

STARS AND STRIPES®

stripes.com

Volume 73, No. 96 ©SS 2014

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2014

平成26年8月29日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星島新聞社 〒116-0002 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

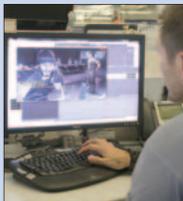
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2014

OPENING WEEKEND

★ ★ ★ ★

Season starts tame, but big games aren't far behind
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Russian columns enter Ukraine

Troops, equipment cross border; strategic town said to be captured

By DALTON BENNETT AND RAF CASERT
The Associated Press

NOVOAZOVSK, Ukraine — Two columns of tanks and military vehicles rolled into southeastern Ukraine from Russia on Thursday after Grad missiles were fired at a border post and Ukraine's overmatched bor-

der guards fled, a top Ukrainian official said.

Echoing the comments by Ukrainian Col. Andriy Lysenko, a senior NATO official said at least 1,000 Russian troops have poured into Ukraine with sophisticated equipment, leaving no doubt that the Russian military had invaded southeastern Ukraine.

"The hand from behind is be-

coming more and more overt now," Brig. Gen. Nico Tak said at NATO's military headquarters, adding that Russia's ultimate aim was to stage off defeat for the separatists and turn eastern Ukraine into a "frozen conflict" that would destabilize the country indefinitely.

SEE UKRAINE ON PAGE 8



SERGEI GERTS/AP

A girl waves a Ukrainian flag during an anti-war meeting in Mariupol, Ukraine, on Thursday.

A CENTURY OF HEAVY METAL

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I. While there were a number of technological advances made during the war, few affected modern warfare more than the tank.

Stars and Stripes looks at its evolution in photos on **Page 13** and in a multimedia presentation at stripes.com/go/tanks.



QUOTE OF THE DAY

"There's a burden in a group of 10 or 20 people to suggest eating dog, like making a sexual joke. It's not easy to talk about eating dog when there are a lot of people."

— Moon Jaesuk, who enjoyed eating dog meat before moving to Seoul, South Korea, on changing attitudes about the traditional Korean delicacy

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TOP CLICKS ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our website:

- 1. Appeal for US soldier convicted in '03 grenade attack in Kuwait
2. Army general forced out, forfeits star for mishandling sex assault claim
3. Coast Guard team fires shot at Iranian dhows in Persian Gulf
4. Islamic State could force some strange alliances
5. Authorities comb Va. mountain area for missing pilot after Guard F-15 crash

COMING SOON

Science & Medicine

Sea is vital to life on land



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MILITARY

UN urges Afghan election result delay

By JOSH SMITH Stars and Stripes

The United Nations has asked Afghan President Hamid Karzai to once again delay the inauguration of a new president as an audit of disputed ballots goes on amid posturing by the candidates and sometimes physical fighting among their supporters.

On Thursday, the U.N.'s representative in Afghanistan, Jan Kubis, briefed Karzai on the status of the review, which the U.N. is overseeing after one of the candidates, Abdullah Abdullah, alleged massive fraud was committed on behalf of his opponent, Ashraf Ghani.

Karzai and Western officials had been adamant about having the audit completed and a new president named in time for the winner to attend a crucial NATO summit next week, when leaders will decide on international commitments of troops and funds for Afghanistan after the end of the year. But Kubis told Karzai he expects the process won't be completed any sooner than about Sept. 10.

Kubis said that "steady progress" was being made "with strict impartiality, professionalism and



STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

Election observers in Kabul examine ballots on Aug. 10 from Afghanistan's June 14 presidential runoff as part of a massive audit. The review has been slowed by disagreement between the candidates and insufficient numbers of observers.

with even greater vigilance," a news release said. Kubis cautioned that a thorough review would take time.

Thursday's meeting came a day after Abdullah pulled his support from the audit, saying it was not capable of finding the

fraud he says occurred. The U.N. then asked Ghani's observers to recuse themselves from the process as well.

On Thursday, Abdullah spokesman Mujeeb-ur-Rahman Rahimi told Stars and Stripes that the delay does not affect the

campaign's boycott. But he said Abdullah was meeting personally with Ghani and that representatives had met with the U.N. mission earlier in the day.

"If they take into account our reservations, then we are willing to rejoin the process," he said. "But we will not rejoin the process if it just legitimizes fraud."

The delays, boycotts and threats have thrown doubt on the future of the international presence in Afghanistan.

American military officials are waiting for a new president to sign a deal that would lay out the terms for keeping nearly 10,000 U.S. troops in the country past the end of the year. Foreign donors who provide the billions of dollars upon which the Afghan government depends have said that a peaceful transfer of power is a prerequisite for further aid.

It is not known who will represent Afghanistan at the Sept. 4-5 summit, but NATO officials say they have extended an invitation and that it is up to the Afghan government to decide whom they will send. Karzai's spokesman has said the current president will not attend.

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US frees 2 Yemenis from military prison in Afghanistan

By ADAM GOLDMAN The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — One of the two Yemenis freed from a U.S. military prison in Afghanistan and repatriated Tuesday had been diagnosed with leukemia, a U.S. military official said.

It's not clear when the U.S. learned that Amin al-Bakri was sick and whether that played a role in his release from the detention facility near Bagram air base.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because detainee medical histories are confidential, did not know how advanced al-Bakri's disease was nor his prognosis.

Al-Bakri, 46, was released along with fellow national Fadi al-Maqaleh, 28. The two men had fought for years in U.S. courts to secure their freedom and earlier this month had petitioned the U.S.

Supreme Court. The two had been held without charge for more than a decade.

Bakri, a gem salesman, was detained in Thailand in 2002 at the behest of the CIA as he was headed to the airport to return to Yemen after a five-day business trip. Maqaleh left Yemen in 2004 while still in high school. He was picked up and held in Iraq before being moved to Afghanistan.

Their release could have a bearing on whether dozens of other Yemenis held at the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, also are sent home. Of the 86 Yemenis held at Guantanamo, 58 have been cleared for release by an interagency task force after President Barack Obama assumed office. Obama last year lifted his self-imposed ban on transferring Yemenis home, but U.S. officials continue to worry that the country is too unstable to

successfully integrate returning detainees.

If Yemen demonstrates it can successfully handle the return of al-Bakri and al-Maqaleh, it could provide a persuasive argument to begin releasing Yemenis from Guantanamo.

Obama has said he remains committed to closing the prison at Guantanamo where 149 detainees are held.

Tina Foster, a lawyer for al-Bakri and al-Maqaleh, said the men were being held in Sanaa, the Yemeni capital. She said it was unclear whether they would be prosecuted or released under some kind of supervision.

"Nobody told us what the plan is," she said.

A Yemeni official said the men were being held in a secure facility while being processed. The official added that al-Bakri was in "bad shape" physically.

The Pentagon is moving swiftly to empty the prison in Afghanistan as the U.S. and its allies draw down combat forces in Afghanistan by the end of this year. Obama has authorized a small training and counterterrorism force to stay in the country until 2016.

Two U.S. military officials said the number of detainees held in Bagram has now fallen below 30, down from more than 50 in December. One of the officials said as of last week there were 27 detainees left at the prison known as the Parwan Detention Facility. All of the detainees are non-Afghans, most of whom were captured by U.S. forces on the Afghan battlefield. The U.S. turned over the bulk of its prison facilities, and all Afghan nationals it was holding in them, to the Afghan government in March 2013.

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MILITARY

German general takes over spot at USAREUR

By MATT MILLHAM
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN, Germany — U.S. Army Europe formally welcomed German Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal as its new chief of staff Thursday, beginning what one German official said would likely be the first of many such exchanges between the U.S. and German armies.

Since USAREUR was established in World War II, a foreign officer has never served as chief of staff of the three-star command, headed since late 2012 by U.S. Lt. Gen. Donald M. Campbell Jr.

Laubenthal's role in the organization will be much more than symbolic, Campbell said, though U.S. law precludes his successor from seeing some classified information that American officers in the same position would be able to access.

As the U.S. and NATO allies draw down from Afghanistan, military leaders have emphasized the need to continue to work together to maintain the interoperability the various forces have gained over more than a decade of war.

"As we all know, actions speak louder than words," Campbell said, "and this innovation carries a very strong message regarding our seriousness about a multinational team."

One U.S. official said it's estimated that Laubenthal will be able to carry out about 90 percent of the tasks typically performed by a USAREUR chief of staff, who is directly responsible for organizing, directing and supporting roughly 30 senior leaders who make up the command's staff.

While Laubenthal's assignment is a first for the German military and USAREUR, Campbell played down its novelty.

The U.S. has been at war alongside Germany and other NATO and partner nations for 13 years, he said, "so having a multinational general on our staff is not really something new, because they've seen it in theater, they've seen it in combat."

"In fact, I had a Canadian deputy commanding general at III Corps and Fort Hood," Campbell said. "And we have other multinational officers in service in the United States and in U.S. Army Pacific."

To those who might question



MATT MILLHAM/Stars and Stripes

German Brig. Gen. Markus Laubenthal, U.S. Army Europe's new chief of staff, speaks to members of the media after being formally welcomed as the command's first non-American chief of staff.

the move, Campbell said: "I would step back and take a look at what we've been doing in combat for the last 13 years. We don't fight it alone, we don't go alone."

American officials provided a fact sheet addressing some concerns about a foreign officer in such a high-level position in the U.S. Army, among them:

■ Laubenthal won't have disciplinary authority over U.S. personnel.

■ He will not be able to represent the command outside of the command on his own.

■ He won't command U.S. forces.

■ He won't have access to U.S. law enforcement information, diplomatic communications, in-

formation related to U.S. theater security objectives and a range of other information.

■ He will have access to classified information that has been cleared for disclosure.

"What we saw today is really a kickoff," German Lt. Gen. Jörg Vollmer said after a ceremony at Clay Kaserne welcoming Laubenthal.

Vollmer, the deputy inspector of the German army, said that the Germans are open to assigning an American officer to a similar position within the German army.

Campbell said his first approach to the German army's chief of staff about putting a German general on the USAREUR staff in January 2013, soon after

he took command and well before revelations of U.S. spying on Germans came to light.

Campbell said he wants to "continue to look for ways that we can grow from this position and use it to leap to other positions at junior grades."

Laubenthal, who most recently served as a German tank brigade commander and chief of staff for NATO's Regional Command North in Afghanistan, said he's a "true believer in the idea of organizing and training" as you would deploy in a military campaign.

"It's really, really important to work with other nations together as close as you can and even before an operation starts," he said.

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US, South Korea quietly wrap up large-scale exercise

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The biggest U.S.-South Korea war games ended Thursday as they began, with little fanfare, in what may have been an attempt by the allies to avoid provoking North Korea.

Approximately 50,000 South Korean troops and 30,000 U.S. troops — about 3,000 of whom were brought in from outside the peninsula — took part in this year's Ulchi Freedom Guardian, a computer-simulation exercise described by the U.S. as "routine and defense-oriented" and based on "realistic scenarios" to ensure "we are fully prepared to defend the Republic of Korea should the need arise."

It was scheduled to end Friday. A U.S. Forces Korea statement did not say why it wrapped up early.

The computer simulations took place across the peninsula, and, according to the statement, allowed the two militaries to evaluate and exercise capabilities ranging from military intel-

"If the U.S. and South Korea promote UFG, it could be an excuse for North Korea to increase tensions."

Yang Uk

Korea Defense and Security Forum

ligence, logistics and joint air procedures to plans and systems including Combined Space Operations.

U.S.-South Korea exercises are a particularly sensitive subject with nuclear-armed North Korea, which regularly condemns them as preparations for an invasion. It warned the United Nations earlier this week that it would respond more strongly to the "gangster-like war exercises" though it did not offer details, according to The Associated Press, but it remained relatively peaceful during the drills.

Despite the large scale of the two-week Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, U.S. and South Korean defense officials have offered few details, aside from inviting the media to a field training exercise for combat medics at Camp Humphreys.

Tuesday said U.S. commitment to the security of the peninsula remains steadfast.

Campbell said his first approach to the German army's chief of staff about putting a German general on the USAREUR staff in January 2013, soon after

he took command and well before revelations of U.S. spying on Germans came to light. Campbell said he wants to "continue to look for ways that we can grow from this position and use it to leap to other positions at junior grades." Laubenthal, who most recently served as a German tank brigade commander and chief of staff for NATO's Regional Command North in Afghanistan, said he's a "true believer in the idea of organizing and training" as you would deploy in a military campaign. "It's really, really important to work with other nations together as close as you can and even before an operation starts," he said.

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lied forces to Seoul. If a war broke out today, the top U.S. commander on the peninsula would lead those forces, though operational control, commonly referred to as OPCON, is scheduled to transfer to South Korea in December 2015.

Seoul has asked for the transfer — previously delayed from 2007 — 2012 over concerns about the South's readiness — to be postponed again because of concerns about North Korea provocations. A decision is expected later this year, with many experts predicting the two countries will agree to a delay of several years.

In a possible indication that OPCON will be postponed again, the U.S. commander, Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, was leading this year's UFG. Before the last delay, which came in 2010 after the North torpedoed a South Korean warship earlier that year, the South had led the two previous UFGs as a test of its ability to lead troops after the transfer.

The last joint exercise led by South Korea was the annual spring Key Resolve drill in 2013, according to USFK.

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Official acknowledgment of UFG came only late on the afternoon of Aug. 18, the day it began. USFK said it publicly announced the start after notifying North Korea of the drill that afternoon. The command also said it does not discuss exercise scenarios as a matter of policy. South Korean defense officials also would not discuss specifics about the exercises.

Yang Uk, a senior research fellow at the Korea Defense and Security Forum, said Washington and Seoul tried to avoid drawing media attention to UFG as a conciliatory gesture toward the North.

"If the U.S. and South Korea promote UFG, it could be an excuse for North Korea to increase tensions," he said.

Department of Defense spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby on

previously delayed from 2007 — 2012 over concerns about the South's readiness — to be postponed again because of concerns about North Korea provocations. A decision is expected later this year, with many experts predicting the two countries will agree to a delay of several years.

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MILITARY

AFRICOM puts off training plan for Libyan troops

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. Africa Command's plan to train Libyan military forces is on hold given escalating clashes among rival militias that the country's U.N. ambassador warned Wednesday could plunge the country into civil war.

The training, initially scheduled for the summer, was pushed back and now will not happen before next year.

"We are still analyzing the new conditions and our capabilities in order to accurately assess our way ahead," said Tom Saunders, an AFRICOM spokesman. "We had planned to begin training by the end of this year, but that timeline will probably shift to next year."

The violence in Libya has heightened concerns in the international community that it could spread.

In the wake of heavy fighting that saw the international airport in the capital, Tripoli, fall to a coalition of Islamist militias last week, French President Francois Hollande on Thursday called for "exceptional" international support for Libya, warning that "terrorism will spread" across the region if nothing is done.

His comments echoed those of the outgoing U.N. special representative to Libya, Tarek Mitri, before the U.N. Security Council on Wednesday.

"The threat from the spread of terrorist groups has become real," Mitri said. "At present, the chaotic security situation and the very limited capacity of the government to counter this threat may well have created a fertile ground for a mounting danger in Libya and beyond."

On Wednesday, the Security Council adopted a resolution tightening an arms embargo and calling for an immediate cease-fire. In remarks to the council, Libyan U.N. Ambassador Ibrahim Dabbashi said the situation in Libya "might unravel into a full-blown civil war if we're not very careful and wise in our actions."

Clashes between rival militias have steadily intensified in recent months across Libya, where order has never been fully restored since a NATO bombing campaign three years ago that helped oust former strongman Moammar Gadhafi.

Last month, the U.S. military helped evacuate U.S. personnel at the American embassy in Tripoli. "Arms, ammunition and explosives are all over the place and provide opportunities for these violent groups to generate revenues to assert their will through violence," AFRICOM Gen. David Rodriguez told reporters last month at his Stuttgart headquarters.

The U.S. military had been planning to train between 5,000 and 8,000 Libyan troops as part of an effort to strengthen the fledgling government's army. The training was expected to take place in eastern Europe. NATO also had plans to train Libyan forces, but those efforts, too, have been on hold because of the widespread unrest in the country.

However, earlier this week, Libya's newly appointed army chief of staff said during a visit to Cairo that Egypt had promised to provide support to the Libyan military, including training, Egyptian media reported.

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New slaying trial ordered for soldier who blamed drug

McClatchy Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The nation's highest military appeals court on Wednesday ordered a new trial for a soldier who killed a Fresno, Calif., native in a sudden rage allegedly induced by the anti-smoking drug Chantix.

In a unanimous decision, the five-member U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces concluded the original trial judge should have instructed jurors that "involuntary intoxication" could be a defense. The defendant, Army Pfc. George D.B. MacDonald, accused the Chantix caused him to snap.

The 37-page decision means the possibility of eventual freedom for MacDonald, who was sentenced to life without parole after his original conviction.

MacDonald, a promising young paratrooper, was prescribed Chantix in April 2008, one month before he came upon Rick Bulmer, a 23-year-old Army recruit sleeping in the barracks at Fort Benning, Ga. Bulmer was married and his wife, Beth, was expecting their first child. He was in his first week of basic training.

MacDonald stabbed and slashed Bulmer more than 50 times.



MIKE TRIPP, THE (STAUNTON, VA.) NEWS LEADER/AP

The crew of a Maryland State Police helicopter prepares to take off Wednesday in Deerfield, Va., to search for the missing pilot of an F15C fighter jet that crashed into a mountain near Elliott Knob, Va.

Search continues for missing pilot

By CHRIS CARROLL
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Air Force beefed up the aerial search for a missing Massachusetts Air National Guard fighter pilot in early morning hours Thursday with the addition of an HC-130 aircraft specially equipped for low-light and nighttime search and rescue missions.

Several helicopters also combed the heavily forested area of western Virginia where his plane went down early Wednesday throughout the night after searchers struggling on the ground found conditions too treacherous to continue, military and law enforcement officials said.

The pilot, who has not been identified by the 104th Fighter Wing, based in Westfield, Mass., radioed air traffic controllers about a problem with his F-15C fighter at

about 9 a.m. Wednesday.

The plane, which was being flown to Naval Air Station New Orleans for a radar upgrade, crashed in a national forest area minutes later, leaving a sizable crater, Virginia police authorities said.

Reports that a witness saw the pilot eject and a parachute open could not be confirmed, Col. James Keefe, commander of the fighter wing said Wednesday.

The Air Force has secured the crash site, and representatives from a host of other local agencies were on hand, officials said, including the Virginia National Guard, the Augusta County sheriff and fire officials, the Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries, the FBI and the US Forest Service.

At least 100 searchers in vehicles, helicopters and on foot combed areas near the site, located

on a level area next to a mountain known as Elliott Knob. As darkness fell Wednesday, searchers switched tactics because of the hazards of operating in the remote area.

"Search crews on the ground are conducting 'hasty searches,'" Virginia State Police spokeswoman Corinne Geller said in an emailed statement to the media at about 10 p.m. Wednesday. "These are searches along logging roads, fire trails, forest roads, etc. This is for the safety of the search crews, as the off-road terrain in the George Washington National Forest is too rocky, wooded and steep for navigation in the dark."

The search on the ground was called off after midnight but was to resume at 8 a.m. Thursday, Geller wrote.

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Fort Lee soldier who killed herself was human resources specialist

The Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A soldier who barricaded herself in a building at a Virginia Army post and then fatally shot herself in the head earlier this week was a 33-year-old human resources specialist who had earned Army commendation and good conduct medals in the past, the Army said Wednesday.

Sgt. 1st Class Paula M. Walker, of Yonkers, N.Y., was pronounced dead after being taken to a hospital on Monday. She had barricaded herself in an office on the third floor of the four-story building that houses the Army's Combined Arms Support Command after brandishing a weapon and throwing things. About 1,100 people were inside, but no one else was hurt in the morning shooting. Her gun was not a service weapon, officials said.

Walker had been in the Army

for nearly 14 years and at Fort Lee since December 2011. Prior to that, the Army said Walker served at Fort Devens, Mass., starting in 2010, and was at Fort Eustis, Va., beginning in 2006. Her career included a 15-month combat tour in Iraq from 2007 to 2008.

Base commander Maj. Gen. Stephen R. Lyons has described Walker as upset and enraged but said he couldn't say whether that was consistent with her personality. The Army said her awards and decorations include three Army Commendation Medals, four Army Achievement Medals, one Joint Meritorious Unit Award and four Army Good Conduct Medals.

Lyons, who took over as commanding general last week, has said he did not know whether Walker was being treated for any mental health issues and could not speculate whether drugs or

alcohol might have been a factor. The Army reported 301 soldiers committed suicide in 2013, which was down from 325 in 2012. Those figures include soldiers in the National Guard and Army Reserves.

The heavily trafficked Fort Lee was locked down for about an hour before reopening with normal operations.

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MILITARY

CBO Report explains why VA claims exploded

By TOM PHILPOTT

America's population of living veterans fell by almost 5 million, or 17 percent, from 2000 to 2013. So why did the number of veterans drawing disability compensation climb by 55 percent over that period? And why have yearly VA disability payments tripled since 2000 to reach \$60 billion in 2014?

The Congressional Budget Office explains why in a new report, and the primary reason is not found among veterans who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. That source of claims is significant, but not yet near its peak.

A greater factor has been liberalized laws and policies on "service-connected" ailments, particularly decisions to compensate Vietnam War veterans for common medical conditions of aging and lifestyle because of an "association" with possible exposure to herbicides used in that war.

For example, in 2000, only 38,000 veterans from all war eras were receiving disability compensation for diabetes. By last year, 320,000 veterans from the Vietnam War alone drew diabetes-related compensation.

The Department of Veterans Affairs expanded its list of diseases presumed caused by Agent Orange to ischemic heart disease,

MILITARY UPDATE

Parkinson's disease and certain types of leukemia in 2010. By June of last year, that decision had led the VA to process 280,000 claims for the newly presumptive ailments and to make \$4.5 billion in retroactive disability payments.

Another factor of growth in VA claims has been a weak labor market, the CBO says, which encourages out-of-work or underemployed veterans to apply for disability compensation. Current law allows them to do so at any age and as often as they like. Indeed, laws enacted in 2000 and 2008 required the VA to strengthen the help given to veterans to apply for disability benefits and to substantiate claims. The VA also increased outreach to veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and eased PTSD diagnostic requirements.

All such efforts, the CBO says, are aided by the Internet and its capability to relay information quickly, and by websites that offer information on benefits and programs and encourage veterans to

submit claims online.

The CBO prepared its report, Veterans' Disability Compensation: Trends and Policy Options, at the request of the ranking Democrat on the House Veterans Affairs Committee, Rep. Mike Michaud, of Maine.

As with most CBO reports, it offers only "objective, impartial analysis" and options, not recommendations. But the options for easing the river of VA compensation claims are controversial. Many will be unpopular with veterans and will be condemned by powerful veterans' service organizations, which would seem to make adoption by Congress or the VA unlikely outside of a larger, bipartisan package of federal entitlement reforms.

For example, the CBO floats three options to alter policies on identifying service-connected conditions and to conduct long-term monitoring of disability ratings. One would impose a time limit on filing initial claims. The CBO notes that in 2012, roughly 43 percent of first-time recipients of disability pay had filed claims while 55 or older, even though most had left service by age 30. Seven percent of new claimants that year were 75 or older.

"Many Vietnam veterans, all of whom are now over the age of 55,

began to receive compensation recently for such common medical conditions as hearing loss (35,000 new cases in 2012) and tinnitus (40,000 new cases in 2012)," the CBO points out. It suggests that veterans could be required to file initial claims within a fixed period of time, such as within five or 10 or 20 years of leaving active duty, depending on the medical conditions claimed, because some conditions would take longer than others to become apparent.

Another option would require more re-examinations of veterans with disability ratings to track changes and thus to adjust ratings.

A third option is to change the "positive-association standard" the VA has used to form its list of "presumptive" medical conditions. For example, the VA presumes any Vietnam War veteran who has Type II diabetes or heart disease contracted the condition from wartime exposure to Agent Orange.

The CBO notes that a medical finding of a positive association "does not prove that the occurrence of a disease results from exposure to a particular hazard." Indeed, using the association standard, says the CBO, "can result in providing benefits for conditions that are common in the general

population and that may be more strongly associated with non-service-related risk factors such as genetics, aging or lifestyle."

That option would have the VA continue to make "a positive association between exposure to a hazard and onset of a disease a necessary criterion for establishing the presumption that a condition is connected to military service, but it would no longer have such an association constitute the sole factor for establishing that presumption."

The VA would have to consider "other known risk factors, such as diet and aging, in the development of the medical condition."

Other CBO options to control disability pay include an end to Individual Unemployability benefits to veterans old enough to qualify for social security; dampening cost-of-living adjustments; and restoring the ban on "concurrent receipt" of both VA disability pay and military retirement.

Repealing concurrent receipt, the CBO says, would have the largest budgetary effect of any option, saving the government \$119 billion during the next 10 years.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

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MIDEAST

Obama back to Congress' role on Syria

By JULIE PACE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama faces a familiar question as he contemplates airstrikes in Syria: Should Congress have a say in his decision?

Obama was barreling toward strikes last summer when he abruptly announced that he first wanted approval from congressional lawmakers. Congress balked at Obama's request for a vote and the operation was eventually scrapped.

This time around, the White House is suggesting it may not be necessary to get a sign-off from Congress for airstrikes. While cautioning that Obama has made no final decisions, officials say there is a difference between last year's effort to attack Syria's government in retaliation for chemical weapons use and a bombing campaign against Islamic State militants that is now under consideration.

"What we're talking about now is confronting a terrorist group that has been posing a safe haven in Syria," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said when asked about the prospect of Obama again seeking congressional authorization. "This is a group that poses a threat to Americans in the region and could potentially, down the line, pose a broader threat to American interests and our allies around the globe."

Earlier this month, Obama authorized U.S. airstrikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq. The moves have been met with unease between Iraq and Syria, effectively blurring the border between the nations.

Thus far, there has been little clamor among congressional leaders for Obama to seek approval from Capitol Hill before proceeding with military action in Syria. With the midterm elections just over two months away, lawmakers may be even less inclined to take a politically risky vote on military action.

"I see no reason to come to Congress and beat the drum. It'll just be a circus," Rep. Steve Cohen, D-Tenn., said this week.

Still, there are notable members of both parties who are calling for a vote if Obama seeks to move into Syria. Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, a vocal critic of the administration's foreign policy, has said Congress should "certainly" authorize any military action in Syria. Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat and White House ally, has also called for a vote. Obama has a broader strategy for going after the Islamic State group.

"I am calling for the mission and objectives for this current significant military action against ISIL to be made clear to Congress from the American people, and our men and women in uniform," said Kaine, using one of the older acronyms for the militant group. "Congress should vote up or down on it."

Obama's surprise decision on Syria last year underscores the degree to which the dynamics in

Not always same legal path to military action

WASHINGTON — A look at the domestic legal justifications the U.S. has used for military action around the world:

Iraq

Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force in Iraq in 2002, clearing the way for the U.S.-led war in Iraq. The authorization still is on the books but President Barack Obama has called for it to be repealed. The White House says Obama had the power to authorize the airstrikes currently underway in Iraq through the inherent commander-in-chief powers outlined in the U.S. Constitution. Officials also note that Iraq's sovereign government requested U.S. military assistance to combat Islamic State militants.

Afghanistan

In the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, Congress passed an Authorization for the Use of Military Force that was meant to give President George W. Bush the authority to go after al-Qaida in Afghanistan.

Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia

The Bush and Obama administrations have both used the 2001 force authorization to justify drone strikes against terrorist targets in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia. The U.S. also has back-channel consent for the strikes from Pakistan's government and a more overt agreement with Yemen.

Libya

Obama did not seek congressional approval when the U.S. joined NATO allies in a 2011 bombing campaign in Libya. Officials argued that the nature of the mission, which did not involve American combat troops and was commanded by NATO, did not require authorization from lawmakers.

— The Associated Press

Washington could quickly flip. The president could ultimately decide to seek congressional approval once again, and more lawmakers could demand that he take that step.

Legal experts say Obama would have the authority to launch airstrikes in Syria without congressional approval, though they say his standing would be strengthened if the scope and duration of the attacks were limited.

"The Constitution gives only Congress the power to initiate war," said Ilya Somin, a law professor at George Mason University. "You could argue that a small number of strikes over a small number of days does not constitute a war."

Obama authorized the ongoing strikes in Iraq without congressional approval. The White House has offered a trio of justifications for the unilateral action — an imminent threat to American personnel stationed in Iraq, a request for assistance in countering the militants from the Iraqi government, and a humanitarian crisis in northern Iraq, where militants had trapped religious minorities.



RAQQA MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE/AP

This undated image posted Wednesday shows Islamic State fighters, who captured the Tabqa air base from the Syrian government on Sunday, firing a captured tank in Raqqa, Syria.

Terrorists kill Syrian soldiers

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — The Islamic State group has killed at least 150 Syrian soldiers it captured after overrunning a military base in northeastern Syria, shooting some and using knives on others in the latest brutal mass killing attributed to the extremists, activists said Thursday.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the militants rounded up the soldiers in the arid countryside on Wednesday near the Tabqa airfield, three days after seizing the base in heavy fighting. The government troops were among a large group of soldiers from the base who were stuck behind the front lines after the airfield fell to the jihadi fighters.

Observatory director Rami Abdurrahman said the extremists killed up to 65 soldiers. He said some were shot to death, while others were killed with knives.

A statement posted online and circulated on Twitter by supporters of the Islamic State group claimed the extremists killed "about 200" government prisoners captured near Tabqa.

It also showed photographs of what it said were the prisoners: young men stripped down to their underwear marching in the desert. The photos could not immediately be verified, but correspond to other Associated Press reporting.

The photos and reported mass killing underscored how the group uses violence — and images of violence — to terrorize its opponents as it sweeps further into Syria and Iraq. The group

has declared an Islamic state, or caliphate, in the territories it controls straddling the border.

On Wednesday, a U.N. commission accused the extremist group of committing crimes against humanity in Syria. The U.N. has accused the group of similar crimes in Iraq.

In southern Syria, meanwhile, government warplanes targeted rebels near the country's frontier with Israel in the Golan Heights, a day after opposition fighters captured a crossing point on the disputed border.

The Syrian airstrikes hit several areas near the frontier in Quneitra province, including the village of Jaba, said the Observatory, which relies on a network of activists inside Syria. The Local Coordination Committees, another activist group, also reported the air raids.

The Observatory said heavy clashes were raging between the rebels and the Syrian military in Jaba and the surrounding countryside.

White plumes of smoke set off by exploding mortar rounds could be seen on Thursday from the Israeli side of the Golan. The sound of small-arms fire could be heard echoing in the background.

An array of Syrian rebel groups, including the al-Qaida-linked al-Nusra Front, captured the frontier crossing on Wednesday. A rebel spokesman said the opposition is focused on fighting President Bashar Assad and poses no threat to Israel.

The military launched three more airstrikes in Iraq on Wednesday, bringing the total number of U.S. strikes to 101 since Aug. 8.

While Obama initially resisted going after the Islamic State group in its operating base in Syria, his calculus appears to have shifted after the militants announced they had killed American journalist James Foley. The group is threatening to kill other U.S. hostages, including journalist Steven Sotloff, whose mother released a video Wednesday pleading with the captors to release him.

Extending airstrikes into Syria would also require compliance

with international law. The clearest basis for military action would be a U.N. Security Council resolution. However, Obama is unlikely to get that authorization, given that Russia, the biggest benefactor of Syrian President Bashar Assad, would probably wield its veto power unless military action were coordinated with Syria.

Some international law experts argue that airstrikes could be justified as a matter of self-defense. Obama could argue that the Islamic State group poses a threat to the U.S. and its allies from inside Syria, whose government is unable to stop it.

Anthony Clark Arend, a gov-

ernment and foreign science professor at Georgetown University, said Obama could also argue that he was acting alongside Iraq in the interest of "collective defense." That theory would posit that the strikes in Syria are an extension of Iraq's request to the U.S. to help it fight terrorists.

Another possibility: Although the U.S. has said it will not coordinate with Assad, the Syrian dictator could give back-channel consent to American attacks. The U.S. has a similar arrangement with the Pakistani military for U.S. drone strikes there, even though Pakistani officials publicly condemn the American actions.

MIDEAST

Experts see long fight to stop militant threat

By CAROL J. WILLIAMS
Los Angeles Times

While the world has recoiled in horror at the atrocities committed by Islamic State radicals, the violence has helped the militant group recruit a global force of extremists and has furthered its pursuit of a fundamentalist Muslim caliphate in the heart of the Middle East, terrorism experts say.

The United States and its Western allies have responded with airstrikes on militant positions in Iraq and relief operations for the victims of the al-Qaida splinter group's campaign of violence.

But the air attacks on Islamic State fighters in Iraq and contemplation of similar action in war-torn Syria will do little more than temporarily curb the militants' momentum as the international community struggles to find a long-term solution to their destabilizing threat, analysts say.

"There is no short-term fix that will completely defeat this threat, so it's important to differentiate between stopping ISIS' momentum and ending or defeating them as an organization," said Jane Davidson, senior fellow for defense policy at the Council on Foreign Relations. She was referring to the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, as the group called itself before proclaiming its caliphate two months ago.

Without forces in Syria and Iraq to identify targets and assess what civilian communities aren't vulnerable, airstrikes alone are unlikely to roll back the Islamic State militants who have seized large swaths of territory in those countries, Davidson said.

Targeted strikes can and have taken out militant positions and

training camps and can undermine the group's image as a force "screaming through Iraq with one military success after another," Davidson said. But air power alone won't do more than chase the militants from one stronghold to another, nor counter their sophisticated use of social media to recruit and raise funds, she said.

In an interview discussing Western states' limited options for containing the militants, she said they should focus on forming regional security alliances with Iraq's and Syria's Middle East neighbors, and on reform of the Iraqi government that so excluded and repressed Sunni Muslims that many welcomed the militants when they overran northern Iraq.

The Islamic State battlegrounds and its gruesome execution of enemies have become a magnet for aspiring militants around the world, said Christopher Chivvis, a senior political scientist at the Rand Corp.

Chivvis estimates the number of foreign fighters who have joined Islamic State and other militant Sunni factions at 10,000, including as many as 3,000 carrying European passports and a "not insignificant number" from the United States. On Tuesday, White House officials confirmed that a San Diego man, Douglas McArthur McCain, had died in Syria fighting for the Islamic State.

"People like to be on the winning team and right now it looks like ISIS is winning," Chivvis said. "They have effectively challenged al-Qaida as leader of global jihad, offering a different model for what jihad ought to look like — more violent, more locally focused, but equally extreme."

If the United States and its al-

lies want to combat the Islamic State's power to attract disaffected and marginalized Muslims, broad international cooperation is required in law enforcement and intelligence sharing, Chivvis said. He pointed to the U.S. turn at the U.N. Security Council presidency in September as an opportunity to galvanize coordinated efforts to counter the extremists' message.

Like Davidson, Chivvis sees little prospect of Western states collaborating with Syrian President Bashar Assad to roll back their common enemy, the Islamic State. It would be politically and operationally problematic, he said, as Assad is accused of committing war crimes against his own people.

An independent U.N. investigative commission on Wednesday issued a scathing report accusing all combatants in Syria of inflicting "immeasurable suffering" on civilians, including the Assad government's sarin gas attacks on suburbs of Aleppo a year ago and barrel-bombing of opposition-held villages in the provinces of Idlib and Hama with chlorine gas in April.

Jeffrey Bale, a historian and scholar of political and religious extremism at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, crit-



RAQQA MEDIA CENTER OF THE ISLAMIC STATE GROUP/AP

This image posted Wednesday, which was verified and is consistent with Associated Press reporting, shows fighters of the Islamic State waving the group's flag from a damaged government fighter jet following the battle for the Tabqa air base in Raqqa, Syria.

icized the Obama administration and its European allies for ruling out collaboration with Assad, whom he sees as the lesser of two evils.

"The regime in Syria is fighting for its own survival, using brutal methods and not concerning themselves with civilian casualties," Bale said. "But neither are the jihadists — they are deliberately targeting civilians and anyone they consider insufficiently

Islamic.

"We should be collaborating with the Assad regime and with the Iranians, who already have Revolutionary Guards in Iraq, to weaken and destroy the operational capabilities of Islamic State. It's not like we're not doing this anywhere else in the world," he said, pointing out U.S. alliances with authoritarian governments in Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

US checking report of 2nd American killed in Syria

By BRADLEY KLAPPER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The U.S. is trying to determine if a second American fighting with the Islamic State group has been killed in Syria.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Wednesday that the U.S. has no independent confirmation of reports of a second American killed while fighting with the militant group. "We're looking into it," she said.

NBC cited an anonymous member of the opposition Free Syrian Army as saying two Americans were killed in a battle last week with Islamic State fighters.

The U.S. confirmed the death of one American, Douglas McArthur McCain, who grew up

outside Minneapolis in the town of New Hope and most recently lived in San Diego.

A relative, Kenneth McCain, told The Associated Press that the State Department called to tell his family that Douglas McCain had been killed in Syria. "We do not know if he was fighting anyone," he said.

Investigators were aware that McCain was in Syria to fight with the militant group, said a U.S. official who was not authorized to discuss by name an ongoing investigation and spoke only on condition of anonymity.

Surveillance flights have begun over Syria on the orders of President Barack Obama, a move that could pave the way for airstrikes against the Islamic State group.

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UKRAINE

Ukraine: Russian troops cross border

FROM FRONT PAGE

"An invasion is an invasion is an invasion," tweeted the Lithuanian ambassador to the U.N., Raimonda Murmokaite.

"Russian supplies, tanks, armored vehicles, artillery and multiple rocket launchers have been insufficient to defeat Ukraine armed forces. So now an increasing number of Russian troops are intervening directly in fighting on Ukrainian territory," Geoffrey Pyatt, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, tweeted Thursday.

Pyatt said that Russia has also sent SA-22 advanced air defense systems into eastern Ukraine, and Russian troops are now "directly involved in the fighting."

The U.N. Security Council planned to hold an emergency meeting Thursday afternoon.

"Russian forces have entered Ukraine," Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko said, canceling a foreign trip and calling an emergency meeting of the country's security council. "Today the president's place is in Kiev."

Poroshenko urged his citizens to resist giving into panic.

"Destabilization of the situation and panic, this is as much of a weapon of the enemy as tanks," Poroshenko told the security council.

As Poroshenko spoke, the strategic southeastern town of Novorossiysk appeared firmly under the control of separatists and their Russian backers, a new, third front in the war in eastern Ukraine between the separatists and Poroshenko's government in Kiev.

Russia's ambassador to the EU, Vladimir Chizhov, told the BBC that "NATO has never produced a single piece of evidence" of Russian troops operating in Ukraine. He said the only Russian soldiers in Ukraine were the 10 captured this week, who Moscow insists had mistakenly wandered across the border.

The Russian Defense Ministry didn't directly deny its troops

were in Ukraine, but said the list of Russian military units said to be operating in Ukraine had no relation to reality.

Lysenko said the missiles from Russia were fired at Ukrainian positions in the southeast about 11 a.m. and an hour and a half later, two columns, including tanks and other fighting vehicles, began an attack. They entered Ukraine from Veselo-Voznesenka and Maximovo in the Rostov region of Russia.

Russian stock markets diving as Switzerland joined the European Union in imposing restrictions on Russian state banks and fears grew that the U.S. and EU could impose further sanctions in response to the military escalation.

"Over the past two weeks we have noted a significant escalation in both the level and sophistication of Russia's military interference in Ukraine," Tak said in Casteau, Belgium. "Russia is reinforcing and resupplying separatist forces in a blatant attempt to change the momentum of the fighting, which is currently favoring the Ukrainian military."

He said the 1,000 Russian troops was a conservative estimate and said another 20,000 Russian troops were right over the border.

NATO also produced satellite images to provide what it called additional evidence that Russian combat soldiers, equipped with sophisticated heavy weaponry, are operating inside Ukraine's sovereign territory.

"This is highly sophisticated weaponry that requires well-trained crews, well-trained command and control elements, and it is extremely unlikely that this sort of equipment is used by volunteers," Tak said.

Moscow has described the Russian citizens fighting with the separatists as fighters.

Tak said the satellite images were only "the tip of the iceberg" in terms of the overall scope of Russian troop and weapons



PHOTOS BY SERGEI GERS/AP

Ukrainian forces guard a checkpoint Thursday in Mariupol, eastern Ukraine. Ukraine's president Petro Poroshenko called an emergency meeting of the nation's security council, declaring that "Russian forces have entered Ukraine."

movements.

NATO also has detected large quantities of advanced weapons, including air defense systems, artillery, tanks and armored personnel carriers being transferred to separatist forces in eastern Ukraine," Tak said.

The leader of the insurgency, Alexander Zakharchenko, said in an interview on Russian state television Thursday up to 4,000 Russians have fought on the separatist side since the armed conflict began in April.

The U.S. government also has accused Russia of orchestrating the rebel campaign and sending in tanks, rocket launchers and armored vehicles.

"These incursions indicate a Russian-directed counteroffensive is likely underway in Donetsk and Luhansk," U.S. State

Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. She voiced concern about overnight deliveries of material in southeast Ukraine near Novozovsk and said Russia was being dishonest about its actions, even to its own people.

Russian forces, she said, are being sent 30 miles (about 50 kilometers) inside Ukraine, without them or their families knowing where they are going. She cited reports of burials in Russia for those who have died in Ukraine and wounded Russian soldiers being treated in a St. Petersburg hospital.

On Thursday morning, an Associated Press journalist saw rebel checkpoints on Novozovsk's outskirts and was told he couldn't enter. One of the rebels said there was no fighting in the town.

Novozovsk, which lies along the road connecting Russia to the

Russia-annexed Crimean Peninsula, had come under shelling for three days, with the rebels entering it on Wednesday. This area had previously escaped the fighting that has engulfed areas to the north, and the only way rebels could have reached the southeast was by coming through Russia.

The new southeastern front raised fears that the separatists are seeking to create a land link between Russia and Crimea. If successful, it could give them or Russia control over the entire Sea of Azov and the gas and mineral riches that energy experts believe it contains. Ukraine already lost roughly half its coastline, several major ports and significant Black Sea mineral rights in March when Russia annexed Crimea.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jon Harper contributed to this report.

2 broad multinational exercises to begin in shadow of Russia moves

BY JON HARPER

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Two large multinational exercises will kick off this week amid fears about a resurgence in Russia, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

Beginning Thursday, about 160 U.S. troops will participate in Combined Endeavor, an annual exercise that U.S. European Command described as "the largest command, control, communications and computers interoperability event in the world."

The Defense Department could not immediately provide the unit assignments or other additional details about the participating American forces.

The war game, which involves 1,200 troops from 31 NATO and NATO partner nations, will take place in Grafenwohr, Germany, and a forward operating site in Iceland.

EUCOM said the purpose of Combined Endeavor is to improve interoperability among participating militaries and prepare nations to "collaborate, plan and execute complex C4 systems in crisis response and combat operations."

Northern Coasts, which kicks off Friday, is a Finnish-led maritime exercise in the Baltic Sea region. This year, the U.S., Canada, Germany and Denmark are slated to participate alongside Finland.

The exercise is "a fictive crisis-management operation taking place at sea and along the coast," according to the Finnish Defense Forces.

Approximately 50 ships, aircraft, and about 3,000 people will participate, including airborne and special operations troops, according to the Finnish Defense Forces. The U.S. contingent will consist of 12 sailors from Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 8, based in Rota, Spain. They will be involved in underwater countermine and counterIED training, according to the Pentagon.

Both exercises are scheduled to conclude Sept. 12.

The U.S. and NATO have en-

hanced their exercises and force rotations in Central and Eastern Europe since Russia annexed part of neighboring Ukraine earlier this year. Moscow continues to provide extensive military support to a pro-Russian separatist movement there, including firing artillery at Ukrainian military forces, according to Western and Ukrainian officials.

A dozen F-15s and approximately 180 personnel from the 493rd, based at RAF Lakenheath, England, are in Bulgaria participating in a two-week bilateral training exercise with the Bulgarian air force.

Earlier this month, the Pentagon announced that about 600 soldiers from the Army's 1st Cav-

alry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas, will deploy to Poland and the Baltic States in October for a three-month series of land warfare training exercises, which will involve M-1 Abrams tanks, infantry fighting vehicles, and armored personnel carriers.

On Wednesday, NATO secretary-general Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the alliance is planning to boost its presence in Eastern Europe by pre-positioning supplies and equipment and enhancing infrastructure. The initiative would facilitate the influx of a rapid response force in the event of a crisis with Russia, according to news reports.

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NATION



JOHN LOCHER/AP

A man closes off an entrance to the Last Stop outdoor shooting range Wednesday in White Hills, Ariz., where a range instructor was accidentally killed Monday by a 9-year-old girl.

Ready, aim, smile: US gun ranges are a big tourist draw

The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — The death of a firearms instructor by a 9-year-old girl who was firing a fully automatic Uzi displayed a tragic twist of what has become a hot industry in the U.S.: gun tourism.

With gun laws keeping high-powered weapons out of reach for most people — especially those outside the U.S. — indoor shooting ranges with the weapons have become a popular attraction.

Tourists from Japan flock to ranges in Waikiki, Hawaii, and the dozen or so that have cropped up in Las Vegas offer bullet-riddled bachelor parties and literal shotgun weddings, where newly married couples can fire submachine gun rounds and pose with Uzis and ammo belts.

"People just want to experience things they can't experience elsewhere," said Genghis Cohen, owner of Machine Guns Vegas. "There's not an action movie in the past 30 years without a machine gun."

The accidental shooting death of the firing-range instructor in Arizona set off a powerful debate over youngsters and guns, with many people wondering what sort of parents would let a child handle a submachine gun.

Instructor Charles Vacca, a 39-year-old Army veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, was standing next to the girl Monday at the Last Stop range in White Hills, Ariz., about 60 miles south of Las Vegas, when she squeezed the trigger. The recoil wrenched the Uzi upward, and Vacca was shot in the head.

Prosecutors say they will not file charges in the case. The identities of the girl and her family have not been released.

Many American youth grow up around guns, and taking part in their first hunt with parents is a rite of passage in rural America. Giving a child an automatic Uzi is a different story.

The dusty indoor range calls itself the Bullets and Burgers



BOB MACDUFF/AP

Lindsay MacDuff holds an automatic weapon at a gun business in Las Vegas after her "shotgun wedding."

Adventure and touts its "Desert Storm atmosphere."

Similar attractions have been around since the 1980s in Las Vegas, although the city has experienced a boom of such businesses in the past few years. Owning an automatic weapon is cost-prohibitive — an M15 might go for \$25,000, while a chance to gun down zombie targets with an AR-15 and three other weapons costs less than \$200.

Tourists from Australia, Europe or Asia, where civilians are barred from many types of guns, long to indulge in the quintessentially American right to bear arms. The businesses cast a light-hearted spin on their shooting experiences, staging weddings in their ranges and selling souvenir T-shirts full of bullet holes.

But behind the bravado, owners acknowledge they are one errant movement away from tragedy.

Jace Zack, chief deputy for the Mohave County Attorney's Office, said the instructor was probably the most criminally negligent person involved for having allowed the child to hold the gun without enough training.

White House is preparing its plan for immigration reform

By JOSH LEDERMAN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With impending threats and potential lawsuits looming, President Barack Obama knows whatever executive actions he takes on immigration will face intense opposition. So as a self-imposed, end-of-summer deadline to act approaches, Obama's lawyers are carefully crafting a legal rationale they believe will withstand scrutiny and survive any court challenges, administration officials say.

The argument goes something like this: Beyond failing to fix broken immigration laws, Congress hasn't even provided the government with enough resources to fully enforce the laws already on the books. With roughly 11.5 million immigrants in the U.S. illegally — far more than the government could reasonably deport — the White House believes it has wide latitude to prioritize which of those individuals should be sent home.

But Republicans, too, are exploring their legal options for stopping Obama from what they've deemed egregious presidential overreach.

While Obama has yet to receive the formal recommendations he's requested from Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, administration officials said the

president is intimately familiar with the universe of options and won't spend much time deliberating once Johnson delivers his report.

Obama's goal had been to announce his decision around Labor Day before leaving on a trip next week to Estonia and Wales. A host of national security crises have pushed the announcement back, likely until after Obama returns, said the officials, who weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity.

After resisting calls to act alone in hopes Congress would pass a comprehensive immigration fix, Obama in June bowed to immigration activists and said that "if Congress will not do their job, at least we can do ours."

The most sweeping, controversial step under consideration involves halting deportation for millions, a major expansion of a 2012 Obama program that deferred prosecutions for those brought here illegally as children. Roughly half a million have benefited from that program, known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or DACA.

But while prosecutors are routinely expected to use their discretion on a case-by-case basis, such blanket exempting of entire categories of people has never been done on the scale of what Obama is considering — potentially involving many millions of people

if he extends relief to parents of DACA children, close relatives of U.S. citizens or immigrants with clean criminal records.

"The question is how broadly can the president extend the categories and still stay on the side of spectrum of ensuring the laws are faithfully executed?" said Cristina Rodriguez, who left the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel in 2013 to teach at Yale Law School.

Other options under consideration, such as changes to how green cards are distributed and counted, might be less controversial because of the support they enjoy from the business community and other influential groups.

Obama may have undermined his case because he has insisted time and again that he's the president, not the king, and "can't just make the laws up by myself."

Republicans are already hinting they'll consider legal action to thwart what they've denounced as a violation of the separation of powers. House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, in a conference call this month with GOP House members, accused Obama of "threatening to rewrite our immigration laws unilaterally."

"If the president fails to faithfully execute the laws of our country, we will hold him accountable," Boehner said, according to an individual who participated in the call.

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NATION

Police bullet accidentally kills 'Cops' sound tech

By MARGERY A. BECK
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — When the call came from an officer who needed help facing an armed robber at a fast-food restaurant, two members of a reality television show riding along with Omaha police hustled to record the confrontation.

In the chaotic scene that unfolded, one crewmember was struck by "friendly fire" from one of the officers, a bullet slipping past his bulletproof vest and killing him, Omaha Police Chief Todd Schmaderer said Wednesday. The robbery suspect was also killed. The weapon he was carrying turned out to be a pellet gun, though it looked and sounded so real that both witnesses and officers were fooled, Schmaderer said.

Bryce Dion, 38, of Boston, the audio supervisor for "Cops," is the first crewmember of the long-running TV show to be killed while filming police in action, executives with the show's production company said. Police identified the robbery suspect as Cortez Washington, 32, who was arrested from Missouri for a robbery conviction.

Schmaderer told reporters that



NATI HARNIK/AP

Frame grabs from security video show an armed robbery at a Wendy's restaurant in Omaha, Neb., in which Bryce Dion, a sound technician with the "Cops" television show who was embedded with Omaha police, was killed on Tuesday.

police and prosecutors have reviewed the "Cops" video of Tuesday's shooting and found that the

officers "had no choice" but to open fire, though a grand jury will still be tasked with investigating.

University bets \$10M on poor city's kids

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM
The Associated Press

READING, Pa. — On the second day of class at Reading Senior High School, teacher Eric Knorr directs his students' attention to the banners hanging on the wall. Syracuse. Temple. Brown. Penn State. All of them brought back by former students who bucked the odds and went to college.

"You need to make sure you have a plan," Knorr exhorts the class. "Because your plan will lead to a banner. OK? It will lead to an opportunity to go to college."

Long seen as a way out of poverty, higher education eludes most students at Reading High. The public schools here are plagued by low test scores in reading, math and science; the school district has one of the highest dropout rates in the state; and, in a city where almost 60 percent of the population is Hispanic, many students' parents speak little or no English.

Yet, as another school year gets underway, Reading's Alvernia University is placing a \$10 million bet that it can help kids in one of the nation's poorest cities get ready to do college work — and to succeed once they get there.

The first five students selected for the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program joined Alvernia's freshman class last week, flush with full-tuition scholarships and plenty of support to help them

make the transition from a high school where fewer than seven in 10 graduate.

"I want to be the best that I can, and I just push myself," said Melissa Rivera, 18. "There's no obstacle I can't overcome."

Alvernia, a small, private school started by Roman Catholic sisters, has partnered with the city's Olivet Boys & Girls Club on a program that aims to help hundreds of high school students get ready for college — any college — through an intensive four-year program of tutoring and mentoring. That effort launched in the spring.

Additionally, as many as 20 city kids a year will get full scholarships to Alvernia, where they'll receive additional tutoring and mentoring. The university is raising money to endow the scholarships.

"We can't forget about places like Reading," said David Myers, director of Alvernia's O'Pake Institute for Ethics, Leadership and Public Service. "We can't forget about these kinds of kids."

Alvernia is patterning its program after one run by the Posse Foundation, a 25-year-old group that recruited more than 5,000 high-achieving high school students from major cities like New York, Los Angeles and Chicago to receive full scholarships from partner colleges and universities.

But there are important differences. Reading is a small, easily overlooked city of 88,000, while the students that Alvernia seeks to serve are not the ones who scored 1,400 on their SATs. They're typically average kids with potential — the ones who often slip through the cracks.

Rivera said most of her childhood friends "took a wrong path" and "started to go with the wrong crowd." "They had the motivation when they were younger but they lost it," she said.

Alvernia had tried before to serve underprivileged teenagers in Reading, with little success. Only 20 percent graduated within six years.

"We were bringing students here and they were not doing well," Myers said. "They weren't coming back after the first year."

Alvernia realized it would have to do more to help. Among other requirements, students in the Reading Collegiate Scholars Program commit to a summer "bridge" program and to regular meetings with community and faculty mentors who will help make sure they stay on track.

Blackwater: Iraqis removed evidence

Attorney for security contractor says police scrubbed scene of '07 shooting

By PETE YOST
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A security attorney told a federal jury on Wednesday that Iraqi national police removed evidence that would prove Blackwater security guards were being fired on by insurgents, prompting the guards to return fire in shootings that killed or wounded more than 30 Iraqi civilians.

The assertion came in closing arguments at the guards' trial that began in June. Prosecutor Anthony Asuncion told the federal jury that the Blackwater guards unleashed a hail of gunfire that left "bloody, bullet-riddled corpses" at Nisour Square in downtown Baghdad seven years ago.

Lawyers for the defendants said the guards acted in self-defense in firing their weapons, that there was evidence they were fired upon by insurgents, but that additional evidence supporting their case had disappeared.

"We will never know the extent to which Iraqi national police scrubbed the scene" of evidence that Blackwater guards were fired on, said Brian Heberling, who is representing former Blackwater guard Paul Slough.

Declaring that there was no incoming gunfire, Asuncion said the four defendants "took something that didn't belong to them"

— the lives of human beings and the health of others who are still suffering from their wounds from the Sept. 16, 2007, shootings.

The jurors' job "is a search for truth" in the wake of violently shattered lives, Asuncion said.

The U.S. government brought charges against the defendants in 14 of the deaths and 18 of the non-fatal shootings.

One defendant, Nicholas Slatten, faces a first-degree murder charge. Defendants Slough, Dustin Heard and Evan Liberty are charged with voluntary manslaughter, attempted manslaughter and gun charges.

Slatten could be sentenced to life imprisonment if convicted. The others face mandatory minimum sentences of 30 years in prison if convicted of the gun charge and one other count.

In his closing argument, Asuncion disputed the self-defense assertions.

One of the witnesses in the trial, Blackwater team leader Jimmy Watson, testified that on that day in Nisour Square, he heard the incoming "pop" of what sounded like AK-47 rounds shortly before Slatten fired his weapon twice at the start of the violence.

Watson's testimony supports the idea that there was incoming gunfire because AK-47s were the type of weapons used by insurgents.

Asuncion discounted Watson's testimony, with the prosecutor saying that Watson had never said anything previously about incoming gunfire under questioning by investigators.

Cold cash just keeps washing in from ALS bucket challenge

The Associated Press

In the couple of hours it took an official from the ALS Association to return a reporter's call for comment, the group's ubiquitous "ice bucket challenge" had brought in a few million more dollars.

Approaching \$100 million, the viral fundraising campaign for the ailment also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease has put the ALS group into the top ranks for medical charity donations. Since the end of July, the money has been sloshing in at a rate of about \$9 million a week. Last year, from July 29 to Aug. 26, the group raised just \$2.6 million.

It's caught everyone off-guard, not only so that the ALS Association folks. But they know this is likely a one-off phenomenon, and the group now faces the task of spending all that money wisely. Research, care and advocacy are the group's three main missions — but officials say they'll don't know yet exactly how they'll

use the astonishing windfall.

"I think even if I or any PR person at either a nonprofit or a for-profit company had all of the PR dollars in the world to invest, no one would have come up with this idea," said Carrie Munk, the association's spokeswoman. "We realize there are responsibilities that come with being good stewards of the dollars."

Part of what's surprising is that ALS — or amyotrophic lateral sclerosis — is one of those "small" diseases. It is a neurodegenerative disease that causes paralysis and death, and the association estimates that about 5,600 new cases are diagnosed in the U.S. each year.

This campaign hasn't exactly put the charity in the same neighborhood as giants like the American Cancer Society or the American Heart Association — which raised \$889 million and \$529 million last year, respectively. But it's moving up quickly.

WORLD

Poll: Israelis doubt PM's Gaza victory claim

By PETER ENAV
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's claim that Israel achieved a "great military and political" victory over Hamas in the latest round of fighting in the Gaza Strip has met with skepticism from many Israelis, according to a poll published Thursday.

The poll, published in the left-leaning Haaretz newspaper, shows that 54 percent of those surveyed believe there was no clear winner in the 50 days of war. The fighting killed 2,143 Palestinians, most of them civilians, according to Palestinian health officials and U.N. officials. On the Israeli side, 64 soldiers, five civilians and a

Thai worker were killed.

The poll underscores the unease pervading Israeli society after the third round of fighting between Israel and Gaza-based Islamic militants in the seven years since Hamas took control of the densely populated coastal strip.

Some of Netanyahu's detractors, including ministers in his own government like veteran security hawk Uzi Landau, believe that the prime minister and Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon did not go far enough in pursuing the war, insisting that they should not have stopped until Hamas was destroyed or pleaded for peace.

Others, particularly residents of hard-hit agricultural communities abutting the Gaza border,

fear that without a clear political road map for the Palestinian territory's future, a resumption of the rocket and mortar fire that caused such considerable disruption to their lives for most of the summer is not so much a question of if, but rather of when.

Still, calm has prevailed since the two sides agreed on Tuesday to an open-ended truce, settling for an ambiguous interim agreement in exchange.

Hamas, though badly battered, remains in control of Gaza with part of its military arsenal intact. Israel and Egypt are to continue to control access to the blockaded coastal strip despite Hamas' long-running demand that the border closures imposed in 2007

be lifted.

A former director of Israel's Shin Bet security service, Yuval Diskin, said the war's results "were disappointing and were accompanied by what some have described as a sense of sourness."

"The cease-fire that was achieved with Hamas has left the Israeli public frustrated," Diskin wrote in a commentary published in the popular Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper on Thursday.

The Haaretz poll questioned 464 Israelis on Wednesday and had a margin of error of 4.6 percent. While 54 percent said there was no clear-cut winner, some 25 percent of respondents said Israel had won the war, while 16 percent believed Hamas had prevailed.

The remaining 5 percent of those surveyed were undecided. The paper did not say how the survey was conducted.

Later that night in a nationally televised speech, Netanyahu said that Israel had dealt Hamas "a heavy blow."

"With the implementation of the cease-fire, I can say that there is a great military and political achievement here for the State of Israel," Netanyahu said. "Hamas was hit hard and it received not one of the demands it set forth for a cease-fire, not one."

Netanyahu also said Israel "will not tolerate" any more of the Hamas rocket fire that started the war on July 8, and would respond "even harder" if attacks resume.



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

An employee of Daegyo, the dog meat restaurant, displays dog meat before serving customers Aug. 12 at a restaurant in Seoul, South Korea.

Dog meat falling out of favor in S. Korea

By YOOKYUNG LEE
The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — For more than 30 years, chef and restaurant owner Oh Keum-il built her expertise in cooking one traditional South Korean delicacy: dog meat. In her twenties, Oh traveled around South Korea to learn dog meat recipes from each region. During a period of South Korean reconciliation with North Korea early last decade, she went to Pyongyang as part of a business delegation and tasted a dozen different dog dishes, from dog stew to dog taffy, all served enthusiastically at the Koryo, one of the North's best hotels.

She adapted famous dishes to include dog meat, replacing beef with dog in South Korea's signature meat-and-rice dish bibimbab. But the 58-year-old's lifelong experience with a food eaten for centuries in Korea is about to become history.

Daegyo, the famous dog meat restaurant she opened in a Seoul alley in 1981, will serve its last bowl of boshintang, or dog

stew, on Friday, a reflection of the challenges facing a trade that is neither legal nor explicitly banned under South Korean laws governing livestock and food processing.

Opposite views on dogs as either for eating or petting have co-existed in the country's recent history, feeding a controversy that becomes most bitter in the summer. On three "dog days," which are among the hottest times of the year, many South Koreans queue for the dish of shredded dog meat and vegetables in hot red soup, believing it gives strength to bear the heat.

Animal rights activists protest nearby, urging people not to eat man's best friend. The closure of Oh's restaurant, dubbed by a local newspaper as the "Holy Land of boshintang" and frequented by two former presidents, Lee Myung-bak and the late Roh Moo-hyun, shows one view of dogs is gaining more traction among young South Koreans.

"There is too much generational gap in boshintang," said Oh. "There are no young customers."

Dogs are also food in countries such as China and Vietnam. The long tradition of eating the meat in South Korea is such that a respected 17th-century book on Korean medicine extols its health benefits. Today it is an increasingly tough sell and a less attractive dining option for young South Koreans. Oh plans to reopen her restaurant as a Korean beef barbecue diner.

Animal rights groups have also highlighted that some of the 2 million or so dogs eaten in South Korea each year suffer painful and inhumane deaths.

Most young people eat chicken soup on a dog day and even those who eat dog tend to refrain from talking about it openly, according to Moon Jaesuk, 32, a researcher who enjoyed eating dog meat before he moved to Seoul.

"There's a burden in a group of 10 or 20 people to suggest eating dog, like making a sexual joke," he said. "It's not easy to talk about eating dog when there are a lot of people."

UN: Ebola cases could reach 20K

By JOHN HEILPRIN
AND KRISTA LARSON
The Associated Press

GENEVA — The Ebola outbreak in West Africa eventually could exceed 20,000 cases, more than six times as many as are now known, the World Health Organization said Thursday.

A new plan by the U.N. health agency to stop Ebola also assumes that the actual number of cases in many hard-hit areas may be two to four times higher than currently reported. If that's accurate, it suggests there could be up to 12,000 cases already.

"This far outstrips any historic Ebola outbreak in numbers. The largest outbreak in the past was about 400 cases," Dr. Bruce Aylward, WHO's assistant director-general for emergency operations, told reporters.

"What we are seeing today, in contrast to previous Ebola outbreaks: multiple hot spots within these countries — not a single, remote forested area, a kind of environments that have been tackled in the past. And then not multiple hot spots within one country, but international disease."

Another new dimension, he said, is the difficulty of dealing with Ebola in large cities and broad areas.

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WORLD

STREET TALK

Hip-hop and graffiti artists in Lebanon tag a nation's woes

By SAM KIMBALL
The Associated Press

BEIRUT — In a red-lit bar in Beirut, Nasser Shorbaji and Marwan Alameh try not to knock the microphones over while laughing during the broadcast of their weekly radio show.

Moments later, they turn more somber as they introduce a segment on Palestinian hip-hop, discussing the most recent outbreak of war on Gaza. Heads nod in the packed bar to the rhymes of Sati, a Palestinian rapper.

The duo are among a host of Lebanese graffiti artists and rappers trying to re-engage disaffected youth in a debate about the country's latest wave of political turmoil and the woes of the greater Middle East.

"People don't want to be preached to," Alameh said. "So we're just doing a fun thing in order to put out serious issues."

One example is Shorbaji's latest music video to his song "O.P.P." which takes its title from the 1991 hit by U.S. hip-hop group Naughty By Nature. Shorbaji's version focuses on a suicide bomber working as a bank clerk who thinks through whether or not to carry out an attack on his workplace.

Another is rapper and graffiti artist Omar Kabbani, 31, who runs Ashekman, a rap, graffiti and urban clothing outfit with his brother Mohamed.

"We consider ourselves to be the eight o'clock news when we go out to do graffiti,"



PHOTOS BY BILAL HUSSEIN/AP

Top: Lebanese rappers perform during an open mic show at Radio Beirut in Lebanon. Above: Filipino Syrian rapper Nasser Shorbaji, left, and Lebanese Marwan Alameh, right, broadcast their show 'Bar Fight' at Radio Beirut. Below: A Lebanese graffiti artist, who goes by the art name Phat 2, right, and his friend, Edgar, speak after spray-painting graffiti on abandoned shops in Beirut.

Kabbani said. "They say I was born with a microphone and my twin brother with a spray can."

While Kabbani is wary of calling Ashekman's work political, the group's music and

street art does not avoid Lebanon's many conflicts. Ashekman's "Grendizer," a giant war robot from anime cartoons the group uses in its designs, is often used by Ashekman to mock what they see as mind-

less obedience to religious and political factions — and their militias — in Lebanon's polarized political landscape.

"Many people that were warlords in Lebanon are now ruling the country," he said, referring to leaders in Lebanon's 15-year civil war, which ended in 1990, who have gone on to prominent political careers.

In its song "Deyman Ijebeh," Arabic for "Always Positive," Ashekman makes fun of what they see as attempts by Lebanese to appear unperturbed by their country's instability.

"They (leaders) are fighting over who will rule the Banana Republic," Ashekman raps.

Ashekman's latest graffiti mural appeared in response to the recent spate of suicide bombings that shook Lebanon. The mural features the popular 1980s video game character Bomberman running with a cartoon-like bomb, fuse lit, in his hands. The character skips past the word "Wanted," written in Arabic. Kabbani says it is a reference to what Ashekman feels is Lebanese politicians' manipulation of the threat of terrorism for greater personal power and to cow their rivals.

Jackson Allers, an American Beirut-based journalist who specializes in Arab hip-hop, said artists in the country are just beginning to discover how much power they have.

"Their influence is increasing," he said. "They've turned the critical gaze of youth inward, at their own peer group, which I would say is positive."



A CENTURY OF TANKS

Lt. Col. George S. Patton Jr., 1st Tank Battalion, stands in front of a French Renault tank in the summer of 1918.

Courtesy of the U.S. Army Signal Corps

THE EVOLUTION OF THE

'KILLING MACHINE'

Stars and Stripes

It's been 100 years since the world went to war in the summer of 1914, launching a global conflict that destroyed empires and claimed the lives of 9 million combatants and tens of millions of civilians.

World War I, the "War to End All Wars," not only redrew the map of Europe and the Middle East but also revolutionized the battlefield with technological breakthroughs such as the airplane and a new "killing machine" given a harmless-sounding name for security purposes: the tank.

Advances in technology, including the internal combustion engine, gave life to an idea first conceived by inventor and artist Leonardo da Vinci in 1487. The tank enabled troops to advance through barbed wire and

withering machine gunfire to deliver fire against terrified ground troops.

Those early tanks were clumsy and in many cases less effective than their designers had hoped.

In the years between World War I and World War II, however, the Germans realized the potential of armored warfare as a

way to improve mobility and avoid troops from getting bogged down in World War I-style trench warfare.

Tanks became the centerpiece of the Nazi Germans' "blitzkrieg," or "lightning war" tactics — powerful offensive strikes that enabled Germany to sweep over much of Europe in 1940 and 1941.

Seeing defenses crumble in France, the Soviet Union and elsewhere, the Allies accelerated their own tank production, rolling out thousands of armored vehicles that proved decisive in battles from the fields and hedgerows of Europe to the jungles of the Pacific.

Since then, the tank has become an integral part of modern warfare, proving its value in Korea, Vietnam and battlefields of the Middle East and Afghanistan.

ONLINE

Stars and Stripes looks at the evolution of the tank in a multimedia presentation

stars.com/go/tanks



Drawing by Leonardo da Vinci

Leonardo da Vinci came up with the idea of an armored vehicle that could be driven into battle in 1487. It wasn't until four centuries later that tanks would find their way into the fight.



Courtesy of the Tank Museum

In 1915, First Lord of the Admiralty Winston Churchill created a committee to tackle the challenge of trench warfare. The result was the British 14-ton "Little Willie" tank.



Courtesy of the U.S. National Archives

A M3 light tank crew is seen in Coburg, Germany, in April 1945. The M3 series tank was built for the U.S. Army and is credited as the genesis behind today's U.S. armor force.



Courtesy of the U.S. Army

A U.S. Marine Corps patrol is being led by an M26 Pershing Heavy Tank as they hunt for North Korean guerrillas in a mountainous region of Korea in January 1951.



Courtesy of the U.S. Marine Corps

Marines from the 4th Tank Division, Twentynine Palms, Calif., roll down a dirt road on their M1A1 Abrams Main Battle Tank during training at Exercise Africa Lion in April 2012.

NATION

No child hungry

NYC uses food trucks to take free summer meals to children in need

By DEEPTI HAJELA
The Associated Press

Within minutes, the line at the food truck parked on a busy Queens thoroughfare extended several people deep. Hipster foodies looking to sample vegan pizzas or fusion tacos?

Nope, these were children, agonizing over whether to pick the ham and cheese or the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, the regular or chocolate milk.

It was part of a summer meals program that tries to make sure the children who qualify for free or reduced-price meals during the academic year don't lose out just because school's out.

Instead of the kids coming to where the food is, the food goes to where the kids are.

New York City's Department of Education put its first truck in service a couple of years ago, and this year it has four — one that goes to Orchard Beach in the Bronx and three that go to a park and two library branches in Queens.

"By bringing the food to them we're able to extend our reach in ways that previously were unattainable," said Eric Goldstein, CEO of the department's Office of School Support Services.

Goldstein said about 75 percent of the city's 1.1 million public school students are eligible during the school year for daily free or reduced-price meals, which the city provides and gets reimbursed for by the federal government. Participa-



A child holds the free bagged lunch she received from the Get Ready 2 Go truck.

tion during the school year requires filling out paperwork, and not all eligible students take part.

There's no paperwork in the summer. But while participation in the summer meals program is on the rise, with 7.6 million meals served in summer 2013, up from 7.1 million in 2012, it's still lower than when school is in session.

That mirrors what's seen around the country, where only a small portion of the 21 million children who get meals during the school year have access to them in the summer



PHOTOS BY JOHN MINCHILLO/AP

Children accompanied by parents receive free lunches at the Get Ready 2 Go food truck in the Flushing neighborhood of Queens, N.Y., on July 23. New York City's Department of Education has turned to food trucks as part of its summer meals program for children and teens ages 18 and younger.

when it can be more of a logistical challenge for parents to get kids to food sites.

Other places around the country have started using mobile delivery systems for their summer meals programs. In Baltimore, a summer meals program drops meals off at 11 sites, while in Waco, Texas, school buses go to certain designated sites and kids get on the bus to get their meals. In Florida's Palm Beach County, a church uses a retrofitted school bus to deliver meals to kids at three apartment complexes.

However, New York City was one of the first to offer mobile deliveries and "most probably resembles a traditional food truck,

perhaps more than almost anybody in the country," said Josh Wachs, chief strategy officer for the organization Share Our Strength. The organization's No Kid Hungry program helped the city get trucks for its mobile food offerings.

The trucks are white with bright colors. They're decorated with text that promotes the free meals and a number people can text to find the food service location closest to them. Something that is conspicuously missing is any reference to the idea that this is part of any anti-hunger program aimed at low-income residents.

That's on purpose, Wachs said. "Having a food truck-style vehicle makes it fun for kids, and reduces the stigma often associated with free meals that has limited participation," he said.

Participation with the trucks hasn't been an issue. In 2012, 122,000 meals were served out of trucks. In 2013, it had jumped up to 320,000, Wachs said.

Goldstein said that this summer, 65,000 more meals have been served via the trucks than at the same point last year.

Many of those have been at the truck outside the Queens Public Library branch on Main Street in the Flushing section of the borough, which had served more than 84,000 meals as of early this month.

They were eaten by people like 10-year-old Azwa Sadat and her 6-year-old sister, Zoya, who come by the truck a couple of times a week with their mother, Ifath, on their way to the library.

They both had chocolate milk and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and said they liked coming to the library even more because they knew the truck would be there. "It smells good," Azwa said.

Ying Li passed by the truck with her 5-year-old daughter, Sherry. "It's very convenient," she said, as the two went on their way to get her 7-year-old son from summer day camp.

Of course, kids being kids, it wasn't going to be perfect, as Sherry held onto her milk but seemed reluctant to eat her sandwich. "She doesn't really like the bread," Li said with a laugh.



By bringing the food to them we're able to extend our reach in ways that previously were unattainable.

Eric Goldstein
New York City Department of Education

Free summer meals feature whole grain breads, assorted fruits and vegetables and low-fat or fat-free milk.

PACIFIC

Japanese PM sent a note to war criminal ceremony

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe sent a note earlier this year to a ceremony honoring more than a thousand World War II-era war criminals that praised their contributions to the country, the government's top spokesman said Wednesday.

Abe sent the message to an annual ceremony held April 29 at the Koyasan Buddhist temple in his capacity as head of the ruling party, not as prime minister, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters.

"I humbly express my deepest sympathy for the martyrs ... who sacrificed their souls to become the foundation of peace and prosperity in Japan today," Abe wrote in his note, a copy of which was

obtained by The Associated Press through the ceremony organizers' office. "I hope for eternal peace and pledge to work toward a harmonious coexistence of mankind in the future."

Many Asian countries that suffered from Japanese militarism in the first half of the 20th century see honoring war criminals as a lack of remorse by Tokyo for wartime aggression. The revelation could especially worsen ties with China and South Korea, which have repeatedly criticized Abe's views on wartime history, widely seen as revisionist.

Tokyo's relations with Beijing and Seoul have been badly strained since Abe played last December at Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which honors 2.5 million Japanese

war dead, including 14 executed "Class-A" war criminals.

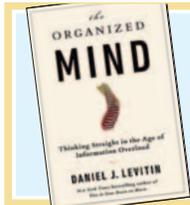
Abe's message was read aloud to about 220 people at the April ceremony, according to Midori Nakatsuji at the organizers' office. She said Abe sent a similar message to last year's service.

The "Class A" criminals were convicted of crimes against peace and humanity by the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, held in Tokyo by the allied forces after the war. Suga acknowledged that Japan has accepted the tribunal's decisions as a condition for the country's return to the international community. Abe has said that those convicted by the tribunal are not considered war criminals under domestic law.

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WORLD



ALBERTO SAIZ/AP

Smashing the town red

People throw tomatoes at each other during the annual "Tomatina" tomato fight fiesta in the village of Bunol, 30 miles outside Valencia, Spain, on Wednesday. The streets of this eastern Spanish town are awash with red pulp as thousands of people pelt each other with tomatoes in the annual battle that has become a major tourist attraction. On Wednesday, trucks dumped 125 tons of ripe tomatoes for some 22,000 participants, many from abroad, to throw during the hourlong morning festivities.

EU to help Italy handle refugees

BY NICOLE WINFIELD
The Associated Press

ROME — The European Commission agreed Wednesday to Italian demands to replace Rome's politically unpopular emergency operation for rescuing would-be refugees crossing the Mediterranean with an EU-wide project.

The European commissioner for home affairs, Cecilia Malmstrom, announced plans to beef up the European border patrol agency at a news conference in Brussels alongside Italy's interior minister. She urged all EU member states to contribute planes, ships and personnel to the "Frontex Plus" operation she hopes to launch by November.

Italy began its \$13 million-a-month "Mare Nostrum" operation last October after 360 migrants drowned off the Sicilian island of Lampedusa.

Refugee numbers have since swelled as thousands of people have fled conflicts in Syria, Iraq and across the Mideast and Africa, boarding unsafe smugglers' boats in Libya bound for Europe. So far, nearly 110,000 people have been rescued since January, but at least 1,889 others have died making the perilous crossing, the U.N. refugee agency said. Italy has demanded the EU do more to help out, arguing that it

shouldn't bear the burden alone since most migrants want to settle in northern Europe, not Italy.

Malmstrom termed the new EU operation as a way to "complement" Italy's rescue efforts. But Italian Interior Minister Angelino Alfano was adamant that Europe — not Italy — was now taking the lead in dealing with Mediterranean immigration issues. He said the Italian operation would be phased out as soon as the beefed-up Frontex operation was up and running.

Malmstrom stressed that the size and scope of the new operation was still being worked out, but she said it would be far less ambitious than "Mare Nostrum."

Critics have said Italy unintentionally encouraged more refugees to risk the crossing since Italian ships were at the ready so close to Libyan shores. A more modest air and sea rescue operation, they argue, might dissuade some from making the trip.

Malmstrom said that in addition to the concrete offers needed for Frontex's expanded operations, EU member states must also increase their willingness to take in refugees. She called for the EU to open more legal ways for refugees to resettle "so people don't have to embark on these terrible boat trips and buy a ticket to death."

Court: Tokyo Electric liable for suicide

TOKYO — A court in Fukushima has ruled that Tokyo Electric Power Co., the Japanese nuclear power plant operator, can be held responsible for the suicide of a woman who became depressed after the 2011 disaster.

The court ordered Tepco to pay \$470,000 to Mikio Watanabe and his children after their 58-year-old wife and mother, Hamako, killed herself a few months after the nuclear meltdown that followed the earthquake and tsuna-

mi forced them out of their home and destroyed their livelihoods.

The ruling was the first time that the utility had been found liable for a suicide resulting from the accident, and could galvanize others seeking redress.

"I think we received a meaningful ruling that's consistent with our feelings," Watanabe said after the ruling Tuesday. "The family's suffering and pain are rewarded. When I return home, I'd like to report the result to Hamako's portrait and tell her to have a good rest."

From The Washington Post

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FAITH



PHOTOS BY SCOTT TAKUSHI, ST. PAUL (MINN.) PIONEER PRESS/AP

Above: Pastor Margaret Kelly runs a food truck ministry she calls Shobi's Table, where she serves free calzones that she makes from scratch and reads some Bible verses to those assembled on the sidewalk in St. Paul, Minn. **Below:** A tray of calzones is ready for distribution.

From her food truck church, Minn. clergywoman serves up free calzones, prayers to the needy

BY RICHARD CHIN

St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. — There are a couple of clues that the mobile kitchen parked every Thursday at lunchtime on Payne Avenue on the East Side of St. Paul, Minn., this summer isn't just another food truck.

First of all, the food — hot calzones — is free. And the person who drives the truck is a young woman in a clerical collar who likes to say, "Peace be with you."

Her name is Margaret Kelly. She's 33, a preacher's kid, ex-French chef and former mental health case manager. She's now a pastor, and the food truck is her church.

It's not a typical church, but Kelly isn't your typical Lutheran pastor. She's a gay woman who started her training at Luther Seminary in St. Paul at a time when the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America didn't allow gays in committed relationships to serve as clergy members.

"I was fairly confident that change was coming," Kelly said. She was right. In 2009, the church voted to allow people in committed same-gender relationships to be ministers.

After seminary, Kelly, who also has a master's degree in social work, worked for about three years for a nonprofit mental health agency. She was married in 2011 in a church wedding. She was ordained in 2012 and legally married to her wife, Eileen, last August, soon after gay marriages be-

came legal in Minnesota. That wedding was conducted by her father, a pastor in Bemidji, Minn.

Last year is also when she came up with the idea of a food truck church. When she was a mental health case manager, Kelly found that people in poverty often lack access to healthy food, reliable transportation, meaningful work and meaningful community.

She thought that one solution could be a church on wheels that drives to where people are, offering free food and prayer to the poor, homeless and near-homeless. The people helping to serve the meals would be from the community that the truck is serving. "Increased access to food that is cooked and served by those who need the increased access" is how Kelly describes it.

"We don't simply want it to be a church making handouts," said Kelly's boss, the Rev. Paul Erickson. "We are all ministers to and with each other."

To support the project, Kelly was able to get grant money from the national church as well as local churches such as St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, Minn.

St. Andrew's also was able to put Kelly in touch with Peter Bolstorff, a Stillwater, Minn., management consultant who, with his wife, Cary, started an organization called Mobile Action Ministries that owns a food truck serving the needy in the east-metro area.

Mobile Action agreed to loan Kelly its 28-foot, \$100,000 vehicle one day a week. Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul lets Kelly do food preparation work in its kitchen. Kelly, who once worked as a head cook for the Concordia French Language Village in northern Minnesota and in the meat de-

partment at the Wedge co-op grocery in Minneapolis, does the recipe and food planning.

"She is uniquely gifted for this ministry," Erickson said.

Kelly settled on calzones cooked from scratch as the truck's specialty. It's a hand pie, a comfort food common in many cultures and adaptable to healthy fillings.

The church's name is Shobi's Table, after an obscure Old Testament figure who offered food to a potential enemy, King David, and his followers.

According to Kelly, it's a story of "radical hospitality."

Kelly served her first meal from the truck on April 17 that was Maundy Thursday, the Thursday before Easter that is a commemoration

of Christ's Last Supper. On a recent Thursday at 11 a.m., the truck was parked at its usual spot on the curb outside a Family Dollar store.

Over the next couple of hours, a steady stream of people — elderly women, kids on bikes, youths in baggy pants — wandered up to the serving window, frequently asking, "It's free?" and being told, "It's free. Come and get it."

David Schoepfer, 45, came to get a calzone for himself and his girlfriend. He said they live on Social Security checks.

"We barely are surviving," he said. An alternative is a free lunch at a Salvation Army facility down the street, he said, but "the calzones are awesome."

"Once you know it's here, you come here," he said.

"Being homeless, news travels fast," said Marshall Johnson, 56, who said he comes to the food truck "when I'm really hungry. I don't abuse it."

"They're good people. They don't have to come out and serve us," he said.

"This is where everybody's at," said Shobi's Table volunteer Maurice Tribbett. "I come from the same place these people do. I used to be a gang member. I used to be a drug addict. I used to be homeless."

"We come to them," said Tribbett's wife, Mary Magill-Tribbett. "It's kind of meeting people where they're at, spiritually, physically and emotionally."

You don't have to be sober to get a meal at the truck. You don't have to get around for a service.

"I'm not bothered if people just want to eat and run and don't want any religion," Kelly said. "It's a gift from Christ, but it's not staring you in the face. This is a free lunch because Jesus is free."

On the Shobi's Table sign that's set up on the sidewalks, the words "Lutheran Church" are in fine print.

After giving out about 140 calzones, Kelly asks the handful of people still gathered on the sidewalk around the truck, "Shall we do some religion?"

"We keep things pretty simple," she said. "We read some Scripture and say some prayers."

Kelly said the food truck won't go into hibernation when winter comes. She hopes to get a heated tent and keep serving. Eventually, she would like to get her own truck and serve more days of the week. She also would like to partner with churches to get vegetables supplied from community gardens.

"A lot of this is breaking new ground in the church," said Kelly's boss, Erickson. "We're grateful for this chance to take on some holy experiments."

Erickson said the food-truck church eventually could offer curbside counseling and health services, along with traditional worship rites such as baptisms and communion.

'I'm not bothered if people just want to eat and run and don't want any religion. ... This is a free lunch because Jesus is free.'

Margaret Kelly
pastor



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

2 men sue taxi company over kiss

IL CHICAGO — Two Chicago men sued a taxi company this week, alleging a driver tried to kick them out of his cab because they shared a short kiss.

Matthew McCrea and Steven White claim the driver violated the Illinois Human Rights Act and are seeking an undisclosed amount in damages.

The lawsuit contends McCrea gave White, his boyfriend, a one-second-long kiss during a ride from the airport, the Chicago Sun-Times reported. The men said the driver then pulled over on the expressway and ordered them out.

"I told them to stop," the driver said. "It was raining. I couldn't drive with something like that. I have to drive safely because it's raining."

Court: Workers' comp OK'd for kickball injury

SC COLUMBIA — Have you ever been hurt in a company softball or kickball game? The South Carolina Supreme Court says you may be entitled to workers' compensation.

The court ruled Wednesday that Stephen Whigham, who was injured in a company kickball game, is entitled to workers' compensation benefits because he was required to attend the game as part of his job.

Whigham worked for Jackson Dawson Communications, a public relations firm. He organized a kickball game as a team-building event for employees. During a game, he shattered two bones in his leg trying to avoid a tag and ultimately needed a knee replacement.

Bud Light to take over its 'Whatever' town

CO DENVER — Some people in normally laid-back Crested Butte are not up for "Whatever" — a secretive Bud Light plan to paint their mountain town blue and turn it into a fantasy town for an online and television ad campaign.

The company has agreed to pay the town \$250,000 to fence off its main street and bring in more than 1,000 revelers to the town of 1,500 for the Sept. 5-7 event being promoted on social media, The Denver Post reported.

Secrecy has been part of the "Are you up for Whatever?" campaign from its beginning at last year's Super Bowl. Word began leaking out recently as outsiders showed up with measuring tapes and checklists, telling locals they couldn't talk about what they were doing and booking lots of hotel rooms.

Cops called after fliers fight over seat recline

NY NEW YORK — Airline passengers have come to expect a tiny escape from the confined space of today's packed planes: the ability to recline their seat a few inches. When one passenger was denied that bit of personal space Sunday, it led to a heated argument and the scheduled landing of their plane,

THE CENSUS

\$49,637

The amount for which a 32-year-old former inmate is suing the state of Oregon, claiming he injured his knee while climbing down from his prison bunk bed. Mitchell Ray Johnston claims the department was negligent in failing to provide ladders or another safe way for inmates to climb on and off bunks at the Columbia River Correctional Institution in Northeast Portland, Ore. Johnston, of Beaverton, is serving an 18-month sentence at the 595-bed minimum security prison for credit card fraud.



AP photos



Surf's up – big time

Above: A boogie-boarder rides a wave at The Wedge in Newport Beach, Calif., on Wednesday as southern California experienced much higher than normal surf, brought on by Hurricane Marie spinning off the coast of Mexico.

Left: Cece, left, and Jennifer, of Orange County, Calif., run from waves at Venice Beach, Calif., on Tuesday.

just halfway to its destination.

The fight started on a United Airlines flight because one passenger was using the Knee Defender, a \$21.95 gadget that attaches to a passenger's tray table and prevents the person in front of them from reclining.

Police ID man accused in stabbing of K-9

OK OKLAHOMA CITY — Authorities have identified the man accused of fatally stabbing an Oklahoma City police dog before he was shot to death by the dog's handler.

Police said Tuesday that Mark Salazar, 22, of Blue Mound, Texas, stabbed a police dog named Kye, then was shot to death Sunday by the dog's handler. The 3-year-old German shepherd died Monday of a heart attack after undergoing emergency surgery.

Police said the dog was deployed after a high-speed police chase through two counties.

Reward offered in theft at Rosa Parks' home

AL MONTGOMERY — offering a \$1,000 reward for information about thefts that heavily damaged the Montgomery apartment complex where Rosa Parks lived when she refused to give up her seat to a white person on a city bus.

CrimeStoppers Director Tony Garrett told The Montgomery Advertiser that officials think someone probably saw copper items being taken from the apartments, which are under renovation.

Baby left in trash can is in critical condition

UT KEARNS — A newborn girl was fighting for her life a day after Utah police say her mother dumped her in a neighbor's trash can, an act the woman's parents said Wednesday

that she didn't fully comprehend.

The 2-day-old girl was on a ventilator and in critical condition in a hospital, Unified Police Detective Jared Richardson said. The girl's mother, Alicia Marie Englert, 23, was arrested Tuesday night on suspicion of attempted murder.

Her father, Robert Englert, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that he's trying to make sure everyone is safe but declined to comment further. Earlier in the day, he told Utah media outlets that his daughter had a learning disability.

Big Tex to sport new duds at state fair

TX DALLAS — Big Tex is getting some new duds that he'll wear to greet some 3 million people who are expected to attend the State Fair of Texas beginning next month.

Fair officials showed off the clothes Tuesday at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas. The 55-foot-tall

Big Tex will get a navy blue shirt to replace a white one he wore last year. He'll wear blue denim pants with a Dickies belt buckle. A 95-gallon hat will sit atop his head.

City asks judge to dismiss stun gun suit

SD PIERRE — Pierre officials want a judge to dismiss a federal lawsuit claiming excessive use of force by a police officer who shot an 8-year-old girl with a stun gun.

The response filed by the city, its former police chief and four officers says they are immune from being sued. It also denies that police used excessive force.

Authorities said the officer shot the girl with the stun gun last October because she was suicidal and brandished a knife. The state Division of Criminal Investigation later concluded that using the Taser on the girl was the safest method to defuse the situation.

From wire reports

WEEKEND



Ariana Grande

Page 38

Movies – 24-25

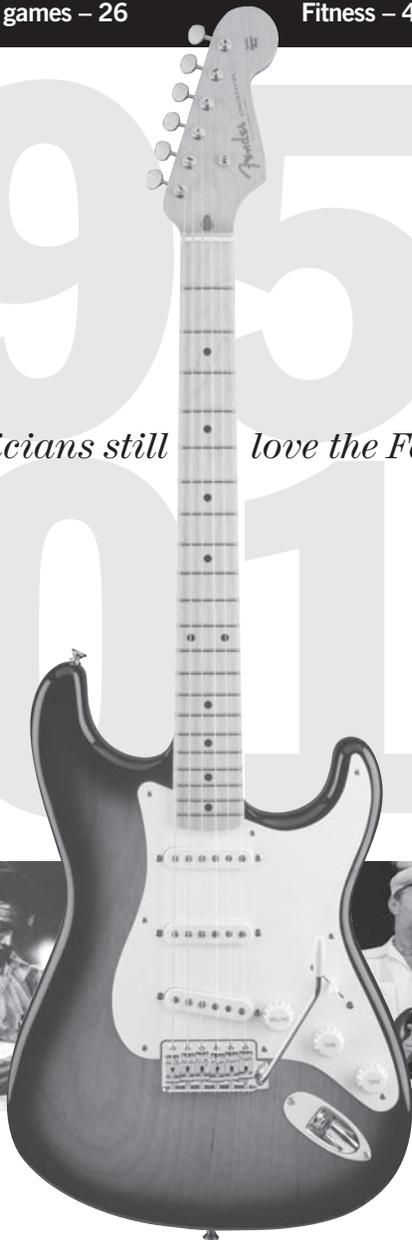
Video games – 26

Fitness – 40

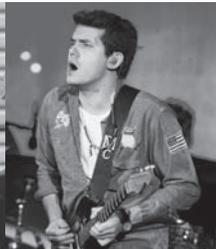
Crossword – 42

1954 2014

After 60 years, musicians still love the Fender Stratocaster



Page 36



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



Amazon and other drone makers are pushing to get small unmanned aerial vehicles flying commercially as soon as possible.

Is it a bird? Is it a plane? No, it's your Amazon order

San Jose Mercury News

In one small step for man and one slightly bigger step for Amazon, the Seattle-based online retailer giant is putting its money where its mouth is, teaming up with other drone makers to lobby lawmakers on the company's plan to one day use small unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to deliver goods straight to customers' doorsteps.

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos first broached the idea publicly during an appearance last year on "60 Minutes." The concept, frankly, seemed like science fiction to many Americans who could not picture a small flying device dropping off stuff on their front porch.

Now, according to a post in USA Today, Amazon has announced it's taking a concrete step to convince the government that drone-deliveries will soon be the real deal.

"Amazon Prime Air is participating in several groups ... that share Congress' goal of getting small UAVs flying commercially in the United States safely and soon," said Paul Misener, the company's vice president of global public policy.

Amazon, apparently, is getting just as frustrated as other

companies are with the federal government's slow plodding as it tries to decide how to regulate a brand-new transportation-and-delivery system that's practically chomping at the bit to be set free across this great land of ours. As USA Today points out, the problem with regulating the use of private and corporate drones over America's skies is that it's tough to know which agency should really be in charge in the first place.

Such efforts are needed because the advance of commercial drones covers a swath of federal agencies including the Federal Aviation Administration, which governs airspace, and the Federal Communications Commission, with oversight of communications frequencies drones would use. The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy also has roles in the works regarding privacy.

Congress has charged the FAA with developing rules to test and integrate drones into the airspace.

But a report that Transportation Department Inspector General Calvin Scovel delivered to Congress in February said the FAA will unlikely meet a September 2015 deadline set by Congress.

ON THE COVER: These are famous fans of the Fender Stratocaster, which is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year. From left: Buddy Holly, Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton and John Mayer.

Holly photo by MCT; Hendrix, Clapton and Mayer photos by AP; Stratocaster photo courtesy of Fender Musical Instruments Corporation

GADGET WATCH

Wind meter turns smartphones into meteorological equipment

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

When I saw an email inviting me to test the Vaavud wind meter, I thought it was just another one of those gimmick smartphone accessories.

But I decided to give this one a try since I'm a smartphone junkie and my wife thinks I'm a weather junkie. This could bring all my worlds together.

Much to my delight, the Vaavud works as advertised to "turn your smartphone into a high-tech meteorological tool."

The cup-anemometer tool attaches to your headphone port (Android and iOS) and along with the Vaavud app you instantly know the wind speed.

Of course the day I tested it there was no wind, so I took it along for a ride in my neighborhood holding my iPhone 5s out the car window with the Vaavud attached.

It worked like a charm, reading the speed as I went faster or slower. The wind speed can be displayed in choices of meters per second, knots, mph, km/hr, or on the Beaufort scale.

The gadget is described as being designed like a wind measuring tool, the cup-anemometer. It has two-cup functionality instead of the standard three, enabling it to be pocket sized.

The app has user interactions with other Vaavud wind meter users globally to share your wind speed and find out what it is in other locations — the fun is endless!

Online: Vaavud.com \$49.95 in green, red or white



You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows — if you have the Vaavud wind meter.

Vaavud/MCT

If turning your smartphone into a wind meter wasn't enough, the Audiovox Mobile TV device (from Dyle Mobile TV) lets you watch live local TV on the go in select U.S. markets. This can include local news, sporting events or sitcoms.

It has no effect on your cellular data plan, and you don't need Wifi to receive the broadcast.

In a nutshell, you set up the device at home, creating a network from the Audiovox Mobile TV to send your TV signal to the Dyle app on your smartphone or tablet.

It works with smartphones and tablets running the Android, Kindle or iOS operating systems.

The device is about the size of a deck of playing cards and has an extendable antenna. You do need to check the availability of networks in your area on the Dyle website. Just enter your zip code and you'll get a list of channels available for broadcast in your area. Blackouts do apply for some sporting events.

There is pause and rewind, but it's not a DVR for recording. An internal battery will last for up to four hours before a USB charge is needed. Online: dyle.tv \$99.21 at Amazon



DYLE MOBILE TV/MCT

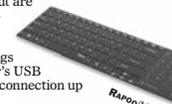
The ultra-slim Rapoo wireless keyboards are just 5.6mm thick but are big-time on performance. They work

with a tiny Nano receiver, which plugs into your computer's USB port for a wireless connection up to about 30 feet.

There are two versions; model E9080 has a touchpad and number pad on the right side, while the E9180 has a wireless touchpad on the same side. Both have a great-looking aluminum design.

Other features include multimedia keys for shortcuts such as audio playback or quick Internet access.

The Rapoo wireless laser mouse (model S392P) runs smoothly on most surfaces with its SurFace laser technology. It's built with aluminum alloy and has an ergonomic design. An on/off switch that allows it to last up to 18 months. Online: Rapoo.com \$59.99 for the keyboards, \$39.99 for the mouse



Rapoo/MCT

ITUNES MUSIC

The top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Aug. 27:

- "Shake It Off," Taylor Swift
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Break Free (featuring Zedd)," Ariana Grande
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Animals," Maroon 5
- "Boom Clap," Charli XCX
- "Maps," Maroon 5
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Rothier: Be (featuring Jess Glynne)," Clean Bandit

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for Aug. 18-25:

- "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
- "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
- "Rude," MAGIC!
- "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
- "Chandelier," Sia
- "Break Free (featuring Zedd)," Ariana Grande
- "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
- "Shower," Becky G
- "Black Widow," Iggy Azalea
- "Maps," Maroon 5

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

The top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Aug. 27:

- "Godzilla (2014)"
- "The Fault In Our Stars (Extended)"
- "Blended (2014)"
- "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
- "The Other Woman"
- "Neighbors 2: Sorority"
- "Divergent 7"
- "Labor Day"
- "The Fault In Our Stars"
- "Belle"

— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the top 10 PC games for August:

- "Divinity: Original Sin," Larian Studios
- "Metro Redux," Deep Silver
- "Shovel Knight," Yacht Club Games
- "Tropico 5," Kalypso
- "The Golf Club," HB Studios
- "WildStar," NCsoft
- "Sacred 3," Deep Silver
- "Lifeless Planet," Lace Mamba Global
- "GRID Autosport," Codemasters
- "Valiant Hearts: The Great War," Ubisoft

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

The top 5 new free apps for Aug. 27:

- ANDROID
- Tap Sports Baseball
 - LINK - with people nearby
 - PAC-MAN Friends
 - Break Trials
 - Swamp Attack

Top 5 free apps for August 27:

- APPLE
- Facebook Messenger
 - FaceQ
 - Hyperpage from Instagram
 - Swing Coplats
 - Remind: Self Classroom Communication

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Courtesy of Fender Musical Instruments Corporation

1

Sample some Stratocaster history

It's hard to summarize 60 years of the Fender Stratocaster, arguably the most iconic guitar in history. (A few of the axe's most famous devotees sing its praises on Page 36.) However, we'll start here:

- **Fender's** timeline lets you see and hear how its creation made history: fender.com/features/strat-60th/.
- **"CBS This Morning"** reported on the Strat's 60th anniversary this spring: youtu.be/IJ-SB1n8PAg.
- Finally, while not tied to the anniversary, check out this video from a couple of years ago, in which a guy playing a Stratocaster runs down a brief history of rock 'n' roll in 100 riffs: tinyurl.com/clox7he.

2

Punk placeholder from Ryan Adams

- The anticipated new album from singer-songwriter Ryan Adams is due to drop on Sept. 9. To tide you over until then, you can stream "1984," a punk-inspired EP previously available only as a vinyl 7-inch.
- **Hear it at** youtu.be/5VMgBZMGWx0



JULIA BROKAW/Courtesy of Nasty Little Man

3

Take a glance at 'Gotham'

- Fox will debut its Batman prequel series, "Gotham," on Sept. 22. The show, also airing first-run on AFN, tells the story of young detective (and future commissioner) James Gordon (Ben McKenzie, left) and the origin stories of Batman villains.
- **Watch a preview at** tinyurl.com/nk6nokm.
 - **And make sure to look for our Fall TV Preview in the Sept. 12 edition.**



WEEKEND: MOVIES

Caviezel heads De La Salle football's fan club

By Tony Hicks
Contra Costa Times

Jim Caviezel didn't just play Bob Ladouceur in "When the Game Stands Tall." He totally bought into the man and his philosophy lock, stock and barrel.

"My dad played for John Wooden at UCLA," the actor says, by phone from Los Angeles. "My dad introduced me to Coach Wooden when I was a kid. I went to his camps and knew him as an adult. Ladouceur is the same kind of apple from the same kind of tree."

Comparing the former head coach (and current assistant coach) of the record-breaking De La Salle High School football

I felt like I'd known the guy for years. People say he doesn't talk much. I say he doesn't talk much BS. I consider him a friend.'

team to the man considered the greatest college basketball coach of all-time is no small thing, especially for someone like Caviezel — who was a high school basketball star and played at Bellevue Community College in Washington state.

The actor not only enjoyed getting to know Ladouceur while preparing for the role, but found it easy to do.

"I felt like I'd known the guy for years," Caviezel says. "People say he doesn't talk much. I say he doesn't talk much BS. I consider him a friend."

"When the Game Stands Tall" chronicles De La Salle's 2004 season, during which the Spartans lost for the first time in 12 years. The team faced other challenges as well, including the death of just-graduated star Terrence Kelly the night before he was headed to college, and Ladouceur's absence from the team after suffering a heart attack.

Caviezel has much in common with Ladouceur, including a sports background and his Catholic faith. But that isn't necessarily what drew him to the role.

"There's an image of me as a zealot, Bible-thumper in the media, but authenticity is important," Caviezel says. "Love is what my faith is about. And that's the same with Lad. It's why I wanted to play him. These guys [Ladouceur and assistant coach Terry Eidson, played in the movie by Michael Chikliss] are the real deal. And Lad, he aims to sacrifice as much as he has, and there's a saying that some guys would rather score 50 and lose than score one and win. There are so many people out there like that. Not Lad. This is a person I want to know."

Caviezel tells a story about his teenage son, Bo, a gifted gym-



TRISTAR PICTURES

Inspired by a true story, "When the Game Stands Tall" tells the story of football coach Bob Ladouceur (played by Jim Caviezel, center right), who took the De La Salle High School Spartans from obscurity to a 151-game winning streak that shattered all records for any U.S. sport.

nast who nevertheless wanted to quit the sport because he wasn't enamored with practice. While researching the role, Caviezel took him to a De La Salle practice, one where the team wasn't giving his best effort.

"The coaches, they call them in and say, 'A lot of you seniors are a bunch of posers and are not getting it done,'" Caviezel says. "They get up and have this 1,000-yard stare in their eyes, and take off running. Lad put his arm around Bo and said, 'See, Bo? They don't like practicing either. You gotta want it.' And (Bo) hung in for the rest of the year."

Caviezel admires Ladouceur for declining a number of better-paying college jobs to stay somewhere he felt he could make a bigger difference in the lives of young men.

"If you're that great of a coach, why would you stay in high school?" Caviezel asks. "Why wouldn't you go make some money? That's one of the things I love about him. He had to sacrifice so much, and because of that those boys go on to become great men."

Caviezel also admires the way the Spartans go about their business with a certain humility.

"The warrior mentality of the De La Salle program is very authentic, as with Navy Seals, who don't have to say they're tough," he says. "They love each other and they're not afraid to express it. It's not how hard you hit, it's how hard you [re] going to get hit and that you get up. It's like the military. If there's no heart in a kid, then that kid probably won't be part of that team very long."

'Game' falls short of heart-tugging potential

By Rick Bentley
The Fresno Bee

The underdog is key to a great sports movie.

"When the Game Stands Tall" tries to turn the high school football winning machine De La Salle High School, — they're the guys with the longest winning streak of 151 straight victories — into the kind of underdog that makes for a heart-tugging sports movie.

That never happens. When the film is over you're not likely to stand up and cheer.

Jim Caviezel plays De La Salle head football coach Bob Ladouceur. He's a soft-spoken man who uses Biblical teachings to develop top high school athletes and good young men.

In the aftermath of a health issue that sidelines the coach and the loss of a player in a tragic incident, the team's streak comes to an end. The coach, team and community try to deal with something they hadn't experienced in more than a dozen years — losing games.

The idea that this team's struggle is getting back to winning is the central problem with the movie. It's not like they had to replace a team killed in a plane crash, deal with the first season of racially integrated or pull together a group of small town hicks to win a state championship. They lost a couple of games and are trying to bounce back. Boo hoo.

Despite valiant efforts, director Thomas Carter ("Coach Carter") and writer Scott Marshall Smith can't turn a couple of serious situations from a storied franchise into the kind of struggling contender that wins over hearts.

The underdog issue might have been ignored if the movie had found strength in either the spiritual messages or the staging of the games. Both come across as mechanical — like they were just dropped in to keep this movie from

New on base

"When the Game Stands Tall" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Lakenheath, Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Viselek, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunnsum.

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: whenthegamestandstall.com

being 15 minutes long.

"When the Game" fumbles as a religious movie. It's not enough to sport a few scriptures. These words have to be translated into the actions of those involved and the evidence of that in the film is sparse.

As for the football sequences, there's plenty of running around, passing and looking at the clock. There's so much looking at the clock you would think the movie was trying to be the sports genre's answer to "High Noon." Because the players are so two-dimensional, what happens on the field feels stiff and uninspired. Everyone has the motions down pat, but they just don't bring any emotion.

It all comes down to this being a movie about a storied sports franchise that has a minor setback. It's not enough of a tragedy to make this a great sports film.

"When the Game Stands Tall" is rated PG for brief violence, smoking. Running Time: 115 minutes.

WEEKEND: MOVIES



PHOTOS BY ALEKSANDAR LETIC, RELATIVITY MEDIA/AP

Pierce Brosnan stars as a highly trained ex-CIA agent who is lured out of quiet retirement on a personal mission and finds himself pitted against his former protégé in "The November Man."

'The November Man' a muddled spy thriller

By ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Pierce Brosnan's perfect hair barely budes in the breeze, he fixes his eyes in that narrowed, steely stare and you remember, yes, he was a pretty good James Bond.

But he's not Bond, not at 61. He's this fellow named Devereaux, and back in the day, when he showed up for an assignment it was like winter had hit. Everything was dead. That's why they called Devereaux "The November Man."

Here's a humorless, muddled, bloody and generally unpleasant thriller about an ex-agent sucked back into "the business" because someone needs his help. Or somebody knows something. Or some protégé has gone stone-cold killer.

That's one of the problems with this Roger "No Way Out" Donaldson film. It leaves us with no clear sense of who to root for, or what. Is the CIA out to get Devereaux and his lady friend? The Russians? Some rogue amalgam of the two?

About all we're sure of is the body count, built on bullets and sharp, bloody blades, piles up — first scene to last.

Devereaux trained Mason, played by Luke Bracey of the last "G.I. Joe" movie. They're fellow agents, experts on "threat analysis" and how to put a bullet in that threat. Years later, Devereaux is summoned by the old boss (Bill Smittrovich) to fetch a woman out of Russia, an agent who has a "name." That name could be the downfall of Russia's next leader.

Things go haywire in fetching the woman and in the movie, as triggers are pulled too quickly and Devereaux shoots all manner of folks, with and without Slavic accents. Mason is after him. Spirited chases through Moscow, guns blazing and tires screeching, give one a whole new appreciation for the place.

Eventually, teacher and pupil and quarry (Olga Kurylenko) and CIA hunters (Will Patton, Caterina Scorsone) and a Russian pop-tailed ballerina-turned-assassin (Amila Terzimehich) all wind up in Belgrade, which apparently is where the money men and women decided was cheapest place to film "The November Man."

This late August cast-off is what one can easily spy as a "producers-on-the-make" movie. It has

New on base

"The November Man" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: thenovemberman.com

the obligatory strip-club scene, with lithe and willing nude dancers. It has a spirited, nude sex scene. And in every shot, indoors or out, we see the best-looking extras this side of "America's Next Top Model." Skinny, anonymous women sashay into the frame, making you wonder what promise was made when "I will put you in the movie" crossed someone's lips.

Those elements don't do anything for the plot, the action or anything else. But they have a learning "value" to some in the audience and, more likely in the production office.

Through it all, in between Kurylenko's sexy costume changes and the sometimes visits of Alexa, the unusually flexible killer (Terzimehich) and flat afterthought of a performance by Bracey, Brosnan keeps his cool and delivers his lines as an older if not over-the-hill James Bond. "Type." "You feel the need for a relationship," he growls. "get a dog."

But a few pithy lines, seriously stunted-doubled fights and the odd blast of blood don't give the story clarity or the characters a compelling reason for us to engage in their dilemma. That makes "November Man" another sad refugee of August, the dumping ground of movies that don't quite move anybody.

"The November Man" is rated R for strong violence including sexual assault, language, sexuality/nudity and brief drug use. Running time: 108 minutes.

'As Above, So Below,' not much in between

By JORDAN MINTZER
The Hollywood Reporter

"As Above, So Below" is the inscription uncovered by a gang of 20-something treasure hunters in the catacomb-hopping horror flick, "As Above, So Below." But the warning could easily apply to viewers checking out this rather hopeless mashup of "The Descent" and "Rec," not to mention a dozen other found-footage movies that have clogged the screens over the last five years.

Hardly credible, even for a film claiming that the gates of hell lie a few hundred feet below Paris, this low-budget effort from director John Erick Dowdle and writer-producer-brother Drew Dowdle provides a few late scares after plenty of eye-rolling setup, with said scares due more to the heavy sound design than the action itself.

First seen wearing a headscarf as she explores an off-limits cavern in Iran, gorgeous stunt-raider Scarlett (Perdita Weeks) claims to be a black belt in capoeira while holding a doctorate from University College London. While she never uses her fighting skills and fails to cite Dante when coming across the above-mentioned quote, she's still brazen enough to continue her dead father's lifelong quest to discover the legendary, eternal-life-giving Philosopher's Stone. (Yes, the same one from Harry Potter, though this specimen happens to be found in France.)

Teaming up with an ex-pat clockmaker (Ben Feldman, "Mad Men") who also speaks fluent Aramaic, and a guy named Benji (Edwin Hodge, "The Purge") who's been brought on as the requisite cameraman-who-keeps-shooting-at-all-costs, Scarlett uncovers a few clues that lead her to the Paris catacombs, which famously house the bones of six million dead, buried there up through the late 19th century. The three Americans then contract the services of three splunking Frenchies (François Civil, Marion Lambert, Aï (Ari)adna) and together they head underground, the treasure hunt taking them further and further down as things inevitably get out of hand.

Cue up lots of stinging sound effects, eerie chanting, rats, a freaky dude named "The Mole" (Cosme Castro) who pops up now and then, and a slew of lame paranormal gags whereby each character is forced to face their own inner demons. But the characters are all so brazenly one-dimensional, and Scarlett so ridiculous (she dresses for the expedition like she's headed to the mall), that "As Above" never passes the credibility test from the get-go, only partially salvaged by a few chilling moments

New on base

"As Above, So Below" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

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

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Yongsan South Post No. 2, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan, Osan, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadena, Kinser, Schwab and Courtney.

Online: asabovesobelow-movie.com

that pop up in the final reel.

No strangers to the found-footage game, the Brothers Dowdle (as they call their production shingle) already handled the lesser U.S. remake of "Rec," and while that movie at least had a decent pitch, this one feels like an oddly serious take on the tongue-in-cheek Venice cave sequence from "Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade."

At best, the filmmakers capitalize on their Paris locations, staging a few scenes in the actual catacombs, others in a trendy nightclub and empty Right Bank cathedral. Along with a well-chosen closing song from French DJs Scratch Massive, and one or two genre scares, that's about the best this excursion has to offer.

"As Above, So Below" is rated R for bloody violence and terror, and language. Running time: 93 minutes.

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In 2D: Dawn of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13), Fri - Tue 15:30

In 2D: Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13), Thur 15:30, 20:15, Fri 15:30, 20:00, Sat 15:30, 20:00, 22:30, Sun 13:30, 15:30, 20:00, Mon - Wed 15:30, 20:15

If I Stay (PG-13), Thur 18:00, Fri 15:30, 17:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, Mon - Wed 15:30

The Expendables 3 (PG-13), Fri - Sun 17:45, Tue & Wed 19:00

Hercules (PG-13), Sat & Sun 17:00

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG), Thur 16:00, Wed 16:00

Lucy (PG-13), Thur & Fri 18:45, Sat & Sun 13:30, 18:45, Mon - Wed 18:45

In 2D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13), Thur - Wed 16:00

The Purge: Anarchy (R) - Mon 18:00

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino

Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

By DERRIK J. LANG
The Associated Press

It feels like a well-armed Christmas morning at Sledgehammer Games. Michael Condrey and Glen Schofield, co-founders of the video game studio responsible for the next "Call of Duty" installment, are excitedly unwrapping virtual goodies in the chummy meeting room that connects their offices: a pistol with a polycarbonate grip; a rifle equipped with a ballistics computer; A leather captain's cap!

"You can end up with something like 22 billion combinations," Condrey told The Associated Press recently. "It's kind of an outlandish number, but it's not really about the number. It's just that it's fun to you. You can be one of 22 billion. You can finally, really customize your character in 'Call of Duty.'"

"It took him three weeks to calculate that," Schofield joked.

As players snipe opponents and meet goals in multiplayer matchups, they could end up with three different pieces of such loot each round. While virtual booty is hardly an original idea in gaming, Condrey and Schofield expect their new swag system to make a big impact on "Call of Duty," where even subtle changes can shift how the game is played by millions online.

"We call it supply drop," Condrey said. "It provides you with thousands of rewards for time played and accomplishments for your play style — more than 350 weapon variants, thousands of pieces of unique character gear and consumable one-off rewards like extra perks and score-streaks."

The more customizable virtual army is one of several updates coming to the multiplayer mode of "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare," the latest installment of Activision and Blizzard's widely successful shoot-'em-up franchise. "Advanced Warfare," scheduled for release Nov. 4, is setting the 10-year-old military series' sights squarely on the future.

The single-player campaign kicks off in 2054 with a global terrorist attack on several nuclear reactors. The raid leads to the rise of massive private military companies, such as Atlas Corp., a fictional outfit armed with futuristic war toys like walking tanks that's led by the power-hungry Jonathan Irons. He's portrayed in a voice- and motion-capture performance by Kevin Spacey.

The high-tech elements extend to the game's multiplayer matches, the addictive mode where "Call



CALL OF DUTY

ADVANCED WARFARE

Latest installment jumps past predecessors



PHOTOS BY JEFF CHIU/AP

Glen Schofield, left, and Michael Condrey, co-founders of Sledgehammer Games, offer a more customizable virtual army along with several other updates in the upcoming multiplayer mode of "Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare."



Animation director Christopher Stone works on "Advanced Warfare." The new game, which offers a chilling vision of the future of war, is scheduled for release Nov. 4.



Senior technical artist Mason Sheffield works on the face of actor Kevin Spacey, who stars as Jonathan Irons — one of the most powerful men in the world — in the latest "Call of Duty" installment.

of Duty" players spend most of their time. "Advanced Warfare" gamers will each be outfitted with a customizable exoskeleton suit that enables them to quickly dodge incoming fire, create makeshift shields, boost into the air and slam down on enemies.

It's a giant leap from the traditional and realistic run-and-gun movement of past "Call of Duty" chapters.

"It changes the way we designed the maps," Schofield said. "We've got verticality now. I think for people who've been playing 'Call of Duty' for 10 years and are used to playing a certain way, they're going to have to learn a new way to play. It changes your tactics and the speed of the game. You can get up onto roofs and much taller places now."

Condrey and Schofield started tinkering on "Advanced Warfare" three years ago, after shelving a third-person "Call of Duty" title and finishing work on "Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3." "At the time, (Activision) said to take some chances, and if we go too far, they'll tell us — and we did," said Condrey, who previously worked with Schofield on the "Dead Space" sci-fi series at Electronic Arts Inc. "We took some chances, and a few times they told us we took it too far. There was a desire from Activision to innovate in a big way. This isn't your same old 'Call of Duty.'"

"Advanced Warfare" is poised to be a pivotal test for the aging "Call of Duty" franchise after 2013's "Ghosts" sold less than 2012's "Black Ops II" at launch. There also are a few newcomers to the shooter genre this year, including Activision's "Destiny" from Bungie and EA's "Titanfall" from Respawn Entertainment — a game that similarly propelled through the air.

The reaction to the "Call of Duty" updates was mixed Aug. 11 after Condrey and Schofield unveiled the game's multiplayer mode during a presentation broadcast live from Gamescom, the gaming industry trade show in Cologne, Germany.

Ludwig Kietzmann of the gaming blog Joystiq praised the changes, noting "the move to the future has divorced the game from some of today's real-world violence, dressing soldiers in unrecognizable power armor and granting them laser guns that seem too fun to be true." He added it "strengthens and draws focus to 'Call of Duty's' standing as a multiplayer game."

Online: callofduty.com/advancedwarfare

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

WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Le Parc du Petit Prince

The Little Prince Park in the Alsace region of France is home to 31 attractions based loosely on the theme of flight, with two anchored hot-air balloons carrying passengers 500 feet into the air and a real biplane that children can play in.

Take the kiddies to a playful French park

Ungersheim, in the Alsace region of France, is the proud home to a new poetic and playful theme park that hopes to appeal to ages 2 to 12.

The Little Prince Park, which opened in July, was inspired by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry's 1943 classic, "The Little Prince," a surreal tale of a golden-haired boy who lives on a planet a little larger than himself. The novella about friendship, love and loss is one of the best-selling books of all time and has been translated into 270 languages, according to the park's website.

Little Prince Park is centered on two anchored hot air balloons — a nod to the succession of planets visited by the storybook hero — which hoist visitors 500 feet into the air to enjoy views over the Vosges Mountains. On the ground, attractions range from petting tame animals to movies at a 3D cinema and an interactive dialogue with computer-generated book characters. Children also can play in a real biplane, recalling the exploits of seasoned pilot Saint-Exupéry, who disappeared on a solo mission in 1944.

The park is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. Admission costs 22 euros for adults and 16 euros for children ages 3-11; children younger than 3 get in free.

High-speed trains serve Strasbourg, France, about a 90-minute drive from Ungersheim, as well as Basel, Switzerland, about a half-hour drive from the park.

Find more at parcdupetitprince.com/en.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Mainz wine fun

With its location smack in the center of town, the recent wine festival in Wiesbaden, Germany, would have been hard to miss. If you did, however, or had so much fun you're ready for an encore, cross to the other side of the Rhine to see how the less-refined but artier capital of its respective state celebrates the grape harvest season.

The Mainzer Weinmarkt runs across two weekends, through this Sunday and Sept. 4-7. Set in the Stadtpark, behind the Römisches Theater train station, its location is woody and its scale immense. There's more to do here than imbibe: Wander through the Rosengarten to check out the woodwork, paintings, jewelry, blown glass and other creations of around 80 artists (3-10 p.m. daily; Sundays 1-8 p.m.). Several stages throughout the park offer live music. A kids zone entertains the younger crowd starting at 3 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Those wishing to sample the tastes of the Rhein Hessen wine region can sip sparkling Sekts in a white tent or embark on a *Schlemmerweinprobe*, in which participants sample eight wines produced in the region (13 euros or about \$17.50, including the mandatory wine glass). As a member of the "Great Wine Capital" network, Mainz will



Karen Bradbury

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

also present the wines of fellow member Bilbao, Spain. Enjoy a blind tasting of the two countries' wines Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

The fest begins at 5 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday, closing at 1 a.m. following Friday and Saturday nights' revelry and 11 p.m. Sunday.

Learn more at mainzer-weinmarkt.de.

Austrian cows return

A little summer break does a body good, and that extends beyond humans. Each spring in the Austrian region of Tirol, some 180,000 cattle, sheep, goats and horses are brought from their stables and fields high in the Alpine pastures, where they spend their holidays happily munching on ecologically clean grass and greens: good for them, and good

for the farmer, who doesn't need to purchase hay or feed during this period.

Sooner or later, the cows come home. This occasion, known as the Almbtrieb, is celebrated with revelry throughout Tirol beginning in mid-September.

The cows, decked out in garlands made of flowers and ribbons, are welcomed back to the communities in which they spend the remainder of the year. The return of the herd is greeted by music and dining on traditional dishes. The sheep are often sheared on this day as well.

To join in the revelry, here are the dates of some of these traditional events:

- Sept. 13: traditional sheep and horse drive, Finkenbergring.
- Sept. 13: Alpine cattle drive, autumn festival, Angerberg.
- Sept. 13: cattle drive, St. Anton.
- Sept. 20: cattle drive, Tannheim.
- Sept. 20: cattle drive, Wildschönau.
- Sept. 20: Almbtrieb and festival, Reith im Alpbachtal.
- Sept. 20: cattle drive, Kufstein.
- Sept. 20: Kaiserwinkl Almbtrieb, Kässen.
- Sept. 20: cattle drive and farmers mar-

ket, Thiersee.

- Sept. 27: cattle drive, Hofgarten and Kelchsau.

- Sept. 27: Almbtrieb and festival, Reith im Alpbachtal.

Dutch maritime culture

The Dutch harbor town of IJmuiden, about 25 miles northwest of Amsterdam, normally bustles with activities related to fishing and shipping. On Saturday, visitors are invited to take a closer look at the inner workings of a busy port and experience a taste of maritime culture.

The educational component of a day out might consist of

watching professionals such as firefighters, rescue teams or divers demonstrate their skills.

Several unusual ships are open for exploration, as are the premises of former factories. Musical entertainment includes local and international bands along with shanty choirs. Street artists, poets and other performers also take to the stage.

The festival, which is free, takes place along the stretch of harbor known as the Trawlerkade from noon to midnight.

See haventfestivalijmuiden.nl/english for more details.



COPYRIGHT GRIESENBECK/Reither Almbtrieb

When the cows return from their Alpine pastures in the Tirol region of Austria, the occasion is celebrated with music and traditional food and dress. These cattle were decorated for the Almbtrieb in Reith im Alpbachtal.

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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

High and mighty

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

Though the first stones of Burg Trifels were laid nearly 1,000 years ago, even today it's easy to see why the mountaintop perch was a smart site for a castle.

The medieval-era sandstone structure has a bird's-eye view of the surrounding valleys in Germany's hilly southern Palatinate woods, about an hour south of Kaiserslautern.

Even in the modern age, it takes time and legwork to reach the castle. From the nearest town of Annweiler, you must drive for several miles up a curving, narrow road and then take a 15-minute hike up a steep forest trail.

After emerging from the trees into sunlight, suddenly you're looking up at the castle's imposing gate. Hundreds of years ago, this steep hike must have been a powerful deterrent to invaders: There's no sneaking up on this rock fortress.

My 10-year-old daughter and I ventured to Burg Trifels on a recent August day.

After following the signs for Burg Trifels outside Annweiler, we came to a parking lot a few miles up a mountain road with a Trifels signpost and hiking trails: Would this be the starting point of our hike? Through the trees, we could see the castle across the valley, still a good way off in the distance, and guessed this must be a more circuitous route for nature-lovers and hiking enthusiasts.

We love a nice hike, but we didn't feel like getting lost that day, so we pressed on and up the mountain.

After passing a group of mad-cap cyclists apparently in training for the Tour de France, we came to a parking lot that we knew must be the right one, since the road ended there.

For about 15 minutes we climbed up a trail that twisted through the woods and was both dirt and paved in places before we reached the castle.

Trifels sits at an elevation of about 1,600 feet on the mountain Sonnenberg, which means sun mountain. Built on the remains of a wooden castle, it's perched on a red sandstone cliff that's split in three — hence the name Trifels.

The earliest record of the castle dates to 1081. Over the years, it was home to powerful imperial families, and it imprisoned for some time England's King Richard the Lionheart, among other unlucky souls.

Parts of the castle look worn and aged, with weeds and even trees growing between rocky crevices, but it's hard to tell by looking what parts remain from its early days.

The castle burned in 1602 after a lightning strike. Over the years, it's been rebuilt and added on to, making it a completely renovated, well-maintained castle spread over multiple rooms and levels.

After paying a small admission fee, we climbed up to the main castle grounds and headed to the far end of a narrow rock ledge ringed by a sturdy fence. The panoramic view alone made the trek worth the trip.

After paying 1 euro to look through the high-powered binoculars and taking plenty of photos, we climbed more stairs to reach the castle's interior, intrigued by what sounded like a monastery choir singing. It turned out to be recorded music playing from inside the castle's small chapel, a nice touch that added to the Old World ambience of the place. Next we walked into the castle's main chamber,

It takes some effort to climb up to Germany's Burg Trifels



PHOTOS BY JENNIFER H. SVAN/Stars and Stripes

The imposing Burg Trifels is perched atop a mountain in the southern Palatinate forest about an hour south of Kaiserslautern, Germany.

a room with a marble floor and a large, three-tiered chandelier with candles hanging from the high ceiling.

Climbing another stone staircase, we came to a small room with replicas of royal objects that once were kept at the castle, including a jeweled crown, orb and scepter. Small kids seemed to like the corner where they could put on a robe and crown and sit in a throne-like chair, their parents not missing the opportunity to get a photograph.

Another room holds models of how the castle looked throughout different time periods.

The last renovation began in 1966.

It's debatable how closely today's castle resembles the medieval structure, online castle guides say.

But whether the castle is a historically accurate structure doesn't take away from the experience. The stunning views and the well-kept rooms connected by winding staircases spark one's imagination to what it might have been like to live like royalty during the Middle Ages above the trees in Europe.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com



Visitors to Burg Trifels can take in sweeping views of the countryside atop a rock outcropping that's part of the castle.



Nova Am-raw/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

From Kaiserslautern, take L503 to B48. Stay on B48 through a heavily forested area for about 20 miles. When B48 ends, take B10 toward Annweiler. Just after the second tunnel on B10, get off in Annweiler and follow signs to Burg Trifels. The signs are brown with white lettering. The drive from Kaiserslautern takes about an hour.

TIMES

9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jan. 1 to March 31; 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. April 1 to Sept. 30; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 1 to Nov. 30. Closed in December. Last entry is 30 minutes before closing time.

COSTS

Entrance is 3 euros for adults, 1.50 euros for children ages 6 to 18. Children under 6 get in free.

FOOD

A snack stand with beer, brats, pretzels, sodas, ice cream bars and souveniers is at the trail near the parking lot. Outdoor tables with umbrellas are located near the snack stand. A sit-down restaurant with a larger menu is across the main parking lot.

INFORMATION

Castle telephone: (+49) (0)6346-8470; Trifelsland tourism bureau telephone: (+49) (0)6346-2200; website: trifelsland.de or burgen-rip.de/index.php?id=reitschburgtrifels. — Jennifer Svan



The central room inside the castle is outfitted with a marble floor and an impressive three-tiered chandelier.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



Osteria da Afro, located in Spilimbergo, Italy, offers a variety of dishes from the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region and other parts of the country. At right is linguine with a pesto sauce and green beans.



PHOTOS BY KENT HARRIS/Stars and Stripes

After Hours: Italy

BY KENT HARRIS
Stars and Stripes

The name might give many Americans a reason to take a second look. But Osteria da Afro, in Spilimbergo, Italy, doesn't offer soul food. And it's also got nothing to do with a hairstyle.

Dario Martina has been running the place for 27 years, and the first name of one of his early partners was Afro. But while the story behind the name might disappoint, the food won't.

The menu, according to waiter Andrea Potente, has "a little bit of a lot of dishes." It changes each day according to what produce and other food items are available. In fact, it sometimes changes during the day if a particular dish proves to be popular and the restaurant runs out.

That's because the restaurant uses only fresh ingredients available during a particular time of year, Potente said.

The menu recently featured fried zucchini blossoms with cheese and anchovies, *fussillini* with shrimp and tomatoes, veal with tuna sauce, stuffed peppers



An eclectic collection of art decorates a corner of Osteria da Afro. The main dining area can hold about 30 people.

and stewed rabbit with mushrooms. *Bolata* — fried balls of polenta with mushrooms and a zesty cheese sauce — is one of the house specialties. Potente said the osteria is the only one in the area that makes the unusual dish in this way. The owner of another restaurant in a nearby town came up with the dish then

passed it along to his friend, Martina, when his business closed.

The osteria has several other specialties, depending on the season. Most have origins from Spilimbergo or nearby towns in Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

The restaurant is part of the slow-food movement that started in Italy and France in response to the fast-food industry. Such restaurants generally rely on locally produced ingredients and serve meals designed to be eaten leisurely. Sometimes that means slower service as well, but it didn't in this case.

The osteria opens at 7 p.m. for dinner, but diners who are there at that time might have the place to themselves. Locals don't arrive until 8:30 or later at many non-touristy Italian restaurants and Osteria da Afro didn't appear to be an exception. There's room for about 30 in the dining room, so reservations would be a good idea on weekends for those who like eating as late as the Italians do.

Potente, a transplant from Venice, got busier as the night went on during a recent visit, as he was the only waiter. Mar-

OSTERIA DA AFRO

Directions: 14 Via Umberto I, Spilimbergo, Italy. It's about a 40-minute drive from Aviano Air Base to Spilimbergo, depending on the route. The SR 251 passes closest to the base, turning into the SR 464 around Maniago. The quickest route, though, is probably the SR 177, which connects to the A28 autostrada at Cimpello and the SS 13 at the large traffic circle near the Emisfero mall. The SR 177 ends at the SR 464 a bit west of the city. The osteria is in the center of town. Via Camillo Benso Conte di Cavour connects Via Umberto with SR 464. There's a free parking lot on the other side of the railroad tracks a few blocks from the restaurant.

Hours: Open for lunch and dinner six days a week and lunch only on Sundays.

Menu: In Italian only. English spoken.

Clientele: Italians and the occasional tourist.

Dress: Casual.

Prices: Appetizers for 8.50 euros, first courses for 8.50-9.50 euros, second courses for 8.50-15 euros, side dishes for 4 euros, and desserts for 5 euros. Major credit cards accepted.

More information: Telephone: (+39) 0427 2264; website: osteriadaafro.net.

— Kent Harris

Close out summer with salads

McClatchy-Tribune
News Service

These make-ahead salads could be handy for serving on Labor Day picnics. The broiled Chili Chicken is full of hot, spicy Southwestern flavors and is delicious served over a bed of lettuce with Green Onion Dressing.

Sweet potatoes are becoming very popular because they are full of vitamin A, potassium and calcium. Using them in a potato salad creates an unusual and flavorful dish.

CHILI CHICKEN SALAD

Ingredients

1/4 cup chopped onion
1 garlic clove, crushed
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
3/4 pound boneless, skinless chicken breast
4 cups washed, ready-to-eat Romaine salad

1/4 cup reduced-fat oil and vinegar dressing
1 scallion, thinly sliced

Directions

Preheat broiler. Mix onion, garlic, chili powder, ground cumin, salt and pepper together. Remove visible fat from chicken and spread with onion mixture on both sides. Press it into the chicken.

Cover a baking tray with foil. Place chicken on the tray and broil 5 inches from the heat for 5 minutes. Turn and broil 5 minutes. A meat thermometer should read 165 degrees. Mix the dressing with the scallion. Divide the salad between two dinner plates and spoon the dressing on top. Divide the chicken into 2 portions and place over the Romaine salad.

Makes 2 servings. 271 calories each.

SWEET POTATO SALAD

Ingredients

1 pound sweet potatoes
2 tablespoons chopped onion

1/4 cup reduced-fat oil and vinegar dressing

1 cup red bell pepper cut into 1-inch pieces
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

Peel potatoes, rinse and cut into 1-inch pieces. Place in a medium-size saucepan and cover with cold water. Cover the pan with a lid and bring to a boil. Cook 10 minutes or until potatoes are cooked through. Mix onion into the dressing. When potatoes are cooked, drain and place in a bowl. Toss with the dressing and red bell pepper. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Makes 2 servings. 236 calories each.



Among the restaurant's recent appetizer options were buffalo cheese caprese, sliced mushrooms, snails and this dish, battered zucchini blossoms stuffed with cheese and anchovies.

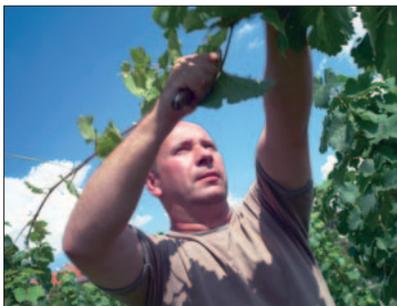
tina joined in, stepping away from his adjacent bar that was much busier than the restaurant earlier in the evening. A variety of local wines were available for those dining in the restaurant.

There's an eight-bed hotel upstairs for those coming farther away than Aviano or those interested in taking classes at the city's famed mosaic school.

harris.kent@stripes.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HEITMANN/Special to Stars and Stripes

Above: Pavel Bulanek tends the Grebovka vineyards, where he is the main cultivator. Right: The vineyards, which cover four acres near Prague's city center, yield grapes ripe for picking.

Wine festival utopia

In September, the Czech capital celebrates the fruit of the vine

By JULIE O'SHEA
Special to Stars and Stripes

Let's face it, beer festivals have become a little passé. Wine festivals, however, still carry a certain coolness factor. When organized properly, they have you feeling as though you've stumbled upon a slice of Shangri-La.

And if you're looking for wine festival utopia, it isn't difficult to find in Prague, a city full of hidden hillside nooks and unexplored vineyards.

The Czechs — much like the Germans — might be renowned for their beer, but in September it's all about home-grown vino as the country jubilantly ushers in the grape harvest season with numerous wine festivals — or *vinobrani* — throughout the month.

While booking one of the private wine cellars that dot the South Moravian region for a weekend of debauchery may be a rite of passage, there is no shortage of bubbly — red, white or rose — in the Czech capital. When it comes to *vinobrani*, Prague goes all out, hosting a festival in one quarter or another practically every weekend in September. Celebrations range from the very grand (the Festival of the Grape in the Prague Castle



Courtesy of Vinobrani na Grebovka

Festival goers enjoy the sun and the wine on the lawn outside the Grebo villa at the 2013 Vinobrani na Grebovka in Prague.

gardens) to cheesy retail gimmickry staged in front of malls and grocery stores.

The best, however, are the relatively intimate neighborhood wine fests. Most district administrators are lax about promoting their *vinobrani* to the wider community, much less to throngs of tourists, so it's mostly locals who know about these eclectic, slightly wild park or hilltop wine raves.

I've been in Prague for eight years now. The closest I've found to Napa Valley in Prague is Havlicekovy sady. To those who live around here, this park is simply known as "Grebovka," the nickname taken from the Grebo villa, a 19th-century abode in the park's center. This expansive swath of land in the city's upscale Vinohrady district is home to one of the largest working vineyards in Prague.

It also hosts one of the most popular wine festivals of the season, drawing mostly local revelers but also a handful of out-of-towners who just happen upon this lively outdoor bash. This year, *Vinobrani na Grebovka* will be held Sept. 26-27. The Friday festivities will take place outside the park on namesti Miru before moving to Grebovka the following afternoon, where the crowds pack the hillsides surrounding the vineyard and the striking Neo-Renaissance villa, feasting on grilled meats, cheese and glasses of freshly produced wine.

The guest star at any proper *vinobrani* is a delicious mix called *burcak*, partially fermented, very sweet young wine that is exceptionally potent. It can be bought by the glass or, for those more daring, by the liter.

Pavel Bulanek, Grebovka's main cultivator, says the *vinobrani* cuts into the heavy workload required by his vineyard, which covers nearly four acres below the Grebo villa.

"It's a crazy action," he said, laughing as he took a break in the afternoon heat along one of the stone walls lining the vineyard. Still, he'll be on hand for the event. After all, Grebovka wine (the vineyard provides up to eight kinds each season) will be among the dozens of other Czech blends on offer this year.

As much as I wanted him to extol the charms of *burcak*, Bulanek is no fan, calling it "a PR action." Asked, then, for a recommendation, Bulanek laughed again.

"The best wine we have," he said, "are the ones that have already been bought by the customer."

His cellar, Sklep Grebovka, is open every Friday year-round, as long as there is wine in the tanks, according to Bulanek, who can often be found behind the bar. The selection changes weekly. When we talked, however, Bulanek still didn't know what Grebovka's *vinobrani* menu would look like.

Other aspects of the event have already been revealed, though. The festival, for instance, will have a King Charles IV theme with a series of theatrical presentations on the history of Prague. A Beatles revival band is also on the lineup. Ales Pokorny, a leading Czech sommelier, will hold workshops on the fine art of wine-tasting. And of course, there will be plenty of vino, *burcak* and culinary delights. Best of all, entrance is free.

Not a bad way to wrap up the waning days of summer.

Julie O'Shea is a freelance journalist who lives in Prague. Email her at julie0616@gmail.com.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe



Courtesy of Vinobrani na Grebovce

Vinici Altan's wine gazebo overlooks the Grebovka vineyard, providing a scenic retreat from the urban buzz of Prague.

KNOW & GO

Getting there

On Sept. 26, events at the Vinobrani na Grebovce, one of Prague's most popular wine festivals of the season, take place at namesti Miru (metro stop namesti Miru; tram stop namesti Miru lines 22, 10, 16, 4). On Sept. 27, events take place at Havlickovy sady (tram stop Jan Masaryk lines 22 and 4). See vinobranninagrebovce.cz for more on the Vinobrani na Grebovce.

Accommodation

• **Czech Inn** (Francouzská 76), Prague's most popular wine festivals of the season, take place at namesti Miru (metro stop namesti Miru; tram stop namesti Miru lines 22, 10, 16, 4). On Sept. 27, events take place at Havlickovy sady (tram stop Jan Masaryk lines 22 and 4). See vinobranninagrebovce.cz for more on the Vinobrani na Grebovce.

buffet breakfast for about 120 koruna as well as young entertainment. Attracts young travelers and families. Telephone: (+420) 267267612; website czech-inn.cz.

• **Le Palais Art Hotel Prague** (U Zvonarky 1), rooms from 5,282 koruna. For an upscale option, this stylish five-star boutique offers spa treatments, gym amenities and an Old World library. Breakfast is included in the price. Telephone: (+420) 234634111; website: lepalaishotel.eu.

Food

Specialties such as raclette, sheep cheese and potato pancakes usually are sold at the fests. But if you want a more formal dining experience, here are some suggestions:

- **Vinohrady Parlament** (Ko-

runni 1). This casual, low-key gastro-pub off Namesti Miru serves traditional Czech cuisine such as goulash and lots of meat and potatoes. There's also an extensive kids' corner. Telephone: (+420) 224 250403.

• **Bruxx** (Namesti Miru 9). If you are looking for something fancier, pop into Bruxx, next door to Parliament. Run by the same chef, the two spots may share a kitchen, but the wood-paneled Bruxx specializes in

mussels and Belgium lagers. Telephone: (+420) 224250404.

- **Javanka and Co.** (Machova 22). A few blocks from Grebovka's front entrance, Javanka is a cozy Indonesian fusion bistro offering veggie, vegan and meat-based dishes. Its dessert tray, including peanut butter-and-walnut pies, is breathtaking. Low prices. Telephone: (+420) 222 515107.

Other 'vinobrani'

Other Prague wine festivals to

investigate:

- **Troja Vinobrani**, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 13, Troja Castle, U Trojskeho zamku 1, Prague 7.
- **Prague Botanical Gardens**, 1 p.m.-7 p.m. Sept. 13-14, Nadvozni 134, Prague 7.
- **Festival of the Grape**, Sept. 20-21, Prague Castle.
- **St. Wenceslas Wine Festival**, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Sept. 27-28, Staré zamecke schody 25, Prague 1. Website: svatovclavskvinec.cz

— Julie O'Shea

Restaurant Directory

GERMANY

Bavaria-Graf/Viseck area	Kaiserslautern area	Mainz / Wiesbaden area
<p>Since 1978 Chinese and Mongolian Buffet Nihilator: 8 5923 Weiden/Opf Tel. 0961-3809 Fax. 0961-3022; www.peking-weiden.de</p>	<p>Fleischercherloch 1 66849 Landstuhl 06371-2497 www.pizzeria-salvatore.com</p>	<p>Steinmstrasse 2, 55252 Mainz-Kastel 06134-564969 Get our juicy Irish Angus Burger!</p>
<p>Pallas Greek Specialties Unterer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel/Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<p>Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 - Free parking</p>	<p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808</p>
<p>Berge, 4, 9229 Viseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<p>The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in Ktown. Am Warmfreibad 3 - 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!</p>	<p>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admstal 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
<p>Open Wed-Mon: Noon - 1pm (Tues, Closed) Call For Reservations / Take Out Orders Tel. 08821-57486 www.restaurant-le-mama-garmisch.de Zugspitzstrasse 27, 82467 Garmisch-Partenkirchen</p>	<p>Saytouno Cuisine Oriental Wilhelm Strasse 52 65183 Wiesbaden 0611-3086110</p>	<p>Nassaustasse 6-8 65719 Hofheim-Wallau 06122-4022 www.smoketripebbq.com</p>
<p>Waldstr. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesensbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seeowpizzeria.de</p>	<p>Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611 450483-50 wiesbaden.enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<p>reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OP area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>
<p>Gasthaus & Biergarten Inn: Saucha Gärtner Entenweiherstraße 74 67657 Kaiserslautern www.Quack-Kilde.de Tel. 0631/42828</p>	<p>Erich-Ollenhauer-Strasse 106 65199 Wiesbaden • Tel. 0611-85834 www.gabriels-restaurant.de</p>	<p>Jodena's Diner Seerobenstrasse 29 65195 Wiesbaden (10 minutes from Hainberg) Tel. 0611-181 763 13 www.jodenas-diner.de Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/jodenas</p>
<p>Visit Palace Wiechlice in beautiful island and live like a royal! (30 min. from boleslawiec) Tel.: 48 68 376 86 10 www.palacwiechlice.pl www.facebook.com/PalacWiechlice</p>	<p>Book now! VAT form required, show your ID card. Book directly on marrnot.com via your MII. code. T: +49 (0) 6122 801 0 F: +49 (0) 6122 801 800 M: reservations@courtyard-wiesbaden.de</p>	<p>Germany's Finest Beer and Authentic German Cuisine Unit Parties for up to 200 guests Otto Suhl Ring 27 55252 Mainz-Kastel Tel. 06134-24999 www.brauhaus-castel.de</p>

Hotel Directory GERMANY

<p>Kirchenumbacher Str. 36 92076 Eschenbach Tel: +49 (0)9645-8444 • Mobil: +49 (0)175-4024023 www.hotelamsee.de • hoteltamsee@t-online.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS Situatied on the shore of the Raulweiher</p>	<p>Eichendorffstr.36, 92655 Grafenwöhr (Germany) 0175-7235641 or 0151-65708336 (USA) 253-318-8980 Email: info@cozycornersast.com</p>
<p>Am Schoenberg 18 - 92655 Grafenwoehr www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de FREE WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS 09641-936390</p>	<p>Free Breakfast, Family Apartments, Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome, American/German Owned. 36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night. Tel: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de</p>
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oz**

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WEEKEND



THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of Kashima Jingu Shrine

ON THE WATER: Kashima Jingu Shrine Mifune Matsuri — The Ancient Boat Party Ritual, Japan

This event in Ibaraki prefecture on Sept. 2 is a re-enactment of an event from 1,000 years ago. This picture shows a boat carrying the Divine of Kashima Jingu Shrine in the ocean near Katozu, Katori City. The best spots to view the boats are at Kashima Jingu Shrine and Katozu. For more: tinyurl.com/k4vrgh6.

OFF BASE

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

Japan

DISASTER PREVENTION DAY: Sept. 1; the great Kanto earthquake struck Tokyo, Yokohama and surrounding regions on Sept. 1, 1923, and in 1960, the date was designated Disaster Prevention Day. Emergency drills organized by local governments will be held throughout the country.

South Korea

GOESAN RED PEPPER FESTIVAL (Chungcheongbuk-do): Through Aug. 31; held during harvest season to promote peppers grown in Goesan; Sports Complex, mini football field, Culture & Sports Center, Dongjincheon Stream area; free; +82-2-1330.

DONG GANG INTERNATIONAL PHOTO FESTIVAL (Gwangwon province): Through Sept. 21; held in and around Dong Gang Museum of Photography in Yeongwol-gun, the event features photo exhibitions, lectures and more; +82-2-1330; <http://dgphotofestival.com/eng>.

Ryukyu Dynasty Moon Viewing Festival, Okinawa

On 6:30-9 p.m. Sept. 6 and 7 see a reproduction of the Mid-Autumn Banquet held during the Ryukyu Dynasty, which includes Okinawan traditional performing arts at Shuri Castle Park, Naha. For more: tinyurl.com/8j3s2zn.

Photo courtesy of JNTO



Sneakers on!

Japan: Make sure to register at Ranger Gym by Sept. 2 for Atsugi Athletics' 2014 Sprint Style Triathlon — a 500-meter swim, 17 km cycle and 5K run, register at Ranger Gym.

Guam: Coral Reef Fitness Center at Andersen is holding Remembering Our Heroes 5K/2K run/walk at 6 a.m. Sept. 11 at Tarague Beach.



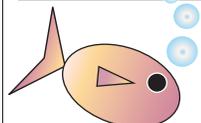
Tug of wars, Okinawa

ITOMAN TUG OF WAR: Sept. 8, 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.; local citizens pull a 180-meter giant rope on Itoman rotary and Route 331; 30-minute ride from Naha Airport or a 20-minute ride from Tomigusuku I.C.; tinyurl.com/kdfnft.

OKUMA TUG OF WAR: Sept. 8, 9 p.m.; originated more than 400 years ago in Kunigami, and event features eisa dance and more at Okuma Elementary School playground, two-hour ride from Naha Airport.

MAEZATO TUG OF WAR: Sept. 9, 11 a.m.; event also features eisa dance and more at Maezato Memichi Square, 30-minute ride from Naha Airport.

NAHA TUG OF WAR: Oct. 12, 11:30 a.m.-5 p.m.; about 15,000 people pulling on a 200-meter giant rope is the highlight of the festival; Route 58, Kumaji intersection.



With the fishes

Okinawa

Camps Foster, Courtney and Kinser have a trip for Karama snorkeling on Sept. 7 and 27. They also have a trip on Sept. 21 to Expo Park and Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, the largest in Japan and the second largest in the world. For more: mccsokinawa.com/tours.



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

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Topical paradise



PHOTOS BY MARCO GARCIA/AP

Above: A bicyclist rides past a mural depicting portraits of Hawaiian Queen Liliuokalani and King David Kalakaua in Kakaako, a neighborhood in Honolulu. Right: A mural by street artist Axis on the wall of the Friends of the Library building in Kakaako shows a skeleton surfer flashing the Hawaiian hand greeting.

Edgy art in Honolulu neighborhood carries social commentary

By MARCO GARCIA
The Associated Press

Honolulu is famous for golden sand beaches and big waves. But the city's warehouse district, called Kakaako, is famous for a different sort of attraction.

You won't find kitschy Hawaiian souvenir shops or hordes of tourists here, but you will find a thriving urban arts scene, with colorful street murals so big they stretch across walls and sometimes entire sides of buildings.

In one mural, a skeleton in tow flashes the shaka, a Hawaiian hand-greeting. In another, a snarling panda ferociously snaps its jaws near a doe-eyed maiden. A third shows a banana in grass skirts dancing a hula with a talking pineapple.

Kakaako sits between Honolulu's downtown and the touristy Waikiki. In ancient times, the area was home to a native Hawaiian fishing village. In the 20th century, the area industrialized, with warehouses, auto repair shops and car dealerships. The neighborhood has declined in recent years as landowners struggled to find ways to utilize its prime real estate, smack in the middle of Honolulu.

It wasn't until 2011 that Honolulu artist Jasper Wong sought to revitalize the area with urban art. Wong created a group called POW!WOW! Hawaii with the goal of beautifying Kakaako and bringing people together through art. Artists from around the globe participated, painting murals on walls across the decaying

neighborhood.

Wong says the art represents a unique local style, mixing the elaborate urban graffiti seen in places like Brooklyn, Miami, Tokyo and London with Hawaiian cultural influences and Asian anime. It's also a far cry from the graffiti-tagging that once plagued the neighborhood.

One of the more powerful murals covers the sides of a building near a popular gym, the UFC Gym at 805 Pohukaina St. The faces of Hawaiian royalty, King David Kalakaua and Queen Liliuokalani, appear on the wall in a swirling mist of fantasy, history and social commentary. It was created by native Hawaiian artists Solomon Enos and John "Prime" Hing along with mainland artist Gaia.

For vacationers, the neighborhood's edgy vibe and urban art offer an appealing alternative to Oahu's better-known attractions: sunny days at the beach or trips to historic sites like Pearl Harbor. Teens might especially relate to the vivid anime themes, while older viewers will appreciate the area's Banksy sensibility — yet all the art can be seen outside the confines of a traditional museum.

But the Kakaako murals are not just colorful paintings. Many have political messages and social commentary well beyond anime references and bright spray-paint colors. And while you can spot most of the artwork easily by walking around, some is hidden down alleys and back streets.

According to Wong, the murals

About Kakaako

The heart of the Honolulu neighborhood stretches along Ala Moana Boulevard roughly from Ward Street on the east to South Street on the west, and north to about Queen Street. Most of the murals stretch north from Ala Moana and can be found in and around Auahi Street and Pohukaina Street, which are both parallel to Ala Moana.



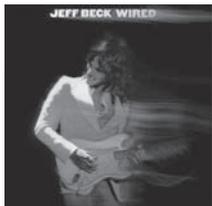
A collaboration between New Zealand artist Tanja Jade and Australian artist Dabs Myla on the wall and alleyway of a car dealership in Kakaako shows a dancing banana with a talking pineapple.

are replaced with new art every February. But with much of Kakaako currently slated for redevelopment, the old warehouses and buildings that now serve as canvases will eventually be demolished and replaced with residential high rises. POW!WOW! Hawaii is working with landowners to create initiatives to keep the art alive as the area changes. So visitors to the area might not catch the dancing banana or the faces of Hawaiian royalty, but there's hope that as time goes on, they'll still be able to see new and equally exciting murals.

WEEKEND: COVER STORY

Stratocaster still rockin' at 60

Leo Fender's game-changing electric guitar has been around for six decades, but for its many musician fans, it never gets old.



Jeff Beck, below, fell in love with the Fender Stratocaster at first sight.

Above: Beck's classic 1976 album, "Wired."



BY RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

Rock guitar hero Jeff Beck remembers falling in love for the first time.

"I'd only ever seen Spanish-style or jazz guitars, and then I saw a Stratocaster," said Beck, 70, of his schoolboy crush. "I was fascinated by the shape, the double cutaways; it was all too cool. It had all these pickups and knobs and controls — it embodied all the excitement of modern living.

"A few years later I saw one in London hanging in a window, and the guy let me try it on," said the former member of the Yardbirds. "It fit me like it was made for me. That was it — we were married. I thought 'This is it,' and I never forgot it."

Virtually all musicians have a similar story surrounding their first high-quality instrument, and for many guitarists, that tender memory revolves around the Stratocaster.

The Strat, which was created by electric guitar innovator Leo Fender in his Fullerton, Calif., workshop, turned 60 this year.

"I don't think there was ever one soloist or instrumentalist that didn't at some point have their sights set on a Strat, including me and everybody I knew," said ZZ Top guitarist Billy Gibbons, whose solo on "La Grange" was played on one. "The Strat is really the global cornerstone, the reference point of the perception of the contemporary electric guitar."

Buddy Holly became the first major rock star to adopt the Strat as his career took off in the mid-1950s. It features prominently on the cover of his 1957 debut album, "The 'Chirping' Crickets," inspiring legions of followers to covet his guitar.

Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Bob Dylan, Robbie Robertson, Dick Dale, Pete Townshend and Ron Wood are among players closely associated with Stratocasters.

"It came out perfected, and ever since then we've been trying to copy it, improve it, enhance it," said Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richards, who admires Strats even though he usually plays Telecasters, the Strat's older sibling. "Most things get better over time, but not in this case. Leo did it all in one fell swoop, which is amazing."

The Strat's main rival for supremacy among rock guitar players is Gibson's Les Paul, named for, although not designed by, another celebrated technology experimenter. It was introduced by Gibson in 1952, in response to Leo Fender's success with the Telecaster, which debuted in 1951.

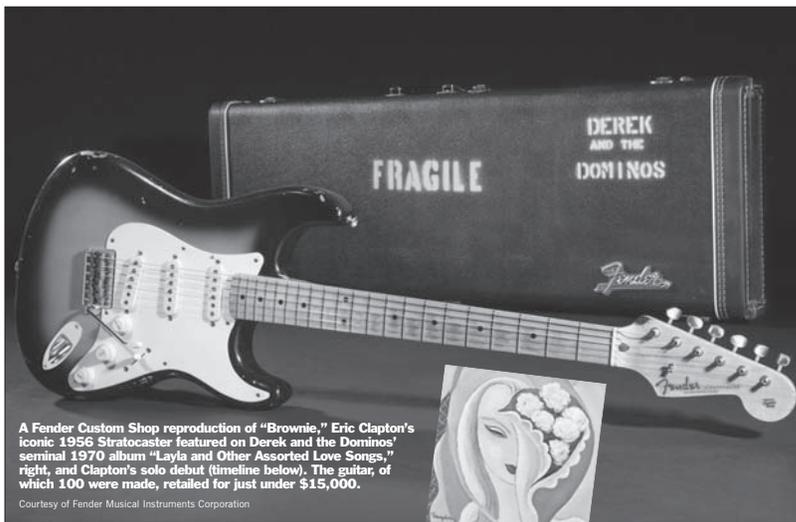
Making a good thing better

Clarence "Leo" Fender was a quintessential tinkerer whose mission through most of his 81 years sprouted from an innate drive to make a good thing better.

Guitars had been played for hundreds of years, but in the early 20th century, the rise of large-band ensembles playing popular music for dancing relegated the acoustic guitar to a supporting role. Various people experimented with amplifying guitars in the electric age so they could compete against louder instruments such as trumpets, trombones and saxophones.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 37

WEEKEND: COVER STORY



A Fender Custom Shop reproduction of "Brownie," Eric Clapton's iconic 1956 Stratocaster featured on Derek and the Dominos' seminal 1970 album "Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs," right, and Clapton's solo debut (timeline below). The guitar, of which 100 were made, retailed for just under \$15,000.

Courtesy of Fender Musical Instruments Corporation

FROM PAGE 36

But amplified acoustic instruments could get only so loud before the signal started feeding back, creating a distorted sound. The goal was to create an instrument without an open sound chamber that created feedback.

Fender came up with his company's first functional electric guitar in 1950, the single-pickup Esquire, a predecessor of the two-pickup Telecaster. Despite the odd appearance, the new invention's versatility, reliability and affordability compared with other designs found quick acceptance among blues and country musicians of the early '50s. Ike Turner, whose band the Rhythm Kings recorded "Rocket '88" in 1951, often cited as the first rock 'n' roll recording, was an early adopter of Fender electric guitars.

Fender looked for the next step beyond his Telecaster and developed the Stratocaster, a three-pickup guitar, creating more sonic possibilities. It was curvier, with cutaways on both sides of the neck that allowed players better access to the upper parts of the fretboard, the body further contoured to more closely fit against a player's torso.

The Strat eventually went into the Museum of Modern Art in New York for its elegant design. Its look was a key part of what drew Bonnie Raitt, one of the first

women to be recognized as a master of the electric guitar, to the Strat.

"How you feel in the guitar is probably as important as how it sounds," Raitt said. "For portability, sexiness and the way it feels on your body, nothing beats a Strat. When you strap on a Stratocaster, you feel just like your heroes. I don't think you can separate how it makes you feel from the memory of other people playing it."

Indeed, influential musicians who used Stratocasters early on played a key role in the model's growth in popularity in the 1960s and beyond.

"What kind of guitar you're most attracted to is a reflection of what kind of music you grew up with," said John Mayer. "I'm a Strat guy. ... When I see Clapton play a Strat, it's like a kid putting his hands on a Spalding basketball when he sees Michael Jordan spinning the ball. It's how you approach that place you dream of getting to."

Mastering mass production

Fender's genius stroke was creating a quality instrument that could be mass-produced and affordable — he's often lauded as the Thomas Edison and Henry Ford of the instrument world.

New Stratocasters manufactured at Fender's Corona, Calif., plant retail for about \$1,300 and up. Cheaper versions

manufactured in Mexico and Asia start around \$500. Vintage models from the 1950s and early 1960s fetch tens of thousands of dollars at auctions. The Guitar Center paid close to \$1 million for Clapton's celebrated "Blackie" Strat a few years ago.

Larry Thomas, Fender's chief executive since 2010 and former head of the Guitar Center chain of retail stores, has seen that principle in action.

"The whole thing is about aspiration and inspiration," said Thomas. "People would come into Guitar Center to buy an instrument because they were in awe of some guy who was their idol. When you sold a Strat, people wanted to sound like Stevie Ray Vaughan, or they wanted to sound like Eric Clapton."

The same is true for those at the top of the guitar-food chain.

"The first time I saw one," Clapton said, "was in the Jerry Lee Lewis footage from (the 1958 film) 'High School Confidential!' His bass player was playing a Fender Jazz bass or a Tele bass, and I'd never seen anything like a solid-body guitar before. That was it for me. It was the perfect design. It looked like a spaceship. I loved that about it — it was new and exciting and science fiction."

U2 guitarist the Edge recalled that, "The first guitar I ever bought was a Strat — it was my first decent instrument ever.

When we got our record deal, the first thing I did was go out and buy another Strat."

"The black one, that's the one I recorded a lot of our big important songs with: 'Pride in the Name of Love,' 'Where the Streets Have No Name' — major U2 songs," Evans said. "With the Strat, you get this plank of wood with a neck stuck into it. Yet it just sings — it's an incredibly inspiring instrument."

Singing the Strat's praises

The Band's lead guitarist Robertson said there were "many, many times" in that group's career when the Strat contributed significantly to songs he was writing. The Canadian musician first became enamored of the Stratocaster when he saw Buddy Holly play one in Toronto on Sept. 14, 1957.

"I hung around after the show because I wanted to know how he got that sound," said Robertson, a 14-year-old aspiring guitarist at the time. "So I waited until everyone was loading out, and I went around back and asked him, 'Mr. Holly, how do you get that sound: Is it the guitar? Is it the amplifier?'"

"And he said, 'So, you're a guitar player? OK, I'll tell you.' And I thought here I am, Buddy Holly is about to give me the secret. And he said, 'You see that Fender Twin (amplifier)? It's got two speakers in it. One of them quit — and I never fixed it.'"

Robertson and most of the rest of the musicians who later became known as the Band backed Bob Dylan in 1965 and 1966 when he famously "went electric," to the chagrin of folk music purists.

"When Bob Dylan strapped on one in the mid-sixties (yes, it was a Stratocaster that was supposedly booed so lustily at Newport) or when Jimi (Hendrix) played the Star Spangled Banner on one at Woodstock, well ... that settled that." Bruce Springsteen wrote in politely yet expansively declining to be interviewed about the Strat when the guitar turned 50 in 2004.

"However! There are two kinds of people in the world. Those that play Stratocasters and those that play Telecasters. ... and the twain rarely meet." Springsteen wrote, identifying himself as a "Tele player" — "I'll die, yes."

Not veteran blues musician Buddy Guy. "Playing anything other than a Stratocaster, he said, "is like putting on a glove that's too small, then putting one on that you've been wearing for five years ... (If) you see me change from a Strat, it means I done broke a string."

Beck can relate. "Nothing's been invented that's better than the Stratocaster," he said. "Fender has kept asking me, 'What could we do to make you a better guitar?' I always tell them, 'Give me a 1954 Strat in the box, and I'll be happy. You had it right from the start.'"

Some famous Strat players

1954

Buddy Holly

Jimi Hendrix

Eric Clapton

Stevie Ray Vaughan

John Mayer

2014

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Ariana Grande

My Everything (Republic Records)

This is how you follow up an impressive debut: simply step into the recording booth, and be amazing yet again.

Maybe it's easier said than done, but Ariana Grande manages to pull off the feat with her sophomore release, "My Everything," the successor to last year's near-pop perfection "Yours Truly," which topped the Billboard 200 chart and spawned the hit single "The Way," featuring Mac Miller.

Admittedly, Grande's sophomore effort doesn't go in a radically different direction (she was on the right path to begin with), but big changes are there. For one, music veteran Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is nowhere to be found. Still, the R&B and soul sensibilities that he brought to "Yours Truly" are at play, even without him.

That's evident on "Be My Baby," featuring Norwegian DJ Cashmere Cat, and in the slick bounce of "Break Your Heart Right Back." Produced and co-written by duo Pop & Oak, the latter samples Diana Ross' "I'm Coming Out." Featured

guest Childish Gambino repurposes bars from Notorious B.I.G.'s "Mo Money, Mo Problems" for the track.

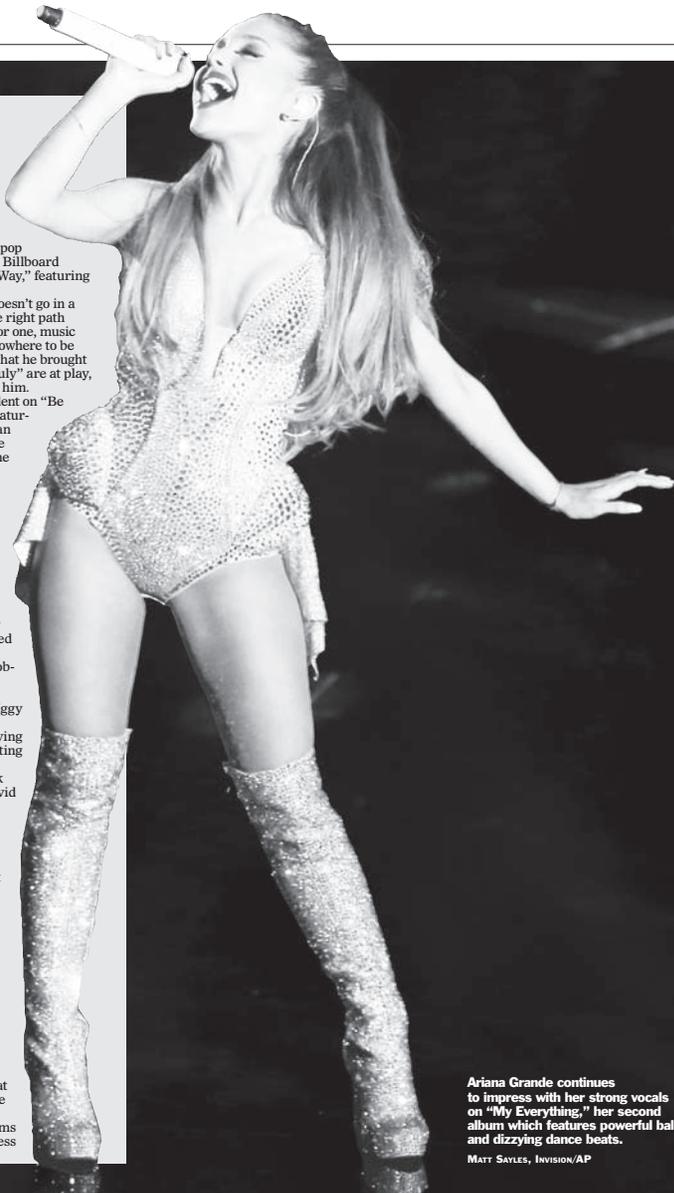
Additional collaborations with rappers, including Big Sean, ASAP Ferg, as well as Iggy Azalea on the successful single "Problem," might tempt critics to accuse Grande of relying on old formulas. But she shows growth, busting out of familiar genres and exploring electronic dance music on second single "Break Free," featuring Zedd, and again on the David Guetta-written "One Last Time."

Thankfully, no matter where Grande ventures, her dazzling vocals lead the way — powerful on the Benny Blanco and Ryan Tedder-produced "Why Try," with its hypnotic drums, and light-as-a-feather on "Just a Little Bit of Your Heart," with its aching and lovesick lyrics co-written by One Direction's Harry Styles.

The 21-year-old Grande has a fantastic voice, and she and her team have found the music to showcase that. A feat that isn't to be underestimated, considering the powerhouse vocalists who've been bypassed for passable singers with more memorable tracks.

Sure, "My Everything" was a safe bet — but only in the best of ways. For some fans, the listening experience will be like returning to a delicious little restaurant they've recently discovered, and finding that the food is as good as they thought it was the first time.

—Melanie J. Sims
The Associated Press



Ariana Grande continues to impress with her strong vocals on "My Everything," her second album which features powerful ballads and dizzying dance beats.

MATT SATLES, INVISION/AP

Brad Paisley

Moonshine in the Trunk (Arista Nashville)

Brad Paisley backs away from social issues and strikes up a party on his 10th studio album, "Moonshine In The Trunk." However, that doesn't mean he suddenly starts to play it safe. Musically, Paisley's arrangements continue to emphasize intricate musicianship and turn-

on-a-dime ensemble play, while his lyrics use witty wordplay to explore the many ways people try to escape their problems and improve their lives.

The veteran country star's knack for tongue-in-cheek fun comes through on the funky "River Bank," the fist-pumping "Crushin' It" and the high-speed hijinks of the title song. Paisley also touts American pride throughout, whether he's

name-checking sports teams and muscle cars on "Country Nation" or toasting the land of opportunity on "American Flag on the Moon."

As in the past, his ambitious reach sometimes gets the best of him. On the traditional country tune "4WP," for example, Paisley jams the gears by racing through too many musical ideas too quickly.

Still, 15 years into his career,

Paisley is the country singer most likely to crack jokes about a hill-billy family getting rich ("High Life") or write a sensitive power ballad about a woman breaking through the good-old-boy corporate network ("Shattered Glass"). Which also makes him the country star most likely to make fans smile — and to make them think.

—Michael McCall
The Associated Press



WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT

NEW ON DVD

“**Belle**”: The movie is inspired by a 1779 painting of Dido Elizabeth Belle and her cousin Lady Elizabeth Murray, which means writer Misan Sagay had to take great liberties with the script. Other than the image in the painting, little is known about Belle. Sagay fleshes out both the political elements and the personal story through a forward-thinking aspiring lawyer who comes into the life of Belle and Mansfield. “**Belle**” treats racism with kid gloves. Because of that approach, the film ends up little more than a light period drama. It is good, but it never reaches the dark political and emotional tones of a movie like “12 Years a Slave.”

“**Legends of Oz: Dorothy’s Return**”: Lea Michele and Megan Hilty star in a feature film musical based on characters from “The Wizard of Oz.” It isn’t “Wicked,” but “Legends of Oz: Dorothy’s Return” is a fun, family feature that benefits from the pair’s strong singing voices. Although the screenplay by Adam Balsam and Randi Barnes wanders off the Yellow Brick Road of Roger Baum’s book, it does keep to the central story about love, courage and happiness.



WARNER BROS. PICTURES/AP

Drew Barrymore, left, and Adam Sandler star in the DVD release “Blended.”

“**Blended**”: If you can get through the first 20 minutes — a nonstop regurgitation of old jokes, annoying characters and unfunny ideas — don’t relax. It gets worse. The Adam Sandler/Drew Barrymore comedy (their word, not mine) looks at what happens when two single parents end up on the same vacation through an absurd and contrived plot line. The movie should have been called “Deported” so we could send these two unlikeable people and their equally unlikeable offsprings-home. Instead, director Frank Coraci keeps trying to milk something funny out of the painfully trite script.

Also out on DVD:

“**The Walking Dead: The Complete Fourth Season**”

“**The Normal Heart**”: Cable film based on the play about the early battles with AIDS.

“**Welcome Back, Kotter: The Complete Series**”

“**Sons of Anarchy: Season 6**”

“**Murder in Suburbia Complete Collection**”: Two detectives patrol an upscale suburb where perfect-looking lives reveal all kinds of depravity.

“**Blandings, Series 2**”: Based on P.G. Wodehouse’s Blandings Castle stories.

“**Criminal Minds: Season 9**”

“**My Gal Sunday**”: Rachel Blanchard and Cameron Mathison play husband-and-wife private eye team.

“**Gene Autry Movie Collection 7**”

“**The Twilight Zone: The Complete ‘80s Series**”

“**Triad**”: Three friends face harsh realities of being a member of the Triads.

“**Elementary — The Second Season**”

“**75 Years of WWII**”: History series examines the deadliest conflict in human history.

“**Discovery Channel’s Earth: The Sequel**”: Based on the New York Times bestselling book.

— Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

The NEW Doctor Who



RAY BURMISTON, BBC WORLDWIDE/MCT

The new season of “Doctor Who” started Aug. 23 with Peter Capaldi as The Doctor and Jenna Coleman as his companion, Clara. “One of the nice things about ‘Doctor Who,’ and I know from being a fan myself, is even if a lot of people don’t like me, some people will love me,” Capaldi says.

BY MEREDITH BLAKE
Los Angeles Times

Peter Capaldi has just landed in New York, the fifth stop in a worldwide tour promoting the new season of “Doctor Who” that began in the U.K., continued with visits to South Korea and Australia and now, after a 22-hour flight that crossed the international dateline, has descended on midtown Manhattan. Next, he and co-star Jenna Coleman head to Mexico and Brazil.

For Capaldi, who made his proper debut as the 12th incarnation of the time-traveling, shape-shifting Doctor, all the globe-trotting may be useful for getting into character. But, he says, “the TARDIS is a much more efficient vehicle for traveling,” referring of course to the Doctor’s famous blue police phone booth-cum-spaceship.

In Britain, “Doctor Who” has been part of the pop culture canon virtually since its premiere on the rather untimely date of Nov. 23, 1963. Stateside, the sci-fi series has long been a cult favorite. But since the dormant franchise was revived in 2005, “Doctor Who” has gradually edged out into the American mainstream, its popularity driven by the charismatic performances of David Tennant and Matt Smith as the 10th and 11th Doctors, and by the inventive writing of show runners Russell T. Davies and Steven Moffat. (Its availability on Netflix has hurt it either.)

Last November, the 50th anniversary special “The Day of the Doctor” drew an audience of 2.4 million to BBC America, a record for the cable network. Globally, the show has a reach of more than 30 million viewers in 75 countries. Anticipation surrounding the new season is so intense that when footage and scripts were accidentally leaked online last month, the BBC issued a public plea for

Peter Capaldi strikes a confident note as he takes on cult fave

fans to keep spoilers to themselves.

Capaldi is sanguine about the intense scrutiny he’s under given that he’s taking on the role after a string of popular younger actors, and Whovians are known for their intense devotion to particular incarnations of the Doctor. “One of the nice things about ‘Doctor Who,’ and I know from being a fan myself, is even if a lot of people don’t like me, some people will love me,” says the 56-year-old Scot, dressed stylishly in a slim-cut blue suit and wingtip Doc Martens, “that somewhere there will be a little group of people that says, ‘Oh, that’s my Doctor,’ and the more everybody else hates me the more they’ll love me.”

For Moffat, who has worked on the series since its reboot and took over the reins as show runner from Davies in 2010, Smith’s departure after three seasons was a tough blow. “At a simple human level, it was miserable because my mate went. And also it’s a strange thing, because we did make a radical change to the Doctor, that light goes out and the 11th Doctor is not there anymore. That lovely, floppy man is gone.”

Given that one of the Doctor’s essential traits is his mutability, one might think that casting would be a daunting process: Where does one begin narrowing down the list of candidates when there are no real limitations in terms of age or appearance?

“They’ve got to be technical virtuosos,” Moffat says. “You need somebody you’ll never tire of listening to and never tire of looking at. You have to picture them on a fridge magnet, you have to picture them on a lunch box.”

Yet what might have been a long and difficult quest for a new Doctor was “over in a heartbeat,” Moffat says, because he immediately thought of Capaldi and “everyone mysteriously agreed.”

Unlike Smith, who was a relative unknown before “Doctor Who,” Capaldi is already a beloved and highly recognizable star in the U.K., thanks to his portrayal of Malcolm Tucker, the prime minister’s ruthless and blisteringly profane enforcer in Armando Iannucci’s political satire “The Thick of It.” (A role he reprised in the film adaptation, “In the Loop.”)

Despite Capaldi’s strong identification with a very particular (and decidedly unheroic) character, Moffat saw little downside in casting the actor, whom he calls “a national treasure.” (His evidence? At the BAFTAs a few years ago, cheers for Capaldi were as deafening as they were for “Sherlock” heartthrob Benedict Cumberbatch.)

Capaldi had closely followed all the casting speculation in the press and says he was “slightly peeved that no one was mentioning me at all” when his agent called to ask how he’d feel about being the new Doctor. After reading for Moffat — he was the only actor to do so — Capaldi got the part, despite what he describes as a “truly awful” audition.

For Capaldi, who grew up admiring Vincent Price and Peter Cushing, stars of the horror and sci-fi films he loved, rather than Shakespearean types like Richard Burton or Laurence Olivier — he says their names with an affected posh accent — playing the Doctor is “part of my DNA.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Tri It For Life athletes **Tonya Hanna, left, Nicole Koll, above left, and Pam Christian, above right, swim laps during a swim lesson at the Dowd YMCA in Charlotte, N.C. Thirty-seven percent of American adults cannot swim the length of a 25-yard swimming pool.**

PHOTOS BY ROBERT LUNZER
THE CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/MCT

Adult swim Many find it's never too late to learn

By **TONYA JAMESON**
The Charlotte Observer

The moment brings laughter now, but it sure wasn't funny then.

Michelle Simmons swam to the middle of the deep end at the YMCA pool and froze. She was too tired to go all of the way to the wall. She was too scared to turn around and swim back to the shallow end.

She yelled for help. A lifeguard fished her out of the pool.

Simmons almost quit taking swimming lessons on that dreadful Sunday. As her friends from Tri It for Life triathlete training program reminded her, she'd come so far. Simmons was one month into swim lessons in preparation for her first triathlon. She was also a month into starting a life in which she was no longer afraid of water.

Until this spring, Simmons was among the 37 percent of American adults who can't swim the length of a 25-yard pool. She was one of the 46 percent who are afraid to go into water over their head.

According to federal figures, an average of 10 people drown each day in the United States, and the inability to swim is the No. 1 "risk factor."

The YMCA of Greater Charlotte offers 550 adult swim classes per year. The Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation recently added a second weekday adult swim class at one recreation center. Spring and summer are so busy that there is typically a wait

list, according to Patricia A. Daly, aquatic recreation coordinator/supervisor.

Daly first noticed the increase in adult learners after 9/11.

"Many older career people changed jobs and wanted to either go back to teaching lessons or even lifeguarding. Kind of a life-is-too-short thing," she said. "Now it is people who always put it off, are now making the time to learn either for their

kids or themselves."

Katie Adams, 71, is one of those people who is learning for herself. She's been taking lessons for nearly two years. When she first started she wanted to learn to swim so that she could save herself or help someone else. Now, she's trying to swim well enough to swim the length of the pool without stopping. She did it once, but she wants to be consistent.

Kathy Tingle, 54, also learned for herself. "I didn't know I had a fear of water until I tried to learn how to swim," she said. Swim lessons were a recent birthday gift to herself.

Tingle and Adams were two of the four women taking lessons at the Johnston YMCA on a recent Tuesday. They're part of the reason Johnston's program has grown dramatically in recent years.

Danielle Rader, aquatics and sports director, said adult swim private lessons have grown by more than 150 percent

from two years ago. She expects the classes to continue to grow. "People are realizing this is life and death," Rader said. Teaching adults is different from teaching children, Rader said. Adults bring different learning styles and sometimes acute fears based on previous experience

that most children don't have. When it comes to adults, it's really about making them comfortable and earning their trust, Rader said. Teaching adults requires the instructor to rationalize each exercise and reassure the students that they are getting better. With kids, it's ice cream cones, blowing bubbles and fun.

With adults, she said, "Something as simple as putting your head underwater could take two lessons."

Simmons can relate to that. "I was definitely afraid of water. If I could not touch the bottom, I wasn't going any farther," she said.

That changed this year. She didn't quit after the day she panicked in the pool. Now, she calls herself an "advanced bubble blower."

She completed her first triathlon sprint by swimming the 200 yards on her back in 12 minutes. She's pumped for another triathlon this fall. Maybe she'll be coordinated enough to swim that one face down.



Pam Christian, left, gets help with her backstroke from Tri It For Life mentor Lisa McDaniel, center, during a swim lesson. Mentors with the program spend 12 weeks helping train women for their first triathlon.

MCT illustration

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Workspace in disarray

Kids use their desks for anything but homework

By DIANA MARSALEK
The Associated Press

Alyssa Kimble, a soon-to-be fourth-grader in White Plains, N.Y., says she uses the desk in her bedroom for “everything” — creating lesson plans for her make-believe school, writing stories and storing stuff. Everything, that is, except homework.

“Usually, my desk is covered with things, a computer isn’t nearby and my mom isn’t there to help me,” Alyssa says.

‘... Some kids, especially if they have ADHD or another disability, can benefit from doing homework at a specified location like a desk because it tells them, ‘This is the spot where I focus.’

Ellen Pape
school reading specialist

So she prefers doing homework at the kitchen table.

Although bedroom desks remain common, many kids don’t use them for their intended purpose. Thanks to laptop computers and more casual living spaces, they often opt to do homework in kitchens and family rooms, on couches or on beds, turning their desks into depositories for books, toys and crafts.

What that means for study habits depends on who’s doing the work, educators and parents say.

“I could always get my homework done wherever I was. But some kids, especially if they have ADHD or another disability, can benefit from doing homework at a specified location like a desk because it tells them, ‘This is the spot where I focus,’” says Ellen Pape, a La Grange, Ill., school reading specialist.

“Separating it from other locations gives kids more of a straightforward definition of expectations,” she says.

Melissa Kaufman, of Santa Clara, Calif., says that where her daughters — Rebekah, 14, and Sarah,

11 — do their homework reflects their different needs and study habits.

Kaufman bought Rebekah a desk several years ago because letting her work at the kitchen table in their small house became too hard on the rest of the family. “It meant nobody could do anything in the kitchen or living room until homework was done because it would be distracting,” she says.

But having “a nice big desk surface” did little to change that. “I don’t think she did her homework at her desk more than once,” Kaufman says. Initially, Rebekah resisted being isolated from the rest of the family. And although today Rebekah does do homework in her room, it

is usually on her bed. The desk is where she puts “the four outfits she tried on earlier that day and rejected.”

But Kaufman says she doesn’t fight it.

“She has still managed to get excellent grades, despite what I would consider less than stellar study habits and environment, so we have to let her go with what she is comfortable with,” she says.

Sarah, on the other hand, “needs much more help and encouragement to get her homework done, so doing it in isolation in her room is not really an option” — meaning she’s back at the kitchen table, Kaufman said. Sarah’s desk has suffered a fate similar to her sister’s; it’s covered with piles of books, art supplies and knickknacks.

Tami Mount, a New York-area educational consultant, says it’s important for children to have a quiet, dedicated workspace, but it doesn’t matter where that is.

“All the tools they need to do their homework like scissors, rulers, erasers and pencils, should be organized in a place they can be easily retrieved. You don’t want to spend 15 minutes looking for tape,” she says.

But some kids work better in an environment where there is, say, music playing or a parent nearby, then isolated at a desk, Mount says. “A quiet desk, a busy kitchen, Starbucks or the living room floor. Like adults, kids find a place that is comfortable and productive,” she says. “And if the living room floor is not proving productive, try something else.”

SPOUSE CALLS

Pore over issues that matter, not ice water

There’s a social media deluge going on. Men, women and children, sometimes entire crowds of people at once, are dumping buckets of ice water on themselves or each other. This wetting-down has a purpose, mostly raising funds toward research into treatment of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) or other forms of support for those who have the disease.

I talked to someone this week who had not heard about the “ice bucket challenge.” Explaining it to him made me realize how crazy it sounds: A person takes video of himself or herself getting doused with several gallons of icy water and posts it on social media and then challenges several friends, by name, to either donate \$100 to the ALS Association or dump a bucket of cold water on their own heads. Judging by the videos I’ve seen, most people do both: give money and receive a cold shower.

It’s been good, clean — and bracing — fun, a diversion during a long, hot summer. Best of all, it’s for a worthy cause, refreshingly different from other social media trends. (Anyone remember planking or the “Harlem Shake”?)

Time magazine reported that the ALS Association received more than \$53 million in the first few weeks of August. During the same period last year, donations were around \$2 million, the story said. Some other organizations might have benefited in smaller amounts, since some ice bucket challengers have asked friends to give to other charities as well.

Behold the power of social media and peer pressure. All this makes me wonder why it takes a bucket of ice water to call attention to one of the serious ills of the world. We certainly knew about ALS — also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease — before now.

“To people in other cultures, it may appear a little silly. Dana, a military daughter currently working in Africa, posted a picture on her Facebook page of children carrying buckets of water on their heads with the caption: “Ice bucket challenge? You know how far I had to walk for this?”

In drought-stricken California, some people accepted the challenge by dumping dirt on their heads to conserve water; though presumably they had to use water to wash it off. I’m all for fun with a purpose, but I wish it didn’t take such extreme measures to get our national attention. I wish it didn’t take buckets of cold water poured over our heads to get us to pay attention to what’s going on in the world.

Some military family members suggested more issues that could use more attention, namely:

“On a scale of 1 to 10, how do you rate your family’s involvement in the military as well as wife. “So many tired souls, just fat worn out. Sometimes I worry that the civilian community as a whole thinks military families all come with a suit of armor. That somehow military families are made of thicker skin than the rest of society.”

Several other military and family members nominated diseases like Type 1 diabetes, brain cancer and childhood cancers for more public attention and private donations. Another suggested donations to March of Dimes to support research into birth defects and premature birth.

Even without ice water, there’s been no shortage of news stories to make our collective blood run cold: the beheading of American journalist James Foley by Islamic State militants and the potential for American military action there; rampant unrest in Ferguson and the Ebola virus spreading across Africa; Russian tanks rolling into the Ukraine, and continued fighting in Israel.

Perhaps people feel powerless in the face of these events and diseases, and a bucket of cold water and a donation of cold hard cash is a tangible way to reach out and touch the world. It’s one good step that deserves another, and another.

Here’s my challenge: Donate to a favorite charity or charities. Better yet, volunteer and give of yourself and your time. Stay informed on issues that matter. Connect with your community. Hold elected representatives accountable. Vote. Act. Give. Now. Don’t wait for the bucket of ice water.

Terri Barnes is the author of “Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life.” Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

Michael and Melissa Kaufman, of Santa Clara, Calif., bought their daughter, Rebekah, a desk for her room so that she would have a place to study. Instead, Rebekah, 14, uses it as “a repository for the four outfits she tried on earlier that day and rejected,” her mother says.

COURTESY OF MICHAEL KAUFMAN/AP

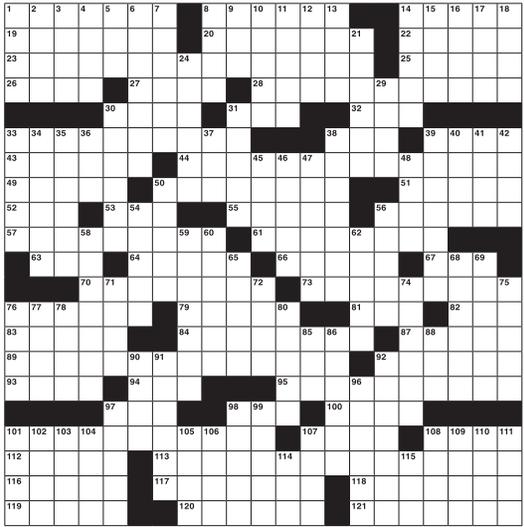
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

SECOND SHIFT

BY PATRICK BERRY / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS
1 In most cases
8 Stomach settler
14 Fasten, as a rope
19 "But wait ... there's more!" items
20 Truck-driving competitions
22 The Roman poet Ovid, once
23 Painball gun?
25 "Keep climbing" sloganer
26 Hankerings
27 Maintains the border, say
28 Device that can tell if someone's recently vacationed in Hawaii?
30 U.K. news source, with "the"
31 Trifling amount
32 Dated
33 Narrow shaft in a mountain?
38 The Cardinals, on scoreboards
39 Eschew modesty
43 Big name in trucking
44 Item from the Victoria's Sweetness catalog?
49 Nautical command
50 Collective effort
51 Boccaccio wrote a biography of him
52 Union general Wallace
53 Shingle sealant
55 Poker set?
56 Like many hospital patients getting visitors
57 Anne Frank, e.g.?
61 Ones manifesting Manifest Destiny
63 Wash. Square campus
64 Some credit-card rewards
66 Aerodynami c
67 Site of many IVs
70 One in a tight space, perhaps
73 "Hee Haw" heyday, say?
76 Rock growth
79 Director of the "Dark Knight" trilogy
81 Salt source
82 Make do with, say
83 Figure skater Mao
84 Microscope part
87 Absorb
89 Novelist Danielle
92 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
93 ___-Bal I
94 Channel-surfing catalysts
95 Honey Bunches of Oafs, e.g.?
97 Set a price of
98 Beaver Cleaver exclamation
100 Yom Kippur War figure
101 Soup after it's been taken off the burner?
107 Semidome site
108 Care providers, for short
112 Given
113 What might determine if the moon hitting your eye like a big pizza pie is truly amore?
116 "A Journal of the Plague Year" the 1960s
117 ___ Lane, acting first lady during Buchanan's tenure
118 Send to the ocean bottom
119 Goes downhill?
120 Cells displaced there
121 British eatery
DOWN
1 Pen name of columnist Pauline Phillip s
2 Where the rubber meets the road?
3 In a moment
4 Reasons to resurface
5 Miss ___
6 "Lolita" subject
7 Honor
8 Family business abbr.
9 Particle in a salt solution
10 Connie's husband in "The Godfather"
11 Last thing bid?
12 Mortgage adjustment, brief y
13 Willing to take risks
14 Dampen, perhaps
15 Higher-up
16 "Rock-a-bye Baby," e.g.
17 ___ clef
18 It starts with a celebration
21 Handles
24 Take a shot?
29 Masseur's supply
30 "Bugsy" star
31 Fashion lines
33 Burn
34 Peaceful protest of the 1960s
35 Kind of
36 Bugs that weigh tons
37 Brady Campaign opposer, for short
38 Cheat
39 Kind of rock
40 Sound off
41 Palindromic name
42 Grieve openly
45 Work with a number
46 Garbage collection?
47 Driven group
48 Sign of rot
50 Be behind
54 Modern-day capital that King David ordered besieged
56 Sri Lanka export
58 "Joseph Anton: A Memoir" autobiographer
59 Absence justification
60 Game drawers
62 Letter arrangement?
65 Black Friday events
68 Candlelight diners, perhaps
69 Phoebe's twin on "Friends"
71 Have in mind
72 Spellbound
74 When repeated, cry before "They're catching up!"
75 High country
76 Miss
77 Author Dinesen
78 Blanchett of "Blue Jasmine"
80 One who may be grand?
85 Slithery swimmer
86 Walks noisily
88 Poetic contraction
90 Whip tip
91 Ex-mayor seen in "The Muppets Take Manhattan"
92 "It's true whether or not you believe in it," per Neil deGrasse Tyson
96 Stop it
97 Summit s
98 ___ Cantor, German mathematician who invented set theory
99 Kovacs of comedy
101 Heels
102 Rink maneuver
103 Long sentence
104 Grammatical concept
105 Close the set?
106 TV "explorer"
107 Kennedy Center focus
108 Humble dwellings
109 "Breaking Bad" comedy
110 Home of the first U.N. secretary general
111 Walking distance
114 Poetic contraction
115 Who: Lat.



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RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



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FACES

Angelina Jolie, Brad Pitt wed in France

By JAKE COYLE
The Associated Press

Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt were married Saturday in Correns, France, a spokesman for the couple says.

Jolie and Pitt wed in a small chapel in a private ceremony attended by family and friends at Chateau Miraval. In advance of the nondenominational civil ceremony, Pitt and Jolie obtained a marriage license from a local California judge. The judge also conducted the ceremony in France. The couple's children took part in the

wedding. Jolie walked the aisle with her eldest sons Maddox and Pax. Zahara and Vivienne threw flower petals. Shiloh and Knox served as ring bearers, the spokesman says.

Jolie and Pitt's wedding caps years of rampant speculation on when the couple would officially tie the knot. Both had publicly said that they planned to.

"It's an exciting prospect, even though for us, we've gone further than that," Pitt told The Associated Press in an interview in November 2012. "But to concretize it in that way, it actually means more to me than I thought it would. It means a lot to

our kids."

This is the second marriage for Pitt, who wed Jennifer Aniston in 2000. They divorced in 2005. Jolie was previously married to British actor Jonny Lee Miller for three years in the late '90s and to Billy Bob Thornton for three years, divorcing in 2003.

Jolie and Pitt are prepping movies. Jolie's second directorial effort, the World War II odyssey "Unbroken," will be released in December. Pitt stars in the upcoming World War II drama "Fury," due out Oct. 17.



Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt married Aug. 23 in France, according to a spokesman for the couple.

AP file



Hurley takes the reigns in 'The Royals'

E! TELEVISION/AP

From left, Elizabeth Hurley as Queen Helena, the Queen of England, William Moseley and Vincent Regan are currently filming the new television series "The Royals." The show is expected to air in early 2015.

By HILARY FOX
The Associated Press

Move over Helen Mirren, there's a new queen in town — Elizabeth Hurley.

The English actress is on the British throne for new E! drama series "The Royals," playing the fictional Queen Helena, a sharply dressed mother of three grooming her son to be king and dealing with public opinion.

It's the E! Channel's first foray out of reality TV into scripted drama. Hurley reckons fans of "Gossip Girl" and "Dynasty" will enjoy the decadent lifestyles of these talk-show-friendly royals.

Talking recently with The Associated Press on the set in east London, Hurley was in glittering jewels and a cream ball gown on the royal private jet — a hint of how the show will focus on lavish parties, international summits and secret romances.

"There's no correlation at all between Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and my Queen Helena," Hurley explained. "If Princess Diana, for example, had become queen of England, that would be a more

similar age group."

Hurley, in fact, claimed that real royalty have it easier than celebrities. "The royal family have a lot more privacy behind their closed doors than other actors or politicians have because we don't have the resources that they have to keep us private," she noted.

William Moseley, best known for playing Peter in "The Chronicles of Narnia" films, takes on the role of Prince Liam — the second son thrown into the spotlight after the death of his brother. Australian actress Alexandra Park stars as the wild Princess Eleanor and Merritt Patterson as Liam's American love interest.

"It's like (if) Prince Harry was thrown into being the next King of England," Moseley explained.

Moseley has met the queen and her husband Prince Philip at galas for the "Narnia" films and he's not too worried about them disliking the show.

"If they tune in and they want to watch it and they like it, good for them. If they never want to speak to any of us ever again, well, that's that. So, who cares?" he said.



ABC/AP

Chris Soules will star in the next edition of the reality series "The Bachelor."

Iowa farmer is new 'Bachelor'

ABC has chosen its next "Bachelor" Chris Soules, who came in third last season on "The Bachelorette," will look for love among 25 women vying for his heart. His selection was announced Wednesday on "Good Morning America." The 32-year-old Iowa farmer said he was "humbled, flattered and grateful" to be selected.

"My focus is gonna be to make the girls that are on the show as

comfortable as possible," he said. "The Bachelor" features a single guy who goes on a series of dates to choose a potential bride. ABC seemed to want to involve the fans in its decision for the upcoming season. For weeks, executive producer Mike Fleiss teased viewers on Twitter about who would become the next "Bachelor."

From The Associated Press

Sawyer exits as ABC's evening news anchor

The Associated Press

Diane Sawyer signed off as anchor of ABC's "World News" on Wednesday, telling viewers that it has been wonderful to be the "home port" of the network's news team each weeknight.

She will be replaced next week by David Muir. The 68-year-old Sawyer, one of television news' best-known personalities, has anchored ABC's flagship newscast since December 2009.

While it's been known for months that this was Sawyer's last week as anchor, it wasn't until she tweeted earlier Wednesday that it became clear she wasn't anchoring on Thursday and Friday. On Wednesday's newscast, she chatted briefly on the set with Muir and took viewers on a behind-the-scenes tour pointing out people who worked at "World News."

"It has been wonderful to be the home port for the brave and brilliant forces of ABC News around the world and to feel every single night that you and I were in a conversation about the day together," she said.

Sawyer isn't retiring. She said Wednesday that she will move "down the hall and up the stairs" to a reporting job.

Source: BET suspends producer after joke

BET has suspended a producer after a joke about Beyonce and Jay Z's daughter that aired Monday on the network's music video countdown show, "106 & Park."

A source at BET, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the person was not allowed to discuss the matter publicly, said the producer was suspended after a remark about 2-year-old Blue Ivy's hair.

On Monday's show during a segment about Blue Ivy's hypothetical thoughts during Sunday's MTV Video Music Awards, guest host Karucheé Tran said: "I really did wake up like this, because my parents never comb my hair." Blue Ivy joined her mother onstage at the VMAs.

Stephen Hill, BET's president of music programming and specials, apologized on Twitter. Hill also said the network privately apologized to Beyonce and Jay Z.



ABC/AP

The staff gathers at ABC News headquarters for Diane Sawyer, left, who signed off on her last broadcast as anchor of "World News" on Wednesday.

Gun company cuts ties with reality TV star

A firearms company affiliated with reality TV star Will Hayden is distancing itself from him after his arrest on rape charges.

In a statement on its website, Red Jacket Firearms LLC says it has legally separated from Hayden. The Baton Rouge-based company says it will remain in business.

The Discovery Channel canceled "Sons of Guns" after Hayden's arrest on Tuesday. Discovery says it killed the show due to "the serious and horrific nature of the charges" against Hayden. The show featured Hayden and his firearms business.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office says Hayden was arrested on aggravated rape charges involving a child.

Other news

■ California prosecutors say **John Jeery** has pleaded not guilty to possessing an illegal assault weapon during an investigation into a fatal shooting at a rap concert. A spokeswoman for the Orange County district attorney says the rapper, real name Jay Wayne Jenkins, entered his plea to the felony charge Tuesday. Jeery remains jailed on bail. He's due back in court Sept. 5.

■ A former child model can dismiss his lawsuit that accused "X-Men" director Bryan Singer of sex abuse in Hawaii, but he has the option to re-file it later, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

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, following into the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1950s Operations Desert Shield 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.

STARS AND STRIPES RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

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2013 Best American Newspaper Narrative Writing Contest – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Martin Kuz
"Soldiers Recount Attack"

2013 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Notable Narrative Winner
Recipient: Laura Rauch

2013 National Headline Awards – Second Place: News Series (Forever After: A Warrior Wounded; A Family Challenged)

2013 min Best of Web: Redesign – Honorable Mention
Stripes UK website

2011 Military Photographer of the Year – Honorable Mention
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award – Breaking News Photography (Newspaper Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated Website/National Magazine) Recipient: Laura Rauch
"For those I love I will sacrifice"

2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary Award for Excellence in Journalism – Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

2010 National 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 Barton

2009 min Editorial & Design Awards – Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009; Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Monte Morin

2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano; Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery Photography; Fred Zimmerman

2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards – Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)
Recipient: Steve Lower
Photography: Terry Boyd

2004 American Legion Excellence in Journalism Award – Ground Truth Series

2003 Scripps Howard Foundation National Journalism Award – First Amendment, Finalist

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Ernie Gates

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Stars and Stripes (USPS 0417900) is published weekdays (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 20 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

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OPINION

Isolate, don't target, Islamic State leader

By CLINT HINOTE

The Islamic State has been wounded. While the execution of reporter James Foley by the group's depravity, its timing also suggests that recent counterattacks are having a significant effect on its leadership. The group's expansion has been slowed, and some of its territorial gains have been rolled back. Iraqi and Kurdish forces, aided by U.S. airstrikes, secured a much-needed strategic "win" in retaking the Mosul Dam. Are there other ways to use this force mix to weaken the Islamic State and buy time for the Iraqis to regroup?

In 2006, the United States leveraged a similar set of capabilities and alliances to eliminate Abu Mutsab al-Zarqawi, the leader of al-Qaida in Iraq. Use of a combination of human intelligence and airborne surveillance, the U.S. found al-Zarqawi and killed him. At the time, this was thought to be a major blow to al-Qaida in Iraq that would do much to reduce the violence being inflicted upon Iraq's Shiite population.

There is an enduring allure to the idea of capturing or killing an enemy leader. In chess, if you capture the king, you win the game. Many assume the same holds true in the real world. Given the capabilities in place and the pressing need to weaken the Islamic State, U.S. leaders are surely asking themselves whether they should target the group's leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

At first glance, the answer would appear to be yes. Like any organization that must operate amid the pressures of combat, the Islamic State needs strong leadership. In fact, the group appears to enjoy effective leadership at multiple levels, as evidenced by its adaptability to the use of nonviolent strategic messaging and battlefield tactics that combine patience and boldness.

It is reasonable to think that attacking the group's top leader would weaken the organization, perhaps decisively.

Killing or capturing such a leader has rarely been decisive, however. While there have been instances where such action induced a form of organizational paralysis, it has also proven counterproductive. When Saddam Hussein prioritized hiding over helping Iraq when his country was invaded in 2003, the Baath government was paralyzed, yet dangerous elements remained and reorganized themselves into a more menacing threat.

In determining what to do about al-Baghdadi, here are some key questions:

What is the role of al-Baghdadi and other leaders within the Islamic State? The effect of attacking an enemy leader is roughly congruent with that leader's role. Disrupting a tactical leader can shock and paralyze a small unit, but this effect quickly fades once the unit reorganizes. In contrast, killing or capturing a strategic leader might have a longer-term effect. In the short term, but over time it could deny the adversary the vision and inspiration it needs to stay vibrant. Eliminating a symbolic leader can be a watershed event for an adversary, with unpredictable results. The attack on al-Zarqawi in 2006 did little to quell the wave of violence perpetrated by particular Iraqis, but al-Zarqawi received widespread honor as a martyr. Given that the Islamic State appears to exhibit tremendous skill at strategic communication, the United States needs to be cautious.

How is the Islamic State structured? Some organizations are naturally more vulnerable to an attack on their leadership, particularly those that are tightly connected, require large amounts of communication and rely on centralized control. The

Islamic State has a distributed structure, so it may be more difficult to target the middle layers of leadership — where most communication takes place — than to spend resources attempting to find al-Baghdadi.

That leads to a third question: Is there sufficient intelligence to target al-Baghdadi? This is often the limiting factor in leadership attacks, which require reliable information that can be difficult to get. Success usually involves a large and persistent effort, combined with some luck.

Perhaps most important, one cannot divorce these military questions from the overall goal. If the goal is to paralyze an organization, then attacking its leaders at all levels, as quickly as possible. Alternatively, if there is a possibility of dialogue — repellent as that may be — then attacking leaders can be counterproductive. A leaderless organization cannot be coerced, but its components can still cause pain.

While assessing the military change the analysis, the available information indicates that al-Baghdadi is an inspirational leader who is not involved directly in battlefield tactics. Considering this, disrupting al-Baghdadi's leadership is not likely to be worth the cost in precious intelligence resources. Better to use those resources to target the group's middle layers, where strategic direction is translated into tactical action. A focused and sustained effort to damage this part of the organization, therefore, would have significant — perhaps paralyzing — effects on the battlefield, further blunting its advance and buying time for Iraqis to meet this dangerous challenge.

Clint Hinote, a colonel in the U.S. Air Force, is a 2014 Military Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations. The views expressed in this column, which first appeared in The Washington Post, are his own.

Attack ads can help keep candidates honest

By PETER H. SCHUCK

Negative campaign ads appear to be on the rise with the approach of this fall's congressional elections and the 2016 presidential campaign. Hardly anyone has a good word to say about them. The standard critique — that they demean our democracy, deceive voters and cause disgusted voters to stay home on Election Day — has the ring of truth. But this exaggerates the negative about negative ads while obscuring their benefits.

Listening to the critics, one would assume that almost every political ad is an attack ad. In fact, a 2007 synthesis of studies published in the Journal of Politics found that fewer than 40 percent of all campaign messages target an opponent, and more recent studies found that most negative messages come from interest groups, not the candidates and parties.

While we might not like the tone of negative ads, and some are misleading (as are some positive ads), they do tend to highlight candidates' inconsistencies, character flaws and bad history. They also provide useful information to the undecided voters who determine the outcome of many elections. They also convey relevant information about candidates who sponsor the attacks. Hillary Rodham Clinton's famous "3 a.m." ad from the 2008 Democratic primary, for instance, had criticized Barack Obama's relative inexperience while reminding voters of Clinton's longer record.

The line between negative and positive ads also is blurry. Even an ostensibly positive ad emphasizing a candidate's views or attributes strongly implies that the opponent lacks them. If, instead, the ad made

explicit comparisons and emphasized the opponent's negatives, voters might have a better-informed and able to decide among candidates.

In fact, the only ads that should concern us are those that contain lies that voters cannot detect — whether positive or negative. The law itself can't provide an effective remedy for such lies; in June, a unanimous Supreme Court questioned whether state laws that prohibit false statements about candidates, and politicians can say very seldom sue for defamation. Still, attacked candidates have powerful incentives to call out falsehoods swiftly and to assail the character and trustworthiness of those who propagate them. Fears that lies in ads will backfire and repel voters, which many do, surely limit the number of arant falsehoods.

Half-truths and false innuendo — insinuation rather than outright lies — are more difficult to counter. But again, opponents are vigilant and can respond quickly. Campaigns probably use them more because they are effective. Everyone knows about George H.W. Bush's use of Willie Horton's story to attack Michael Dukakis and Lyndon Johnson's nuclear-cold ad against Barry Goldwater. But neither ad explains the outcome of those elections. Low-level, low-budget, one-time campaigning found that, although negative ads are more memorable, they do not shift votes to the attacker or reduce turnout.

Moreover, outrageous attack ads are harder to pull off today than in the days when John Adams' supporters are said to have called Thomas Jefferson "a mean-spirited, low-down fellow, the son of a half-breed Indian squaw, sired by a Virginia

mulatto father." The saying that "a lie can travel halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its shoes" is less true now because of the immediate responses and public rebukes enabled by the Internet, vigilant bloggers, quick-response teams employed by wary candidates and combative news organizations.

We should focus our concern about attack ads on their unusually aggressive and intrusive aspects, unpleasant as those may be, but rather on the ones containing falsehoods that opponents can't correct in time for voters to assess them, learn who is responsible for them and factor this information into their decisions. Three remedies might improve the situation.

First, local media should do what some national media do: objectively assess competing claims for accuracy and publish those assessments prominently. Second, foundations — and perhaps even the political parties themselves — should fund private, nonpartisan organizations with reputations for objectivity to do the same. These "truth squad" efforts should accelerate as Election Day approaches and the window for correcting false attacks begins to close. Third, Congress should require, subject to the constraints of the First Amendment's protections of individual and organizational privacy, noncandidate producers of all election ads, negative or positive, to identify themselves and their largest donors.

Attack ads are not pretty, but neither is our robust, competitive democracy. The first important, attack ads don't threaten that democracy. They may even improve it.

Peter H. Schuck, an emeritus professor at Yale Law School, is the author of "Why Government Fails So Often, and How It Can Do Better." This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Elect to give Afghans a chance The New York Times

Afghanistan faces ever deepening security and political crises. As American troops withdraw, Taliban military advances are threatening entire districts, and government coffers are dwindling.

NATO leaders are scheduled to hold a summit meeting next week that is supposed to reaffirm the alliance's commitment to keep supporting Afghanistan's security forces which, like the rest of the government, are heavily dependent on international aid. It will be very hard to justify continued assistance if Afghan politicians are unable to form a government with a new president in Kabul.

Yet, Afghanistan's rival presidential candidates, Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, are putting the country's stability at risk in refusing to agree on a winner two months after the disputed election to replace President Hamid Karzai. The emboldened Taliban are taking advantage of the political chaos.

Although Karzai's successor was supposed to have been sworn in on Monday, the country's Independent Election Commission still has not completed a United Nations supervised count of 8.1 million disputed ballots. Abdullah won the first-round voting in April, but Ghani came out ahead in a preliminary count after the final round in June, prompting Abdullah to accuse Ghani and Karzai of colluding to rig the vote.

Ghani and Karzai have denied the charges, few doubt there was substantial fraud. On Sunday, The Times' Carlotta Gall reported that interviews with Afghan and international officials support some of Abdullah's most serious claims, including ballot-box stuffing and a campaign by government officials to manipulate the outcome.

The Americans gave the candidates a way to ease the sting of defeat by brokering a deal that would have the rival camps create a national unity government. Under that plan, which both candidates accepted, the winner would become president and the loser, or his designee, would fill a new post of chief executive. But the powers and duties of that new job are also still in dispute.

A new, stable government is also important to the United States.

[Abdullah pulled away support from the election review Wednesday, arguing it was incapable of identifying the widespread fraud he believes took place.] The best available solution is for Abdullah and Ghani to cooperate fully with the ballot audit, accept the results (which were never given the benefit of the doubt given the immaturity of the democratic system) and quickly form a functioning government that reflects the country's diversity. If they manage to do that, there might be some hope that they could, in time, restore voter trust and put Afghanistan on the path to a real democracy.

Immigration end-run: bad idea The Arizona Republic

Three words for President Barack Obama:

Don't do it.
Don't sign an executive order unilaterally creating faux immigration reform.

Advocates, frustrated by a Congress that through two presidencies has failed to enact reform, are pressing for big and bold action. Such action might be satisfy-



SKIP O'ROURKE, THE TAMPA BAY TIMES/AP

Tampa, Fla., Mayor Bob Buckhorn takes the ALS ice bucket challenge at Water Works Park in Tampa Heights on Aug. 22. The bucket contained 65 gallons of ice and water.

ing for a day or two. But it would set back their cause for years, if not decades. The next Republican president could reverse such an order immediately. Even the pragmatic members of Congress would have no appetite to tackle permanent, comprehensive reform.

And it would ensure that nothing, absolutely nothing, gets done in Washington until the next presidential takeoff.

Plenty of Democrats, particularly congressional and gubernatorial candidates, are urging the president to refrain. But the White House is sending out signals that yes, Obama is seriously contemplating taking executive actions, independent of Congress, that conceivably could create a legal status for perhaps millions of undocumented immigrants.

The options reportedly include broadening his Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to include the parents of children who came to this country as minors. He could expand the "parole in place" program that allows noncitizens to enter the U.S. for humanitarian reasons. And there are numerous other means to extend de facto legal status to individuals both inside the U.S. now or seeking entry.

Any actions contemplated by the White House that have the impact of altering the legal status of large numbers of people — figures of 5 million or more are being bandied about — are destined to have profound ramifications beyond the immediate, explicit goal of legalizing the status of undocumented immigrants.

Those consequences extend well beyond the issue of immigration itself and into genuine constitutional questions about the limits of presidential authority.

The question of constitutional authority has been debated at the margins in regard to many of Obama's executive orders. Does the U.S. Constitution afford a president the authority to amend an act of Congress in as many ways as Obama has altered the Affordable Care Act? Maybe. Maybe not.

Acting alone to impart legal status to millions of people is a constitutional question more serious by orders of magnitude. The Constitution explicitly gives Congress the power "to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization."

Political cynics suggest Obama may invoke executive authority over immigration law precisely because it would provoke a constitutional furor, and, perhaps, im-

peachment proceedings — an action that turned politically sour for Republicans when they impeached President Bill Clinton. We devoutly hope the president is not so foolish.

This way is folly, Mr. President. Yes, Congress' failure to act is frustrating. But if Obama takes these actions on his own, it would constitute a higher order of failure.

Islamic State's foes not united Topeka (Kan.) Capital-Journal

An Aug. 22 attack on a mosque in Iraq and the subsequent fallout is indicative of the problems the United States, its allies and the Iraqi people will have as they try to eliminate the threat posed by the radical Islamists of the Islamic State.

The Associated Press reported that at least 64 people were killed in the attack on a Sunni mosque, which prompted Sunni lawmakers to withdraw from talks on forming an inclusive government to present a unified front against Islamic extremists.

Sunni lawmakers blamed Shiite militias for the attack, suggesting it was revenge for an earlier bombing. (That says a lot about the internal problems in that country.) However, reports indicate it was unclear whether the incident was the work of Shiites or Islamic State forces. The Islamic radicals haven't been shy about killing other Muslims during their campaign to take over large swaths of Iraq and Syria to form a secure base from which they can export terrorism and their radical religious beliefs to the rest of the world, including the United States.

How can the United States, or anyone, help the Iraqi people defend their country when they can't even get along long enough to defeat a common enemy? It won't be easy, but that is the task facing the U.S., its European allies, Kurdish forces in Iraq and the Iraqi people who can focus on the job at hand.

Success is essential. The Islamic State will only grow in strength with each victory. More recruits will enlist in the cause and the Islamic State's ability to extend its reach far beyond where the fighting is now will be enhanced.

The U.S. is providing air support and weapons to Kurdish forces in Iraq, but President Barack Obama has said he won't put "boots on the ground" (U.S. combat forces) there, which is wise. But Kurdish forces, even with support from the U.S.

and its allies, can't do the job alone. And there is little indication other countries are willing to supply ground forces.

David Ignatius, a columnist with the Washington Post Writers Group, has suggested Obama send retired Gen. David Petraeus and former Ambassador Ryan Crocker to Iraq as his special envoys because of their knowledge of Iraq and experience in the country. The two might be able to advise all forces facing the Islamic State on the best course of action.

There are no easy answers, but it is easy to see the rest of the world has a stake in the defeat of the Islamic State. It is a situation that clearly demands leadership from somewhere.

Nation building 2.0 in Iraq? (Florence, Ala.) Times Daily

President Barack Obama has not shown an inclination to use significant military force in Iraq in the wake of the Islamic State's bloody incursions there. Ground troops have disengaged after a long war, leaving only advisers behind to assist training the thus far ineffective Iraqi army.

But the horrors of the Islamic State's policies in captured areas are such that more than a few surgical airstrikes might become necessary.

Anyone who does not profess a fundamentalist Sunni Muslim faith is subject to heavy taxes, forced conversion or death. Tens of thousands of Christians and people of other faiths have fled before them, seeking shelter in Baghdad or the Kurd-controlled north. The Kurds have been the only force capable of checking the Islamic State, and have carried out rescues of thousands of people snatched by the terrorists.

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Be both careful and generous (Biloxi, Miss.) Sun Herald

The Ice Bucket Challenge has had quite a ride.

Over the course of a summer it has become an Internet sensation and raised millions of dollars for ALS (according to als.org) for research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

We are heartened that a country that claims to be as divided as the United States has found a reason to pull together. For that alone, we folks at the ALS Association have earned our gratitude.

Who would have believed that tens of thousands would make videos of themselves as they are hit with ice water from a bucket? It has been marketing genius.

But there is nothing like success to attract critics. Some note that Californians in the middle of a drought can't afford to waste water. We agree. They shouldn't. But you don't have to get wet to donate.

Some disagree for religious reasons with the ALSA's research. OK. Surely there's another worthy cause that could use help.

Finally, some challenge the challenge with care. The ice water will be enough of a rush without adding any dangerous twists, such as dropping the bucket from high above. And if you have a medical condition that could be aggravated by a sudden drop in temperature, hold the ice water and just donate. But most of all, let's keep this spirit alive.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Survey: U.S. pessimism on economy up

By Josh Boak
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Americans are more anxious about the economy now than they were right after the Great Recession ended despite stock market gains, falling unemployment and growth moving closer to full health.

Seventy-one percent of Americans say they think the recession exerted a permanent drag on the economy, according to a survey

being released Thursday by Rutgers University. By contrast, in November 2009, five months after the recession officially ended, the Rutgers researchers found that only 49 percent thought the downturn would have lasting damage. And that was when the unemployment rate was 9.9 percent, compared with the current 6.2 percent.

"They're more negative than they were five years ago," said Rutgers public policy professor

Carl Van Horn. The slow pace of improvement during most of the recovery, now in its sixth year, has eroded confidence and slowed a return to the pay levels that many enjoyed before the economy suffered its worst collapse since the 1930s. About 42 percent of those surveyed say they have less pay and savings than before the recession began in late 2007. Just 7 percent say they're significantly better off.

The survey results dovetail with estimates that the median household income was \$53,891 in June, according to Sentier Research. That's down from an inflation-adjusted \$56,604 at the start of the recession.

Each year of subpar growth has compounded the anxieties of many Americans. In contrast to the robust snapbacks that coincided with most economic rebounds, this recovery proved tepid well after the recession had ended.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Commercial rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 29)	\$1.3532	Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
Dollar buys (Aug. 29)	€0.7390	British pound	\$1.6580/0.6031
British pound (Aug. 29)	\$1.70	Canada (dollar)	1.0858
Japanese yen (Aug. 29)	101.00	China (Yuan)	6.1428
South Korean won (Aug. 29)	988.00	Denmark (Krone)	5.6582
		Egypt (Pound)	2.1515
		Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.3170/0.7593
		Euro (Forint)	236.60
		Israel (Shekel)	3.5664
		Japan (Yen)	103.76
		Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2845
		Norway (Krone)	6.1890
		Philippines (Peso)	43.72
		Poland (Zloty)	3.20
		Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7505
		Singapore (Dollar)	1.2490
		South Korea (Won)	1,016.19
		Switzerland (Franc)	0.9153
		Thailand (Baht)	31.95
		Turkey (New Lira)	1,620.00

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.757	\$3.938	\$4.103	\$4.124
Change in price	-1.6 cents	-1.8 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.4 cents
Netherlands	...	\$4.731	\$5.012	\$4.894
Change in price	...	-6.1 cents	-6.5 cents	-10.9 cents
U.K.	...	\$3.968	\$4.094	\$4.240
Change in price	...	-1.8 cents	-0.7 cents	-1.4 cents
Azores	\$4.049	...
Change in price	-1.6 cents	...
U.K.	...	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	...	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	\$4.263	\$4.993*
Change in price	+1.5 cents	no change
Italy	\$4.256	...
Change in price	no change	...

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	...	\$3.789	...	\$3.869
Change in price	...	-1.0 cents	...	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	...	\$3.599	...	\$3.809
Change in price	...	no change	...	-1.0 cents
South Korea	...	\$3.579	...	\$3.949
Change in price	...	-2.0 cents	...	-1.0 cents
Guam	...	\$3.569**	\$3.729	\$3.919
Change in price	...	-2.0 cents	-1.0 cents	...

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 27, 2014	Change
Dow Jones Industrials	15.31 17,122.01
Nasdaq composite	-1.02 4,569.62
Standard & Poor's 500	0.10 2,000.12
Russell 2000	-2.46 1,172.71

* Diesel EFD ** Mildgrade For the week of Aug. 30-Sep. 5

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Dirk	Chattanooga	94	67	Pcldy	Fort Wayne	85	64	Pcldy	Louisville	92	72	Pcldy	Pocatello	85	52	Pcldy	Siloux City	78	66	Pcldy
Ablene, Tex	91	71	Cir	Cheyenne	79	50	Pcldy	Fresno	99	66	Pcldy	Lubbock	91	66	Cir	Portland, Maine	71	55	Cir	Siox Falls	80	63	Cir
Akron, Ohio	82	54	Cir	Chicago	86	68	Cir	Goodland	84	58	Pcldy	Macon	95	65	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	76	61	Cir	South Bend	84	67	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	75	52	Cir	Cincinnati	89	65	Pcldy	Grand Junction	82	54	Cir	Madison	83	63	Cir	Providence	75	58	Cir	Spartanburg	81	58	Pcldy
Albuquerque	85	60	Pcldy	Cleveland	83	57	Cir	Grand Rapids	79	62	Rain	Medford	92	60	Pcldy	Pueblo	82	54	Pcldy	Springfield, Ill.	88	71	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	79	52	Pcldy	Colorado Springs	78	52	Pcldy	Great Falls	80	55	Pcldy	Memphis	94	73	Cir	Raleigh-Durham	82	69	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	87	70	Rain
Amarillo	86	63	Cir	Columbia, S.C.	84	67	Cir	Green Bay	77	60	Cir	Miami Beach	90	79	Cir	Rapid City	85	57	Cir	Washington	85	67	Pcldy
Anchorage	60	50	Cir	Columbia, Ga.	95	68	Pcldy	Greensboro, N.C.	81	68	Cir	Midland-Odessa	95	72	Cir	Reno	91	61	Cir	Tallahassee	95	70	Cir
Asheville	87	63	Pcldy	Columbus, Ohio	86	61	Cir	Hartford	89	66	Pcldy	Milwaukee	83	65	Cir	Richmond	87	66	Cir	Tampa	92	78	Cir
Atlanta	93	69	Pcldy	Concord, N.H.	75	51	Cir	Harrisburg	87	60	Pcldy	Mpls-St Paul	76	64	Cir	Roanoke	86	63	Cir	Tucson	93	73	Cir
Atlantic City	79	58	Pcldy	Corpus Christi	93	78	Cir	Helena	82	55	Pcldy	Missoula	83	52	Cir	Rochester	73	51	Pcldy	Topeka	85	71	Rain
Austin	92	65	Pcldy	Dallas-Ft. Worth	92	77	Cir	Honolulu	91	75	Pcldy	Mobile	91	75	Pcldy	Rockford	86	66	Cir	Tulsa	87	73	Rain
Baltimore	82	59	Pcldy	Dayton	86	64	Pcldy	Houston	91	77	Rain	Montgomery	95	70	Cir	Sacramento	89	62	Pcldy	Tucson	99	73	Cir
Baton Rouge	82	74	Cir	Denver	92	75	Cir	Huntsville	94	66	Cir	Nashville	94	72	Cir	St. Louis	90	76	Pcldy	Tulsa	94	67	Pcldy
Birmingham	81	59	Pcldy	Des Moines	84	67	Cir	Indianapolis	85	70	Cir	New Orleans	91	78	Cir	St. Petersburg	82	81	Cir	Waco	93	76	Cir
Bismarck	78	59	Pcldy	Detroit	80	59	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	95	71	Cir	New York City	79	60	Cir	St. Thomas	89	80	Cir	Washington	85	67	Pcldy
Boise	88	62	Cir	Duluth	70	57	Cir	Jacksonville	87	60	Pcldy	Newark	80	60	Cir	Salt Lake City	86	69	Cir	W. Palm Beach	90	78	Cir
Boston	72	59	Cir	El Paso	93	68	Cir	Janeau	59	46	Rain	Norfolk, Va.	83	71	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	86	69	Cir	Wichita Falls	91	74	Cir
Bridgeport	76	59	Cir	Elkins	84	53	Cir	Key West	81	63	Cir	Oklahoma City	89	71	Rain	San Antonio	95	77	Cir	Wichita Falls	91	74	Cir
Brownsville	95	79	Cir	Erie	76	55	Cir	Knoxville	92	67	Pcldy	Omaha	80	68	Cir	San Diego	78	69	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	77	52	Cir
Buffalo	76	52	Cir	Evansville	82	55	Cir	Lake Charles	89	76	Cir	Orlando	95	76	Cir	San Francisco	73	60	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcldy
Burlington, Vt.	74	46	Cir	Fairbanks	57	46	Rain	Las Vegas	103	78	Cir	Paducah	91	72	Pcldy	San Jose	81	60	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	81	56	Pcldy
Caribou, Maine	82	50	Pcldy	Fargo	90	71	Pcldy	Lansing	77	59	Rain	Pendleton	83	56	Pcldy	Santa Fe	81	51	Cir	Youngstown	81	49	Cir
Casper	92	67	Pcldy	Flagstaff	79	48	Cir	Lexington	91	69	Pcldy	Peoria	87	70	Cir	St. Marie	66	51	Rain				
Charleston, S.C.	92	67	Cir	Flagstaff	79	48	Cir	Lincoln	81	67	Cir	Philadelphia	81	62	Pcldy	Savannah	93	66	Cir				
Charleston, W.Va.	88	61	Cir	Flint	82	57	Cir	Little Rock	93	74	Cir	Phoenix	107	80	Cir	Seattle	70	59	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	92	70	Pcldy	Fort Smith	88	73	Rain	Los Angeles	87	68	Pcldy	Pittsburgh	84	54	Cir	Shreveport	92	75	Cir				

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

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 112, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 25, Bodie State Park, Calif.

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WORLD

Muslims outraged over UK sex abuse report

By SYLVIA HUI
The Associated Press

ROTHERHAM, England — Members of Britain's Pakistani community reacted with outrage Wednesday amid reports that officials failed to act on sex abuse cases because of concerns about racism in the northern English town of Rotherham.

Report author Alexis Jay said that between 1997 and 2013, some 1,400 children were sexually exploited in the town of 250,000, mostly by Pakistani men. Char-

ities that deal with abused children have expressed shock not just at the number of victims but by the apparent reluctance of town authorities to address the fact that people of Pakistani heritage were involved for fear they would be labeled racists.

Muhben Hussain, founder of the Rotherham Muslim Youth Group, told the Daily Mirror on Wednesday that Muslims are disgusted that justice was not done in Rotherham.

"Race, religion or political correctness

should never provide a cloak of invisibility to such grotesque crimes," he said.

Barnardo's, a charity that works with vulnerable children, unilaterally condemned the abuse that left so many to suffer for so long.

"No one should ever be frightened to act decisively because of fear of being seen as racist or politically incorrect," said Barnardo's chief executive, Javed Khan.

Britain's Labour Party called for the resignation of the police commissioner in the town, a member of its own ranks, after

the report found that "collective failures," led to inaction.

But Jay said Rotherham is not the only place in Britain struggling with this issue. She told the BBC that "demand for this kind of sexual activity with children is on the increase and that is validated across not just the U.K. but Europe and worldwide."

"We can't say that Rotherham is any better or worse than other places because the information simply doesn't exist at a national level to tell us that," she said.

In Austria, political mischief suspected in case of missing gnomes

By RICK NOACK
The Washington Post

Last weekend in the mountainous Austrian state of Vorarlberg, 400 gnomes disappeared. Nobody knows where they have gone. But everyone knows it's down to politics.

With regional elections set for Sept. 21, the left-wing Social Democratic Party ordered 20,000 gnomes called "Coolmen" earlier this year. The gnomes, totting sunglasses and campaign signs, were the party's last-ditch effort to prevent an electoral defeat in Vorarlberg. About 400 of the gnomes were attached to lampposts on Saturday as alternatives to traditional posters, but their mass disappearance by Sunday morning was conspicuous.

"I suspect our rival party OeVP (the Austrian People's Party) to have removed the gnomes," local Social Democratic Party leader Michael Ritsch told The Washington Post on Tuesday. Ritsch has filed a complaint, and the state's police forces have launched an investigation.

Speaking to Austrian public broadcaster ORF, the local leadership of the OeVP party denied the allegations. The party's local general manager told ORF that people who leveled such unfounded accusations were no better than the actual gnome thieves.

But Ritsch persists with his accusations. "All of our gnomes are 40 centimeters (about 15

inches) tall. The thieves must have needed more than just one truck to steal them," he said. And he pointed out another interesting detail: Soon after the gnomes were removed, he said, posters advertising the OeVP party were put up in the same spots.

The gnomes were intended as gifts to local voters, but police have told Ritsch that their suspected theft en masse could constitute a criminal offense. Electoral advertisement campaigns are largely taxpayer-funded in Austria, which means that the gnomes were publicly financed, making their theft a sensitive political issue. According to the Social Democratic Party, it spent roughly a third of its campaign resources in the state, \$660,000 in total, on the gnomes.

Their use — instead of posters — offers some interesting insights into the Austrian political landscape. While American candidates would preferably show their own faces in video spots, the



Courtesy of the Social Democratic Party

The disappearance of 400 gnomes belonging to the left-wing Social Democratic Party in Austria is causing a political scandal.

Social Democrats relied on their small mascots.

Austrian political commentator Thomas H, who studied election campaign management in Washington, is skeptical about the success of using gnomes. "Knowing that their party was about to lose the campaign, they tried to be perceived as humorous by comparing themselves with little gnomes. However, the symbolic reference causes the opposite reactions it is supposed to," he said.

He indirectly blames the United States for the emergence of such election campaigns. "More than other European countries, Austria has always tried to copy American campaigns," he said.

Having much less public funding for their party's campaign in the region, the Social Democrats were doomed to lose the advertisement fight, which is waged mostly through posters hung up on walls and lampposts. Television does not play a major role in the country's election campaigns because public TV channels (which dominate the market) are not allowed to broadcast political advertisement. Gnomes seemed like a welcome alternative for the Social Democrats, a party that is among the strongest political forces in Austria but has been historically weak in Vorarlberg and the west of the country.

"Gnomes are quite important in

the region. You usually marry, you buy a house and you buy a gnome," Vienna-based political scientist Hubert Sickinger told The Post. But Sickinger also doubts their efficacy in election campaigns.

German gnome expert and manufacturer Andreas Klein, however, thinks that gnomes "make it much easier to break the ice or to get the attention of voters."

Ritsch said that, no matter the outcome of the election, he has attained his goal of awakening voter interest in local issues. "Recently people have started to come up to me more frequently again. Then, we talk about gnomes and politics," he said.

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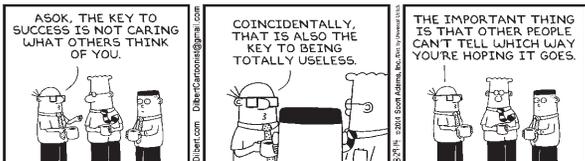
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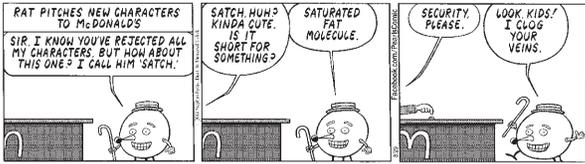
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



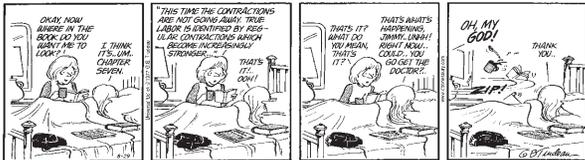
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13			14					
15			16			17					
18			19								
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38				39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47	
48	49	50	51								
53						54				55	
56						57				58	

ACROSS

- 1 Pump up the sound
- 4 Water barrier
- 7 Martin or Harvey
- 12 Greek cross
- 13 Eggs
- 14 External
- 15 Stick with a kick
- 16 Recite verb forms
- 18 Blackbird
- 19 Descend rapidly
- 20 McNally partner
- 22 Baseball stat
- 23 Somewhere out there
- 27 Toss in
- 29 Cancel out
- 31 Overture
- 34 "Psycho" psycho
- 35 Official emissary
- 37 G-men's org.
- 38 New Mexico art colony
- 39 CEO's deg.
- 41 Egg container
- 45 Poolroom supply
- 47 Ultra-modernist
- 48 Spread, as ideas
- 52 Cistern
- 53 Kidney-related
- 54 Red or Black
- 55 Bullring bravo
- 56 Not merely plump
- 57 Goof up
- 58 Doctrine

DOWN

- 1 Oil of roses
- 2 Food from heaven
- 3 Russian bigwig
- 4 Medical types
- 5 Acknowledged
- 6 Estate house
- 7 First course, often
- 8 Yank
- 9 Greek H
- 10 Examine
- 11 Before
- 17 Writer Didion
- 21 Carvey and Delany
- 23 Once more
- 24 Adipose tissue
- 25 Consumed
- 26 Dos' neighbors
- 28 Banned bug killer
- 30 Recede
- 31 Last (Abbr.)
- 32 "Once Upon a Mattress" prop
- 33 Swelled head
- 36 On-line publication
- 37 Hesitate
- 40 World-weary stanza
- 42 Poem-ending
- 43 Makes airtight
- 44 Clan emblem
- 45 Hay block
- 46 Burn
- 48 Expert
- 49 CSA soldier
- 50 Inseparable
- 51 — de deus

Answer to Previous Puzzle

F	I	B	D	Y	E	S	B	A	S
A	C	E	R	A	N	I	E	N	O
B	E	N	J	A	M	I	N	S	T
			D	O	G	D	U	M	P
P	H	O	B	O	S	S	E	E	
R	E	V	N	U	T	R	A	B	I
O	R	E	O	B	O	P	K	E	N
W	O	R	D	Y	M	A	P	N	E
			D	A	B	W	H	E	E
O	J	I	B	W	A	S	O	L	D
K	O	L	A	B	E	N	E	F	I
R	A	I	L	A	R	A	B	C	A
A	N	A	L	R	A	G	E	T	R

8-29

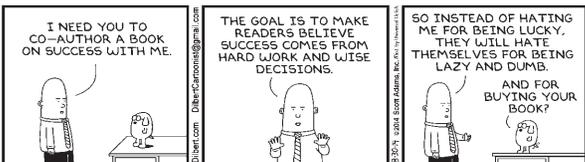
CRYPTOQUIP

QXD WXQA YMWYJ MHXMDS
EMJR DANKMJ NTMIYIDMQWN.
K TDYNAEY WUYR UMS WX
AWKPKFY NXRAF-HYMNJ.
Yesterday's Cryptquip: MY BOY IS GETTING BRACES ON HIS TEETH TO PULL THEM CLOSER TOGETHER. IT'S A STOP-GAP MEASURE.
Today's Cryptquip Clue: W equals T

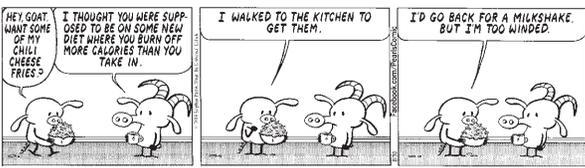
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
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15			16				17					
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38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45							46				47	
48							49				50	
51							52				53	

ACROSS

- 1 Frat party item
- 4 Uppercase
- 8 Wife E.'s supplier
- 12 Eye opponent
- 13 "So be it"
- 14 Traveler
- 15 Kreskin's claim
- 16 Veritas source
- 17 Decays
- 18 Brunch entree
- 21 Day fractions (Abbr.)
- 22 Last letter
- 23 Frequently
- 26 Morning moisture
- 27 Schedule abbr.
- 30 Blood line
- 31 Flop
- 32 Hammerhead part

ACROSS

- 52 Actress Diana
- 53 Paid player

ACROSS

- 24 A handful
- 25 Dead heat
- 26 Payable
- 27 Conger, e.g.
- 28 — Aviv
- 29 Whatever number
- 31 Was much bigger than
- 32 Mottled chamber
- 34 Single
- 35 Plaits
- 36 Expiate
- 37 Tinseltown trophy
- 38 Humorous folks
- 39 Continental coin
- 40 Swizzle
- 41 NASA scrub
- 42 Moist
- 43 Perjurer
- 44 So

DOWN

- 1 Recognized
- 2 Facility
- 3 Swindles
- 4 Underground
- 5 Eastern potentates (Var.)
- 6 Teller's partner
- 7 Took a nap
- 8 Correspond
- 9 Groovy
- 10 Apportion (out)
- 11 Formerly, formerly
- 19 Subsequently
- 20 Kitterish comment
- 23 Eggs

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	M	P	D	A	M	S	T	E	V	E
T	A	U	O	V	A	O	U	T	E	R
T	N	T	C	O	N	J	G	A	T	E
A	N	T	S	W	O	O	P			
R	A	N	D	E	R	A	F	A	F	A
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U	P	E	N	D		B	A	T	E	S
L	E	G	A	T	E	F	B	I		
T	A	O	S	M	B	A	N	E	S	T
			B	A	L	L	S	N	E	O
P	R	O	P	A	G	A	T	E	V	A
R	E	N	A	L	S	E	A	O	L	E
O	B	E	S	E	E	R	I	S	M	

8-30

CRYPTOQUIP

WSVFNZY WZWRENEQ PRG
 PRRH AVWH UJ QJIEZVOW
 WSVFNZYKNEQ NE OAIUYNEQ:
 WAIYVW ZVZYOW.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FOR TOFU EATEN ABOARD MANY RUSSIAN SPACECRAFTS, I PRESUME THEY HAD TO UTILIZE SOYUZ-BEANS.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals F

AUTO RACING

Shaken, but not stirred

Power takes quake in stride, but can't close out title

It was just past 3 a.m. when Will Power was awakened from a deep sleep on the top floor of his hotel in Napa, Calif. The IndyCar Series points leader was in the middle of his first earthquake and wasn't certain he was going to make it out alive.

Power had never before been in an earthquake, and the magnitude-6.0 quake shaking wine country on race day morning terrified the Australian.

"I looked at (wife) Liz and I said, 'This is it! This is the end of the world!'" Power said Monday in a telephone interview. Glass shattered around him, the power went out and the smoke alarms began to blare. Power said he could smell gas and feared the building was going to collapse.

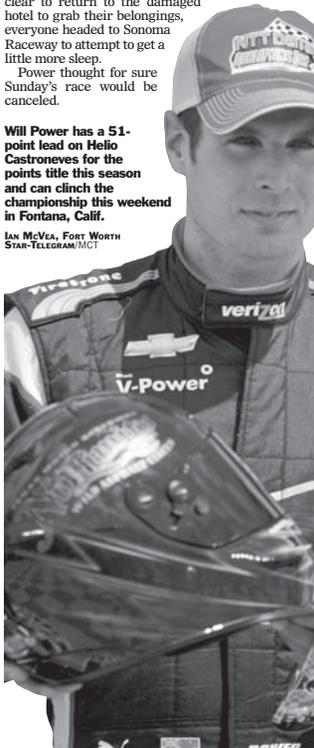
He pulled on a pair of jeans before he headed down one floor to search for his mother, who was in the United States celebrating her 70th birthday by attending her first IndyCar race. She'd already evacuated her room, so Power headed outside into the darkness.

There he found frightened teammate Helio Castroneves, clad only in the complimentary hotel bathrobe, and Team Penske President Tim Cindric, who was calm and collected and already plotting their next move. Power said Cindric collected their car keys from the valet stand and, after it was clear to return to the damaged hotel to grab their belongings, everyone headed to Sonoma Raceway to attempt to get a little more sleep.

Power thought for sure Sunday's race would be canceled.

Will Power has a 51-point lead on Helio Castroneves for the points title this season and can clinch the championship this weekend in Fontana, Calif.

IAN McVEA, FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/MCT



In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

"He [with I, we're thinking, we had a near-death experience, there's no way there's going to be a race," he said.

The Team Penske group had been very near the epicenter. Other drivers, such as eventual race winner Scott Dixon, slept through the shaking totally oblivious of the earthquake.

That's not Power's luck, though, and long before the race even went green, many began to snicker that the earthquake had been Mother Nature's way of denying the hard-luck driver yet another championship. He thought he was going to die at 3:20 a.m., there was no way he'd be focused to race eight hours later!

Someone, he pulled it off and he was ready to go. He was cool and in control as he started from the pole and seemed to be out for an easy Sunday drive in a race that should have pretty much sealed that elusive first championship.

Only this is Will Power, and it never goes easy. After leading a race-high 33 laps, he spun on cold tires in traffic and ruined what could have been an easy victory. It forced him to fight for a 10th-place finish and left the door open for Castroneves to snatch the title away in Saturday night's finale in Fontana, Calif.

Power was able to laugh about it Monday.

"Best drive I ever had," he said with a chuckle. "It could have been a lot worse, I guess. We maintained the points lead and we're going to Fontana."

With a 51-point lead in the standings, the championship is technically his for the taking. But he can't take this for granted.

The finale is worth double points and Castroneves is an outstanding oval racer. In a similar position a year ago, Castroneves fought to the finish with Dixon in refusing to concede the championship.

And, Power has been in this position many times before. He was the points leader headed into the 2010 finale, but brushed the wall, finished 25th and lost the title by five points. He lost the points lead in the penultimate race in 2011 following a pit road incident with another driver, and was then in the 15-car accident in the finale at Las Vegas that killed Dan Wheldon.

Power broke his back in the Las Vegas accident, came back in 2012 to make a charge as the championship, then bizarrely lost control of his car 55 laps into the finale and crashed. Ryan Hunter-Reay claimed the title and Power was left empty-handed for a third consecutive year.

So he stopped making the championship the top priority in his life last year and learned to enjoy racing again. By the time he got to the finale at Fontana, well out of the championship race and motivated by a throwaway comment fellow driver Ed Carpenter had made a year earlier when Power had crashed away the title.

Power remembered when Carpenter said, "Will Power did exactly what everyone expected him to do at the last race last year," and used it as motivation to win at Fontana.

Now, he'll have to prove it again Saturday night, when a sixth-place finish will give him his first title regardless of what Castroneves does.

"You know everyone has their own opinion of what I'll do, and it's impossible to know what people think. All I can do is put my head down and focus," he said. "I do want it bad. It would be absolutely the biggest thing of my life."

Around the tracks

NASCAR SPRINT CUP

This week: Oral-B USA 500 at Hampton, Ga.

Track: Atlanta Motor Speedway (oval, 1.54 miles).

Race distance: 500.5 miles, 325 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 1:30 a.m. Monday Central European Time; 8:30 a.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Last year: Kyle Busch raced to the last of his four 2013 victories.

Last week: Joey Logano won at Bristol for his third victory of year to move into fourth in the points standings, holding off Penske Racing teammate Brad Keselowski.

Next race: Federated Auto Parts 400, Sept. 6, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: nascar.com

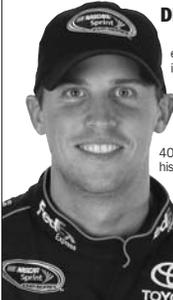
POINTS STANDINGS

1. Jeff Gordon.....	845
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	818
3. Brad Keselowski.....	776
4. Joey Logano.....	761
5. Matt Kenseth.....	751
6. Jimmie Johnson.....	726
7. Kevin Harvick.....	721
8. Carl Edwards.....	716
9. Ryan Newman.....	710
10. Clint Bowyer.....	699
11. Greg Biffle.....	694
12. Kyle Larson.....	663
13. Casey Mears.....	661
14. Austin Dillon.....	654
15. Paul Menard.....	649
16. Jamie McMurray.....	634
17. Kyle Busch.....	629
18. Marcos Ambrose.....	626
19. Brian Vickers.....	621
20. Denney Hamlin.....	594

DRIVER TO WATCH

Denny Hamlin has been a streaky race this entire season. A string of four recent top-10 finishes and five in six weeks helped the driver from Chesterfield, Va., get back into the conversation of drivers looking to lock down one of the final spots in the Chase for the Championship—he is 20th with 594 points, 40 behind Jamie McMurray, who currently holds the final spot. But a 40th-place finish last week in Bristol put a dent in his momentum.

With just two races left before the field is set, Hamlin is looking for more success at the 1.54-mile oval at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga. Hamlin is the defending champion and needs another solid effort to boost his chances to qualify for the Chase.



NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Great Clips 300 at Hampton, Ga.

Track: Atlanta Motor Speedway (oval, 1.54 miles).

Race distance: 300.3 miles, 195 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 8 a.m. Sunday CET; 3 p.m. Sunday JKT.

Last year: Kevin Harvick held off fellow Sprint Cup driver Kyle Busch.

Last week: Ryan Blaney won at Bristol, bolting past Busch on a late restart.

Next race: Virginia 529 College Savings 250, Sept. 5, Richmond International Raceway, Richmond, Va.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: MaTV 500 at Fontana, Calif.

Track: Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

Race distance: 500 miles, 250 laps.

TV: AFN-Xtra, delayed, 5:30 a.m. Monday CET; 12:30 p.m. Monday JKT.

Last year: Team Penske's Will Power won the season finale, and Target Chip Ganassi's Scott Dixon finished fifth for his third season title.

Last week: Dixon won on the road course at Sonoma.

Online: indycar.com

CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS

This week: Chevrolet Silverado 250 at Bowmanville, Ontario.

Track: Canadian Tire Motorsport Park (road course, 2,459 miles).

Race distance: 157.4 miles, 64 laps.

Last year: Chase Elliott wrecked Ty Dillon for the lead in the last turn to become the youngest winner in series history at 17 years, 9 months, 4 days.

Last week: Sprint Cup driver Brad Keselowski won at Bristol for his first career Truck victory.

Next race: Lucas Oil 225, Sept. 12, Chicagoland Speedway, Joliet, Ill.

Online: nascar.com

FORMULA ONE

Next race: Italian Grand Prix, Sept. 7, Autodromo di Monza, Monza, Italy.

Last week: Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo won the Belgian Grand Prix for his third victory of the season. Mercedes' Nico Rosberg was second to increase his season lead.

Online: formula1.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: U.S. Nationals at Clermont, Ind.

Track: Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis.

Last week: Shawn Langdon raced to the fifth of his seven 2013 victories en route to the Top Fuel season championship. Robert Hight won in Funny Car, Mike Edwards in Pro Stock, and John Hall in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

Last event: Morgan Lucas won at Top Fuel final in Minnesota on Aug. 17, beating series leader Doug Kalitta. The Funny Car final between John Force and Ron Capps, and the Pro Stock semifinals and final were postponed because of darkness after rain delays. They will be run this week in Clermont.

Next event: NHRA Carolina Nationals, Sept. 12-14, ZMAX Dragway, Concord, N.C.

Online: nhra.com

US OPEN

Sharapova survives 2nd round in 3 sets

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A year ago at this time, Maria Sharapova was sitting out the U.S. Open, getting checked by doctors and having tests on the surgically repaired right shoulder that has troubled her off and on.

On Wednesday, Sharapova found herself down by a set and facing a break point early in the second of Flushing Meadows, bothered by the whipping wind, her own off-target strokes and an opponent who wasn't backing down.

As dusk fell and the Arthur Ashe Stadium lights came on, Sharapova came through the way she so often does in the crucible of a third set, beating 95th-ranked Alexandra Dulgheru of Romania 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in the second round of the Grand Slam tournament she won in 2006, but has missed twice in the past six years.

Sharapova won in part because of her big shots, yes, but also because she had more in the tank when it mattered.

"Overall I felt like in the end I was in much better shape than she was, and I could have played another few sets," Sharapova said. "Mentally that helped me a lot."

It helped that Dulgheru had played one set over the past five weeks because of inflammation in her right wrist, which was operated on in May 2013 and flared up recently.

Dulgheru, though, pointed to Sharapova's grit as a key factor, too.

"The thing is that she's smacking the ball and she's a fighter. ... It can seem that she's down, that she's tired, but she's there," Dulgheru said. "She can get mentally really



JASON DECROW/AP

Maria Sharapova returns a shot to Alexandra Dulgheru during the second round of the U.S. Open tennis tournament on Wednesday in Flushing Meadow, N.Y.

tough. She hangs in there with you until the end."

Sharapova improved to 17-6 in three-setters this season, including four wins in a row that went the distance en route to the title at the French Open in June, her fifth Grand Slam trophy.

"It's really good to get through," said

Sharapova, who faces 2013 Wimbledon runner-up Sabine Lisicki next. "Put yourself in a really tough position, but then you're able to find a way to get back and finish really strong."

She managed to do that on a day that was not easy for some other seeded women in the second round, although No. 19 Venus

Williams, the 2000-01 champion in New York, advanced with a 6-1, 6-4 victory over 78th-ranked Timea Bacsinszky at night. That match was followed by Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka's 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 7-6 (1) victory over 91st-ranked Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil.

As the match stretched past midnight, the third-seeded Wawrinka got into a tiff with a spectator, saying: "Shut up, man! Seriously, shut up."

He's into the third round in New York for the fourth time in five years. He was a semifinalist a year ago.

Williams got to the third round at Flushing Meadows for the first time since 2010.

"As the tournament goes on it will get tougher," Williams said.

No. 4 Agnieszka Radwanska, a finalist at Wimbledon two years ago, became the first man or woman seeded in the top 10 to lose, defeated 6-3, 6-4 by 39th-ranked Peng Shuai of China. And No. 21 Sloane Stephens of the United States had her earliest exit at the U.S. Open, eliminated 5-7, 6-4, 6-2 by 96th-ranked Johanna Larsson of Sweden.

Stephens was largely her own undoing, compiling a whopping 63 unforced errors.

After three days of action, the men's tournament has yet to have a significant surprise, and the only seeded players to lose Wednesday were No. 30 Santiago Giraldo of Colombia and No. 27 Jeremi Chardy of France.

The man who beat Chardy, 92nd-ranked Blaz Kavcic of Slovenia, now faces Wawrinka.

Otherwise, No. 6 Tomas Berdych, No. 7 Grigor Dimitrov and No. 14 Marin Cilic were among those advancing.

Four years later, Venus reaches third round

By HOWARD FENDRICH
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Two-time champion Venus Williams is back in the third round of the U.S. Open for the first time since 2010, a year before she announced she had been diagnosed with an autoimmune disease.

The 19th-seeded Williams, at 34 the oldest woman left in the draw, did not need to deal with too much trouble while beating 78th-ranked Timea Bacsinszky of Switzerland 6-1, 6-4 Wednesday night.

Well, now I'm happy. I won a match

again. Finally I did something I couldn't do the last couple years," Williams said. "That's good stuff."

She showed bits and pieces of the type of game that once lifted her to the top of the sport — the No. 1 ranking and seven Grand Slam singles titles, including at Flushing Meadows in 2000 and 2001.

Against Bacsinszky, Williams saved all four break points she faced, converted 3 of 11 she earned, and avoided too many unforced errors, finishing with 12 fewer than her opponent.

"I feel like I'm playing well. I feel like I play my best when my opponent pushes me, really. Once we really start to get into a slugfest, I feel like I really relax. Sometimes I feel like when they aren't pushing me as much, maybe

I'm a little too passive at times," Williams said, ruling her eyes at that last thought.

"But I do feel ... like I can rely on myself to compete really well," she continued. "So that's a good feeling."

For a spot in the fourth round, she will need to get past Italy's Sara Errani, who was the runner-up at the 2012 French Open and also reached the U.S. Open semifinals that year.

As recently as 2010, Williams made it all the way to the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

But in 2011 she withdrew from the hard court tournament before she was supposed to play Sabine Lisicki in the second round, saying she had Sjogren's syndrome, a condition that can cause joint pain and sap energy.

The American then lost second-round matches in New York to Angelique Kerber in 2012, and to Zheng Ye to Lingque Kerber in 2012, and to Zheng Ye to Lingque Kerber in 2012, and to Zheng Ye to Lingque Kerber in 2012.

"The last couple years, I fought really hard and I really played red-hot opponents. So it wasn't like I didn't try. My opponents, they played so well. Sometimes you don't win 'em," Williams said.

"That's why you get up and you live to fight another day," Williams said.



At 34, Venus Williams is the oldest woman left in the U.S. Open draw.

ALISE AMENDOLA/AP

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NFL

Rise in penalties becomes touchy subject

Increase in flags during the preseason is making defenders wary of contact

By Howard Fendrich

The Associated Press

A subtle change to the NFL rulebook resulted in an 822 percent increase in illegal contact penalties through three weeks of the preseason.

Now the key question is not whether those calls will continue to rise in the regular season, because NFL Vice President of Officiating Dean Blandino is sure they will. He also says that's a good thing.

"We don't think this is a mistake at all," Blandino said. "It's going to provide more consistent officiating, and ultimately that's what everyone wants."

What fans, coaches and defenders want to know is: Just how often will flags fly when games count next week? Just how much will cornerbacks, safeties and linebackers need to keep their hands to themselves?

"When you have world-class athletes out there running routes, it's kind of hard not to put your hand on them," Kansas City linebacker Derrick Johnson said. "You have to practice the new technique and get away with what we can."

Heading into Thursday's final exhibition games, the jumps from the 2013 preseason for three particular penalties were striking:

- 83 for illegal contact, up from nine;
- 137 for defensive holding, up from 28;
- 99 for illegal use of hands, up from 22.

"The officials," New Orleans coach Sean Payton said, "are trying to make a point."

In last season's "Official Playing Rules of the National Football League," Rule 8, Section 4, Article 3 states: "If the receiver attempts to evade the defender, the defender cannot initiate contact that redirects, restricts, or impedes the receiver in any way."

New wording for 2014 formulated by coaches and team representatives on the competition committee says "a defender cannot initiate contact with a receiver who is attempting to evade him."

"It now takes away any notion of whether that contact created an advantage for the defense or a disadvantage for the receiver," said Mike Pereira, Blandino's predecessor in charge of officials. "So it basically is just about 'contact' or 'no contact.'"

During the NFL's annual officiating clinic in July, Blandino discussed an "emphasis" on illegal contact and said: "(I) it's five plays in a row, call it five plays in a row."

Blandino told the league's nearly 120 game officials that defensive holding also would be a "big point of emphasis."

Pereira recalled a similar "emphasis" in 2004. Illegal contact calls went from 76 the previ-

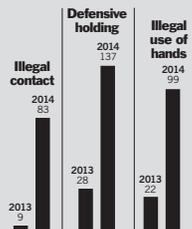


DAVID GOLDMAN/AP

Atlanta Falcons wide receiver Roddy White (84) watches a penalty flag thrown by back judge Tony Steratore against the Tennessee Titans during the first half of their preseason game in Atlanta on Saturday. There has been a jump in the number of penalties called for illegal contact, defensive holding and illegal use of hands in preseason games this year.

Dirty laundry

Heading into Thursday's final exhibition games, the jumps from the 2013 preseason for three particular penalties were striking:



Source: The Associated Press

ous season to 190, according to STATS.

"I understood it at the time, because defense was starting to dominate in the early 2000s, and so it was a way to kind of balance the ledger a bit," Pereira

'The officials are trying to make a point.'

Sean Payton
New Orleans Saints coach



said. "You can't say it's the same thing here."

Not at all. Last season's games averaged 46.8 points, breaking a record that stood since 1948, along with 697 total net yards and 471.2 net passing yards — also all-time highs.

While defensive holding flags already were increasing — from 132 in 2009, to 222 in 2013 — illegal contact trended down. Only 54 were called last season, down from 81 in 2012, and from 130 in 2009.

"The feeling was, the last couple of years, this area has been under-officiated. There's been a lot of gray area," Blandino said. "The number of fouls has been down, and I don't think anybody's uncomfortable with getting more to those kind of historic levels."

Some wonder if this is a way to further inflate the offensive

stats that fuel fantasy football. Of course, receivers and quarterbacks won't get credit for penalty yardage.

Some players insist it's a reaction to the success of Super Bowl champion Seattle's physical "Legion of Boom" secondary ("They got their ring, they did it their way, and we've got to all pay the consequences," Washington cornerback DeAngelo Hall said). Some say it's an attempt to help Peyton Manning, whose Broncos were dominated by the Seahawks in the title game.

"I'm sure that perception is out there. This isn't about one particular team," Blandino said. "It's not about helping the offense."

that this is a ticket to be able to try to draw fouls."

In the first 1½ quarters of an exhibition game between Washington and Cleveland, there were eight penalties called for illegal contact, defensive holding or offensive pass interference. Two were on Browns cornerback Joe Haden, matched up against receiver DeSean Jackson.

In training camp, Haden's Browns had cornerbacks and safeties wear small boxing gloves — like those in mixed martial arts — to try to avoid clutching receivers' jerseys.

"I was talking to DeSean, and he was like, 'These are bad calls,'" Haden said. "He was saying I wasn't holding him."

Not surprisingly, Washington quarterback Robert Griffin III was not bothered by the extra flags that night.

"Please, Jesus, keep calling 'em," Griffin said, "because it definitely helps us as an offense."

AP Sports Writers Tim Booth in Seattle; Stephen Hawkins in Irving, Texas; Brett Martel in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.; Dave Siretta in St. Joseph, Mo.; Howard Ulman in Foxborough, Mass.; Joseph White in Richmond, Va.; and Tom Withers in Berea, Ohio, contributed to this report.

HIGH SCHOOL



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

On Daegu's thin roster, just four players, from left, Houston Graves, Taylor Mendenhall, Bryon Kim and Miguel Cardona fit the template of the prototype lineman, and Mendenhall is making the move from fullback to line. Zach Fowler, right, played tight end and linebacker last year but is moving to center.

Korea D-II teams share goal, issues

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — The DODDS Korea Division II football teams enter the season with a common goal and common problems.

The three-team race for supremacy starts at 7 p.m. Friday when reigning Far East champion Daegu travels to Osan for the season opener.

While Daegu has a title to defend, Osan is back as a varsity team after a year as a non-varsity entity, and Humphreys is playing varsity football for the first time.

The three teams will play a different schedule than in the past. Instead of matchups with Division I teams in Japan or Okinawa, Osan, Daegu and Humphreys will play one another three times, with one game each against D-I Seoul American to give each school a seven-game schedule.

Those new things during the season will end with a familiar thing. The Korea D-II team with the best record will play the top DODDS Japan D-II team for the Far East crown.

Korea will travel to Japan in even-numbered years and will host Japan in odd-numbered years, the way things have been conducted since the inception of the Far East playoffs in 2005.

For reigning champion Daegu, the changes represent an opportunity not readily available to D-II teams in general, coach Ken Walter says.

"If we can get things going with the kids we have, we have a shot at an unbeaten season," Walter said. "But we have to get by Seoul and win the D-II cham-

ptionship first."

That may be a tough call. Seoul American is as big size-wise in the interior as it's ever been in coach Jim Davis' three seasons.

And Daegu faces a problem also shared by Osan and Humphreys: lack of numbers. Last year, the Warriors had to reduce its regular roster for travel; this year, they barely have enough to fill a team.

"I'm really thin this year, thin as I've ever been," Walter said. "It's about health. My best 11 can play with anybody. It's when we get down to 15, 16 we get in trouble. I just hope the other D-II schools are in the same boat."

Humphreys' biggest worry entering the season was lack of depth and line size, but they got two 210-pounders into school this week, senior Will Gonzalez and junior Jimmy Scoggins. They'll be eligible for the Sept. 5 home game with Osan.

Despite those challenges, coach Aaron Mundy says: "I think we'll be as competitive as anybody."

Mundy is new to Humphreys but not new to football, having coached two seasons at Osan before taking the last two years off.

The Cougars also have a new coach, Don Tusha, who coached at Bamberg, Germany, in the early 2000s.

He, too, is short on numbers and size, but thinks Osan can make a strong run if the players execute. "I wouldn't have been out here from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day since I arrived if I didn't think we could," he said.

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Guam in rebuild mode

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

Given an open date on the first weekend of the Guam Interscholastic Football League season, Jacob Dowdell decided to try hopscotching around the league to see his Guam Panthers' future foes of the season.

He watched John F. Kennedy upset Father Duemas 14-12, when the Friars fumbled the ball away at the Islanders' 1-yard line. He saw surprising Southern seize a 7-0 lead on Simon Sanchez, only to have the 17-man roster "gas out" in the second half as the Sharks rallied to beat the Dolphins 18-7.

This season, Dowdell has extra reason to scout his opponents. For after a three-season run in which Dowdell coached the Panthers to a 19-7 record and two regular-season titles, the Panthers are starting over "from the ground up," he said.

Almost any and every player who made significant contributions to the Panthers' run is gone, including offensive stalwarts Lordan Aguon, Tegan Brown and Juwan Jacobs. "That's 95 percent of the offense," Dowdell said.

Perhaps the biggest thing Dowdell says he'll miss from the Aguon years was the latter's

ability to behave as a coach on the field. In fact, for two seasons, Dowdell had pretty much left the play-calling to Aguon, and Dowdell says he'll have to resume, even with able senior transfer De-Andre Richardson moving in to play quarterback.

The spread-option offense is being shelved this season, at least, in favor of a double tight-end, single wide-receiver set, which Yokota's high school team favors.

"That's out of necessity," Dowdell said. "We don't have the weight, skill, size or football IQ" to run the spread option yet, with so many new faces. "Hopefully, we can evolve into what I'm familiar with and what our size and skill level allows."

One area where the Panthers hope to shine is special teams, due to the presence of junior kicker Nick Anderson, a transfer from Miami. "He's the best kicker I've seen on Guam," Dowdell said. "The kicking is as good as we've ever had. Special teams will be a standout part of this team."

The first test comes at 7 p.m. Saturday when the Panthers play Simon Sanchez at John F. Kennedy High School's Ramsey Field in Upper Tumon.

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MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Ansbach players line up during a drill on Aug. 23. Practice for DODDS Europe teams started Aug. 13 and the first games are Sept. 6. Visit www.stripes.com/sports/europe to see dozens of pictures from practices and www.stripes.com/blogs/europe-sports-blog/europe-sports-blog-1.8499 for a look at individual team practices.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

THE BEST SATURDAYS

By **RUSTY MILLER**
The Associated Press

Everybody's talking about them. Yet no coach dares mention them for fear of "looking ahead." They're the biggest games of the fast-approaching season. Alabama's Nick Saban, Florida State's Jimbo Fisher and Ohio State's Urban Meyer — among many others — have been prodded about their team's earth-shaking showdowns, against the likes of Auburn, Notre Dame and Michigan State. And each time they've batted aside the question like Anthony Davis flicking a fly from his unibrow. Not constrained by looking past opponents, here's a gander at a college fan's best days of the year:

August 30
Yeah, that's right, the very first Saturday of the season is a banquet. Tucked in among Youngstown State-Illinois and UC Davis-Stanford are four games that might just impact the playoffs four months later.

Pick of the litter: Oklahoma State vs. defending national champion Florida State, at AT&T Stadium in the heart of Texas. Cowboys fans will flood the place in a deluge of orange, all wanting their Pokes to give 2013 Heisman Trophy winner Jameis Winston his comeuppance.

Best of the rest: LSU vs. Wisconsin in Houston; Clemson at Georgia; Alabama vs. West Virginia in Atlanta.

Sept. 6
The Playoff Era means very few more wasted days of Top-5 teams drilling weather-vane schools. Welcome to the new world of major-college scheduling.

Pick of the litter: Michigan State at Oregon. If you don't like the color green, you might want to tune to a True Detective repeat.

Best of the rest: Michigan at Notre Dame, Virginia Tech at Ohio State, Southern California at Stanford.

Sept. 13
That's right, the season's only three weeks old and we've already locked up half the sport's best weekends.

Pick of the litter: The Head Balloccach might just have his best team ever at South Carolina. Steve Spurrier's Gamecocks get an early test at home against Georgia, which also has visions of bigger things. The game will revolve around which running back is the most productive: the Bulldogs' Todd Gurley or South Carolina's Mike Davis.

Best of the rest: UCLA travels to a supposed neutral site in the Lone Star State to take on Texas in Charlie Strong's first bigtime matchup as Longhorns head coach. Also: Tennessee at Oklahoma.

Oct. 11
The best games feature teams fighting for early superiority in the Pac-12 and Big 12.

Pick of the litter: Oklahoma vs. Texas in the Cotton Bowl, with Sooners coach Bob Stoops itching to shove aside a few bad memories in the Red River Rivalry. Also, Oregon at UCLA, a battle between Heisman-contending QBs Marcus Mariota of the Ducks and Brett Hundley for the Bruins.

Best of the rest: Georgia at Missouri, Louisville at Clemson, LSU at Florida.

Nov. 8
The math might not sound right, but the best of the Big Ten's 14 teams battle in this marquee game.

Pick of the litter: Michigan State beat No. 2-ranked Ohio State to squelch the Buckeyes' school-record 24-game winning streak last year in the conference title game. Even without quarterback Braxton Miller, the Buckeyes have been waiting for redemption ever since. Keep an eye on Spartans' do-everything back, Jeremy Langford.

Best of the rest: Baylor, which won behind QB Bryce Petty in Waco last year, takes its hurry-up style to Norman, Okla., to battle the Sooners. The third-best game of the day, Alabama at LSU, could end up being the most memorable of the season. There's also Iowa at Minnesota, not so much because it's a great matchup but because to the winner goes the spoils: a bronze pig named Floyd of Rosedale. Honest.

Nov. 29
Rivalry week isn't just a clever marketing slogan. **Pick of the litter:** They call it the Iron Bowl because the teams feel as if they've been hit with a bag of hammers after these old acquaintances get together. Auburn QB Nick Marshall and Alabama TB T.J. Yeldon figure to get all the attention, but it'll be the rock-hard defenses which will likely decide this one, as always.

Best of the rest: Notre Dame at Southern Cal, Michigan at Ohio State, South Carolina at Clemson, North Carolina State at North Carolina, Baylor at Texas Tech, Washington at Washington State and Oregon at Oregon State. The night before the Arizona State at Arizona.

Of course, the new four-team playoffs trump all of the above as we enjoy the first college football tournament atmosphere.



DAVID J. PHILLIPS/AP

Despite quarterback Jeremy Johnson being named Auburn's starter for the Tigers' opener against Arkansas, expect to see plenty of Nick Marshall, above, in the game. Last season, Marshall was 7-for-8 for 118 yards and a touchdown in Auburn's 35-17 win over the Razorbacks. He also rushed nine times for 59 yards.



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Georgia State linebacker Joseph Peterson runs back an interception of a pass by Abilene Christian quarterback Parker McKenzie (14), during the fourth quarter of Wednesday's season-opening NCAA college football game in Atlanta.

Game: Georgia State, Abilene Christian make most of spotlight

FROM BACK PAGE

But it all started rather humbly Wednesday night in Atlanta.

At a small parking lot across the street from the Georgia Dome, a few dozen students taunted. There was a football being chucked around. A game of cornhole being hotly contested. Most were wearing Georgia State's royal blue somewhere on their bodies.

Trent Miles A few thousand fans dotted the lower tier of the dome at kickoff, some wearing Abilene Christian purple. The Wildcats moved up a division to FCS last year and fared OK, going 6-5.

The first touchdown by an FBS team of the 2014 season was a 34-yard pass by Nick Arburkle to Joel Ruiz, who did a mini-somersault into the end zone to give Georgia State a 7-3 lead.

Wil Lutz lined through a 26-yard field

goal with 4 seconds left and Georgia State snapped its 16-game losing streak.

"We have a one-game winning streak now," second-year coach Trent Miles said.

Still, it's never too early to start impressing the selection committee. No. 12 Georgia and No. 16 Clemson have that opportunity the first week of the season in nearby Athens.

In a game that looks a bit like the Iowa caucuses during a presidential election, two powerhouse teams about 80 miles apart will try to establish themselves as championship contenders before the calendar flips to September.

Both 13th-ranked LSU and No. 14 Wisconsin expect to play two quarterbacks in their showdown in Houston.

The Badgers appear to have settled on dual-threat junior Tanner McEvoy as the starter, though coach Gary Andersen won't officially name one. Andersen has said both McEvoy and last year's starter, Joel State, will be ready no matter what.

Tigers coach Les Miles says he will use both sophomore Anthony Jennings and freshman Brandon Harris.

‘We have a one-game winning streak now.’

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Proving their worth

Many ACC teams set to open with unproven QBs

By JOEDY MCCREARY
The Associated Press

There's plenty of buzz around the Atlantic Coast Conference with the addition of a new team, the latest Heisman Trophy winner and the reigning national champion.

Top-ranked Florida State's run to the national title and the arrival of fast-rising Louisville have raised the ACC's profile.

But the strength of the league as a whole this season could depend on the arms of numerous unproven commodities at quarterback — besides Jameis Winston, the Seminoles' Heisman winner, of course.

At least 10 schools will debut new starting QBs this week, including three transfers and a pair of true freshmen.

Those concerns might be unfounded, new Clemson starter Cole Stoudt said.

"According to some of the guys, we're not going to get a first down," said Stoudt, who is replacing three-year starter Tajh Boyd.

"I think people are going to be shocked by what we're going to do," he added. "People are underestimating what we have, looking at all the negatives instead of the positives we have."

The numbers perhaps tell a different story: According to STATS, only nine current ACC quarterbacks have made at least one career start — and three of them made those starts at other schools.

Only one ACC QB — Duke's Anthony Boone — ever started a game for his current school before last season.

And no one in the league has



BOB LEVERONE/AP

Duke's Anthony Boone says the ACC "absolutely" needs another quarterback to step up and challenge Florida State's Jameis Winston, and as the only ACC quarterback to start a game for his current school before last season. Naturally, he hopes to be the one to do it.

made more career starts than Winston — all 14 of his came during his big redshirt freshman season in 2013.

A major subplot this season will be whether the ACC can produce a serious challenger for the Seminoles — and along with that, whether there's another elite quarterback in the league who can make his team a legitimate threat to Florida State.

Boone says the league needs another quarterback to step up and challenge Winston — and naturally, he hopes he'll be the one to do it.

The Duke quarterback said he hung around with Winston over the summer at the Manning Passing Academy and the Heisman winner told him "I'll see you in Charlotte" for a rematch in the ACC championship game. Florida State won last year's game 45-7.

"As a competitor, you want to be the best on your team, you want to be the best in your league," Boone said. "If somebody told me that I can challenge (Winston), that's fine with me."

The league's only other return-

ing full-time starter is Terrel Hunt of Syracuse. North Carolina is still deciding between Marquise Williams — who started six games last season due to injuries to regular starter Bryn Renner — and redshirt freshman Mitch Trubisky.

David Watford started all 12 games of Virginia's 2-10 finish last year. But backup Greyson Lambert, a redshirt sophomore, beat Watford for the starting job with all of 75 college passes on his résumé.

"His pass attempts have been more than nine of the likely starters to be named starters" in the ACC, coach Mike London said. "There is an experience that this year, this team, that the quarterbacks do have."

Plenty of other first-time starters also will get their chance this weekend.

Two transfers from Florida — Jacoby Brissett at North Carolina State and Tyler Murphy at Boston College — are pegged to start along with ex-Texas Tech backup Michael Brewer, who's now at Virginia Tech.



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Clemson quarterback Cole Stoudt doesn't expect the Tigers to regress in his first season under center as the Tigers' signal-caller.

Brissett, who made four starts for the Gators in 2011 and 2012, promised to "just make sure I don't mess up the first snap."

Pittsburgh (Chad Voytik), Louisville (Will Gardner) and Georgia Tech (Justin Thomas) also are debuting new QBs who have at least spent some time in their respective systems.

That's not the case at Miami, where true freshman Brad Kaaya beat out another transfer — Jake Heaps, formerly of BYU and Kansas. And John Wolford will become the first true freshman QB since 1974 to start a Wake Forest opener.

"He is our best quarterback, so

I can't worry about whether he's a freshman, sophomore, junior, senior," new Wake Forest coach Dave Clawson said. "In a perfect world, you'd always love to have the guy be in the system for one or two years before he plays. But we're going to put the guys out there that give us the best chance to win. And he clearly won the job."

Now, it's time for all those new quarterbacks to show they can win games.

AP Sports Writers Pete Iacobelli in Clemson, South Carolina; Aaron Beard in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; Will Graves in Pittsburgh; and Hank Kurz Jr. in Charlottesville, Virginia, contributed to this report.

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College GameDay



JULIE BENNETT, AL.COM/AP

Player to watch

Jeremy Johnson QB | Auburn

The 6-foot-5, 230-pound Johnson, Alabama's high school Mr. Football two years ago, will start in place of Nick Marshall, who was punished for being arrested for marijuana possession in July. Johnson started one nonconference game last year and played most of the way in another when Marshall was hurt. He was 29-for-41 passing for 422 yards and rushed only seven times for 47 yards. Johnson threw for six touchdowns and was intercepted twice.

Arkansas at No. 6 Auburn, midnight Saturday, CET; 7 a.m. Japan/Korea, AFN-Xtra (joined in progress)



DARRON CUMMINGS/AP

Ohio State's Joey Bosa, right, sacks Michigan State's Connor Cook during the Big Ten championship game last year. For Saturday's season opening game against Navy, Bosa and the Ohio State defense must get ready for the Midshipmen's lethal triple-option game. Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds has been touted as the team's best quarterback ever, and new co-defensive coordinator Chris Ash is charged with improving the No. 5 Buckeyes against a team that runs on four of every five plays.

THE POWER CONFERENCES

ACC			
Atlantic Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Boston College	0	0	0
Clemson	0	0	0
Florida State	0	0	0
Louisville	0	0	0
N.C. State	0	0	0
Syracuse	0	0	0
Wake Forest	0	0	0
Coastal Division			
Conf.	All	W	L
Duke	0	0	0
Georgia Tech	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0
North Carolina	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0
Virginia Tech	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 1 Florida State vs. Oklahoma State. The reigning national champion Seminoles and Heisman winner Jameis Winston face the Cowboys in the home of the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday night. The Seminoles can tie a school record with their 17th straight win. The Cowboys have just four returning defensive starters from a 10-win team. FSU opened as a 17-point favorite in this matchup, though Oklahoma State has won 11 of 13 in Texas since 2010.

Inside the numbers: Lost amid Virginia's struggles has been the play of senior tailback Kevin Parks, the league's No. 2 rusher with 1,031 yards last year. Parks has three straight 100-yard rushing games coming into Saturday's opener against No. 7 UCLA.

Player to watch: Syracuse QB Terrel Hunt, a 6-foot-3, 233-pound senior, is back to provide a run-pass threat in Friday's opener against Villanova.

Big Ten			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
Indiana	0	0	0
Maryland	0	0	0
Michigan	0	0	0
Michigan St.	0	0	0
Ohio State	0	0	0
W-Penn State	0	0	0
Rutgers	0	0	0
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
Illinois	0	0	0
Iowa	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0
Nebraska	0	0	0
Northwestern	0	0	0
Purdue	0	0	0
Wisconsin	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 14 Wisconsin vs. No. 13 LSU, Saturday, at Houston. Despite losing 13 starters from last year's 9-4 team, including eight on defense, the Badgers are a popular pick to win the Big Ten West. What better way to measure themselves than by playing one of the SEC's most consistent winners?

Inside the numbers: At 10 games, Michigan State has the second-longest win streak in the Bowl Subdivision. Florida State has no 16 straight. **Player To Watch:** No player will be scrutinized more this week than Ohio State's J.T. Barrett. He'll be the first freshman since Art Schlichter in 1978 to start an opener at QB for Ohio State. Barrett has been pressed into duty because of the season-ending shoulder injury to Heisman Trophy front-runner Braxton Miller.

Big 12			
Conf.	All	W	L
Baylor	0	0	0
Iowa State	0	0	0
Kansas	0	0	0
Kansas State	0	0	0
Oklahoma	0	0	0
Oklahoma State	0	0	0
TCU	0	0	0
Texas	0	0	0
Texas Tech	0	0	0
West Virginia	0	0	0

Game of the week: New Texas coach Charlie Strong vs. North Texas coach Dan McCarney. Strong's first game with the Longhorns comes at home Saturday night against a championship friend. Strong, McCarney and Texas defensive coordinator Vance Bedford were on Urban Meyer's staff together when Florida won its 2008 national title.

Inside the numbers: One-third of the Big 12's non-conference games (10 of 30) are against teams from the other four power conferences. None of those other leagues (ACC, Big Ten, Pac-12, SEC) has a higher percentage of such matchups. **Player to watch:** Baylor senior QB Bryce Petty leading the Big 12 champion Bears into their new stadium Sunday night. Petty threw for 4,200 yards with 32 touchdowns and only three interceptions last season when he finally got his chance starting, and also led the league with 14 rushing TDs.

Pac-12			
North			
Conf.	All	W	L
California	0	0	0
Oregon	0	0	0
Oregon State	0	0	0
Stanford	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0
Washington State	0	0	0
South			
Conf.	All	W	L
Arizona	0	0	0
Arizona State	0	0	0
Colorado	0	0	0
LSU	0	0	0
USC	0	0	0
Utah	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 7 UCLA at Virginia. A cross-country trip to Virginia on Saturday for the Bruins' season opener should prepare quarterback Brett Hundley or two-way star Myles Jack for December's Heisman Trophy presentation. A neutral-site game against Texas in Arlington, Texas, should give UCLA familiarity with the venue that will host the College Football Playoff championship game on Jan. 12. **Inside the numbers:** Since 1983, Arizona is 15-1 when playing a home game on Labor Day weekend. That includes 14-straight wins. The Wildcats host UNLV on Friday night. **Player to watch:** Oregon running back Thomas Tyler is ready to live up to the expectations As a freshman, he was third on the Ducks with 711 yards rushing, and he scored nine touchdowns. He had a breakout game against Oregon State, with 22 carries for 140 yards and a TD. The No. 3 Ducks host South Dakota on Saturday.

SERVICE ACADEMIES

Air Force vs. Nichols State
Next game: At Wyoming Sept. 6

Army does not play
Next game: Hosts Buffalo on Sept. 6

Navy vs. Ohio State at Baltimore
Next game: At Temple on Sept. 6

AP TOP 25 SCHEDULE

Thursday

- No. 9 South Carolina vs. No. 21 Texas A&M
- No. 18 Mississippi vs. Boise State at Atlanta
- No. 19 Arizona State vs. Weber State
- No. 8 Michigan State vs. Jacksonville State

Friday

- No. 1 Florida State vs. Oklahoma State at Arlington, Texas
- No. 2 Alabama vs. West Virginia at Atlanta
- No. 3 Oregon vs. South Dakota
- No. 4 Oklahoma vs. Louisiana Tech
- No. 5 Ohio State vs. Navy at Baltimore
- No. 6 Auburn vs. Arkansas
- No. 7 UCLA at Virginia
- No. 11 Stanford vs. UC Davis
- No. 12 Georgia vs. No. 16 Clemson
- No. 13 LSU vs. No. 14 Wisconsin at Houston
- No. 15 Southern Cal vs. Fresno State
- No. 17 Notre Dame vs. Rice
- No. 20 Kansas State vs. Stephen F. Austin
- No. 22 Nebraska vs. FAU
- No. 23 North Carolina vs. South Dakota
- No. 24 Missouri vs. Liberty

Saturday

- No. 25 Washington at Hawaii
- No. 10 Baylor vs. SMU

SEC			
East			
Conf.	All	W	L
Florida	0	0	0
Georgia	0	0	0
Kentucky	0	0	0
Missouri	0	0	0
South Carolina	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0
Vanderbilt	0	0	0
West			
Conf.	All	W	L
Alabama	0	0	0
Arkansas	0	0	0
Auburn	0	0	0
LSU	0	0	0
Mississippi	0	0	0
Mississippi State	0	0	0
Texas A&M	0	0	0

Game of the week: No. 16 Clemson at No. 12 Georgia. One year ago, these teams provided one of the best opening-weekend matchups in a game Clemson won 35-35. This could come down to whether Clemson's defense can slow down Georgia running back Todd Gurley and whether Georgia's offensive line can keep Clemson defensive end Vic Beasley away from Bulldogs QB Hunter Mason. **Inside the numbers:** Only five teams have quarterbacks who started the majority of games last season. Those teams are Arkansas (Brandon Allen), Auburn (Nick Marshall), Mississippi (Bo Wallace), Mississippi State (Dak Prescott) and Tennessee (Justin Worley). **Player to watch:** LSU running back Leonard Fournette is only a freshman, already generating Heisman Trophy. While that may be premature, he has a chance to impress when the No. 13 Tigers host No. 14 Wisconsin on Saturday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

USC's Shaw suspended for fake rescue tale

Cornerback lied about injuring ankles saving his drowning nephew

By GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Josh Shaw has been an exemplary teammate and a valuable leader at Southern California, earning his fellow Trojans' trust and praise after transferring home to help his family two years ago.

His teammates and coaches say they had no reason to doubt the cornerback when he explained his two sprained ankles with an elaborate story about saving his nephew from drowning.

Shaw's tale turned out to be fiction, and USC is left wondering exactly what drove a team captain to such deception.

Shaw confessed Wednesday that he lied to school officials about how he injured his ankles last weekend, retracting his story about jumping off a balcony in a rescue bid. The school swiftly suspended him from all team activities and acknowledged his heroic tale was "a complete fabrication."

"We are extremely disappointed in Josh," USC coach Steve Sarkisian said. "He let us all down. As I have said, nothing in his background led us to doubt him when he told us of his injuries, nor did anything after our initial vetting of his story."

Shaw is a fifth-year senior who would have been a key starter in USC's defen-

sive secondary. He was expected to play a major role for the 15th-ranked Trojans, who begin their first season under Sarkisian at the Coliseum on Saturday against Fresno State.

Now his college football career could be finished, and his teammates must figure out how to replace a player who willingly filled any role for the USC defense over the last two years.

"We were pretty shocked," USC defensive lineman Leonard Williams said Wednesday morning. "Josh Shaw is a pretty loyal guy. I would never expect him to make up a story. I would never expect that out of him as a team leader."

After playing his freshman season at Florida, Shaw transferred to USC for the 2012 season, receiving a hardship waiver because he said he needed to assist his ailing father and grandfather with the family landscaping business in his hometown of Palmdale, Calif.

Shaw was a steady influence on the USC defense, playing cornerback and safety while starting 14 games during a tumultuous 2013 campaign that included coach Lane Kiffin's midseason firing. His teammates chose him as a captain for his senior year.

Off the field, Shaw has been equally solid. He earned his coaches' praise for

steady leadership and his teammates' respect during a humanitarian trip to Haiti. He completed an internship at a commercial real estate company in the offseason.

Shaw issued a short statement through criminal defense attorney Donald Etra on Wednesday after being suspended.

"On Saturday, August 23, 2014, I injured myself in a fall," Shaw said. "I made up a story about this fall that was untrue. I was wrong not to tell the truth. I apologize to USC for this action on my part. My USC coaches, the USC athletic department and especially Coach Sarkisian have all been supportive of me during my college career and for that, I am very grateful."

Shaw's story began to unravel soon after the team captain was lauded for his heroics in a story on the team's website Monday. In the account, Shaw described how he instinctively jumped from a balcony, with no one around, to rescue his struggling 7-year-old nephew, Carter, from a pool.

But callers to the athletic department questioned the story almost immediately, and Sarkisian acknowledged the Trojans' concerns Tuesday morning. Shaw initially stuck to his story, but met with school officials Wednesday to admit his mistake.

"I appreciate that Josh has now admitted that he lied and has apologized," Sarkisian said. "Although this type of behavior



MICHAEL OWEN BAKER, L.A. DAILY NEWS/AP

USC cornerback Josh Shaw confessed that he lied to school officials about how he sprained his ankles last weekend, retracting his story about jumping off a balcony to save his drowning nephew. The school swiftly suspended him from all football team activities Wednesday.

is out of character for Josh, it is unacceptable. Honesty and integrity must be at the center of our program. I believe Josh will learn from this. I hope that he will not be defined by this incident, and that the Trojan Family will accept his apology and support him."

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SPORTS



Too good to be true
 USC suspends fifth-year senior Shaw for fabricating story | **Page 63**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Humble beginnings



RALPH RUSSO/AP

The Georgia State marching band plays before the school's football team opens its season against Abilene Christian on Wednesday at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta. The first season that major college football's champion will be decided by a playoff began Wednesday night between teams that won't be contending for the title.

Low-key opening game sets stage for exciting season

The Associated Press

ATLANTA

Welcome back, college football! The season began Wednesday night with a game that won't have any impact on the national championship race: Georgia State, starting its first year as a full-fledged FBS member, took down Division I newcomer Abilene Christian 38-37 in a wild game at the Georgia Dome.

It was the first of three games in four days at the

stadium in downtown Atlanta, the others having a bit more curb appeal. No. 18 Mississippi faced Boise State last night, then No. 2 Alabama meets West Virginia on Saturday.

After the low-key opener, there are plenty of games spread over the rest of the holiday weekend, many of which could have an impact down the road on the new four-team playoff.

No. 1 Florida State begins defense of its national title in Texas against Oklahoma State at the home of the Dal-

las Cowboys. By the time Labor Day night rolls around and Miami welcomes Louisville to the Atlantic Coast Conference, every ranked team will have played.

There will be a few big games: No. 16 Clemson is at No. 12 Georgia and No. 13 LSU and No. 14 Wisconsin meet in Houston on Saturday.

And there will be plenty of mismatches: No. 8 Michigan State against Jacksonville State; and No. 3 Oregon vs. South Dakota, to name a few.

SEE GAME ON PAGE 60

Games to watch this weekend:



Ohio State at Navy
 AFN-Sports
 6 p.m. Sat. CET
 1 a.m. Sun. JKT



Clemson at Georgia
 AFN-Sports
 11:30 p.m. Sat. CET
 6:30 a.m. Sun. JKT



Florida State vs Oklahoma State
 AFN-Atlantic
 2 a.m. Sun. CET
 9 a.m. Sun. JKT



Sharapova rallies, survives 2nd round
U.S. Open, Page 57

Flags have defenders wary of contact
NFL, Page 58

