memoirs, but ... I wanted to have a lot of different perspectives about the war, a lot of different experiences, a lot of disagreements about what the war was, what it might be."

It took more than four years to write the book, Klay said, and he worked hard to get the details right: interviewing other veterans, asking lots of questions, and finding people from other jobs and military occupational specialties to read drafts.

The feedback from veterans has been mainly positive, he said; for the most part, people were happy to see someone trying to tell the story from different perspectives, and to bridge the disconnect between veterans and civilians.

"We're a country that goes to war, and if we're going to be good citizens, all of us, veterans and civilians alike, we should be able to talk about what the experience of war means, so we know what hell we're voting for, what we're doing as a country," he said.

The hope Klay said he had with the book was to invite veterans and civilians "into the skulls of other narrators and really think about those people, what their story was and what it might mean."

In his award acceptance speech, Klay said he had returned from Iraq "not knowing what to think about so many things."

"What do you make of it when the middle school students you're teaching ask you if you've killed anyone, and are horribly disappointed when you say no? When strangers at a bar insist on treating you as though you must be psychologically damaged, just because you're a vet?" he said. "I don't actually have the answers to those questions, but the book was the only way that I knew to really start thinking them through."

Writing is a way of starting a conversation, he said, and he "can't think of a more important conversation to be having. War's too strange to be processed alone."

hlad.jennifer@stripes.com



ROBIN PLATZER, NATIONAL BOOK FOUNDATION/AP

Iraq War vet Phil Klay is the recipient of the 2014 National Book Award for fiction for "Redeployment," a collection of short stories.

Shane Harris' '@War' details rising military-Internet link

By TONY PERRY
Los Angeles Times

Although commonly attributed to George Orwell holds that good people can sleep at night only because rough men are awake and ready to protect them. But in the modern world, two other groups are also vital to a sound sleep: software engineers and computer geeks.

That's the scary but well-documented thesis of "@War: The Rise of the Military-Internet Complex" by Shane Harris, a deep dive into the world of cyberwar and cyberwarriors. The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks involved planes crashing into buildings; the next could be a surprise showdown of computer hackers that control the U.S. economy and government and much of its military capability.

"There is no concept of deterrence today in cyber," a former hacker turned security executive tells Harris. "It's a global free fire zone."

The U.S. military and intelligence community, Harris reports, were slow to join the cyberarms race but are now muscling up space, only modestly slowed by the revelations by former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden about domestic intelligence gathering that smacked of Big Brother.

Harris is even-handed in his references to Snowden, seeing him as neither whistle-blowing hero nor treasonous narcissist. "It turned out that the NSA, which wanted to

protect computers from Wall Street to the water company, couldn't keep a twenty-nine year-old contractor from making off with the blueprints to its global surveillance system."

Harris, a fellow at the New America



Foundation, knows his stuff: the people, the agencies, and the dizzying array of acronyms and clever mission names like Starburst, Buckshot Yankee, CAO (Tailored Access Operations) and ROC (Remote Operations Center). His reporting is thorough and his

narrative is smooth in conveying that nearly everybody is spying on and hacking everybody else.

The U.S. hacked the president of Mexico to determine if he was a dupe of the drug cartels. The Chinese slipped a bug into the laptop of the U.S. secretary of Commerce during a trip to Beijing. The email of then-Defense Secretary Robert Gates was hacked.

Chinese hacking is aimed not just at the U.S. military but also military contractors, including those working on the newest U.S. warplane, the Joint Strike Fighter, Harris reports. "Cyber espionage and

warfare are just the latest examples in a long and, for the Chinese, proud tradition."

To thwart the Chinese, and other nation-state and rogue adversaries, the U.S. is updating an old strategy: a partnership between government and industry.

Army Gen. Keith Alexander, NSA director and also commander of the U.S. Cyber Command, went to the 2012 Def Con conference in Las Vegas, "dressed in blue jeans and a black T-shirt, shedding his army uniform for an outfit more palatable to his audience of hackers and security researchers."

The speech went well, but the next year, after the Snowden revelations, Alexander's invitation for a return engagement was rescinded. Instead, the spymaster went to a rival conference, called Black Hat. He was booed and heckled and tried gamely to fight back. "We stand for freedom!"

Harris sketches the evolution of the White House attitude toward cyberwar.

As the book asserts, then-President George W. Bush authorized a computer worm called Stuxnet to frustrate and degrade the Iranian nuclear program but not inflict enough damage to alert the Iranians to the covert attack. President Barack Obama ordered Stuxnet enhanced so that about 1,000 centrifuges were destroyed by being forced to spin at dangerous speeds. While that might have slowed the Iranians' program by two years, "@

War" argues that it also alerted them to the hacking and limited the intelligence-gathering capability.

Obama also approved only the most modest changes in NSA snooping after the Snowden disclosures, Harris says.

Given the seriousness of the topic, "@War" is not a book with a lot of laughs. But there is some grim mirth in watching a midlevel Army officer puncture the arrogance of defense industry executives who felt their computer systems were secure from hacking.

Then there is Tor, which stands for "The Onion Router," a software download that allows Web users to mask their identity: "Anyone can use Tor — drug traffickers, child pornographers, hackers, terrorists, spies, all of whom have found it a viable means for achieving anonymity online and evading detection by law enforcement and intelligence agencies."

NSA and its British counterpart decided to penetrate Tor. Problem: One of Tor's biggest supporters is the State Department, which had invested millions of dollars in spreading software to allow pro-democracy dissidents in the Arab world and elsewhere to communicate online without being arrested by repressive regimes.

"The United States now has two competing and directly opposed policies: trying to prop up Tor and at the same time tearing it down," Harris reports.

Welcome to the modern world.

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“The November Man”: This is a tasty thriller with enough twists to keep you guessing until the end. Roger Donaldson, who directed Pierce Brosnan in “Dante’s Peak,” does a good job of putting together a film where the lines between good and bad aren’t just blurred, they’re obliterated. Peter Dinklage (Brosnan) is an ex-CIA killing machine who left the business behind after a tragedy during a mission. He is pulled out of retirement by his previous handler, Hanley (Bill Smirtovich), to save a woman who means more to Dinklage than just another assignment. Brosnan makes “The November Man” worth seeing.



RELATIVITY MEDIA/AP

Pierce Brosnan stars in “The November Man.”

“The Expendables”: An old enemy resurfaces to cause trouble for the heroes. Sylvester Stallone stars. Proves that when it comes to summer action movies, first and last impressions really matter. Both the explosive opening and the massive battle scene that caps the film offer some of the best full-throttle fun of the summer’s offerings. They are exciting enough to distract from a middle that sags under unnecessary dialogue, a travelpogue to put together the next generation of Expendables and pages of silly banter.

“MST3K: The Turkey Day Collection: Volume XXXI”: Nothing says the holidays like a bunch of bad movies to watch before and after the big meal. And this series always provides the worst in movie watching. Included in this collection are “Jungle Goddess,” “The Painted Hills,” “The Screaming Skull” and “Squirm.” They come in a tin box set stuffed with bonus features, including an interview with “Squirm” star Don Scardino.

Also out on DVD:

“The Giver”: A young man learns that there is more than his colorless world.

“Official 2014 World Series Film”: Follows the San Francisco Giants to their 2014 win.

“Phobia”: A man is trapped in his home by his own mind.

“History Presents: The Definitive WWI & WWII Collection”: A look at how the wars changed the world.

“Signed, Sealed, Delivered Christmas”: Four postal workers try to find the recipient of a Christmas card from the past.

“Tyler Perry’s A Madea Christmas”: Madea goes with a friend to pay her daughter a holiday visit.

“Inspector Lewis 7”: Kevin Whately and Laurence Fox return for a seventh season.

“A Royal Christmas”: Jane Seymour and Lacey Chabert star in this tale of a newly engaged woman who finds out her fiancé is really a prince.

“What If”: A pair of 20-somethings try to figure out what they mean to each other.

“Metallica: Some Kind of Monster”: Follows the band through three of the most turbulent years in their more than three-decade-long career.

“Jeeves & Wooster Complete Collection”: Hugh Laurie stars in this set that includes 23 episodes.

“Guardians of the Museum”: Game show where contestants must unlock secrets.

“Que Bonito Amor”: Mexican telenovela based on “La Hija del Mariachi.”

“Touch of the Light”: A blind pianist encourages a young dancer to follow her dream.

“Upstairs, Downstairs: The Ultimate Collection”: Set includes 81 episodes of the British series.

“Drunk History Seasons 1 & 2”: Historical reenactments are based on drunken storytellers.

“Extreme Manhunter Collection”: Includes three hours of wild footage.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

Billy Miller gives longtime soap character HIS OWN SPIN

By ALICIA RANCILLO
The Associated Press

So far, playing a recast character has worked to Billy Miller’s advantage.

He was the fourth actor to play Billy Abbott on CBS’ “The Young and the Restless” and earned three Daytime Emmy Awards.

Now, the 35-year-old actor is playing Jason Morgan on ABC’s “General Hospital” (airing Monday through Friday on AFN-Prime).

Steve Burton played Jason for 20 years until 2012, when the character was presumed dead. Recently, Jason was hit by a car, wiping away his memory (and giving Miller a clean slate to work with in the role).

“It would be ridiculous for me to mimic (the way Burton played him),” Miller said in a recent interview.

What he’s brought to the character so far is lively. His version of Jason (or “Jake” as he goes by now) smiles and jokes.

“It’s more fun in this genre whenever you can add some lightness to it or make it funny. You don’t get a lot of room for that so I usually look for it. It’s a scary position for this guy who is so lost and doesn’t know who he is, (so) you match that with a little bit of humor,” he said.

However, Miller looks forward to the day when Jason’s past collides with his present.

“It really does offer up some great story if we decide to go there. I really hope that’s how we explore this because I feel like that

might be more my strength,” he said.

He’s also looking forward to interacting with other “GH” stars such as Maurice Benard and Roger Howarth. He’s particularly interested in working with longtime star Anthony Geary, saying, “I can’t wait for that acting class.”

Miller left “Y&R” early this year. It was soon rumored that he would take over the role of Jason.

“It was entirely premature. I was fortunate enough to have considerable options,” Miller said. He was able to largely block out the chatter because he doesn’t use social media.

“Every girlfriend I’ve ever had, our first major fight that we had started off with a text that I thought was funny. Sarcasm clearly doesn’t work in print unless you put those little emoticons in there and I’m way too old to have to use emoticons,” he joked.

“General Hospital” has several hiatuses throughout the year, giving some actors time for other projects if the schedule allows. Miller also has a role on Monday’s “Major Crimes” on TNT and an upcoming episode of USA’s “Suits.”

“I’ve always thought the bigger your body of work, the more you’re able to survive for a longer time,” he said.



Miller looks forward to the day when Jason’s past collides with his present.

“It really does offer up some great story if we decide to go there. I really hope that’s how we explore this because I feel like that might be more my strength.”

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Billy Miller, right, stars, along with Rebecca Herbst on “General Hospital.” The show airs weekdays on AFN-Prime.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



ANIMAPRESS/DAVID NEW/THIS

Don't get left in the dark

Safety tips for night hikes

By HARRY JACKSON JR.
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Cold fall and winter night hikes heighten your senses, offer fewer bugs, a wider field of vision with bare bushes and trees, less light pollution for stargazing and a special sort of quiet. Hiking at night holds its own brand of fun, but safety is the first priority. This is a primer for folks looking for a new adventure.

Select a trail

- **Start small:** Night hiking can be an unexpectedly intense. Short, paved trails are ideal for beginners. Getting lost is unlikely, and you'll encounter fewer obstacles. Ease into the longer, complicated trails as you get more experience.
- **Walk a familiar trail:** Walk a trail during the day before trying it at night. The landscape looks different at night, as do landmarks and obstacles. Pay special attention to forks and crossroads.
- **Check the rules:** State parks are more likely to allow night visitors; some allow overnight stays. Conservation areas and municipal parks usually close at sundown.

Gear

- **Plan for cold and rain:** Be ready for surprises, though. Dress for the weather. Layer clothing. Carry a pocket poncho, which also serves as ground cover for sitting. They're as cheap as \$5 or expensive as a couple of hundred dollars.
- **A belt pack or small backpack:** You can throw in an extra sweater, paper towels, extra water, snacks. Don't overload it.



- **Light:** Headlamps that strap on hats are best for winter. Flashlights come as big and bright as you can carry. Ask store experts about night-vision filters for your lights. Carry extra batteries and a small, backup flashlight.
- **Cellphone:** Know emergency numbers for park rangers. Make sure someone knows your whereabouts. Set hourly or regular check-in times.
- **A whistle:** In case rescuers need helping finding you. Even small whistles are loud in a forest.
- **GPS and map:** A global positioning system and a map can help in case you need to call for help. Most cellphones have GPS. You'll appreciate it if you're injured.
- **Walking stick:** A stick can find holes and obstacles hidden in shadows and help feel the ground during an off-trail bathroom break.
- **Regular gear:** Bring water, a snack, a compass, reflective tape for walking on roads and anything you'd carry during the day.
- **Pack the pooch:** Even small dogs alert you to critters or other hazards. Use the shorter leash.

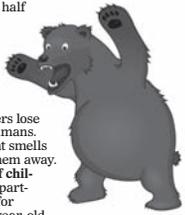


Things to avoid

- **Don't be afraid:** You'll encounter spooky forms and sounds. An owl might burst from a limb, a doe might bolt from a bush. You might see eyes glowing in

the distance. But that's half the fun.

- **Don't play night jokes:** Someone could get hurt.
- **Don't play with animals:** Public camping grounds and trash dumps help critters lose some of their fear of humans. They'll bite a finger that smells like food. Dogs scare them away.
- **Consider the age of children:** The Missouri Department of Conservation, for instance, often has 10-year-old minimum age for night hikes.



Safety tips

- **Walk with friends:** There's safety in numbers.
- **Walk slowly:** The ground has long shadows and higher contrasts that can hide obstacles.
- **Walk quietly:** Forest night noises are different; there's no city noise.
- **Practice light courtesy:** If you encounter other hikers, shine lights on the ground so the glow illuminates your space. Don't shine your light on houses that you pass.
- **Lost? Stay put:** If you have to call for help, don't wander.



WEEKEND: FAMILY



ANGELA PETERSON, MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL/TNS

Shafia Monroe demonstrates how to wrap 3-month-old Muntasir Mahdi in fabric during a doula workshop in Milwaukee. Monroe is the founder of the International Center for Traditional Childbearing in Portland, Ore.

Mother's helper

Doula training targets infant mortality among blacks

By ANNYSJA JOHNSON
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Tyanna McLaurin bends down and with a little help hoists 3-month-old Muntasir Mahdi onto her back. She wraps a bright cloth around him and, with a few twists and tucks, secures him in place — as she saw countless women do in her years in the Peace Corps in Ghana. “Babies carried on their mothers’ backs never cry; they hear the mother’s heartbeat,” Shafia Monroe tells the women gathered at the Body and Soul Healing Arts Center in Milwaukee.

“Look at that,” Monroe says as McLaurin stands upright with the child. “That’s a happy baby.” Monroe is leading a first-of-its-kind training in Wisconsin aimed at reducing infant and maternal mortality by encouraging women of color to become doulas, or birthing companions, and midwives.

The four-day program, offered by the Portland, Ore.-based International Center for Traditional Childbearing, draws on the centuries-old traditions of African and African-American midwives.

“When they eradicated the black midwife in the South, for various reasons, we lost that pillar in our community that kept us connected to our traditions and our spirituality,” said Monroe, the center’s founder and a certified midwife.

“We’re just re-empowering women to know what they’ve always known,” she said. “We’re working to bring back the wisdom of that legacy.”

Doulas, depending on their practice, offer a range of services to mothers through pregnancy and postpartum, from education and

Doulas offer a range of services to mothers of color in the Wisconsin Guild of Midwives.
Doulas offer a range of services to mothers through pregnancy and postpartum, from education and emotional support to attending doctor visits and accompanying them through the birth.

emotional support to attending doctor visits and accompanying them through the birth.

They are not midwives, who are licensed clinicians. But many who take Monroe’s course go on to seek that additional training. Research suggests that employing doulas positively affects birth outcomes for mothers and infants, according to Katy Kozhimannil, an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota School of Public Health who has studied their use.

“There is... unequivocal evidence that having a doula or continuous support during labor is associated with better outcomes — with lower rates of C-sections, epidural use and episiotomies, higher rates of spontaneous labor, and higher Apgar scores — and there are really no drawbacks,” she said.

However, low-income and minority women, who have the highest rates of infant and maternal mortality, often face barriers to access, including cost and the availability of providers who can relate to their cultural experience.

In Wisconsin, for example, there

are only two certified African-American doulas, and one woman of color in the Wisconsin Guild of Midwives.

The guild is sponsoring the training, which costs \$800 a person, with financial support from the March of Dimes and several other organizations and individuals. Most of the women have received a scholarship.

“There is an unbelievable disparity in birth outcomes between black and white communities, and this is not OK,” said Guild President Marilke van Rooijen, a licensed and certified midwife in Appleton, Wis. In June, for example, the City of Milwaukee issued a report showing that black babies in the child had three times the mortality rate of white babies.

At least two states, Oregon and Minnesota, have recognized the potential for cost savings and allow Medicaid reimbursement for the use of a doula.

Monroe’s program, which is just a first step in the process of doula certification, emphasizes breast-feeding, nutritional education and early and consistent neonatal care.

She walks students through the five main causes of infant mortality: genetic defects, prematurity, low birth weight, sudden infant death syndrome and accidents. But Monroe adds another: systemic racism, a view that is gaining traction among researchers.

Angst brought on by poverty, lack of education and opportunity, and proximity to violence “puts stress on all the organs, including the placenta,” causing some babies to be born too early, she said.

The course is a mix of intensive study and hands-on experiences, much of it aimed at building connections and “sisterhood” among participants.

SPOUSE CALLS

Photos personalize books by Marine wife and mom

Like many military spouses with small children, Alia Reese wanted an effective way to keep her young children connected to their Marine father when he was deployed. Alia, the author of “My Daddy is a Marine” and “My Mommy is a Marine,” said her books were based on methods that helped her own children during deployment. She also said the books help children understand the work of a military parent as a whole, not just his or her absences.

A mom with a master’s degree in psychology, Alia knew a photo album was an excellent tool to incorporate an absent parent in the family’s daily life and to illustrate the important work of a military career.

“I knew from my study... that children incorporate photographic images and frequently heard stories into their working memories,” she said. Regularly viewing photos of an absent parent helps children create memories of being near a parent even when they are physically separated, she explained.

Early in her husband’s first deployment, Alia created a series of photo albums and scrapbooks depicting her family doing things together. She also included photos illustrating her husband’s job, both at home and overseas.

Alia said her husband, Travis, was away for three of the first five years of their first child’s life.

“Emma and I looked through those books daily and talked about my husband so as Emma grew, her memories of Daddy stayed strong despite the frequency of his being away,” Alia said. “Emma maintains a good relationship with Travis, and she also developed a good rudimentary understanding of what Travis was doing and why he needed to be away so often.”

Though she found that more and more books were being created for military children, most were focused solely on deployment. Alia felt that subject needed to be integrated into books about military life and work, so that children could more clearly understand the reason for deployment.

After her second child was born, she decided to create books to meet those needs, so she wrote “My Daddy is a Marine” and a counterpart for military moms.

“Our family experience showed that we needed books to explain the job (my husband) does every day so that the periods of separation can be seen as a continuation of the same job, not as something new or different,” she said.

Alia has seen the broader impact of her books.

“At a book signing event I did at the Exchange at Quantic last year, a young girl kept walking past my table with her family,” she said. The little girl — accompanied by her mother, grandmother and siblings — kept walking and looking at the books displayed on Alia’s table, hesitating each time she passes.

After the third time, the grandmother stopped with the little girl and asked if she’d like a book. The girl said yes, but her mother seemed indifferent.

“The grandmother gave me an apologetic shrug as they walked off,” Alia remembered. “When the family had completed their shopping, they passed by my table again, on their way to check out, and the grandmother came over again and said that she was buying one anyway because her son-in-law had been killed, and this book was the first thing that had excited her granddaughter since receiving that news.”

Experiences like these and others leave Alia with no doubt that her books make a difference in the way children see their lives as part of a military family.

“One of the things that I frequently hear when I read my books to children is ‘My Daddy does that! My Mommy does that, too!’” she said. “Children are inherently very proud of their parents. This is an instinctive form of resilience, and they want to know and understand more about the job the parent does. This understanding, in turn, helps the child to make sense of his or her own life.”

Similar books for other military branches are in the works, said Alia, who distributes the books through her website, heartstapress.com. They are also available through the Marine Corps Association, Marine Corps Exchanges and other outlets, including militaryfamilybooks.com.

Terri Barnes is the author of “Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life.” Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at www.strikes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

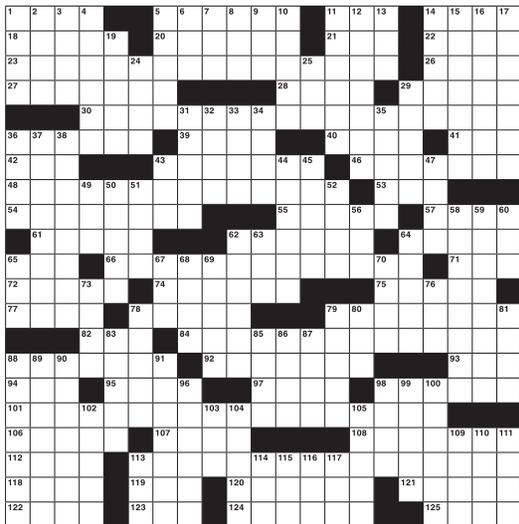
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SURROUND SOUND

BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 Canned food you don't eat
5 'Black Swan' director Aronofsky
11 Compete in the Winter Games, say
14 Lose strength
18 Whistle prompters
20 Become invalid
21 Org. that prepares tables
22 Norway's patron saint
23 Office missive sent out arbitrarily?
26 'Rent' character ___ Marquez
27 It borders five U.S. states
28 Yarn
29 What Gustave Doré's 'The Confusion of Tongues' depicts
30 Stone fruit?
36 Fellow sailors
39 Gourmand's want
40 Tailor's sideline?
41 Dark horse
42 Applicability
43 Back
46 Expander during inhalation
48 Aeronaut who's headed for the moon?
53 Headmaster honorific
54 Earnest request
55 Suffice with land or sea
112 Wind up
113 Lassie's affliction after failing to rescue Timmy?
118 C.P.A.'s study
119 1965 Johnny Mathis album of Latin American music
120 Turn while seated
121 'Into the Wild' star Hirsch
122 ___ mining informally?
123 Gender-neutral pronoun
124 Excomm-unicacion provocation
125 'It's a pity'
DOWN
1 Age of Aquarius hairstyle
2 Student's burden
3 Bad choice on first down
4 Retirement period
5 Possessor?
6 Medieval battle weapon
7 Dashboard abbr.
8 Kia model
9 Go astray
10 'That's amazing'
11 Moves obliquely
12 Last name in horror
13 Doctrine
14 George Eliot, but not Marilyn Manson
15 Chinese company whose 2014 IPO was the world's largest in history
16 Retail clerk's accessory
17 Glare
19 'You'll be ___'



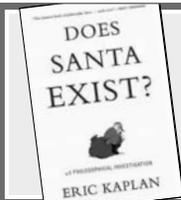
- 24 Some Veterans Day honorees, for short
25 Pentagon Papers subject, for short
29 Babe in the woods
31 Lead one to believe
32 Plane, e.g.
33 'Cubist' Rubi k
34 Diner unit
35 Not just see
36 Hybrid animal
37 South American capital
38 Arm of the sea
43 Was in session
44 Amenity in a G.M. vehicle
45 What some dreams and themes do
47 First Nations tribe
49 What doesn't come full circle?
50 Hear ___ again
51 'Bugsy Malone' star Scott
52 ___ avi s
56 Candy from Austri a
58 Briggs & ___ (engine maker)
59 Tinseltown event
60 Drift off
62 Nysaland, today
63 Parody
64 Problem of mistaken identity
65 Reformer from the time of D.D.E. to L.B.J.
67 Tommy Lasorda's jersey number
68 Resque balsh, say
69 Reacted to a shock, maybe
70 Steak
73 Broom for an investigative journalist
76 A.C.C. school
78 Five-time Jockey Club Gold Cup winner
79 Farm name ender
80 Unforthcoming
81 Reputation, informally
83 Have an encore presentation of
85 Abound
86 To be, to Balzac
87 Drops out of the sky
88 Played along with
89 'A poem in our eyes' per Emerson
90 Little pitcher's place
91 55 picture
96 Jessica Simpson's sister
98 No longer standing tall?
99 In readiness
100 Bronchial woe
102 Singer ___
103 First of 50: Abbr.
104 Source of the word 'splore'
105 2006 World Cup winner
109 Work hard
110 '___ and Basie!' (1963 jazz album)
111 Jim Beam and Wild Turkey
113 Gentle bird call
114 Palindromic animal
115 Once-high station?
116 'Paradise Lost' figure
117 Media exec Moonves

GUNSTON STREET



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RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



In the hands of acclaimed comedy writer and scholar Eric Kaplan, a search for the truth about old St. Nick becomes a deeply insightful, laugh-out-loud discussion of things we dearly believe in — that are not universally acknowledged as real. Just like Santa and his eight (or nine) reindeer.

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FACES



SMALL SCREEN SIRENS

Nicole Kidman, Reese Witherspoon among the latest film stars to try TV gigs

STEPHANIE MERRY
The Washington Post

COMMENTARY

Suddenly, Hollywood's biggest names all want to be a part of television's new golden age. The latest to follow the trend are Oscar winners Reese Witherspoon and Nicole Kidman, who will star in the adaptation of the novel "Big Little Lies" by Liane Moriarty, an Australian author who specializes in witty, incisive examinations of modern life. This particular story follows a trio of women with preschool-aged children.

The series, which will have a limited run, doesn't have a broadcast home yet, but is expected to go out to buyers soon. The project is a comeback for David E. Kelley ("Ally McBeal," "The Practice"), who is set to write it. And Witherspoon's production company, Pacific Standard — currently on a roll with "Gone Girl" and "Wild" — is involved.

The announcement comes as "True Detective" has finalized its next cast list, which includes big screen vets Rachel McAdams, Vince Vaughn, Colin Farrell and Taylor Kitsch, the former "Friday Night Lights" star.

This bug must be contagious. Either that, or the Who's Who of Hollywood have found the same merits in the small screen that Matthew McConaughey recognized before taking the role of Rustin Cohle on the first season of HBO's "True Detective," alongside Woody Harrelson: "Quality. Not only quality that specifically came out of 'True Detective' which was quality of the highest, but I'm talking about quality of television today," McConaughey told Business Insider. "Television is raising the bar on the character-driven drama series. It just is."

The time commitment probably helps. "True Detective" is an anthology series where each season has a distinct story and a different cast. For an actor, that's the same gamble as taking on a limited series format or a miniseries.

Nicole Kidman, left, and Reese Witherspoon will star in the limited-run TV series "Big Little Lies," based on a book by Liane Moriarty.

Photos by AP

The format has flourished to the point that even the Hollywood Foreign Press, which puts on the Golden Globes, addressed the trend. The category formerly known as miniseries will now be called "limited series," and includes anthology series with shifting storylines and changing characters. That means, come Jan. 11, "True Detective" could be up against other one-off shows with similarly impressive A-list cast members, including miniseries "Olive Kitteridge," anthology series "American Horror Story," anthology series " Fargo," and miniseries "The Honourable Woman."

Joining Witherspoon and Kidman on the slate of upcoming limited series is Scarlett Johansson, who will star in an eight-episode period drama adapted from Edith Wharton's "Custom of the Country." Marvel big-screen villain Tom Hiddleston will join "House" star Hugh Laurie in a John le Carre-based limited series, "Night Manager," on AMC.

Television movies, meanwhile, have also been gaining prestige and attracting big names. HBO seems to be leading the charge with its A-list appeal. The auteurs have hopped aboard the TV train, too, including Steven Soderbergh, Martin Scorsese and David Fincher, the "Gone Girl" director, who recently said: "Right now people are discovering television because it's where all the most interesting characters have gone."

Maybe that's why some actors don't mind betting big on television and joining regular series. Oscar nominees Viola Davis and Clive Owen now headline their own shows ("How to Get Away with Murder" and "The Knick"), while Oscar nominees Terrence Howard and Taraji P. Henson will star in the crime drama "Empire," premiering in 2015.



Best-selling author Sylvia Day an advocate for fans on upcoming 'Crossfire' TV series

BY LAURI NEFF
The Associated Press

Sylvia Day vows to protect her fans' favorite moments when her "Crossfire" erotic romance novels are adapted for television.

The best-selling author of the books following the romance of billionaire Gideon Cross and Eva Trammell is an executive consultant on the TV series optioned by Lionsgate Television. She says she's in frequent contact with producers and will be on the set for filming, adding, "It's like I'm

the readers' voice" as the books are transformed for television.

"I'll review scripts and remind them of things that I know as the writer, being very well connected to the fandom of this series, of iconic things: clothing, lines of dialogue, locations, things that they couldn't change because readers would immediately revolt," she says.

Day says Lionsgate has a director and a showrunner for "Crossfire," which she anticipates will premiere next year. "The pro-

ducers feel that it will take an entire season to explore one of the 'Crossfire' novels," she says.

Producers want to air the series on a premium cable network or a subscriber service like Netflix or Amazon Instant Video, which Day says would be perfect for the sexually explicit romance. "Of course it's going to be an erotic story," says Day.

"Does that mean it's going to be super graphic? I doubt it's going to be any more graphic than what you see on 'Game of Thrones.'"

Other news

■ Singer John Mayer, filmmaker Judd Apatow and comics Drew Carey, Wayne Brady and Jim Gaffigan are among the guest hosts that will fill in on CBS's "The Late Late Show" before new host James Corden takes over in March. The network on Wednesday announced its plans for the 12:37 a.m. time slot for the winter months after current host Craig Ferguson leaves. Ferguson's last show will be Dec. 19.

■ Publisher Faber and Faber says mystery writer P.D. James, who brought realistic modern characters to the classical British detective story, has died. She was 94. James' books sold millions in many countries and most were just as popular when made into television films. The publisher says James died Thursday at her home in Oxford, England.

■ Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee says it has canceled Bill Cosby's scheduled appearance Dec. 5 at a benefit dinner.

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OPINION

Time for Obama to listen on defense

By JAY AMBROSE
 Tribune News Service

It's a bit astonishing to think about, but President Barack Obama has now been criticized by three secretaries of defense and one secretary of state who served under him. And while the message may sometimes have been more implicit than explicit, or more subtle from some lips than others, a seemingly shared concern is that he may be riskily mismanaging our national security.

The most recent words came from Chuck Hagel, who resigned (or maybe was in effect fired) as defense secretary. Some say he was too unsure of himself from the start to do the job right, and other analysts chime in that no one with that job is really allowed to perform it under Obama. They say his national security advisers in the White House run things, Pentagon expertise is damned.

Hagel thought those advisers had devised a half-baked Syria policy, said so in a letter, and then, prior to the announcement of his coming departure, showed up on the Charlie Rose TV show with deeper concerns. This former Republican senator who had grave doubts about U.S. involvement in Iraq and was named in part to help reduce our military, suddenly found

the Islamic State on his plate. There was also Russia's reborn imperialism. China's wish to rule more of Asia, the issue of Iran maybe getting WMD, and a realization the military needed to grow, not decline.

The budget cuts he was supposed to be guiding would make the military the smallest it had been since before World War II, and, he told Rose, this nation will not then be ready or capable of doing what we need to do. The job of a leader, he said, is to do what we are not yet doing — getting ready for the future.

He did not specify Obama as the leader he had in mind, and the cuts are due to budgetary combat between Obama and Congress. Republicans clearly share fault here. But it has been reported that Hagel has been upset that Obama wasn't pushing harder to upgrade the budget, and Leon Panetta, who also served as secretary of defense under Obama, went after him in saying he did not have the passion to bring Congress around, as he thinks could have been done.

Panetta also thinks Obama could and should have kept occupying troops in Iraq after the war and, along with former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, thinks we could have done more to help the good-guy rebels in Syria. Hagel's letter on fighting the

Islamic State in Syria is said to have raised questions about whether we were helping or hurting the country's despotic president, Bashar Assad. Another former defense secretary, Robert Gates, has said we will not defeat the Islamic State with "no boots on the ground," as Obama pledged, although we will soon have 3,000 troops in Iraq.

Among other concerns, Gates agrees that cutting the military the way we are right now is a huge, huge mistake, and that's perhaps the most important defense issue. As big and mighty as we are, we have to stay that way and grow our defense at a reasonable, waste-wary rate if we are going to be able to deal successfully with all kinds of situations that are more than plausible, as Hagel said. Those saying we cannot afford it should know defense spending right now is put at 16.3 percent of the budget and is not the crucial deficit threat. The major budgetary issue is entitlements and must be refashioned anyway if we are not to be sunk by debt.

All of which brings us back to Obama. He won't listen to voters in the midterm elections. He certainly refuses to listen to the political opposition in Congress. But can't he at least listen to people he once chose to serve him as Cabinet officers?

Jay Ambrose is an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service.

When due process gets lost in the clamor

By KATHLEEN PARKER

WASHINGTON
 B now, most Americans probably have formed an opinion about what comedian Bill Cosby did or didn't do sexually to or with at least 16 women beginning in the 1960s.

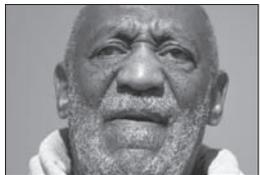
According to several women who have accused him of sexual predations, Cosby's usual modus operandi was to drug women who were with him voluntarily and then force sexual acts upon them.

We know these things based mostly on the women's media interviews. Even so, these are accusations rather than confirmable facts as required in a true court of law. Otherwise, there's no real evidence — no tapes or letters. No rape kits or photographs. One woman once did file charges against Cosby but that case was settled.

Whatever consolation this settlement might have brought to the alleged victim, a settled case doesn't count fully. Sometimes, especially concerning public figures, cases are settled just to end a nuisance.

In other words, we have formed our opinions based on no established facts and no evidence and only on the memories of the women, most of whom say they were drugged at the time. Some of them have conceded that their recollections are foggy, which of course they would be after decades and under pharmacologically induced circumstances, allegedly.

Use of the word "allegedly" intends no disrespect but is a requirement for journalists as opposed to people who chat online. Any charge is alleged until proved or a conceded true beyond a reasonable doubt by a jury of one's peers. This is how it's supposed to work, though it surely hasn't in Cosby's case — and probably won't, because of the state of limitations.



MATT ROURKE/AP

Comedian Bill Cosby has denied or declined to comment on accusations against him by numerous women.

This column is not a defense of Cosby but a reminder of our rule of law. We see in Ferguson, Mo., what happens when respect for our legal process is lost. Arsonists and looters expressed their outrage that a grand jury didn't act as they thought it should. Yet we hear people trying to defend these actions as somehow acceptable, or at least non-criminal, because of historical injustice.

Nonsense. Ferguson is what you get when mob rule overwhelms the rule of law, which was created as the defense of civilized people against the mob.

Not to conflate the two, the facts and circumstances are vastly different, but Cosby's online torching is nonetheless of similar gravity. He may as well walk out of town and tie himself to an anthill.

Did he do these things as alleged? With so many women speaking out, it seems likely that he did. His pattern of behavior toward women as related by others, not just his accusers, was not that of the guy we thought we knew. Indeed, we struggle to reconcile the disparity between the per-

sona of Dr. Cliff Huxtable and the allegations against Cosby.

Nevertheless, what you or I think in the absence of a trial to present and defend against charges with evidence and testimony under oath is irrelevant. It is at least a mockery of justice that bodes not so well for a present-future when lives are destroyed on the basis of, dare I say, gossip.

Anyone can say anything about another on social media — even charge rape — and it's extremely hard to recover from the effects. It isn't just Cosby's hide here, it's everyone's.

Many have lauded the power of social media in liberating people from the bonds of shamed silence. This technological development makes it possible for people who have felt too timid, afraid or disenfranchised to step forward. While this is certainly true and valuable to an extent, social media have enormous destructive power.

This intersection of freedom and responsibility has rarely been so vivid and presents new challenges to the personal moral code that undergirds our legal system.

For his part, Cosby has denied some claims and declined to comment on others, fueling skepticism about his innocence. He and his lawyers know that absent evidence, there's no profit in dignifying the charges. Hope hinges on the public's short attention span and bigger fires to put out.

Buried deep in our craws, meanwhile, lurking like a slimy Gollum, bug-eyed and deformed by envy and self-loathing, lies a second thought or three: Someday it could be these or me.

Whatever the truth about Cosby, due process has been the victim of what Clarence Thomas once called a high-tech lynching.

Kathleen Parker is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

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, with the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity. To write us, please refer to the Reader letters information on this page.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editors are provided by the Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Black victims, white officers Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

Tweets and Facebook posts, 30-second TV clips and lengthy newspaper articles have flooded the country since a white police officer shot and killed a young black man, Michael Brown, on Aug. 9, but observers, reporters and pundits could not do what a panel of citizens did in Ferguson, Mo.

The 12 members of the grand jury, for 70 hours spread over 25 days, listened to the testimony of 60 witnesses.

Some were experts who recounted facts, such as how many times Mr. Brown, 18, was hit (at least six) and where (his right hand and arm, the front of his body and his head). Other witnesses were friends, passersby and shop owners who explained what they had seen, or thought they'd seen, honest in their recollections even as they disagreed or contradicted one another. One witness was Officer Darren Wilson, even though it is unusual for grand jury testimony to come directly from the perpetrator of the event under scrutiny.

The panel concluded on Monday that no criminal charges should be brought against the officer. Its decision must be accepted and, while disagreement is understandable, crucial American news must speak out within the confines of the law.

Was the grand jury steered toward its conclusion by a prosecutor with a reputation for defending the police? The answer may never be known but, also unusual in such a case, the same prosecutor released hundreds of pages of transcripts from the closed-door proceedings so citizens can read the exchanges and decide for themselves.

At this stage, there is just one incontrovertible conclusion, one that cannot heal Mr. Brown's family and friends or quell the anger expressed in streets across America: Michael Brown, who was unarmed, had just completed high school, should not be dead. He should not be dead any more than Trayvon Martin should have died at the hands of a Florida vigilante or 12-year-old Tamir Rice should have died Saturday with a pellet gun in his hand, shot by a Cleveland police officer who feared it was a more dangerous weapon.

Yet they all are gone, and America is left wrestling again with a problem it has encountered over and over, each case with slightly different circumstances and each troubling because these tragedies at their core have something in common: Black victims, white officers and a nation awash in guns that can pose a lethal threat to both police and the public.

Too often race can be a factor in the fundamental divide, a reality that is not easy to accept in America, a land that was founded on the principle that all people are equal despite their differences.

How can this chasm be bridged? Michael Brown's is only the latest case that must force Americans to examine their approach to race, police and violence. The question is nagging and comes with no ready answer. But Americans who want to live in a land of fairness and lawfulness must be willing to work, as fellow citizens, toward change. The legacy of the victims demands it.

US oil industry is thriving Kansas City Star

The debate over the future of the Keystone XL pipeline has dominated discussions about energy over the last few years in Washington.

Despite all the attention, however, the project remains stuck in the legislative pro-



DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Margaret Morrow stands with others in front of the Ferguson Police Department on Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo. A grand jury's decision not to indict Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson in the death of Michael Brown has sparked protests nationwide, triggering debates over the relations between black communities and law enforcement.

cess. The U.S. Senate this week could not muster enough votes to approve and send it to President Barack Obama, where it likely would be vetoed.

But even as supporters' tantalizing promises of using the pipeline to create more jobs in America collide with detractors' claims that it would be an environmental nightmare, an unexpected reality has emerged.

America's oil industry is thriving again. Remember the bad old days, when the United States was said to be a pawn in the game played by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and Americans were just a civil war in a Middle Eastern country away from \$5 a gallon gasoline?

■ U.S. oil prices recently fell below \$75 a barrel. That's the lowest price in four years, adjusted for inflation, and well under the \$90 and \$100-plus costs during most of that span.

■ U.S. petroleum production topped 9 million barrels a day for a full week this month. For the year, the country is pumping more than 8 million barrels a day. That would be the highest level of domestic production in almost 30 years. Federal government predictions for 2015 show the daily output could exceed any other year since 1972.

■ Gasoline prices are below \$3 a gallon nationally, and closer to \$2.60 in the Kansas City area, at their lowest in five years when adjusted for inflation.

The sudden emergence of the United States as the third-largest producer of petroleum in the world, behind Russia and Saudi Arabia, has surprised even longtime experts in the industry.

As usual, the costs of dealing with environmental problems caused by tar sands oil are not included in the equation that supporters are using to try to pass the Keystone XL pipeline.

Still, the project eventually could move ahead in Washington, despite this week's defeat. With a larger number of Republicans in 2015, the Senate could be the vote needed to send a revived bill to Obama's desk. If he vetoes the pipeline, it might stop it once again — unless GOP leaders can muster enough allies to get to a two-thirds vote needed to override the president.

When that debate occurs, pipeline opponents will be able to point to the already much higher petroleum production in this

country and wonder if the environmental risks inherent with the pipeline are truly worth taking.

Immigration enforcement Los Angeles Times

The federal government's Secure Communities program has been as controversial as it has been counterproductive, so we're glad the Obama administration's new approach to immigration enforcement will mean the program's demise. Yet we also harbor some skepticism about its successor, the Priority Enforcement Program — and wonder whether there will be much difference.

Under Secure Communities, local police forwarded fingerprints of detained criminal suspects to the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security. Those agencies checked the prints against federal databases to find people with serious criminal records who were in the country illegally (thus targeted for removal). Database hits led to requests that the police hold the detainees past scheduled release dates pending further federal action.

Yet more than half of those eventually deported under the program had minor or no criminal records. Families were torn apart, and several thousand legal citizens were detained. In the worst cases, detainees languished in jails awaiting federal action without criminal charges or court orders, violations of the 4th Amendment for which federal courts have held the local agencies liable. The program generated so much mistrust that immigrant communities stopped cooperating with police in routine criminal matters. As local agencies began dropping out, the Department of Homeland Security tried in 2011 to fix the worst of the problems, with little effect.

Under the new Priority Enforcement Program, immigration agents will still receive fingerprints from local agencies, then make their priority those detainees who have been convicted of a felony, are gang members or pose "a demonstrable risk to national security." Lower-priority targets include those convicted of three misdemeanors or one significant misdemeanor (such as domestic or sexual abuse), new illegal arrivals; and those who "have significantly abused the visa or visa waiver programs."

To avoid the legal problems of uncon-

stitutional detentions, the federal government will now just ask local agencies to notify them when a potentially deportable detainee is scheduled for release. If Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents determine that someone should be detained longer, they "must specify that the person is subject to a final order of removal or there is other sufficient probable cause to find that the person is a removable alien."

Those are sound and reasonable parameters. But we can't help but note that Secure Communities was supposed to target the dangerous and the threatening too, not the otherwise law-abiding but undocumented. Given the history of Washington wanting one thing and immigration agents on the ground doing another, the proof will be in the execution.

New frontier of Ebola New York Times

The huge, impoverished country of Mali looks like the new frontier in the fight to control the Ebola epidemic in West Africa. The virus has killed thousands in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone, the three countries where the virus first emerged, but it has not gained much of a foothold there. Small outbreaks of 20 cases in Nigeria and a single case in Senegal were found in October. Now the potential for many more cases in neighboring Mali has health authorities scrambling to contain a small outbreak before it can get very far.

That will be challenging. At least six people have died from Ebola in Mali already, and the country's health officials, aided by American and international advisers, are racing to find, test and isolate, if necessary, hundreds of people exposed to an infected cleric who died in Mali last month after traveling there from Guinea. Many of the people had engaged in ritual washing of the dead imam's body, a particularly dangerous practice since the corpse is apt to be highly infectious and the mourners rarely wear protective clothing.

The dangers in Mali caused leaders in the United Nations and the World Health Organization last week to temper their earlier optimism that worst-case outcomes might be avoided if 70 percent of the dead could be buried safely and 70 percent of the sick treated by Dec. 1. Now they express doubts that the targets can be met and talk about containing the epidemic by the middle of next year.

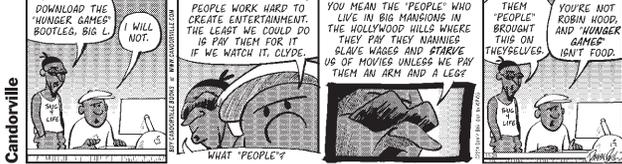
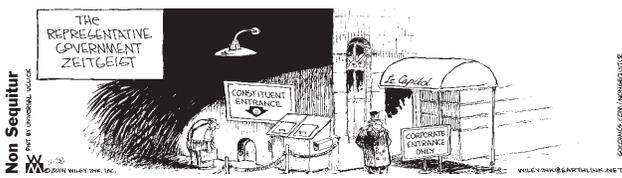
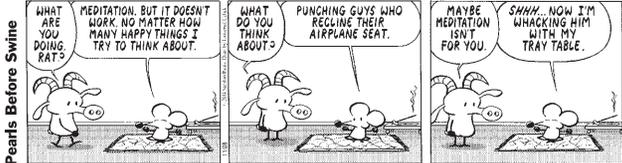
Dr. Margaret Chan, the director general of the WHO, traveled to Mali on Nov. 21 to encourage health workers in the anti-Ebola effort. The United Nations said it will open an emergency response office in Mali this week, signifying its importance as the latest hot spot. The next 15 days are deemed critical for ending Ebola transmission in Mali, the United Nations says.

Thus far the virus has sickened more than 15,000 people in the region and killed more than 5,400 of them, almost all within the three hardest-hit West African nations. Progress in containing the outbreaks has been slow.

Liberia, which has suffered the largest number of infections and deaths, has succeeded in slowing the rate of increase in new cases in recent months.

Sierra Leone's epidemic continues to spread rapidly while medical teams and supplies from the United States and other donors are unable to catch up. Guinea, where the outbreak first emerged, has suppressed it in some areas but not in remote jungle regions.

This is clearly no time for international agencies and national donors to let their guards down. The United States has led the international effort, and is contributing the most money, equipment and manpower and prodding other nations to increase their aid. The Obama administration has requested some \$6 billion to make further progress in West Africa and prepare American hospitals to cope with cases of Ebola in this country. Congress ought to provide every penny.



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

- ACROSS**
- Harness race horse
 - Dracula, sometimes
 - Poetic homage
 - Cognizant
 - Id counterpart
 - Renee's refusal
 - Earth tone
 - Overturn
 - Parish pastor
 - 29-Across, e.g.
 - Clay, since 1964
 - Male turkey
 - Thin in tone
 - Prepare to travel
 - When pigs fly
 - Score
 - Gum arabic
 - Art supporter
 - Dundee damsel
 - My brothers keeper?
- DOWN**
- de deux
 - Bowl over
 - Whim
 - Pennsylvania port
 - Do a double-take
 - Turn into
 - Culture medium
 - Surpass
 - Satirical newspaper, with "The"
 - Flower shop quantity
 - Foe
 - Helix
 - Prizes for "The Producers"
 - Suitcase
 - Legislation
 - Sleuth
 - Massages
 - Legitimate
 - Headgear for 37-Across
 - Take a knight off
 - Equi-
 - Cleo's slayer
 - Reveal
 - PC shortcut
 - Once more
 - Station
 - Tropical lizard
 - Passenger's payment
 - Abba of Israel's history
 - Folder feature
 - U.S.C. personage
 - Superlative ending

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

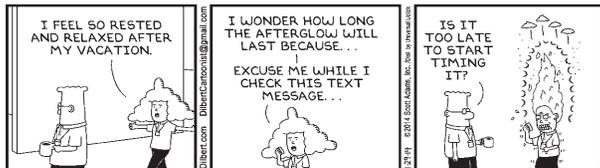
11-28 CRYPTOQUIP

GSHBDMS OS'M IOS LQUN XB
 ROL ZSADMSM IL G
 FQIFXFKBISK, OS ZSBUU
 MIBQKM LDI AZLK IOS HLRSK
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I THINK THE KIELBASA IS UNCOMMONLY LIGHT IN COLOR SO I'M PROBABLY EATING PALISH SAUSAGE.
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: S equals E

Frazz



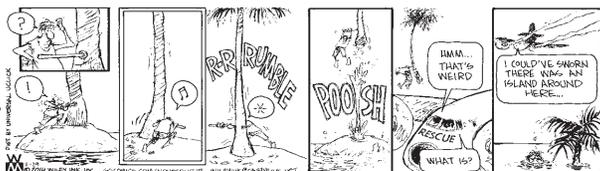
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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

- ACROSS**
- 1 Faintest
 - 6 Criminal
 - 11 Become extinct
 - 12 Argentine grasslands
 - 14 Plummer or Peet
 - 15 Slide specimen
 - 16 Boom times
 - 17 Hose woes
 - 19 Under the weather
 - 20 United Nations
 - 22 Branch
 - 23 Citric quaffs
 - 24 Church council
 - 26 Address Eden
 - 28 Fond du —, Wis.
 - 30 Likewise not
 - 31 Tumbler
 - 35 Zingers
 - 39 Transvaal trekker
 - 40 Roulette bet
 - 42 Cat call
 - 43 "Guinness Book" suffix
 - 44 Mites
 - 46 Moriarty, to Holmes
 - 47 2009 Hilary Swank biopic
 - 49 Hindu nectar
 - 51 Coe and Bannister
 - 52 "The Naked and the Dead" author
 - 53 Modeling substances
 - 54 More than enough
- DOWN**
- 1 Like a golf ball
 - 2 Logic
 - 3 A billion years
 - 4 Lather
 - 5 Nathan's "Castle" co-star
 - 6 Highway construction worker
 - 7 "Desire Under the —"
 - 8 Seven-faced doctor of film
 - 9 Big name in flatware
 - 10 "Whether 'tis — in the mind..."
 - 11 Paints messily
 - 13 Burrito ingredient
 - 18 Wall St. wheeler-dealer
 - 21 Shade
 - 23 James — Garfield
 - 25 Brylcreem application
 - 27 Plagiarize
 - 29 Buzzard's breakfast
 - 31 Perpendicular to the keel
 - 32 Universal
 - 33 Give the same old story
 - 34 Colonial castoff
 - 36 Fast-food freebie sometimes
 - 37 Half a pair for baby
 - 38 Talk a blue streak?
 - 41 Pulitzer category
 - 44 Ethereal
 - 45 Mosque bigwig
 - 48 Meadow
 - 50 Wardrobe malfunction

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

11-29 CRYPTOQUIP

G Q Q - O G Z C X O Z J N B G O X I
 C O Y P Z W K D G J K V W V N A Z K I
 J G O X I Z A D O Y S Z J X F O X K D N
 Z K K - X D O O Z B Y J P D I Y S K D N.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE HE'S THE ONLY MAN WHO REFUSES TO BE INTIMIDATED, HE REALLY STANDS OUT FROM THE COWD.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

BUSINESS/WEATHER

FTC deems Sony's PS Vita ads misleading

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Federal Trade Commission has some harsh words for Sony on Tuesday, announcing a settlement over charges that the gaming giant was not truthful in marketing its PS Vita. The FTC's claim? Sony promised that "game-changing" features would be available on the Vita, and they weren't.

It marks the first time the FTC has taken action against a company regarding how it advertises using Twitter. The FTC also has filed a complaint against Deutch LA, Sony's advertising agency, for asking employees to generate buzz on their personal Twitter accounts without disclosing their connection to Deutch LA.

In March, the FTC updated its online advertising disclosure guidelines to say that sponsored social media messages such as tweets should be disclosed to keep campaigns from being deceptive. Neither Sony nor Deutch LA immediately responded to a request for comment.

The complaint against Sony specifically refers to Vita's "cross-platform" gaming features, which let players link games on PlayStation 3 or 4 with the same titles on the handheld Vita. For example, on some Vita games, users can play on one machine, pause, then resume on the other — if they have bought the title for both the Vita and the PlayStation.

Those features were front-and-center in early ads for the Vita but, as the FTC said, it was "only

available for a few PS3 games, and the pause-and-save capability described in the ads varied significantly from game to game." The agency also said Sony and Deutch LA did not make it clear that players would have to buy the same game for each device to get the full benefits of play.

As part of the settlement, Sony will have to refund some PS Vita buyers. Those who bought the handheld console before June 1, 2012, are entitled to either a \$25 cash or credit refund or a \$50

voucher for certain games or services. The FTC did not say how many customers will be eligible for refund. It may not be too many considering that Vita sales started in February 2012, with a relatively quiet launch. Those who got the Vita for Christmas that year, or who bought it when the PlayStation 4 came out in 2013, for example, will not be eligible for the refund.

If you are one of the Vita owners who are eligible, Sony says it will let you know via email.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		
Euro costs (Nov. 28)	\$1.286	
Dollar buys (Nov. 28)	€0.7803	
British pound (Nov. 28)	\$1.61	
Japanese yen (Nov. 28)	115.00	
South Korean won (Nov. 28)	1,079.00	
Commercial rates		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771	
British pound	\$1.575	
Canada (Dollar)	1.1279	
China (Yuan)	6.1390	
Denmark (Krone)	6.9561	
Egypt (Pound)	7.1425	
Euro	\$1.2490/0.8056	
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.528	
Hungary (Forint)	245.88	
Israel (Sheqel)	3.8947	
Japan (Yen)	117.68	
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2110	
Norway (Krone)	6.8872	
Philippines (Peso)	44.97	
Poland (Zloty)	3.35	
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	7.9526	
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2987	
South Korea (Won)	1,101.50	
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9624	
Thailand (Baht)	30.94	
Turkey (Lira)	2.165	

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

MARKET WATCH

Nov. 26, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+12.81
17,827.75	
Nasdaq composite	+29.07
4,787.32	
Standard & Poor's 500	+5.80
2,072.83	
Russell 2000	+4.29
1,190.62	

Pacific gas prices were not available at press time.

**** Diesel EFD ****
Midgrade
For the week of Nov. 29 - Dec. 5

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.322	\$3.598	\$3.021	
Change in price	-7.3 cents	-6.9 cents	-6.5 cents	-3.3 cents
Netherlands	\$4.158	\$4.427	\$4.433	
Change in price	--	-1.5 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.5 cents
U.K.	\$3.282	\$4.052	\$3.901	
Change in price	--	-6.9 cents	-0.4 cents	-3.3 cents
Azores	--	--	\$3.686	--
Change in price	--	--	No change	--
Belgium	\$3.372	\$3.575	\$3.827	
Change in price	--	No change	No change	No change
Turkey	--	--	\$3.948	\$4.445
Change in price	--	--	No change	No change
Italy	\$4.428	--	--	\$4.466
Change in price	No change	--	--	No change

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	47	34	Clr	Fort Wayne	33	30	Clcy	Louisville	44	35	PCldy	Pocatello	54	35	Clr	Shreveport	64	52	Clr
Ablene, Texas	70	48	Clr	Cheyenne	62	37	PCldy	Fresno	69	45	Clr	Lubbock	73	39	Clr	Portland, Maine	34	13	Clcy	Sidney City	45	30	PCldy
Akron, Ohio	30	27	Clcy	Chicago	35	33	Clcy	Goodland	75	33	PCldy	Macon	55	28	Clr	Portland, Ore.	53	33	Clr	Sioux Falls	40	29	PCldy
Albany, N.Y.	33	19	Clcy	Cincinnati	38	30	Clcy	Grand Junction	55	25	Clcy	Madiison	29	26	Clcy	Providence	37	22	Clcy	South Bend	32	30	Clcy
Albuquerque	64	36	Clr	Cleveland	30	28	Clcy	Grand Rapids	29	28	Clcy	Medford	54	44	Rain	Pueblo	75	30	Rain	Spokane	50	27	Rain
Allentown, Pa.	37	22	Clcy	Colorado Springs	69	35	Clr	Great Falls	51	0	Clr	Memphis	54	44	Clr	Raleigh-Durham	48	27	Clr	Springfield, Ill.	56	42	PCldy
Amarillo	76	39	Clr	Columbia, S.C.	50	29	Clr	Green Bay	27	24	Clr	Miami Beach	69	59	Clr	Reno	65	36	Clr	Syracuse	32	21	Snow
Anchorage	27	22	Clcy	Columbus, Ga.	54	35	Clr	Greensboro, N.C.	42	27	Clr	Midland-Odessa	71	38	Clr	Reno	65	36	Clr	Tampa	63	47	Clr
Ashville	54	27	Clcy	Columbus, Ohio	35	29	Clcy	Harrisburg	50	22	PCldy	Milwaukee	31	29	Clr	Richmond	43	27	Clr	Tallahassee	52	32	Clcy
Atlanta	48	35	Clr	Concord, N.H.	34	7	Snow	Hartford Springf	36	19	PCldy	Mpls-St. Paul	29	22	Snow	Roanoke	40	28	PCldy	Tampa	63	47	Clr
Atlantic City	40	25	Clr	Corpus Christi	76	60	Clr	Helena	49	20	Clcy	Missoula	41	32	Rain	Rochester	32	25	Snow	Tepeka	57	41	Clr
Austin	74	54	PCldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	66	53	Clr	Honolulu	84	69	Clr	Mobile	68	43	Clr	Rockford	32	29	Clcy	Tucson	82	46	Clr
Baltimore	40	30	Clr	Dayton	34	29	Clcy	Houston	70	57	Clr	Montgomery	55	32	Clr	Sacramento	62	49	PCldy	Tucson	82	46	Clr
Baton Rouge	62	48	Clr	Daytona Beach	61	44	Clr	Huntsville	50	36	Clr	Nashville	49	36	Clr	San Antonio	58	39	Clr	Tupelo	53	38	Clr
Bismarck	33	21	Clcy	Denver	72	36	Clr	Indianapolis	55	25	Clcy	New Orleans	61	51	Clr	St. Petersburg	58	31	Clr	Waco	64	53	Clr
Birmingham	52	36	Clr	Des Moines	42	33	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	59	41	Clr	New York City	48	36	PCldy	St. Thomas	86	78	Clr	Washington	40	32	Clr
Bismarck	33	21	Clcy	Detroit	30	28	Clcy	Jacksonville	57	36	Clr	Newark	39	26	PCldy	Salem, Ore.	51	39	Clr	Wichita	62	60	PCldy
Boise	52	40	Clcy	Duluth	17	16	Snow	Juneau	27	14	Clr	Norfolk, Va.	42	30	Clr	Salt Lake City	61	39	PCldy	W. Palm Beach	68	60	PCldy
Boston	36	22	Snow	El Paso	68	39	Clr	Kansas City	54	41	Clr	North Platte	67	28	Clr	San Angelo	72	46	Clr	Wichita Falls	69	47	Clr
Bridgport	38	21	PCldy	Elkins	31	23	Clcy	Key West	69	64	Clr	Okahoma City	48	39	Clr	San Antonio	71	53	PCldy	Wilkes-Barre	33	19	PCldy
Brownsville	76	61	PCldy	Erie	29	28	Clcy	Knoxville	43	30	Clr	Omaha	47	30	PCldy	San Diego	74	57	Clr	Wilmington, Del.	39	27	Clr
Buffalo	30	26	Clcy	Eugene	53	41	Rain	Lake Charles	63	55	Clr	Orlando	63	45	Clr	San Francisco	62	53	PCldy	Yakima	53	27	Clcy
Butte	30	19	Clcy	Evansville	43	35	PCldy	Lansing	29	28	Clr	Pasadena	48	39	Clr	San Jose	68	47	Clr	Youngstown	29	25	Clcy
Caribou, Maine	21	6	Clcy	Fairbanks	-2	-8	Clr	Las Vegas	71	48	Clr	Pendleton	59	34	Rain	San Juan, P.R.	83	76	Clr				
Casper, Wyo.	54	33	Clr	Fargo	24	18	Clcy	Lexington	40	31	PCldy	Peoria	39	29	Clcy	Santa Fe	63	28	Clr				
Charleston, S.C.	51	29	Clr	Flagstaff	63	29	Clr	Lincoln	52	29	Clr	Philadelphia	39	27	Clr	St. Marie	23	22	Snow				
Charleston, W.Va.	39	29	Clcy	Flint	28	27	Clcy	Little Rock	58	46	Clr	Phoenix	79	53	Clr	St. Michael	54	31	Clr				
Charlotte, N.C.	46	29	Clr	Fort Smith	63	47	Clr	Los Angeles	78	57	Clr	Pittsburgh	30	27	Clcy	Seattle	47	32	Rain				

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STARS AND STRIPES

INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

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

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

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

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

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

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

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

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

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

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

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

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



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

needs of their respective military communities.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

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NBA

First Wiggins-Parker meeting mostly forgettable

By JON KRAWCZYNSKI
The Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Andrew Wiggins and Jabari Parker didn't exactly deliver the instant-classic game that fellow rookie Zach LaVine predicted for the first regular-season matchup between the top two picks from the June draft.

Instead, it was Milwaukee's defense that stood out, grinding down the undermanned Minnesota Timberwolves and putting yet another mark in the win column for the surprising Bucks.

Larry Sanders had 15 points, seven rebounds and five attempts to hit the Bucks to a 103-86 victory over the Timberwolves on Wednesday night.

Brandon Knight scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter for the Bucks (9-7), who have won five of their last seven games in a spirited start under new coach Jason Kidd. Parker added 11 points and seven boards for Milwaukee.

"I thought defensively, Larry, everyone that was on the floor was at a very high level," Kidd said.

Wiggins had 14 points, eight rebounds, four assists and two blocks for the Wolves, who had just 10 healthy players and third-stringer LaVine was their only available point guard. Corey Brewer added 19 points.

"We've got a lot of guys playing roles their not accustomed to playing," Wolves coach Flip Saunders said.

The future of the league was on display on Wednesday night with each team starting two 19-year-olds — Wiggins and LaVine for Minnesota and

Parker and Antetokounmpo for Milwaukee. It's the first time in NBA history that four teenagers have played in the same game, let alone started.

All eyes were on Wiggins and Parker, the top two picks in the draft. Wiggins was drafted by Cleveland ahead of Parker, but was traded to Minnesota in the package that brought All-Star Kevin Love to the Cavaliers. Both players have impressed early with their willingness to assimilate to the team concept as opposed trying to dominate the ball and take the bulk of the shots.

They rarely met eye-to-eye on Wednesday but Wiggins did swat Parker's layup attempt in the third quarter, bringing the crowd to its feet.

Thaddeus Young made his return to the lineup for the Wolves after missing the past five games to mourn the death of his mother. Young missed his first eight shots and finished with three points on 1-for-10 shooting. Mo Williams, who has been starting for injured point guard Ricky Rubio, missed the game with an illness.

There was considerable debate as to who belonged in that first spot in the draft, Wiggins or Parker. Both downplayed the individual portion of the game, but LaVine, who was the 13th pick, knew better.

"How highly touted they were in high school, even in grade school coming up. They were both No. 1, No. 2 and just switching on and off their whole careers," LaVine said earlier this week. "I feel like it might be like that even [in the NBA] because they're just going to be going at each other."



Jim Mone/AP

The Timberwolves' Andrew Wiggins, left, didn't meet up with the Bucks' Jabari Parker that often in the first game between the heralded rookie teams on Wednesday in Minneapolis.



DARREN ARAT/AP

Spurs guard Tony Parker passes around the Pacers' A.J. Price on Wednesday in San Antonio. Parker had 21 points as the Spurs won without coach Gregg Popovich, who was resting after a medical procedure.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Toronto	13	2	867	0
Brooklyn	6	8	429	6 1/2
Boston	7	8	333	9 1/2
New York	4	12	229	13
Philadelphia	0	15	000	13

Southeast Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Washington	9	5	643	—
Atlanta	7	7	538	1 1/2
Miami	8	7	533	1 1/2
Orlando	6	11	353	4 1/2
Charlotte	4	12	250	6

Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Chicago	6	6	600	—
Milwaukee	9	7	563	1/2
Cleveland	10	7	500	1 1/2
Indiana	6	9	400	3
Detroit	3	12	200	6

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Memphis	13	2	867	—
San Antonio	10	4	714	1
Dallas	11	5	688	2 1/2
New Orleans	7	6	538	5

Northwest Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Portland	7	3	800	—
Denver	7	8	467	5
Utah	3	12	200	9 1/2
Oklahoma City	4	12	250	8 1/2
Minnesota	5	10	331	8

Pacific Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Golden State	12	2	857	—
L.A. Clippers	9	5	643	3
Phoenix	10	6	625	3
Sacramento	9	6	600	3 1/2
L.A. Lakers	7	12	369	9 1/2

Wednesday's games

Brooklyn 99, Philadelphia 91
Golden State 111, Orlando 96
Portland 105, Charlotte 97
Cleveland 113, Washington 87
Dallas 109, New York 102, OT
Toronto 126, Atlanta 115
L.A. Clippers 104, Detroit 98
Oklahoma City 97, Utah 82
Houston 102, Sacramento 89
Milwaukee 103, Minnesota 86
San Antonio 106, Indiana 100
Phoenix 120, Denver 112
Memphis 99, L.A. Lakers 93

Thursday's games

No games scheduled	
Friday's games	Chicago at Boston
	Golden State at Charlotte
	New Orleans at Atlanta
	Dallas at Toronto
	Milwaukee at Detroit
	New York at Oklahoma City
	L.A. Clippers at Houston
	Orlando at Indiana
	Sacramento at San Antonio
	Phoenix at Denver
	Memphis at Portland
	Minnesota at L.A. Lakers

Saturday's games	
	San Antonio at Philadelphia
	New Orleans at Washington
	Dallas at Philadelphia
	Indiana at Cleveland
	Charlotte at Atlanta
	L.A. Clippers at Utah
	Houston at Milwaukee

Sunday's games	
	San Antonio at Boston
	Chicago at Brooklyn
	Golden State at Detroit
	Memphis at Sacramento
	Miami at New York

Monday's games

	Miami at Washington
	San Antonio at Philadelphia
	Denver at Utah
	Minnesota at L.A. Clippers

NBA worst starts

Longest losing streaks to start the season in NBA history (currently):
18 — New Jersey Nets, Oct. 28 to Dec. 2, 2009
17 — Los Angeles Clippers, Feb. 5 to March 10, 1999
17 — Miami Heat, Nov. 5 to Dec. 12, 1988
16 — Los Angeles Clippers, Nov. 4 to Dec. 5, 1994
15 — x-Philadelphia 76ers, Oct. 29 to Nov. 26, 2011
15 — Philadelphia 76ers, Oct. 10 to Nov. 10, 1972
15 — Cleveland Cavaliers, Oct. 14 to Nov. 10, 1970
15 — Denver Nuggets, Oct. 29 to Nov. 25, 1949

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Iron Bowl warmups over for Tide, Tigers

Annual rivalry matchup has national championship implications for sixth straight season

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Maybe Alabama and Auburn had something else on their minds entering the Iron Bowl warmup acts, like each other.

It took both teams some time to get going against FCS teams on Saturday. Now, the second-ranked Crimson Tide and 15th-ranked Tigers can turn their focus exclusively to the rivalry — already a hot topic year-round among fans in the state.

“It’s the biggest college rivalry in history, so of course you’re going to want to have fun and do the things you’ve got to do to prepare for it,” Alabama linebacker Reggie Ragland said.

For the sixth straight year, Saturday night’s game at Bryant-Denny Stadium will have national title implications. The winner of the Iron Bowl has won four of the last five BCS championships. Both were in contention for the national title going into the 2013 game, won by Auburn on Chris Davis’ 109-yard return of a missed field goal on the final play.

Now, the Tide (10-1, 6-1 Southeastern Conference) is the only Iron Bowl participant left standing. Alabama, which holds the top spot in the College Football Playoff rankings, can secure a berth for the SEC championship game against either No. 8 Georgia or No. 17 Missouri with a victory.

Auburn (8-3, 4-3) is angling to



VASHA HUNT, AL.COM/AP

Alabama running back Derrick Henry (27) works through drills during practice on Wednesday at the Thomas-Drew Practice Facility in Tuscaloosa, Ala. Also pictured: running back Buckley Pell (25), running back Jalston Fowler (45), tight end Michael Nwsewander (46) and tight end Corey McCarron (47).

play the spoiler and land a bigger bowl.

Chances are, neither team will struggle to get up for this one.

“When you play a game like the Iron Bowl, it’s always in the back of your mind,” Tigers linebacker Kris Frost said. “It’s in the back of your mind at the beginning of the season. You don’t look past

any team, but you know that game means a lot to us obviously being the biggest football rivalry in the country.”

Auburn, which had dropped two straight games, trailed 7-0 midway through the second quarter of the eventual 31-7 victory over Samford. The Tide led just 17-14 early in the second quarter

before rolling to a 48-14 win over Western Carolina.

Alabama coach Nick Saban was at a loss when asked about the challenge of keeping his players focused on Saturday’s game with the Iron Bowl looming.

“I obviously don’t have the answer to that question, so it’s more difficult than what I can figure



No. 2 Alabama
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1:45 a.m. Sunday CET
8:45 a.m. Sunday JKT

out,” he said. “We were as flat as a pancake when we went out there, so I didn’t do a very good job.”

Auburn is dealing with its own lingering issues. The Tigers rose as high as No. 3 in the playoff rankings before fumbling away the Texas A&M game and getting routed at Georgia.

The slow start against Samford had fans even more restless.

Quarterback Nick Marshall, once regarded as a Heisman Trophy candidate, was held to 171 passing yards and minus-8 yards rushing. He came in having run for 739 yards.

He and his Alabama counterpart, Blake Sims, both played deeper into Saturday’s games than their coaches probably wanted. Sims is getting his first Iron Bowl start in his final game at Bryant-Denny.

“I’m just happy to have the opportunity to play in it,” he said. “I’ve been waiting five years for it. Auburn is a great team.”

Last year’s loss still stings for No. 2 Alabama

By JOHN ZENOR
The Associated Press

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. — Auburn players have delighted in the frequent replays of the final play of last year’s Iron Bowl.

At Alabama, Chris Davis’ last-play return of a missed field goal remains a sore subject.

Whether it causes heartache or elation, it’s been hard to escape the play that sealed “Kick-Six” and Davis’ name forever into the Iron Bowl vault. That’s especially true now with the second-ranked Crimson Tide preparing to host the 15th-ranked Tigers Saturday night after the two bitter rivals produced one of college football’s most memorable finishes.

“It shows up on the TV every now and again, and it breaks our heart every time,” Tide safety Landon Collins said. “In one second they took our whole chance away of winning anything, and definitely it rewinds in my head. Definitely it will rewind in my head constantly throughout this week.”

The Tide (10-1, 6-1 Southeastern Conference), the top-ranked team in the College Football Playoff rankings, is once again playing to keep its national title hopes alive. An Alabama win or a loss by No. 4 Missis-

‘It shows up on TV every now and again, and it breaks our heart every time. In one second, they took our whole chance away of winning anything, and definitely it rewinds in my head.’

Landon Collins
Alabama safety

issippi State to No. 18 Mississippi secures a spot in the SEC championship game.

Last year, Davis’ 109-yard return, only the fourth such play recorded by the NCAA, gave the fourth-ranked Tigers a 34-28 over the No. 1 Tide. They ultimately played for the national title instead of the Bama team many expected to get that shot.

Alabama’s Adam Griffith, now the starting kicker, lined up for a 57-yard field goal attempt with one second remaining in a tied game. It fell short, Davis returned it from the back of the end zone and Auburn fans blanketed the length of the field in celebration.

The play has gotten more than 3.3 million views on YouTube. It spawned T-shirts (“Got a Second?”) and taunts from Auburn fans in a rivalry that never takes a day off.

“I feel like with a great play like that, it deserves to be played over and over again,” Auburn linebacker Kris Frost said.

Tigers receiver Quan Bray said he’s seen the replay “a couple hundred times, seems like.”

It’s probably nowhere near that many for Tide players, who had been seeking a third straight national title.

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims said he’s more likely to “click it off” when the replay comes on TV. Right tackle Austin Shepherd said he “could really care less about last year” and that both teams are totally different. He also downplayed it as a lucky play.

“I take Coach (Nick) Saban’s rule to heart, the 24-hour rule,” Shepherd said. “Twenty-four hours it’s over. I’ve just

kind of moved on from last year. A lot of people are lucky and they got lucky. Luck happens.”

Saban and Auburn offensive coordinator Rhett Lashlee say the staffs aren’t using the play as motivation for the rematch, when Alabama is favored by 9½ points.

“We’re not going to bring it up or talk about it because it can’t help us this year,” Lashlee said.

When Saban looks back on the ending, he goes beyond Davis’ return. Alabama missed four field goals, the first three by Cade Foster, and gave up a touchdown pass with 32 seconds left. A dropped touchdown pass and a failed fourth-down try deep in Auburn territory were also factors in the final outcome.

Ditto for officials putting one more second back on the clock after a T.J. Yeldon run.

“We all kind of remember what happened,” Saban said. “It was very, very disappointing to all of us here. Not just the last play but the last five minutes of the game that we never really ever finished the game like we needed to.

“It was a tough way to lose a game, and I’m sure everybody sort of has that in mind.”

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Big 12 keeps title intrigue to final game

TCU, Baylor want league crown to claim a playoff final four spot

By STEPHEN HAWKINS
The Associated Press

The drama in the Big 12 Conference will again carry all the way to the end of the regular season.

For the fourth year in a row since the league went to 10 teams and a round-robin schedule, the champion — and very possibly co-champions again — won't be decided until the first Saturday in December. That is even after Big 12 co-leaders No. 5 Baylor, No. 6 TCU and No. 11 TCU Kansas State all play rivalry games Thanksgiving weekend.

"That's a pretty astonishing fact that there's that much parity in the league, that it goes down to the last game of the season or the last week of the season for four years straight," Baylor coach Art Briles said Monday.

The Bears were in that spot last year, clinching their first Big 12 title outright with a victory over Texas in the league's very last game of the regular season after Oklahoma State lost to Oklahoma earlier in the day.

"Everybody else is having conference championship games ... we're playing for the league title because you played everybody," TCU coach Gary Patterson said during the weekly Big 12 coaches teleconference. "That's what they're having championship games to do, and we're doing that already."

TCU (9-1, 6-1 Big 12), trying to become the sixth team in six seasons to claim a Big 12 title, played at Texas on Thanksgiving night and is home against Iowa State on Dec. 6, the same day Kansas State (8-2, 6-1) plays at Baylor (9-1, 6-1).

K-State hosts Kansas this Saturday, when Baylor plays Texas Tech at the Dallas Cowboys' stadium in Arlington, Texas.

"All of our focus and energy right now is on Texas Tech," Briles said. "There is no Saturday past this Saturday at Arlington."

The Big 12 is the only one of the five power conferences without a championship game. The SEC, Big Ten, Pac-12 and ACC all wrap up their regular seasons this week before title games the first weekend in December.

Two years ago, Kansas State beat Texas in the last game to get the league's guar-

anteed BCS spot in the Fiesta Bowl. The Wildcats shared the league title with eight-time Big 12 champion Oklahoma, which had won earlier that same day at TCU but lost to K-State earlier in the season.

Oklahoma State won its season finale over the Sooners to win outright instead of having to share with Kansas State in 2011, the first year as a 10-team league and no longer with a championship game.

Kansas State coach Bill Snyder initially made reference to the new four-team Col-

lege Football Playoff when asked Monday about how good it was for the Big 12 to keep having league title-impacting games through the end of the season.

"We'll probably have a better idea, be able to answer the question a little bit better after the quote, unquote, playoff system, and the final four so to speak are determined," Snyder said. "I think that would probably identify whether it was a plus or a minus."

The final poll determining the four play-



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Baylor OT Spencer Drango lifts running back Shock Linwood after Linwood scored against Oklahoma State. The Bears are tied for the Big 12 lead but are off TCU in the playoff rankings.

off teams will be released Dec. 7, the day after the Big 12 wraps up its season and all the other leagues play their championship games.

Patterson on Tuesday recalled "being outside looking in" while in the Mountain West and other conferences when "everything had to line up just exactly right for us to get where we needed to get."

Just like then, Patterson knows his team can only control what it does while trying to win a Big 12 title and possibly enough to impress the playoff selection committee. That committee had the Frogs ranked No. 4 just two weeks ago, but dropped them a spot after a 34-30 win at Kansas and kept them there Tuesday night.

Baylor is seventh this week, and K-State 12th.

What about the season-ending Big 12 championship drama without considering the playoff system?

"There's obviously some enthusiasm and excitement for it, and it carries its own meaning," Snyder said. "So I don't have any complaints with it."



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

TCU quarterback Trevone Boykin celebrates a touchdown against Texas Tech last month in Fort Worth, Texas. The Horned Frogs are hoping to become the sixth team in six seasons to win the Big 12 title. TCU is tied with Baylor and Kansas State atop the conference, which is the only one of the Big Five to play a regular season round-robin and not have a championship game.

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College GameDay



Jay LaPietre/AP

Player to watch

J.T. Barrett QB|Ohio State

Ohio State's offense relies heavily upon freshman quarterback J.T. Barrett, whose 42 touchdowns (33 passing, nine rushing) match the Big Ten record set by Drew Brees with Purdue in 1998.

"That's pretty powerful stuff," Buckeyes coach Urban Meyer said.

The Buckeyes must get past rival Michigan to remain in contention for the College Football Playoff. Next week, they'll play for the Big Ten Championship.

Michigan at No. 7 Ohio State
6 p.m. Sunday, CET

2 a.m. Sunday Japan/Korea, AFN-Sports



Burch DILL/AP

Auburn running back Cameron Artis-Payne, the SEC rushing leader, could play a key part for the Tigers on Saturday in their bid to spoil No. 2 Alabama's quest for a spot in the College Football Playoff.

SERVICE ACADEMIES



Air Force at Colorado State
Last week: Lost to San Diego State, 30-14



Army does not play
Last week: Lost to Fordham, 42-31
Next game: vs. Navy, Dec. 13 at Baltimore



Navy at South Alabama
Last week: Beat Georgia Southern 52-19
Next game: vs. Army, Dec. 13 at Baltimore

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday

No. 6 TCU at Texas

Friday

No. 9 UCLA vs. Stanford
No. 12 Arizona vs. No. 13 Arizona State

No. 17 Missouri vs. Arkansas
No. 19 Marshall vs. Western Kentucky
No. 21 Colorado State at Air Force

Saturday

No. 1 Florida State vs. Florida
No. 2 Alabama vs. No. 15 Auburn
No. 3 Oregon at Oregon State
No. 4 Mississippi State at No. 18 Mississippi

No. 5 Baylor vs. Texas Tech at Arlington, Texas
No. 7 Ohio State vs. Michigan
No. 8 Georgia vs. No. 16 Georgia Tech

No. 10 Michigan State at Penn State
No. 11 Kansas State vs. Kansas
No. 14 Wisconsin vs. No. 22 Minnesota

No. 23 Clemson vs. South Carolina
No. 24 Louisville vs. Kentucky
No. 25 Boise State vs. Utah State

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
Florida St.	9	0	11
Clemson	6	2	8
Louisville	5	3	8
Boston College	4	4	8
NC State	4	4	8
Syracuse	1	6	7
Wake Forest	1	6	7
Coastal Division			
Conf.	W	L	All
Georgia Tech	6	2	9
North Carolina	4	3	7
Duke	4	3	7
Virginia	3	4	7
Pittsburgh	3	4	7
Miami	3	4	7
Virginia Tech	2	5	7

Game of the week: Virginia at Virginia Tech. The winner of the Commonwealth Cup also earns bowl eligibility. The loser stays home — and for Tech, that would be the first time that's happened since 1992. The Cavaliers (5-9) are the only Coastal Division team never to have beaten the Hokies (5-6) since they joined the ACC in 2004, losing 10 matchups and scoring more than 14 points only once.

Inside the numbers: ACC teams have beaten at least one school from each of the other five power conferences, but in the only ACC-SEC matchup so far, Georgia routed Clemson 45-21.

Player to watch: North Carolina QB Marquise Williams. He ranks among league leaders in rushing, passing and total offense heading into Saturday's game with N.C. State. And in each of the past two games, he's flirted with reaching 400 yards of total offense.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Ohio St.	7	0	10
Michigan St.	6	1	9
Maryland	4	3	7
Michigan	3	4	7
Penn St.	2	5	6
Rutgers	2	5	6
Indiana	0	7	3
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Wisconsin	6	1	9
Minnesota	5	2	8
Nebraska	4	3	8
Iowa	4	3	7
Northwestern	3	4	7
Illinois	2	5	6
Purdue	2	5	6

Game of the week: No. 7 Ohio State vs. Michigan. The Buckeyes strive to keep alive their bid to reach the College Football Playoff. The Buckeyes (10-1, 7-0, No. 6 CFP) are heavy favorites over the Wolverines (5-6, 3-4), who couldn't come up with a better way to become bowl eligible than by defeating their archrivals.

Inside the Numbers: Maryland's Brad Craddock has made 23 straight field goals, one short of the Big Ten record set by Mike Nugent of Ohio State from 2001-02. ... Rutgers QB Gary Nova is second nationally in passing yards per completion (15.47).

Player to watch: Maryland C.J. Brown. A sixth-year senior, Brown plays his final home game against Rutgers. He has already been part of a school-record 54 touchdowns and is 516 yards shy of the total offense mark. He faces a Scarlet Knights team that allowed 45 points at Michigan State last weekend.

Big 12			
Conf.	W	L	All
Baylor	6	1	9
TCU	5	1	9
Kansas State	5	1	8
Oklahoma	5	1	8
Texas	5	1	8
West Virginia	4	4	8
Oklahoma St.	3	5	5
Texas Tech	2	6	5
Kansas	1	7	3
Iowa St.	0	7	2

Game of the week: No. 6 TCU at Texas, on Thanksgiving night. This will be the 1,200th game in Horned Frogs history, but only the second time since 1928 they've played on Thanksgiving.

Inside the numbers: Baylor WR Corey Coleman has averaged 40.3 yards on his 11 career TD catches. He also has the nation's longest active streak with TD catches in seven consecutive games. ... Iowa State, which hosts West Virginia, is coming off its best non-overtime offensive game in six years. The Cyclones had 599 total yards against Texas Tech, but are still looking for their first conference victory.

Player to watch: West Virginia WR Kevin White. He is the Big 12 leader with 98 catches for 1,270 yards, and his nine TD catches are tied with Coleman for the league lead. White's 8-9 catches per game and 115 yards per game both rank in the top five among FBS players.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	W	L	All
Oregon	4	4	8
Stanford	4	4	8
Washington	3	5	7
California	3	5	6
Oregon St.	2	6	5
Washington St.	2	6	3
South			
Conf.	W	L	All
Arizona St.	6	2	9
UCLA	6	2	9
Arizona	6	2	9
Southern Cal	6	3	7
Utah	4	4	7
Colorado	0	8	2

Game of the week: No. 13 Arizona State at No. 12 Arizona on Friday. The annual battle for the Territorial Cup is one of the most anticipated in the 88-game history of this desert rivalry. Both teams are still in the hunt for the Pac-12 South Division title and both are ranked headed into the game for the first time since 1986.

Inside the numbers: Washington State's Connor Halliday and Oregon's Marcus Mariota lead the league with 32 touchdown passes each, followed by California's Jared Goff with 31 and USC's Cody Kessler with 30.

Player to watch: Arizona RB Nick Wilson. He ran for 218 yards and three touchdowns on a soggy night in Utah last week and is the first freshman in school history — fourth in the Pac-12 — to rush for more than 1,000 yards (1,085) in a season.

SEC			
East			
Conf.	W	L	All
Missouri	6	1	9
Georgia	6	2	8
Florida	4	4	8
South Carolina	3	5	6
Tennessee	2	6	5
Kentucky	2	6	5
Vanderbilt	0	7	3
West			
Conf.	W	L	All
Alabama	6	1	10
Mississippi St.	6	1	10
Auburn	4	3	8
Mississippi	4	3	8
Texas A&M	3	4	7
Louisiana	3	4	7
Arkansas	2	5	6

Game of the week: No. 15 Auburn at No. 2 Alabama. As usual, there is plenty on the line in the Iron Bowl when Alabama (No. 1 CFP) hosts Auburn (No. 15 CFP) on Saturday evening. The Tide can clinch the SEC Western Division and solidify its standing in the College Football Playoff field while Auburn would lose nothing more than to stay Alabama for a second season in a row.

Inside the numbers: Georgia has 34 rushing touchdowns this season, which represents the second-highest total in school history. The school record is 39, set in 1971.

Player to watch: Auburn RB Cameron Artis-Payne. The Tigers' chances of upsetting Alabama depend in part on whether the SEC rushing leader delivers a huge performance for the Tigers. Artis-Payne has rushed for 1,405 yards, or 25.3 more than anyone else in the SEC.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Running wild

Rebirth of ground game has teams' offenses piling up the yards

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

There goes Melvin Gordon, ripping off another long run. And there's Samaje Perine piling up yards in punishing fashion. Oh, look, here comes Tevin Coleman — and there he goes, sprinting away from a bunch of flailing defenders.

College football teams have been running wild this season, averaging more yards per carry and per game than at any time in recent years. Having game-breakers such as Gordon, Perine and Coleman carrying the ball has helped lead this ground game revolution, but something more is happening.

Defenses that have been built to withstand getting bombarded by passes and had been stretched thin by spread offenses for years are now finding it hard to plug holes. Offenses have rediscovered the running game, doing so with diversity and creativity.

"I don't think there's any question there is some correlation," said Oklahoma State coach Mike Gundy, whose spread offense has always strived for a more balanced approach. "I think defenses ... are improved in stopping spread offenses and I think teams are leaning back more toward the run than they did maybe a few years ago."

Eighteen FBS teams are averaging more than 250 yards rushing per game. Last season, just 13 did that. The year before it was eight. In 2011 it was seven. In 2009, four teams averaged more than 250 yards rushing per game, and three of them were triple-option teams: Georgia Tech, Air Force and Navy.

Nationally, yards per carry in FBS was 4.22 in 2008. In 2011, it had inched up to 4.28. Then it jumped to 4.40 in 2012 and this season it's 4.50.

"I've seen it come full circle," said West Virginia coach Dana Holgorsen, a coaching descendent of Hal Mumme and Mike Leach's pass-happy Air Raid offense. He's developed a more balanced approach in recent years.

California coach Sonny Dykes, another member of the Air Raid family tree, said one of the first steps toward making the Air Raid more grounded was changing the way offensive linemen lined up.

In the Air Raid and schemes like it, offensive linemen take wide splits, setting up several yards apart. This forces defenses to spread from side to side, putting more distance between edge pass rushers and quarterbacks and creating clearer throwing lanes.

The down side came in the running game.

"It really limits the schemes that you can run from the run-game perspective," Dykes said. "We all felt like we wanted to have a little bit more run game. As a result the splits of the offensive linemen started to change. Instead of really wide they were close together."

That allowed more pulling and that type of thing." When those pass-heavy teams did start running the ball, what they found was defenses that had shrunk.

Instead of the standard 4-3 (four defensive linemen and three linebackers) or 3-4 alignments, many teams had gone to a 4-2-5 setup or something similar with an extra defensive back to cover extra receivers.

"People recruit to stop the spread. A lot of times those guys are more space players than box players," said Baylor coach Art Briles, whose version of the spread has become as good at running through opponents as it is at throwing over them.

TCU coach Gary Patterson, a former defensive coordinator who converted to a spread offense this season, said stopping the run is all about numbers and leverage.

"Trying to find ways to get more people in the box because they can stretch you vertically," he said. "That's the million-dollar question for defensive coordinators on a week-to-week basis against those kinds of offenses."

It's not just the spread though. Wisconsin

doesn't spread the field, but few teams run the ball better than the Badgers and Heisman Trophy contender Gordon, who set an FBS record with 408 yards rushing against Nebraska two weeks ago — only to have it broken the very next Saturday by Perine. Oklahoma's fabulous freshman went for 427 against Kansas.

Chris Brown, author of the book "The Essential Smart Football," said he sees more teams using misdirection — the offense flows one direction and the runner goes the other — and pre-snap motion to freeze defenders and spring runners.

"Either through the option stuff, whether it's triple-option or read-option, but then also just fakes: Fake sweeps, fake counters. Window dressing for your base plays have come back in vogue," Brown said. "Both Auburn and Wisconsin, who run pretty different offenses, both of them run a lot of those jet sweeps and they fake a lot of jet sweeps before handing off to pretty good running backs."

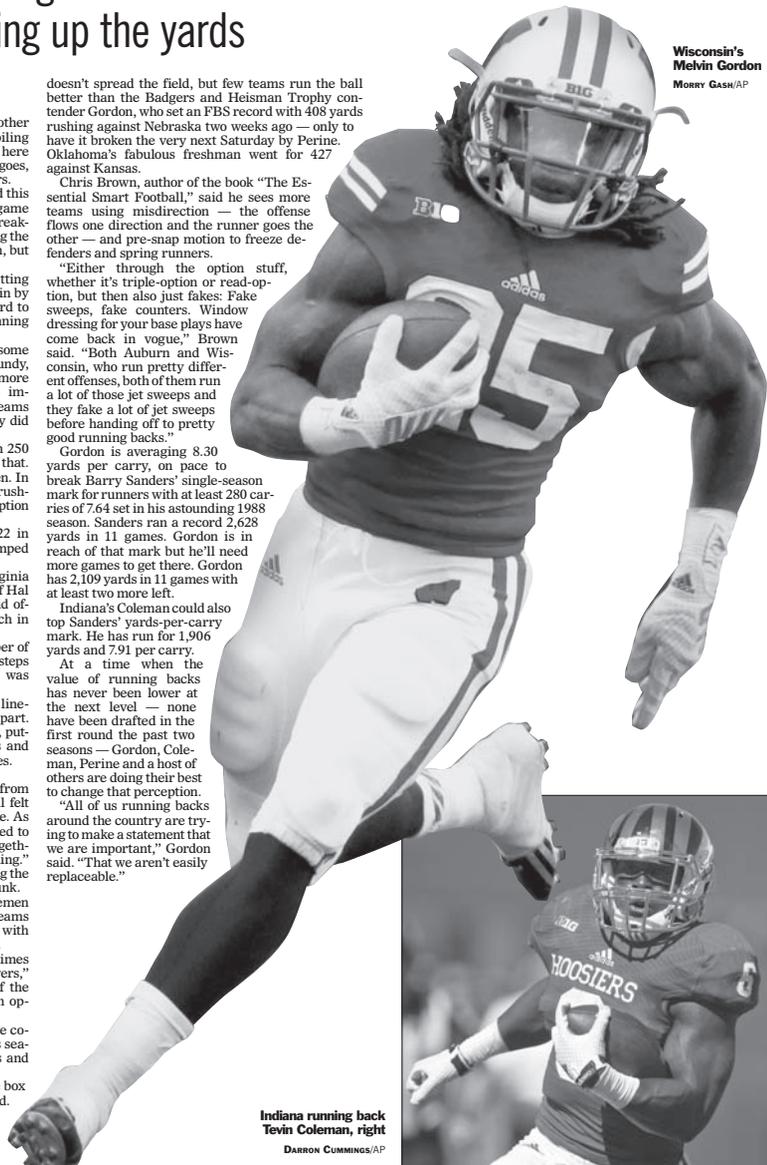
Gordon is averaging 8.30 yards per carry, on pace to break Barry Sanders' single-season mark for runners with at least 280 carries of 7.64 set in his astounding 1988 season. Sanders ran a record 2,628 yards in 11 games. Gordon is in reach of that mark but he'll need more games to get there. Gordon has 2,109 yards in 11 games with at least two more left.

Indiana's Coleman could also top Sanders' yards-per-carry mark. He has run for 1,906 yards and 7.91 per carry.

At a time when the value of running backs has never been lower at the next level — none have been drafted in the first round the past two seasons — Gordon, Coleman, Perine and a host of others are doing their best to change that perception.

"All of us running backs around the country are trying to make a statement that we are important," Gordon said. "That we aren't easily replaceable."

Wisconsin's Melvin Gordon
MORRY GASH/AP



Indiana running back Tevin Coleman, right
DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



DAVID QUINN/AP

Mississippi coach Hugh Freeze, center, will try to get his team to bounce back from a 30-0 loss to Arkansas last week and snap a three-game losing skid when the 18th-ranked Rebels host No. 4 Mississippi State on Saturday in the Egg Bowl.

No. 19 Ole Miss looking to end three-game skid

No. 4 Mississippi State poses tough challenge in Egg Bowl

By DAVID BRANDT
The Associated Press

OXFORD, Miss. — A difficult month of November has sent Mississippi tumbling down the Southeastern Conference standings and out of the national play-off picture.

Now the 18th-ranked Rebels (8-3, 4-3 SEC), who have lost three straight conference games, return to Vaught-Hemingway Stadium on Saturday where they'll host No. 4 Mississippi State (10-1, 6-1) in the Egg Bowl.

Ole Miss would like nothing more than to wreck Mississippi State's dream season and reclaim the Egg Bowl trophy. The Bulldogs have won four of the last five in the series, including last year's 17-10 overtime victory.

But Ole Miss will have to play much better than it has over the past month. Linebacker Deterrian Shackelford said the Rebels will be ready.

"I like the way this team is feeling," Shackelford said. "This is a game that doesn't take a lot of motivation to get up for."

The Rebels' most recent loss was arguably the worst of coach Hugh Freeze's three-year tenure — a 30-0 setback against Arkansas that was marred by six turnovers. Ole Miss struggled to hold onto the ball during a cold and rainy game, falling behind early and never recovering.

Freeze said film analysis after the game didn't reveal any huge

surprises.

"I tried to find fault in effort and I didn't see it," Freeze said. "You can't turn the ball over like that and put your backs against the wall in this league."

Generating offense against Mississippi State won't be easy, especially considering several key pieces are either out with injuries or trying to play through them.

The Rebels' most productive receiver, sophomore Laquon Treadwell, is out for the season after breaking his leg and dislocating his ankle against Auburn. Quarterback Bo Wallace — who fumbled twice and threw two interceptions against Arkansas — is struggling with a high ankle sprain. Left tackle Laremy Tunsil has been in and out of the lineup with a partially torn bicep.

Maybe more so than the physical problems, the Rebels are trying to bounce back emotionally after falling so quickly from the nation's elite.

Freeze believes playing in the Egg Bowl will provide enough motivation.

"They have a clear understanding of how much this game means to so many," Freeze said. "I expect us to have a great week of preparation in getting ready to play this in the Vaught come Saturday."

The Ole Miss defense still ranks among the nation's elite, even after the three-game SEC slide. The Rebels are giving up just 13.5 points per game, which leads the country.



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott has thrown for 2,714 yards, rushed for 891 more, and accounted for 35 touchdowns this season. A win over No. 19 Mississippi on Saturday could secure the Bulldogs a spot in the college football playoffs.

Now they'll try to stop Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott, who led the Bulldogs to their come-from-behind win over the Rebels last season.

Freeze had nothing but praise for Prescott, who has thrown for 2,714 yards, run for 891 more and accounted for 35 total touchdowns this season.

"Everyone, even outside of their family, would say that he's a great leader," Freeze said. "It's easy to see that the players that play with him believe in him and want to follow him. Then you put his performance with those leadership qualities and it makes him a pretty special player."

SEC: No. 2 Alabama needs Iron Bowl win

FROM BACK PAGE

In most cases, more than bragging rights is at stake. Every coach has the same message: Seize the moment and don't lose your head.

A win by No. 2 Alabama (10-1, 6-1 SEC) in the Iron Bowl keeps the Crimson Tide in the national title picture. That's what Nick Saban is stressing.

"It'll be a great atmosphere," Saban said. "But I also think this is a game where you have to stay focused on the game, and not on all the things that go on around it."

Auburn defensive coordinator Ellis Johnson held the same job at Alabama under Mike DuBose. He recalls telling DuBose that it seemed like fans were more excited about playing Tennessee than Auburn.

"And he looked at me and said, 'You ain't lost to Auburn yet,'" Johnson said with a laugh. "So, I got the message real quick there. It's obviously huge on both sides."

No. 15 Auburn (8-3, 4-3) was national runner-up after shocking previously unbeaten and top-ranked Alabama last year.

"It's really unlike anything I've ever experienced," Auburn linebacker Kris Frost said. "People that don't know anything about Alabama or Auburn, they know the Iron Bowl and they know how important this game is to football." No. 8 Georgia (9-2, 6-2) needs a win over 16th-ranked Georgia Tech combined with a third straight upset by Arkansas (6-5, 2-5), which has knocked off Ole Miss and LSU, to take the Eastern Division. Missouri needs to hold serve at home Friday to take the East for the second straight year, both years after being lightly regarded in the preseason.

No. 17 Missouri (9-2, 6-1) will be shooting for its fifth conference division title in eight seasons, and a 10th win for the fifth time in Gary Pinkel's 14 seasons. The schools have met just five times and not in the regular season since 1963.

The Tigers had lacked a border conflict since leaving Kansas and the Big 12.

"I grew up watching the KU-

MU game. And that was awesome, just the hatred toward KU on that one day, being a Missouri kid," center Evan Boehm said. "It's two great teams going at it. It's going to be an exciting rivalry."

Arkansas has two St. Louis recruits on the roster.

"I think it's a neat thing," Arkansas coach Bret Bielema said. "I know our guys are very excited to see a team that last year played in the SEC Championship Game and now this year will get a chance to go back to it, or we can stop it."

No. 18 Ole Miss (8-3, 4-3) will be trying to snap a three-game losing streak facing No. 4 Mississippi State (10-1, 6-1) in the Egg Bowl. It's the first time both teams have been ranked for the game since 1999, and just the third since 1957.

Mississippi State can win the Western Division with a win and an Alabama loss, and reach 11 wins for the first time in school history.

"It doesn't matter who has the better record," Mississippi State quarterback Dak Prescott said. "It wouldn't matter if we were ranked one and two."

LSU at Texas A&M kicks off this week's schedule Thursday, a matchup of 7-4 teams.

On the lower end of the spectrum, Kentucky (5-6, 2-6) and Tennessee (5-6, 2-5) will be playing to become bowl eligible. A win over downtrodden Vanderbilt (3-8, 0-7) would put the Volunteers in line for a bowl for the first time since 2010, while a Vanderbilt has already won two straight in the series for the first time since 1925-26.

Finally, Florida (6-4, 4-4) has a chance to give coach Will Muschamp a big send-off, playing spoiler as 10-point underdogs at top-ranked Florida State. The Gators pulled off a similar upset a decade ago, carrying Ron Zook off the field after knocking off the 10th-ranked Seminoles 20-13.

"All that stuff goes out the window when it's an in-state rivalry, you know what I'm saying?" tackle D.J. Humphries said.



BEYNN ANDERSON/AP

Alabama quarterback Blake Sims is getting his first start in the Iron Bowl on Saturday during his final game at Bryant-Denny Stadium.

NFL



JACK DEMPSEY/AP

The Dolphins' Ryan Tannehill is enjoying the best stretch of his career, completing more than 70 percent of his passes in four straight games. He's also had a QB rating of higher than 100 the past two games.

Tannehill on upswing going into Jets game

By STEVEN WINE
The Associated Press

DAVIE, Fla. — Judging by the stat that matters most to Ryan Tannehill, he's doing only so-so. The Miami Dolphins quarterback is always quick to say wins are his priority, and his team is 6-5 heading into Monday night's game at the New York Jets. Tannehill has a 21-22 record in three NFL seasons, and the Dolphins will need a late-season surge to avoid a sixth consecutive year out of the playoffs.

But the past two months have been the best stretch of Tannehill's brief career, and he has been especially good lately, completing over 70 percent of his passes in four consecutive games. No previous Dolphins quarterback ever had such a streak, not even Pro Football Hall of Famers Dan Marino or Bob Griese.

"He has been playing better," coach Joe Philbin said Wednesday. "Certainly he has been throwing the ball accurately and doing a good job running the offense."

In the past two games, Tannehill has posted back-to-back passer ratings above 100, a first for him. Those performances pushed his rating for the season to 93.4, which ranks ninth among quarterbacks with eight or more starts.

Tannehill ranks eighth in the league with a completion per-

Did you know

Dolphins quarterback Ryan

Tannehill was the eighth pick of the 2012 NFL Draft, taken in the first round out of Texas A&M.

SOURCE: sports.yahoo.com

centage of 66.1, and his touch-down-interception ratio of 20 to six is tied for ninth-best, which puts him ahead of Russell Wilson, Joe Flacco and Colin Kaepernick, among others. The athletic Tannehill also has 276 yards rushing, 45 shy of the franchise record for a quarterback.

"I feel more comfortable the more games we play," Tannehill said. "I feel like I'm improving, and I just want to keep improving. There is still a lot of room for growth, and I just want to take those strides."

For starters, Tannehill and the Dolphins need to improve in close games. He said it feels as though the Dolphins are better than 6-5, but they're 0-3 in games decided by four points or less.

"You've got to be able to win those tough games," he said. "If we make one more play on offense or defense, we're going to win those games."

But it's hard to find too much fault with an offense on pace for the Dolphins' highest-scoring season since 1986.

Tannehill's accuracy on long passes remains problematic, so the Dolphins have stopped throwing deep much. He ranks only 29th in the NFL in yards per attempt, but has become adept at spreading the ball around and keeping defenses off balance with short throws.

He has also clicked with rookie Jarvis Landry, whose 49 catches lead the Dolphins.

"Each week you have seen Ryan progress," Landry said. "He is still on a constant rise, and we're excited about what the future holds."

Along with deep passes, consistency was another issue during Tannehill's first two-plus seasons, which makes his recent performances encouraging. He has had a passer rating above 100 in five of the past eight games, squelching early-season speculation that his status as a starter might be in jeopardy.

"I want to be here for a long time," Tannehill said. "Obviously I understand that in order to do that, you have to play well. At the end of the day I just want to win and take us into the playoffs."

Cardinals trying to revive offense

By BOB BAUM
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Over the past seven quarters, the Arizona Cardinals have managed a whopping three points.

Not exactly the kind of offensive output the team will need if it expects to stay in command of the NFC West.

After facing two of the league's tougher defenses in Detroit and Seattle, the Cardinals hope a visit to Atlanta on Sunday will get things rolling.

The Falcons are last in the NFL in total defense, allowing 409.9 yards per game. Arizona is an unimpressive 25th in the NFL in total offense, and the Cardinals have been at their worst the past two games.

Coach Bruce Arians insists this Falcons defense, particularly up front, is a lot better than the statistics indicate.

"I just watch the tape of the last four games, and they look pretty damn good and pretty damn stout," he said before the team practiced on Wednesday.

There's a good chance Arizona will be without eight-time Pro Bowl receiver Larry Fitzgerald for the second week in a row because of a sprained left knee. Fitzgerald didn't practice on Wednesday.

"He's making some progress," Arians said, "so we've got our fingers crossed there."

The Cardinals scored touchdowns in their first two possessions against Detroit two weeks ago, and haven't scored one since. They would have had one in Sunday's 19-3 loss at Seattle, but Jeron Brown dropped a pass right between his numbers in the end zone.

The loss to the Seahawks snapped a six-game winning streak for Arizona.

At 9-2, the Cardinals still have a two-game lead over the Seahawks and San Francisco in the

NFC West, but a loss at Atlanta would cut that advantage to a game, since the Seahawks played the 49ers on Thursday night.

The Cardinals have not lost consecutive games since Oct. 13 and 17 of last season, when they were beaten first by San Francisco, then by Seattle.

"I think that speaks volumes for the leadership in your locker room to never lose two in a row," Arians said. "That's always one of our mantras, to never lose two in a row."

He said the veterans "come to work and keep it a daily process."

"The Seattle game is over with. To me, it was a month ago," Arians said. "It's that far in the rearview mirror already, and you're always ahead coming to work getting ready for what you control. You don't control that game anymore. You control today."

Arians has defended quarterback Drew Stanton, the backup who took over when Carson Palmer went down with a season-ending knee injury.

Asked what responsibility Stanton bears for the team's offensive struggles, Arians said "none."

The statistics would indicate otherwise.

Against Seattle, Stanton completed 14 of 26 passes for 149 yards and was intercepted once. He's thrown three interceptions in the past seven quarters.

The lack of a running game hasn't helped Stanton's cause.

In the past three games combined, Arizona has rushed for 138 yards on 68 attempts, an average of a little more than 2 yards per carry.

'That's always one of our mantras, to never lose two in a row.'

Bruce Arians
Cardinals coach



STEPHEN BRASHEAR/AP

Arizona quarterback Drew Stanton, center, is sacked by Seattle outside linebacker Bruce Irvin, top, and free safety Earl Thomas during the second half of Sunday's game in Seattle.

NFL

Pats out to slow fast-starting Packers

New England seeks to keep pace with Green Bay in first quarters

By HOWARD ULMAN
The Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — The New England Patriots are one of the NFL's best teams in the first half.

Just not as good as the fast-starting Green Bay Packers when they're at home.

That's where the Patriots (9-2) will be putting their seven-game winning streak on the line Sunday in their fourth straight game against a division leader.

"We're playing Green Bay in Green Bay," New England coach Bill Belichick said Tuesday. "That's where they've been very dominant, really, in terms of getting ahead and playing from ahead, first quarter. The numbers are staggering."

In their last four games at Lambeau Field, the Packers have outscored opponents 66-0 in the first quarter and 128-9 in the first half.

"It's got to be of historical proportions," Belichick said.

The Packers (8-3) are 5-0 at home and have won seven of their last eight games overall.

"They've been so far ahead of some of these teams that they've played early in the game it's like they're almost running out the clock in the middle of the second quarter," Belichick said.

"We've got to try to find some way to stay competitive in the game to at least turn it into a game and not be trying to play from 28, 31 points behind in the first half."

In their last two home games, Green Bay led Chicago 42-0 at halftime and won 55-14, then led Philadelphia 30-6 at halftime and won 53-20.

The Packers also are unbeaten at home with six wins but are just 3-2 on the road.

In the first halves, they've outscored opponents 136-38 at home. But when they play on the road, as they will Sunday, their advantage is just 71-51.

That game will be the next test for the Patriots against a top team — and they've passed the first three with blowout wins — 43-21 against Denver, 42-20 at Indianapolis and 34-9 against Detroit.

Denver and Indianapolis were the highest scoring teams in the league entering those games. Now New England is on top, but Green Bay is a mere three points behind.

So it doesn't get easier for a Patriots defense that controlled quarterbacks Peyton Manning, Andrew Luck and Matthew Stafford in its past three games.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers leads the NFL in passer rating and average gain per attempt. He's second with 30 touchdown passes and tied for second with

By the numbers

66-0

Number Packers have outscored their opponents by during the first quarter of their last four games at Lambeau Field.

0

Number of interceptions thrown by Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers in five home games this season.

3

Number of wins the Patriots (9-2) have on the road this season. Both of their losses were away from home.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

only three interceptions.

"I don't think it takes too long to roll on the film and figure out that Aaron Rodgers is playing at an extremely high level right now, and, obviously, even higher at home," Patriots defensive coordinator Matt Patricia said.

"Every week teams are trying to figure out how to get him out of that rhythm and how to take him out of his game."

It's much tougher to do that when he's playing at Lambeau Field.

In five home games, he has 18 touchdown passes, no interceptions and a passer rating of 138.1

In six games on the road, the numbers are 12 touchdown passes, three interceptions and a 104.0 passer rating.

The Packers won the first two Super Bowls and play in a stadium where Vince Lombardi coached and Bart Starr and Brett Favre played quarterback.

Lambeau, opened in 1957, is the NFL's second oldest stadium. Only Soldier Field (1926) has been around longer.

"There's a great tradition there and their record is great there," Belichick said. "The thing that we have to focus on is just really our matchup this week.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Patriots running back LeGarrette Blount, center, runs over Lions free safety Glover Quin last week in Foxborough, Mass. The Patriots are 6-0 at home, but just 3-2 on the road, and this week they travel to formidable Lambeau Field, where the Packers are 5-0 and Aaron Rodgers has thrown 18 TD passes.

"That's really more important to use at this point than Paul Hornung and Jerry Kramer and Don Hutson and all the other guys that have played there. Not to minimize what they've done, but (there's) nothing we can really do about any of that."

The Patriots have simply domi-

nated most opponents during their winning streak. Starting with a 43-17 win over Cincinnati, four of those seven wins have been by at least 22 points against teams that were in first place entering the games.

Now they'll try to keep the Packers from rolling to an insur-

mountable lead in the first half.

"We have to try to find a way to try to be competitive in your home stadium where they've played exceptionally well in recent weeks, just extraordinary," Belichick said. "It's going to be a huge, huge challenge."

STARS AND STRIPES

Send Your Wish List to Santa

(and he will send you a note back)

— Address your letter to:
Santa Claus at the North Pole
 (drop in any APO/EPO mailbox)

See selected letters online:

stripesrewards.com/letterstosanta



GAMEDAY

WEEK 13

TELEVISED GAMES



San Diego Chargers (7-4) at Baltimore Ravens (7-4)

AFN-Xtra

7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Ravens lead 5-4 and have won five of the past seven.

Last meeting: Ravens won 16-13 on Nov. 25, 2012 at San Diego.

Notes: Chargers QB Philip Rivers eclipsed 35,000 yards passing to join Dan Fouts as only San Diego players to do so. ... TE Antonio Gates ranks 10th all time with 96 TD catches. ... Ravens RB Justin Forsett rushed for 182 yards and two TDs last week. He leads all RBs with 5.8-yards-per-carry.



Cleveland Browns (7-4) at Buffalo Bills (6-5)

AFN-Atlantic

7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Browns lead 11-7 but Bills have won two of past three.

Last meeting: The Browns won 37-24 on Oct. 3, 2013 at Cleveland.

Notes: Browns QB Brian Hoyer is 10-4 in 14 starts with Cleveland, with 3,479 yards passing and 16 TDs. ... WR Josh Gordon returned from a 10-game suspension and led Browns with eight catches for 120 yards. ... Bills WR Robert Woods had career highs last week with nine catches for 118 yards.

Marquee matchup

New England Patriots (9-2) at Green Bay Packers (8-3)

AFN-Sports, 10:25 p.m. Sunday CET, 6:25 a.m. Monday JKT

SERIES RECORD: Patriots lead 5-4 and have won the past two.

LAST MEETING: Patriots beat Packers 31-27 on Dec. 19, 2010.

PATRIOTS OFFENSE: OVERALL (7), RUSH (15), PASS (6).

PATRIOTS DEFENSE: OVERALL (14), RUSH (14), PASS (17).

PACKERS OFFENSE: OVERALL (9), RUSH (18), PASS (8).

PACKERS DEFENSE: OVERALL (23), RUSH (30) PASS (13).

STREAKS, STATS AND NOTES: The Patriots are one of only six NFL teams with 14 or more consecutive winning seasons and the first since the 49ers from 1983-98.

... During his team's current seven-game winning streak, Patriots QB Tom Brady has 207 passing yards with 22 touchdowns and four interceptions for a 111.7 rating. In his past two games against the Packers, Brady has passed for 407 yards and six TDs without throwing an interception. ... In the past seven games, Patriots TE Rob Gronkowski has 45 catches for 665

yards and six TDs. Since being drafted in 2010, he leads the league with 51 receiving TDs. ... In the past five games, Patriots LB Rob Ninkovich has five sacks and an interception. ... The Packers are going for their third-straight home game in which they score at least 50 points. ... Packers QB Aaron Rodgers has 322 consecutive attempts and 29 TDs in a row without an interception at home, both of which are the longest streaks in league history. In his past nine at home, he has 29 TDs and a 133.2 rating. The Packers are 9-0 during that span. ... Packers RB Eddie Lacy is seeking his third consecutive 100-yard game in which he also has a rushing and a receiving TD. ... Packers WR Jordy Nelson is after his seventh straight 100-yard game, including playoffs, with a TD. At home this season, he has two catches for 616 yards and six TDs. ... Packers LB Clay Matthews has four sacks and three forced fumbles in the past five games against AFC teams.



New Orleans Saints (4-7) at Pittsburgh Steelers (7-4)

AFN-Sports

7 p.m. Sunday CET
3 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: tied 7-7, but Saints have won two of past three.

Last meeting: Saints won 20-10 on Oct. 31, 2010 at New Orleans.

Notes: Saints QB Drew Brees passed for 420 yards and three TDs last week, grading out at 118.5. ... TE Jimmy Graham has 19 TDs in his past 16 games against AFC teams. ... Steelers RB Le'Veon Bell leads the AFC in rushing and is second in the NFL with 1,435 yards.



Arizona Cardinals (9-2) Atlanta Falcons (4-7)

AFN-Atlantic

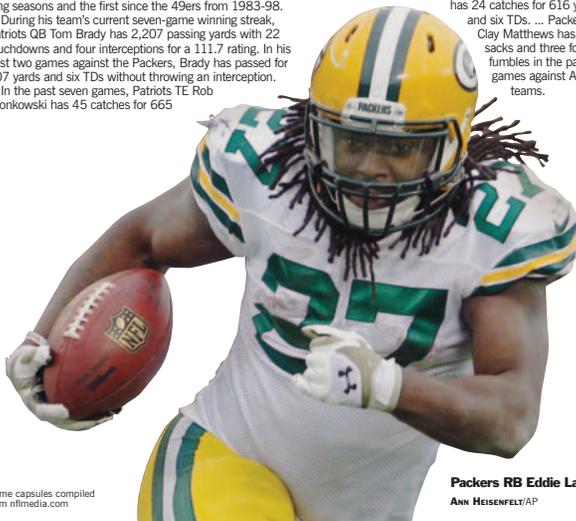
10 p.m. Monday CET
6 a.m. Monday JKT

Series: Cardinals led 15-12 but Falcons have won two of past three.

Last meeting: Cardinals won 27-13 on Oct. 27, 2013 at Arizona.

Notes: Cardinals QB Drew Stanton has won five of his past seven starts. ... WR Larry Fitzgerald has a catch in 159 straight games, the longest active streak in the NFL. ... In his past seven games at home, Falcons WR Julio Jones as 50 catches for 802 yards and four TDs.

Game capsules compiled from nflmedia.com



Packers RB Eddie Lacy
ANN HEISENFEL/AP

Also on AFN: Denver Broncos (8-3) at Kansas City Chiefs (7-4), AFN-Sports, 2:20 a.m. Monday CET; 10:20 a.m. Monday JKT

EXPANDED STANDINGS

American Conference

	W	L	T	East			Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA					
New England	9	2	0	.818	357	217	6-0	3-2-0	6-2-0	3-0-0	2-1-0
Miami	6	5	0	.545	285	219	3-2-0	3-3-0	5-3-0	1-2-0	2-1-0
Buffalo	6	5	0	.545	238	207	3-3-0	3-2-0	3-5-0	3-0-0	3-2-0
N.Y. Jets	2	9	0	.182	177	303	4-0	0-5-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	0-3-0
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	332	256	4-2-0	3-2-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	4-0-0
Houston	5	6	0	.455	242	226	2-3-0	3-3-0	4-3-0	1-3-0	1-1-0
Tennessee	2	9	0	.182	192	293	1-4-0	1-5-0	2-6-0	0-3-0	1-2-0
Jacksonville	1	10	0	.091	161	305	1-4-0	0-6-0	1-7-0	0-3-0	0-3-0
North											
Cincinnati	7	3	1	.682	246	234	4-1-1	3-2-0	5-3-0	2-0-1	2-1-0
Baltimore	7	4	0	.636	295	208	4-1-0	3-3-0	3-4-0	4-0-0	2-3-0
Pittsburgh	7	4	0	.636	288	253	4-1-0	3-3-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	2-2-0
Cleveland	7	4	0	.636	242	219	4-2-0	3-2-0	4-4-0	3-0-0	2-2-0
West											
Denver	8	3	0	.727	332	260	6-0-0	2-3-0	6-1-0	2-2-0	3-0-0
Kansas City	7	4	0	.636	261	195	4-1-0	3-3-0	5-3-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
San Diego	7	4	0	.636	245	216	5-1-0	2-3-0	5-3-0	2-1-0	2-2-0
Oakland	1	10	0	.091	176	285	1-5-0	0-5-0	1-8-0	0-2-0	1-3-0

National Conference

	W	L	T	East			Home	Away	NFC	AFC	Div
				Pct	PF	PA					
Philadelphia	8	3	0	.727	342	275	6-0	2-3-0	4-3-0	4-0-0	2-0-0
Dallas	8	3	0	.727	292	240	3-3-0	5-0-0	5-3-0	3-0-0	2-1-0
N.Y. Giants	3	8	0	.273	233	294	2-4-0	1-4-0	2-7-0	1-1-0	1-3-0
Washington	3	8	0	.273	217	373	2-3-0	1-5-0	1-7-0	2-1-0	1-2-0
North											
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	262	283	2-3-0	2-4-0	4-4-0	0-3-0	4-0-0
New Orleans	4	7	0	.364	288	286	3-3-0	1-4-0	4-4-0	0-3-0	2-1-0
Carolina	3	7	1	.318	215	300	2-4-0	1-3-1	3-5-0	0-2-1	1-2-0
Tampa Bay	2	9	0	.182	207	300	0-5-0	2-4-0	1-7-0	2-1-0	0-4-0
South											
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	354	246	5-0-0	3-3-0	6-3-0	2-0-0	4-1-0
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	197	190	4-1-0	3-3-0	5-2-0	2-2-0	2-0-0
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	236	303	2-3-0	3-3-0	4-3-0	1-3-0	1-2-0
Minnesota	4	7	0	.364	202	244	2-3-0	2-4-0	4-5-0	0-2-0	0-4-0
West											
Arizona	9	2	0	.818	240	195	6-0-0	3-2-0	7-1-0	2-1-0	2-1-0
Seattle	7	4	0	.636	279	218	5-1-0	2-3-0	5-2-0	2-2-0	1-1-0
San Francisco	7	4	0	.636	228	225	3-2-0	4-2-0	6-3-0	1-1-0	1-2-0
St. Louis	4	7	0	.364	209	285	2-3-0	2-4-0	3-5-0	1-2-0	2-2-0

REST OF THE SCHEDULE

Tennessee at Houston
Oakland at St. Louis
Carolina at Minnesota
Washington at Indianapolis
N.Y. Giants at Jacksonville
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay
Monday

NEXT WEEK

Thursday, Dec. 4
Dallas at Chicago
Sunday, Dec. 7
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
Carolina at New Orleans
N.Y. Jets at Minnesota
Pittsburgh at Cincinnati
St. Louis at Washington
Baltimore at Miami
Indianapolis at Cleveland
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Houston at Jacksonville
San Francisco at Denver
Kansas City at Arizona
San Francisco at Oakland
Seattle at Philadelphia
New England at San Diego
Monday, Dec. 8
Atlanta at Green Bay

SPORTS



Flyin' Ryan

Dolphins QB Tannehill enjoying best stretch of career | Page 61



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Rivalry week

More than bragging rights at stake for SEC schools

By R.B. FALLSTROM
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Here comes SEC rivalry week, with an exclamation point.

A conference that's again arguably the best in the nation, with six ranked teams, has saved plenty of drama for the final weekend of the regular season.

Fandom has no trouble reaching fever pitch for Auburn-Alabama, Georgia-Georgia Tech, Arkansas-Missouri and Ole Miss-Mississippi State. Geography and tradition says it all.

"Everybody says hate, but I think there's another level," Georgia wide receiver Chris Conley said. "Everything about this game is you're trying to demean and dominate your opponent."

SEE SEC ON PAGE 60



Missouri defensive back Kenya Dennis celebrates with teammate John Gibson, left, after an interception last week. The No. 17 Tigers can lock up their second straight SEC East division title with a win over visiting Arkansas on Saturday.

WADE PAYNE/AP

