

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## WEEKEND EDITION EUROPE & PACIFIC

## SUPER BOWL GUIDE



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and what to watch for  
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still a crime for  
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### TRAVEL: PACIFIC



Okinawa park hosts  
(nearly) everything  
under the sea

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# SAFE HAVEN

## Bringing veterans home

### A YEARLONG SERIES

**F**ive years ago, President Barack Obama announced an ambitious plan to house all of the nation's homeless veterans by the end of 2015. The country has made steady progress since then, with more than 26,000 veterans moved off the streets and into stable housing, but considerable work lies ahead.

As the president's deadline approaches, Stars and Stripes will examine efforts by cities across the country to bring the remaining homeless veterans home.

#### INSTANT COMPASSION

Nonprofit helps veterans  
by paying rent deposits

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#### STABLE HOUSING

For those struggling, a home  
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#### FINDING SOLUTIONS

How some cities are  
tackling homelessness

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## Obama takes shot at ending sequestration

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

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama will ask Congress to boost government spending by roughly 7 percent above current limits, the White House said Thursday, setting up a certain clash with Republicans who insist that federal spending must be held in check.

Obama's budget, to be formally released Monday, will call for \$74 billion more than the levels frozen in place by across-the-board cuts agreed to by both Democrats and Republicans and signed by Obama into law. The White House said his new budget proposals will "fully reverse" the so-called sequestration cuts by increasing spending on both the domestic and military

sides by similar amounts.

Under Obama's proposal, national security programs would see an increase of \$38 billion over current spending limits, raising the defense budget to \$561 billion. On the domestic side, Obama is calling for \$530 billion in spending — an increase of \$37 billion. "If Congress rejects my plan and refuses to undo these arbitrary

cuts, it will threaten our economy and our military," Obama warned in an opinion article Thursday on The Huffington Post.

The proposal from the president, two months after voters booted his party from control of the Senate, reflects the White House's newfound confidence in the economy.

**SEE SEQUESTER ON PAGE 7**

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"We must never fail to always ask the most important question when making decisions and policy: What happens next?"

— Outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel during his farewell ceremony on Wednesday

See story on Page 4

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3. Germantown command master chief pleads guilty to prostitute procurement conspiracy
4. Lt. Clint Lorraine could be any one of us
5. Ventura won't see 'American Sniper,' says Kyle is no hero

COMING SOON



Shifting Gears The uproar over fake engine noise

TODAY IN STRIPES

Table with 2 columns: Category and Page Number. Includes American Roundup (20), Business (48), Classified (50-51), Comics (42, 46-47), Crossword (42, 46-47), Faces (43), Faith (19), Health & Fitness (40), Opinion (44-45), Quick Trips (28), Sports (52-64), Weather (48), Weekend (21-42).

MILITARY

Penalty phase of slaying trial starts

By Matt Millham Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — The penalty phase of Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver's court-martial began Thursday with tearful testimony from family and friends of both the airman and the man he was convicted of killing.

Oliver faces up to life in prison without the possibility of parole after being found guilty Wednesday of unpremeditated murder in the killing of Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepsov, an American Forces Network broadcaster. "It's every parent's nightmare to bury your child," Chepsov's mother, Eugenia Bushmikh testified. "You're never prepared for it."

Army Cpl. William Midgley, one of Chepsov's former neighbors, grew emotional as he remembered his friend. If Chepsov died in an accident or on a deployment, it would be easier to comprehend his death, he said.

But "he wasn't lost," Midgley said. "He was (expletive) stolen from us."

Oliver's defense tried to build a case for leniency for the airman, calling Oliver's ex-wife and others to talk about him as a friend and father and to assess his potential for rehabilitation.

Angel Oliver testified that her ex-husband's problems with alcohol ran throughout their marriage and had gotten worse before she left him and moved back to the U.S. with their children in 2011.

"I have a lot of happy memories of Sean, despite everything," she said.

Oliver's sister, Miranda Pancoast, testified by phone in her brother's defense. But defense attorney Maj. Shane McCammon interrupted her testimony after she told the military jury who will decide the airman's sentence that he "deserved" something for the crimes for which he was convicted.

Army Staff Sgt. Timothy Chatlos, who supervised Chepsov at AFN-Europe's headquarters, said he put the sailor or in charge of the network's news department just six weeks after

the petty officer arrived in Europe, promoting him ahead of other higher-ranking and longer-tenured servicemembers because of his ability to get the job done.

Losing friends in combat, "that you can understand," Chatlos said. "This made no sense."

Oliver was found guilty of strangling Chepsov after a night out drinking in December 2013. Oliver testified at court-martial that he was on his way to dump the sailor's body when he was pulled over by German police early on



JOSHUA L. DeMOTTS/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Staff Sgt. Sean Oliver, left, on Thursday walks into the courtroom where he was found guilty of unpremeditated murder in the killing of Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Dmitry Chepsov.

Dec. 14, 2013.

In an unsworn statement, Oliver apologized to Chepsov's family and to AFN.

He said he spent much of his life trying not to be like his father, who spent 10 years in prison for raping his mother at knifepoint. "Now, just like him, I will be separated from you," he said to his family.

The maximum sentence Oliver faces is life without parole, reduction to the lowest enlisted grade, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a dishonorable discharge. The panel is to begin deliberations on sentencing Friday morning.

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Asian embargo could affect Pacific commissaries

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — An avian flu outbreak in the United States might cause shortages of chicken and other poultry at base commissaries in Japan and South Korea, the Defense Commissary Agency said this week.

Embargoes in those countries designed to stop the spread of the

disease are holding up U.S. shipments of chicken, turkey, eggs and related products such as pot pies, lunch meat, hot dogs and egg rolls, according to U.S. officials. Eleven commissaries in South Korea and 14 stores on mainland Japan and Okinawa are affected.

Three outbreaks of the disease have occurred among birds in Washington state since last

month and have triggered concerns among the poultry industry there and in nations in Asia where people consume the meat, according to media reports.

"We are using various alternatives to provide some poultry products on our shelves in South Korea and Japan," said Joseph Jett, director and CEO of the DeCA. "However, because these

are limited interim solutions that may not stock our shelves fully, our patrons may experience shortages of certain poultry items."

More expensive, locally sourced products are being stocked in some cases in Japan. South Korea has allowed some cooked poultry to enter the country, the DeCA said. The agency does not know when the embargo may end.

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## MILITARY



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Outgoing Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, escorted by 3rd Infantry Regiment commander Col. Johnny Davis, reviews the troops during a farewell tribute in his honor Wednesday at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va.

## Farewell ceremony held for Hagel

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The man who held the exalted post of defense secretary for the past two years is more proud of the position he held 48 years ago: Army gunnery.

Outgoing Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel volunteered to join the service in 1967 during the height of the Vietnam War. The following year, he deployed to South Vietnam, where he led an infantry squad through rice paddies, canopy jungle and the urban battlefield of Saigon. During his 12-month tour, he was seriously wounded and received two Purple Hearts.

When Hagel was appointed secretary of defense in 2013, he became the first former enlisted man to lead the Pentagon. Early next month, he is expected to be replaced by Ashton Carter, President Barack Obama's nominee to take over the job. Carter's Senate confirmation hearing is scheduled for next week.

"Of all the opportunities my life has given me ... I am most proud of having once been a soldier," Hagel said Wednesday during a farewell ceremony at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Va. "The lessons from my time in uniform about trust, responsibility, duty, judgment and loyalty to your fellow soldier — these I have carried with me throughout my life."

The former infantryman praised those who have followed in his footsteps.

"To the men and women who serve our country, and their families, whose service and sacrifice is unequalled, you have my deepest gratitude," Hagel said. "We salute your high purpose and defense of our freedoms and our values. Every day, you wake up and you go to work knowing that this department ... is charged with one fundamental mission: the security of this nation. It's been my absolute privilege to have been on your

team." Obama praised the former infantryman as a "true American patriot" who helped end the war in Afghanistan and managed the Pentagon in a difficult budget environment. Obama said Hagel's experience as a combat veteran helped him understand the rank and file.

"Being down in the mud, feeling the bullets fly overhead has allowed you to connect with our troops like no other secretary before you," Obama said.

**'Of all the opportunities my life has given me ... I am most proud of having once been a soldier.'**

**Chuck Hagel**  
outgoing secretary of defense

secretary of defense but as an old Army sergeant who knows the wages of war."

Gen. Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, described Hagel as "an incredible advocate within our government and with the American people" for the troops and their

families.

"The shrapnel that still resides in his chest [is] a permanent reminder of his sacrifice for America," Dempsey said.

During his remarks, Hagel joked with the man who frequently sat by his side during press conferences and contentious encounters with lawmakers.

"It has been a great privilege for this old sergeant to have worked side by side with a general of your character and courage," Hagel told Dempsey. "I have been very fortunate to have you as my partner in this job, especially during those 'self-help' and 'educational' opportunities called congressional hearings."

Near the end of his remarks, Hagel touched on world affairs. He described the current environment as a "complicated and defining time," and said those who serve in the national security arena are "the architects of this new 21st-century world."

Looking to the future, Hagel warned against American overreach. Successfully handling global challenges "will require steady, wise and judicious use of American power, prestige and influence," Hagel said.

"We must never fail to always ask the most important question when making decisions and policy: 'What happens next?'" he said.

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## Welsh questioned about 'treason' comment, probe

By TRAVIS J. TRITTEN  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Welsh faced tough questioning Wednesday in the Senate over whether the service is investigating airmen who have spoken to Congress about the planned retirement of the A-10 Thunderbolt aircraft.

Sen. Kelly Ayotte, R-N.H., said she was told about the internal probes after the two-star vice commander of the Air Force Air Combat Command caused a minor scandal and prompted an ongoing inspector general investigation by warning airmen that discussing the aircraft's capabilities with lawmakers could amount to "treason."

The service is trying to retire the close-air-support aircraft — known for its 30 mm Gatling-type cannon — to save money, but has run into resistance from troops and members of Congress who believe the so-called Warthogs are still highly valuable on the battlefield.

Maj. Gen. James Post's comments and the report of internal investigations come as the White House prepares to release the proposed defense budget and likely opens another year of wrangling between the Air Force and Congress over the aircraft's retirement.

"What I'm hearing is there is actually an investigation going on in reverse — to find out who has communicated with Congress — and to me that seems the opposite of what we would be trying to accomplish in looking at what Gen. Post said and whether it was lawful or not," Ayotte said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. "So, I hope there will be no punishment or any kind of pursuit of people trying to communicate with Congress."

Welsh, who had been called to testify on budget caps, denied any involvement or knowledge of the probe.

"I know of nothing along those lines at all. I would be astonished by it," Welsh said. "Certainly, I am not part of it; the secretary

**'I hope there will be no punishment or any kind of pursuit of people trying to communicate with Congress.'**

Sen. Kelly Ayotte  
R-N.H.

is not part of it, and I would not condone it."

Federal and military law gives all troops the right to communicate with congressional lawmakers through official and private channels, though they are not to use their service or rank to endorse partisan political causes or campaigns.

"I completely commit to the lawfulness of communication with Congress," Welsh said. "I support any airman's right to discuss anything that you'd like to discuss with them, and for them to give you their honest opinion."

The general said he took some action, but the inspector general's investigation into Post's "treason" comment is ongoing and he is waiting until the facts are in to make any final judgment.

"When I read the newspaper article, I actually contacted the general officer involved and his commander," he said.

Post made his comments to a roomful of officers at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada earlier this month.

"If anyone accuses me of saying this, I will deny it ... anyone who is passing information to Congress about A-10 capabilities is committing treason," Post told the airmen, according to the military blog John Q. Public.

The Air Combat Command has said the statement was meant as hyperbole to underscore that airmen should not be involved in influencing finalized plans to retire the beloved aircraft.

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## MILITARY

# AF documents breathe life into Md. UFO case

By KEVIN RECTOR  
The Baltimore Sun

In the summer of 1949, special military investigators and Maryland state troopers descended on an old tobacco farm in Glen Burnie and discovered something bizarre in a rundown barn: "prototypes" of a flying saucer.

The rudimentary flying machines were determined to have human origins — the work of an eccentric designer who had disappeared — but their discovery nonetheless was outlined in classified Air Force documents as part of a secret program to track sightings of unidentified flying objects, or UFOs, across the country.

An unidentified Air Force officer at the time told The Baltimore Sun that he suspected improved models of the dilapidated aircraft found in the barn could be the source of some of the reports.

"I personally think the inventor went to some other part of the country and that he — or someone else — developed new planes along these lines and is sending them up," the officer was quoted as saying, though the Air Force later denied such a connection.

From 1947 to 1969, the Air Force investigated a spate of UFO sightings all across the United

**'There's this kind of aura around the UFO topic, that it's something that's just hokey or science fiction or pulp culture, but when you look at the documents, you realize there's a lot more to this.'**

John Greenwald  
UFO enthusiast

States under a program known as Project Blue Book, finding reasonable explanations for many of them and leading the service to conclude there was no evidence of extraterrestrial visits.

Today, many of the program's once-secret case files — such as those about the flying saucer in Glen Burnie — are receiving a second life online after being posted to UFO enthusiast John Greenwald's website, theblackvault.com.

Greenwald, 33, of Los Angeles, has used Freedom of Information Act requests since he was 15 years old to compile thousands of pages of previously classified documents on UFO sightings. This month, he posted Project Blue Book's full record — 12,618 case files totaling nearly 130,000 pages — to his website, most of them indexed to allow visitors to search for keywords and find nearby investigations.

"That was essentially the idea,"

Greenwald said in an interview. "There's this kind of aura around the UFO topic, that it's something that's just hokey or science fiction or pulp culture, but when you look at the documents, you realize there's a lot more to this."

The documents have been of interest to private UFO investigators and enthusiasts for decades, according to Mark Rodeghier, the scientific director of the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago — which is named for its late founder, a former scientific adviser to Project Blue Book.

While other lesser-known databases of the files have existed online for years, Greenwald's collection is the first to receive widespread attention, Rodeghier said.

"The more people that know about it, the better," he said. "I don't expect the public to do any amount of true research, but they might learn more about the

subject."

The Air Force did not respond to a request for comment but has made the documents available at the National Archives.

A recent search of Greenwald's collection for the word "Maryland" generated 75 results, including personal accounts from state residents of run-ins with what they believed were UFOs.

"I saw them only once, but they were the brightest objects I've ever seen in the sky," one Severna Park woman wrote in a note to investigators in the summer of 1957. "I'm a 25 yr. old housewife who formerly thought such things as flying saucers might be imaginary."

A friend of the woman's who was a local minister — their names were redacted from the files, like those of other witnesses — said he saw the same objects and told a similar tale of how he had decided the bright lights were from UFOs.

The Air Force investigators de-

termined that the objects in that case were regular aircraft reflecting the "sun's slant rays."

Reports of other sightings in Maryland range from College Park to Bel Air, from Baltimore to the Eastern Shore, and involve a variety of descriptions — from the visually stunning to the more mundane.

"I believe Project Blue Book was not the investigation that the government or military claimed it was, but really was more of an explanation," Greenwald said.

Given the attention UFO sightings attracted during the 1940s, '50s and '60s, the government created Project Blue Book to place investigators on the ground, take statements and allay concerns by offering decidedly terrestrial explanations for what people saw, Greenwald said.

The Center for UFO Studies' Rodeghier said he discussed the project's history in depth with Hynek, an astronomy professor who served as an adviser to the Air Force in investigations in which UFO sightings might be explained by astronomical phenomenon.

"As time went on, the Air Force became less and less enamored with their job of investigating UFOs for the public, so they were able to find their way out of it," Rodeghier said.

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## MILITARY

## Panel urges troop pension, insurance overhaul

By Travis J. Tritten  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A panel created by Congress on Thursday recommended sweeping changes to pensions, health care and other troop benefits following its two-year review of the military's compensation and retirement systems.

The White House and Capitol Hill lawmakers should consider creating a mixed retirement system that would allow the bulk of troops to separate with some pension before the 20-year mark, according to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission.

Tricare insurance should be replaced with an array of insurance options similar to the system already offered to civilian employees, the commission said.

The long-awaited recommendations come from surveys of thousands of servicemembers and would cost \$12 billion per year in spending as Congress looks to rein in personnel costs. The Pentagon says the current spending on personnel is unsustainable and lawmakers must now decide whether to act on the proposed overhauls after they made other smaller cuts to troop benefits in

December.

"We've listened extensively to what the servicemembers have had to say to us," said Alphonso Maldon, chairman of the commission. "We've based a great extent a lot of what we have done on what the servicemembers preferred."

The panel visited 55 installations, reviewed 150,000 troop surveys and spoke with military and veteran groups, he said.

The panel said the current retirement system — pension after 20 years of service — could be improved by creating a 401(k)-style savings system by auto-enrolling servicemembers in the Thrift Savings Plan and providing matching contributions.

About 75 percent of troops could get some retirement pay under the proposal. Currently, 83 percent of servicemembers separate before the 20-year threshold and receive no pension, the panel said.

Savings would come by spreading the retirement pay out over years and using the compounding interest of the investment plans. Expanding the benefits would require decreasing the pension benefits for those who do serve two decades.

The panel suggested providing more choice and better access to



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

**As President Barack Obama prepares to propose in his new budget that across-the-board cuts be negated, a Congressional panel is pressing for big changes to troop benefits following a two-year review.**

Tricare beneficiaries by offering a wide selection of private insurance.

The military's insurance program has decreased in quality and has become more expensive in recent years, the panel found. Many survey respondents complained about difficulties getting care and a lack of continuity in their health care.

A health insurance system similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program could save money and provide up to 250 alternatives, with a minimum of 11 plans for rural areas and dozens for metropolitan areas, the panel reported.

However, the panel aimed mostly at modernizing military compensation and "the savings were after-calculations," commissioner Michael Higgins said.

The costs of personnel have been ballooning for decades, but have grown especially in the post-9/11 era.

Average compensation per servicemember has increased 178 percent since 1990, according to a briefing this week by the Center for a New American Security. For example, the average annual spending on a soldier grew from \$41,130 then to \$122,067 last year. Similar increases occurred across the services during that time.

In December, Congress reined in costs by approving some Pentagon cost-cutting proposals. Troop pay raises were capped lower than in past years, housing allowances were reduced, and Tricare pharmacy copayments were increased.

Congress and the Defense Department again are wrangling

over the next budget, with the rising personnel costs and mandatory caps on defense spending front and center. Still, it is unlikely that troops will see any major reforms to compensation and benefits this year, said Ryan Croty, a fellow and deputy director for defense budget analysis at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The White House and the DOD are slated to release proposed budgets Monday, so the recommendations came too late to be included, Croty said. The Pentagon will probably request time to review the proposals and report back to Congress later.

"I expect there will not be any big proposals, knowing the fight is to come post-budget," he said.

Meanwhile, many lawmakers have resisted DOD proposals to cut personnel costs, saying they fear it could hurt readiness. Republican majorities in the House and Senate have begun a push to instead repeal defense spending caps in the budget to free up more money for personnel, equipment and operations.

Croty said any big reform proposals for troop pay and benefits may come in 2016.

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## Commission: Offer choices and see compensation costs fall

By Tom Philpott

The Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization

Commission is urging President Barack Obama to endorse and Congress to enact sweeping changes to military health insurance and retirement options to "empower" servicemembers to make choices that would drive down compensation costs.

The panel's final report makes 15 recommendations that, if fully implemented, would cut personnel spending for the departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs by \$12 billion per year. The most surprising idea is to replace the triple-option Tricare program for military families and working-age retirees with a selection of commercial health insurance plans.

On retirement, current force members could stay under their High-3 plan. But the commission forecasts 40 percent of them, if given a chance, would replace that plan offering no benefits before 20 years of service with a "modified" plan that lowers annuities for careerists but offers some retirement savings to the 83 percent of servicemembers who leave short of 20 years.

That menu of health insurance offerings to the military would be similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Insurance Program for civilians. The Office of Personnel Management, which administers that program, would

also run the military plans. But rather than saddle active-duty servicemembers with the same costs paid by civilians — roughly 28 percent as premiums — they would receive a new two-part Basic Allowance for Health Care, or BAHC, to cover at least most of their new health insurance costs.

One part would be paid to the selected insurance plan directly and cover member premiums for an average-priced plan. The second part, to cover copayments and deductibles, would go to members to use as they choose.

The intent for those dollars is to give military families incentive to be careful consumers of health care. They are not today, the report says. Tricare Prime users, for example, make 55 percent more outpatient visits than do civilians enrolled in HMOs who have to cover copayments out of pocket.

Participating insurance plans would have to include military treatment facilities in their provider networks. Patients and plans would be enticed to use on-base care with offers of reduced copayments and fee reimbursements, particularly for complex medical cases that keep wartime skills sharp.

Tricare administrative costs are excessive, the report says, and yet too many beneficiaries don't get timely care or quality care. Also, Tricare provider networks have coverage gaps because contractors set physicians' fees too low. Moving to a commercial insurance model would improve access, speed

## MILITARY UPDATE

referrals for specialty care, save millions of dollars in administrative costs and leave beneficiaries more satisfied, the commission predicts.

The commission would leave unchanged Tricare for Life, the golden supplement to Medicare that senior retirees have prized for a dozen years.

Working-age military retirees and families would fare less well. Initially, they would have to pay 5 percent of health plan premiums. That cost share would grow by 1 percentage point a year over 15 years so retirees younger than 65 eventually pay 20 percent of health insurance costs. The costs would stop when retirees are eligible for Medicare and Tricare for Life.

Commissioners say beneficiaries heard from during their site visits and public hearings expressed a desire for more health care choices than the ponderous Tricare program can provide.

The retirement plan they propose for new entrants and for any current members drawn to it features what still provide an immediate, although reduced, annuity after 20 or more years of service. But among its new features would be a Thrift Savings Plan with government match-

ing of member contributions up to 5 percent of monthly basic pay. That would be portable like 401(k) plans in the private sector. The savings plan would vest after only two years and members could roll it into civilian employer 401(k)s on leaving service.

Also, 12 years into a military career, members would receive a lump-sum "continuation" payment equal to at least 2½ months of basic pay, more if they have critical skills. To get the cash, members would have to agree to serve four more years. Presumably, at 16 years in, most careerists would decide to serve for at least 20 years to gain the immediate annuity. With the new plan, retiring members would have more choices.

They could draw an immediate annuity based on 2 percent (not the current 2.5 percent) of average basic pay for each year served, accept a lump-sum amount and a smaller annuity or accept a full cash-out and forego any military annuity until they age into Social Security.

At that point, military retired pay would start and equal the retired pay of their peers who elected to draw full annuities since time of retirement.

The nine members of the commission, including two retired generals and four former members of Congress, endorse current basic pay tables and the tradition of paying tax-free allowances for housing and subsistence. They also unanimously recommend streamlining, not dismantling,

commissionary and exchange systems to preserve on-base shopping discounts. Other recommendations would strengthen support of families with more child care and improved access to services for special-needs children.

The commission doesn't endorse ending the offset of Survivor Benefit Plan payments for thousands of widows who also receive VA dependency aid. In addition, the commission would give retirees the option of paying higher survivor benefit premiums to ensure that their spouses, if deemed eligible for the dependents' compensation, would also receive full survivor benefits.

Commission ideas to "safeguard" the Post-9/11 GI Bill should spark some of the sharpest protests from military and veterans associations. One would affect more of the more than 423,000 members who have elected to transfer GI Bill benefits to family members in return for serving longer. The transferred benefit now includes a housing stipend equal to monthly housing allowance locally for a mid-grade enlisted member. The commission says that stipend shouldn't be paid to family member students after June 2017 even if it was part of the original deal.

Newly elected commissioners present and defend these proposals and more before the Senate and House armed services committees.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, Va., 20120; email milupdate@aol.com; or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military\_Update.

MILITARY

Hasan may get new lawyer

By BILL DRAPER  
The Associated Press

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan. — The gunman who killed 13 people at a Texas military base in 2009 appeared in court Thursday without the beard he had fought to keep and said he wanted to keep his lead appeals lawyer. A change of counsel could complicate an already delayed review process.

Nidal Hasan appeared in court at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where he is being held on the military death row. He no longer has the beard he wore during his August 2013 trial, where he was convicted and sentenced to death for a November 2009 rampage inside a medical readiness building at Fort Hood in Central Texas.

A Fort Hood spokesman confirmed Hasan's beard had been forcibly shaved according to military guidelines.

Nearly 18 months after his conviction, Hasan has not yet had his case reviewed by top Fort Hood officials, as required in the military criminal justice system. If Fort Hood's commanding general approves Hasan's death sentence, he would then receive two mandatory reviews by military appellate courts and possibly the U.S. Supreme Court.

While he represented himself at trial, Hasan's appeals are being handled by a team led by Lt. Col. Kris Poppe, who has been named a military judge. In his new position, Poppe is subordinate to Col. Tara Osborn, Hasan's trial judge, who is now the chief trial judge of the Army.

Osborn on Thursday questioned whether Poppe could keep handling Hasan's appeals, a position that requires him to try to find mistakes with Osborn's handling of the trial.

"My concern is Maj. Hasan's

defense counsel now works for the trial judge," she said.

But Hasan told Osborn after conferring with another defense lawyer privately that he wanted to keep his counsel in place.

"I do not want you to substitute someone else for Col. Poppe," said Hasan, who appeared alert in court and at one point laughed softly with his lawyers during a break.

Poppe argued he could handle both positions.

"I believe there's not even a smidgen of concern about full representation of Maj. Hasan," he said. "The two can be reconciled."

Osborn asked the prosecution and the defense to state their positions in writing by next week.

Osborn ordering Poppe off the case could create grounds for a challenge by the next attorney to lead Hasan's appeals, said Geoffrey Corn, a military law expert who teaches at South Texas College of Law.

Corn said the post-trial process for Hasan was taking much longer than a typical military case. But, he added, "That has been the unifying theme of everything in this case. Nothing has been routine."

One hiccup was Hasan's now-shaved beard. Hasan insisted on keeping the beard at trial in what he said was an expression of his Muslim faith. The judge on his case before Osborn was removed from the case by a military appeals court after he tried to order Hasan to be forcibly shaved.

Osborn allowed Hasan to keep the beard despite it violating Army grooming rules.

Fort Hood officials did not immediately respond to a request to release a new photo of Hasan.

Sequester: Point of contention likely to be how to fund increased defense expenditures

FROM FRONT PAGE

Obama's aides believe that improving conditions give Obama credibility to push his spending priorities unabashedly — despite the fact that Republicans still believe the government spends far too much.

Federal deficits, gas prices and unemployment are all falling, while Obama's poll numbers have crept upward. The president has been newly combative as he argues it's time to ease the harsh measures that were taken to help pull the economy out of recession.

Obama was to promote his proposed spending levels to House Democrats at their annual retreat in Philadelphia on Thursday evening. The White House said his budget will be "fully paid for with cuts to inefficient spending programs and closing tax loopholes," but taxpayers will have to wait until the budget is made public to find out exactly how.

Republicans react

While the proposal to spend more on things like education, sick leave and health care was sure to delight many members of Obama's own party, the Republicans now fully control Congress.

"This is not a surprise," said Don Stewart, deputy chief of staff for Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "Previous budgets submitted by the president have purported to reverse the bipartisan spending limits through

tax increases that the Congress — even under Democrats — could never accept."

A precarious position

Yet Obama's move also puts Republicans in a precarious position.

Many in the GOP want to spend more on defense, especially in light of threats from terrorism and extremist groups. But Republicans are divided about how to pay. While some have argued for ignoring the spending limits, others want to offset the increases with cuts to either domestic programs or mandatory programs such as Social Security and Medicare.

By proposing to raise defense spending by about the same amount as domestic programs, Obama is putting the GOP on notice that he won't accept cuts to his own priorities just to make way for more spending on national security programs that both parties are in the mood to support.

The Pentagon's base budget is currently \$496 billion, plus another \$64 billion for overseas missions. Obama's increases would allow for next-generation F-35 fighter jets, for ships and submarines and for long-range Air Force tankers.

Military leaders have said the earlier cuts forced reductions in pilots' flying hours, training and equipment maintenance.

On the domestic side, Obama has proposed two free years of

community college and creating new or expanded tax credits for child care and spouses who both work.

He's called for raising the top capital gains rate on some wealthy couples and consolidating education tax breaks, although some of these ideas have already faced intense opposition.

An inevitable clash

"Until he gets serious about solving our long-term spending problem, it's hard to take him seriously," said Cory Fritz, a spokesman for House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio.

The president's budget proposals are just that — a proposal — and will not become law.

The budget frames Obama's opening offer as Democrats and Republicans head toward an inevitable clash. It's an agenda that Obama started selling in the run-up to his State of the Union address this month, and that House Democrats have sought to echo as they regroup after losing more members in the midterms.

In his meeting Thursday with House Democrats, Obama was also to insist that House Republicans not use a funding bill for the Homeland Security Department to try to quash the executive actions he took late last year on immigration and deportations. The White House called that a "dangerous view" by the GOP that would imperil the country's national security.

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## NATION

# Study: Chance of dying in a car crash plunges

By Joan Lowy  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The chances of dying in a crash in a late-model car or light truck fell by more than a third over three years, and nine car models had zero deaths per million registered vehicles, according to a study by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety.

The study, which examined fatalities involving 2011 model-year vehicles, looked at how many fatalities occurred in a particular model over the course of a year of operation, expressed as a rate per million registered vehicle years. It found there was an average of 28 driver deaths per million reg-

istered vehicle years through the 2012 calendar year, down from 48 deaths per million for 2008 models through 2009.

Improved vehicle designs and safety technology have a lot to do with the reduced risk, the institute said. A weak economy that led to reductions in driving may also have played a role, it said.

"This is a huge improvement in just three years, even considering the economy's influence," said David Zubry, the institute's executive vice president and chief research officer. "We know from our vehicle ratings program that crash test performance has been trending steadily better. These

latest death rates provide new confirmation that real-world outcomes are improving too."

The gap between safest and riskiest models remains wide. Three 2011 models had rates exceeding 100 deaths per million registered vehicle years.

The riskiest models also were mostly lower-priced, small cars, while the safest models were all mid-sized or large vehicles.

The nine models with zero deaths were: Audi A4 four-wheel drive, a mid-sized luxury car; Honda Odyssey, a minivan; Kia Sorento two-wheel drive, a mid-sized SUV; the Lexus RX 350 four-wheel drive, a mid-sized

luxury SUV; Mercedes-Benz GL-Class four-wheel drive, a large luxury SUV; Subaru Legacy four-wheel drive, a 4-door mid-sized car; Toyota Highlander hybrid, a four-wheel drive mid-sized SUV; Toyota Sequoia, a four-wheel drive large SUV; and Volvo XC90, a four-wheel drive luxury mid-sized SUV.

The vehicles with the highest death rates were the Kia Rio, a 4-door mini car, at 149 deaths per million registered vehicles; Nissan Versa, a small 4-door sedan, 130 deaths; and Hyundai Accent, a 4-door mini car, 120 deaths.

The institute has published death rates by make and model

periodically since 1989, at first for cars only and later for all passenger vehicles. The rates include only driver deaths because the presence of passengers is unknown.

Although the latest numbers reflected 2011 models, the study included data from model-year vehicles as far back as 2008 if the vehicles weren't substantially redesigned before 2011. Including older, equivalent vehicles increases the exposure and thus the accuracy of the results, the institute said. To be included, a vehicle must have had at least 100,000 registered vehicle years of exposure during 2009-12, or at least 20 deaths.

## Attorney general nominee Lynch moves closer to confirmation

By ERIC TUCKER  
and ERICA WERNER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans demanded wholesale change at the Justice Department on Thursday as they questioned whether President Barack Obama's attorney general nominee, Loretta Lynch, would provide it.

"The question for me and a lot of members on this side is whether Ms. Lynch is committed to leading the Department of Justice in a new direction," Senate Judiciary Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, said as he gaveled open the second day of hearings into her nomination.

"She's clearly a skilled and competent lawyer," Grassley said, while complaining that Lynch's answers during daylong testimony Wednesday were "indirect." Grassley said he would be following up with more questions in writing.

Still, there was little doubt about the ultimate outcome. Lynch needs support from at least three Republicans on the committee to advance to the full Senate, and she is expected to win those votes and achieve eventual confirmation.

One senior committee Republican, Orrin Hatch of Utah, issued a statement Thursday saying that Lynch "appears to be well qualified, and I appreciated the commitments she made yesterday to enforce the rule of law, act independently of the White House, defend the constitutionality of statutes and work with us on important legislation." Hatch said he would make his final decision when the committee votes in coming weeks.

When top committee Democrat Patrick Leahy, of Vermont, asked the nine outside witnesses testifying Thursday for a show of hands if they were opposed to Lynch's nomination, not one hand

went up.

Lynch did not appear at the second and final day of her confirmation hearing, which was designed instead to feature testimony from outside experts, several summoned by Republicans to amplify their criticism of Obama and his current attorney general, Eric Holder. Republicans deride Holder as a liberal firebrand and Obama cheerleader who has failed to cooperate with Congress.

Witnesses included attorney Jonathan Turley, who has charged the Obama administration engages in executive overreach, and Catherine Engelbrecht, who says she was targeted by the Internal Revenue Service for leading a conservative group. Engelbrecht described the Justice Department as "an increasingly rogue agency."

Democrats took issue with the GOP focus on Obama and Holder.

"Barack Obama is not the nominee. That may come as a surprise to some who heard the questions. Eric Holder is not the nominee," Leahy said Thursday.

In her appearance Wednesday, Lynch pledged independence from Obama and promised to work with the Republican-led Congress. She offered support for some controversial Obama administration policies, including the president's unilateral protections for millions of immigrants in the country illegally.

She also suggested she would provide a departure from Holder: "If confirmed as attorney general, I would be myself. I would be Loretta Lynch," she said, when asked how senators could be assured that she would lead differently.

If approved, Lynch — the top federal prosecutor since 2010 for parts of New York City and Long Island — would become the nation's first black female attorney general.



CARLOS OSORIO/AP

A demolition sign is posted on a vacant house Jan 22 in southwestern Detroit.

## Squatters slow Detroit demolition plans

By COREY WILLIAMS  
The Associated Press

DETROIT — Chris Mathews' crew showed up this month to demolish one of the thousands of vacant homes destined for demolition as part of Detroit's grand plan to bulldoze its way to prosperity when a call from his office stopped them in their tracks: Someone was living there.

A middle-aged woman who watched the crew tear away the home's warped, wooden steps the day before had called their company, Adamo Demolition, to point out she was living on the second floor, despite no power, heat or gas and a flooded basement.

"It was like a swimming pool. We would never have thought anybody was upstairs," said Mathews, noting that the incident cost his crew time because the demolition wasn't called off until after they had shown up with their equipment.

As Detroit carries out its plan to tear down tens of thousands

of homes to combat blight and to tailor the city to fit its population, which has dwindled to about a third the size of its 1950s peak, it will have to deal with an unknown number of squatters. Because the city doesn't allow occupied properties to be demolished, police must be summoned to remove squatters who won't leave homes voluntarily, which can take weeks or months. That makes them a complication of sorts for the recovery of the city, which emerged in December from the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history.

Clearing away as many vacant homes as quickly as possible is a priority. Drug dealers often set up shop in them, bodies turn up in them and some houses have been sites of sexual assaults.

But for some of the approximately 16,000 homeless people in Detroit, the structures offer safety and shelter.

Michele McCray calls them "abandonminiums." McCray, 58, has been homeless for much of

her adult life, yet she has had her pick of vacant houses to live in over the years.

"You look for one that's decent, already fixed up," McCray said from a homeless shelter where she stays when it's too cold to hunker down in a house without heat and other utilities.

"The first thing you do is cut the grass ... because the neighbors want to know who you are and what's going on over here," she said. "You have to maintain the property. Paint the place up, keep it looking good."

Squatters aside, the city will not stop its fight against blight, said Craig Fahle, a spokesman for the Detroit Land Bank Authority, the agency overseeing the project.

"Illegal occupancy is an issue, but there is plenty of work to do with homes that are not occupied," he said.

About 10 percent of the houses Adamo goes out to demolish have squatters or evidence of squatters, according to Mathews.

## NATION

## Balloon crew draws closer to N. America

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN  
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. — The pilots of a helium-filled balloon on a daring flight across the Pacific Ocean drew closer to North America as they attempt to break two world records.

Accomplished balloon pilots Troy Bradley, of the United States, and Leonid Tikhhtayev, of Russia, were expected to cross into North America sometime Thursday evening and are on course to break a distance record that has stood for more than three decades. They're also looking to break the flight-duration record set in 1978.

They still have some distance to go, however. They are planning to cross over the Canadian Rockies and land somewhere in the northern U.S., possibly Montana or North Dakota, on Saturday morning.

No one has crossed the Pacific Ocean in a gas balloon since 1981. To break the distance record, the balloonists need to exceed the current records by 1 percent — meaning they need to travel 5,260 miles.

Another important record is the duration of the flight, set in 1978 when Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson and Larry Newman made the first trans-Atlantic balloon flight. That record of 137 hours aloft in a traditional gas balloon is considered the "holy grail" of ballooning achievements. The pilots on the current flight are at about 100 hours.

The balloon, made up of a massive envelope and a specially-designed carbon fiber-composite capsule, is capable of staying aloft for as many as 10 days.

If they get that far, the team will notify the National Aeronautics Association of its claim within seven days of landing, and all the documentation will be forwarded to the Federation Aeronautique Internationale for consideration.

The process can take weeks, but the team will have plenty of data to present since the balloon is outfitted with an array of monitors and other instruments.

Since there's no certainty about where the balloon will touch down, the head of the recovery effort has established a network of balloonists across the U.S. and in southern Canada who can serve as chase crews, those who are on the ground to help with tethering the capsule and rounding up the balloon's envelope as it deflates.



Max Gomez shovels his vehicle out at his home in Boston's Charlestown section on Wednesday.

ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

# Boston bouncing back

## Subways, buses, trains up and running after blizzard

By BOB SALSBERG  
AND WILLIAM J. KOEHL  
The Associated Press

BOSTON — Boston bounced back quickly Wednesday from the Blizzard of 2015, with subways, buses and trains up and running again the morning after the storm buried a swath of New England in 2 to 3 feet of snow.

Many businesses reopened, as did Logan Airport, and homeowners, motorists and storekeepers dug out with grudging praise for the forecasters, who missed the mark in New York but got it right in New England.

A Boston bartender, Chris Laudani, became an instant symbol of the city's resilience for shoveling snow off the yellow-and-blue Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston Street, where the 2013 terrorist bombing killed three people and wounded more than 260.

"For someone to brave the blizzard to clear our finish line for us is yet another statement as to what our event means not only to runners but also to Americans," said Tom Grilk, executive director of the Boston Athletic Association, which oversees the marathon.

Meteorologists had warned that Boston would get more than 2 feet of snow by Tuesday night, and the National Weather Service said the city ended up with 24.4 inches, the sixth-highest total on record. Other areas received around 2 to



COURTESY OF PHILIP L. HILLMAN/AP

Chris Laudani, a bartender at the Back Bay Social Club, pauses after shoveling snow from the Boston Marathon finish line on Boylston Street after the storm slammed into eastern Massachusetts.

3 feet, pretty much as predicted. "They actually got it right," James Hansen said as he cleared a Boston sidewalk.

There was no gloating among the forecasters, who just seemed relieved they were on the money.

Pointing up the guesswork factor, the weather team at Boston's WHDH-TV tweeted a photo of the office snow pool, with prestorm predictions ranging from 22 to 25.5 inches.

As the storm gathered earlier in the week, forecasters had warned that Philadelphia, New York and New Jersey could get 1 to 2 feet of snow. In the end, they didn't see even a foot.

With snow removal in Boston well underway, commuters high-stepped their way through snowy paths and towering snowbanks that gave the capital an almost alpine feel.

Still, bitter cold threatened to complicate efforts to clear clogged streets and restore power. Forecasters warned that it won't get above freezing in Boston for a week, and several more inches of snow are expected Friday and again over the weekend.

A man shoveling snow in New Bedford, Mass., on Tuesday night collapsed and died. Two other deaths, both on Long Island, were blamed on the storm.

# 1 in 5 children on food stamps

By MARY CLARE JALONICK  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sixteen million children were on food stamps as of last year, the highest number since the nation's economy tumbled in 2008.

Numbers released by the Census Bureau on Wednesday as part of its annual look at children and families show that one in five children were on food stamp assistance in 2014. The survey was taken last spring.

The number of people receiving food stamps under what is now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, spiked through the recession and has stayed at a higher level since. In the 2007 Census survey, 9 million children received SNAP assistance.

Participation and spending appear to be going down, though. The Congressional Budget Office said this week that the government spent \$76 billion on SNAP last year, down 8 percent from the year before.

That was the first time spending went down since the beginning of the recession.

About 46.5 million people received food stamps last year, according to the Agriculture Department, which oversees the aid, up from about 26 million in 2007. Participation is expected to decrease over the next 10 years, though higher food costs could keep spending up.

Half of the children receiving food stamps in the Census survey — 8 million — were living with only their mothers. About 5 million children receiving food stamps lived with married parents.

The spike in food stamp spending has caught the attention of Congress, and House Republicans tried to cut the program by about \$4 billion a year in 2013.

In an eventual compromise, Congress agreed to cuts of about \$800 million a year, policy that was signed into law by President Barack Obama early last year as part of a larger farm bill. Since then, many states have found ways to get around the cuts.

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## SAFE HAVEN

Dave Hammond ended up homeless in Toledo, Ohio, in 2012, seven years after his medical discharge from the Army. He moved into an apartment last fall with the help of Veterans Matter.

MARTIN KUZ/Stars and Stripes

# GIVING THE GIFT OF INSTANT COMPASSION

## Ohio-based nonprofit helps veterans reclaim their lives by covering rent deposits

By MARTIN KUZ ■ Stars and Stripes

A whiteboard that hangs on the refrigerator in Dave Hammond's apartment lists his itinerary to search for a life gone missing.

In green marker and neat, coiled script, he has written 10 priorities for recovering what he lost in the years after his medical discharge from the Army in 2005. He longs to reunite with his young son, who lives with his ex-wife in Washington. He wants to find a job, return to school, buy a computer. He needs a driver's license.

In time, Hammond hopes to rewind the spiral that by 2012 had left him homeless, surviving on the dollar menu at McDonald's and sleeping at bus stops.

He faces a long journey back from a decade of misfortune and mistakes, and there are days when his mood turns as leaden as Ohio's winter sky.

Still, looking out at the snowy tableau of downtown Toledo from the warmth of his 12th-floor apartment, he had reason for gratitude. He could ponder ambitions beyond the desire to be inside.

"It was cold out there," said Hammond, 34, who grew up in nearby Perysburg and served six years in the Army before a degenerative back condition cut short his career. "When you don't have a place to stay, that's pretty much all you think about."

He moved into his one-bedroom unit in October with the help of Veterans Matter, a nonprofit established in Toledo in 2012. The group provides rent deposits for homeless veterans who qualify for federal housing vouchers through a program run by the departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development.

The joint effort by the VA and HUD has boosted President Barack Obama's five-year campaign to end homelessness among veterans. The push began

TOLEDO, Ohio

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in 2010, when more than 76,000 former service-members lacked permanent housing. The VA reported last year that the number had dropped below 50,000. (The agency will release the results of its 2015 survey of homeless veterans, conducted earlier this week, in the coming months.)

Yet the relative success of the voucher program obscures a pitfall that thwarts more veterans from escaping the purgatory of shelters and the streets.

**SEE COMPASSION ON PAGE 11**

### Can homelessness ever be conquered?

By JENNIFER HLAID  
Stars and Stripes

New Orleans announced in early January that it was the first major city in the country to meet a goal issued by the Obama administration in 2010: ending veteran homelessness.

But despite dedicated efforts across the country to meet the goal by the end of 2015, and a renewed push last year after Michelle Obama's announcement of the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, there has been no standard or official definition of what "eliminating veteran homelessness" really means.

For Zero: 2016, a national campaign to end chronic and veteran homelessness by the end of 2016, "zero" means that at any point in time, the number of people experiencing homelessness won't be greater than the community's ability to place them in permanent housing.

**SEE CONQUER ON PAGE 11**

“When you don't have a place to stay, that's pretty much all you think about.”

— Dave Hammond

## SAFE HAVEN

## COMPASSION FROM PAGE 10

The vouchers do not cover rent deposits that landlords require as a condition of leasing. A veteran can apply for the money through an array of other programs, but approval routinely takes 30 to 60 days, and sometimes stretches to four months or longer. By then, in a typical scenario, a landlord has rented to another tenant, or the veteran has drifted out of the VA's orbit.

Veterans Matter seeks to reduce the wait from months to minutes. The organization has created a cloud-based platform for VA social workers and case managers to submit online requests for rent deposits.

If the application conforms to VA and HUD guidelines, a Veterans Matter staffer accepts the request and mails a check that day to the landlord, who also receives a confirmation email. Most property managers treat the electronic notice as proof of payment and allow the veteran to move into housing without further delay.

The accelerated process delivers "instant compassion," in the words of Ken Leslie, the group's founder, whose advocacy for the homeless in Toledo traces to his own time on the streets a quarter-century ago. "The philosophy is simple," he said. "Get veterans housed to save their lives."

In three years, the group has raised \$20,000 to cover deposits for more than 400 veterans in six states. The housing has benefited almost 800 dependents, including 200 children.

Leslie, backed by one part-time employee and two contractors, plans to assist an additional 1,500 homeless veterans this year while expanding into more states, and he envisions offering aid nationwide by 2017. A former standup comedian with ties to the entertainment industry, he has drawn fundraising support from the likes of Katy Perry, Kid Rock, John Mellencamp and Dusty Hill of ZZ Top through public service announcements and comedy ticket auctions.

The high-profile names contrast with the group's unseen impact. Hammond knew nothing of Veterans Matter before it paid his \$475 deposit last fall. At the time, he was nearing the two-year limit for residency at a transitional housing complex for homeless veterans. He found a gathering there last year. "I couldn't have done it with the money," he said. "I was worried I was going to be back on the streets."

## 'Black-ops speed'

Leslie's concept for Veterans Matter blossomed three years ago in the chilled air of February. Every month or two, he and members of 1Matters, the homeless advocacy group he formed in 2007, set out to visit different areas in the border region of northwestern Ohio and southeastern Michigan. They enter a parallel realm — a place of wood-paneled bars, transient businesses and vacant buildings — to look for those he dubs "the unhoused."

Joining the search party was his friend Shawn Dowling, a social worker with the VA's Ann Arbor Healthcare System in Michigan, a network that encompasses Toledo. She mentioned that he had received 35 vouchers, but unable to afford security deposits, the veterans who qualified for the program remained in limbo.

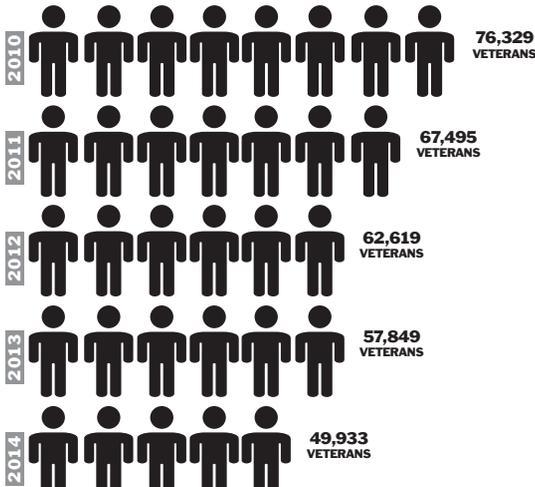
Leslie asked how the VA attempted to come up with the deposits. "We take them around to Vets and churches and help them beg," Dowling said.

Her answer at once pained and prodded Leslie, who had found himself among the unhoused in the late 1980s.

During his touring days as a comedian, he had fallen for the dark charms of drugs and alcohol, an expensive romance that he preferred to paying rent. Sobriety arrived in 1990 after he realized how much he hated sleeping in his car. The same year, Leslie launched in Tent City, an annual event that provides free job,

## HOMELESS VETERANS ON THE DECLINE

The population of homeless veterans across the country has declined by more than 26,000, or 33 percent, since President Barack Obama launched a five-year campaign to end homelessness among veterans in 2010. To meet the goal, almost twice as many homeless veterans will need to be placed in permanent housing in 2015 as have been placed in the last four years.



SOURCES: Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Housing and Urban Development

housing and medical services to the homeless, and he has devoted much of the past 25 years to their plight.

When Dowling explained that a modest \$750 separated each veteran from permanent housing, he saw a chance to bring them across the threshold.

The next morning he called Barbara Petee with ProMedica, a nonprofit health care network based in Toledo. She manages the group's advocacy fund, distributing grants for regional projects that improve the health and well-being of low-income adults and children.

Leslie laid out the dilemma of the 35 veterans and requested \$26,250 to cover their deposits. He added that he wanted to acquire the funding "at black-ops speed."

Petee needed little persuading. "Just because something like veterans' homelessness is a difficult problem doesn't mean we have to try to find difficult solutions," she said. "It was clear Ken's idea could help these veterans right away."

Seven days later — "Valentine's Day, 5:36

p.m." to Leslie's memory — Petee called back to tell him ProMedica would supply the grant. "Three days after that, we housed our first veteran," he said. "Eleven days from idea to execution. And it's only because it's so simple and it's focused only on the people."

## A translator between worlds

The work of Veterans Matter in the ensuing years has had a dramatic effect on the VA's housing program in the area. Dowling related that, before 2012, an average of 137 days elapsed between a former servicemember applying for a voucher and signing a lease. The wait has since plunged to 32 days.

She identified Leslie's organization as the principal reason, even as funding for rent deposits has become available through other federal programs. The group, acting with a nimbleness mostly unknown to government agencies, has enabled 90 veterans in the region to move into permanent housing.

The urgency is crucial given the prevalence of addiction and mental illness among the homeless. "If you take too long to get veterans housed, you'll lose them," Dowling said. "They'll go away, and they'll stay gone until you can find them again."

Toledo has earned national notice for aiding former military members in need through the cooperation of public officials, social service agencies, nonprofit groups and private businesses. The latest evidence of progress is a \$12.5-million, 75-unit apartment complex for low-income and homeless veterans that will open this summer on the city's south side. Veterans Matter will contribute to covering the rent deposits of tenants.

## CONQUER FROM PAGE 10

Beth Sandor, director of Zero:2016, said her organization recognized early that it needed a clear definition of what it was working toward.

New Orleans was one of more than 70 communities selected for the program, and in its news release about reaching the goal, defined ending veteran homelessness as "ensuring every homeless veteran who can be located is placed in permanent housing or in temporary housing with an identified permanent housing placement" within 30 days.

That doesn't mean that no veteran will ever again fall into homelessness in New Orleans, said Baylee Crone, executive director of the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. But now, there is a system in place to find permanent housing for those veterans quickly, she said.

The philosophy of "housing first" requires moving the homeless into permanent housing quickly — and frequently requires lowering barriers to entry to that housing. For example, where people may have previously been required to complete a drug or alcohol treatment plan prior to being placed in permanent housing, now they could be placed in housing and given a case manager for access to the treatment and other services at a later time.

Though the approach is "not perfect by any means," research has shown it works, Crone said. The key for communities and outreach teams is to know every person on the streets or in a shelter, Crone and Sandor said. "If you don't know their name and needs, you'll never know what you need to get them into permanent housing," Sandor said.

And the fact that New Orleans has hit the goal "is a game-changer," Sandor said.

"It is a proof point," she said, "an amazing example of what's possible with good leadership, with the introduction of best practices, of knowing every single person's name, of not giving up until we get there."

New Orleans' achievement also is helpful for other communities that may be looking for their own definition of zero, Crone said, as well as those looking for best practices and ways to track their progress. The city took the number of homeless veterans from a point-in-time count last year, 193, as its starting point, and was able to house 127 of them in six months, she said. But the work is not over: Organizations there must continue to connect people with the resources they need to get back on their feet.

"Ending veteran homelessness is not a set point in time," Crone said.

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MARTIN KUZ/Stars and Stripes

Three years ago, Ken Leslie founded Veterans Matter, a nonprofit based in Toledo, Ohio, that covers the rent deposits of homeless veterans to help them move into permanent housing.

SEE COMPASSION ON PAGE 13

SAFE HAVEN

# The difference a home makes

By MARTIN KUZ  
Stars and Stripes

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A simple rule guided Travis Goodman during the years he sought shelter in vacant houses across Ohio's capital city.

"Go in late, get out early." Slipping into an empty home after nightfall and vanishing before daybreak reduced the risk that a neighbor would spot him and call police. If he moved only in the dark, he could sleep unnoticed in the same house for days, sometimes weeks.

But now and then alcohol and pot loosened his discipline. The cops would show up and arrest the former Marine, charging him with trespassing or drug possession or both. He might stay in a homeless shelter for a stretch before resuming his particular style of house hunting.

Goodman worked a string of construction and warehouse jobs that earned him enough to afford a place of his own. He chose instead to invest in his vices, and when money ran short, he turned to petty theft and check forgery. There were more short stints in jail as lessons went unlearned.

He spun in that cycle for more than a decade until the day in 2011 when he received a call from his sister. She had seen a report on TV about a new housing community for disabled and homeless veterans. She urged him to apply for an apartment there.

The call coincided with his growing sense that he needed to change. The old military man felt hollowed out in body and mind.

"I got tired of being tired, and I got tired of being ashamed," said Goodman, 54, who grew up in Columbus and joined the Marines in 1978 for a three-year stint. "Your conscience starts to get to you. You start seeing yourself as less than human."

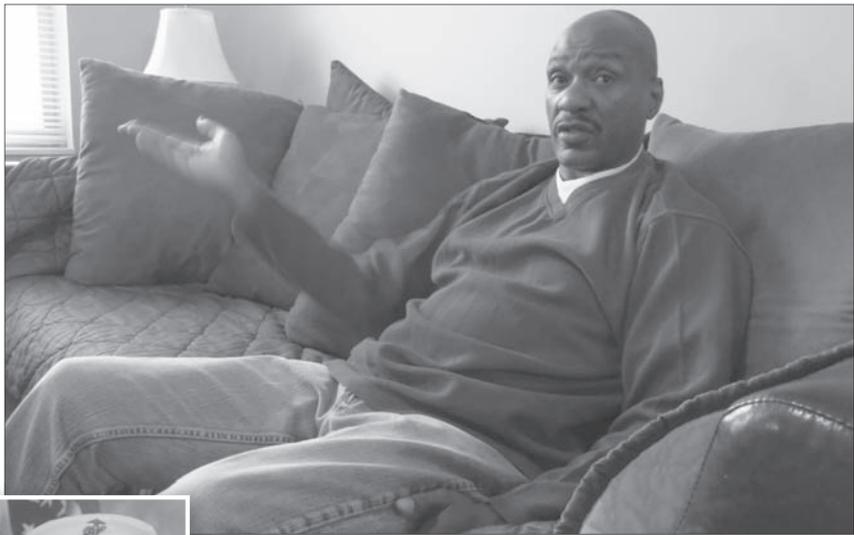
In summer 2012, he received approval to move into the Commons at Livingston, a red-brick, three-story housing complex of 50 one-bedroom units run by National Church Residences. The non-profit housing provider, based in Columbus, expanded the campus last year, doubling its capacity to house 100 veterans.

A framed portrait of Goodman as an 18-year-old private stands on a table in his apartment. The young man in the uniform now appears more familiar to him in some ways than the version of himself who first arrived at the Commons.

He has been sober for more than two years. He holds a part-time maintenance job and attends classes as he pursues a GED. He started dating a woman last year and spends more time with his three siblings, who live in the city.

The purpose of his life has transcended the impulse to invade and evade, to "go in late, get out early."

"I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't ended up here. Probably back in jail or dead," he said. Large windows let in the day's pale light



PHOTOS BY MARTIN KUZ/Stars and Stripes

Travis Goodman, a former Marine, lives in a one-bedroom apartment at the Commons at Livingston, a permanent supportive housing community in Columbus, Ohio, for disabled and homeless veterans. Goodman served a three-year stint starting in 1978, and later was homeless for more than a decade.



as he relaxed on an amply pillowed sofa, arms splayed, his voice as serene as his manner. "I have goals now. Direction."

### Stable housing

Goodman counts among the more than 26,000 former service-members who have migrated from the country's streets and homeless shelters into stable housing since 2010. The population of homeless veterans topped 76,000 at the time. The number had fallen below 50,000 last year in a survey by the Department of Veterans Affairs. (The agency conducted its annual survey of homeless veterans this week and will release the findings later this year.)

A five-year national campaign to end homelessness among veterans, launched by President Barack Obama in 2010, has propelled efforts to bring them into permanent supportive housing. The model combines a comfortable living space among their own with ready access to job, medical and counseling services.

Funded through local, state and federal programs, the Commons resembles an independent living facility for seniors. Each apartment includes a kitchen, bed-

room and bathroom, and there's a large hall for group gatherings and computer, fitness and laundry rooms. Residents sign a renewable one-year lease and are allowed to stay indefinitely, paying monthly rent equal to 30 percent of their income, or no less than \$50.

VA social workers and case managers work out of offices in the building, and every week there are regular visits by physical and occupational therapists, behavioral health providers and job and education counselors. Apart from job or education training for the unemployed, the services are made available without requiring tenants to take part, creating an ethos of autonomy that nurtures their dignity.

"What we've seen for the most part is that veterans want to get better," said Robyn Haycock, a support services coordinator with National Church Residences. "They'll generally seek the help they need once they're here. But it's important for them to feel that it's their decision, and we want them to have that independence."

The rate of homelessness among veterans nationwide remains twice that of those who have never served in the armed forces. Returning to the civilian world can

inflame feelings of isolation for veterans as they mourn the loss of their military identity. The sense of estrangement often persists even for those who cope without retreating to the streets.

Living with fellow veterans in permanent supportive housing offers a healing camaraderie, an oasis of shared experience and empathy. "For some of them, being here is the first time they've felt connected to anyone since they got out of the military," Haycock said. "They feel like they're part of something again."

The presence of others who wore the uniform has comforted Chris Eckert. The Army veteran, who mustered out in 1996 after six years, lost his warehouse logistics job in 2013. His savings had drained away by early last year, and he wound up in a homeless shelter for several months before moving into the Commons in September.

"This has been like a safe haven for me," said Eckert, 45, who struggles with seizures and the effects of a brain tumor that impairs his vision.

**SAFE HAVEN**  
Bringing veterans home  
A YEARLONG SERIES

"I wish the things that brought me here hadn't happened. But at the same time I feel lucky to be here because I'm around people who understand. There's just a bond you feel with another veteran that you can't get with somebody else."

### A second shot

The Commons blends into a milieu of residential and commercial properties on the east side of Columbus. Five years ago, in the project's early stages, the "crazy vet" stereotype shadowed its development, with some residents and business owners nervous about housing former service-members in the area.

A similar strain of anxiety has run through other cities, and projects have been scuttled or scaled back as a result. Around the Commons, meanwhile, the divide between the civilian and military realms appears to have dissolved. Veterans from the complex participate in the neighborhood's "black watch" aimed at deterring crime and mingle with residents at community events.

SEE HOME ON PAGE 13

“I don't know where I'd be if I hadn't ended up here. Probably back in jail or dead. I have goals now. Direction.”

— Travis Goodman

## SAFE HAVEN

## COMPASSION FROM PAGE 11

For their efforts, Leslie and Mayor D. Michael Collins, along with civic leaders in many cities, were invited to Washington last spring for a summit on ending homelessness among veterans hosted by first lady Michelle Obama.

On a recent morning, the two men took hands and begged when they met in the mayor's office on the 23rd floor of the city's government center. A gray haze shrouded vistas of downtown outside the floor-to-ceiling windows as Collins, a former Marine, discussed with his guest's clarity of purpose.

"What often happens in the political arena is like a Baskin-Robbins experience. An issue comes up and it's the flavor of the day, so everybody comes together and says, 'This isn't right and we have to do something about it,'" he said.

"Then the following day there's a new issue and everybody says the same thing, and nobody pays attention to yesterday's issue. That's why it's good the two people like Ken. He doesn't let you force me."

For someone who once made a living by seeking the laughter and affirmation of strangers, Leslie, 57, demurs when praised for his advocacy. He diverts credit to Dowling and her VA colleagues to Petec and ProMedica, to Collins and other elected officials, to the county's housing authority and Veterans Service Commission.

"I'm not that smart. Really — that's not fake humility," he said, his gray ponytail spilling down from the top of his head. He wore red-framed sunglasses perched on the brim. He talked in the rapid cadence of a man who, in addition to managing his nonprofit endeavors, must squeeze enough minutes from the day to run a small head-biting farm. "I'm very simple, and so when I see a problem, I look for a simple solution."

Leslie, who grew up in Perrysburg and lives in Toledo with his wife, keeps an office on the ground floor of a business center converted from an old shopping mall. He has a view of a parking lot. On the wall behind his desk hangs a photo of the late folk singer Harry Chapin, one of his three heroes together with Irish songwriter Bob Geldof and John Mellencamp.

He sees the true stress for their music than for their humanitarian work. Like Chapin before him, Geldof has fought to end world hunger; Mellencamp cofounded Farm Aid in 1985. The annual benefit concert for family farmers united Leslie and Washington's Tent City project five years later.

During a tour stop in Toledo in 2007, Mellencamp visited the Tent City venue to meet with homeless residents. Leslie forged a bond with him, and the singer has recruited his public attention to help promote Veterans Matter. Similar support from Ice-T, Susan Sarandon and other entertainers has raised thousands of dollars in donations and extended the group's presence into Indiana, Massachusetts, Texas and Washington.

Leslie's emphasis on recruiting the famous to crusade for the anonymous arises from a populist sensibility. He believes that celebrities, by illuminating a hidden struggle, can motivate Americans to care about those who served and who now live on the streets.

## How cities around the US are doing

Since 2010, when President Barack Obama launched a five-year national campaign to end homelessness among veterans, the number of former servicemembers living on the streets has dropped from over 76,000 to below 50,000. In early January, officials in New Orleans declared that their city was the country's first to find permanent housing for all of its homeless veterans, who numbered 227 at the start of last year. Here's a look at efforts in a handful of other U.S. cities, based on figures provided by federal, state and local agencies. — Martin Kuz

## Portland, Ore.

City officials announced in November that 139 homeless veterans had been housed since April, exceeding the goal of 100 set in the spring. Housing advocates and city officials have announced a joint initiative to move 424 homeless veterans off the streets by year's end.

## Los Angeles

The Department of Veterans Affairs just agreed to create a plan to end homelessness among veterans in the city, which has more than 4,200 former service-members who lack permanent housing. The agreement, reached in a lawsuit that accused the VA of neglecting homeless veterans, also calls for the creation of permanent supportive housing on a 400-acre VA campus in West Los Angeles.

## Phoenix

From 2010 through 2013, the city housed 222 veterans classically as chronically homeless, making Phoenix the nation's first city to eliminate veterans' homelessness in that category. Among former servicemembers who lack permanent housing but are not considered chronically homeless, the city's population fell from 187 in 2011 to 48 last year.

## Houston

The city found housing for 2,800 homeless veterans from 2012 to 2014, reducing Houston's overall homeless population by almost 40 percent. Among the remaining 681 homeless veterans who were counted in a survey in January 2014, more than half were in the process of receiving housing by September.

## Chicago

Mayor Rahm Emanuel unveiled a \$5 million plan last fall to provide housing for the city's 721 homeless veterans by the end of this year. Federal agencies will cover \$4.2 million of the tab, which includes construction of two permanent supportive housing communities for 127 veterans. The remaining veterans will be placed in existing affordable housing.

## New York

The city's population of homeless veterans fell by almost two-thirds between 2011 and 2014, with 3,032 former servicemembers placed in permanent housing. Several housing projects are underway across the city as officials seek to place the remaining 1,300 homeless veterans.



MARTIN KUZ/Stars and Stripes

Ken Leslie, left, the founder of Veterans Matter, talks with Greg Johnson, an Iraq War veteran, last month in Johnson's apartment in Toledo, Ohio. Leslie's Toledo-based organization paid the \$540 rent deposit that helped Johnson move into the space in September.

"I don't think of John Mellencamp as a star. I consider him a comrade in arms," he said. He held up his hands as if clapping a basketball and moved them toward each other. "What I try to do is sort of be a translator between these two worlds and get them a little closer. Because in the end, we're all at the same level."

## 'A big relief'

Leslie stepped inside Greg Johnson's apartment and shook hands with the Iraq War veteran while clapping him on the shoulder.

"What's up, bitch?" Leslie said. Both men laughed as Johnson replied in kind.

The Toledo native moved into the one-bedroom unit on the city's west side last fall after Veterans Matter paid the \$540 rent deposit. He had spent the summer living out of a 2001 Cadillac DeVille. His wardrobe consisted of two pairs of pants and a few T-shirts that he stashed in the trunk. He drove to a Rite Aid each morning to shave

and wash up in the bathroom.

Johnson deployed to Iraq in 2007. A year removed from high school, he belonged to an Army flag detail at Camp Liberty in Baghdad that took part in memorial ceremonies for fallen troops. The duty weighed on him as the months passed.

"Even though I wasn't going outside the wire much, seeing those bodies going home does have an effect on you," he said. "You start to think, 'Could I be next?'"

He returned to Toledo following his honorable discharge in 2009 and over the next five years his life imploded in slow motion. By last spring, he was unemployed and estranged from his wife, and the county had taken custody of his three young children after police charged him with domestic assault.

Johnson found renewed hope when he connected with Dowling and her team with the VA in August. Gaining a fixed address a month later freed him to begin rebuilding his future.

He soon picked up a part-time job at the post office and enrolled in a counseling course for domestic violence that grants him visitation with his kids. A local nonprofit donated a bed, recliner and a handful of other furnishings for his apartment, and though the space still appears more empty than occupied, the comforts surpass those of a Cadillac.

"Having this place has been a big relief," said Johnson, 27, who wore a blue T-shirt imprinted with the words "I Am... Appreciated." "I know an apartment doesn't change everything, and I know I have a long way to go. But being here makes it easier to focus on what I need to do to turn things around. When you don't have a place to live, you're just thinking about surviving."

Dowling regards permanent housing as essential to guiding former servicemembers toward VA support services and, in turn, restoring their dignity. She described Veterans Matter as releasing a "nursing mission that may mean life instead of death."

"These men and women are either going to die on the streets or we can give them a place to live and help them regain control of their lives," she said. "They served their country. I think we owe it to them to get them housed as fast as we can, and that's what Ken does."

The cause animates Leslie. Driving to a meeting after leaving Johnson's apartment, he received a call from a VA social worker in Dallas. She asked if he could cover a \$250 rent deposit for a veteran who had qualified for the voucher program. "Yup, no problem," he said. "The check will go out this week." The entire exchange lasted under a minute.

A couple of hours later, sitting at his desk, Leslie slipped the check into an envelope. He looked up and smiled.

"Another veteran housed. Boom. Done."

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## HOME FROM PAGE 12

Michael Preston, a regional director for National Church Residences, ascribed the area's acceptance of the campus mostly to the passage of time. "I think that as we've gone along people have taken into consideration that these veterans served our country, and we need to do right by them," he said.

In the common perception of permanent supportive housing, shaped in no small part by the term itself, tenants stay for good. In practice, and contrary to the criticism that such housing amounts to "veteran welfare," the Commons staff encourages residents to reintegrate into their communities and families as their recovery evolves.

"The goal is for them to reach independence," Haycock said. "It isn't something that's forced. But we want them to eventually live in the community again without the need for the intensive services we give them here."

Blaine Ware found himself homeless after the death of his girlfriend three years ago. The former Marine, who left the service in 1983 after four years, initially resisted asking for help.

"It was hard," said Ware, 55, who grew up in Dayton, Ohio. "I'm supposed to serve others, not have others serve me." Yet his time at the Commons has enabled him to land a job at a retail clothing chain and prepare for moving out in the next year or two.

"I've been fortunate to have this opportunity to put my life back together," he said. "I'm not sure what I would have done otherwise."

For Travis Goodman, who lost so many years to alcohol and drugs and self-inflicted inertia, the Commons represents redemption. He plans to collect his GED later this year and switch to full-time work, and if he saves enough money, the man who once skulked into houses hopes to someday buy one.

"It's only by luck that I didn't die," he said. "I got a second shot. I'm not going to let it pass."

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MARTIN KUZ/Stars and Stripes

Blaine Ware, a former Marine who left the service in 1983, has lived at the Commons at Livingston in Columbus, Ohio, since 2012.

## WAR ON TERRORISM



BRAM JANSSEN/AP

**A Kurdish Peshmerga soldier stands guard overlooking the road between Mosul and Tal Afar at the frontline of Eski Mosul, Iraq, on Tuesday.**

# As Iraqi Kurds gain ground from the Islamic State, local Sunnis are wary

By VIVIAN SALAMA  
The Associated Press

ESKI MOSUL, Iraq — An unarmed Sunni Arab man walked along a road in a patch of northern Iraq newly liberated from Islamic State extremists, holding a white surrender flag — a signal to Kurdish fighters that he is not a militant. Cars drove by a similar white banner flying from their windows.

As they retake territory from Islamic State militants, Iraqi Kurdish fighters have found surprising ambivalence in areas they freed from the jihadists' oppressive rule. Locals have swiftly shaken off the imposed Islamic lifestyle — but as Sunnis, from the same ethnic group as the militants, many are nonetheless bracing for treatment as collaborators.

For their part, the Kurdish peshmerga troops are suspicious about why the locals chose to stay on when the Islamic State conquered the area in a blitz last year. An Associated Press team traveling with the Kurds found the road to Mosul, a coveted prize in the battle for Iraq, strewn with suspicion and fear.

The recent Kurdish push secured several towns and villages along a critical junction that connects the town of Tal Afar to the city of Mosul — two of the Islamic State group's biggest strongholds in Iraq. The artery, which eventually leads to Syria, has been a vital supply line for militants transporting weapons, goods and people across the lawless Iraq-Syria border.

The Kurdish fighters struggled for months to inch ahead, backed by U.S.-led coalition airstrikes. On Tuesday, at least four airstrikes hit Islamic State group positions near Eski Mosul, a village of up

**“We need them to trust us and to cooperate with us. ... It is essential that we identify those people and take care of our backs before we continue.”**

Kurdish Col. Marwan al-Mizouri

to about 9,000 residents some 25 miles northwest of Mosul.

Kurdish Brig. Gen. Bahjat Taymes, who led the peshmerga operation to retake the Tal Afar-Mosul junction, said seizing it was “crucial” because it also leads to the Mosul Dam, which Kurdish and Iraqi forces won back in August with the help of U.S. airstrikes.

The Kurdish fighters in Eski Mosul — Turkish for “Old Mosul,” a name from the Ottoman rule — say they plan to leave as soon as Iraqi troops return but their enthusiasm about pressing ahead in a fight for predominantly Arab territory is half-hearted.

The villagers in Eski Mosul are grateful for their Kurdish liberators, many of whom speak most no Arabic. But the Sunni villagers also know it will take time to convince the newcomers they hold no allegiance to the Islamic State. The militants left much devastation behind that they fled.

Many in Eski Mosul admit they welcomed the Islamic State when the group first arrived, resentful of what they perceive as years of neglect, discrimination and sectarian policies by the Shiite-led government in Baghdad.

“We thought they were revolutionaries coming to help us and give us our rights,” said grocer Salim Khudair, 30. Hard times followed. The village soon lost cooking gas and electric-

ity, forcing the people to heat what little food remained over open ground fires. The cows became emaciated and many stopped giving milk. Most of the infants and the elderly became sickly.

Now, they can glimpse a better life emerging. Cigarettes — strictly banned under the Islamic State, which seized a third of both Iraq and neighboring Syria and imposed strict Sharia law — are sold and smoked freely. For the first time in months, women and young girls walk the narrow dirt streets without having to cover their faces. Young boys wrestle and play soccer without fear.

But mistrust lingers. As several Kurdish fighters on Tuesday handed out bottled water, speaking to the villagers in broken Arabic, a group of village girls came up, timidly saying to the soldiers, “Please don’t blow up our homes.”

While the Islamic State still sporadically shells the village — the last time as recently as Monday — some among the Kurds worry the villagers are tipping off the militants about the Kurdish positions.

“We need them to trust us and to cooperate with us,” said Kurdish Col. Marwan al-Mizouri. He said he believes some villagers are still loyal to the jihadis. “Not all of them, but maybe 10 percent. It is essential that we identify those people and take care of our backs before we continue.”

# Jordan demands proof captured pilot still alive

By ELAINE KURTENBACH  
AND KARIN LAUB  
The Associated Press



AP

AMMAN, Jordan — Jordan on Thursday demanded proof from Islamic State militants that a Jordanian pilot they are holding is still alive, raising doubts that a rapidly approaching Thursday sunset deadline for a prisoner swap set by the group could be met.

The militants have purportedly threatened to kill the pilot, Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, by sunset Iraq time unless Jordan frees an Iraqi woman from death row and delivers her to the Turkish border.

The woman, Sajida al-Rishawi, was involved in deadly Amman hotel bombings a decade ago.

Jordanian government spokesman Mohammed al-Momani said Thursday afternoon that al-Rishawi is still in Jordan, raising doubts that the sunset deadline could be met.

“We want to see a proof of life of the Jordanian pilot and then we can talk about the exchange between Sajida al-Rishawi and the Jordanian pilot,” he said.

Jordan has said it is willing, in principle, to swap al-Rishawi for the pilot but has not said if it is negotiating such an exchange. Indirect talks are reportedly being held with the help of tribal and religious leaders in Iraq. Islamic State militants, who control large areas of Iraq and Syria, appeared to be rebuffing Jordan's proposed swap in the latest audio message.

The message was read in English by a voice the Japanese government said was likely that of another hostage, Japanese journalist Kenji Goto. It was released online late Wednesday after Jordan offered to swap al-Rishawi for the pilot.

It wasn't clear what Goto's fate would be if the woman wasn't returned.

The message said the deadline was sundown in Mosul, Iraq, the largest city held by the militant group.

The Associated Press could not independently verify the contents of the recording, which was distributed on Twitter by Islamic State-affiliated accounts.

The cases of the Japanese hostage, the Jordanian pilot and the Iraqi prisoner held in Jordan have become intertwined in recent days.

In Tokyo, government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Thursday the government was in close communications with the Jordan government. He said Japan was doing its utmost to free Goto, working with nations in the re-

**Jordan has said it is willing to swap Jordanian pilot Lt. Muath al-Kaseasbeh, left, for death row inmate Sajida al-Rishawi.**

gion, including Turkey, Jordan and Israel.

Efforts to free al-Kaseasbeh and Goto gained urgency after a purported online ultimatum claimed Tuesday that the Islamic State group would kill both hostages within 24 hours if Jordan did not free al-Rishawi.

Japan has scrambled to deal with the crisis that began last week with the release of a video by the Islamic State group showing Goto and another Japanese hostage, Haruna Yukawa, kneeling in orange jumpsuits between a masked man who threatened to kill them within 72 hours unless Japan paid a \$200 million ransom.

That demand has since shifted to one for the release of al-Rishawi. The militants have reportedly killed Yukawa, 42, although that has not been confirmed.

“This heinous terrorist act is totally unforgivable,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said in parliament Thursday.

Goto, a freelance journalist, was captured in October in Syria, apparently while trying to rescue Yukawa, who was taken hostage last summer.

Releasing the would-be hotel bomber linked to al-Qaida would breach Jordan's usual hard-line approach to the extremists and set a precedent for negotiating with them.

It would also be a coup for the Islamic State group, which has already overrun large parts of neighboring Syria and Iraq. Jordan is part of a U.S.-led military alliance that has carried out airstrikes against the extremist group in Syria and Iraq in recent months.

The Islamic State group has not publicly demanded prisoner releases before and Jordan's mainly ally, the United States, opposes negotiations with extremists.

Jordanian King Abdullah II faces growing domestic pressure to bring the pilot home. The pilot's father said he met on Wednesday with Abdullah, who he said assured him that “everything will be fine.”

# WAR/MILITARY

## US classifies stats used in SIGAR's Afghanistan reports

By Josh Smith  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — As the United States declares an end to its war in Afghanistan, the American-led coalition has taken steps to classify most of the indicators of how Afghan forces are faring after more than a decade of assistance.

For the past six years, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction has been able to publicly release data on Afghan National Security Forces, including troop numbers, salaries, training, equipment such as aircraft, and infrastructure projects in its quarterly reports to Congress, SIGAR said in its latest report.

Effective this quarter, most of that information has been classified by the coalition.

"The classification of this volume of data for SIGAR's quarterly reports is the latest report, released Thursday, contended. "The decision leaves SIGAR for the first time in six years unable to publicly report on most of the U.S.-taxpayer-funded efforts to build, train, equip, and sustain the ANSF."

Military officials say the release of the information on how \$65 billion in military aid has been spent could compromise security and give insurgents battling Afghan forces an edge.

"With lives literally on the line, I am sure that you can join me in recognizing that we must be careful to avoid providing sensitive information to those that threaten our forces and Afghan forces, particularly information that can be used by such opposing forces to sharpen their attacks," U.S. Army Gen. John Campbell, who leads all international and American forces in Afghanistan as commander of the Resolute Support mission, wrote in a Jan. 18 memo to SIGAR that was appended to the report.

Campbell confirmed he gave the order to classify the information, but refused to explain why the information, if considered so sensitive, was unclassified for the previous six years. SIGAR was unable to increase its unpopularity. Operational reporting on U.S. troops' efforts ended in July 2013, and journalists trying to report on

American forces through embels have faced increasing hurdles.

SIGAR itself has contributed to a steady stream of less-than-favorable press coverage, using media-savvy strategies and sometimes bombshell investigations highlight example after example of U.S. aid going to waste in Afghanistan.

In the last quarter of 2014, which is documented in this latest report, SIGAR said it published the results of 17 investigations, including several financial audits that identified some \$23.6 million in questionable costs. Other probes found little confirmation of any success in improving conditions for Afghan women, and that more than \$300 million in U.S. funding for Afghan police salaries is based on potentially inaccurate data.

"With the departure of coalition combat troops and the concomitant drawdown of U.S. civilian personnel, Afghanistan has entered a new era," John Sopko, the inspector general, concluded in the report. "In these circumstances, U.S.-funded reconstruction will require more aggressive oversight than ever, even as carrying out that oversight becomes more difficult and dangerous."

Getting a clear idea of the results of America's continued aid to Afghanistan will be constrained by the military's move to prevent the American people from seeing the ANSF's data, Sopko argued. Among the questions U.S. forces refused to answer publicly were queries about how \$25 million allocated for women in the Afghan army has been used, details of contracts to improve ANSF literacy, and assessments of anti-corruption efforts at the Afghan Defense and Interior ministries.

The decision to classify the material was met skeptically by many, including The New York Times' editorial board, which opined that "it strains credibility to believe that insurgents would become more proficient fighters by poring over lengthy inspector general reports about an increasingly forgotten war." Instead, the board members argued, it is American taxpayers who are prevented from being able to draw informed conclusions about the 14-year, \$107 billion effort to defeat an insurgency, train Afghan forces and reconstruct Afghanistan's war-torn infrastructure.

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# 3 American contractors killed in insider attack

Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three U.S. contractors were killed and a fourth wounded Thursday in Kabul, a U.S. defense official said.

Two media outlets reported that the shooter was an Afghan in a military uniform.

U.S. Army Col. Brian Tribus, a spokesman for the NATO-led Resolute Support mission, said the shooting occurred about 6:40 p.m. at the military side of Kabul's international airport.

The shooting is under investigation, he said.

Tribus said an Afghan national also was killed, but would not confirm whether the Afghan was a member of the security forces or was the shooter. Afghan military officials reached late Thursday night could not provide any more details.

The military base at the airport hosts Afghan military units as well as advisers from a variety of NATO and allied countries. In 2011 the airport was the scene of the deadliest insider attack of the war when eight U.S. airmen and a contractor were killed by an Afghan officer.

Insider attacks, peaked in 2012 as the NATO forces were ramping up training of the Afghan National Army.

The U.S. and NATO then began a major review of the vetting process for Afghan recruits for the police and the army to include checking on the identities and loyalties of village elders and Afghan officials who are required to vouch for the trainees, the officials said.

Maj. Gen. Harold J. Greene, a 34-year veteran who was the deputy commanding general of Combined Security Transition

Command-Afghanistan, is the highest ranking victim of such attacks. He was killed in Kabul on Aug. 5, 2014, when an Afghan soldier fired into a group of Americans from a bathroom window.

Also Thursday, a suicide bomber struck a funeral in Afghanistan for the victims of an earlier Taliban attack, killing 16 people and wounding 39, an Afghan official said.

The attack took place in eastern Laghman province, according to the local governor's spokesman, Sarhadi Zrak. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the bombing but the blame is likely to fall on the Taliban who have staged similar attacks in the past.

Also, the bombing came on the heels of a spate of Taliban attacks across Afghanistan overnight and Thursday morning that killed at least 17 people.

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WORLD

# Malaysia declares MH370 crash an accident

By EILEEN NG

The Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — Malaysia's government declared Thursday the crash of Flight 370 an accident to pave the way for compensation claims, angering victims' families still waiting for evidence while officials said the search for wreckage will go on.

Civil aviation chief Azharuddin Abdul Rahman said the hunt for the Malaysia Airlines jet, which disappeared March 8, 2014, while flying from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people, "remains a priority."

The plane is believed to have crashed in the southern Indian

Ocean off the coast of western Australia. No debris has been found.

"After 327 days and based on all available data as well as circumstances ... survivability in the defined area is highly unlikely," Azharuddin said in a prerecorded message broadcast on Malaysian television. "It is therefore with the heaviest heart and deepest sorrow that we officially declare Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 an accident."

All 239 passengers and crew on board are presumed to have lost their lives, he said. The declaration will help facilitate financial claims by families, and Malaysia Airlines is ready to proceed with the compensation process, he

said.

Malaysian Transport Minister Low Tiong Lai said the announcement was agreed to by the governments of Malaysia, China and Australia and was intended to "enable the families to move forward."

"The announcement has no bearing on the search operations. The search for MH370 will continue," he said.

In China, where most of the passengers came from, some family members refused to accept the official position that the plane was lost.

"There's nothing new," said Wen Wancheng, whose son, Wen Yongsheng, was aboard the plane. "The Malaysian authorities have

been covering up the truth from the get-go, and they have no credibility to speak of. We are not accepting the conclusion."

"Because you have no evidence at all," said Wang Chunjiang, who lost his brother Wang Chunyong. "How can you come to such a conclusion? Chinese New Year is coming up. Why did you choose now to make the announcement?"

Li Jingxin, brother of Li Zhixin, a laborer who was returning to China on the flight, said the family would not accept any compensation from the airline for now.

"They have found nothing," said Li Jingxin, who lives in the northern province of Hebei. "With nothing found, how can they make any announcement?"

Azharuddin said that Malaysia, China and Australia had spared no expense and resources in their search for the plane but were still unable to locate it.

The hunt resumed in October after a four-month hiatus, with more sophisticated sonar equipment. The Australian coordinators of the search have said the current underwater phase could take another year and there is still no guarantee of success.

Azharuddin said that the Convention on International Civil Aviation, commonly referred to as the "Chicago Convention," states that the definition of the term "accident" includes "the aircraft is missing."

## Indonesian officials: AirAsia plane was flown by co-pilot

By NINIK KARMINI

The Associated Press

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Indonesian investigators announced Thursday that the co-pilot of the crashed AirAsia jet was in control when he struggled to recover the aircraft as stall warnings sounded.

The Airbus A320-200 crashed on Dec. 28 into the Java Sea, halfway from Indonesia's city of Surabaya to Singapore. All 162 people aboard were killed.

Chief investigator of the National Transportation Safety Committee Marjono Siswosuwarno said the cockpit voice recording indicated the co-pilot, French national Remi Emmanuel Plesel, was flying the plane while Indonesian Capt. Iryanto was monitoring.

Iryanto, who like many Indonesians uses a single name, was a former fighter pilot with more than 20,500 flying hours, while the less-experienced Plesel had about 6,000 hours.

Siswosuwarno said the black boxes retrieved from the seabed provided a relatively clear picture of what went wrong in the last moments of AirAsia Flight 8501

as the plane was struggling to recover and stall warnings sounded until the end of the recording.

"However, we are still examining many other things on the issues," Siswosuwarno told a news conference.

Another investigator, Ertata Lananggalih, said that based on the voice recorder, the captain was monitoring and communicating with air traffic control while Plesel was flying the plane.

"But it is normal practices; both pilots can exchange their roles with each other," Lananggalih said.

Investigators concluded that the plane was in airworthy condition prior to the crash.

Both flight and cockpit data recorders showed that the jet was stabilized cruising at the height of 32,900 feet before the pilot contacted ground control saying they were turning left and a minute later sought permission to climb to 38,000 feet. The ATC at Jakarta's Sukarno-Hatta airport asked them to stand by.

Siswosuwarno said the weather satellite images at the time showed a formation of storm clouds reaching up to 44,000 feet.

He added that flight data showed that the jet was in a dangerously fast climb and stalled before going down slowly into the last position of 24,000 feet high recorded on the radar.

He said investigators were still looking into whether turbulence or updrafts contributed to the plane's drastic climb as repeated stall warnings were heard clearly on the cockpit recording within four minutes until the end of the recording since the plane reached more than 8 degrees of its pitch angle.

Indonesia Minister of Transportation Ignasius Jonan has said previously that radar data showed the Airbus A320 was climbing at an abnormally high rate, about 6,000 feet per minute, before it disappeared.

"In many cases, the engine is not strong enough to fly in this high angle," Siswosuwarno said.

Indonesian rescuers have retrieved 72 bodies, with the last two found drifting Wednesday off Sulawesi island. Unconfirmed reports said another body was discovered Thursday about 620 miles east of the crash scene.



DITA ALANGKARA/AP

Indonesian National Transportation Safety Committee investigator Ertata Lananggalih, during a news conference Thursday in Jakarta, Indonesia, uses a model plane to explain the movement of AirAsia Flight 8501 before it crashed into the Java Sea on Dec. 28.

STARS & STRIPES

# SHOT

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## WORLD



REBECCA BLACKWELL/AP

Rescue workers comb through the rubble of a children's hospital after a gas truck exploded, in Cuajimalpa on the outskirts of Mexico City on Thursday.

## Explosion at Mexican children's hospital leaves at least 2 dead

The Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Injured and bleeding, mothers carrying infants fled from a maternity hospital shattered by a powerful gas explosion on Thursday, and rescuers swung sledgehammers to break through fallen concrete in hunt for others who may have been trapped.

At least two people were killed and 56 injured, said Claudia Dominguez, spokeswoman for Mexico City's civil defense agency. Officials earlier said at least four had been killed.

Felicitas Hernandez, 35, wept as she frantically questioned people outside the mostly collapsed building, hoping for word of her month-old baby, who had been hospitalized since birth with respiratory problems.

"They wouldn't let me sleep with him," said Hernandez, who said she had come to the city-run

Maternity and Children's Hospital of Cuajimalpa because she had no money.

The explosion occurred when the tanker was making a routine, early morning delivery of gas to the hospital kitchen and gas started to leak. Witnesses said the tanker workers struggled frantically for 15 or 20 minutes to repair the leak while a large cloud of gas formed.

"The hose broke. The two gas workers tried to stop it, but they were very nervous. They yelled for people to get out," said Laura Diaz Pacheco, a laboratory technician.

"Everyone's initial reaction was to go inside, away from the gas," she added. "Maybe as many as 10 of us were able to get out ... The rest stayed inside."

Workers on the truck yelled: "Call the firefighters, call the firefighters!" said anesthesiologist Agustín Herrera. People started

to evacuate the hospital, and then came the massive explosion that sent up an enormous fireball and plumes of dust and smoke.

Herrera saw injured mothers walking out carrying babies. He said there had been nine babies in the 35-bed hospital's nursery, one in very serious condition before the explosion.

As the day wore on, people arrived to offer diapers and baby formula. There was an hour-long wait to donate blood.

The driver and two employees were hospitalized but are also in custody, said a Mexico City government spokesman, who could not be named because she was not authorized to speak to the press.

Mayor Miguel Ángel Mancera earlier told the Televisa network that at least 54 people were injured, 22 of them children. Most of the injuries were relatively minor, he said, many caused by flying glass.

### Kangaroos in Austria? There's 1 in the snow

VIENNA — A kangaroo is on the loose in frigid and snowy Austria, hopping his way toward dispelling a famous slogan.

"No kangaroos in Austria," T-shirts and souvenirs have been

big sellers for years in the alpine nation, since some people confuse Austria with Australia.

Anton the kangaroo bounded away from his owner several weeks ago and has been living rough ever since, disappearing into forested land every time someone tries to capture him.

State-run broadcaster ORF posted a photo of the Australian marsupial on Wednesday sitting in a snowy backyard near the town of Braunau on the border with Germany. Anton looks fit and is expected to find enough food to survive the winter.

From The Associated Press

# North Korea may be restarting its nuclear reactor

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea may be attempting to restart its main nuclear bomb fuel reactor after a five-month shutdown, a U.S. research institute said Thursday.

If true, the finding, which is based on recent commercial satellite imagery, will be an added worry for the United States and the North's neighbors at a time of increasing animosity over recent U.S. sanctions against the North and Pyongyang's fury about a U.N. push to punish its alleged human rights abuses.

Activity at the 5-megawatt Nyongbyon reactor is closely watched because North Korea is thought to have a handful of crude nuclear bombs, part of its efforts to build an arsenal of nuclear-tipped missiles that could one day hit America's mainland. Nyongbyon, which has produced plutonium used for past nuclear test explosions, restarted in 2013 after being shuttered under a 2007 disarmament agreement. It has been offline since August.

Possible signs in satellite imagery from Dec. 24 through Jan. 11 that the reactor is in the early stages of being restarted include hot water drainage from a pipe at a turbine building that indicates steam from the reactor and growing snow-melt on the roofs of the reactor and turbine buildings.

The U.S.-Korea Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies said that since the recent observation period was only about two weeks, it's too soon to reach a definitive conclusion about what's happening and more monitoring is needed.

The institute's website, 38 North, published the findings.

Nyongbyon can likely produce about one bomb's worth of plutonium per year. A uranium enrichment facility there could also give it a second method to produce fissionable material for bombs. It is not clear if North Korea has yet mastered the technology needed to make warheads small enough to be mounted on missiles, but each nuclear test presumably moves its scientists closer toward that goal.

North Korea has said it is willing to rejoin international nuclear disarmament talks last held in 2008, but Washington demands that it first take concrete steps to show it remains committed to past nuclear pledges.

The United States also rejected a recent North Korea offer to impose a temporary moratorium on its nuclear tests if Washington scraps its annual military drills with Seoul. Pyongyang claims those drills are invasion preparation. The U.S. called the linking of the military drills, which it says are defensive and routine, with a possible nuclear test "an implicit threat."

Always rocky ties between Pyongyang and Washington dipped lower because of a recent Hollywood movie depicting the assassination of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The U.S. blames the North for crippling hacking attacks on the movie's producer, Sony, and subsequently imposed new sanctions on the country, inviting an angry response from Pyongyang, which has denied responsibility for the cyberattacks.

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WORLD

# Switching signs or switching sides?

## Right-wing protesters lured into marching against right-wing extremism in Germany

By RICK NOACK  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — When about 500 “anti-Islamization” protesters in the German city of Schwerin were given free banners and stickers that read *mvigida.de*, many gratefully accepted the apparent gift. *Mvigida* is the name of their xenophobic, anti-Islam organization, recently founded in support of the larger PEGIDA movement — and hence, *mvigida.de* had to be the name of their website, they assumed.

Hours later, the protesters — some of them professed neo-Nazis — would learn that they had effectively been demonstrating on behalf of immigrants instead of against them.

Anonymous pro-tolerance activists had lured the protesters into a trap. In advance, they created and registered a website that looked exactly like the ones that have encouraged Germans to join a series of nationwide anti-Islamization and anti-immigrant protests in recent months. While the protesters were marching and holding up multiple *mvigida.de* posters, anonymous activists quickly transformed the fake supporter website into a platform against the movement.

Instead of anti-Islamization slogans, its homepage then featured the demand: “Loathed PEGIDA supporters! Inform yourself and don’t just parrot slogans.”

Some regard the local branch in Schwerin as particularly dominated by right-wing extremists, compared with demonstrations in other cities that have attracted some more moderate supporters.

In an email to The Washington Post, the anonymous activists said Tuesday that they had aimed to embarrass professed neo-Nazis among the protesters. “But we also wanted to target those who join the protests because they have concerns that might partially be justified,” the group told The Post. “However, we do not think that those people should voice their concerns alongside anti-Islam and anti-democracy extremists.”

Their website suggests several alternatives for protesters to register their concerns about the influx of refugees or their anger with Germany’s political elites without having to participate in the weekly Islamophobic rallies.

Increasingly, the PEGIDA protests have attracted a wide range of supporters marching for a diverse set of causes. There are those demonstrating for Russia, or against a free-trade agreement with the U.S., or simply for world peace — yet they do so alongside people who continue to voice racist views.

Visitors to the controversial pro-tolerance website are invited to contact local politicians to discuss their anger — or are redirected to the EXIT German



Jens Meyer/AP

**Demonstrators wave flags and show banners during a rally of the group Patriotic Europeans against the Islamization of the West, or PEGIDA, on Sunday in Dresden, Germany. On Monday, a group of about 500 PEGIDA protesters were given free banners and stickers to use during demonstrations in Schwerin, Germany, only to later find out they were actually demonstrating against their cause.**

initiative, which helps neo-Nazis leave behind their hateful politics.

Last November, a German town similarly succeeded in mocking neo-Nazi demonstrators. For every meter the neo-Nazis walked in the town of Wunsiedel, local businesses and residents donated \$12.50 to EXIT Germany. The 200 neo-Nazis had only two choices when they learned of the plan: Either proceed, indirectly donating money to the initiative, or acknowledge their defeat and suspend the march. The neo-Nazis decided to pursue their plans — and participated in

raising funds for an organization committed to their downfall.

In the eastern city of Dresden, where the movement has its origins, the number of supporters dropped suddenly from 25,000 to 17,000 last week.

Recently, confusion had grown about the actual goals of PEGIDA and other, similar groups. Studies by Dresden’s Technical University as well as the Berlin-based scientific center WZB had found indications that many protesters marched out of a deeper frustration with Germany’s political elite more generally — and not out of fear of Islam or an Islamization of

German society, specifically.

The results of those studies have been criticized for being not representative because many PEGIDA supporters refuse to talk to either the media or sociological researchers.

Pretending to be anti-Islam protesters in the city of Schwerin, Monday’s pro-tolerance activists said some of the protesters they encountered were polite.

“After we gave the protesters the *mvigida.de* posters, they even asked us where they should return them,” the activists told The Post.

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## FAITH

# 'We have a mission for you'



ASHMANDO R. LINON/Stars and Stripes

## Air Force chaplain helps to serve the Vietnamese community in South Korea

By ASHLEY ROWLAND  
Stars and Stripes

**T**OSAN AIR BASE, South Korea — twice a month after celebrating Sunday morning Mass at Osan, Capt. Thienan Tran travels some four hours by car, subway and train to minister to what has become his second flock.

His destination is a borrowed Korean church in the southeastern coastal city of Pusan that serves as the spiritual home for a group of poor Vietnamese migrant workers. Most have come to South Korea to work for several years and send money back to help their families lift themselves out of poverty.

The 41-year-old 51st Fight Wing chaplain, born in Vietnam and raised in poverty knows firsthand what it's like to be an outsider in a foreign country. And he sees the comfort that practicing their faith brings the 150 or so Vietnamese who attend his services.

"They can go to a Mass and a Korean priest will celebrate Mass, but they don't understand it," said Tran, son of a former South Vietnamese army officer who emigrated to the U.S. with his family in 1992. "The (Vietnamese) who come to this country, they're far from home, so they feel very lonely. So when they see a priest, it gives them a kind of consolation."

Tran joined the Air Force in 2011. Soon after he learned he was being assigned to South Korea, he was contacted by another Vietnamese-American priest stationed at

Osan who was ministering to the Pusan group. "When he learned about my assignment to replace him, he said, 'We have a mission for you,'" Tran said. He was initially assigned to Osan for one year, but extended for a second year because of his ministry to the Vietnamese.

When he leaves Korea next year, Tran probably won't be replaced by a Vietnamese-speaking priest. But there are several nonmilitary priests in the country who are learning Vietnamese, and he hopes they will one day be able to not only conduct Mass in the language but minister to the congregants outside worship services.

### Growing up in Vietnam

The youngest of four children, Tran grew up in a village outside Ho Chi Minh City after it was captured by the North Vietnamese communists in 1975. He still calls the city by its old name, Saigon.

After the communist takeover, his father was imprisoned near Hanoi, not far from the Chinese border, but a world away from his family in the south. During the 13 years his father was in jail, they communicated mostly through letters. Tran saw his father only twice because the long trip was too costly for his family.

He remembers neighbors giving them food when they returned from those trips because they had no money.

"All the possessions that we had, even our home, got confiscated," Tran said. "We had to move to the city to stay with our grandparents."

Because his father had fought for the

enemy and was imprisoned, his family members were treated "like criminals," he said. "They hated us because we used to be the enemy," he said. "But later on, people seemed to sympathize with us more because we lived in poverty just like a lot of people over there, and they reached out to help us during difficult times. We had good neighbors."

His father was released in 1989, weak and with health problems that would require several years of recovery. Nobody in his family knows why he was held for so long or why authorities decided to let him go. They emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 as political refugees, landing in upstate New York, a world away from steamy Ho Chi Minh City and its chaotic traffic.

"For the first time in my life, I saw snow coming down," said Tran, who was 19 and spoke little English when he arrived in Syracuse. "It was beautiful. It was like heaven to me."

He studied English — "Even now, I'm still learning," he said — and became a U.S. citizen in 1999. He joined the priesthood about 10 years ago, a vocation he probably would never have been able to pursue had he stayed in Vietnam, where his family's poverty likely would have limited him to life as a laborer.

### Adjusting to life overseas

Of the nearly 190,600 Southeast Asians working in South Korea, nearly 55,550 are Vietnamese, according to the Ministry of Justice. Vietnamese migrant workers face the typical obstacles of adjusting to life overseas, from eating unfamiliar foods to adapting to South Korea's cold winters. And in a country that is largely ethnically homogeneous and places a high value on material success, some may face discrimination or even abuse on and off the job.

An officer at the Incheon Support Center for Foreign Workers, a government agency for overseas workers, said some Vietnamese have reported being denied months of wages as well as benefits — from bonuses to paid holidays and severance pay — that their Korean coworkers receive.

"South Koreans behave condescendingly toward the Vietnamese workers. They seem to look down on them just because they are foreigners," the officer said, speaking on a customary condition of anonymity. "Or, South Koreans look down on them because they are from a less well-off country."

With only a half-dozen Vietnamese-speaking priests in South Korea, opportunities for the workers to hear a Mass in their native tongue are rare.

Tran said about 150 Vietnamese on average attend his Masses in Pusan. Most of the workers are men in their 20s to mid-40s. Many have a wife and children back home. About one-fifth are women; some marry Koreans, and others marry the Vietnamese men they meet here.

They work in construction, farming and fishing or at industrial jobs, sometimes 12 or more hours a day, Tran said. Even though their wages are low by U.S. standards, they make far more than they would in Vietnam.

"The work very, very hard," he said. "But most of them, they're very appreciative that they can have a better life in their country."

Even though they can talk with their families by phone, the biggest problem for most, particularly the men, is loneliness.

If he can't stay after Mass to counsel or eat with the congregants if he can. Many simply want to talk, and he shares his own struggles of being in South Korea without a family. He tells them to reach out to others, because keeping to yourself can make life harder.

He said the experience has changed him, helping him to be more focused on his work and thankful for what he has — especially since he knows he could easily be in their shoes.

Stars and Stripes staffer Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story.  
rowland.ashley@stripes.com



Courtesy of Thienan Tran

**Capt. Thienan Tran receives the offering from the Vietnamese Catholic community in Changwon, South Korea. Catholics representing the whole community bring wine and unleavened bread to the priest to be consecrated for use in Mass. Tran, an Air Force chaplain, frequently offers Mass and communion to the Vietnamese population throughout the Korean peninsula.**

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## 'Sasquatch' sightings during Boston blizzard

**MA** BOSTON — One was spotted in downtown Copley Square. Another was sighted trying to hail a cab in suburban Somerville.

People were watching out for the Boston Yeti: someone — maybe more than one person — who was getting laughs by walking through this week's blizzard in a Sasquatch suit.

New England Cable News reporter Tony Sabato tweeted a photo of the not-so-elusive creature. "Found the yeti in the blizzard at Copley Square in Boston," he said above a snapshot of the white, furry phantom looking rather pensive.

## Cookie competition gets a deflated twist

**MI** MUSKOGON — An annual western Michigan cookie competition held ahead of the Super Bowl is getting a new twist thanks to all the talk about deflated footballs.

In "The Ultimate Cookie Smackdown Poll," Ryke's Bakery, Catering & Cafe sells cookies decorated to represent the teams taking the field. Each sale is counted on a white board in the bakery.

This year, in addition to team logo cookies, there's a third option: cookies decorated with deflated footballs.

Customers who purchase the deflated cookie option get to pick which team they'll support.

## UPS driver throws box, urinates against house

**TX** HOUSTON — A UPS driver has been fired after a Houston homeowner posted security video that shows the delivery man throwing a parcel over a gate and urinating against a house.

Homeowner Ben Lucas said Tuesday that he checked his surveillance video after finding that the parcel was broken open.

The video shows the delivery man hurling the package over a gate, then unzipping his pants and relieving himself on the property.

## After being hit by car, cat crawls back from grave

**FL** TAMPA — If cats have nine lives, Bart the black and white feline from Tampa has certainly used up one.

The Tampa Bay Times reported that when 1½-year-old Bart was hit by a car earlier this month, owner Ellis Hutson was so distraught he couldn't stand the thought of burying the cat. He asked neighbor Dusty Albrinton to dig a shallow grave.

Five days later a matted and injured Bart emerged, meowing for food.

Hutson got in touch with the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, which through the Save-A-Pet Medical Fund will help cover costs of surgery to remove an embedded wire his jaw shut and insert a feeding tube.

## THE CENSUS

# 76

The number of bottles of fine wine, worth a total of more than \$300,000, recovered from a private cellar in Greensboro, N.C., after being stolen from the world-renowned French Laundry eatery. Who broke into the famed Napa Valley restaurant and how the wine got to the other side of the country have yet to be solved. The theft occurred on Christmas, a day after the restaurant closed for a six-month kitchen remodeling.



KAREN WARREN, HOUSTON CHRONICLE/AP

## Stealing a kiss

Jayden Guerra, 2, tries to kiss Julissa Solis, 3, in a kissing booth as their mothers take photos of them for Valentine's Day at Hermann Park in Houston.

## Catalogue SkyMall files for bankruptcy

**NY** NEW YORK — Apparently, airline passengers aren't buying enough garden gnomes, superhero pajamas and heated cat shelters. SkyMall has filed for bankruptcy.

The quirky in-flight shopping catalog has been a mainstay on airlines since 1989. Passengers with nowhere to go would pull it from the seatback and flip through the pages.

In recent years, passengers

have found other distractions. More planes have seatback TV screens. The federal government now allows passengers to keep Kindles and iPads on during the entire flight. And most jets in the U.S. now have Wi-Fi, meaning passengers can chat or do work.

## Suburb resident calls off hunt to cull coyotes

**OH** COLUMBUS — A central Ohio woman who hired professional hunters to cull the coyote population from her suburban property has called off

the hunt.

A city councilman in Dublin, northwest of Columbus, told The Columbus Dispatch that Kally Rish told two hunters hired to shoot coyotes on her 11-acre Washington Township property not to carry out the event. Rish's decision followed public uproar over the hunt on her land, which is surrounded by populated subdivisions.

## State plans to restore 'free coffee' signs

**WA** OLYMPIA — Signs alerting drivers to free

coffee will return to about a dozen highway rest stops in the state.

State transportation official Chris Christopher said the signs will be installed by March.

Volunteers and nonprofit groups serve free coffee at 37 highway rest stops in Washington, but drivers don't always know when it's available because worn or damaged signs have not been replaced.

## California sea lions take over Astoria docks

**OR** ASTORIA — About 200 sea lions have invaded the docks at the East Basin Mooring at the Port of Astoria.

They haul out when they're not feasting on smelt near the mouth of the Columbia River. Biologists expect they'll hang around for Chinook salmon in the spring.

KGW reported the sea lions are damaging docks and are a nuisance to boaters. Attempts to harass the animals into leaving have failed.

## Twins left mostly alone for months; parents in Nigeria

**NH** MANCHESTER — Twin 9-year-old boys were left mostly alone in their U.S. apartment for four months after their parents took three siblings to Nigeria and left an uncle to care for them, authorities said.

Police said the uncle, Giobari Atura, 25, told them he would stop by every couple of days to drop off food. Police found no edible food in the refrigerator and only ramen noodles in a cabinet in November. Atura was charged with one count of endangering the welfare of a child.

Atura's older brother, Jerusalem Monday, left for Nigeria with his wife and three of their children in July, intending to return in August. They told police they were delayed by illness and passport problems.

## Confederate shipwreck delays channel project

**GA** SAVANNAH — Before workers can start to deepen the busy shipping channel to the Port of Savannah, their first must remove a Confederate shipwreck still sitting at the bottom of the Savannah River after 150 years.

The CSS Georgia was an armored warship that never fired a shot in battle before Confederate troops scattered the ironclad in December 1864 to prevent its capture by Union Gen. William T. Sherman. Now its wreckage stands in the way of dredging the river to make room for larger classes of cargo ships.

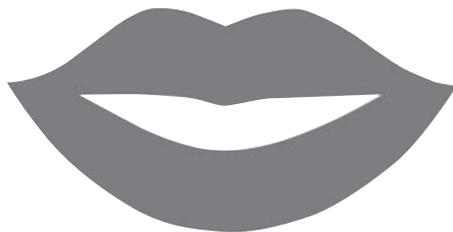
Officials have estimated the recovery will cost about \$14 million, a relatively small sum at the bottom of the harbor deepening's \$706 million price tag.

From wire reports

# WEEKEND



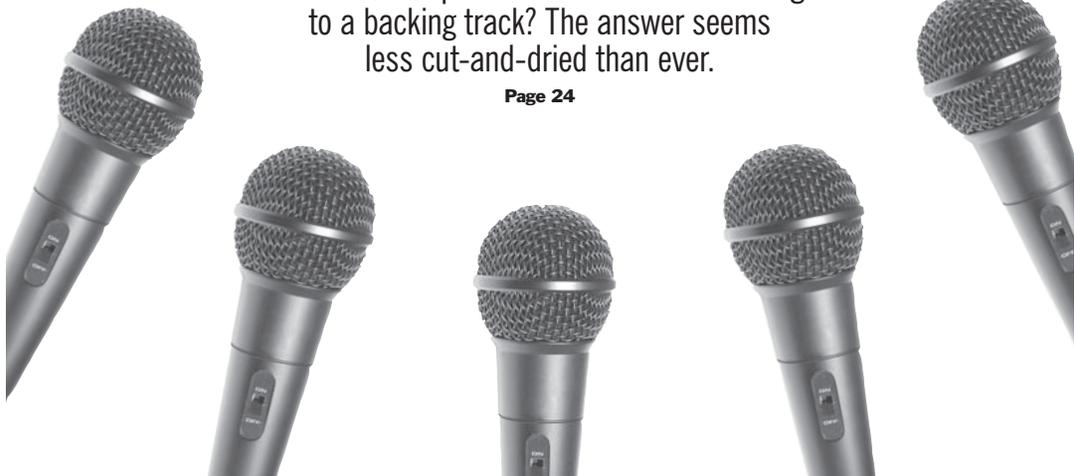
The return of  
Marilyn Manson  
Page 25



# That syncing feeling

Is it better to perform live and bomb or sing to a backing track? The answer seems less cut-and-dried than ever.

Page 24



# WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS

## Smart socks, smart pacifier, smart ring: The Internet of Things keeps growing



**Sensoria Smart Socks**  
Courtesy of Sensoria/TNS

By KEVIN HUNT  
Chicago Tribune

### Edyn Garden Sensor and Water Valve

**What:** A Wi-Fi-connected system with smartphone app for a sunfire green garden. The Garden Sensor analyzes soil and environmental conditions near your plants, then the Water Valve uses that data to water them as needed. The app recommends what to grow, and when, based on the sensor's information.

**Want it, need it?:** The unlucky, or lazy, gardener will want it.  
**Price, availability:** Garden Sensor (\$99.99) and Water Valve (\$59.99) by preorder; coming this spring.  
**Information:** edyn.com

### Sensoria Smart Socks

**What:** An electronic ankle that snaps magnetically onto the cuff of the sock. (The sock is washable; the ankle is not.) Why a smart sock instead of a smart watch? Sensoria says its device, with a stride analyzer and foot-landing gauge, can help a runner/walker reduce impact and avoid injury. The app displays, in a heat map, where pressure is placed on the foot and includes a coaching feature that voices advice when it detects poor form.

**Want it, need it?:** Neither.  
**Price, availability:** \$149, expected by March.  
**Information:** sensoriafitness.com

### XYZprinting Food Printer

**What:** A 3D printer that sculpts uncooked, doughy food, into gorgeous ready-to-cook cookies or cake decorations. Ford builds prototype car parts with 3D printers. But print-and-eat is something new.

**Want it, need it?:** From farm to table and now printer to mouth. It's all local, right?  
**Price, availability:** Uncertain, sometime this year.  
**Information:** xyzprinting.com

Will 2015 be the year of the connected pacifier, the almighty future-control ring or printable, edible cupcake frosting? Probably not, but I now feel less guilt-ridden about last year's endorsement of a slow cooker programmable and controllable by a smartphone app.

The wireless connection of everyday things continues.

### Pacifi Smart Pacifier

**What:** A Bluetooth-connected smart pacifier from Blue Maestro that sends a baby's temperature to a parent's smartphone. Be careful, though: It's a \$39 sucker. Fortunately, after Junior hurls it into the all-you-can-eat salad bar while you're not looking, a smartphone alarm will let you know it's missing as soon as it's out of Bluetooth range. Because this dishwasher-safe pacifier uses a low-energy Bluetooth Smart chip, the battery should last at least a year.

**Want it, need it?:** For the concerned baby, yes.  
**Price, availability:** \$39 (preorder), by midyear.  
**Information:** bluemaestro.com

### Self-Parking BMW i3 (Prototype)

**What:** An electric car that drives itself through a multistory parking garage, finds a space, parks and locks, then arrives at the exit when summoned — by the owner's smartwatch app. The on-board Remote Valet Parking Assistant uses four lasers to scan what's ahead while navigating the garage. BMW used a Samsung Gear S smartwatch in demonstrations at the Consumer Electronics Show, though it's possible they will develop apps for other smartwatch platforms.

**Want it, need it?:** Are you kidding? Absolutely.  
**Price, availability:** Uncertain.  
**Information:** bmwblog.com

## GADGET WATCH

# Virtual keyboard pairs with any Bluetooth device

By GREG ELLMAN  
Tribune News Service

**W**ith the Virtual Keyboard from Brookstone, you type like there's a keyboard there, even though there isn't. That might not make sense, but this is a really cool pocket-sized (2.4-by-1.6-by-0.6-inches, 2.75 ounce) device. Just pair the hardware with any Bluetooth device you want to use.

Turn it on and lay the virtual keyboard — which uses laser projection — on any flat surface. Optics track your fingers typing and communicate with the device with which the keyboard is paired.

The device projects a keyboard approximately 11 inches wide by 4 inches high. A display shows key features such as battery level, caps lock, volume, sensitivity settings and brightness.

The three sensitivity levels are for different light conditions and even for those of you who have painted fingernails. Different modes can be set for how you position your fingers and wrist for typing and for using the device as a mouse.

An internal 500mAh lithium-ion rechargeable battery will last for about two hours of continuous typing.

**Online:** Brookstone.com \$119.99

**The Phorce Freedom** over-the-shoulder messenger smart bag holds everything you would expect but also charges two USB devices inside the bag.

The main compartment holds a whopping 15,000mAh lithium-ion rechargeable battery that

**Pair any Bluetooth device with Brookstone's Virtual Keyboard, and you can type like there's a real keyboard in front of you.**

TNS



can charge devices simultaneously, including tablets and smartphones.

The battery is built with intelligent connectors that automatically supply the proper voltage to each device.

The bag is coated natural canvas and has dark gunmetal hardware. In case of rain, its water-resistant fabric and waterproof zippers will help keep the contents dry.

If you prefer, the bag's strap splits into two, converting the shoulder bag to a backpack. Or take off the straps and use it as a briefcase.

A microUSB cable is included for charging the battery.

**Online:** phorce.com; \$199

**Chicxees Magic Opener** isn't really magic and doesn't require a USB connection, but I think it's cool so I'll tell you about it.

It's designed to open any bottle or can on the planet and is especially good for anyone suffering from arthritis or other hand ailments.

Sometimes even bottles with a twist-off cap can be a challenge for your hands, but not with this magic opener.

It's advertised as "No strain, no pain, perfect for seniors, kids and gentle on hands." I can say after using on a few bottles it's all of that.

A magnetic back makes it easy to store and find the bottle-shaped opener.

The Original (\$19.99) opens bottles and soda cans, while the Extreme (\$24.99) opener will do the same as well as open canned food.

**Online:** MagicOpener.com

**The iDapt wireless charger (i4w Qi)** is as useful as it gets for charging multiple or single portable electronic gadgets — even some without cords.

It's compatible with more than 5,000 devices, and can charge up to four simultaneously. If your device is Qi enabled, all you do is lay it on the front of the base to charge it.

In addition to wireless charging, iDapt charging systems are known for their charging "tips" that are interchangeable.

Tips included with the system are a pair of microUSB, miniUSB and both the newer Apple Lightning and older 30-pin chargers. Additional tips can be purchased for \$9.99 each.

Any two of these can be put to use with the same time along with the Qi-enabled device. The fourth device can be charged out of the USB port (2.1 to 2.4amps) with your own USB cable.

Built-in technology lets the charger sense what charge is needed for any device, enabling it to be charged at the correct speed. **Online:** idaptweb.com \$59.99

ON THE COVER: PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SEAN MOORES/STARS AND STRIPES

## ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 albums on the iTunes Store for Jan. 28:

1. "American Beauty/American Psycho," Fall Out Boy
2. "1989," Taylor Swift
3. "B4 Da \$\$," Joey Bada\$\$
4. "Vulnicura," Bjork
5. "Title" (Deluxe), Meghan Trainor
6. "x," Ed Sheeran
7. "Tetsuo & Youth," Lupe Fiasco
8. "The Pinkprint," Nicki Minaj
9. "2014 Forest Hills Drive," J. Cole
10. "What a Terrible World, What a Beautiful World," The Decemberists

— Compiled by TNS

## SPOTIFY MUSIC

The most streamed tracks on Spotify for Jan. 19-25:

1. Mark Ronson, "Uptown Funk"
2. Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud"
3. Hozier, "Take Me to Church"
4. Sam Smith, "I'm Not the Only One"
5. Flo Rida, "GDFR" (feat. Sage The Gemini and Lookas)
6. Ellie Goulding, "Love Me Like You Do — from the "Fifty Shades Of Grey" soundtrack
7. The Weeknd, "Earned It" (Fifty Shades Of Grey) / from the "Fifty Shades Of Grey" soundtrack
8. Big Sean, "I Don't F— With You"
9. Nicki Minaj, "Only"
10. Maroon 5, "Sugar"

— Compiled by The Associated Press

## ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Jan. 28:

1. "Lucy"
2. "Gone Girl"
3. "The Drop"
4. "Bayhead"
5. "Dracula Untold"
6. "The Interview"
7. "John Wick"
8. "A Walk Among the Tombstones"
9. "Fury"
10. "The Equalizer"

— Compiled by TNS

## VIDEO GAMES

The editors of Game Informer rank the Top 10 Wii U games for January:

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

— Compiled by TNS

## APPS

Top 5 new paid apps for Jan. 28:

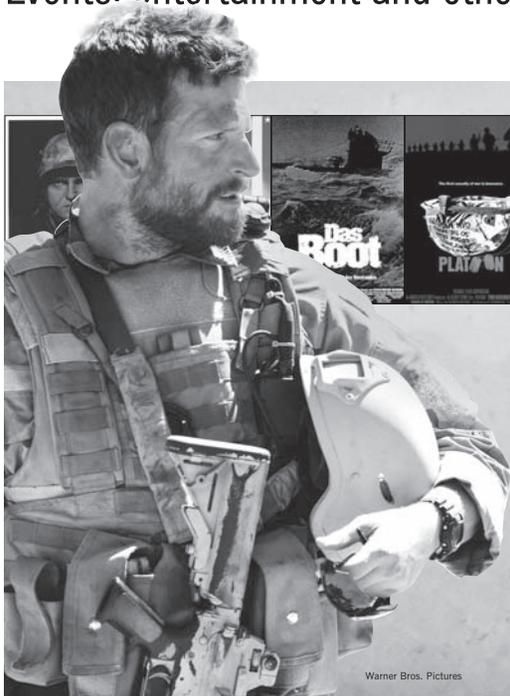
- ANDROID
1. Adventure Time Game Wizard
  2. Flackers
  3. Ref. Guide for Essential Oils
  4. SpongeBob: Sponges on the Run
  5. Blaze and the Monster Machines
- Top 5 paid apps for Jan. 28:
- APPLE
1. Trivia Crack (Ad Free)
  2. Minecraft — Pocket Edition
  3. Heads Up!
  4. Five Nights at Freddy's 2
  5. Five Nights at Freddy's

— Compiled by TNS

WEEKEND

# CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



1

## Vote for your favorite war movie

"American Sniper," starring Bradley Cooper (left), is setting January records at the U.S. box office. But where does the film rank among the best war movies of all time? We know you have an opinion, so share it with us in our online poll.

Vote now at [stripes.com/go/warmovies](http://stripes.com/go/warmovies)



Mark Wahlberg in "Lone Survivor"  
UNIVERSAL PICTURES/AP

2

## Help 'SNL' choose its 100 best skits

Speaking of polls, "Saturday Night Live" is getting ready to celebrate its 40th anniversary, and NBC wants to see your help in choosing the show's 100 best skits.

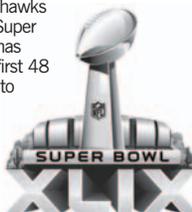


Whether you're a fan of "The McLaughlin Group," "Chippendales" or just want more cowbell, (left), take a look at the impressive list of choices and cast your vote at [snlbythedecade.com](http://snlbythedecade.com).

3

## Prepare to debate Super Bowl history

As the Pats and Seahawks prepare to battle in Super Bowl XLIX, nfl.com has ranked the league's first 48 title games. Be sure to check out the comments, because there's no better way to prep for the big game than with a classic sports argument.



• Photo essay at [tinyurl.com/kom97co](http://tinyurl.com/kom97co)

4

## The March Madness of sports movies

The NCAA basketball tournament is still more than a month away. But if you're itching to participate in some bracketology, and you also love sports movies, Paste magazine has got just the tournament for you. Paste has set up a bracket to determine the best sport movie ever. It's down to the Final Four: "Hoosiers," "Rocky," "Caddyshack" and "Bull Durham." The remaining films are all heavyweights, and it's bound to be an exciting finish. Get in on the action at [tinyurl.com/njv95jc](http://tinyurl.com/njv95jc).

## WEEKEND: MUSIC

By GLENN GAMBOA  
Newsday

**I**dina Menzel was facing her biggest crowd since the Oscars — a million or so revelers with her in Times Square for New Year's Eve and millions more watching at home.

She reaches for the high note that ends "Let It Go" — a challenging one to hit in the best of circumstances, much less in windy conditions with temperatures in the 20s for a performer doing eight Broadway shows a week. She misses. Badly.

The reaction on social media was harsh and predictable.

"Why does Idina Menzel sound like a goat right now?" asked one Twitter user. "They booked Idina Menzel, but got Adele Dazeem," added another.

Menzel's reaction, however, was surprising. She tweeted a photo of her interview with *Southwest* magazine where she said, "I am more than the notes I hit, and that's how I approach my life. You can't get it right all the time, but you can try your best. If you've done that, all that's left is to accept your shortcomings and have the courage to try to overcome them."

# So you think you can sync?

## Artists' use of backing tracks during live performances gains acceptance

In a time when lip-syncing is increasingly becoming the norm for singers in situations where it used to be unheard of, Menzel is taking a stand for live performance for better or worse. And music fans really should have her back.

After all, why should the artist singing live be judged more harshly for a mistake than the artist who is miming the words? Of course, no one said show business was fair. But it could be a little fairer. Maybe those who rush to criticize Mariah Carey for her struggle to sing "All I Want for Christmas Is You" live at the Rockefeller Center tree-lighting ceremony could save some criticism for those who lip-sync, especially in the current awards season.

The temptation to play it safe or, in TV speak, "to guarantee the best performance possible" is growing, especially as shows make more and more exceptions to what used to be hard-and-fast rules for live singing.

When Ashlee Simpson made her infamous failed lip-sync attempt on "Saturday Night Live" in 2004, the show's executive producer, Lorne Michaels, said it would have been the program's first lip-synced performance. He said it goes against the show's essence, adding that lip-syncing is generally used only "during dance breaks ... if it was all about dance."

However, in recent years, that has changed. The use of backing tracks is much more commonplace, leading to more hybrid performances.

There's an obvious moment in Nicki Minaj's 2011 "SNL" performance where she moves the mic away from her face while the track she was just lip-syncing to continues, even though she was clearly rapping live during the same song.

This season, Danish singer MØ apologized for her inability to match the backing track during Iggy Azalea's performance of "Beg For It," resulting in her mistimed, off-key contributions. "I had some technical issues, which caused latency on my vocals and as a result I got confused and my timing was off," she said in her Instagrammed apology. "It pains me and I'm so sad today. But life goes on."

The question that never got answered, though, was why she needed a backing track with her vocals on it in the first place? Could it be, as many speculated, that Azalea was using the same backing track for her vocals, too? Only the sound man knows for sure.

That will likely also be the case for Sunday's Super Bowl halftime show with Katy Perry. Perry, who has been known to lip-sync, is expected to use a mix of backing tracks and live vocals for the show, which will include Lenny Kravitz. She isn't really talking about her plans for the show, except for the extra effort she's putting into her entrance and exit.

Given the current climate that's more accepting of lip-syncing and more critical of vocal missteps, it's an understandable decision. But it's also a missed opportunity at creating a true, once-in-a-lifetime moment — and it also diminishes the power of performing. One more thing that Menzel understands better than most.

"Performing isn't only about the acrobatics and the high notes," Menzel says. "It's staying in the moment, connecting with the audience in an authentic way and making yourself real to them through the music."

# Faking it big

The consequences of lip-syncing used to be far more dire than they are today. Here's a look at some of the most memorable offenders:

## Milli Vanilli (1990)

**The scandal:** Milli Vanilli producer Frank Farian reveals that German models-dancers Fab Morvan and Rob Pilatus never sang a note on their multi-platinum album, "Girl You Know It's True," which landed a Grammy for best new artist, or in any of their performances.

**The fallout:** They returned the Grammy in disgrace and their careers were ruined. Pilatus died from a drug overdose in 1998. Morvan has tried unsuccessfully to launch a solo career.



## Ashlee Simpson (2004)

**The scandal:** Suffering from severe acid reflux that strained her voice, Simpson tries to lip-sync her song "Autobiography" on "Saturday Night Live," but her drummer triggers the recorded vocals to her song "Pieces of Me" instead. Embarrassed, Simpson does a little jig and then runs off the stage.

**The fallout:** "SNL" executive producer says her early exit is the first in the show's history and her attempted lip-syncing is the first outside of "dance breaks." Simpson's musical career suffered, but she has had runs on Broadway in "Chicago," as well as acting gigs.



## Britney Spears (2007)

**The scandal:** Spears couldn't keep up with the lyrics as she lip-synced "Gimme More" on the MTV Video Music Awards, not even moving her mouth at times, as she struggled to keep up with her dance steps as well.

**The fallout:** Despite some short-term fallout for looking dazed and unprepared, Spears rebounded. And she seems to have embraced lip-syncing in her tours — where, at times, she even lip-syncs talking to the crowd — and in her current residency at Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas.



## 'X Factor' (2011)

**The scandal:** Contestant Leroy Belle is late to hold his mic up to his mouth as he lip-syncs in a group performance. It turns out all the finalists in the singing competition were lip-syncing that song and other non-judged performances.

**The fallout:** In an effort to save the then-struggling show, producers pointed out that the lip-syncing during non-judged performances was a common practice on other singing competitions, including "American Idol." How dare we expect singing competition contestants to, you know, sing!



## WEEKEND: MUSIC



# CONTROLLED CHAOS

## 'Pale Emperor' ushers in the return of Marilyn Manson

By **AUGUST BROWN**  
*Los Angeles Times*

**A**round 8 p.m. on a recent Wednesday night, in a candlelit, marble-plated West Hollywood, Calif., hotel room, Marilyn Manson reached into his pocket and flicked open a switchblade.

"The Roman Emperor Constantius was referred to as the 'Pale Emperor.' He liked to dress up as a woman and (torture) men and have them dance for him," Manson said. "I identify with that petulant pursuit of chaos."

Manson's blade (and his own rows of metallic teeth) glinted gold in the candlelight. For a moment, it seemed like he might actually be pondering something sinister. Instead, he looked down at the knife and grinned. "I prefer using this to eat oysters."

Nearly 20 years after his 1996 album "Antichrist Superstar" made him America's most infamous musician, Manson still has the power to unnervify. In person, however, he's also droll and self-aware, prone to knife-twirling goofiness and Southern-gentleman affectations.

What's even more startling is that, at 46, he just made one of the best albums of his career.

"The Pale Emperor," released Jan. 20, is a 10-song LP that's just as quick and ferocious as his switchblade. The album largely sheds his trademark industrial-music howl, replacing it with slick, glamorous brooding that evokes goth-punk pioneers like the Birthday Party and Christian Death.

After his widely praised acting on "Sons of Anarchy" (where he played a white supremacist gang leader) and a cameo on "Eastbound & Down" (where he played a schlub in orange shorts and a mopy brow wig), Manson might be preparing for a new role: as a musician at the unexpected height of his powers.

As befits his imperial album title, Manson doesn't really have conversations. He holds court. Within minutes of sitting down on his suite's couch, he's already gone over the repulsion he still feels toward his home state of Florida, ancient Chilean astronomical discoveries and how he finally buried the hatchet with his longtime '90s rock adver-

sary, Billy Corgan. He was especially giddy over a recent gift from a friend, a copy of Goethe's "Faust" that he said was "once owned by a very unsavory character, a German's personal copy."

Did he mean Hitler? "I think you can figure it out," he said, affecting a cryptic flair.

"The Pale Emperor" comes after probably the most difficult stretch of his career. After his then-label Interscope Records released him from his contract (a move largely attributed to slow sales of his 2009 album, "The High End of Low"), his relationship with actress Evan Rachel Wood ended, and 2012's "Born Villain" didn't revitalize his career as hoped. His on-again-off-again frame began to soften from drinking, drugs and age.

Some of the hardest moments came, he said, when his mother died during the making of "The Pale Emperor." Even for someone as death-obsessed as Manson, when he talks about her, he curls into the couch a bit.

"It's inevitable,

I know, and I made my peace with her a few years ago when she was no longer aware of who I was," he said. In the record's liner notes, he dedicates the album to her, following her dementia-related death in 2014. "My father drove from Ohio to California to see my show on Halloween; I didn't understand why he drove, but he later told me he was spreading her ashes on Route 66."

Two unanticipated new relationships changed his outlook on songwriting. The first and more personal one, with the photographer and fellow goth-complexioned muse Lindsay Usich, brought him a more stable (by Manson standards) home life. The second, with producer Tyler Bates — the film composer behind scores for Hollywood action romps like "Guardians of the Galaxy" and "300" — helped him re-imagine what Marilyn Manson could sound like.

"He is a living performance-art experiment. He is a school bus full of children perched on a ledge, and you can't look away," Bates said. "There aren't a lot of real rock stars left, and he's one of them."

The two met on the set of the Showtime series "Californication," where Manson was playing himself.

Bates started recording with him as a casual, friendly collaboration, to get Manson's head back in the game. But the sessions (often starting with just a microphone, a digital kick drum and Bates playing guitar) soon yielded an unprecedented new sound for both of them.

"He really gave himself over to a process unlike any other for him so far," Bates said. "For me, writing music for film is listening to the story and writing for character roles."

This was a really different project, but I called that same idea to working with Manson."

The result is a record that is the best possible way to imagine Manson starting down 50. The self-anointed "Mephistopheles of Los Angeles" takes the open post-punk space of Siouxsie and the Banshees and adds a heavy drum swing and vocal wails that seem to come

straight from the back of the Bronson Canyon caves in the Hollywood Hills. The single "Third Day of a Seven Day Binge" rides a grime-caked bass line into a lament about (or maybe an ode to) imminent self-destruction.

"A lot of people say the record has a blues sound to it, but 'blues' goes to a few core things," Manson said. "It's actually quite Faustian, with (legendary bluesman) Robert Johnson selling his soul to the devil. So there were a lot of strange parallels on this record, like a snake eating its tail."

It was won over Tom Whalley, the former chairman and CEO of Warner Bros. Records who worked with Manson during his time at Interscope in the '90s. Whalley is releasing "The Pale Emperor" on his Loma Vista imprint, where more polite acts like Spoon, St. Vincent and Rhye now count the "Beautiful People" singer as a label mate.

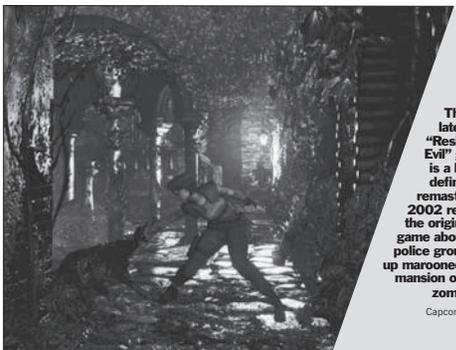
Initially, a new Manson album "wasn't something I was chasing," Whalley said. "It felt like [a] long shot for me to be interested in it, and his last few records weren't really up to his past standards. But I heard the songs, and I was beyond impressed."

He knew they'd have a difficult job convincing skeptics that Marilyn Manson was really, truly back. Sure, Manson's core audience will always give him a fair shake. But the harder part, Whalley said, was "how to get people who wouldn't think they'd like it to open up to listening. We'd play his music for our other acts and their teams, and all of them would say, 'Oh, my God, I like it. I never thought I'd like a Marilyn Manson album in today's world.' That's part of why people are intrigued with this — he's a living, breathing rock star who has found a fresh moment."

How that fresh moment will play out commercially is anyone's guess. Between the current '90s revival in fashion and music and an affection for occultish, drugged-up aesthetics across hip-hop and underground music, it's an appropriate time for a Manson revival. When Kanye West released his stomping 2013 single "Black Skinhead," many fans falsely assumed it was based on a sample of Manson's "The Beautiful People," and they found the prospect enticing.

Whalley doesn't reasonably expect to sell much more than half a million records worldwide. By comparison, it took West's "Yeezus" seven months to go platinum. "The goals are to have an impact, period, which can mean many different things. [Fans] watch the videos and stream his songs millions of times, the social media engagement is incredible — the music will have [a] reach far beyond commercial sales."

## WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



The latest "Resident Evil" game is a high-definition remaster of a 2002 remake of the original 1996 game about a secret police group who end up marooned in a hillside mansion overrun with zombies.

Capcom photos

# 'Resident Evil'

## Still suffering beautifully after all these years

By MICHAEL THOMSEN/Special to *The Washington Post*

**Y**ou hear Lisa Trevor before you see her. Her wail rises from a locked basement stairwell, more searching than threatening, but shrill enough to signal trouble. Later, you find her bandages hanging beside a freshly lit fire in an old cabin. On the ground outside, you read her name on a list of the experimental injections that turned her 14-year-old body into a molting monstrosity. Emphasis on details like these, which immerse players in a landslide of sensory experiences before connecting them to plot points or system rules, have defined "Resident Evil" games and helped make survival horror a mass market phenomenon.

The latest in the series is simply called "Resident Evil," a high-definition remaster of a 2002 remake of the original 1996 PlayStation game about a secret police group who end up marooned in a hillside mansion overrun with zombies. The 2002 remake was a high point in video game history, something which, at the time, seemed like a visionary artifact sent back in time from the future. Thirteen years later, its layers of delicately intertwined systems are as powerful as ever. Yet the persistence of its power is evidence of a lost future, a style of design, emotional manipulation, and technological trickery that's been mostly abandoned.

The most simultaneously characteristic and anachronistic part of "Resident Evil" is its movement system. Commonly called "tank controls," movement is accomplished through an awkward process of rotating the character clockwise or counterclockwise, then pressing up on the joystick or d-pad to make them move in whichever direction they've wound up facing. Unlike contemporary controls, in which one's character moves in whichever direction the joystick points, "Resident Evil's" rotational controls separate movement into two independently controllable vectors. The movement system is inseparable from the game's visual technology. A product of the first generation of three-dimensional games in the mid-'90s and built for a system with 2MB of memory, "Resident Evil" uses a process called pre-rendering to create the impression of greater visual detail than the first PlayStation was capable of producing in real-time.

Not unlike rear-projection in old movies, pre-rendering creates a high-detail recording of an environment on hugely powerful computers and then uses the recording as a looping and non-interactive backdrop, on top of which a handful of game items would be rendered in real-time.

While later consoles would eventually be powerful enough to run 3-D worlds without the pre-rendering trickery, the visuals of 2002's "Resident Evil" were inseparable from the game's pacing, controls, enemy encounters and puzzle design. The remastered version's one concession to contemporary design—an option to use a

direct control scheme to replace the rotational model—feels all wrong. It turns the game into a vaudevillian slapstick, with players sprinting through spaces meant for slowness and tension.

The genre's signature limits on ammunition and healing items make each decision to pull the trigger an implicit bet that there will be more shotgun shells or magnum rounds to find later on. Zombies will come back to life after a set time as more powerful Crimson Heads, which makes the decision to fight a choice between whether

you think you'll be able to risk having to return to a room or hallway later on, exposed to even more danger.



There are minor attempts at modernization. Online leaderboards let you track the time it

took to finish the game, and there is a small encyclopedia of options for replaying, including an often infamously difficult mode that makes all enemies invisible. Character models have been redone to add detail, while lighting and reflection effects have been improved to add even more dreamy realism to the mansion. The pre-rendered environments themselves have gained a slight granularity. What seemed a marvel in 2002 is more apparent as technological trickery in 2015.

Yet, all these years later, "Resident Evil" still works beautifully. Its sound effects, cinematic cameras, zombies, corrupt corporations, lush visuals, and biochemical experiments create an interactive system that bridges the gap between what you cannot see but know through intuition, and what you see but know isn't real. And Lisa Trevor still lurks beneath it all, a howl coming from the other side of a locked gate, a lost girl still convinced she'll find her mother and make an escape, incapable of understanding the entire compound has already been abandoned.

## WEEKEND

## Europe

## THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE

## MAKE A DATE WITH MYSTERY: Venice Carnevale

Carnival season is upon us, and one of the earliest and most elaborate celebrations in Europe takes place in Venice, Italy. Carnevale di Venezia starts Saturday and runs through Feb. 17. Festivities open with an evening water show starting at 6 p.m. Saturday in the city's most northerly district of Cannaregio. A decorated boat procession follows on Sunday morning, with wine tasting and Venetian edibles in abundance.

The Grand Theater, a temporary stage erected in St. Mark's Square, will host a variety of shows and concerts Feb. 7-17. On Feb. 7, the historical parade known as the Feste delle Marie will start at San Piero di Castello at 2:30 p.m., proceeding along via Garibaldi and Riva degli Schiavoni and reaching St. Mark's Square at 4 p.m., where 12 young women representing brides will take to the stage.

Masked costume contests will be held on the square twice daily, with visitors invited to don their finest get-ups and take to the stage. Or, you can reserve a place in the audience for 30 euros. During the parades, street artists, masked groups and traditional dancers will perform on



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Costumed participants at the Venice Carnival pose for tourists on a bridge spanning one of the city's famous canals.

the Grand Theatre's stage. Book a seat or register for the contest at <http://tinyurl.com/q7xtur>.

On Feb. 15, a panel of judges will declare the winners.

Also among the key moments

of Carnevale is the Flight of the Angel, a tradition that began in the mid-1500s. In this spectacle, set for Feb. 8, an artist hangs from a metal cable, and, suspended in air, makes her descent

from the top of St. Mark's Bell Tower to the Doge's Palace.

Private parties and masquerade balls, both behind the scenes and inside Venice's grand palaces, abound throughout the

two weeks of celebrations. While many of Venice's carnival events may be attended for free, the parties and balls can be very expensive. Find program details at [carnevale.venezia.it](http://carnevale.venezia.it).

## TOP TRAVEL PICKS

## Carnival comes to Italy

Venice might be the city that springs to mind in the context of Carnival celebrations in Italy; its canals certainly make an evocative backdrop for lavish disguises. But countless other communities also celebrate at this time of year. Here is a quick peek at a trio of places where Carnival is quite special, too:

- **Acireale:** This Baroque city in the province of Catania hosts what's regarded as one of Sicily's most beautiful Carnivals, and its grotesque floats are so beloved that they're pulled out for a repeat performance in August. See them in a parade at noon Sunday or on Feb. 17; they are also on display Feb. 8, 12 and 14. Flower parades take place at 4 p.m. Feb. 15 and 5 p.m. Feb. 16. Festivities close with more fanfare Feb. 17. Learn more at [carnevaleacireale.com](http://carnevaleacireale.com).

- **Ivrea:** Carnival celebrations in this city in the province of Turin include a cast of historical characters, including the miller's daughter and the Napoleonic general staff. It's best known for its Battle of Oranges, the re-enactment of an act of rebellion. The battle pits the orange throwers, who are on foot, against Napoleonic troops perched atop



Karen Bradbury

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

carts. Battles take place at 2 p.m. Feb. 15 and 17 and at 2:15 p.m. Feb. 16. The general public can get into the orange tossing action, too. Learn how at [storiciocarnevaleivrea.it/English](http://storiciocarnevaleivrea.it/English).

- **Viareggio:** Tuscany's most famous Carnival celebrations feature huge papier-mâché caricatures lampooning politicians and other figures in the public eye. The hugely popular parades, broadcast on national television, take place at 3 p.m. Sunday, and on Feb. 8, 15 and 22. The last parade, at 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 28, is followed by a spectacular fireworks display.

Adult tickets, available on site, cost 18 euros (about \$20.85);

ages 7-12 pay 13 euros, those age 6 and younger enter for free. Learn more at <http://viareggio.it/carnivale.com/en>.

## Alps craft fair

Aosta, an Italian city nestled in the Alps close to the French and Swiss borders, hosts its traditional crafts market on the same dates each year: Jan. 30 and 31.

The traditional Sant'Orso fair, named after a benevolent sixth century saint, dates back more than a millennium. More than 1,000 artists and craftsmen from the surrounding valley come to town to display their handiworks, which include sculpture and carvings, wrought iron wares, leather goods, lace, weavings and more. L'Atelier, open through Sunday, is an exhibition space where visitors can observe craftsmen at work.

In addition, the fair offers music, folklore and a chance to sample culinary specialties and wines of the region. A highlight of the fair is always the festivity known as the "Veilla" on the night of Jan. 30, when high-spirited crowds take to the illuminated city streets until dawn.

Aosta is located about 70 miles north of Turin.

Learn more about the fair at



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Viareggio hosts one of Tuscany's most famous Carnival celebrations.

[feriadisantorso.it/GB/indexGb.htm](http://feriadisantorso.it/GB/indexGb.htm).

## German military tattoo

The sounds of military marches and brass bands will echo through the halls of Frankfurt's Festhalle this evening with the staging of "Musikparade."

From late January to mid-March, this military tattoo tours two dozen cities throughout Germany. A typical edition boasts about seven orchestras playing from a repertoire that includes both civilian and military brass band music. Selections range from jazz to classics and include music from films and musicals, greatest all-time hits and contemporary pop music. Choirs and

folklore ensembles also perform. The colorful uniforms of the performers and intricate choreography make the show as fun to watch as it is to hear. The show lasts about three hours, including a 15-minute intermission.

Tickets, available online, range in price from 29 to 45 euros (about \$34 to \$52); children enjoy a 20 percent discount. Cities and tour dates include: Hanover, Jan. 31; Berlin, Feb. 1; Wetzlar, Feb. 6; Nuremberg, Feb. 7; Ulm/Neu-Ulm, Feb. 8; Cologne, Feb. 21; Ludwigshafen, March 8; Munich, March 13; Stuttgart, March 14; Trier, March 15.

For the complete schedule and details, see [bundesmusikparade.de](http://bundesmusikparade.de).

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

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

# Journey into darkness

Vicenza exhibit looks at nighttime images through the ages

By NANCY MONTGOMERY  
Stars and Stripes

The Vicenza municipal museum's new art exhibition, "Tutankhamon Caravaggio Van Gogh," explores the artistic idea of evening and night — the most mysterious time of day, associated with love, magic, danger and death, from the Egyptians to the 20th century.

At least that's what the subtitle says. I didn't always understand the connection during a recent visit, such as when I was looking at an orange and maroon painting by Mark Rothko.

No explanation on individual paintings would be forthcoming, however. Though the exhibit's website, <http://tinyurl.com/ou9wu54>, does offer an English summary of the intent of the exhibit, the curation descriptions for the paintings are in Italian only, as is the audio guide.

I did get the golden, glorious sunset in Winslow Homer's painting of mackerel boats at Gloucester and in Edward Hopper's painting of a pharmacy, its window aglow in the inky dark, with a sign promising Ex-Lax.

There were also spectacular paintings by Caravaggio, Titian, El Greco, Van Gogh, Turner, Whistler, Mondrian, Klee and Andrew Wyeth. So even if you don't understand some of them, their beauty and power will cast a spell nonetheless.

The exhibit of 115 artworks, which runs through June 2, is arranged in six thematic sections, according to the website. It begins under a starry ceiling in a room with ancient artifacts and statues found in the Egyptian pyramids, including a depiction of the head of Tutankhamon, and "dwells on the meaning of the eternal spiritual night."

The second section, with a variety of Renaissance masterpieces, "explores the suggestive atmosphere of figures depicted in night settings, especially in paintings depicting the life of Jesus."

Next was a room with Rembrandt's amazing etchings on religious subjects and a selection of the Italian artist Piranesi's amazing etchings of Kafkaesque prisons.

Then came dusky and nighttime landscapes, with artists from the 19th century, from the Romantic period up to Impressionism, followed in the penultimate section of the exhibit by 20th century abstract painters such as Rothko and hyper-realist painters such as Wyeth.

These later paintings are meant to present a "psychological" reading of the deepest night, according to the press release.

The last section contains a mix of artists and centuries; a summary of all that came



Left: Paul Cezanne is best known for landscapes. This early work titled "Homicide" is included in an art exhibit that tracks the idea of evening and night as portrayed in art from the Egyptians through the 20th Century. The show at Vicenza's municipal museum runs through June 2.



Vincent van Gogh's painting of a country road with cypress and star is considered by experts to show the artist's belief that his death was approaching.

before. Paul Gauguin is there with his Tahitian women, while Caravaggio's magnificent Narcissus stares lovingly at his own reflection.

Paul Cezanne's disturbing "Homicide" shows the opposite

of love. But the last painting is Van Gogh's "Road with Cypress and Star." Art experts have suggested that the painting reflected the artist's feeling that he would die soon.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

Below: A painting by American artist Edward Hopper titled "Drug Store" shows a pharmacy window aglow in the inky dark, with a sign promising Ex-Lax. The work is one of 115 in the exhibit.

Photos Courtesy of Linea d'Ombra



## ON THE QT

### DIRECTIONS

Vicenza's municipal museum is inside the Basilica Palladiana in the historic city center.

### TIMES

Open 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

### COSTS

12 euros for adults; 6 euros for minors and 9 euros for students with I.D. and those over 65.

### FOOD

Numerous cafes and restaurants are close at hand.



Stars and Stripes

### INFORMATION

Bookings and information: (+39) 0422 429999 or [biglietto@lineadombra.it](mailto:biglietto@lineadombra.it). Website: <http://tinyurl.com/ou9wu54>

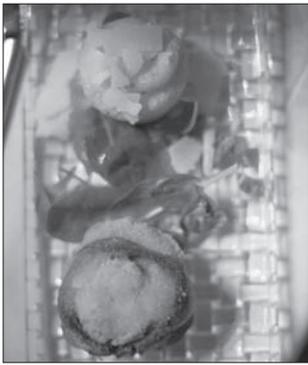
— Nancy Montgomery

## WEEKEND: FOOD &amp; DINING

## Europe



A black swine ("maiale nero") pork chop at Panart in Carinaro, Italy, just outside the U.S. naval base support site in the Naples area. The dish is served with sides of escarole and baby spinach.



PHOTOS BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

A potato-cheese puree, top, and a porcini mushroom stuffed with eggplant are part of the "antipasti dalla terra" at Panart.

## After Hours: Italy

By STEVEN BEARDSLEY  
Stars and Stripes

I'd go back to Panart. Crazy as the place may feel on the inside, with its faux grotto interior, mirrored dividing walls and plastic chairs set at wobbly tables, I'd return to the Carinaro restaurant for its *antipasti dalla terra* alone, a savory assortment of meat, cheese and veggie appetizers.

The mascarpone fritter in honey. The *porcini* mushroom stuffed with eggplant puree. The *prosciutto* wrapped in pancetta. All are nicely done and different enough from what's typical in these parts to make a second trip worthwhile. There's a bit more to like about Panart than just the *antipasti*, however.

The location is convenient for many Navy personnel assigned here, only 10 minutes from the base support site in Gricignano d'Aversa. Built into a renovated palace in the small town of Carinaro, the restaurant occupies a large space ideal for bigger dinners, with separate dining rooms and event spaces set around an outdoor patio.

Granted, a space that might have been hopping on a summer night on the weekend felt rather vacant on a recent cold and rainy Tuesday evening. But food matters most in Naples, and Panart has plenty to offer. Besides *antipasti*, there are pizzas, grilled meat cuts and some inventive pastas. With some hesitation we passed over the *cacio e pepe* with pork cheeks and a razor clam pasta, zeroing in on the meats. We eventually settled on Argentine beef cuts and a chop of black pork (*maiale nero*).

The beef arrived with sautéed mushrooms, the pork with escarole sautéed with capers and olives, a welcome change in an area where broccoli *rappini* is the go-to green. A small bed of baby spinach came with each dish.

## PANART

Address: via Mazzini, 2  
— 81032 Carinaro (CE)

**Getting there:** A GPS device or phone app is recommended. Carinaro is small, but the roads are often unmarked and directions can be confusing.

**Hours:** Open for dinner 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. every Tuesday to Sunday.

**Prices:** *Antipasti a la carte* runs about 6 euros; pastas from 9 euros up; pizzas closer to 6 euros and meat dishes 9 euros and up.

**Recommended:** The *antipasti dalla terra* is a selection of

meats, cheeses and veggie appetizers.

**Parking:** Street parking is available, as is parking at a large lot around the corner.

There may or may not be someone watching cars, so remove valuables.

**Accessibility:** The menu is in Italian. However, our waitress spoke English well enough to answer our questions.

**Contact:** Daniela Scoglienera speaks English. Reach her at (+39) 338 24 54 467 or daniela@panarttriosound.it.

— Steven Beardsley



Sides of sautéed mushrooms and a bed of baby spinach come with the eatery's Argentine beef tips.

Our cuts were grilled nicely, and the sides went well. A bottle of *aglianico*, a favored red wine in this region, paired well with the juicy meats.

Our bill came to 57 euros (about \$65), a price easier to stomach now than it was a year ago, when the euro was much stronger against the dollar.

For a nice meal at roughly the same price, my money is still on Abraxas Osteria in Pozzuoli, which changes its menu seasonally, has daily specials and feels

cozier, even when a bit empty on a weekday night. La Fattoria del Campiglione, also in Pozzuoli, is in the same price zone and is recommended for meat lovers. I might be biased, living closer to both restaurants than to Gricignano.

But for a good dining option closer to the support site, Panart certainly deserves a look, whether it's your first or second.

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## Red beans, rice make a protein

By MELISSA D'ARABIAN  
The Associated Press

When I was growing up, beans and rice were an end-of-month staple. As money got tight, my mom would whip up a beans and rice casserole, a healthy, budget-friendly choice that stretched our pantry a bit longer.

Not that we necessarily appreciated it. "It's a complete protein!" Mom would proudly announce as my sister and I groaned. But mom was right — beans and rice are a great combination worth another look.

Red beans are a classic choice for this combination, especially in spicy Creole cuisine. Red beans and rice likely became popular because of its nutrition profile. Red kidney

beans are full of protein, fiber, vitamins and minerals. Just a half-cup serving has 8 grams each of protein and fiber — all for about 100 calories, and close to no fat.

Adding rice to the dish completes the amino acids needed to make a complete protein, making beans and rice a fantastic option for vegetarians. In Creole cuisine, the dish is flavored with a bit of meat, either sausage, ham, or just the ham bone leftover from a previous meal.

My version is quick and uses cubed ham to flavor the beans, along with some dried spices and herbs. And while the recipe is simple, the flavors are anything but. Between the ham, chipotle chili powder, cumin, thyme and garlic, you get a whole lot of flavor for not a lot of effort. And with Mardi Gras just around the corner, it seems like a great time for beans and rice, even if it isn't the end of the month!

## RED BEANS AND RICE

## Ingredients:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 yellow onion, finely chopped
- 1 large celery stalk, chopped
- 1 small red pepper, core and chopped
- 6 ounces cooked ham, cubed (about 1 cup)
- 3 cloves garlic, minced or pressed
- ½ teaspoon chipotle chili powder
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¼ cup dry white wine
- 3 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- Two 15-ounce cans red kidney beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 cups water
- 2 cups long-grain white rice
- Kosher salt
- 2 to 3 teaspoons cider vinegar or white vinegar
- Ground black pepper
- Fresh cilantro or parsley, chopped, to garnish

**Directions:**  
In a large, heavy saucepan over a medium flame, heat the

oil. Add the onion, celery, red pepper and ham and sauté until the vegetables are tender and the meat is starting to turn golden, about 7 minutes. Add garlic, chili powder, cumin and thyme, then cook for an additional 2 minutes.

Increase the heat to medium-high, then add the wine and stir to deglaze the pan. Stir until the wine bubbles and mostly evaporates, about 1 minute. Add the chicken broth and kidney beans, bring to a simmer, then lower the heat, cover and simmer for 30 minutes.

Meanwhile, in a large saucepan over a medium-high flame, bring the water to a simmer. Add the rice and a pinch of salt, then cover and reduce heat to maintain a simmer. Cook for 15 minutes, or until the water is absorbed and the rice is fluffy.

Once the beans are done, stir in 2 teaspoons of the vinegar. Taste and season with salt, pepper and additional vinegar, if needed. Spoon the rice into serving bowls, then top with the beans and fresh cilantro or parsley.

Makes 8 servings, 400 calories each.



MATTHEW MEAD/AP

Red beans and rice makes a great dish for vegetarians, or it can be flavored with meat such as cubes of ham, used in this recipe.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

# THE ART OF MOSAICS

## Italian school gives visitors a chance at the hammer

BY JANE FRIEDMANN  
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

The Italian mosaic master sat poised behind her small, wooden work stand, a log placed on end and embedded with a small, sharp steel tool.

She held a piece of marble no larger than a postage stamp against that ax-like tool and struck it with a hammer, cutting it into progressively smaller cubes.

Tink. Tink. Tink. Luciana Notturmi had no need to look as the pointed hammer swiftly descended into the tiny gap between finger and thumb. Her hands knew the drill.

In no time, she had eight or so perfect little cubes resting in the palm of her hand. Her gaze fell on her students, and with a slight smile she shrugged, as if to say, "See, that's all there is to it."

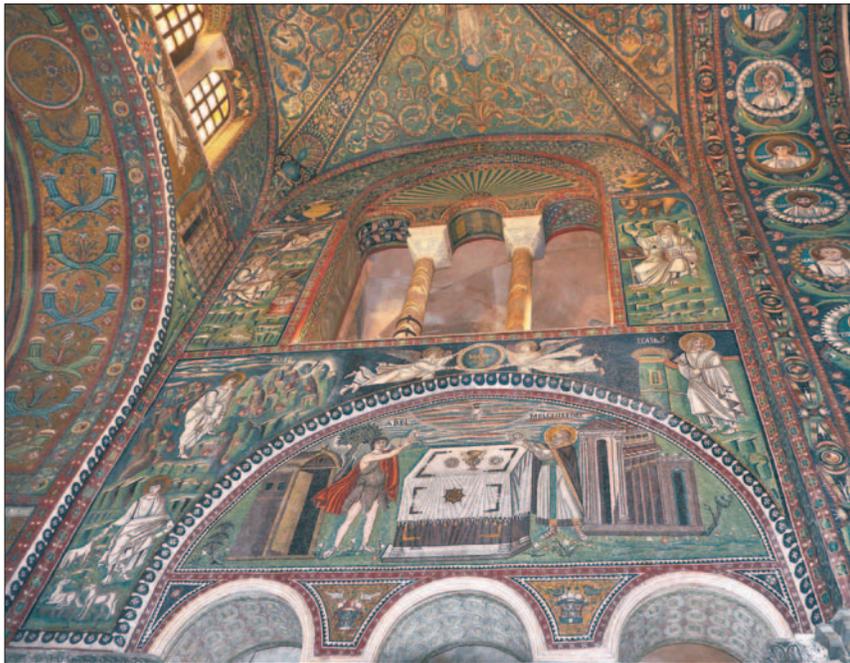
We looked at those cubes with furrowed brows, likely harboring a shared sentiment: "How many fingers am I going to lose by the time this class is over?" Notturmi's full-time students at a nearby mosaic-restoration academy in Ravenna, Italy, must spend four months perfecting their cutting techniques before they can construct a mosaic. The eight women who had signed up for her five-day crash course held at Notturmi's studio — myself included — had about four hours.

Fear of digit damage wouldn't hold me back during the class, an intensive introduction to the traditional techniques of the Byzantine artists of the fifth and sixth centuries. I'd traveled to Ravenna to learn how to create such artworks the right way, and I was determined to do it.

This Italian jewel of a city proved the perfect place for our studies. While pre-Christian Roman mosaicists excelled at flooring, Ravenna's mosaics, created mainly when the city was the capital of the Byzantine Empire, cover nearly every interior surface of many sacred buildings. The result is a glittering no-holds-barred carnival of color, form and movement, all within easy walking distance of the city's main square, Piazza del Popolo.

Notturmi's light-filled studio is tucked away, just south of one of the remaining gates in what used to be the city's defensive wall.

On Monday morning, the students listened as Notturmi, a



PHOTOS BY JANE FRIEDMANN, STAR TRIBUNE/INTS

Mosaics cover nearly every surface of the 6th century Basilica di San Vitale, a few blocks from the main square in Ravenna, Italy.



Left and below: Luciana Notturmi demonstrates cutting marble placed against a tent-shaped steel tool. Notturmi is the founder of the Mosaic Art School in Ravenna, Italy.



Right: Student Alba Panhoca recreates a medallion design first crafted by an artist of the Byzantine Empire.



Ravenna native well known for her skill in mosaic restoration, explained the evolution of the art form and gave a rundown of tools and materials.

"We're not jealous of our techniques and methods," Notturmi

said. "We want to share the knowledge. The workshop would focus on making a replica of an ancient mosaic, using a grant-free "double-reverse"

method developed in Ravenna several centuries ago. Notturmi assured that us all would go smoothly. "We help you prepare materials. We teach you. Remember, not enough time to make masterpieces while you're here." We chose designs from about two dozen tacked to a wall: a bouquet of flowers, a geometric pattern, a Roman face, each a tracing of a mosaic found somewhere in Ravenna. We students spent a quiet hour or two painstakingly tracing our designs onto contact paper, tessera (individual stone cube) by tessera and then flipping the paper over and retracing the shapes, this time using a water-soluble marker. The following morning, we arrived to find that instructors

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Europe

**FROM PAGE 30**

working with Notturmi had transferred our designs onto hydrated lime, a base that stays malleable. Glass tiles, called *smaalti*, were also arranged in bowls next to easel-mounted lime slabs.

After practicing cutting marble, a material that severs more cleanly than glass, we started in on our projects.

"Stay relaxed and think you are in the womb-ah and begin to write the ABCs," Notturmi exhorted us. "Try to having fun."

We tapped away. Tink, tink, tink, oops. Little piles of mistakes accumulated on our work stands. But ever so slowly, by pressing the *tesseræ* halfway into the lime one piece at a time, our mosaics came together.

Long lunches in the European tradition were strictly imposed, brooking little objection from the eat-lunch-in-your-cubicle crowd.

Evenings, a group of us roamed Ravenna's laid-back pedestrian center looking for bars offering aperitivo, a phenomenon like happy hour. For the price of a glass of wine, we had unlimited access to a spread of grilled vegetables, salads and pastas.

Late Wednesday, after pressing the last *tesseræ* into the lime, we were in for a treat: rabbit skin glue.

As part of the double-reverse process, we needed to temporarily bind the front of the work, flip it over, remove the lime, spread adhesive and flip the work back over onto a permanent base.

The rank-smelling water-soluble glue was thankfully kept out of sight in a heated pot. We placed cheesecloth atop the mosaic and used a soft brush to drench the cloth with glue. It would soon dry



Stars and Stripes

## KNOW & GO

Classes by Mosaic Master Luciana Notturmi in Ravenna, Italy, are at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels; eight students per class. Website: <http://mosaic-school.com/art> and at [facebook.com/mosaicchool](http://facebook.com/mosaicchool).

rock hard, securing the front. There are modern alternatives to rabbit skin glue, but they don't come with bragging rights.

The week only got better as it passed. On Thursday evening, Notturmi brought us to Trattoria al Rusticello, a restaurant known locally for its excellent pasta. The meal finished with several types of homemade liquors, including *limoncello* made from lemons and *roccino*, a regional walnut infusion.

Friday, after easing our precious works into Mosaic Art School tote bags, most of us gath-

ered at a wood-fired pizzeria for lunch, a repast we shared with dozens of excited gradeschoolers.

Then Notturmi's daughter led us on a walking tour that included an underground museum displaying strata of mosaic flooring discovered when the city began digging for a planned parking garage. Because Ravenna, like Venice, is slowly sinking, floors were repeatedly built over older sunken floors, essentially creating a rich vertical timeline of mosaic techniques and trends.

On the eve of our departure, I and four other students who occupied the entirety of Al Teatro, a gorgeous 18th-century palace made into a B&B, put together an *antipasti* dinner in owner Daniela Mingozi's stylish kitchen and washed it down with a bottle of Brunello di Montalcino.

While Ravenna is graced with many mosaic treasures, the one I will remember best is the workshop itself, a true masterpiece of Notturmi's creation.



JANE FRIEDMANN, STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)/TNS

Hundreds of squares of *smaalti* (Italian glass tile) were arranged and numbered in trays at the Mosaic Art School in Ravenna, Italy.

## Restaurant Directory

### GERMANY

## Hotel Directory

### GERMANY

Am Schoenberg 16 • 92655 Grafenwoehr  
www.city-hotel-pension-grafenwoehr.de  
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(USA) 253.314.8980  
Email: [info@easyconnect.com](mailto:info@easyconnect.com)

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# WEEKEND

# Pacific

# THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



Courtesy of JNTO

## TRIPPING THE LIGHTS FANTASTIC: Otaru Snow Light Path Festival, Japan

This festival in Hokkaido prefecture is Feb. 6 to 14. Otaru, a harbor city about 30 minutes northwest of Sapporo, is decorated in lanterns and snow sculptures. For more on Otaru: [tinyurl.com/o59r82](http://tinyurl.com/o59r82).



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

## ON BASE

### Super Bowl

Looking for a place to see the big game? Check out **Andersen Air Force Base** Collocated Club on Guam at 9 a.m. Feb. 2 at High Tides Lounge. The free event is for ages 18 and older. The Habu Pit at MCAS Futenma on Okinawa is having a Super Bowl breakfast 7 a.m. Feb. 2. For more: [mcsokinawa.com/habupit](http://mcsokinawa.com/habupit). Other Super Bowl breakfasts will be at Globe & Anchor, Ocean Breeze at **Camp Foster** at 7 a.m. Feb. 2; and the Palms Ballroom at **Camp Hansen**. For more: [mcsokinawa.com/thePalms](http://mcsokinawa.com/thePalms).



### Valentine's Day

**Japan:** Consider a dinner at Gotemba Resort with Atsugi ITT Tours. See the winter illumination at Yomiuriland at 2:45 p.m. or take a dinner cruise (sign up by Jan. 31) at 3 p.m. with Yokota Air Base ITT.  
**Okinawa:** Take a Valentine's Day dinner cruise with Camps Foster, Kinser, Hansen Tours ([mcsokinawa.com/tours](http://mcsokinawa.com/tours)) 6-10 p.m. Feb. 14 for \$149 per couple.



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



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# WEEKEND: TRAVEL

# Pacific

**ON A ROLL:  
Japan Camping  
Car Show 2015**  
This event in Chiba is Feb. 13 to 16 and will feature camping cars, outdoor equipment and tourism information at Makuhari Messe Exhibition Halls 1-3. For more: [japan-rv.jp](http://japan-rv.jp).

Photo courtesy of Japan Camping Car Show



## App gives an insider's view of cool things to do

It's as if your coolest cousin gave you the scoop on the hippest things to do in her city and put it in this app. Quick, give her a large tip before she thinks you're not worthy of it.

Name: Sosh — City Guide

Available: iOS

Cost: Free

**What it does:** Acts as a city guide to fun things to do and see (you choose your interests and neighborhood preferences) curated by real people gathering info from local weekly magazines, newspapers and niche websites such as Thrillist, Eater, Zagat, 7x7, New York magazine and more. Currently available for Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle and Washington, D.C.



**What's hot:** The app goes way beyond the usual guide-book recommendations to suggest unique things

to do such as eat at a pop-up restaurant, discover the city's best cocktails or speak-easies, shop at a sample sale and more. I found a sushi-making and sake-pairing workshop in San Francisco on Valentine's Day under Date Nights, Stargazing with Astronomy Enthusiasts in Seattle, Culinary Fight Club: Top Chef Meets Pop-Up in Chicago, and Bespoke Cocktails & Jazz Underground in New York City. Also available: upcoming events by the week and social sharing.

**What's not:** It asks you if you're living in one of its destinations. So I lied to get past this velvet rope and start exploring. After all, the chances of me traveling to visit family in either San Francisco or New York are high. How about an option instead to request or vote on a new city?

— Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times

## TROPICAL DELIGHT: Iejima Hibiscus Festival, Okinawa

The island of Iejima, 5.5 miles off the coast of Motobu peninsula, is home to a large hibiscus field where 1,000 varieties of hibiscus bloom. The event is 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Feb. 7 and 8. For more on the island: [tinyurl.com/pxceug5](http://tinyurl.com/pxceug5).



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific

# Fish story

## Okinawa's Churaumi Aquarium holds many of the sea's prime inhabitants

By RYOICHI MATSUMOTO  
*The Yomiuri Shimbun*

**T**here's a place that brings the beautiful ocean off Okinawa indoors: the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium at Ocean Expo Park in Motobu.

The aquarium building facing the East China Sea rises up like a gigantic castle, and a stream of people enter as if drawn to it. The aquarium recently logged more than 3 million visitors per year.

"Our large fish tank is one of the biggest in the world," said Asuka Kinjo, who is in charge of publicity at the aquarium. It contains three whale sharks, one of which, at 8.5 meters and 5.5 tons, holds the world record for the

longest surviving whale shark in captivity. The aquarium also contains reef manta rays. Visitors also can see the world's first large-scale exhibit of coral reproduction, made up of more than 800 coral colonies and about 200 types of tropical fishes.

Various creatures from both shallow and deep parts of the ocean are kept in a total of 77 fish tanks. The facility also boasts a dolphin lagoon, a theater with sea performances, a sea turtle pool and a manatee pool.

"On weekdays, many students from across the nation visit our aquarium on their school excursions, even during off-seasons," Kinjo said. "If you want to see the fish in a tranquil atmosphere, I suggest you come in the early morning or the early evening on

a weekend."

According to the aquarium's website, [oki-churaumi.jp/en](http://oki-churaumi.jp/en), the facility has re-created the seas around Okinawa down to a depth of about 700 meters, being careful to mimic factors such as light and clarity of the water.

"The exhibits here at our aquarium have been designed to allow visitors to start at the beach and gradually voyage down into the deep sea world, as if taking a dive themselves," the site says.

Ocean Expo Park, which encompasses the aquarium, is part of the Okinawa Commemorative National Government Park and is located on a 71-hectare lot that was the site of the Okinawa International Ocean Exposition in 1975. It takes more than an hour to walk the vast lot of the Ocean Expo. Luckily trolley buses run between attractions regularly.

The park also encompasses the Tropical Dream Center, featuring rare botanical plants, the Oceanic Culture Museum, a native Okinawan village and a man-made beach. The park showcases the charms of Okinawa Prefecture and is meant to attract tourists not only from other parts of Japan but from around the world.

The town of Motobu used to flourish thanks to its bonito fishing. As a reminder of that time, there are many restaurants that serve Okinawa soba

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 35**

**The Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium at Ocean Expo Park in Motobu boasts a dolphin lagoon, sea turtle pool, manatee pool and 77 fish tanks.**

Courtesy of JTA, JNTO



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## WEEKEND: TRAVEL

## Pacific



The Yomiuri Shimbun

The Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium at Ocean Expo Park in Motobu, Okinawa, rises up beside the East China Sea like a large palace.

## FROM PAGE 34

using bonito soup stock.

I happened to come across a monthly handicraft fair in a small marketplace near one of the noodle shops where I ate. They sold such goods as vegetables, home-cooked dishes and breads, and pins made from seashells bearing carved motifs. There was also an improvised flower decoration class.

When I mentioned to Madoka Seta, who was selling handmade daily commodities, that I saw few tourists at the fair, she replied: "That's the attraction. Items sold here aren't meant to follow fashion. We all bring what we like and people who like them come and we chat together. I like to spend time relaxing that way."

Visiting the tourism association in the neighboring Nakijin village, I saw a poster with the catchphrase *Nuun Nenshiga* in large letters. In the local dialect, that means, "We don't have anything special, though."

That's not true — the village has such attractive tourist spots as the ruins of Nakijin Castle, a UNESCO World Heritage site. However, En Matayoshi, association director general, said he would rather promote the village as a place "with nothing special."

"Recently, more and more people are attracted to (places in) Okinawa that aren't meant to be tourist destinations," Matayoshi said. "Our village is warm even in winter. The inns are cheap and not very crowded. It's good we have nothing special."

On my way back from Nakijin to Motobu, I saw a roadside stall selling citrus *tankan*, a type of tangerine grown in the prefecture. The fruit looked tough and difficult to eat, but to my



Courtesy of JTA, JNTO

Whale sharks are among the stars of the ocean creatures on display at the Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium, which bills itself as one of the largest aquariums in the world.

surprise, it was sweet and had a strong aroma.

"We don't ship them to the mainland, so you should buy it here now," said tangerine farmer Naohide Urasaki. According to Urasaki, *tankan* is grown outdoors all year round, so freshly picked *tankan* is sold even in midwinter.

In this region, which is some distance from Naha and other lively places in the southern part of the main island, I saw a huge showcase for tourists existing side by side with the daily life of local people.

After the summertime bustle and the typhoon season are over, the beach on Sesokojima island in Motobu regains its calm and time slows down again. On a fair day, it might be nice to sit on the beach and do nothing all day other than watch the gentle East China Sea.



The Yomiuri Shimbun

Many locals frequent this handicraft fair at a market operated by the Motobu town government.



Naha Am-aw/Stars and Stripes

## KNOW &amp; GO

## DIRECTIONS

The Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium is located in Ocean Expo Park within the Motobu district at the northwestern tip of Okinawa's main island. Getting there by car from Naha Airport takes about two hours; by highway bus it takes about three hours.

Ocean Expo Park also includes beaches, tropical and subtropical arboretums, a sea observatory and a native Okinawan village. Small shuttle buses operate between the park's attractions at least twice an hour

## TIMES

Non-holiday hours at the aquarium are 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. October through February and 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. March through September.

## COSTS

Adults 1,850 yen, high school students 1,230 yen, elementary and junior high students 610 yen, under age 6 admitted free. Discounts are available for students and groups.

## FOOD

The aquarium has a restaurant with a view of the East China Sea and a cafe with a view of interior fish tanks. There also are restaurants at Ocean Expo Park outside the aquarium.

## INFORMATION

• **Okinawa Churaumi Aquarium:** phone (0980) 48-3748; website [oki-churaumi.jp/en](http://oki-churaumi.jp/en)  
 • **Ocean Expo Park:** phone (0980) 48-2741; website [oki-park.jp](http://oki-park.jp); e.ms.hp.transer.com  
 • **Nago City, Motobu and Nakijin Village:** [oki-island-guide.com/nago-city-motobu-town-nakijin-village](http://oki-island-guide.com/nago-city-motobu-town-nakijin-village)

## FUN FACT

In the Okinawan dialect, Churaumi means "clear and beautiful seas."

Sources: [oki.churaumi.jp/en](http://oki.churaumi.jp/en) and [oki-park.jp/e.ms.hp.transer.com](http://oki-park.jp/e.ms.hp.transer.com)

## WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Gray matters

## Octavia Spencer on race in new film 'Black or White' and the Oscars

By BOB STRAUSS  
Daily News

It's been less than two decades since Octavia Spencer left Montgomery, Ala., for Hollywood, and in that time she's racked up more than 100 movie and television acting credits.

She's done comedy, science fiction (the upcoming "Insurgent" is just one example), crime shows, superhero movies and played more medical professionals than maybe anyone without a nursing degree can claim.

Some of her most memorable projects, from her first film "A Time to Kill" to "Fruiteavie Station" and the one that earned her a supporting actress Academy Award, "The Help," have dealt with the racial conflict that's always been a fundamental part of the American story. Now in "Black or White," while discrimination is not its topic and what little violence the film depicts is as personal as it can get, racism is very much a key topic. For Spencer, a good thing about the movie is its equal-opportunity approach to color-based resentments.

"I liked the complexity of the script and the way it raises and broaches the question of race," says Spencer of writer-director Mike Binder's story, which pits her self-made entrepreneur Rowena Jeffers against Kevin Costner's attorney Elliott Anderson for custody of their biracial granddaughter Eloise, played by newcomer Jillian Estell.

"Rowena has good intentions," Spencer acknowledges. "But Rowena's faults — really and truly, she's human. She didn't see the racist part of her. She was quick to point out what she thought was racist on Elliott's behalf, but not really her own. This is about really and truly setting aside your own beliefs and, just perhaps, putting yourself in another person's place."

The film opens with a devastated Elliott processing the news that his beloved wife, Carol, has died in a traffic accident. The two of them had raised Eloise in their comfortable Brentwood home, after his only child died giving birth to her.

He's taken to drinking to blunt the pain of his losses, and can't really see the equivalence between that and the crack problem of Eloise's father Reggie (Andre Holland), whom Elliott despises.

Rowena feels that Eloise needs more exposure to her African-American background. Elliott claims he only wants to save the girl from Reggie's toxic influence, and it all ends up in a courtroom where both sides' prejudices are exposed.

Although "Black or White" was inspired by a less-contentious situation in Binder's own family, some critics feel that the movie is more sympathetic to Elliott's arguments than Rowena's. Spencer doesn't, but understands that reaction.

"Mike does a wonderful job of presenting both sides, but this story is about Elliott's loss," she explains. "He lost his daughter, he lost his wife, and now I want to take his granddaughter. I feel like Mike gave each side equal enough time, but if you thought this story was stacked in the white guy's favor, it's because the narrative is taking shape from his perspective."

Along with the clashes, "Black or White" presents opportunities for understanding across the racial divide. While Spencer appreciates this tough kind of look at the hard road to harmony, she cautions that such films must be made with care.

"It's how the information is presented," she says. "If you come out of the gate with a finger pointed, then

you really aren't opening the door to any sort of resolution to whatever the problem may be. Whether it's about race or sexual orientation or religion, if you can't empathize with the opposing party, then you can't really meet in the middle. "I do think that there needs to be other movies like this. There is so much art can do to enlighten people, no matter what their views might be," she says. "If art can't go there, or doesn't elevate the social consciousness in some way, then we are in peril."

Fingers have been pointing, of course, at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences since the Oscar nominations were revealed this month. All

of this year's acting nominees are white and no women are in the running for screenwriting or directing Oscars. That includes Ava DuVernay, who claimed the acclaimed Martin Luther King biopic "Selma," which only received best picture and original song nominations.

Unlike quite a few others, Spencer isn't complaining. As she sees it, she really can't.

"I'm thrilled for Emma Stone, I'm thrilled for Reese, for J.K. — I have a lot of horses in the race," Spencer says of her respective "Help," "Legally Blonde 2" and "Spider-Man" co-stars.

"We have an awards body that's comprised of a certain demographic and, perhaps if we were back in 1930, I'd say, 'Well, we have a situation here, it doesn't look good.'" Spencer continued more contemplatively. "But it's a slap in the face to have any sort of the narrative be that the Academy is racist. We wouldn't have Mo'Nique, we wouldn't have Jennifer Hudson, we wouldn't have Lupita Nyong'o, we wouldn't have myself, we wouldn't have John Ridley or Alfonso Cuarón — so many people of color — awarded. So while I understand the need for people to latch onto something, to paint this narrative in the light that it's been painted is disheartening. That's not what's happening here."

"Now, should there be more diverse films? And diverse doesn't just mean black, it means a broader spectrum: LGBT, different religions, more women behind the scenes directing and producing, more Latin, more Asian, reflective of what we see in the world. Yes, absolutely."

In case you were wondering, she's seen "Selma."

"That's why I'm glad that it made the ticket for best picture, and I'm glad that it was nominated for song," Spencer says. "But you know what? I did a wonderful movie last year called 'Get on Up,' and Chadwick Boseman turned in a wonderful performance in that. He wasn't nominated. Kevin Costner does an amazing job in this film; he wasn't nominated."

"This is just me being selfish," she says with a wry grin, regarding those recent co-stars. "David Oyelowo was amazing, and would I have loved to have seen my 'Help' alum, who I think is a brilliant actor, nominated for that wonderful portrayal of Dr. King? Absolutely. But I think if you asked David if he thought the Academy was racist because he wasn't nominated, he is a rational man and he knows that that's not the case."

Octavia Spencer

WALLY SKALU/Los Angeles Times



WEEKEND: MOVIES

# Child custody, race collide in 'Black or White'

By ROGER MOORE  
Tribune News Service

**"S**elma" wasn't the only film about race to get short shrift from Oscar voters this past year. "Black or White" is a frank, touching and very well-acted melodrama about child custody and cultural perceptions of "blackness" and "the race card," and could have earned Octavia Spencer and Kevin Costner fresh Oscar nominations.

Mike "The Upside of Anger" Binder's latest teaming with Costner has more anger, mixed with alcoholism and a bitterness that may mask racism.

Elliot Anderson (Costner) tells his granddaughter, Eloise (Jillian Estell). We had a bad night last night." Turns out, the little girl's grandmother died. Granddad's been drinking pretty much ever since.

A couple of days pass, with him drinking and driving her to school and stumbling through tying a ribbon in her hair. She needs him to ease off the sauce, to be tough with her, the way grandma was. He needs to remember to make her brush her teeth.

"Say it like you MEAN it," the 7-year-old pleads.

Eloise is of mixed race. Her mom's gone, and her African-

**New on base**

"Black or White" is playing at the following military facilities:

**Europe**

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

**Pacific**

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

**Online:** blackorwhitefilm.com

American dad isn't in the picture. But those phone messages Elliot is ignoring? Not returning that call is going to cost him.

Grandma Rowena (she goes by "Wee Wee") wants to see her grandchild. Elliot's kept them apart, and his reassurances "Come by any time you like" aren't sincere. Wee Wee (Spencer) has a brother (Anthony Mackie) who is, like Elliot, a high-powered corporate attorney. The custody fight to come will be about "support, community,



Based on real events, "Black or White" stars Kevin Costner, right, as a widower who's drawn into a bitter custody battle over his granddaughter, played by Jillian Estell, center.

history." She doesn't think her not-quite-in-law is raising the kid "black enough."

"She's NOT black!" he counters. "She's HALF black!"

Binder and Costner soften whatever racial attitudes that Elliot keeps under wraps, in between drinks. Elliot hires a math tutor for this kid, an African overachiever (Mpho Koaho) who becomes the ever-drunk Elliot's driver and comical confidante.

The script sets us up to buy into stereotypes, then flips those on their head. The rich suburbanite isn't some cross-burner, though we start to wonder. And Wee Wee may live in South Central Los Angeles with a vast brood of children and grandchildren surrounding her, but

she's a successful entrepreneur. Her son (Andre Holland) seems like a crack-smoking cliché, but Spencer's innate intelligence and fight make Wee Wee a nurturer, upbeat, positive, even if one of her kids is a bad apple.

"I'm just lookin' out for my babies."

Binder's film decidedly tilts toward his (white) point of view, but the games he plays with expectations are fun — a black female judge (Paula Newsome) who starts down the outspoken Wee Wee in court, the conservative white guy who rolls into South Central with the ultimate rapper ride: a black Escalade. Having Elliot hallucinate his dead wife (Jennifer Ehle) but get no advice from her is a twist. As with

"Anger," Binder's characters fire off gib, politically incorrect innuendos, and characters make some pretty solid arguments in favor of their political incorrectness.

Maybe it plays it too safe, and Costner, an actor doing some of his best work decades after "Dances With Wolves," should have found more testy edge to this guy, just to make us uncertain about his darkest feelings. But "Black or White" makes a very entertaining movie for a post-Obama America, a smartly observed story that recognizes we may never be a post-racial America.

"Black or White" is rated PG-13 for brief strong language, thematic material involving drug use and drinking, and for a fight. Running time: 99 minutes.

# A tired gimmick weakens thriller 'Project Almanac'

By LINSEY BAHR  
The Associated Press

**W**hat have we done to deserve another found-footage movie? The tired hand-held technique that seemed so fresh in 1999 with "The Blair Witch Project" long ago wore out its welcome.

The only thing noteworthy about its use in "Project Almanac," which follows a group of high school misfits who invent a time-travel apparatus, is that this particular found-footage film isn't really a horror film, but a sci-fi thriller. Used as a means to gain an entry into the lives of these kids, it makes what could have been a fresh sendup of genre conventions seem as cheap and forgettable as all the rest.

David (Jonny Weston), a handsome social outcast and brilliant science mind, finds out that he's been accepted into MIT but with a scholarship that just isn't enough. While digging around in old projects done by his late father (an inventor of sorts) to try to find anything of value, he and his little sister stumble across an old video recorder of David's 7th

**New on base**

"Project Almanac" is playing at the following military facilities:

**Europe**

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

**Pacific**

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

**Online:** projectalmanac.com

birthday party, where they notice a shadowy figure in the mirror in one of the shots: a 17-year-old David.

While trying to figure out the mystery of how this could be possible, David and his friends uncover blueprints for a time-travel machine and immediately get to work build-

ing it, testing it, and, eventually, using it. In an somewhat amusing wink to the audience, the characters keep restating that they have to film everything.

But, the first hour of the film is so relentlessly paced, it feels like it's on fast-forward. From the camera movements to the manic dialogue and energy of the teens, the audience is pummeled with jargon and mostly useless information as the kids try to get a handle on their new toy.

When the kids finally figure out how to jump back in time, things get fun for a while as they do exactly what you might expect teenagers would do — going back in time a few days to ace a failed chemistry test, stand up to your bully, win some loose money and so on.

In his feature debut, director Dean Israelite proves that he has a keen knack for conveying teen pluck, friendships and flirtations. The scenes that show the actual process of time travel are even quite thrilling and inventive, but the found-footage gimmick makes it nearly impossible to evaluate his talents.

"Project Almanac" is rated PG-13 for some language and sexual content. Running time: 106 minutes.

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**American Sniper (R)** Thur 16:00, 18:00, 20:30, Fri & Sat 15:30, 17:15, 19:45, 22:30, Sun 15:30, 17:15, 19:45, Mon - Wed 16:00, 18:00, 20:30

**Night at the Museum 3 (PG)** Thur 15:00, Sat & Sun 15:30

**Pardners (PG)** Thur 16:00, Fri 15:30, Sat & Sun 15:15, Mon - Wed 16:00

**Penguins From Madagascar (PG)** Sat 13:30, Mon 16:00

**Taken 3 (PG13)** Thur 18:15, Fri & Sat 22:30, Sun 19:00, Mon - Wed 15:15

**Project Almanac (PG13)** Fri & Sat 18:15, 20:15, 22:30, Sun 18:30, 20:15, Mon - Wed 18:15, 20:30

**Also showing:** Into the Woods, The Hobbit: Battle of the Five Armies, The Hunger Games: Mockingjay 1

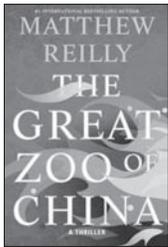
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WEEKEND: BOOKS



**The Great Zoo of China**

Matthew Reilly

Matthew Reilly takes elements from Michael Crichton's classic "Jurassic Park" and gives them a high fantasy spin in his latest action masterpiece, "The Great Zoo of China."

Reptile expert Dr. Cassandra Jane "CJ" Cameron is asked to visit a zoo that is soon to open in the middle of China. Staff members at the site are extremely secretive and provide few answers to her questions until Cameron and the others witness what animals are being kept inside the compound: dragons. The Chinese government has been keeping the discovery of dragon eggs hidden for over 40 years.

Now that they have been able to create a place for the dragons to be seen by the general public, they are ready to unveil their existence.

Once word spreads, officials believe the zoo will become the No. 1 tourist attraction in the world.

Cameron and the other dignitaries in her group explore the various sections of the zoo and learn about the technology used to keep visitors safe from the dragons, as well as the science and biology behind how these creatures can actually exist. They soon realize the dragons are superintelligent — and have a plan to escape.

Reilly has the ability to take objects such as garbage trucks and use them in extreme ways, creating action scenes that read magically on the page. Most authors throw in guns and lots of shooting to create a frantic and thrilling scene, but Reilly can amp up the tension with just a glance from one of the creatures.

The science and the setting of "The Great Zoo of China" make the scenario completely believable. The action is overwhelming, making the reader feel giddy as the pages fly. You will believe that dragons are real.

— Jeff Ayers/AP

# Oscars, Legos all in a day's work

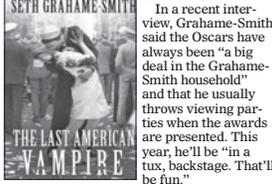
## 'Vampire Hunter' author keeps busy with numerous projects

By ALICIA RANCILLO  
The Associated Press

**S**eth Grahame-Smith's life could be described as a mashup. He's the author of that best-seller "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter," and the follow-up, "The Last American Vampire," now in stores.

Grahame-Smith is also busy with a number of other projects, including his directorial debut on the film "Something Wicked This Way Comes," writing and co-producing the sequel to "Beetlejuice," writing two "Lego" movies and writing a pilot for CBS.

He's also on the writing team for this year's Academy Awards.



In a recent interview, Grahame-Smith said the Oscars have always been "a big deal in the Grahame-Smith household" and that he usually throws viewing parties when the awards are presented. This year, he'll be "in a tax, backstage. That'll be fun."

Grahame-Smith talked about his new book, juggling projects and teaching through entertainment in a recent interview.

**Should you get credit for creating the mashup?**

I don't think that 'Pride and Prejudice and Zombies' or 'Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter' created the mashup. I just think that they popularized it. I think there were mashups before, and I think that there were certainly people blending genres and writers way better than me and far longer ago who were playing with the idea of mixing fantasy and horror or mixing science-fiction with romance. I think that I just happen to do it in a very loud and obnoxious way and was lucky enough to do it a time when people were receptive to it.

**Yes, you write about historical figures and vampires and zombies, but you do a lot of**



Screenwriter, producer and director Seth Grahame-Smith's new novel, "The Last American Vampire," is a follow-up to "Abraham Lincoln: Vampire Hunter."

**research for your books. There are facts in these stories.**

I give you some medicine with your sugar. I give you a little bit of real history, just enough so that you know something about that time period so that you can discuss it at a dinner party, and as long as you don't go further than that and add the part where vampires start cutting each other's heads off and everything.

**How do you keep track of your projects?**

A typical day now might be: I work on some 'Lego' movie stuff, I work on some 'Beetlejuice' stuff, and then I jump over here and work on Oscars, and then I jump back and I work on who knows what else, but it's great! I love being busy. I love the challenge of it, I love the engagement of it. ... At some point all of this goes away and you know you

get bounced out of the writing business or bounced out of Hollywood one way or another eventually. Almost everybody does. So, I'm just trying to enjoy it while it lasts.

**Do you ever procrastinate when you're supposed to be writing?**

I procrastinate all day. In 12 hours of sitting at the computer desk every day, I probably do two and a half hours of writing, if I'm being generous. Because there are other things going on. There are phone calls to be returned, there are meetings to be had, lunches to go to, there are emails to browse through and then ... who doesn't love Twitter or Facebook or Reddit or Gawker or Gizmodo or Huffington Post or any of the 2,000 sites I read religiously every day, all day? You need to keep the writing muscles in shape.

# Book tells of gang-related homicides in black neighborhoods

By J.L. HARKAVY  
The Associated Press

**T**he killings of unarmed black men by police in Missouri and New York have dominated recent headlines, but the slayings of black males by other blacks in the nation's most violent ghettos still get barely a footnote. Americans have long been complacent about these anonymous murders, many of them gang-related, most of which go unsolved. The notion that such killings are not newsworthy is reflected in the label that used to be given them by members of the Los Angeles Police Department: "NHI — No Human Involved."

Thankfully, that has changed, according to Jill Leovy's riveting account of a relentless homicide detective's investigation of a 2007 killing in Watts in which a gentle and good-natured 18-year-old was gunned down after being mistaken for a target in a gang rivalry.

"Ghettoside," a term picked up by police from a Watts gang member to describe his neighborhood, embraces both the locale of the violence and the culture and mindset

that impedes police from bringing killers to justice.

The hero of "Ghettoside," veteran detective John Skaggs, cut his teeth during "the Big Years" of the early 1990s, when the number of killings was far higher than it is today. His people skills, ability to detect lies and knowledge of the folkways of the ghetto serve him well as he works to nab the killer of Bryant Tennelle.



The way solid police work cracks a case that at first seemed insolvable reads like a thrilling police procedural set in a neighborhood fraught with danger. The most gripping episodes come as Skaggs manages to persuade the girlfriend of one of the killers to testify against him and then keeps her safe and sober in the face of death threats.

An award-winning reporter and editor with the Los Angeles Times, Leovy in 2007 created an innovative blog that covered all of the city's 845 murders that year. Most of the killings took place in ghetto neighborhoods and most of the victims were young black men.

While focusing on the killing of Tennelle, the son of a Los Angeles detective, Leovy explores the reasons for the homicide epidemic and looks at ways it can be addressed. In recent years the city's murder rate has gone down dramatically as a result of factors that include migration of many black residents to the suburbs and the high number of black men in prison.

But the best means of dealing with the still disproportionately high number of black-on-black murders would be to have all detectives approach such cases with Skaggs' vigor and determination in arresting and helping to convict the two who killed Tennelle. As the defense lawyer for one of the killers observed, "If all these cases were investigated like Tennelle, there'd be no unsolved cases."

Now, with relations between police and the black community in sharp and straining an ever, this book could not be more important.

## WEEKEND: TELEVISION/DVD

## NEW ON DVD

“The Judge”: Director David Dobkin is lucky to have Robert Duvall and Robert Downey Jr. starring in his trial drama, “The Judge.” Their Oscar-caliber performances — including Downey’s first outstanding performance since his Oscar-nominated effort in “Chaplin” more than two decades ago — give this familiar family-centric tale of small-town justice new life. The screenplay by Nick Schenk and Bill Dubuque is carefully structured to bring father and son together. They put the characters on an emotional and judicial collision course that leaves both men battered and bruised. The pacing is just right so that any changes they experience feel carried by the forgiveness that often comes with the passing of time.



SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT/AP

Brad Pitt is Woady in the DVD release of the movie “Fury.”

“Fury”: It takes amazing skill to make a war film like this that is so bravely honest in its depiction of the horrors and heroics of war. These are no gallant warriors meeting on the field of battle for a chivalrous conflict. Director and writer David Ayer gives the actors plenty of room to not play soldiers, but also to show the people who exist inside those uniforms. A scene where the tank crew is given a few moments rest in a newly liberated town plays out with a haunting emotional tone that smoothly shifts from the excitement of young love to the bitter realities of war. There’s not as much fighting in the sequence, yet each moment is equally explosive. The movie shows that war is brutal in the way it strips away the human spirit and leaves the participants reacting with a kind of prehistoric instinct for survival.

“Masterpiece: Downton Abbey Season 5”: Any discussion about the value of public television should include mention of this series. For those who don’t pay for cable, this series is the best offering they can see via antenna. It’s also one of the top 10 shows when you factor in cable. This latest season finds the Crawley family and members of their staff facing the usual collection of emotional trials. The big difference is they are played out against the 1920s. The DVD set comes with more than 40 minutes of additional video.

Also available on DVD: “The Book of Life”: Young man sets out on an epic quest.

“Justice League: Throne of Atlantis”: Heroes face threat from Atlantians.

“Born of War”: Revenge drives a young woman into battle.

“Arthur: Fountain Abbey”: Adventure inspired by “Downton Abbey.”

“Kingdom of Dreams and Madness”: Director Mami Sunada’s look at Studio Ghibli.

“The Remaining”: Five friends try to survive a series of cataclysmic events.

“Maison Close: Season One”: TV series that takes viewers into an exclusive 19th century bordello.

“The Color of Time”: James Franco collaborates with 12 film grad students.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee



ABC photos

The sitcom “Fresh Off the Boat” stars, from left, Hudson Yang, Ian Chen, Constance Wu, Randall Park and Forrest Wheeler. The series is based on the memoir by Eddie Huang, below. The show premieres Feb. 5 on AFN-Family.

## New sitcom highlights Asian-American immigrants

BY JAYNA OMAYE  
Orlando Sentinel

As a young first-generation Chinese-American growing up in Orlando, Fla., in the 1990s, Eddie Huang felt like he never quite fit in. Huang was teased at school for being different but firmly challenged racial slurs and stereotypes.

The popular blogger and owner of a hip New York restaurant “never accepted the way people see us (Asian-Americans)” and used the lessons he learned from beloved hip-hop artists as a way to bridge cultural differences. His often-hilarious experiences are the basis for a new sitcom, “Fresh Off the Boat,” which is set in central Florida. The show premieres on AFN-Family on Feb. 5.

The show is a takeoff on Huang’s 2013 book “Fresh Off the Boat: A Memoir,” in which he chronicles what it was like landing out in a mainly white central Florida neighborhood during the 1990s. It is the first network series in 21 years to focus on an Asian-American family (ABC’s “All-American Girl,” featuring Margaret Cho). The show is a point of pride in Orlando’s burgeoning Asian-American community.

“A long time ago, you could’ve said that Asian-Americans were stereotyped as Chinese delivery men... always having fake accents,” said Ricky Ly, a University of Central Florida graduate and founder of the college’s Asian Pacific American Coalition. “[But] I think more and more lately there’s been more diverse representation of Asian-Americans... not as stereotypes but just as regular people.”

Ly, a civil engineer and food blogger whose grandparents moved to Vietnam from China before his family came to the U.S., said Huang’s sitcom will showcase central Florida’s growing Asian-American community.

“It’s definitely a long time coming,” Ly said of the sitcom. “I think it’s a great step to focus on an Asian-American family. With the cultural aspects of being Asian-American, I think it is great to showcase that on a national level.”



“ I think this show is going to be huge for helping Americans understand us (Asians) and helping us understand Americans.”

Eddie Huang  
producer of “Fresh Off the Boat”

With 42 ethnic groups, Asian-Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the South, increasing by 69 percent, even outpacing the growth of Latinos, from 2000 to 2010. In Florida, the increase was 72 percent, according to data released last year.

Shally Wong, founder of Asia Trend magazine, a Winter Park, Fla.-based nonprofit that seeks to promote a broader understanding of Asian-Americans, said many families, including her parents, are attracted to Central Florida’s education opportunities. A native of Hong Kong who moved to Orlando with her family in 1991, the UCF graduate has witnessed the area’s significant demographic shifts.

“We like to settle with the people we know,” said Wong, former secretary of the Asian American Federation of Florida’s Central East Region. “Asians emphasize a lot on family and we work together closely. We like to get referrals by family or by your relatives and that’s always the way.”

Huang moved with his parents and two younger brothers from Chinatown in Washington, D.C., to the Dr. Phillips area in Orange County, Fla., where his father became a restaurateur. “Fresh Off the Boat” is set in the era where 11-year-old Huang tries to make a mark in a community that is sometimes culturally ignorant and unfamiliar with Asian-Americans. Hudson Yang plays the hip-hop-loving Eddie.

“I think this show is going to be huge for helping Americans understand us (Asians) and helping us understand Americans,” said Huang, 32, who graduated from Rollins College in Winter Park, Fla., and is co-owner of a highly-regarded Taiwanese restaurant, Baohaus, in New York City. “I think it’s a really big step for me. It’s a really big step for the community to start this conversation.”

Huang, who has co-hosted episodes of Anthony Bourdain’s “The Layover” on the Travel Channel, lives in Los Angeles and New York and visits Orlando during Chinese New Year. His father, Louis Huang, who sold his restaurants, including Cattleman’s Steakhouse and Atlantic Bay Seafood Grill, and mother, Jessica Huang, live in Orlando.

As a producer on the show, he described the joy of watching the pilot episode as “lights out,” adding it is his mission to continually fight stereotypes and break down barriers. “Anyone who’s ever felt different will really relate to the show,” Huang said. “It’s still a fight every day. It’s still a fight every episode.”

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

Coming to grips with a health

WAKE-UP CALL

BY ANNE STEIN  
Chicago Tribune

It's a scenario that plays out each January. Health clubs are packed, diet books are devoured, then within a month or two, our new year's resolutions lose steam. The crowds diminish, diets fade into memory, and good intentions are saved for another time.

The beginning of the year is always popular for taking a good look at our health, so what does it take to make things last?

The wellness process should start with honest answers to tough questions, said Dr. Pamela Peeke, national spokeswoman for the American College of Sports Medicine, author of "The Hunger Fix" and assistant professor of medicine at University of Maryland.

"There has to be a real wake-up call," Peeke said. "Just waking up and saying 'I want to be healthy' won't get you anywhere. You need an awakening, a real fire in the belly to get you going. You have to ask yourself, 'Why do I want to change, and what's been stopping me?' Then be brutally honest when you answer."

Maybe your cholesterol has hit the ceiling, or you caught a glimpse in the mirror and finally admitted you don't look great. Or you know someone who transformed himself and you're inspired. Or you've hit a crisis point in your health you simply can't ignore.

Kindergarten teacher Sandie Leonard had that moment a few months ago. At age 45, she'd spent a lifetime trying to be the perfect daughter, wife, employee and mom. With a warm smile and kind voice, she's the type of friend

you'd call in a heartbeat, the teacher (with a master's degree) you'd trust your child to in a classroom.

A few years ago, however, the pressure to please grew to be too much, and Leonard began using sugar to soothe her anxiety and deal with ongoing depression. The Blountville, Tenn., resident stood her desk with M&M's and candy bars. She celebrated every milestone with homemade cakes and pies. And her weight ballooned.

"My favorite thing was Little Debbie Snack Cakes," said Leonard, who once jogged three miles a day four days a week. Over a few years, her weight rocketed to 334 pounds. "I tried every weight plan out there and had a little success, then I'd go right back to the sugary stuff."

Finally she reached the breaking point; her anxiety was so consuming she couldn't teach any longer, and last fall she checked herself into Malibu Vista treatment center, in Malibu, Calif. It was there — as far from Tennessee as she could get, she joked — that she met Peeke, who put her on a healthy nutrition program and got her to realize that sugar wasn't solving her problems. Intense therapy helped Leonard deal with anxiety and stress.

Today Leonard is back home in Tennessee. She's dropped 34 pounds since October thanks to a new diet and walking program (she started at 20 minutes a day and has increased

to 80 minutes daily). She's gotten into yoga and practices mindful eating, which means paying attention to each bite rather than gobbling things down. After kitchen's restocked with quinoa, tofu and other healthy options, she avoids "the Little Debbie aisle" at the grocery store.

"My mind is so much clearer with the good nutrition and exercise," Leonard said. "I had a feeling of complete despair before with my weight and the anxiety, and now it's gone." She regularly checks in with Peeke and the nutrition/medical staff at Malibu Vista, who guide her with recipes and encouragement. She was set to return to work this month.

Most people know that exercise, appropriate diet and sleep, and managing stress are what's best for them, said certified athletic trainer Kathy Dieringer, co-owner of D&D Sports Medicine in Denton, Texas, and a board member of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. "But how motivated to do all that is the age-old question."

First, go through a wellness checklist: Are you getting the recommended 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity? Lack of exercise, explained Dr. Carol Ewing Garber, president of the American College of Sports Medicine and professor of movement science at Teachers College, Columbia University, increases your risk for heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and other chronic diseases. Of course, the part more people will notice is how lack of activity affects the proportion of body fat and muscle.

Flexibility and strength also are critical to health and wellness. Are you having trouble lifting grocery bags or getting up and out of a chair? "Grocery shopping is a great test because you're walking around and lifting and loading," Garber said. "If that's difficult, you need some work on strength." Can you touch your toes (with slightly bent knees)? Are you flexible enough to reach your back as if zipping a dress? Lack of flexibility makes daily activities tougher to do.

Stress goes hand in hand with exercise and diet when it comes to overall wellness. Are you clenching your jaw or walking around with tight shoulders and back? Are you obsessed with a bad job situation or family difficulties? Stress can interfere with sleep, attention span, memory, relationships. And, Peeke said, it strokes your appetite for self-soothing comfort — like food, drugs or alcohol. "And if you have rotten sleep, the last thing you'll do is pop out of bed and exercise," she said.

How is your weight and BMI? If you're serious about fixing food issues, call an expert. Let somebody give it to you straight. "There are so many fads out there that may work for a limited period of time, but it all goes back to appropriate nutrition, and that needs to be determined by a nutritionist," Dieringer said. A health professional can evaluate your weight and diet, give an assessment of body composition and develop a healthy eating plan.

While the journey toward wellness can be daunting, it's doable by following sensible advice. And there are numerous success stories; one of Dieringer's clients came to her clinic for shoulder rehab, then continued with an individual fitness plan to stay in shape. She joined group fitness classes, met with a registered dietitian and within a year, stopped taking her high blood pressure and heart medication, all because she started moving and eating right. "We find a lot of our older patients love that group dynamic of getting together and exercising. I think it (the social aspect) increases compliance in every age group," Dieringer said.

Leonard's wellness wake-up call has completely changed her life. "A few months ago I didn't think anything this positive would happen," said the cheerful mom, who's aiming, day by day, to lose at least 100 more pounds. "I was just hoping to get back to work. Now I've gotten off the anxiety medication, I'm eating right, and my whole well-being has changed."

**“There has to be a real wake-up call. Just waking up and saying ‘I want to be healthy’ won’t get you anywhere. You need an awakening, a real fire in the belly to get you going.”**



## WEEKEND: FAMILY

BY LESLIE MANN  
Chicago Tribune

**Y**our child may be engrossed with his Baby Einstein Take Along Tunes or trying to escape from the grocery cart. But he's listening, processing and willing to teach us.

In a recent study of 19-month-olds, University of Chicago doctoral student Lauren Howard found that children who heard multiple languages in their neighborhoods were more receptive to people who spoke languages other than their parents' language.

"We measured imitation. At this age, that's how they show us their willingness to learn," explained Howard, the lead author of the report titled *Neighborhood Linguistic Diversity Predicts Infants' Social Learning*. The experiments tested how well the infants could learn new tasks from a non-English speaker.

The study, which included 82 children from the Chicago and Washington areas, was published in the November issue of *Cognition*.

"Babies are not only affected by parents and caregivers — previous studies proved that — but also by people they hear at the store on the bus," Howard said. "Incidental exposure matters."

Does this mean kids in diverse communities will grow up to have open minds?

"It's a start," Howard said. "Already, at this age, they're actively learning."

### Diverse by design

This is familiar territory for many adoptive families, said Adam Pertman, president of the Boston-based National Center on Adoption and Permanency. "Adoption is a good prism to understand issues like this because adoptive families have a 'laboratory' where they see this daily — not just with international adoption, but with interracial adoption," said Pertman.

While studies like Howard's suggest that parents increase their children's cultural exposure, "adoptive parents have been making these efforts for years and sociologists have been studying them for years," said Pertman.

Mary Child and her husband, David Youtz, of Tenafly, N.J., are raising their four daughters, all adopted from China, in a multicultural community by intention. The benefits extend beyond language. Child said. Her 19-year-old daughter, Sophie, speaks English and is learning Mandarin, and her 10-year-old triplets speak English, are studying Spanish and will take Mandarin lessons in middle school.

One season Sophie appreciated the diverse high school she attended, said Child, it is because "the kids there defied expectations, like she did. One student, for example, had parents who were Korean and Danish, but he spoke Swedish. Not all the kids looked like their parents, either."

Cultural diversity can be within reach, even in unlikely areas. Although she grew up in "not very diverse" Beaver Dam, Wis., Morgan Butterbrodt, 23, said she learned about other languages and cultures from the many students her family hosted through the AFS-USA international student exchange program.

**Very young children from culturally diverse neighborhoods showed a great willingness to learn from adults who spoke a language different from their parents', a new study has found.**

Fotolia photo



# Bringing up global citizens

## Cultural diversity pays off for kids

"It's the little differences that make you more compassionate and less judgmental," Butterbrodt said. "Yuliya from Kazakhstan, for example, was very disciplined because she couldn't go to college unless her grades were good. Matias from Paraguay wasn't used to being on time because his culture is more laid-back."

There are countless ways to expose kids to other cultures, said Homa Sabet Tavangar, author of "Growing Up Global: Raising Children to be at Home in the World."

Just a few of her tips: Take the kids to foreign films. Sample ethnic restaurants. Put a world map on the wall, with a thumbtack on every country the kids learn about. Help your children's teachers make global classrooms. Encourage the kids to invite friends of other cultures for dinner. If your native tongue is not English, use it with the kids, said Tavangar, who is bilingual. "They'll thank you later," she said.

## SPOUSE CALLS

# 'Johnnie Come Lately' a story of love, family

**W**hen Kathleen Rodgers wrote "Johnnie Come Lately," pieces of her military background found their way into the story. In fact, a lot of her life found its way into the story of Johnnie Kitchen and her family in the book, which hits bookstore shelves Sunday. The action takes place in Texas, for instance; Kathleen and her husband, now retired from the Air Force, also live in Texas.

However, the book is not a purely military story. It's a story about a family with military elements woven throughout. The protagonist, Johnnie, is not a military wife, but her husband, Dale, is from a military family.

The book is set in 2007 during both the Afghan and Iraq wars. A family friend is injured in combat. Johnnie and Dale are at odds when their 18-year-old son wants to join the Army. Johnnie's shadowy memories of the young soldier who was her father are a recurring element of the narrative.

"I didn't know there would be so much about the military in it," Kathleen said.

Johnnie's backstory is provided through flashbacks and in poignant, mostly unsent letters Johnnie writes to various characters, including both of her absent parents, past lovers, advice columnist Dear Abby and singer Karen Carpenter.

The late recording artist has relevance to Johnnie, who overcame an eating disorder much earlier in her life, a characteristic she also shares with her creator. Perhaps because of her own experiences, Kathleen said she wanted to write about a woman who had overcome her past, but was still haunted by it. Writing about healing and for the purpose of healing is important to Kathleen.

"In 'Johnnie,' I wanted to write about someone who has struggled with something, like an addiction, and come out on the other side," Kathleen said. "I want to write about a really deep issue, but this isn't a novel just about bulimia. It's about being a mother."

It's also a book about being a daughter, a granddaughter and a wife. It's about an extended family with plenty of secrets, which they keep to protect each other as well as themselves. Revealed one by one throughout the story, these secrets draw the reader in, giving hints about the characters' actions and interactions.

Along with the subterfuge and conflict in the Kitchen family, the author provides a point of comfort in the form of Brother Dog, the family's large and loyal Labrador retriever. He's a constant for all the characters, particularly Johnnie, a repository of the trust and love the family has for each other, even when they don't feel it. He provides an overarching sense of stability of the family in the midst of turmoil, as well as hope for healing the family's pain.

When I told Kathleen my response to Brother Dog's character, she told me he was based on her own family's pet, a similarly named chocolate Lab, who died soon after the book was completed.

Elements of Kathleen's own sons made it into the book as well, with their blessing, she said. One of Johnnie's sons is an artist, and the other wants to be a soldier. Kathleen has one son who is an artist and another in the Army, who recently returned from deployment in Afghanistan.

"Johnnie" is Kathleen's second novel. Her first, "The Final Salute," about an Air Force pilot, was released in paperback last fall. That book was recognized with a silver medal for fiction by the Military Writers Society of America after its hardcover release in 2009.

Kathleen said she began thinking of herself as a writer in her mid-teens and joined the staff of her high school newspaper to avoid taking home economics.

"One day I was carrying around a raw egg pretending it was a baby, and I decided I hated that home ec class, because I was never going to get married and have kids," she said, laughing at the certainty of her younger self.

"My dream was to be a writer," Kathleen said. "I didn't know in the old days what exactly that was. We're never quite where we want to be as writers, but when we look back, we've come a long way."

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at stripes.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes

# WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

## NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

### TWIST ENDING

BY ALAN ARBESELD/EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Hairstyle that usually involves clips or pins
  - 8 Confidentially
  - 15 N.J. Army base
  - 20 "Beautiful!"
  - 21 Points in the right direction
  - 22 "Let's stop fighting, O.K.?"
  - 23 "Those wreaths all look the same to me!"?
  - 25 Something hard to drink?
  - 26 Law-school class
  - 27 Start of a conclusion
  - 28 Satisfies
  - 30 Sales force, informally
  - 31 Summers on the Seine
  - 32 Convention closing?
  - 33 \_\_\_ black
  - 34 Outlast model of the 1980s-'90s
  - 36 Senile sort
  - 39 Start of an oral listing of African nations, perhaps?
  - 42 Texas home of the Bears
  - 44 One small sip
  - 46 Store
  - 47 Asked to come back, in a way
  - 49 "Over There" subj.
  - 50 VCR button
  - 51 D halved
  - 52 Alternative to JFK
  - 53 Showing less cleavage?
  - 58 "Watch it!"
  - 59 Many a critic's preference
  - 61 Superbight
  - 62 Mrs., abroad
  - 64 Himalayan myth
  - 65 Remote button
  - 67 "Lemme \_\_\_!"
  - 69 March org.?
  - 73 Rally killers in baseball: Abbr.
  - 76 "Warm?"
  - 78 "There was the time ..."
  - 81 Middle of summer?
  - 84 Cheap roadside assistance?
  - 87 "I don't need to hear that," informally
  - 88 Skip town
  - 89 Big \_\_\_
  - 90 Stick in a rack
  - 91 Mistakes
  - 93 Setting for most of "Moby-Dick"
  - 95 Kind of TV
  - 98 Liqueur flavors
  - 99 Knockoff dress labeled "Armani," say?
  - 101 Rob
  - 103 Popular Hispanic newspaper name
  - 104 Rider's handful
  - 105 Son of, in foreign names
  - 106 Have legs
  - 109 E.R. "A.S.A.P." nickname
  - 110 Devote
  - 112 Longtime Yankee nickname
  - 113 Less loopy
  - 114 Ban competition
  - 116 Caution to an orphan girl not to leave her wildebeest attraction
  - 119 Reeves of "John Wick."
  - 120 Enter stealthily
  - 121 "With Reagan" memoirist
  - 122 Ready followers?
  - 123 One in a tight spot?
  - 124 Did some edgy writing?
  - 17 Western vacation spot
  - 18 Winter carnival attraction
  - 19 Gen \_\_\_
  - 24 Silents star Bala
  - 27 They put points on the board
  - 28 1973 star Bala
  - 29 They put points on the board
  - 33 Help to secure a loan, maybe
  - 35 "Them's fightin' words!"
  - 37 Former A.L. manager who was an N.L. M.V.P.
  - 38 Geometric figures
  - 39 Have a big mouth?
  - 40 Attire
  - 41 In a bad way
  - 42 Secure, as a sailor's rope
  - 43 She's asked "When will those clouds all disappear?" in a 1973 '81 hit
  - 45 Where many people may follow you
  - 48 Fur \_\_\_
  - 49 Popular après-ski place
  - 55 Spot in the afternoon?
  - 56 Product that's hard to keep in stock
  - 57 Janvier, across the Pyrenees
  - 60 Cap
  - 63 Supply with weaponry
  - 66 Put away
  - 68 Subway Series team
  - 70 Lovely but stupid person?
  - 71 U.S. city whose name becomes another city's name if you change both its vowels to A's
  - 72 Kiss drummer Peter
  - 74 Reach the Mediterranean, say?
  - 75 Pig sounds
  - 77 Fix, as some lawn chairs
  - 79 Canine cousin
  - 80 "Dallas" family name
  - 81 Race in classic science fiction
  - 82 "Whirlybird" source
  - 83 Suspect duplicity
  - 85 Caspian Sea, feeder
  - 86 Trojan horse, e.g.
  - 92 Like the Parthenon
  - 94 Fitting one inside the other
  - 95 Appointment book
  - 96 Did a 1930s dance
  - 97 Big brother
  - 100 Luxor Temple deity
  - 102 Natural
  - 105 Ryan of old TV
  - 107 Intuit
  - 108 Straight, now
  - 109 Fifth Avenue retailer
  - 111 Campaign group
  - 112 Backwoods cps.
  - 113 Heavyweight bouts?
  - 115 Indigo Girls, e.g.
  - 117 Commercial lead-in to Pen
  - 118 Lead-in to meter

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## GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

## RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE

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**KNOWLEDGE IS POWER.**

ARCHIVE PHOTO OF THE DAY

STRIPES CENTRAL

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PACIFIC SPORTSBLOG

PACIFIC STORM TRACKER

OMBUDSMAN

## FACES

## Ventura won't see 'Sniper'; says Kyle is no hero

The Associated Press

"American Sniper" is tops at the box office but don't expect to see former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura lining up at a theater for it.

Ventura, a former Navy SEAL, won \$1.8 million in a defamation lawsuit last year against the estate of the late Chris Kyle, the SEAL protagonist of the movie, which has sparked debate over whether snipers should be considered heroes. Ventura said Wednesday he won't see the film partly because Kyle is no hero to him.

"A hero must be honorable, must have

honor. And you can't have honor if you're a liar. There is no honor in lying," Ventura told The Associated Press from his winter home in Baja California, Mexico. He also noted that the movie isn't playing there.

Ventura also dismissed the movie as propaganda because it conveys the false idea that Iraq had something to do with the 9/11 attacks. "It's as authentic as 'Dirty Harry,'" he said, referring to fictional movie series starring Clint Eastwood, the director of "American Sniper."

Ventura testified Kyle fabricated a subchapter in his "American Sniper" book in which Kyle claimed he punched out a man,

whom he later identified as Ventura, at a California bar in 2006 for allegedly saying the SEALs "deserve to lose a few" in Iraq. Ventura said it never happened.

The jury gave Ventura the legal vindication he craved. Publisher HarperCollins removed the passage from the best-seller, and it gets no mention in the movie. Kyle's estate has appealed. Ventura's separate lawsuit against HarperCollins remains pending.

Ed Huddleston, a lawyer for Kyle's widow, Taya Kyle, said they won't comment on Ventura's remarks because the lawsuit is on appeal.



AP

William Shatner can be seen in a priceline.com ad set to debut during the Super Bowl.

## Shatner knows the ups and downs of travel

By LYNN ELBER

The Associated Press

William Shatner is back as a shrewd, unflappable travel expert in his latest TV commercial for an online company.

But in real life, even Shatner can't avoid the perils of getting through airport security lines.

"I got patted down one time, wearing loose-fitting clothing, and my pants fell down. It was one of the most embarrassing moments of my life," Shatner said, recalling the incident at Los Angeles International Airport.

Shatner returns as the priceline.com Negotiator in a new ad campaign that launches Sunday, with Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting ("The Big Bang Theory") again playing the travel pro's daughter. He's unfazed that fans recognize him for the long-running commercial gig as well as the "Star Trek" TV series and movies and his Golden Globe-winning role on "Boston Legal."

"This is a form of creativity," he said of collaborating on the TV spots. "It is like an acting job."

Working with priceline.com is only part of what keeps Shatner busy as he nears his 84th birthday in March. The original Capt. James T. Kirk just wrapped a national tour of his one-man stage show and is planning for another. He's got what he calls an "unusual" summer series for NBC in the works; it is the upcoming fact-based movie "The Sunday Horse" and is collaborating with a custom motorcycle manufacturer on designing a new three-wheeled vehicle. Shatner, an avid motorcycleist, plans a Chicago-to-Los Angeles charity ride to launch the bike this summer.

## 'Ghostbusters' cast set with McCarthy, Wiig, McKinnon, Jones

The Associated Press

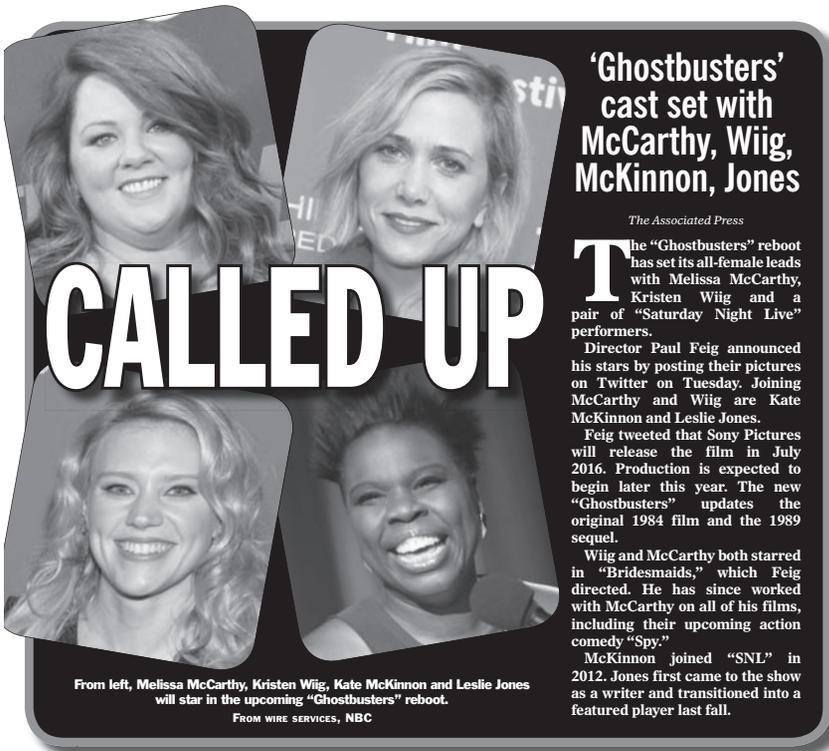
The "Ghostbusters" reboot has set its all-female leads with Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig and a pair of "Saturday Night Live" performers.

Director Paul Feig announced his stars by posting their pictures on Twitter on Tuesday. Joining McCarthy and Wiig are Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones.

Feig tweeted that Sony Pictures will release the film in July 2016. Production is expected to begin later this year. The new "Ghostbusters" updates the original 1984 film and the 1989 sequel.

Wiig and McCarthy both starred in "Bridesmaids," which Feig directed. He has since worked with McCarthy on all of his films, including their upcoming action comedy "Spy."

McKinnon joined "SNL" in 2012. Jones first came to the show as a writer and transitioned into a featured player last fall.



From left, Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones will star in the upcoming "Ghostbusters" reboot.

FROM WIRE SERVICES, NBC

## Desert stars: Celebrities converge on Phoenix for Super Bowl

The Associated Press

The desert is great for stargazing, and that will certainly be the case as the Super Bowl takes over Phoenix and its suburbs.

Comedians Joel McHale and Kevin Hart will crack jokes for partygoers, newcomer Charli XCX will perform for troops and then revelers at ESPN's party, and Jamie Foxx and Drake will hold court at a pair of lounges at a Scottsdale, Ariz., hotel.

Here's a look at some of the places where stars will mix and mingle:

## Games before the big game

Participants in this year's Madden Bowl

better bring their A game — or expect to be the brunt of jokes from Kevin Hart. "The Wedding Ringer" star will hold and zero in on the action on the digital gridiron.

Electronic Arts is taking over a block of downtown Scottsdale for a party that will include performances by Florida Georgia Line, and Hart hosting Madden matches between NFL players. Last year's winner, Eagles running back LeSean McCoy, will return to defend his title.

## Busy weekend for Charli XCX

Grammy-nominated singer Charli XCX is one of Super Bowl week's most sought-after acts, with at least three performanc-

es scheduled. The pop singer is singing for troops Friday night at Luke Air Force base and performing a set at ESPN's bash later that night. On Saturday, she'll perform for partygoers at Rolling Stone's bash.

The ESPN party on Friday will be a hub for some of the weekend's biggest names in pro sports and entertainment. Also scheduled to make appearances at the show are "Froze" star Dina Menzel, who will sing the national anthem at Sunday's game and John Legend, who will sing "America the Beautiful" before kickoff.

## Good times for a good cause

Not all of the pre-game parties are sim-

ply for fun and games. McHale will host a roast of NFL great Terry Bradshaw, a charity event that will benefit a program that brings entertainment to wounded veterans.

The Friars Club roast of Bradshaw is one of several charity events planned for this week, including the Big Game Big Give charity event. The gala is being hosted by Mark Wahlberg, Michael Bay and Washington Nationals manager Matt Williams. The beneficiaries will be three charities.

Gladys Knight headlines the Super Bowl Gospel Celebration, which donates some of its proceeds to charity. The evening, a NFL-sanctioned event, will be hosted by actress Halle Berry. Her husband and her husband, retired NFL player Rodney Peete.

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

Is US drone use truly constrained?

By RACHEL STOHL

In the State of the Union address, President Barack Obama made a singular reference to unmanned aerial vehicles, more colloquially referred to as "drones." During his remarks on American values, Obama said, "As Americans, we respect human dignity, even when we're threatened, which is why I've prohibited torture, and worked to make sure our use of new technology like drones is properly constrained."

That sounds good in theory, but is it really true in practice? Does the United States "properly constrain" drones?

Let's review the facts. The United States is now believed to have operational drone bases in 11 countries, including Djibouti, Niger and Turkey. Since Obama took office, the United States has undertaken at least 450 drone strikes (and counting — as compared with 50 under the George W. Bush administration). The United States has acknowledged drone use in the recent effort against the Islamic State and has used drones in campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Somalia and Yemen. The Pentagon is committed to the drone program (even with reports of drone pilot shortages and fatigue), requesting \$2.4 billion in its fiscal year 2015 budget for drones — including \$1.25 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation alone.

While drone use and reliance has increased under Obama, it has done so without clearly articulated policy guidelines or oversight and accountability mechanisms, which only complicates a determination of "proper constraint."

A little over a year ago, the Stimson Center convened a nonpartisan task force to consider this issue. Co-chaired by retired Gen. John P. Abizaid, former head of U.S. Central Command, and Rosa Brooks, former counselor to the undersecretary of defense for policy, the task force reviewed current U.S. drone policy, taking into account America's national security goals, foreign policy ideals and commercial interests. The report noted that the United States' expanded use of drones is inadvertently creating an international norm and standard for use based on secrecy and unspecified legal rationale and found that increasing use of lethal drones may in fact "create a slippery slope leading to continual or wider wars." The report also warned that the United States' heavy reliance on drones "risks increasing instability and escalating conflicts."

In 2015, we're closer to realizing that slippery slope than ever before as U.S. drone use continues unconstrained and without clear oversight and accountability. The administration's refusal to acknowledge certain aspects of the drone program — such as continued use by the CIA — only fuels more suspicion and confusion. Yet the administration has done little to provide clarification. To date, the clearest explanation of the core values of U.S. drone policy has been enunciated in a series of speeches by Obama and other administration officials, but these talking points have fallen far short on articulating a clear, comprehensive policy in line with long-term U.S. interests.

Much remains to be done for the United

States to not only demonstrate constraint but to deliberate in the development of its drone policy. To judge whether it has "properly constrained" drone use, the Obama administration should first conduct a rigorous strategic review and cost-benefit analysis of lethal drone strikes, particularly in counterterrorism operations. Enhancing transparency would also help determine the level of U.S. constraint. At the very least, the administration could provide historical data on past U.S. strikes that would allow for better understanding of how the drone program has been used and if constraint has in fact been demonstrated. Clarity of the U.S. drone program in general can also facilitate the development of an effective and useful international precedent and norm for drone use, particularly in nontraditional settings outside of traditional battlefields.

The State of the Union address highlighted the key issues on the president's agenda. However, if this administration wants a legacy on drones that is judged beyond a record number of strikes and uses in new theaters, the president will have to clearly articulate a comprehensive U.S. drone policy in the next two years. Without normative metrics for evaluation, it will be difficult to discern whether the administration's use of drones has truly been properly constrained.

Rachel Stohl is a senior associate with the Managing Across Boundaries Initiative at the nonpartisan Stimson Center and was project director of the 2014 Stimson Center's Drone Policy. She wrote this column for Tribune News Service. The opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of Tribune or its editors.

3 ways to level the economic playing field

By MATTHEW MITCHELL

President Barack Obama recently extolled the virtues of what he called "middle-class economics" or "the idea that this country does best when everyone gets their fair shot, everyone does their fair share and everyone plays by the same set of rules." The president is onto something.

Ours is not a country where everyone plays by the same set of economic rules. Many longstanding federal and state policies privilege some businesses and not others. This tilted playing field isn't just unfair, it's grossly inefficient. It undermines competition, discourages innovation and prompts businesses to expend billions of dollars in socially wasteful efforts to win the favor of politicians. I need not be this way.

A serious agenda to level the economic playing field appeals to both the progressive impulse to stick up for the powerless and the conservative urge to check government's scope and power. The president and Congress will soon deliver more detailed agendas. Here are three ways they could level the economic playing field:

First, end corporate bailouts. The first time the federal government rescued a single private company (Lockheed Aircraft) was in 1971. It bailed out a railroad on Chrysler by the end of the '70s; Continental Illinois National Bank in the '80s; and the savings-and-loans in the late '80s/early-'90s. But the big bailouts came in 2008-09 when the government rescued hundreds of insurance companies, financial institutions and auto manufacturers. These bailouts give corporations the (correct) impression that politicians in Washington will rescue them if they get into trouble. That encourages risky behavior, making

It's easy to oppose "special interest" politics. It's much harder to get down to specifics.

bailouts a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The Fed-Frank regulatory overhaul may have stymied the push for bailouts by directing the Federal Reserve to designate certain firms "systemically important financial institutions," broadcasting the federal government's belief that these firms are important enough to save. A good first step would be to repeal this designation.

A next step could be a constitutional amendment prohibiting bailouts. With the knowledge that they alone bear the costs of their mistakes, firms would be more prudent, and the entire financial system would be more secure.

Second, end trade protectionism. Scientific consensus can be elusive. But the closest we get in economics is the consensus view that barriers to trade are bad for an economy. Tariffs, quotas and domestic subsidies stand in the way of competition, or lower prices, and of higher standards of living. These barriers pad the pockets of a few favored firms at the expense of millions of consumers and businesses who must pay more for the protected products.

The typical member of Congress is generally in favor of freer trade but wants to make exceptions for hometown industries. For the better part of a century, the way to get around congressional protectionism has been to give the president "fast track" trade negotiating authority. Congress lets the president negotiate trade agreements

and agrees to simply vote up or down without amendments. Democrats first came up with this idea. They should embrace it again.

Congress can end protectionism in other ways. They could start by letting the Export-Import Bank's authorization expire this summer. Taxpayers shouldn't guarantee a loan that J.P. Morgan makes to Air India to buy a Boeing. Then-Sen. Obama was right to call the corporate welfare, and he is wrong to have abandoned that view.

Third, eliminate the grab bag of subsidies to agribusiness. Everyone loves farmers. Many of us have some in the family. But that's no reason to favor them with special privileges, especially since the average farm household makes 53 percent more than the average U.S. household. But agribusinesses enjoys a host of special privileges: price supports, tariffs, quotas, insurance subsidies, overseas marketing subsidies and favorable tax treatment.

All of this should go.

There's much more. Congress could end both traditional and "green" energy subsidies; it could reform corporate taxes by closing loopholes; and it could shut down programs that promote specific industries like tourism, shipping and air travel.

It's easy to oppose "special interest" politics. It's much harder to get down to specifics and recommend that particular programs go. With a detailed and specific agenda to level the playing field, we could turn the president's words into deeds.

Matthew Mitchell is a senior research fellow and director of the Center for American Capitalism with the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, where he is also an adjunct professor. He writes for Tribune News Service. The opinions are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the views of Tribune or its editors.

## 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 the property of their respective press and other statewide syndicates.

### Netanyahu invite says plenty The (Memphis, Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

As part of its serial rebuttals to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address — remembered largely for GOP Sen. John Boehner's reminiscences of using Wonder Bread bags as foul weather footwear — the House Republican leadership has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address a joint session of Congress on Feb. 11.

"I don't believe I'm poking anyone in the eye," John Boehner said of the invitation, although of course it was a direct jab at Obama and a gross breach of traditional protocol.

Congress can invite whomever it wishes to speak to it, but when the guest is a foreign leader the White House as a matter of courtesy is consulted, or at least informed, well in advance.

Obama learned of the invitation just shortly before Boehner announced it publicly.

Netanyahu has never been reluctant about meddling in U.S. politics. He lobbied strenuously and, thankfully, unsuccessfully in favor of a U.S. strike on Iran's nuclear facilities, an attack whose results would have been problematic given Iran's defensive preparations.

In the current political climate, Netanyahu would add weight to Republican lawmakers' push to impose additional restrictions on Iran's nuclear program, to veto them and diplomatic warnings that new sanctions would blow up talks with Tehran about scrapping its development of a nuclear weapons capability. In addition, it might fracture the coalition of nations that have joined with the U.S. in those talks.

Even in Israel, Netanyahu has been painfully slow and they might ultimately fail, but there is no Plan B other than an increasingly hostile Iran determined to assert itself by stepped-up military meddling in Iraq and Syria.

Congressional Republicans themselves do not have clean hands when it comes to meddling in Israeli politics. Netanyahu's Likud Party is behind the opposition Labor Party in polls leading up to Israeli elections in March. The prestige of an address to the U.S. Congress on the eve of the voting could give him a significant boost.

There is a major partisan policy split at the water's edge, although the influx of voters honored more in the breach than in reality, has served this country well.

The Republicans may get yet another chance to run U.S. foreign policy after 2016. They should wait until the voters decide whether they deserve that chance. In the meantime, they should address some problems to keep them occupied at home.

### Hold Selma events all weekend Dothan (Ala.) Eagle

There's a disappointing controversy clouding the upcoming 50th anniversary of the Bloody Sunday march in Selma that became the tipping point for the Voting Rights Act of 1965. President Barack Obama has scheduled a trip to coincide with the anniversary of the March 7, 1965, march, cut short by a violent standoff with law enforcement at Edmund Pettus Bridge. However, March 7 is a Saturday, and the anniversary march is scheduled for the next day, Sunday the 8th, just as it has always been observed on the Sunday nearest to March 7.

Hence the kerfuffle — Georgia Rep.



John Lewis, who was badly beaten in the 1965 march, invited the president to Selma on March 7, and local black leaders are insisting that the Sunday observance is sacred and must not be rescheduled.

What we've got here is a failure to communicate.

Considering that the Bloody Sunday march is about something far greater than a presidential visit, rescheduling the observance to fit the schedule of a dignitary is unreasonable. State Sen. Hank Sanders, Tuskegee Mayor Johnny Ford and others who have stood firm on the scheduling should be commended.

However, it would not be unreasonable to extend the observance of the 50th anniversary of this pivotal civil rights event into a weekend, with anniversary events planned for both Saturday, when the president is scheduled to arrive, and Sunday, the somber gathering on Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Far greater obstacles have been cleared in the course of civil rights in America.

### Crowded early GOP field is OK Orange County (Calif.) Register

These are nervous times for Republicans. After losing an election that should have been a cakewalk, Mitt Romney is back for more. After years of middling performance and sagging approval, President Barack Obama's ratings have risen to roughly where Ronald Reagan's and George W. Bush's were at the same point in their presidencies. No wonder that seemingly every well-known Republican officeholder wants to run for president.

The list is long and growing longer. Beyond the predictable — Jeb Bush, Rand Paul, Chris Christie and so on — the GOP has an offer the likes of Carly Fiorina and Sen. Lindsey Graham.

The temptation for Republicans is to worry that too many candidates will crowd the field. Since George W. Bush left office, every presidential primary has acquired more than a whiff of a freak show — with dud candidates like Mike Huckabee, Rick Santorum or Newt Gingrich creating political circuses that ultimately amounted to nothing. It all compounds the adage that the quicker a nominee is selected, the sooner he or she can train fire on the other party's pick.

Of course, however, Republicans ought to relax. Today, the GOP is stuffed to the gills with varying ideas and varying kinds of talent. It's natural to see successful politicians whose careers have matured through their hat in the ring. And, after two consecutive defeats, it's natural that this horse race — its ideological noise, homing in on a theme and a style that came to serve

them — in spite of it all — better than they'd been served in a generation. Clintonism is still alive in the Democratic Party. In fact, it's difficult to imagine where the Left would go without it.

In the same way, Republicans have a chance to let their crowded field winnow itself down to a few clear and coherent choices. Sure, the primary season might be a disaster. It might lead to the internecine war that so many Republicans have long feared.

Then again, the Right has a way of smoothing things out when it's crunch time. Why not define today's GOP along the way?

### Progress works for US, India The New York Times

After a year and a half of an unfulfilled promise, President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi appear to have set relations between their democracies on a deeper, perhaps even revolutionary, path.

Part of the improvement in bilateral relations has to do with the personal chemistry between the two, which by all accounts appears warm and genuine. Obama had barely gotten off his plane in New Delhi when he and Modi embraced like old friends. They share humble roots. A visit by Modi to the White House in September went exceptionally well. And there was plenty of colorful symbolism in New Delhi: Obama became the first American president to attend the annual Republic Day parade.

There are strategic imperatives at work as well. Both leaders need to expand their economies, and both see the other as a crucial partner in offsetting China's increasingly assertive role in Asia. The potential for cooperation is considerable. Much of the public focus on the visit was on trade, energy and breaking a logjam that has held up the sale of American nuclear energy technology to India. But when Modi and Obama sat down to talk, the first 45 minutes of the discussion was consumed by China.

Although it has a history of suspicion and rivalry with China, India has acted independently in foreign policy and resisted American efforts to forge a common front. That seems to be changing with Modi, who shares concerns about China's growing economic and military strength and has shown remarkable confidence in striking a new path. He signed a joint statement with Obama chiding the Chinese government for provoking conflict with its neighbors over the South China Sea; suggested reviving a security network involving the United States, India, Japan and Australia; and expressed interest in playing a greater role in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, in which India could help balance China's influence.

China was not happy, dismissing the visit as a "silly rapprochement." The trick for Obama and Modi will be to stand

firm in support of a stable, rules-based order in Asia while not provoking China.

That could be tested by their decision to renew a 10-year defense pact as well as agreements to proceed jointly on developing military hardware, including Raven drones, systems for Lockheed's C-130 transport planes and jet engine technology. India is the world's biggest weapons importer and, just last year, the United States overtook Russia as India's main arm supplier. Modi, who has made economic growth his first priority, is determined to develop an indigenous defense industry. The question is how to do that without fueling a regional arms race. ...

With their talk of an "enduring commitment," Obama and Modi have raised expectations and set a firm basis for moving forward. Even so, the countries have no obvious plans to deal with Pakistan or the India-Pakistan nuclear competition that threatens the region, and it cannot be assumed that all past differences will fade. Building a true partnership will take sustained efforts over many decades.

### Plan for better Ebola response The Dallas Morning News

The latest World Health Organization statistics indicate that Ebola infection rates are plummeting across West Africa. With 710 new cases confirmed in the past 21 days, this epidemic is far from over. But now that health experts are easing back from crisis mode, this is a good time for an assessment of what went wrong and how to address the problem more effectively the next time.

There will be a next time. Ebola has surfaced in different strains multiple times since its discovery in 1976, and the fact that the current epidemic got so wildly out of control, with more than 8,600 deaths, indicates ample room for improvement in how the world responds.

At the executive board meeting in Geneva this week to examine what went wrong. As Dr. Margaret Chan, director general of the WHO, told the board, the epidemic "delivered some horrific shocks and surprises. The world, including the WHO, was too slow to see what was unfolding before us."

Some of the problems that exacerbated Ebola's spread beyond the region's medical community's control. War and political upheaval weakened local governments' ability to identify and contain the early outbreak.

Cultural factors, such as traditions calling for corpses to be washed before burial, also proved difficult to change. Myths and rumors spread rapidly, putting medical personnel at risk beyond their medical community's control. War and political upheaval weakened local governments' ability to identify and contain the early outbreak.

First among many top international priorities should be expanded public education. In schools, mosques and churches across Africa, the WHO and other U.N. bodies should redouble efforts to explain how to prevent disease and avoid contact with people showing disease symptoms. The best time to educate the public is in calmer times when people are better able to absorb the message.

West Africa's medical community has been hit hard by the Ebola deaths of 499 health workers. Vulnerability to new epidemics is a concern beyond the thousands of qualified health workers to treat the ill. International organizations such as Doctors Without Borders and Samaritan's Purse can lead the way to helping fill this gap as West Africa works to rebuild its medical corps.

Finally, WHO officials should consider more aggressive responses. While poor African countries certainly benefit from having more hospitals and clinics, nearly a third of the 64 Ebola treatment centers planned for West Africa still remain under construction. A better approach might be emphasis on mobile facilities that can be deployed when Ebola hot spots develop.

The executive board's lessons-learned examination is a healthy one.

Frazz



Dilbert



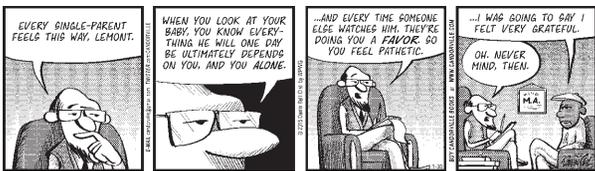
Pearls Before Swine



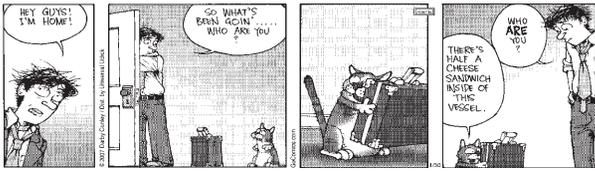
Non Sequitur



Candorville



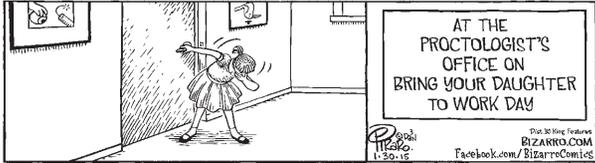
Get Fuzzy



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11		
12				13					14					
15				16					17					
18								19	20					
				21				22			23	24	25	
26	27	28					29				30			
31								32			33			
34								35			36			
37								38			39			
				40							42	43	44	
45	46	47					48	49						
50								51			52			
53								54						55

ACROSS

- 1 Vacationing
- 4 Wrinkly-faced dogs
- 8 Overly theatrical
- 12 — Baba
- 13 Falls to be
- 14 On the briny
- 15 Harmonic design system
- 17 Whammy
- 18 Tranquil
- 19 Winter bug
- 21 Rock ridge
- 22 Boston stadium
- 26 Fisherman's basket
- 29 Plead
- 30 Previous to
- 31 "The Laughing Cavalier" artist
- 32 Opposed
- 33 Bar
- 34 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 35 Pledite, in a way
- 36 Untamed
- 37 Ding site, maybe
- 39 Trot
- 40 Honest politician?
- 41 Gets up
- 45 October birth-stone
- 48 Small opening in a bone
- 50 Greet
- 51 "Exodus" author
- 52 Early bird?
- 53 Sans siblings

DOWN

- 1 Lummocks
- 2 Take off
- 3 Locate
- 4 Handgun
- 5 Leading man?
- 6 Wildebeest
- 7 Add starch
- 8 New Orleans cuisine
- 9 "... was saying
- 10 Follows
- 11 Opposite of bel-lum
- 12 Microsoft master-mind
- 20 Journey segment
- 23 Have on
- 24 Diva's rendition
- 25 Holler
- 26 Almost any Food Network host
- 27 Carry on
- 28 Panache
- 29 Carton
- 32 Cautious
- 33 Kelly's former co-host
- 35 Symbol of intrigue
- 36 Robin Hood's territory
- 38 Waste time
- 39 Joplin or lan
- 42 Goblet feature
- 43 Therefore
- 44 Wise one
- 45 Discoverer's cry
- 46 Zero-star review
- 47 Be under the weather
- 49 Detergent brand

Answer to Previous Puzzle

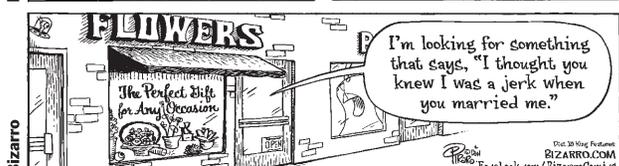
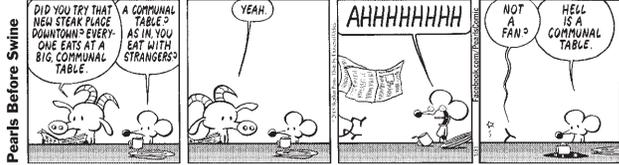
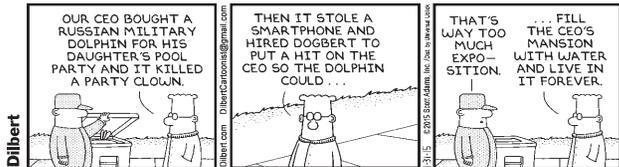
M	E	R	E	J	O	S	S	C	O	G
I	L	E	X	A	R	E	A	A	B	A
C	A	T	H	E	D	R	A	L	T	E
E	N	D	U	R	E	E	T	H	Y	L
			M	R	C	A	M	E	O	
M	A	C	E	L	A	P	A	L	A	S
A	L	A	I	T	S	I	D	O		
P	I	T	Y	S	H	E	S	C	O	W
		H	A	P	P	Y	E	M		
A	W	O	K	E	T	R	A	U	M	A
R	O	D	C	A	T	H	A	R	T	I
I	R	E	O	G	R	E	T	A	R	N
A	D	S	S	O	Y	A	S	H	O	E

1-30

CRYPTOQUIP

OS U ZNIUCDA ZAY UPA  
 GOZPAW KDUZG U ZUOWNCO  
 MNZMAWI, KDAZIR NS SNDVG  
 YODD GAA AZRU OZ VAZRU.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I WAS READY TO TEACH MY SMALL KID HOW TO TIE HER SHOES, I CRIED "HERE GOES KNOTTING!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals Y



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12						13						
14						15						
16					17	18						
		20	21				22	23		19		
24	25	26		27				28	29	30	31	
32			33					34				
35						36				37		
		38		39					41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54									55			
56									57			

- ACROSS**
- 1 Band section
  - 6 Sandbanks
  - 12 Catch in a lie
  - 13 Iran's old name
  - 14 Hero's innards?
  - 15 Sagittarius
  - 16 Juror, theoretically
  - 17 Nevada city
  - 19 Harbor vessel
  - 20 Follow closely
  - 22 Neither mate
  - 24 Examine thoroughly
  - 27 Branch
  - 29 Caution
  - 32 Song from "How to Succeed ..."
  - 35 Competent
  - 36 Pedestal part
  - 37 Solidify
  - 38 Swelled head
  - 40 Shading
  - 42 Cut-de-
  - 44 Bard
  - 46 Mideast gulf
  - 50 Goldbrick
  - 52 Self-defense skill
  - 54 Guarantee
  - 55 Tire patterns
  - 56 Aquarium swimmers
  - 57 Primitive
- DOWN**
- 1 Highland
  - 2 hillside
  - 3 Anger
  - 4 In two places at once?
  - 5 Total
  - 6 Energetic
  - 7 Bridge
  - 8 Egret's cousin
  - 9 Talkien monster
  - 9 Butt holders
  - 10 Stead
  - 11 Puppeteer Tony
  - 12 Recipe meas.
  - 13 Heighten
  - 21 "Unaccustomed — am ..."
  - 23 Possess
  - 24 By way of
- 25 "Chicago" lyricist
- 26 Show, in a way
- 28 Engage in contemplation
- 30 Shad product
- 31 Eccentric
- 33 Table part
- 34 Charged bit
- 39 "La Bohème," e.g.
- 41 Recipient
- 42 Skirt feature
- 43 Top-rated
- 45 Raw minerals
- 47 Use a rotary phone
- 48 Vortex
- 49 Ph. bk. info
- 51 Bear hair
- 53 Savings plan acronym

Answer to Previous Puzzle

OFF	PUGS	CAMP	CAMP								
ALI	ISNT	ASEA	E								
FENGSHUJ	J	I	N	X							
SEDATE	F	L	U								
	T	O	R	F	E	N	W	A	Y		
C	R	E	E	L	B	E	G	E	R	E	
H	A	L	S	C	O	N	R	A	I	L	
E	V	A	W	A	X	F	E	R	A	L	
F	E	N	D	E	R	J	O	G			
	A	B	E	A	R	I	S	E			
O	P	A	L	F	E	N	E	S	T	R	A
H	A	I	L	U	R	I	S	E	G		
O	N	L	Y	L	A	S	T	M	O	E	

1-31 CRYPTOQUIP

HYLH GXTLB MI VXMBV HX  
 HLRW L BLC BWLF MHLJQ'I  
 GWJJ-RBXGB JWLBMBV HXGWF.

TLQ IYW FWIH MB CMIL.  
 Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF A NOTABLE NEW AGE SINGER PLANS A NAIROBI CONCERT, PLENTY OF FOLKS WILL SEE ENYA IN KENYA.  
 Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals W

# BUSINESS/WEATHER

## Fed staying 'patient' on interest rates

**By MARTIN CRUTSINGER**  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve's outlook for the U.S. economy is steadily brightening. Yet the Fed will be "patient" in raising interest rates from record lows.

That was the dual message the central bank sent Wednesday in a statement it issued after its latest policy meeting.

Why is no rate increase likely soon? The main reason, the Fed

suggested in its statement, is that inflation remains well below the central bank's target rate.

It said the pressures holding down inflation — mainly plunging oil prices — have intensified. The Fed said it thinks inflation will decline further before eventually reaching the central bank's 2 percent target rate.

The Fed sketched a bullish picture of the economy — with a strengthening job market, lower unemployment, rising consumer

spending and higher household purchasing power fueled by lower energy prices.

Paul Ashworth, an economist at Capital Economics, said the statement suggested that the Fed "is still taking the view that the collapse in oil prices is a net positive for the economy." The Fed's statement also made clear that policymakers still think the impact of low oil prices on inflation will prove temporary, Ashworth said. The statement was approved on

a 10-0 vote. The Fed's emphasis on low inflation could affect when it decides to raise its key short-term rate from near zero. Many economists have forecast a rate increase in June, but some object to their predicted timetable.

The Fed did not explicitly mention the weakening global economy but it said it planned to take "international developments" into account in determining when to start raising rates.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro cents (Jan. 30)	\$1.1638
Dollar buys (Jan. 30)	€0.8600
British pound (Jan. 30)	\$1.55
Japanese yen (Jan. 30)	¥115.00
South Korean won (Jan. 30)	₩1,063.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.5122/0.6613
Canada (dollar)	1.2589
China (Yuan)	6.2481
Denmark (Krone)	6.5667
Egypt (Pound)	7.5912
Euro	\$1.1337/0.8721
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7530
Hungary (Forint)	284.22
Israel (Shekel)	3.9242
Japan (Yen)	117.91
Kuwait (Dinar)	6.2950
Norway (Krone)	7.7799
Philippines (Peso)	4.472
Poland (Zloty)	3.7020
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7600
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3514
South Korea (Won)	1,096.99
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9193
Thailand (Bath)	32.72
Turkey (New Lira)	4.0031

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one euro, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

### EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.347	\$2.553	\$2.747	\$3.169
Change in price	-2.2 cents	-2.7 cents	-2.9 cents	-6.7 cents
Netherlands	---	\$3.268	\$3.512	\$3.479
Change in price	---	-8.2 cents	-9.0 cents	-8.9 cents
U.K.	---	\$2.523	\$2.717	\$3.139
Change in price	---	-2.7 cents	-2.9 cents	-6.7 cents
Azores	---	---	\$3.635	---
Change in price	---	---	---	---
U.K.	---	\$2.421	\$3.347	\$3.950
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$3.495	\$3.755*
Change in price	---	---	---	---
Italy	\$3.978	---	---	---
Change in price	no change	---	---	---

### PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$2.523	---	\$3.949
Change in price	---	-3.0 cents	---	-7.0 cents
Okinawa	\$2.129	---	---	\$2.949
Change in price	-2.0 cents	---	---	-7.0 cents
South Korea	\$2.169	---	\$3.559	\$2.989
Change in price	-2.0 cents	---	-2.0 cents	-7.0 cents
Guam	\$2.199*	\$2.369	\$2.559	---
Change in price	-2.0 cents	-3.0 cents	-3.0 cents	---

\* Diesel EFD \*\* Midgrade  
For the week of Jan. 31-Feb. 6

### MARKET WATCH

	Jan. 28, 2015
<b>Dow Jones Industrials</b>	<b>-195.84</b> 17,191.37
<b>Nasdaq composite</b>	<b>-43.50</b> 4,637.99
<b>Standard &amp; Poor's 500</b>	<b>-27.39</b> 2,002.16
<b>Russell 2000</b>	<b>-19.54</b> 1,175.12

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	4.00
Federal funds market rate	0.11
3-month bill	0.02
30-year bond	2.29

## WEATHER OUTLOOK

### FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



### FRIDAY IN EUROPE



### SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



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

### Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	Chatanooga	44	24	Cir	Fort Wayne	24	16	Cir	Louisville	34	22	Cir	Pocatello	42	26	Cir	Slou City	41	26	Cir
Ablene, Tex	49	41	Cir	Cheyenne	48	20	Cir	Fresno	60	45	Pcldy	Lubbock	41	35	Rain	Portland, Maine	32	16	Snow	Siou Falls	39	24	Pcldy
Akron, Ohio	16	4	Cir	Chicago	25	18	Pcldy	Goodland	50	31	Cir	Macon	56	30	Pcldy	Portland, Ore.	52	37	Snow	South Bend	26	17	Cir
Albany, N.Y.	31	3	Snow	Cincinnati	39	16	Cir	Grand Junction	47	33	Cir	Madison	23	16	Pcldy	Providence	37	11	Snow	Spokane	38	30	Cir
Albuquerque	40	31	Snow	Cleveland	17	5	Cir	Grand Rapids	22	16	Cir	Medford	53	34	Pcldy	Pueblo	50	28	Cir	Springfield, Ill.	33	21	Pcldy
Allentown, Pa.	30	7	Cir	Colorado Springs	48	28	Cir	Great Falls	44	23	Cir	Memphis	47	30	Pcldy	Raleigh-Durham	44	22	Cir	Springfield, Mo.	45	30	Pcldy
Amarillo	37	32	Snow	Columbia, S.C.	53	31	Cir	Green Bay	18	12	Pcldy	Miami Beach	76	58	Cir	Reno	55	29	Pcldy	St. Louis	68	53	Pcldy
Anchorage	21	12	Snow	Columbia, Ga.	57	31	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	44	23	Pcldy	Midland-Odessa	43	37	Cir	Reno	55	29	Pcldy	Springfield, Mo.	45	30	Pcldy
Asheville	38	21	Cir	Columbus, Ohio	24	11	Cir	Hartford	39	26	Pcldy	Milwaukee	42	30	Pcldy	Richmond	43	28	Pcldy	Tampa	70	48	Cir
Atlanta	51	31	Cir	Concord, N.H.	32	7	Snow	Hartford	39	27	Pcldy	Minneapolis-St. Paul	23	18	Pcldy	Rochester	36	18	Pcldy	Wichita Falls	46	33	Cir
Atlantic City	35	10	Cir	Corpus Christi	64	55	Cir	Helena	40	19	Pcldy	Missoula	37	20	Cir	Rochester	20	3	Snow	Topeka	44	31	Pcldy
Austin	68	52	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	54	42	Cir	Honolulu	80	64	Pcldy	Mobile	34	24	Pcldy	Rockford	35	16	Pcldy	Tucson	62	48	Rain
Baltimore	33	13	Cir	Dayton	22	11	Cir	Houston	60	43	Cir	Montgomery	56	32	Cir	Sacramento	65	47	Cir	Tulsa	48	35	Cir
Baton Rouge	68	40	Pcldy	Daytona Beach	67	45	Pcldy	Huntsville	44	26	Pcldy	Nashville	43	25	Pcldy	St. Louis	38	26	Cir	Tulsa	48	35	Cir
Beaumont	66	26	Cir	Denver	49	33	Cir	Indianapolis	29	18	Cir	New Orleans	38	24	Pcldy	St. Petersburg	68	53	Pcldy	Tulsa	48	35	Cir
Birmingham	49	30	Cir	Des Moines	39	29	Cir	Jackson, Miss.	55	34	Cir	New York City	32	13	Snow	St. Thomas	84	76	Rain	Waco	56	42	Cir
Bismarck	41	18	Pcldy	Detroit	18	11	Cir	Jacksonville	61	39	Pcldy	Newark	32	12	Snow	Salt Lake City	46	32	Cir	W. Palm Beach	74	58	Cir
Boise	37	28	Cir	El Paso	34	27	Snow	Janeau	39	27	Pcldy	Norfolk, Va.	43	24	Pcldy	Salt Lake City	46	32	Cir	Wichita	45	33	Cir
Boston	36	12	Snow	El Paso	47	37	Rain	Kansas City	42	30	Pcldy	North Platte	52	24	Pcldy	San Angelo	52	41	Cir	Wichita Falls	50	38	Cir
Bridgport	35	8	Snow	Elkins	24	10	Snow	Key West	74	64	Pcldy	Oklahoma City	48	36	Cir	San Antonio	58	47	Cir	Wichita Falls	50	38	Cir
Brownsville	71	60	Cir	Erie	17	4	Rain	Knoxville	40	20	Pcldy	Omaha	40	29	Cir	San Diego	66	55	Cir	Wilkes-Barre	27	5	Cir
Buffalo	17	1	Snow	Eugene	48	35	Cir	Lake Charles	61	42	Cir	Orlando	71	48	Pcldy	San Francisco	61	49	Cir	Wilmington, Del.	34	11	Cir
Burlington, Vt.	28	-4	Snow	Evansville	36	22	Pcldy	Lansing	20	14	Cir	Paducah	39	24	Cir	San Jose	65	42	Cir	Youngstown	16	1	Snow
Caribou, Maine	26	13	Snow	Fairbanks	20	-32	Cir	Las Vegas	58	47	Rain	Pendleton	40	30	Cir	Santa Fe	36	27	Snow				
Casper, Wyo.	42	18	Pcldy	Fargo	28	12	Cir	Lexington	31	18	Cir	Peoria	31	18	Cir	Sioux Falls	36	27	Snow				
Charleston, S.C.	56	32	Pcldy	Flagstaff	39	37	Rain	Lincoln	45	28	Cir	Philadelphia	34	11	Cir	Savannah	58	33	Pcldy				
Charleston, W.Va.	30	17	Snow	Flint	18	8	Cir	Little Rock	51	34	Pcldy	Phoenix	61	53	Rain	Seattle	52	39	Cir				
Charlotte, N.C.	48	24	Cir	Fort Smith	55	35	Cir	Los Angeles	69	54	Cir	Pittsburgh	24	6	Cir	Shreveport	56	38	Pcldy				

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The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stripes as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert 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](http://stripes.com) or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

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A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.

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2013 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  
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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

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# Stripes

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NHL

# Will a defenseman win MVP?

## Preds' Weber has good shot at halfway point

By JOHN WAWROW  
The Associated Press

**B**lackhawks defenseman Duncan Keith can understand why the NHL's Hart Trophy is traditionally awarded to offense-minded forwards.

"They score the goals, and that's what people see. They see the red light go on," Keith said during the NHL All-Star festivities in Columbus, Ohio, over the weekend. "It's not easy to make that red light go on."

And yet, Keith wondered, why do defensemen traditionally get overlooked in the MVP discussion?

"How did Lidstrom not win a Hart Trophy?" Keith asked, referring to Niklas Lidstrom. The former Detroit Red Wings blueliner won seven Norris Trophies from 2001-11, and was the 2002 MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs. Chris Pronger, with St. Louis in 2000, was the last defenseman to win the Hart. Before that, it was Bobby Orr's three-season reign from 1970-72.

Some of the leading candidates for the NHL's top individual honor as the league comes out of its All-Star break:

**Hart Trophy (MVP):** Nashville defenseman Shea Weber deserves to be a leading contender along with forwards Ryan Getzlaf (Anaheim), John Tavares (Islanders), Rick Nash (Rangers) and Steven Stamkos (Tampa Bay). Nashville goalie Pekka Rinne was in the conversation before spraining his knee two weeks ago. Then there's Islanders goalie Jaroslav Halak.

**Norris Trophy (top defenseman):** Weber is playing a key role for the Predators, who own the NHL's second-best record. Also in the mix are Calgary's Mark Giordano and St. Louis' Kevin Shattenkirk. Giordano leads NHL defenseman with 40 points (11 goals, 29 assists) and is part of a Flames team in contention to snap a five-season playoff drought.

Don't discount Los Angeles'



KEVIN SULLIVAN, THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/AP

Anaheim's Ryan Getzlaf, with 15 goals and 50 points, could make a run at the Hart Trophy.

Drew Doughty, especially if the defending Stanley Cup champs secure a playoff spot after an inconsistent start. Doughty ranks second in the league in 29:22 of ice time per game.

**Veziina (top goalie):** All eyes will be on how Rinne looks in his return in the coming weeks after being hurt on Jan. 15. Halak has been a stalwart on Long Island, where he finally found the right fit after being a member of three teams last season. There's also Montreal's Carey Price, whose 2.15 goals-against average is third among players with 30 or more games.

**Caldier (top rookie):** Nashville's Filip Forsberg leads rookies with 40 points (15 goals, 25 assists), and Calgary's Johnny Gaudreau is second. Florida defenseman Aaron Ekblad, the No. 1 player selected in the draft last summer, is suddenly making it a three-way race. Among rookie blue-liners, Ekblad is first with 25 points (six goals, 19 assists), and second in averaging 22:03 ice time and a plus-7 rating.



MARK ZALESKI/AP

Nashville center Filip Forsberg, left, is in the running for the Calder Trophy, which is presented to the top rookie. Defenseman Shea Weber, right, could be the first defenseman to win the Hart Trophy, given to the Most Valuable Player, since Chris Pronger in 2000.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	45	28	11	5	65	141	123
Tampa Bay	49	30	15	4	64	158	131
Montreal	46	26	13	3	63	126	106
Boston	48	25	16	7	57	126	121
Florida	45	20	15	10	50	111	127
Toronto	49	22	23	4	48	145	152
Ottawa	46	19	18	9	47	126	128
Buffalo	48	31	3	3	31	90	171

### Metropolitan Division

N.Y. Islanders	47	32	14	1	65	155	130
Pittsburgh	48	17	13	8	62	145	124
Washington	48	25	14	9	59	144	124
N.Y. Rangers	45	27	14	4	58	135	110
Philadelphia	49	20	22	7	47	134	149
Columbus	46	21	22	3	45	117	145
New Jersey	48	18	25	4	44	109	135
Carolina	47	17	25	5	39	102	122

### Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Nashville	46	31	10	5	67	141	107
St. Louis	46	26	13	7	62	145	111
Chicago	48	30	16	2	62	151	112
Winnipeg	49	26	15	8	60	138	122
Colorado	49	20	18	11	51	128	141
Dallas	47	21	19	7	49	146	154
Minnesota	47	21	20	6	48	130	138

### Pacific Division

Anaheim	48	32	10	6	70	143	124
San Jose	48	25	17	6	56	131	132
Vancouver	48	26	17	3	55	124	118
Calgary	48	26	19	3	55	125	121
Los Angeles	48	21	15	12	54	133	129
Arizona	47	16	25	6	38	126	160
Edmonton	48	12	27	9	33	110	160

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

### Wednesday's games

New Jersey 2, Toronto 1, SO  
Washington 4, Pittsburgh 0  
Los Angeles 4, Chicago 3

### Thursday's games

Boston at N.Y. Islanders  
Montreal at N.Y. Rangers  
Winnipeg at Philadelphia  
Arizona at Toronto

Dallas at Tampa Bay  
Columbus at Edmonton  
Nashville at St. Louis  
Minnesota at Calgary  
Anaheim at San Jose

### Friday's games

Pittsburgh at New Jersey  
St. Louis at Carolina  
Nashville at Colorado  
Buffalo at Vancouver  
Chicago at Anaheim

### Saturday's games

Washington at Montreal  
N.Y. Islanders at Detroit  
Arizona at Ottawa  
Dallas at Winnipeg  
Toronto at Philadelphia  
Carolina at N.Y. Rangers  
Florida at New Jersey  
Los Angeles at Boston  
Columbus at Tampa Bay  
Edmonton at Calgary  
Chicago at San Jose

### Scoring leaders

Through Jan. 28

Player	GP	G	A	Pts
Jakub Voracek, Phi	49	17	40	57
Tyler Seguin, Dal	47	28	25	53
Patrick Kane, Chi	48	23	30	53
Claude Giroux, Phi	48	16	36	52
Evgeni Malkin, Pit	45	19	32	51
Sidney Crosby, Pit	44	15	36	51
Ryan Getzlaf, Anh	47	15	35	50
Nicklas Backstrom, Was	48	15	35	50
Tyler Johnson, TB	47	17	31	48
Vladimir Tarasenko, StL	46	24	23	47
John Tavares, NYI	47	22	24	46
Alex Ovechkin, Was	48	29	16	45
Steven Stamkos, TB	48	26	19	45
Henrik Zetterberg, Det	48	15	30	45

### Calendar

Feb. 21 — Stadium Series: Los Angeles vs. San Jose at Santa Clara, Calif.

April 11 — Regular season ends.

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STARS AND STRIPES



# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS-PACIFIC

## Weekend peek

# Panthers-Samurai a Far East preview?

By **DAVE ORNAUER**  
Stars and Stripes

Perry's boys basketball match-up Friday at Yokota could be a preview of bigger things to come on the DODDS-Japan and Far East Division II Tournament landscapes.

Yokota's move from Division I to Division II makes the Panthers the small-school rival of the Samurai for the first time. And with Perry at 14-1 and Yokota 12-0, some observers are marking Friday's contest a potential DODDS-Japan and/or D-II title-game pre-screening.

"We're looking forward to it," said coach Paul Ettl of Yokota. "It should be a good test for us heading into the home stretch."

"It should be a very good measuring stick for two top teams at the Division II level," Samurai coach DeWayne Pigge' said. "We've been working hard to get where we are. This will be a good gauge to see where we stand."

Friday's showdown is among a handful of highlights of the last significant regular-season weekend of basketball games and wrestling meets before district and league tournaments commence next weekend.

There's every chance the Panthers and Samurai could meet multiple times next month in the DODDS-Japan tournament and Far East D-II Tournament.

Though mindful of their status as contenders for both titles, both Ettl and Pigge' said they're entering Friday's game as they do all others.

"We plan to worry about what we do" rather than about the Sam-

urai, Ettl said. "We don't know much about them. We haven't seen them. We plan to come with what we have and, hopefully, that will be enough."

"We're coming in with a mindset of being focused and stay with the game plan we've had since the beginning," Pigge' said.

Other weekend matchups have E.J. King's boys and girls teams traveling to Korea to play Seoul American, the girls for the first time in the schools' respective histories and the boys for the first time since the Cobras hosted the long-defunct Turkey Shootout.

Kubasaki visits Kadena's boys, with their season series level at 2-2, and fresh off the teams' most recent outcome, a 63-61 last-second triumph by the Panthers in the Okinawa-American Friendship Tournament.

Daegu's boys and girls teams conclude their Korea regular season with visits to Osan and Humphreys.

A day after their match-up with the Panthers, Perry plays a school-first regular-season neutral-site game with Edgren, also at Yokota. The night before, the Eagles' boys and girls teams pay a call on Kinnick.

Japan's final regular-season wrestling slate has DODDS-Japan and international Kanto Plain schools converging on Christian Academy Japan for its annual invitational tournament. DODDS-Korea schools assemble at Osan for their next-to-last regular-season meet.

ornaauer.dave@stripes.com

## Game of the week

### Boys basketball: Perry (14-1) at Yokota (12-0)

**When** — 5:30 p.m. Friday.

**Where** — Yokota Air Base, Japan.

**What** — First and only regular-season meeting between two teams expected to contend for the DODDS-Japan tournament title next week — also at Yokota — and at the Far East Division II Tournament Feb. 16-18 at the visiting Samurai's home Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni. Some observers view Friday's show-down as a potential preview of the finals of each of those tournaments.

**Players to watch** — Powering the Samurai's balanced inside-outside attack are post players Jarell Davis (11.8 points, 10.2 rebounds per game) and freshman Garrett Macias (8.1 rebounds and guards Vince Ermitano (14.9 points) and Jon Cadavos (14.3 points). The Pan-

thers are guard-oriented, headlined by Jadan Anderson (22.5 points) and Jermaine Neal (14.8 points).

**Also** — The Samurai have played the majority of their games at neutral sites, where they are 7-1; their only loss came in the semifinals of last week's Western Japan Athletic Association Tournament. They are 5-0 at home and 2-0 on the road, and their average point margin is plus-21.5. ... The Panthers are 6-0 both at home and on the road and have won their games by a Pacific-best average of 33.4 points. ... The teams' last meeting came Jan. 10-11, 2014 at Perry, where Yokota swept the Samurai 68-51 and 61-39.

— Stars and Stripes



Gaku Lange/Special to Stars and Stripes

Jadan Anderson of Yokota and Vincent Ermitano of M.C. Perry, shown playing in a DODDS-Japan regular-season game last January at Samurai Gym, will face off Friday at Yokota's Capps Gym for the first time as Division II opponents, the Panthers having moved from Division I in November. With the teams a combined 26-1 this season, some observers are calling Friday's match-up a possible preview of the Far East D-II tournament final next month at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan.

## Schedule

### Boys basketball

**Friday**

St. Mary's at Zama, American School in Japan at Christian Academy Japan, Edgren at Kinnick, Perry at Yokota, Daegu at Osan, King at Seoul American, Kubasaki at Kadena, John F. Kennedy at St. John's, St. Paul at Harvest Christian, Simon Sanchez at Okkodo, Notre Dame vs. Tiyán at Sports Complex, Father Duenas at George Washington

**Saturday**

Edgren vs. Perry at Yokota, St. Maur and Kinnick at ASIJ, Daegu at Humphreys, King at Seoul American, Tiyán at Guam, GW at Southern, St. Paul at JFK

**Thursday, Feb. 5**

DODDS-Japan tournament at Yokota

### Girls basketball

**Friday**

CAJ at ASIJ, Zama at Seison, Perry at Yokota, Edgren at Kinnick, Daegu at Osan, King at Seoul American

**Saturday**

St. Maur and Kinnick at ASIJ, Edgren vs. Perry at Yokota, Daegu at Humphreys, King at Seoul American, Okinawa Christian at Kubasaki

**Thursday, Feb. 5**

DODDS-Japan tournament at Yokota

### Wrestling

**Saturday**

Kanto Invitational at CAJ, King and Japanese team at Perry, DODDS and Korean high school at Osan, Kubasaki at Kadena in Okinawa Open Tournament

### Softball

**Saturday**

GW at JFK, Tiyán at Guam, Southern vs. Academy of Our Lady at GW, Simon Sanchez at Okkodo

## Two more key matchups

### Basketball E.J. King at Seoul American

**Saturday, 11 a.m.**

First in-season meeting between the two schools' boys teams teams since the Cobras hosted the now-defunct Turkey Shootout in 2002 at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan. It's the first regular-season meeting between the girls teams in their schools' history.

### Basketball Kadena at Kubasaki

**Friday, 5 p.m.**

Fifth meeting between the teams this season with the season series level at 2-2 entering the contest. The teams have played three of their four games on neutral courts, with Kadena winning twice. The Panthers won the last encounter on a buzzer-beater 63-61 Sunday in the Okinawa American Friendship Tournament final.



Dave Ornauer

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# HIGH SCHOOL: DODDS EUROPE

## Weekend peek

# Wrestlers already picking up pace

Sectionals still a week away, but to peak at right time means going full throttle now

BY GREGORY BROOME  
Stars and Stripes

The DODDS Europe wrestling postseason officially begins Feb. 7 with sectional meets across the continent. But for many wrestlers, the season's final push has already begun.

With the final meets of the regular season set for Saturday, hopefuls on deep rosters such as Patch, Wiesbaden and Lakenheath are still working their way up the weight-class depth charts in search of a berth and favorable seed at sectionals and the coveted distinction as their team's designated point-earner.

"The wrestlers that know they are in the running to earn one of the two spots for sectionals definitely pick up the pace," Patch coach Norm Matzke said.

That's a common theme across DODDS Europe as coaches prepare their teams for the season-defining brackets in store over the next few weeks. Experienced wrestlers are girding themselves for another grueling trip through the sectional round and the European tournament, set for Wiesbaden on Feb. 13-14. Younger wrestlers are applying late adjustments to the skills and techniques they've honed all winter.

Though they've attempted to maintain maximum effort throughout the short eight-week DODDS Europe season, coaches and wrestlers know an extra gear is required to endure the process.

"We have tried to keep our wrestlers at full throttle all season," Lakenheath coach Darryl Brock said. "They know that as the season goes on, the practices get tougher."

AFNORTH coach Greg Blankenship agreed.

"It becomes a greater test of will, focus and execution," Blankenship said.

While it's still a robust sport, many coaches across DODDS Europe have reported decreased

**‘They know that as the season goes on, the practices get tougher.’**

Darryl Brock  
Lakenheath coach

turnout for wrestling, a trend that has thinned the European field overall at many weight classes, particularly at the low and high extremes.

"We are a small team, but the kids we have are competitive," Bitburg coach Brian Bent said.

Vicenza coach Adam Ridgely said he's fielding a "much smaller team" than he'd anticipated, but is happy with the group he'll lead into the postseason.

"I feel like we have a lot of talent in our small numbers," Ridgely said.

The decreased numbers could create opportunities for new contenders to advance deeper into brackets.

"We're really excited going into sectionals," Brock said. "We have some wrestlers with good records that could advance to Europeans."

This weekend's regular-season finales will find Lakenheath headlining a stout six-team northern Europe field at Alconbury; Vilesek hosting fellow Division I hopeful Kaiserslautern along with regional opponents Ansbach and Hohenfels; defending champion Patch tangling with top contenders Wiesbaden and Ramstein, which will host the five-team meet; and five Italian programs gathering in Aviano.

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## Game of the week

# Basketball: Wiesbaden vs. Ramstein Friday at Ramstein; Saturday at Wiesbaden

Regardless of the condition in which the teams arrive, games between the Warriors and Royals are nearly always compelling.

That's good, because three of the four teams will enter this latest meeting recuperating from various degrees of damage.

The Wiesbaden boys are the most banged-up of the bunch; they'll drag a cumbersome four-game losing streak into the doubleheader. The first two losses weren't surprising, competitive losses to two-time defending champion and undefeated divisional frontrunner Patch. But the situation got starker last weekend as the Warriors lost two more, this time to Division II squad Black Forest Academy.

The Ramstein boys have suffered just one loss, a heartbreaking last-second, home-court 47-46 setback to archrival Kaiserslautern two weeks ago, and they successfully avenged that defeat on Tuesday with a

46-39 win at Kaiserslautern. A tough late schedule, including not only Wiesbaden but two-time defending champion Patch, will test the Royals' championship mettle.

The Ramstein girls cruise into the weekend at 8-1 and unbeaten in January. But the Royals' single loss, a 53-47 decision to Bitburg just before the holiday break, offered a glimpse of vulnerability despite the thrashings they've handed Division I rivals Kaiserslautern and Vilesek in the meantime.

The Wiesbaden girls, then, are the only team to enter this weekend's shutdown unblemished. The defending Division I champions have been seriously pushed only once, way back in a 39-37 victory over Bitburg on Dec. 6, in an unbeaten and otherwise unchallenged season.

— Stars and Stripes

## Schedule

### Basketball

#### Friday

Alconbury at SHAPE  
AFNORTH at Lakenheath  
Baumholder at Bitburg  
Ansbach at BFA  
Wiesbaden at Ramstein  
Hohenfels at Patch  
Florence at Aviano  
AOSR at Vicenza  
Naples at Marymount

#### Saturday

Alconbury at SHAPE  
AFNORTH at Lakenheath  
Bitburg at Baumholder  
Ansbach at BFA  
Ramstein at Wiesbaden  
Hohenfels at Patch  
Florence at Aviano  
AOSR at Vicenza  
Naples at Marymount

#### Tuesday

Baumholder at Ramstein JV

### Wrestling

#### Saturday

Lakenheath, AFNORTH, Bitburg, Baumholder, Brussels at Alconbury  
Kaiserslautern, Hohenfels, Ansbach at Vilesek  
Patch, SHAPE, BFA, Wiesbaden at Ramstein  
AOSR, Vicenza, Sigonella, Naples at Aviano

### Marksmanship

#### Saturday

European championship meet at Vilesek

## Another key matchup

### Boys basketball AOSR at Vicenza Friday-Saturday

DODDS Europe's divisional realignment has had major ramifications for basketball teams across the continent. But perhaps none more than the AOSR Falcons and Vicenza Cougars.

A year ago, AOSR faced long odds in pursuing a Division II European championship. The Falcons' field was stacked with a dozen rival schools, their path blocked by imposing neighbors Naples and Vicenza as well as solid entries from Germany, the Benelux and beyond. AOSR's title hopes ended two wins short with a tough semifinal loss to Naples.

But the road to a title looks clearer this season. The division has been streamlined to 10 teams, with Naples and Vicenza among the outcasts. And AOSR, led by sophomore phenom Otis Reale and riding an active six-game winning streak, is on the short list of teams to beat in the new bracket.

Vicenza was king of the old bracket, having beaten Naples last year for the Division II crown. But that already seems like a distant past. The Cougars lost most of their key players, welcomed a new coach in Jesse Woods and stepped up into the Division I level all in one eventful offseason.

They own a solid 5-3 record, but all of those wins have come against small schools Florence, Marymount and Sigonella, and weekend losses to visiting Division I rivals Patch and Vilesek showed the Cougars just where they stand as of now.

And so this weekend's games represent a crossroads and an opportunity for both AOSR and Vicenza. The Falcons can lock in their growing Division II reputation by vanquishing the division's former champ. The Cougars can regain their footing with a quality win or two over a non-divisional but very worthy foe.



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# AUSTRALIAN OPEN



PHOTOS BY ANDY BROWNELL/AP

Serena Williams of the U.S. reached the finals of the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, on Thursday by defeating US teen Madison Keys.

## Serena seeks 19th major

After topping Keys in semis, she faces Sharapova for Aussie title

By JOHN PYE  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — It wasn't until Serena Williams forced herself to relax, and not focus too intently on a milestone Grand Slam title, that she rediscovered the art of winning the biggest events in tennis.

Now she's on the verge of a 19th major championship after beating 19-year-old Madison Keys 7-6 (5), 6-2 on Thursday and setting up an Australian Open final against long-time rival Maria Sharapova.

Williams has won all five Australian Open finals she has contested and won her last 15 matches against No. 2-ranked Sharapova, a five-time major winner who will be playing her fourth final at Melbourne Park.

While the 33-year-old Williams is peerless among active players, there was a period last year when she wanted so desperately to win her 18th major that it proved too distracting. After winning the U.S. Open in 2013, she lost in the fourth round at the Australian Open, the second round at the French and the third round at Wimbledon.

"I was so hyped on getting to 18 and I lost every Grand Slam early. I didn't make it to any quarterfinals," Williams said. "Then after Wimbledon I decided to just — not necessarily not care — but just relax. It all kind of came back for me after that ... and I think it's been working."

That approach helped her win the U.S. Open and, if it works again on Saturday against 2008 champion Sharapova, it will help



**Maria Sharapova of Russia beat compatriot Ekaterina Makarova in their semifinal match and will face Serena Williams in the final.**

Williams move above Chris Evert and Martina Navratilova on the list of major winners. She would be behind only Steffi Graf, with 22 titles, among champions in the Open era.

The statistics point to another win for Williams, but she's not getting ahead of herself.

"Again, I have to win. Everyone's expecting me to win. But we'll see," Williams said. "She's playing unbelievable. She was almost out of the tournament and has been playing better every single match. It's impressive."

Williams, who has struggled with a cold for a week, said she'd benefit from a tough workout in the all-American semifinal against Keys, who pounded her with heavy groundstrokes and a big serve for the first set.



**No. 1 Serena Williams vs. No. 2 Maria Sharapova**  
AFI-Sports  
9 a.m. Saturday CET  
5 p.m. Saturday JKT

"She pushed me really hard the first set ... and I had to really dig deep mentally to get through that," Williams said. "It was a little frustrating. I had like nine or 10 match points and couldn't close it out. That doesn't happen so much. She played like she didn't have anything to lose."

Sharapova, who beat No. 10-seeded Ekaterina Makarova 6-3, 6-2 in an all-Russian semifinal, has won only two of her 18 career meetings with Williams — both in 2004. She started 2015 with a title at the Brisbane International and, ever since saving two match points in her second-round match against Russian qualifier Alexandra Panova, has been growing in confidence.

"I think my confidence should be pretty high going into a final of a Grand Slam no matter who I'm facing and whether I've had a terrible record, to say the least, against someone," Sharapova said. "It doesn't matter. I got there for a reason. I belong in that spot. I will do everything I can to get the title."

## Keys becomes new US star at Open

By JOCELYN GECKER  
The Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — After Madison Keys walked off the court from the biggest match of her young career, she received quite a compliment from her celebrated opponent.

The opponent was No. 1-ranked Serena Williams, who won their semifinal at the Australian Open on Thursday after a tournament that might be remembered as the one where a new American star was born.

Williams does not say things like this lightly or very often: "I think she can be the best in the world." Then she added, for emphasis, "The way she played today, I definitely think she has potential to be No. 1 — and win Grand Slams."

Until now, Keys had never made it past the third round of a major. But the Australian Open marked many firsts for the 19-year-old American.

"Did I think it was going to happen here? Not particularly. But I'm very happy it did," said Keys, who won many fans with her sense of humor, big smile, a humble self-confidence and her very good tennis.

During the tournament, she talked about how she'll save most of her \$510,000 prize money but allow herself one indulgence, possibly a Louis Vuitton handbag. She shared the advice of her new coach Lindsay Davenport, a three-time Grand Slam winner, who told her to stay off Twitter and keep focused on tennis for the tournament. That and other advice clearly paid off.

On her way to the semifinal, she beat two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova in the third round and seven-time Grand Slam winner Venus Williams in the quarterfinals to set up back-to-back matches with the Williams sisters, a challenge that held special significance for Keys

who had idolized both as a child. Her ranking will improve from No. 35 into the top 20 as a result of reaching the semifinal.

Playing Williams marked the first time Keys had ever faced a No. 1-ranked player — and she put the 18-time major winner to the test.

Their semifinal on a breezy and chilly afternoon was the most-hyped women's match of the tournament so far:

**'This week has definitely shown me that I can play the top players, and I can do well against them.'**

Madison Keys

the up-and-coming prodigy against one of the greatest champions of all time. This time around the champion won, 7-6 (5), 6-2, but the score does not tell the story.

Keys showed no fear, enormous grit, extremely powerful hitting, a big serve and was calm enough in the big moments to save seven match points.

"This week has definitely shown me that I can play the top players, and I can do well against them," Keys said. "I can play the No. 1 player in the world in a pretty close match."

The crowd at Rod Laver Arena oohhed and ahhhed as the ball rocketed back and forth during rallies with intense speed and force from both baselines.

Keys described the quality of Williams' shots like this: "It comes hard, it comes deep... she's one of the few who can hit like that."

Interestingly, Williams described Keys' hitting precisely the same way: "She hits a very, very hard ball, but she also hits it very deep," Williams said. "I wasn't ready really for that."

Keys was asked what she thinks makes her a good tennis player, and she described the fighting spirit that was evident on court.

"For me, even this week, as great as it is, I still want more," she said. "For me, it's just never being satisfied with what I've done and always wanting more and more."



LEE JIN-MAN/AP

**'After Wimbledon I decided to just — not necessarily not care — but just relax. It all kind of came back for me after that ... and I think it's been working.'**

Serena Williams

Madison Keys lost in the semifinal match, but put opponent No. 1 ranked Serena Williams to the test.

# COLLEGE BASKETBALL



MATT GENTRY, THE ROANOKE TIMES/AP

Virginia's Justin Anderson celebrates beating Virginia Tech on Sunday. The No. 2 Cavaliers travel to No. 4 Duke on Saturday, the start of a challenging three-game ACC stretch that includes playing at No. 13 North Carolina and hosting No. 10 Louisville.

## ACC's tops get their turn in the spotlight

By Aaron Beard  
The Associated Press

After two weeks of big games in the Big 12, now it's the Atlantic Coast Conference's turn to have the marquee games on this week's AP Top 25 schedule.

The league has three games matching teams ranked in the top 15, none bigger than fourth-ranked Duke's visit to second-ranked Virginia on Saturday night.

The Blue Devils (17-2, 4-2) lost at No. 8 Notre Dame (19-2, 7-1) on Wednesday night. But that doesn't change the Cavaliers' outlook on the game.

"We know how good they are," Virginia coach Tony Bennett said. "We know how good this league is, so we're just trying to prepare the right way."

Then, No. 13 North Carolina (17-4, 7-1) travels to No. 10 Louisville (16-3, 4-2) on Saturday afternoon before the Duke-Virginia matchup.

It's the start of a demanding three-game stretch for the Cavaliers (19-0, 7-0). Two days after playing Duke, Virginia travels to North Carolina on Monday night before hosting Louisville a few days later.

Virginia is one of the last two unbeaten left in college basketball. It beat Duke last year in the ACC tournament final for the program's first league title since winning its only other crown in 1976.

In the **Big 12**: The Top 25

schedule is a bit lighter in the Big 12.

No. 19 Texas (14-6, 3-4) travels to No. 20 Baylor (15-4, 3-3) on Saturday as the only game matching ranked teams this week. The Longhorns started the week with an 89-86 loss at No. 15 Iowa State on Monday night.

**Ranked in the Valley:** The Missouri Valley Conference matches its two ranked teams this week, with No. 12 Wichita State traveling to No. 18 Northern Iowa on Saturday.

The game marks the first time since January 1982 that two ranked league teams will play each other, according to the league.

The Shockers (18-2, 8-0) have won 26 straight league games for the third-longest streak in league history, while the Panthers (18-2, 7-1) have their highest ranking in history.

**Still No. 1:** Kentucky remained No. 1 in this week's Top 25, earning 64 of 65 votes in ballots cast Monday. The Wildcats reclaimed one of the two first-place votes they lost to the Cavaliers last week.

Kentucky (19-0, 6-0 Southeastern Conference) returns to action Thursday at Missouri then hosts Alabama on Saturday.

It's the second time this month that Kentucky played Missouri and Alabama in consecutive games. The Wildcats beat the Tigers by 49 points and the Crimson Tide by 22 in the first matchups.

# Who's the best?

## Handful of players in contention for most outstanding

By John Marshall  
The Associated Press

The college basketball regular season has about six weeks left and AP has a look at player of the year candidates. Like last season, there are a couple of front-runners and a handful of players who could make a run at the award with a strong finish. Here's the way it's shaping up as the season heads toward the final stretch:

**Jahill Okafor, Duke.** The list starts with him for a reason. The 6-foot-11 freshman was preseason All-American and has lived up to expectations, putting up big numbers for one of the nation's best teams. Okafor leads the fourth-ranked Blue Devils with 19.9 points and 9.4 rebounds per game. He's shooting nearly 67 percent from the floor and has a good eye for passing out of double teams, which he sees a lot. He has been a handful at both ends of the floor and arguably the nation's most dominant player.

**Frank Kaminsky, Wisconsin.** Another preseason All-American who has played like one. The 7-foot senior returned to Madison after leading the Badgers to the Final Four last season and has done nothing to hurt his NBA stock after skipping a chance to leave early. Kaminsky leads No. 5 Wisconsin with 17.2 points, 8.2 rebounds per game and is shooting 53 percent, including 40 percent from three-point range. Put a smaller player on him, Kaminsky will go down in the post. Beef up against him and Kaminsky will take them outside.

**Delon Wright, Utah.** Wright is one of the most dynamic players in college basketball. The 6-foot-5 senior swingman can get to the rim against just about anyone and is an adept long-range shooter, averaging 14.6 points on 53 percent shooting — 31 percent from the three-point arc. Wright also is a superb facilitator, averaging 6 assists per game, and isn't afraid to go in and get rebounds, averaging 4.3. The 11th-ranked Utes are on the rise and Wright has been a big part of it.

**Jerian Grant, Notre Dame.**



ROCK BOWMER/AP

Utah guard Delon Wright, left, shoots over Washington guard Nigel Williams-Goss last week. Wright has helped lead the Utes to No. 11.

After missing the second part of last season due to an academic issue, Grant has played like he's trying to make up for lost time. The 6-foot-5 senior leads the eighth-ranked Irish with 16.8 points and 6.1 assists per game, and is tied for 10th nationally in assists-to-turnover ratio at 3.43. If you haven't seen his dunk against Georgia Tech yet, check it out.

**Willie Cauley-Stein, Kentucky.** The 7-foot junior doesn't get the minutes many of the nation's other best players do because of the Wildcats' platoon system. He still manages to be a dominant force for the team's No. 1 team. Cauley-Stein skipped a shot at the NBA after missing the final three games of the 2014 NCAA tournament with an ankle injury and has probably improved his stock this season. Exceptionally athletic for his size, he can shoot over smaller defenders and take the ball to the basket, where he usually finishes with a dunk. Cauley-Stein is even

more troublesome for opponents as the anchor of the nation's best defensive team with long arms that swat a lot of shots.

**Justin Anderson, Virginia.** The No. 2 Cavaliers are one of two remaining undefeated teams in Division I and Anderson is the motor that makes them go. Built like a linebacker at 6-6, 230 pounds, the junior can bull his way through opponents or stroke it from long range after greatly improving his 3-point shooting. Anderson leads the Cavaliers with 13.9 points while averaging 4.4 rebounds. He's shooting 50 percent and his 3-point shooting is up to 51 percent after shooting just under 30 percent last season.

A few other players who might have a shot at player of the year with a strong finish: Stanley Johnson, Arizona; D'Angelo Russell, Ohio State; Georges Niang, Iowa State; Kyle Wiljer; Gonzaga; Montrezl Harrell, Louisville.

## Games on AFN



Wisconsin at Iowa  
AFN-Sports  
6 p.m. Saturday CET  
2 a.m. Sunday JKT



North Carolina at Louisville  
AFN-Sports  
10 p.m. Saturday CET  
6 a.m. Sunday JKT



Wichita State at Northern Iowa  
AFN-Atlantic  
10 p.m. Saturday CET  
6 a.m. Sunday JKT



Texas at Baylor  
AFN-Atlantic  
Midnight, Saturday CET  
8 a.m. Sunday JKT



Duke at Virginia  
AFN-Sports  
1 a.m. Sunday CET  
9 a.m. Sunday JKT



SUPER BOWL

# Patriots' near-perfect season just a memory

New England focused on present, not past, in return to Arizona

By HOWARD ULMAN  
The Associated Press

CHANDLER, Ariz. — The road to perfection reached a dead end in the Arizona desert. Now the New England Patriots are back where a Super Bowl championship — and an unbeaten record — barely eluded them seven years ago.

Not that they dwell on their return to the place where the best season in NFL history slipped from their grasp. "It's not where we play, it's how we play," Tom Brady said Wednesday, "and I'm glad we're here with the opportunity to do something really special."

A win Sunday night against the Seattle Seahawks would even the Patriots record in Super Bowls at University of Phoenix Stadium at 1-1. New England is seeking a championship, not closure for its 17-14 loss to the New York Giants in 2008.

"I'm sure it will be a cool story if we win,

saying we came back to the same place," kicker Stephen Gostkowski said, "but I don't think about that stuff. I'm just looking to make the first kick that they send me out for."

So when a receiver leaps for a pass at the opponent's 23-yard line, don't expect the Pats to have flashbacks to David Tyree trapping the ball against his helmet at that spot with Rodney Harrison draped over him.

That 32-yard completion with just over a minute left, after Eli Manning kept the play alive by breaking free with defensive end Richard Seymour tugging at his jersey, set up the winning 13-yard touchdown pass to Plaxico Burress.

It took Patriots players a long time to get over how close they came to a 19-0 record. Then coach Bill Belichick met with his assistants.

"One day Bill walks in," running backs coach Ivan Fears said. "He says, 'we got to

move on guys, start smiling.'"

It's a cornerstone of Belichick's philosophy. Lamenting misfortunes leads to more of them, Fears said.

Fears, offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels and defensive coordinator Matt Patricia remain from the staff at the 2008 Super Bowl. Brady, Gostkowski and defensive tackle Vince Wilfork are the only players from that game still on the Patriots.

"It was a heartbreaker," Gostkowski said, but "we've already played in (and lost) another Super Bowl since then, so I don't even sweat that. I have two kids and a wife and two dogs, and I didn't have any of that seven years ago. So life has changed a lot since then."

Wilfork agrees. "This is a different team and we don't look in the past," Wilfork said. "We never look back at the games we've lost or won in the Super Bowl."



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Things didn't go so well the last time New England played in a Super Bowl at the University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Ariz. The Patriots will look to avoid a repeat of 2008's 17-14 loss to the New York Giants when they face the Seattle Seahawks this Sunday.

## Historic: Circus atmosphere detracts from what's at stake on field

FROM BACK PAGE

From the NFL under-inflated balls saga to injuries for All-Pro defensive backs Sherman and Earl Thomas to Marshawn Lynch being fined yet again for his code of silence with the media, the 49th Super Bowl has taken on a circus atmosphere.

Which seems fitting given all that has gone wrong for the NFL off the field — even as pro football remains as popular as ever.

Just finding any comments about the matchup of the dynamic defense from Seattle and the potent offense from New England has been a chore. Everything else, it seems, has been in play.

Indeed, here's how Seahawks All-Pro cornerback Sherman, recalling last year, described what the week leading up to the game is like:

"To us, it was just another week in the season, obviously. You're with these guys 180 or 190 of the 365 days, so you just get to spend a special week with them. You get to know their families a little better because it's not just them there, but it's their families, their sons and daughters.

"A lot of times you don't get to meet them during these weeks, we're always at work from eight to six and everyone goes home. You get one day during training camp to meet people's family, but that's about it. So you have a good time getting to know people more."

Notice, no mention of football. But Sherman does insist the left elbow he hurt in the NFC title game was no factor:

"If I had to slay my brother, I'd be able to do it," he said jokingly. "Not much light-hearted stuff coming from New England. Not much football talk, either."

Belichick, who can equal Chuck Noll's four Super Bowl rings as a head coach, is grilled about the air pressure in a football, not about the pass pressure Seattle can bring on Brady.



MATT YORK/AP

Complaints about Seahawks' running back Marshawn Lynch's reluctance to talk during media day this week is just one of the off-field issues distracting from what will be an historic Super Bowl on Sunday.

Brady, in turn, gets cross-examined about the weight of the footballs, not about the weight of trying to reach Joe Montana/Terry Bradshaw territory with a fourth Super Bowl triumph.

"Obviously I'd much rather be up here talking about the Seahawks and preparing for the Super Bowl, which we've been trying to do for the last few days," he said.

As for Lynch, while it's certain the Patriots are scheming how to slow down Beast Mode, the league is trying to figure out what to do with him on media day and beyond. Lynch was fined \$20,000 Thursday for an obscene gesture in the NFC championship win over Green Bay.

In November, he was nailed for \$50,000 for not adhering to the league media policy. Another \$50,000 from 2013 that was withheld with the expectation he would cooperate in the future also was collected because, well, Lynch didn't speak up when required to. Some folks in the NFL offices

must be wondering what else could happen to shift the focus from Patriots-Seahawks.

What the football-watching world hopefully prefers is to get back to the machinations on the 100-yard gridiron. Such as the showdown between tight end Rob Gronkowski and Seahawks safety Kam Chancellor, perhaps the only defender who can somewhat match Gronk's power and speed.

Such as how Seattle avoids the pitfalls that plagued it for much of the NFC title game, when it fell behind 16-0.

And how high-priced Patriots cornerback Darrelle Revis performs in his first Super Bowl after seven seasons of falling short (on the field if not at the bank).

There's also what some have dubbed "Pete's Revenge," recalling how Carroll was canned by the Patriots after the 1999 season and replaced by Belichick. Carroll went on to phenomenal success at Southern California even as his successor was turning New England into a power. He's displayed no animosity toward the Patriots organization — anything otherwise would have fit in with the theme of the 2014 season and the past few weeks, of course.

"It was a real challenge," said Carroll, who went 28-23 in three seasons with the Patriots. "It's a great place to be in sports: a great town, a great following, much like it is here (in Seattle). Just tremendous support and all, really heartfelt."

"That was the old days and all of the old facilities; it wasn't quite as nice as it now, I am sure. Still, the whole setup was really exciting to be around, they had such history. It didn't work out. We did some good stuff while we were there, but it didn't work out and time to move on."

Yep, maybe it's time to move on from all the tangential stuff and concentrate on what the Super Bowl is supposed to represent: football.

SUPER BOWL XLIX

New England Patriots vs. Seattle Seahawks



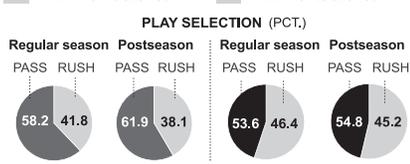
Regular-season + Postseason stats

OFFENSE		
<b>Total yards (avg.):</b> 365.5	<b>Total yards (avg.):</b> 375.8	
Passing	Rushing	Passing
257.6	107.9	203.1
<b>Postseason:</b> 409.5	<b>Postseason:</b> 372.5	
314.0	95.5	225.5

<b>First downs:</b> (361)	<b>First downs:</b> (328)	
Rushing	Passing	Penalty
96	228	37
<b>Postseason:</b> (57)	<b>Postseason:</b> (36)	
35	4	1
18	18	15

DEFENSE		
<b>Yards allowed (avg.):</b> 344.1	<b>Yards allowed (avg.):</b> 267.1	
Passing	Rushing	Passing
239.8	104.3	185.6
<b>Postseason:</b> 318.5	<b>Postseason:</b> 334.0	
209.0	109.5	200.5

SCORING (PPG)		
<b>29.2</b> Points for	<b>24.6</b> Points for	
19.6 Points allowed	15.9 Points allowed	
<b>Postseason</b>	<b>Postseason</b>	
40.0 Points for	29.5 Points for	
19.0 Points allowed	15.9 Points allowed	



## SUPER BOWL

## Others often outshine well-known stars

Just like last year, 'I wouldn't be surprised if somebody nobody talks about is MVP'

By ROB MAADDI  
The Associated Press

## PHOENIX

Almost all football fans know Tom Brady, Russell Wilson, Richard Sherman, Marshawn Lynch and Rob Gronkowski.

The New England Patriots and Seattle Seahawks wouldn't be playing in the Super Bowl on Sunday if it weren't for their superstars. But both teams got here with lesser-known players coming up big at key times.

Jermaine Kearse caught a touchdown pass in overtime in Seattle's win over Green Bay in the NFC championship game. Julian Edelman threw a TD pass in New England's division-round win over Baltimore.

There's Rob Ninkovich, Michael Bennett and several others. Often, surprise players are the stars in the Super Bowl.

Just look at last year when Seahawks linebacker Malcolm Smith was the unlikely MVP in Seattle's win over Denver. Smith returned a Peyton Manning interception for a touchdown and recovered a fumble in a 43-8 rout. Now the former seventh-round pick hardly plays on defense.

"That's the beauty of our team that anybody can have an MVP-type of day," Seahawks wide receiver Doug Baldwin said Wednesday. "That's what makes us special. I wouldn't be surprised if somebody nobody talks about is MVP."

Brady, Wilson, Lynch, Gronkowski and LeGarrette Blount have the five best odds of winning the MVP award. But Smith is listed at 100-to-1 by Bovada.

"To get to this point and to win these games, it's not about anything more than that," Smith said. "That is how we can be successful."

Ninkovich, one of New England's top pass rushers, is also at 100-to-1 odds. He had eight sacks in each of the past three seasons and will be a key factor in trying to contain Wilson.

"You can't run past him," Ninkovich said. "Those are when the big plays happen. You have to be under control, but also not just stand there and not do anything to affect him in the pocket. So you just have to be smart."

Bennett has helped solidify Seattle's defense since arriving from Tampa Bay before the 2013 season. The defensive end gets



GENE PUSKAR/AP

New York Giants receiver David Tyree, left, catches a pass while in the clutches of New England Patriots safety Rodney Harrison during the fourth quarter of Super Bowl XLII on Feb. 3, 2008. Eli Manning was the MVP, but Tyree was the star of the game because of this memorable catch on the game-winning drive.

overlooked on a unit known for the "Legion of Boom" secondary featuring Sherman, Earl Thomas and Kam Chancellor.

"I don't really worry about the atmo-

sphere of the game," Bennett said. "I think for us we treat every game exactly the same and we've been in every situation we could possibly be in."

Here's a list of some surprise stars from past Super Bowls:

**Dexter Jackson**

Jackson had two interceptions to help the Tampa Bay Buccaneers beat the Oakland Raiders 48-21 in the 2003 Super Bowl. Teammate Dwight Smith returned two picks for touchdowns against Rich Gannon and Oakland's top-ranked offense, but Jackson got the MVP award. Jackson signed a \$14 million, five-year deal with Arizona in free agency, but was released after one season and returned to the Buccaneers.

**Larry Brown**

Brown became the first cornerback to win Super Bowl MVP when his two interceptions helped the Dallas Cowboys beat the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17 in 1996. Brown leveraged that performance into a \$12 million, five-year contract with the Raiders in free agency, but lasted only two seasons in Oakland and started just one game.

**David Tyree**

Tyree only had 54 career catches, but he'll forever be remembered for the helmet grab that helped the New York Giants beat the Patriots 17-14 in the 2008 Super Bowl, snapping New England's perfect season. Giants quarterback Eli Manning was the MVP of the game.

**Timmy Smith**

After running for only 126 yards as a rookie in 1987, Smith set a Super Bowl rushing record with 204 yards and scored two TDs to help the Washington Redskins beat Denver 42-10. Quarterback Doug Williams was the MVP of the game. Smith played only two more seasons in the NFL and ran for another 476 yards total.

**Rod Martin**

Martin had more interceptions (three) against Ron Jaworski in Oakland's 27-10 win over Philadelphia in the 1981 Super Bowl than he had in his first four seasons in the NFL. Martin eventually went to two Pro Bowls and was a productive player for eight more seasons. Quarterback Jim Plunkett was MVP of the win over the Eagles.



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

New England Patriots defensive end Rob Ninkovich doesn't draw a large crowd during media day on Tuesday for Super Bowl XLIX in Phoenix. Ninkovich is one of the Patriots' top pass rushers with eight sacks and likely will be a key in trying to contain Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson on Sunday.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Seattle Seahawks defensive end Michael Bennett answers a question at a news conference for Super Bowl XLIX in Phoenix. Bennett has helped anchor a defensive line that doesn't get as much attention as the "Legion of Boom" secondary. Bennett will be more of a factor if the Patriots try to run the ball.

# SUPER BOWL

## SEAHAWKS-PATRIOTS MATCHUP

BY BARRY WILNER

*The Associated Press*

Matchups for the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 between the Seattle Seahawks and New England Patriots at University of Phoenix Stadium:

### When the Seahawks (14-4) have the ball:

If the Patriots can tame the Beast, they will have a big head start toward a fourth NFL championship since 2001. RB **Marshawn Lynch (24, right)**, will try to impose his will on a solid but not overwhelming defense led by DT Vince Wilfork (75), DE Rob Ninkovich (50), LBs Jamie Collins (91) and Dont'a Hightower (54). If Lynch is slowed, that leaves the onus for running on QB **Russell Wilson (3, below right)**. While highly capable — he rushed for 849 yards and six TDs in 2014 — Wilson would prefer balance on offense.

When he throws, he must avoid the interceptions that plagued him vs. Green Bay for the NFC title. Not that Wilson was always off-target, with two of his picks being off tips by WR Jermaine Kearse (15). But he was not nearly as precise as usual.

Kearse, who caught the winning TD pass in the past two NFC title matches, was targeted on all four interceptions against the Packers. He'll see plenty of CBs Darrelle Revis (24) and Brandon Browner (39), a Seahawk last season, and could struggle getting open deep. S Devin McCourty (32) also will help in coverage on WR Doug Baldwin (89) and TE Luke Willson (82).

One thing Seattle won't do is lose faith even when things aren't working on offense. And behind an unsung offensive line led by LT Russell Okung (76) and C Max Unger (60), they won't back off, either.



### Coaching

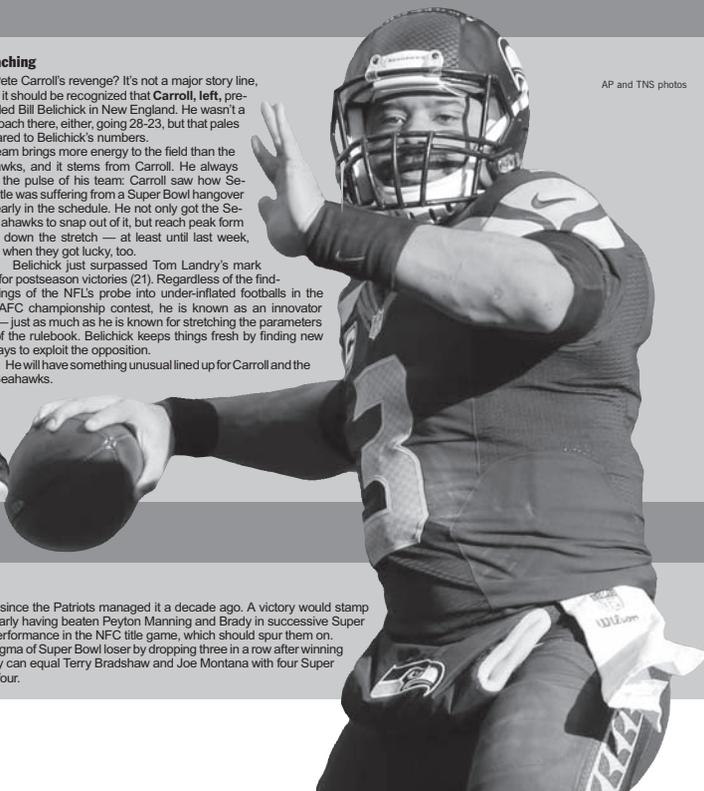
Pete Carroll's revenge? It's not a major story line, but it should be recognized that Carroll, left, preceded Bill Belichick in New England. He wasn't a bad coach there, either, going 28-23, but that pales compared to Belichick's numbers.

No team brings more energy to the field than the Seahawks, and it stems from Carroll. He always has the pulse of his team: Carroll saw how Seattle was suffering from a Super Bowl hangover early in the schedule. He not only got the Seahawks to snap out of it, but reach peak form down the stretch — at least until last week, when they got lucky, too.

Belichick just surpassed Tom Landry's mark for postseason victories (21). Regardless of the findings of the NFL's probe into under-inflated footballs in the AFC championship contest, he is known as an innovator — just as much as he is known for stretching the parameters of the rulebook. Belichick keeps things fresh by finding new ways to exploit the opposition.

He will have something unusual lined up for Carroll and the Seahawks.

AP and TNS photos

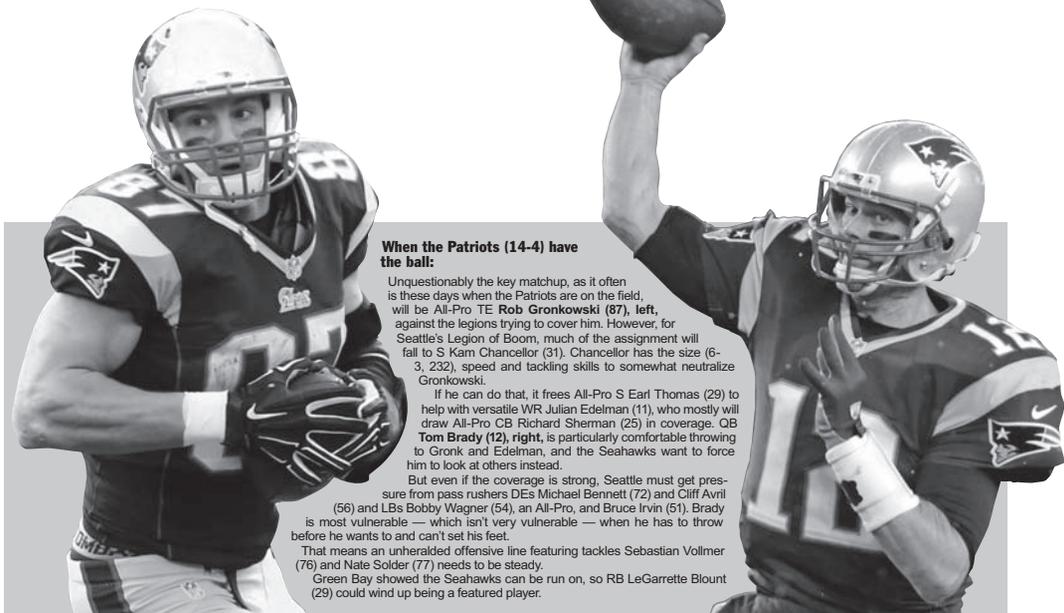


### Intangibles

Seattle seeks to become the first repeat winner since the Patriots managed it a decade ago. A victory would stamp these Seahawks as an all-time great team, particularly having beaten Peyton Manning and Brady in successive Super Bowls. The Seahawks also come off a mediocre performance in the NFC title game, which should spur them on.

New England, of course, doesn't want to add a stigma of Super Bowl loser by dropping three in a row after winning in its first three trips with Brady and Belichick. Brady can equal Terry Bradshaw and Joe Montana with four Super Bowl rings, while Belichick can tie Chuck Noll with four.

# SUPER BOWL



### When the Patriots (14-4) have the ball:

Unquestionably the key matchup, as it often is these days when the Patriots are on the field, will be All-Pro TE Rob Gronkowski (87), left, against the legions trying to cover him. However, for Seattle's Legion of Boom, much of the assignment will fall to S Kam Chancellor (31). Chancellor has the size (6-3, 232), speed and tackling skills to somewhat neutralize Gronkowski.

If he can do that, it frees All-Pro S Earl Thomas (29) to help with versatile WR Julian Edelman (11), who mostly will draw All-Pro CB Richard Sherman (25) in coverage. QB Tom Brady (12), right, is particularly comfortable throwing to Gronk and Edelman, and the Seahawks want to force him to look at others instead.

But even if the coverage is strong, Seattle must get pressure from pass rushers DEs Michael Bennett (72) and Cliff Avril (56) and LBs Bobby Wagner (54), an All-Pro, and Bruce Irvin (51). Brady is most vulnerable — which isn't very vulnerable — when he has to throw before he wants to and can't set his feet.

That means an unheralded offensive line featuring tackles Sebastian Vollmer (76) and Nate Solder (77) needs to be steady. Green Bay showed the Seahawks can be run on, so RB LeGarrette Blount (29) could wind up being a featured player.

### Rosters

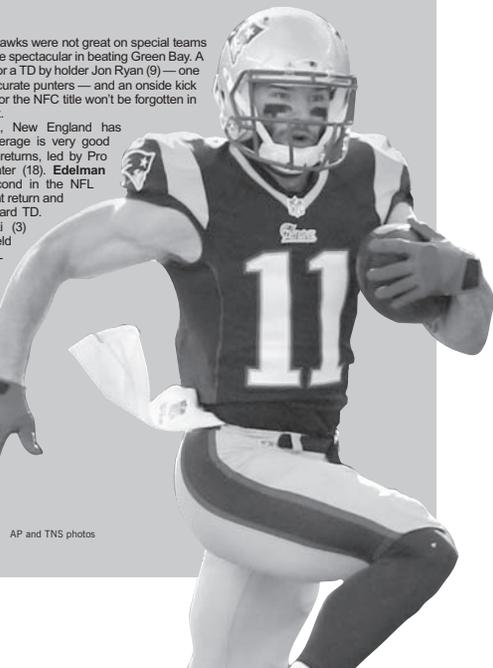
No.	Player	New England Patriots	Pos	Ht	Wt
3	Stephen Gostkowski	K	6-1	215	
6	Ryan Allen	P	6-2	215	
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB	6-2	225	
11	Julian Edelman	WR	5-10	200	
12	Tom Brady	QB	6-4	225	
18	Matthew Slater	WR	6-0	210	
19	Brandon LaFell	WR	6-3	210	
21	Malcolm Butler	CB	5-11	190	
23	Patrick Chung	S	5-11	210	
24	Darrelle Revis	CB	5-11	198	
25	Kyle Arrington	CB	5-10	190	
26	Logan Ryan	CB	5-11	195	
27	Tavon Wilson	S	6-0	215	
28	James White	RB	5-10	205	
29	LeGarrette Blount	RB	6-0	260	
30	Duron Harmon	S	6-1	205	
32	Devin McCourty	S	5-10	195	
34	Shane Vereen	RB	5-10	205	
35	Jonas Gray	RB	5-10	225	
36	Brandon Bolden	RB	5-11	220	
39	Brandon Browner	CB	6-4	221	
43	Nate Ebner	S	6-0	210	
46	James Develin	RB	6-3	255	
47	Michael Hoomanawanui	TE	6-4	260	
48	Danny Akin	C	4-25	255	
50	Rob Ninkovich	DE	6-2	260	
52	Jonathan Casillas	LB	6-1	227	
54	Dont'a Hightower	LB	6-3	270	
56	Akeem Ayers	LB	6-3	255	
58	Darius Fleming	LB	6-2	255	
59	Chris White	LB	6-3	238	
61	Marcus Cannon	TE	6-5	335	
62	Ryan Wendell	C	6-2	300	
63	Dan Connolly	G	6-4	305	
66	Jordan DeVay	C	6-6	317	
66	Brian Stork	C	6-4	310	
67	Josh Kline	TE	6-3	285	
71	Cameron Fleming	DT	6-6	325	
72	Joe Wellman	DT	6-2	300	
75	Vince Wilfork	DT	6-2	325	
76	Sebastian Vollmer	TE	6-8	320	
77	Nate Solder	TE	6-8	320	
80	Danny Amendola	WR	5-11	195	
81	Tim Wright	TE	6-4	220	
82	Josh Boyce	WR	5-11	205	
88	Brian Tyms	WR	6-3	204	
89	Rob Gronkowski	TE	6-6	265	
90	Zach Moore	DE	6-6	275	
91	Jamie Collins	LB	6-3	250	
94	Chris Jones	DE	6-1	309	
96	Chandler Jones	DE	6-6	265	
96	Seawar Siliga	DE	6-2	325	
97	Alan Branch	DT	6-6	325	

No.	Player	Seattle Seahawks	Pos	Ht	Wt
3	Russell Wilson	QB	5-11	206	
4	Steven Hauschka	K	6-4	210	
5	B.J. Daniels	QB	5-11	217	
7	Tavaris Jackson	QB	6-2	225	
9	Jon Ryan	P	6-0	217	
13	Chris Matthews	WR	6-5	218	
15	Jermaine Kearse	WR	6-1	209	
19	Bryan Walters	WR	6-0	190	
20	Jeremy Lane	CB	6-0	190	
22	Robert Turbin	RB	5-10	222	
23	Jerion Johnson	S	5-10	212	
24	Marshawn Lynch	RB	5-11	215	
25	Richard Sherman	CB	6-3	195	
26	Steven Terrell	S	5-10	197	
27	Thaddeus Simon	CB	6-3	202	
28	Marcus Burley	S	5-10	189	
29	Earl Thomas	RB	5-11	202	
31	Kam Chancellor	S	6-3	232	
33	Christine Michael	RB	5-10	221	
35	Deshawn Shead	CB	6-2	220	
41	Byron Maxwell	CB	6-1	207	
46	Will Tukuafu	RB	6-4	293	
49	Clint Gresham	C	6-3	240	
50	K.J. Wright	LB	6-4	246	
51	Bruce Irvin	LB	6-3	248	
52	Brock Coyle	LB	6-2	245	
53	Malcolm Smith	LB	6-0	226	
54	Bobby Wagner	LB	6-0	241	
56	Cliff Avril	DE	6-3	260	
57	Mike Morgan	LB	6-3	226	
60	Max Unger	C	6-5	305	
61	Lemuel Jeanpierre	G	6-5	301	
64	J.R. Sweezy	G	6-5	298	
65	Patrick Lewis	G	6-11	311	
66	Keavon Milton	G	6-4	293	
67	Landon Colton	DT	6-1	300	
68	Justin Britt	TE	6-6	325	
70	David King	DE	6-4	300	
72	Michael Bennett	DE	6-4	274	
76	Russell Okung	DT	6-5	310	
77	James Carpenter	G	6-5	321	
78	Alvin Bailey	TE	6-5	320	
79	Garry Gilliam	TE	6-5	306	
81	Kevin Norwood	WR	6-4	199	
82	Luke Lockette	TE	6-5	252	
83	Ricardo Lockette	WR	6-2	211	
84	Cooper Helfert	TE	6-6	239	
88	Tony Moeaki	TE	6-3	252	
89	Doug Baldwin	WR	6-10	189	
93	O'Brien Schofield	DE	6-3	242	
94	Kevin Williams	DT	6-2	311	
95	Demarcus Bobbs	DE	6-2	282	
99	Tony McDaniel	DT	6-7	305	

### Special teams

Although the Seahawks were not great on special teams this season, they were spectacular in beating Green Bay. A fake field-goal pass for a TD by holder Jon Ryan (9) — one of the NFL's most accurate punters — and an onside kick that kept them alive for the NFC title won't be forgotten in the Pacific Northwest.

Generally, though, New England has the edge here. Coverage is very good on punt and kickoff returns, led by Pro Bowler Matthew Slater (18). Edelman (11), right, was second in the NFL with 12 yards per punt return and had one for an 84-yard TD. Stephen Gostkowski (3) missed only two field goals and led the NFL with 156 points.



AP and TNS photos

SUPER BOWL

# Hoodie and scowl mask Belichick's impact

'Evil Genius' is simply the winningest coach in NFL postseason history

By BARRY WILNER  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — He's been called the Evil Genius, and he's been fined for spying on an opponent. And now there are questions about deflated footballs.

Any visual portrait of Bill Belichick likely has him wearing a hoodie — and a scowl. Many of his media duties are marked by terse answers or outright stonewalling.

All of which masks the impact and longevity of the New England Patriots boss, the winningest coach in postseason NFL history.

Belichick is about to lead his team into its sixth Super Bowl in 14 seasons. No one, not Chuck Noll or Tom Landry or Marv Levy or Bill Walsh — all Hall of Famers — managed that. Since Belichick took over the Patriots in 2000 after a five-season flop as head man in Cleveland, there have been 119 coaching changes.

In the AFC East alone, which the Patriots have won 12 of 14 seasons, 17 coaches have come and gone, according to STATS.

Belichick is the constant. "I think Coach is always pretty consistent with how he's dealt with our team," Tom Brady said. "You don't ride the highs and lows of the season. Whether it's one win or one loss, you just try to get better and make improvements, and you've got to play your best at the end."

"It's hard to make our team. Coach Belichick puts a lot of pressure on guys in training camp. If you make the team, you know that you have the confidence of the coaches that you can help us win. Everybody's got a skill. Everybody's got a skill set. Whoever is on the field has to be able to go out there and perform their job."

In the face of the controversies and criticisms the Patriots have faced during his tenure, Belich-

Did you know

Since Bill Belichick took over as New England Patriots head coach in 2000, there have been 119 coaching changes around the league.

SOURCE: The Associated Press

ick's approach remains the same. Yes, he often comes off as ornery, but that's because he'd rather be coaching, rather than teaching, rather than dissecting film.

But according to Vince Wilfork, other than Brady the longest-tenured Patriot, Belichick has changed somewhat. Out of necessity.

"Yeah, I've seen the difference in Bill in the 11 years that I have been here, and I tell him he is getting soft," the defensive tackle joked. "But this is a different era of football now with how the team is shaped up, and now a lot of guys are younger guys. You don't really have that veteran team that he used to have. When I first came in the league, he had a veteran team that didn't take much to get those guys going."

"But he's more understanding now. I think when you get so used to having a certain quality of players and it changes, it's hard for you to adapt to change. And I think Bill had to do a good job of that ever since I've been in the league because we've changed so much."

Pretty much every successful Super Bowl coach had to follow that path. Certainly Noll did as Pittsburgh evolved from the Steel Curtain-dominated squads



JULIO CORTAZ/AP

When the cameras are on, New England coach Bill Belichick is the perfect antidote to insomnia. His dour demeanor and subdued personal style mask a simple fact — Belichick is the winningest postseason coach the NFL has ever witnessed.

to a high-scoring bunch. So did Landry, several times, depending on if he had a Doomsday Defense or a potent attack built around Roger Staubach.

Belichick's first Super Bowl team back in 2001 was fundamentally sound on both sides of the ball, but far more aggressive on defense, his specialty. Indeed, Brady was almost a caretaker that season.

Belichick knew he had something very special in Brady, though, and when the quarterback rapidly developed, the coach loosened the reins. When they won their consecutive titles for

the 2003 and 2004 seasons, Brady was a budding star.

When Belichick recognized that, he built an unstoppable offense around Brady. In some ways, he was ahead of the game, again. While the NFL was evolving into a pass-crazy league, the Patriots already were there with Brady throwing to Randy Moss and Wes Welker.

By 2007, Brady was the best quarterback in the league, breaking records and guiding New England to a perfect regular season.

Don't think other coaches around the NFL haven't paid attention. His counterpart in this

Super Bowl, Seattle's Pete Carroll, actually was replaced in New England by Belichick.

"I know that when (owner Robert Kraft) was making his choice to hire coach Belichick, I had one opportunity to say something to him about that," Carroll said. "And I thought that was really a unique hire, a special hire and a guy that would really fit in well if (Kraft) let him do what he was capable of doing. I think Bill is a very open, free-thinker and a guy that needs that kind of control to be at his best."

"It's worked historically and in extraordinary fashion."



TEO S. WARREN/AP

Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll has a reputation as a coach who can get a bit touchy feely, but he's used that player-friendly style to build an intense brand of team loyalty.

# Carroll used firing as motivation

By TIM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Looking back at the championships he won at Southern Cal and the Super Bowl title a season ago with Seattle, Pete Carroll can see exactly where the foundation for all that success was built.

The 2000 football season was the only time since 1972 that Carroll did not work in coaching in some capacity, whether it was as a graduate assistant, position coach, coordinator or head coach. He'd just been fired by New England after going 8-8 in his third season there, placing Carroll into the fraternity of twice-fired NFL head coaches. Carroll had ideas for how he wanted to run a team, but never solidified the guiding principles.

Getting fired might not have seemed necessary at the time, but proved vital in

creating Carroll's future.

"I'll never know that and I'm going to take it for the way it happened was necessary," Carroll said. "The pain and the struggle and the hardship and then the challenges of bouncing back were all part of the rebirth of that — of the philosophy and a mentality."

Fifteen years after being dismissed by Robert Kraft and New England, Carroll will face the Patriots as he tries to join another rare fraternity of coaches who have led teams to consecutive Super Bowl titles.

That year out of football was the birth of "Win Forever" and all the other catch phrases that go along with being part of a Carroll-coached program. And much like last year's Super Bowl in New York, where Carroll got his first NFL head coaching job with the Jets, this trip to the championship game brings another chapter of his career full circle.

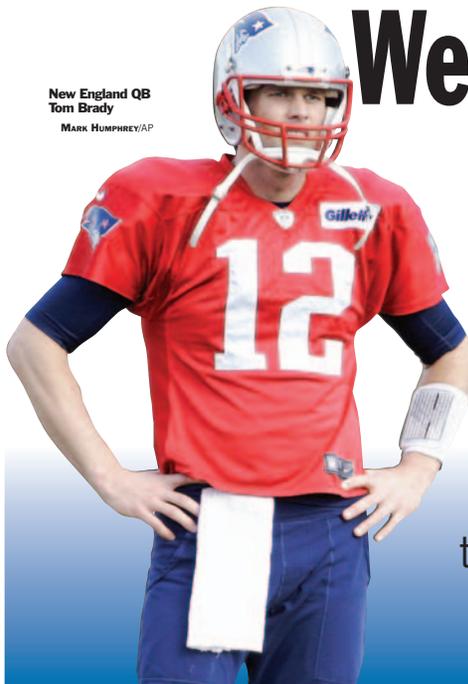
"It gave me an opportunity to really collect my thoughts about moving forward and to get pointed in the direction that, really, we have maintained since," Carroll said. "I had a tremendous opportunity to reflect on the time that I had had."

What is most telling about Carroll's approach is that 15 years later it's still relevant. And while Carroll is set in his beliefs — the results are hard to argue against — that should not be taken for inflexibility. He's taken a give-and-take approach with the personalities he coaches, while they have bought in to what he preaches.

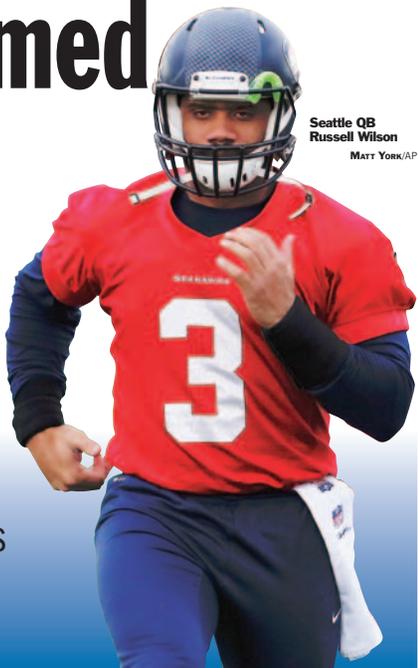
"He allows his players to bump their heads and scrape their knees, and learn from their experiences on and off the field," Richard Sherman said. "He gives us a chance. He trusts his players more than I think a lot of coaches do, and we appreciate him for that."

SUPER BOWL

# Well-armed



New England QB  
**Tom Brady**  
MARK HUMPHREY/AP



Seattle QB  
**Russell Wilson**  
MATT YORK/AP

Pats' Brady playing for fourth title; Seahawks' Wilson seeking second in just three seasons

By HOWARD FENDRICH  
*The Associated Press*

**T**om Brady began winning Super Bowls when Russell Wilson was still a teenager, tuning in to see the big game on TV.

"Of course I remember watching Brady," Wilson said on Tuesday. "He won some incredible games. Incredible comebacks. Incredible throws. Incredible plays. Hopefully he doesn't make too many incredible ones this year."

When Wilson leads the Seattle Seahawks into the Super Bowl against Brady and the New England Patriots on Sunday, both quarterbacks know the outcome will affect the way each is viewed for quite a while.

Wilson can become the eighth starting quarterback to win consecutive Super Bowls, and the first since Brady did it 10 years ago.

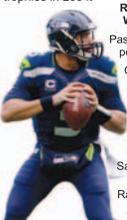
According to STATS, Wilson also would be the first to claim two in his first three years in the league (as it is, he's the first starting quarterback to make it to two Super Bowls that quickly).

Brady, meanwhile, won titles in 2002, 2004, and 2005. But since then, he is 0-2 in Super Bowls, with a pair of losses to the New York Giants in 2008 and 2012.

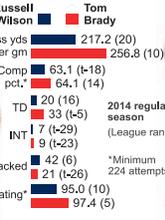
"Look, any time you lose the last game of the year, it's tough," said Brady, who sounded stuffed up and coughed a couple of times. "The last two times we've been in this game, we haven't been able to close it out. We're hoping this is

## Their time to shine on the big stage

Russell Wilson hopes to lead the Seahawks to the first Super Bowl repeat since Tom Brady's Patriots won back-to-back Lombardi trophies in 2004.



SOURCE: STATS LLC



AP

our day."

A victory over the Seahawks would allow the 37-year-old Brady to match his idol as a kid, Joe Montana, and Terry Bradshaw with four championships. But a defeat would drop Brady's career mark on Super Sunday to 3-3.

"You never get over any of those," Brady said about the defeats. "As time goes on, you gain perspective, and you still had some great years. ... It would be great for this team to try to leave a great legacy."

When he won his first NFL championship in 2002, with a 20-17 victory over the St. Louis Rams, Brady was in his first year as a starter and second year in the league.

Initially a backup after being drafted in the sixth round, he took over from injured quarterback Drew Bledsoe — and the rest is history.

After the usual Media Day fare concerning his favorite music (Jay-Z got a shout-out) and his hair (but no marriage proposals, as happened in the past), Brady got around to taking questions about his place in the game.

He knows full well that Super Bowl success is a major part of how quarterbacks' careers are defined. And Brady said he recalls the feeling of hoisting the Lombardi Trophy three times in a four-year span a decade ago.

"Those things happened so fast back then. I didn't even understand what was happening,"

Brady said. "It's not like I didn't appreciate those experiences. I certainly did. But ... we've had two tough ones."

Wilson, 26, has yet to play an NFL season that didn't include at least one playoff victory for his team.

He goes about things a different way than Brady on the field, far more skilled as a ball carrier and on-the-move improviser. Wilson can sling the football, too, though, and put it right where he wants it, as evidenced by his 35-yard touchdown throw in overtime to win the NFC Championship against the Green Bay Packers.

Before a late comeback, Seattle trailed by 16 points. Wilson had a passer rating of zero at halftime and he finished the game with four interceptions.

But that did not concern him on Tuesday. The only thing that did was the final score.

"I want to be considered a winner," said Wilson, sporting a thick beard. "That's ultimately the goal in terms of playing quarterback: Win, win, win."

Asked which quarterbacks were his favorites while growing up, Wilson mentioned Brady and Peyton Manning, calling them "two guys that I've looked up to since I was a little kid."

In last year's Super Bowl, Seattle overwhelmed Manning's Denver Broncos 43-8, part of Wilson's 10-0 record in games against quarterbacks who have won a title.

That could become 11-0 on Sunday.

## By the numbers

10

Number of wins Wilson has in a perfect stretch against Super Bowl-winning QBs (3-0 vs. Aaron Rodgers; 2-0 vs. Eli and Peyton Manning; 2-0 vs. Drew Brees; 1-0 vs. Brady).

7

Number of postseason games Brady's had with 3 or more TD passes, second most in NFL history. He trails only Joe Montana (9).

1

Number of points the Seahawks beat the Patriots by in their last meeting (24-23), when Wilson threw 2 fourth-quarter TDs.

SOURCE: NFL.COM

# SPORTS



**Big-stage Serena**  
Williams will face Sharapova in pursuit of 19th major title » **Page 56**



MAX FAULKNER, ERIC WORSH STAR-TELEGRAM/TNS

# American History XLIX

## Legacies on the line in Super Bowl

By **BARRY WILNER**  
*The Associated Press*

**PHOENIX**  
historic Super Bowl is before us.

**A** On Sunday, Seattle goes for a second straight title, seeking to be the first team to repeat since the Patriots a decade ago. A victory, particularly a convincing one, would stamp the Seahawks as one of the great teams of the Super Bowl era.

Meanwhile, New England's coach and

quarterback chase a record-tying fourth Super Bowl ring.

Yet, as has been the custom this season, major distractions have taken focus away from the field.

As much as Tom Brady, Bill Belichick, Pete Carroll and Richard Sherman might want the spotlight to shine only on the game itself — and the potential achievements at hand — much of the buildup to the kickoff has been about anything but.

**SEE HISTORIC ON PAGE 58**



AP photos

**Predators' defenseman making MVP case » Page 52**

